



Galileo 03 Ltd.

Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park - Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 8.4 LANDMAP Detailed Assessment

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RSK



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APPENDIX 8.4 – LANDMAP DETAILED ASSESSMENT

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 The assessment of effects on landscape character has been based on the LANDMAP landscape characterisation and in particular the Visual and Sensory aspect areas which cover the Site and surrounding landscape. Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas are identified on **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km** and have been overlaid with the blade tip ZTV in **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**.
- 8.1.2 The main Visual and Sensory aspect area which covers the Site is CYNONVS473 - Mynydd Baedan is considered in detail in the main text of **ES Volume II, Chapter 8: Landscape and Visual**.
- 8.1.3 Part of the adjacent NPTVS897 - Mynydd Bromil & Scarp tops covers the Site, set between conifer plantation along the western Site boundary (CYNONVS731 – Conifer to the west of the study area) and the wooded edges of NPTVS927 - Mynydd Margam (Craig Y Aber Forest). This area that hosts T01 and Parcel 1 of the proposed solar development are assessed below within areas to the west within 5 km.
- 8.1.4 This Appendix provides assessment of the other aspect areas up to 20 km from the Site. Beyond this distance there would be very limited visibility of the Proposed Development and it is considered there is no potential for any significant effects on landscape character.

8.2 Effects on other Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas within 5 km

Areas to the North of the Site within 5 km

CYNONVS884 - Llynfi Valley

- 8.2.1 To the immediate north of the Site, the landform falls steeply down from the route of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk into the tributary valleys of the River Llynfi within the adjoining aspect area CYNONVS884 Llynfi Valley, which also includes the area to the east of the Site stretching north from the urban extents of Bridgend. These incised, well wooded, smaller river valleys include the Nant Cefnydfa and Nant Gwyn to the northeast, which flow either side of an industrial area adjacent to the A4063. The A4063 passes along the valley on route to nearby Llangynwyd. Land continues to fall away eastwards towards Bettws and heading north within the Llynfi Valley before gently rising again to the town of Maesteg directly to the north.

The host visual sensory aspect area CYNONVS473 continues northwards over farmland around Llangynwyd and Maesteg, inclusive of wooded tributaries and substantial woodland blocks with a small-medium scale field pattern subdivided by hedgerows. Maesteg town centre and northern residential areas have less direct visibility of the Site than its southern suburbs due to the intervening topography and woodland. The area to the west of Maesteg is enclosed by conifer plantation woodland (CYNONVS731- Conifer to the west of study area), which continue up slopes of Mynydd Margam (NPTVS927 – Mynydd Margam) to the northwest, then cover a large area of upland rising from 100 m to 350 m AOD. The Ogwr Ridgeway walk continues northwest of the Site, winding its way along forestry tracks to the summit of Mynydd Margam. These areas are assessed as having a predominantly medium value, a high susceptibility to the change proposed and a resulting **medium-high** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.2 Construction activities would be most noticeable on north and northeast facing slopes of the Site which have greater visibility from parts of the wider landscape. Some lower lying areas would be screened by a combination of the valley landform and the wooded west-east tributaries and north/south aspect of the Lynfi Valley. However, cranes used to assemble the turbines would be visible at certain points, such as when turbines on northeast facing slopes are installed, as would elements of the construction activity associated with the development of the solar arrays and substation, resulting in a small scale of change, across a small geographical extent and a **low** magnitude of change. The overall effect would be **minor-moderate** and **not significant**

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.3 During operation, the open and more elevated valley areas would provide opportunity to see all six of the turbines over a fairly wide area, as demonstrated by the ZTVs; although some will appear more grounded where set behind woodland or the rolling landform of the site. Again, some lower lying areas will be afforded more screening and the solar arrays and substation will not be visible, in addition to the turbines, from most areas to the north of the Site. The single exception to this is direct views of solar field E when near the Site, however most of the landscape to the north benefits from topographic and woodland screening of this lower lying area of solar deployment. However, due to the height of the turbines this would not screen the upper mast and blades as demonstrated by viewpoint 4 (Llangynwyd CA). The areas would still be perceived to be wooded slopes, but with turbines beyond. This would result in a large scale of change that would be experienced across a small geographical extent, resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change. The overall effect would be **moderate** and **significant**.

CYNONVS351- Maesteg

- 8.2.4 Directly to the north of the host aspect area, the landform is rolling and falls then rises once more to the upland valley town of Maesteg CYNONVS351- Maesteg.

The town centre is just over 5 km from the Site and has an enclosed setting with woodland along the valley sides and large woodland blocks subdividing the farmed areas and following tributary valleys. The settlement aspect area although fairly distant to the site (>5 km), the aspect area continues to be strongly influenced by its surrounding upland setting, so is assessed as having a low visual sensory value, with a medium susceptibility to change proposed and a **medium** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.5 Construction activities are expected to be largely screened due to the enclosed setting and valley bottom location from most of Maesteg itself. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.30: Screened ZTV Solar and Substation Elements**, the southern end of Maesteg and open areas set away from valley woodlands around the settlement demonstrate the substation and solar development would be theoretically visible. However, northern solar compartment E and all of the southern solar compartments will be screened by the rolling topography of the Site, which removes the potential impacts of these lower-level development elements beyond the immediate setting of the Site. This would result in a **very low** magnitude of change and the overall effect would be **minor** and **not significant** primarily resulting from the introduction of the turbines only.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.6 During operation, and, in particular, in more open areas, or locations aligned to the Site, and elevated valley positions will have views to the turbines as demonstrated in **ES Volume III, Appendix 8.10: Visualisations: Viewpoint 5: Heol Gelli Lenor, Maesteg**. However, many of the valleys such as this host pylons and overhead lines and often include views to distant wind farms, such that the Proposed Development would appear partially integrated with existing energy infrastructure. Foreground and mid ground horizontal woodland elements also assist in grounding the turbines. The nearest of which is c.3.4 km from the viewpoint, creating a **medium** magnitude of change to the existing view which would equate to a **moderate** effect and alteration in character from the change in skyline. However, for the settlement aspect area as a whole, the magnitude of change would be **low** and the effects would be **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, noting that some areas there will perceive a greater degree of change in the landscape, such as those experienced around viewpoint 5.

