

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL: CYP SOLAR FARM

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Appendix 4.6.1 – Methodology and Assessment Tables



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WRITTEN & PREPARED BY

Alex Stappard | Principal Landscape Architect

REVIEWED & APPROVED BY

James Cook | Associate Planner

AUTHORISED BY

Sirius Planning

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1. METHODOLOGY

1.1 Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) Methodology (non-EIA)

Introduction

1.1.1 The methodology for this LVIA is based upon the relevant parts of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013). The assessment focuses on the identification of likely substantial landscape and visual effects, including those that are, positive and negative, direct and indirect, long, medium and short term, and reversible and irreversible, as well as cumulative effects.

1.1.2 For the purposes of clarity, the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000), the term 'landscape' is defined as:

"An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors".

1.1.3 The ELC confirms that the landscape should be considered as a resource in its own right. It provides an integrated way of conceptualising our surroundings and is increasingly considered to provide a useful spatial framework for thinking about a wide range of environmental, land use and development issues. The ELC applies to all landscapes; natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas. It considers land landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes.

1.1.4 Additional guidance has also been taken from the following publications:

- *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment:* (Natural England, 2014).
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, (Landscape Institute, 2019).
- An approach to landscape sensitivity assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management, Natural England, 2019.
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21, (Landscape Institute 2021).
- Landscape Character Guidance for England and Scotland, Topic Paper 9, Climate change and natural forces, the consequences for landscape character, SNH/CA.
- Council of Europe, The European Landscape Convention (2000, ratified 2006) ETS No. 176.

Data Gathering Methodology

Introduction

1.1.5 The evaluation of landscape and visual effects are discussed in separate sections. At the outset of the LVA it is useful to provide a definition of the terms 'landscape effects' and 'visual effects':

- **Landscape Effects:** These consist of the changes in the fabric, character and quality of the landscape which it is predicted would result from the development, *"assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right"* (GLVIA 2013). Consideration is given to how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. The development will have direct and indirect effects on the landscape. Direct effects physically alter landscape elements (directly attributable to the proposed development), whereas indirect effects can affect the landscape character, often away from the site. In order to establish the potential landscape effects the value of the landscape needs consideration.

- **Visual Effects:** These are the predicted effects on views available from publicly accessible areas and residential dwellings i.e. visual receptors and people's general visual amenity. Specific effects result from changing the constituent elements within an existing view. This may be caused by the construction of a feature, or the obstruction, or modification of an existing view. *"assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people"* (GLVIA 2013).

- 1.1.6 The significance (level in non EIA terms) of any landscape / visual effects is a product of the magnitude of any change and the sensitivity of the receptor, which may include the landscape, landscape receptors or people either at home, using the local roads, cycle ways and public rights of way (PROW) network, visiting viewpoints, tourist attractions, and undertaking recreational activities.

Appraisal Methodology

- 1.1.7 The following section outlines the stages in the appraisal of the landscape and visual effects as a result of the proposed development.

Assessing Landscape Effects

- 1.1.8 The potential landscape effects, occurring during the construction and operation period, may therefore include but are not restricted to, the following:

- Changes to landscape elements;
- Changes to landscape qualities;
- Changes to landscape character;
- Effects upon nationally and locally designated landscapes (e.g. Registered Parks and Gardens, Country Parks; and,
- Cumulative landscape effects.

Establishing the value of the landscape

- 1.1.9 The landscape value of a site in its context needs to be assessed as part of carrying out a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The current guidance for LVIA/LVA is the third edition of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3; LI and IEMA, 2013) which states that the value of a landscape should be assessed as one of two components of landscape sensitivity. Landscape value is the 'inherent' component, which is independent of the development proposal, while the other component, susceptibility, is development specific.
- 1.1.10 GLVIA3 recognises that landscape value is not always signified by designation: *'the fact that an area of landscape is not designated either nationally or locally does not mean that it does not have any value'* (paragraph 5.26). GLVIA3 recommends that when undertaking a LVIA/LVA in an undesignated area, landscape value should be determined through a review of existing assessments, policies, strategies and guidelines and, where appropriate, by new survey and analysis (paragraphs 5.27 and 5.28). It is recommended that the process for identifying landscape value outside nationally designated areas is based upon a structured and transparent assessment process including community-based evidence where practical to do so.
- 1.1.11 Reference is also made to guidance in the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 on assessing landscape value outside of national designations which provides a list of value factors and indicators used to determine the value of landscapes. The factors are broadly similar to those taken from Box 5.1 on page 84 of GLVIA3 with the following changes:

- 'Conservation interests' is separated into natural heritage and cultural heritage factors (reflecting the approach in Nature Scot's guidance on local landscape designations and Natural England's
- Guidance for assessing landscapes designated as National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England);
- The term 'landscape condition' is used in place of 'landscape quality (condition)';
- 'Rarity' and 'representativeness' combine into 'distinctiveness'; and
- 'function' is included which addresses the value attached to landscapes which perform a clearly identifiable and valuable function.

1.1.12 The value of the landscape potentially affected by a proposed development is evaluated when establishing the landscape baseline and is judged as being High, Moderate or Low. This is in accordance with paragraph 5.44 of GLVIA3. Landscape value is also referred to in the following section as part of the method for 'Assessing the Level of Landscape Effects'. Factors that can help (but are not limited to) in the identification of valued landscapes are listed in Table 1.1

Table 1.1: Range of Landscape Value Factors and Susceptibility Criteria

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Natural heritage #	Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	Presence of wildlife and habitats of ecological interest that contribute to sense of place. Extent and survival of semi-natural habitat that is characteristic of the landscape type. Presence of distinctive geological, geomorphological or pedological features. Landscape which contains valued natural capital assets that contribute to ecosystem services, for example distinctive ecological communities and habitats that form the basis of ecological networks. Landscape which makes an identified contribution to a nature recovery/ green infrastructure network.
Cultural heritage #	Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Presence of historic landmark structures or designed landscape elements (e.g., follies, monuments, avenues, tree roundels). Presence of historic parks and gardens, and designed landscapes Landscape which contributes to the significance of heritage assets, for example forming the setting of heritage assets (especially if identified in specialist studies). Landscape which offers a dimension of time depth. This includes natural time depth, e.g., presence of features such as glaciers and peat bogs and cultural time depth e.g., presence of relic farmsteads, ruins, historic field patterns, historic rights of way (e.g., drove roads, salt ways, tracks associated with past industrial activity).

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a good physical state both regarding individual elements and overall landscape structure.	Good physical condition/ intactness of individual landscape elements (e.g., walls, parkland, trees) Good health of elements such as good water quality, good soil health Strong landscape structure (e.g., intact historic field patterns) Absence of detracting/ incongruous features (or features are present but have little influence)
Associations #	Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.	Associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to perceptions of the landscape. Associations with science or other technical achievements. Links to a notable historical event. Associations with a famous person or people.
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity.	Landscape character that has a strong sense of place (showing strength of expression of landscape characteristics). Presence of distinctive features which are identified as being characteristic of a particular place. Presence of rare or unusual features, especially those that help to confer a strong sense of place or identity. Landscape which makes an important contribution to the character or identity of a settlement. Settlement gateways/approaches which provides a clear sense of arrival and contribute to the character of the settlement (may be ancient/historic).

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Recreational #	Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important.	Presence of open access land, common land and public rights of way (particularly National Trails, long distance trails, Coastal Paths and Core Paths) where appreciation of landscape is a feature. Areas with good accessibility that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and spiritual experience/ inspiration. Presence of town and village greens. Other physical evidence of recreational use where experience of landscape is important. Landscape that forms part of a view that is important to the enjoyment of a recreational activity.
Perceptual (Scenic) #	Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense.	Distinctive features, or distinctive combinations of features, such as dramatic or striking landform or harmonious combinations of land cover. Strong aesthetic qualities such as scale, form, colour and texture Presence of natural lines in the landscape (e.g., natural ridgelines, woodland edges, river corridors, coastal edges). Visual diversity or contrasts which contributes to the appreciation of the landscape. Memorable/ distinctive views and landmarks, or landscape which contributes to distinctive views and landmarks.
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity) #	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies.	High levels of tranquillity or perceptions of tranquillity, including perceived links to nature, dark skies, presence of wildlife/ birdsong and relative peace and quiet. Presence of wild land and perceptions of relative wildness (resulting from a high degree of perceived naturalness, rugged or otherwise challenging terrain, remoteness from public mechanised access and lack of modern artefacts). Sense of remoteness, seclusion or openness. Dark night skies. A general absence of intrusive or in harmonious development, land uses, transport and lighting.

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Functional	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscapes and landscape elements that contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g., natural hydrological systems/ floodplains, areas of undisturbed and healthy soils, areas that form carbon sinks such as peat bogs, woodlands and oceans, areas of diverse landcover (benefits pest regulation), pollinator-rich habitats such as wildflower meadows. Areas that form an important part of a multifunctional Green Infrastructure network. Landscapes and landscape elements that have strong physical or functional links with an adjacent national landscape designation or are important to the appreciation of the designated landscape and its special qualities.

- 1.1.14 Following consideration of the value indicators, landscape value is classified as either, High, Medium or Low, based on the criteria set out in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Landscape Value Classification

Value	Sub Value	Typical criteria, scale and examples.
High	Exceptional	Very high importance and rarity, no or limited potential for substitution. International, national importance. World Heritage Site, National Park, AONB.
	High	High importance and rarity, limited potential for substitution. National importance. National Park, AONB, AGLV. Important to the setting of a registered historic park and garden. Presents locally important landscape characteristics or scenic value; or Presents important public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
Medium	Medium	Medium importance and rarity, limited potential for substitution. Regional and local scale. Undesignated but value expressed through nonofficial publications or demonstrable use. Lies wholly or partially within a designated landscape but where localised character and scenic value is less distinctive or has become degraded. Lies adjacent to a designed landscape. Presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. Presents some public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
Low	Low	Low importance and rarity at local scale. Areas identified as having some redeeming feature(s) and possibly identified for improvement. Does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape. Does not present locally important / distinctive landscape characteristics or scenic interest / value. Does not present important public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
	Very Low	Low importance and rarity at local scale. Areas identified for recovery, restoration and enhancement.

Assessing the level of landscape effects

- 1.1.15 Landscape effects, for each identified landscape receptor, are established through combination of (i) the sensitivity of the landscape receptor and (ii) the magnitude of effect.

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.1.16 Landscape receptors are assessed in terms of their sensitivity combining judgements of their **susceptibility** to the type of change or development proposed and the **value** attached to the landscape. Sensitivity is specific to the particular project or development that is being proposed and to the location in question.

Susceptibility to change

- 1.1.17 Susceptibility in considering landscape sensitivity considers the ability of a defined landscape (or visual receptor) to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences. This means *“the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality / condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies”*. (GLVIA 2013). Susceptibility to change should not be recorded as part of the landscape baseline but it should be considered as part of the appraisal of effects.

Table 1.3: Landscape and Visual Susceptibility Criteria, Thresholds and Indicators

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Landscape		
Landform	Landscapes with a high degree of landform intricacy and topographical variation (e.g., escarpments and foothills, valleys and ridges). Consider whether development would interrupt the relationship between distinctive landform features such as escarpments, prominent hills or open landscapes. Skyline character affected.	Simple, large scale or predominantly flat landscapes. Little topographical variation.
Landscape pattern / landcover / scale	Landscapes with a small scale, complex and highly intricate and/or varied landscape pattern arising from landcover elements including settlement, field pattern or vegetation cover. Established or intact landscapes with appreciable time depth and legibility.	Large scale pattern, simple regular or rectilinear. Little sense of time depth or legibility. Landscapes enclosed by buildings, trees and woodlands offer more opportunity to accommodate development without affecting landscape character.
Settlement character and pattern/existing development edges	Settlement pattern provides a strong contribution to or is a key characteristic of its character area. Very intact, legible historic pattern and consistent materials palette. Strong, well-integrated edges- refer to materials, planting, landform.	Poor relationship of settlement with its landscape. Very weak, open, exposed or poorly integrated settlement edges with detracting elements. Consider whether potential development would integrate with the general settlement form/pattern and how it may affect the character of the existing settlement edge and the functional relationship.

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Intactness of field boundaries	Highly intact (hedgerows, stone walls or fences) helping to screen development but also susceptible to loss or degradation from development. Historic hedgerows with protection are particularly susceptible to loss. Valued semi-natural habitats present such as woodland and hedgerows with good levels of connectivity	Disjointed or degraded field boundaries, large simple arable fields with poor framework or loss of boundaries. Poor sense of legibility and historic time depth. Lack of notable or valued habitats/natural boundaries such as woodlands and hedgerows
Tranquillity	Landscape has a strong sense of tranquillity, where development is likely to result in disturbance or loss of rural nature/qualities.	Low levels of tranquillity, proximity to urbanising or infrastructure influences such as busy road and rail corridors
Visual		
General visibility/ types of views/ intervisibility/	Open landscape with extensive inward and outward views. Strong visual relationship of the land parcel between existing landscape and settlement edge or high degree of intervisibility/forming a backdrop to nearby areas of landscape sensitivity such as AONB, Special Landscape Area, Heritage asset. Landscape associated with approaches/gateways to sensitive landscapes or settlement.	Highly visually contained landscape with limited inward or outward views. Maybe presence of visual detractors which reduce susceptibility and increase capability of accommodating development with its surroundings. Views short range contained by vegetation, development or landform.
Skylines/focal points	Highly visible skylines with notable features or rural qualities or attractive skylines forming a backdrop to settlement. Presence of prominent or distinctive historic features such as hilltop monuments, church spires/towers or historic villages. Land parcel forming part of or visually linked to a distinctive skyline.	Larger scale or predominantly flat developments. Set down with existing modern development dominating the skyline.

