

Appendix 8

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Characteristics	Elements, or combination of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive seascape/landscape character.
Designated Seascape/Landscape	Areas of seascape/landscape, identified as being of importance at international, national, regional or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Development	Any proposal that results in a change to the seascape/landscape and /or visual environment.
Direct Effect	An effect that is directly attributable to the proposed development.
Elements	Individual parts which make up the landscape, such as for example, trees, hedges and buildings
Environmental Impact Assessment	EIA is a means of carrying out, in a systematic way, an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects from a development.
Indirect Effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed development as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site. This may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.
Key Characteristics	Those combinations of elements which are particularly important to the existing character of the seascape/landscape and help to give an area a particularly distinctive sense of place.
Land Use	What land is used for, based on broad categories of functional land cover, such as agricultural, forestry, urban.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface, which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical process.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape Character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes the landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape Receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Magnitude (of effect)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area which it occurs and whether it is short or long term in duration.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of the proposed development upon a photograph or series of photographs.
Proposed Development	The proposed Y Bryn Wind Farm development.

Term	Definition
Quality	A measure of the physical state of the seascape/landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the seascape/landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Scoping	The process of identifying the issues to be addressed by an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Seascape	Landscapes with views of the coast or sea, and coasts and adjacent marine environments with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.
Seascape Character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the seascape that makes the seascape different from another, rather than better or worse.
Seascape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular seascape type.
Seascape Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the seascape and landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the seascape/landscape. It seeks to explain the unique combination of elements and features that make seascape/landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Seascape Landscape Character Assessment.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that response.
Significance	A measure of the importance of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined seascape/landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Tranquillity	A state of calm and quietude associated with peace, considered to be a significant asset of the landscape.
Visual Amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of the activities of the people loving, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual Effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual Receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
Value	The relative value that is attached to seascape/landscapes by society. A seascape/landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a variety of reasons.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the proposed appearance of the development.
Y Bryn site boundary	The area within which the proposed development will be located.
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, showing areas of land within which, the proposed development is theoretically visible.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AIL	Abnormal Indivisible Loads
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
BBNPA	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
BCBC	Bridgend County Borough Council
BGCBC	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
CC	Cardiff Council
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CRow	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
DNS	Developments of National Significance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HIA	Heritage Impact Assessment
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
JAC	Joint Advisory Committees
Km	Kilometre
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LDP	Local Development Plan
LNr	Local Nature Reserve
LOHI	Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
LSHI	Landscapes of Special Historic Interest
LVIA	Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
MTCBC	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
NCC	Newport City Council
NCR	National Cycle Routes
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PAA	Pre-Assessed Areas
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
RCTCBC	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
REP	Renewable Energy Park
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
RVAA	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

Abbreviation	Description
SAC	Site of Area of Conservation
SC	Swansea Council
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLVIA	Seascape Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SSA	Strategic Search Areas
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TCBC	Torfaen County Borough Council
UDP	Unitary Development Plan
VILL	Visually Important Local Landscape
VoGC	Vale of Glamorgan Council
WHS	World Heritage Site
WWTW	Welsh Water Treatment Works
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

A8.1 SEASCAPE LANDSCAPE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

Scope

A8.1.1 The Seascape/Landscape and Visual section of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will assess effects on the physical seascape/landscape within Bryn site boundary, together with the wider seascape/landscape character and visual amenity within the study area. A study area of 45 kilometre (km) from the outermost proposed wind turbine will be adopted. However, the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (Figure 8.1) indicates that potential visibility is largely focussed within approximately 15 km of the outermost proposed wind turbine and the Seascape Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (SLVIA), therefore, is more focussed on effects within this area. The SLVIA will assess the construction, operational and decommissioning phase of the proposed development, which would last up to 50 years.

Guidance

A8.1.2 The assessment will adopt a methodology developed in accordance with the following current guidance:

- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition. Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013);*
- *Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments, NatureScot, (March 2021);*
- *Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3, NatureScot (2017);*
- *NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' January 2021;*
- *Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2, NatureScot (February 2017);*
- *Visual Representation of Development Proposals – Technical Advice Note 06/19, Landscape Institute (September 2019), including supporting Technical Information Notes 07/19, 08/19 and 09/19;*
- *Seascape And Visual Sensitivity to Offshore Wind Farms in Wales: National Seascape Assessment for Wales – NRW Evidence Report No. 80, NRW (November 2015), Strategic Assessment and Guidance, Stage 1- Ready Reckoner of Visual Effects Related to Turbine Size, Report no. 315, NRW (March 2019);*
- *National Seascape Assessment for Wales, NRW Evidence Report No.80, NRW (November 2015);*
- *Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment, White Consultants/Cardiff University (November 2017);*
- *An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – To Inform Spatial Planning and Land Management, Natural England (June 2019); and*

- *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations -Technical Guidance Note 02/21, Landscape Institute (2021).*

A8.1.3 The assessment will be in accordance with best practice guidance. In order to provide a less prescriptive approach, there will be an emphasis on creating a narrative approach to describing the seascape/landscape and visual effects and any judgements made on their significance. The assessment will follow the methodology set out.

LANDMAP and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)

A8.1.4 LANDMAP is a complete all-Wales GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. It offers a mapped, contextual baseline of landscape information about landscape character, qualities and values, in which the greater detail of a LVIA can be set.

A8.1.5 LANDMAP comprises five spatially related datasets:

- Geological Landscape;
- Landscape Habitats;
- Visual & Sensory;
- Historic Landscape; and
- Cultural Landscape Services.

A8.1.6 *NRW Guidance Note 046, 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments, (LVIA),' (January 2021)* requires an early desk search stage to help to identify the extent of study area needed for the detailed SLVIA and to provide an evidence basis for the inclusion or exclusion of landscapes within the adopted study area.

A8.1.7 To ensure the SLVIA focusses on potentially sensitive landscape receptors within aspect areas most likely to be affected, a 4-step filtering process has been applied to the LANDMAP datasets to ascertain those that are required to be assessed within the SLVIA.

A8.1.8 For Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Cultural Landscape Services aspect areas/datasets, the initial search area, (Filter 1), includes areas that overlap fully or partially or are adjacent to the Y Bryn site boundary. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) has then been applied, relating to the relationship to other aspect areas, theoretical visibility, evaluation scoring and /or specific characteristics, such as rarity/uniqueness, (Geological Landscape) or connectivity/cohesion, (Landscape Habitats). Aspect areas in which the proposed development is located are in all cases retained for assessment within the SLVIA irrespective of their evaluation or any special characteristics.

A8.1.9 For Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape, the initial search area (Filter 1) adopted by the SLVIA extends across the entire 45 km study area. Further filtering (Filters 2, 3 and 4) was then applied, relating to theoretical visibility, overall evaluation scoring for both Visual and Sensory and Historic Landscape and high sensitivity visual receptors. Consideration of Scenic Value (Q48) and Character (Q48) were also applied to help filter areas evaluated as moderate overall.

- A8.1.10 Cultural Landscape Services does not include landscape evaluation information, retain all aspect areas identified from filter 1 includes areas that overlap fully or partially or are adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary. Further filtering, Filter 3 has then been applied, relating to theoretical visibility.
- A8.1.11 Professional judgement was then applied to identify the LANDMAP Aspect Areas to be retained within the study area and to be taken forward for further assessment, based on the following criteria:
- Extent/proportion of the aspect area receiving theoretical visibility;
 - Distance from the proposed development to the aspect area;
 - Proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;
 - Number of turbines proposed development likely to be visible; and
 - Characteristics of the aspect area influencing potential visibility, such as forestry, built form.
- A8.1.12 The filtering exercise outlined in paragraphs A8.1.7 to A8.1.12 identified aspect areas where significant effects may potentially occur. The intention is to ensure that the SLVIA focusses on those LCA's where significant effects are most likely, and these are taken forward for further detailed assessment in Section 8.6:Landscape Effects in Chapter 8: Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, located in Volume 1 of the ES.
- A8.1.13 A further filtering exercise was carried out to determine LCA's where potential for significant cumulative effects may occur. Where LCA's were identified, (irrespective of LANDMAP aspect area values), these were also added for inclusion in the SLVIA baseline and assessment sections.
- A8.1.14 Table A8.8.5.1 identifies the filtered aspect areas and the justification for inclusion or exclusion from detailed assessment in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 in the ES.
- A8.1.15 Further to the above, filtering of Seascape Character Areas (SCA's) was also carried out to ensure that the SLVIA focusses on those SCA's where significant effects are most likely. Table A8.4.1 identifies the justification for inclusion or exclusion from detailed assessment in detailed assessment in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 in the ES.
- A8.1.16 For all LCA's excluded from the SLVIA, it is considered that there will no significant effects on landscape character.
- A8.1.17 The LANDMAP Aspect Areas identified following the GN46 filtering are illustrated on figures 8.22 - 8.30.
- A8.1.18 The LANDMAP Aspect Areas identified as having potential for significant effects through filtering are illustrated on figures 8.34 - 8.42.
- A8.1.19 The LCAs identified where potential for significant effects may occur and are to be included within the SLVIA are illustrated on figure 8.43.

Effects on Seascape/Landscape Character

- A8.1.20 The first stage of the assessment establishes the existing character, value and susceptibility of seascape/landscape receptors to change. Combining judgements made on susceptibility to change (Table A8.1.1) and value (Table A8.1.2) enables a considered judgement to be made on

the level of sensitivity (Table A8.1.3) to be apportioned to each defined SCA and LCA within the study area. The criteria for informing the susceptibility of the seascape/landscape, its value and sensitivity are illustrated in the following tables.

Seascape/Landscape Susceptibility

- A8.1.21 The following parameters will be applied in determining the susceptibility of the landscapes within the study area, in accordance with Table A8.1.1:
- Seascape/landscape condition;
 - Existing land-use;
 - The pattern and scale of the landscape;
 - The scope for mitigation, which would be in character with the existing landscape; and
 - The degree to which a particular element or characteristic that contributes to the landscape character can be replaced or substituted.

Table A8.1.1: Susceptibility of seascape/landscape receptors to change

Susceptibility	Description
High	A seascape/landscape where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed without causing a change to overall character to the extent that it would be difficult or impossible to restore. The prevalence and condition of seascape/landscape characteristics is also likely to be high.
Medium	A seascape/landscape with a combination of attributes that is capable of absorbing some degree of change from the type of development proposed without affecting overall character. Restoration of landscape character may be possible. The prevalence and condition of seascape/landscape characteristics is likely to be medium.
Low	A seascape/landscape where the majority of attributes are robust and/or tolerant of change from the type of development proposed to the extent that change or development would have little or no effect on overall character. It is likely to be easily restored and the prevalence and condition of seascape/landscape characteristics is likely to be low.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Seascape/Landscape Value

Table A8.1.2: Seascape/landscape value

Value	Description
Outstanding	Seascapes/Landscapes, which are outstanding of value by nature of their scenic quality, aesthetic and perceptual characteristics. They will have a strong sense of place that will be reinforced through their visual and sensory, historic, cultural, geological or landscape habitat importance. These areas will be important tourist destinations and may be of national or international importance as defined by statutory designations.
High	Seascapes/Landscapes, which are of high value by nature of their scenic quality, aesthetic and perceptual characteristics. They may have a distinctive sense of place that may be reinforced through some visual and sensory, historic, cultural, geological or landscape habitat importance. These areas may be tourist destinations and may be of regional or county importance as defined by statutory and local authority designations.
Medium	Seascapes/Landscapes, which are of medium value by nature of their scenic, aesthetic and perceptual characteristics. Sense of place is unlikely to be perceived as distinctive, although some visual and sensory, historic, cultural, geological or natural habitat features may be of note. The area may have some tourist associations, though tourism is not the primary attraction. These areas may be of local importance as defined by local authority designations.
Low	Seascapes/Landscape, which are of low value by nature of their scenic quality, aesthetic and perceptual characteristics. Very little coherent character and a weak sense of place and are unlikely to be rare in terms of character type. They are unlikely to contain tourist attractions, or to be of local importance as defined by local authority designations.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Seascape/Landscape Sensitivity

Table A8.1.3: Seascape/landscape sensitivity

Sensitivity	
Very High	A seascape/landscape of outstanding or high value that may have key characteristics that will have a very high sensitivity to wind farm development of the size proposed. The seascape/landscape will be highly susceptible to change and is likely to be designated at an international or national level.
High	A seascape/landscape of high value that may have key characteristics that may have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the size proposed. The seascape/landscape may be highly susceptible to change and is likely to be designated at a national or regional level.
Medium	A seascape/landscape of medium value that will have a range of characteristics, with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the size proposed. The seascape/landscape will be of medium susceptibility to change and may be designated at a regional or local level.
Low	The proposed development would result in a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a slight change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may extend over a limited area and may be medium to long-term.

Sensitivity	
Very Low	A seascape/landscape of low value that will have key characteristics that will be tolerant of wind farm development of the size proposed. The seascape/landscape will be of low susceptible to change and is unlikely to be designated.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Magnitude of Seascape/Landscape Impacts

A8.1.22 The second stage of the assessment establishes the magnitude of impact on seascape/ landscape character. The criteria for informing the magnitude of impacts are illustrated in Table A8.1.4.

Table A8.1.4: Magnitude of seascape/landscape impacts

Magnitude	Description
Very High	The proposed development would result in a very large-scale loss or major alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a fundamental and permanent change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may occur over an extensive area.
High	The proposed development would result in a large-scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a considerable change. Impacts may occur over a wide area and would likely be permanent or long-term.
Medium	The proposed development would result in a moderate loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a partial change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may extend over a notable area and may be long-term.
Low	The proposed development would result in a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a slight change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may extend over a limited area and may be medium to long-term.
Negligible	The proposed development would result in such a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character that there would be no perceptible impact.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Significance of Seascape/Landscape Effects

A8.1.23 The third stage of the assessment establishes the significance of effects on seascape/landscape character. This is determined by combining the sensitivity (Table A8.1.3) of the SCA/LCA with the magnitude of impact (Table A8.1.4) that would occur as a result of the proposed development.

A8.1.24 Illustration 8.1.1 has been used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact to determine the significance of effects on seascape and landscape character. This is adapted from the version provided in IEMA’s Special Report entitled; The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in The UK (2011). The significance of the effect is defined in Table A8.1.5.

Illustration 8.1.1: Significance of effects on seascape/landscape character

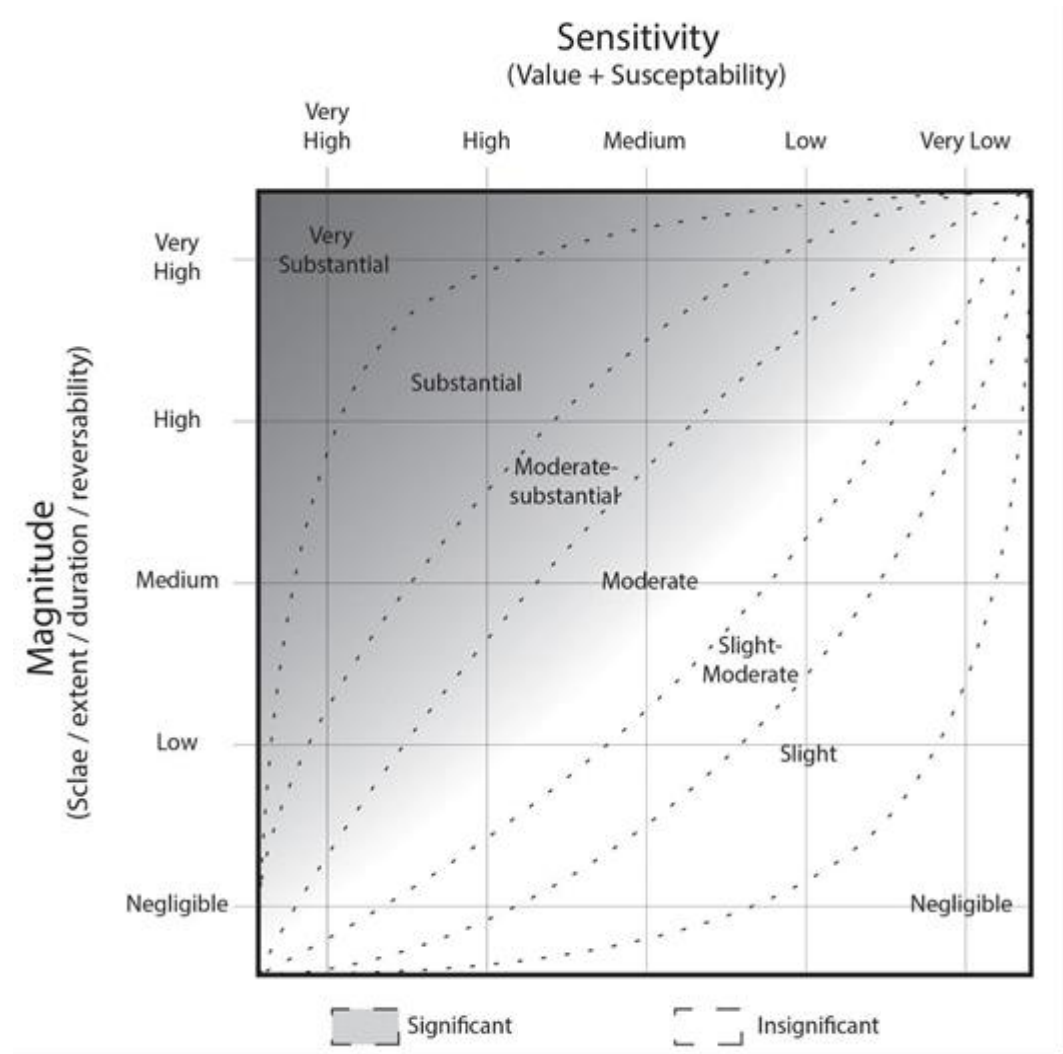


Table A8.1.5: Significance of seascape/landscape effects

Significance	Description
Very Substantial	The proposed development will typically have very substantial effects upon landscape character. These effects would typically result from a very high magnitude of impact on seascape/landscape character. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a very high sensitivity to wind farm development of the size proposed.
Substantial	The proposed development will typically have substantial effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from a high magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Moderate/ Substantial	The proposed development will typically have moderate to substantial effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from a medium to high magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a medium to high sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Moderate	The proposed development will typically have moderate effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from a medium magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a medium sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Slight/ Moderate	The proposed development will typically have slight to moderate effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from a low to medium magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a low to medium sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Slight	The proposed development will typically have slight effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from low magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a low sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Negligible	The proposed development will typically have negligible effects on seascape/landscape character. These effects would typically result from a negligible magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a very low sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.25 Effects determined to have moderate-substantial seascape/landscape significance or above will be considered to be significant. Conversely, effects determined to be slight-moderate and below will be considered not significant.
- A8.1.26 Where effects are determined to have moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. If any given receptors are subject to a series of moderate effects, such as a long a path or road corridor, the combined effects may be considered to be significant.

A8.1.27 A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

Effects on Visual Amenity

A8.1.28 The first stage of the assessment establishes the susceptibility and value of visual receptors to change from each of the agreed viewpoint locations. Combining judgements made on susceptibility and value enables a considered judgement to be made on the level of sensitivity to be apportioned to the viewpoint receptor. It should be acknowledged that there may be a range of receptor types at each viewpoint location. However, the assessment focusses on the most likely sensitive groups of receptor types. The criteria for informing the susceptibility of visual receptors, their value and sensitivity are illustrated in the following tables.

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

Table A8.1.6: Susceptibility of visual receptors to change

Susceptibility	Description
High	May typically include residents of properties, including private houses, caravans, B&Bs, guest houses and hotels where the main view is orientated towards the proposed wind farm development, or people undertaking recreation where the seascape/landscape within which the wind farm development is seen as the primary reason for attraction or reason for visit (e.g. walkers and hikers on recognised footpaths, open access land, rights of way and scenic route users, yacht and inshore recreational boat users). Receptors are more likely to be within a recognised tourist attraction where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. It is unlikely that receptors will be able to accommodate any degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements.
Medium	May typically include people undertaking recreation, which is site or activity focussed, e.g., hunting, shooting, angling, nature conservation, golf, water-based activities, cultural heritage based activities (e.g., visitors to an historic park or building); outdoor workers or travellers on road, rail, ferries or other transport routes. Receptors are able to accommodate a degree of new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors may be susceptible to change, although less likely to be at a recognised tourist attraction where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.
Low	May typically include people engaged in outdoor sport, either on land and on the water or undertaking a recreation that does not involve or depend on appreciation of views of the landscape; people at work, whose attention would not be focused on the surrounding seascape/landscape and whose setting is not typically important to the quality of their working life. Receptors where new visual elements of the type proposed may be readily accommodated, by virtue of location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors will not be at a location recognised as a tourist attraction where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Value Attached to the View

Table A8.1.7: Value attached to the view

Value	Description
High	Location where the views are widely acknowledged through reference to them in officially promoted guide-books and leaflets or referenced in literature or art and are of primary importance to the receptors experience and perception of the view. Provision of facilities that specifically promote the enjoyment of the view, including views towards the proposed development will be present such as seating and interpretation boards. Views may contribute to the setting of internationally/nationally designated seascapes/landscapes or features. Views towards the wind farm development may be more typically unrestricted and or panoramic and would be devoid of detractor elements.
Medium	Location where the view positively contributes to the setting of the area at a local level. Views may contribute to the setting of regional/locally designated seascape/landscapes or features. Provision of facilities, such as seating and interpretation boards, but these are unlikely to be related or connected to the enjoyment of the view, including views towards the proposed development. Views towards the wind farm development may be more typically primary, direct or open, and may have some detracting elements.
Low	Location where the view is not documented or associated with a designated seascape/landscape. The views will not be acknowledged or provided for in terms of facilities. Views towards the wind farm development may be more typically secondary, oblique or filtered, and may have multiple detracting elements.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

Table A8.1.8: Sensitivity of visual receptors

Sensitivity	Description
Very High	The majority of receptors would be particularly responsive to wind farm development of the size proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are likely to have a high susceptibility to change and considered to be at a location that may be valued for its views or may contribute to the setting of internationally/nationally designated seascapes/landscapes or features. Receptors would typically include occupiers of residential properties and people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside or on water such as designated long-distance footpaths or other promoted walking or recreational routes.
High	The majority of receptors may be responsive to wind farm development of the size proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements, but not exclusively so and may be able to accommodate some new visual elements. Receptors are likely to have a medium to high susceptibility to change and considered to be at a location valued for its views that contribute to the setting of designated seascapes/landscapes or features at a regional level. Receptors would typically include residents or people engaged in recreational activities in the countryside or on water such as using local public rights of way, National Cycle Routes (NCR), or recreational users of coastal areas, such as yachting, pleasure boating, bathing and promenading.
Medium	The majority of receptors are able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are likely to have a medium susceptibility to change and considered to be at a location that may be valued for its views at a local level. Receptors would typically include people engaged in outdoor sporting activities that are connected to the landscape or seascape, such as golfers and water sport enthusiasts and also people travelling through the landscape on minor roads, trains and ferries.
Low	The majority of receptors are unlikely to be responsive to wind farm development of the size proposed, by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements, but not exclusively so. Receptors are likely to have a low to medium susceptibility to change and not considered to be at a location that is recognised or valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people undertaking outside work, such as farmers and commercial trawlerman, or a sporting activity that is unconnected with the seascape/landscape.
Very Low	Receptors are able to accommodate a high degree of new visual elements of the type proposed by virtue of their location, nature and/or existing visual qualities and elements. Receptors are likely to have a low susceptibility to change and not considered to be at a location valued for its views. Receptors would typically include people at a place of work, such as an in an office or dock worker and people travelling through the landscape on A roads and motorways.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Magnitude of Visual Impacts

A8.1.29 The second stage of the assessment establishes the magnitude of impacts on visual amenity. The criteria for informing the magnitude of impacts are illustrated in Table A8.1.9:

Table A8.1.9: Magnitude of visual effects

Magnitude	Description
Very High	The proposed development would be immediately apparent as a very large-scale feature that would occupy a wide proportion of the view, contrasting with existing features such as the extent and nature of other built development visible within the view, including vertical elements. The proposed development is likely to be visually dominant and would affect and change the overall appearance of the view to the extent that other features would become subordinate. Views of the development are likely to be from close distance. Views will be very long in duration.
High	The proposed development would be an apparent feature, as a large-scale feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the overall view. The development may contrast with existing features such as the extent and nature of other built development visible within the view, including vertical elements. The proposed development is likely to be visually prominent to the extent that it would affect and change the appearance of a number of key existing elements within the view. Views of the development are likely to be medium to close distance and may be long in duration.
Medium	The proposed development would form a recognisable new element of moderate scale within the view and would be readily observed without fundamentally changing the overall nature of the view, including the extent and nature of other built development including vertical elements. Overall quality of the view may remain intact. Development is likely to be visible across a moderate proportion of the view, to the extent that the proposed wind farm is not prominent. Views of the development are likely to be medium distance and moderate in duration.
Low	The proposed development would form a component of small scale within the wider view that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of the development would not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view. Development may be visible to a limited proportion of the view, to the extent that the proposed wind farm is not a defining element. Views of the development are likely to be medium to long distance and glimpsed or brief in duration.
Negligible	The proposed development would be viewed at a scale that would be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and would have no discernible impact on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development is unlikely to be visible or restricted to long distance views that would be glimpsed or very brief in duration.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Significance of Visual Effects

- A8.1.30 The third stage of the assessment establishes the significance of effects on visual amenity. This will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the visual receptor (Table A8.1.8) with the magnitude of impact (Table A8.1.9) that would occur as a result of the proposed development.
- A8.1.31 Illustration 8.1.2 has been used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact to determine the significance of effects on visual amenity. This is adapted from the version provided in IEMA’s Special Report entitled; The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in The UK (2011). The significance of the effect is defined in Table A8.1.10.