Summary of Effects on Northern Aspect Areas within 5 km

- 8.2.7 Within 5 km to the north of the Site, landscape effects vary according to the degree of intervisibility and character of the receiving landscape, along with the phase of the Proposed Development. The Llynfi Valley (CYNONVS884) would experience **moderate significant** effects during the operational phase in its more open elevated areas, with effects diminishing in enclosed wooded valleys. Effects would be reduced to no greater than **minor-moderate** during both the construction and decommissioning phases, with large parts of the aspect area

having little or no visibility of the on-site works, or movement of vehicles and staff due to screening by intervening topography or woodland. The urban area of Maesteg (CYNONVS351), as a whole, would experience, at most, **minor-moderate** effects during the operational phase that are **not significant**, with visibility largely restricted to southern suburbs, as the town centre and northern areas benefit from screening provided by landform and woodland. However, more open areas, or locations aligned to the Site, and elevated valley positions will experience **moderate** effects, which are **not significant**. During the construction and decommissioning phases the effects would be at most **minor** due to the limited visibility of the on-site works being undertaken.

Areas to the east of the Site within 5 km

CYNONVS884 – Lynfi Valley, CYNONVS966 – Bettws, CYNONVS349 - Mynydd Llangeknwyr, and CYNONVS148 - Cwm Ogwr

- 8.2.8 To the east of the Site the aspect areas comprise varied landscapes and with varying degrees of intervisibility towards the Site. The following aspect areas found to the east are all of medium visual sensory value and collectively considered to have medium-high susceptibility and **medium** sensitivity, although this does vary between aspect areas and within the mixed landscape areas present in each:
- CYNONVS148 - Cwm ogwr
 - CYNONVS349 - Mynydd Llangeknwyr;
 - CYNONVS966 – Bettws; and
 - CYNONVS884 – Lynfi Valley (**medium-high** sensitivity)..
- 8.2.9 To the immediate east, the landform slopes down into the neighbouring Lynfi Valley (CYNONVS884), one of whose wooded tributaries interlocks with the Site before widening out beyond the immediate setting of the Site. Valleys here are trending northwest/southeast with smaller subsidiary valleys trending approximately north/south rising from the valley floor at 50 m AOD to the upper slopes at 150 m AOD, with gently rolling hillsides opening to the south/urban edge of Bridgend.
- 8.2.10 The degree of visibility towards the Site varies according to topography and levels of woodland enclosure. The valley bottom areas, which follow the course of the River Lynfi to the east, host transport corridors (A4063 and Maesteg Line Railway) and the settlements of Coytrahen (3.1 km to the east) and Llangynwyd (2.5 km to the northeast), which have no or very limited visibility towards the Site. Coytrahen is set well below the Site, outside the ZTV, and would have very limited perception of construction activities, particularly of the solar and substation, but cranes erecting turbines would still be seen having short term and temporary effects, only on landscape character. More open areas, away from settlements of the valley bottom, allow for more extensive views and appreciation of wider character. This is inclusive of the north/northeast facing slopes of the Site, but are predominantly farmland areas with lower levels of public access.

- 8.2.11 Intervisible areas would increase around Bettws (CYNONVS966) at c.145 m AOD, although the rolling landscape screens large parts of the open areas of the Site hosting the solar compartments. The substation, set within the northwest quadrant, would be much less noticeable from these more distant views ranging from 2.5-3.5 km. Construction activities for the lower-level development moving around the Site would appear smaller in scale, with a reduced geographical extent. The cranes erecting the turbines would be more noticeable, but again only when moving between locations.
- 8.2.12 Further east, CYNONVS148 – Cym ogwr is a narrow-enclosed valley with a wooded character, with linear settlement (Llangeinor 3.7 km northeast) lining the valley bottom, such that views towards the Site are terminated by the intervening topography. Beyond this, is CYNONVS349 - Mynydd Llangeknwyr, a relatively narrow valley that interfaces with Bridgend's urban area at its lower southern end.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.13 For CYNONVS884 – Lynfi Valley, CYNONVS966 – Bettws and CYNONVS349 - Mynydd Llangeknwyr the overall change would be short-term, temporary and reversible, resulting in a **Medium-Low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.14 Overall, the effect is judged to be **minor-moderate** and **not significant**.
- 8.2.15 For CYNONVS148 - Cwm Ogwr, a **very low** magnitude of change is anticipated and, using professional judgement, the effects on the landscape character are anticipated to be **negligible** to **no effect**, which is **not significant**.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.16 During operation, the majority of the areas would experience views of all the turbines but with effects reducing with distance. Views of the lower lying solar, and substation elements of the Proposed Development would be more limited than those of the turbines and would also reduce over time as the mitigation planting matures. Views are more complex, comprising several landscape types, such that the turbines would have an overall moderate influence on their visual character. This would result in a medium scale of change and a moderate geographical extent, resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change. Elsewhere to the east, visibility of the Proposed Development would be more limited, such as within Cym Ogwr (CYNONVS148), where the magnitude of effect would be **low**, resulting in, **negligible** to **no effect** at all phases, using professional judgement.
- 8.2.17 Combined with their sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a **moderate** effect to the character in these areas, but with much local variation and effects concentrated to more open elevated areas and outward facing edges of settlements. This would be a **significant** effect, but limited to the introduction of turbines, with the lower level solar and substation development forming much less appreciable change in character and appearing well assimilated within the existing landscape structure of the site and its immediate setting, with the effects of these elements also further reducing as the mitigation planting matures.

Summary of Effects on Eastern Aspect Areas within 5 km

- 8.2.18 Areas to the east, within 5 km of the Site, would experience varying degrees of landscape effect. The Llynfi Valley (CYNONVS884), Mynydd Llangenwyr (CYNONVS349), and Bettws (CYNONVS966) would experience **moderate** operational phase effects that are **significant** in their more open and elevated portions. These effects result from the introduction of turbines that would be visible from west-facing slopes, although the rolling landform and woodland cover would provide screening in lower-lying areas. The landscape would still be perceived to be wooded slopes, but with turbines set beyond. During the construction and decommissioning phases the effects would be at most **minor-moderate** due to the limited visibility of the works being undertaken and therefore limited perceived change in landscape character.

