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Chapter 8

Landscape and Visual Impact (LVIA)

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline Studies	Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed.
Characteristics	Elements, or combination of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character.
Designated Landscape	Areas of landscape, identified as being of importance at international, national, regional or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Development Direct Effect	Any proposal that results in a change to the landscape and /or visual environment.
Elements	An effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as for example, trees, hedges and buildings
Indirect Effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed development as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site. This may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.
Key Characteristics	Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the existing character of the landscape and help to give an area a particularly distinctive sense of place.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface, which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical process.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape Character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes the landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a e Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape Receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Land Use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as agricultural, forestry, urban.
The proposed development	Manmoel Wind Farm development.

Term	Definition
The site boundary	The full extent of the land available for, and being investigated for, potential development.
The study area	The geographical extent of land included within the assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity, measured from the outer most turbine of the proposed development.
Quality	A measure of the physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Sensitivity Significance	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that response. A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Tranquillity	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of the landscape.
Value	The relative value that is attached to landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a variety of reasons.
Visual Amenity	The overall pleasantness of the view people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of the activities of the people loving, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual Effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual Receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the proposed appearance of the development.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, showing areas of land within which, the proposed development is theoretically visible.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BBNP	Brecon Beacons National Park
BBNPA	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
BCBC	Bridgend County Borough Council
BGCBC	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
CC	Cardiff Council
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CCSC	City & County of Swansea Council
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
EASA	European Aviation Safety Agency
GCC	Gloucester City Council
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
HC	Herefordshire Council
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments & Sites
Km	Kilometre
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDF	Long Distance Footpath
LDP	Local Development Plan
LOHI	Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
MCC	Monmouthshire County Council
MTCBC	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
NCC	Newport City Council
NCR	National Cycle Route
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PCC	Powys County Council
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RCTCBC	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
REP	Renewable Energy Park

Abbreviation	Description
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SBC	Soltys Brewster Consulting
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TCBC	Torfaen County Borough Council
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
VILL	Visually Important Local Landscape
VoG	Vale of Glamorgan
VoGC	Vale of Glamorgan Council
WHS	World Heritage Site
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

8.1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 8.1.1 The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) assessed both the individual and cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity within a 45 km radius study area, for the construction operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed development.
- 8.1.2 A total of 148 Landscape Character Areas (LCA) were identified within the 45 km study area that potentially will have theoretical visibility of the proposed development. Of these 148, it was considered that significant effects on landscape character could potentially occur from 38.
- 8.1.3 During the operational phase, it was predicted that significant effects on landscape character may occur from 4 LCAs (LCA 01, LCA 03, LCA 4 and LCA 09), all of which are located within the site boundary of the proposed development, or immediately adjacent to it. Significant cumulative effects on landscape character were predicted from three LCAs (LCA 01, LCA 03 and LCA 04).
- 8.1.4 To assess the effects on visual amenity a total of 24 viewpoints within the 45 km study area were included for assessment. It was predicted that significant effects on visual amenity will occur from eight viewpoints. (VP1 – VP7 and VP9). Of these eight viewpoints, all are located within approximately 5 km of the proposed development.

8.2 INTRODUCTION

- 8.2.1 Both landscape and visual assessment requires the consideration of aspects such as topography, land-use, landscape condition, quality, visibility and aesthetics. Together, these aspects help in defining the sensitivity and robustness of the baseline resources within the study area, and its capacity to accommodate changes of a given development scale, form and appearance.
- 8.2.2 The methodology adopted for this assessment has been guided by current 'best practice' guidance published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (2013) (GLVIA), tailored to the scope of the proposed development, available detail and project constraints.

Study Area

Wind Farm Study Area

- 8.2.3 For the assessment of both individual effects and cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity, the study area boundary extends from the outermost turbine, for a radius of 45 km. Site based assessment was undertaken between June and December 2022.

8.3 LEGISLATION POLICY AND GUIDANCE

- 8.3.1 There are a number of UK wide, national, and local planning policy relevant to the LVIA that must be considered when determining the acceptability of the proposed development from a landscape and visual perspective. These are summarised in Tables 8.1 to 8.3. A full copy of the policies, including Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) as noted within the relevant planning documents are provided in detail within Appendix A8.3: Legislation and Policy Context in Volume 3 of the ES.

Table 8.1: UK-Wide Policy and Legislation

Act	Date of Enactment
The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act	1949
Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act	2000

Table 8.2: National Planning Policy

Planning Policy	Date of Adoption
Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11	February 2021
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040	February 2021
Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8	2005

Table 8.3: Local Planning Policy

Local Authority	Planning Policy	Date of Adoption
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC)	Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006 -2021	November 2021
Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC)	LDP 2006 -2021	November 2011
Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoGC)	LDP 2011 – 2026	28th June 2017
Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) Authority	Local Development Plan (LDP) 2007 - 2022 Landscape and Development SPG BBNP Landscape Character Assessment	December 2013 June 2014 June 2014
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC)	LDP 2006 - 2021 The Historic Built Environment SPG	March 2011 March 2011
Powys County Council (PCC)	LDP 2011 – 2026	June 2017
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC)	LDP 2016 - 2031	January 2020

- 8.3.2 The proposed development lies mainly within the Local Authority boundary for BGCBC, but partly within CCBC to the south-east. A further 15 Local Authorities exist, plus the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA), either partially or fully within the 45 km radius study area. However, from the following Local Authority areas, the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) (refer to Figures 8.1 to 8.4) indicates that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility and/or the Local Authority area is located at a distance where effects are unlikely to be of significance. Local Planning Policy for these areas is therefore excluded and will not be considered further in subsequent sections of the LVIA. A list of the excluded Local Authority areas is as follows:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC);
- Cardiff Council (CC);
- Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC);
- Gloucestershire County Council (GCC);
- Herefordshire Council (HC);

- Monmouthshire County Council (MCC);
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC);
- Newport City Council (NCC);
- Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC); and
- City & County of Swansea Council (CCSC).

8.3.3 Policies relating to landscape and visual issues found within the respective adopted LDPs/Unitary Development Plans (UDP) for all ten local authorities/National Park Authorities are provided in Appendix A8.3: Legislation and Policy Context.

8.4 CONSULTATIONS

Scoping

8.4.1 A scoping report was issued in June 2021 and responses were received from Consultees, including BG CBC, CCBC, TCBC and BBNP. 19 no. viewpoints were proposed, based on preliminary field study, desk-based review of baseline information and preliminary mapping within the 45 km radius study area. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, additional viewpoints were requested. Further field and desk-based study also identified that one viewpoint would not receive any visibility of the proposed development due to intervening vegetation. The LVIA, therefore, includes 24 no. viewpoints. Scoping responses received and actions taken are provided in Appendix A8.4: Statutory Consultee Responses.

8.5 METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Information Sources

8.5.1 This assessment of the likely effects on landscape character and visual amenity of the proposed development was undertaken using a methodology developed by Soltys Brewster Consulting (SBC) drawn from the following guidance:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013);
- Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, NatureScot, (March 2021);
- Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3, NatureScot (2017);
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' NRW (January 2021);
- Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2, NatureScot (February 2017);
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals – Technical Advice Note 06/19, Landscape Institute (September 2019), including supporting Technical Information Notes 07/19, 08/19 and 09/19;
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – To Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management, Natural England (June 2019);
- Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations -Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Landscape Institute (2021); and
- Planning Guidance for Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Requirements, Prepared by Gillespies LLP for The Heads of the Valleys Landscape Officers and Planners with support from The South Wales Landscape Liaison Group (April 2015).

Assessment Methodology

8.5.2 Details of the criteria and methods used in assessing the effects of the proposed development on landscape character and visual amenity, both individually and cumulatively are set out in Appendix A8.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology.

8.5.3 A precautionary approach has been adopted with this assessment and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

8.6 BASELINE

8.6.1 This section establishes the baseline landscape and visual character of the study area by drawing together existing desktop information such as maps, planning designations and historic references and verifying and expanding upon information gathered through site survey. The LVIA study area extends to 45 km from the outer most turbine of the proposed development.

Study Area and Context

8.6.2 The site is located along Cefn Manmoel, an elevated ridge situated between the Sirhowy Valley and Ebbw Vale. The ridge is approximately 504 m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum) at its highest point and comprises an expanse of open upland pasture. The site boundary also encompasses the upper parts of the steep valley sides which fall over 200 m eastwards towards the settlement of Ebbw Vale and a similar descent westward towards the settlement of Tredegar. Areas of woodland / forest are located on the steep slopes and typically define the edge of the site boundary to the east and west. The site is crossed by Manmoel Road along which traverses the Sirhowy Valley Walk Long Distance Footpath (LDF), providing a link between the settlement of Sirhowy in the north and Manmoel and further south beyond this. The site and the wider ridge are designated as Open Access Land (CRoW Act).

8.6.3 Around 3 km - 4 km to the north of the proposed development, the Heads of the Valleys A465 Trunk Road corridor extends east to west through the study area, with a concentration of industrial and commercial development situated along the corridor, including the Rassau and Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate's. Beyond this, the landscape rises to the extensive upland plateaux forming the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP). These areas are wild and windswept, often with unenclosed tracts of open moorland.

8.6.4 To the south of the Heads of the Valleys A465 Trunk Road, the study area is defined by the heavily dissected relief of the South Wales valleys. These steep-sided valleys are aligned in parallel, flowing in a southerly direction with major rivers including the Sirhowy, Rhymney and Ebbw. Ribbon urban and industrial areas are typically located on the floor and lower valley sides. Often there are extensive remains of past heavy industry, including coal mining and steel production displayed as a mix of derelict, preserved and redeveloped areas. Settlements include Ebbw Vale, situated less than 200 m to the east and approximately 500 m to the north, and Tredegar approximately 500 m to the west. The village of Manmoel is situated further away at approximately 2 km to the south.

8.6.5 Within approximately 15 km of the site boundary, more notable settlements include Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypridd to the west, Caerphilly to the south and Abergavenny, Blaenavon and Pontypool to the east. Further to the south, the wider study area extends across the coastal plain and out into the Severn Estuary. The cities of Cardiff and Newport and associated suburbs and satellite towns dominate this part of south-east Wales. Cardiff is Wales' capital and largest settlement, and along with Newport form busy transport hubs, with major ports and associated industrial infrastructure. There are also extensive residential, suburban areas and major retail, business and recreational facilities. There is an intensive network of busy roads and railways, including part of the M4 corridor Swansea to Paddington London train line. Nearer the site, within the valleys, the intervening topography restricts

valley to valley travel, except at heads and bottoms of valleys. Occasionally there are roads that climb steeply over passes with dramatic views and 'hair pin' bends.

- 8.6.6 To the south-west, beyond the South Wales Valleys the Vale of Glamorgan is a distinctive, gentle lowland landscape, largely comprising a rolling limestone plateau. A variety of rural land-uses characterise the area, with fields reinforced by thick hedgerows and frequent small woodlands and trees. This creates a strong sense of enclosure and intimacy, despite the proximity to large towns such as Cardiff, Barry and Bridgend, and a number of towns within the Vale, such as Cowbridge. The landscape terminates abruptly at the Heritage Coast that runs through the Vale of Glamorgan, characterised by its dramatic cliffs. There are a few sandy beaches, as well as shingle, but many images depict the exposed geology of the inter-tidal area, including bedding and pavements. There are long distance cliff top views towards Somerset. In the centre of the Vale, compact and historic settlements further reinforce the area's distinctive sense of place.
- 8.6.7 To the east of the study area, Monmouthshire comprises a gentle lowland farmed landscape of rolling hills, valleys and floodplains. It is in great contrast to the rugged upland landscapes of the South Wales Valleys, Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains that rise to the west. Fault-aligned vales and glacial deposits give rise to the fertile alluvial deposits that are key to the prosperity of this rural, farmed area. The River Usk drains much of the south and west. The Monnow and Trothy drain the north. Country lanes with high hedges link villages and hamlets that have a distinctive vernacular style in Old Red Sandstone, often whitewashed, with slate roofs, back clothed against the rich pastured fields and woodlands.
- 8.6.8 The tranquillity belies a contested past where the rich farmland was fought over by successions of powerful land grabbers. Forts and castles were strategically placed at many vantage points, notably at river crossings, such as at the more notable settlements of Abergavenny, Usk and Monmouth. A landscape of large estates emerged after the dissolution of the monasteries and these subsequently became the setting for mansions with planned parks and gardens, many of which remain largely intact today.
- 8.6.9 The Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains rise to the north, extending beyond the edge of the study area. These upland areas are amongst the highest range of mountains in southern Britain, with the highest peak of Pen y Fan rising to 886 m. The vast swathes of smooth, unenclosed moorland rise up to gentle ridges, between which run deeply cut valleys that terminate in high mountain passes. The Beacons themselves are made up of Old Red Sandstones, a relatively soft rock that has weathered and been sharpened by ice to create consistent, simple, smooth-sided slopes, falling abruptly and dramatically from ridges to provide the sharp outlines that are so characteristic, and which contrast with the sheltered farmed landscapes of the deeper valleys.
- 8.6.10 Green to their summits in summer, these mountains are internationally renowned and provide an iconic image for rural upland South Wales akin to that of Snowdonia in the north. A large swathe of the study area to the north is designated within the BBNP and is a popular destination for walkers and tourists to enjoy the dramatic upland scenery.
- 8.6.11 Beyond the uplands to the north, the study area includes the rural Wye and Usk Vales. These lowland areas are bounded and framed on all sides by the uplands of Epynt, the Radnorshire Hills, the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountains. These fertile agricultural landscapes are enclosed with a mature patchwork of hedgerows and farmland with a mix of arable and pasture. The area has been heavily defended from prehistoric to the Medieval periods, with Iron Age forts, Roman camps and roads and Anglo-Norman castles. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, large estates were established by newly gentrified families, and their planned parklands are strong landscape features. The area is braided with ancient, historic and modern communication routes. Brecon, the principal settlement, has early origins as a strategic crossing point on the Usk and has retained its quaint Victorian streetscapes, and with its annual Jazz Festival, it vies to share the cultural limelight with Hay-on-Wye and its

Literary Festival. Hamlets and farms are scattered in a linear pattern along watercourses or roads, linked by a winding network of narrow lanes. The agricultural richness of the area is reflected in the high number of large traditional farm buildings.

Landscape Designations

- 8.6.12 Landscape designations provide an indication of the value that national and local government, plus other agencies, attach to various landscapes. All landscapes have some importance, particularly to those people who live and work in them or use them for leisure activities and to an extent, the qualitative evaluation of landscape is subjective. However, Statutory and Non-Statutory landscape designations are a key consideration in establishing landscape value.
- 8.6.13 Within the study area there are a range of national, regional and local designations that may be statutory or non-statutory. These are described and are illustrated in Figure 8.13 to 8.19.

Statutory Designations

Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

- 8.6.14 The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales has been established, by Cadw/ICOMOS UK to identify those sites that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There are a total of 146 no. Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area and their locations are shown in Figure 8.14. However, of these:
- 82 no. are not open to the public. These will be excluded from any further consideration with the assessment; and
 - 133 no. will experience no or very limited theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines. These, again, will be excluded from any further consideration with the assessment.
- 8.6.15 Theoretical visibility will be experienced partially within the following Registered Parks and Gardens, all of which are open to the public. However, they are located at distances exceeding 31 km from the proposed development and are also well vegetated landscapes where visibility is intermittent. Significant effects from the following Registered Parks and Gardens are therefore also excluded from further consideration within the assessment.
- Chepstow Park;
 - The Kymin, Monmouth;
 - Fonmon Castle, Barry;
 - Clearwell Castle, Forest of Dean;
 - Kentchurch Court, Pontrilas; and
 - Whitfield, Kingston.
- 8.6.16 The following Registered Parks and Gardens that will experience theoretical visibility, are open to the public and are located within a distance from the proposed development where significant effects may be possible are listed in Table 8.4. These will be taken forward for assessment within section 8.7.

Table 8.4: Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest to be taken forward for assessment

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from Site (km)
Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area	II*	10
Bedwellty Park, Tredegar	II	2

Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area, Aberfan

8.6.17 This memorial garden and cemetery are located to the west of the 15 km detailed study area. The cemetery is where many of the victims of the Aberfan disaster 1966 are buried. The original Stone memorials erected shortly after the disaster began to deteriorate, and in 2007 the garden area was refurbished, including all of the archways and memorials. The Coventry Playground was built in 1972 on the site of the old Merthyr Vale School, with money collected by the people of Coventry. The playground was officially opened by the mayor of Coventry. A memorial garden was opened on the site of Pantglas Primary School, which was destroyed during the disaster. The park was partly opened by the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, on her visit to Aberfan in 1974.

Bedwellty Park

8.6.18 Bedwellty Park is an early-19th-century urban landscape park around 2 km to the north-west of the proposed development. It contains interesting rockwork, a well-preserved icehouse, and clumps of trees on artificial mounds. Recreational buildings and specimen tree planting date from the early-20th century.

Blaenavon World Heritage Site

8.6.19 Granted in 2000 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as World Heritage Site (WHS), this designation is located approximately 7.5 km to the east of the proposed development site boundary. The site itself covers an area of 32.9 sq. km and falls within the Local Authority areas of TCBC and MCC. 1458 ha of the designation also falls within the BBNP to the east. The designation is principally defined by the boundaries of land historically leased or purchased to provide the minerals, energy and infrastructure for the ironworks, and by additional land used in direct association with the ironworks or its communities. Special qualities, therefore, that define the BBNP, listed in section 8.7.4, will also apply to those sections of the WHS that fall within the BBNP.

Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP)

8.6.20 At its closest point, the boundary of the BBNP is located approximately 6 km north of the proposed turbines. It was established in 1957 and is a valued and protected area managed mainly for landscape conservation, natural heritage and recreation. The BBNP covers an area of 1,344 square km, extending from Llandeilo in the west to Hay-on-Wye in the north-east and Pontypool in the south-east. It encompasses the Black Mountain in the west, Fforest Fawr and the Brecon Beacons in the centre, and the Black Mountains in the east. The landscape is broadly characterised by expanses of bare, grassy moorland, with scattered forestry plantations, and pasture fields in the sheltered valleys. It is known for its remote reservoirs, waterfalls and its caves.

8.6.21 A significant proportion of the BBNP, including the area known as Black Mountain, extends across the north of the study area, as illustrated on Figure 8.13.

8.6.22 The special qualities of the BBNP as defined within the Management Plan¹ are:

- ‘A feeling of vitality and healthfulness that comes from enjoying the Park’s fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods;’
- ‘A sense of place and cultural identity – “Welshness” - characterised by the use of the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns, villages and family farms. The continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing;’
- ‘A sense of discovery where people are able to explore the Park’s hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual sites, medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths, legends and geological treasures;’
- ‘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 working, living “patchwork” of contrasting patterns, colours, and textures comprising of well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows, stone walls and scattered settlements;’
- ‘Extensive and widespread access to the Park’s diversity of wildlife and richness of semi-natural habitats, such as native woodlands, heathland and grassland, natural lakes and riparian habitats, ancient hedgerows, limestone pavement and blanket bogs including those of international and national importance;’
- ‘In the context of the UK, geographically rugged, remote and challenging landscapes;’
- ‘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;’ and
- ‘An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation.’

Non-Statutory Designations

Special Landscape Areas

8.6.23 Special Landscape Areas (SLA) are considered to be attractive and locally significant landscapes that are worthy of protection under planning policy. There is a total of 81 SLAs within the study area, illustrated on Figure 8.16 and 8.17. SLA’s where it is considered that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility and/or the SLA is located at a distance where effects are unlikely to be significant, have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further. These SLAs are listed in Table 8.5.

Table 8.5: Special Landscape Areas excluded from further assessment

Name	Local Authority
Mawr Uplands	CCSC
Upper & Lower Thaw Valley	VoGC
Ely Valley & ridge slopes	VoGC
Nant Llancarfan	VoGC
Dyffryn basin & ridge slopes	VoGC
Cwrt-yr-Ala basin	VoGC

¹ A Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015 -2020, Brecon Beacons National Park Authority.

Name	Local Authority
Mynydd y Betws	CC
Teifi Valley	CC
Drefach Velindre	CC
Mynydd Mallaen	CC
Llanllwni Mountain	CC
North Eastern Uplands	CC
Lower Taf Valley	CC
Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan	MC
Merthyr West Flank	MC
Pontygwaith	MC
Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed	MC
North Caerphilly	CCBC
Mynydd y Garth	NPT
Dulais Valley	NPT
Vale of Neath	NPT
Margam*	NPT
Mynydd y Gelli	NPT
Foel Trawsnant	NPT
Foel y Dyffryn	NPT
Northern Uplands	NPT
Western Uplands	NPT
Bryngarw Country Park	NPT
Mynydd y Gaer	NPT
Kenfig Burrows*	BC
Laleston	BC
Porthcawl Coast	BC
Merthyr Mawr Warren	BC
Castel upon Alun	BC
Mynydd y Cymmer	RCT
Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes	RCT
Llwynceilyn Slopes	RCT
Cwm Orci	RCT
Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm & Slopes	RCT
Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman	RCT
Brecon Beacons Edge at Llwydcoed	RCT
Llanharry Surrounds	RCT

Name	Local Authority
Talygarn Surrounds	RCT
Ely Valley at Miskin	RCT
Coed-yr-Hendy and Mwyndy	RCT
Llantrisant Surrounds	RCT
Mynydd y Glyn and Nant Muchudd Basin	RCT
Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest	RCT
Efail Isaf, Garth and Nantgarw Western Slopes	RCT
Craig yr Allt	RCT
Taff Vale Eastern Slopes	RCT
Treforest Western Slopes	RCT
Cwm Clydach	RCT
Cynon Valley Northern Slopes	RCT
St Fagans Lowlands and the Ely Valley	CC
Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges	CC
Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge*	CC
Wentloog Levels*	CC
Flat Holm	CC
South Caerphilly	CCBC
Llandegfedd Reservoir*	TC
South Eastern Lowlands*	TC
Southern Lowlands	TC
South West Uplands	TC
Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	TC
Eastern Uplands	TC
Afon Lwyd Valley	TC
Western Uplands	TC
North Of Bettws*	NC
West Of Rhiwderin	NC
Wentloog Levels	NC
Tredeggar Park*	NC
River Usk*	NC
Caldicot Levels*	NC
Wentwood	NC

8.6.24 SLA's where it is considered that significant effects may occur as a result of the proposed development are listed in Table 8.6. A description of each SLA is also provided within the subsequent text.

Table 8.6: Special Landscape Areas Included for Further Assessment

Name	Local Authority
Winchfawr	MTCBC
Upper Rhymney Valley	CCBC
Gelligaer Common	CCBC
Mynydd Eglwysilan	CCBC
Mynyddislwyn	CCBC
St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides	BGCBC
Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James	BGCBC
Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn	BGCBC
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	BGCBC
Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides	BGCBC
Cefn Manmoel	BGCBC
Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds	BGCBC
Beaufort Common	BGCBC
Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare and Cwmaman (53)	RCTCBC

Winchfawr (MTCBC)

8.6.25 This extensive area lies between the town and the ridgeline and the limit of western settlement and consists chiefly of open access land. The area is characterised by a complex mix of agricultural and former industrial land-uses, including fields defined by traditional drystone and hedged bank boundaries, along with sheep pens; post-medieval farms with farm buildings; ancient woodland; historic association, an important industrial extractive landscape associated with the Cyfarthfa Ironworks and other minor industrial incursions.

Upper Rhymney Valley (CCBC)

8.6.26 The area represents one of the most open upland areas within the County Borough, abutting the BBNP. It is a simple, open landscape that comprises an extensive area of unenclosed open moorland. This forms the easternmost outline of Merthyr Common, which has remained relatively, unchanged since the 19th Century, in spite of encroachment by industrial extraction activity, in particular lime and ironstone quarries. The SLA provides an important example of industrial heritage, with areas of reclaimed land and spoil tips. There are examples of various historic and contemporary human occupation and exploitation in the form of prehistoric monuments, redundant industrial workings and transport systems. The area has strong visual links with the Brecon Beacons, with extensive open views of these upland areas to the north. Adjacent upland areas dominate views into the landscape. The area has a strong underlying feel of industrial past.

Gelligaer Common (CCBC)

8.6.27 The landscape of Gelligaer common represents an increasingly rare survival in South East Wales of an extensive area of high upland moor rich with an exceptionally rich and diverse archaeological heritage, demonstrating a long continuity of human activity and occupation. It is an open, extensive, exposed and an increasingly rare upland landscape with extensive views over the coalfield plateau and up to the Brecon Beacons. Rock outcrops impart a strong upland character tempered by urban presence to south of area. The eastern flank of the SLA is typified by a more rolling landscape pattern interspersed with woodland blocks, spinneys and hedgerows.

Mynydd Eglwysilan (CCBC)

8.6.28 The Mynydd Eglwysilan and Meio areas represent an important and remarkably well-preserved historic landscape containing a wealth of archaeological evidence. The area is an extensive enclosed area of mountain moorland that has remained substantially intact and unaffected by 19th – 20th Century industrial exploitation or modern forestry plantations. The area also provides a wider landscape setting and context for the settlements of Nelson, Ystrad Mynach, Llanbradach, north Caerphilly / Bedwas, Abertridwr and Senghenydd. The landscape comprises agriculturally improved grassland with patches of broadleaved woodlands and bracken. 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.

Mynyddislwyn (CCBC)

8.6.29 This area comprises a reasonably well-preserved irregular rural fieldscape of post-medieval date, which has survived largely intact in spite of encroachment by 20th Century quarrying activity. It is a relatively small, but distinct landscape unit formed by the open, upland ridge of Mynydd y Lan to the north of Cwmfelinfach and west of Abercarn. It represents a key open upland area in a fairly intensively developed part of the borough, which has not totally been given over to commercial forestry plantations, such as further east at Cwmcarn and Coed Medart. The open ridge is surrounded on two 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.

St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides (BGCBC)

8.6.30 St. Illtyd Plateau displays a well-preserved pattern of pre-industrial farmland characterised by small rectangular fields with distinctive stone walls and overgrown beech and holly hedges. These old hedges are of considerable biodiversity value as well as historic and visual value. It is centred on, and integral with the settlement of St. Illtyd but is remote from the busy valleys, with 'other world' atmosphere due to obvious pre-industrial character. The area has panoramic views especially west and south, to other plateau landscapes. The Ebbw Valley sides form attractive backdrop to main valley settlements and routes, due to their convoluted topography and a variety of semi-natural vegetation.

Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James (BGCBC)

8.6.31 This area of open upland comprises unimproved acid grassland, with areas of bog and heath. There are a wealth of archaeological remains representing many phases of human history from prehistoric to recent, including evidence of mining and industry. The eastern parts of the area are within the Blaenavon Registered Historic Landscape (but not the WHS). The open upland is remote and bleak in contrast to adjacent valley, with panoramic and distant views. The valley sides and northern slopes form varied backdrops for valley settlements and routes including from Brynmawr and the Heads of the Valleys road.

Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn (BGCBC)

8.6.32 This area possesses a strong rural character, with a notable lack of industrial activity evident. The area has a hidden, 'tucked away' quality, although the attractive nineteenth century reservoir in Cwm Tyleri is a focus for recreation. There are some areas of beech, yew and oak woodlands amongst small fields with stone walls and scattered farmhouses.

Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail (BGCB)

- 8.6.33 The north slopes form a backdrop to Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr with some early opencast workings of historic value. This open upland ridge is a distinctive skyline seen from valleys on either side and has panoramic views across to other ridges. The Ebbw Fach and Ebbw Fawr sides form a varied backdrop to valley settlements, with rock exposures and quarries, woodland and open grassland. There are good views into the valleys. The southern end has a distinctive forked 'stop-end' to ridge with a well-preserved pattern of pre-industrial farmland, comprising small rectangular fields with distinctive stone walls and overgrown beech hedges. The steep densely forested valley sides give a very enclosed character to valley in this area.

Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides (BGCB)

- 8.6.34 The open upland ridge forms a distinctive open skyline visible from the valleys on either side. There are panoramic views across to other ridges to west, and north to Brecon Beacons, & into the valley from Cefn Golau. The Sirhowy valley sides form a varied backdrop to valley and A4048, with rock outcrops, quarries, woodland and grassland. Cwm Tysswg is a secluded area of farmland, undisturbed by industrialisation, with pleasant views into Rhymney valley.

Cefn Manmoel (BGCB)

- 8.6.35 The open upland ridge forms a distinctive open skyline seen from valleys on either side. There is a panoramic view across to other ridges into the valleys and to the Brecon Beacons. The Sirhowy and Ebbw Fawr valley sides form a varied backdrop to the valley settlements and provide enclosure, particularly where steep and forested. On the Manmoel plateau the distinctive beech hedges form part of a wider historic pattern of fields around ancient settlement of Manmoel, extending across the county boundary into CCBC area.

Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds (BGCB)

- 8.6.36 This area forms remote, large-scale, bleak and generally tranquil area that acts as a margin and buffer zone to the BBNP. The landscape is highly visible, both close-up and from more distant areas such as the A465 and is important to the overall perception of the region by travellers. It is on the fringes of historic coalfield industrial activity with well-preserved industrial remains. There are fine contrasting panoramic views, north to Pen y Fan and BBNP and south across Heads of Valleys. The area is increasingly popular for leisure and recreational access into BBNP. Within the valley, Nant-y-Bwlch or 'Nine Arches' viaduct and Sirhowy below form an attractive landmark. To the east, there are fine wide views south across the Heads of Valleys from Llangynidr Road.

Beaufort Common (BGCB)

- 8.6.37 This area of undeveloped heads of the valleys land between the main settlements, contains a mix of run-down marginal farmland and woodland and recreation on reclaimed/reprofiled land. The northern half of the area is prominent from A465, and the south eastern part forms a backdrop to Brynmawr. There are panoramic views from the high points, across heads of the valleys, down Clydach Gorge and to Brecon Beacons.

Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare and Cwmaman (RCTCBC)

- 8.6.38 This area comprises a high scarp along northern edge of coalfield, with a series of well-defined steep glacial cirques cut into the slopes. The landscape is dramatic with extensive views over the Heads of Valleys. Views also extend from the Rhigos Road to the north and there is intervisibility with the peaks of BBNP. The distinctive landform dwarfs the small settlement of Cwmaman in the valley bottom to south and the wooded slopes form a backdrop to the remains of Tower Colliery. The LDF Coed Morgannwg Way passes through area, from Dare

Country Park. Cairns and other ancient monuments are notable throughout the SLA provide widespread evidence of early settlement.

Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILL's)

VILLs are non-statutory designations that seek to protect the distinctive features or characteristics of the visual and sensory landscape and how people respond to the landscape. CCBC identify 4no. VILLs within their LDP. Figure 8.19 indicates that there will be very limited visibility of the proposed development from Rudry and therefore this VILL has been excluded from further assessment. A brief description of each VILL, which has been carried forward for further assessment, is provided below:

Northern Rhymney Valley

- 8.6.39 This comprises a predominantly open upland area, with some rock outcrops. There are pronounced views across the Rhymney Valley, occasionally limited by topography and/or vegetation. The upland sense of place is complicated by urban edges and visual detractors (pylons) but increases with elevation and views out. Stonewalls are the usual boundary treatment in the area. Surrounding the VILL is a complex mix of broadleaf/coniferous woodland. Adjacent to the Nant Bargod Rhymni, Parc Cwm Darran is a very scenic area with high quality traditional buildings and good facilities in excellent repair. Scattered rural settlements and farms are the predominant built form in the area. Evidence of industrial and mining throughout the VILL. Wind noise is a dominant sensory feature, which evokes particular experiences of exposure and wildness on the upland areas.

Manmoel

- 8.6.40 Predominantly an upland landscape with a strong sense of openness. The Upland feel of the landscape increases with elevation as views increase in quality. The upland area is characterised by rough grassland with scattered woodland, hedgerows and narrow lanes and affords views down valleys and to plantation woodland. Manmoel Common falls within this upland area and is characterised by the same landscape qualities. This upland area forms the northern tip of the VILL. It is generally a rolling hilly landscape with a distinctive field pattern / mosaic of grown-out beech hedging and typical stonewalls. The conditions of the boundaries are poor, but the former gives the impression of dense woodland from outside the area and has a strong, sculptural quality. Unsympathetic division into paddocks is threatening the existing field patterns.