Illustration 8.1.2: Significance of effects on visual amenity

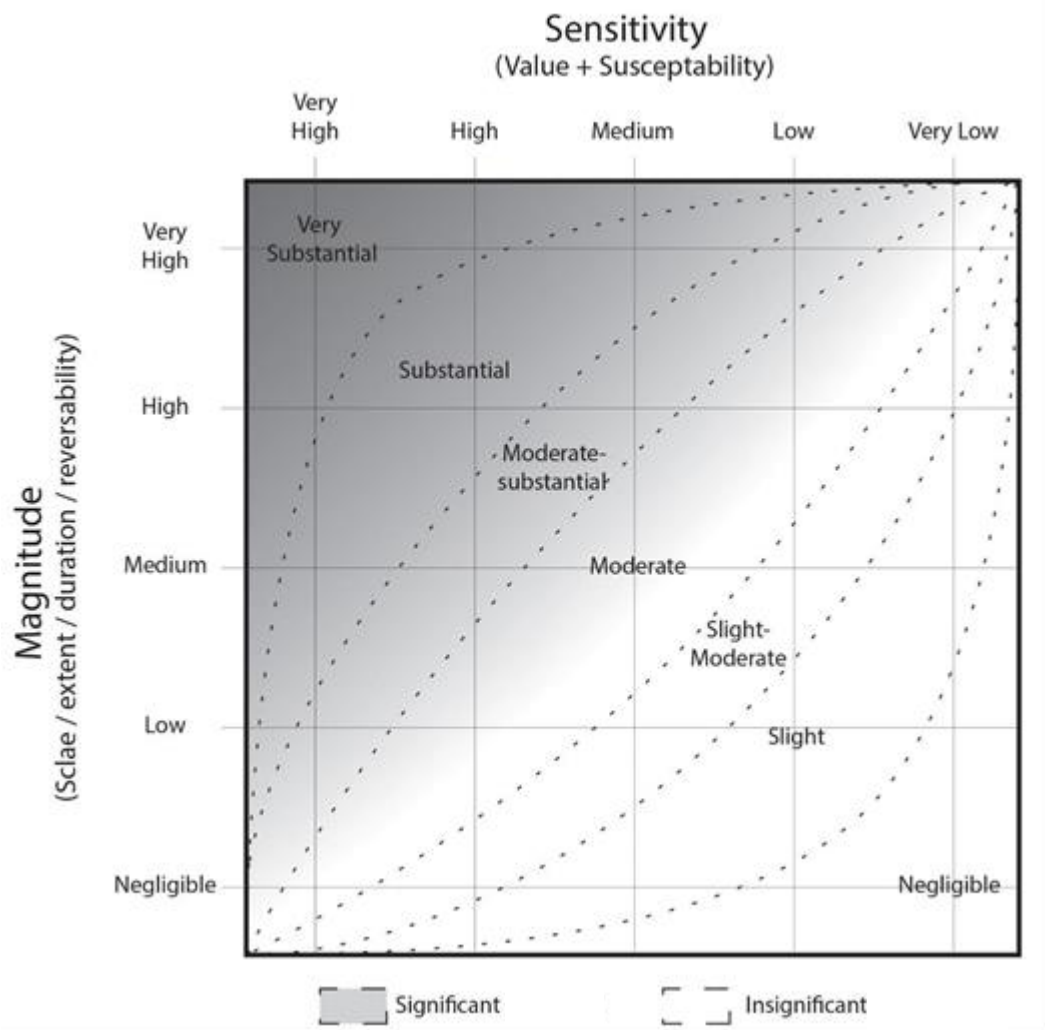


Table A8.1.10: Significance of visual effects

Significance	Description
Very Substantial	The proposed development will typically have very substantial effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a very high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a very high sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Substantial	The proposed development will typically have substantial effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Moderate/ Substantial	The proposed development will typically have moderate to substantial effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a medium to high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a medium to high sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Moderate	The proposed development will typically have moderate effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a medium magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a medium sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Slight/ Moderate	The proposed development will typically have a slight to moderate effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a low to medium magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a low to medium sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Slight	The proposed development will typically have a slight effect upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a low magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a low sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.
Negligible/none	The proposed development will typically have negligible effects upon visual amenity. These effects would typically result from a negligible magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a very low sensitivity to wind farm development of the nature and size proposed.

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.32 Viewpoint locations where effects are determined to have moderate-substantial visual significance or above will be considered to be significant. Conversely locations determined to have visual effects that are slight-moderate or below will be considered not significant.
- A8.1.33 Where effects are determined to have moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances relating to each viewpoint and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. For example, effects from a particular viewpoint may be considered to be of moderate visual significance. However, the broad nature of the view in which the proposed development would be seen may reduce these effects to an extent where effects would still be considered to be moderate though not considered to be significant. If any given receptors are subject to a series of moderate effects, such as a long a path or road corridor, the combined effects may be considered to be significant.

A8.1.34 A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

A8.1.35 In addition to assessing the individual effects of the proposed wind farm on seascape/landscape character and visual amenity the SLVIA also assesses the cumulative effects of wind farms that are existing (operational), consented, that have been submitted for planning (application) and those at scoping stage.

A8.1.36 Given the large number of wind farm developments within the 45 km study area, the criteria outlined was applied in order that the assessment be focussed on only the wind farm developments that are likely to contribute to significant cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character and visual amenity:

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

A8.1.37 Table A8.1.11 contains the list of wind farm developments assessed in the SLVIA.

Table A8.1.11: Cumulative wind farms

Name	Distance to nearest Y Bryn turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height (m)	Tip Height (m)
Operational				
Mynydd Brombil	1.63	4	60	100
Pen Y Cymoedd	2.92	76	89.5	143.5
Ffynnon Oer	4.12	16	58	93
Newlands Wind Farm	4.83	1	46.9	77
Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park	4.85	12	78	118
Land South of Gelli Las Farm	5.76	2	30	45
Newton Down	8.46	2	80	125
Haregrove Farm	8.66	1	30	45

Name	Distance to nearest Y Bryn turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height (m)	Tip Height (m)
Parc Stormy Down	8.87	2	65 / 87.5	105 / 125
Pant y Wal Extension	10.90	8	80	125
Pant y Wal	11.90	11	70	115
Fforch Nest 1 and 2	12.42	7	70	115
Swansea Bay Wastewater Works	12.51	1	50	77
Bwllfa Farm	12.61	1	50	76
Maerdy	12.85	8	94.5	145
Maesgwyn	13.49	13	70 / 80	110 / 120
Queens Docks (later)	13.52	1	50	77
Mynydd Bwllfa	13.81	9	70 / 80	115 / 125
Queens Dock (earlier)	13.96	1	-	43
Maesgwyn (extension)	14.16	1	80	125
Ford Motor Company	14.61	1	52	79
Taff Ely	14.80	20	35	53.5
Ferndale	14.82	8	50	74
Mynydd Portref	16.07	11	49	75
Mynydd Portref Extension	16.81	6	70	110
Hill house wind farm	16.97	1	50	77
Mynydd Y Gwrhyd (resubmission)	19.52	2	59	100
Mynachdy Farm 2	20.26	1	35	67
Mynachdy Farm 1	20.29	1	35	67
Mynydd Y Gwair (resubmission)	20.52	16	80	127
West of Rhiwfelin Fach Farm	20.86	1	34	60
Mynydd y Bettws	21.47	15	63.3	110
Cefn Forest Farm	25.80	1	50	77
Pen Bryn Oer	32.55	3	72	110

Name	Distance to nearest Y Bryn turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height (m)	Tip Height (m)
Oakdale Business Park	36.04	2	80	130
Pen-y-fan (Ind Est)	36.71	1	85	123.5
Wentloog Environmental Centre	41.60	1	85	135
Consented				
Foel Trawsnant	0.20	11	100	145
Land At Kenfig Industrial Estate Margam	5.62	1	65	100
Melin Court	6.49	5	100	149.9
Upper Ogmore	6.96	7	77.5 / 97.4	130 / 149.9
Pant y Wal Extension (Phase 2)	11.16	2	80	125
Maesgwyn (extension)	13.09	3	80	125
Abergorki	13.36	3	100	149.9
Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill Site	14.19	1	58	99
Taff Ely (repowering)	15.09	7	69	110
Graig Fatha	18.58	1	75	126
Llwyncelyn (Llanwonno)	19.85	2	75	125
Rhiwfelin	21.06	1	59	90
Submitted				
Foel Trawsnant (S73)	0.20	8	78.5 / 86.5	145
Cefn Gwrgan Road	3.44	1	15	21
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn	37.47	8	105	180
Scoping				
Fforch Dwm Wind Farm	4.18	7	-	200
Mynydd y Glyn	19.53	7	110	175
Tresgrych Fawd Fawr Road	21.14	1	-	150

Name	Distance to nearest Y Bryn turbine (km)	No. of Turbines	Hub Height (m)	Tip Height (m)
Twyn Hywel Energy Park	26.40	14	-	200
Manmoel Wind Farm	35.43	5	112	180
Mynydd Llanhilleth	40.25	8	112	180

Source: Soltys Brewster/Natural Power Consultants

*Blank cells indicate data is unavailable in public domain

** Consent subject to S106 agreement

*** It is assumed that original consent superseded by Llwynceilyn (resubmission) application

A8.1.38 The same viewpoints used to assess the individual effects on visual amenity, will be used to illustrate cumulative effects.

A8.1.39 The cumulative assessment for both seascape/landscape character and visual amenity considers two scenarios:

- The additional impacts of the proposed development and operational and under construction wind farms (the SLVIA baseline) when considered with other consented, submitted/application and scoping stage wind farms; and
- The combined impacts of the proposed development and all cumulative developments (i.e., operational/under construction, consented, submitted/application and scoping stage). This approach was requested by Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) within their Scoping response (17 February 2021).

Cumulative Effects - Non Wind Farm Developments

A8.1.40 In addition to the assessment of cumulative effects with other wind farm developments, the cumulative effects from non-wind farm developments will also be assessed. The development to be assessed will follow the Planning Inspectorate's guidance for NSIP – *Advice Note 17: Cumulative Effects Assessments* and which includes the following developments:

- All NSIPS and Developments of National Significance (DNS) within the 45km radius study area (measured from the outermost turbine)
- All Major Applications and LDP (Local Development Plan) applications within a 10 km radius study area (measured from the outermost turbine)

A8.1.41 The location of all non-wind farm developments considered for assessment are listed in Table A3.5.3 in Appendix 3.5: Cumulative List in Volume 3 of the ES, and illustrated in Figures 8.87 and 8.88

Cumulative Effects on Seascape/Landscape Character

A8.1.42 The significance of cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the SCA/LCA with the magnitude of cumulative impact that would occur.

Seascape/Landscape Sensitivity

A8.1.43 The first stage in assessing the cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character is to establish the sensitivity of the seascape/landscape. Note that sensitivity in respect of cumulative effects would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table A8.1.3 would be applied.

Magnitude of Cumulative Seascape/Landscape Impacts

A8.1.44 The second stage of the cumulative assessment establishes the magnitude of cumulative impact on seascape/ landscape character. The criteria for informing the magnitude of impacts are illustrated in Table A8.1.12:

Table A8.1.12: Magnitude of seascape/cumulative landscape impacts

Magnitude	Description
Very High	The additional and/or combined impacts of the proposed development and other cumulative developments would result in a very large-scale loss or major alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a fundamental and permanent change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may occur over an extensive area.
High	The additional and/or combined impacts of the proposed development and other cumulative developments would result in a large-scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a considerable change. Impacts may occur over a wide area and would likely be permanent or long-term
Medium	The additional and/or combined impacts of the proposed development and other cumulative developments would result in a moderate loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a partial change to seascape/landscape character. Impacts may extend over a notable area and may be long-term.
Low	The additional and/or combined impacts of the proposed development and other cumulative developments would result in a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a slight change on seascape/landscape character. Impacts may extend over a limited area and may be medium to long-term.
Negligible/none	The additional and/or combined effects of the proposed development and other cumulative developments would result in such a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character that there would be no perceptible impact.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Significance of Cumulative Seascape/Landscape Effects

A8.1.45 The third stage of the assessment establishes the significance of cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. This is determined by combining the sensitivity (Table A8.1.3) of the SCA/LCA with the magnitude of cumulative impact (Table A8.1.12) that would occur as a result of the proposed development.

A8.1.46 Illustration 8.1.1 has been used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact to determine the significance of cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. This is adapted from the version provided in IEMA’s Special Report entitled; *The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in The UK (2011)*. The significance of cumulative effects is defined in Table A8.1.13.

Table A8.1.13: Significance of cumulative seascape/landscape effects

Significance	Description
Very Substantial	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have very substantial cumulative effects upon landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a very high magnitude of impact on seascape/landscape character. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a very high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Substantial	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have substantial cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a high magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Moderate/Substantial	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have moderate to substantial cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a medium to high magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a medium to high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Moderate	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have moderate cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a medium magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a medium sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Slight/Moderate	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have slight to moderate effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a low to medium magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a low to medium sensitivity to wind farm developments.

Significance	Description
Slight	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with cumulative developments will typically have slight cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from low magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a low sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Negligible	The proposed development in addition to and/or in combination with other cumulative developments will typically have negligible cumulative effects on seascape/landscape character. These cumulative effects would typically result from a negligible magnitude of impacts. The receiving seascape/landscape will typically have a very low sensitivity to wind farm developments.

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.47 Cumulative effects determined to have moderate-substantial landscape significance or above will be considered to be significant. Conversely, cumulative effects determined to be slight/moderate and below will be considered not significant.
- A8.1.48 Where cumulative effects are determined to have moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. If any given receptors are subject to a series of moderate effects, such as a long a path or road corridor, the combined effects may be considered to be significant.
- A8.1.49 A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

Cumulative Effects on Visual Amenity

- A8.1.50 The significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be determined by combining the sensitivity of the visual receptors with the magnitude of cumulative impact that would occur.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.1.51 The first stage in assessing the cumulative effects on visual amenity is to establish the sensitivity of the visual receptors. Note that sensitivity in respect of cumulative effects would be the same as identified for individual effects and therefore the same criteria as identified in Table A8.1.8 would be applied.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts

- A8.1.52 The second stage of the cumulative assessment establishes the magnitude of cumulative visual impact. The criteria for informing the magnitude of impacts are illustrated in Table A8.1.14.

Table A8.1.14: Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts

Magnitude	Description
Very High	Cumulative development would be immediately apparent, as a very large-scale feature that would occupy a wide proportion of the view, contrasting with existing built features within the view. Cumulative developments are likely to be visually dominant and it would affect and change the overall appearance of the view to the extent that other features would become subordinate. Cumulative views will be very long in duration.
High	Cumulative development would be an apparent, large-scale feature that is likely to occupy a significant proportion of the overall view. Cumulative development may contrast with existing features within the landscape. Cumulative development is likely to be visually prominent to the extent that they would affect and change the appearance of a number of key existing elements within the view. Cumulative views will be long in duration.
Medium	Cumulative development would form a recognisable new element of moderate scale within the view and would be readily observed without changing the overall nature of the view. Overall quality of the view may remain intact. Cumulative developments are likely to be visible across a moderate proportion of the view, to the extent that wind farm development is not prominent. Cumulative views will be moderate in duration.
Low	Cumulative development would form a component of small scale within the wider view so that might be missed by the casual observer. Awareness of cumulative developments would not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view. Cumulative development may be visible to a limited proportion of the view, to the extent that it is not a defining element. Cumulative views are likely to be glimpsed or brief in duration.
Negligible	Cumulative development would be viewed at a scale that would be barely perceptible, or imperceptible, and would have no discernible impact on the overall quality of the view. Cumulative developments are unlikely to be visible or restricted to glimpsed or very brief views in duration.

Source: Soltys Brewster

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects

- A8.1.53 The third stage of the assessment establishes the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity. This is determined by combining the sensitivity (Table A8.1.8) of the visual receptor with the magnitude of cumulative impact (Table A8.1.14) that would occur as a result of the proposed development when seen in addition to cumulative development.
- A8.1.54 Illustration 8.1.2 has been used as guidance in combining judgements on sensitivity and magnitude of impact to determine the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity. This is adapted from the version provided in IEMA's Special Report entitled; *The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in The UK (2011)*. The significance of cumulative effects is defined in Table A8.1.15.

Table A8.1.15: Significance of cumulative visual effects

Significance	Description
Very Substantial	Cumulative development will typically have very substantial effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a very high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a very high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Substantial	Cumulative development will typically have substantial effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Moderate/ Substantial	Cumulative development will typically have moderate to substantial effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a medium to high magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a medium to high sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Moderate	Cumulative development will typically have moderate effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a medium magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a medium sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Slight/ Moderate	Cumulative development will typically have a slight to moderate effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a low to medium magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a low to medium sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Slight	Cumulative development will typically have a slight effect upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a low magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a low sensitivity to wind farm developments.
Negligible	Cumulative development will typically have negligible effects upon visual amenity. These cumulative effects would typically result from a negligible magnitude of impact on views. The receptor will typically have a very low sensitivity to wind farm developments.

Source: Soltys Brewster

- A8.1.55 Viewpoint locations where cumulative effects are determined to have substantial-moderate visual significance or above will be considered to be significant. Conversely locations determined to have cumulative visual effects that are slight-moderate or below will be considered not significant.
- A8.1.56 Where cumulative effects are determined to have moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances relating to each viewpoint and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. For example, effects from a particular viewpoint may be considered to be of moderate visual significance. However, the broad nature of the view in which the proposed development and other cumulative developments would be seen may reduce these effects. If any given receptors are subject to a series of moderate effects, such as a long a path or road corridor, the combined effects may be considered to be significant.
- A8.1.57 A precautionary approach has been adopted and unless otherwise stated, all effects are considered to be adverse.

A8.2 LEGISLATION AND POLICY CONTEXT

UK Wide Policy and Legislation

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

- A8.2.1 This Act allows for the designation of National Parks and has two statutory purposes:
- To conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage; and
 - To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of these special qualities.
- A8.2.2 Responsibility for the management of National Parks is guided by National Park Authority’s and a range of partner organisations. The Statutory Management Plan for The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP), extending across areas to the north of the study area are described further within the local policy section within this chapter.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000

- A8.2.3 This Act provides for the designation of areas which (not in a national park) are Areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) and significant landscape value. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has overall responsibility for AONBs nationally in Wales but the AONBs are locally managed by local authorities with the support of Joint Advisory Committees (JAC), local communities and partnerships The Gower AONB extends across land to the west of the study area. The Gower AONB Management Plan is described further in the local policy section within this chapter.

National Planning Policy

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11, (February 2021)

- A8.2.4 This document sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government and is the foundation of all national, regional and local planning policies. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW provide the national planning policy framework for Wales. The primary objective of PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. PPW also recognises the rich and varied landscapes of Wales, covered by a hierarchy of statutory and non-statutory designations, including National Parks and AONB’s. PPW also supports the use of the NRW LANDMAP Information System as an important information resource to inform baseline landscape character assessment within Wales.

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)

- A8.2.5 Future Wales builds on PPW, and provides a national spatial strategy, setting out where Wales should focus development to address key national priorities through the planning system until 2040. It provides the statutory development plan for developments of national significance (DNS) and sets the direction for strategic and local development plans (LDP’s), as well as complementing PPW with a shared commitment to placemaking, and towards national ambitions and well-being goals. Together, PPW and Future Wales set out how the planning system should respond to and address national challenges and opportunities.

A8.2.6 Pre-Assessed Areas (PAAs) for wind developments are identified within the National Plan, subject to Policies 17 and 18. PAA 9 extends across areas of the Y Bryn site boundary. Modelling of the likely impact on the landscape within PAAs carried out in the production of Future Wales indicates that they are capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is, therefore, now a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy within these areas. Proposals both within and outside of PAAs will be permitted subject to specific criteria identified in Policy 18, including:

- *'Outside of the Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments...the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);*
- *There are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;*
- *There are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites ... and the features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured); and*
- *There are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets.'*

A8.2.7 Future Wales policy now removes and supersedes reference to both TAN 8 and Strategic Search Areas (SSAs), as described. It provides a stronger position for decision makers to support wind energy developments and recognises that the contribution that such schemes make towards renewable energy targets should be given greater weight in decision making. Within PAAs, a greater degree of landscape change is now more likely to be acceptable. Outside, proposals for renewable projects qualifying as DNS will be permitted providing there are no unacceptable impacts, including those relating to landscape and visual matters.

Technical Advice Notes

A8.2.8 TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) has now been largely superseded by Future Wales – The National Plan 2040, as described above. The SSAs approach identified in TAN 8 has now been replaced by a blanket restriction on development within National Parks and AONB, together with a presumption in favour within PAAs for wind development and strengthened support elsewhere. Although TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005) is largely outdated, it continues to provide additional technical advice to support the implementation of policies within Future Wales.

