

APPENDIX 7.7 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 This appendix uses the baseline information from the Heads of the Valleys Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study, the Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP to assess the effects of the development on the landscape character of the 20km study area.

1.1.2 The appendix should be read in combination with drawings 011 to 023 and 039.

2 HEADS OF THE VALLEYS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

2.1.1 The following tables assess the effects of the development on each of the landscape characteristics identified in the Heads of the Valleys Study. Those within the National Park have not been included so as not to duplicate assessments for the National Park LCAs.

2.2 Unit 16 Rhymney Valley from Rhymney to Bargoed

2.2.1 The site is located in the north of this unit. The majority of the unit is within the ZTV, with the exception of areas in the south and south-east. Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11 and 12 illustrate effects.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 16		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Medium scale landscape	The larger scale of the tops of the hills along the valley are less susceptible to the proposed changes than the valley sides and bottoms which are smaller in scale. The turbines in particular would appear as large scale features above the smaller scale landscape of the valley.	Medium
Landform - Valley landscape extending north south across the study area	The landform is smoother on the tops of the hills along the valley and less susceptible to the proposed changes than the more complex landform of the valley sides and bottoms. The landform has been modified just to the west of the site (outside the unit) at the opencast site.	Medium
Land cover pattern - A quarter	The landcover of the tops of the hills along	Medium

of the land use is residential with the remainder being a combination of grazed slopes, upland valleys and plateau	the valley is relatively simple and less susceptible to the proposed changes than the valley sides and bottoms which have a more varied pattern, although industrial uses are part of this pattern. The solar farm in particular would add a new landcover pattern, in contrast with the tall features of the turbines.	
Built Environment - Settled valley bottom with a variety of development types	The development would be seen above the built development of the valley, which includes some large industrial units. It would also be seen alongside electricity transmission lines and towers.	Medium
Skylines and settings - No distinct skylines. Valley setting for development and approaches to Rhymney and Bargoed	Skylines in the vicinity of the site are relatively simple and smooth with some modifications due to the electricity transmission lines and towers and adjacent opencast workings.	Low
Movement - Variations across the unit. Busy in the valley bottom along major transport route (A 469) but quieter on the valley sides.	There is a sense of movement in the area due to nearby roads and industrial development, which the proposed turbines would add to.	Medium
Visibility, key views, vistas - Enclosed valley bottoms with views up and down the valley interrupted by built form. Higher up the steep valley sides the landscape is more open and there are views across the valley and to the uplands.	The development would be widely visible within this unit, both along the uplands and along the valley.	Medium
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - The upland areas adjacent have views down into this unit	The development would be visible in these views along with the electricity transmission lines and towers and adjacent opencast workings.	Medium
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers. Rhymney Valley Ridge walk (promoted route) on the west valley ridge	The development would be widely visible within this unit, for high sensitivity visual receptors.	High
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - None apparent	Limited impacts	Low
Scenic quality and character	This has already been affected by surrounding developments, the proposed development would further reduce this.	Medium
Remoteness and tranquillity -	This has already been affected by	Medium

Busy landscape that in the main is easily accessible and not particularly remote or accessible.	surrounding developments, the proposed development would further reduce this.	
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Medium
Landscape value	Unit includes the Upper Rhymney Valley SLA	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	<p>Medium to high</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> large scale change due to height of the turbines, but existing site features will be largely retained.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Moderate to substantial adverse (significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. Therefore, any cumulative effects would be as a result of the proposed development in conjunction with the operational schemes.</p> <p>The operational Pen Bryn Oer turbines are located along the north-east boundary of the unit and the operational Gelli-Wen Farm, Pen yt Hoel Farm and Bedlwyn Farm turbines are located in the southern part of the unit. Cumulative impacts from these developments in combination with the proposed development will have a limited influence across the unit. This is due to the wide separation distance between the proposed development and all other developments both to the north-east and south. The scale of the operational developments is also limited, in terms of both their height and the number of turbines within each development. The magnitude of impacts is assessed as medium to high as the proposed development along with the operational Pen Bryn Oer development would frame the northern end of the unit.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and medium to high magnitude of change will result in substantial to moderate adverse and significant cumulative effects.	

2.2.2 The effects of the development on the guidance on siting is as follows:

- *“Protect the settings of designated and other important cultural heritage features and the key views to and from these features.* – The site is located outside of any designation. See Appendix 7.4 and 7.8.
- *Consider views from the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway walk.* – See Appendix 7.4 and 7.10.
- *Avoid sequential cumulative impacts from the A4049 in the valley bottom by ensuring visual separation between turbines/small groups of turbines.* – The proposed development is located at such a distance that it is clearly a separate development.
- *Ensure new access tracks do not damage historic field patterns. Replant any hedges and replace any walls affected by construction.* - The site does not affect any of these important features.
- *Avoid siting wind turbines on the steep slopes and their associated tops.* – Although the proposed development is located on high ground it is not a ‘focal point’ or notable ‘summit’.
- *Maintain the natural beauty of SLAs in the area and their special qualities.* – The site is located outside of any designation. See Appendix 7.4 and 7.8.
- *Maintain the distinctive visual and sensory landscape features and characteristics of the Visually Important Local Landscape.* – although the proposed development will be visible from these designations, the distinctive visual and sensory elements of these views would be maintained. See Appendix 7.4 and 7.8.
- *Avoid the loss of trees and woodland cover.* – The site does not contain any trees or woodland.
- *Avoid diminishing the scale of the valley through inappropriate turbine siting.* – the turbines avoid the height point of the valley slopes.
- *Protect the immediate setting of the towns in the valley bottom.”* – See Appendix 7.4 and 7.11.

2.3 Unit 1 Forested upland and plateau at Treherbert

2.3.1 This Landscape unit 1 is in the western part of Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 12km to the west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 1		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed

		change
Scale - Large scale	No change	Low
Landform - Upland gently undulating plateau with well-defined scarp slope to the north and ridges to the south. Numerous dramatic glaciated landforms including cwms and outcrops on the scarp slope to the north and features adjacent to the Rhondda Fawr Valley to the south. Susceptibility is very high on and close to the scarp slope and dramatic landforms but overall assessed to be medium for the unit	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Upland landscape with large scale forestry and grazing	No change, areas of the unit within the ZTV are generally upland areas, some with wind farms present and the majority are forestry.	Low
Built Environment - Very little built form in the unit. Large scale forestry present and some medium/large scale wind turbine development	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Skyline of the upland edge is distinctive e.g. Pen-pych tabletop plateau west of Blaenrhondda, Craig y Llyn and Tarren y Bwlch to the north and Tarren y Bwllfa to the east. Sharp contrast between the steep sided valleys and the forested plateau tops	The development would be visible on the distant skyline, however skylines within the unit are occupied by wind farms.	Low
Movement - Calm landscape with occasional wind turbine movement. Quiet. Presence of turbines reduces sensitivity	Distant views of the movement of the turbines	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Elevated views from within the unit. Views outside the unit look up into the unit at close quarters. Scenic viewpoints, at Craig y Llyn and Bwlch y Clawdd.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline, however skylines within the unit are occupied by wind farms.	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Some intervisibility with adjacent landscapes particularly across	The development would be visible on the distant skyline, however skylines within the unit are occupied by wind farms.	Low

valleys. Views from the northern part of the unit to BBNP.		
Types of receptors - Road users have transitory views of the unit. Walkers using public footpaths are not very numerous. Residents of settlements in the valley bottoms have views up the steep valley slopes to valley tops but are not within the unit. Overall few receptors in the unit.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline, however skylines within the unit are occupied by wind farms.	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - The southern and western part of this unit is in the Rhondda Landscape of Historic Interest. The landscape seen today was created in the latter part of the 19th century. The large areas of forestry are linked to the industrial past.	No change	Low
Scenic quality and character	Wind farms are present within this unit	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - The unit is large and remote in places. However, roads and valley communities are nearby.	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Unit includes 3 SLAs	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Low to negligible <i>Size/scale:</i> change would be small scale due to distance from the site. <i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be visible in some distant views to the east. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The operation Mynydd Bwlfa and Maerdy and consented Abergorki is located within the unit. The proposed development is likely to have only an imperceptible impact on this unit due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any theoretical visibility. The addition of the proposed development to the operational and consented schemes within this unit would not 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 negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