Abercarn

- 8.6.41 The VILL includes Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd and consists of an upland area of ridges and valleys, much of which consists of a woodland mosaic of conifers (providing winter greenery) and mixed woodland, giving a sense of enclosure. Some views are restricted by forestry, but open ridgelines afford views across adjacent wooded valleys. Coniferous plantation flanks areas of heath (which provide autumn colour) and grassland. The visual values of these aspects are, in part, dependent upon the contrast with each other. Visual detractors (vertical elements including pylons) on the open ridgeline have reduced the visual and sensory evaluations for both.

Heritage Coasts

- 8.6.42 Heritage coasts are stretches of outstanding coastline identified by local authorities and their intention is to protect an undeveloped coast from inappropriate development and through management, balance the needs of conservation, recreation, tourism and commercial activity. They are not protected by law; however, they must be given special consideration by Local Authorities in planning decisions. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast is located within the Vale of Glamorgan (VoG) has a total of 57 km of coastline, 19 km of which is designated as Heritage Coast. It extends from West Aberthaw in the east to Ogmores-by-Sea in the west. Policy MG27² within the VoG's

² Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 – 2026 (June 2017), Policy MG27, page 92.

LDP sets out the relevant planning policy. However, Figures 8.18 and 8.19 indicate that there will be very limited visibility of the proposed development from this designation and therefore it has been excluded from further assessment.

Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest

- 8.6.43 The Register of Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (LOHI) in Wales (Part 2.1) and Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Part 2.2) has been established, by Cadw/ICOMOS UK to identify those landscape that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There are fourteen Registered Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest that lie entirely or partly within the study area and their locations are shown in Figure 8. 18 and 8.19.
- 8.6.44 There are 11 registered sites where it is considered that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility of the proposed development and therefore where effects are unlikely to be significant. These have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further. These are listed in Table 8.7.

Table 8.7: Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest excluded from further assessment

Name	Evaluation
The Rhondda	Special
Blaenavon	Outstanding
Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai	Outstanding
Gwent Levels	Outstanding
Llancarfan	Outstanding
Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows	Outstanding
Margam Mountain	Special
Middle Usk Valley, Brecon and Llangorse	Special
The Middle Wye Valley	Outstanding
The Lower Wye Valley	Outstanding
Clydach Gorge	Special

- 8.6.45 Registered Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest where it is considered that significant effects may occur as a result of the proposed development are listed in Table 8.8. A description of each is also provided.

Table 8.8: Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest to be taken forward for assessment

Name	Evaluation
Merthyr Tydfil	Outstanding
Gelligaer Common	Outstanding
East Forest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog	Special

Merthyr Tydfil

- 8.6.46 Merthyr Tydfil occupies a natural basin at the head of the Taff valley. The town and its environs remain a potent example of an internationally renowned industrial landscape of the 18th and 19th centuries and a permanent reminder of man's exploitation of the landscape. High hills and ridges reach 450 m above AOD on all sides, with development constrained to the basin floor and smaller tributary valleys of the Taff, which itself provides the only natural route out of the basin to the south east. It was probably the largest iron-making town in the world in the early to mid- 19th century. The town, and its associated landscape, was rapidly transformed from a modest village in the 1750s to the largest town in Wales by 1801. Despite extensive recent land reclamation and the sanitisation of the surrounding waste tips, overall Merthyr still retains its industrial landscape character as the most significant Welsh town of the Industrial Revolution.

Gelligaer Common

- 8.6.47 The landscape area of Gelligaer Common represents an increasingly rare survival in South East Wales of an area of high upland moor rich in a diverse archaeological resource. The Common and the area lying immediately to the south east extends from the pivotal ancient settlement of Gelligaer in the south east to the summits of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw in the north west. The area varies considerably from the moorland plateau of the Common in the north west, with isolated farms and improved, enclosed pasture on its western and eastern flanks, to the enclosed farmland of the south east and the pleasant rural village of Gelligaer which is now adjacent to a primarily industrial urban landscape of the Rhymney Valley. The landscape is diverse both in its form and in its archaeological and historical content, which displays a remarkable continuity of occupation.

East Forest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog

- 8.6.48 The visually imposing northwards-facing escarpments and adjoining dramatic mountain masses of the Black Mountains, the Brecon Beacons, Fforest Fawr and the Black Mountain together form a vast natural ridge and physical barrier that divides South from Mid-Wales. Fforest Fawr forms the central part of this barrier with the area identified here comprising its eastern side situated between the valleys of the Mellte in the west and the Taf Fawr in the east. The area displays the widespread survival of archaeological remains representing the recurrent, and at times intense, occupation and exploitation of this area and its natural resources from the prehistoric period to the recent past. These remains include prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments, evidence of early agriculture and land allotment, and a range of settlements from the prehistoric and the medieval periods, the whole superimposed in parts by more recent remains of quarries, lime works and workings, and abandoned land intakes. The richness, variety and remarkable extent of the surviving archaeological resources in this area, which is in many ways typical of upland Wales, demonstrates the vigour with which human populations recurrently, and at times continuously, exploited these zones in the past.

Country Parks

- 8.6.49 There is a total of 20 Country Parks within the study area. The locations of these are illustrated on Figure 8.18 and 8.19. From Country Parks where it is considered that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility and/or due to the extent of the intervening distance, effects are not considered likely to be significant, these have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further. Country Parks excluded are listed in Table 8.9.

Table 8.9: Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest excluded from further assessment

Name
Parc Cwm Darren
Pen y Fan Ponds
Taff Bargoed Woodland Park/Parc Coetir
Parc Penallta
Parc Bryn Bach
Sirhowy Country Park
Margam Country Park
Afan Forest Park
Craig y Nos Castle
Dare Valley
Bryngarw
Cosmeston Lakes
Tredeggar House
Cefn Onn
Fforest Farm Reserve
Whitchurch
Hailey Park
Porthkerry
Clytha Park
Caldicot Castle Park

8.6.50 Country Parks, where it is considered likely that significant effects may occur as a result of the proposed development, are listed in Table 8.10. A description of each is also provided in the subsequent text.

Table 8.10: Country Parks included for assessment

Name
Parc Bryn Bach
Parc Sirhowy/Sirhowy Country Park

Parc Bryn Bach

8.6.51 This park is located in Tredeggar, approximately 3 km to the north-west of the proposed development. The site is a local nature reserve and comprises around 340 acres of grass and woodland habitat set around a 36 acre lake. A network of paths along with a range of facilities that include a caravan park, picnic benches, adventure play and a café/visitor facility.

Parc Sirhowy/Sirhowy Country Park

8.6.52 This Park is located along the Sirhowy Valley to the south of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. It extends from the flatter and more open valley bottom up through wooded slopes to the hillsides above. There are a range of walks

and mountain bike trails and the Route 47 (The Celtic Trail) of the National Cycle Network extends through the length of the park exiting across the Hengoed Viaduct into Parc Penallta to the west.

Transport Movement and Circulation

8.6.53 The following key transport, movement and circulation routes are located within the study area. These are indicated in Figures 8.20 and Figure 8.21.

Key Road and Rail Corridors

8.6.54 The key road and rail corridors within the study area include:

- The M4 Motorway. This extends east to west broadly through the south of the study area, passing within approximately 20 km from the proposed development;
- A/Trunk Roads. The study area is bisected by a network of trunk roads providing connectivity north to the south through the valleys and east to west across the coastal plain to the south and the heads of the valleys to the north. These include the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, approximately 5 km to the north, the A48 approximately 11 km to the west and the A40 approximately 15 km to the east. Within the valleys, A/trunk roads typically provide the key movement corridor north to south and include the A467 approximately 1 km to the east of the proposed development and the A4046, approximately 1 km to the west; and
- Railways. A local commuter route extends south from Ebbw Vale to Newport. A separate route extends south from Rhymney connecting to Caerphilly and Cardiff beyond this.

National Trails/Long Distance Footpaths (LDFs)

8.6.55 The following national trails/LDFs extend through or within the study area.

The Sirhowy Valley Walk

8.6.56 This path extends south from Tredeggar to Tredeggar House on the outskirts of Newport. It extends through a range of landscapes, including lowland and upland farms, woodlands and riverside parks along the Sirhowy Valley. The route extends through the proposed development site on the Cefn Manmoel ridgeline. The route also links with the Ebbw Valley Walk (16 miles from Wattsville to Ebbw Vale) near Cwm. The circular waymarked Raven Walk also uses some of the Sirhowy Valley Walk near Ynysddu.

The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk

8.6.57 This route extends south from the Parc Bryn Bach at Tredeggar around 5 km from the proposed development. The walk follows a mixture of ridgeway tracks, woodland paths and hedged lanes across the hills encircling the unique and often spectacular scenery of the Rhymney Valley. It links with the Taff-Ely Ridgeway Walk at Caerphilly Common, and in the east is partly coincident with the Sirhowy Valley Walk.

Rhymney River Circular

8.6.58 The Rhymney River Circular Walk is a 14.5 km circular walk around the mid valley area of the River Rhymney, passing through the villages of Machen, Draethen and Michaelston-y-fedw.

Usk Valley Way

8.6.59 This trail extends to the north of the study area along the Usk Valley, using the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal for some sections from Brecon to Usk. It is located approximately 12 km from the proposed development at its nearest point, at Gilwern to the north-east.

Taff Trail

- 8.6.60 This trail is an 88 km cycle and walking route starting in the south in Cardiff Bay and travelling north to Brecon and is located approximately 12 km to the west of the proposed development. It is made up of old railway paths, forest paths and canals and partly follows National Cycle Route (NCR) 8.³

Raven Walk

- 8.6.61 This is a 12-mile circular route above the Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys. It crosses farmland and woodland including Cwmcarn Forest to Twmbarlwm Iron Age Hillfort with panoramic views of the Severn Estuary in the south and the Brecon Beacons in the north. The walk starts at the Cwmcarn Visitor Centre and heads to Mynydd Islwyn, Ynys Hywel and Glenside before returning to Cwmcarn.

Beacons Way

- 8.6.62 This route is the official trail of the BBNPA in Wales, passing east-west through major ranges of the Black Mountains, the Brecon Beacons and the Black Mountain to the north of the study area. It traverses the Beacons between the Holy Mountain, Abergavenny and Llangadog. The route takes in Llanthony, Crickhowell, Llangynidir, Craig Cerrig-gleisiad, Craig-y-nos, Llanddeusant, and Carreg Cennen before finishing at Llangadog.

Three Rivers Ride

- 8.6.63 This route extends from Worcestershire through the Black Mountains at the Powys border and terminates near Brecon in the National Park Visitor Centre at Libanus. It is located approximately 37 km to the north east of the proposed development.

Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk

- 8.6.64 This extends east to west around 27 km to the south west of the proposed development along ridges along the Taff and Ely valleys and comprises a mixture of footpaths, bridleways and lanes.

Ogwr Ridgeway Walk

- 8.6.65 This 21 km route links to the Taff-Ely Ridgeway Walk and extends west to Margam and is around 27 km from the proposed development at its nearest point.

Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail

- 8.6.66 This trail forms a circular route around the Vale of Glamorgan through landscapes of historical and scenic interest, with inland and coastal sections, including the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. It is located around 30 km from the proposed development to the south-west.

St Illtyds Walk

- 8.6.67 This route provides a walk from Pembrey to Margam across varied terrain, canals, woodlands and gentle hills crossing the rivers Loughor, Tawe, Neath and Afan. The walk links with the Coed Morgannwg Way at Margam giving access to the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk and Taff Trail. The walk celebrates St Illtyd who flourished in the latter part of the 5th and beginning of the 6th century and was held in high veneration in Wales.

Herefordshire Trail

- 8.6.68 This path is located approximately 30 km to the north-east at its closest point from the proposed development. It uses existing public rights of way to give a circular tour around the county of Hereford and links the five market towns of Ledbury, Ross-on-Wye, Kington, Leominster and Bromyard, along with a number of villages.

Wye Valley Walk

- 8.6.69 This route follows the River Wye, from the rugged upland moorlands of the mountains of mid Wales to the Severn near Chepstow, extending into the Valley AONB. It is located around 34 km to the east of the proposed development.

Wysis Way

- 8.6.70 This route provides a link between Offa's Dyke Path National Trail at Monmouth to the beginning of the Thames Path National Trail in Gloucestershire. Located around 37 km to the east of the proposed development, the route crosses the distinctive areas of the Forest of Dean, the Severn Vale and the Cotswolds.

Gloucestershire Way

- 8.6.71 This route is located around 38 km from the proposed development to the south-east. It extends east through the Forest of Dean, Severn Plain and Cotswolds linking the Wye Valley Walk and Offa's Dyke Path National Trail to the Severn, Cotswold, Oxfordshire and Heart of England Ways beyond the study area.

The Wales Coast Path

- 8.6.72 This is a 1,400 km continuous walking route around the entire coast of Wales and runs as near to the coast as legally and practically possible. It is located broadly to the south of the study area at distances greater than approximately 29 km.

Offa's Dyke Path National Trail

- 8.6.73 This National Trail extends along the Welsh Borders from Sedbury Cliffs near Chepstow on the banks of the Severn Estuary with the coastal town of Prestatyn on the shores of the Irish sea to the north. It passes through no less than eight different counties and crosses the border between England and Wales over 20 times. The route is located approximately 35 km to the south-east at its nearest point.

National Cycle Routes (NCRs)

- 8.6.74 The study area contains a network of NCRs. Of note is NCR 46 that connects Bromsgrove to Neath and NCR 467 and NCR 466 that run north south off NCR 46 to provide cycle way access to the valleys either side of the proposed development.

Open Access Land (CRoW Act)

- 8.6.75 Extensive areas of Open Access Land, designated under The CRoW Act 2000 fall within the study area and includes land within the site boundary of the proposed development. This Act normally gives the public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) or registered common land. This includes broad areas within the site and around its boundary and many of the upland plateaux to the north and the valley ridges defining the South Wales Valleys.

Watercourses and Other Infrastructure

- 8.6.76 In addition to the roads, a number of rivers also extend along the valley floors, these include the River's Ebbw to the east and the Sirhowy to the west of the proposed development. Further to the north-east lies the Usk Valley, flowing within a broader valley south through Abergavenny and Newport.
- 8.6.77 Other human infrastructure and influence evident throughout the landscape outside of urban and industrial areas include transmission and distribution pylons and poles with overhead cabling, telecommunications masts, quarries

³ Sustrans, Route 8. [Online]. Available from <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/route-8> [Accessed 14/02/2023]

and opencast works, commercial forestry plantations, golf courses, wind turbines and wind farms, ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms, and evidence of past mining activity from tips and mines.

Baseline Landscape Character Assessment

- 8.6.78 Following a review of all five LANDMAP aspect areas in accordance with NRW Guidance Note 46 and published landscape character assessments, a total of 148 LCAs were identified within the study area where theoretical visibility of the proposed development may be experienced. However further analysis of the ZTV (refer to Figures 8.1, 8.2, 8.31 and 8.32) together with other influencing factors including distance and key characteristics of each LCA, identified that from this total number, 37 LCAs would need to be carried forward for further assessment. These are listed in Table 8.11. A detailed description of each of these is provided in Appendix A8.5: LCAs within the 45 km Study Area.
- 8.6.79 Potential effects from all LCAs excluded from further assessment are not considered likely to experience significant effects on landscape character as a result of the proposed development. Therefore, these LCAs have been excluded from further assessment.

Table 8.11: Landscape Character Areas Within the Study Area to be taken forward for assessment

LCA	Name
01	Mynydd Manmoel
02	Pentapoed East
03	Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys*
04	Mynydd Carn-y-cefn & Cefn yr Arail
05	Beaufort Hill
08	Coity Mountain
09	Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyd, Cwm
10	Tredegar
11	Sirhowy Valley & Valley North of Blackwood
12	Mynydd Bedwellty
13	Pentapoed West
14	Blackwood
15	Darren Valley
16	Gelligaer Common/West of Rhymney
17	Mynydd Eglwysilian/Llanfabon
20	Merthyr Common & Cwm Cothi Farmlands
23	Abernant, Cefnpennar and Merthyr West Flank
24	St Gwynno and Ynysybwl
25	Merthyr North Flank
26	Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys
27	Central Beacons
28	Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr
29	Mynydd Llangyidr

LCA	Name
32	The Black Mountains
33	Skirrid and Sugar Loaf
38	Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen
40	Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn
42	North West of Mynydd-y-Lan
43	Mynydd -y-Lan
44	Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach
45	Mynydd y Grug
48	Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly
78	Mynydd y Glyn
80	Mynydd Maendy
85	St Gwynno
96	Fforest Fawr
126	Llangovan Foothills

8.7 POTENTIAL EFFECTS

- 8.7.1 This section of the LVIA establishes the potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity brought about by the proposed development. Assessment of the magnitude of these effects and their significance is made on the basis of the criteria set out in the methodology (Appendix A8.1) and the assessment of baseline landscape and visual character.
- 8.7.2 The assessment of effects takes consideration of the following issues:
- Direct and indirect effects on landscape character and changes to the landscape;
 - Effects on the visual amenity of the study area and from the selected viewpoints including changes to the composition of views and the perception and response by receptor groups to these changes;
 - Potential cumulative visual effects resulting from the intervisibility and sequential visibility with consented or application stage wind farms within the study area; and
 - Effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the proposed development.

Potential Effects – Construction Stage

- 8.7.3 This section looks at direct effects of the proposed development during the construction phase, which is expected to last up to 24 months in duration. Indirect construction effects are likely to be similar in nature to those experienced during the operational phase and assessed within section 8.7 and therefore have been scoped out.
- 8.7.4 The main direct effects during the construction are outlined and assessed.
- Potential Construction Stage Direct Effects**
- 8.7.5 The main effects on landscape character during the construction phase of the works would be the erection of the wind turbines. Each turbine would require the stripping of vegetation and soils and construction of a permanent and temporary crane hardstanding area, and a concrete foundation as described in Chapter 5: Project Description.

Access tracks will extend between each turbine. There will also be a construction compound located to the south of the site, adjacent to T4. Stripping of vegetation and soils will also occur within the footprint of these elements.

- 8.7.6 Vegetation loss will be limited and comprise a slight reduction in the extent of areas of heath, acid grassland, bracken and scrub habitats identified and assessed in Chapter 6: Ecology. However, it is likely that regeneration of habitats will occur in areas subject to temporary construction operations. The small loss of vegetation and soils would have a direct landscape impact, but due to the limited extent and duration, this will be low to negligible in magnitude. The sensitivity of the receptor is considered to be medium. Direct landscape effects will be of minor significance.
- 8.7.7 The erection of the turbine towers, nacelles and blades would require the use of cranes and other construction machinery, and these are likely to be a visually prominent, though temporary feature during the construction phase of works. Within duration of the construction operations, cranes will likely progress from one turbine location to the next and visibility will vary depending on the position of the cranes at any one-time. Indirect effects relating to these elements may extend beyond the site boundary adjacent into character areas. Impacts on landscape character within the wider study area in these instances will be similar to those assessed for the operational stage, albeit reduced in magnitude through the small duration and the more localised nature of the construction operations.

Potential Effects – Operational Stage

- 8.7.8 This section looks at both the effects on landscape character and the visual effects of the proposed development during the operational phase. It is anticipated that the operational lifetime of the project would be up to 50 years from commissioning to decommissioning.

Potential Effects on Landscape Character

- 8.7.9 Effects on landscape character during the operational phase of the proposed development would predominantly occur from locations within and immediately surrounding the proposed development. 37 LCAs have been identified as requiring detailed assessment within the study area. The assessment includes operational and under construction wind farm developments that form part of the baseline landscape characteristics. Cumulative effects for consented and application-stage wind farm developments are considered separately within section 8.8.

LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel

Value

- 8.7.10 This is an upland area, once evidently the focus of mining and quarrying. The central part of the LCA, comprising the spine of Cefn Manmoel. The historic value of Cefn Manmoel is noted, with evidence of prehistoric to post-modern human activity. The majority of the LCA lies within Cefn Manmoel SLA, and a small south-western part lies within Manmoel VILL. This is; therefore, a landscape of local importance and its value is assessed as medium to high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.11 The greater part of this LCA lies within land identified at national level for wind energy development - Future Wales Pre-assessed area (FWPAA) for wind energy 10. As such, development of the type proposed would assist in the achievement of national planning policy relating to this landscape. This landscape is defined by upland qualities and the influence of past and present industry and urban fringe. There is a lack of coherence and the perceptual presence of human development within the landscape setting strengthened by the presence of man-made vertical elements, including the operational wind turbines at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2. This dynamic contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys

landscape. Landscape pattern is somewhat varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility to landscape change is therefore assessed as medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.12 Landscape value is assessed as medium to high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium to low. Landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.13 All elements of the proposed development lie within this LCA and would result in direct effects to the limited part of this LCA that contains the site itself. Impacts would result from the replacement of upland grassland with the turbines and any service and access infrastructure, including the temporary and permanent crane pads. This would represent a relatively small-scale physical removal of landscape components in the context of the wider LCA. The wider framework of landscape pattern, field boundaries and tree cover would remain unaltered.
- 8.7.14 Elsewhere within the LCA, landscape change would occur because of the addition of the turbines within the landscape setting. The extent of change would vary with distance and context, including the physical attributes relating to vegetation pattern and landform. The proposed development would likely be a prominent feature across much of the LCA and will add to the influence of the operational turbines at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2. From limited parts of the LCA only, partial influence of the turbines would be available – as indicated by Figure 8.31 and 8.32, illustrating theoretical visibility of the proposed development. The ZTV also indicates that from restricted pockets within dipped landform to the south and north-west, the proposed turbines would not be experienced. However, across a notable of the LCA the addition of the turbines would be an additional key element. The geographical extent of change to this LCA is therefore large. The turbines presence within the landscape would not constitute a physical or perceptual change to the defining characteristics – upland affected by human activity and the backdrop to settlement would remain prevalent. The turbines would be located within an LCA that is already affected by other wind energy development and other vertical elements within the immediate and wider setting and as such they would be a consistent feature in the landscape. Magnitude of landscape effects is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.15 LCA 01 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium to high. Although the turbines would be a notable element within the landscape, they add to the influence of operational wind turbines within the LCA. They will also increase the sense of incoherence that prevails across this area. However, existing key characteristics including the simple upland qualities and the landscape's role as an attractive skyline and backdrop to the valleys on both sides will be retained. Although some aspects of the proposed development are considered to be largely compatible with the existing character, direct and indirect effects would occur across a large proportion of the LCA. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-major (significant).

LCA 02: Pentraoed East

Value

- 8.7.16 The northern area of this LCA at Cruglwyn and Coed-y-Llanerch is of local importance as it lies within Manmoel VILL. However, the majority of the LCA falls outside of any landscape designation. As a result of the above, landscape value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.17 The greater part this LCA lies within land identified at national level for wind energy development – FWPAA for wind energy 10. As such, the proposed development would assist in the achievement of national planning policy relating to this landscape. Baseline analysis indicates a variety of influences and inconsistent landscape experience within different parts of the LCA, including mixed components such as upland, fieldscape, urban edge and visual clutter including large-scale development and some picturesque areas. Landscape pattern is therefore mixed with some positive characteristics and some detracting elements. The character is influenced throughout by operational wind farms at Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 to the north and Pen y Fan Ganol Farm and Pen y Fan (Ind Est) further to the south. Open views into varied landscape settings, moderate concentration of receptors and transitory receptors are typical. Susceptibility to landscape change is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.18 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.19 The ZTV (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the proposed development will have an influence across the northern parts of this LCA, particularly on the more open and elevated sections along Cefn Manmoel. From the greater part of Mynydd Pen y Fan and the southern area of the LCA to the east of Blackwood the proposed development will have no influence on the character. The geographical extent of change is over a medium to large part of the LCA. Where views from this LCA are shown to be available, they are generally of all five turbines, although not exclusively. Effects of the turbines are likely to be from close to medium distance and long-term in duration. However, in physical terms the turbines would result in indirect effects only and from a partial geographical area of this LCA. From northern parts of the LCA at Manmoel, where they are likely to be more visible, the turbines would be compatible with existing aesthetic and perceptual aspects of landscape character – such as urban fringe influences and the presence of vertical elements. This will include the operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2. The magnitude of impact on landscape character is assessed as medium.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.20 LCA 02 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape impact is medium. Indirect effects would occur from part of this LCA; however, the turbines would not be visible from the remaining part. The turbines would likely to be integrated into the existing landscape without the loss of key underlying landscape attributes. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 03: Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys

Value

- 8.7.21 This LCA forms an important visual backdrop to settlement and is noted for its habitat value as a local wildlife site. There are no landscape designations within this LCA. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.22 Although landscape pattern is defined by mosaic fieldscape, this landscape is primarily the visual backdrop and enclosing element to settlement and therefore influenced by urban/ detractive elements. The varied and therefore somewhat incoherent nature of the valley sides is noted within the baseline landscape analysis. Traces of industrial land-uses are present, however there are no existing turbines within this LCA. Large scale views, simple skylines

and moderate numbers of transitory and static receptors are characteristic. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.23 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.24 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.1 and 8.2) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from most parts of the LCA, located immediately east of the proposed development. From within the LCA, indirect effects would occur, and all five turbines would be visible at close distance. The relationship of this valley sides LCA to adjoining urban and upland land-uses is fundamental to its character and as such varied influences including vertical and other man-made components are part of the existing pattern of elements that define character. Due to proximity and the location of the proposed development on the immediate skyline to the west, it would become a new key characteristic of this LCA. Magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as medium - high.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.25 LCA 03 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-high. Significance of effects on landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-major (significant).

LCA 04: Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail

Value

- 8.7.26 The LCA is noted historic value with remnants of mining activity, Bronze Age Cairns and evidence of post-medieval farming which indicate human activity over many millennia. This is a landscape of local importance, further reinforced by much of the area's designation as Mynydd Carn y Cefn and Cefn yr Arail SLA. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.27 This is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements such as sweeping lines and open views and it is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change. The landscape is large in scale and there are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. There is a visible and perceptual presence throughout the LCA of both historic and present human activity and development, including nearby valley settlements. The landscape pattern is simple. Susceptibility is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.28 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.29 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would extend across the majority of this LCA, at relatively close distance. The geographical extent of change is therefore large. The turbines would likely be a notable addition within the landscape setting of this LCA, with the influence of all five turbines likely to extend across most of this open and simple landscape. However, no direct effects would occur and the addition of the turbines within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character. This is as a result of the scale and simplicity of the receiving landscape which would remain physically and perceptually

intact. The magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as medium-high, due to the geographical extent of influence across this LCA and some partial reduction in the sense of remoteness.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.30 LCA 04 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-high. Indirect effects would occur over a notable proportion of this LCA, and the turbines would likely become prominent new feature of landscape character. However, by virtue of the simple combination of landscape elements, the underlying robust and upland qualities would remain prevalent. Significance of landscape effect, on balance, is assessed as moderate-major, (significant).

LCA 05: Beaufort Hill

Value

- 8.7.31 This LCA is noted for its habitat value as a local wildlife site and historic remnant field-escape. Much of this LCA lies within Beaufort Common SLA. This is therefore a landscape of local importance. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.32 This is an open, large-scale area heavily influenced by past industrial activity, a run-down character and urban fringe and it is, therefore, lacking unity and includes detracting elements. Susceptibility is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.33 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.34 ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from the western parts of this LCA. Close-medium distance views are likely to be available of all five turbines, resulting in indirect increased influence of wind farms. The existing aesthetic and perceptual aspects are influenced by the presence of a variety manmade elements within the panoramic views into the valleys. The proposed turbines would therefore not constitute an alien element alongside existing landscape features. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.35 LCA 05 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a notable proportion of this LCA; however, this is an open landscape is sandwiched between settlements and the A465 corridor, and as such turbines would not be incongruous with the existing landscape setting. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 08: Coity Mountain

Value

- 8.7.36 This LCA has a strong sense of place and a simple set of distinctive upland elements, that includes a wide range of archaeological features varying from mining structures to cairns and sheepfolds. Much of this LCA lies within a SLA. This is therefore a landscape of local importance. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.37 This is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change because of strong physical and perceptual sense of place. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.38 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.39 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from west-facing parts of this LCA, at close-medium distance. All five of the proposed turbines would likely have a notable influence within these parts of the LCA. However, no direct effects would occur and from much of the LCA, where it faces east, the turbines would have no influence. As a result of the partial extent the area influenced and the nature of existing landscape character, the addition of the turbines within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character. Magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.40 LCA 08 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a notable proportion of this LCA. However, the turbines would not likely become defining characteristic. This landscape is considered robust and upland qualities would remain prevalent. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm

Value

- 8.7.41 This LCA encompasses one of the major industrial/urban settlements in Blaenau Gwent, however the landscape is not covered by any designation. Value is assessed as low.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.42 This LCA is defined by human activity, both present and historic, including industrial and urban development. This LCA is visually enclosed by landform that includes the proposed development and forms an important backdrop to the LCA as well as buildings and structures. Vertical features, including operational turbines to the north of the LCA, partially influence the existing landscape setting. Susceptibility to change of landscape receptors is high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.43 Landscape value is assessed as low and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.44 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the turbines are theoretically visible from almost all of this LCA. However, the influence of the proposed development will be variable due to the presence of built structures, some of which may obscure views of the proposed development. Viewpoints 3, 4 and 6 (refer to Figures 8.35a – 8.35e, 8.36a – 8.36f and 8.38a – 8.38e) illustrate some available views from this LCA. Where visible, all

of the five turbines would likely be experienced at close – medium distance on the skyline. The magnitude of impact is assessed as high.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.45 LCA 09 is considered to be medium in sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape effects is assessed as high. Views to the surrounding ridges are noted as a characteristic of the LCA although include some influence of existing turbines and other vertical structures. Although not entirely incongruous, the proposed development would become a key prominent feature within the backdrop. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as major-moderate, (significant).

LCA 10: Tredegar

Value

- 8.7.46 A landscape that contains a number of historic features, predominantly by virtue of its retained 19th Century street pattern and retained historic built elements and ironworks; however, the landscape is not designated. Value is assessed as low.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.47 This LCA is defined by human activity, both present and historic, including industrial and urban development. This LCA is visually enclosed by landform that includes the proposed development and forms an important backdrop to the LCA as well as buildings and structures, including operational turbines. Susceptibility to change of landscape receptors is high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.48 Landscape value is assessed as low and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor high. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.49 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the proposed turbines are theoretically visible from almost all of this LCA. However, the influence of the proposed development will be variable across the LCA due to the presence of built structures, some of which may obscure views of the proposed development. Viewpoints 5 and 7 (refer to Figures 8.37a – 8.37e and 8.39a – 8.39e) illustrate some available views from this LCA. Where visible, all five turbines would likely be seen at medium distance. Magnitude of effect is assessed as medium.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.50 LCA 10 is considered to be medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium. Views to the surrounding ridges are noted as characteristic within baseline landscape character and include existing turbines and other vertical structures. The addition of the proposed development within these views would not result in the proposed development becoming a defining landscape characteristic. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate and not significant as urban character would remain the more prevalent characteristic, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 11 Sirhowy Valley

Value

- 8.7.51 This LCA forms an important visual backdrop to settlement, including Tredegar. The northern part of this LCA lies within Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides SLA. This is therefore a landscape of local importance. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.52 Almost all of this LCA lies within the Future Wales area for wind development, and as such the proposed development would assist in the achievement of policy relating to this area. Enclosure, steep landform and the role of this LCA as an important backdrop to settlement is noted within baseline character analysis. This area has some positive characteristics however there are also detracting elements such as industrial scars. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.53 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.54 ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from the greater part of this LCA, at a range of distances. Change would occur over a relatively large geographic extent of the LCA. All five turbines would likely be notable within the landscape setting, long-term in duration. The relationship of this LCA to adjoining urban and upland land-uses together with the presence of vertical and other man-made elements are a key characteristic. The proposed turbines within the landscape setting would therefore be compatible with the pattern of elements that contribute strongly to the landscape character. The magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as medium.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.55 LCA 11 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape impacts medium. Indirect impacts would occur from part of this LCA. However, the turbines would not conflict with the existing defining role of this LCA as a backdrop to settlements. The significance of landscape effects is therefore assessed as moderate. Although there may be a partial change to character, it will not be significant as the key defining landscape elements will be retained.