Areas to the Northeast of the Site within 5 km

- 8.2.19 To the northeast of the Site the aspect areas become more elevated moving further afield, which affords these upland areas vantage over the Site and wider ranging views continuing over the lower lying areas towards the coastal landscapes of Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan and Gower. The following aspect areas found to the northeast are of medium visual sensory value and collectively considered to have **medium** susceptibility and sensitivity:

- CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill; and
- CYNONVS813 - Garw and Caerau Forest

CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill

- 8.2.20 To the north-northeast is CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill, which lies above Maesteg to the east and further to the north. The area has westerly facing slopes, set between 150 m and 350 m AOD, and is an equivalent area of upland grazing with views over the site and surrounding urban lowland areas. Garth Hill is the high point at 257 m AOD, which is marginally higher than that of the Site's elevated areas hosting the turbines.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.21 Construction activities will be readily visible across the Site's elevated northeastern facing slopes and central ridge up to 230 m AOD. These would comprise construction of wind and solar access tracks, cranes used in construction of wind turbines T02 to T06 and substation. The southern solar compartments are set below 180 m AOD, such that the rolling topography of the Site is sufficient to screen views from the north over to the far south side of the Site. Coniferous plantation woodland bounding the Site to the west may screen the ground level hardstanding and tracks being constructed for turbine T01, at equivalent levels to Garth Hill. The installation of the solar compartments here may only be visible from the highest parts of the aspect area, i.e., south facing higher slopes and summit of Garth Hill.

- 8.2.22 The scale of the change would be medium, broadly affecting the more elevated southern end of the aspect area with a moderate geographical extent. The impact would be short-term, temporary and reversible, resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.23 Overall, the effect would be **moderate** and **significant**. More elevated areas within the northern parts of the aspect area beyond Maesteg (5+ km) are assessed further in the assessment of aspect areas within 5-10 km.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.24 During operation, all the proposed turbines would be visible. The solar arrays (compartment F) to the north of the Ogwr Ridgeway will, as a result of iterative layout changes, in most situations, not be visible in addition to the turbines from areas to the east of the Site. The lower-level development would closely follow rolling topography and be well assimilated against the woodland backdrop which encloses the western boundary (Craig yr-Aber) and the remaining northern solar compartment E screened by incised wooded valleys cutting into the east of the Site. This element of the Proposed Development would also further reduce in visibility as the mitigation planting matures. The solar area would only partially cover the visible open areas, to the southern end of the Site and south of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk resulting in a minor alteration to ground cover which in most situations will not be discerned due to topographic screening (landscape pattern). As is the case for the host area, the larger change in character would result from the introduction of turbines visible across most of the aspect area and forming new focal points in views looking southwest.
- 8.2.25 The proposed turbines would form a large vertical change but the distance, and the fact views are part of wider panoramas looking over the Site, means whilst prominent, the turbines will moderately alter the receiving landscapes character. The effects would be experienced across a medium geographical extent of the aspect area resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.26 During operation, the majority of the areas would experience views of all the turbines, but with effects reducing with distance. Views are more complex, comprising several landscape types, such that the turbines would have an overall moderate influence on their visual character. This would be a medium scale of change experienced over a moderate geographical extent, resulting in a **medium** magnitude of change from the introduction of the turbines only.
- 8.2.27 Combined with the sensitivity the operational phase would result in a **moderate** and **significant** effect to the character in this upland area, with the effects greater in open elevated areas compared to those enclosed areas of wooded cover, such as within Garw and Careau forest.

CYNONVS813 - Garw and Caerau Forest

- 8.2.28 Portions of this aspect area lie within 5 km of the Site to the northeast. This upland landscape is dominated by coniferous forest with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed. The ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP**

Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints)

indicates theoretical visibility of turbines across portions of this aspect area, but this does not include the screening effect provided by the dense woodland cover, which would also serve to restrict views of the other elements of the Proposed Development. The forest provides a high degree of enclosure for much of the aspect area, with views restricted to forest rides, clearings and edges that happen to be oriented toward the Site.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.29 During construction, effects would be minimal due to the dense forest cover across the majority of the aspect area, with visibility limited to specific locations where gaps in the canopy might permit views toward the Site. The scale of change would be small, affecting only a very small geographical extent of the aspect area where such views might be possible. This would result in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.30 Overall, the effect during construction is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being physically and visually enclosed by coniferous woodland.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.31 Notably, the aspect area already includes Upper Ogmre Windfarm (three turbines) within an open area to the north, which forms an established part of the baseline character. This existing wind energy development means that the proposed turbines would represent an extension of a landscape character influence that is already present, rather than introducing an entirely new characteristic element.
- 8.2.32 During operation, the visibility of the turbines and other elements of the Proposed Development would be highly restricted across most of the aspect area. Even in the theoretical visibility zones shown in the ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**), the actual screening effect of the forest would limit views to occasional glimpses from clearings, forest edges or elevated positions that happen to have gaps in the canopy aligned with the direction of the Site. The presence of the existing Upper Ogmre Windfarm turbines as part of the baseline character further reduces the magnitude of change, as the Proposed Development would be perceived as part of a wider pattern of wind energy development rather than an entirely new influence. This would result in a small scale of change experienced across a very small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.33 Considering the **medium** sensitivity of the area, the **low** magnitude of change due to woodland screening, and the context of existing wind energy development, the overall effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**.