2.4 Unit 2 Hillside landscape south and west of Hirwaun

2.4.1 This Landscape unit 2 is in the western part of Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 11km to the west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 2		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large/vast scale overall with some medium scale	No change	Low
Landform - Sloping land facing north towards the BBNP well defined scarp slope to the south and dramatic glaciated landforms.	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Mixed land cover pattern ranging from fieldscapes with hedgerow boundaries to disturbed land resulting from mining. The fieldscapes east of Rhigos are reclaimed to very high standard	No change	Low
Built Environment - Sparsely settled hillside	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Sloping land below the upland forested landscape of unit 2 generally without distinctive skyline. Hirwaun Common has a distinctive skyline on the boundary with unit 1 and has high susceptibility.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the east from a small area of the unit.	Low
Movement - Generally little human activity in this rural hillside landscape away from roads	Distant views of the movement of the turbines	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Hillside generally open with	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the east	Low

pockets of enclosure close to built form and woodland/forestry. More exposed on higher ground.	from a small area of the unit.	
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - The unit is intervisible with the BBNP and with the developed valley floor of the Afon Cynon settled valley landscape. The former providing attractive views and the latter less attractive views	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the east from a small area of the unit.	Low
Types of receptors - Road users, cyclists, walkers using public footpaths, residents in the valley bottoms. Although not densely settled there are some sensitive residential receptors.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the east from a small area of the unit.	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Views north towards BBNP and views from the BBNP into the unit.	No change	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - The unit is large and remote in places.	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value		High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> change would be small scale due to distance from the site.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be visible in some distant views to the east.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The consented Rhigos Road turbine is located within this unit. The proposed development is likely to have an imperceptible impact on this unit due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any theoretical visibility. The addition of the proposed development to the consented scheme within this unit would not 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 negligible.</p>	

Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.
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2.5 Unit 4 Afon Rhondda Fach Settled Valley

2.5.1 This Landscape unit 4 is in the eastern part of Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 14km to the south-west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 4		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Medium scale valley bottom becoming larger scale up the valley sides. Incorporates the settlements of upper Rhondda Fach.	No change	Low
Landform - Upland glaciated U valley landscape. Steep sides above valley bottom. Narrow Cefn Rhondda ridge top on the west boundary with unit 3	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Settlement in the upland valley bottoms and farmed landscape on slopes and unsettled valley bottom	No change	Low
Built Environment - Sparsely settled hillside with settled upland valley bottom. Linear development.	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Rural valley setting for the town and villages. Ferndale wind farm (8 turbines) to the west on boundary of unit 3 and 4.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Movement - Settled valley in a rural setting. Generally quiet and calm away from development	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Views in valley bottom and town and village restricted. Views on upper valley side across valleys and to upland beyond.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Views of	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV	Low

Ferndale windfarm on the ridge to the west and Maerdy to the north. Attractive views to the surrounding landscape. Detractors include wind turbines and masts both inside and outside the unit and development within.	where there is forestry	
Types of receptors - Large number of residential, commercial and recreational receptors in addition to road users.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - This valley is part of the Rhondda Landscape of Historic Interest which is identified for its mining past and associated development. The settlements are not particularly attractive themselves but have important historic interest	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Developed valley with evidence of former industry (mining and quarrying).	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	The unit is in the Rhondda Landscape of Historic Interest.	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> change unlikely to be visible.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> change unlikely to be visible.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operation Ferndale turbines are located along the western edge of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have an imperceptible impact on this unit due to the separation distance and the limited scale of any theoretical visibility. The addition of the proposed development to the operation scheme within this unit would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and strongly defined</p>	

	landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

2.6 Unit 5 Cwmaman upper valley slopes and upland

2.6.1 This Landscape unit 5 is in the eastern part of Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 10km to the south-west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 5		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large to medium scale landscape.	No change	Low
Landform - Upland landscape incorporating valley sides to the east of the area above Unit 6	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - At higher elevations large areas of forestry. On the slopes there are grazed fields.	No change	Low
Built Environment - Very little built development throughout.	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Forestry covers much of the higher ground. Skyline smooth overall. This upland area provides the setting for settlement in the valley to the east below. (Cwmaman, Aberdare, Mountain Ash and Aberaman). To the west the upper part of the unit contributes to the setting of Ferndale and Maerdy. Skylines of particular note are: Rhos Gwawr/Craig Fforchaman Cwm Aman/Craig Tir Llaethdy Craig Darren Las Cwm Rhondda Fach/ Craig y Gilwern	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low

Movement - Very little human activity and movement in the area large parts of which are forested.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Views are limited in the upper parts of the area by forestry. Where there are views they extend down into the valleys to upland across the valleys.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views out of the unit away from the forestry. Many views into the area are restricted due to its elevation and forestry although rounded hills and ridge edges have greater visibility in particular from the Cynon Valley.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Road users and walkers.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Views from ridge line in the Rhondda Landscape of Historic Interest to the south west.	Only a small part of the western edge of the unit is within the ZTV where there is forestry	Low
Scenic quality and character - Forestry provides sheltered feel in upper elevations and slopes of the hillside below are also relatively sheltered. Although not much settlement in the area it is adjacent to settled valleys.	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman SLA Ridge line on south west side of the unit is within the Rhondda Landscape of Historic Interest.	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Negligible <i>Size/scale:</i> change unlikely to be visible.	Imperceptible (not significant)

	<p><i>Geographical extent:</i> change unlikely to be visible.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	
Cumulative Assessment	There are no other operational, consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

2.7 Unit 8 Cynon Taff Ridge

2.7.1 This Landscape unit 8 is in the eastern part of Rhondda Cynon Taf, over 7km to the south-west west of the site. Viewpoint 21 is within this unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 8		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Generally large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Upland area. Broad ridge line between two valleys	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Coniferous plantations on higher slopes.	No change	Low
Built Environment - Very little built development	The built development within the intervening units would detract from the views of the turbines on the skyline	Low
Skylines and settings - Smooth forested broad ridge line. Skyline setting for settled valleys. Views across valleys to ridges and north to BBNP although forestry restricts views	The turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east from the eastern areas of the ridge. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Movement - Generally, a calm landscape with little human activity	The moving turbine blades would be visible on the skyline, beyond intervening human activity.	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Forestry and landform help to enclose parts of the area but other parts are exposed.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east from the eastern areas of the ridge. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low

Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views into and out of the area from adjacent landscapes and across valleys from high ground.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east from the eastern areas of the ridge. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east from the eastern areas of the ridge. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Intermittent views to Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest from forested high ground between the Taff and Cynon valleys.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east from the eastern areas of the ridge. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Mostly a sheltered landscape with areas of exposure. Neither remote nor accessible - secluded.	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	SLAs in Rhondda Cynon Taf to the south and north ends of this linear unit	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Low <i>Size/scale:</i> small change within unit to north-eastern skyline. <i>Geographical extent:</i> only the eastern edge of the unit would see the change, parts of which are forestry. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	There are no other operational, consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