Local Planning Policy

A8.2.9 The proposed development is located mainly within the local authority boundary for NPTCBC, but also within Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) to the east. A further 11 local authorities exist, plus the BBNPA, either partially or fully within the 45 km radius study area. However, from the following Local Authority areas, the ZTV indicates that there will be either no or very limited potential visibility and/or the Local Authority area is located at a distance where effects are unlikely to be significant. Local Planning policy for these areas is therefore excluded and will not be considered further in subsequent sections of the SLVIA.

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC);

- Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC);
- Cardiff Council (CC);
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC);
- Monmouthshire County Borough Council (MCBC);
- Newport City Council (NCC); and
- Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC).

A8.2.10 Policies relating to landscape and visual issues found within their respective adopted LDP's/Unitary Development Plans (UDP) for all 10 local authorities/National Park Authorities are noted.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) LDP 2011-2026

A8.2.11 The LDP for NPTCBC was adopted on the 27 January 2016. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted.

Strategic Policy SP14 The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast

The countryside and undeveloped coast, including landscapes, seascapes and agricultural land, will be protected and where feasible enhanced through the following measures:

- 1. The protection of the open countryside through the control of inappropriate development outside settlement limits;*
- 2. The protection of the undeveloped coast through the control of inappropriate development;*
- 3. The designation and protection of SLAs; and*
- 4. The designation and protection of Green Wedges.*

Policy EN2 Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

In order to protect areas of high landscape quality, the following Special Landscape Areas are designated:

EN2/1 Mynydd y Garth;

EN2/2 Dulais Valley;

EN2/3 Vale of Neath;

EN2/4 Margam;

EN2/5 Mynydd y Gelli; and

EN2/6 Foel Trawsant.

A8.2.12 Development within the designated SLA will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the features and characteristics for which the SLA has been designated.

Policy EN 7 Important Natural Features

Development proposals that would adversely affect ecologically or visually important natural features such as trees, woodlands, hedgerows / field boundaries, watercourses or ponds will only be permitted where:

1. Full account has been taken of the relevant features in the design of the development, with measures put in place to ensure that they are retained and protected wherever possible; or
2. The biodiversity value and role of the relevant feature has been taken into account and where removal is unavoidable, mitigation measures are agreed.

Strategic Policy SP18 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

A proportionate contribution to meeting national renewable energy targets and energy efficiency targets will be made while balancing the impact of development on the environment and communities.

This will be achieved by:

1. Encouraging where appropriate, all forms of renewable energy and low carbon technology development;
2. Encouraging energy conservation and efficiency measures in all new major development proposals; and
3. Ensuring that development will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and amenity of local residents.

Policy RE1 Criteria for the Assessment of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development

Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development will only be permitted subject to the following criteria:

1. Large scale wind farm developments (>25 MW) will be expected to be located within the boundaries of the refined Strategic Search Areas;
2. Proposals for wind farms of any size outside the SSAs will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;
3. Small scale wind farm developments (<5MW) will be required to demonstrate that impacts are confined to the local scale;
4. All renewable energy or low carbon energy development proposals will be required to demonstrate that:
 - (a) Measures have been taken to minimise impacts on visual amenity and the natural environment;
 - (b) There will be no unacceptable impacts on residential amenity;
 - (c) The development will not compromise highway safety;
 - (d) The development would not interfere with radar, air traffic control systems, telecommunications links, television reception, radio communication and emergency services communications; and
 - (e) There are satisfactory proposals in place for site restoration as appropriate.

Strategic Policy SP21 Built Environment and Historic Heritage

The built environment and historic heritage will, where appropriate, be conserved and enhanced through the following measures:

1. Encouraging high quality design standards in all development proposals;
2. Protecting arterial gateways from intrusive and inappropriate development;
3. Safeguarding features of historic and cultural importance;
4. The identification of the following designated sites to enable their protection and where appropriate enhancement:
 - (a) Landscapes of Historic Interest;
 - (b) Historic Parks and Gardens;
 - (c) Conservation Areas;
 - (d) Scheduled Ancient Monument; and
 - (e) Listed Buildings and their curtilage

NPTCBC Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

A8.2.13 The following SPG has been prepared by NPTCBC and which are relevant to the proposed development.

Landscape and Seascape Supplementary Planning Guidance (May 2018)

A8.2.14 This SPG provides information and guidance setting out the expectations on all development proposals to protect and enhance all landscapes and seascapes. The document outlines the variety of landscapes and seascapes relevant to NPTCBC and sets out the measures that will be taken through the planning system to meet the objectives set out in the LDP. The SPG is supported by the following documents:

- NPT Landscape Assessment 2004; and
- Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay – Local Seascape Character Assessment (2017).

Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Supplementary Planning Guidance (July 2017)

A8.2.15 This SPG provides information about the planning approach to renewable and low carbon energy in NPT and sets out the relevant matters that will need to be taken into consideration when developments are being planned in the County.

The Historic Environment Supplementary Planning Guidance (April 2019)

A8.2.16 This SPG provides an overview of the historic environment of NPT and outlines the planning policy protections that are in place to safeguard and conserve as far as possible the historic assets of the County.

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) LDP 2006 - 2021

A8.2.17 BCBC LDP was adopted in September 2013. The replacement LDP for the –period 2018 - 2033 is currently being updated and so the adopted LDP remains as the current plan for the time being.

The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted (all italicised text in Appendix 8.2 are quotations from the specific policy):

Strategic Policy SP4- Conservation and Enhancement of The Natural Environment

Development which will conserve and, wherever possible, enhance the natural environment of the County Borough will be favoured.

Development proposals will not be permitted where they will have an adverse impact upon:

- *The integrity of the County Borough's countryside;*
- *The character of its landscape;*
- *Its biodiversity and habitats; and*
- *The quality of its natural resources including water, air and soil.*

Areas having a high and/or unique environmental quality will be protected and the following strategically important areas within the County Borough will specifically be protected from inappropriate development which directly or indirectly impacts upon them.

- *SP4(1) Natura 2000 Network Sites (including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);*
- *SP4(2) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);*
- *SP4(3) Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr National Nature Reserves (NNRs); and*
- *SP4(4) The Glamorgan Heritage Coast.*

Policy Env 3 Special Landscape Areas (SLA)

Development in Special Landscape Areas will only be permitted where:

- *It retains or enhances the character and distinctiveness of the SLA;*
- *The design of the development reflects the building traditions of the locality in its form, materials and details and /or assimilates itself into the wider landscape; and*
- *The proposed development is accompanied by a landscape assessment which takes into account the impact of the development and sets out proposals to mitigate any adverse effects.*

In this respect, the following areas have been designated as Special Landscape Areas,

- *ENV3 (1) Foel y Dyffryn;*
- *ENV3 (2) Northern Uplands;*
- *ENV3 (3) Western Uplands;*
- *ENV3 (4) Bryngarw Country Park;*
- *ENV3 (5) Mynydd y Gaer;*
- *ENV3 (6) Kenfig Burrows;*
- *ENV3 (7) Laleston;*
- *V3 (8) Porthcawl Coast; and*
- *ENV3 (9) Merthyr Mawr Warren.*

The settings of SLAs will be protected with consideration of the views from those areas to the settlements of the County Borough. New development within settlements should be designed to provide an attractive transition between the urban area and the countryside.

Strategic Policy SP5 Conservation of The Built and Historic Landscape.

Development should conserve, preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County Borough and its setting.

In particular, development proposals will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that they will not have a significant adverse impact upon the following heritage assets.

- *SP5(1) Listed Buildings and their settings;*
- *SP5(2) Conservation Areas and their settings;*
- *SP5(3) Scheduled Ancient Monuments*
- *SP5(4) Sites or Areas of Archaeological Significance;*
- *SP5(5) Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens; and*
- *SP5(6) Locally Significant Buildings.*

Policy Env8 Heritage Assets and Regeneration

Development which respects and utilises heritage assets and which preserve, conserve, or enhance the local distinctiveness of the County Borough will be permitted.

Development that materially harm heritage assets and features will not be permitted.

Strategic Policy Sp8 Renewable Energy.

Development proposals which contribute to meeting national renewable energy and energy efficiency targets will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that there will be no significant adverse impacts on the environment and local communities.

Policy Env18 Renewable Energy Developments

Proposals for renewable energy developments will be permitted provided that:

- 1. In the case of wind farm developments of 25 MW or more, they are within the boundary of the refined Strategic Search Area and required to meet the indicative generating capacity;*
- 2. The availability of identified mineral resources or reserves will not be sterilised;*
- 3. Appropriate monitoring and investigation can demonstrate that the development will not have any significant impacts on nature conservation;*
- 4. Appropriate arrangements have been made for the preservation and/or recording of features of local archaeological, architectural or historic interest;*
- 5. They can be safely accessed to permit regular maintenance without detriment to the environment or the public rights of way network;*
- 6. They will not detrimentally affect local amenity by reason of noise emission, visual dominance, shadow flicker, reflected light, the emission of smoke, fumes, harmful gases, dust, nor otherwise cause pollution to the local environment;*

7. They will not lead to electromagnetic disturbance to existing transmitting and receiving systems (which includes navigation and emergency services), thereby prejudicing public safety;
8. Local receptors of heat and energy from the proposal are identified and, where appropriate, are connected to/benefit from the facility; and
9. Provision has been made for the removal of all infrastructure from, and reinstatement of the site following termination of the use.

Bridgend SPG

A8.2.18 The following SPG has been prepared by BCBC and which are relevant to the proposed development.

SPG20 Renewables in The Landscape: Supplementary Planning Guidance

This SPG is part of a suite of Green Infrastructure SPGs produced by BC promoting the strategic management and planning of landscapes to deliver multiple (social, economic and environmental) benefits within the County.

Swansea Council (SC) LDP 2010 – 2025

A8.2.19 SC LDP was adopted on the 28 February 2019. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted:

Policy HC1: Historic and Cultural Environment

The County's distinctive historic and cultural environment will be preserved or enhanced by:

- i. Requiring high quality design standards in all development proposals to respond positively to local character and distinctiveness;
- ii. Identifying and safeguarding heritage assets, sites and their settings;
- iii. Supporting heritage and cultural led regeneration schemes; and
- iv. Safeguarding and promoting use of the Welsh language.

The historic and cultural environment is one of the County's most important assets and provides a finite, irreplaceable source of information about our past. The evidence of people's interactions and relationships over generations with place is all around us in the buildings, features and town and settlement patterns of our modern townscapes and landscapes. This historical evidence can help us to understand how our towns and villages have evolved and provide a deeper context to inform the making of better places for current and future generations. Every place has its own history which has shaped its character. This makes each place unique and understanding this is a key element of place management.

Strategic Policy HC 1 therefore seeks to secure the sustainable management, preservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of the historic and cultural environment, whilst supporting appropriate heritage led regeneration proposals to realise the social and economic potential of these assets.

The designated heritage assets and sites referred to in the Policy include:

- Scheduled ancient monuments and archaeological sites;

- Listed buildings and their curtilage;
- Conservation areas; and
- Register of landscapes, parks and gardens of special historic interest in Wales.

Heritage and culture-led regeneration schemes are schemes where cultural or heritage regeneration is a primary component or driver of the proposal. For example, Strategic Development Area L: Tawe Riverside and Hafod Morfa Copperworks, where the development of a mixed-use scheme on the heritage site of the former Hafod Copperworks will enable the restoration of important historic buildings and provision of visitor and interpretation facilities. Furthermore, the sensitive and sustainable reuse of redundant historic cultural buildings such as the Albert Hall and Palace Theatre are important elements of the regeneration and revitalisation of a Swansea Local Development Plan distinctive and vibrant Swansea City Centre.

It is important to understand the significance of heritage assets in order to assess the acceptability of change. Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) are required by TAN 24 – The Historic Environment (2014) for listed building consent and conservation area consent applications. It may also be necessary to adopt the HIA approach for settings of listed buildings, development in conservation areas, undesignated heritage assets.

A fundamental part of the Plan's Vision is the creation of a place which captures the distinctive relationship between the County's urban, rural and coastal areas and capitalises on these in order to secure the economic sustainability of the area. In particular, the County's industrial and waterfront heritage is a vital part of the Council's initiatives to regenerate the City Centre and Urban Waterfront and ensure that the County represents a strong commercial investment opportunity.

The historic and cultural environment also provides opportunities for leisure, tourism and recreation across both the County and the wider Swansea Bay Region, and makes a major contribution to the local and regional economy which the Plan seeks to support.

Understanding the role of historic and cultural heritage and how it can be preserved and enhanced will therefore be key to the success of delivering the vision of the Plan.

Historic Parks and Gardens

The register of historic parks and gardens in Wales identifies parks and gardens and their settings which make an important contribution to the character of the county and which are deemed important to preserve or enhance. Policy HC 2 Preservation or Enhancement of Buildings and Features therefore seeks to ensure that they are given appropriate consideration when development is proposed which affects these assets.

Historic Landscapes

The register of historic landscapes in Wales should be taken into account in considering the implications of developments, which meet the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Cadw must be consulted on development within a registered historic landscape area that required an EIA. The method for assessing the effects of proposed development on an area on the register of historic landscapes (ASIDOHL2), is included in the "Guide to Good Practice" issued by Cadw and NRW.

Ecosystem And Resilience

Policy ER4 – Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

Within the AONB, development must have regard to the purpose of the designation to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. In assessing the likely impact of development proposals on the natural beauty of the AONB, cumulative impact will also be taken into consideration.

Development must:

- i. Not have a significant adverse impact on the natural assets of the AONB or the resources and ecosystem services on which the local economy and well-being of the area depends;*
- ii. Contribute to the social and economic well-being of the local community;*
- iii. Be of a scale, form, design, density and intensity of use that is compatible with the character of the AONB;*
- iv. Be designed to an appropriately high standard in order to integrate with the existing landscape and where feasible enhance the landscape quality;*
- v. Demonstrate how it contributes to the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the AONB; and*
- vi. Development proposals that are outside, but closely interlinked with the AONB must not have an unacceptable detrimental impact on the natural beauty of the AONB.*

The AONB designation is shown on the Constraints and Issues Map. It is a landscape of national importance that is protected by statute for the purpose of conserving and enhancing its natural beauty. This Policy seeks to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB, whilst accommodating the sustainable development needs of the local community and visitors to the area. Such development may include: affordable Housing for Local Needs; development for local services such as village shops, small scale leisure facilities and cultural buildings; and development that contributes to the local economy, including necessary agricultural buildings, sustainable tourism facilities and low-key commercial operations. This approach is in line with the requirements of National Planning Policy and Guidance.

The natural assets of the AONB provide an opportunity for economic growth and are important for well-being. Such benefits must not be compromised by new development that fails to safeguard or enhance the natural assets and ecosystem services of the AONB. The Gower AONB supports several Key Villages, which provide the most sustainable locations for development to meet social and economic needs, including for affordable housing to meet local needs. Policy CV 1 Key Villages provides specific guidance on key village development. In the AONB, key village development must conserve and enhance the local distinctiveness and natural beauty of the AONB landscape character and village settings. All development proposed within the AONB will be subject to a rigorous examination of its sustainability with an emphasis on potential environmental implications.

Due to the sensitive environment of the AONB new development must respect the natural beauty of the area, relate well to the character of the local landscape and be designed to a high standard.

The Gower AONB Design Guide SPG provides specific guidance on achieving a high standard of building and landscape design.

The CRoW Act 2000 describes the natural beauty of an area with reference to the conservation of its flora, fauna and geological and physiographical features, and these will be applied in assessing development proposals affecting the AONB. In essence, natural beauty is the interrelationship of landscape, landform, habitats and wildlife. Its character is the result of natural and/or human factors. In combination these elements create a natural beauty that has an ability to provide enjoyment, inspiration and improve quality of life.

The cumulative effect of development will be taken into account in determining whether a development proposal would have an adverse effect on the natural beauty of the AONB. Further information relating to the landscape of the AONB is provided in the Gower Landscape Character Assessment (2013), Gower Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Caravan and Camping Sites (LSCS) (2014) and Swansea Local Seascape Character Assessment (2017). These will form part of guidance to be adopted as SPG that will assist applicants and be used to inform relevant planning decisions relating to Gower.

In seeking to enhance the character and natural beauty of the landscape suitable enhancement measures and management plans will be requested, as appropriate. Conservation, enhancement and subsequent management of important features within the AONB may be required in relation to some developments. Such enhancement however cannot be used to justify a development that would otherwise be unacceptable.

National Planning Policy and Guidance provides Swansea Local Development Plan guidance on major development in the AONB.

Management of the AONB is co-ordinated through the Gower Management Plan, elements of which will be developed into SPG. In order to preserve and enhance the appearance of the AONB, guidance has been produced for specific issues of concern relating to advertisements and lighting. These will also form SPG.

A review of national landscapes of Wales has positioned national landscapes, including the AONB, as leading and innovative places for capturing and integrating the environmental, economic, and well-being and sustainability goals, and installing national landscapes as regional hubs for sustainable rural development and the providers of ecosystem services. The Welsh Government has set out its priorities for AONBs and National Parks in Wales. These priorities will enable a more positive and proactive approach to be taken within the AONB to ensure that the most innovative sustainable developments, within their environmental limits, are implemented. For example, developing and stimulating more local enterprise partnerships, sustainable affordable housing, green energy/green growth ventures and exploring the health and tourism benefits of the AONB. This policy, and others in the Plan which relate to the AONB, will be reviewed as part of the Plan monitoring process to consider the implementation of these priorities for national landscapes.

Policy ER5: Landscape Protection

Development will not be permitted that would have a significant adverse effect on the character and quality of the landscape and setting of the County. Priority will be given to protecting enhancing

and managing the character and quality of the following Special Landscape Areas (SLAs), as shown on the Proposals Map and listed:

- i. Mawr Uplands;
- ii. Lower Loughor Valley and Estuary and Southern part of the Burry Inlet;
- iii. North East Gower and Cockett Valley; and
- iv. Garngoch and Lower Afon Llan Valley.

Within SLAs, development will only be permitted where there is no significant adverse impact, including cumulative impact, on landscape.

The development should aim to protect and enhance the features for which the SLA has been designated.

Where appropriate, a landscape impact assessment will be required in order to consider the impact of the development on the designated area.

In exceptional circumstances, where development is necessary and could result in a significant landscape impact, a landscaping scheme will also be required and appropriate mitigation and enhancement measures should be provided.

The aim of the Policy is to ensure that the character and quality of the County's landscapes is protected from inappropriate development. Landscape management, enhancement and the creation of key landscape features is encouraged wherever possible, and may be required. The unique landscape quality of the Gower AONB is protected under Policy ER 4 Gower AONB. This Policy relates to areas outside the AONB and designates areas of high landscape importance within the County, for increased landscape protection. The Policy is not intended to unduly restrict acceptable development in the countryside but to ensure that such development is compatible with the surrounding landscape. In some instances, in order to fully assess the impact on the County's landscape, a Landscape Impact Assessments (LIAs) may be required.

SLA are identified following a formal assessment of the landscape qualities of the County. Their designation utilises the NRW Guidance Note in applying the results from the LANDMAP data to identify landscapes of significant local importance, as recommended in National Planning Policy and Guidance.

The SLA assessment studies establish the key features for each SLA, referred to in the policy, and will provides SPG.

In order to be acceptable, wherever possible, development within a SLA should retain and enhance the positive attributes of its landscape and seek to remove or mitigate any negative influences. In order to achieve this the design, scale and location of development should respect the special landscape context. In particular, design should reflect the building traditions of the locality in its form, materials and details and aim to assimilate the development into the wider landscape.

For most development to integrate successfully into its surroundings implementation of a landscaping scheme will be required. In the exceptional circumstances where development of an

incompatible design or scale or in a location not respecting of the landscape context is necessary and acceptable, suitable mitigation measures will be required.

In order to fully assess the impact on the landscape, significant development proposals within an SLA should be accompanied by a landscape impact assessment which takes into account the effect of the development, including the cumulative impact where appropriate, on the key landscape features, landscape character and qualities and set out proposals to mitigate any adverse effects and enhance positive attributes.

The LIA must follow the LANDMAP approach and include the landscape baseline information from all five LANDMAP layers. It should focus on the relevant aspect areas, their descriptions and evaluations. Where landscaping schemes are required, they should generally be implemented prior to part or the entire site coming into beneficial use.

The Mawr Uplands SLA overlaps with TAN 8 SSA (2005) E (Pontardawe). At this location, the requirement to meet national targets for renewable energy provision outweighs the importance of safeguarding the landscape of local significance. It is not the intention of the coinciding SLA designation to preclude strategic scale wind energy generation development in the SSA. The purpose of the SLA designation within the SSA is to inform the application of Policy EU 1 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development to ensure that wind turbines and related development, are positioned with minimum intrusion on the locally important landscape. In the long term, the SLA designation will also serve to protect the landscape from potentially damaging permanent development to enable the full reinstatement of the special landscape quality, following the decommissioning of any wind energy generation development.

Policy ER7: Undeveloped Coast

Along the undeveloped coast priority is placed on the protection and enhancement of the landscape, seascape, biodiversity and historic environment. Development will only be permitted for necessary coastal management schemes and proposals should take full account of any management plans and schemes for protected areas.

Any coastal management schemes should protect, enhance and where appropriate create walking linkages to the All Wales Coast Path. The provision of additional Active Travel routes to link communities and existing paths to the Coast Path will be encouraged.

The undeveloped coast extends west from Mumbles Head encompassing Gower and the Loughor Estuary. It is one of the County's greatest assets and its unique synergy with the urban area provides the County with a distinctive and enviable character. The undeveloped coast is made up of the area of land and adjacent sea that are considered to be mutually dependant. Excluded are the developed areas of established visitor and recreation destinations identified in Policy TR 2 Developed Coast and Waterfront.

Most of the County's undeveloped coast is protected by a host of existing designations including the Gower AONB, Gower Heritage Coast, Limestone Coast of South West SAC, Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site, SAC, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar, and Oxwich and Whiteford NNRs. The route of the All Wales Coastal Path passes through the undeveloped coast, the natural beauty of which forms part of its scenic attraction. All designations are shown on

the Constraints and Issues Map and proposals should take full account of any management plans or schemes for these protected areas. The inner boundary of the coastal zone is difficult to spatially identify and is therefore not shown on the Proposals Map. Each development proposal at or within the vicinity of Gower, Mumbles Head and the Loughor Estuary will be assessed on its merits to determine whether it can reasonably be considered that the site contributes and is related to a coastal environment and is therefore part of the coastal zone. The Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Seascape and Loughor Estuary, Gower and Swansea Bay Landscape Character Assessments, which will form SPG to the Plan, will assist in this assessment.

The purpose of This Policy is to safeguard the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development. It works in conjunction with National Planning Policy and Guidance⁵⁶ and Policy TR 2 Developed Coast and Waterfront to enable the social and economic benefits of an unspoilt coast to be realised whilst allowing for necessary coastal management schemes/defence work and acceptable improvements to existing tourism and recreation facilities, as outlined in Policy TR 2.

The Gower Landscape Character Assessment and forthcoming Loughor Estuary, Gower and Swansea Bay Seascape Character Assessment, based on the regional Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Seascape Character Assessment will provide further information on the landscape and seascape quality of the undeveloped coast and will be adopted as SPG. The Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Seascape Character Assessment has been informed by the Welsh National Marine Plan that is being developed to optimise opportunities for the sustainable development of the sea around Wales. These documents will be a material consideration in assessing the impact of proposed development on the undeveloped coast.