Summary of Effects on Northeastern Aspect Areas within 5 km

- 8.2.34 For areas to the northeast within 5 km, landscape effects vary substantially based on topography and vegetation cover. CYNONVS813 - Garw and Caerau Forest would experience **minor-moderate** and **not significant** effects during construction, operation and decommissioning due to the extensive coniferous plantation providing substantial screening, with visibility highly restricted. The presence of the existing Upper Ogmere Windfarm turbines as part of the baseline character further reduces the magnitude of change.
- 8.2.35 In contrast, CYNONVS811 - Garth Hill, which has westerly facing slopes set between 150 m and 350 m AOD, would experience **moderate** operational and construction phase effects that are **significant**. From its elevated western slopes, the turbines would be clearly visible, forming new focal points in views looking southwest. The **medium** magnitude of change results from the open character of these west-facing slopes and direct alignment with the Proposed Development. While these effects would not fundamentally alter the upland grazing character of Garth Hill itself, they would influence the visual character and qualities of outward views from its western aspects. During the construction and decommissioning phases the effects would be more limited in visibility of the works when compared with the turbines.

Areas to the South of the Site within 5 km

- 8.2.36 To the immediate south, the Site is bound by lower lying aspect areas comprised of a mosaic of rolling lowland areas and mineral workings in various states, including open water bodies and woodland restoration areas, resulting in a variety of enclosed and open conditions over which several public rights of way (PRoW) cross. This provides a highly accessible landscape, although one that widely varies in quality and condition, stretching from Pyle and the village of Kenfig Hill in the southwest to the western extents of Bridgend, namely Aberkenfig and Tondy to the southeast. These settlement areas and the opencast area in its earlier stages of restoration are of Low visual sensory quality and **low** sensitivity (CYNONVS847- Pyle, CYNONVS726 – Bridgend, NPTVS001 - Margam Opencast), whilst CYNONVS151 - Ffordd Y Gyfraith and CYNONVS955 – Cribr are mosaic areas of mixed wooded farmland and rolling lowland of a medium visual sensory quality and a **medium** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.37 During construction, the on-site activities would result in, at most, **low** magnitude of change and a **minor-moderate** effect on the **medium** sensitivity aspect areas (CYNONVS151 - Ffordd Y Gyfraith and CYNONVS955 – Cribr). The corresponding impact on the **low** sensitivity settlement aspect areas (CYNONVS847- Pyle, CYNONVS726 – Bridgend, NPTVS001 - Margam Opencast) to the south would result in an overall **minor** level of effect by comparison.

- 8.2.38 This results in **not significant** effects from the introduction of the Proposed Development on landscape aspect areas to the south of the Site within 5km.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.39 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.30: Screened ZTV Solar and Substation Elements**, despite showing substantial intervisibility of the lower level elements of the Proposed Development to the immediate south, much of the visibility occurs over open water bodies and restored landform areas within the former open cast workings and from the minor road network close upon the Site (New Road to the immediate south).
- 8.2.40 Away from the immediate setting, visibility reduces as demonstrated along the linear settlement of Cefn Cribwr, with the farmland areas in between bound by woodland areas that combine with roadside hedges and treelines to screen the minor road network and settlement, offering few opportunities for views into the Site. This precludes views towards the solar compartments at the southern end of the Site.
- 8.2.41 All turbines will be visible over much of these southern aspect areas within 5 km of the Site, given their scale and as demonstrated by the **ES Volume IV, Figures 8.3 to 8.6 Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** and **Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**. The low value settlement areas CYNONVS847- Pyle, CYNONVS726 – Bridgend, NPTVS001 - Margam Opencast (including Tondy and Aberkenfig set close to the Site) are afforded much higher levels of screening from both woodland (such as Parc Slip southwest of the Site), and intervening built form such that at most a **low** magnitude of change would occur from any glimpsed views from more open areas of the settlement, including from sports and recreation areas where landscape views are not the primary focus.
- 8.2.42 The **medium** value and sensitivity CYNONVS151 - Ffordd Y Gyfraith and CYNONVS955 – Cribwr are also afforded considerable screening from woodland within the mixed farming and intimate smaller scale agricultural landscape to the immediate south of the Site (Ffordd Y Gyfraith) and to the south of Cefn Cribwr (New Road). The main glimpsed views would be aligned north/south along the minor roads of these well enclosed aspect areas, with woodland screening the more valuable and widely accessible interior habitat areas. In most situations, views (where available) would be to the blades and upper portions of the southern turbines towers, and so these would appear smaller in scale as a result, with the lower lying elements of the Proposed Development screened from view.
- 8.2.43 During operation this would equate to an, at most, **low** magnitude of change and **minor-moderate** level of effect on CYNONVS151 - Ffordd Y Gyfraith and CYNONVS955 – Cribwr, with the corresponding effects on the settlement aspect areas (CYNONVS847- Pyle, CYNONVS726 – Bridgend, NPTVS001- Margam Opencast) to the south of a **minor** level of effect by comparison.

- 8.2.44 This results in **not significant** effects from the introduction of the Proposed Development on landscape aspect areas to the south of the site within 5 km.

Summary of Effects on Southern Aspect Areas within 5 km

- 8.2.45 For areas to the south within 5 km, including Ffordd Y Gyfraith (CYNONVS151), Cribwr (CYNONVS955), Bridgend (CYNONVS726), Pyle (CYNONVS847) and Margam Opencast (NPTVS001), landscape character effects range from **minor** to **minor-moderate** during construction, operation and decommissioning and are **not significant**. Despite proximity to the Site, substantial screening is afforded by woodland within the mixed farming landscape immediately south of the Site, intervening built form, and topographical variation. Where views would be available, they would typically be glimpsed along minor roads rather than forming overly dominant elements in the landscape character and relate to the turbines rather than the solar elements.

Areas to the West of the Site within 5km

CYNONVS731 - Conifer to the west of the study area

- 8.2.46 To the immediate west of the Site lies CYNONVS731 - Conifer, which consists of upland coniferous plantation forming the western border of the study area. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km**, this aspect area forms part of larger plantation woodlands extending into the adjacent Neath Port Talbot Council jurisdiction. The enclosed woodland character creates a strong edge to the western boundary of the Site, with the plantation extending from approximately 150 m AOD to over 300 m AOD on the slopes of Mynydd Margam. With reference to the ZTVs (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.30: Screened ZTV Solar and Substation Elements**), theoretical visibility within this densely forested area is significantly limited due to the screening effect of the coniferous woodland, with potential visibility restricted to forest edges, tracks, or clearings facing the site. The aspect area is assessed as having a moderate visual sensory value, a medium susceptibility to the proposed change, and a resulting **medium** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.47 Construction activities would be largely screened from within the forested areas due to the dense coniferous plantation, with visibility limited to the forest edge immediately adjacent to the Site. **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** demonstrates that even the tallest cranes used for turbine erection would have limited visibility throughout most of this aspect area. The scale of change would be small, affecting only a very small geographical extent of the aspect area at its eastern edge, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.