2.8 Unit 9 Merthyr Tydfil west valley side

2.8.1 This Landscape unit 9 is in the western part of Merthyr Tydfil, over 5km to the south-west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 9		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - East facing valley side between town and ridge line	The east facing landform would face the development	Medium
Land cover pattern - Varied complex landcover pattern on the hillside comprising a mix of settlement, fieldscapes, marginal land and extraction	No change	Low
Built Environment - Sparsely settled hillside with two main small settlements and country park.	The built development within the intervening units would detract from the views of the turbines on the skyline	Low
Skylines and settings - No distinctive skyline. Area provides setting for Merthyr Tydfil to the east	The turbines would be visible on the skyline above Merthyr Tydfil. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Movement - Secluded landscape away from main settlement but accessible	The moving turbine blades would be visible on the skyline, beyond intervening human activity.	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Generally open across the valley side. Views of the town. Enclosed where wooded/forested.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline above Merthyr Tydfil. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views from this hillside landscape to the town and north to the BBNP although landform, built form and tree cover restricts some views	The turbines would be visible on the skyline above Merthyr Tydfil. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works. Views towards BBNP would not be affected.	Low
Types of receptors - Residents and visitors, road users and walkers within the area. Residents of Merthyr Tydfil out of the area.	The turbines would be visible on the skyline above Merthyr Tydfil. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works.	Medium
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - BBNP boundary on north edge of this area. Some views into the BBNP. The unit is in the Merthyr Tydfil	The turbines would be visible on the skyline above Merthyr Tydfil. The skyline has already been altered by the opencast works. Views towards BBNP would not be	Low

Landscape of Historic Interest which extends into unit 10 and 12 to the east. Potential views from Cyfarthfa Castle and gardens	affected.	
Scenic quality and character - Mixed attributes presenting a complicated picture.	The turbines would add to this complicated picture	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Close to major settlement yet contains areas that appear tranquil and remote.	Limited change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Importance.	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Medium to low <i>Size/scale:</i> small change within unit to north-eastern skyline. <i>Geographical extent:</i> the majority of the unit is within the ZTV and the east facing landform would enable some open views. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Slight to moderate adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	There are no other operational, consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

2.9 Unit 10 Merthyr Tydfil

2.9.1 This Landscape unit 10 is in the central part of Merthyr Tydfil, 1km to the west of the site at the closest point.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 10		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Generally medium scale	No change	Low

Landform - Glaciated valley with the River Taff meandering through.	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Complex mix of urban development with mixed use on the urban edge including quarrying, recreation, and designed landscapes.	Additional pattern outside unit resulting in limited change due to complex pattern within unit	Low
Built Environment - Densely settled broad valley bottom and lower slopes that are not too steep. Nucleated settlement	Built development within unit limits visibility beyond	Low
Skylines and settings - Views to broad ridges at tops of valleys outside the unit. Skylines within dominated by built development - mainly residential	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Movement - Busy landscape with road corridors at the edges.	Limited impacts from additional movement	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Enclosed by surrounding valley sides and by built development.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Views out of the area to surrounding landscape are limited due to landform and built form. However there are views into the unit from surrounding high ground.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Types of receptors - Broad range and a large number of visual receptors - residents, commercial users, road users, visitors	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Built form restricts views but landform gives rise to elevated locations with views across the unit. Cyfarthfa castle and parkland is an important site in the urban area and has framed views of the settlement and surrounding countryside to the west	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Very busy landscape with a wide variety of human activity and movement.	No change	Low

Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest Cyfarthfa Castle and school (Grade 1 listed), Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest in Wales	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Low</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small change within unit due to limited visibility and built-up character of the unit.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> limited areas of the unit are within the ZTV and intervening built development would further limit views.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operational Pengarnddu Industrial Estate Unit 3 and 5 and consented Pengarnddu Industrial Estate and Valley Heights Filling Station turbines are all located within the far east part of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a low impact on this unit due to the separation distance, the limited scale of any theoretical visibility and intervening vegetation and built form partially/wholly screening the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational and consented schemes within this unit would not 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.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	<p>The combined medium to low sensitivity and low magnitude of change will result in slight and not significant cumulative effect.</p>	

2.10 Unit 11 Taff Valley Southern Reach

2.10.1 This Landscape unit 11 is in the southern part of Merthyr Tydfil, over 5km to the southwest of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 11		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed

		change
Scale - Medium to large scale valley landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Glaciated valley bottom and sides incorporating pockets of land above the top edge of the steep sided valley slopes.	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Mix of uses. Valley floor settled and major transport corridor. Valley sides a combination of woodland/forestry and grazed fields.	No change	Low
Built Environment - Densely settled valley floor with a variety of residential and commercial development types.	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Views of skylines at top of steep valley slopes generally smooth with no distinctive features. Valley sides provide setting for settled valley bottom and approach to Merthyr Tydfil to the north.	Only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV (part of which is the Aberfan Former Tip and Slide Area), from where there would be some change to the skyline to the north-east	Low
Movement - Busy settled valley landscape. Tops of valleys and beyond are quieter	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Valley topography, woodland/forestry and built form serve to restrict views.	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV, part of which is the Aberfan Former Tip and Slide Area	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views in and out of the area particularly from the upper valley slopes and beyond.	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV	Low
Types of receptors - Residents of villages/towns in the valley bottom and on valley sides.	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Aberfan Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and former tip and slide area is located at the north end of the unit and this area has historic and cultural significance and is designated as an Historic Park and Garden	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV, part of which is the Aberfan Former Tip and Slide Area	Low

Scenic quality and character	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Mixed. Areas which are unattractive, noisy and easily accessible. Steep valley slopes not as accessible.	Limited impacts as only a small area within the north-west of the unit is within the ZTV	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Aberfan Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and former tip and slide area (Historic Park and Garden)	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> change would be small scale due to distance from the site and limited visibility.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the majority of the unit is not within the ZTV.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operational Tir Cook Farm and Cefn Fforest Farm turbines are located within the southern part of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have an negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, the limited scale of any theoretical visibility and intervening vegetation and built form partially/wholly screening the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational schemes within this unit would not 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 negligible.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	<p>The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.</p>	

2.11 Unit 12 Merthyr Tydfil east valley side

2.11.1 This Landscape unit 12 is in the eastern part of Merthyr Tydfil, directly to the west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 12

Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Large scale disturbance and man-made landform associated with a large-scale coal recovery scheme (Ffos y Fran) apparent.	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Mix of land cover dominated by man-made landform of the coal recovery scheme to the north of the unit. Away from this area pattern is more traditionally rural with marginal land, fieldscapes and woodland.	Limited perception of change due to only the northern area of the unit being within the ZTV where the land cover is dominated by man-made landform of the coal recovery scheme	Low
Built Environment - Despite obvious industrial activity in the area there is little built form	Limited impacts due to industrial activity in the area	Low
Skylines and settings - Man made landform of the coal recovery scheme dominates skyline when viewed from the north. The unit provides the landscape setting for the east side of Merthyr Tydfil and despite the man-made nature of landform to the north the southern end of the unit provides a rural back drop to the setting of the town	The development would be seen beyond the man made landform of the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only.	Low
Movement - Adjacent to Merthyr Tydfil much of the area is accessible	Additional movement adjacent to the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Not a lot of tree cover or built form and extensive views from the valley sides in places.	The development would be seen beyond the man made landform of the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only.	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views to the surrounding landscape. Detractive views appear to dominate.	The development would be seen beyond the man made landform of the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only.	Low
Types of receptors - Few receptors although Merthyr Tydfil to the west contain numerous and varied visual receptors.	The development would be seen beyond the man made landform of the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only.	Low

Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Views to and from the BBNP. Landform within the unit already changed considerably due to coal recovery scheme and will continue for several years before restoration complete.	The development would be seen beyond the man made landform of the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit only.	Low
Scenic quality and character	Limited impacts due to the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Area very influenced by man's activity and generally accessible.	Limited impacts due to the coal recovery scheme in the north of the unit	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Low <i>Size/scale:</i> large change in the north of the unit but limited impacts due to coal recovery scheme. <i>Geographical extent:</i> only the north of the unit is within the ZTV in the vicinity of the coal recovery scheme. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	There are no other operational, consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

2.12 Unit 13 Upland moorland between Taff and Rhymney Valleys

2.12.1 This Landscape unit 13 is in the eastern part of Merthyr Tydfil, it is immediately to the south of the site and extends along the three upland areas between the valleys. Viewpoints 4 and 5 are within this unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 13		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to

		the proposed change
Scale - Large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Upland gently undulating broad ridges between valleys.	The turbines would be seen beyond the higher ground in the north of the unit at the head of the broad ridges	Medium
Land cover pattern - Upland grazing and moorland dominates	The turbines would add to the pattern to the north of the unit. The additional land cover of the solar farm would be less perceptible	Low
Built Environment - Very little built development in the areas	The development would add additional built development just to the north of the unit	Medium
Skylines and settings - Broad ridge tops have a smooth profile. Unit provides the setting for valley landscapes and their villages/towns.	The development would be seen beyond the broad ridge top in the north of the unit and in views over the valleys from the adjacent ridges	High
Movement - Some human access but limited to roads and footpaths.	The development would add additional movement just to the north of the unit	Medium
Visibility, key views, vistas - Exposed upland landscape with gently undulating landform and no cover	The development would be seen beyond the broad ridge top in the north of the unit and in views over the valleys from the adjacent ridges	High
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are attractive and detractive views in and out of the area. Given the elevated position there are views from and into the valley bottoms and to uplands across valleys and beyond.	The development would be seen beyond the broad ridge top in the north of the unit and in views over the valleys from the adjacent ridges	Medium
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers	The development would be seen beyond the broad ridge top in the north of the unit and in views over the valleys from the adjacent ridges	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Distant views to and from BBNP. Unit overlooks Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest to the west and includes a small area of the designation. Also overlooks and includes the Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest. Numerous SAMs possibly	The development would be seen beyond the broad ridge top in the north of the unit and in views over the valleys from the adjacent ridges	High

prehistoric, Roman and Medieval		
Scenic quality and character	The development would further reduce the scenic quality in the north of the unit	Medium
Remoteness and tranquillity - Very mixed. Overall exposed. Some sense of remoteness but also accessible by minor roads that appear well used.	The development would further reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in the north of the unit	Medium
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Medium
Landscape value	Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest SLA covers approximately 15% of the unit Gelli-gaer Common SLA in Caerphilly	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	Medium to high <i>Size/scale:</i> large scale change due to height of the turbines adjacent to the unit. <i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit, particularly in the north. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Moderate to substantial adverse (significant)
Cumulative Assessment	There are no other operational, consented, in planning or scoping schemes within this unit. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

2.13 Unit 14 Bedlinog Valley and farmed upland landscape

2.13.1 This Landscape unit 14 is in the southeastern part of Merthyr Tydfil, over 2.5km south-south-west of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 14		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed

		change
Scale - Generally large scale with some medium scale areas	No change	Low
Landform - Valley landscape with steep slopes.	The turbines would be seen from higher up the valley sides in the north of the unit only	Low
Land cover pattern - Settled valley bottom with farmed valley slopes comprising mix of grazing and pockets of woodland and moorland	No change	Low
Built Environment - One major settlement in valley bottom with scattered settlement throughout.	No visibility from settlement	Low
Skylines and settings - None that are distinctive, Valley sides provide setting for settled valley bottom	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Medium
Movement - Busy valley bottom, quiet valley sides	The development would add additional movement to the north of the unit	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Unit is enclosed by valley slopes, views out from lower levels are restricted.	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Types of receptors - Residents in valley bottom, road users, visitors, walkers	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit. No visibility from settlement	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Overlooked by upland areas of Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest and Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Scenic quality and character	Limited impacts	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Overall tranquil, attractive sheltered. Community is remote at the top of the valley but also accessible by road.	Limited impacts	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest in a small area to the north	Medium

	of the unit and unit shares boundary with to Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest on upland between landscape units 14 and 15 Taff Bargoed Community Park	
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> limited changes due to intervening landform.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> limited changes due to valley landform.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operational Penrhiw Farm turbine is located within the southern part of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, the limited scale of any theoretical visibility and intervening vegetation and built form partially/wholly screening the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational scheme within this unit would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, because of distance and strongly defined landscape character. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	<p>The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.</p>	

2.14 Unit 15 Darran Valley and hillsides

2.14.1 This Landscape unit 15 is in the eastern part of Merthyr Tydfil and the western part of Rhymney, over 2km to the south of the site. Viewpoint 4 is taken from the northern edge of the unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 15		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Medium scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Upland glaciated valley with narrow valley bottom and	The turbines would be seen from higher up the valley sides in the	Low

steep valley sides. Incorporates grazed farmland above the top valley edge	north of the unit only	
Land cover pattern - Narrow settled valley floor with steep sided slopes comprising marginal land and grazed fields where the gradient is not so steep.	No change	Low
Built Environment - Some development - villages in the valley bottom.	Limited visibility from settlements	Low
Skylines and settings - No particularly distinctive skylines. Valley sides and tops provide setting for villages in valley bottom.	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Movement - Some human activity in the valley landscape but not as busy as adjacent valleys.	The development would add additional movement to the north of the unit	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Valley landscape with views up and down and across the valley	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - There are views up and down the valley and across the valley from higher slopes.	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Types of receptors - Residents of the valley settlements have views up and down and across the valley. Additionally, there are visitors and road and footpath users. Rhymney Valley Ridgeway walk through the area has views across the unit.	Receptors in the north of the unit would have some views of the turbines	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Overlooked by the Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest.	The development would be seen above the valley sides in some views in the north of the unit	Low
Scenic quality and character	Limited impacts	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Remote village at the head of the valley but area is accessible on the whole.	Limited impacts	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	SLA covers approximately 38% of the unit. Gelli-gaer Common SLA on the west side of the valley is an	Medium

	extension of Gelli-gaer Common Landscape of Historic Interest to the west. Cwmllydrew Meadows Nature Reserve	
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> limited changes due to intervening landform.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> limited changes due to valley landform.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operational Cefn Bach Farm and Tir Y Ferch Gryno Farm and consented Pen Y Fan Ganol Farm turbines are located within the southern part of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, the limited scale of any theoretical visibility and intervening vegetation and built form partially/wholly screening the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational schemes within this unit would not 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 negligible.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	<p>The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.</p>	

2.15 Unit 17 Upland north of the heads of the valley corridor

2.15.1 This Landscape unit 17 is in the northern part of Blaenau Gwent and Caerphilly, 1km to the north of the site at the closest point. Viewpoint 9 is taken from the southern boundary of the unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 17		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large scale to vast landscape with smaller areas of medium scale.	No change	Low