LCA 12: Mynydd Bedwellty

Value

- 8.7.56 This is a locally important landscape and considered to be one of the 'backbones' to Blaenau Gwent. This is also a landscape of historic value by virtue of well-preserved moorland and its range of archaeological resource. The LCA lies within a SLA and partly within a VILL This is, therefore, a landscape of local importance. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.57 This is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors due to constrained access. Susceptibility is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.58 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.59 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from east-facing parts of this LCA, at close-medium distance. The proposed turbines would likely be notable within the landscape setting of these parts of the LCA, with all five turbines visible and long-term in duration. However, no direct effects would occur and from a part of the LCA to the west, the turbines would not be visible at all. As a result of the geographic area affected and the nature of existing landscape character, the addition of the turbines within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character. The simple palette of defining elements would remain physically and perceptually prevalent. Magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.60 LCA 12 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a notable proportion of this LCA. However, the proposed development would not likely become a defining feature of the landscape character. This landscape is considered robust with strong sense of place and upland qualities would remain prevalent. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 13: Pentrapoed West*Value*

- 8.7.61 An upland landscape, where the character of the LCA is influenced by wind farm development and other existing manmade influences. There are no landscape designations relevant to this area. Value is assessed as low.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.62 Landscape pattern is mixed with some positive characteristics and some detracting elements. Pylons and communications towers, along with operational wind farms at Pen-yr-heol Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Gelli Wen Farm, are also present within the LCA. Open views into varied landscape settings, moderate concentration of static and transitory receptors are typical. The LCA is heavily influenced by human activity, both physically and perceptually. Susceptibility to landscape change is therefore assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.63 Landscape value is assessed as low and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.64 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be intermittently available from east-facing parts of this LCA, at medium distance. Indirect effects would therefore occur from a small part of the LCA. From the rest of the LCA there would be no views of the turbines at all. However, where visible, all five proposed turbines would typically be apparent. Views to settlements and the presence of visual clutter, including operational wind turbines, is a characteristic of this LCA, including the parts from which the proposed development is likely to be visible. Magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.65 LCA 13 is considered to be of low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a notable proportion of this LCA. The relationship of this LCA with manmade elements, including vertical structures, is integral to its character and the proposed development would be compatible with this aspect. The significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 14: Blackwood*Value*

- 8.7.66 This LCA forms an important industrial settlement and transport corridor. A small, specific area of this LCA lies within Taff Bargoed Woodland Park Country Park however the wider LCA is not designated. The value is assessed as low.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.67 This LCA is defined by urbanisation and historic industrial activity and is visually enclosed by of landform and built structures. The urban and post-industrial character is considered robust to change of the type proposed. Susceptibility to change of landscape receptors is low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.68 Landscape value is assessed as low and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.69 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the turbines are theoretically visible from much of this LCA. However, in reality, built structures and other surface features within the urban environment would likely obscure view at least in part. Viewpoint 24 (refer to Figures 8.56a – 8.56f) illustrates view from this LCA. From the greater part of the LCA, the proposed development would not be visible at all. Magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.70 LCA 14 is considered to be low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material effect on landscape characteristics. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 15: Darren Valley*Value*

- 8.7.71 A historic communications corridor with evidence of human activity dating back to the Neolithic period. The northern part of this LCA lies within Upper Rhymney Valley SLA. Parts of the LCA also lie within Northern Rhymney Valley VILL and Parc Bryn Bach Country Park is also contained within this LCA. This is therefore a landscape of local importance. Value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.72 This is a landscape of varied pattern, including woodland, grassland, isolated settlement and some remnant industrial activity. A sense of enclosure and polarised views to upland and urban settings are noted within baseline landscape character. As such, there are some positive characteristics, and some detracting elements. Operational

wind farm development is also present in this LCA at Pen Bryn Oer to the north and to the south at Cefn Bach Farm and Groesfaen Farm. A moderate-low frequency of static and transitory receptor is typical. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.73 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.74 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the proposed development would not be visible from all but small parts of this LCA. There would likely be no fundamental change to landscape character. Magnitude of landscape change is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.75 LCA 15 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. The development would have no material effect on landscape character. Significance of effect is assessed as moderate-minor, not significant.

LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney

Value

- 8.7.76 Gelligaer Common is an important local landscape that has a distinct character and good views. Parts of this LCA lie within an SLA and a VILL. It is a Historic Landscape of national importance due to its exceptionally diverse archaeological heritage and the Gelligaer Common LOHI in Wales is located within this LCA. It also includes large areas of priority/ internationally important habitat. This is a unique and important landscape as recognised by statutory designation. Value is assessed as high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.77 This is an exposed and open landscape defined by a simple palette of landscape elements such rough grazing, bleak perceptual quality with rounded summits broad sweeping and landforms. This LCA is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change. Panoramic views containing detractors as a result of manmade elements are noted within baseline landscape character analysis. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors due to remoteness. Susceptibility to landscape change is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.78 Landscape value is assessed as high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.79 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from much of this LCA. The moorland north of the A465 at Pen March and the area around Rhaslas Pond to the south are indicated to have visibility of all five proposed turbines, at medium-long distance within a small part of open views. The presence of pylons, urban edges and industrial estates is characteristic of this part of the LCA. To the south of the LCA at Gelligaer Common, visibility is restricted to east-facing areas and therefore much of the Common would have no views of the turbines at all. Viewpoint 9 (refer to Figure 8.41a - 8.41e) has been selected to illustrate views from this part of the LCA. As a result of the geographical extent of effects, distance and the robust nature of

existing character which contains vertical structures within its setting, including operational wind farms along the Heads of the Valleys and to the south east on upland areas. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.80 LCA 16 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a notable proportion of this LCA; however, the turbines would not likely become defining of landscape character. This landscape is considered robust and its remote, upland qualities would remain prevalent. Turbines and vertical elements are present within the existing landscape setting and therefore development of the type proposed would be compatible with existing landscape character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 17: Mynydd Eglwysilan/ Llanfabon

Value

- 8.7.81 The well-preserved fieldscape with diverse multi-period archaeological resource are noted for their historic interest. This LCA lies within an SLA designation and a small part of it to the north extends within the Gelligaer Common LOHI. Parc Penallta Country Park is also located within this LCA. Overall landscape value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.82 The varied and complex nature of this landscape is noted within the baseline, resulting in a higher susceptibility to change. Existing landscape characteristics include including fieldscapes, isolated and scattered settlement, urban edges and pylons/ masts and some influence of operational wind farm development to the east of the LCA at Castell Llwyd Farm. Panoramic views are available in places. Transitory and static receptors are likely to be present in moderate numbers. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.83 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.84 ZTV mapping (refer to Figure 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from the part of the LCA that contains north-east facing slopes. This is predominantly the slopes of Mynydd Eglwysilan. A contained area at Penpedairheol also has theoretical visibility. Elsewhere within the LCA, notably within central areas and broadly beyond 15 km, there would be very limited or no influence from the proposed development. As such, the geographical extent of influence on the character is relatively limited. Where indirect effects occur, all five turbines would likely be experienced, at medium-long distance and long-term in duration from this open landscape. The relationship of the LCA with adjoining land-uses lessens the magnitude of effect, given the presence of urban edges and other vertical structures, including operational wind farm development. Overall magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.85 LCA 17 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a part of this LCA. However, the turbines would not likely become defining of landscape character. Turbines and vertical elements are present within the existing landscape setting and therefore development of the type proposed would be compatible with existing landscape character. The varied rural upland

feel would remain prevalent following construction of the turbines. Significance of landscape effects is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 20: Merthyr Common and Cwm Cothi Farmlands

Value

- 8.7.86 This LCA contains discrete areas to the south of this LCA that are contained within a SLA and areas within the northern part of the LCA that lie within the Merthyr Tydfil LOHI. The latter is a landscape of national importance and value is assessed as high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.87 This is a simple, well-defined upland landscape. Simple lines and a minimal pattern of landscape elements define the landscape, which is robust and less susceptible to change. Open views and the presence of man-made elements within the landscape setting are characteristic, including single turbine operational wind farms located at Tir Cook Farm and Cefn Fforest Farm to the south of the LCA. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.88 Landscape value is assessed as high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

- 8.7.89 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that the proposed turbines would be visible from the upland crests locate within this LCA. Visibility would generally comprise all five of the turbines, although some more partial views would be available in places. The proposed development would represent a small-scale change to the landscape setting of this LCA, visible at distance and within wide, open views. The turbines would be apparent alongside other vertical structures within views and as such would integrate with other landscape components within the wider setting of the LCA. From some parts of the LCA, the proposed turbines would not be visible as a result of landform. Magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.90 LCA 20 is considered to be medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. The proposed turbines would likely remain subservient to the existing distinctive character of the Common. Significance of landscape effect is assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 23: Abernant, Cefnpennar and Merthyr West Flank

Value

- 8.7.91 A LCA with a distinctive sense of place and that forms an important backdrop to urban areas, including Merthyr Tydfil and Aberdare. Sections of the LCA are designated as an SLA and the Merthyr Tydfil LOHI extends across its western parts. Landscape value is assessed as high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.92 This is a varied area with some positive characteristics and some detracting elements. Urban fringe influences parts of the LCA, along with forestry and other man-made influences both present and historic. The importance of this landscape as a backdrop to the settlement of Merthyr Tydfil and highly frequent receptors on the A470 is noted

within baseline landscape character. Pylons are present within the LCA and turbines beyond the LCA boundary. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.93 Landscape value is assessed as high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.94 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that the proposed development would not be visible from the majority of this LCA. Theoretical visibility is available from east-facing slopes of Mynydd Merthyr. However, it is likely that dense forestry would obscure views in reality. Geographic extent of effect is therefore very limited. Given the extent of screening, it is likely that on-the-ground visibility would be restricted to a small northern part of the LCA only. From this contained area views of the turbines would be distant and seen alongside a number of vertical structures and other manmade elements within the landscape setting. Overall magnitude of change across the LCA would be limited and there would be no fundamental change to landscape character. Magnitude of landscape impact is therefore assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.95 LCA 23 is considered to be medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 24: St Gwynno and Ynysybwl

Value

- 8.7.96 Although this LCA is dominated by coniferous forestry, there are some areas of fieldscape which are reasonably well-preserved and there is evidence of human activity dating back to the Neolithic. Parts of this LCA lie within the Cwm Clydach SLA. This is therefore considered to be a landscape of local importance and value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.97 This is an upland landscape dominated by forestry and is therefore considered to be of lower susceptibility to change by virtue of its simple pattern of enclosing elements. More open areas to the south have some longer reaching views however they are influenced by urban associations including vertical structures such as pylons. Operational wind farms also have some direct and indirect influence on this LCA, including Maerdy Wind Farm to the north and more centrally, the wind farm of Ferndale. Susceptibility to landscape change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.98 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

- 8.7.99 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that the turbines would not be visible from the majority of this LCA. Theoretical visibility is available from east facing slopes of Cefn Gwyngul; however, it is likely that forestry would obscure views in reality. Similarly, forestry would likely obscure views from the area of visibility west of Abercarn. The geographic extent of impact is therefore limited. Given the extent of screening, it is likely that any

influence would be available from a small southern part of the LCA only, located to the primarily to the west of Glyncoch. From this contained area the turbines would be experienced on the distant skyline and together with a number of vertical structures and other manmade elements within the landscape setting. Overall magnitude of change across the LCA would be limited and there would be no fundamental change to landscape character. Magnitude of landscape impact is therefore assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.100 LCA 24 is considered to be medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the landscape without having a material change. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, not significant.

LCA 25 Merthyr North Flank

Value

- 8.7.101 This LCA contains a variety of land-uses that over time have fragmented the appearance and changed the otherwise large-scale upland. There are no designations within this area. The value is assessed as low.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.102 This LCA comprises exposed upland moorland with open panoramic views. It is also characterised by its proximity to the edge of Merthyr Tydfil, including from elements such as large-scale industry, retail parks and the A465. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.103 Landscape value is assessed as low and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

- 8.7.104 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that within a small part of this LCA to the east and more centrally, the turbines would be experienced indirectly within the long-distance landscape setting to the south-east. It is likely that the turbines would be absorbed within the landscape, discernible as a very minor addition within the open setting, assimilating with existing elements within the faraway backdrop. From the majority of the LCA, however, the proposed development would have no influence on the character. Magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.105 LCA 25 is considered to be low in sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys

Value

- 8.7.106 This LCA has outstanding aesthetic qualities and is a popular tourist destination within the BBNP. By virtue of its statutory designation and national importance, value is assessed as outstanding.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.107 Spectacular views from the ridges and areas of upland moorland together with frequency of sensitive recreational receptors characterise this LCA. This area also contains pockets of fields, farms and woodland that are more enclosed and less susceptible to change of the nature proposed. There are also strong links with the towns to the south and influences from A470 transport corridor. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.108 Landscape value is assessed as outstanding and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-high. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

- 8.7.109 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that within this area, influence of the proposed development within distant views south-east will be experienced on the ridges and uplands to the south of the LCA. The majority of the LCA, comprising wooded and forested valleys will experience no change to the character. Where experienced the proposed development would be absorbed within the landscape, discernible as a very minor addition within the expansive setting, assimilating with existing elements within the faraway backdrop. Magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.110 LCA 26 is considered to be high sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the landscape within a small part of the LCA without having a material effect, and elsewhere will have no change. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate (not significant).

LCA 27: Central Beacons

Value

- 8.7.111 This LCA has outstanding aesthetic qualities, including the distinctive skyline which has come to represent the essence of the Brecon Beacons. The area lies within the BBNP and therefore by virtue of statutory designation and national importance, value is assessed as outstanding.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.112 Spectacular views and frequency of sensitive recreational receptors characterise this LCA. This area is characterised by a simple set of landscape elements – the iconic crests of the BBNP and sandstone crags. Detachment from developed areas is noted within the landscape baseline. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.113 Landscape value is assessed as outstanding and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-high. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.114 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that within this LCA, the turbines would be visible from more elevated areas only, including the slopes of Allt Lwyd. Indirect effects would occur within this restricted geographical area as a result of the addition of the turbines within the long-distance landscape setting. However,

it is likely that the turbines would be absorbed within the landscape, discernible as a very minor addition within the expansive setting, assimilating with existing elements within the faraway backdrop. From the remainder of the LCA the proposed turbines would not be visible at all. Magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.115 LCA 27 is considered to be high sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. It is anticipated that the turbines would be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

LCA 28: Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidr

Value

- 8.7.116 An LCA that contains includes prehistoric settlements and burial archaeological, plus post-medieval farming remains. The LCA has a consistent, open character which is relatively unspoilt. The area lies within the BBNP and therefore by virtue of statutory designation and national importance, value is assessed as outstanding.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.117 This area is characterised by a simple set of landscape elements – openness, simple horizons and remoteness. The area has strong relationships and intervisibility with nearby settlements. These factors indicate reduced susceptibility to wind farm development. The importance of this LCA as a visual backdrop and refuge from settlement is noted within baseline LCA. On balance, susceptibility is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.118 Landscape value is assessed as outstanding and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.119 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that the proposed development would be visible from the greater part of this LCA where plateau slopes face south. Viewpoints 11 and 21 (refer to Figures 8.43a – 8.43d and 8.53a – 53d) have been selected to illustrate views from this LCA. The turbines would be present within the medium-distance setting, resulting in indirect effects within a relatively large geographical area and long-term in duration. However, robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape are not likely to be altered by the addition of the turbines within the setting. This is as a result of the strong sense of place, simple set of landscape components and the nature of the existing setting, which contains operational turbines and other vertical elements. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.120 LCA 28 is considered to be high sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape impact is medium-low. The turbines are considered to be compatible with the existing components of landscape setting and would likely be integrated without the loss of key underlying attributes. The significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

LCA 29: Mynydd Llangynidr

Value

- 8.7.121 This LCA is a well-preserved open moorland landscape with evidence of occupation from the Bronze age up to the 20th Century. The area contrasts with settlements and there are indirect influences from operational wind farms outside the LCA to the south. The area comprises the Trefil and Garnlydan SLA. This is therefore a landscape of local importance, and the value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.122 This is a vast, open moorland landscape of simple lines and minimal combinations of landscape elements. Frequency of receptors is low. Wide, empty views to the north and views containing visual detractors to the south are noted within landscape baseline analysis. As a result of these factors, susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.123 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Impact

- 8.7.124 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that the proposed development would be visible from almost all of this LCA. Medium to close distance views of the turbines would be available from a large geographical area. However, this LCA is characterised by its association with neighbouring settlement, industry and infrastructure along within the A465 corridor. As such, the turbines would be compatible with the existing landscape character and aesthetic and perceptual qualities would remain unchanged following the construction of the proposed turbines. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.125 LCA 29 is considered to be medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape impacts medium-low. The turbines are considered to be compatible with the existing components of landscape setting and would likely be integrated without the loss of key underlying attributes. The significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 32: The Black Mountains

Value

- 8.7.126 This wild upland has exceptional scenic value through its dramatic landform. The area has a strong sense of place and is highly valued for recreational uses. This is a rich archaeological landscape with surviving medieval landscape features. The area lies within the statutory designated BBNP. This is therefore a landscape of national importance and landscape value is assessed as outstanding.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.127 This is a largescale landscape with sweeping landforms, simple landscape pattern and open skylines. However, the LCA has a strong relationship with nearby settlements. There is an absence of modern development with numerous traditional farmsteads and farming practices. On balance, susceptibility to change of landscape receptors is assessed as medium-high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.128 Landscape value is assessed as outstanding and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-high. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Magnitude of Landscape Impacts

- 8.7.129 ZTV mapping indicates that the proposed development would be sporadically visible from high points within this LCA. However, this represents a very limited geographic extent of the LCA as a whole. The presence of the proposed development within the long-distance setting of this LCA would likely have little or no material effect on the robust landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.130 LCA 32 is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape impact is low. The development would be integrated into the landscape without having a material change. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

LCA 33: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf*Value*

- 8.7.131 This LCA is a popular and well-known destination for visitors. It has important historic and cultural associations and is an iconic landscape of South Wales. The area lies within the statutory designated BBNP. This is therefore, a landscape of national importance and the value is assessed as outstanding.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.132 This landscape forms the setting to the town of Abergavenny and therefore has a strong relationship with settlement and man-made forms. This is a large, open landscape with highly distinctive and simple topography. However, this is a popular recreational area and as such sensitive recreational receptors are frequently present. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-high.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.133 Landscape value is assessed as outstanding and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-high. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.134 The ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 and 8.32) indicates that the proposed development would be visible from this some south facing slopes, although overall this extends across a very limited geographic extent of the LCA. The presence of the proposed development within the long-distance setting of this LCA would likely have little or no material change to the robust landscape character. Magnitude of impact is, therefore, assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.135 LCA 33 is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of landscape impact is low. The development would be integrated into the landscape without having a material change. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

LCA 38: Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen*Value*

- 8.7.136 This LCA extends across the Abercarn VILL and is well used for outdoor recreation. Landscape value is consequently assessed as medium, reflecting the landscapes importance at local level.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.137 This landscape comprises a relatively simple mix of upland characteristics with coniferous woodland. Views to settlements and the presence of intrusive vertical elements are noted within the landscape baseline. Receptors are likely to be in low number. Susceptibility to change is therefore assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.138 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.139 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that north-west facing slopes outside of coniferous forestry would likely have views of the proposed turbines and within these areas indirect effects would occur. The addition of the turbines within the distant landscape setting would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character, as well as other vertical components within the immediate and distant setting. From the remaining part of the LCA the proposed turbines would not be visible at all. Magnitude of impact is, therefore, assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.140 LCA 38 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape impacts low. The development would be integrated into the landscape without having a material change. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 40: Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn*Value*

- 8.7.141 Twmbarlwm has been an important occupation area since Bronze Age and extends across the Abercarn VILL and it is, therefore, of local landscape importance. Landscape value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptors

- 8.7.142 Much of this landscape is defined by coniferous plantation and as such is characteristically simple and robust. Visual detractors are also noted within the landscape baseline. Receptors are likely to be present in relatively low numbers. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.143 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.144 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that a part of this LCA would have theoretical visibility of the proposed development. However, it is likely that the majority of views in the direction of the proposed development

would be obscured by coniferous forestry and as such there would be no fundamental change to landscape character. Magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.145 LCA 40 is considered to be medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. The development would be integrated into the landscape without having a material change. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA42: North-west of Mynydd y Lan

Value

- 8.7.146 This LCA is a locally important open moorland with some valued landscape habitats, and this is reflected in its designation as Mynyddislwyn SLA. This is a locally important landscape and value is, therefore, assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.147 This is a relatively simple, settled agricultural landscape which is therefore considered robust to change of the type proposed. Some open views are available and transitory and static receptors are likely to be present in moderate numbers. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.148 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.149 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would extend across areas of the LCA that contains north-facing slopes, with all five turbines indirectly experienced at medium-long distance and long-term in duration. The relationship of the LCA with adjoining land-uses lessens the magnitude of impact, given the presence of settlements and a solar farm within the baseline. Overall magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.150 LCA 42 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects medium-low. Indirect effects would occur from a part of this LCA. However, the proposed development would not likely become defining of landscape character, and the existing field-scape character would likely remain prevalent. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 43: Mynydd y Lan

Value

- 8.7.151 This LCA lies within Mynyddislwyn SLA, by virtue of its habitat and open moorland landscape value and is, therefore, a landscape of local importance. Landscape value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.152 This landscape is considered to be robust to change of the type proposed as a result of simple set of upland landscape elements. Receptors are likely to be present in low numbers. Strong sense of place is noted within the landscape baseline. Susceptibility to change is therefore assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.153 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.154 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from the greater part of this small LCA. Indirect impacts will occur across most of the LCA as the turbines would likely be experienced at tower height, at long distance and long-term in duration. However, the strong existing aesthetic and perceptual qualities are unlikely to be altered as a result of the proposed turbines within the distant landscape context. There would likely be no fundamental change to landscape character and as such magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.155 LCA 43 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. The development would likely be integrated into the existing landscape without having a material change to the distinctive landscape character. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 44: Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach

Value

- 8.7.156 This LCA lies within the North Caerphilly SLA and is therefore considered locally important. Landscape value is therefore medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.157 This landscape contains a mix of fields and woodland blocks along with both open and enclosed areas. The varied landscape results in a higher susceptibility to change. However, visually detracting elements such as coniferous plantation and urban development are noted within the landscape baseline. Receptors are likely to be present in moderate numbers. Susceptibility to change is consequently assessed as medium-low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.158 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium-low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.159 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available across north-facing slopes within this LCA. Indirect impacts occur across most of the LCA as the proposed development would likely be experienced at tower height, at medium-long distance and long-term in duration. The relationship of the LCA with adjoining land-uses lessens the magnitude of impact, given the presence of settlements and other visually detractive elements including coniferous forestry and pylons. Overall magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.160 LCA 44 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape impacts medium-low. Indirect impacts would occur from a part of this LCA; however, the turbines would not likely become defining of landscape character and the existing mosaic fieldscape character would likely remain prevalent. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 45: Mynydd y Grug*Value*

- 8.7.161 This LCA is a remote ridge with dramatic views in all directions and which lies within the North Caerphilly SLA and is therefore considered locally important. Landscape value is therefore medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.162 This is a remote landscape and receptors are likely to be infrequent. Open views are available. A simple set of landscape elements creates a landscape robust to change. Some indirect influence from operational wind farms is notable. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.163 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.164 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from north facing slopes. Indirect impacts occur across most of the LCA with the proposed development experienced at long distance and long-term in duration. However, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities are considered capable of absorbing the turbines within the distant landscape setting with little or no effect on landscape character. Overall, the magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.165 LCA 45 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape impacts low. Indirect effects would occur from a part of this LCA; however, the turbines would remain subservient to the robust upland character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 48: Rhydney Valley South of Caerphilly*Value*

- 8.7.166 This is a wide valley with steeply sloping land with open panoramic views across the settlement of Caerphilly. This LCA lies within the South Caerphilly SLA and is therefore considered locally important. Landscape value is therefore medium to high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.167 This is a settled landscape and receptors are likely to be frequent. Open views are available. A simple set of landscape elements creates a landscape robust to change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.168 Landscape value is assessed as medium to high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium to low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.169 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from elevated north facing slopes to the north-west of the LCA. Indirect effects occur across a relatively small proportion of the LCA, with the proposed development likely to be experienced across the distant skyline to the north. However, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities are considered capable of absorbing the turbines within the distant landscape setting with little or no effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.170 LCA 48 is considered to be of medium sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Indirect effects would occur within a limited part of this LCA and where experienced the proposed development would remain subservient to the robust character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate – minor, (not significant).

LCA 78: Mynydd y Glyn*Value*

- 8.7.171 This is an expansive upland area with dramatic panoramic views. This LCA lies partially within the Mynydd y Glyn and Nant Muchudd Basin SLAs and is therefore considered locally important. Landscape value is therefore medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.172 This is a remote upland landscape and receptors are likely to be infrequent. Open views are available. A simple set of landscape elements creates a landscape robust to change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.173 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.174 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from more elevated ridges and plateau areas within this LCA. Indirect effects may occur in these areas where the proposed development would likely be experienced on the distant skyline. The robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities, including the influence of operational wind farms to the north are, however, considered capable of absorbing the turbines within the distant landscape setting with little or no change to landscape character. Overall magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.175 LCA 78 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Indirect effects would occur within parts of this LCA; however, the turbines would remain subservient to robust upland character and the influence of operational wind farm development. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 80: Mynydd Maendy*Value*

- 8.7.176 This is a remote ridge with dramatic distant views. High evaluations are given across LANDMAP Aspect Layers for visual and sensory and outstanding for historic landscape. This LCA It lies within the Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest SLA and is therefore considered locally important. Landscape value is therefore medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.177 This is a remote landscape and receptors are likely to be infrequent. Open views are available. A simple set of landscape elements creates a landscape robust to change and there is a strong influence of operational wind farm development. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.178 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.179 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from the more elevated and open areas, comprising a small part of the overall LCA. There may be some localised Indirect effects occur across parts of the LCA, with the influence of the proposed development evident to the east on the skyline. However, due to distance, the perceived scale of the proposed development will be small and the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCA are considered capable of absorbing the impact with little or no effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.180 LCA 80 is considered to be of medium-low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Indirect effects would occur from a small part of this LCA. However, the proposed development would remain subservient to the robust upland character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 85 St Gwynno*Value*

- 8.7.181 This is a well forested, upland LCA with a strong sense of remoteness, although this is reduced by the presence of the large-scale wind farm of Pen-y-Cymoedd that extends through the LCA. Landscape value is therefore medium.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.182 This is a remote well forested landscape, which is characterised by operation large scale wind farm development. Recreational receptors are likely to be present in moderate numbers. Some open views are available outside plantations and in clearings. A simple set of landscape elements creates a landscape robust to change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.183 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor low. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.184 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be limited to elevated ridges and east facing slopes within some parts of this LCA. Indirect effects may occur in these areas where the proposed development would likely be experienced on the distant skyline to the east. However, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities, including the strong influence of operational wind farms and the extent of forestry are, however, considered capable of absorbing the turbines within the distant landscape setting with little or no effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.185 LCA 85 is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Indirect effects would occur across a limited part of this LCA; however, the turbines would remain subservient to the robust upland forested character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

LCA 96 Fforest Fawr*Value*

- 8.7.186 This LCA has a strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness and much of the area is inaccessible. This LCA lies within the BBNP and is therefore considered nationally important. Landscape value is therefore high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

- 8.7.187 This is a remote landscape, that has a rich historic past, although operational wind farm development, to the south, is a minor and indirect influence. Open views are available, where a simple set of moorland elements creates a landscape robust to change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 8.7.188 Landscape value is assessed as high and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.189 ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be available across mor elevated ridges and plateau to the south of the LCA. The proposed development would be experienced in views south east, although at this distance, the scale of the proposed turbines and the intermittent nature of the views would have limited indirect influence on the character. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities are considered capable of absorbing the turbines within the distant landscape setting. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

- 8.7.190 LCA 96 is considered to be of medium-high sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Indirect effects would occur from some parts of this LCA. However, the turbines would remain subservient to the robust upland character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills*Value*

- 8.7.191 This LCA is of a varied character, ranging from parkland to scarp slopes. This southern extent of the LCA lies within the Wentwood SLA and to the north the LCA extends into the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty (AONB). This LCA is considered nationally important in part reducing to locally important elsewhere. Landscape value, overall, is therefore medium to high.

Susceptibility to Change of Landscape Receptor

8.7.192 A traditional rural landscape, that has a rich historic past, which is reflected in its varied landscape uses and therefore may be robust enough to accommodate some change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

8.7.193 Landscape value is assessed as medium and susceptibility to change of landscape receptor medium. On balance, landscape sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

8.7.194 The LCA is located at a distance of over 25 km away and where ZTV mapping (refer to Figures 8.31 to 8.32) indicates that theoretical visibility would be limited to southern fringes of the LCA only. Any impacts will be indirect and therefore the LCA is considered capable of absorbing the proposed development within the distant landscape setting with little or no effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Landscape Effects

8.7.195 LCA 126 is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and magnitude of landscape effects low. Effects would be indirect and due to distance; the proposed development would remain subservient to the existing landscape character. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Landscape Character

8.7.196 Table 8.12 summarises the assessment of effects on landscape character from each of the 35 LCAs identified for assessment.

Table 8.12: Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Landscape Character

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
01 Mynydd Manmoel	Medium	Medium-high	Major-moderate (significant)
02 Pentrapoed East	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate-minor (not significant)
03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys	Medium	Medium-high	Moderate-major (significant)
04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	Medium	Medium-high	Major-moderate (significant)
05 Beaufort Hill	Medium-low	Medium - low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
08 Coity Mountain	Medium-low	Medium - low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
09 Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm	Medium	High	Major-moderate (significant)
10 Tredegar	Medium	Medium	Moderate (not significant)
11 Sirhowy Valley	Medium	Medium	Moderate (not significant)
12 Mynydd Bedwellty	Medium-low	Medium - low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
13 Pentrapoed West	Low	Medium-low	Minor (not significant)
14 Blackwood	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
15 Darren Valley	Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
16 Gelligaer Common/west of Rhymney	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
20 Merthyr Common and Cwm Cothi Farmlands	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
23 Abernant, Cefnpennar and Merthyr West Flank	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwl	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
25 Merthyr North Flank	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)
26 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
27 Central Beacons	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
28 Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidr	High	Medium-low	Moderate (not significant)
29 Mynydd Llangynidr	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
32 The Black Mountains	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
33 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
38 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
40 Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
42 North-west of Mynydd y Lan	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
43 Mynydd y Lan	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
45 Mynydd y Grug	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
85 St Gwynno	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
96 Fforest Fawr	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
126 Llangovan Foothills	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)

Potential Effects on Visual Amenity

ZTV Analysis

8.7.197 The ZTV indicates that the proposed development would be visible to varying degrees from approximately 20% of the study area (refer to Figures 8.1 to 8.4). From the remaining 80% of the study area, the ZTV indicates that there would be no visibility of the proposed development. Where visibility is indicated, however, this does not take into account the modifying effect of buildings and vegetation, and further consideration of views and visibility is provided through viewpoint descriptions 1 to 24.