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Scenic quality	High scenic quality or landscape characteristics which form the setting of highly susceptible landscapes. Development would result in a loss of integrity or disturbance to the landscape	Landscape strongly influenced by man-made urbanising features or activities. Low quality views/scenery with no notable characteristics
Typical Receptors	This is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing a view at a particular location, and therefore the extent to which their attention or interest may be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience. The most susceptible receptors are residents, communities, people engaged in outdoor recreation or where the landscape is part of the experience. Visitors to landscape whose interest is focussed on natural and built heritage assets and users of scenic routes.	Transport users (particularly of high-speed roads) are usually considered less susceptible receptors unless the road is a scenic route or important gateway.
Access/visitor numbers	Large number of sensitive visual receptors with a SUBSTANTIAL number in close proximity to the site or if distant with direct and open views towards it from sensitive raised vantage points such as elevated hills. Highly accessible with well-connected public rights of way network that results in higher susceptibility	Low numbers of sensitive visual receptors reducing susceptibility to development. Low levels of public access with few/no views or intervisibility with the land parcel.

- 1.1.18 Following consideration of the landscape and visual susceptibility criteria, thresholds and indicators relevant to the proposed development taken from Table 1.1, landscape susceptibility is classified as either, High, Medium or Low, based on the criteria set out in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4: Guidelines Indicating the Susceptibility of Landscape Character to Change

Susceptibility	Description
Very High	Key characteristics of the landscape highly vulnerable to the proposal and the development could not be accommodated without a substantial change in character, leading to a new character.
High	Key characteristics are vulnerable to the proposal, and it is likely that the development could not be accommodated without a substantial change in character.
Medium	Some characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to the proposal, but in general the landscape could accommodate the development without a substantial change in the character.
Low	The development is only likely to have a minor influence on the key characteristics and the landscape could accommodate the development without a substantial change in character.
Negligible	The development is not likely to influence the key characteristics and the landscape could accommodate the development with no change in character.

Value of the Landscape Receptor

- 1.1.19 The value of the landscape receptors is established during the baseline covering:
- The value of the landscape character types / areas or landscape receptor that may be affected, based on a review of designations at both a national and local levels, and, where there are no designations, judgments based on criteria that can be used to establish landscape value;
 - The value of individual contributors to landscape character, especially the key characteristics, which may include individual elements of the landscape, particular landscape features, notable aesthetic, perceptual or experiential qualities, and combinations of these contributors.
- 1.1.20 There can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change. This is especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. For example:
- An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically, or by definition, have high susceptibility to all types of change. It is possible to have a low susceptibility to change resulting from a particular type of development, by virtue of the characteristics of the landscape and nature of the proposal.
 - The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

Magnitude of Landscape Effect

- 1.1.21 Effects of development upon landscape receptors need to be assessed in terms of its scale of effect, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

Scale of effect

1.1.22 Judgements on the scale of change in the landscape that is likely to be experienced as a result of each effect. The effect of both loss or addition of new features may be judged as major, moderate, minor or none, taking account of:

- The extent of landscape elements that will be lost, proportion of total extents and contribution of elements to the landscape character;
- The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or addition of new ones; and
- Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

Geographical Extent

1.1.23 This is distinct from the size / scale of effect, there may, for example, be moderate loss of landscape elements over a large geographical area, or a major addition affecting a very localised area. In general, effects may have an influence at the following scales, although this varies due to the nature of the project, and all are not always relevant on every occasion:

- At the site level, within the development site itself;
- At the level of the immediate setting of the site;
- At the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies;
- On a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas.

Duration of Landscape Effect

1.1.24 Duration can be judged on the scale such as short term, medium term or long term, where, for example, short term might be zero to five years, medium term five to ten years and long term ten to twenty-five years. There is no fixed rule on this definition however (GLVIA 2013). When duration is included in an appraisal of effects, the assumptions behind the judgement must be made clear.

Reversibility of effect

1.1.25 Reversibility is a judgement about the prospects and the practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation. Some forms of development, like housing, can be considered permanent however other developments such as wind turbines are considered to be reversible since they have a limited and defined life span (c.25 years) and they can be removed and land reinstated.

1.1.26 Consideration of the effect of the development upon the landscape resource is assessed through professional judgment, based on (i) the sensitivity of receptors and (ii) the magnitude of the predicted effects. (GLVIA 2013).

Landscape Sensitivity and Magnitude

1.1.27 The evaluation of landscape sensitivity and magnitude are described in the following table and the level of an effect is determined by the consideration of sensitivity and magnitude of change.

Table 1.5: Landscape Sensitivity and Magnitude

Landscape Sensitivity Categories	
High	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses where through consideration of the landscape resource and value they would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • High value landscapes, protected at an international or national level (World Heritage Site/Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). However aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at a local scale. • Areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations. • Likely to contain features that are rare and could not be replaced. • Landscape elements with a high susceptibility to change, unable to accommodate proposed development without undue consequences.
Medium	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • Medium value landscape protected at a local level (Area of Important Landscape Value) or at a non-designated local level. • Where there is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use, perception or historic / cultural associations. • Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. • Likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced. • Landscape elements with a medium susceptibility to change, partly able to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences.
Low	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • Lower value and non-designated landscapes. • Comprised of features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, indistinct character with little or no sense of place.

- Containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic / cultural associations. - Likely to contain few, if any, features or elements that could not be replaced. - Landscape elements with a low susceptibility to change, able to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences.	
Magnitude of Change Categories	
High	Total loss or substantial alteration to key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline or introduction of uncharacteristic elements which would give rise to a fresh characterising effect.
Medium	Partial loss or moderate alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape but which could co-characterise parts of the landscape.
Low	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape or may not lead to a characterising or co-characterising effect.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or the introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic of the surrounding landscape. Change would be barely distinguishable approximating to no change.
No Change	No noticeable loss, damage or alteration to character or features or elements.

Level (Significance in EIA) of Landscape Effect

- 1.1.28 The level of effect is determined by consideration of landscape sensitivity and the magnitude of change.
- 1.1.29 In accordance with paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 of GLVIA 3rd Edition it is acknowledged that the historic use of a matrix, a formulaic approach, led to the same weighting of level of effect (significance in EIA terms) levels which were not always appropriate. The following criteria are therefore provided to assist in determining the level of effect. The table applies typical criteria to each level of effect however it should be noted that different scenarios of landscape value, sensitivity, susceptibility to change, scale of effect, geographical extent, and reversibility of effects could apply to influence significance as discussed in the appraisal. The criteria are typical examples, intermediate levels (e.g. Moderate - Minor) may apply and all effects are clearly explained.

Table 1.6: Typical criteria for determining the overall level of landscape effects

Level (Significance in EIA terms) of Landscape Effect	Typical Criteria
Severe	The proposal would: • Be at complete variance with the character (landform, scale, and pattern) of the landscape, both locally and at a wider scale. • Permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting. • Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be permanently changed. • Cause a sense of place to be lost. • Indicates an effect that is very important in the planning decision making process.
Major	The proposal would: • Be at considerable variance with the character (landform, scale, and pattern) of the landscape. • Degrade or diminish the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and /or their setting. • Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be markedly changed. • Large effect within the context of the wider area. • Cannot be fully mitigated and may cumulatively amount to a 'substantial' effect. • Damage a sense of place. • Indicates an effect that is, in itself, material in the planning decision making process.
Moderate	The proposal would: • Conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. • Have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements. • Cause a medium value / medium susceptible to change landscape to be markedly changed.

	• Noticeable effect within the context of the wider area. • Diminish a sense of place. • Indicates a noticeable effect that is not, in itself, material in the decision-making process.
Minor	The proposal would: • Not quite fit into the landform and scale of the landscape. • Affect an area of recognised landscape character of medium to low value / susceptibility to change. • Limited effect within the local context. • Affect an area of undistinctive sense of place. • Indicates that effect that is trivial in the planning decision making process.
Neutral	The proposal would: • Complement the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape. • Maintain / un-affect existing landscape policy. • Result in a degree of change so small as to have little or no effect upon landscape receptors of low sensitivity. • Indicates an effect that is akin to no change and is thus not relevant to the planning decision making process.

1.1.30 For this appraisal, 'Substantial' landscape and visual effects resulting from the proposed development would be all those effects that result in a 'Severe' or a 'Major' effect and any exceptions would be clearly explained. There may, for example, be exceptions in the case of lower magnitudes of change affecting receptors of higher landscape and or visual sensitivity leading to a Major effect. Substantial effects are not necessarily adverse effects or unacceptable.

1.1.31 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. Moderate-Minor, this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases the higher range is always given first, but this does not mean the impact is closer to that higher rating but done to facilitate the identification of effects within tables. A Major-Moderate effect can be either substantial or not substantial and dependent upon locally specific factors which will be clearly explained.

1.1.32 The conclusion that some effects are 'substantial' must not be taken to imply that the development should warrant refusal. As with many aspects of landscape and visual appraisal, the level of the effect also needs to be qualified with respect to the scale over which it is felt and the type or nature of the effect. An effect may be locally substantial, or substantial with respect to a small number of receptors, but not substantial when judged in a wider context, considered with other potential effects and

benefits.

- 1.1.33 A final statement summarising the substantial effects will be provided distinguishing between substantial effects that are likely to influence the eventual decision and those that may be of a lesser concern.

Nature of Landscape Effect

- 1.1.34 This LVIA does not state explicitly whether the effects of the development on landscape and visual amenity is adverse, neutral or beneficial, however it is acknowledged in the GLVIA 2014 state that professional opinion should be applied, and a positive or negative judgement applied (Para 5.37 and 6.29).
- 1.1.35 It is commonly accepted that the nature (or valency) of effects of a development is subjective based upon the attitude of the individual and public opinion should also be considered. All responses are equally valid and will affect the perceptual aspects of landscape character. In examining landscape effects, it is not realistic to ignore public opinion (nor the likelihood that professionally qualified landscape architects may have differing positions).
- 1.1.36 In accordance with GLVIA a precautionary approach is taken so although the nature of effects is not stated within the appraisal, effects would be negative unless stated otherwise. The precautionary approach of negative effects should be considered with the caveat that the valency of effect must always be considered by the decision makers, the approach should not be concluded to be the final judgement and it should be acknowledged that many people would see the development as either a positive or neutral addition.

Assessing Visual Effects

- 1.1.37 The appraisal of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. Consideration is given to assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.
- 1.1.38 The visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view; at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:
- Visual obstruction: Physical obstruction or blocking of a view, only likely to occur close to the development or within the development site boundary;
 - Visual effect: a change to an existing view, views or wider visual amenity as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view;
 - Visual amenity: The overall visual amenity of an area may be affected to the extent that the visual appearance of a particular visual setting, or 'sense of place' of a particular location, such as a settlement or individual property, could be altered by a development. Effects on visual amenity of key locations are considered in the context of landscape change and may also be either negative or positive; and
 - Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect.

Assessing the level (significance in EIA terms) of visual effects

- 1.1.39 Visual effects, for each identified visual receptor, are established through combination of (i) the sensitivity of the visual receptor and (ii) the magnitude of visual effect.

1 - Visual Receptor Sensitivity

- 1.1.40 The sensitivity of visual receptors (people) is assessed in terms of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the particular views. Sensitivity is specific to the particular project or development that is being proposed and to the location and view in question.

Susceptibility to change

- 1.1.41 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

- 1.1.42 The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:

- Residents at home;
- People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and particular views;
- Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, whose views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience; and
- Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.

- 1.1.43 Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes, awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.

- 1.1.44 The visual receptors likely to be least sensitive to change include:

- People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and
- People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although to be judged on case-by-case basis as there may on occasion be cases where views are important to the setting and quality of working life).

- 1.1.45 The division in levels of susceptibility to change is a gradual one; each project should consider the nature of the groups of people who will be affected and the extent to which their attention is likely to be focused on views and visual amenity. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is recorded as high, medium or low. (GLVIA 2013).

Value attached to views

- 1.1.46 When considering the susceptibility of visual receptors to change additional judgements should be made about the value attached to the views experienced, this should take account of:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to designed landscapes, or through planning designations;
- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks, tourist maps or through the provision of facilities for their enjoyment (e.g. parking / viewing areas, interpretation material and references in literature / art. (GLVIA 2013)

2 - Magnitude of Visual Effects

- 1.1.47 Effects of development upon landscape receptors need to be assessed in terms of its scale of effect, the **geographical extent** of the area influenced, and its **duration and reversibility**.

Scale of effect

- 1.1.48 Judging the magnitude of the visual effects identified needs to take account of:
- The scale of the change in view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the development;
 - The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture;
 - The nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses.

Geographical extent

- 1.1.49 The geographical extent of a visual effect will vary with different viewpoints and is likely to reflect:
- the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;
 - the distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development;
 - the extent of area over which changes would be visible.

Duration and reversibility of visual effects

- 1.1.50 As with landscape effects these are separate but linked considerations. Similar categories are used, short term, medium term or long term, provided that their meaning is clearly stated with criteria for the lengths of time encompassed in each case. (GLVIA 2013).

Visual Sensitivity and Magnitude

- 1.1.51 The evaluation of visual sensitivity and magnitude are described in the following table, the level of an effect is determined by the consideration of sensitivity and magnitude of change.

Table 1.7 Visual Receptor Sensitivity and Magnitude

Definition of Visual Receptor Sensitivity (Susceptibility to change) Categories	
High	Residents. Users of outdoor recreational facilities including footpaths, cycle ways and recreational (scenic) road users. People experiencing views from important landscape features of physical, cultural or historic interest, beauty spots and picnic areas.

Medium	Road users and travellers on trains experiencing views from transport routes. People engaged in outdoor sport that involves an appreciation of the landscape. Schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas.
Low	Workers, users of facilities and commercial buildings (indoors) experiencing views from buildings, where setting is not important to the quality of working life. People engaged in outdoor sport / recreation that does not involve / depend upon an appreciation of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	
High	Substantial change, where the proposals would have a defining influence on the view. Change very prominent leading to a substantial obstruction or complete change in character and composition of the baseline existing view.
Medium	Moderate change in view, occurs where the proposals would be clearly noticeable and an important new element in the view. It may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline existing view.
Low	The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in limited or minor changes to the view. The character and composition, although altered will be similar to the baseline existing situation.
Negligible	Change would be barely perceptible. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.