- 8.2.48 Overall, the effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being physically and visually enclosed by coniferous woodland, effectively limiting intervisibility with construction activities.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.49 During operation, with reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** visibility of the turbines would be restricted from most of the aspect area due to the screening effect of the dense coniferous woodland. The theoretical visibility would be significantly reduced by the actual forest cover not accounted for in the bare earth ZTV. From the eastern forest edge, directly adjacent to the Site, there may be views of the nearest turbines (particularly T01), but the solar arrays and substation would likely be screened by the intervening landform and vegetation as shown in **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.30: Screened ZTV Solar and Substation Elements**. This would result in a small scale of change that would be experienced across a very small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.50 The effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, with changes restricted to a very small proportion of the aspect area at its eastern edge.

NPTVS927 - Mynydd Margam

- 8.2.51 To the northwest, NPTVS927 - Mynydd Margam forms a large area of undulating upland plateau covered predominantly by coniferous plantation, rising from approximately 100 m AOD in Cwm Dyffryn to approximately 350 m AOD. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km** this extensive forested area shares a continuous wooded landscape character with CYNONVS731 to its east but extends much further west and north. The ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**) indicates that theoretical visibility of the turbines would be possible across elevated eastern portions of this aspect area, though actual visibility would be significantly limited by the forest cover, which would also largely screen the lower lying elements of the Proposed Development. This area is assessed as having a moderate visual sensory value, a medium susceptibility to the proposed change, and a resulting **medium** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.52 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**, views towards construction activities would be largely screened from within the forested areas. The ZTV indicates that construction activity associated with the turbines might theoretically be visible from elevated eastern portions of the plantation, particularly along the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk that traverses the northern part of this aspect area. The cranes used to erect turbines may be visible above the treeline from such locations, but construction works associated with the other elements of the

Proposed Development would not. The scale of change would be small, affecting a small geographical extent of this large aspect area, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.

- 8.2.53 Overall, the effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being physically and visually separated from construction activities by extensive forest cover.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.54 During operation, with reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**, the turbines may be theoretically visible from elevated eastern portions of the aspect area, particularly from the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk. As demonstrated by **ES Volume III Appendix 8.10: Visualisations: Viewpoints 1 to 15**, Viewpoint 3: Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, (298 m AOD), which is located near the boundary between this aspect area and the Site, the turbines would be visible in relatively close proximity from elevated viewpoints along this route. However, given the scale of the aspect area, the degree of woodland enclosure throughout most of it and the filtering effect of forest cover not accounted for in the ZTV, the turbines and also the lower lying elements of the Proposed Development would have a limited influence on the overall character of Mynydd Margam. This would result in a small-medium scale of change that would be experienced across a small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **low-medium** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.55 The effect is judged to be **minor-moderate** and **not significant** for the aspect area as a whole, though locally significant effects may be experienced along the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk at the eastern edge of the aspect area.

NPTVS897 - Mynydd Bromil & Scarp tops

- 8.2.56 NPTVS897 - Mynydd Bromil & Scarp tops is located within the east of the Site (area of T06). This extends to the west and northwest. NPTVS897 - Mynydd Bromil & Scarp tops consists of exposed upland rolling hillsides, ranging from approximately 250 m to 555 m AOD, with a landcover of rough grazing and bracken.
- 8.2.57 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km**, this aspect area is separated from the Site by the intervening forested areas of NPTVS927 - Mynydd Margam and CYNONVS731 - Conifer. The extensive coniferous woodland within CYNONVS731 acts as a significant visual barrier between this aspect area and the Site. The area is characterised by existing pylons as noted in the LANDMAP description, which already introduce vertical elements into the landscape. This area is assessed as having a high visual sensory value, a high susceptibility to the proposed change, and a resulting **high** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.58 While the ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**) indicates theoretical visibility of fix to six turbines, the actual screening effect of the dense woodland would substantially reduce visibility from most of this aspect area. During construction, activities associated with all elements of the Proposed Development would only be perceptible from limited elevated, east-facing positions that have views above or through gaps in the forest cover. These would be restricted to small areas of the eastern edge of this aspect area. The movement of construction vehicles, formation of access tracks and erection of turbines using tall cranes would only be visible from these specific locations. The scale of change would be small, affecting a small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.59 Overall, the effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**, given the filtering effect of the coniferous plantation and the small proportion of the aspect area affected.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.60 During operation, the turbines would similarly only be visible from limited elevated, east-facing positions. From these viewpoints, the turbines would appear as distant vertical elements partly screened by intervening forestry, which would also screen the lower lying elements of the Proposed Development. Given the filtering effect of the coniferous plantation, the small proportion of the aspect area affected and the distance from the Site, this would result in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.61 Considering the **high** sensitivity of the area but the **low** magnitude of change due to woodland screening, the overall effect is **minor-moderate** and **not significant**.

NPTVS403 - Margam Country Park

- 8.2.62 To the southwest, NPTVS403 - Margam Country Park is a low-lying area of designed parkland with a mosaic of grazed land (deer grazed) and mixed woodland, focused on Margam Castle and Margam Abbey. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km**, this aspect area sits below the scarp slopes to the east and is characterized by a strong sense of enclosure from surrounding woodland and topography. This area is assessed as having a high visual sensory value, a medium susceptibility to the proposed change (due to its enclosed nature), and a resulting **medium-high** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.63 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**, and the enclosed nature of the parkland evident, views towards construction activities would be largely screened by the combination of substantial woodland within the park and the intervening topography, including the scarp slopes to the east. As

demonstrated by **ES Volume III, Appendix 8.10: Visualisations: Viewpoint 1 Margam Park (Access Road)**, some limited visibility may be possible from more elevated eastern parts of the park that face the Site, but these would be filtered by trees. The scale of change would be negligible-small, affecting a very small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **very low to low** magnitude of change.