Landform - Varied upland topography with rolling undulating landform	No direct changes. The landform would mean that further north within the unit the unit would look down towards the development	Medium
Land cover pattern - Upland grazing and moorland dominate the area with pockets of valleys and excavation. Large quarry at Trefil.	No direct changes. The turbines would add to the pattern to the south of the unit. The additional land cover of the solar farm would be perceptible but not as prominent	Low
Built Environment - Very little settlement, mainly concentrated on Heads of the Valleys road corridor and along small upland valleys.	The development would add additional built development beyond the Heads of the Valleys road corridor	Medium
Skylines and settings - Skyline is smooth with few focal points. Two single medium scale wind turbines in the area interrupt the skyline from certain vantage points. The unit is adjacent to the BBNP and part of the setting of the BBNP.	The development would be seen on the smooth skylines in the south of the unit and moving north the development would be seen against the distant landscape. Pylons and existing turbines are present in the baseline therefore the development would not be out of character	Medium
Movement - Sparsely populated area with limited movement. The Heads of the Valley Road Corridor on the south boundary is busy. Two single turbines have introduced movement. Consented race track will increase movement within this area	The development would add additional movement just to the south of the unit	Medium
Visibility, key views, vistas - Views of the unit from the Brecon Beacons to the north	The development would be seen beyond the unit from the Brecon Beacons	Medium
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Views of the unit from the Brecon Beacons to the north. Attractive views in and out Some detractive views out but few within	The development would be seen beyond the unit from the Brecon Beacons, but there are already some detractors in these views such as the existing pylons, existing turbines, built development and the road corridor	Medium
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers. Visitors to the BBNP.	Limited impacts due to few receptors within unit	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Intervisible with the BBNP. Unit provides setting for BBNP and is a buffer between the developed	The development would be seen beyond the unit from the Brecon Beacons, and within the setting	High

Heads of the Valley road corridor and BBNP. Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest at the west end of the unit and Clydach Gorge Landscape of Historic Interest to the east end of the unit		
Scenic quality and character	The development would further reduce the scenic quality in the unit	Medium
Remoteness and tranquillity - Sense of remoteness along north boundary with the BBNP away from the Heads of the Valley road corridor	The development would further reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in the unit	Medium
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Medium
Landscape value	SLA covering approximately 77% of the unit: Upper Rhymney Valley SLA (Caerphilly) Trefil and Garnlydan surrounds SLA Clydach Gorge Landscape of Historic Interest at the eastern end of the unit in the BBNP. Merthyr Tydfil Landscape of Historic Interest at the west end of the unit.	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to high	<p>Medium</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> medium scale change due to height of the turbines adjacent to the unit, but also as this is a large unit</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit, but not totally out of character due to existing turbines, pylons etc.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Moderate to substantial adverse (significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The operational Tafaranabach Industrial Estate Unit 29 and in planning Pen March turbines are located within the northern part of this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit to the south. The in-planning Pen March turbines would directly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit, and although not directly, the proposed development would indirectly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit due to its	

	proximity. The addition of the proposed development to the operational and in planning schemes within this unit would not alter any physical characteristic elements of the landscape but would alter the perceptual characteristics. As a result, the magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as medium.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to high sensitivity and medium magnitude of change will result in moderate to substantial and significant cumulative effect.

2.16 Unit 18 Mynydd Bedwellte and associated upland

2.16.1 This Landscape unit 18 is in the western part Blaenau Gwent, 1.5km to the east of the site at the closest point. Viewpoint 10 is taken from the western boundary of this unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 18		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Vast to large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Broad ridge of upland between valleys	The ridge landform allows open views over the intervening valley towards the site, in which the landform of the site is clear along with the development	High
Land cover pattern - Simple upland moorland and grazed landscape between Tredegar and Rhymney incorporating upper valley sides.	No direct changes, the development would add to the landcover outside the unit	Low
Built Environment - Very little built development in the unit.	The development would appear as additional built development outside the unit, above the industrial development in the valley	Medium
Skylines and settings - Distinctive open skyline. Cairns and the Cefn Golau cholera cemetery, seen from valleys on either side. Upland setting for neighbouring settled valleys.	The development would be prominent on skylines to the west over the intervening valley, the tips of the opencast works and pylons are already a feature of the skyline	Medium
Movement - Secluded place with some human access. A minor road crosses the area and there are farms on lower slopes	The development would add movement beyond the unit	Medium
Visibility, key views, vistas - Upland	The development would be	High

landscape with few trees or buildings and extensive views out of the area and into the area.	prominent on skylines to the west over the intervening valley, the tips of the opencast works and pylons are already a feature of the skyline	
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - This elevated area is visible from other uplands in the study area and from some distant vantage points in the BBNP.	The development would be prominent on skylines to the west over the intervening valley, the tips of the opencast works and pylons are already a feature of the skyline	Medium
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers.	Limited impacts due to few receptors within unit	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Panoramic views across to other uplands to the west, and north to Brecon Beacons, & into valley from Cefn Golau.	The development would be prominent on skylines to the west over the intervening valley, the tips of the opencast works and pylons are already a feature of the skyline	Medium
Scenic quality and character	The development would reduce the scenic quality in views to the west	Medium
Remoteness and tranquillity - Overall there are remote parts to this unit away from the road. Isolated in places.	The development would reduce the sense of remoteness in views to the west	Medium
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Medium
Landscape value	Approximately 84% SLA: Mynydd Bedwellte, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy SLA (BG) Upper Rhymney Valley SLA (Caerphilly)	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	Medium <i>Size/scale:</i> Medium to large scale change due to height of the turbines over the valley. <i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit, particularly in the north. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Moderate adverse (significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The operational Penrhiwgwaith Farm turbine is located in the southern part of this unit and the operational Pen Bryn Ore turbines are located along the northwest boundary. The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located	

	outside of the unit to the west. The in-planning operational Pen Bryn Ore turbines would directly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit, and although not directly, the proposed development would slightly indirectly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit due to its proximity. The addition of the proposed development to the schemes within this unit would not alter any physical characteristic elements of the landscape but would slightly alter the perceptual characteristics. As a result, the magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as medium to low.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and medium to low magnitude of change will result in moderate to slight and not significant cumulative effect.

2.17 Unit 19 Heads of the Valley Corridor

2.17.1 This Landscape unit 19 is in the norther part of Blaenau Gwent, over 2km to the north-east of the site. Viewpoint 7 is within this unit.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 19		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Large to medium scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Rolling/ undulating	No change	Low
Land cover pattern - Complex mix of land uses in this developed upland area at the Heads of the Valleys. Dominated by development	Additional pattern outside unit resulting in limited change due to complex pattern within unit	Low
Built Environment - Developed landscape along the road corridor and at the Heads of the Valleys. Includes narrow corridor of Clydach Gorge to the east which is a Registered Historic Landscape.	Built development within unit limits visibility beyond	Low
Skylines and settings - No distinct skyline.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Movement - Busy developed landscape with major road	Limited impacts from additional movement	Low

corridor.		
Visibility, key views, vistas.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - The intervisibility with neighbouring units is influenced by topography and built form.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Types of receptors - Large number of residential receptors as well as commercial and road users	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - There is some intervisibility with the southern edge of the BBNP but Unit 17 acts as a buffer.	Visibility from the unit is limited by intervening landform and built development. Any affected skylines are dominated by built development	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Not remote. Very accessible area	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	Clydach Gorge Registered Historic landscape Bedwellte Park, Tredegar Registered Park and Garden 24% SLA - small portions of several SLAs that surround the unit	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	Low <i>Size/scale:</i> small change within unit due to limited visibility and built up character of the unit. <i>Geographical extent:</i> limited areas of the unit are within the ZTV and intervening built development would further limit views. <i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The operational Eurocaps Ltd, Former Tech Board Site, Rassau Industrial Estate Unit 15 and consented Rassau Industrial Estate Unit 9 and 19 and scoping West Monmouthshire Golf Club turbines are located within this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a	

	negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, the limited scale of any theoretical visibility and intervening vegetation and built form partially/wholly screening the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational, consented and scoping schemes within this unit would not 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 negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