Level (Significance in EIA terms) of Visual Effect

- 1.1.52 The level of effect is determined by consideration of the visual receptor sensitivity and magnitude of visual change.
- 1.1.53 In accordance with paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 of GLVIA 3rd Edition it is acknowledged that the historic use of a matrix, a formulaic approach, led to the same weighting of levels which were not always appropriate. The following criteria are therefore provided to assist in determining the level of effect. The table assigns typical criteria to each level however it should be noted that the different scenarios of susceptibility to change, value of the view, sensitivity of the receptor location, size, geographical extent and reversibility of effects could apply to influence effects as described in the appraisal. The criteria in the following table are provided as typical examples only, intermediate levels (e.g. Moderate-Minor) may apply and all effects will be clearly explained.

Table 1.8 Typical criteria for determining the overall level of visual effects.

Level (Significance in EIA terms) of Visual Effect	Typical Criteria
Severe	The proposal would: • Cause the permanent loss of views from a high sensitivity / susceptibility to change receptor and / or experienced by a very large number of people, and; • Constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view, totally out of character with the existing situation. Indicates an effect that is very important in the planning decision making process.
Major	The proposal would: • Cause a substantial deterioration to a view from a high sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor, and; • Constitute a major discordant feature in the view. Indicates an effect that is, in itself, material in the planning decision making process.
Moderate	The proposal would: • Cause a noticeable deterioration to a view, but not dominating from a medium sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor, • Be experienced by a medium number of people, and; • Constitute a moderate discordant feature in the view. Indicates a noticeable effect that is not, in itself, material in the decision-making process.
Minor	The proposal would: • Cause a barely noticeable deterioration to a view from a low sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor. • Be experienced by a small number of people, and; • Constitute a minor discordant feature in the view. Indicates that effect that is trivial in the planning decision making process.
Neutral	The proposal would: • Result in no discernible deterioration (or improvement) to the existing view;

	Be experienced by a very small number of people, visual receptors would be of low sensitivity to the changes. Indicates an effect that is akin to no change and is thus not relevant to the planning decision making process.
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1.1.54 For this appraisal, 'Substantial' visual effects resulting from the development would be all those effects that result in a 'Severe' or a 'Major' effect and any exceptions would be clearly explained. There may, for example, be exceptions in the case of lower magnitudes of change affecting receptors of higher sensitivity leading to a Major effect. Substantial effects are not necessarily adverse effects or unacceptable.

1.1.55 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. Moderate-Minor, this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases the higher range is always given first, but this does not mean the impact is closer to that higher rating but done to facilitate the identification of effects within tables. A Major-Moderate effect can be either substantial or not substantial and dependent upon locally specific factors which will be clearly explained.

1.1.56 A final statement summarising the substantial effects will be provided distinguishing between substantial effects that are likely to influence the eventual decision and those that may be of a lesser concern.

Nature of Visual Effect

1.1.57 This LVA does not state explicitly whether the effects of the development on landscape and visual amenity is adverse, neutral or beneficial, however it is acknowledged the GLVIA 2014 state that professional opinion should be applied, and a positive or negative judgement applied (Para 5.37 and 6.29).

1.1.58 It is commonly accepted that the nature (or valency) of effects of a development is subjective based upon the attitude of the individual and public opinion should also be considered. All responses are equally valid and will affect the perceptual aspects of visual amenity. In examining visual effects, it is not realistic to ignore public opinion (nor the likelihood that professionally qualified landscape architects may have differing positions).

1.1.59 In accordance with GLVIA a precautionary approach is taken so although the nature of effects is not stated within the appraisal, effects would be negative unless stated otherwise. The precautionary approach of negative effects should be considered with the caveat that the valency of effect must always be considered by the decision makers, the approach should not be concluded to be the final judgement and it should be acknowledged that many people would see the development as either a positive or neutral addition.

1.1.60 It should be reiterated that although the LVA has considered visual effects from a number of viewpoints, including some from residential properties, planning law confers no right of view. Accordingly, a finding that there may be adverse effect upon a view would not be, of itself, capable of justifying a decision to grant or refuse planning permission.



2. LANDMAP ASPECT AREAS

2.1 National Landscape Character

- 2.1.1 LANDMAP (Natural Resources Wales) details the Welsh national level approach to landscape assessment. It is a GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.
- 2.1.2 LANDMAP is formally recognised in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2012) as the starting point for landscape assessments in Wales. LANDMAP provides information for all of Wales' landscapes apart from the built-up areas of Cardiff and Swansea. LANDMAP GN 46 discusses the use of LANDMAP in LVIA, Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (6.3.20) also advocates the use of LANDMAP assessments to inform development management decisions, landscape character assessment, design and landscape sensitivity studies. LANDMAP is used to inform a thorough understanding of the landscape baseline from nationally mapped set of datasets.
- 2.1.3 LANDMAP Information is defined by five methodological chapters: Cultural Landscape, Geological Landscape, Historic Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Visual & Sensory. These chapters are considered the key national level landscape guidance for Wales. LANDMAP, as the most comprehensive landscape resource, will be utilised in this assessment.
- 2.1.4 LANDMAP does not specifically discuss solar farm development however Guidance Note 3 discusses the scale of the study area and Aspect Areas to be considered when assessing wind turbine development. Whilst solar is a large-scale renewable development the vertical scale of the development types, and surface area required, is substantially different. As such the approach to the assessment of Aspect Areas is used as a guide only, the follow is considered appropriate for this assessment, with regard to Table 2.1 within LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 the following aspect area study area radius have been considered:

Table 2.1: Approach to Aspect Areas

Aspect	Search area defined by aspects which:	Typical study area radius dependent on <i>*wind farm and turbine size and location*</i>	Evaluation of aspect areas which should be main focus of study	Useful thematic maps to inform study (can be overlaid with ZTV)
Geological Landscape	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and rarity / uniqueness evaluation criteria
Landscape Habitats	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and connectivity / cohesion criteria
Visual and Sensory	Are inter visible with development	2 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation. Plus moderate evaluation (where scenic quality and/or character criteria are outstanding or high).	Overall evaluation and scenic quality and character evaluation criteria
Historic Landscape	Are inter visible with development	1 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation
Cultural Landscape Services	Are inter visible with development	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high in rarity and group value evaluation criteria	Overall evaluation and rarity and group value evaluation criteria

- 2.1.5 With regard to the study area, the solar Development Areas and LANDMAP Aspect Areas are illustrated

on:

- WN1001 08 04-1 Landmap Visual and Sensory
- WN1001 08 04-2 Landmap Cultural landscape
- WN1001 08 04-3 Landmap Historic Landscape
- WN1001 08 04-4 Landmap Landscape Habitats
- WN1001 08 04-5 Landmap Geological Landscape

2.1.6 The development site is located within the following host LANDMAP Aspect Areas:

- Visual and Sensory
 - VS989 – East of Glais. ‘Moderate’ evaluation.
- Cultural Landscape
 - CLS1116 – East of Glais. ‘Moderate’ character evaluation.
- Historic Landscape
 - HL413 – Lower Tawe Valley. Unassessed evaluation, considered to be ‘High’ based on limited data.
- Landscape Habitats
 - LH949 – Glais and Surrounds. ‘Moderate’ evaluation.
- Geological Landscape
 - GL046 – Mynydd Drumau. ‘Moderate’ evaluation.

2.1.7 Note, as a small area of the site is within the Neath Port Talbot LPA area, the Landmap Aspect Area boundaries are always aligned with LPA boundaries, so there are different aspect classifications for this small area. Owing to the size of this area are not discussed unless different characteristics are highlighted.

2.1.8 The referenced Aspect Areas are considered in detail in the following section including reference tables containing the additional Landmap Aspect Areas within the study area and commentary notes.

LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory

2.1.9 With regard to **Visual and Sensory** aspect, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 2.5km study area:

Table 2.2: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas within 2.5km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
VS989	East of Glais	Host area	Moderate
VS658	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate
VS733	Mynydd Drumau	Yes	Moderate
VS203	Glais	Very limited	Low
VS286	Swansea Valley (bottom)	Very limited	Moderate
VS361	afon tawe	Yes	Moderate
VS920	Clydach	Yes	Low

VS340	Clydach valley	No	Moderate
VS878	Pontardawe/Rhos	Very limited	Low
VS612	Upper Clydach River valley	Yes	High
VS146	North of Clydach	Yes	Moderate
VS797	cwm clydach	No	Moderate

- 2.1.10 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed below (Visual and sensory characteristics) with potential effects upon the areas considered in the following landscape assessment section.

Visual and Sensory

VS989 East of Glais

Rolling farmland on relatively low lying land, with mosaic pattern derived from hedges and some scattered woodland, mainly broadleaf. urban influence is strong in the southern area, where the area encircles the urban edge, and elements such as pylons are visible detractors. The southern area is comes within 250m of the M4 motorway.

Value: Moderate. Rolling farmland compromised in part by urban/built influence.

Guidelines: Medium Term: Limit urban spread into area, Maintain and strengthen hedge boundaries.

Overall Evaluation - Moderate

VS658 Mynydd Drumau

Hill side of Mynydd Drumau, forming southern side of Clydach Valley, ranging from approx. 50m AOD to 272m AOD. This is a Substantial landform which forms a shoulder between the Neath and Swansea valleys. Coniferous woodland dominates the area, predominantly spruce but with Substantial areas of pine and exposed rock on higher ground. Additionally there are also areas of pasture, enclosed with hedges and overgrown hedges. Infestation of Gorse and coarse grasses has occurred on unmanaged land. There is an air of neglect about the pastoral land, with run-down buildings and clutter in evidence. Change detection 2014: some conversion of coniferous to broadleaf woodland in north (near Craig Cilhendre nature reserve).

Value: Moderate. The hillside is viewed from across the valley creating a backdrop to the lowlands. ,The area has an upland feel , with pines, exposed rock as dominant elements on the higher ground. All these elements produce a positive scenic quality. The pastoral areas are in poor condition and affect the value of the area.

Overall Evaluation: Moderate. The hillside is viewed from across the valley creating a backdrop to the lowlands. ,The area has an upland feel , with pines, exposed rock as dominant elements on the higher ground. All these elements produce a positive scenic quality. The pastoral areas are in poor condition and affect the value of the area.

VS733 Mynydd Drumau

Area has distinct field system that clearly defines it from the more lowland areas to the west but is also distinct from more open upland areas. The area flanks the eastern study area boundary and is situated on the slopes of Mynydd Drumau.

Value: Moderate

Overall Evaluation: Moderate

VS612 Upper Clydach River valley

Upland valley rising from approx. 50 AOD at Pontardawe to approx. 260m AOD. The area is predominantly pastoral, with heavily wooded riparian corridors and lower valley sides. Field boundaries are mainly overgrown hedges, although walls and fences are also present. There is a scattering of settlements, mostly along the A474, and a network of single track roads and PROWs. There are pleasant, contained views within the valley, especially along the valley floor, where deciduous woodland restricts views out. There are minor localised detractors associated with scattered settlements.

Value: High. The settled enclosed quality of the area engendered by topography woodland and grown out hedges provides an intimate scenic quality which is relatively consistent throughout.

Overall Evaluation: High. The settled enclosed quality of the area engendered by topography woodland and grown out hedges provides an intimate scenic quality which is relatively consistent throughout.

2.1.11 Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
VS989	East of Glais	Host area	Moderate
VS658	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate
VS733	Mynydd Drumau	Yes	Moderate
VS612	Upper Clydach River valley	Yes	High

LANDMAP – Geological Landscape

2.1.12 With regard to the Geological Landscape, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 1km study area.

Table 2.3: Geological Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
GL046	Mynydd Drumau	Host area	Moderate
GL005	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate
GL044	Tawe	Yes	Low
GL043	Glais	Yes	Outstanding
GL042	Cae Pant y dugoed	Limited	Moderate
GL014	Tawe valley	Yes	High

2.1.13 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Geological Landscape

GL046 Mynydd Drumau

South Wales Pennant Formation (Upper Carboniferous) sandstones in upland plateau of E-W gentle synform, forming NE-SW to N-S escarpment along E slopes of fault controlled Tawe valley. U-shaped NE-SW tributary valley to Tawe, with boulder clay in floor, at Balaclava. Broad boulder clay covered plateau facing W (with reservoir). Landslip on W slope (Craig y Pal). Coal mines and adits (disused).

Overall Evaluation: Moderate

Widespread Pennant (Swansea - Grovesend Beds) succession

GL005 Mynydd Drumau

Fault bounded (N-S) upland plateau of E-W synform in South Wales Pennant Formation Swansea Beds sandstones, bounded by steep slopes to E and S into Neath and Clydach valleys. Plateau tilts gently to SW. Boulder clay on plateau (mostly in Swansea). Mines and quarries along scarp slopes on E side.

Overall Evaluation: Moderate

Swansea Beds dissected sandstone plateau with coals

GL043 Glais

Glacial sand and gravel terrace of hummocky moraine along hillside and forming S bank of NE-SW fault controlled Afon Tawe at Glais - Glais moraine - where valley deflects W to confluence with Clydach valley. Moraine reaching up to >50m above alluvial plain, with steep margin in S.