- 8.2.64 Overall, the effect during construction, using professional judgement, to be **minor** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being visually separated from construction activities by woodland and topography.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.65 The ZTV illustrated in **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints** indicates limited theoretical visibility of the turbines from within this aspect area, primarily from more elevated eastern portions adjacent to the scarp slopes. **ES Volume III, Appendix 8.10: Visualisations: Viewpoint 1 Margam Park (Access Road)** demonstrates the limited visibility from within this aspect area, with the turbines visible but partially screened by intervening topography and vegetation. The turbines would be visible at a distance of approximately 4.6 km, but would not dominate views from within the park, which maintain a strong focus on the designed landscape and historic features. The lower lying elements of the Proposed Development would not be visible from this area. The parkland character would remain largely unaffected due to the strong sense of place created by the historic setting and enclosing woodland. This would result in a small scale of change that would be experienced across a very small geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.66 Considering the **medium-high** sensitivity and the **low** magnitude would result from the limited visibility of the Proposed Development the effect during operation is judged to be **minor-moderate** and **not significant**.

NPTVS543 - Coedhirwaun

- 8.2.67 To the southwest, NPTVS543 - Coedhirwaun comprises attractive low-lying mixed agriculture dominated by grazed land, with woodland blocks and hedgerows creating an enclosed character. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.15: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Classification within 20 km**, this aspect area lies between Margam Country Park to the north and the M4 to the south, at elevations between approximately 15 m and 89 m AOD. This area is assessed as having a moderate visual sensory value, a medium susceptibility to the proposed change, and a resulting **medium** sensitivity.

Effects during Construction

- 8.2.68 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**, and the low-lying position of this aspect area, views towards construction activities would be largely

restricted by the intervening topography and vegetation patterns. The extensive woodland blocks to the northeast (associated with Margam Country Park and the scarp slopes) would screen most direct views from this aspect area. The scale of change would be negligible, affecting a negligible geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **very low** magnitude of change.

- 8.2.69 Overall, the effect is **minor** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being visually separated from construction activities by topography and vegetation.

Effects during Operation

- 8.2.70 The distance from the Site (4+ km), the intervening topography of the scarp slopes and the screening effect of vegetation would ensure that the development would have minimal to no influence on the lowland agricultural character of this aspect area. This would result in a negligible scale of change that would be experienced across a negligible geographical extent of the aspect area, resulting in a **very low** magnitude of change.
- 8.2.71 The effect is **minor** and **not significant**, with most of the aspect area being visually separated from infrastructure during operation by topography and vegetation.

Summary of Effects on Western Aspect Areas within 5km

- 8.2.72 The western aspect areas would experience varying degrees of effect from the Proposed Development. The extensive coniferous plantations of CYNONVS731 and NPTVS927 would largely screen views from within these areas, despite their proximity to the Site, resulting in **minor-moderate** effects during construction, operation and decommissioning that are **not significant** across the majority of these aspect areas. Although locally significant effects may be experienced along the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk at the eastern edge of aspect area NPTVS927.
- 8.2.73 The more elevated and open NPTVS897 - Mynydd Bromil & Scarp tops would experience **minor-moderate** and **not significant** effects during operation, particularly from eastern-facing slopes with direct views toward the development across the intervening forestry. Effects during the construction and decommissioning phases would be no greater than **minor-moderate**. The lower-lying and more enclosed landscapes of NPTVS403 and NPTVS543 would experience **minor-moderate** to **minor** effects during construction, operation and decommissioning that are **not significant**.
- 8.2.74 Overall, landscape effects to the west are predominantly limited to **minor-moderate** levels that are **not significant**. While the upland areas of NPTVS897 would experience some notable changes from the proposed turbines forming new vertical elements visible from elevated eastern-facing positions, the extensive screening provided by intervening coniferous woodland substantially reduces the proportion of the aspect area affected. The landscape is already characterised by energy infrastructure including pylons, and the introduction of the turbines would represent an intensification of vertical infrastructure in localised areas with direct

views toward the Proposed Development. However, the scale of change affecting a small geographical extent of the aspect area, combined with the filtering effect of dense plantation forestry, results in effects that, whilst perceptible, would not fundamentally alter the intrinsic upland grazing character of NPTVS897 as a whole. Effects on Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas 5-10 km from the Site within the ZTV

- 8.2.75 The following paragraphs provide a consideration of the LANDMAP Visual Sensory Aspect Areas between 5-10 km from the Site. In particular the assessment has been provided for those areas with the greatest potential visibility of the Proposed Development, with reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**. Other areas which have limited visibility of the Proposed Development have been excluded from the assessment as there would be no potential for significant effects.
- 8.2.76 The assessment focusses primarily on the proposed turbines, as at these distances the other elements of the Proposed Development would be far less visible and would not contribute and substantive impacts to landscape character beyond that which would arise from the turbines.

8.3 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas 5-10 km from the Site within the ZTV

Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to the North and North East (5-10 km) within the ZTV

NPTVS962 - Mynydd Nant y bar/Mynydd Blaenafan

- 8.3.1 This large area of undulating plateau with numerous small valleys lies to the north of the Site. According to the ZTV, portions would have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During construction, operation and decommissioning, turbines and the associated construction or dismantling would be visible primarily from elevated positions and forest edges representing a **low** magnitude of change, resulting in **minor-moderate** effects that are **not significant**.

CYNONVS813 - Garw and Caerau Forest

- 8.3.2 This upland landscape is dominated by coniferous forest with small areas of rough grazing/open land interspersed. The ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.16: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**) indicates theoretical visibility of turbines across a portion of this aspect area that lies within 5-10 km, but this does not include the screening effect provided by the dense woodland cover, which would restrict views. There would be a **very low** magnitude of change, resulting in a **minor** effect that is **not significant**.

Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to the East (5-10 km) within the ZTV

CYNONVS550 - Mynydd y Aber

- 8.3.3 This steep westerly facing slope area shows good theoretical visibility of five to six turbines on the ZTV. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During construction, operation and decommissioning, turbines and / or cranes would be visible from west-facing slopes representing a **low** magnitude of change, resulting in **minor-moderate** effects that are **not significant**.