2.18 Unit 22 Northern Manmoel ridge

2.18.1 This Landscape unit 22 is in the western part of Blaenau Gwent and the northeastern part of Caerphilly, over 4.5km to the east of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 22		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Ranges from vast to medium scale	No change	Low
Landform - Broad ridge of upland between valleys.	No direct change. Ridge allows views over valleys towards the site	Low
Land cover pattern - Various fieldscapes and open moorland with evidence of quarrying	No change	Low
Built Environment - Very little build development in the unit.	The development would add to built development outside the unit	Low
Skylines and settings - Distinctive open skyline seen from valleys on either side	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Movement - Generally quiet and calm landscape with little activity in the area.	The development would add movement on the skyline to the west	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Upland viewed from adjacent upland across valleys. Some enclosed due to land form and woodland /forestry.	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Views from	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low

this upland area are across valleys to adjacent uplands and BBNP to the north.		
Types of receptors - Few receptors. Residents, road users and walkers.	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Sirhowy valley walk (promoted) runs through the area along the broad ridge and has views down into the valley and to upland across the valleys. Panoramic views across to other upland areas and the BBNP	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Scenic quality and character	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Sense of remoteness due to lack of roads and limited human access despite proximity to development in the valleys	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	65% Cefn Manmoel SLA	Medium
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium to low	<p>Low</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance from site.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit at some distance.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The operational Cruglywn (x2) and in planning Manmole turbines is the only wind turbine developments in this unit. The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit to the west. The in-planning Manmole turbines would directly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, and limited visibility of the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the operational, and in planning schemes within this unit would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of</p>	

	distance. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

2.19 Unit 24 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn & Cefn yr Arail

2.19.1 This Landscape unit 24 is in the southern part of Blaenau Gwent, over 7km to the east of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 24		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Generally large scale landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Broad upland ridge	No direct change. Ridge allows views over valleys towards the site	Low
Land cover pattern - Open upland moorland in the main with very few fields at the edges. Marginal land.	No change	Low
Built Environment - No significant development in this upland area. No farmsteads or buildings in the unit. Golf course at the northern end of the unit but the club house is in unit 25	The development would add to built development outside the unit	Low
Skylines and settings - This upland unit forms prominent skyline from both valleys to east and west	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Movement - Very little human activity in the area. No roads. Some footpaths and bridle ways.	The development would add movement on the skyline to the west	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Open/exposed upland landscape with no buildings or tree cover	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - Views up to the ridge and from and to other uplands.	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Types of receptors - Footpath and bridleway users plus users of the	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low

golf course within the areas		
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Non apparent	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Scenic quality and character - The open upland of the Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn SLA has a distinctive skyline seen from the neighbouring valleys	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Feels remote although it is a narrow area close to settled valleys.	The development would be visible on the skyline to the west	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low
Landscape value	100% Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail SLA	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	<p>Low</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance from site.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from the majority of this unit at some distance.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The in planning Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn is located along the western boundary of this unit. The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. The in-planning scheme would directly increase the influence of wind turbine development within this unit. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, and limited visibility of the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the in-planning schemes within this unit would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>	
Significance of cumulative effects	<p>The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.</p>	

2.20 Unit 27 Mynydd James and Coety Mountain

2.20.1 This Landscape unit 27 is in the southeastern part of Blaenau Gwent and the western part of Torfaen, over 10km to the east of the site.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNIT 27		
Landscape characteristic	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
Scale - Vast landscape	No change	Low
Landform - Series of high open rounded ridges contains the highest point in the study area (Coety Mountain 578m)	No direct change. Ridges allow distant views over valleys towards the site	Low
Land cover pattern - Grazed upland landscape	No change	Low
Built Environment - Very little development	No change	Low
Skylines and settings - Rounded/smooth ridges from a simple skyline. Provides the setting from Blaenavon WHS to the west.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Movement - One road crosses the area to the south and there are numerous footpaths and bridleways.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Visibility, key views, vistas - Exposed upland landscape with very little tree cover and landform that does not provide shelter.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Intervisibility, associations with adjacent landscapes - The unit has intervisibility with other uplands in the study area and within the BBNP to the north.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Types of receptors - Few receptors within the area. Mainly walkers/cyclists.	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Views to / from landscape and cultural heritage features - Distant views to the BBNP to the north. Views of the Blaenavon WHS part of which is in the unit above Blaenavon	The development would be visible on the distant skyline to the west	Low
Scenic quality and character	No change	Low
Remoteness and tranquillity - Remote area not accessible by road	No change	Low
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes		Low

Landscape value	85% SLA Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James SLA (BG) Blaenavon Heritage Landscape SLA Western Uplands Blaenavon WHS and potential buffer zone. Blaenavon Landscape of Historic Interest	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Magnitude of change	Overall level of effects
Medium	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance from site from limited parts of the unit.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from areas of highest ground within this unit at some distance.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit and due to the separation distance, and limited visibility of the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the cumulative scenario within this unit would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.	
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.	

3 BREACON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK

3.1.1 The following Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) have been identified within the Brecon Beacons National Park which are within the study area and have areas of land within the ZTV, based on the Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape character Assessment, August 2012¹. The assessment considers the effects of the development on the key characteristics of each LCA.

3.2 Area 9 Mynyddoedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr

3.2.1 This LCA is located on the southern edge of the National Park, stretching between the settlements of Merthyr Tydfil and Brynmawr, 3km north of the site at the closest

¹ [Landscape Character Assessment | Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority](#)

point. Viewpoints 13, 14, 15 and 18 are taken from within Area 9.

Area 9 Mynyddoedd Llangatwg & Llangynidr	
Key characteristic	Impact of the development
<i>A north-facing scarp formed by Carboniferous Limestone; the moors to the south having a thin cover of Twrch Sandstone and displaying karstic features including cliffs, caves, shake holes and limestone pavement. Area of lowermost South Wales Coal Measures sandstones ('Farewell Rock') and mudstones in the east.</i>	The development would be visible in views south from this area, the north-facing scarp would not be affected.
<i>An elevated plateau-like landform, mostly above 400m ASL. From high ground, horizons appear low and smooth</i>	The development would be visible in views south from this area, in which the horizons are varied due to the valleys to the south, coal mining tips and existing vertical structures.
<i>Boggy ground and springs forming the sources of several rivers. Few waterbodies, including small upland pools and Llangyndir reservoir</i>	No change
<i>Land use almost entirely open grazing on unenclosed common land. Extensive quarries (no longer worked), and small area of plantation on southern edge</i>	No change
<i>An open landscape with no field boundaries and very few trees</i>	The openness would allow views south towards the development.
<i>Semi-Natural Habitats of Principal Importance to Wales including dry dwarf shrub heath, marshy grassland, unmodified blanket bog, modified blanket bog, acid/ neutral flush and limestone cliff habitats</i>	No change
<i>A concentration of prehistoric archaeological sites, including numerous Cairns on high ground, plus more recent archaeology associated with quarrying</i>	The development would be visible in southward views from some cairns on high ground.
<i>Very limited settlement, but views to settlement in the Usk valley to the north, and other development (e.g. roads, pylons) beyond the southern boundary of the National Park</i>	No change to views north over the Usk valley. The development would be visible in views south from this area, alongside the

	existing roads, pylons, turbines and other built development.
<i>An exceptionally open landscape, with subtle changes in texture and seasonal colour resulting from variations in moorland vegetation</i>	The openness would allow views south towards the development.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low due to north facing views not being affected, and presence of existing development in views south meaning the development would not be uncharacteristic.
Landscape value	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium
Magnitude of change	<p>Medium to low</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> medium scale change due to height of the turbines in views south</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from south facing areas, but not totally out of character due to existing turbines, pylons etc. North facing areas would not be affected.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>
Overall level of effects	Moderate adverse (significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no cumulative schemes in this area.</p> <p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes and the in-planning Pen March scheme in particular would increase the influence of wind turbine development within this area due to its proximity. The proposed development is likely to have a low to negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to</p>

	the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low to negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight to imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

