

APPENDIX 7.8 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS ASSESSMENT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This appendix uses the baseline information from the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Management Plan and designated landscape descriptions to assess the effects of the development on the landscape designations within the 20km study area.
- 1.1.2 The appendix should be read in combination with drawing 040, 044 and 063, illustrating the extent of landscape designations at national and local levels.

2 STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP)

- 2.1.1 The site is located 3km south of the BBNP. A limited area of the south-eastern extents of the BBNP falls within the ZTV, although these areas contain some of the most iconic peaks of the BBNP mountain range, such as Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn, Table Mountain and The Blorenge. Viewpoints 8 and 13 to 20 illustrate effects.
- 2.1.2 As the Proposed development is located outside of the BBNP, any effects would be indirect. Therefore, only those special qualities which relate to, or have potential to be influenced by, the wider landscape setting and proposed development to the south of the BBNP are considered within this assessment. Special qualities 1, 5 and 8 are such qualities.

ASSESSMENT FOR THE BBNP		
BBNP special qualities	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
1. Peace and Tranquillity	These qualities have already been affected by the adjacent Heads of the Valley Road, large areas of urban development, several industrial estates and existing wind turbines and solar within the upper valleys area. The proposed development would have very little to no impact on the peace and tranquillity of the BBNP given its distance from the BBNP and the existing influence of wind and solar.	Low to negligible
5. Sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty	The proposed development would be visible in a number of views along with exiting wind turbines, electricity transmission lines and towers and adjacent opencast workings.	Medium, Low and Negligible
8. Geographically rugged, remote and challenging	The proposed development would have no impact on these qualities.	Negligible

ASSESSMENT FOR THE BBNP		
BBNP special qualities	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
landscapes.		
Overall susceptibility to proposed changes	Focus is on the landscape from the majority of this area.	Medium to low
Landscape value	Statutory Designation – National Park	High
Sensitivity to the proposed development	Medium	
Magnitude of change	<p>Medium to Low overall</p> <p><i>Size/scale:</i> partial alteration of a limited number of views along the southern edge of the BBNP, due to height of the turbines, but existing site features will be retained and the presence of existing wind turbines and solar farm in views.</p> <p><i>Geographical extent:</i> the development would be perceptible from a relatively small proportion of the overall BBNP and where these views are available, views are generally 360-degree views, open and extensive panoramic views. The proposed development will only occupy a small part of available views.</p> <p><i>Duration/reversibility:</i> The impacts would be long term but reversible.</p>	
Overall level of effects	<p>Moderate adverse (significant) from a limited proportion of the far southern extents of the BBNP. Effects will reduce to slight or negligible (not significant) as distance between the site and the viewer increases and/or when intervening landform and built form screen all or part of the proposed development.</p>	
Cumulative Assessment	<p>The wireline for Viewpoints 13, 14 and 18 illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and operational schemes that are already visible, the in-planning Pen March and Manmole, consented Upper Ogmore, Rassau Industrial Estate, Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, Lleyncelyn Farm, Land at Graig Yr Hufen and Abergorki and scoping Mynydd Y Glyn turbines would also be visible within the same field of view. There are several other scoping schemes theoretically visible but in reality, they will be of a sufficient distance as not to be a notable feature within the view. There would be sufficient distance between the proposed development and all other cumulative schemes for them to be viewed as separate scheme.</p> <p>There will be successive views of the scoping West Monmouthshire Gold Club, Mynydd Maen and Aberillery schemes, in a separate field of view as the receptor turns south. Other operation turbines are at such a distance that they appear as insignificant features.</p>	
Magnitude of Cumulative Effects	<p>The introduction of the cumulative schemes, particularly the Pen March would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in a view already influenced by wind turbine development. When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative scenario, the Proposed Scheme would be perceived as a standalone development and would be located in the</p>	

ASSESSMENT FOR THE BBNP		
BBNP special qualities	Impact of the development	Susceptibility to the proposed change
	<p>middle ground of the view. Pen March would be the more prominent scheme due to it being located much closer to the BNP boundary.</p> <p>The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium to Low.</p>	
Significance of Cumulative Effects	<p>The combined medium sensitivity and medium to low magnitude of change will result in Moderate to slight adverse and not-significant cumulative effects.</p>	

2.2 REGISTERED PARKS AND GARDENS (RPG)

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

- 2.2.1 Only the western extent (part of the former tip and slide area) of the RPG falls within the ZTV. The cemetery and garden of remembrance has no visibility of the proposed site. The former tip and slide area have no public access, and the significant views are either in the opposite direction to the proposed development or fall outside of the ZTV. Therefore, the level of magnitude has been assessed as negligible overall.