CYNONVS142 - Mynydd y Glyn

- 8.3.4 This area of rolling topography with upland character shows substantial theoretical visibility of 5-6 turbines on the ZTV, particularly from west-facing slopes. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, the turbines would appear as part of wider panoramic views, resulting in **medium** magnitude of change and **moderate** effects that are **not significant** due to the filtering effect of distance. During construction, cranes would also be visible, resulting in the same **moderate** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

CYNONVS349 - Mynydd Llangeknwyr

- 8.3.5 The ZTV indicates that westerly facing slopes of this aspect area have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, turbines would be visible from the more open slopes as part of broader panoramic views representing a **low** magnitude of change, resulting in **minor-moderate** effects that are **not significant**. During construction, cranes would also be visible, resulting in the same **minor-moderate** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to the South (5-10km) within the ZTV

CYNONVS790 - Cefn Hirgoed

- 8.3.6 According to the ZTV, this undulating ridge has theoretical visibility of five to six turbines, particularly from elevated areas. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, turbines would be visible from limited elevated areas as distant elements on the northern horizon, resulting in a **very low** magnitude of change creating **minor, not significant** effects. During construction and decommissioning, cranes would also be visible, resulting in the same **minor** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

VLFGGLVS825 - Newton Down

- 8.3.7 This raised plateau at approximately 100 m AOD south of the Site shows theoretical visibility of five to six turbines in the ZTV. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, the turbines would be visible from the northern portions of this aspect area but would form minor elements in wider landscape views, resulting in **very low** magnitude of change

and **minor, not significant** effects due to distance and intervening features. During construction and decommissioning, cranes would also be visible, resulting in the same **minor** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

VLFGGLVS663 - Ogmre and Old Castle Downs

- 8.3.8 The ZTV shows the northern portions of these open downs have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has an outstanding visual sensory value and **high** sensitivity. During operation, turbines would be visible as distant elements from northern parts of the downs, resulting in a **low** magnitude of change creating **minor-moderate** effects that are **not significant** due to distance and the panoramic nature of views. During construction and decommissioning, cranes would also be visible, resulting in the same **minor-moderate** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

VLFGGLVS828 - Between Bridgend and Merthyr Mawr

- 8.3.9 The ZTV indicates that portions of this predominantly farmland area would have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. Views toward the Site would be partially filtered by intervening vegetation, resulting in a **very low** magnitude of change and **minor, not significant** effects during operation, construction and decommissioning.

VLFGGLVS378 - Alun Valley

- 8.3.10 The area is located to the south of the Site and has a **high** visual sensory value and sensitivity. The ZTV shows limited theoretical visibility of five to six turbines from the upper eastern slopes of this narrow confined wooded lowland valley to the south. Due to its enclosed valley character and extensive woodland cover, construction, operational and decommissioning effects would be **no effect** and **not significant**.

Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to the West (5-10 km) within ZTV

NPTVS811 - Margam Scarp

- 8.3.11 This prominent scarp slope shows theoretical visibility of five to six turbines on the ZTV, mainly from upper slopes and ridge positions. The area has a **high** visual sensory value and sensitivity. During operation, turbines may be visible from upper slopes as distant elements but would not affect the defining characteristics of the scarp. The magnitude of change would be **very low**, creating **minor, not significant** effects. During construction and decommissioning, cranes may also be visible, resulting in the same **minor** adverse effect, which is **not significant**.

NPTVS274 - Coastal Dunes

- 8.3.12 The ZTV shows extensive theoretical visibility of five to six turbines across this area of dunes. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, turbines would be visible from elevated dune positions (as shown at **ES Volume III, Appendix 8.10: Viewpoint 10: Kenfig**

Burrows) but would form very minor elements in wide panoramic views. The magnitude of change would be **very low**, creating **minor, not significant** effects. Similar **minor, not significant** effects would occur due to turbines and cranes during construction and decommissioning.

NPTVS799 - Eglwy Numydd Reservoir

- 8.3.13 This reservoir appears to have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines according to the ZTV. The area has a moderate visual sensory value and **medium** sensitivity. During operation, turbines would be visible but as very minor elements within a view already dominated by industrial features. The magnitude of change would be **very low**, creating **minor, not significant** effects. Similar **minor, not significant** effects would occur due to the presence of turbines and cranes during construction and decommissioning.

NPTVS837 - Margam Works

- 8.3.14 The ZTV indicates that the southern portions of this large-scale heavy industry aspect area would have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has a **low** visual sensory value and sensitivity. Construction, operational and decommissioning would result in **very low** magnitude of change, and the corresponding effects would be **negligible** and **not significant**.

NPTVS277 - Margam Moor

- 8.3.15 According to the ZTV, parts of this flat, predominantly cattle grazed land would have theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has a **low** visual sensory value and sensitivity. Construction and operational and decommissioning would result in **very low** magnitude of change, and the corresponding effects would be **negligible** and **not significant**.

CYNONVS920 - Kenfig Sands

- 8.3.16 The ZTV shows that this sandy beach area would have extensive theoretical visibility of five to six turbines. The area has an outstanding visual sensory value and **very high** sensitivity. From this open coastal landscape, the turbines would be visible but at considerable distance, forming minor elements in expansive coastal views, which equates to a **very low** magnitude of change, resulting in **minor-moderate** effects that are **not significant**. Similar **minor-moderate, not significant** effects would occur due to turbines and cranes during construction and decommissioning.

Summary of Effects on Visual Sensory Areas between 5-10 km within the ZTV

- 8.3.17 At distances of 5-10 km within the ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 8.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**) where 5-6 turbines could theoretically be seen, landscape effects are generally limited and primarily related to views of the proposed turbines detracting from the appreciation of the landscape, rather than

the other built elements of the Proposed Development. Most aspect areas would experience **minor** to **moderate** operational phase effects that are **not significant** due to the filtering effect of distance, intervening topography, and vegetation. The Proposed Development would often form a minor element within broader landscape views at these distances. During the construction and decommissioning phases the effects would typically be **minor**, with some **minor-moderate**, due to the more limited visibility of the works being undertaken, when compared with the turbines that would be visible during the operational phase.