3.3 Area 8 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys

3.3.1 This LCA is located in the south of the National Park, and abuts its southern boundary near Merthyr Tydfil, 4km to the north-west of the site at the closet point. Viewpoint 19 is taken from within this area.

Area 8 Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys	
Key characteristic	Impact of the development
<i>Mostly underlain by Devonian age sandstones of the Brownstones Formation, with small areas of the upper Old Red Sandstone Grey Grits and Carboniferous Limestone in the south, and Twrch Sandstone on the southern margin.</i>	No change
<i>A series of steep V-shaped valleys separated by flatter uplands. The Taff valleys have a strong north-south orientation and drain southwards, whilst the Talybont valley lies broadly north-east to south-west and drains into the Usk.</i>	The development would be visible in some views south-east from the flatter uplands in the south of the area. The steep V-shaped valleys would not be affected.
<i>Chains of artificial reservoirs occur in valleys, linked by rivers. Mountain streams (and occasional waterfalls) flow down the steep valley sides, sculpting sandstone and limestone rocks.</i>	No change
<i>Coniferous forestry is dominant land use, plus reservoirs, pasture and open moorland.</i>	No change
<i>Surviving field boundaries usually stone walls, occasionally patched with post and wire. Some former field boundaries still visible within forestry plantations.</i>	No change

<i>Extensive coniferous forests, with some larch and patches of more mixed deciduous woodland (for example on the western side of the Llwyn-onn valley). Deciduous trees also associated with watercourses.</i>	No change
<i>Semi-Natural Habitats of Principal Importance to Wales including modified blanket bog, marshy grassland, broadleaved and coniferous woodland, flush/ spring and acid grassland.</i>	No change
<i>Many historic features lost under reservoirs and forests. Surviving features include farms, field boundaries and Vaynor church. Parts of the Brecon and Newport Railway survive, including Pont-sarn viaduct, the opening of the tunnel which connected the Talybont and Taff valleys, and some track (now the Brecon Mountain Railway) and station buildings.</i>	No change
<i>Very limited settlement within the LCA (Llwynonn, Pontsticill and occasional farms). Other built development includes housing for reservoir workers, large-scale water treatment works below dams, and former limestone quarries.</i>	No change
<i>Recreation provision e.g. car parks, picnic areas, trails, Garwant Forest Visitor Centre, watersports.</i>	No change
<i>Generally a simple landscape composition, with large blocks of forest in simple valley landform. Forests appear strongly textured (especially where they include deciduous trees) and contrast in colour with surrounding open moorland.</i>	No direct changes. The development would be seen in some elevated views south-eastwards, along side existing vertical structures.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low due to limited areas within ZTV, and presence of existing development in views south-east meaning the development would not be uncharacteristic.
Landscape value	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium
Magnitude of change	Low to negligible <i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV

	<p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from south-east facing areas of high ground in the south, but not totally out of character due to existing turbines, pylons etc. Valleys and northern areas would not be affected.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no cumulative schemes in this area.</p> <p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a low to negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as low to negligible.</p>
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight to imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

3.4 Area 7 Central Beacons

- 3.4.1 This LCA is located in the centre of the National Park, and includes Pen y Fan, its highest point, Viewpoint 20. It is approximately 7km north-west of the site at the closest point.

Area 7 Central Beacons	
Key characteristic	Impact of the development
<i>Geology of Devonian Senni and Brownstones Formations, highly visible in the northern scarp. Covering of plateau beds on the highest land gives the ridges a flat-topped appearance.</i>	There would be some distant views of the development from the flat-topped ridges. Other areas would not be affected.
<i>A glacially-sculpted landscape with a dramatic northern scarp, below a line of dramatic peaks including Pen y Fan (the highest point in the Brecon Beacons at 886m ASL). A series of horseshoe-shaped valleys radiate out from the centre, with a gradual slope downward to the south.</i>	There would be some distant views of the development from the flat-topped ridges. Other areas would not be affected.
<i>Fast-flowing streams (fed from springs or upland bogs) radiate out from this central point. The source of the River Taff is in this LCA. Small glacial lake at Llyn Cwm Llŵch below Corn Du.</i>	No change
<i>Land use almost entirely open grazing on unenclosed common land.</i>	Openness would allow distant views of the development from higher ground.
<i>An open landscape, with trees limited to small patches of wood pasture on sheltered valley sides, although there are views across the adjacent plantations of the Talybont and Taff Reservoir Valleys.</i>	Openness would allow distant views of the development from higher ground.
<i>Semi-Natural Habitats of Principal Importance to Wales including marshy grassland, montane heath, modified blanket bogs, and dry heath/ acid grassland mosaic.</i>	No change
<i>A range of historic features, including abandoned settlements to 20th century artefacts including pill box, tank traps and military memorials. Relatively few prehistoric sites compared to other LCAs.</i>	No change, with the exception of distant views from Cairns.
<i>Very little settlement or other development within this LCA. However, views from the area encompass the surrounding settled landscape. The A470 follows the western boundary of the LCA.</i>	The development, where visible, would be seen in the context of the surrounding settled landscape.
<i>An open, expansive landscape with a sense of airy spaciousness and of being 'on the top'. The simple texture of the vegetation contrasts with the rough,</i>	Openness would allow distant views of the development from higher ground.

<i>stripy appearance of the crags. A dramatic, repeating pattern of triangular-shaped faces on the northern scarp, and lines of flat topped ridges extending into the distance to the east and west.</i>	
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low, due to distance from the site, the limited areas of high ground within the ZTV and the panoramic nature of views from high ground.
Landscape value	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium
Magnitude of change	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible in distant views from high ground, but not totally out of character due to existing development in long distance views.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no cumulative schemes in this area.</p> <p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>

Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.
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3.5 Area 3 Fforest Fawr

3.5.1 This LCA is located towards the west of the National Park, approximately 10km west of the site at the closest point. Viewpoint 8 is within this area.