- 8.7.198 In more general terms, the ZTV indicates that visibility, of the proposed development, would be from the immediate vicinity of the site, including the greater part of Cefn Manmoel ridge and extending across the adjoining Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys and the nearer ridges that define the south Wales valleys to the east and west. Elsewhere within the study area, visibility, of the proposed development, is more sporadic and is typically available from more elevated areas, including to the east, the west-facing slopes of Carn y Cefn, Mynydd James, Coety Mountain and a limited part of Y Blorenge. To the west, visibility is from east-facing slopes of Mynydd Bedwellte, Cefn y Brithdyr and the Gelligaer ridgeline. Further west, the east-facing slopes of Mynydd Gethin/ Mynydd Merthyr also lie within the ZTV.
- 8.7.199 To the north, upland areas in the lower Brecon Beacons are indicated within the ZTV, extending across the south-facing slopes of Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr. To the south, where the Ebbw and Sirhowy rivers join, visibility is available from north-facing slopes such as at Mynydd Islwyn, the Rhymney Ridgeway near Ystrad Mynach, Mynydd Eglwysilan, Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd. ZTV with maximum blade tip height and maximum hub height within 45 km of the proposed development are considered and can be found in Figure 8.1: 45 km ZTV Maximum Blade Tip Height, Figure 8.2: 15 km ZTV Maximum Blade Tip Height, Figure 8.3: 45 km ZTV Maximum Hub Height and Figure 8.4: 15 km ZTV Maximum Hub Height, Volume 2 of the ES. Cumulative wind farm ZTV for operational, consented and submitted (maximum blade tip height) can be found in Figures 8.6 – 8.11, Volume 2 of the ES.
- 8.7.200 The greater part of valley floors and the settlements they contain, are excluded from the ZTV. These include the more notable communities of Merthyr Tydfil, Rhymney, New Tredegar, Treharris, Nantyglo, Abertillery, Blaenavon and Pontypool. Visibility extends into the settlements of Ebbw Vale and Tredegar that sit immediately adjacent to the proposed development site and northwards over developed areas along the A465 Heads of the Valleys corridor including Rassau, Beaufort and Dukestown, although some residential areas on north-facing slopes of Cefn Manmoel such as parts of Willow Hill and Waun-y-pond may have more partial or no visibility of the proposed development. To the south, parts of residential areas including Bargoed, Pontllantfraith, Blackwood, Hengoed are also indicated within the ZTV. ZTV are presented in Figures 8.1- 8.4 and Figures 8.6 – 8.11. In all cases, however, the ZTV does not take account of surface features including buildings and vegetation, and views from settlements will be variable due to the modifying effects of these elements.
- 8.7.201 More distantly within the study area, visibility is generally restricted to smaller pockets on upland crests within a 30 km radius of the proposed development – including the Fforest Fawr part of the Brecon Beacons to the north, forested slopes in the region of Cefn y Rhondda and Mynydd Ystradfermol to the west. Further contained pockets of visibility are also shown within the 30 km radius on the slopes of the eastern Black Mountains. However, the vast extent of land within the 30 km radius lies outside of the ZTV.
- 8.7.202 Beyond 30 km from the proposed development, visibility of the proposed turbines is sporadic and generally limited to upland areas that include the western Black Mountains and Mynydd Epynt.

Viewpoint Analysis

- 8.7.203 The significance of visual effect of the proposed development during the operational phase, from each of the selected viewpoint locations as been assessed against the significance criteria as defined within the methodology (refer to Appendix A8.1) The predicted view in relation to the number of wind turbines that can be seen from each viewpoint location is described in terms of turbine's components that are visible and are classified as:
- Blade tip height – when only the whole or part of one or more turbine blades is visible within the view;
 - Hub or nacelle height – when only the hub/nacelle (being the large structure at the top of the tower housing the gearbox and other generating equipment) and the whole or part of one or more of the blades is visible within the view; and

- Tower/partial tower height – when the whole or part of one or more of the turbine blades, nacelle and whole or part of the turbine's tower is visible within the view.

- 8.7.204 Wirelines and photomontages of the proposed development from these viewpoints have been used to aid the assessment and are provided in Figures 8.33a to 8.56f.

Viewpoint 1: Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)

Landscape Character Area and Designations:

- LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel;
- Cefn Manmoel SLA;
- Future Wales Pre-assessed Area for Wind Energy 10;
- Boundary of Manmoel VILL; and
- Viewpoint is located on Sirhowy Valley Walk.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.205 Receptors include walkers on the Sirhowy Valley Walk, who are more susceptible to change as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape by car although the extent to which these receptors attention is focussed on visual amenity is more limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of the landscape setting or visual value, whilst walkers are more likely focussed on landscape setting. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.206 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated SLA, along a regional walking route. The value of visual receptors is therefore medium.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.207 Receptors are considered to be of moderate susceptibility to change, and the viewpoint is located within an area of medium value by virtue of landscape designations. Although existing visual qualities and elements are somewhat limited, overall sensitivity is assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.208 This is an upland view, focussed along Manmoel Road with views to the north-east enclosed by a rising rough moorland crest on Cefn Manmoel, which dominates the view. To the south-west, medium distance views are available over field enclosures containing linear grouping of mature boundary trees, beyond which rise the grass moorland slopes of Darren Ddu, with a block of deciduous woodland spreading along its northern slopes. The southern head of Darren Ddu is marked by linear tree groupings and blocks within field boundaries north of Hollybush.
- 8.7.209 Operational wind farm developments visible within the view include, most notably, Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 in proximity to the southern site boundary at full tower height. Further to the west, the single turbine development at Bedlwyn Farm is visible at hub height and immediately beyond this, the turbines of Pen Rhiw Gwaith Fan Farm and Pen-yr-heol farm are visible at partial tower height. Further to the west more distant visibility of operational wind farms is available, including developments at Cefn Bach Farm, Groesfaen Farm, Gelli Wen Farm and Mynydd Portref Extension. To the south, operational developments at Castell Llwyd Farm, Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan Industrial Estate are also visible in distant views.

Predicted View

8.7.210 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.33a to 8.33e. The wireline indicates that all five turbines will be visible at partial tower height from this location, arranged in a tight cluster to the north.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.211 The proposed development would be viewed at close distance and would form a visually apparent and prominent new element across the nearby ridgeline. The turbines would be stacked behind each other, occupying a narrow proportion of the view due to their alignment. However, the overall quality of the view is defined by a simple palette of elements within which the proposed turbines would be accommodated without dominating the strong existing visual quality. Given that there are other existing turbines within the view, the proposed turbines would not be an incongruous visual element and there would be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-high.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.212 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-high. The turbines would be visually prominent features within a contained part of the view, although the wider structure of the view and visual quality would remain largely intact. Effects are therefore considered to be major-moderate (significant).

Viewpoint 2: Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel;
- Cefn Manmoel SLA; and
- Viewpoint is located on Sirhowy Valley Walk.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.213 Receptors include walkers traversing the Sirhowy Valley Walk, who are more susceptible to change. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape by car although the extent to which these receptors attention is focussed on visual amenity is more limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of the landscape setting or visual value, whilst walkers are more likely focussed on landscape setting. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.214 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated SLA, along a regional walking route. The value of visual receptors is therefore medium.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.215 Receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change, and the viewpoint is located within an area of medium value by virtue of landscape designation. Although existing visual qualities and elements are somewhat limited, overall sensitivity is assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

8.7.216 This is an open view, characterised by the rough moorland of northern Cefn Manmoel with Tredegar Road in the foreground, at its junction with Manmoel Road. The northern fringes of the residential area of Hilltop are visible within the middle ground, beyond which distinctive sweeping profile of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and the crest of Cefn Coch form the backdrop of the view to the east. There are a number of vertical elements within the view, including communications masts punctuating the skyline of Cefn Manmoel. Operational wind farms are also visible within views to the north along the Heads of the Valleys Corridor, at Unit 15 (Rassau Industrial Estate), Former Tech Board Site Rassau Industrial Estate, Pen Bryn Oer and Unit 29 / Waldrons Commercials Unit.

Predicted View

8.7.217 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.34a to 8.34e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south arranged in a tight cluster. Three turbines will be visible at partial tower height and two at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.218 The proposed turbines would be viewed at close distance and would form a recognisable new element across the nearby ridgeline. However, the turbines would be stacked behind each other, occupying a narrow proportion of the view due to their alignment. The overall quality of the view is defined by a simple palette of elements within which the proposed turbines would be accommodated without dominating the strong existing visual quality. The scale of the turbines as vertical elements on the skyline would not be incongruous with existing skyline features such as the communications towers, which would appear larger and higher than the proposed turbines from this view direction. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.219 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium. The turbines would be visually recognisable features within a contained part of the view. However, the wider structure of the view and visual quality would remain intact. Significance of effects are considered to be major-moderate (significant).

Viewpoint 3: Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llwyn, Cwm.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.220 Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and local residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of higher susceptibility as they are static and at home, albeit within an urban area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the range and nature of urban elements within views, including vertical elements such as light columns and telecoms masts/pylons. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-high.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.221 This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of any noted cultural value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings or at a location valued for its views. However, residents would be the key receptor type. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.222 Receptors are considered to be of moderate susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as moderate-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.223 Looking south-west from Eastville Road, this view faces directly towards Cefn Manmoel enclosing the valley at medium distance. The lower slopes are wooded below Y Domen Fawr, reducing to heath scrub on higher slopes, where some disused workings are also notable. Terraced properties on Eastville Road frame the view, with residential development also present within the middle ground of the view at Garden City and Briery Hill. Large-scale buildings are partially visible at Aneurin Bevan Hospital above foreground vegetation.

Predicted View

- 8.7.224 The predicted view is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.35a to 8.35e. The wireline indicates that all five turbines would be visible at partial tower height, with the lower part of the towers obscured by landform. Vegetation would partially filter the southernmost turbine from view. The proposed turbines are equally spaced along the skyline.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.225 The proposed turbines would be viewed at medium distance and would form an immediately apparent feature that would occupy a relatively wide proportion of the view. Whilst the wider structure of the view would remain intact, turbines would be a new visual element on the currently unbroken skyline of Cefn Manmoel. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-high.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.226 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-high. The proposed development would be visually prominent on the skyline of Cefn Manmoel although the change would be tempered slightly by the reduced visual quality of this urban view. Effects are assessed as major-moderate, (significant).

Viewpoint 4: New Cwm Terrace, Cwm*Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun-llwyn, Cwm.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.227 Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of high susceptibility as they are static and at home, albeit within a developed area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the range and nature of urban elements within views, including vertical elements such as light columns and telecoms masts/pylons. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-high.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.228 This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of any noted cultural or other value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings. However, residents would be the key receptor type. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.229 Receptors are considered to be of medium to high susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.230 Looking west over the roofs of properties within Cwm, this view is directed on to and contained by the landform of Cefn Manmoel. The slopes are characterised by rough moorland with some scattered groupings of trees and scrub woodland. Some partial, longer distance views are available looking along the flank of Cefn Manmoel to the north. The middle ground of the view contains terraced properties within the settlement of Cwm. The foreground comprises open amenity grassland overlooked by further terraced properties on New Cwm Terrace.

Predicted View

- 8.7.231 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in 8.36a to 8.36f. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible on the skyline to the northwest, with all five turbines visible at partial tower height, with the lower towers obscured by landform.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.232 The proposed development would be viewed at medium distance and would form an apparent feature. Whilst the wider structure of the view would remain intact, the proposed turbines would be a new visual element on the currently unbroken skyline of Cefn Manmoel. Although this is a relatively complex scene due to the influence of urban elements within and around the foreground, the field of view is contained by the Cefn Manmoel landform. The turbines would therefore occupy a relatively large proportion of the somewhat narrow field of view above eye-level. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-high.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.233 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-high. The turbines would be visually prominent features on the skyline of Cefn Manmoel but would not be defining of visual quality. As a result of distance and proportion of the view affected, effects are assessed as major-moderate, (significant).

Viewpoint 5: Gainsborough Road, Tredegar*Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 10: Tredegar

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.234 Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of higher susceptibility as they are static and at home. The viewpoint is located within an urban area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the nature of existing views which contain urban elements, including vertical elements such as telecoms posts and lighting columns in the foreground. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-high.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.235 This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of any noted cultural or other value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings. However, residents would be a key receptor type. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.236 Receptors are considered to be of medium to high susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.237 Looking south-east toward the proposed development from the elevated residential street of Gainsborough Terrace, the northern profile of Cefn Manmoel forms the limit of the view, containing prominent coniferous woodland blocks on slopes and open scrub heath on elevated crests. The skyline of Cefn Manmoel is punctuated to the south by two operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 and further north, turbines are visible along the Heads of the Valleys corridor, including developments at Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate. There are also three communications towers visible on the skyline of Mynydd Manmoel. The view is characterised residential properties overlooking amenity grassland areas within the foreground and the dominant backdrop of Cefn Manmoel beyond.

Predicted View

- 8.7.238 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.37a to 8.37e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south east, with all five turbines visible at partial tower height. The lower towers are obscured by landform. Foreground vegetation would partially filter the southernmost turbine.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.239 The proposed development would be viewed at medium-long distance and would form a recognisable feature on the skyline. However, this is a wide view with a strong and simple backdrop, and it is expected that the turbines would be accommodated without dominating the simple palette of elements. Given that there are other turbines and vertical structures breaking the skyline, the proposed turbines would not be an alien visual element and there would be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude is assessed as medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.240 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual impact medium. The proposed development would be a recognisable feature on the skyline, although the proposed turbines would, to an extent be compatible with existing skyline elements, including operational wind farms and overall visual quality would remain intact. Effects are therefore considered to be major - moderate, (significant).

*Viewpoint 6: Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale**Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun-Llywd, Cwm.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.241 Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of high

susceptibility as they are static and at home. Residential receptors are of higher susceptibility as they are static and at home. The viewpoint is located within an urban area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the nature of existing views which contain urban elements, including vertical elements such as telecoms posts and lighting columns in the foreground. As recreational receptors, users of the adjacent children's play area are of higher susceptibility to change. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium-high.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.242 This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of cultural or other value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings. However, residents would be the key receptor type. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.243 Receptors are considered to be of moderate-high susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.244 Looking south-west toward the proposed development from the eastern fringes of Ebbw Vale, the view is characterised by residential properties set against the backdrop of Cefn Manmoel. From this view direction, the residential communities of Hilltop and Briery Hill can be seen above eye-level on the northern reaches of Cefn Manmoel, with landcover on adjacent slopes comprising heath scrub and woodland blocks. The profile of Cefn Manmoel continues south to Y Domen Fawr and southern Cefn Manmoel beyond, well treed on lower slopes. A communications tower punctuates the skyline west of Briery Hill, along with a further communications tower along the skyline to the north. The single turbine of Pen y Fan Ganol Farm is visible to the south on the distant skyline. To the west, the single operational turbine of Pen Bryn Oer, is also visible at hub height, filtered by intervening woodland on the skyline. At closer distance to the viewer, the skyline is also punctuated by lighting columns and pylons and lines. Residential properties within the middle and foreground are largely semi-detached. A children's play area is located within the immediate foreground of the view.

Predicted View

- 8.7.245 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.38a to 8.38e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south. All five turbines would be visible at partial tower height, with the lower part of the towers obscured by landform.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.246 The proposed development would be viewed at medium-long distance and would form a recognisable new feature on the skyline. However, this is a wide view containing a simple backdrop framed by urban elements and it is expected that the turbines would be accommodated alongside existing visual character. Given that profile and skyline of Cefn Manmoel contains urban development and a series of vertical structures breaking the skyline, the proposed turbines would not be an incongruous visual element and there would be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude is assessed as high-medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.247 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect high-medium. The turbines would be visually prominent features along the skyline; however, they would not conflict with existing

skyline elements and overall visual quality would remain intact. Effects are therefore considered to be major - moderate, (significant).

Viewpoint 7: Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256

Landscape Character Area and Designations

- LCA 12 Mynydd Bedwellty; and
- Boundary of Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides SLA.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.248 Visual receptors are likely to include both users of the road network and residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of high susceptibility as they are static and at home, albeit within a developed area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the nature of existing views which contain some urban elements. However, residents would be the key receptor type. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium to high.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.249 Residents are a key receptor from this location and is located within a landscape of recognised value as it lies within a designated SLA. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.250 Receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.251 Looking east from the western elevated fringes of Tredegar, the view is characterised by residential properties set against the backdrop of Cefn Manmoel. The residential communities of Georgetown and southern Tredegar are visible on the lower western flank of Cefn Manmoel, with mixed woodland blocks on the slopes behind them. The profile of Cefn Manmoel is characterised by rough moorland and scrub to the south at Y Domen Fawr, where two turbines break the skyline. The ridgeline spans the breadth of the view, containing coniferous forestry blocks to the north and an area of open, rough moorland on the crest of the ridge, where two communications towers break the skyline. A further communications tower breaks the skyline to the north. Beyond the northern head of Cefn Manmoel, the A465 Heads of the Valleys corridor is visible against the backdrop of the lower Brecon Beacons, containing the northern residential areas of Tredegar, along with larger-scale development at Tafarnaubach. Operational wind turbines are located on the skyline to the south at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 and to the north along the Heads of the Valleys corridor at Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate and Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate and nearer to the viewpoint at Eurocaps Ltd. There are also pylon towers and lines extending across this part of the view.

Predicted View

- 8.7.252 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.39a to 8.39e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible on the skyline to the southeast, with all five turbines visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Effect

- 8.7.253 The proposed development would be viewed at medium-long distance and would form an apparent feature on the skyline to the south-east. However, this is an expansive view containing a simple backdrop framed by urban elements and some operational wind farm development and pylons. Visual quality is characterised by urban and large-scale development set against the backdrop of the ridgeline, and a series of vertical structures break the existing skyline. As such, the proposed turbines would not be an alien visual element and there would be some degree of integration with existing components. The magnitude is assessed as medium-high.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.254 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-high. The proposed development would be a visually prominent feature along the skyline, although there will be some compatibility with existing skyline elements and overall visual quality would remain largely intact. On balance, effects are considered to be major-moderate, (significant).

Viewpoint 8: B4522 (Markham)

Landscape Character Area and Designations

- LCA 11: Sirhowy Valley & Valley north of Blackwood.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.255 Visual receptors will include both users of the road network and residents. Travellers by car are likely to be of lower susceptibility to change as they move through the landscape; whilst residential receptors are of high susceptibility as they are static and at home, albeit within a developed area where receptors may be more able to accommodate change due to the nature of existing views which contain urban elements. On balance, susceptibility to change is considered to be medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.256 This viewpoint is not of recognised value by virtue of designation; neither is the viewpoint of cultural or other value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings. However, residents would be a key receptor type. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.257 Receptors are considered to be of moderate susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-low.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.258 This medium distance view looks north over the Sirhowy Valley towards the southern reaches of Cefn Manmoel and adjacent slopes of Mynydd Pen y Fan. The Sirhowy Valley is discernible as a band of dense tree cover running across the breadth of the view, beyond which the rising landforms comprise fields divided by tree belts and blocks, with Nant-y-Felin woods discernible between the two crests. The property of Twyn-Gwyn is located on the lower slopes above the Sirhowy Valley. Darren Ddu is located to the north-west, comprising well-treed slopes with residential properties and ridge skyline punctuated by the operational turbines at Gelli Wen Farm and Pen Rhiw Farm at partial tower height. Beyond these and more to the east, operational turbines are also visible at blade tip height at Pen-yr-Heol Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2. To the south, operational wind farms are visible at partial tower height at Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park.

Predicted View

8.7.259 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.40a to 8.40e. The wireline indicates that all five turbines would be visible at hub height. However, it is likely that existing woodland vegetation on the skyline will reduce turbine visibility to blade-tip height only.

Magnitude of Visual impact

8.7.260 The proposed development would likely form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the development would not have a marked effect on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.261 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-low, and magnitude of impact is low. Due to the limited visibility of the proposed development, it would likely be visually integrated within the existing landscape without having any material effect on visual amenity. Significance of visual effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 9: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn).*Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney;
- North Rhymney Valley VILL; and
- Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.262 Receptors include walkers on the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath, who are susceptible to change by as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape by car, who are less susceptible to change as their attention on visual amenity is likely to be more limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of landscape or visual value, whilst walkers are more likely focussed on landscape setting. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.263 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated VILL, along a regional walking route. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.264 Receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

8.7.265 This is an expansive and far-reaching view from exposed open moorland at northern Cefn-y-Briithdir. The foreground comprises rough grazing, on land steeply sloping to the north-east. The middle ground of the view contains parts of the settlement of Rhymney, east of Pontllotyn, with terraced streets and some larger scale buildings at Maerdy Industrial Estate. Northern parts of Rhymney are also visible within the valley floor to the north, fringed by tree belts and blocks on the lower slopes of Rhymney Hill. The view is characterised by the layered profiles of the upland ridges to the east and north – beyond Rhymney Hill rises Mynydd Bedwellte, beyond that

Cefn Manmoel with its prominent communications mast and woodland blocks breaking the skyline, and beyond to the east Mynydd Carn-y-cefn and Mynydd James. Operational wind farm developments are a feature within the panoramic view. To the north are the single turbine developments at Pengarnddu Industrial Estate, (Unit 3 and Plot 5), further to the east and nearer to the viewpoint, the single turbine of Unit 29 Waldrons Commercial Unit and the 3 turbines of Pen Bryn Oer are visible rising onto the skyline. Beyond these, along the Heads of the Valleys are the single turbine operational turbines at Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate and Former Tech Board site Rassau Industrial Estate. More centrally within the view to the east, the single operational turbines of Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are visible at tip and hub height respectively beyond the skyline of Mynydd Manmoel. Further south along the Mynydd Manmoel skyline, turbines at Bedlwyn Farm and Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm are visible at tower height with the blade tips of Coed y Gilfach Farm to the rear. Turbines at Pen-yr-Heol Farm, Pen y Fan Ganol Farm and Gelli Wen Farm and the blade tips of turbines at Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan Industrial Estate add to the panorama to the south.

Predicted View

8.7.266 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.41a to 8.41e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the east with all five turbines would be visible at partial tower height. The lower parts of the tower would be obscured by landform.

Magnitude of Visual Effect

8.7.267 The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the overall view. Although readily observed on the skyline, the turbines would sit alongside other existing turbines and vertical elements within the view. Also, the large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.268 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high, and magnitude of visual impact medium. The turbines would result in some alteration to visual features although the open large scale landscape would assist in accommodating it. Resultant significance of visual effect, on balance, is assessed as major-moderate, (significant).

Viewpoint 10: Coity Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 8: Coity Mountain;
- Boundary of Blaenavon WHS;
- Afon Llwyd Valley SLA; and
- Blaenavon LOHI.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.269 Receptors include walkers on a public right of way and Open Access Land, who have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.270 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within statutory and non-statutory designated land (WHS, SLA, LOHI). The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.271 Receptors are considered to be of higher susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

8.7.272 This is a medium distance view, directed over the crest of Cefn Coch toward the valley formed by Cwmtillery, in front of which are the two operational turbines at Blaentillery Farm. Beyond these are a plethora of separate operational wind farm developments, visible in the distance within the open views, including Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan Industrial Estate. There is further visibility of wind farms to the north, with multiple smaller scale developments subsumed amongst larger-scale developments including Pen-y-Cymoedd and Pant-y-Wal. However, due to the intervening distance, the scale of these operational developments on the horizon is limited. To the west of Cwmtillery, the distinctive profile of Mynydd James forms the middle ground of the view. Beyond it, the ridgeline of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn is just discernible as the skyline. To the east of Cwmtillery, Coity Mountain forms the skyline at medium distance. The narrow view funnelled down Cwmtillery is directed toward ridges at further distance to the west.

Predicted View

8.7.273 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.42a to 8.42d. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the east with all five turbines visible at partial tower height. The lower parts of the turbine towers will be obscured from view by landform.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.274 The proposed development would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Although readily observed on the skyline, the large-scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality. The turbines would sit alongside operational turbines and vertical elements within the view. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.275 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and magnitude of visual effect medium-low. The proposed development would alter some visual features; however the overall integrity of the landscape and visual qualities are expected to be maintained as a result of the scale of the view, anticipated visual magnitude, and integration with the existing visual elements. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

Viewpoint 11: B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)*Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 28: Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidyr; and
- BBNP.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.276 Receptors are typically road users within the BBNP as well as users of the Open Access Land. The viewpoint is located within a statutory designed landscape and users are likely to be either travelling through the landscape at

speed, and therefore focussed less on the surrounding landscape or walkers traversing informal paths for recreational purposes who are more likely to be focussed on landscape setting.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.277 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within the BBNP. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.278 Receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change and of high value. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

8.7.279 This is an open, long-distance view, looking south onto the Heads of the Valleys below. The foreground contains rough upland grass. The middle ground is characterised by A465 corridor, with its dynamic mix of manmade elements set against the backdrop of adjacent uplands – including a string of pylon towers which runs across the breadth of the view, cutting through coniferous forestry at Carno Reservoir, Garnlydan reservoir. Operational wind farm development is feature of the expansive view, with single turbine development visible in the middle ground at Former Tech Board Site Rassau Industrial Estate and Unit 18 Rassau Industrial Estate. The three turbines at Pen Bryn Oer are visible on higher ground to the rear of Rassau Industrial Estate. Within the wider open and expansive panorama there are a plethora of operational wind farm development visible, including single turbine development near to the proposed development site at Gelli Wen Farm and Pen-Rhiw Gwaith Farm through to large-scale multiple wind turbine development such as Pen-y-Cymoedd to the west. The view is directed down the Ebbw Valley, formed by Mynydd Carn-y-cefn and Cefn Manmoel and containing the settlement of Ebbw Vale, notably the communities Hilltop, Willowtown and Newtown. Coity mountain forms the limit of the view to the east, behind Garnlydan reservoir. West of Ebbw Vale the view is characterised by the ridges and hills beyond the Heads of the Valleys and the settlements contained on the lower ground.

Predicted View

8.7.280 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.43a to 8.43d. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the south with all five turbines visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.281 The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the overall view. Although readily observed on the skyline, the turbines would occupy a narrow proportion of the view, seen at distance. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality. The turbines would sit alongside other existing turbines and vertical structures within the view. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.282 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-low. The turbines would represent some alteration to visual features; however the overall integrity of the landscape and visual qualities are expected to be maintained as a result of the expansive nature of the view, anticipated visual magnitude, and integration with the existing visual elements. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

Viewpoint 12: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney;
- Gelligaer Common SLA;
- Gelli-gaer Common LOHI; and
- Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.283 Receptors include walkers on the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath, who may have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape by car, although the extent to which their attention is focussed on visual amenity is generally limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of landscape or visual value. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated SLA and LOHI. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.284 Receptors are considered to be of medium susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area of recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.285 Located on plateau and slopes on the western side of the Rhymney Valley, this viewpoint is dominated by open, rough grass land. Further to the east, settlements are visible in the valleys, including Gilfach and Bargoed in the middle ground, along with large-scale buildings at Aberbargoed. To the north, New Tredegar is visible in part, above the crest of northern Gelligaer Common. The backdrop to the view is formed by the ridgeline peaks to the east, including Mynydd Pen y Fan behind the settlement of Gilfach, with the operational wind farms of Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan Industrial Estate) visible. Cefn Manmoel forms the limit of the view behind New Tredegar, punctuated by operational turbines at Cruglwyn, Cruglwyn 2 and Bedlwyn Farm and nearer to the viewpoint, the single turbine of Groesfaen Farm.

Predicted View

- 8.7.286 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.44a to 8.44e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the skyline to the north east, with all five turbines visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Effect

- 8.7.287 The proposed development would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Although clearly discernible on the skyline, the turbines would occupy a narrow proportion of the wide view, seen at distance. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple set of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality. The turbines would be accommodated alongside other existing turbines and vertical structures within the view. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.288 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-low. The turbines would represent some alteration to visual features; however the overall integrity of the landscape and visual qualities are expected to be maintained as a result of the expansive natures of the view, anticipated visual magnitude, and integration with the existing visual elements. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

Viewpoint 13: Bloreng (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 37: Bloreng Hills and Slopes;
- BBNP;
- Blaenavon WHS; and
- Blaenavon LOHI.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.289 Receptors include walkers on a recognised Public Right of Way and Open Access land within a designated landscape area, who will have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.290 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within an area subject to multiple designations, including BBNP, WHS and LOHI. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.291 Receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.292 This is a panoramic view from an upland plateau, looking over moorland and further afield, agricultural landscapes shaped by the River Usk. Gilwern Hill, with its prominent communications mast, lies to the north-west. The sweeping moorland crest of Mynydd Llangatweg lies behind Gilwern Hill, forming the limit of the view along with Mynydd Llangynidr. Developed land along the A465 corridor is visible against the backdrop of these sweeping uplands that form the southern limit of the BBNP. The settlements of Beaufort and Brynmawr are clearly visible within the middle-distance, along with industrial units at Rassau and Tafarnaubach. At closer distance to the south-west, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn forms the skyline, comprising steep-sided, open moorland slopes. Operational wind farm developments visible within the view include, most notably Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Bwlfa and Ffynnon Oer, which are visible in views south-west. Further north, there are a number of single-turbine operational developments, predominately visible at partial tower height, including Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Unit 3 – Meat Factory), Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Plot 5), Waldrons Commercials, Unit 15 (Rassau Industrial Estate) and Former Tech Board Site Rassau Industrial Estate. To the south are the turbines of Former Shell Tank Site, Avonmouth Docks, Longlands Lane Wind Turbine, Tesco Distribution Centre, Nash Treatment Works, Newport South Docks and Solutia. However, due to distance and scale that they will be viewed at, they are barely perceptible features within the view.

Predicted View

8.7.293 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.45a to 8.45d. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible to the west on the skyline, with three turbines visible at blade tip height and two turbines visible at hub height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.294 Partial views of the proposed development are available within a small proportion of this expansive panoramic view. A limited proportion of the turbines are visible on the distant skyline to the west. As a result of large-scale nature of the view and the relatively restricted availability of views of the proposed turbines, the proposed development is expected to form a component of the wider view which might be missed by the casual observer. Turbines and vertical elements are familiar features within the view, and there would therefore be a degree of integration with existing visual character. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.295 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high, and magnitude of visual effect is low. The turbines would be visually integrated within the existing landscape without compromising existing visual quality. This is because of the scale and nature of the existing view and its components and the limited extent of visual change. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 14: Twmbarlwm*Landscape Character Area and Designations:*

- LCA 40: Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn; and
- Abercarn VILL.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.296 Receptors include walkers on a recognised Public Right of Way and Open Access Land within a locally designated landscape area, who will have a medium to high susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.297 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated VILL, at a recognised viewpoint denoted on OS Mapping. The value of visual receptors is therefore medium to high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.298 Receptors are considered to be of medium-high susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its medium to high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

8.7.299 This is a long distance, panoramic view from a cairn on upland moorland south-west of Cwmbran. Coniferous forestry is prominent within the foreground, beyond which the rolling valleys ridges of the Sirhowy, and Rhymney Valleys are visible at medium distance, containing settlement and agricultural land within a framework of tree cover, set below rising upland ridges. The ridgeline of Mynydd Maen contains the view to the north-east. A series of pylon towers breaks the skyline in this direction. Operational wind farm developments are also visible within the view, including the three turbines at Oakdale Business Park, which are visible at tower height to the adjacent valley floor. To the ridgeline beyond are a number of single turbine developments, including Gelli Wen Farm, Bedlwyn

Farm, Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm, Cruglwyn, Cruglwyn 2 and Pen y Fan Ganol. Due to scale and distance, they are all minor features within the view. To the west, located on distance upland areas are a number of larger wind farm developments, including Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Bwlfa, Pant y Wal and Llynfi Afan REP. However, due to distance they do not form prominent features within the view. To the lower lying, levels to the south, several small and single turbine developments are visible, including Solutia, Nash Treatment Works, Newport South Docks, Longland Lane and Tesco Distribution Centre. However, due to distance and scale that they will be viewed at, they are barely perceptible features of the view.