Overall Evaluation: Outstanding. Includes Glais SSSI and GCR site - glacial moraine

2.1.14 Geological Landscape Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
GL046	Mynydd Drumau	Host area	Moderate
GL005	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate

LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

2.1.15 With regard to **Landscape Habitats** aspect, the following Aspect Areas are contained within the 1km study area:

Table 2.4: Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas within 1.km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
LH949	Glais and Surrounds	Host area	Moderate (Mosaic)
LH036	-	Yes – small host area	Moderate (Grassland and Marsh)
LH011	-	Yes	High (Open Water)
LH029	-	No	High (Woodland and Scrub)
LH097	-	Very Limited	Low (Woodland and Scrub)
LH099	-	No	Moderate (Woodland and Scrub)

- 2.1.16 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Landscape Habitats

LH949 Glais and Surrounds

Value: Moderate. Improved grassland and built up areas are low quality habitats. Presence of areas of broadleaved woodland and SSSI increase value of area.

Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate. Generally low value but woodland and semi-improved grassland add value. Mostly improved grassland but part of SSSI is in site as are some small areas of Broadleaved woodland.

LH036

Aspect Area comprises four separate geographical units considered to be of similar character and value at the landscape level; very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially "ffridd" habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character

Value: Moderate. Very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially "ffridd" habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures of variable quality, but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character

Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: Moderate. Very large area of semi-natural "ffridd" habitats; BAP habitats present locally throughout; good range of associated species. Very large area of open farmland, comparatively un intensively managed and containing many remnant semi-natural habitats typical of the Coalfield; some smaller areas of high quality habitat; diverse range of habitats present; contains an SSSI and Coed Gawdir Wildlife Trust Reserve; good range of typical flora and fauna still in evidence.

LH011

Value: High. Major river corridor; important linear habitat corridor; areas of BAP habitats and BAP species present

Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: High. Major river system, and important linear habitat feature; supports Priority species and habitats.

- 2.1.17 **Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:**

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
LH949	Glais and Surrounds	Host area	Moderate (Mosaic)
LH036	-	Yes – small host area	Moderate (Grassland and Marsh)

LANDMAP – Historic Landscape

- 2.1.18 With regard to the Historic Landscape aspect, the following aspect areas are contained within the 1km study area.

Table 2.5: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
HL413	H30 Lower Tawe Valley	Host area	Not classified
HL040	Bryncoch Cilybebyll	Yes – small host area	Outstanding
HL044	Swansea Valley Bottom	Yes	High
HL591	Clydach, Trebanos and Glais	Yes	Not classified

2.1.19 The Aspect Areas with a ‘High’ or ‘Outstanding’ evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Historic Landscape

HL413 Lower Tawe Valley

A relatively small remaining area of agricultural land still remaining on the fringes of the built-up area of Swansea. Although the field patterns go back at least to the early 19th century, the proximity of the city gives this area a different aspect from the other agricultural areas of the UA. There are still some traces of former industrial activity, and some woodland.

Overall Evaluation: Unassessed. Insufficient information for survival and condition to be robustly assessed without renewed heritage audit (i.e. extensive field and desktop work).

This area of irregular fieldscape and dispersed settlement is considered to have good integrity and potential, and whilst not rare as a landscape type the area does include features of exceptional historic importance, which are nationally rare (i.e. 2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments). In addition the area contains 2 grade II listed buildings of regional significance. However, insufficient information is available in relation to survival and condition and without renewed heritage audit (i.e. field and desktop work) the area cannot be robustly assessed; for this reason the Aspect Area has an unassessed overall evaluation.

HL040 Bryncoch Cilybebyll

The Bryncoch Cilybebyll aspect area consists of a broad saddle of land lying between the Neath (HL43) and Swansea (HL44) valleys... Mynydd Marchywel (HL28) and the Dulais Valley (HL48) bound the aspect area to the east, whilst Mynydd y Drumau and the Unitary Authority boundary define the western limits... Cilybebyll (HL25) is contained within this aspect area, to the north, toward the Swansea Valley... The Bryncoch Cilybebyll aspect area is characterised by an extensive enclosure of irregular shaped fields interspersed with ancient woodland, particularly in areas around Cilybebyll, known to have had a medieval history, where a Substantial number of clawdd type enclosure boundaries survive... There are a number of Substantial Bronze Age sites on Mynydd y Drumau including burial cairns; a ring cairn and the standing stone ""Carreg Bica,"" which has important local folklore associations... Enclosures on the south side of Mynydd y Drumau.

Value: Outstanding. The overall value of outstanding assigned to this area is based on the fact that it represents a remarkably rich, multi-period landscape, with particularly Substantial concentrations of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features on Mynydd Drumau.

Overall Evaluation: Outstanding. The overall value of outstanding assigned to this area is based on the fact that it represents a remarkably rich, multi-period landscape, with particularly Substantial concentrations of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features on Mynydd Drumau.

HL044 Swansea Valley Bottom

A largely industrial corridor following the length of the Afon Tawe between the two Unitary Authority boundaries at Ystalyfera and Trebannos... The aspect area is defined as a broad alluvial valley bounded to the northwest and southeast by enclosed valley sides (HL41 and HL40)... The settlements of Ystalyfera and Pontardawe, to the north and south respectively, are conjoined by a relatively late ribbon development along both the Swansea Canal and the Midland Railway... The Swansea Canal, a speculative venture designed to open up the coal trade at the head of the Tawe Valley, was the last of the major canals built in South Wales; it began construction in 1794 and was fully operational by 1798... It was bought in 1873 by Great Western railway and worked by them in competition to the Midland Railways' Swansea Valley line... The line closed to traffic during the 1930's and much of its length has been taken by modern road construction; although a length at Pontardawe survives.

Value: High. This aspect area has been assessed being of high value as an historically important industrial communications corridor, represented by the remains of the late 18th century Swansea Canal and associated structures, including some of national importance. The area has lost some coherence due to the demolition and clearance of the substantial iron and tinplate works at Ystalyfera and Pontardawe and the infilling of much of the northern section of the Swansea Canal extending from Ystradgynlais to Godre'r Graig (mostly built over by the present A4067 road). Moreover, certain sites within the aspect area are in an increasingly overgrown, ruinous condition (including the Crimea Colliery and a number of the surviving docks on the Swansea Canal). On this basis, the overall assessment for this area has been gauged as high rather than outstanding, although it certainly contains a number of relict industrial buildings of exceptional importance and rarity (e.g. the Ystalyfera Aqueduct and the Crimea Colliery).

Overall Evaluation: High

- 2.1.20 It is noted that the pre application response from the LPA has scoped out any assessment upon Cultural Heritage features. No further assessment will then be undertaken upon the Historic Landscape Aspect Areas.

LANDMAP – Cultural Landscape Services

- 2.1.21 With regard to the Cultural Landscape Services, the following aspect areas are contained within the 1km study area:

Table 2.6: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
CLS116	East of Glais	Host area	Rolling Lowland
CLS071	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Upland Valleys
CLS087	Mynydd Drumau	Yes	Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes
CLS030	Clydach valley	No	Upland Valleys
CLS035	Glais	Yes	Built Land
CLS050	afon tawe	Yes	Lowland Valleys
CLS027	Swansea Valley Bottom	Very limited	Upland Valleys

- 2.1.22 The Aspect Areas do not have specific evaluations and descriptions however the assessment classifications covering the proposed site area; however the classifications are considered in the assessment of effects section. Key elements highlighted below, which tend to encompass a combination of stated elements from the other Landmap layers.

CLS116

Sense of place/ local distinctiveness: Moderate. Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Moderate. Scenic quality: Moderate. Character: Moderate. Historic Landscape evaluation, Mosaic of: High or outstanding, Moderate; some unassessed areas.

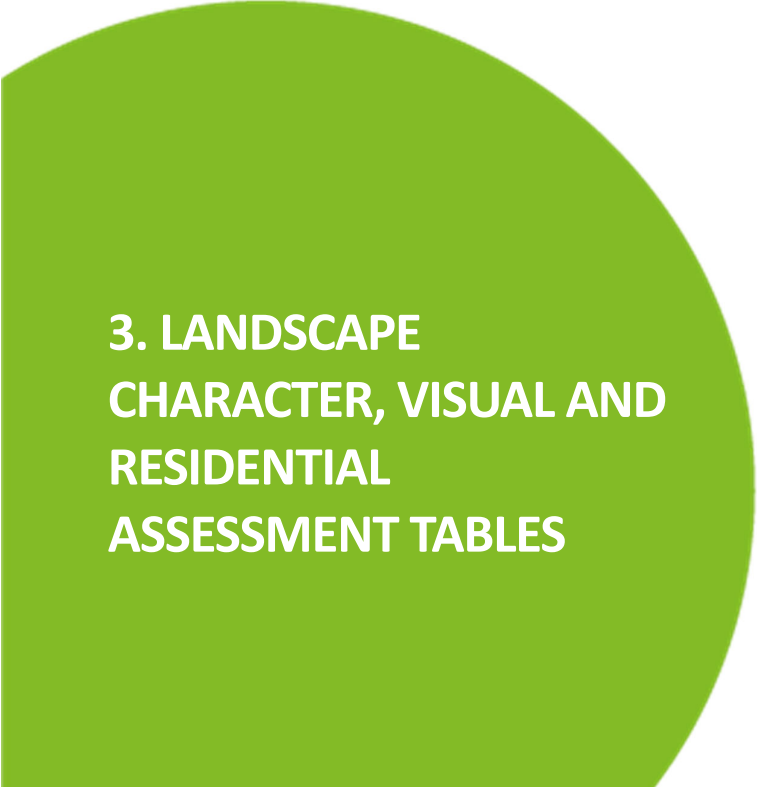
CLS071

Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Moderate. The hillside is viewed from across the valley creating a backdrop to the lowlands. ,The area has an upland feel , with pines, exposed rock as dominant elements on the higher ground. All these elements produce a positive scenic quality. Scenic quality: Moderate.

CLS087

Sense of place/ local distinctiveness: Moderate. Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Moderate. Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value: All criteria moderate. Scenic quality: Moderate. Character: Moderate. Historic Landscape evaluation: Mosaic of: High or outstanding; some unassessed areas

- 2.1.23 **No further assessment will be undertaken upon the Cultural Landscape Aspect Area, the key attributes highlighted are considered to be discussed within the other Aspect Area descriptions.**



3. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER, VISUAL AND RESIDENTIAL ASSESSMENT TABLES

3.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER – ASSESSMENT TABLES

- 3.1.1 Landscape characteristics of the application site and effect of the development upon the landscape are considered, including the partial host LCA, (The Neath Port Talbot LANDMAP Landscape Character Assessment 2004) 'Character Area 38 Mynydd Drumau'.
- 3.1.2 The assessment also considers the host Landmap Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas and the Aspect Area layers as identified in Section 2 (geological landscape, landscape habitats, historic landscape and cultural landscape).

LCA 38 Mynydd Drumau

LCA 38 Mynydd Drumau		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	Dominant landform, creating shoulder between the Tawe and Neath Valleys Predominantly coniferous cover with Substantial pine cover. Ridge top and lower reaches of the area are pasture. Boundaries are dominated by hedges, frequently overgrown at lower elevations Exposed rock on higher ground. Considering the referenced characteristics that are not directly affected and the features found within the site, notably grassland, which is subject to the solar arrays, it is considered that the LCA has a Low susceptibility to the development in this location. The development is only likely to have a minor influence on the key characteristics and the landscape could accommodate the development without a Substantial change in character.
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium Presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium There is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use. Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place.
	Scale of landscape effect	Large scale LCA area, focussed to the more upland areas of the district to the southeast of the site. Small scale loss of grassland fields only within transitional zone on the fringes of the LCA, no affect upon wider character. Defined characteristics unaffected. Very small area of the site boundary Is within the LCA. Low
	Geographical extent	Expansive LCA, localised effects, site and immediate setting. Low
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit).

Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Landmap Assessment Tables

Visual Sensory Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
VS989	East of Glais	Host area	Moderate
VS658	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate
VS733	Mynydd Drumau	Yes	Moderate
VS612	Upper Clydach River valley	Yes	High

VS989 East of Glais		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	Rolling farmland on relatively low lying land, with mosaic pattern derived from hedges and some scattered woodland, mainly broadleaf. urban influence is strong in the southern area, where the area encircles the urban edge, and elements such as pylons are visible detractors. The site displays many of the referenced characteristics although is more of an upland and transitional area. It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development. Some characteristics of the landscape would be vulnerable to the proposal, but In general could accommodate the development without a Substantial change In character.
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium Presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. Presents some public amenity value. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium There is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use. Comprised of commonplace elements

		and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. Partly able to accommodate the development without undue consequences.
	Scale of landscape effect	Moderate scale AA, focussed to the more lower ling / hillside areas of the AA but site is on the boundary of the area, a transitional zone. Small scale loss of grassland fields only, a common place feature of the AA, sensitive areas avoided. Defined characteristics unaffected, development affects aesthetic aspects of the site only, not the wider AA. Low
	Geographical extent	Proposals are considered to influence at site and immediate setting of the site, not over the wider, and generally lower lying zones of the AA. Low-Medium
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration (high), but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Low-Medium
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Moderate - Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Low-Medium Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Moderate - Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

VS658 Mynydd Drumau		
	Susceptibility to change	'This is a Substantial landform, Coniferous woodland dominates the area, predominantly spruce but with Substantial areas of pine and exposed rock on higher ground. Additionally there are also areas of pasture, enclosed with hedges and overgrown hedges. Infestation of Gorse and coarse grasses has occurred on unmanaged land. There is an air of neglect about the pastoral land, with rundown buildings and clutter in evidence.' (LANDMAP) The more elevated areas of the site display the characteristics of this AA, a small area of grassland / scrub bordering a coniferous plantation. It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development. Some characteristics of the landscape would be vulnerable to the proposal, but In general could accommodate the development without a Substantial change In character.