Swansea Council SPG

A8.2.20 The following SPG has been prepared by SC and which are relevant to the proposed development.

SPG Gower AONB Design Guide – November 2011

A8.2.21 The purpose of this SPG is to ensure that new development integrates into the sensitive landscape within which it sits. It sets out the design objectives to be followed to ensure that development within the AONB respects the distinctive character of both the natural and built environment of Gower.

Strategic Planning Issue and Projects

A8.2.22 In addition to the SPGs, the following guidance has been prepared by SC and which are relevant to the proposed development.

Carmarthen Bay, Gower & Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment – November 2017

A8.2.23 This guidance identifies 20 SCAs within a study area that extends from the Taf Estuary on Carmarthen Bay to the west to Newton Point at Porthcawl in the east. With the exception of SCA1 – Afon Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeth Estuaries, the boundaries to the SCAs lie within the 45 km study area.

Gower Landscape Character Assessment 2013

A8.2.24 Prepared on behalf of SC, this guidance identifies 41 LCAs within a study area that encompasses the Gower AONB, extending to land to the north of the AONB boundary as far as the main railway line between Gowerton and Lougher.

Gower AONB Management Plan 2017

A8.2.25 Although not adopted as SPG, the CRoW Act 2000 requires SC to prepare a 5-year management plan for the AONB. The plan sets out the policy for management of the AONB and for carrying out the Council's function in relation to it.

Vale of Glamorgan Council (VoG) LDP 2011 - 2026

A8.2.26 VoGC LDP was adopted on 28 June 2017. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted:

Policy SP10 - Built and Natural Environment

Development proposals must preserve and where appropriate enhance the rich and diverse built and natural environment and heritage of the Vale of Glamorgan including:

- 1. The architectural and / or historic qualities of buildings or conservation areas, including listed buildings;*
- 2. Historic landscapes, parks and gardens;*
- 3. Special landscape areas;*
- 4. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast;*
- 5. Sites designated for their local, national and European nature conservation importance; and*
- 6. Important archaeological and geological features*

Policy MG17 - Special Landscape Areas

The following areas are designated as special landscape areas:

- 1. Castle Upon Alun;*
- 2. Upper & Lower Thaw Valley;*
- 3. Ely Valley & ridge slopes;*
- 4. Nant Llancarfan;*
- 5. Dyffryn basin & ridge slopes; and*
- 6. Cwrt-yr-Ala basin.*

Within the special landscape areas identified above, development proposals will be permitted where it is demonstrated they would cause no unacceptable harm to the important landscape character of the area.

Special Landscape Areas (SLA) have been designated to protect areas of the Vale of Glamorgan that are considered to be important for their geological, natural, visual, historic or cultural significance. These areas have been identified through the utilisation of a methodology devised by the former Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) in collaboration with a

consortium of local authorities in South East Wales, which uses LANDMAP data. The process allows information about the landscape to be gathered, organised and evaluated into a nationally consistent, quality assured data set.

Details of the identified SLAs are contained within the Vale of Glamorgan Designation of Special Landscape Areas Background Paper (2013).

The designation of SLAs is not intended to prevent development but to ensure that where development is acceptable careful consideration is given to the design elements of the proposal such as the siting, orientation, layout and landscaping, to ensure that the special qualities and characteristics for which the SLAs have been designated are protected.

Development proposals within SLAs will be required to fully consider the impact of the proposal on the SLA through the submission of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). A LVIA will be required for any development that is likely to have a significant impact upon landscape character, or have a significant visual effect within the wider landscape (by virtue of its size or prominence or degree of impact on the locality) and will be prepared in accordance with the latest Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment guidelines. Where applicable, this should form a key element of a planning application's design and access statement and should demonstrate that the proposal has been designed to remove or reduce any unacceptable impacts on the qualities for which the SLA has been designated. Any cumulative impacts that the proposal may have in relation to existing or planned proposals in the locality should also be considered. This is particularly the case for wind turbines or large structures and large-scale proposals such as solar farms. The level of detail required in each landscape impact assessment should be commensurate with the scale of the proposal.

Policy MG27 - Glamorgan Heritage Coast

The special environmental qualities of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will be conserved and enhanced. New development will be restricted to:

1. Development that is necessary for coastal defence as identified within the Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head Shoreline Management Plan 2;
2. Development that is essential for agriculture, nature conservation, informal recreation, low impact tourism or coastal access;
3. Development within settlement boundaries; or
4. Other appropriate and sustainable development that accords with National Policy.

Development that unacceptably affects the special environmental qualities of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will not be permitted.

Policy Md8 - Historic Environment

Development proposals must protect the qualities of the built and historic environment of the Vale of Glamorgan, specifically:

1. Within conservation areas, development proposals must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the area;

2. For listed and locally listed buildings, development proposals must preserve or enhance the building, its setting and any features of significance it possesses;
3. Within designated landscapes, historic parks and gardens, and battlefields, development proposals must respect the special historic character and quality of these areas, their settings or historic views or vistas; and
4. For sites of archaeological interest, development proposals must preserve or enhance archaeological remains and where appropriate their settings.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA) LDP 2007 – 2022

A8.2.27 BBNPA LDP was adopted on the 17 December 2013. The replacement LDP is currently being prepared and due to be adopted in December 2022. Until then, the adopted LDP remains current. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted:

SP2 Major Development in The National Park – Strategic Policy

We want to rigorously apply the required tests in respect of major development in the National Park, which should only take place in exceptional circumstances where proven to be in the public interest.

This will include an assessment of:

- a) the need for the development, including any national considerations, and the impact of permitting it, or refusing it, upon the local economy;
- b) the cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area, or meeting the need for it in some other way; and
- c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which these could be moderated.

Light Pollution

An objective of the National Park Management Plan is to minimise light and noise pollution. Dark night skies are recognised as a key contributor to the sense of tranquillity and remoteness which is often cited as a key special quality of the National Park. The following policy therefore seeks to protect dark night skies from the impact of lighting and to relate any lighting proposed to its purpose, such as site security or floodlighting recreational facilities, so that careful design and the use of appropriate means of lighting and lighting levels minimise the impact on adjoining areas. There is also a possibility that light pollution could adversely affect the integrity of a Natura 2000 site where development coincides with roost sites/transit routes for bats and other light sensitive species.

Proposals which individually or cumulatively have an unacceptable adverse effect on dark night skies will be resisted.

The National Park Authority will prepare SPG to provide further guidance on the implementation of this policy–

Policy 12 - Light Pollution

Proposals where lighting is required shall include a full lighting scheme and will be permitted: -

- a) where the lighting proposed is appropriate to its purpose; and,
- b) where there is not a significant adverse effect individually or cumulatively on:
 - i) the character of the area;
 - ii) local residents;
 - iii) vehicle users;
 - iv) pedestrians;
 - v) biodiversity;
 - vi) the visibility of the night sky; and
 - vii) 'dark corridors' for bats and light sensitive species.

Conserving the Historic Environment

The first purpose of National Park designation includes the conservation and enhancement of the Park's cultural heritage. 'Culture' includes everything that people make or do, and 'heritage' comprises everything that was done or thought in the past and which remains today. Cultural heritage consists of built features, historic landscapes and archaeology – the material remains of past ways of life - as well as less tangible aspects such as language, literature, music, religion, customs, crafts, art, folklore, place names and traditional ways of life.

The landscape as a whole is a product of past human activity. It is dynamic and cannot be fossilised, so sustainability involves integrating the requirements of modern life and the protection of important historic landscapes and features. The National Park landscape has a rich archaeological heritage of both local and national importance. It is the NPA's objective that historic landscapes and archaeological features are protected, conserved and valued by local residents and visitors.

The Park is also rich in historic towns, villages and buildings, having the greatest concentration of pre-1700 architecture in Wales. The Park's irreplaceable historic settlements and buildings represent a diminishing resource visually and culturally and it is essential that the NPA ensure that these resources are conserved and enhanced.

In line with the Conserving the Historic Environment Objectives set out in PPW it is important to identify and protect the Park's heritage for environmental, social, cultural and economic reasons. It is an asset valued by local residents and visitors, and contributes to the special qualities of the Park which is the NPA's duty to enable people to understand and enjoy. The NPA's tourism strategy recognises the important contribution that the Park's cultural heritage makes in drawing tourists to the area, and the potential that it has for contributing to the local economy–

Policy 20 - Historic Parks and Gardens

Development which directly or indirectly, either alone or in combination affects those areas listed within Part 1 of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' will be permitted where the essential integrity and coherence of the park or garden and its setting, as defined in the Register, is preserved or enhanced.

Development should be of a high standard and minimise disturbance to heritage features. If disturbance is unavoidable, a full recording survey will be required in advance of development–

Policy 21 - Historic Landscapes

Development which directly or indirectly either alone or in combination affects those areas listed within Part 2 of the 'Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales' will only be permitted if the essential integrity and coherence of the area, as defined in the Register, is preserved or enhanced.

World Heritage Sites (WHS)

A8.2.28 Development in this area is covered by National Policy.

The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site lies partly within the National Park. The area includes the town of Blaenavon outside the National Park as well as land surrounding, some of which lies within the National Park. The boundary also now includes parts of Govilon. The area of the site is shown on the Proposal– Map.

SP9 - Renewable Energy

Proposals for renewable energy schemes will only be permitted where: -

- a) they are of a scale and technology appropriate to their location; and
- b) they do not have a significant adverse impact on the Natural Beauty, wildlife, cultural heritage and special qualities of the National Park;

Proposals for Renewable Energy Schemes defined as Major Development will be considered against the tests set out in Policy SP2.

Large Scale Renewable Energy Projects.

Strategic Policy SP9 also integrates the general national presumption against the provision of large scale renewable energy projects within the Park. Such schemes have significant landscape impacts which are considered at a national level to be in conflict with the purposes of designation of the National Park as a protected and special landscape. We do however acknowledge the need to provide for such development, and areas identified at a national strategic level (TAN 8) as being suitable for development should be encouraged. However, these schemes have the potential to impact on the National Park, it is therefore imperative that we remain as statutory consultees within this process and have due influence on the siting and design of future proposals located on the fringes of the National Park. All development for large scale renewable energy proposals which are likely to impact on the National Park will be required to demonstrate how considerations for the special qualities of the National Park have been taken into account in developing the proposal. Proposals will be required to address impact from key landscape viewpoints and demonstrate to the satisfaction of the NPA that no negative impact on the special qualities will result.

The impact of large scale Renewable Energy projects located on our peripheries will be judged in accordance with SP2 Major Development in the National Park.

BBNPA SPG

A8.2.29 The following SPG has been prepared by BBNPA and which are relevant to the proposed development.

Landscape and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) June 2014

This SPG and Appendix 3 Area Profiles provides supporting information on the implementation of the National Park Authority's adopted Local Development Plan.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment August 2012

This document provides a clear geographic reference for landscape character, special qualities and issues of landscape change across the National Park. It is intended for use in a number of ways, including, contributing to the development of policies with regard to large-scale developments on the fringes of the National Park and use as SPG, supporting emerging policies in the LDP, which aim to protect the special qualities of the National Park.

Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) LDP 2006 – 2021

A8.2.30 CCC LDP was adopted on the 10 December 2014. The replacement LDP for the period of 2018 - 2033 is currently being prepared and due to be adopted in July/August 2022. Until then, the adopted LDP remains current. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted:

Strategy and Strategic Policy 5.6 Areas for Protection

The LDP focuses development in established settlements recognising the need to protect the open countryside, whilst also making appropriate provision for certain uses (including exceptions proposals) where a rural location is considered essential.

The Plan seeks to protect and enhance the nature conservation and biodiversity value of Carmarthenshire, including its rich tapestry of habitats and species. It also seeks to protect and enhance the built and historic environment of the County; those features which contribute to its character and the area's high quality landscapes.

The Plan also reflects the need to safeguard the distinctiveness and character of areas within the County by maintaining areas of open space and features which contribute to the amenity and essential qualities of localities and settlements.

In conclusion, in allocating sites for development, the LDP recognises the importance of protecting and enhancing the environment, be it the natural environment or the historic built environment. The value of national and international designations is recognised as are those areas of local value. The need to balance the requirements for growth against the need to protect and enhance the environmental qualities is a central challenge and one which the Strategy seeks to address.

SP13 Protection and Enhancement of The Built and Historic Environment

Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets (outlined below), and, where appropriate, their setting. Proposals relating to the following will be considered in accordance with national guidance and legislation.

- a) *Sites and features of recognised Historical and Cultural Importance;*
- b) *Listed buildings and their setting;*
- c) *Conservation Areas and their setting; and*
- d) *Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of recognised archaeological importance.*

Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the local setting and the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.

SP14 Protection and Enhancement of The Natural Environment

Development should reflect the need to protect, and wherever possible enhance the County's natural environment.

All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national guidance/legislation and the policies and proposals of this Plan, with due consideration given to areas of nature conservation value, the countryside, landscapes and coastal areas, including those outlined below:

- a) *Statutory designated sites including Ramsar sites, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Site of Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserves (NNR);*
- b) *Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Value, including protected species and habitats of acknowledged importance as well as key connectivity corridors and pathways; (Policy EQ4 and EQ5);*
- c) *Regional and locally important sites (and their features) including Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) and RIGS (Regionally Important Geological Sites) (see Policy EQ3);*
- d) *Areas of identified Landscape and Seascape quality; (including SLAs);*
- e) *Features which contribute to local distinctiveness, nature conservation value or the landscape; (see Policy EQ5);*
- f) *The Open Countryside; (see Policy GP2);*
- g) *The best and most versatile agricultural land; (Grade 2 and 3a); and*
- h) *Natural assets: including air, soil (including high carbon soils) controlled waters and water resources. (See Policies EP1 and EP2.*

Policy EQ1 Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic Importance

Proposals for development affecting landscapes, townscapes buildings and sites or features of historic or archaeological interest which by virtue of their historic importance, character or significance within a group of features make an important contribution to the local character and the interests of the area will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the built and historic environment.

Policy EQ6 Special Landscape Areas

Special Landscape Areas are designated in the following locations and as identified on the Proposals Map:

- a) *Tywi Valley;*

- b) Carmarthenshire Limestone Ridge;
- c) Teifi Valley;
- d) Drefach Velindre;
- e) Bran Valley (North of Llandovery);
- f) Mynydd Mallaen;
- g) Llanllwni Mountain;
- h) North Eastern Uplands;
- i) Mynydd y Betws;
- j) Gwendraeth Levels;
- k) Pembrey Mountain;
- l) Swiss Valley;
- m) Talley;
- n) Lwchwr Valley;
- o) Lower Taf Valley;
- p) Cwm Cathan;
- q) Cothi Valley; and
- r) Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries.

Proposals for development which enhance or improve the SLAs through their design, appearance and landscape schemes will be permitted (subject to the policies and proposals of this Plan).

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) LDP 2006 – 2021

A8.2.31 RCTCBC LDP was adopted on the 2 March 2011. The replacement LDP for the period of 2020 - 2030 is currently being prepared and due to be adopted in March 2024. Until then, the adopted LDP remains current. The policies within the LDP that are relevant to the proposed development are noted:

Policy NSA 25 – Special Landscape Areas

Special Landscape Areas are identified at the following locations: -

1. Mynydd y Cymmer;
2. Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes;
3. Llwynceilyn Slopes;
4. Cwm Clydach;
5. Cynon Valley Northern Slopes;
6. Cwm Orci;
7. Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm & Slopes;
8. Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman; and
9. Bannau Brycheiniog Edge at Llwydcoed.

Development within the defined Special Landscape Areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

Policy SSA 23 – Special Landscape Areas

Special Landscape Areas are identified at the following locations: -

1. Llanharry Surrounds;
2. Talygarn Surrounds;
3. Ely Valley at Miskin;
4. Coed-yr-Hendy and Mwyndy;
5. Llantrisant Surrounds;
6. Mynydd y Glyn and Nant Muchudd Basin;
7. Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest;
8. Efail Isaf, Garth and Nantgarw Western Slopes;
9. Craig yr Allt;
10. Taff Vale Eastern Slopes, and
11. Treforest Western Slopes.

Development within the defined Special Landscape Areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.

Policy AW7 - Protection and Enhancement of The Built Environment

Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and/or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site.

Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that: -

1. There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;
2. The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or
3. The development enhances the existing facility.

The historic built environment and the man made features of archaeological, historic or architectural interests are integral to the quality of the County Borough's environment. They are unique to Rhondda Cynon Taf and trace the development of the area over time. Areas of recognised architectural and / or historical merit or sites of archaeological importance include listed buildings and conservation areas and their settings, registered historic landscapes and historic parks and gardens and their settings; and archaeological remains. The Plan area has 86 scheduled ancient monuments, 366 listed buildings (at the time of the preparation of the LDP), 16 conservation areas, 1 registered historic landscape and 5 registered historic parks and gardens, all of which contribute to the rich and diverse nature of the area. Over the plan period, the Council will, where appropriate, seek to implement enhancement and management schemes to improve the character, quality and appearance of these recognised heritage features.

RCTCBC SPG

A8.2.32 The following SPG has been prepared by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and which are relevant to the proposed development.

The Historic Built Environment SPG March 2011

A8.2.33 Adopted in March 2011, this SPG provides detailed guidance to owners and occupiers of land and buildings within the historic built environment, including Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and also Historic Landscapes.

A8.3 LANDSCAPE DESIGNATIONS**Statutory Designations****Blaenavon World Heritage Site**

A8.3.1 Granted in 2000 by UNESCO as a WHS, it is located approximately 41.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine. The site itself covers an area of 32.9 km² and falls within the Unitary Councils of TCBC and MCBC and is partially within the BBNP. Special qualities, therefore, that define the BBNP, listed in 8.7.4, will also apply to those sections of the WHS that fall within the BBNP.

A8.3.2 The BBNP Management Plan states that *‘the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape was inscribed as a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site (WHS) in November 2000. As noted by UNESCO, “the area around Blaenavon is evidence of the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world’s major producer of iron and coal in the 19th century. All the necessary elements can still be seen - coal and ore mines, quarries, a primitive railway system, furnaces, workers’ homes, and the social infrastructure of their community.” The Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and its surrounding area is one of the most significant examples of industrial growth during and after the Industrial Revolution. For this reason, it serves as an exemplar and gateway to the wider Heads of the Valleys area, which collectively fuelled the fires of development for Great Britain and the international community during this reop. Not only does the Blaenavon World Heritage Site hold international significance but it is also listed in the register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales as described by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)’.*

A8.3.3 The WHS has been excluded from further assessment due to limited extent of visibility of the proposed development and distance, as illustrated Figure 8.14.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP)

A8.3.4 At its closest point the boundary of the BBNP is located approximately 17.5 km north of the outermost Y Bryn turbines. The National Park was established in 1957 and is a valued and protected area managed mainly for landscape conservation, natural heritage and recreation. The Park covers a 1,344 km² area, it stretches from Llandeilo in the west to Hay-on-Wye in the north-east and Pontypool in the south-east, encompassing four –ain regions - the Black Mountain in the west, Fforest Fawr and the Bannau Brycheiniog in the centre, and the Black Mountains in the east.

The landscape predominantly consists of bare, grassy moorland, with scattered productive forestry, and pasture in the valleys. It is known for its remote reservoirs, waterfalls and its caves.

A8.3.5 The Management plan identifies ten special qualities which are grouped around landscapes, community, experiences and wildlife and are noted below:

a. Special Landscapes:

- *sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty;*
- *contrasting patterns,*
- *colours and textures;*

b. Special communities:

- *a sense of place and cultural identity;*
- *an intimate sense of community*

c. Special experiences:

- *enjoyable and accessible;*
- *sounds, sights, smells and tastes;*
- *sense of discovery;*
- *peace tranquillity and darkness.*

d. Special nature:

- *mosaic of diversity; living landscape*

A8.3.6 The northern part of the wider 45 km study area encompasses a significant proportion of the National Park, including the area known as Black Mountain.

Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)

A8.3.7 Designated as an AONB in 1956 for its limestone coast and variety of natural habitats, it extends from Swansea Bay (although it does not include the Bay) in the east, to Carmarthen Bay in the west and covers an area of 188 km². The southern coast predominantly consists of a series of small, rocky or sandy bays, which include Llangland, Three Cliffs, Port Eynon, Rhossili and Oxwich Bay. The north of the peninsula has fewer beaches and is home to the cockle-beds of Penclawdd. The northern coast is mainly salt marsh, while the interior is mainly farmland and common land. There are a number of small villages with some suburban development in eastern Gower; that include the fringes of the city of Swansea. The entire extent of the AONB is located within the 45 km study area, with the eastern boundary of the AONB located just beyond 15 km from the proposed development. Its location is shown in figure 8.14.

A8.3.8 The special qualities of the AONB as defined within the Management Plan¹ are:

Natural

- *Biodiversity. The Gower AONB has a highly valued and wide range of habitats and species of priority for conservation in Wales as well as locally important species. The significance of the*

¹ Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2017, Swansea Council and Landscapes for Life.

AONB is recognised through the large number of sites with international, national and local protection;

- **Geology.** The AONB includes a wide range of sites important for their geology and geomorphology, reflecting the variety of geology within the area;
- **Landscape.** The quality and variety of Gower's landscape, contained in such a small area, is the essence and original reason for its designation as an AONB - the highest UK designation in terms of landscape and scenic beauty (being of equivalent status to National Parks in this regard). The coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast - recognised as one of the most outstanding stretches of undeveloped coastline in England and Wales; and
- **Seascape.** With 70km of coastline, seascape is an important aspect of the AONB character. Most of the coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast. Many of the classic views of Gower - such as Rhossili, Worm's Head, and Three Cliffs Bay - feature the coastline and the sea beyond. Less well known are the views of the coast from the sea. All these components make significant contributions to the special qualities of the AONB.

Cultural

- **Archaeology.** There are 83 Scheduled Monuments in the AONB, and many other archaeological sites and records, representing lost periods - from Upper Palaeolithic caves (and some of the earliest human remains in the UK) through to eighteenth century parklands and industrial heritage;
- **Historic Landscapes.** The best examples of different types of historic landscapes in Wales have been included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. Gower is one of the most archaeologically rich areas in Wales;
- **Historic Parks and Gardens.** The Cadw Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales includes those Parks and Gardens considered to be of national importance. Five sites listed are within the AONB, Clyne Castle, Fairy Hill, Kilvrough Manor, Penrice Castle and Stouthill; and
- **Historic Buildings and Conservation Areas.** Landmark buildings and structures - castles, churches, large houses and traditional long houses - add features to the Gower landscape. Conservation areas define village envelopes and include the buildings and spaces within them that contribute to the village character. There are 131 listed buildings (4 Grade I; 22 Grade II*; and 105 Grade II) and 17 Conservation Areas in the AONB.

Environmental

- **Air Quality.** Air Quality is important to the sensory perception of the AONB, the physical well-being of inhabitants and visitors, vegetation, flora and fauna;
- **Water Quality.** Water quality is important for bathing beaches and nature conservation. Good water quality supports quiet recreation and a variety of terrestrial and marine wildlife. Sandy beaches and clean water are important features of the recreation resource and for the tourism industry;

- **Soil Quality.** Soil exerts a strong influence on our whole ecosystem, being the foundation for many of the ecosystem services and functions recognised; soil is a fragile resource that needs to be understood and protected. Soil quality affects land use and landscape and the Gower AONB contains a significant amount of better quality agricultural land; and
- **Tranquillity.** Gower is one of the few remaining areas in South Wales where the countryside is relatively undisturbed by noise and visual intrusion. There is also an absence of 'sky glow' caused by light pollution.