Predicted View

8.7.300 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.46a to 8.46e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible to the north of the skyline. All five turbines will be visible at partial tower height and aligned to appear as a tight cluster.

Magnitude of Visual Effect

8.7.301 As a result of their alignment from this view direction, the proposed turbines would be stacked behind one another. Because of this, a very limited proportion of the wide field of view would be occupied by the proposed development. The proposed turbines would be viewed at long distance and are expected to form a component which might be missed by the casual observer when taking in this expansive view. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.302 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high and magnitude of visual effect medium-low. As a result of the limited magnitude of change and the degree of integration with existing vertical elements within the view, significance of effect is assessed as moderate, and not significant as the turbines would be visually integrated within the large scale landscape without compromising existing visual quality.

Viewpoint 15: Pen y Fan*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 27: Central Beacons;
- BBNP; and
- Beacons Way LDF.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.303 Receptors include walkers on the Beacons Way, located within the statutory designated BBNP and are therefore considered to have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.304 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within the BBNP, at a valued and popular viewpoint location. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.305 Receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

8.7.306 This is a culturally significant and far reaching 360-degree view, looking over the sweeping ridgelines that form the Brecon Beacons in the middle ground. The Usk Valley is visible in the middle ground to the north west. To the southeast, Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangatwg are notable high points. Also visible in this direction are Pentwyn Reservoir and the steep sided valley that shapes it, flanked by plateau uplands at Cefn yr Ystrad and Garn Ddu. The view is characterised by long distance views over the upland ridges of the Heads of the Valleys landscape, comprising moorland uplands, woodland and forestry blocks and agricultural land in lower lying areas. Scattered settlement is discernible within the framework of upland ridges. Looking south-east, a plethora of operational wind farms and single turbine developments theoretically visible from this elevated viewpoint. This includes Cruglwyn, Cruglwyn 2, Pen Bryn Oer, Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, Oakdale Business Park, Pen y Fan Industrial Estate, Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm, Pen-yr-heol Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Gelli Wen Farm and which are within proximity of the proposed development. To the south west, and visible along the distance ridgeline are several larger wind farm developments, including Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park (REP), Mynydd Bwlfa, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension. However, due to distance and the scale of the receiving landscape, all existing developments will be minor elements within the view.

Predicted View

8.7.307 The predicted view is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.47a to 8.47b. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible to the south-east, back clothed against the landscape. All five turbines will be visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.308 This is a 360-degree view, within which the proposed development would occupy a very narrow part of the expansive field of view. Although the turbines are expected to be visible at partial tower height, only a part of the blades would break the skyline. As a component within the wider visual context, the proposed development would likely be barely perceptible and as such the magnitude of visual effect is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.309 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high and magnitude of visual effect low. Although receptors at this viewpoint location are highly sensitive, given the overall character of the view, it's expansive nature and the presence of operational wind farms, it is expected that the proposed turbines would be absorbed with the landscape without having a material change. This is due to existing visual character and the expected limited magnitude of visual change. Resultant significance of visual effect is assessed as minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 16: Sugar Loaf*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 33: Skirrid and Sugar Loaf;
- BBNP; and
- Cambrian Way LDF.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.310 Receptors include walkers in the BBNP and using the Cambrian Way LDF and Open Access Land, considered to have higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.311 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within BBNP, at a valued and popular viewpoint location that is denoted on OS maps. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.312 Receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

8.7.313 This is a culturally significant viewpoint, characterised by long distance 360-degree views over agricultural land within the Usk valley towards upland ridgelines beyond and elsewhere. To the south, the distinctive profile of Blorange is visible, with rough moorland on upland slopes and agricultural land below. Adjacent to the Blorange lies the almost flat-topped profile of Gilwern Hill, bordered by the A465 corridor, containing tree belts and blocks of settlement along with pylon lines and other infrastructure. Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr overlook the view from the north, whilst the central backdrop is formed by Coity Mountain and Mynydd James. Looking south west, operational wind farms of Pant Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Fforch Nest Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest (Mynydd Pwllrhebog Extension and Pen y Cymoedd are all theoretically visible from this location. Due to topography, views will largely be limited to the upper section of the turbines and in conjunction with distance, operational wind farm developments are very minor elements within the existing view.

Predicted View

8.7.314 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.48a to 8.48c. The wireline indicates that the proposed development is visible to the southwest on the skyline, with two turbines visible at blade tip height, one at hub height and two at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Effect

8.7.315 The proposed development would form perceptible new elements on the skyline. However, given the wide and long-distance nature of the view they are not expected to be prominent features and would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. The turbines would be absorbed within the wide panoramic view. Awareness of the development is therefore not likely to have a marked effect on overall visual quality and as such magnitude of visual effect is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.316 Receptors at this viewpoint will have a high sensitivity and magnitude of change is assessed as medium-low. The turbines would form an additional element within the view although at this distance, the overall integrity of visual quality is expected to be maintained. Significance of effect is assessed as moderate, (not significant).

Viewpoint 17: The Kymin, Monmouth*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 125 Trellech Grange;
- Wye Valley AONB;
- Lower Wye Valley LOHI; and
- Offa's Dyke LDF.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.317 Receptors include walkers traversing the Offa's Dyke path through the statutory designated AONB and LOHI considered to have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.318 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within a designated landscape, at a highly culturally valued viewpoint location. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.319 Receptors are considered to have a high susceptibility to change, and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.320 This is a culturally significant viewpoint overlooking the settlement of Monmouth and the Wye Valley to the west. Agricultural land surrounding the Wye River comprises rolling landform with fields bounded by tree belts and woodland blocks – notably Kings Wood and Troypark Wood surrounding the town of Monmouth to the west and south-west. The longer distance backdrop to the view looks towards Garway Hill in the north, beyond which rise the distinctive crests of the Brecon Beacons. To the west, the backdrop contains Sugar Loaf and the Skirrid with Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangynidr beyond. In the distance behind Kings Wood a part of the settlement of Blaenavon is visible in front Coety Mountain. In theory the operational wind farms of Coed y Gilfach Farm and Blaentillery Farm are visible within views west. However due to distance and topography restricting views to blade tips they are unlikely to be a perceptible feature of views.

Predicted View

- 8.7.321 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figure 8.49. The wireline indicates that the two turbines are visible at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.322 Although wirelines indicate that partial views of two blade tips may be available, in reality it is expected that these would be imperceptible. The magnitude of impact is assessed and low.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.323 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high and magnitude of visual effect low. The turbines would likely be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect on visual character. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 18: Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 95 Mynydd Ddu;
- BBNP; and
- Beacons Way LDF.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.324 Receptors include walkers on the Brecon Beacons Walk, located within the BBNP and are therefore considered to have a high susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.325 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it lies within the BBNP, at a valued and popular viewpoint location. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.326 Receptors are considered to have a high susceptibility to change, and the viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.327 This is a culturally significant viewpoint with expansive and far-reaching views over the crests of the Black Mountains, Fforest Fawr and the Brecon Beacons. The distinctive peaks of Pen y Fan and the eastern Black Mountains overlook settled agricultural land containing fields with rolling hills, tree belts, woodland blocks and scattered settlement within the Usk Valley, which characterises the view to the north-east. To the south and east, the view looks towards the valley's landscapes of Neath and Rhondda. Expansive views of the ridge-lines which shape the heads of the valleys landscape continue to the east. In views south, a number of operational wind farms are visible across the distant ridgeline, including Mynydd Bwlfa, Maerdy, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension. Set below the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd, the existing wind farm of Maesgwyn and Maesgwyn Extension are visible against the slopes of the valley sides.

Predicted View

- 8.7.328 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.50a to 8.50b. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible on the skyline to the south east, with all five turbines visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.329 Panoramic 360-degree views are available from this viewpoint, within which the proposed development would occupy a very narrow part of the expansive field of view. As a component within the wider visual context, the proposed development would likely be barely perceptible and as such magnitude of visual impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.330 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and magnitude of visual effect low. Although receptors at this viewpoint location are highly sensitive, given the overall character of the view, its expansive nature and the presence of existing turbines, it is expected that the proposed turbines would be absorbed with the landscape without having a material change. The significance of visual effect is assessed as minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 19: Caerphilly Mountain*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly; and
- Rudry VILL.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.331 Receptors include walkers within a VILL and are therefore considered to have a medium-high susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.332 This viewpoint is of recognised landscape value as it is a culturally valued viewpoint location, well frequented for recreational purposes with parking and facilities nearby. The value of visual receptors is therefore medium-high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.333 Receptors are considered to be of a higher susceptibility to change. The viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium-high.

Existing View Description

8.7.334 This is a culturally significant viewpoint with views over the settlement of Caerphilly. The Rhymney Valley, enclosed by Mynydd Eglwysilan and Mynydd Dimlaith provides an open, channelled view north beyond the community of Ystrad Mynach towards Blackwood and the Heads of the Valleys ridges, including Cefn Manmoel.

8.7.335 Looking north, the single turbine operational developments of Cefn Bach Farm, Groesfaen Farm, Bedlwyn Farm, Pent-yr-heol Farm, Pen Rhiw Gwaith Farm, Gelli Wen Farm, Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 are all visible. To the north west, a number of larger wind farm developments including Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension and Pen y Cymoedd extend across the distant ridgeline.

Predicted View

8.7.336 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.51a to 8.51b. The wireline indicates that all five turbines will be visible as an equally spaced array on the skyline to the north with all proposed turbines visible at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.337 The proposed development would form a component of the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. It will form a discernible new element on the skyline, although given the wide and long-distance nature of the view, it will not be a prominent feature and it will not have a marked change to overall visual quality. The magnitude of visual impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.338 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium-high, and magnitude of visual impact is medium-low. This view is characterised by urban development, along with turbines and other vertical structures which punctuate the skyline. Significance of effect is assessed as moderate and not significant as the proposed development would not conflict with existing landscape elements and existing visual amenity.

Viewpoint 20: Llanishen*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills; and
- Wye Valley AONB.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.339 Receptors are typically people travelling through the landscape by car, whose attention would be less focussed on the surrounding landscape. Although located within the AONB, views toward the west, (including the landscape accommodating the proposed development), are likely to be away from and secondary to the primary view direction when travelling on the road. On balance, susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as moderate-low.

Value of Visual Receptor

This viewpoint is located within the AONB, and it is therefore of recognised landscape value, however it is not a recognised viewpoint location. Therefore, the value of visual receptors is high-medium.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.340 Receptors are considered to be of medium-low susceptibility to change and the value of visual receptors is high to medium. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium.

Existing View Description

8.7.341 This is a settled view overlooking undulating agricultural land and towards the Usk Valley to the west. The foreground and middle ground contain fields enclosed by trees and hedgerow with scattered farms and other dwellings. Fields containing blocks of woodland contain the view to the south-west at Llangwm. To the west and north-west, the backdrop becomes longer distance, shaped by the Heads of the Valleys ridges including Coety Mountain and the southern limits of the Brecon Beacons beyond. In theory the operational developments of Coedy-Gilfach Farm and the single turbine of G24i, will be visible to views to the west and south-west respectively. However, due to a combination of screening by topography, limiting views of the turbines to blade tips and distance, they are unlikely to be perceptible features within the view.

Predicted View

8.7.342 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.52a to 8.52b. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible on the distant skyline to the west, with two turbines partially visible at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.343 Although wirelines indicate that tiny, very partial views of two blade tips may be available, in reality it is expected that these would be imperceptible. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.344 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium, and magnitude of visual impact is low. The proposed development would be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect on visual character or amenity. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 21: Mynydd Llangyndir*Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 28 Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg and Llandyndir; and
- BBNP.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.345 Receptors include walkers within the BBNP and are therefore considered to have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.346 This viewpoint is located within the statutory designated BBNP and is therefore of recognised landscape value. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.347 Receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change. The viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

8.7.348 This is an expansive view, overlooking the southward sloping plateau of Mynydd Llangyndir towards the sequence of ridges that form the heads of the valleys. Cefn Manmoel is clearly discernible at medium distance, comprising open moorland crossed by Manmoel Road, with the upper fringes of the settlement of Ebbw Vale at Briery Top visible below. The communications mast on Cefn Manmoel breaks the skyline. To the east of Cefn Manmoel the ridgeline of Mynydd Bedwellte is visible, with scrub on lower slopes and three additional turbines punctuating the skyline. Further west lies the crest of Cefn y Brithdyr. To the east of Cefn Manmoel lies the distinctive, stepped ridge of Twyn Carncanddo and Llanelli Hill. These ridges to the south are punctuated by a series of operational wind farm developments across the breadth of the view, including the single turbine of the Former Tech Board Site Rassau Industrial Site, Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2, Gelli Wen Farm, Pen-yr-heol Farm, Bedlwyn Farm, Unit 15 Rassau Industrial Estate and Cefn Bach Farm. The three turbines of Pen Bryn Oer are also visible at partial tower height.

Predicted View

8.7.349 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.53a to 8.53d. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible to the south on the skyline, with all five turbines would be visible to partial tower height as a tight cluster. Some stacking is evident between two turbines.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.350 The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the overall view. Although readily observed on the skyline, the turbines would occupy a narrow proportion of the view, seen at distance. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the proposed development without loss of overall visual quality. The proposed development would sit alongside other existing turbines and vertical structures within the view. The magnitude is assessed as medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.351 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high, and magnitude of visual effect is medium. The turbines would be present as additional skyline elements within the view. However, the overall integrity of the landscape and visual qualities are expected to be maintained as a result of the expansive natures of the view, anticipated visual magnitude, and integration with the existing visual elements. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

*Viewpoint 22: Pen Craig Clach, Black Mountains**Landscape Character Area and Designations*

- LCA 32 The Black Mountains and
- BBNP.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.352 Receptors include walkers within the BBNP and are therefore considered to have a higher susceptibility to change as recreational users of the landscape.

Value of Visual Receptor

8.7.353 This viewpoint is located within the BBNP and is therefore of recognised landscape value. The value of visual receptors is therefore high.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

8.7.354 Receptors are considered to be of high susceptibility to change. The viewpoint is located within an area recognised for its high value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as high.

Existing View Description

8.7.355 This is a far-reaching view over the fieldscapes of the Usk Valley to the south. The Usk Valley is characterised by agricultural land and scattered settlement within rolling landforms broken into a patchwork of fields bounded by trees and hedgerow with woodland belts and blocks. The skyline is formed by Heads of the Valleys ridgelines to the south, including Coity Mountain and Mynydd James. To the west lie the flat ridge profiles of Mynydd Llangatwg and Mynydd Llangyndir, beyond which the skyline is formed by Cefn Manmoel and the neighbouring ridges. To the east, the distinctive peak of Sugar Loaf is discernible at medium distance. A number of single turbine and larger operational wind farms are in theory visible from this location. However due to the scale of the developments and distance at which they will be viewed they will predominantly be very minor elements that will be barely perceptible. However, the larger developments on the distance ridgelines to the south west, which include the wind farms of Pant y Wal, Mynydd Bwlfa and Pen y Cymoedd are all visible.

Predicted View

8.7.356 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.54a to 8.54e. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible on the skyline to the south, as an equally spaced array with all five turbines visible to partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

8.7.357 The proposed development would form discernible new element on the skyline. However, given the wide and long-distance nature of the view it is not expected to be a prominent feature. Awareness of the proposed development is not likely to have a marked effect on overall visual quality and as such magnitude of visual impact is assessed as medium-low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.358 Receptors at this viewpoint will have a high sensitivity and magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low. Distance views of turbines are available within the existing view, and as such there would likely be some degree

of integration with existing visual elements. The turbines would likely be absorbed within the overall visual character of this expansive view and as such significance of effect is assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 23: B4256/ PROW 64

Landscape Character Area and Designations

- LCA 15 Darren Valley; and
- Northern Rhymney Valley VILL.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.359 Receptors include walkers on the PRoW, who are generally more highly susceptible to change as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include people travelling through the landscape by car, therefore the extent to which their attention is focussed on visual amenity is limited. Road users are less likely to be present for the appreciation of landscape or visual value. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.360 This viewpoint is located at the boundary of a VILL designated landscape and is therefore of recognised landscape value. However, it is not a recognised viewpoint or somewhere receptors are likely to stop. Value is therefore considered to be medium.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.361 Receptors are considered to be of moderate susceptibility to change. The viewpoint is located within an area of recognised value, although not at a location generally recognised for its views and therefore of medium value. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as medium.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.362 This view is dominated by Mynydd Bedwellte, as viewed from the west. The distinctive stepped profile of the mountain comprises rough moorland with agricultural fields enclosed by stone walls on lower slopes. Several minor roads run along the western flank of Mynydd Bedwellte, providing access to the mountain and to dwellings such as Waun Tysswg and Mountain Ash, which are visible on lower slopes, along with a cemetery to the north east. Mixed woodland is prominently visible on the lower slopes of Mynydd Bedwellte to the south. Beyond Mynydd Bedwellte to the north east, Cefn Manmoel is discernible by its telecommunications mast, which breaks the skyline. A series of telegraph poles are located across the breadth of the view at relatively close distance. To the north the turbines to the operational three turbine wind farm of Pen Bryn Oer can be seen, with one turbine visible at hub height and another two at blade tip height. To the south west, there are distant views to the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Maerdy and Mynydd Bwlfa, where the blade tips to these developments break the skyline along distant ridgelines.

Predicted View

- 8.7.363 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.55a to 8.55f. The wireline indicates that the proposed development would be visible on the immediate skyline to the east, with two turbines visible to partial tower height, one at hub height and two at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.364 The proposed development would be partially visible at medium-long distance and would form a recognisable new feature on the skyline. However, although the turbines would likely be readily observed within a small part of the

wide field of view, the overall nature of the simple, open view would likely remain intact. Magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as medium.

Significance of Visual Effect

- 8.7.365 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium and magnitude of visual effect medium. The turbines would be an additional landscape feature; however overall integrity of the landscape would likely be maintained. This is as a result of the scale and nature of the existing view, which contains a simple palette of elements able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Effects are therefore considered to be moderate, (not significant).

Viewpoint 24: Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest

Landscape Character Area and Designations

- LCA 14 Blackwood.

Susceptibility to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.366 Receptors include walkers on the PRoW, who are generally more highly susceptible to change as recreational users of the landscape. Receptors also include users of the outdoor sports and events space, where appreciation of views of the landscape is not typically expected to be central to their activity. On balance, susceptibility to change is assessed as moderate-low.

Value of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.367 This viewpoint is not of recognised value through planning or heritage designation; neither is the viewpoint of cultural value, for example through recognition on tourist publications or paintings.

Sensitivity to Change of Visual Receptor

- 8.7.368 Receptors are considered to be of moderate-low susceptibility to change. The viewpoint is not located at an area recognised through landscape designation. Sensitivity is therefore assessed as low.

Existing View Description

- 8.7.369 This view is characterised by residential properties within the community of Blackwood, which are generally detached or semi-detached and overlook the playing fields. There are views over the roofs of properties to a farm dwelling at Penycloed-fawr, which sits amongst fields bounded by hedgerow. Beyond Penycloed-fawr, Mynydd Pen y Fan forms the skyline. A series of pylon masts also break the skyline across the breadth of the view. To the north the two turbines within Oakdale Business Park and the single turbine at Pen y Fan Industrial Estate are clearly visible, while to the north-west and visible above the housing adjacent to the playing fields, are a further two turbines, which are located at Groesfaen Farm and Cefn Bach Farm.

Predicted View

- 8.7.370 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.56a to 8.56f. The wireline indicates that the proposed development will be visible where vegetation allows to the north with all five turbines visible, four at partial tower height and one at hub height.

Magnitude of Visual Impact

- 8.7.371 Although wirelines indicate that the turbines would be visible, in reality it is likely that they would be barely perceptible as a result of screening by intervening vegetation. Magnitude of impact is assessed as low.

Significance of Visual Effect

8.7.372 Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low and magnitude of visual impact low. The turbines would likely be integrated into the landscape without having a material effect on visual character. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Summary of Operational Stage Effects on Visual Amenity

8.7.373 Table 8.13 summarises the assessment of effects on visual amenity from each of the 24 viewpoints.

Table 8.13: Summary of effects on visual amenity

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
1 Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)	Medium-high	Medium - high	Major-moderate, (significant).
2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)	Medium-high	Medium	Major -moderate, (significant).
3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	Medium - high	Major-moderate, (significant).
4 New Cwm Terrace, Cwm	Medium-high	Medium - high	Major-moderate, (significant).
5 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar	Medium-high	Medium	Major -moderate, (significant).
6 Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	Medium-high	Major-moderate, (significant).
7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256	Medium-high	Medium - high	Major - moderate, (significant).
8 B4522 (Markham)	Medium-low	Low	Minor, (not significant).
9 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn)	Medium-high	Medium	Major-moderate, (not significant).
10 Coety Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Medium - low	Moderate, (not significant).
11 B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)	Medium-high	Medium – low	Moderate, (not significant).
12 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)	Medium-high	Medium - low	Moderate, (not significant).
13 Bloreng (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
14 Twmbarlwm	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
15 Pen y Fan	High	Low	Minor, (not significant).
16 Sugar Loaf	High	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
17 The Kymin, Monmouth	High	Low	Minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
18 Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)	High	Low	Minor, (not significant).
19 Caerphilly Mountain	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
20 Llanishen	Medium	Low	Minor, (not significant).
21 Mynydd Llangyndir	High	Medium	Moderate, (not significant).
22 Pen Craigh Clach, Black Mountains	High	Medium-low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
23 B4256/ PROW	Medium	Medium	Moderate, (not significant).
24 Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest	Low	Low	Minor, (not significant).

Potential Effects – Statutory Designations

8.7.374 This section looks at the effect on the statutory designations that have been identified within Section 8.6 of the LVIA.

Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area, Aberfan

8.7.375 The value of this culturally important designation is assessed as high. It is set on the valley and rises onto the higher slopes and ridgeline, where the key characteristics are the large scale and the sense of openness enhanced by wide panoramic views. The susceptibility is assessed as low. The sensitivity of this designation is medium. The ZTV indicates that there will be no theoretical visibility within the Cemetery. However, designated areas beyond the Cemetery rising onto the higher land will experience theoretical visibility. However, these views will be distant, and the proposed development is likely to form very small feature within them that will not change or alter the fundamental characteristics of this designation. The visual change will be low in magnitude and when combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effect will be moderate and not significant as the open scale of the setting to this designation will be retained.

Bedwellty Park

8.7.376 The value of this early 20th century park is assessed as medium-high. It is set within the upper Sirhowy Valley and is strongly enclosed by both landform and mature tree planting. The susceptibility of this designated area to indirect change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium-low. The ZTV indicates widespread theoretical visibility across Bedwellty Park. However, in reality, views from the park are screened almost entirely by the mature tree planting and there are unlikely to be any views available of the proposed development from within the park. The magnitude of impact will be low. The significance of effect will be moderate – minor, (not-significant).

Blaenavon World Heritage Site

8.7.377 The value of this culturally important designation is high. The historic industrial landscape is largely focussed on the settlement of Blaenavon, enclosed within the Afon Llwyd valley, although small sections to the northeast and to the west rise up onto the enclosing uplands. Due to the limited visual exposure and distance, the susceptibility of this designated area to indirect change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium. The ZTV (refer to Figures 8.1, 8.2 and 8.13) indicates that the proposed development would not be visible from the greater extent of the

Blaenavon WHS, with the exception of a limited section of the west-facing slopes of The Blorenge. Viewpoint 13 – Blorenge WHS illustrates a typical view from this location and demonstrates that the proposed development would be only partially visible in the distance at either blade tip height or hub height. It would, therefore, form a very small component within the large-scale panorama that contains a number of man-made vertical elements, including operational wind farms. From this limited section of the designated area, the proposed development would be expected to form a component of the wider view which might be easily missed by the casual observer. Elsewhere, within the designation, there will be no change to landscape character or visual amenity. Overall, the magnitude of impact is assessed as low. When combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Brecon Beacons National Park

- 8.7.378 This nationally important designation recognises the unique aesthetic, historic and cultural qualities of the Park and the value is assessed overall as outstanding. Although varied in its characteristics over the large extent of the designation, this is a large-scale landscape with sweeping landforms, simple landscape pattern and open skylines. There is an absence of modern development, including indirect influence of wind farm development. On balance, susceptibility to change of landscape receptors is assessed as medium-high. The sensitivity is assessed as medium - high.
- 8.7.379 The ZTV (Figures 8.1, 8.2 and 8.13) indicates that from the vast extent of the BBNP there would be no visibility of the proposed turbines. Theoretical visibility is limited primarily to the south facing slopes of Mynydd Llandynidr, Mynydd Llangatwg and Cefn yr Ystrad, approximately 8 km from the proposed development. Viewpoints 11 and 21 (refer to Section 8.11) illustrate views from this area, and in general terms, impacts on this zone are limited by distance and the expansive nature of the existing views, which would accommodate the addition of the proposed development within a very narrow proportion of the view. Furthermore, the proposed development would be assimilated within the dynamic landscape setting that encompasses an open and expansive landscape containing a variety of dominating man-made elements, including the busy A465 Heads of the Valleys corridor, as well as operational wind farms.
- 8.7.380 Elsewhere within the BBNP, visibility is fragmented and largely contained to the higher crests and summits of peaks within the Black Mountains to the west and north-east only. Visibility would be at greater distances from these locations and any influence would extend over limited geographic areas. Some of the National Park's most well-frequented summits – such as Pen y Fan, Sugar Loaf, Blorenge and Pen y Craig Clach would have theoretical visibility of the turbines. However again, the distant turbines would be absorbed within the large-scale landscape and the expansive nature of views from these peaks, as indicated by Viewpoints 13, 15, 16, and 22. From the remaining extent of the National Park, the turbines would not be visible at all.
- 8.7.381 Where experienced in views likely to be largely from prominent hilltops, the proposed development would introduce a change, this will be seen in the context of many other man-made features. This change to one of the 'special qualities' listed in the BBNP Management Plan would be largely imperceptible within many of the extensive panoramic views. There will be no change to the remaining special qualities listed.
- 8.7.382 Overall, the assessment indicates that the presence of the proposed development would likely have little, or no material change to the robust landscape character and visual amenity of this designated landscape. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low. The significance of effect when combined with the medium – high sensitivity would be moderate -minor, (not significant).

Potential Effects – Non-Statutory Designations

- 8.7.383 This section looks at the effect on the non-statutory designations that have been identified within Section 8.6 of the LVIA.

Special Landscape Areas

Winchfawr (MTCBC)

- 8.7.384 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly for its cultural associations and historic industrial land-uses, is assessed as medium-high. It provides a backcloth to Merthyr Tydfil to the west and is strongly influenced by built form in the foreground and middle distance. The susceptibility to indirect change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium-low. The proposed turbines are theoretically visible from this SLA; however, their impact would be limited within the context of urban and industrial influences, vertical structures within the landscape, including pylons and operational wind farms and the open nature of views. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Upper Rhymney Valley (CCBC)

- 8.7.385 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly for its distinct character and good views as well as the cultural associations and exceptionally diverse archaeological heritage, is assessed as high. Although remote and simple, panoramic views in this area contain detractors including manmade elements such as operational wind farms. There are also likely to be limited numbers of receptors due to the remoteness. Susceptibility to landscape change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium. The Upper Rhymney Valley SLA lies approximately 4km from the proposed development at its nearest point. The southern half of the SLA would have no visibility of the proposed development. The northern part, which lies extends over Pen March would, however, experience views of the proposed development; however, the presence of turbines, pylons, urban edges and industrial activity both past and present is characteristic of the setting to this SLA. This SLA is valued for its industrial heritage, with areas of reclaimed land and spoil tips, and as such the turbines would not be an incongruous element within the dynamic landscape. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Gelligaer Common (CCBC)

- 8.7.386 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly for its distinct character and good views as well as the cultural associations and exceptionally diverse archaeological heritage, is assessed as high. Although remote and simple, panoramic views in this area contain detractors including manmade elements such as operational wind farms. There are also likely to be limited numbers of receptors due to the remoteness. Susceptibility to landscape change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium.

- 8.7.387 To the west of the proposed development, some parts Gelligaer Common SLA are shown to have theoretical visibility (refer to Figures 8.1, 8.2, 8.16 and 8.17). This open, extensive and exposed area would not be materially affected in terms of landscape character or visual amenity by the presence of the proposed development within the wider landscape setting- the turbines would be absorbed within a limited proportion of expansive views that contain a mix of sweeping ridges and manmade detractors. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Mynydd Eglwysilan (CCBC)

- 8.7.388 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly for its a well-preserved fieldscape with diverse multi-period archaeological resource, is assessed as medium. This is a varied and complex landscape with existing landscape

characteristics that include including fieldscapes, isolated and scattered settlement, urban edges and pylons/masts and some influence of operational wind farm development. Panoramic views are available in places. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium. The sensitivity is medium. Located between around 12 and 17 km to the south-east from the proposed development, the uplands of Mynydd Eglwysilan and Mynyddislwyn have extensive panoramic views. Within these, the proposed development would represent a minor addition and would be seen in combination with other man-made urban elements, including pylons. The open upland landscape character and visual amenity would not be significantly altered by the proposed development. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Mynyddislwyn (CCBC)

- 8.7.389 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly as a distinct landscape typified by a reasonably well-preserved irregular rural fieldscape of post-medieval date, is assessed as medium-low. This open upland area provides a strong back cloth to the adjoining, intensively developed areas with some panoramic views. Existing landscape characteristics that include plantation forestry and urban edges and with man-made elements including some influence of operational wind farm development. Susceptibility to change is assessed as low. The sensitivity is medium–low. Within the panoramic views, the proposed development would represent a minor addition and the open upland landscape character and visual amenity would not be materially changed. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be minor, (not significant).

St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides (BGCBC)

- 8.7.390 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly for its strong sense of place and simple set of distinctive upland element as well as historic landscape values, relating to the wide range of archaeological features, is assessed as medium-high. This designated area is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change because of strong physical and perceptual sense of place. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium – low. The proposed development would represent a small-scale addition within the large scale, open landscapes and would not be visible at all from a significant proportion of this SLA. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James (BGCBC)

- 8.7.391 The value of this SLA is recognised particularly for its strong sense of place and simple set of distinctive upland element as well as historic landscape values, relating to the wide range of archaeological features. The eastern parts of the area are also within the Blaenavon Registered Historic Landscape (but not the WHS). It is assessed as medium–high in value. This designated area is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change because of strong physical and perceptual sense of place. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium–low. ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from west-facing parts of this LCA, at close to medium distance and the proposed development is likely to have a notable influence within these parts. Elsewhere, where the landform faces east, the proposed development would have no influence. As a result of the partial extent the area influenced and the nature of existing landscape character, the addition of the proposed development within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects of the SLA. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn (BGCBC)

- 8.7.392 The value of this SLA is recognised particularly for its strong rural character, with a notable lack of industrial activity evident. It is assessed as medium in value. This designated area is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change because of strong physical and perceptual sense of place. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium–low. ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from west-facing parts of this LCA, at close to medium distance and the proposed development is likely to have a notable influence within these parts. Elsewhere, where the landform faces east, the proposed development would have no influence. As a result of the partial extent the area influenced and the nature of existing landscape character, the addition of the proposed development within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects of the SLA. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail (BGCBC)

- 8.7.393 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly as a backdrop to Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr with some early opencast workings of historic value. This open upland ridge is also a distinctive skyline seen from valleys on either side. The designation is assessed as medium in value. This upland landscape is defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views, across distant uplands and into the valley. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is assessed as medium – low. ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would extend across large areas of the designation, at relatively close distance. The geographical extent of change is therefore large. The proposed development would likely be a notable addition with its influence likely to extend across most of this open and simple landscape. However, no direct effects would occur and the addition of the turbines within the landscape setting would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character. This is as a result of the scale and simplicity of the receiving landscape which would remain physically and perceptually intact. The magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as medium. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides (BGCBC)

- 8.7.394 The value of this SLA, recognised for its strong sense of place and simple set of distinctive upland element as well as historic landscape values, relating to the wide range of archaeological features, is assessed as medium-high. This designated area is an upland landscape defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change because of strong physical and perceptual sense of place. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium–low. ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from east-facing parts of this SLA, at close-medium distance. The proposed development would likely be a notable influence within the landscape. As a result of the robust aesthetic aspects that define the character, the addition of the proposed development would have limited influence on the SLA. The proposed development would represent a small-scale addition within the large scale, open landscape. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Cefn Manmoel (BGCBC)

- 8.7.395 This SLA covers the open upland ridge that forms a distinctive open skyline seen from valleys on either side and the valley sides form a varied backdrop to the valley settlements. On the Manmoel plateau the distinctive beech

hedges form part of a wider historic pattern of fields around ancient settlement of Manmoel. The value of this SLA is assessed as medium-high. The contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility is assessed as medium to low. Sensitivity is medium. The proposed development is located within Cefn Manmoel SLA and as such there would be both direct and indirect landscape effects and a range of visual effects from within this designated area. Although the turbines would represent a notable new feature within the landscape, they would not be incongruous with the pattern of elements that define landscape character – the ridgeline contains operational wind farm development and other prominent vertical structures, and its character is influenced by human activity. The defining role of the receiving landscape as ridge skyline and the backdrop to settlement would remain prevalent. Although from specific locations there would be some notable changes (including from Viewpoints 1 - Sirhowy Valley Walk (South) and 2 - Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)), the SLA as a whole would not become physically or perceptually defined by the presence of the proposed development.