	Value of landscape receptor	Medium 'The hillside is viewed from across the valley creating a backdrop to the lowlands. ,The area has an upland feel , with pines, exposed rock as dominant elements on the higher ground. All these elements produce a positive scenic quality. The pastoral areas are in poor condition and affect the value of the area'. (LANDMAP) The area presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. Presents some public amenity value. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium There is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use. Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. Partly able to accommodate the development without undue consequences.
	Scale of landscape effect	Large scale AA, focussed over the hillside and plateau areas of the AA. The site forms an extremely small part of the AA, one grassland / scrub field. Defined characteristics unaffected, development affects aesthetic aspects of the site only, not the wider AA. Low
	Geographical extent	Proposals are considered to influence at site and immediate setting of the site, not over the wider, and near coniferous plantation areas of the AA. Low
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration (<u>High</u>), but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Low
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

VS733 Mynydd Drumau Note - Site displays same characteristics as VS658 but is separate as within different LPA area.		
	Susceptibility to change	'Area has distinct field system that clearly defines it from the more lowland areas to the west but is also distinct from more open upland areas. The area flanks the eastern study area boundary and is situated on the slopes of Mynydd Drumau' (LANDMAP) The more elevated areas of the site display the characteristics of this AA, grassland field systems. It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development. Some characteristics of the landscape would be vulnerable to the proposal, but In general could accommodate the development without a Substantial change In character.
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium The area presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. Presents some public amenity value. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as Moderate)
	Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor	Medium There is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use. Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. Partly able to accommodate the development without undue consequences.
	Scale of landscape effect	Medium scale AA, focussed over the hillside and plateau areas south of the AA. Site is not within the AA, no direct effects and minimal aesthetic effects upon the character of the AA due to intermediate features / topographic variation. Low
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Closest area of the site, c.200m SE. Low
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration (<u>High</u>), but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit).
	Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)	Low
	Level of landscape effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
	Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)	Low, Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
	Level of landscape effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

VS612 Upper Clydach River Valley		
	Susceptibility to change	'The area is predominantly pastoral, with heavily wooded riparian corridors and lower valley sides. Field boundaries are mainly overgrown hedges, although walls and fences are also present. There is a scattering of settlements, mostly along the A474, and a network of single track roads and PROWs. There are pleasant, contained views within the valley, especially along the valley floor, where deciduous woodland restricts views out.' (LANDMAP) It is considered that the AA has a <u>High</u> susceptibility to the solar development. Development could not be accommodated without a Substantial change in character.
	Value of landscape receptor	High 'The settled enclosed quality of the area engendered by topography woodland and grown out hedges provides an intimate scenic quality which is relatively consistent throughout.' (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as High)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		High
	Scale of landscape effect	Medium scale AA, focussed within the NW area of the study area, no direct effects and no aesthetic effects upon the character of the AA due to separation distance intermediate features / topographic variation. Negligible
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Closest area of the site, c.1.5km NW. Negligible
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Due to scale and geographical scores, effect is <u>Negligible</u>.
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Negligible
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Geological Landscape Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
GL046	Mynydd Drumau	Host area	Moderate
GL005	Mynydd Drumau	Yes – small host area	Moderate

GL046 Mynydd Drumau		
	Susceptibility to change	'South Wales Pennant Formation (Upper Carboniferous) sandstones in upland plateau of E-W gentle synform, forming NE-SW to N-S escarpment along E slopes of fault controlled Tawe valley. U-shaped NE-SW tributary valley to Tawe, with boulder clay in floor, at Balaclava. Broad boulder clay covered plateau facing W (with reservoir). Landslip on W slope (Craig y Pal). Coal mines and adits (disused). (LANDMAP) It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development.
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium (Host Landmap Geological Landscape is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium (geological terms)
	Scale of landscape effect	No direct effects upon geological landscape, development of a light footprint considering scale.
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site. Negligible.
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Due to scale and geographical scores, effect is <u>Negligible</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		No Change
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)

GL046 Mynydd Drumau Note - Site displays same characteristics as GL046, but is separate as within different LPA area.		
	Susceptibility to change	'Fault bounded (N-S) upland plateau of E-W synform in South Wales Pennant Formation Swansea Beds sandstones, bounded by steep slopes to E and S into Neath and Clydach valleys. Plateau tilts gently to SW. Boulder clay on plateau (mostly in Swansea). Mines and quarries along scarp slopes on E side.)'. (LANDMAP) It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development.
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium (Host Landmap Geological Landscape is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium (geological terms)
	Scale of landscape effect	No direct effects upon geological landscape, development of a light footprint considering scale. site area covers extremely small section of the AA.
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site. Negligible.
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Due to scale and geographical scores, effect is <u>Negligible</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		No Change
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)

Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
LH949	Glais and Surrounds	Host area	Moderate (Mosaic)
LH036	-	Yes – small host area	Moderate (Grassland and Marsh)

LH949 Glais and Surrounds		
	Susceptibility to change	'Improved grassland and built up areas are low quality habitats. Presence of areas of broadleaved woodland and SSSI increase value of area'. (LANDMAP) Large AA, site area is a distinctive unit of different habitats. It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development.
	Value of landscape receptor	'Generally low value but woodland and semi-improved grassland add value. Mostly improved grassland but part of SSSI is in site as are some small areas of Broadleaved woodland.' (LANDMAP). Noted that areas of the site are SNCI and Ancient Woodland. Medium-High (Host Landmap Landscape Habitat AA is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium-High
	Scale of landscape effect	Effects directly upon grassland areas only, part Intensively grazed, no effects upon SNCI or Ancient Woodland areas. These areas preserved and enhanced through management facilitated as a result of solar development. <u>Low</u> .
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site. <u>Negligible</u> .
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). <u>Low</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Low-Negligible
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (landscape habitats)
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Low-Negligible, Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)

LH036 – (no name)		
	Susceptibility to change	'Very large area of semi-natural "ffridd" habitats; BAP habitats present locally throughout; good range of associated species. Very large area of open farmland, comparatively un intensively managed and containing many remnant semi-natural habitats typical of the Coalfield; some smaller areas of high quality habitat; diverse range of habitats present; contains an SSSI and Coed Gawdir Wildlife Trust Reserve; good range of typical flora and fauna still in evidence'. (LANDMAP) Large AA, site area is a distinctive unit of different habitats. It is considered that the AA has a <u>Medium</u> susceptibility to the solar development.
	Value of landscape receptor	'Very large area of semi-upland farmland, essentially "ffridd" habitats, on rolling slopes; complex mosaic of mainly grassland enclosures of variable quality, but with many other habitats; all essentially circum-neutral or acidic in character.' (LANDMAP). Medium-High (Host Landmap Landscape Habitat AA is classed as Moderate)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		Medium-High
	Scale of landscape effect	Effects directly upon grassland areas only, part Intensively grazed, no effects upon SNCI or Ancient Woodland areas. These areas preserved and enhanced through management facilitated as a result of solar development. Site is set within a very small area of the AA. <u>Negligible</u> .
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site. <u>Negligible</u> .
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). <u>Low</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Negligible
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (landscape habitats)
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Negligible Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect (geological landscape)

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

None considered.

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas to be considered within the Assessment of Effects:

None considered.

Landscape Receptors

- 3.1.3 Within the study area (Neath Port Talbot LPA) there is one Special Landscape Area; SLA1 (EN2/1) Mynydd y Garth.
- 3.1.4 SLA1 is c.1.6km to the north of the site, set within the upland areas to the west and north of Pontardawe. Due to the intervening valley and near forestry plantation around the site area, the ZTV illustrates that there would be very limited potential for intervisibility between the site and the SLA. The SLA encompasses Landmap Visual Sensory Area, VS612 Upper Clydach River Valley.

SLA1 (EN2/1) Mynydd y Garth		
	Susceptibility to change	<u>High/Medium</u> – District level landscape designation, little scope to accommodate change without affecting integrity.
	Value of landscape receptor	High District level landscape designation, little scope to accommodate change without affecting integrity. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as High)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		High
	Scale of landscape effect	SLA focussed within the NW area of the study area, no direct effects and no aesthetic effects upon the character of the AA due to separation distance intermediate features / topographic variation. Negligible
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Closest area of the site, c.1.5km NW. Negligible
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Due to scale and geographical scores, effect is <u>Negligible</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Negligible
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect		Low

(Year 10)	Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of landscape effect (Year 10)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

3.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT, BASELINE VIEWPOINTS

Table 3.1: Baseline Viewpoints

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location		Comments	Receptors
1 (A & B)	Public Footpath to the south of the site, LPA Ref YM4	Distance from closest array	c.322m	View north, northwest, west from public footpath towards Site area plateau	Footpath users, partially representative of nearby isolated residential property
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	271552, 200765		
		Height	c.155m AOD		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint offers open views over the adjoining upper valley floor towards the rising slopes of the western plateau area, views to the site area filtered by mature tree cover and rough scrub around the steep side slopes. Views are also possible north to the lower central area of the site, the mature woodland and scrub within this mixed grassland area screens views to most of the proposed deployment areas. Near overhead powerlines present beside the footpath / access track. Elevated views southwest to the lower valley areas of Clydach, northern fringes of Swansea and the M4 corridor.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS989 – East of Glais					
Visual Sensitivity: High, public right of way, also close to individual residential property.					
2	Public Footpath to the southeast of the site, LPA Ref YM4	Distance from closest array	c.280m	View north, northwest, west from public footpath towards Site area plateau	Footpath users, partially representative of nearby isolated residential property
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	272112, 200952		
		Height	c.202m AOD		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint offers locally elevated views over the lower lying upper valley floor towards the central and northeastern areas of the site. The mature blocks of scrub and trees within the site area are evident in the foreground, breaking up the rough grass pasture fields. The location allows distant views to two other upper valley areas in the northwest, wind turbines evident upon the horizon. The large areas of trees and scrub screen many of the proposed deployment zones. Within the near view a number of electricity pylons (and associated wires) and prominent, rising up the lower valley area and passing the northeast.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: Boundary of VS989 – East of Glais and VS733 - Mynydd Drumau					
Visual Sensitivity: High, public right of way, also close to individual residential property.					
3	Public footpath upon Mynydd Drumau	Distance from closest array	c.505m	View northwest from public footpath on hillside above the	Footpath uses.

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location		Comments	Receptors
		Direction from site	Southeast	site. Level of wear indicates limited use.	
		NGR	272354, 200815		
		Height	c.246m AOD		
		Baseline Description: The viewpoint illustrates open visibility towards the site area from the upper hillside of Mynydd Drumau. Large areas of the site are visible but at an oblique angle, seen through the power lines and electricity pylons that rise within the upper valley to the south of the site. Historic field boundaries are evident in the western fields of the site area, the scrubland of the central lower area is screened from view by near topography. The fields of the northeastern site area also evident. Distant views to the southeast to opposing valley upper slopes and slight visibility to the residential areas of Clydach. Wind turbines evident upon the distant horizon.			
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS733 - Mynydd Drumau					
Visual Sensitivity: High, public right of way					
4	Garth Road, Glais.	Distance from closest array	c.1.04 km	View from closest main residential area to the site, within valley floor area.	Residential
		Direction from site	Southwest		
		NGR	279821, 200612		
		Height	c.41 m AOD		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint is aligned to the northeast with near views over the village and beyond to the rising hillside plateau top area that will host the development. The steep hillsides below covered with scrub, and bracken, with the areas of rock outcrops visible below the plateau top. The angle of view limits visibility to the far western edge areas of the site only, no views to the main areas, central zone and eastern zone. Line of large overhead transmission lines and pylons that pass through the site area form distant skyline features.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS203– Glais					
Visual Sensitivity: High, Residential					
5	Quarr Road, Clydach	Distance from closest array	c.2.24 km	View from residential area within the valley to the west of the site	Residential
		Direction from site	West		
		NGR	268657, 201278		
		Height	c.42m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint illustrates the view from the main residential areas to the west of the site, the contrast of near urban areas, but set within a landscape of steep undeveloped valley sides and the widescale upland areas. There is distant visibility to the upland plateau grassland area that will host the western site area, this site is seen within a wider upland area of grassland, set above areas of woodland and scrub. Topography screens visibility to the central and eastern site areas. Line of large					

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location		Comments	Receptors
overhead transmission lines and pylons that pass through the site area again form distant skyline features. Large chimney within Clydach forms the focus of local views, a detracting feature however local church tower evident, forming an attractive feature. Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS920 – Clydach Visual Sensitivity: High, Residential.					
6	Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	Distance from closest array	c.1.1km	Representative of public park within Clydach, River Tawe Valley area, set beneath site area	Residents, visitors to the park.
		Direction from site	West		
		NGR	270108, 201631		
		Height	c.27m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint is aligned to the northeast towards the steeply rising valley side containing woodland, scrub and rock outcrops set beneath the plateau area of the western site zone. Due to the angle of view and difference in ground levels there is very limited visibility into the site areas, only boundary features upon the northwestern edge of the site perceptible. The stone walls, part derelict bordering the site, small scale feature upon the horizon. The trees and recreational features of the near park form the focus to the views, the hillside backdrop less prominent. Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS361 – Afon Tawe Visual Sensitivity: High, Residential					
7	New Road, Trebanos	Distance from closest array	c.1.3 km	View from residential area within the valley to the northwest of the site	Residential
		Direction from site	Northwest		
		NGR	270879, 202537		
		Height	c.50m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint again illustrates the view from the main residential areas to the northwest of the site, the contrast of near urban valley areas, but set within a landscape of steep undeveloped valley sides and the widescale upland areas. There is very limited distant visibility to the upland plateau grassland area that will host the western site area , set above areas of woodland, scrub and rock outcrops. Topography screens visibility to the central and eastern site areas. Near views focussed over the local residential areas. Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS878 – Pontardawe/Rhos Visual Sensitivity: High, Residential					
8	Gellionen Road	Distance from closest array	c.2.28 km	Road illustrating views over the lower lying River Tawe valley, above	Road
		Direction from site	West		

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location		Comments	Receptors
		NGR	269927, 203100	Clydach and Trebanos	
		Height	c. 185m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint illustrates visibility from the elevated areas to the west of the study area, set above the valley areas. Due to the angle of view visibility is focussed over the western plateau area of the site. The grassland and derelict dry stone walls slightly perceptible, set out above a steep valley side, including rock outcrops and small cliff features. No visibility to the central area of the site, but limited visibility to the far eastern zone, the electricity pylons that pass through the site acting as markers within the panorama. Beyond the site area the hillsides to the southeast of the site rise up to the area of Mynydd Drumau at c.270m aod, a distinctive upland plateau area. Due to near topographic variation, there is limited visibility down into the populated valley floor areas from this location. Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS146 – North of Clydach Visual Sensitivity: Low, Road users					
9	River Tawe Valley	Distance from closest array	c.2.45 km	PROW set upon old road corridor beside River Tawe in the SW of the study area	PROW users
		Direction from site	Southwest		
		NGR	268562, 199913		
		Height	c.12.5m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint is set upon the valley floor to the southwestern edge of the study area to illustrate distant visibility. Distant views are possible to the steeply rising promontory of the site area, not viewed as a valley side feature from this orientation. The western site area can be seen, as upland plateau grassland area, seen beyond the line of overhead transmission lines that rise up through the site area. Topography screens all views to the central and eastern site areas. Beyond the site area to the south, the hillside of Mynydd Drumau forms a notable skyline feature. At a local level views limited to near pastoral fields, limited views to the urban areas of the valley. Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS361– Afon Tawe Visual Sensitivity: Low, Road users					
10	Alltwen	Distance from closest array	c.2.15 km	PROW within common land, elevated area to the north of the study area.	PROW users
		Direction from site	North		
		NGR	273244, 203691		
		Height	c.154m aod		
Baseline Description: The viewpoint illustrates distant visibility from the northern fringes of the study area, a local area shown with theoretical visibility to the site. The northern edge of the Mynydd Drummau area is visible, slopes of woodland, coniferous plantation and scrub rise up to the site area.					