Recreation

- **Public Rights of Way.** There is extensive public access to the countryside and coast in the AONB and the path network is an important resource for visitors and the tourism industry. Much of the path network is bounded lanes and historical routes and some are important landscape features;
- **Access Land.** A significant area of the AONB is land with some public right or permission to access on foot, including; common land; village greens, National Trust land and land in public ownership; and
- **Beaches.** Sandy beaches are important for recreation, health and well-being and are a high-profile landscape feature of the AONB that promotes the area for tourism.

Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest

A8.3.9 From February 2022, The Registered Parks and Gardens are absence of statutory designations. The sites of the registered parks and gardens have been established, by Cadw/ International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) UK and identifies those sites that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There are a total of 100 Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area and their locations are shown in figures 8.14 and 8.15. Of these, seven have been identified for further assessment (refer to Table A8.3.1), predominantly due to their proximity to the proposed development and potential visibility as shown on the ZTV. The remaining sites have been excluded from further assessment due to limited extent of visibility of the proposed development, distance and other factors such as intervening vegetation and built form. In addition, sites that are not open to the public have also been excluded from further assessment.

Table A8.3.1: Registered parks and gardens taken forward for assessment

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Margam Park	I	2.4
Victoria Gardens	II	8.1
The Gnoll	II*	7.3
Bryngarw Country Park	II	8.0
Cwmgelli Cemetery	II	16.4
St. James's Garden & Crescent	II	16.8
Victoria Park	II	16.9

Margam Park

A8.3.10 To the southern slopes of Margam Mountain is the Grade I listed Margam Park. Covering an area of approximately 400 ha of parkland, it is located approximately 2.4 km from the nearest proposed turbine. Predominantly, the park is open grassland, which includes a walled deer park that covers approximately half of the estate. Mature trees are scattered throughout the park, forming larger blocks of woodland, plus there are three water features: the Fish Pond, New Pond and Furzemill Pond. A sense of enclosure is provided by the wooded slopes of Mynydd Margam to the north, which includes a high wire adventure centre. A number of structures are located within the grounds, including the large Grade II* listed Margam Castle that is situated in the northern part of the park. This 19th century Tudor Gothic mansion is a dominant feature and provides commanding views south across the southern extents of the park, towards the Bristol Channel. Other structures include the Orangery, the ruins of Chapter House and the ruins of Infirmary, which are all Grade I listed buildings, plus the Grade II listed Citrus House. The ruins of Hen Eglwys, a Grade II listed building, are located on the southern slopes of Mynydd Margam. This ruin overlooks the park and provides excellent views across the surrounding landscape, as do the elevated areas to around the Brest Plantation, which includes good views towards Swansea Bay. The National Long Distance Walking Routes of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, plus Coed Morgannwg Way and St. Illtyd's Way link within Margam Park, before heading north towards the Rhymney Valley.

Victoria Gardens

A8.3.11 Victoria Gardens is a small urban public park located within the town of Neath, approximately 8.1 km from the nearest proposed turbine. This Grade II listed park contains many of its original features including a bandstand and formal flower beds. Mature broadleaved trees to the boundary enclose the park.

The Gnoll

A8.3.12 Located on the eastern fringe of the town of Neath and approximately 7.3 km from the nearest proposed turbine, lies the Grade II* listed country park known as The Gnoll. Covering approximately 40 ha, the park, originally constructed in the early 18th century, contains extensive areas of open grassland to the north and a block of mature broadleaved trees to the south. A large lake is located on the eastern boundary and which is fed by an informal cascade. The Grade II listed Ivy Tower is also a prominent feature within the park.

Bryngarw Country Park

A8.3.13 Located approximately 8 km from the nearest proposed turbine, Bryngarw consists of extensive informal early-20th century woodland and water gardens. An area in the valley of the river Garw has some oriental features and planting including Japanese maples, magnolias and rhododendrons.

Cwmgelli Cemetery

A8.3.14 Cwmgelli Cemetery is located in the north of Swansea, approximately 16.4 km from the nearest proposed turbine. This Grade II listed; Victorian cemetery is informally laid out with a network of winding tarmac paths. Within the centre of the cemetery is a small chapel. The cemetery is enclosed by a stone wall and mature broadleaved trees.

St James's Garden and Crescent

A8.3.15 Enclosed on four sides by large Victorian hosing, the Grade II listed St James's Garden and Crescent is located approximately 16.8 km north west from the nearest proposed turbine. This is a well preserved late Victorian park in two distinct parts. The southern section is crescent shaped and is dominate' by St. James's Church, a Grade II listed building. Surrounding the church is the church hall (Grade II listed) and a block of two storey modern houses, which are enclosed by mature broadleaved trees.

A8.3.16 To the north is a rectangular shaped park, that is informally laid out, containing ornamental shrubs within mown grass. A network of winding tarmac paths and island flowerbeds is a feature of the park, as is the belt of mature broadleaved trees and large pine trees that are found surrounding the boundary.

Victoria Park

A8.3.17 Located approximately 16.9 km from the nearest proposed turbine, on Mumbles Road, between St. Helen's cricket ground and Swansea Guildhall is the Grade II listed Victoria Park. This is a small urban park within the centre of Swansea that contains two hard court tennis courts, two bowling greens and a children's play area. Dominating the south western boundary of the park, is the Grade II Patti Pavilion, which contains a restaurant and a concert hall. From within the park there are views across Mumbles Road towards Swansea Bay.

A8.3.18 The Registered Park and Gardens that have been excluded from further assessment are listed in Table A8.3.2.

Table A8.8.3.2: Registered parks and gardens excluded from further assessment

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Talbot Memorial Park	II	3.4
Jersey Park	II	7.8
Rheloia	II	10.7
Tythegston Court	II	6.5
Coytrahen House	II	7.3
Court Colman	II	8.8
Glanhyd Hospital	II	9.5
Merthyr Mawr House	II*	12.6
Ewenny Priory	II	13.7
Alexandra Park	II*	39.6
Coedarhydyglyn	II*	30.5
Cold Knap Park	II	35.1
Cwrt-yr-Ala	II	35.3
Dunraven Park	II	17.1

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Dyffryn Gardens	I	31.3
Fonmon Castle	II	30.0
Hensol Castle	II	23.8
Italian Gardens	II	39.7
Llanmihangel Place	II*	22.5
Llantrihyd Place	II*	24.6
Old Beaupre	II	26.6
Pwll y Wrach	II	18.2
Romilly Park'	II	34.9
St. Donats Castle	I	23.4
Wenvoe Castle	II	33.6
Windsor Gardens	II	39.9
Cefn Coed Cemetery	II	24.2
Aberfan: Cemetery, Garden of Remembrance and Former Tip and Slide Area	II*	24.0
Cyfarthfa Castle	II*	24.8
Craig y Park	II*	27.6
Coryton House	II	32.1
Whitchurch Hospital	II	32.4
Fairwood House	II	32.3
Insole Court	II*	33.8
Parc Cefn Onn	II	35.1
Ty Gwyn	II	35.4
Roath Park	I	36.7
Cathays Cemetery	II*	36.6
Waterloo Gardens & Roath Mill Gardens	II	38.2
St. Fagan's Castle	I	31.3
Rookwood Hospital	II	33.6
Victoria Park	II	34.5
Thompson's Park	II	35.1
Pontcanna Fields & Llandaff Fields	II*	35.4
Cardiff Castle & Bute Park	I	36.8
Sophia Gardens	II	36.2
Cathays Park	II	37.1
Grange Gardens	II	37.5
Maes Manor Hotel	II	34.1

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
The Van	II	33.6
Ruperra Castle	II	39.0
Cefn Mably	II	39.6
Brynmill Park	II	17.6
Clyne Castle	I	19.7
Cwmdonkin Park	II	17.4
Fairyhill	II	34.3
Kilvrough	II	24.9
Penllergare	II	20.8
Penrice Castle	I	31.3
Singleton Abbey & Sketty Hall	I	18.2
Stouthall	II	33.4
Middleton Hall	II	39.0
Aberglasney	II*	37.3
Derwydd	II	32.2
Edwinsford	II	45.5
Glynhir	II	28.5
Golden Grove	II*	34.6
Pantglas	II	42.4
Plas Dinefwr	I	35.3
Taliaris	II	38.9
Parc Howard	II	32.8
Stradey Castle	II	34.1
Paxton's Tower	II*	38.0
Llwynwormwood	II	38.4
Aberdare Park	II*	18.4
Llanharan House	II	18.6
Miskin Manor	II	24.2
Talygarn	II*	21.9
Ynysangharad War Memorial Park	II	24.4
Tredegar Park	II*	45.5
Bedwelty Park	II	34.1
Abercynrig	II	40.8
Buckland House	II	40.5
Craig-y-Nos Castle and Country Park	II*	21.7
Ffrwdgrech	II	38.8
Glanusk Park & Penmyarth	II*	44.3

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Gliffaes	II*	42.7
Llangattock Park	II	44.6
Penoyre	II	41.6
Penpont	II*	37.5
Plas Llangattock	II*	44.2
Treberfydd	II*	43.3

Non-Statutory Designations

A8.3.19 The following classifications are non-statutory landscape designations, predominantly designated by local authorities and may be taken into consideration when formulating planning policy.

Special Landscape Areas

A8.3.20 SLAs are considered to be attractive and locally significant landscapes that are worthy of protection under planning policy. The SLAs that have been identified for assessment due their proximity to the proposed development and potential visibility are listed in table A8.3.3, and illustrated in figures 8.14 and 8.15. A brief description of each SLA that has been assessed is also provided, details of which is derived directly from the published sources.

A8.3.21 All other SLAs within the study area have been excluded from further assessment (refer to Table A8.3.4) due to limited extent of visibility of the proposed development, distance and other factors such as intervening vegetation and built form.

Table A8.8.3.3: Special landscape areas taken forward for assessment

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance the Nearest Proposed Turbine(km)
Mynydd y Garth	NPTCBC	14.5
Dulais Valley	NPTCBC	7.7
Vale of Neath	NPTCBC	6.0
Margam	NPTCBC	0.0
Mynydd y Gelli	NPTCBC	3.3
Foel Trawsnant	NPTCBC	0.1
Foel y Dyffryn	BCBC	0.2
Northern Uplands	BCBC	6.2
Western Uplands	BCBC	0.1
Bryngarw Country Park	BCBC	7.7
Mynydd y Gaer.	BCBC	9.2
Kenfig Burrows	BCBC	5.6
Laleston	BCBC	7.1
Porthcawl Coast	BCBC	8.9

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance the Nearest Proposed Turbine(km)
Merthyr Mawr Warren	BCBC	11.3
Castle Upon Alun	VoGC	13.4
Mawr Uplands	SC	15.8
North East Gower and Cockett Valley	SC	18.7
Garngoch and Lower Afon Llan Valley	SC	20.3
Upper & Lower Thaw Valley	VoGC	15.3
Ely Valley & ridge slopes	VoGC	22.6
Mynydd y Betws	CCC	20.4
Llanharry Surrounds	RCTCBC	18.1
Talygarn Surrounds	RCTCBC	20.8
Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest	RCTCBC	24.0

Mynydd y Garth

A8.3.22 This SLA includes the upland moorland plateau of Mynydd y Garth, Cefn Gwrhyd and Mynydd Carnllechart. The land cover is predominantly grazed pasture with deciduous tree cover especially along riparian corridors. Restricted access to the area provides a remote, exposed yet settled and tranquil feel. It has a high scenic upland mosaic landscape quality with panoramic views out from higher elevations. It is relatively unspoilt with a strong sense of place which adds to the integrity and coherence of the landscape.

Dulais Valley

A8.3.23 Stretching from the outskirts of Aberdulais in the south to Seven Sisters in the north, the SLA covers the valley sides to reinforce its visual context and therefore includes the unforested uplands of Mynydd Hirfynydd and Mynydd Marchywel as the backdrop to the valley. Areas of productive forestry are included on both valley sides for coherence as it forms the same land mass and recognising that the appearance and biodiversity of this landcover can be enhanced through management. The Dulais is a typical upland U-shaped glacial river valley creating a wide valley floor and predominantly open landscape on the valley sides. It is a wide, rolling, pastoral valley with significantly treed field boundaries; many of these contain grown out hedges which are a strong element in this landscape on the lower ground whereas drystone walls are a landscape feature of the upper reaches of the valley sides.

Vale of Neath

A8.3.24 The Vale of Neath is similar to the south-east valley side of the Dulais valley with its north-east to south-west- fault controlled U-shaped broad glacial valley floodplain and channel, flanked by steep valley slopes. The area is a pastoral and deciduous mosaic providing diversity within the valley and contrasting with the heavily coniferous wooded nature of the upper slopes. The broad floodplain makes the Neath valley distinctive from the Tawe or the Dulais. The topography and woodland cover on the northern and southern slopes of the Neath valley is a significant and dominant feature

and provides coherence and integrity to the SLA. To the north-east of the SLA, it is geologically and topographically dominated by sundry small rivers and waterfalls, suggesting a natural boundary between the NPTCBC and the high moorland of the BBNP.

Margam

- A8.3.25 Mynydd Margam is a broad, low-lying plateau of north-east dipping Productive Coal Formation mudstones and coals between South Wales Pennant Formation escarpment and east to west Millstone Grit ridge to the south, dissected by shallow, alluvium filled valleys of tributaries and the main Cynfig valley. The SLA, which contains Margam Park, with its exceptional examples of architecture; its history as a major Cistercian Abbey and the wider monastic landholdings, provides a combination of high-grade historic visitor attraction and a variety of multi-period pleasure grounds. It contains cultural elements dating from pre-history through every period up to the 21st century. The scenic quality of the area is enhanced by the historic buildings of the park and the backdrop of scarp creating a sheltered setting. The sense of place of the park is reinforced with boundary walls and entrance gates. The historic core and deer park make this area unique within the county.

Mynydd y Gelli

- A8.3.26 The landform of Mynydd y Gelli is a coherent landscape element and relates to the Western Uplands Bridgend SLA which includes the adjacent Mynydd Llangeinwyr. Similar to Foel Trawsnant it forms an open exposed plateau area within the eastern highlands complex. The landform and topography create an imposing presence and with its simple land cover provides a contrast to the more complex landscapes of surrounding areas. The open remote plateau has a sense of exposure and wilderness in contrast with the adjacent Afan valley. It is unspoilt by development or land use and has a coherent distinct character, with topographical and visual unity, high scenic quality and strong sense of place.

Foel Trawsnant

- A8.3.27 This SLA covers the steep, exposed, upland slopes in north-east to south-west striking north and north-east dipping sandstones and coals of the South Wales Pennant Formation Llynfi-Brithdir Beds (Lower Pennant Measures). It forms part of the eastern highlands complex and is one location within the relict landscape of mixed periods which is not covered in conifer plantations. There is no development and the area feels exposed and access is via foot and bridle paths. The simple landscape features and pattern, with upland grazing to 271 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) creates a local sense of place and distinctiveness.

Foel y Dyffryn

- A8.3.28 A relatively small area of distinctive upland landscape to the west of Dyffryn and Caerau, it provides a visual backdrop to the setting of the urban area along the valley floor. Generally north-east facing, the uplands range from 120 m to 350 m AOD. Its upland qualities and character are further reinforced by borrowed views to the Bannau Brycheiniog to the north. Its vegetation cover is typically rough grassland, mainly upland heath, interspersed with wetland and boggy areas. The proximity to the urban edge of its eastern boundaries introduces visual and sensory detractors.

Northern Uplands

- A8.3.29 An open upland ridge landscape lying between approximately 250 m and 550 m AOD. The western half of the SLA consists of unenclosed uplands with easterly (in Ogmore Valley) and westerly (in Garw Valley) facing slopes of relatively narrow valleys, with boundaries of urban/rural interface on lower valley slopes. The Upper Ogmore Valley exhibits the classic characteristics of glaciation, namely a U-shaped valley which is interspersed with minor truncated spurs and small hanging side valleys. The busy A4064 that follows the river course along the Afon Garw floor is a slight visual and sensory detractor due to noise and movement of traffic. It contains panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys. The eastern half of the SLA has steep westerly facing slopes of the quite narrow valley (Ogmore), with views across the urban area (Ogmore Vale, Pricetown) on the valley floor with which it has an urban/rural interface. Predominant land cover consists of rough grazing and bracken, rock outcrops to the east and with some old stone walls, with acid grassland, heath and internationally important blanket bog habitats. Lower Ogmore Valley includes some patchy broadleaved woodland and at Ogmore Vale the Aber Woods. The northern end of the SLA includes the conifer plantations, including Cwm Nant-y-moel and the area around Nant-y-moel itself.

Western Uplands

- A8.3.30 A fairly extensive upland area abutting the boundary of NBTCBC in the west. It comprises a series of north eastern facing slopes, ranging from 120 m to 350 m AOD, typically rough grazing. It has a number of plantations and small woodlands that contribute to the overall character and quality of the area. The geography of the landscape is typical of much of the area, showing evidence of glaciation – classic u-shaped valley with truncated side valleys. Despite the presence of coal measures and other stone quarrying, the area retains a largely rural, agricultural character. Important historic and cultural associations reflected in landscape archaeology includes the settlement of Llangynwyd and its hinterland largely important; despite its proximity of industrial towns, it retains a distinct rural form and character.

Bryngarw Country Park

- A8.3.31 A small distinct area based upon the grounds and associated woodlands of Bryngarw House. An early Tudor house this has been modified at various times, and the ornamental gardens – a mixture of ponds, ornamental and natural planting were laid out between 1910 and 1918. The site is included in the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. The SLA area extends beyond the historic park boundaries to include a range of areas of high habitat value. This includes a range of riparian woodlands.

Mynydd y Gaer

- A8.3.32 An undulating ridge line landform running east to west up to the attractive upland landscape associated with Mynydd y Gaer some 300 m AOD. In land use terms it includes the interface between the open uplands and the bounded fields of the lower lying agricultural landscapes. These are often defined by hedgerows with trees. The southern edge of this scarp is dissected by a series of steep sided cwms, such as Cwm Crymlyn, Cwm Llwyd and Nant Ton-y-groes. It contains limited areas of woodland or small spinneys, although the north-western edge of the SLA includes the wooded slopes of Allt y Rhiw. Higher ground is open and exposed. The SLA is traversed by the

Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, as well as a range of other footpaths. Along the edge of the SLA, the A4061, B4280 and A4093 roads introduce visual and sensory detractors.

Kenfig Burrows

- A8.3.33 One of a group of windblown littoral sand deposits found along the South Wales coast. Culturally it represents an important besanded landscape. Kenfig forms an extensive dune system that includes the intertidal zone between mean low and high-water lines, and in places strips of storm gravels are found on the wave cut platform. Within the dune system are a number of ponds and waterbodies; the most significant being Kenfig Pool which lies close to the visitor centre and car park. Its land form is a distinctive landscape unit, providing a unique foreground setting to the industrial and transport communication corridors (M4 motorway and Swansea-London railway line).

Laleston

- A8.3.34 A distinctive plateau area rising to 100 m AOD to the west of Bridgend. It is an area of mixed farmland with fields enclosed by hedgerow boundaries. The area is dissected by the M4 motorway, A48 and the Swansea-Paddington railway line which create local corridors of visual and sensory detraction. Its western boundary abuts the former Newton Down airfield which is used for karting and has a number of industrial units dispersed across the area. These provide further local zones of visual and sensory detraction. The southern boundary abuts the village of Tythegston and includes the house and parkland of Tythegston Court.

Porthcawl Coast

- A8.3.35 Extending from Sker Point to Newton Point, the area is formed primarily by the intertidal zone that fronts Porthcawl and its hinterland. It is a mixture of exposed rock and sandy beaches including Rest Bay, Sandy Bay and Trecco Bay. The exposed rocky outcrops form an important area of limestone pavement. In the west it abuts the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club as well as the landscape setting of Sker House. At Porthcawl it includes Lock's Common. The close juxtaposition to the town increases the range of visual and sensory detractors, particularly at Trecco Bay. It forms an important and much appreciated seascape setting to the important visitor destination that Porthcawl remains.

Merthyr Mawr Warren

- A8.3.36 The SLA comprises of two discrete yet interrelated landscape units, namely Merthyr-Mawr Warren and the historic parkland and adjoining area associated with Merthyr Mawr house. The Warren is an extensive area of littoral windblown sand deposits, rising up in places to 80 m AOD, and dominating the views of the estuary and immediate hinterland around Merthyr Mawr, it also includes the foreshore down to the mean low water level. Within the dune system are a series of small spinneys, which together with the rolling landforms create a series of intimate spaces. The views across the Severn Estuary provide a distinct sense of place, although this is somewhat compromised by its interrelationship to the urban edge of Porthcawl at Newton and Trecco Bay. The remainder of the area is formed by the historic house and parkland and associated estate village of Merthyr Mawr. Culturally and historically, it is an important landscape containing Merthyr Mawr House, estate village and the remains of the medieval castles/fortified houses. The area provides an outstanding example of an evolved landscape and dual order.

Castle Upon Alun

- A8.3.37 Located on the western edge of the Vale of Glamorgan, this SLA is characterised by broad plateaus, gently rolling hills and the Ewenny and Alun River Valleys. The Alun Valley is narrow, confined, wooded lowland valley, where the natural vegetation gives the valley a distinct character, complemented by the downs to the south and the farmland to the north. The Ewenny Valley to the north is sheltered by topography of the valley sides and wooded hillsides. It is an open, large scale and exposed landscape with few scattered settlements and some agricultural fields.

Mawr Uplands

- A8.3.38 An area of strongly rolling hills of between 250 m and 400 m AOD, which is dominated by the 16 turbines of Mynydd y Gwair (Resubmission) Wind Farm. Land cover is predominantly rough grazing/moorland with distinct upland feel generated by exposure, elevated views. There are attractive long views towards Gower that add to sense of place.

North East Gower and Cockett Valley

- A8.3.39 An area of predominantly rolling farmland on land ranging from 20 m to 160 m AOD, with mosaic pattern derived from hedges and some scattered woodland, mainly broadleaf. Urban influence is strong in the eastern area, where the urban edge of Swansea encircles the rural area, and elements such as telecom towers and pylons are highly visible. The western area is less influenced by urban pressures and has some views out to the Lougher estuary. Southern areas of the SLA incorporate a section of the Lougher Estuary, which is a large expanse of flat estuarine marsh between the river Lougher and the rising ground of the landward rural landscape. There are attractive views west along estuary together with the 'sea air' promotes a coastal sense of place.

Garngoch and Lower Afon Llan Valley

- A8.3.40 Northern parts of the SLA incorporate rolling farmland on relatively low lying land, with a mosaic pattern derived from hedges and some scattered woodland, mainly broadleaf, although the landscape is more open in character on Mynydd Carn Goch. The southern part of the SLA includes the valley floor of the Afon Llan Valley, through which the Afon Llan flows through. Visual detractors include a sewage works, roads and pylons. Factories and the adjacent urban areas of Swansea, Gowerton and Gorseinon encircle the SLA.