Significance of Effect

- 2.2.2 The combined medium sensitivity (high value and low susceptibility to the proposed change) and negligible magnitude of change will result in an imperceptible and non-significant level of effect.

Cumulative Assessment

- 2.2.3 The additional of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline would be barely perceptible. The magnitude of change is assessed as negligible, and the significance of effects is assessed as imperceptible.

Cefn Coed Cemetery & Jewish Burial Ground

- 2.2.4 The far western extents of the RPG fall within the ZTV, although views of the proposed development are heavily screened by intervening landform, vegetation, and built form. There may be glimpsed views of the upper most parts of the turbines, mainly the blade tips between intervening vegetation during winter months. Significant views are in a westerly direction away from the site and from an area

outside of the ZTV. Therefore, the level of magnitude has been assessed as negligible overall.

Significance of Effect

- 2.2.5 The combined medium sensitivity (high value and low susceptibility to the proposed change) and negligible magnitude of change will result in an imperceptible and non-significant level of effect.

Cumulative Assessment

- 2.2.6 The additional of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline would be barely perceptible. The magnitude of change is assessed as negligible, and the significance of effects is assessed as imperceptible.

Cyfarthfa Castle

- 2.2.7 The far eastern extent of the RPG falls within the ZTV, although visibility will be limited to the recreation ground area of the RPG and to distant views of the uppermost parts of the turbines. Intervening landform would screen a large proportion of the proposed development. The Castle itself falls outside of the ZTV and its significant view is in the opposite direction to the site. Therefore, the level of magnitude has been assessed as low to negligible overall.

Significance of Effects

- 2.2.8 The combined medium sensitivity (high value and low susceptibility to the proposed change) and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in a slight to imperceptible and non-significant level of effect.

Cumulative Assessment

- 2.2.9 The consented Pangarddu Industrial Estate and Valley Heights Filling Station and in planning Pen March turbines will be potentially perceptible and would increase the influence of wind turbine development in the available views. The additional of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline would be perceptible, although due to distance and intervening landform the proposed development will not notably add to the presence of wind turbine infrastructure to the view.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 2.2.10 The magnitude of change is assessed as low to negligible, and the significance of effects is assessed as slight adverse to imperceptible and not significant.

Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site (WHS)

2.2.11 Only two small areas of this designation fall within the ZTV, the far western slopes of and summit of Gilwen Hill and The Blorange Both areas fall within the north half of the WHS. As illustrated by Viewpoint 16 (drawing 95) views from these two areas offer open and panoramic views towards the site, taking in the southern extents of the BBNP and northern summits of the Heads of the Valley mountains. The wireline and photomontage indicate that only the blade tips will be perceptible from these locations, in the background of the views. The proposed development would only occupy a very small proportion of the overall view. The Proposed Development would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible in nature. Therefore, the magnitude of change has been assessed as negligible.

Significance of Effect

2.2.12 The combined medium sensitivity (high value and low susceptibility to the proposed change) and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant effects as the proposed development would go largely unnoticed in these open and panoramic views.

Cumulative Assessment

2.2.13 The wireline for Viewpoint 16 illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational developments that are visible, there will be combined views of several cumulative schemes within the same field of view from this location. Successive views of several cumulative schemes as the receptor turns east will also be available. As only the blade tips of the Proposed Development would be perceptible in the background of the view and could easily be missed by the viewer, the magnitude of cumulative effects has been assessed as negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

2.2.14 The combined medium sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not-significant cumulative effects.

3 NON-STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

3.1 SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

Upper Rhymney Valley

3.1.1 The whole of this SLA falls within the ZTV. It's also affords close and open views of the proposed development, such as Viewpoint 1 and 10 (drawings 80 and 89) and

Residential Viewpoint 1 (drawing 100). A large proportion of this SLA is also Open Access land, therefore open and panoramic views of the proposed development will be readily available from a large proportion of this SLA. The magnitude of visual effects ranges from high to low, depending on the viewpoint locations and the amount of intervening landform, vegetation and built form. As the majority of views will be from the more open and elevated areas, there will be minimal intervening landform, vegetation and built form. Although the proposed development would not be incongruous within the views, it would be a notable and prominent additional feature. Therefore, the overall magnitude of effects has been assessed as high.