- 8.7.396 The proposed development would be located within an area that is already affected by operational wind farm development and other vertical elements within the immediate and wider setting and as such the proposed development would be a consistent feature in the landscape. On balance, the magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-high. Significance of effect will be moderate-major, (significant).

Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds (BGCBC)

- 8.7.397 This SLA forms a remote, large-scale, bleak and generally tranquil area that acts as a margin and buffer zone to the BBNP. The landscape is highly visible and is important to the overall perception of the region particularly by travellers on the A465. It also has historic value with well-preserved industrial remains. The value is assessed as medium. This is a vast, open moorland landscape of simple lines and minimal combinations of landscape elements. Frequency of receptors is low. Visual detractors to the south are a noted characteristic. As a result of these factors, susceptibility to change is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-low. This SLA is located to the north of the proposed development at a distance of approximately 5 km at its nearest point. The proposed development would be widely visible across the designated area. However, this is a landscape characterised by its association with neighbouring settlement, infrastructure along within the A465 corridor and industry. As such, the turbines would be compatible with the existing landscape and visual character. The extensive open views to the north would remain dominant. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Beaufort Common (BGCBC)

- 8.7.398 This SLA is recognised as an area of undeveloped heads of the valleys land between the main settlements, that forms a backdrop to Brynmawr. The value is assessed as medium. The SLA is heavily influenced by past industrial activity, a run-down character and urban fringe and it is, therefore, lacking unity and includes detracting elements. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-low. Beaufort Common SLA is located approximately 6 km from the proposed development. The existing aesthetic and perceptual aspects of this landscape are influenced by the presence of a variety of manmade elements within the panoramic views into the valleys. The turbines would represent a minor addition within this dynamic landscape that would not become defining or incongruous. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be minor, (not significant).

Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare and Cwmaman (RCTCBC)

- 8.7.399 This SLA is recognised as dramatic forested scarp landscape with noted historic values. The value is assessed as medium. This is an upland landscape dominated by forestry and is therefore considered to be of lower susceptibility to change by virtue of its simple pattern of enclosing elements. The area is also strongly influenced by man-made vertical structures including operational wind farms. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-low. ZTV mapping (refer to Figure 8.16) indicates that the turbines would be visible from east facing slopes, although it is likely that forestry would obscure views in many cases. The geographic extent of any potential impact is therefore limited. Where visible, the proposed development would be experienced on the distant skyline and together with a number of vertical structures and other manmade elements. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be minor, (not significant).

Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs)

North Rhymney Valley

- 8.7.400 This comprises a predominantly open upland area, with some rock outcrops that forms a visually distinctive backbone to Caerphilly County. The value of this designated area is assessed as medium-high. This landscape is defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views. It is therefore considered to be robust and less susceptible to change. Panoramic views from this area contain manmade detractors including operational wind farm development. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is, therefore, assessed as medium-low. ZTV mapping indicates that theoretical visibility would be available from east-facing parts of this designated landscape, at close-medium distance. The proposed development would likely be a notable influence within these. As a result of the geographic area affected and the nature of existing landscape character, the addition of the proposed development would not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define the character and visual amenity of the VILL. The simple palette of defining elements would remain physically and perceptually prevalent. Magnitude of landscape impact is assessed as medium-low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Manmoel

- 8.7.401 This comprises an upland landscape with a strong sense of openness. The Upland feel of the landscape increases with elevation as views increase in quality. The value is assessed as medium high. The contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility is assessed as medium to low. Sensitivity is medium. Manmoel VILL is located immediately adjacent to the proposed development and extends approximately 4km to the south. ZTV Mapping (Figure 8.1, 8.2, 8.18 and 8.19) indicates that the turbines would be visible from much of the VILL. There would be no direct effects on landscape character from within the VILL. The upland landscape has a strong sense of openness and the distinctive field pattern divided by outgrown beech hedges and stone walls is also a strong characteristic. Although the turbines would be notable within the landscape, they would not become defining elements of landscape character. Although there would be some significant visual effects from close distance views in particular, the turbines would be accommodated within the open landscape. The field pattern would remain intact. The turbines would be a notable new element that is compatible with existing landscape and visual character; the overall integrity of the VILL would remain prevalent. On balance, the magnitude of impact is assessed as medium. Significance of effect will be moderate, (not significant).

Abercarn

- 8.7.402 The VILL includes Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd and consists of an upland area of ridges and valleys, much of which consists of a woodland mosaic of conifers (providing winter greenery) and mixed woodland, giving a sense of enclosure. Some views are restricted by forestry, but open ridgelines afford views across adjacent wooded valleys. Coniferous plantation flanks areas of heath (which provide autumn colour) and grassland. The visual values of these aspects are, in part, dependent upon the contrast with each other. Visual detractors (vertical elements including pylons) on the open ridgeline have reduced the visual and sensory evaluations for both.
- 8.7.403 This comprises an upland landscape upland area of ridges and valleys, much of which consists of a woodland mosaic of conifers. The area is well used for outdoor recreation. The value is assessed as medium-high. The contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility is assessed as medium-low. Sensitivity is medium.
- 8.7.404 Abercarn VILL is located approximately 9 km from the proposed development at its nearest point. Views of the turbines are likely to be screened by both topography and forestry and therefore impacts on this VILL are limited. Where visible, effects would be limited by distance and the small-scale addition of the turbines within the landscape. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be minor, (not significant).

Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest*Merthyr Tydfil*

- 8.7.405 This internationally renowned industrial landscape is assessed as having a high value. It is located in a natural basin at the head of the Taff valley and is visually enclosed and highly influenced by built form and is considered to have a low susceptibility to change. Sensitivity is assessed as medium. The designated area is located approximately 7 km to the west of the proposed development. ZTV Mapping (refer to Figures 8.1, 8.2, 8.18 and 8.19) indicates that the proposed turbines would not be visible from the greater part of the Historic Landscape, although a small area of theoretical visibility is indicated on the western flanks of the Merthyr basin. However, views from this area are likely to be screened at least in part by coniferous forestry. Some further contained pockets of theoretical visibility are indicated on the eastern fringes of the Historic Landscape, however again, the geographical extent of any visibility is limited. Magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Gelligaer Common

- 8.7.406 This rare example of an upland moorland landscape rich in a diverse archaeological resource. is assessed as having a high value. It is located on a plateau to the west of the Rhymney Valley and is influenced by built form in and around the valley settlements as well as operational wind farm developments. It is considered to have a low susceptibility to change. Sensitivity is assessed as medium. Gelligaer Common LOHI is located approximately 3 km from the proposed development at its nearest point and extends over high upland moorland to the south-east. ZTV Mapping (Figures 8.1, 8.2, 8.18 and 8.19) indicates that the proposed development would be visible from many parts of this upland landscape. However, urban edges, industrial and vertical elements have a strong influence on the setting and therefore the turbines would not be incongruous. Furthermore, the overall integrity of the historic landscape and its characteristic landscape and visual components would remain intact. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium-low. Significance of landscape effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

East Forest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog

- 8.7.407 This upland landscape displays the widespread survival of archaeological remains representing the recurrent, and at times intense, occupation and exploitation of this area and its natural resources from the prehistoric period to the recent past. It is typical of upland Wales. The value is assessed as high. This is a remote landscape with extensive open views are available, where a simple set of moorland elements creates a landscape robust to change. Susceptibility to change is assessed as medium. Sensitivity is assessed as medium-high. The East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd y Glog LSHI lies approximately 14 km from the proposed development at its nearest point and extends over upland landscape to the north-west to a distance of approximately 22 km from the proposed turbines. Theoretical visibility is indicated sporadically across parts of this designation. However, as a result of distance and the expansive and far reaching nature of the upland views, the magnitude of impact is assessed as low. Significance of effect is therefore assessed as moderate-minor, (not significant).

Country Parks*Parc Bryn Bach*

- 8.7.408 This wooded nature reserve set around a lake on the outskirts of Tredegar is assessed as medium in value. The area is well wooded and visually enclosed. Susceptibility is considered to be low. Sensitivity is assessed as medium-low. A small section of the park to the north-east is shown to have theoretical visibility of the proposed development. Some fringe areas are also shown to have partial theoretical visibility. However, it is likely that visibility on the ground would be restricted by urban forms, vegetation and other surface features. From the majority of the park the turbines would not be visible at all. The magnitude is assessed as low. Significance is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Parc Sirhowy/Sirhowy Country Park

- 8.7.409 This wooded park to the south of Blackwood is assessed as medium in value. The area is well wooded and visually enclosed within the Sirhowy Valley, although sections extend onto the hillsides above. Susceptibility is considered to be low. Sensitivity is assessed as medium-low. The park is located approximately 14 km from the proposed development and will likely receive sporadic theoretical visibility of the turbines. However; due to screening by woodland is likely to obscure many of the distant views. Where open views exist, the proposed development will be perceived as a minor feature at this distance. The magnitude is assessed as low. Significance is therefore assessed as minor, (not significant).

Potential Effects on Transport, Movement and Access**Key Road and Rail Corridors**

- 8.7.410 The vast majority of road and rail users will be locals and commuters, not leisure drivers or tourists. Road and rail users travelling at speed are unlikely to be focussed on views of the landscape and potential visibility of the proposed development will be brief or glimpsed in duration in the majority of occasions. It is also likely that there will often be multiple man-made elements within the foreground of views from roads and railways, including highways and rail associated infrastructure, buildings and traffic. The sensitivity of road and rail users will be low.
- 8.7.411 The ZTV illustrates that in the wider study area, (i.e. beyond 15 km) there will be no or very intermittent theoretical visibility of the proposed development. Where theoretical visibility is available, it is considered that available views of the proposed development will be fleeting distant glimpses where foreground elements including road-side or rail-side vegetation allow. This includes the key road corridor of the M4 Motorway to the south. In these instances, the magnitude of impact will be low. The significance of any effects will, when combined with the low sensitivity of receptors, be minor (not significant).

8.7.412 Figure 8.21 illustrates that nearer to the proposed development, (i.e. within 15 km), theoretical visibility on key road and rail corridors may be more widespread, particularly along:

- The A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, extending broadly between Brynmawr to the east and Merthyr Tydfil to the West. This corridor passes through an open and expansive upland plateau landscape and the proposed development will be intermittently visible beyond embankments, cuttings and roadside vegetation, at distances of between 5 km and 7.5 km. Available views will be oblique to the direction of travel and the proposed development will be viewed in combination with other man-made vertical elements including pylons, operational wind farms, buildings and roadside infrastructure. The magnitude of impacts will be variable, ranging from medium to low or negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from minor-moderate, to minor through to negligible (not significant in all cases).
- The A4046 extending south through the Ebbw Valley, at distances of between approximately 1 km and 5 km from the proposed development to the east. This corridor extends along the floor of the valley through urban areas and is extensively enclosed by buildings and structures. In addition, stretches of the corridor that fall within the ZTV are often well vegetated with roadside woodland and scrub. Glimpse views west from the road will be oblique to the direction of travel and will be experienced in combination with typical man-made vertical elements including highways signage and infrastructure, pylons and telegraph poles. On balance, the magnitude of impacts will range from low to negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from minor through to negligible (not significant in all cases).
- The A4048 extending south through the Sirhowy Valley, at distances of between approximately 1.5 km and 5 km from the proposed development to the west. This corridor extends along the floor of the valley through the urban area of Tredegar to the north and is extensively enclosed by buildings and structures in this section. Further to the south, the corridor is more rural in character with sporadic enclosure from roadside planting. Views east from the road will be oblique to the direction of travel and will be more pronounced within the more visually open sections to the south of Tredegar. On balance, the magnitude of impacts will range from medium to low or negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from minor-moderate, to minor through to negligible (not significant in all cases).
- The rail line to the east, between Ebbw Vale and Cwm. This stretch of the corridor is more visually open and there will be some oblique glimpse views west to the proposed development, where intervening buildings, structures and vegetation allow, at distances ranging from around 1 km to 2 km. To the south of Cwm, the rail line is strongly enclosed with woodland and forestry. The magnitude of impacts will range from low or negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from minor through to negligible (not significant in all cases).

National Trails/Long Distance Footpaths

8.7.413 Users of the National Trails/LDFs will likely be recreational users where views of the landscape will be an important contributor to the experience. Sensitivity of users of these routes will be high.

8.7.414 The ZTV illustrates that in the wider study area, (i.e. beyond 15 km) there will be no or very intermittent theoretical visibility of the proposed development. Where theoretical visibility is available, it is considered that available views of the proposed development will be distant, and the proposed development is likely to be a minor feature. It is likely to be experienced in the context of other man-made elements, particularly operation wind farm development. Distant views along the routes will also be modified by foreground elements including vegetation and buildings. Where visible, the magnitude of impact will be low. The significance of any effects will, when combined with the high sensitivity of receptors, be moderate, and considered unlikely to be significant due to distance and contextual factors.

8.7.415 Figure 8.21 illustrates that nearer to the proposed development, (i.e. within 15 km), theoretical visibility on National Trails/LDFs may be more widespread, particularly along the following routes:

The Sirhowy Valley Walk.

8.7.416 Sections of the route extending across the open upland landscape of Cefn Manmoel will pass through the proposed development and the visual amenity of users will be strongly influenced by the presence of the proposed turbines. These will be partially viewed in combination with the operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2. Viewpoints 1 and 2 illustrate the predicted view from the south and from the north where the proposed development will be seen as a distinct tight cluster located on the high ground of the ridge. Although some turbine stacking is evident and unavoidable due to the location and orientation of the viewpoints in relation to the proposed development, this will reduce along sections of the path nearer to the proposed development. Sections of the routes to the north of Mountain Air, and broadly to the south of Manmoel, are, however, typically constrained by intervening vegetation, including plantation forestry to the north and a strong fabric of hedges and trees to the south. Visibility of the proposed development therefore diminishes beyond around 4 km to the north and to the south along the route. The influence of the proposed development will further recede as the route drops down into the Sirhowy Valley. From locations further to the south the proposed development will occupy only a small part of the overall field of view, where visibility is possible. Overall, the proposed development will influence only a small section of the route, and the integrity of the route along its length would remain. Where the proposed turbines are in proximity to the route, the magnitude is predicted to be high but elsewhere it will vary from medium through to negligible. Combined with the high sensitivity of users, significance of effects will range from major, (significant), through major/moderate, (significant) and reducing to minor, (not significant).

The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath

8.7.417 The Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath is located around 6 km to the west of the proposed development, running from Rhymney in the north along the ridgeline at Cefn y Brithdir before turning south-west toward Gelligaer and Mynydd Eglwysilan. The upland landscape is open, and the proposed development would be readily observed in expansive views to the east from broad sections of the more route. Viewpoint 9 illustrates the typical view from elevated sections of the route between Bargoed and Rhymney. The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the overall view. Although readily observed on the skyline, the turbines would sit alongside other existing turbines and vertical elements within the view, including operational wind farms. The large scale, open nature of the view containing a simple palette of elements would likely accommodate the turbines without loss of overall visual quality and at this distance, the turbines will occupy a small part of the expansive fields of view from sequential locations. The turbines would sit alongside other vertical elements within views, including turbines located on ridges and slopes in all directions. As such, the proposed turbines would not be an incongruous new element within views from the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath and their effects would be limited by the expansive, simple landscapes which the footpath runs through. From some limited sections of the route to the south-west there would be no views of the turbines at all as a result of intervening landform. Overall, magnitude of impacts will range from medium to low through to negligible. Combined with the high sensitivity of user the significance will range from moderate-major (significant) to minor (not significant). The integrity of the route along its length will remain, despite some occasional influence on views east and for the majority of the route there will be no significant effects on the visual amenity of users.

Raven Walk

8.7.418 Raven Walk is located within the south eastern part of the study area, at distances of approximately 12 km – 14 km from the proposed turbines. Parts of the route where it runs northwest of Mynydd y Lan are shown to have theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, which may be discernible at distance from some locations. From the

remainder of the route, there would be no visibility of the proposed turbines. Overall, where the proposed development is visible, the magnitude of impact will be low and when combined with the high sensitivity, the significance will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

8.7.419 From the remaining national trails and long-distance paths within the study area, including the Beacons Way, The Taff Trail and the Usk Valley Walk, the ZTV indicates that the proposed development would largely not be visible from as a result of intervening landform. Where routes extend beyond around 15 km, distance will result in visibility of the proposed development being a minor feature and not significant in these instances.

National Cycle Routes (NCRs)

8.7.420 Users of the NCR's will likely be recreational users where views of the surrounding landscape may be a less important or more secondary contributor to the experience. Sensitivity of users of these routes will be medium.

8.7.421 A network of NCR's cross the study area, typically contained within valley and the Heads of the Valleys transport corridors. NCR 466 runs within the Ebbw Valley and is shown to have some theoretical visibility of the proposed development. In reality, it is likely that buildings and other surface features, including vegetation, within the urban area of Ebbw Vale would obscure views. However, where open views are available all five turbines would be visible on the skyline to the west at relatively close distances. Although there may be some notable impacts on specific close distance parts of the route, elsewhere along its overall length impacts would be more limited. The presence of urban development within the immediate context, along with the transient nature of users along the route, also lessens the significance of landscape and visual impacts. Magnitude of impacts will range from medium to low. Significance of effect will range from moderate-minor and not significant in all cases.

8.7.422 Similarly, NCR 467 runs through the urban area of Tredegar and is shown again to have some theoretical visibility of the proposed development. On the ground, visibility would likely be more restricted as a result of intervening buildings and other surface features; however, it is likely that views will be available from locations along the route. Urban context, partial views and the transient natures of users would limit impacts. Magnitude of impacts will range from medium -low to low. Significance of effect will range from moderate –minor to minor and not significant in all cases.

8.7.423 NCR 46 runs along the Heads of the Valleys corridor, roughly following the A465 on nearby minor routes. Theoretical visibility is shown along most of the length of the route; however, it is likely that surface features would restrict views in reality. This corridor is characterised by a dynamic mix of elements alongside which the turbines would be accommodated within views without compromising existing landscape and visual character. Where views are available, they may be transient and containing the turbines alongside other vertical elements, urban and industrial development. Magnitude of impacts will range from medium-low to low. Significance of effect will range from moderate–minor to minor and not significant in all cases.

8.7.424 Effects on the remaining NCR's within the study area are typically limited by virtue of their location within valley floor transport corridors. ZTV Mapping (Figures 8.20 and 8.21) indicates that there would be little or no visibility from the other NCR's within the study area and as such there would be no significant effects on receptors using these routes.

Open Access Land (CRoW Act)

8.7.425 Extensive areas of Open Access Land, designated under The CRoW Act 2000 fall within the study area. This includes broad areas within the site and around its boundary and many of the upland plateaux to the north and the valley ridges defining the South Wales Valleys. The sensitivity of these areas, concerned with promoting the public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) is assessed as medium. Within the site boundary, the proposed development will directly impact on this predominantly open rough

grassland. However, the proposed development will not restrict public access and therefore will not conflict with aim of the CRoW Act. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. The significance will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

8.7.426 From other areas of Open Access Land within the study area, there will be no direct impacts as a result of the proposed development and the aims of the CRoW Act will remain unaffected.

8.8 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

8.8.1 Given the potentially large number of wind farm developments, including single and low number turbine developments within the 45 km study area from the assessment. The criteria listed are also proposed so that the assessment can focus on only the wind farm developments that are likely to contribute to significant cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity:

- All existing, consented and submitted turbines within a 5 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 30 m or more within a 5 km – 15 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 60 m or more within a 15 km – 25 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine;
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 90 m or more within a 25 km – 35 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine; and
- All existing, consented and submitted turbines with a blade tip height of 120 m or more within a 35 km – 45 km radius of the outer most Manmoel turbine.

8.8.2 The cumulative sites that are being considered in this assessment can be found in Appendix A8.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology. A list of the wind farms included in the cumulative assessment can be found in Appendix A8.1, Table A8.7: Cumulative Wind Farms, Volume 3 of the ES. The wind farm developments included can be identified in Figure 8.5: 45 km Cumulative Windfarm Location Plan, Volume 2 of the ES. Further detail on the cumulative effects of the proposed development can be found in Appendix A8.6: Cumulative Effects, Volume 3 of the ES.

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

Consented Wind Farm Developments

8.8.3 Table A8.53 in Appendix A8.6 identifies LCAs that may have potential for significant cumulative effects. These are assessed in detail. Where LCA's are identified for exclusion in the Table A8.16, these have been excluded from further assessment and are not considered further.

LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.4 Consented schemes are located to the north, at Unit 18 and Unit 19, Rassau Industrial Estate and to the south at Pen y Fan Leisure Park and Cefn-y-Brihdir Farm. However, cumulative impacts from these developments, in combination with the proposed development and operational and under construction wind farms, will have a very limited influence across LCA 01. There is a wide separation distance between the proposed development and the consented developments both to the north and south. The scale of the consented developments is also limited, in terms of both the vertical height of the turbines, (ranging between 33 m - 80 m tip height), as well as the limited number of turbines within each development. Cumulative impacts on character within LCA 01 are likely to be from

the proposed development in isolation together with the operational developments, rather than through any interaction with the consented. The magnitude of impact is considered to be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.5 The sensitivity of LCA 01 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 02: Pentrapoed East

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.6 Consented schemes are located within the LCA at Pen y Fan Leisure Park and beyond the LCA to the east at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm. The ZTV indicates that the proposed development and operational developments to the north and also to the south will have an influence across the LCA. However, where the potential for interaction between the consented development at Pen y Fan Leisure Park and proposed/operational developments exists, mainly to the north of the LCA where the character is more open, the limited vertical scale and turbine numbers of the consented development and the separation distance it has with the proposed and operational developments reduces the impact. The single consented turbine at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm will have only a very limited influence on the character of LCA 02 due to the wide separation distance, turbine height/scale and intervening vegetation. The magnitude of impact is considered to be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.7 The sensitivity of LCA 02 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 04: Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.8 Consented developments in proximity to this LCA are located to the north at Rassau Industrial Estate and to the south-west at Pen y Fan Leisure Park. Due to the small vertical scale and limited number of turbines theoretically visible, the consented schemes will have little influence on the character of this LCA at this distance. The proposed development and operational wind farm developments will remain as the more notable influence on character. The addition of the consented to the proposed and operational developments will not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character within this LCA. This is as a result of the scale and simplicity of the receiving landscape which would remain physically and perceptually intact. Magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.9 The sensitivity of LCA 04 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 05: Beaufort Hill

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.10 Consented development is located to the north-west at Rassau Industrial Estate. Due to the small vertical scale and limited number of turbines theoretically visible, this consented scheme will have little influence on the character of this LCA. The existing aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the LCA are influenced by the presence of a variety of manmade elements within the panoramic views into the valleys. The consented development and the proposed and operational developments would therefore not constitute an alien element alongside existing landscape

features, including pylons telegraph poles and other vertical elements. Furthermore, to consented turbines are of small vertical scale and will have little influence on the character of this LCA at this distance. The magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.11 The sensitivity of LCA 05 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 08: Coity Mountain

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.12 Consented development is located to the west at Abergorki. However, due to the large separation distance, and the extent of operational developments also evident from this LCA, the consented development will be subsumed amongst a wide plethora of operational developments visible on the skyline. The proposed development will be more notable nearer to the LCA. However, from much of the LCA, where it faces east, the proposed, operational and consented turbines would not be visible. As a result of the partial geographic area affected, the nature of existing landscape character and the wide separation distance between proposed and consented developments, cumulative impacts will not alter the robust aesthetic aspects that define character. Magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.13 The sensitivity of LCA 08 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.14 Consented development is located to the north of the LCA on the Heads of the Valleys corridor and will add to operational development that influence character to the north at the Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate and at Unit 15 (Rassau Ind Est). The proposed and operational developments will be a notable indirect influence, more in isolation than cumulatively. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.15 The sensitivity of LCA 09 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 13: Pentrapoed West

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.16 Consented development is located beyond the LCA at Pen y Fan Leisure Club to the east and Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm to the west. These will add to the operational developments at Pen-yr-hoel Farm, Bedlwyn Farm and Gelli Wen Farm. There will also be an indirect influence from operational wind farm development from Cruglwyn and at Cruglwyn 2 to the east and from Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan (Ind Est) to the south east. The addition of the consented to the proposed and operational development will add very marginally to the influence of wind farm developments. However, any indirect influence on character will be contained within a small part of the LCA on east-facing slopes and overall magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.17 The sensitivity of LCA 13 is low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.18 The nearest consented development is located beyond the LCA at Pengarn Ddu Industrial Estate (Plot 3) to the north-west. The proposed and operational development will be widely experienced with consented across this upland landscape in the medium-long distance within a small part of the open expansive landscape. However, the cumulative developments will be experienced in addition with pylons, urban edges and industrial estate that are a key characteristic of this LCA. Areas to the south will have south-facing aspect and in these locations, outside the visual influence of the proposed development, there will be no cumulative impacts. Overall magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.19 The sensitivity of LCA 16 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 28: Mynydd Oedd Llangatwg and Llangynidr*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.20 Consented wind farm development is located at Rassau Industrial Estate (units 18 and 19) and will be experienced as a small cluster on lower lying land to south of the LCA. The proposed development will form a larger, more distinct cluster on the skyline, set amongst a plethora of operational developments that are also experienced within the panoramic views. There is limited interaction between the proposed and consented schemes and the consented development will only marginally increase the influence of wind farm development overall due to the scale of the development and the expansive nature of the receiving landscape within the LCA. The robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape within the LCA are not likely to be altered by the addition of the cumulative development. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.21 The sensitivity of LCA 28 is high. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant as the fundamental characteristics of the landscape will be retained.

LCA 29: Mynydd Llangynidr*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.22 Consented wind farm development is located at Rassau Industrial Estate (units 18 and 19) and will be experienced immediately to south of the LCA amongst neighbouring settlement, industry and infrastructure along within the A465 corridor. This includes operational wind farms, most notably Europcaps Ltd and Unit 29/Waldrans Commercials Unit. The consented turbines will indirectly increase the influence of wind farm development within the LCA where they may be experienced as a distinct feature from the proposed development. The proposed development will form a more distinct cluster on the skyline and will be largely compatible with the existing landscape character of the LCA, due to the man-made vertical elements and built form that influence this open

expansive landscape. Furthermore, there is limited interaction between the proposed and consented schemes. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.23 The sensitivity of LCA 29 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be medium-low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 38: Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.24 Consented development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this LCA due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any consented development theoretically visible. The addition of the consented development together with the proposed and operational turbines would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character, as well as other vertical components within the immediate and distant setting. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.25 The sensitivity is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 42: North-west of Mynydd y Lan*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.26 Consented development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this LCA due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any consented development theoretically visible. The addition of the consented development together with the proposed and operational turbines would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.27 The sensitivity is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 43: Mynydd y Lan*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.28 Consented development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this LCA due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any consented development theoretically visible. The addition of the consented development together with the proposed and operational turbines would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.29 The sensitivity is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 44: Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.30 Consented development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this LCA due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any consented development theoretically visible. The addition of the consented development together with the proposed and operational turbines would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

8.8.31 The sensitivity is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 45: Mynydd y Grug

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.32 Consented development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this LCA due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any consented development theoretically visible. The addition of the consented development together with the proposed and operational turbines would not likely alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

8.8.33 The sensitivity is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

Table 8.14: Summary of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character – Consented Wind Farm Developments

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
01 Mynydd Manmoel	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
02 Pentrapoed East	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
05 Beaufort Hill	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
08 Coity Mountain	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
09 Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
13 Pentrapoed West	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)
16 Gelligaer Common/west of Rhymney	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
28 Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidr	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
29 Mynydd Llangynidr	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
38 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
42 North west of Mynydd y Lan	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
43 Mynydd y Lan	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach	Medium	Low	Minor (not significant)
45 Mynydd y Grug	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)

Application Stage Wind Farm Developments

LCA 01: Mynydd Manmoel

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.34 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located within approximately 5 km south east of the LCA. Further to the south west, there are four additional application wind farms/single developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddion Former Landfill Site and Upper Ogmere. These wind farm/single development applications can be identified in Figure 8.5: 45 km Cumulative Windfarm Location Plan, Volume 2 of the ES. From within the LCA any cumulative impacts on landscape character will be a result of the developments to the south east of the LCA, which will increase the influence on wind farm development within this LCA. Impacts are most likely to be restricted to

southern parts of the LCA, which have a visual relationship with the elevated LCAs to the south east. However, as the proposed development is located within this LCA, primarily impacts will be from this development rather than application developments within surrounding LCAs. Due to separation distance, there is unlikely to be any interaction with the more distant wind farms to the south west and therefore these developments will have no impact on the character of the LCA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be medium-high.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.35 The sensitivity of LCA 01 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium - high. The significance of effects will be major–moderate, (significant).

LCA 02: Pentrapoed East

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.36 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located within approximately 2 km south east of the LCA. From within the LCA, interaction between the proposed development and application developments to the south east will be sporadic and limited to southern and central eastern areas of the LCA, which are more open and elevated in character. The application wind farms are likely to be the more dominant influence within this LCA, due to their perceived horizontal scale within the landscape. With the exception of northern areas of the proposed development will have limited influence on character due to the topography and vegetation. The magnitude of impact is considered to be medium-high.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.37 The sensitivity of LCA 02 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr & Ebbw Fach Valleys

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.38 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located adjacent to the south eastern boundary of the LCA. The proposed development and application developments will cumulatively have a strong influence across this LCA and will introduce wind farm development to the landscape. However, due to topography and aspect there is limited in combination interaction between the proposed development and other application developments. From the east facing slopes of the LCA the application will have the most influence, whereas on western facing slopes the proposed development will have more of an influence on character. The magnitude of impact is considered to be medium-high.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.39 The sensitivity of LCA 03 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium-high. The significance of effects will be major–moderate, (significant)

LCA 04: Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.40 The application development of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn is located within the south of this LCA and will have a strong influence on the character throughout. Further application developments are located at Mynydd Llanhilleth to the south and a single turbine development at Silent Valley in the neighbouring LCA to the west. The proposed development will extend the influence along the ridgeline to the west. Although there is some separation between

the application and proposed development the combined influence is likely to be perceived as a continuous arc extending from the south-east around to the west. There will be a loss of the sense of openness, simplicity and scale as a consequence of the development. Magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as high.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.41 The sensitivity of LCA 04 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be high. The significance of effects will be moderate-major, (significant).