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location		Comments	Receptors
The pylons that pass through the site area form a skyline feature upon the horizon. Rural and upland aspect, limited visibility to urban features.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS340– Clydach Valley					
Visual Sensitivity: High, PROW users					
11	Bryn Coch	Distance from closest array	c.2.85 km	Road upon valley side offering elevated views west in the direction of the site	Road users
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	275232, 200929		
		Height	c.178m aod		
<u>Baseline Description:</u> The viewpoint, set upon the southeastern fringe of the study area illustrates the visibility to the site area. The site is set beyond the main landform feature upon the horizon, Mynydd Drumau.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS340– Clydach Valley					
Visual Sensitivity: Low, Road users					
12	Mynydd Drumau	Distance from closest array	c.1 km	PROW upon hillside to the south of the site	PROW users
		Direction from site	South		
		NGR	271061, 199785		
		Height	c.175m aod		
<u>Baseline Description:</u> The viewpoint is located upon the hillside to the south of the site. The area is generally inaccessible due to limited roads or PROW; however the viewpoint is set upon one PROW. There is near visibility to the pylons and overhead transmission line that pass through the site area. There is however no visibility to any areas of the site, all views screened by intermediate topography.					
Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS733 - Mynydd Drumau					
Visual Sensitivity: High, public right of way					
13	Mynydd Drumau (plateau top)	Distance from closest array	c.1.1 km	PROW upon hillside plateau top to the south of the site	PROW users
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	272337, 200159		
		Height	c.265m aod		
<u>Baseline Description:</u> Due to the elevated location (one of the highest areas within the study area) there is the potential for panoramic views. In views to the northwest it is possible to see the partial zones of the western site area, the grassland fields, scrub and derelict walls perceptible within the middle					

Viewpoint reference	Name (and closest plot area)	Location	Comments	Receptors
			distance. All views to the central and eastern areas of the site are screened. The pylons and overhead lines are prominent in the vicinity of the site. The location offers distant views to upland areas to the west as well as aligned views to Clydach within the valley floor, the industrial works chimney a notable feature.	
			Located with Landmap Visual Sensory Aspect Area: VS733 - Mynydd Drumau	
			Visual Sensitivity: High, public right of way	

SLA1 (EN2/1) Mynydd y Garth		
	Susceptibility to change	<u>High/Medium</u> – District level landscape designation, little scope to accommodate change without affecting integrity.
	Value of landscape receptor	High District level landscape designation, little scope to accommodate change without affecting integrity. (Host Landmap Visual Sensory is classed as High)
Overall Sensitivity of landscape receptor		High
	Scale of landscape effect	SLA focussed within the NW area of the study area, no direct effects and no aesthetic effects upon the character of the AA due to separation distance intermediate features / topographic variation. Negligible
	Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Closest area of the site, c.1.5km NW. Negligible
	Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Due to scale and geographical scores, effect is <u>Negligible</u> .
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 1)		Negligible
Level of landscape effect (Year 1)		Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
Magnitude of landscape effect (Year 10)		Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.

Level of landscape effect (Year 10)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
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3.3 VISUAL ASSESSMENT, RESIDENTIAL RECEPTORS – ASSESSMENT TABLES

All properties:

Susceptibility to change	Residents (property not accessible so view considered from closest road / publicly accessible location. Supplemented by consideration of views from within the site and analysis of aerial photography. High
Value of view	No recognition of importance in local planning policy or published literature. Views are likely to be valued by the residents and visitors to the properties.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High

3.3.1 Residential receptors within 250m (3 no.):

- R1. LLETY WIWER GRAIG Y PAL, c. 120m south
- R2. CWM CRYNACH UCHAF FARM & BARN, c.170m southeast
- R3. LLWYNERCHIDWAL FARM, c.220m southeast

3.3.2 Residential receptors within 250m – 500m (c. 146no.):

- G1. Glais - properties centred on GRAIGOLA ROAD and GRAIG ROAD, c.250m west
- R4. TIR ABBEY FARM, c.350m northeast of the site
- G2. Glais – properties on GRAIG Y DDERI, c.380m southwest
- R5. CWM CYRNACH ISAF, BALACLAVA ROAD, c.430m southwest
- G3. Glais – properties on GRAIG Y PAL, c.440m southwest
- G4. Glais, c.18no. properties on YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c. 450m west to northwest
- R6. Glais, 46-66 YNYS Y MOND ROAD, 400m to the northeast
- R7. Glais NEUADD WEN HOUSE YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c.425m to the northeast
- R8. Glais, NEUADDWEN COTTAGE YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c.420m to the northeast

3.3.3 Residential Groups > 500m – 1.5km:

- G5. Glais - Birchgrove Road, Oakland Close, Balaclava Road area, c. 550m southwest
- G6. Glais - Birchgrove Road, School Road area, c.620m southwest
- G7. Glais - Cefni Road, Station Road area, c.880m southwest
- G8. Clydach – Pontardawe Road, Kingrosia Park area, c. 1.1km northwest
- G9. Clydach – Swansea Road, Heol Y Llwynau, c. 1.2km northwest
- G10. Trebanos – Swansea Road, New Road area, c. 1.2km northwest
- G11. Clydach – Pontardawe Road, Capel Road area, c. 1.35km west
- G12. Alltwen – Gwyn Street, Tyn y Cae area, c. 1.35m north

3.3.4 Residential Areas >1.5km

- G13. Western Clydach, Quarr Road area, c. 2.1km west

- G14. Birchgrove Estate, c. 2km southwest
- G15. Bryn-coch, c. 2.35 km southeast
- G16. Rhos, c. 1.7km northeast

R1. LLETY WIWER GRAIG Y PAL	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.120m south
Scale of visual effect	Individual property set close to the site access road, adopted highway, to the south of the far western plateau. Elevation of the house is c.110m aod, site, the closest area of the site to the north at c.155m aod. Due to the change in levels and intervening mature tree and scrub cover upon the hillside it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R2. CWM CRYNACH UCHAF FARM & BARN	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.170m southeast
Scale of visual effect	Individual property and associated barns within upper valley area to the south of the site. The property is set close to the location of Viewpoint 1. Visibility focussed to the western plateau area rising above the upper valley floor and woodland / scrub fringes. The southern edges of the arrays in this area only would be visible upon the landform against the horizon, but no views beyond this edge zone, and seen through woodland and scrub fringes upon the site adjoining slopes. The character and composition of the view remains similar to the baseline, views only available from limited property windows aligned in a north / northeast direction.
Geographical extent	Property c.330m from the closest area of arrays set upon a plateau c.40m above the level of the property. Low-Medium
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual	Low

effect (Year 1)	
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management. Trees upon boundary hillside likely to grow to further filter views.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R3. LLWYNERCHIDWAL FARM	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.220m southeast
Scale of visual effect	Individual property within upper valley area to the south of the site. The property is set close to the location of Viewpoint 2. Limited number of windows with views to the north, however, when possible, views to the elevated eastern plateau and lower central woodland scrub areas of the site. Arrays within the nearer area are seen within the established woodland scrub context, which screens and filters large areas of the site, reducing the prominence of the proposals. The plateau area arrays are seen at a higher angle, on the intermediate horizon, including elements of associated site infrastructure. Vegetation upon the plateau fringes screens distant views west and near tree cover around the property filters middle and distant views to the northeast. Views remain to near line of electricity pylons and distant views to wind turbines are also possible.
Geographical extent	Closest areas of deployment are c.400m but predominantly screened, visible areas c.500m to the north extending to c.700m to the northwest. Low-Medium
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Medium
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Moderate-Major, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management, but existing woodland scrub predicted to grow further and screen more of the site
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G1. GLAIS - properties centred on GRAIGOLA ROAD and GRAIG ROAD	
Distance from site (closest area of the	c.250m west

site boundary)	
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the village located below Glais mountain area, bordering the dense woodland on the lower slopes. Properties located at a ground level of c.40m aod, the site area to the east, Substantially higher at c. 155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in levels and Intervening mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R4. TIR ABBEY FARM	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.350m northeast of the site
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Individual property set upon plateau area to the east of the site, orientated with views to the east, away from the site. All views screened by near coniferous plantation and variations in ground levels. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change

	Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G2. Glais – properties on GRAIG Y DDERI	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.380m southwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the village located below Glais mountain area. Properties located at a ground level of c.35m aod, the site area to the northeast, Substantially higher at c. 155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in levels and intervening mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R5. CWM CYRNACH ISAF, BALACLAVA ROAD	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.430m southwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is potential for theoretical visibility. Analysis of aerial photography and consideration of views from the site confirms that the property is surrounded by mature tree cover. Although the property is at a similar elevation to the western plateau it is considered that all views to the development area from the property would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change

Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G3. GLAIS – properties on GRAIG Y PAL (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.440m southwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the village located below Glais mountain area, bordering the access road (adopted highway) that connects with the site. Properties located at a ground level of c.60m aod, the site area to the northeast, Substantially higher at c. 155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in levels and near tree cover, in addition to Intervening mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G4. GLAIS, c.18no. properties on YNYS Y MOND ROAD (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the	c.450m west

site boundary)	
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the northern edge of the village located below Glais mountain area. Properties located at a ground level of c.30m aod, the site area to the east, beyond the rising areas of the village is Substantially higher at c. 155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in levels and near properties and tree cover, combined with mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside, it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R6. 46 - 66 YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c.400m to the northwest	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.400m northeast
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates very limited potential for visibility to the site from the properties. In reality, the properties are set at the foot of Glais Mountain, fronting the road, with very limited potential for highly oblique views south (from rear windows) to the upper fringes of the western plateau. The intervening steep hillside contains mature trees and scrub further limiting potential views. At the most visible the northern edge of arrays on the western plateau may be discernible. Properties at a ground level of c.30m aod, the western plateau above at a level of c.160m aod. Very low
Geographical extent	Properties c.400m northwest but located c.130m below the level of the nearest site area, predominantly screened. Very low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit) and screen views further over time. Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Negligible

Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management. Intervening tree cover to grow and filter views further.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R7. NEUADD WEN HOUSE YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c. 425m to the northwest	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.425m west
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates limited potential for theoretical visibility. Property is at a ground level of c.25m aod, closest areas of the site are at c.175m aod upon the steep sided western plateau area to the southeast of the property. Due to the change in levels, tree cover around the property, combined with mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside, it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

R8. NEUADDWEN COTTAGE YNYS Y MOND ROAD, c.420m to the northwest	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.420m northwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates limited potential for theoretical visibility. Property is at a ground level of c.25m aod, closest areas of the site are at c.175m aod upon the steep sided western plateau area to the southeast of the property. Due to the change in levels, tree cover around the property, combined with mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the hillside, it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.

Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Residential Groups > 500m – 1.5km:

G5. GLAIS - Birchgrove Road, Oakland Close & Balaclava Road area (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c. 550m southwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the southeastern area of the village. Properties located at a ground level of c.55m aod, the site area to the northeast, is Substantially higher at c.155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in ground levels, near properties and tree cover, combined with mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the rising hillside, it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G6. GLAIS- Birchgrove Road, School Road area, c.620m southwest (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c. 550m southwest
Scale of visual effect	ZTV with barriers illustrates no potential for theoretical visibility. Group of properties within the central area of the village focussed on the primary school. Properties located at a ground level of c.50m aod, the site area to the northeast, beyond the fringe areas of the village is Substantially higher at c. 155m aod (western plateau zone). Due to the change in levels, near properties and tree cover, combined with mature tree and scrub cover (and rock outcrops) upon the rising hillside, it is considered that all views to the development would be screened. No change.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). No Change.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G7. GLAIS - Cefn Road, Station Road area (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.880m southwest
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is the potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the village. This area of the village is also the location for Viewpoint 4. It is likely that there will be visibility to the western edges of the western plateau only from properties within this area of the village but focussed to open areas and windows aligned to the northeast. Limited areas of the deployment areas visible upon distant upland area, development a small scale vertical (and landcover) feature.
Geographical extent	Solar arrays c.880m northeast from this area of the village, which is at c.40m aod, site areas at a higher level of c.160m aod. Limited areas of the site perceptible. Low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.

Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management. Tree cover upon hillside expected to grow to filter views further.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G8. CLYDACH – Pontardawe Road, Kingrosia Park area (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.1.1km northwest
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is the potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town. This area of the town is also the location for Viewpoints 5 and 6. Many views from the urban area will be screened by the near urban form of buildings, set densely within the valley area and associated near tree coverage, particularly along the river and main road corridors. Where distant views exist, Glais mountain forms an opposing rising valley side feature to the southeast, containing all distant views. The northwestern fringes of the western plateau area of the deployment zone would be visible, the solar arrays forming new small scale vertical features covering the ground on the horizon.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. The arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management. Hillside tree cover limited due to topography and rock outcrops.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G9. CLYDACH – Swansea Road, Heol Y Llwynau, (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.1.1 km northwest
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is the potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town set within the valley floor and the rising northwestern lower slopes. This area of the town is also the location for Viewpoints 7. Many views from the urban area will be screened by the near urban form of buildings, set densely within the valley area and associated near tree coverage, particularly along the river and main road corridors. Where distant views exist, Glais mountain again forms an opposing rising valley side feature to the southeast, containing all distant views. The northern fringes of the western plateau area of the deployment zone would be visible, the solar arrays forming new small scale vertical features covering a relatively small horizontal area upon the horizon, including very limited visibility to the small scale telecoms mast.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. The arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G10. TREBANOS – Swansea Road, New Road area (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.1.2km northwest
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is the potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town set within the valley floor and the rising north / northwestern lower slopes. Many views from the urban area will be screened by the near urban form of buildings, set densely within the valley area and associated near tree coverage, particularly along the river and main road corridor. Where distant views exist, Glais mountain again forms an opposing rising valley side feature to the south, containing all distant views. The northern fringes of the western plateau area of the deployment zone would be visible at the most, no other site areas visible. The solar arrays forming new small scale vertical features covering a relatively small horizontal area upon the distant horizon, including very limited visibility to the small scale telecoms mast.

Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. The arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G11. CLYDACH – Pontardawe Road, Capel Road area (and near surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.1.35 km west
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is the potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town set within the valley floor and the rising north / northwestern lower slopes. Visibility is not over the whole area though, many views from the urban area will be screened by the near urban form of buildings, set densely within the valley area and associated near tree coverage, particularly along the river and main road corridor. Where distant views exist, Glais mountain again forms an opposing rising valley side feature, containing all distant views to the east. The northwestern fringes of the western plateau area of the deployment zone would be potentially visible, no other site areas (the majority of the site) visible from this area. The solar arrays will form a new small scale vertical features covering a relatively small horizontal area upon the distant horizon. General visibility and existing distant views unrestricted.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. The arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect

Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G12. ALLTWEN– Gwyn Street, Tyn y Cae area (and surrounds)	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.1.35 km north
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is limited potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town set within the valley floor. Due to the viewing angle and intervening features, many views from the urban area will be screened by the near urban form of buildings, set densely within the valley area and associated near tree coverage. Where distant views exist, the northern slopes of Glais mountain again form a rising hill feature to the south. Despite the ZTV illustrating the potential for theoretical visibility it is considered that all views would be screened by coniferous plantation close to the northern boundary of the site, if any areas are visible, they would not be discernible at this distance and angle of view.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. Very limited / if any visibility to the arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor/Neutral.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low-Negligible
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low-Negligible Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G13. Western Clydach, Quarr Road area, c. 2.1km west	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.2.1 km west
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is limited potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this area of the town set within the gently rising valley floor to the west. Due to the dense urban grain visibility restricted to open areas and windows aligned to the east / northeast. The western fringes

	of the western plateau area of the deployment zone would be visible at the most, no other site areas visible. The solar arrays forming new small scale vertical features covering a relatively small horizontal area upon the distant horizon.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. Very limited / if any visibility to the arrays a distant horizon feature >2km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor/Neutral.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

G14. Birchgrove Estate, c. 2km southwest	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	c.2 km southwest
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with barriers illustrates that there is limited potential for theoretical visibility to the development from this residential area set upon the valley floor on the fringes of the study area. In reality due to the layout of the residential area, mature tree cover within and upon the boundary of the estate, it is considered that majority of views would be screened. In the very limited situations with views to the northeast, due to the separation distance and change in ground levels, it is unlikely that the development would be easily discernible.
Geographical extent	A range of views depending on the orientation of the properties and extent. Very limited / if any visibility to the arrays a distant horizon feature >1km, a long range view upon a wide horizon of the upper valley edge. Minor/Neutral.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit), although not perceptible from this distance.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Negligible
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Negligible

	Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

3.4 Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Public Right of Way within focussed Study Area

3.4.1 There is an extensive network of footpaths and trails within the 1km study area, many are continuous routes however the different sections are named independently (as set out below) and illustrated on Figure 14.

- Footpath YM2, located within the southern area of the site, c.50m from the deployment zone.
- Footpath YM4, c.40m to the south of the site boundary.
- Footpath YM5, c.290m to the southeast of the site boundary.
- Footpath YM3, c.330m to the southeast of the site boundary.
- Bridleway BV370A, borders the eastern site boundary (extending to 1km).
- Bridleway BV370, c.890m south of the site boundary – *Not assessed ZTV confirms no potential for theoretical visibility from section within 1km (Neutral)*
- Footpath RN42A / National Cycle Network Route 43 (Swansea to Coelbren), c.930m northwest of the site boundary – *Not assessed, views screened by mature vegetation and tree cover beside the route and river corridor (Neutral).*

All PROW within 1km:

Susceptibility to change	Users of the PROW (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic route
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High.

Footpath YM2	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	PROW located within the southern area of the site, c.50m from the deployment zone, within the site boundary.
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates the potential for theoretical visibility from the entire length of the PROW. In reality all views are screened by near tree cover and woodland except for a small section upon the eastern end, close to YM4. From this area it is likely that there would be small scale views to the southern edges of the arrays upon a small section of the western plateau only. Low.

Geographical extent	At the most visible, limited visibility to the arrays a near horizon feature at a distance of c.450m. Low/Negligible.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Footpath YM4	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	PROW located c.40m south of the site boundary.
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates the potential for theoretical visibility to the site from the entire length of the PROW. The PROW is the location for Viewpoints 1 and 2 and the scale of visual effect is as described in the viewpoint assessment. Low and Low/Medium.
Geographical extent	Visibility to the edges of the western plateau area from the western section of the PROW and restricted visibility into the central and eastern zones, at distances of c.300m from the route, entire length excluding nearside trees.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Medium (at the most from the eastern end)
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Moderate - Major, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management, although near tree cover expected to have matured further, limiting views.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Footpath YM5	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	PROW located c.290m southeast of the site boundary.
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates the potential for theoretical visibility to the site from the entire length of the PROW. Views from the PROW are focussed to the eastern areas of the site only. The arrays of this zone will be visible but set within the established tree and scrub context, which will also part filter and screen some areas. No visibility to the central and western plateau areas of the site. Views aligned away from the main direction of travel. Medium
Geographical extent	Visibility to the eastern area only and limited visibility to the central and western zone. Glimpsed and open views from the entire route, at the closest point the arrays c.280m away, extending to areas c. 1.1km to the northwest. Medium
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Medium
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Moderate - Major, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management, although near tree cover and that within the site is expected to have matured further, limiting the visible areas of the site.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Footpath YM3	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	PROW located c.330m to the southeast of the site boundary.
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates the potential for theoretical visibility to the site from the entire length of the PROW as it rises upon Mynydd Drumau to the south of the site. Views from the PROW similar to from YM 5 but more elevated and at a greater distance. Views to the site only gained for users walking in a northerly direction (descending). When visible the arrays are set within the established tree and scrub context, which will also part filter and screen some areas. No visibility to the central and western plateau areas of the site. Medium-Low
Geographical extent	Visibility to the eastern area only and limited visibility to the central and western zone. Glimpsed and open views from the entire route only when travelling north, at the closest point the arrays c.330m away, extending to areas c. 600m to the south. Medium-Low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.

Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Medium-Low
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management, although near tree cover and that within the site is expected to have matured further, more elevated views will still allow views to the site.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Bridleway BV370A	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	PROW borders the eastern site boundary (extending to 1km).
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates the potential for theoretical visibility to the site from the section of route between footpaths YM3 and YM5 as it rises upon Mynydd Drumau to the south of the site. Views from the PROW similar to from YM5 but more elevated and at a greater distance. Views to the site are only gained for users travelling in a north easterly direction (descending). When visible the arrays are set within the established tree and scrub context, which will also part filter and screen some areas. No visibility to the central and western plateau areas of the site. Medium-Low.
Geographical extent	Visibility to the eastern area only and limited visibility to the central and western zone. Open views from the entire route only when travelling north, at the closest point the arrays c.160m away on the eastern boundary, extending to areas c. 1.3km to the south. Medium-Low.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary. Scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation and areas of enhanced management to remain (benefit). Medium.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	Medium-Low (focussed to the northerly section)
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management, although near tree cover and that within the site is expected to have matured further, more elevated views will still allow views to the site.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

3.5 Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Transportation Network within focussed 1km Study Area

3.5.1 The following key transport routes within focussed 1km of the site, as illustrated on Figure 14, are considered in the following table.

- Ynys Y Mond Road, c.300m to the northwest of the site, local road connecting Glais with Alltwen.
- A4067, c. 500m to the northwest of the site.

All PROW within 1km:

Susceptibility to change	Users of the transport corridor (Medium)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic route
Sensitivity of visual receptor	Medium.

Ynys Y Mond Road	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	Local road connecting Glais with Alltwen, c.300m to the northwest of the site (closest point).
Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates that there would be very limited potential for visibility to the site area from the road corridor, limited visibility focussed to the southern end of the route. Due to the alignment of the road and location of the development, set beyond a steep sided hillside above the road, it is considered that there would be no potential for actual visibility to the site development from the road corridor. No change.
Geographical extent	No visibility – N/A
Duration and reversibility of effect	No visibility – N/A
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect

A4067	
Distance from site (closest area of the site boundary)	Local road c. 500m to the northwest of the site

Scale of visual effect	The ZTV with visual barriers indicates that there would be no potential for visibility to the site area from the road corridor, all views screened by a bank of mature roadside trees. Mature trees alongside the road, restrict and channel views to the road corridor only. No change.
Geographical extent	No visibility – N/A
Duration and reversibility of effect	No visibility – N/A
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 1)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 1)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	No Change
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL visual effect

3.6 Assessment of Predicted Visual Effects on Viewpoints

- 3.6.1 The current views from each of the viewpoint locations are shown in the baseline photo plates for Viewpoints 1 – 12. For viewpoints 1-10 a photomontage has been produced together with the solar Development Area site extents markers. Detailed analysis of the viewpoints is made with reference to the current baseline views and photomontages. The analysis of the magnitude of change, and the predicted visual effect, are considered in the following tables.

Viewpoint 1 (A & B) - Public Footpath to the south of the site, LPA Ref YM4	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Footpath users, partially representative of nearby isolated residential property High.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route, an open access area. High
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – recreational walkers
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage (PM) 1A centred on the view west illustrates the level of visibility to the western plateau area seen above the upper valley floor and steep wooded side slopes of the site. The view is fairly close range which allows for the southern edge of the deployment to be viewed. It is also possible to view the edge of the deployment in views north to the central plateau as illustrated by PM 1B where the terrain dips slightly allowing for a few more rows of arrays to be visible. The ridge and plateau formation does however screen most of the deployment located behind the visible ridgeline of the elongated hill comprising the site. Looking north to northeast (PM 1B) mature woodland and scrub screens the majority of the deployment. The proposal is only partially visible, noticeable but not an overly important new element in the view with only small areas of scrub seen on the brow of the hill lost to the deployment area. The character and composition are much the same as the baseline situation. Low change in view.
Geographical extent	Visible edges of western and central plateau areas set behind established woodland side slopes seen across adjoining upper valley floor. Land rises gently across adjacent grassland then steeply up wooded slopes. VP located

	at close range c.320m to the south and equivalent views from short section of overall route (c.150m). Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 322m Low level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain.
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Minor-Moderate – a ‘Not Substantial’ visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Small number of arrays will continue to be seen on the brow of the hill. Scrub will be encouraged to continue to develop to soften the edges assisting with grounding the arrays. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 2 (A&B) - Public Footpath to the southeast of the site, LPA Ref YM4	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the public right of way, also partially representative of nearby isolated residential property.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route. Assumed outlook valued by local residents. High.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – recreational walkers
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the level of visibility to the central and eastern plateau areas. The position is locally elevated to be at a similar height to parts of the deployment at c.202 AOD. Whilst this allows for clear views over the visible grassland areas utilised by the deployment the sections of grouped arrays are set within and seen to be interspersed by existing mature blocks of woodland and scrub which line the side slopes (which in PM 2A are orientated to the southwest away from the viewer). Looking northeast (PM 2B) the arrays are more closely aligned to the view which allows for sections of the deployment to be seen on the south facing side of the hill. It is still the case that most of the overall deployment is screened although the localised elevation and close proximity to the site (c.280m) results in it being clearly noticeable and slightly more of an important element of the view than when seen from the lower part of the footpath where topography is comparatively more obstructing (VP 1A & B). Nevertheless as large parts of the development are screened by existing vegetation and the visible panels sit well within the existing grassland clearings the character and composition are only partially changed with small areas of scrub lost and the base/edge of woodland blocks slightly obstructed by the far panels within visible sections of the deployment. The western plateau is screened by trees in the foreground of the view Low-Medium change in view.
Geographical extent	Relatively small portions of overall deployment viewed from a short section of locally elevated path (c280m to the south) for <100m of the route. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 280m Low level.
Duration and reversibility	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible.