Significance of Effect

- 3.1.2 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and high magnitude of change will result in an overall **moderate to substantial adverse and significant** effect.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.1.3 The wireline from Viewpoint 10 illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and operational schemes that are visible, the in-planning Pen March and consented single turbines at Pengarddu Industrial Estate and Cwmbargoed Disposal Point will also be seen. The distance between the proposed development and the Pen March and single turbines clearly indicates that they are separate schemes.
- 3.1.4 The introduction of the Pen March would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the view, however, when considering the Proposed Development in addition to the Pen March scheme, the Proposed Scheme would notably increase the influence of turbine development across a wider extent of the view, due to its proximity, therefore increasing effects.
- 3.1.5 The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 3.1.6 The combined medium sensitivity and medium magnitude of change will result in **Moderate adverse and significant** cumulative effects.

Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds

- 3.1.7 The south-west facing slopes of this SLA fall within the ZTV, affording open views of the proposed development. Although Viewpoint 14 falls outside of this SLA, it

illustrates a similar view to that available from parts of this SLA. Most of this SLA is also Open Access land, therefore open and panoramic views of the proposed development will be readily available from a large proportion of this SLA. The magnitude of visual effects ranges from high to low, depending on the viewpoint locations and the amount of intervening landform, vegetation and built form. As the majority of views will be from the more open and elevated areas, there will be minimal intervening landform, vegetation and built form. The Proposed Development would introduce additional features to the view, although they would not be incongruous to the view, due to the existing presence of wind turbine development. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall view and would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible, resulting in a medium to low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

- 3.1.8 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and medium magnitude of change will result in a **moderate adverse and significant** level of effect as the Proposed Development would be noticeable but not dominate.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.1.9 In addition to the proposed development and operational schemes that are visible, the in-planning Pen March and consented Abergorki, Upper Ogmere, Cwmbargoed Disposal Pont, Lleyncelyn Farm and Land at Graig Yr Hufen would be visible within the same field of views as the proposed Development. The scoping Mynydd Y Glyn and Twyn Hywell Energy Park would also be visible in the same field of view.
- 3.1.10 There would be successive views of the in planning Manmole, Mynydd Carn Y Cefn and Silent Valley Wate turbines, consented Rassau Industrial Estate and scoping Mynydd Maen, Mynydd Llanhileth, Abertillery and West Monmouthshire Golf Course turbines in a separate field of view as the receptor turns east. Other operational and cumulative turbines are at such a distance that they appear as insignificant features. The distance between the proposed development and the cumulative turbines clearly indicates that they are separate schemes.
- 3.1.11 The introduction of the cumulative schemes, particularly the Pen March would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in a view already influenced by wind turbine development. When considering the Proposed

Development in addition to the cumulative scenario, the Proposed Scheme would be perceived as a standalone development and would be in the middle ground of the view. Only the upper tower, hubs and blades of the proposed development will be visible due to intervening landform. Pen March would be the slightly more promenade scheme due to it being located closer to the viewpoint.

3.1.12 The cumulative magnitude of change is considered Medium to Low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

3.1.13 The combined medium sensitivity and medium to low magnitude of change will result in Moderate to slight adverse and not significant cumulative effects.

Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan

3.1.14 Only the south-east facing slopes fall within the ZTV, as illustrated on the ZTV (drawing 008). Available views will include open, panoramic views towards the proposed development, with a backdrop of the South Wales Valleys and southern extents of the BBNP. Merthyr Tydfil will be a notable part of the available view. Pylons and several existing wind turbines will be visible within the view, all south of the BBNP boundary. There are no existing Solar PV units in the view.