LCA 05: Beaufort Hill

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.42 Application development is located to the south at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and to the south east at Mynydd Llanhilleth. A single turbine development of Silent Valley is also located more closely to this LCA, again to the south. From more elevated parts of the LCA to the north and centrally to the south, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn Wind Farm will be experienced in combination in combination with the proposed developed, with the separate developments balanced around the distinctive upland landform of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. Silent Valley Wind Farm and Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm have only a very limited influence on the character of this LCA due to scale and topography. The proposed development will indirectly increase the influence of wind farm development nearer and along the skyline to the north of the LCA, albeit with some separation between the application developments. The magnitude of landscape effect is assessed as medium.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.43 The sensitivity of LCA 05 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be medium. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

LCA 08: Coity Mountain

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.44 Application development is located partially within or in proximity to the boundary of LCA, at Mynydd Llanhilleth and at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. These application developments will directly and indirectly add to the influence from operational wind farm development within or near to the LCA, including Blaentillery Farm and Coed-y-Gilfach Farm. The proposed development will increase this influence, extending the arc of wind farm development around to the north and west. However, there is a separation distance provided by the landform of Mynydd Carn -y-Cefn and the main influence on the character will be from the application and operational developments rather than the proposed development. This is due primarily to their proximity to or within the LCA. It is also unlikely that cumulative impacts will alter the robust aesthetic aspects, including sense of openness and that define the character. Magnitude of cumulative landscape effect is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.45 The sensitivity of LCA 08 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be medium-low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor (not significant).

LCA 09: Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.46 Application development is located to the south-east of the LCA at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth. In addition, the single turbine development of Silent Valley is located to the east of the LCA. These developments

will have some influence locally, particularly to the south. More centrally and to the north of the LCA, the proposed development is likely to have a greater influence individually as it extends along the enclosing skyline. Cumulative interaction between the proposed and the application developments is, therefore, predicted to be more pronounced in some parts of the LCA to the south. In these areas, there may be some perception of being surrounded by wind farm development where the cumulative and proposed developments are evident on both sides of the valley. The magnitude is assessed as medium.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.47 The sensitivity of LCA 09 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium. The significance of effects will be moderate and not significant as the predominant effect will be more from the proposed and operational developments in isolation, rather than cumulatively.

LCA 13: Pentrapoed West

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.48 Application development is located beyond the LCA to the east at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth, although the latter has limited influence due to intervening topography. The addition of the application developments to the proposed and operational development will add to the influence of wind farm developments indirectly on east facing flanks of the LCA. However, these areas are well vegetated and any indirect influence on character will be reduced as a consequence. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.49 The sensitivity of LCA 13 is low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 14: Blackwood

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.50 Application development is located beyond the LCA to the north at Mynydd Llanhilleth and at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. From this built up, urban landscape, these application developments are likely to have a more notable indirect influence due to the horizontal extent of the two developments along the skyline and which will largely be seen in combination. There is a strong sense of separation, however, between the proposed development and the application developments so that cumulative interaction between these developments is likely to be less notable. Due the arrangement of turbines along Cefn Manmoel, the proposed development will form a tight cluster of limited horizontal extent and due to distance, intervening vegetation and buildings will have little influence on the character of this LCA. Any change to landscape character within this LCA is, therefore, predicted to be more as a consequence of the application developments rather than the proposed development. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.51 The sensitivity of LCA 14 is low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 16: Gelligaer Common/ West of Rhymney

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.52 Application development is located beyond the LCA to the south-east at Mynydd Llanhilleth and at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. From this open, expansive upland landscape, these application developments are likely to have a more notable indirect influence due to the horizontal extent of the two developments which will largely be seen in combination. There is a strong sense of separation, however, between the proposed development and the application developments so that cumulative interaction between these developments is likely to be less notable. Any change to landscape character within this LCA is, therefore, predicted to be more as a consequence of the application developments rather than the proposed development due to their more pronounced combined horizontal scale. The magnitude of impact will be medium.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.53 The sensitivity of LCA 16 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium. The significance of effects will be moderate. Effects will be not significant as wind farms are unlikely to be perceived as defining feature of this expansive and simple upland landscape.

LCA 17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.54 Application development is located to the north east of the LCA at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley. While to the east is the wind farm development of Upper Ogmere and the single turbine developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission and Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site. Due to their size and number of turbines, the introduction of the application wind farms located to the north east are predicted to increase the influence of wind farm development on the LCA from its more elevated central areas. However, due to separation distance between the wind farms and the LCA the existing upland character will be retained. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.55 The sensitivity of LCA 17 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

LCA 20 Merthyr Common & Cwm Cothi Farmlands

Magnitude of Impact

- 8.8.56 Application development is located to the east and south west. The addition of the application wind farms developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth together with the proposed development will increase the influence of wind farms within this LCA. Development. However, the distance of these developments, together with the open, large scale character of the LCA will result in no fundamental changes to its character. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.57 The sensitivity of LCA 20 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

LCA 23: Abernant, Cefnpennar & Merthyr West Flank*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.58 To the east are the application wind farm developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth, plus the proposed development. Any cumulative influence on the existing character as a result of these developments on the LCA will be restricted to the upland ridges. However, these application developments are located at a distance of nearly 15 km from the LCA and therefore not predicted to result in a fundamental change in character. The coniferous forest that characterises much of the upland ridge will remain a dominant characteristic. To the south west are located the application developments of Upper Ogmored Wind Farm, Llwyncelyn and, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission and Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site. These developments are likely to be subsumed within the existing, large scale operational developments that include Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan, Fforch Nest and Fforch Nest (Mynydd Pwllrhebog Extension) and therefore have minor cumulative impact. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.59 The sensitivity of LCA 23 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate. Effects will be not significant as wind farms are unlikely to be perceived as defining feature of this expansive and simple upland landscape.

LCA 24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwll*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.60 The application developments of Llwyncelyn and Farm and Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission are located within the south western corner of the LCA. The two turbines together with the other application developments of Upper Ogmored Wind Farm and the single turbine development of Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site, will add to the influence of wind farm developments within this part of the study area. To the east are the larger wind farm developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth, plus the proposed development. Any cumulative influence on the existing character of the LCA will be restricted to the upland ridges. However, these application developments are located at a distance of over 15 km from the LCA and therefore not predicted to result in a fundamental change in character. The coniferous forest of St Gwynno with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed amongst the plantation coups will remain a dominant characteristic. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.61 The sensitivity of LCA 24 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

LCA 27 Central Beacons*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.62 The application developments to the south west that include Upper Ogmored Wind Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission and Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site are largely subsumed within the plethora of large scale operational developments, including the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer, Mynydd Bwlfa, Pany y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension. In addition, there is a large separation distance between these application developments and the proposed development. Therefore, they will have no impact on the character of the LCA. To the east the application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the

single turbine of Silent Valley and the proposed development form a separate cluster of developments, which will add to the influence of wind farm development on the character of the LCA. However, any impacts on this LCA, which is located over 15 km from the proposed and application developments, will be indirect. Furthermore this LCA is vast and open in character, dominated by upland moorland, which will not fundamentally change as a result of the proposed and other application wind farms. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.63 The sensitivity of LCA 27 is high. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor (not significant).

LCA 28: Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidr*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.64 The application developments to the south-west will have very limited influence on this LCA due to the intervening distance. However, to the south, the application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the single turbine of Silent Valley and the proposed development form a separate cluster of developments. However, these developments are subservient to the proposed development and have limited influence on the character of the LCA. The influence of the proposed development is more pronounced and the influence of this individually is more notable. Due to the limited interaction between the proposed and application development, there will, however, only marginally increase the influence of cumulative wind farm development. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, including its open and expansive character are not likely to be altered by the addition of the cumulative development. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.65 The sensitivity of LCA 28 is high. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant as the fundamental characteristics of the landscape will be retained.

LCA 29: Mynydd Llangynidr*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.66 The application developments to the south-west will have very limited influence on this LCA due to the intervening distance. However, to the south from more elevated parts of the LCA, the application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the single turbine of Silent Valley and the proposed development form a separate cluster of developments. Any cumulative influence however will diminish to the south of the LCA due to intervening topography. The influence of the proposed development is more pronounced and individually it will form a more distinct cluster on the skyline but will be largely compatible with the existing landscape character of the LCA, due to the man-made vertical elements and built form that influence this open expansive landscape. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.67 The sensitivity of LCA 29 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

LCA 32 The Black Mountains*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.68 The application developments to the south-west will have very limited influence on this LCA due to the intervening distance. However, to the south from more elevated and open south facing slopes within parts of the LCA, the application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the proposed development have some indirect influence. Some separation between each of the application developments and the proposed development is likely to be notable reducing cumulative interaction to an extent. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, including its open and expansive character are unlikely to be altered by the addition of the cumulative development. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.69 The sensitivity of LCA 32 is high. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate. Effects will be not significant as wind farms are unlikely to be perceived as defining feature of this expansive and simple upland landscape.

LCA 38: Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.70 The application development of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across north-facing, unforested slopes within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some influence on the LCA. However, due to the proximity of the application developments to the LCA and their resultant perceived scale, as well as the separation distance between them and the tightly clustered proposed development further to the north, the cumulative interaction between proposed and application developments is limited. The proposed development is likely to be experienced as a subservient feature with the wider landscape. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, including its mix of forestry and open and expansive upland moorland are unlikely to be altered by the addition of the cumulative development. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.71 The sensitivity of LCA 38 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium-low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 40 Twmbarlwm & Cwmcarn*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.72 The application developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across north-facing, exposed upland areas within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some influence on the LCA. However, due to the proximity of the application developments to the LCA and their resultant perceived scale, as well as the separation distance between them and the tightly clustered proposed development further to the north, the cumulative interaction between proposed and application developments is limited. The proposed development is likely to be experienced as a subservient feature with the wider landscape. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, including its mix of forestry and open and expansive upland grassland area are unlikely to be altered by the addition of the cumulative development. There is unlikely to be a reduction in the current sense of openness, remoteness and tranquillity that is experienced. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.73 The sensitivity of LCA 40 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 42: North-west of Mynydd y Lan*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.74 The application developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across north-facing, open, elevated farmland within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some indirect influence on the LCA, as it in addition to the application wind farms will extend wind farm development further along the skyline. However, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, that is dominated by pastoral farmland fields is predicted to remain dominant following the addition of the cumulative developments. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.75 The sensitivity of LCA 42 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium-low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 43: Mynydd y Lan*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.76 The application developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across north-facing, open, elevated rough grassland within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some indirect influence on the LCA, as it in addition to the application wind farms will extend wind farm development further along the skyline. However, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the landscape, that is dominated by bracken and land used for grazing is predicted to remain dominant following the addition of the cumulative developments. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.77 The sensitivity of LCA 43 is medium - low. The magnitude is considered to be medium - low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 44: Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.78 The application developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across northern facing slopes within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some indirect influence on the LCA, as it in addition to the application wind farms will extend wind farm development further along the skyline. This is a landscape that is directly influenced by the operational wind turbines of Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth indirectly influenced by urban development, pylons and coniferous forestry, all of which is predicted to remain as defining characteristic following the addition of the cumulative developments. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.79 The sensitivity of LCA 44 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium-low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 45: Mynydd y Grug*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.80 The application developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are likely to have a notable influence across northern facing slopes within this LCA. The proposed development may also have some indirect influence on the LCA, as it in addition to the application wind farms will extend wind farm development further along the skyline. This is a landscape that is indirectly influenced by the operational wind turbines of Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth and also by urban development, pylons and coniferous forestry, all of which is predicted to remain as defining characteristic following the addition of the cumulative developments. The magnitude is assessed as medium-low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.81 The sensitivity of LCA 45 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be medium - low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.82 This LCA is indirectly influenced by the town of Caerphilly, where its urban form is a dominating feature. The addition of the proposed development and also the application wind farm developments, of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Cran-y-Cefn, will result in some indirect influence on landscape character... However, any impacts will be limited to the summit of the ridgeline and northern facing slopes. The application wind farms of Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission and Upper Ogmere, located to the north west of the LCA will be subsumed within the operational developments that include Pen y Cymoedd, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension and Maerdy and have little impact on character. There is also a wide separation distance between the proposed development and all other application developments. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.83 The sensitivity of LCA 48 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

LCA 78 Mynydd y Glyn`*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.84 Application development is located within the LCA to the north at Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site, a single turbine development. To the east of the LCA, application developments are located at Llwyncelyn Farm and Llwyncelyn farm Resubmission. These developments will have some influence on open, elevated sections of the LCA, directly to the north from the turbine of Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site and indirectly elsewhere from the applications developments outside the LCA. To the west of the LCA there are further application developments at Upper Ogmere and a single turbine development at Rhiw Felin Fach and these will again indirectly add to the influence of wind farm development across the LCA. The proposed development will be experienced to the north east on the distant skyline, largely subsumed amongst operational and application developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. However, due to distance, the scale of these developments will be subordinate to those application and operational developments within and immediately around the LCA. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.85 The sensitivity of LCA 78 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 80 Mynydd Maendy*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.86 Application development is located to the north at Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site, a single turbine development and at Upper Ogmere. To the east and north east of the LCA, application developments are also located at Rhiw Felin Fach and at Llwyncelyn Farm and Llwyncelyn farm Resubmission. These developments will have some indirect influence on open, elevated sections of the LCA, contained largely to the high points to the north-west and to the south-east of the LCA. The proposed development will be experienced to the north-east on the distant skyline, largely subsumed amongst operational and application developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. However, due to distance, the scale of these developments will be subordinate to those application and operational developments within and immediately around the LCA. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCA are considered capable of absorbing any cumulative impact with little or no effect on landscape character. The magnitude is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.87 The sensitivity of LCA 80 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 85 St Gwynno*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.88 Application development is located to the south at Upper Ogmere and at Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site, a single turbine development. Further away to the south-east of the LCA, application developments are also located at Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn farm Resubmission and at Rhiw Felin Fach. These developments will have some indirect influence on elevated ridges and slopes within some parts of this LCA, subject to the modifying effect of forestry. The proposed development will be experienced to the east on the distant skyline, largely subsumed amongst operational and application developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. However, due to distance, the scale of these developments will be subordinate to those application and operational developments located nearer and to the south of the LCA. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities, including the strong influence of operational wind farms and the extent of forestry are, however, considered capable of absorbing the cumulative development within the distant landscape setting with little or no cumulative effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

- 8.8.89 The sensitivity of LCA 85 is medium-low. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 90 Hirfynydd*Magnitude of Impact*

- 8.8.90 Application development is located to the southeast at Upper Ogmere and at Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site, a single turbine development. Beyond these, application developments are also located at Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn farm Resubmission and at Rhiw Felin Fach. These developments will have some indirect influence on

elevated ridges and slopes within some parts of this LCA, subject to the modifying effect of forestry. The proposed development will be experienced to the east on the distant skyline, largely subsumed amongst operational and application developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. However, due to distance, the scale of these developments is likely to be subordinate to those application and operational developments located nearer and to the southeast of the LCA. Furthermore, the robust aesthetic and perceptual qualities, including the strong influence of operational wind farms, including Maesgwyn Extension within the LCA and the extent of forestry are, however, considered capable of absorbing the cumulative development within the distant landscape setting with little or no cumulative effect on landscape character. Overall magnitude of effect is assessed as low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

8.8.91 The sensitivity of LCA 90 is medium. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be minor, (not significant).

LCA 96 Fforest Fawr

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.92 The application developments to the south that include Upper Ogmere Wind Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission and Nant-y-Gwyddon former landfill site are largely subsumed within the plethora of large scale operational developments, including the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer, Mynydd Bwlfa, Pany y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension. In addition, there is a large separation distance between these application developments and the proposed development. Therefore, they will have no impact on the character of the LCA. To the south east the application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and the single turbine of Silent Valley and the proposed development form a separate cluster of developments, which will add to the influence of wind farm development on the character of the LCA. However, any impacts on this LCA, which is located over 16 km from the proposed and application developments, will be indirect. Furthermore, this LCA is vast and open in character, dominated by upland moorland, which will not fundamentally change as a result of the proposed and other application wind farms. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

8.8.93 The sensitivity of LCA 96 is medium-high. The magnitude is considered to be low. Indirect effects would occur from a part of this LCA. However, the turbines would remain subservient to robust upland character. Significance of cumulative landscape effects are therefore assessed as moderate, (not significant).

LCA 126 Llangovan Foothills

Magnitude of Impact

8.8.94 Any cumulative impacts on landscape character as a result of the proposed development and application wind farms is predicted to be a result of developments located within the eastern parts of the study area, which include Mynydd Llanhilleth, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and the single turbine of Silent Valley. There may be a slight increase in the influence of wind farm development within this LCA, however any impacts will be indirect and at over 20 km from the LCA to the proposed development, the fundamental character of the LCA is predicted to remain unchanged. The magnitude of impact will be low.

Cumulative Significance of Effect

8.8.95 The sensitivity of LCA 126 is medium-high. The magnitude is considered to be low. The significance of effects will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Table 8.15: Summary of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character – Application-stage Wind Farm Developments

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
01 Mynydd Manmoel	Medium	Medium-high	Major-moderate (significant)
02 Pentrapoed East	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys	Medium	Medium-high	Moderate-major (significant)
04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	Medium	High	Moderate-major (significant)
05 Beaufort Hill	Medium-low	Medium	Moderate-minor (not significant)
08 Coity Mountain	Medium-low	Medium - low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
09 Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm	Medium	Medium	Moderate (not significant)
13 Pentrapoed West	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)
14 Blackwood	Low	Low	Minor (not significant)
15 Darren Valley	Medium	Low	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
16 Gelligaer Common/west of Rhymney	Medium	Medium	Moderate (not significant)
17 Mynydd Eglwysilan/Llanfabon	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
20 Merthyr Common and Cwm Cothi Farmlands	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
23 Abernant, Cefnpennar and Merthyr West Flank	Medium	Low	Moderate (not significant)
24 St Gwynno and Ynysybwl	Medium-low	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
27 Central Beacons	High	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
28 Mynydd Oedd, Llangatwg and Llangynidr	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance
29 Mynydd Llangynidr	Medium-low	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
32 The Black Mountains	High	Low	Moderate (not significant)
38 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
40 Twmbarlwm and Cwmcarn	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
42 North-west of Mynydd y Lan	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
43 Mynydd y Lan	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
44 Valley Slopes Sirhowy, Machen and Ystrad Mynach	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
45 Mynydd y Grug	Medium	Medium-low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
48 Rhymney Valley South of Caerphilly	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)
78 Mynydd y Glyn	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
80 Mynydd Maendy	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
85 St Gwynno	Medium-low	Low	Minor (not significant)
90 Hirfynydd	Medium	Low	Minor (not significant)
96 Fforest Fawr	Medium-high	Low	Moderate (not significant)
126 Llangovan Foothills	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor (not significant)

Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

Consented Wind Farm Developments

8.8.96 The cumulative effects on visual amenity from the 24 viewpoints, as a result of the proposed development and baseline developments, in addition to the consented wind farm/single turbines within the 45 km study area are assessed. The sensitivity of receptors is as evaluated for individual effects (refer to section 8.6).

Viewpoint 1: Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)

Predicted Cumulative View

8.8.97 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.33a to 8.33e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbine, Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road will be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.98 The consented turbine, Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road is located approximately 15 km from the viewpoint location and within the opposite direction to the proposed turbines. Due to distance and its scale, when viewed with the proposed development and other existing developments, its addition into the view, will have very little impact. It is likely to be missed by the casual observer and have no effect on perception of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.99 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate–minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 2: Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)

Predicted View

8.8.100 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.34a to 8.34e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.101 The single turbines at Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will be viewed at a similar scale to the existing turbines within Rassau Industrial estate and will result in a slight increase in the prominence of wind turbine development within the view. However, they will not increase the horizontal extent of wind farm development and any effects on visual amenity are likely to be a result of the proposed development, rather than the consented turbines. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.102 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as while there will be an increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view, effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development, rather than the addition of the consented developments.

Viewpoint 3: Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale

Predicted View

8.8.103 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.35a to 8.35e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.104 The single turbines at Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will in theory be visible in views to the north-west from this location. However, in reality, existing vegetation will screen views of these turbines, especially during the months when in leaf. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.105 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 4: New Cwm Terrace, Cwm

8.8.106 Figures 8.36a to 8.36d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no consented wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of the proposed development.

Viewpoint 5: Gainsborough Road, Tredegar*Predicted View*

8.8.107 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.37a to 8.37e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.108 The single turbines at Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will be viewed at a similar scale and to the existing turbines within Rassau Industrial estate, that will result in a slight increase in the prominence of wind turbine development within views to the north-east. However, they will not result in an increase in the horizontal extent of turbines across the ridgeline. In addition, there is a large separation between the consented and the proposed development, plus existing turbines of Cruglwyn, Cruglwyn 2 and Pen y Fan Ganol Farm, which are located to the south-east. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.109 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate and not significant as the proposed development will be the prominent development within the view.

Viewpoint 6: Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale

8.8.110 Figures 8.38a to 8.38e illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19 at Rassau Industrial Estate will in theory be visible from this location. In reality however, adjacent housing will screen views of these developments. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of consented wind farm development.

Viewpoint 7: Cwm Tysswg, junction with B4256*Predicted View*

8.8.111 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.39a to 8.39e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.112 The single turbines at Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate will be viewed at a similar scale to the existing turbines within Rassau Industrial estate and will result in a slight increase in the prominence of wind turbine development within the view. However, they will not increase the horizontal extent of wind farm development and any effects on visual amenity are likely to be a result of the proposed development, rather than the consented turbines. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.113 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as while there will be an increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view, effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development, rather than the addition of the consented developments.

Viewpoint 8: B4522 (Markham)*Predicted View*

8.8.114 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.40a to 8.40e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented wind farm at Penyfan Leisure Park will be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.115 The Penyfan Leisure Park development would be seen in views east, located between the existing turbines to Pen y Fan Ganol Farm and Oakdale Business Park/Penyfan Industrial Estate. Their introduction will result in a minor infilling of turbines within this part of the view. However, due to their scale they do not form a prominent feature and there is a large separation distance between the consented development and the proposed development. The addition of the consented turbines, when viewed with the proposed and existing developments is not contribute to the overall prominence of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.116 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 9: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn).*Predicted View*

8.8.117 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.41a to 8.41e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines of Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Plot 3), Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate, plus the turbines at Penyfan Leisure Park will be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.118 The consented turbines would form very minor features of the view due to their scale and distance at which they will be viewed. In addition, they will be not viewed within the same portion of view as the proposed development.

Consequently, they will have little overall influence on cumulative wind farm development that would be experienced from this location. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.119 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 10: Coety Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)

Predicted View

- 8.8.120 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.42a to 8.42d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to the Land at Craig-yr-Hufan and Abergorki Wind Farm will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.121 The consented turbines would form very minor features of the view due to their scale, distance at which they will be viewed and intervening topography restricting the vertical proportion of the turbines that will be visible. There is a large separation distance between the turbine at the Land at Graig-yr-Hufan Road and the proposed development, while the turbines of Abergorki Wind Farm will be subsumed within existing wind farms and the turbines of the proposed development. Consequently, the consented developments will have little overall influence on cumulative wind farm development that would be experienced from this location. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.122 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant. While in theory there will be an increase in the number of wind turbines/wind farm developments visible, any effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development and other existing turbines/wind farms, rather than the addition of the consented developments.

Viewpoint 11: B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)

Predicted View

- 8.8.123 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.43a to 9.43d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate and of Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Plot 3), plus the wind farms of Pany y Wal Extension (Phase 2) and Abergorki will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.124 The consented turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19 at Rassau Industrial Estate will be a noticeable, although not prominent feature within the landscape. However, due to separation distance, they will have little visual relationship with the proposed development. All other consented developments will be minor elements within the view, due to

a combination of distance and scale. In addition, typically, they will be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.125 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant. While in theory there will be an increase in the number of wind turbines/wind farm developments visible, any effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development and other existing turbines/wind farms, rather than the addition of the consented developments.

Viewpoint 12: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)

Predicted View

- 8.8.126 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.44a to 8.44e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines of Cefn-y-Briithdir Farm, Penyfan Leisure Park and Craig-yr-Hufan Road will be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.127 Due to scale, distance and topography the consented developments will all be very minor features within the wider view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer. They will have no effect on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.128 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 13: Blorenge (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)

Predicted View

- 8.8.129 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.45a to 8.45d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate and of Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Plot 3), plus the wind farms of Melin Court and Maesgwyn Extension will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.130 Due to scale, distance and topography the consented developments will all be very minor features within the wider view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer. They will have no effect on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.131 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, as the consented developments will be imperceptible and therefore not significant.

Viewpoint 14: Twmbarlwm*Predicted View*

- 8.8.132 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.46a to 8.46d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines at Severn Road, Clearwell Farm, Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm, and Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate, plus the wind farms of Pany y Wal Extension (Phase 2), Melin Court, Abergorki, Maesgwyn Extension and Penyfan Leisure Park will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.133 Due to scale, distance and topography the consented developments will all be very minor features within the wider view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer. They will have no effect on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.134 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor (not significant).

Viewpoint 15: Pen y fan*Predicted View*

- 8.8.135 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.47a to 8.47b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate, Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm, Pengarnddu Industrial Estate (Plot 3), Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, plus the wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Abergorki, Melin Court and Maesgwyn Extension will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.136 Due to scale, distance and topography the consented developments will all be very minor features within the wider view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer. In addition, the turbines to all consented developments will be subsumed within the turbine of existing wind farm developments. Consequently, they will have no effect on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.137 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as the consented developments will be imperceptible.

Viewpoint 16: Sugar Loaf*Predicted View*

- 8.8.138 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.48a to 8.48c. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.139 Due to scale, distance and topography the consented wind farm of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 will be a very minor feature within the wider view that is likely to be missed by the casual observer. In addition, the turbines to this development consented will be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farm developments. Consequently, it will have no effect on the perception of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.140 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate and not significant, as the consented development will be imperceptible.

Viewpoint 17: The Kymin, Monmouth

- 8.8.141 Figures 8.49 illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no consented wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of consented wind farm development.

Viewpoint 18: Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.142 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.50a to 8.50b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbine at Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, plus the wind farms of Abergorki, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Maesgwyn Extension, Melin Court and Foel Trawsnant will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.143 The wind farms of Abergorki, Maesgwyn Extension, Melin Court and Foel Trawsnant will add to the sense of wind farm development within views to the south. However, they will be largely subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms that extend throughout this part of the study area and due to distance will be very minor features within the wider view. In addition, there is a wide separation distance between the consented developments and the proposed development, therefore there is little visual relationship between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.144 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as the consented developments when viewed with the proposed development and existing developments will have no perceptible effect.

Viewpoint 19: Caerphilly Mountain*Predicted View*

- 8.8.145 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.51a to 8.51b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm and Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, plus the wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Abergorki will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.146 The consented wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Abergorki will be visible in distance views to the west, where they will be subsumed within the turbines of the existing wind farms that extend along the ridgeline. The proposed development will be visible to views north and therefore there will be a large separation distance between it and the consented developments to the west and therefore no visual relationship between them. Also within views north, the single turbine to the Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road will be visible. However, there is also a large separation distance between this turbine and the proposed development and due to its scale will be a minor feature. Therefore, it is predicted not to add to the sense of wind turbines/wind farms within the view. Due to topography the turbine at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm will be imperceptible. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.147 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor, and not significant as the addition of the consented developments will be minor elements of the view.

Viewpoint 20: Llanishen*Predicted View*

- 8.8.148 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.52a to 8.52b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbine to Clearwell Farm will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impact

- 8.8.149 Due to a combination of distance and topography, the consented turbine at Clearwell Farm will be imperceptible from this location and have no increased perception of wind farm developments within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.150 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 21: Mynydd Llangyndir*Predicted View*

- 8.8.151 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.53a to 8.53d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate and Land at Craig-yr-

Hufan Road, plus the wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Abergorki will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.152 The consented wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Abergorki, will be viewed at a distance of over 20 km away, within the western half of the study area and will be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farm developments. Consequently, there is little visual relationship between these developments and the proposed development. The single turbine at the Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, will have no influence on cumulative views due to screening by topography, limited the extent of the turbine visible. The consented turbines to Unit 18 and Unit 19 at Rassau Industrial Estate, will be noticeable features, although not prominent. They will be viewed at a lower altitude than the proposed development and within a number of existing single turbine developments. When viewed the proposed development and existing developments, the addition of the consented turbines may result in a very slight increase in the perception of wind turbine/wind farm development within this portion of the view.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.153 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium - low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant as the addition of the consented developments when viewed with the proposed and existing developments is not expected to change the overall nature of the view.

Viewpoint 22: Pen Craig Clach, Black Mountains*Predicted View*

- 8.8.154 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.54a to 8.54e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines at Severn Road, Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, Unit 18 and Unit 19, at Rassau Industrial Estate, plus the wind farms of Abergorki, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Foel Trawsant and Maesgwyn Extension will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.155 Views of all consented developments that are potentially visible from this location will either be limited by topography, or they will be subsumed within the turbines of existing developments. Therefore, they will have no perceptible impact on the perception of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.156 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as the addition of the consented developments will be minor or even imperceptible elements of the view.

Viewpoint 23: B4256/ PROW 64*Predicted View*

- 8.8.157 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.55a to 8.55f. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible,

the consented single turbine at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm, and the Abergorki Wind Farm will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.158 Views of the consented single turbine at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm, plus the wind farm of Abergorki will be limited to blade tips only by topography and therefore they will have no impact on the perception of wind turbines/wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.159 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 24: Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest

Predicted View

8.8.160 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.56a to 8.56f. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the consented single turbines at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm and the Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road, plus the wind farm at Penyfan Leisure Park will also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.161 The turbine on the Land at Craig-yr-Hufan Road will be screened from view by adjacent housing and there have no cumulative impact. The turbines at Cefn-y-Brithdir Farm and also Penyfan Leisure Park, will be visible, however, due to scale, they will not be prominent features of the view. In addition, there is a wide separation distance between these consented developments and the proposed development and therefor limited visual interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.162 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor and not significant.

Table 8.16: Summary of Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity – Consented Wind Farm Developments

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
1 Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not-significant).
3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	Low	Minor (not significant).
4 New Cwm Terrace, Cwm	Medium-high	-	-

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
5 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
6 Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	-	-
7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256	Medium-high	Medium - low	Moderate, (not significant).
8 B4522 (Markham)	Medium-low	Medium-low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
9 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn)	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
10 Coety Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
11 B4560 (BBNP)	Medium-high	Medium – low	Moderate, (not significant).
12 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)	Medium-high	Llow	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
13 Blorenge (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
14 Twmbarlwm	Medum-high	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
15 Pen y Fan	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
16 Sugar Loaf	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
17 The Kymin, Monmouth	High	-	-
18 Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
19 Caerphilly Mountain	Medium-high	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
20 Llanishen	Medium	Low	Minor, (not significant).
21 Mynydd Llangyndir	High	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
22 Pen Craigh Clach, Black Mountains	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
23 B4256/ PROW	Medium	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
24 Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest	Low	Medium-low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).

Application Stage Wind Farm Developments

8.8.163 The cumulative effects on visual amenity from the 24 viewpoints, as a result of the proposed development and baseline developments, in addition to the application wind farm/single turbines within the 45 km study area are assessed below. The sensitivity of receptors is as evaluated for individual effects (refer to section 8.11).

Viewpoint 1: Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)*Predicted Cumulative View*

8.8.164 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.33a to 8.33e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments at Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm Resubmission will be visible at blade tip height. However, the photomontage indicates that these developments will be entirely screened by existing woodland.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.165 The application stage developments will be screened by existing vegetation and there will be no visible change to the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.166 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 2: Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)*Predicted View*

8.8.167 Figures 8.34a to 8.34d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 3: Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale*Predicted View*

8.8.168 Figures 8.35a to 8.35d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 4: New Cwm Terrace, Cwm*Predicted View*

8.8.169 Figures 8.36a to 8.36f illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 5: Gainsborough Road, Tredegar*Predicted View*

8.8.170 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.37a-8.37e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage development at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be visible from this location at blade tip height beyond the skyline of Cefn Manmoel.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.171 Eight turbines at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be viewed at blade tip height beyond the skyline of Cefn Manmoel that contains the proposed development, subject to some foreground filtering by existing vegetation. There will, therefore, be some cumulative interaction between the application stage development and the proposed development and operational developments. However, there will be no horizontal increase in the extent of turbines visible, and the blade tips that are visible will not be a prominent additional feature. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.172 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as while there may be slight increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view due to application developments, it will not be to the extent that it changes the nature of the view.