Area 3 Fforest Fawr	
Key characteristic	Impact of the development
<i>Complex underlying geology, with the Senni and Brownstones formations of the Old Red Sandstone in the north, a broken band of Carboniferous Limestone across the middle, and Marros Group sandstones and mudstones in the south. All three units form north-facing escarpments, that of the Old Red Sandstone being the most imposing.</i>	There would be some distant views south-east of the development from areas of high ground. The north-facing escarpments would not be affected.
<i>A glaciated landscape with a steep northern escarpment and a series of elevated summits. Cwms, and deep valleys are separated by intervening ridges (generally running northsouth). Landform in the south of the LCA is less dramatic, forming a gently sloping plateau dissected by river valleys.</i>	There would be some distant views south-east of the development from areas of high ground. The north-facing escarpments would not be affected.
<i>Steep, fast flowing and rocky mountain streams (often spring-fed, or sourced from upland bogs), flow into larger rivers in valley bottoms. Ystradfellte Reservoir located near centre of LCA.</i>	No change
<i>Predominantly unenclosed moorland used for open grazing, with some forest blocks, particularly in the south and west of the LCA.</i>	Openness would allow for some distant views of the development from high ground.
<i>Trees almost entirely coniferous, planted in forestry blocks often with sharp outlines. Distinctive coniferous shelter belts in the northern part of the area.</i>	No change

<i>Very few field boundaries, but dry-stone walls marking estate boundaries are distinctive to this LCA. Occasional post-and-wire fences.</i>	No change
<i>Semi-Natural Habitats of Principal Importance to Wales including marshy grassland, dry heath, acid/ neutral flushes and small areas of blanket bog. Vegetation composition reflects variations in underlying geology.</i>	No change
<i>Extensive prehistoric ritual landscapes, particularly in the south-east. Also evidence of Roman road, medieval settlements, industrial archaeology, WW2 defences and estate influences.</i>	No change
<i>A very lightly-settled landscape today, with occasional estate cottages and farms at its periphery. However, in the past it has been much more densely settled, and the landscape contains evidence of settlement over millennia.</i>	No change
<i>An elevated, simple, and expansive landscape, with colours and textures varying subtly with the underlying geology. Much of the LCA remains inaccessible except on foot, giving a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness.</i>	Openness would allow for some distant views of the development from high ground.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low, due to distance from the site, the limited areas of high ground within the ZTV and the panoramic nature of views from high ground.
Landscape value	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium
Magnitude of change	Low to negligible <i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV <i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible in distant views from high ground, but not totally out of character due to existing development in long distance views.

	<i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no cumulative schemes in this area.</p> <p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

3.6 Eastern and north-eastern areas of the National Park.

- 3.6.1 Areas 10 Clydach Gorge, 12 Skirrid and Sugar Loaf, 13 The Black Mountains and 15 Bloreng Summit and Slopes, and have small areas of high ground within the ZTV, however any view of the development would be distant and in the context of the panoramic long distance views therefore would not affect the landscape character of these areas. This is illustrated by Viewpoints 16 and 17.

4 LANDSCAPE CHARCTRER AREAS DERIVED FROM LANDMAP

- 4.1.1 The following LCAs in the south of the study area have been derived from LANDMAP. The assessment considers the effects of the development on each of the LCA with large areas of land within the ZTV.

4.2 LCA 02 – Upland hills and plateaus east of Newbridge, Cwmcaru Forest and surrounding uplands

4.2.1 This LCA is located towards south-east of the study area, approximately 15km south-east of the site at the closest point.

LCA 02 – Upland hills and plateaus east of Newbridge Cwmcaru Forest and surrounding uplands	
Description	Impact of the development
The upland area features ridges reaching 450m AOD and valleys at approximately 200m AOD, with a mix of conifer and mixed woodland. Open ridgelines and woodland spaces offer views across adjacent wooded valleys and urban areas but are marred by overhead power lines and a telecom mast. Heath and grassland areas on the western slopes of Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd are flanked by coniferous plantation woodland. Rough grazing slopes below, ranging from 200m to 350m AOD, connect to the higher area of Cwmbran. Dramatic views overlook the valley and Cwmbran, while urban development dominates lower slopes, punctuated by field patterns and broadleaf woodland, with visual detractors including the sharp urban edge and overhead electricity cables.	There would be some distant views north-west of the development from high ridges. The valleys would not be affected. There visual detractors in the views and woodland and plantations would also limit visibility.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low, due to distance from the site, the limited areas of high ground within the ZTV and existing visual detractors.
Landscape value	Medium due to local landscape designations
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium to low
Magnitude of change	Low to negligible <i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV <i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible in distant views from high ground, but not totally out of character due to existing development in long distance views.

	<i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>There are no cumulative schemes in this area.</p> <p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

4.3 LCA 05 – Sirowy Valley Uplands surrounding Cwmfelinfach

4.3.1 This LCA is located towards south-south-east of the study area, approximately 15km of the site at the closest point. Viewpoint 6 is within this LCA.

LCA 05 – Sirowy Valley Uplands surrounding Cwmfelinfach	
Description	Impact of the development
This diverse region encompasses steep valley sides shrouded in coniferous woodland, ascending to 370m AOD before meeting the plateau of Mynydd y Lan. Views extend over Crosskeys and Abercarn settlements and to wooded slopes opposite. Adjacent, pastoral	There would be some distant views of the development from high ground looking to the north-north-west along the Sirhowy Valley. The valleys would not be affected. There visual detractors in the views and

farmland gently slopes from 200m to 300m AOD, offering vistas of Sirhowy Valley and Pontllanfraith. An open upland ridge features rough grazing, with panoramic views to the south and coniferous plantations, though pylons slightly disrupt the wilderness. In the lower Sirhowy Valley, coniferous forestry dominates, contrasting with remnants of agriculture. Further northeast, sloping valley sides rise from 100m to 300m AOD, blending pastoral farmland with woodland blocks, bracken, and a remote ridgeline affording dramatic views.	woodland and plantations would also limit visibility.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low, due to distance from the site, the limited areas of high ground within the ZTV and existing visual detractors.
Landscape value	Medium due to local landscape designations
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium to low
Magnitude of change	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible in distant views from high ground, but not totally out of character due to existing development in long distance views.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence.

	The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

4.4 LCA 06 – Upland landscapes surrounding Senghenydd

4.4.1 This LCA is located towards south of the study area, approximately 13km of the site at the closest point.

LCA 06 – Upland landscapes surrounding Senghenydd	
Description	Impact of the development
A charming landscape, features rolling farmland away from urban edges like Nelson, Blackwood, and Treforest. This mix includes rural field patterns, isolated settlements, and urban features like pylons, creating a complex character with a rural yet upland feel. Broad views extend across valleys to the dominating hills of Mynydd Eglwysias and Meio. An open upland ridge offers rough grazing and bracken, with old stone walls and panoramic views over valleys, though pylons slightly disrupt the wilderness. Adjacent urban areas, like the B4263, provide views to uplands such as Mynydd Meio, with moderate traffic noise and recent housing development reducing some aspects of this area's charm.	There would be some localised distant views north of the development from high ground. The valleys would not be affected. There visual detractors in the views.
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Low, due to distance from the site, the limited areas of high ground within the ZTV and existing visual detractors.

Landscape value	Medium due to local landscape designations
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium to low
Magnitude of change	<p>Low to negligible</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> small scale change due to distance and limited areas within ZTV</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible in distant views from high ground, but not totally out of character due to existing development in long distance views.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>
Overall level of effects	Slight adverse to imperceptible (not significant)
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The proposed development would have a negligible direct impact on this unit as it is located outside of the unit. This area is already influenced by the adjacent cumulative schemes. The proposed development is likely to have a negligible impact on this unit due to the separation distance, existing wind turbine influence. The addition of the proposed development to the surrounding cumulative scenario would not alter any characteristic elements of the landscape, as a result of distance and separation. The magnitude of impact is therefore assessed as negligible.</p>
Significance of cumulative effects	The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant cumulative effect.

4.4.2 LCAs 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9 have small, localised areas of high ground within the ZTV, however due to distance and intervening features the development would not affect the landscape character of these LCAs.