3.1.15 It is thought that at most, only the upper part of the towers, hubs and blades of two of the turbines and only the blades of the third turbine will be visible in the background of these views. The Proposed Development would introduce additional features to the view, although they would not be incongruous to the view, due to the existing presence of wind turbine development. The proposed development would occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall open view and would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible, resulting in a medium to low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effects

3.1.16 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and medium to low magnitude of change will result in a moderate to slight adverse and not significant level of effect as the Proposed Development would be perceptible but not dominate.

Cumulative Assessment

3.1.17 In addition to the proposed development and operational schemes that are already visible, the in planning Manmole and Pen March would be the most notable cumulative schemes visible. Views of the consented Pengarddu Industrial Estate,

Cwmbargoed Disposal Point and Land at Graig Yr Hufen and scoping Twyn Hywell Energy Park and Mynydd Maen would also be visible. There will also be views of the consented Llwynceilyn Farm, Abergorki and Upper Ogmere and scoping Mynydd Y Glyn to the west. Other operational and cumulative turbines are at such a distance that they would appear as insignificant features.

3.1.18 The distance between the proposed development and the Pen March and Manmole turbines clearly indicates that they are separate schemes.

3.1.19 The introduction of the cumulative schemes may notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the views, which are already influenced by wind turbines. The introduction of the Pen March and Manmole schemes would be the main contributor to this due to their proximity to the SLA.

3.1.20 When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative scenario, the Proposed Scheme would be perceived as a standalone development and although it would potentially increase the spread of wind turbine development across views, they would not be the dominant feature. Therefore, the cumulative magnitude of change is considered Low overall.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

3.1.21 The combined medium sensitivity and overall low magnitude of change will result in moderate to slight adverse and not significant cumulative effects.

Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney & Sirhowy Sides

3.1.22 Only the north-west facing slopes of this SLA fall within the ZTV. A large proportion of this SLA falls within Open Access land so views would be widely available. Available views would be open, extensive, and panoramic over the Rhymney Valley towards the southern extents of the BBNP. Pylons and the operational wind turbines of Bryn Oer and Penganddu Industrial Estate are visible above the skyline. No solar PV units can be seen.

3.1.23 It is anticipated that the upper part of the towers, hubs and blades of all three wind turbines would be visible from this SLA, particularly from the northern extents of this SLA. Along with the three turbines, the Solar Farm would also be visible below the skyline the proposed landscape mitigation measures around the Solar PV units, when matured, will partly screening the solar farm.

- 3.1.24 The Proposed Development would not be incongruous in the view due to the existing presence of wind turbines, and it would only occupy a small proportion of the overall view. Due to the elevation of the views, the receptor would be looking directly into the solar farm, therefore the bulk of the solar PV units would still be clearly visible. However, the proposed wind turbines would be the most prominent element of the Proposed Development and they would become a prominent feature within the available views.
- 3.1.25 The Proposed Development would introduce three large scale wind turbines and a new manmade feature to the view in the form of the Solar Farm. The proposed development would occupy a notable proportion of the overall view and would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible, resulting in a high magnitude of change.
- 3.1.26 It should be noted that the level of magnitude would reduce as the distance between the viewer and the proposed development increased. Views from the southern extents of the SLA are likely to reduce to low to negligible.

Significance of Effects

- 3.1.27 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and high magnitude of change will result in a **moderate to substantial adverse and significant** level of effect, reducing to slight adverse to imperceptible with distance.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.1.28 In addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes already visible, the in-planning Pen March and consented single turbines at Pengarddu Industrial Estate and Cwmbargoed Disposal Point will also be seen.
- 3.1.29 The distance between the proposed development and the Pen March and single turbines clearly indicates that they are separate schemes. The introduction of the Pen March scheme would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the views, however, when considering the Proposed Development in addition to the Pen March scheme, the Proposed Scheme would notably increase the influence of turbine development across a wider extent of the view, due to its close proximity, therefore increasing effects. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be Medium.

3.1.30 It should be noted that the level of cumulative magnitude would reduce as the distance between the viewer and the proposed development increased. Views from the southern extents of the SLA are likely to reduce too low to negligible.