of effect	Landscape mitigation likely to remain long term (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Medium
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate-Major a 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium The nature of this close range elevated view will remain much the same. Existing woodland and scrub will be encouraged to develop and further ground the arrays, softening the edges of the deployment within the grassland clearings. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate-Major, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 3 (A & B) - Public footpath upon Mynydd Drumau	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the public right of way Footpath on hillside above the site. Level of wear indicates limited use. High (prow).
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route. Assumed outlook valued by path users.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – recreational walkers upon the footpath (but with limited levels of use).
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the level of visibility from the upper hillside of Mynydd Drumau looking south towards the site from a mid-range viewpoint. (c.505m). The elevated vantage point on the opposing hillside set above the site at c.246m does allow for large portions of the deployment to be visible but viewed at an oblique angle which means they do not dominate the view with views to distant hills to the north remaining unobstructed and the elongated rounded form of the site's topography still easily discerned. The electricity pylons remain a prominent detractor in the view and partially obscure the lines of table. The visible parts of the deployment are divided into two main areas the western plateau (PM 3A) which covers over historic field boundaries (although temporarily) on this side of the site and the upper northeast section of the site as seen in PM 3B. The adjoining central plateau is screened from view by near topography and intervening woodland which serves to lessen the overall level of change experienced as it splits visible parts of the site into two small distinct areas. Medium change in the view - an important new element, clearly noticeable and a partial change in character at the site, but distant views unobstructed and less prominent than distant hills.
Geographical extent	West and east extents of site visible from mid-range elevated location with similar visible extents of the site seen from footpath and adjoining Bridleway to the immediate east. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 505m Medium level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Medium
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate-Major a 'Not Substantial' visual effect

Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium The elevated position will continue to allow for very similar views of the western plateau and northeast deployment areas. Woodland within the midground slopes of will continue to develop and screen more of the central areas so that the deployment is seen as two distinct areas and views will therefore become more focussed on the far side of the valley. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate-Major, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 4 - Garth Road, Glais.	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Residents at home (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – residential.
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the view from the western edge of the village of Glais within the valley floor looking northeast towards the site. The setback view looks over the village and up the wooded side sides where the edge of the deployment is seen on the hillside plateau top. As per the existing view only the western end of the site and therefore western edge of the solar deployment at this end of the site can be seen atop of the ridge. The rest of the deployment including the main body of the site, central and eastern zones are screened from view. Powerline cresting the hill to the east remain prominent detractors in the wider view. Low change in the view experienced for small number of residents at western edge of the settlement.
Geographical extent	View is set back at west side of the village which allows an angle of view over the village which takes in the exposed western edge of the site. Solar deployment will be topographically screened by steep wooded slopes from most of the settlement within the valley bottom. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 1044m Low level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain.
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Minor-Moderate – a ‘Not Substantial’ visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Small number of arrays will continue to be seen at the western end of the site on the brow of the hill. Scrub will be encouraged to continue to develop around the edges of the site boundary to further assist with grounding the arrays. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.

Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect
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Viewpoint 5 - Quarr Road, Clydach	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Residents at home (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – residential.
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the view from the main residential areas to the west. The site becomes partially visible on gently rising land once away from valley floor woodland and buildings which often obstruct views to the exposed ridge hosting the site. Slightly more of the grassland areas at western end of the site is revealed than the closer range VP 4 but it is still the case that the majority of the deployment is set back from this exposed ridgeline screening views of the central and eastern areas. The site is now seen within the wider upland area including grassland to the east and wooded side slopes flanking the site and adjoining areas. The solar arrays are seen side on but are a small distant component of the complex view (c.2.24km away) that contains both the pleasing focal point of the church tower but other prominent detractors including the chimney within Clydach and powerlines to the east of the site which remain the focus of the view. The distinct plateau landform of the site is still clearly legible and grassland whilst partly covered over can be seen to intersperse the edges of the deployment and between visible rows. Low change in view.
Geographical extent	Western area visible, arrays c.2.2km from this part of residential area(closest point). Views focussed to western edge of the site only, no distant views. Distant view but limited area were equivalent views possible. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 2244m Medium level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate - a 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Extent of woodland at top of side slopes to remain as existing and visible extent of arrays will be unchanged. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 6 - Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Residents, visitors to the park and nearby canal corridor. High.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. A defined scenic bicycle route. Assumed outlook valued by park users and

	those joining the canal towpath (Sustrans route)
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – recreational receptors visiting the park
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the view from the park in close proximity to the nearby Swansea Canal (Sustrans Cycle Route) at the southern extent of Clydach. The views are aligned northeast towards the site over the Afon Tawe (river valley). The edge of settlement location allows for uninterrupted views to the steeply sloping site framed by woodland in the valley floor where the view is predominantly focused. There are no particular detractors which makes for an attractive overall view. It is only the backside of the rows of panels at the north-western edge of the site that are seen lining the exposed ridgeline with most of the site screened by the topography due to the available angle of view from across the valley floor. Areas of scrub and stone walls (part derelict) will still define the grassland edges of the site above the treeline with only the brow of the hill obscured by the tops of the panels. So the general plateau landform remains legible with the character and composition of the view similar to the existing situation. Low change in the view experienced for visitors to the park and walking/cycling routes whose main focus is on the wooded valley setting of the park and canal corridor.
Geographical extent	View from the far side of the valley floor. Similar partial visibility to the exposed edge of the site from similar positions within the valley floor where the angle of view restricts the degree of visibility. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 1098m Medium level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate - a 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Extent of woodland at top of side slopes to remain as existing and visible extent of arrays will be unchanged. Scrub will be encouraged to develop which will assist with grounding the back edges of arrays seen along the north edge of the site. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 7 - New Road, Trebanos	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Residents at home (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – residential.
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage again illustrates the view from the main residential areas to the northwest of the site. The highly contrasting nearby urban area within the valley dominates over the more recessive wooded slopes leading up to the exposed ridge at the west side of the site. The backside of the edge of the

	rows of arrays is seen cresting the grassland edge of the hillside. The view is fairly distant so that the arrays are less noticeable than when seen side on in close range positions. The visible edge of the deployment is seen side on so that it forms a more or less continuous thin line that closely resembles the existing landform and is only partially obscuring broken areas of scrub at the western edge of the site. Topography screens views to the central and eastern areas. Low change in the view experienced by residents within linear settlement with near urban housing the focus.
Geographical extent	View from the far side of the valley floor. Similar partial visibility to the exposed edge of the site from similar positions within the valley floor where the angle of view restricts the degree of visibility. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 1315m Medium level.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain.
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate – a ‘Not Substantial’ visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Extent of woodland at top of side slopes to remain as existing and views of a single north facing row of arrays will remain. Scrub will be encouraged to develop which will assist with grounding the back edges of these arrays. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 8 - Gellionen Road	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Road users, primarily vehicles (Medium)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	Road users (general vehicles) and majority of traffic are of Low sensitivity.
Scale of visual effect	Photomontage illustrates the distant views from the elevated areas to the west of the study area set above the wooded valley floor and side slopes (directly below the site). The view is focused on the western plateau of the site with the deployment here seen between the expanse of woodland which continues from the valley bottom upside slopes to meet the grassland edges of the site. Due to the elevated position the elongated plateau landform of the site is now less prominent as it is set between woodland slopes and expansive upland grassland areas above the site. A large field tree seen silhouetted beyond the foreground field and hedge boundary is the focus which obscures central areas with partial visibility to parts of the eastern zone of deployment although this is harder to discern given the distance (c.2.28km away). The solar deployment is in general hard to discern above the similarly contrasting woodland and the wide angle view means the character and composition remain much the same as the existing situation as the changes will be hard to notice for the casual viewer.

	Low change in the view due to distance, low perception in relation to surrounding woodland and set down position within upland grassland.
Geographical extent	Large area of comparative visibility from upland above Clydach but still partial visibility of deployment seen within wider extent of the site environs from elevated areas of opposing valley side. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 2288m Medium
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Low-Medium
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Minor-Moderate - a 'Not Substantial' visual effect Wider extent of the site visible yet low levels of perception in relation to the wider landscape view available.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low-Medium The deployment within the western plateau will look much the same save for the development of scrub vegetation in and around the edges of grassland hosting the arrays. Views to the eastern end of the site will further diminish as woodland and scrub continue to assimilate and further screen this end of the site. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor-Moderate, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 9 - River (Afon) Tawe Valley	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public Right of Way users (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic route although runs adjacent to Garth Road part of the Sustrans Route that heads south from the nearby path along the river Tawe. Assume view valued by users of the route.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – Users of the PROW
Scale of visual effect	Photomontages from this viewpoint illustrate the panoramic views east over the study area and River Tawe Valley towards the site. An extensive woodland belt runs across the valley floor to the east of Garth Road (screened by the midground hedgerow but marked by lighting columns) which frames the distant view to the upland area of Mynydd Drumau and the distinctive rounded form and crest of the site plateau. The landform of the site appears well wooded and at this distance forms a smaller part of the available vista. Whilst the distance and shallower angle of view allows for more of the grassland to be seen tilted towards the viewer overall the deployment is hard to discern set on the rounded plateau and does not strongly contrast with surrounding woodland and topography. It still remains the central and eastern site areas are topographically screened so that the level of discernible change is low in terms of the overall character and composition of the view. The degree to which the changes will be noticeable will vary over the course of the day and times of year when the angle of the sun is higher in the sky (PM is a winter view Jan 2022) so that the colour of panels is perceptible.

	However, bearing in mind professional experience of viewing equivalent solar schemes at this distance (>2km) the level of change is not considered to be substantially different to that illustrated here. Low change in view despite more panels covering over visible grassland element of the site the landform still recognisable with no distant views are obstructed.
Geographical extent	Visible changes within a small area in comparison to wide panoramic view. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 2450m Low.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Low
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Minor - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Low Distant views of the site's domed landform and wooded side slopes beneath it will not noticeably change. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Minor, a NOT SUBSTANTIAL landscape effect

Viewpoint 10 - Alltwen	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public Right of Way users (High)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic route. Assume view valued by users of the route.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – Users of the PROW
Scale of visual effect	The photomontage illustrates distant views from the northern fringes of the study area looking towards the northern edge of Mynydd Drumau. The winter view taken close to midday shows the landform of the site in dark silhouette against the sky with the crest of the site just visible seen above the wooded slopes which wrap around its steep sides. A very small part of the eastern edge of the deployment is just visible although is very difficult to discern without magnification of the view. The casual viewer is unlikely to notice any change in the view so the small number of arrays jutting out would barely be perceptible which in accordance with the methodology equates to a 'Minor' level of effect which would be experienced more so in spring to summer months when sun angles allow for more visible contrast. Negligible change in the view.
Geographical extent	Distant view (c.2.15km) to very small part of eastern edge jutting above treeline but barely perceptible here and would need favourable lighting in spring summer to be noticed. Woodland and buildings in the near vicinity likely to screen the site from most of the footpath. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 2150m Low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Negligible

LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Minor-Neutral - a 'Not Substantial' visual effect Not discerned by casual viewers and even if glimpsed would not be enough to cause any discernible deterioration to the view especially in winter months.
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	None Woodland and scrub at site edges likely to eventually screen any small glimpses to arrays seen at year 1 Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral (No Change) - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect

Viewpoint 11 - Bryn Coch	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Road users, primarily vehicles (Medium)
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	Road users (general vehicles) and majority of traffic are of Low sensitivity.
Scale of visual effect	The photomontage illustrates there is no visibility to the site. The baseline is unchanged from the existing situation: set upon the southeastern fringe of the study area. The site is set beyond the main landform feature upon the horizon, Mynydd Drumau. No Change in the view
Geographical extent	N/A
Duration and reversibility of effect	N/A
Magnitude of visual effect	None
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Neutral (No Change) - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	None Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral (No Change) - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect

Viewpoint 12 - PROW Mynydd Drumau	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	PROW users High.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic path. Assume view valued by users of the path as attractive upland views available
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – footpath users
Scale of visual effect	The existing view and photomontage constructed verified there were no views of the site with the baseline situation remaining as existing: Viewpoint upon the hillside to the south of the site. The area is generally inaccessible due to limited roads or PROW; however the viewpoint is set upon one

	PROW. There is near visibility to the pylons and overhead transmission line that pass through the site area. There is however no visibility to any areas of the site, all views screened by intermediate topography. No Change in the view
Geographical extent	N/A
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	None
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Neutral (No Change) - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	None Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focussed to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Neutral (No Change) - A 'Not Substantial' visual effect

Viewpoint 13 - Mynydd Drumau (plateau top)	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	PROW users High.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic route. Assume view valued by users of the path as attractive upland views available
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – footpath users
Scale of visual effect	The photomontage illustrates the panoramic views of the near upland grassland slopes on Mynydd Drumau and the far side of Afon Tawe valley with woodland slopes and upland areas above Clydach and Pontadarwe as well as higher uplands in the far distance. The western zone of the deployment is seen between two existing pylons with the landform rolling over to screen the central and eastern zones. The site is part of the near view dominated by grassland which is fairly featureless save for the coniferous woodland lining Nant y Cynnach a small tributary to the river Tawe. Due to the proximity of the visible portion of the site, a 'Medium' level of change would occur as whilst clearly noticeable and an important new element, the temporary loss of grassland will not lead to a substantial change in the view that would have a defining influence. Views to upland areas across the valley will also remain unobstructed and so the attractive panoramic views available will still be appreciated and the solar panels could be considered to be at most moderately discordant feature within the complex view. Medium change in the view
Geographical extent	Much of the elevated land on Mynydd Drumau has no views to the site particularly west of the VP location. Distance to Nearest Solar Array: 1102m Low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	Medium-Low

LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	Moderate , a 'Not Substantial' visual effect
Magnitude of visual effect (Year 10)	Medium-Low Eastern end of the deployment will continue to be seen to same extent. Landscape features around the site are established, as per year 1, mitigation focused to management.
Level of visual effect (Year 10)	Moderate , a 'Not Substantial' visual effect