Upper & Lower Thaw Valley

- A8.3.41 The area is sparsely settled with small villages and several farms. The landscape is generally open, with a high intervisibility and overlooks Bridgend, bordering the M4. Mynydd Maendy wind farm to the north also has a visual impact on the sense of place. There are a number of pleasant views to well managed fields and woodland areas, but these are affected in places by gappy hedgerows and housing development. The dramatic valley form has a distinctive steep wooded slopes and a strong sense of place. It is enclosed by a plateau landscape and has a strong relationship with Cowbridge. The valley to the south is confined, sinuous lowland with steep wooded sides and hedgerowed field valley floor with streams and wet ditches. Elsewhere the landscape is rolling lowland with some views out to the coast.

Ely Valley & Ridge Slopes

A8.3.42 A predominantly rolling, lowland landscape with the Ely River valley running through it from north to south east. The majority of the predominantly rolling lowland valley floor is floodplain, with a sense of openness that contrasts with the rising valley sides. Towards the east, enclosing the floodplain, the landscape has an intact pastoral field pattern and traditional settlement pattern. Hillsides contain headwaters that feed into the Rive Ely, and the slopes support improved grassland, arable and some neutral grassland. There are also areas of severely fragmented woodland. The M4 and A232 are significant detractors. To the north west the landscape is one of lowland valleys and hills. It is well maintained with string hedgerow and woodland cover. The southern boundary includes a ridge crest, prominent in the landscape and providing views across the Vale. The A48 bisects this ridge and linear settlements dominate. The landscape includes semi natural broadleaf woodland, improved grassland, arable and amenity grassland.

Mynydd y Betws

A8.3.43 This is an extensive area of exposed undulating upland moorland extending into the Swansea, dominated by the turbines of Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm that extends across a wide proportion of the SLA. It is an area of unenclosed, grazed common land, with a mix of grasses and some smaller areas of heather, and wetland habitats. There are impressive views from Mynydd y Betws over south-east Carmarthenshire and towards the Bannau Brycheiniog. The area is interrupted by the road that crosses the mountain and where this enters the common on its northern side at Scot's Pine, by the telegraph poles and larger pylons and a mast. These elements detract from the integrity of the area but this is restricted to this small part of the whole. Elsewhere within the area there is a considerable degree of unity and little interrupts the rest of this landscape. It is one of five extensive area of unenclosed moorland in the county. There are no trees or shrubs in this area and there is a striking difference between this area and the enclosed land at lower elevations on the northern slopes. Today there are no settlements here, but the area is rich in archaeology, with several sites clearly discernible on the ground, illustrating the history of this area.

Llanharry Surrounds

A8.3.44 Located in the south west corner of the county, bounded by the M4 and the edge of Llanharry to the south. This area stretches from Felindre in the west to development at Trecastell in the east. To the north there is Llanharan and the adjacent major development site on reclaimed land. The southern edge of Coed Trecastell forestry defines the north eastern boundary. Land is predominantly rolling lowland farmland with irregular shaped fields of improved grassland, bound by hedges. There are also native broadleaf woodlands.

Talygarn Surrounds

A8.3.45 In the extreme south of RCT, with the M4 to the north and the County boundary to the south. It stretches from near Junction 32 in east to Forest Wood Quarry in west. Land is predominantly lowland farmland with irregular shaped fields, bound by hedgerows. Southern areas of the SLA contain significant areas of fen, wet woodland and purple moorgrass habitats. Talygarn RPG is located within the SLA.

Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest

A8.3.46 On the western edge of RCT, north of Llanharan and the A473, extending eastward to the lower slopes of the Ely valley between Talbot Green and Tonyrefail. The northern boundary is the edge of development land in the valley south of Gilfach Goch A prominent ridge of hills with extensive rounded tops, with forestry to the east forming part of the east/west ridge that marks the border between Vale and Valleys that forms an important skyline feature from M4, and Vale of Glamorgan. Land within the western half of the SLA is dominated by the exiting wind farm of Mynydd Portref. There are extensive and varied views from the ridge, over the Vale of Glamorgan and Bristol Channel to the south and over the coalfield plateau to the north. A series of small more enclosed valleys are found to the north and south. Habitats include un-improved marshy grassland and rhos pasture, mainly in northern slopes and basins. The remainder of land predominantly consists of fields with hedges, with improved grassland on upper slopes and some rhos pasture on the northern slopes and valleys.

A8.3.47 The SLAs that are excluded from further consideration within the study area are listed in Table A8.3.4

Table A8.8.3.4: Special landscape areas excluded from further assessment

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Lower Loughor Valley and Estuary and Southern part of the Burry Inlet	SC	25.4
Nant Llancarfan	VoGC	27.4
Dyffryn basin & ridge slopes	VoGC	28.3
Cwrt-yr-Ala basin	VoGC	32.7
Tywi Valley	CCC	32.3
Carmarthenshire Limestone Ridge	CCC	29.8
Bran Valley (North of Llandovery)	CCC	41.2
Gwendraeth Levels	CCC	43.1
Pembrey Mountain	CCC	33.4
Swiss Valley	CCC	31.3
Talley	CCC	42.6
Lwchwr Valley	CCC	26.2
Cwm Cathan	CCC	23.8
Cothi Valley	CCC	42.1
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	CCC	38.6
Mynydd y Cymmer	RCTCBC	16.5
Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes	RCTCBC	15.9
Llwyncelyn Slopes	RCTCBC	18.9
Cwm Clydach	RCTCBC	20.1
Cynon Valley Northern Slopes	RCTCBC	20.4

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Cwm Orci	RCTCBC	12.3
Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm & Slopes	RCTCBC	8.2
Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare & Cwm Aman	RCTCBC	13.8
Bannau Brycheiniog Edge at Llwydcoed	RCTCBC	17.3
Ely Valley at Miskin	RCTCBC	21.6
Coed-yr-Hendy and Mwyndy	RCTCBC	21.7
Llantrisant Surrounds	RCTCBC	21.2
Mynydd y Glyn and Nant Muchudd Basin	RCTCBC	17.8
Efail Isaf, Garth and Nantgarw Western Slopes	RCTCBC	25.1
Craig yr Allt	RCTCBC	29.3
Taff Vale Eastern Slopes	RCTCBC	25.2
Treforest Western Slopes	RCTCBC	23.4
Nant Morlais & Cwm Taf Fechan	MTCBCC	24.0
Winchfawr	MTCBCC	21.7
Merthyr West Flank	MTCBCC	22.1
Pontygwaith	MTCBC	24.4
Gelligaer and Taf Bargoed	MTCBCC	25.8
St Fagans Lowlands and the Ely Valley	CC	29.4
Garth Hill and Pentyrch Ridges	CC	25.8
Fforest Fawr and Caerphilly Ridge	CC	30.1
Wentloog Levels	CC	40.7
Flat Holm	CC	45.4
Upper Rhymney Valley	CCBC	28.9
Gelligaer Common	CCBC	27.9
Mynydd Eglwysilan	CCBC	26.1
North Caerphilly	CCBC	31.3
South Caerphilly	CCBC	30.8
Mynyddislwyn	CCBC	34.5
Southern Lowlands	TCBC	41.1
South West Uplands	TCBC	39.9
Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	TCBC	42.4
Afon Lwyd Valley	TCBC	41.2

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Western Uplands	TCBC	41.1
St Illtyd Plateau and Ebbw Eastern Sides	BGCBC	37.7
Eastern Ridge and Mynydd James	BGCBC	38.8
Cwm Tyleri and Cwm Celyn	BGCBC	39.6
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and Cefn yr Arail	BGCBC	36.4
Mynydd Bedwellty, Rhymney Hill and Sirhowy Sides	BGCBC	32.4
Cefn Manmoel	BGCBC	34.3
Trefil and Garnlydan Surrounds	BGCBC	31.8
Beaufort Common	BGCBC	37.6
North of Betws	NCC	43.5
West of Rhiwderin	NCC	39.2
Wentloog Levels	NCC	42.3
Tredegar Park	NCC	43.4

Visually Important Local Landscapes (VILLs)

A8.3.48 VILLs are non-statutory designations that seek to protect the distinctive features or characteristics of the visual and sensory landscape and how people respond to the landscape. CCBC identify four VILLs within their LDP and their locations are shown on figure 8.18. The closest of which is Northern Rhymney Valley, which is located approximately 28.3 km north-east of the nearest proposed turbine. Figure 8.18 indicates that from all four VILLs there be very limited visibility or no visibility of the proposed development. In combination with the distance that they are located from the proposed development it is predicted that there will be no significant effects on each of VILLs. Therefore, they have been excluded from further assessment.

Heritage Coast

A8.3.49 Heritage coasts are stretches of outstanding coastline identified by local authorities and their intention is to protect an undeveloped coast from inappropriate development and through management, balance the needs of conservation, recreation, tourism and commercial activity. They are not protected by law; however, they must be given special consideration by Local Authorities in planning decisions. There are two Heritage Coasts within the study area.

Gower Heritage Coast

A8.3.50 Under the Gower Management Plan, all 57 km of the coastline within the AONB is also designated as Heritage Coast. There is no section of the Gower Heritage Coast that lies within the detailed 15 km study area, however the extent that falls within the wider 45 km study area is illustrated in figure 8.18.

Glamorgan Heritage Coast

A8.3.51 The Vale of Glamorgan has a total of 57 km of coastline, 19 km of which is designated as Heritage Coast. It extends from West Aberthaw in the east to Ogmores-by-Sea in the west. Policy MG27 within the VoG’s LDP sets out the relevant planning policy. Approximately 6 km of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast falls within the detailed 15 km study area and a further 51 km that is located within the wider 45 km. This is shown in figures 8.18 and 8.19.

Landscapes of Outstanding/Special Historic Interest in Wales

A8.3.52 The Register of Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (LOHI) in Wales (Part 2.1) and Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Part 2.2) has been established, by Cadw/ ICOMOS UK to identify those landscapes that can be considered of importance within Wales based upon a clear set of criteria. There are a number of Registered Landscapes of Outstanding or Special Historic Interest that lie entirely or partly within the study area and their locations are shown in figures 8.18 and 8.19.

Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest

A8.3.53 There are ten LOHI’s located within the study area, one of which is located within 15 km of the proposed development. The remaining nine sites located within the wider study area. Their locations are shown in figures 8.18 and 8.19, and a brief description of the site located within 15 km of the proposed development, derived directly from the published sources, is provided in Table A8.3.5.

Table A8.8.3.5: Landscapes of outstanding historic interest taken forward for assessment

Name	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine km)
Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows	5.2

Source: Natural Power

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows

- A8.3.54 Merthyr Mawr Warren is located on the north-west side of the estuary of the River Ogmore. The dune system is much higher than at Kenfig, reaching a height of 80 m AOD, and tending to dominate prospects of the estuary and the immediate hinterland around Merthyr Mawr, which includes Ogmore Castle on the opposite bank of the estuary to the dunes. Kenfig and Margam Burrows lie about 7 km north west of Merthyr Mawr, on the coastal plain between the sea and Margam Mountain to the north, and they have retained their distinctive and striking appearance despite having been bisected by modern rail and motorway communication systems on their eastern fringes. They are much lower, but more extensive than the Merthyr Mawr dunes.
- A8.3.55 Figure 8.18 indicates that there will be no visibility from the LOHI’s at Merthyr Tydfil, Tywi Valley and Gelligaer Common. From the remainder, views will be either be of very limited extent or will be at such a distance that effects are highly unlikely to be significant. These areas are excluded from any further consideration within the assessment, as listed in Table A8.3.6.

Table A8.8.3.6: Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest excluded from further assessment.

Name	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Merthyr Tydfil	21.8
Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai	25.5
Tywi Valley	32.1
Taf and Tywi Estuary	37.7
Llancarfan, Vale of Glamorgan	27.0
Gower	27.6
Blaenavon	40.7
Gelli-gaer Common	27.1
Gwent Levels	40.5

Source: Natural Power

Landscapes of Special Historic Interest (LSHI)

A8.3.56 There are five LSHI’s within the study area. Figures 8.18 and 8.19 indicate that there will be no or very limited visibility from the LSHI’s at Clydach Gorge, Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse and the Rhondda. These areas are excluded from any further consideration within the assessment. From Margam Mountain and East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog LSHI’s, the ZTV indicates that there will be some visibility and these are described below and considered further within the assessment section.

Table A8.3.3.7: Landscapes of Special Historic Interest taken forward for assessment

Name	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Margam Mountain	0.0

Source: Natural Power

Margam Mountain

A8.3.57 The well wooded western flank of the mountain rises steeply above the town of Port Talbot and the adjacent M4 motorway, to a series of more gentle slopes and plateaus that are typically between 200 m – 300 m AOD, reaching a maximum height of 344 m AOD. Coniferous forestry is a dominant feature of the landscape, although a series of small, wooded valleys and ravines that typically contain small streams, rising to a peat bog, is also a common feature of the mountain. The mountain contains a number of Bronze Age ritual and funerary monuments, early Christian monuments and medieval defensive works. However, it is the remains of Margam Abbey, plus the Tudor Gothic mansion of Margam Castle and the Orangery, within Margam Country Park, which are the most prominent historical features.

Table A3.3.8: Landscapes of Special Historic Interest excluded from further assessment.

Name	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
The Rhondda	8.2
East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-glôg	18.4
Clydach Gorge	40.5
Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse	38.4

Country Parks

A8.3.58 There are 22 Country Parks within the study area (See Table A8.3.9). Figures 8.18 and 8.19 indicate that there may be visibility of the proposed development from Margam Park and Afan Forest Park and a brief description of these, derived directly from the published sources is provided. From the remaining 20 Country Parks, there is no or very limited visibility due to the screening effects of topography and/or built form/vegetation. In addition, many are located a considerable distance from the proposed development and therefore have been excluded from further assessment.

Table A8.3.9: Country Parks taken forward for assessment

Name	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)
Margam	1.3
Afan Forest Park	1.4

Margam

A8.3.59 In addition to its features as previously described above, other attractions include a ‘Go Ape’ tree-top adventure centre, a railway, a lake, which is used for a range of water-based activities and adventure playground. Plans are also understood to be in development for a long distance zip-wire².

Afan Forest Park

A8.3.60 Located within the Afan Valley, approximately 1.4 km from the nearest proposed turbine, Afan Forest Park, covers an area of 120 km². The Park was predominantly planted with larch, pine and spruce. However, over 650 ha of larch have been felled due to being infected by Phytophthora ramorum, with a further 230 ha due to be removed. Replanting of the forest will include approximately one-third broadleaved trees and approximately two-thirds coniferous., The park is a well-known mountain bike destination and includes five mountain bike trails and a mountain bike skills area, as well as five waymarked walking trails. The Park also includes a visitors’ centre, which is home to the South Wales Miners’ Museum.

Table A8.8.3.10: Country Parks excluded from further assessment

Name	Approx. Distance from Site (km)
Bryngarw	7.6

² Wales Online, (2019). Available from - <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/90mph-zip-wire-take-forty-17288111> [Accessed 15/12/2023]

Name	Approx. Distance from Site (km)
Clyne Valley	18.7
Parc Cwm Darren	29.1
Pen y Fan Pond	36.8
Parc Coetir	31.9
Parc Penallta	28.9
Parc Bryn Bach	31.8
Craig y Nos	21.4
Dare Valley	15.0
Gelli Aur	34.3
Llyn Llech Owain	32.6
Pembrey Burrows	40.1
Porthkerry	33.6
Cosmeston	39.0
Tredegar House	45.3
Sirhowy	34.3
Cefn Onn	34.1
Fforest Farm Reserve	31.3
Whitchurch	32.3
Hailey Park	32.2

A8.4 SEASCAPE AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREA DESCRIPTIONS

- A8.4.1 The following paragraphs describe the existing seascape and landscape character within the study area. These have been derived through a combination of analysis of published seascape and landscape character assessments and, with regard to LCA’s, informed by LANDMAP data from all five Aspect Areas (Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitat, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Services), in line with *NRW Guidance Note 46*.
- A8.4.2 The SCAs within the study area are shown on figure 8.32. A review of the SCA’s was undertaken to determine whether these should be taken forward for further assessment. Details are provided within Table A8.4.1 below and illustrated on figure 8.44.

Table A8.4.1: SCA’s to be carried forward for detailed assessment.

Seascape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
SCA 01: Afon Tywi, Taf and Gwendraeth Estuaries	X				X

Seascape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
SCA 02: Carmarthen Bay East		Carried forward for further assessment.			
SCA 03: Bury Inlet and Loughor Estuary		Carried forward for further assessment.			
SCA 04: Rhossili Bay	X				X
SCA 05: Worms Head to Port Eynon Point	X				X
SCA 06: Oxwich and Port Eynon Bays		Carried forward for further assessment.			
SCA 07: Pwlldu Head to Mumbles Head		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 08: Swansea Bay West		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 09: Swansea Bay East		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 10: Neath Estuary		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 11: Margam to Porthcawl		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 12: Porthcawl		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 13: Nash Sand Bar		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 14: Bristol Channel South East		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 15: Bristol Channel East		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 16: Mid Swansea Bay		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 17: Outer Swansea Bay		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 18: Offshore Oxwich Point to Mumbles Head		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 19: Bristol Channel Offshore		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 20: Bristol Channel – South West Offshore					X
SCA 21: Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sand		Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site			
SCA 22: Severn Estuary					X
SCA 23: Bridgwater Bay					X

Seascape Character Area	Reason for Exclusion				
	Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
SCA 24: Bristol Channel	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to site				

A8.4.3 Baseline descriptions for SCAs and LCAs to be taken forward for assessment within the study area are outlined.

Seascape Character Areas

SCA 02: Carmarthen Bay East

A8.4.4 This SCA forms the north-eastern part of Carmarthen Bay where the estuaries of the Loughor and Three Rivers Complex enter the bay. The shallow waters are populated with large drying sandbanks with intervening narrow shifting tidal channels making navigation hazardous and limited to small boats. There are two major beaches. Cefn Sidan to the north is backed by narrow dunes and coniferous forest at Pembrey, partly used as a country park. Broughton Bay/Whiteford Sands to the south-east is backed by dunes and conifers towards the mouth of the Loughor estuary and by low limestone cliffs and agricultural land and caravan parks to the south. This has important submerged forest and peat beds. There is significant nature conservation interest in the area including large populations of wading and over wintering birds, dunes and the intertidal zone is harvested for cockles and mussels. The open beaches are remote, open, unspoilt and tranquil, with a sense of exposure to the prevailing winds. There are panoramic views across Carmarthen Bay to and from Gower and its coastal hills.

SCA 03: Burry Inlet and Loughor Estuary

A8.4.5 The Loughor Estuary runs from Pontarddulais to the coast widening into the Burry Inlet and then Carmarthen Bay. It is large and open with a relatively narrow tidal channel and large areas of sand banks and mudflats which are covered at high tide. There is a contrast between the north and south coasts. The north is urban, dominated by industry, new housing and leisure development and the Millennium Coastal Park. The larger buildings are apparent in long views from the south. The south is predominantly rural and tranquil and has the most extensive grazed salt marsh in Wales, backed by steep, partly wooded slopes. The south is part of Gower AONB and Heritage Coast. The tidal waters are rich in wildlife, particularly wildfowl, and is known for cockle and mussel beds. Small leisure craft and commercial boats use Burry Port but use is limited by tides and the silting of the dredged channel. Culturally, the most famous event is Amelia Earhart landing here in 1928 on the first solo female flight across the Atlantic.

SCA 06: Oxwich and Port Eynon Bays

A8.4.6 The SCA forms the central core of the Gower peninsula coastline with two south east facing bays bounded and sheltered by more exposed limestone headlands and cliffs with rocky foreshores. The seabed is gently shelving and sandy and the beaches are backed by dunes and burrows and, in Oxwich’s case, also by marshland. The beaches are very popular destinations for visitors with a variety of beach activities. Oxwich is the largest and most popular, closely followed by Port Eynon. Three Cliffs Bay is less accessible but rewards the visitor with one of the iconic views of the Gower peninsula. Although the modern built form of Port Eynon and Southgate and some Caravan sites detract, the area possesses an open exposed unspoilt character offshore. There is a sense of wildness and there are panoramic views, particularly focussed towards Lundy and Exmoor. The coastline is indented and rocky, with an unspoilt character. Views from the cliff top walks and beaches extend towards Lundy and Exmoor.

SCA 07: Pwlldu Head to Mumbles Head

A8.4.7 This SCA forms the eastern end of the south Gower coastline, terminating at the distinctively profiled Mumbles Head with its lighthouse. The indented coastline of sloping limestone cliffs has three small sandy bays and several smaller coves. The seabed is gently shelving and sandy, increasing in depth offshore except at Mixon Shoal which dries at low tide and is a hazard. The area is popular for leisure boating and recreational fishing vessels out from Swansea. The beaches at Langland Bay and Caswell Bay are accessible and very popular destinations for beach activities. The scenic natural character of the coastline acts as a positive backcloth to suburban development especially around Langland and Bracelet Bays. However, this development, together with caravan sites, detracts from the character particularly to the east. The area offshore is open and exposed with a sense of wildness and views along the coast and south to Exmoor. Beaches and coves are enclosed by unspoilt headlands, areas of grassland, heath and woodlands.

SCA 08: Swansea Bay West

A8.4.8 The SCA forms the western part of a wide, sweeping shallow muddy sand bay enclosed by coastal hills and protected from south westerlies by Mumbles Head. The River Tawe enters the bay here and there is a marina and a dredged channel across the bay to serve this and the docks to the east. The bay is well used by commercial vessels and leisure and fishing day boats out of the marina, the impounded Tawe and the drying Mumbles Road moorings. The varied mix of urban and suburban settlement and greenery on the hills and seafront are visually unified by the strong arc of the very wide sandy beach and the simple unspoilt surface of the bay. They are also unified by the cornice of very popular promenade, parkland and road along almost the entire seafront. The primary visual foci are the Mumbles and lighthouse off Mumbles Head with their distinctive profile, often seen in silhouette behind the lifeboat station. The Meridian Tower forms a tall man made vertical focal point in the centre of the bay. There are views across to Port Talbot, including the steel works seen against the backcloth of the coalfield plateau and, on clear days, to Exmoor. The backcloth of hills is important to the character of the bay giving it a sense of enclosure and drama. Their mixed character is a balance of built form and ranges from the serried ranks of housing of Townhill to the green slopes of the Clyne Valley. Similarly at the detailed level, the

buildings on the seafront contribute strongly to the varied character of the bay. Detractors within this seascape area, include the built form of Swansea, (in parts), traffic along the corniche, views of Swansea Docks and commercial shipping accessing this facility.