3.1.31 *Significance of Cumulative Effects*

3.1.32 The combined medium sensitivity and medium magnitude of change will result in **Moderate adverse and significant** cumulative effects.

Cefn Manmoel

3.1.33 Only the west facing slopes of this SLA fall within the ZTV. Views would be open, extensive and panoramic, taking in the Heads of the Valleys and southern extents of the BBNP. The site would be viewed in the distance of the available views, which already include man-made structures such as pylons, wind turbines and communication masts. For the most part, only the wind turbine element of the proposed development would be visible. The solar farm would be theoretically visible from the elevated area around Y Domen Fawr. Although it is anticipated at such as distance, the solar farm would be imperceptible from the majority of these views.

3.1.34 It is anticipated that all three wind turbines would be visible from a distance from in this SLA, particularly from the northern extents of this SLA. Along with the three turbines, and from where the solar farm is visible, it would be visible below the skyline. Where perceptible, the proposed landscape mitigation measures around the Solar PV units, when matured, would partly screening the solar farm.

3.1.35 The Proposed Development would not be incongruous in the view due to the existing presence of wind turbines, and it would only occupy a very small proportion of the background in the overall view. In some cases, the proposed development may even go unnoticed due to its distance. The proposed development would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible, resulting in a low magnitude of change, reducing as distance increases.

3.1.36 Views from the southern extents of the SLA are likely to reduce to low to negligible.

Significance of Effects

3.1.37 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and low magnitude of change will result in a slight adverse and

not-significant level of effect, reducing to slight adverse to imperceptible with distance.

Cumulative Assessment

3.1.38 In addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes already visible, the in-planning Pen March and Manmole turbines would also be seen. Particularly the Manmole scheme as its located within the northern portion of this SLA. Several other cumulative schemes will also be visible but Manmole is the nearest and will be the most notable wind turbine development seen from this SLA.

3.1.39 The introduction of the cumulative wind turbines would intensify the influence of wind farm development in the available views; however, it will be the Manmole scheme that is the most influential. These turbines will dominate views and due to their location will be the focus of the majority of views. When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative schemes, the Proposed Scheme would not notably increase the influence of turbine development due to intervening distance. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

3.1.40 The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight adverse to imperceptible and not significant cumulative effects.

Gelligaer and Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed

3.1.41 Only the north-east facing slopes of Mynydd Cilfach-yr-encil and Gelligaer Common fall within the ZTV. Views look over Gelligaer Common and Rhymney Valley towards the Site. Open cast working and notable associated tips form a man-made landscape with a backdrop of the southern extents of the BBNP. Views are open, extensive and panoramic from these elevated areas. Pylons and the operational Pen Bryn oer Wind Farm, Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Rassau Industrial Estate and Former Tech Board wind turbines are clearly visible above and below the skyline and the Land at Cwm Bargoed Solar farm can also be seen. It is anticipated that the upper most part of the towers, hubs and blades of all three wind turbines would be clearly visible from this SLA, although the solar farm would be screened by intervening landform.

3.1.42 Although the Proposed Development would not be incongruous in the view due to the existing presence of several wind turbines and it would only occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall view, it would increase the presence of wind turbine development due to its proximity. The Proposed Development would be of a long-

term (<10 years) and reversible in nature. Therefore, the magnitude of change has been assessed as medium to low and reducing to low to negligible with distance.

Significance of Effects

- 3.1.43 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and medium magnitude of change will result in a **moderate adverse and significant** level of effect from the northern extents of the SLAs, reducing to slight adverse to imperceptible with distance.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.1.44 In addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes already visible, the in-planning Pen March wind farm, the consented Cwmbargoed Disposal Point, Pengarddu Industrial Estate, Rassau Industrial Estate and scoping West Monmouthshire Golf Club turbines will also be visible within the same field of view from a number of viewpoints. Pen March would be the most notable and would be located to the left of the Proposed Development. As the viewer turns to the east, the blade tips of the in planning Manmole and scoping Abertillery wind turbines would also be visible.
- 3.1.45 The introduction of the cumulative wind turbines would intensify the influence of wind farm development in the available views; however, it will be the Manmole scheme that is the most influential. These turbines will dominate views and due to their location will be the focus of the majority of views. When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative schemes, the Proposed Scheme would not notably increase the influence of turbine development due to intervening distance. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 3.1.46 The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight adverse to imperceptible and not significant cumulative effects.