Viewpoint 6: Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale

8.8.173 Figures 8.38a to 8.38e illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 7: Cwm Tysswg, junction with B4256*Predicted View*

8.8.174 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.39a to 8.39e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage development at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be visible from this location at blade tip height beyond the skyline of Cefn Manmoel.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.175 Seven turbines at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be viewed at blade tip height beyond the skyline of Cefn Manmoel that contains the proposed development, subject to some foreground filtering by existing vegetation. There will, therefore, be some cumulative interaction between the application stage development and the proposed development and operational developments. However, there will be no horizontal increase in the extent of turbines visible, and the blade tips that are visible will not be a prominent additional feature. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

8.8.176 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as while there will be an increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view, effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development, rather than the addition of the application stage developments.

Viewpoint 8: B4522 (Markham)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.177 The predicted view is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.40a to 8.40e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage development of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be visible to the south of the proposed development. Two turbines will be visible at partial tower height and five at blade tip height, where vegetation allows. Beyond this, further south, the application stage development Mynydd Llanhilleth will also be visible from this location, with three turbines at blade tip height partially visible beyond the skyline (where vegetation allows).

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.178 The application stage developments will extend wind farm development along the skyline to the south. Two turbines visible at partial tower height at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be prominent in views to the east and will be visible more in succession to the proposed development due to the wide separation distance. Remaining application stage turbines visible at blade tip height will be more occasionally visible amongst tree and woodland planting and will not contribute to the overall prominence of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.179 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint 9: Rhydney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn).*Predicted View*

- 8.8.180 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.41a to 8.41e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will be visible from this location along the skyline to the south of the proposed development.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.181 The application stage developments will extend the prominence and density of wind farm development more horizontally along the skyline to the south of the proposed development. Due to the distance the vertical scale of the application stage developments will be comparable to the scale of the operational turbines that also visible in this direction. The application stage development including the proposed development would result in a noticeable increase in wind farms within the view. However, due to the extent of the open panoramic views from this location, this increase would not result in the wind farms being the dominant feature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.182 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. The proposed and operational development and the application stage wind farm developments will be noticeable addition to views. However, their combined effects would not cause the overall visual character of the view to

become defined by wind farm development to the scale and extent of the open panoramic views. On balance, effects will not be significant from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 10: Coety Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.183 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.42a to 8.42d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage development of Upper Ogmere will be seen to the rear of the proposed development in the distance. To the south of the proposed development, separated by the rising landform of Darren Ddu are the application stage turbines of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. Around eight turbines will be visible at partial tower height to the rear of the operational turbines of Blaentillery Farm in the foreground. Further to the south, the turbines of the application stage wind farm of Mynydd Llanhilleth will be visible, three at blade tip height and one at hub height.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.184 The addition of the application stage turbines to the proposed and operational developments will increase the prominence of wind farms to the south. However, from this viewpoint, the turbines of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be subsumed amongst the operational turbines of Blaentillery Farm and the scattered more distant turbines that include Oakdale Business Park and Pen y Fan (Industrial Estate). Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be separated by the rising landform of Darren Ddu and will interact with the proposed development more in succession than in-combination. The more distant application stage development of Upper Ogmere will be seen to the rear of the proposed development subsumed amongst many operational large-scale developments. However, due to the considerable intervening distance, cumulative interaction is of limited influence. Similarly, the blade tip and hub height turbines to the south of the view will also have very limited cumulative influence. Overall, the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.185 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant. While in theory there will be an increase in the number of wind turbines/wind farm developments visible, any effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development and other existing turbines/wind farms, rather than the addition of the application stage developments.

Viewpoint 11: B4560 (Brecon Beacons National Park)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.186 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.43a to 8.43d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will also be visible from this location. The former will be visible at blade tip only above the intervening landform of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. Three turbines within Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm further to the south-east will be visible at partial tower height, and one at blade tip height. Further to the south-west and to the west, the wirelines indicate that application developments at Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) and at Upper Ogmere will also be visible, the former at blade tip height and the latter at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.187 The application stage developments at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will be separated and largely screened, in respect of the former, from the proposed development by the distinctive landform of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn. Both developments will be noticeable, although not prominent features within the landscape but they will have little visual interaction with the proposed development. All other consented developments will be minor elements within the view, due to a combination of distance and scale. In addition, Upper Ogmore will be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms visible on the skyline. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium - low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.188 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium - low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant. While in theory there will be an increase in the number of wind turbines/wind farm developments visible, any effects are likely to be a result of the individual effects of the proposed development and other existing turbines/wind farms, rather than the addition of the application stage developments.

Viewpoint 12: Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.189 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.44a to 8.44e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will also be visible from this location. All turbines within these developments will be seen at partial tower height.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.190 Although some separation between the proposed development and the application stage developments will be evident, in combination there will be a notable horizontal increase in wind farm development across the skyline. This will infill areas between the sporadic, dispersed arrangement of smaller scale operational turbines evident in the views east from this viewpoint. The vertical scale of the proposed and application stage developments appear comparable at this distance. The application stage development including the proposed development would result in a noticeable increase in wind farms within the view. However, due to the extent of the open panoramic views from this location, this increase would not result in the wind farms being the dominant feature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.191 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium - high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. The proposed and operational development and the application stage wind farm developments will be a noticeable addition to views. However, their combined effects would not cause the overall visual character of the view to become defined by wind farm development due to the scale and extent of the open panoramic views. On balance, effects will not be significant from this viewpoint.

Viewpoint 13: Bloreng (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.192 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.45a to 8.45d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will be visible to the south east. Three turbines at the former will be visible at blade tip height. At the latter, four turbines will be visible at partial tower height, two at hub height and one at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.193 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, partially visible at blade tip height will be a very minor features within the wider view that is likely to be missed by the casual observer. There is a wide separation distance between the proposed development and Mynydd Llanhilleth, also partially visible where topography allows. Cumulative interaction between the proposed development and application is likely to be perceived more in succession than combined and due to limited scale of development visible within the expansive views, magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.194 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, and not significant as the combined effects would not cause the overall visual character of the view to become defined by wind farm development due to the scale and extent of the open panoramic views.

Viewpoint 14: Twmbarlwm*Predicted View*

- 8.8.195 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.46a to 8.46e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments including Upper Ogmore, Llwyncelyn Farm and Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission will be visible in distant views west. More to the north, application stage developments at Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Llanhilleth will be more clearly visible nearer to the viewpoint at partial tower height. The single turbine application development will add to these at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.196 Due to scale and distance the application stage developments to the west including Upper Ogmore, Llwyncelyn Farm and Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission will all be very minor features within the wider view that will largely be subsumed within the plethora of operational turbines that are visible in this direction. There will also wide separation distance between these developments and the proposed development. Silent Valley will also be a minor feature due to topography and is likely to be missed by the casual observer. These application developments will have no impact on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the views and there is very limited cumulative interaction with the proposed development. Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, however, will provide a noticeable increase in wind farms within the view north and will be seen more in combination with the proposed development although some separation is provided between each of the separate developments. Due to the extent of the wide, open panoramic views available from this viewpoint and the limited proportion containing cumulative development, wind farm development will not be the dominant feature and the cumulative magnitude is predicted to be medium to low overall.

Significance of Visual Cumulative Effect

- 8.8.197 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as cumulative development will not be the dominant feature within the extensive panoramic views.

Viewpoint 15: Pen y fan*Predicted View*

- 8.8.198 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.47a to 8.47b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Silent Valley, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be visible from this location to the south east. Further to the south, application stage developments at Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddon Former Landfill Site, and Upper Ogmore will also be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.199 Due to scale, distance and topography the application stage developments located more distantly to the south will all be very minor features within the wider view that are likely to be missed by the casual observer. In addition, the turbines to these developments will be subsumed within the turbines of existing large-scale wind farm developments located nearby. Consequently, the application stage developments of Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddon Former Landfill Site, and Upper Ogmore will have no effect on the perception of wind farms or wind turbine development within the view. Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and to a lesser extent due its reduced scale, Silent Valley will, however, be visible in combination with the proposed development. Turbines to Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be visible to the rear of the proposed development and some interaction between the developments will be evident although the scale and spacing will generally appear similar. Due to the distance and the extent of the panoramic views from this viewpoint, it is considered that the cumulative development including the proposed project would be visible but would form components of the view that might be easily missed by the casual observer. They would not contribute to the overall prominence of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.200 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as the proposed development and application stage developments will either be imperceptible (to the south) or will form a relatively small component of the wider panoramic views that may be easily missed by the casual observer. The combined effect would not cause the overall visual character of the view to become defined by wind farm development.

Viewpoint 16: Sugar Loaf*Predicted View*

- 8.8.201 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.48a to 8.48c. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will also be visible from this location. The turbines of these developments will be visible at blade-tip height arranged sporadically along the

skyline to the east of the proposed development. In addition, the application-stage development of Llwynceilyn Farm will be visible to the rear of the proposed development, again at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.202 Due to scale, distance and topography the application stage wind farms will be a very minor feature within the wider view that is likely to be missed by the casual observer. Impacts will be more from the proposed development in isolation rather than from any cumulative interaction with the application stage developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.203 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, as the application stage developments will be imperceptible and therefore not significant.

Viewpoint 17: The Kymin, Monmouth*Predicted View*

- 8.8.204 Figure 8.49 illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, visible at blade-tip height, and the operational schemes, the application-stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Coch will be visible from this viewpoint. The former will be visible at partial tower height and the latter at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.205 The proposed development, visible at blade tip height will be a minor feature at this distance. Any increase in the influence of wind farm development at this viewpoint will, therefore, be more as a result of the application-stage schemes in isolation, particularly Mynydd Llanhilleth and to a lesser extent, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn visible at blade tip height. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

- 8.8.206 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, and not significant as there will be limited cumulative interaction between the application stage developments and the proposed/operational developments.

Viewpoint 18: Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)*Predicted View*

- 8.8.207 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.50a to 8.50b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Upper Ogmore, will be visible from this location to the south subsumed amongst a plethora of operational wind farms. Further to the east, single turbine application-stage developments at Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) are visible at partial tower height on the skyline more as an isolated cluster. To the southeast, the application stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be visible at partial tower height forming a tight cluster with the proposed development and other operational developments nearby.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.208 The application-stage wind farms of Upper Ogmere, Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) will add to the sense of wind farm development within views to the south. However, Upper Ogmere will be largely subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms that extend throughout this part of the study area and due to distance all three developments will be very minor features within the wider view. In addition, there is a wide separation distance between these application stage developments and the proposed development, therefore there is little visual relationship between them. However, the proposed development will be seen in-combination with the application-stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and will form a tight cluster on the skyline to the south east. This cumulative development will form a noticeable feature, although due to the distance and extent of the panoramic views it will not be prominent feature. On balance overall, the addition of the application stage development to the proposed and operational scenario may result in a very slight increase in the perception of wind turbine/wind farm development within a small portion of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.209 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, as the application-stage developments when viewed with the proposed development and operational developments will have limited or no perceptible effect and effects are, therefore, not significant.

Viewpoint 19: Caerphilly Mountain*Predicted View*

8.8.210 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.51a to 8.51b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, a single turbine development, will be visible to the north-west. Further north, subsumed amongst operational wind farms are the application stage developments of Upper Ogmere, Llwynceilyn Farm and Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission). The application-stage single turbine of Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site is also visible in this direction. Around to the northeast, application stage developments at Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn are visible at partial tower height and blade tip height beyond the ridgeline.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effects

8.8.211 The application-stage developments viewed distantly to the north-west will be largely subsumed amongst the operational turbines that extend along the skyline in this direction. There will also be a large separation distance between the application-stage and proposed developments. To the north-east, although there are separation distances evident, the application-stage developments and the proposed development will increase the influence of wind farms along the skyline in distinct clusters. However, the scale of application-stage development will be reduced by the intervening topography and impacts are likely to be perceived as from the proposed development in isolation rather than cumulatively. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.212 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium-high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate, and not significant as there will be limited cumulative interaction between the application stage developments and the proposed/operational developments.

Viewpoint 20: Llanishen*Predicted View*

8.8.213 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.52a to 8.52b. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application-stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth, at partial tower height and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, at blade-tip height, will also be visible from this viewpoint.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impact

8.8.214 Due to a combination of distance and topography, the proposed development and operational will be minor features, partially visible at blade-tip height only. The addition of the application stage developments will be a more notable impact, particularly in relation to Mynydd Llanhilleth, where eight turbines will be visible at partial tower height. These turbines will be a noticeable addition to the view. The other cumulative developments will be barely perceptible and there will be no or very limited cumulative interaction evident. Impacts will be in relation to the application stage development of Mynydd Llanhilleth in isolation, rather than the proposed and operational wind farms. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.215 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be minor and not significant.

Viewpoint 21: Mynydd Llangyndir*Predicted View*

8.8.216 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.53a to 8.53d. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application-stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth, Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and the single turbine of Silent Valley will also be visible from this location to the south. More distantly to the south-west, Llwynceilyn Farm, Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) and Upper Ogmere are also visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.217 The application stage developments Llwynceilyn Farm, Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) and Upper Ogmere will be viewed at a distance of over 20 km away, within the western half of the study area and will be predominantly seen amongst the turbines of existing large-scale wind farm developments. There is little visual relationship between these developments and the proposed development due to the separation distance and, furthermore, due to the intervening distance, the application stage developments will form minor features that may be easily missed by the casual observer. Nearer to the proposed development to the south, cumulative interaction with the application stage developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Mynydd Llanhilleth will be more notable. However, due topography, the increased influence of these developments when viewed with the proposed development will not be prominent. Furthermore, any change will be readily accommodated and will form a small part of the open and expansive views. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium-low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.218 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium - low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are

considered to be not-significant as the addition of the application-stage developments when viewed with the proposed and operational developments is not expected to change the overall nature of the view.

Viewpoint 22: Pen Craig Clach, Black Mountains

Predicted View

8.8.219 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.54a to 8.54e. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments of Mynydd Llanhilleth and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be visible. The former will be seen predominantly at blade-tip height and the latter at partial tower height for six turbines and blade tip height for two. More distantly to the south-west, Llwynceilyn Farm, Llwynceilyn Farm (Resubmission) and Upper Ogmore are also visible, largely subsumed amongst the numerous operational turbines in this part of the study area.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.220 The application stage developments will be visible but due to a combination of intervening topography and distance, they will form components of the view that might be easily missed by the casual observer. Furthermore, the cumulative developments will form minor features within the wide panoramic views and will not contribute to the overall prominence of wind farms within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.221 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low. The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate - minor, as the addition of the application-stage developments will be minor or even imperceptible elements of the view and therefore not significant.

Viewpoint 23: B4256/ PROW 64

Predicted View

8.8.222 Figures 8.55a to 8.55f illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. Consequently, there will be no additional cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 24: Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest

Predicted View

8.8.223 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wireline and photomontage in Figures 8.56a to 8.56f. The wireline indicates that in addition to the proposed and operational developments that are visible, the application stage developments will also be visible from this location, at partial tower and hub height.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.224 The proposed development would be barely perceptible from this viewpoint as a result of screening by intervening vegetation and there will be no cumulative interaction with the application stage developments visible. Therefore, cumulative impacts will relate to the interaction between the application stage developments and operational only. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effect

8.8.225 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be minor and not significant.

Table 8.17: Summary of Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity – Application-Stage Wind Farm Developments

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
1 Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)	Medium-high	Low	Minor (not significant).
2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)	Medium-high	-	-
3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	-	-
4 New Cwm Terrace, Cwm	Medium-high	-	-
5 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
6 Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale	Medium-high	-	-
7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256	Medium-high	Medium - low	Moderate, (not significant).
8 B4522 (Markham)	Medium-low	Medum	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
9 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn)	Medium-high	Medium	Moderate, (not significant).
10 Coety Mountain (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
11 B4560 (BBNP)	Medium-high	Medium – low	Moderate, (not significant).
12 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Bargoed)	Medium-high	Medium	Moderate, (not significant).
13 Blorenge (Blaenavon World Heritage Site)	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
14 Twmbarlwm	Medium-high	Low	Moderate, (not significant).
15 Pen y Fan	High	Medium-Low	Moderate, (not significant).
16 Sugar Loaf	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
17 The Kymin, Monmouth	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).

Viewpoint Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
18 Fan Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons National Park)	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
19 Caerphilly Mountain	Medium-high	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
20 Llanishen	Medium	Low	Minor, (not significant).
21 Mynydd Llangyndir	High	Medium-low	Moderate, (not significant).
22 Pen Craigh Clach, Black Mountains	High	Low	Moderate-minor, (not significant).
23 B4256/ PROW	Medium	-	-
24 Blackwood Showfield, Cefn Forest	Low	Low	Minor, (not significant).

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Designations

- 8.8.226 Cumulative effects between the proposed and operational development and consented wind farms will have no significant effects on landscape character and consequently there will be no significant effects on designations within the study area.
- 8.8.227 Section 8.7 identifies that significant application stage cumulative effects on landscape character will occur within LCA's 01 Mynydd Manmoel, 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys and 04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail. This indicates that the following non-statutory designations that fall within these LCA's will be subject to similar significant effects.

Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail SLA

- 8.8.228 The value of this SLA, recognised particularly as a backdrop to Ebbw Vale and Brynmawr with some early opencast workings of historic value. This open upland ridge is also a distinctive skyline seen from valleys on either side. The designation is assessed as medium in value. The character of the SLA is defined by a simple set of landscape elements, including exposed, upland moorland, sweeping lines and open views, across distant uplands and into the valley. There are likely to be limited numbers of receptors. Susceptibility is assessed as low. Sensitivity is assessed as medium – low.
- 8.8.229 The proposed development and operational developments together with the application developments of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley will cumulatively have a strong influence across this SLA and will increase the influence of wind farm development. More to the south of the SLA, the application development of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will have a stronger influence, while the proposed development will extend the influence of wind farm development indirectly along the ridgeline to the west. Although there is some separation between the application and proposed developments, the combined additional influence is likely to be perceived as a continuous arc extending from the south and south-east around to the west from many parts of the SLA. There will be a loss of the sense of openness, simplicity and scale on more elevated sections of the designation, and the magnitude of impact is assessed as high. Significance of effect will be moderate-major, (significant).

Cefn Manmoel Special Landscape Area (LCA's 01 Mynydd Manmoel):

- 8.8.230 This SLA covers the open upland ridge that forms a distinctive open skyline seen from valleys on either side and the valley sides form a varied backdrop to the valley settlements. On the Manmoel plateau the distinctive beech hedges form part of a wider historic pattern of fields around ancient settlement of Manmoel. The value of this SLA

is assessed as medium – high. The contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility is assessed as medium to low. Sensitivity is medium.

- 8.8.231 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located to the south-east of the SLA. Further to the south west, there are four additional application wind farms/single turbine developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwynceilyn Farm, Llwynceilyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddion Former Landfill Site and Upper Ogmore. However, cumulative impacts will be more as a result of the developments to the south-east, which will increase the influence of wind farm development within this SLA. However, as the proposed development is located within this SLA, impacts will primarily be from this development as well as operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 rather than application developments within surrounding areas. Due to separation distance, there is unlikely to be any interaction with the more distant wind farms to the south-west and therefore these developments will have no impact on the character of the SLA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be medium. Significance of effect will be moderate and not significant as effects will relate to the proposed development in isolation rather than cumulative.

Manmoel VILL

- 8.8.232 This comprises an upland landscape with a strong sense of openness. The upland feel of the landscape increases with elevation as views increase in quality. The value is assessed as medium high. The contrast of expansive upland providing a backdrop to the heavily developed valleys is typical of the wider South Wales valleys landscape. Landscape pattern is varied although the ridge is characterised by simple, sweeping lines with expansive open views. Susceptibility is assessed as medium to low. Sensitivity is medium.
- 8.8.233 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located to the south-east of the VILL. Further to the south-west, there are four additional application wind farms/single turbine developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwynceilyn Farm, Llwynceilyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddion Former Landfill Site and Upper Ogmore. However, cumulative impacts will be more as a result of the developments to the south-east, which may increase the influence of wind farm development within more elevated sections of the designated area to the north. However, as the proposed development is located in proximity to the designation and the site boundary extends directly into the VILL, impacts will primarily be from the proposed development as well as operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 rather than the application developments within surrounding areas. Due to separation distance, there is unlikely to be any interaction with the more distant wind farms to the south-west and therefore these developments will have no impact on the character of the VILL. The magnitude of impact is considered to be low. Significance of effect will be moderate-minor, (not significant).

Cumulative Effects on Transport and Movement

- 8.8.234 Cumulative effects between the proposed and operational development and consented wind farms will have no significant effects on landscape character and consequently there will be no significant effects on transport and movement receptors within the study area.
- 8.8.235 Section 8.7 identifies that significant application stage cumulative effects on landscape character will occur within LCA's 01 Mynydd Manmoel, LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys and LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail. This indicates that the following transport and movement receptors that fall within these LCA's will be subject to similar significant effects.

The Sirhowy Valley Walk.

- 8.8.236 Sections of the route extending across the open upland landscape of Cefn Manmoel will pass through the proposed development site and the visual amenity of users will be strongly influenced by the presence of the proposed turbines. These will be partially viewed in combination with the operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2.
- 8.8.237 The application wind farms of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Silent Valley are located to the south-east of the route. Further to the south west, there are four additional application wind farms/single turbine developments of Rhiw Felin Fach, Llwyncelyn Farm, Llwyncelyn Farm Resubmission, Nant-y-Gwyddion Former Landfill Site and Upper Ogmoredale. However, cumulative impacts will be more as a result of the developments to the south-east, which will increase the influence of wind farm development along this route. However, as the proposed development is located immediately adjacent to a section of the route, impacts will primarily be from this development as well as operational turbines at Cruglwyn and Cruglwyn 2 rather than application developments within surrounding areas. Due to separation distance, there is unlikely to be any interaction with the more distant wind farms to the south-west and therefore these developments will have no significant impact on the users of the route. The magnitude of impact is considered to be low. Significance of effect will be moderate and not significant as effects will relate to the proposed development in isolation rather than cumulative. Combined with the high sensitivity of users, significance of effects will range from moderate and not significant as the proposed development will remain the focus of attention rather than the cumulative development, through minor, (not significant).

Open Access Land (CRoW Act)

- 8.8.238 Extensive areas of Open Access Land, designated under The CRoW Act 2000 fall within the proposed development site and further afield across LCA's 01 Mynydd Manmoel and 04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail. The sensitivity of these areas, concerned with promoting the public right of access to land mapped as 'open country' (mountain, moor, heath and down) is assessed as medium. The proposed operational development and cumulative development will not restrict public access and therefore will not conflict with aims of the CRoW Act. The magnitude of impact is assessed as low. The significance will be moderate–minor, (not significant).

8.9 RESIDENTIAL VISUAL AMENITY ASSESSMENT (RVAA)

- A8.1.1. A RVAA has been undertaken to assess the likely visual effects of the proposed development on residential properties within the 2 km study area. The operational stage of the proposed development will be considered only.
- A8.1.2. RVA means: *'the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlook available to occupants of residential properties, including views from gardens and domestic curtilage.'* Residential Visual Amenity is one component of *'Residential Amenity,'* (LI Technical Guidance Note 2/19).
- A8.1.3. Due to the large number of properties within the study area (approximately 4,300), it was required to group properties together, wherever there is theoretical visibility of the proposed development. This was carried out in order that the assessment could focus on those properties where significant effects on RVA were most likely to occur and ultimately to focus on those properties where it was most likely that the RVA threshold would be reached.
- A8.1.4. 26 distinct properties/property groups are identified as falling within the ZTV produced for the proposed development. These are shown on Figure 8.57: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment Properties and Settlement Groups. A further desk-based review was carried out to identify properties where likely significant effects would warrant further assessment in stages 2 to 4 and to exclude those where any visibility would be clearly insignificant.
- A8.1.5. The assessment contains four stages as outlined in the methodology, contained within Appendix A8.2.

- A8.1.6. The RVAA can be found in Appendix A8.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment, Volume 3 of the ES.

8.10 AVIATION LIGHTING ASSESSMENT

Introduction

- 8.10.1 Appendix A8.1 assesses the potential effects associated with aviation lighting on landscape and visual amenity for the proposed development.

Regulation

- 8.10.2 The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) set out the recommended standards and practices for aviation which is implemented in European airspace by the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and includes the practices for lighting of obstacles such as wind turbines. Within the United Kingdom, both the ICAO and EASA requirements are implemented by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

8.11 POTENTIAL DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Effects on Landscape Character

- 8.11.1 The decommissioning effects are likely to be similar to those experienced during the construction phase of the proposed development, however it is anticipated that the timescales to undertake this work will be shorter in duration. During this period the upper sections of the turbine foundations is expected to be removed up to a depth of 1.0 m and backfilled/reseeded, together with the removal of the turbines and wind monitoring equipment. The substation compound will also be dismantled, and all affected land reinstated. Some tracks will be left and allowed to grass over or would be covered with soil and reseeded or replanted. Cabling would be left in-situ, unless ducted.
- 8.11.2 As during the construction phase of the works, effects on landscape character will be direct, however confined to within the site boundary of the proposed development as work is undertaken to restore the character of the landscape to the conditions similar to which existed prior to construction works commencing. From areas surrounding the site boundary and within the wider landscape, it is predicted that there will be no impacts on landscape character and therefore no significant effects.

8.12 POTENTIAL DECOMMISSIONING STAGE EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

- 8.12.1 Effects on visual amenity will predominately result from the cranes used to dismantle the turbines and also work traffic used to remove equipment from the site. As during the construction period, any effects are likely to be restricted to in proximity to the proposed development and will be brief in duration due to the sequential programme for the dismantling of each turbine. However, visual effects may be most prominent from areas including Ebbw Vale, Tredegar and the settlements extending south from these towns.
- 8.12.2 From these areas where views of the cranes may be prominent or a recognisable feature, effects on visual amenity are considered to be slight-moderate and not significant.
- 8.12.3 In more distant areas within the study area, there is predicted to be no effects on visual amenity as the cranes will be an imperceptible feature of the wider view, that may be missed altogether by the casual observer.

8.13 CONCLUSION

- 8.13.1 The construction effects are described in Section 8.7 (refer to paragraphs 8.7.5 – 8.7.7). The assessment identified that there were no significant effects on character or visual amenity during this phase of the proposed development.
- 8.13.2 Operational effects on landscape character have been assessed up to study area of 45 km radius from the proposed development. A total of 38 number LCAs were identified from where significant effects may occur.
- 8.13.3 Significant individual effects on landscape character were identified from the following LCAs:
 - LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel;
 - LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys;
 - LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail; and
 - LCA 09 Ebbw Vale, Waun Llwyd, Cwm.
- 8.13.4 Significant cumulative effects on landscape character were also identified from:
 - LCA 01 Mynydd Manmoel;
 - LCA 03 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach Valleys; and
 - LCA 04 Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail.
- 8.13.5 Within the 45 km study area, 24 viewpoints were identified to assess visual amenity. Significant individual effects, as a result of the proposed development, will be predicted at the following:
 - VP1 Sirhowy Valley Walk (South)VP2 Maesteg Golf Course;
 - VP2 Sirhowy Valley Walk (North)VP4 Brynna Road, Cwmafan;
 - VP3 Eastville Road, Ebbw Vale;
 - VP4 New Cwm Terrace, Cwm;
 - VP5 Gainsborough Road, Tredegar;
 - VP6 Brynmawr Road, Ebbw Vale;
 - VP7 Cwm Tysswg, Junction with B4256; and
 - VP9 Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Footpath (Pontllotyn).
- 8.13.6 The 24 viewpoints identified for the assessments were generally selected to reflect areas of higher sensitivity and locations where potential visibility was likely to be greatest. Of these eight viewpoints where significant effects have been identified, all are located within approximately 5 km of the proposed development. At such close distance, effects of this significance are to be anticipated for a development of this type. Significant effects from viewpoints beyond approximately 5 km are all located predominantly within upland areas. Views from such locations are typically expansive and open and able to accommodate wind farm development of the size proposed.
- 8.13.7 There were no significant cumulative effects on visual amenity identified by the assessment.
- 8.13.8 The proposed development will add to the existing cumulative developments, which are broadly located widely across upland areas to the south of the study area. Wind farm developments are now an established feature of these open, expansive areas and the proposed development will add to this dynamic wind farm landscape.
- 8.13.9 The RVAA identified approximately 4,300 residential properties in the study area. Stage 1 of the RVAA sub-divided these properties into 27 individual properties/property groups and reviewed to identify properties where likely significant effects would warrant further assessment and to exclude those where any visibility would be clearly

insignificant. Based on this desk top review, a total of 17 individual properties/property groups were taken forward to Stage 2. A baseline review of the existing visual characteristics was established.

- 8.13.10 The Stage 3 assessment included the likely change in terms of the magnitude and significance of effects of the proposed development in relation to the group/individual property, as identified in Stage 2. Due to the large numbers of properties in some groups, representative individual properties were identified to illustrate the worst-case scenarios with regard to the predicted views of the proposed development from property groups.
- 8.13.11 Representative or Individual properties identified to be taken forward for the Stage 4 assessment were visited and an assessment was made from within the curtilage to identify whether the RVA threshold could reach or exceed the RVA threshold.
- 8.13.12 Stage 4 of the RVAA identified that the RVA threshold may be breached from the following property groups/individual properties.
 - 12 The Boulevard, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8BR. (representative of Property Group 8 Victoria);
 - 24 Augusta Park, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8DN. (representative of Property Group 8 Victoria);
 - Troed Rhiw Clawdd Farm, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU. (representative of Property Group 10 Hall Street);
 - Bush Inn, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU. (representative of Property Group 10 Hall Street);
 - Woodfield House, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AT. representative of Property Group 10 Hall Street;
 - Maes-y-Parc, Hall Street, Victoria, Ebbw Vale, NP23 8AU. (representative of Property Group 10 Hall Street);
 - Maes yr Onn Farm, Manmoel Road, Manmoel, Blackwood, NP12 0GD. (representative of Property Group 15 Maes yr Onn Farm); and
 - Ton-y-Fedw Farm, Manmoel Road, Tredegar, NP22 4NJ. (representative of Property Group 22 Ton-y-Fedw Farm)

8.14 STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE

- 8.14.1 In line with the 2017 EIA regulations, to ensure the completeness and quality of the ES, a statement of competence table is provided.

Table 8.3: Statement of Competence

Discipline	Consultant	Company	Experience
Landscape & Visual	Richard Cole	Soltys Brewster Consulting	Since joining Soltys Brewster in 2004, Richard has been involved in many projects requiring a Landscape and Visual Assessments (LVIA) including the site work assessment and report writing. He has led the landscape assessment for many major renewable projects, throughout the UK including, wind farms, tidal lagoons, solar farms, including DNS applications. Richard has provided a lead supporting role to the Landscape Expert Witness in several major Planning Inquiries/Hearings and has an in-depth appreciation of how landscape assessment and design supports the planning process.

Discipline	Consultant	Company	Experience
Landscape & Visual	Greg Vaughan	Soltys Brewster Consulting	<p>Qualifications include:</p> <p>PG Diploma Landscape Architecture</p> <p>BA (Hons) Geography</p> <p>Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute</p> <p>Greg is a Senior Associate with over 26 years' experience as a Chartered Landscape Architect. Since joining Soltys Brewster in 2019 he has been involved in range of projects, including several renewable energy schemes, for which a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) was required.</p> <p>Greg has undertaken site assessment work and LVIA report writing for wind farms.</p> <p>Qualifications include:</p> <p>Bachelor of Landscape Architecture</p> <p>BA (Hons) Landscape Design</p> <p>Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute</p>