SCA 09: Swansea Bay East

A8.4.9 The SCA forms the eastern part of a wide, sweeping shallow muddy sand bay with wide beaches exposed to the prevailing south westerly winds. The River Neath and River Afan enter the bay here. There are dunes either side of the Neath and Crymlyn Burrows is an SSSI. The coast encompasses an important past and present industrial landscape ranging from Swansea East Docks, oil storage and refining, and Port Talbot steel works and docks. Historic marine use has included the export of coal, the import of crude oil from the Middle East as well as coking coal, minerals and ores. There is a dredged channel with training walls to the Neath and a deep dredged channel serving the tidal harbour at Port Talbot steel works. The bay is used by commercial vessels, mainly to Port Talbot, and to an extent by leisure boats but less intensively than to the west. The oil storage and refining uses have been replaced by the new Swansea University Bay campus to the north and by a power station, paper works and other uses to the east. Visually, the area forms part of the smooth wide arc of Swansea Bay and feels large-scale, although partly enclosed by the relatively unspoilt hill backcloth of Kilvey Hill and the coalfield plateau scarp slopes including Mynydd Dinas and Mynydd Brombil. The enclosing hills in the hinterland are relatively unspoilt, (although a windfarm is now located on Mynydd Brombil) and form an important backcloth to the bay. The main visual foci are the huge industrial structures of the Port Talbot steel works behind the Port Talbot docks with their huge cranes which dominate the seafront. The works are a dynamic spectacle issuing large plumes of steam periodically. These contrast with the smaller scale and clean design of the modern paper mill to the north and the monotonous, flat suburban character of the Sandfields estate which backs onto Aberafan Beach and separates the two industrial areas. The northern edge of the bay has been transformed in recent years with an oil storage depot, converted into the Swansea University Bay campus. The large out of town campus with its classically proportioned Great Hall is noticeable. The still operational Swansea Docks to the west is protected by a reinforced seawall with wind turbines, warehouses and cranes behind. Key views are from the popular Aberafan seafront and beach across the bay to the Mumbles. From both the coast and the water there is a sense of enclosure from the surrounding high ground, in particular Kilvey Hill to the north and Mynydd Dinas and adjacent hills to the east. The steel works are prominent in views, now visually reinforced by the turbines on Mynydd Brombil and solar development on Mynydd Emroch which blur the previously clear limits of large scale commercial development on the coastal plain.

SCA 10: Neath Estuary

A8.4.10 The River Neath tidal estuary extends from Baglan Bay up beyond Briton Ferry and Neath. To the south, it is flanked by sand flats and dunes. Upstream the sinuous muddy river is flanked by old wharves, a derelict Brunel dock, industrial land, flat grazing marsh and the edge of Neath. The wharf at Giant's Grave is still used for scrap and Monkstone Marina provides a shelter for recreational boats. The lower part of the estuary is dominated by the M4 viaduct with its movement and noisy traffic and is characterised by the derelict or run-down industrial frontages, security

fences, wharves and relict structures either side of the muddy tidal channel. Further upstream the valley opens out to flat grazing marshes and marsh by the side of the sinuous tidal river which act as a foil to the surrounding industry, urban settlement and busy roads. The partially wooded hills still act as a generally positive backcloth to the valley and its developed character. The flat grazing marsh provides an open contrast to the surrounding developed land and the surrounding hills generally act as a positive backcloth. The area was once known for its picturesque juxtaposition of wooded hills with water and early industry. Paintings by late eighteenth and early nineteenth century artists such as Julius Caesar Ibbetson, John Varley, JMW Turner and William Daniel show idyllic scenes with the hills juxtaposed with the water and boats. The M4 viaduct is the dominant visual and sensory feature in the lower reaches.

SCA 11: Margam to Porthcawl

A8.4.11 The SCA forms the south-eastern part of Swansea Bay between Margam and Porthcawl Point with wide beaches exposed to the prevailing south westerly winds. The gently shelving seafloor is primarily sand and there are a series of parallel shoals offshore, some drying, which are a hazard to navigation. Scarweather Sands forms the outer limit of the area and has an anemometer mast and navigation marks. The coast is relatively straight and low and is backed by very extensive dunes at Kenfig to the north of Sker Point. The dunes are a National Nature Reserve, designated as SAC and SSSI and are also a LOHI. There are fairly wide beaches backed by rocky platforms in places and Rest Bay is popular for surfing. There are wide views out to open sea and towards the southern Gower coast. This stretch of coast is open and exposed and has a simple, low, uncluttered hinterland. The sea is open and unspoilt with relatively limited use due to the navigational hazards. Port Talbot steel works are apparent to the north with a green backcloth provided by the Coalfield Scarp. The Kenfig Dunes, Sker Point and adjacent beaches provide a tranquil, open and exposed area accessed by a few walkers enjoying the natural seascape. The seafront at Porthcawl and its landscaped promenade has a coherent and positive character, popular with visitors who enjoy the sea views. The key views are from the beaches and Coast Path out to sea and across to the southern Gower peninsula coast and Exmoor. Porthcawl, and beaches such as Rest Bay are very popular tourist destinations and cater for bathing and water sports.

SCA 12: Porthcawl

A8.4.12 The SCA lies between the relatively sheltered south-facing sandy bays of Sandy Bay and Trecco Bay out to West Nash sand bank. The bays shelf gently out to sea but Fairy Rock, just offshore, dries at low tide. There is a small marina in the drying harbour at Porthcawl and the sea is used for recreational boating. The beaches are very popular and there is the Coney Amusement Park and the very large Trecco Bay Holiday Park on the flat hinterland to the north. The main focus of views is the lighthouse on the breakwater and towards the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

SCA 13: Nash Sand Bar

A8.4.13 This area is located just offshore south of Porthcawl. It forms the western part of a linear shoal less than 10m deep with a sand and sandy gravel seafloor with high wave energy, sometimes of enhanced height and breaking, and strong currents. This seascape has an open, exposed, wild and unspoilt character. There are open extensive views towards the Gower, Exmoor and the

Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Nash Sand Bar forms part of the open setting of the latter to the east contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. Development at Porthcawl, including lighting and jet skis detract from the character.

SCA 14: Bristol Channel South East

A8.4.14 This area is located offshore in the middle of the Bristol Channel. It is medium depth sloping from 20m to 30m deep with a bedrock seafloor with high wave energy and scoured by strong currents. This seascape is simple and open in character at a vast scale and is dominated by swell, waves and wind with a sense of remoteness, increasing to the south. The area contributes to open sea views, particularly from Porthcawl and the Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The location in the middle of the Channel means that there will be influence of land from both sides. Key visible coastal features are Cefn Bryn to the north-west, the South Wales coalfield plateau to the north, the Glamorgan Heritage Coast to the north-east. Exmoor to the south, however, will be most prominent due to its height. At a distance, the land on both sides of the Bristol Channel will appear as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours.

SCA 15: Bristol Channel East

A8.4.15 This area is located offshore south of Scarweather Sands, extending out into the middle of the Bristol Channel. It is medium depth sloping from 15 m to 30 m deep with a gravel and sandy gravel seafloor with high wave energy and strong currents. It extends into the middle of the Bristol Channel from around 5 km at its closest point extending to around 16 km offshore, and so it would be expected that there would be a range of influence of the coast. The sea has a simple, consistent and unified character at a vast scale and a sense of openness, isolation and exposure. Its qualities are determined entirely by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind. The area is exposed to the south westerlies and in poor weather conditions the sea is likely to feel threatening. There is a strong likelihood of tranquillity and sense of wildness and remoteness in this open sea. There will be occasional leisure craft avoiding Nash Bank to the east and there will be many views of commercial vessels plying the Channel, mainly to the south and west. Close in the land has some influence reducing further offshore to higher land being only apparent in clearer weather. The main features visible will be Cefn Bryn to the north west, the coalfield plateau to the north east, the Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast to the north east and the Exmoor coast to the south.

SCA 16: Mid Swansea Bay

A8.4.16 The SCA is open sea south of Swansea Bay with medium depth waters, 15 m – 20 m depth, with a seabed of slightly gravelly sand to the south changing to muddy sand to the north. The land has some influence in the majority of weather and visibility conditions. The main features are Cefn Bryn in Gower to the north-west, the settled hills of Swansea to the north, the coalfield plateau to the north east with Port Talbot steel works in the middle ground and the Exmoor coast visible in clearer conditions further to the south. Whilst some detail is apparent on the Welsh coast, such as individual buildings such as Meridian Tower and the steel works structures, Exmoor appears as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. The area has an open, exposed, wild, unspoilt character with views towards the Gower, Exmoor and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

There is tranquillity and sense of wildness in this relatively open sea although this is reduced to an extent by intervisibility with the settled coast. The area forms part of the open setting of Gower to the north-west contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. The area is used by commercial vessels and leisure craft approaching the ports and harbours of Swansea, Port Talbot and Neath so this SCA does not feel remote.

SCA 17: Outer Swansea Bay

A8.4.17 This area is located offshore south of Gower and Swansea Bay, extending out into the middle of the Bristol Channel. It is medium depth sloping from 20m to 30m deep with a gravelly sand seafloor with low wave energy and strong currents. It lies near the middle of the Bristol Channel, 6.5 km south-east of Pwlldu Head at its closest point extending to 19 km offshore, and so it would be expected that there would be a range of influence of the coast. Close in the land has some influence reducing further offshore to higher land being only apparent in clearer weather. The main features will be Cefn Bryn in Gower to the north-west, the coalfield plateau to the north-east and the Exmoor coast to the south. At a distance the land on both sides of the Bristol Channel will appear as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. The seascape has an open, exposed, wild and unspoilt character. There are key views towards the Gower, Exmoor and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The area also forms part of the open setting of Gower to the north-west contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area.

SCA 18: Offshore Oxwich Point to Mumbles Head

A8.4.18 This SCA lies south of Gower, 2.5 km south of Mumbles Head at its closest point extending to just over 11 km offshore, and so there is a range of influence of the coast. The land has some influence in the majority of weather and visibility conditions. The main features are Cefn Bryn and cliffs in Gower to the north, the settled hills of Langland to the north-east, the coalfield plateau to the east with Port Talbot steel works plumes, and the Exmoor coast visible in clearer conditions further to the south. Whilst some detail is apparent on the Welsh coast, such as individual buildings such as the blocks of flats in Langland and Caswell Bays, Exmoor appears as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. Some of the buildings on Gower coast are noticeable and detractive. The sea has a simple, consistent and unified character at a vast scale and a sense of openness, isolation and exposure. Its qualities are determined entirely by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind. The area is exposed to the south westerlies and in poor weather conditions the sea is likely to feel threatening. There is a strong likelihood of tranquillity and sense of wildness in this relatively open sea. There are a number of leisure craft and occasional views of commercial vessels approaching the ports to the north as well as along the Bristol Channel to the south, so this SCA does not feel remote.

SCA 19: Bristol Channel Offshore

A8.4.19 This large area is located offshore on the south-western fringes of Gower, extending out into the middle of the Bristol Channel. It is medium depth sloping from 30 m to 50 m deep with a gravel seafloor with high wave energy and strong currents. The area lies less than 1.7 km from the coast south of Port Eynon out to around 18 km. It would be expected that there would be a range of influence of the coast. The cliffs of Gower would be apparent as strong elements prominent in the

view at points to the north decreasing to a thin line on the horizon backed by higher ground at Cefn Bryn and Rhossili Down, and only visible in clearer visibility. To the south, the coast and landform of Exmoor would become more apparent. The feeling in the majority of the area would be open sea away from the influence of land, other than this visual connection. The area is simple and open at a vast scale and the character is dominated by swell, waves and winds with a sense of wildness and remoteness increasing to the south. Tranquillity will be reduced by commercial shipping following a busy shipping lane to the south.

SCA 21: Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sand

A8.4.20 This area covers the coastal waters directly to the south of the Vale of Glamorgan, extending west from Merthyr Mawr. It is distinctive for its dramatic ever-changing coastline of Jurassic and Triassic mudstones and limestone; with near vertical cliffs, shingle or rock pavement beaches, and occasional sandy bays. Tusker Rock, an extensive reef, forms a key seascape feature, exposed at low tide and surrounded by shallow waters around 3 km southeast of Porthcawl Esplanade. Internationally important habitats on Merthyr Mawr Warren including sand dunes and slacks, saltmarsh, limestone grasslands and swamp habitats. A particular feature of the MCA's character is its expansive, uninterrupted views, particularly across the Bristol Channel, evoking a strong maritime influence. Views across the channel are framed by the dramatic silhouetted uplands of the Quantock Hills AONB and Exmoor National Park, whilst views from Nash Point and the west facing coast can stretch to as far as the Gower AONB in clear conditions. The lightly settled coastline, with significant stretches free from development, contributes to an overall remote, highly tranquil and often 'wild' seascape. Views to large-scale container and cargo ships travelling through the Bristol Channel reinforce the area's strong maritime heritage and sense of place. These expansive vistas and sense of wildness are appreciated by users of the clifftop Wales Coast Path. The cliff and rock formations of the Heritage Coast have also long attracted admiring visitors and scientific observations, including the 1814 observations of artist William Daniel and writer Richard Ayton in their Voyage around Great Britain. Ayton wonders at the coastal cliffs in the west, stating that they are '*.... remarkable for some curious excavations formed by the action of the sea, in some of which the rocks are fretted into a most perplexing variety of fantastic configurations, and in others disposed into such formal combinations, with such a singular correspondence of parts, that they look more like the work of art than a thing of nature*'. Heritage Coast-designated section of ancient lias limestone, shale and mudstone cliffs, interspersed with shingle or rock pavement beaches and occasional sandy bays (e.g., Limpert Bay, St Monat's Bay and Dunraven Bay). Merthyr Mawr Warren is internationally designated (as SAC, SSSI and NNR) for its extensive sand dunes and slacks, saltmarsh, limestone grasslands and swamp habitats. Merthyr Mawr Warren is registered as a LOHI in Wales, with evidence buried beneath the dunes of Neolithic occupation.

SCA 24: Bristol Channel

A8.4.21 The Bristol Channel MCA extends up to approximately 20 km offshore from the North Devon and Exmoor coast, with a sense of enclosure increasing in the east as the channel narrows. Its bathymetry and seabed topography are influenced by the presence of sand and gravel banks which form havens for seasonal variations of fish species, including commercially important stocks. It is characterised by channels running perpendicular to the east-west tidal currents and the second

largest tidal range in the world. The area is highly exposed to weather rolling in from the Atlantic, creating areas of high wave climate in the west. It has strong historical and current associations with maritime trade and transport (a number of shipwrecks tracing historic shipping routes), with human activity continuing to have a strong influence on character. Extensive, open views across the waters are available to the contrasting coastlines of the industrialised sections of the South Wales coast and the remote coastline of Exmoor and North Devon to the south, with its high rugged cliffs and dark night skies.

A8.5 LANDMAP ASSESSMENT – FILTERING FOR INCLUSION/EXCLUSION.

A8.5.1 As outlined in paragraphs A8.1.7 to A8.1.19, a filtering exercise is required to ensure that the SLVIA focusses on potentially sensitive landscape receptors within LANDMAP aspect areas most likely to be affected. Table A8.5.1 below lists all aspect areas for the five datasets that fall within the study area and considers these against key criteria to establish whether each should be taken forward for assessment. Those identified for assessment are integrated into the relevant LCA descriptions and assessments.

Table A8.8.5.1: LANDMAP filtering for assessment inclusion/exclusion

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Geological Landscape							
Upper Rhondda Fawr – West	CYNONGL027	Outstanding	x			x	x
Rhigos	CYNONGL028	Outstanding	x			x	x
U Ogwr Fawr valley	CYNONGL033	High	x				x
U Garw valley	CYNONGL034	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to extent of visibility across aspect area and proximity to site within LCA's 42, 46, 47				
U Llynfi valley	CYNONGL035	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within site boundary, within LCA's 42, 57				
L Llynfi valley	CYNONGL039	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within site boundary, within LCA's 42, 43, 57				
Foel Fynyddau	NPTGL023	High	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within Y Bryn site boundary, within LCA's 06, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 28				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Mynydd Bychan	NPTGL026	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within Y Bryn site boundary, within LCA's 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 17, 39				
Mynydd Emroch	NPTGL027	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within Y Bryn site boundary, within LCA's 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 17, 37, 39				
Mynydd Margam	NPTGL028	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within Y Bryn site boundary, within LCA's 03, 05, 06,				
Landscape Habitats							
	CYNONLH003	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within site boundary, within LCA's 42, 44				
	CYNONLH005	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, aspect area is within Y Bryn site boundary, within LCA's 10, 42, 44, 47, 48, 49				
	CYNONLH008	High	x	x	x	x	x
	CYNONLH009	High	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 10, 42, 43, 45, 57				
	CYNONLH010	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 06, 10, 42, 43, 45, 50				
	CYNONLH019	High	x	x	x	x	x
	NPTLH043	High	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 11				
	NPTLH044	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 13				
	NPTLH047	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 13				
	NPTLH060	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 08				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
	NPTLH061	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 08, 09,10				
	NPTLH064	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 06, 08				
	NPTLH065	Low	Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 06				
	NPTLH066	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 04, 05, 06				
	NPTLH067	High	Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 03				
	NPTLH070	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 07				
	NPTLH087	Low	x			x	
	NPTLH101	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 12				
	NPTLH107	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 07				
Visual and Sensory							
Mynydd Llangynidr	BLNGWVS399	High	x	x	x		x
Mynydd Bedwellte	BLNGWVS688	High	x	x	x		x
Dorwen ar Gledd	BRCKNVS118	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 112				
Fan Fawr/Fan Llia [Fforest Fawr East]	BRCKNVS141	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 113				
Carreg Cadno	BRCKNVS230	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 113				
Mynydd y Garn	BRCKNVS307	High	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 113				
Usk Valley - Llangattock	BRCKNVS361	High	x	x	x	x	x
Black Mountain	BRCKNVS363	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 112				
Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangattock	BRCKNVS372	High	x	x	x		x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Carnafell Valley and Talybont Forest	BRCKNVS797	High	x	x	x	x	x
Bannau Brycheiniog	BRCKNVS833	Outstanding	x	x	x		x
Upper Taf Fechan Valley	BRCKNVS838	High	x	x	x	x	x
Nedd Fechan and Mellte Valleys	BRCKNVS876	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Fforest Fawr West	BRCKNVS955	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 113				
Tyn-y-Coed	CRDFFVS002	High	x			x	x
Garth- west	CRDFFVS003	High		x			x
Garth Hill	CRDFFVS004	High		x			x
Pentyrch- north	CRDFFVS006	High	x			x	x
Pentyrch- south	CRDFFVS007	High	x			x	x
St Fagans farmland	CRDFFVS013	High				x	x
River Ely valley floor	CRDFFVS014	High				x	x
River Ely valley sides	CRDFFVS015	High				x	x
Fforest Fawr	CRDFFVS016	High				x	x
Tongwynlais Scarp slopes	CRDFFVS017	High				x	x
Wenallt farmlands	CRDFFVS018	High				x	x
Briwnant	CRDFFVS019	High				x	x
Craig Llanishen and Craig Llysfaen	CRDFFVS021	High				x	x
Rumney Great Wharf	CRDFFVS031	Outstanding				x	x
Severn Estuary	CRDFFVS032	Outstanding					x
Flatholm	CRDFFVS036	Outstanding					x
Cardiff East	CRDFFVS037					x	x
Cardiff West	CRDFFVS038					x	x
Cardiff Flats	CRDFFVS039	Outstanding				x	x
Cardiff Castle	CRDFFVS040	Outstanding				x	x
Bute Park	CRDFFVS041	Outstanding				x	x
Pontcanna Fields and Blackweir Corridor	CRDFFVS042	High				x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
St Fagans Folk Museum	CRDFFVS059	Outstanding				x	x
River Taff	CRDFFVS071	High				x	x
St Fagans	CRDFFVS076	High				x	x
Cardiff barrage and docks approaches	CRDFFVS084	Outstanding				x	x
Cardiff Bay	CRDFFVS085	Outstanding				x	x
River Taff	CRDFFVS086	High				x	x
Fairwater Park	CRDFFVS091	Moderate				x	x
Cathays Cemetery South	CRDFFVS094	High				x	x
Caerau Hill	CRDFFVS099	High				x	x
Cardiff Bay Barrage	CRDFFVS100	Outstanding					x
Bannau Sir Gaer and environs	CRMRTVS015	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 112				
The Black Mountain	CRMRTVS016	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 112				
Coastal saltmarsh	CRMRTVS136	High					
Lower Cothi Valley	CRMRTVS153	High	x	x	x	x	x
Pembrey Country Park	CRMRTVS193	Moderate		x		x	x
Cross Hands-Capel Hendre	CRMRTVS277	Moderate	x	x			x
Pembrey and Penybedd Forest	CRMRTVS365	High	x	x		x	x
Mynydd Betws	CRMRTVS504	High	x	x			x
Cefn Sidan	CRMRTVS544	Outstanding	x	x			x
Pembrey coastal hills	CRMRTVS627	High	x	x	x		x
National Wetland Centre	CRMRTVS651	Moderate		x		x	x
Crwbin Ridge	CRMRTVS665	High	x	x	x		x
Mid Cothi Valley	CRMRTVS737	High	x	x	x	x	x
Llanfynydd	CRMRTVS783	High	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Figyn	CRMRTVS803	High	x	x	x		x
Millennium Coastal Park	CRMRTVS820	Moderate		x		x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Pembrey and Burry Port golf course	CRMRTVS865	Moderate		x		x	x
Mynydd Sylen	CRMRTVS905	Moderate	x	x			x
Pendine Sands	CRMRTVS917	High	x	x			x
Llansaint Coastal Hills	CRMRTVS936	High	x	x			x
Llwhchr Estuary	CRMRTVS948	High		x			x
Swiss Valley and Morlais Valley	CRMRTVS988	High	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Y Grug	CYNONVS129	Moderate		x	x		x
Mynydd y Glyn	CYNONVS142	Moderate	x		x	x	
Newton Point	CYNONVS304	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and proximity to site, within LCA's 52, 55				
Mynydd Eglwysilon & Mynydd Meio	CYNONVS317	High	x			x	
Bryn-oe Patch	CYNONVS352	Moderate	x	x	x		x
Rhoslas	CYNONVS361	Moderate	x	x	x		x
Hirwaun Common	CYNONVS430	High	x	x	x		x
Mynydd Gaer	CYNONVS436	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and proximity to site, within LCA's 48, 50, 79, 105, 106, 112				
Mynydd Baedan	CYNONVS473	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and partially within and borders the Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 42				
Mynydd Maes-teg	CYNONVS496	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 49				
Mynydd Llangeinwyr	CYNONVS622	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 47				
Kenfig Burrows	CYNONVS630	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and proximity in LCA 55				
Conifer to west of study area	CYNONVS731	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment, are within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 42				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Mynydd Y Lan	CYNONVS854	High		x	x	x	
Kenfig Sands	CYNONVS920	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and proximity within LCA's 52, 54, 55				
Merthyr Mawr Warren	CYNONVS987	Outstanding	x	x		x	
Glangattwg Mountain	MNMTHVS008	High	x	x	x		x
Vaynor Uplands	MRTHRVS387	High	x	x	x		x
Mynydd Emorch and Mynydd Bycham	NPTVS139	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to wide spread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 10				
Mynydd Dinas	NPTVS187	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA				
Mynydd Uchaf / Mynydd Garth	NPTVS188	High	x	x		x	
Gelli-bwlch Hills	NPTVS229	High	x		x	x	
Coastal Dunes	NPTVS274	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 02, 41				
Swansea Bay	NPTVS297	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 41				
Foel Trawsant	NPTVS358	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 13				
Mynydd Penhydd	NPTVS366	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and within the site boundary within LCA 12				
Margam Country Park	NPTVS403	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 03				
Neath Valley Sides	NPTVS422	Moderate	x	x		x	
Cefn Cethin	NPTVS448	Low	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site within LCA 09				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Nant Melyn & Bryn-chwyth	NPTVS485	Moderate	x	x			x
Cefn Gwrhyd - enclosure	NPTVS541	High	x	x			x
Mynydd y Gelli	NPTVS547	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 15				
Upper Clydach River valley	NPTVS612	High		x		x	5
Carn Caca	NPTVS624	Moderate	x			x	
Margam Sands / Aberavon Sands	NPTVS697	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 40, 41				
Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir	NPTVS799	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary in LCA 01				
Margam Scarp	NPTVS811	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to location within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 03, 05, 06				
Dulais Valley	NPTVS846	High	x	x		x	
Mynydd Brombil & Scarp tops	NPTVS897	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 05, 06, 07				
Cwm Dyffryn	NPTVS916	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 08				
Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna farmed sides	NPTVS920	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 11				
Mynydd Margam	NPTVS927	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area and within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 07				
Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna	NPTVS936	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 11				
Crymlyn Bog	NPTVS944	High	x			x	