Winchfawr

- 3.1.47 The whole of this SLA falls within the ZTV. Views comprise of Merthyr Tydfil, which generally dominates the fore and middle ground due to its proximity and elevated nature. The BBNP is seen, forming the background and contrasting with the dense urban area and quarry working, and angular tips. Several existing wind turbines are visible within views, above the skyline.

3.1.48 A large proportion of this SLA is also Open Access land, therefore open and panoramic views of the proposed development will be readily available from a large proportion of this SLA.

3.1.49 The wireline for Viewpoint 21 illustrates that only the upper part of the tower, hub and blades of two of the turbines and only the blades of the third turbine will be visible in the background of the majority of views. The Proposed Development would introduce additional features to the views, although they would not be incongruous to the view, due to the existing presence of wind turbine development. The proposed development would occupy a very small proportion of the available views and would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible, resulting in a low to negligible magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

3.1.50 The combined medium sensitivity (medium value and medium susceptibility to the proposed change) and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in an overall slight adverse to imperceptible and not-significant effect.

Cumulative Assessment

3.1.51 The wireline from Viewpoint 21 illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and operational schemes that are already visible, the in-planning Pen March and Manmole, consented Rassau Industrial Estate and Cwmbargoed Disposal Plant and scoping Abertillery schemes would be visible within the same field of views as the proposed Development. Other operational and cumulative schemes are at such a distance that they appear as insignificant features. The Proposed Development would be viewed in front of the operational Pen Bryn Oer.

3.1.52 The introduction of the cumulative schemes, particularly Pen March, would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the available views. When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative scenario, the Proposed development would be partially visible in the background of the view. Only the upper tower, hub and blades of two of the turbines and the blade tips of the third turbine would be visible.

3.1.53 The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 3.1.54 The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight adverse to imperceptible and not-significant cumulative effects.

Merthyr West Flank

- 3.1.55 Only a small eastern section of this SLA falls within the ZTV. The area is heavily wooded, screening the majority of views of the proposed development. From where the proposed development is perceptible, views would be distant and would be limited to the hub and blades of the turbines. The proposed development could be easily missed by the casual observer. Therefore, the overall magnitude of effects has been assessed as negligible.

Significance of Effects

- 3.1.56 The combined medium to low sensitivity (medium value and low susceptibility to the proposed change) and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not significant effect.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.1.57 The additional of the proposed development to the cumulative baseline has been assessed as negligible as the proposed development would only be perceptible from a very small part of the SLA and could easily be missed by the casual observer from these limited locations.

Significance of Cumulative Effects

- 3.1.58 The combined medium to low sensitivity and negligible magnitude of change will result in imperceptible and not-significant cumulative effect.

3.2 THE REGISTERED LANDSCAPES OF OUTSTANDING AND OF SPECIAL INTEREST IN WALES

Merthyr Tydfil

- 3.2.1 Overall, a relatively small proportion of this designation falls within the ZTV. Due to the extensive nature of this designation, views of the proposed development vary from views of just the blade tips, to full views of the wind turbines and solar farm elements. Viewpoint 5 and 21 and Residential Viewpoint 3 (drawing 82), fall within these designations and are representative of the varying types of views available.

- 3.2.2 The largest area of visibility in the western proportion of the designation would be subject to a low to negligible magnitude of change, which would result in a slight adverse and not significant level of effect as the Proposed Development would be perceptible but not dominate.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.2.3 In views from the western areas of the designation, the introduction of the cumulative schemes, particularly Pen March, would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the view due to its visibility. When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative scenario, the Proposed Scheme would be partially visible in the background of the view. Only the upper tower, hub and blades of two of the turbines and the blade tips of the third turbine would be visible. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be low to negligible, resulting in a slight adverse and not significant cumulative effect.
- 3.2.4 The smaller, but closer portion of the designation with visibility would be subject to a medium magnitude of change, resulting in **moderate adverse and significant** effects, as the Proposed Development would increase the presence of wind turbine development due to its close proximity.
- 3.2.5 When considering the Proposed Development in addition to the cumulative scenario from these eastern views, the Proposed Scheme would increase the spread of turbine development across a wider extent of the view, increasing effects. The cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be medium, resulting in **moderate adverse and significant** cumulative effects.