- 8.3.18 The ZTV's represent worst-case scenarios showing theoretical visibility based on landform alone. Actual visibility would be reduced by vegetation and built features not accounted for in the bare earth ZTV, particularly in the wooded and developed areas.

8.4 Effects on Visual Sensory Aspect Areas beyond 10 km

- 8.4.1 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 8.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**, theoretical visibility of the proposed six wind turbines in some locations extends beyond 10 km from the Site, particularly to the north, east and south. However, actual visibility at this distance would be greatly reduced by the screening effects of intervening vegetation, built form and subtle variations in landform that are not picked up by the bare earth ZTV model. The other built elements of the Proposed Development would also have limited potential to be seen from these wider aspect areas due to their lower height and scale when compared with the proposed turbines.
- 8.4.2 To the north, glimpsed distant views may be possible from the high ground of the Bannau Brycheniniog National Park and the associated aspect areas (Refer to Viewpoint 15, Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu, BBNP). However, at over 20 km away, the turbines would form a very small component of expansive views and would not be readily noticeable, nor would the other built elements of the Proposed Development, resulting in a **no effect** during construction, operation and decommissioning. Furthermore, existing windfarms in the intervening landscape are already a well-established characteristic of long range panoramic views looking south from the National Park (Refer to **ES Volume III, Appendix 8.10: Visualisations: Viewpoint 15 Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu (BBNP)** and **Appendix 8.6: National Landscape Designations Preliminary Assessment** for effects on the Bannau Brycheniniog National Park).
- 8.4.3 At this substantial distance (over 20 km), the proposed turbines would not materially alter the character or appreciation of the landscape when experienced from within the National Park. The key characteristics that define the landscape value of Bannau Brycheniniog National Park - including its sweeping grandeur, outstanding natural beauty, sense of tranquillity and the intimate relationship between upland landscapes and valleys - would remain wholly intact and legible. The proposed turbines would be perceived as a distant, minor addition to the existing energy infrastructure already visible in long-range southward views across the upland landscapes of South Wales, rather than as a defining or intrusive

element. The visual relationship between the aspect areas landscape character would be unaffected, with the appreciation of these nationally important landscape features (such as escarpments, peaks and valleys) maintained.

- 8.4.4 To the east, glimpsed distant views may be possible from the high ground of the Rhondda valleys. Again, at over 15 km away, the turbines would be barely perceptible, resulting in a **negligible** effect during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 8.4.5 At this distance, the proposed turbines would not alter the appreciation or understanding of the landscape character of the Rhondda valleys and its associated aspect areas. The defining characteristics of this landscape - the steep-sided valleys, ribbon development, industrial heritage, and the dramatic contrast between enclosed valley floors and open upland ridges - would remain fully legible and unaffected. The Proposed Development would not diminish the ability to read and appreciate the strong topographic structure, the historic pattern of settlement and industry, or the cultural identity of these valley landscapes. Where glimpsed, the turbines would appear as distant features on the far western skyline, consistent with the existing presence of energy infrastructure in views across this post-industrial landscape, and would not compromise the appreciation of the landscape's key qualities or character.
- 8.4.6 To the south, long distance views of the turbines may be possible from the Heritage Coast Areas within Bridgend County Borough Council and from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast to the far southeast. At over 15 km away, the turbines would form a small/minor component of wider coastal views, which include existing energy infrastructure, industrial areas, settlement and major roads (motorway and A-Roads) resulting in a **negligible** effect on landscape character during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 8.4.7 The proposed turbines would not materially change the appreciation of the Heritage Coast landscapes and associated aspect areas from within these designated areas. The special qualities that underpin the Heritage Coast designation - including the dramatic coastal scenery, distinctive geology, relationship between coast and sea, and the sense of place derived from the interface of natural and cultural heritage - would remain fully appreciable and undiminished. Views from the Heritage Coast are characterised by the immediate coastal landscape in the foreground, the seascape, and expansive panoramic views inland that already include considerable energy infrastructure, major transport corridors and industrial development. The proposed turbines, at over 15 km distance, would be perceived as part of this existing upland infrastructure context visible in the far distance, rather than as a feature that alters the fundamental character or appreciation of the coastal landscape itself. The immediate landscape setting, coastal character and sense of place experienced by visitors to the Heritage Coast would be maintained, with the appreciation of geological features, coastal landforms and maritime heritage unaffected by the distant Proposed Development.

- 8.4.8 To the west, the ZTV's indicates very limited theoretical visibility at over 10 km distance, restricted to small patches of high ground. Actual visibility from these areas is likely to be screened by intervening vegetation (coniferous plantation woodland) and built form, resulting in a **negligible** effect during construction, operation and decommissioning.
- 8.4.9 Where any glimpsed views of the proposed turbines might occur from elevated locations to the west, these would not alter the appreciation or understanding of the landscape character of these areas. The landscape characteristics - including the extensive coniferous forestry, upland character, and relationship with existing energy infrastructure - would remain clearly legible. The Proposed Development would be consistent with the existing pattern of wind energy development across these upland landscapes and would not introduce a discordant or out-of-character element that would compromise the appreciation of landscape character.
- 8.4.10 In summary, whilst the ZTV's illustrate some long distance theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, actual effects on landscape character and visual amenity would be limited by the effects of distance and intervening screening elements. There would be no significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development on landscape character in the area beyond 10 km from the Site. Importantly, at these distances, the Proposed Development would not materially alter the ability to appreciate, understand or experience the key characteristics, special qualities or defining features of these landscapes. The character of views from these areas is already influenced by existing man-made structures including wind turbines, pylons and urban areas such that the addition of the proposed turbines would not seem out of place or compromise the appreciation of landscape character. The distinctive landscape qualities, sense of place, and defining characteristics of each landscape area beyond 10 km would remain fully legible and appreciable, with the proposed development perceived as a minor distant element that does not alter the fundamental character or appreciation of these landscapes.