East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog

- 3.2.6 Overall, approximately a quarter of this designation falls within the ZTV and these areas are limited to the more elevated south-western facing slopes. As set out at the beginning of this Appendix, views of the proposed development beyond approximately 10km are deemed not-significant, therefore the vast majority of this designation would be subject to non-significant effects. The small south-eastern part of the designation that falls within 10km of the site is heavily wooded, screening views of the development, resulting in a negligible level of magnitude and imperceptible level of significance. This also applies to cumulative effects.

Gelli-Gaer Common

- 3.2.7 Only a small northern part of this designation falls within the ZTV. This area also includes the Gelligaer and Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed SLA. As set out in the SLA assessment above, this designation would be subject to a medium level of magnitude of effect, reducing to low to negligible with distance. The combined medium sensitivity and medium magnitude of change will result in a **moderate adverse and significant** level of effect from the northern extents of the designation, reducing to slight adverse to imperceptible with distance.
- 3.2.8 Cumulative effects again would be as per the above Gelligaer and Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed SLA assessment. The Proposed Scheme would not notably increase the influence of turbine development due to intervening distance, therefore the cumulative magnitude of change is considered to be low to negligible. The combined medium sensitivity and low to negligible magnitude of change will result in slight adverse to imperceptible and not significant cumulative effects.

3.3 COUNTRY PARKS

Brynbach

- 3.3.1 As per the ZTV (drawing 008) only the western half of the country park has the potential for views of the proposed development. Taken from the southern boundary of the country park, Residential Viewpoint 1 illustrates the typical views of the proposed development available from this designation.
- 3.3.2 The main attractions, such as the lake, sensory garden, café, visitor centre etc do not have views of the proposed development, resulting in a negligible magnitude of effects and imperceptible, not significant effects.
- 3.3.3 Views from the western extents of the will be subject to similar effects as that of Residential Viewpoint 1. Both the wind turbines and solar farm will be visible from this park and although the Proposed Development would not be incongruous in the view due to the existing presence of wind turbines, it would increase the presence of wind turbine development due to its close proximity and the introduction of Solar PV development. The Proposed Development would be of a long-term (<10 years) and reversible in nature. Therefore, the magnitude of change has been assessed as medium, reducing in an easterly direction.

Significance of Effect

The combined medium to high sensitivity (medium value and high susceptibility to the proposed change) and medium magnitude of change will result in a **Substantial**

to moderate adverse and significant effects, reducing to imperceptible and not-significant in a easterly direction.

Cumulative Assessment

- 3.3.4 In addition to the proposed development and operational schemes already visible, the in-planning Pen March and consented single turbines at Pengarddu Industrial Estate and Cwmbargoed Disposal Point will also be seen.
- 3.3.5 The distance between the proposed development and the Pen March and single turbines clearly indicates that they are separate schemes. The introduction of the Pen March would notably intensify the influence of wind farm development in the views, however, when considering the Proposed Development in addition to the Pen March scheme, the Proposed Scheme would notably increase the influence of turbine development across a wider extent of the view, due to its close proximity, therefore increasing effects.
- 3.3.6 The cumulative magnitude of change is considered Medium.

Significance of Cumulative Effect

- 3.3.7 The combined medium to high sensitivity and medium magnitude of change will result in **Moderate adverse and significant** cumulative effects, reducing to imperceptible and not significant as the viewer moves east towards the main attractions/facilities.

Parc Cwm Darran

- 3.3.8 Only a very small slither of the north-west proportion of this park is subject to visibility. Given the wooded nature of this area of the park, views of the proposed development are unlikely to be noticeable and will probably be missed by the viewer. Therefore, the magnitude of effects has been assessed as negligible and the level of significance as imperceptible, not significant. This is also the case for cumulative effects.