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Bryn Mawr – Mynydd Carnllechart	NPTVS951	High		x			x
Machen Slopes	NWPRTVS013	High	x	x	x		x
Swansea East	SWNSVS002		Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 113				
Swansea West	SWNSVS003		Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 113				
Mumbles Hill	SWNSVS004	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area15				
Swansea Bay Tawe approaches	SWNSVS005	High		x		x	x
River Tawe	SWNSVS006	High	x	x		x	x
Swansea Mumbles coastal park and promenade	SWNSVS007	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment within LCA 68				
Clyne Park	SWNSVS008	High		x		x	x
Singleton Park	SWNSVS009	High		x		x	x
Townhill parkland slopes	SWNSVS010	Moderate		x		x	x
Limeslade to Langland Bay	SWNSVS105	High	x	x			x
Parkmill	SWNSVS113	High	x	x		x	x
Pwll Du Head west to Three Cliff Bay	SWNSVS125	Outstanding	x	x			x
Three Crosses	SWNSVS141	Moderate	x	x			x
North of Clydach	SWNSVS146	Moderate	x	x			x
Oxwich	SWNSVS151	High		x		x	x
Cefn Bryn	SWNSVS196	High		x			x
Swansea Bay	SWNSVS320	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 68				
Llanrhidian sands	SWNSVS337	High		x	x		x
Port Eynon Point	SWNSVS351	Outstanding	x	x	x		x
East of Banc Maestir Mawr	SWNSVS415	Moderate		x			x
Mynydd Gelliwastad	SWNSVS469	Moderate		x			x
Oxwich Bay	SWNSVS522	Outstanding		x			x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				Distance
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	
Mumbles Head west to Caswell Bay	SWNSVS541	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area				
Llanmadoc Hill	SWNSVS547	High		x			x
Pennard Burrows	SWNSVS552	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Broughton Bay	SWNSVS572	Outstanding	x	x			x
Rhossili Down	SWNSVS622	Outstanding		x			x
Harding Down	SWNSVS623	High		x			x
Oxwich Burrows	SWNSVS630	Outstanding		x		x	x
NW of Gorseinon	SWNSVS691	Moderate	x	x	x		x
Oxwich Point west to Port Eynon Bay	SWNSVS694	High	x	x			x
Pentwyn mawr	SWNSVS735	High	x		x		x
Rhyd-y-Pandy	SWNSVS738	Moderate	x	x			x
Whitford Point	SWNSVS756	High		x			x
Penrice Castle	SWNSVS785	High		x		x	x
Llangennith Burrows	SWNSVS842	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
The Knab	SWNSVS847	High		x			x
Llanddewi	SWNSVS876	High	x	x			x
Three Cliffs Bay	SWNSVS877	High		x			x
	SWNSVS878	High	x	x	x	x	x
	SWNSVS879	High	x	x			x
South East Gower	SWNSVS881	High	x	x			x
Pwlldu Bay-Beach	SWNSVS882	Outstanding	x	x			x
Crymlyn	SWNSVS955	High	x	x		x	x
Oxwich Point to Horton	SWNSVS974	High	x	x			x
Pwlldu Head	SWNSVS987	Outstanding	x	x			x
	TRFNVS024	High	x	x	x		x
	TRFNVS044	High	x	x	x		X
Hensol Park	VLFGVS002	High	x				x
Lower Thaw valley sides	VLFGVS110	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 148				
Mid Thaw Valley	VLFGVS139	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 148				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				Distance
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	
Penarth	VLFGVS152	Moderate				x	x
Southern Eley Valley	VLFGVS213	High				x	x
St Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Crest	VLFGVS271	High	x			x	x
Lower Thaw valley floor	VLFGVS305	Moderate				x	x
Penarth to Swanbridge cliffs	VLFGVS308	High				x	x
Barry to Aberthaw cliffs	VLFGVS317	High	x				x
Alun Valley	VLFGVS378	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 66				
Ely Valley Flood Plain	VLFGVS406	High	x				x
Swanbridge to Barry Coast	VLFGVS444	High	x				x
Llancarfan and Waycock Valleys	VLFGVS453	High	x				x
Cwrt yr Ala Valley	VLFGVS596	High				x	x
Upper Waycock Valley/Dyffryn Area	VLFGVS608	High	x				x
St Nicholas and Bonvilston Ridge Slopes	VLFGVS614	High				x	x
Sully Ridge	VLFGVS637	Moderate				x	x
Ogmore and Old Castle Downs	VLFGVS663	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area within LCA's 65, 66, 67				
Ely Valley	VLFGVS683	High	x			x	x
Bristol Channel	VLFGVS765	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 63				
Stalling and St Hilary Downs	VLFGVS817	High				x	x
Thaw Valley Flood Plain	VLFGVS864	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 145				
Heritage Coast Hinterland	VLFGVS890	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across aspect area within LCA's 63, 64				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Hensol Forest	VLFGGLVS913	High				x	x
Glamorgan coast intertidal	VLFGGLVS920	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 63				
Upper Thaw Valley	VLFGGLVS933	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 145				
Heritage Coastal Strip	VLFGGLVS950	Outstanding	x				x
Ystradowen/Hensol area	VLFGGLVS962	Moderate				x	x
Porthkerry Country Park and Environs	VLFGGLVS987	High				x	x
Historic Landscape							
HL019 Twynau Gwynion	MRTTHRHL019	High	x	x	x		x
HAA 1 Trefil Ddu	BLNGWHL001	High	x	x	x		x
HAA 22 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn	BLNGWHL022	High	x	x	x		x
HAA 25 Mynydd Coety	BLNGWHL025	High	x	x	x		x
HAA 26 Rhymney Hill	BLNGWHL026	High	x	x	x		x
HL018 Glyn Trosnant and Hafod-yr-Ynys	TRFNHL018	High	x	x	x		x
HL019 Waun-wen and Mynydd Llanhilleth	TRFNHL019	High	x	x	x		x
HL020 Mynydd Coety	TRFNHL020	High	x	x	x		x
H07 Bryngarw	CYNONHL114	High	x	x		x	
H17 Bridgend Historic Core	CYNONHL173	High		x		x	
H26 Tythegston Court	CYNONHL179	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 53				
H05 Unenclosed Uplands	CYNONHL215	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 47 and 49.				
H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest	CYNONHL224	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 44				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
H01 Llangynwyd	CYNONHL227	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and partially within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 42, 43				
H29 Merthyr Mawr	CYNONHL231	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area in LCA 52				
H02 Maesteg	CYNONHL242	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 42, 43, 44, 45, 57				
H21 Cwrt Colman	CYNONHL342	High		x		x	
H06 Cwm Garw	CYNONHL346	High	x	x		x	
H25 Kenfig Burrows and Golf Course	CYNONHL413	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 55				
H09 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 1	CYNONHL582	High	x	x		x	
H12 Mynydd y Gaer and Allt y Rhiw	CYNONHL645	High		x		x	
H25 Foreshore	CYNONHL654	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA's 54, 55				
H30 Merthyr Mawr Warren	CYNONHL685	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area within LCA 52				
H28 Porthcawl	CYNONHL760	High		x		x	x
H13 St Brides Minor to Coychurch 1	CYNONHL817	High	x	x		x	
H14 Cefn Hirgoed and Hirwaun Common	CYNONHL924	High		x		x	
H19 Cornelly to Laleston 1	CYNONHL973	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA's 53, 54, 56				
H31 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 2	CYNONHL988	High		x		x	x
H32 St Brides Minor to Coychurch 2	CYNONHL989	High		x	x	x	
Coedcaerau-bach & Garthfawr	CYNONHL187	High	x	x	x	x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Llanfabon and Llanbradach	CYNONHL290	High	x	x	x	x	x
Llanharri and Meisgyn	CYNONHL295	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Senghenydd and Cwm yr Aber	CYNONHL308	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Twmbarlwm and Medart	CYNONHL374	High	x	x	x	x	x
Llantrisant	CYNONHL482	High	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Bach and Mynydd-y-Grug	CYNONHL556	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Rudry	CYNONHL596	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Nant Castellau and Nant Machudd	CYNONHL649	High	x	x	x	x	x
Rhondda Uplands	CYNONHL687	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Rhymney Valley	CYNONHL701	High	x	x	x	x	x
Miskin Manor	CYNONHL751	High		x		x	x
Ruperra Castle	CYNONHL800	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side	CYNONHL805	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Mynyddau Eglwysilian a Meio	CYNONHL878	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy	CYNONHL888	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Llanharan House	CYNONHL909	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Pontypridd and the Afon Taff	CYNONHL977	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Talygarn	CYNONHL987	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Mynydd Meio	CYNONHL993	High	x	x	x		x
HL002 Garn Ddu	MRTHRHL002	Outstanding	x	x	x		x
HL009 Pen March	MRTHRHL009	High	x	x	x		x
H28 Northern Upland Commons	SWNSHL107	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 105				
H12 Fairyhill	SWNSHL154	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Gower Upland Commons	SWNSHL190	Outstanding		x			x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
H17 Gower Lowland Commons	SWNSHL383	High		x		x	x
H27 Gower Supraboscus Agricultural	SWNSHL398	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 73				
H10 South Gower Cliffs	SWNSHL400	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
H30 Lower Tawe Valley	SWNSHL413	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
H18 Clyne Castle	SWNSHL419	Outstanding		x		x	x
H15 Kilvrough Manor	SWNSHL562	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
H22 Lower Loughor and Lliw Valleys	SWNSHL571	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
H29 Clydach, Trebanos and Glais	SWNSHL591	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
H25 Penllergaer Forest	SWNSHL603	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
H14 South Coast Dunes	SWNSHL612	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
H21 Gowerton and Waunarlwyd	SWNSHL720	High	x	x		x	x
H3 Gower Subboscus Agricultural	SWNSHL726	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
H6 West coast dunes	SWNSHL759	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Cwm Ivy Marsh	SWNSHL767	Outstanding		x			
H4 Rhossili and the Vile	SWNSHL792	Outstanding	x	x			x
H31 Crymlyn Bog	SWNSHL844	High		x		x	x
H16 Bishopston	SWNSHL957	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
H13 Oxwich Marsh	SWNSHL981	High		x		x	x
H23 Loughor, Gorseinon and Penllergaer	SWNSHL254	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
Margam Moors West	NPTHL001	High			x	x	
Aberavon Sands	NPTHL002	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 40				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Port Talbot Industrial	NPTHL006	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 02				
Neath Estuary	NPTHL007	High		x	x	x	
Cwmavon Pontrhydyfen Urban/Industrial Co	NPTHL013	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 39				
Margam Park	NPTHL016	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location partially within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 03, 05, 06, 07				
Gnoll Estate	NPTHL017	Outstanding	x		x	x	
Neath Historic Core	NPTHL018	Outstanding	x		x	x	
Banwaen Tor-y-Betal	NPTHL019	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Margam Mountain	NPTHL021	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 05, 07, 09				
Afan Wallia	NPTHL026	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA's 15, 18				
Hirfynydd	NPTHL027	Outstanding	x			x	x
Mynydd Marchywel	NPTHL028	High	x			x	
Mynydd Uchaf (Mynydd y Garth)	NPTHL029	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas within LCA 106.				
Lower Afan Valley	NPTHL031	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 07, 08, 09, 10, 12				
Mynydd y Gaer	NPTHL032	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 17				
Warren Hill	NPTHL035	High			x	x	
Pant y Sais	NPTHL037	High			x	x	
Vale of Neath (southern valley side)	NPTHL039	Outstanding	x			x	

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			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Bryncoch Cilybebyll	NPTHL040	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 26				
Clydach Cwm Du	NPTHL041	High	x	x			x
Rheola	NPTHL042	Outstanding	x		x	x	x
Swansea Valley Bottom	NPTHL044	High	x		x	x	x
Upper Afan Valley	NPTHL045	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location partially within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 11, 12, 13, 14, 15				
Crynant & Seven Sisters Urban Corridor	NPTHL046	High	x		x	x	x
Talbot Memorial Park	NPTHL049	Outstanding	x		x	x	
Victoria Park, Neath	NPTHL051	Outstanding			x	x	
Margam Rural	NPTHL052	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 04, 05, 07				
Neath Port Talbot Urban Corridor	NPTHL054	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary in LCA's 28 and 37.				
Cefn Morfudd	NPTHL055	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to visibility across aspect area and proximity to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 11, 17				
Margam Sands	NPTHL057	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment. 02				
Mynydd Penhydd and Foel Trawsnant	NPTHL060	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location partially within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 12 13				
Mynydd y Garth	NPTHL064	High	x	x			x
Mynydd Carnllechart	NPTHL066	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 23				
Nant-y-glo	NPTHL068	Moderate	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 07				

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			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Mynydd Brombil	NPTHL069	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 06, 08				
Mynyddau Emroch a Bychan	NPTHL070	High	Carried forward for further assessment due to widespread visibility across the aspect areas and location partially within/adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA's 08, 10				
Vale of Neath (northern valley side)	NPTHL072	High	x			x	x
Burrows Sidings	NPTHL077	High	x	x	x	x	
Crymlyn Bog	NPTHL844	High	x	x	x	x	
Mynydd Llangynidr	BRCKNHL133	Outstanding	x	x	x		x
Mynydd Du	BRCKNHL595	High		x			x
Glyntawe	BRCKNHL623	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Dyffryn Tawe	BRCKNHL735	High	x	x		x	x
Pen-wyllt	BRCKNHL766	High	x	x	x		x
Ystradfellte	BRCKNHL798	High	x	x	x	x	x
Cnewr	BRCKNHL825	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 113.				
Bannau Brycheiniog	BRCKNHL829	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA's 113.				
Taf Fechan	BRCKNHL864	Outstanding	x	x	x		x
Blaen Llia	BRCKNHL953	High		x		x	x
Vale of Glamorgan coastal littoral	VLFGHL001	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 63				
Southern Vale Communication Corridor	VLFGHL002	Outstanding				x	x
Porthkerry Country Park	VLFGHL003	High	x	x		x	x
Barry	VLFGHL004	High	x	x		x	x
Cosmeston Country Park	VLFGHL006	High	x	x	x	x	x
Cwrt-yr-ala Park and environs	VLFGHL020	Outstanding	x	x		x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
A48 Lougher to Chepstow Communication Corridor	VLFGHL022	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 62				
Michaelston-le-Pit and St Andrews Major	VLFGHL024	High	x	x		x	x
Llancarfan	VLFGHL032	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Ogmore Down	VLFGHL034	High				x	x
St Donats, Monkash and St Brides Major	VLFGHL036	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA's 63, 64				
St Donat's Castle	VLFGHL037	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 63				
Fonmon Castle	VLFGHL038	Outstanding		x		x	x
Llansannor and Penllyn Moors	VLFGHL042	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 145				
Hensol Castle	VLFGHL045	High	x	x		x	x
Pwll-y-Wrach	VLFGHL046	High		x		x	x
Stalling Down North	VLFGHL047	High		x		x	x
Stalling Down South	VLFGHL048	High		x		x	x
Thaw River Valley	VLFGHL049	High	x	x		x	x
Dyffryn	VLFGHL050	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Llandow Rural	VLFGHL051	High		x		x	x
Llysworney and Llandough	VLFGHL052	High		x		x	x
Llangan Welsh St Donats and Pendoylan	VLFGHL054	High	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 145				
Coedarhydyglyn	VLFGHL056	Outstanding		x		x	x
Ewenny Priory	VLFGHL057	Outstanding				x	x
Dunraven Park	VLFGHL058	High				x	x
St Donat's, Monkash and St Brides Major	VLFGHL036	Outstanding				x	x
St Fagans and River Ely Corridor	CRDFFHL001	Outstanding	x		x	x	x
Capel Llanilltern and southwest Pentyrch	CRDFFHL002	High	x	x	x		x
River Taff Corridor	CRDFFHL003	High	x	x	x	x	x

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Garth Upland	CRDFFHL005	Outstanding		x			x
Fforest Fawr and Coed y Wenallt	CRDFFHL006	High	x		x	x	x
Southwest Wentloog Level	CRDFFHL011	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Rumney Intertidal Zone	CRDFFHL012	Outstanding	x	x			x
Flat Holm	CRDFFHL013	Outstanding		x			x
Roath Valley Parks and Gardens	CRDFFHL015	High	x	x	x	x	x
Llandaff Historic Core	CRDFFHL017	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Bute Park and River Taff Parklands	CRDFFHL018	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Craig y Parc	CRDFFHL022	High				x	x
North Eastern Vale (extension)	CRDFFHL025	High	x	x	x	x	x
Morlais Valley	CRMRTL39490	High	x	x		x	x
Allt-Cunedda	CRMRTL39491	Outstanding	x	x			x
Llechdwnni Uplands	CRMRTL39493	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Y Garreg	CRMRTL39494	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Llanelli And Mynydd Mawr Railway	CRMRTL39504	High	x	x		x	x
Gwendreath Fach - Northern Slopes	CRMRTL39506	High	x	x		x	x
Clicarw	CRMRTL39508	High	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Cerrig, Ysguborwen	CRMRTL39509	High	x	x		x	x
Mynydd Llangyndeyrn	CRMRTL39510	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Foelgastell, Morfa Melin	CRMRTL39514	High	x	x	x	x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Mynydd Sylen	CRMRTL39527	High	x	x			x
Horeb, Cynheidre-Fach	CRMRTL39528	High	x	x		x	x
Cwm Lliedi	CRMRTL39529	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Clochyrie	CRMRTL39530	High	x	x		x	x
Cwm Morlais	CRMRTL39531	High	x	x		x	x
Banc Mawr	CRMRTL39532	High		x		x	x
Llwyn-Teg	CRMRTL39533	High		x		x	x
Llannon	CRMRTL39536	High	x	x		x	x
Llwyn Henry, Pen-Y-Bont-Gareg	CRMRTL39539	High	x	x	x	x	x
Long Life Farm	CRMRTL39540	High	x	x	x		x
Llyn Llech Owain	CRMRTL39542	Outstanding		x	x	x	x
Mynydd Mawr - Gorllewin	CRMRTL39544	High	x	x	x	x	x
Pant Y Castell, Allt Y Garn	CRMRTL39545	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Coedwig Carmel, Chwarel Cilyrchen	CRMRTL39546	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Cwm Gwili	CRMRTL39549	High	x	x	x		
Pum Heol	CRMRTL39556	High	x	x		x	x
Bwlchyfedwen, Brynygroes Fawr	CRMRTL39557	High	x	x			x
Mynydd Penbre	CRMRTL39559	High	x	x			x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Cilymaenllwyd Cottages	CRMRTL39561	High				x	x
Pembrey Farm	CRMRTL39562	High		x		x	x
Tywyn Bach, Cefn Padrig	CRMRTL39577	High		x			x
Bryn Brondini	CRMRTL39578	High	x	x			x
Llangennech Marshes	CRMRTL39580	Outstanding	x	x			x
Penlan Farm, Pencoed Ganol Farm	CRMRTL39581	High		x			x
Berwick Marshes	CRMRTL39582	High		x			x
Machynys	CRMRTL39583	Outstanding		x			x
Llanelli	CRMRTL39585	High	x	x		x	x
Glynea Marshes	CRMRTL39586	High		x			x
Glyngwernen, Pen-Prys-Uchaf	CRMRTL39587	High		x		x	x
Cathilas, Pant-Y-Coedcae	CRMRTL39588	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Twynmynydd, Brynpedol	CRMRTL39589	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Waun-Gron, Cefn-Bryn-Brain	CRMRTL39600	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	
Ty Gwyn	CRMRTL39601	High	x	x	x	x	x
Ynys Tre-Deg, Dorwen	CRMRTL39602	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Mynydd Y Betws	CRMRTL39603	Outstanding	x	x		x	
Mynydd Cyfor, Pant-Y-Parchell	CRMRTL39607	High	x	x	x		x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Pembrey And Burry Port	CRMRTL40190	High		x		x	x
Brooklands	CRMRTL40192	High	x	x			x
Pembrey Forest	CRMRTL40194	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Meusydd	CRMRTL40195	Outstanding		x		x	x
Pembrey County Park	CRMRTL40199	High		x		x	x
Pembrey Burrows	CRMRTL40200	Outstanding	x	x			x
Kidwelly And Llansaint Strip Fields	CRMRTL40201	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
St Ishmael	CRMRTL40205	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Allt Hilltop	CRMRTL40207	High	x	x			x
Mynydd Penbre Enclosure	CRMRTL40208	Outstanding	x	x		x	x
Abergwili-Llanegwad Parish	CRMRTL40215	High	x	x		x	x
Llanfihangel Aberbythych	CRMRTL40222	High	x	x	x	x	x
Banc Wernwgan-Foel Fraith Quarries	CRMRTL40293	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 112				
The Black Mountain-Y Mynydd Ddu	CRMRTL40294	Outstanding	Carried forward for further assessment of potential cumulative effects within LCA 112				
Mynydd Figyn	CRMRTL42441	High	x	x			x
Banc Maes-Yr-Haid	CRMRTL42442	High	x	x			x
Mynyddystyfflau-Carn	CRMRTL42447	High	x	x		x	x
Banc-Y-Daren	CRMRTL42448	High	x	x		x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Llanfynydd	CRMRTL042450	High	x	x		x	x
Clydach Gorge	MNMTL030	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Swansea Airport	SWNSHL001	High		x		x	x
Cardiff Airport	CRDFFHL031	High		x		x	x
Oystermouth Castle	SWNSHL003	High		x		x	x
Oystermouth Coastal Strip	SWNSHL005	High		x			x
Singleton Park	SWNSHL006	Outstanding		x		x	x
Dunvant-Killay	SWNSHL008	High	x	x			x
Cefn Coed and Gower College	SWNSHL010	High	x	x		x	x
Townhill	SWNSHL011	High		x		x	x
Hillside Wildlife Corridor	SWNSHL012	High		x		x	x
Carmarthen Road	SWNSHL016	Unassessed	x	x		x	x
Manselton	SWNSHL020	High		x		x	x
Brynhyfryd	SWNSHL021	High		x		x	x
Penlan Slopes	SWNSHL022	High		x		x	x
Swansea Maritime Area	SWNSHL023	High		x			x
Tregof	SWNSHL026	High	x	x	x	x	x
Central Morriston	SWNSHL028	High		x		x	x
Mynydd Garn-lwyd	SWNSHL032	High	x	x		x	x
Guildhall and St. Helenâs	SWNSHL034	High		x		x	x
Tawe River Corridor	SWNSHL037	High	x	x		x	x
Uplands-Cwmdonkin	SWNSHL038	High		x		x	x
Pentre	SWNSHL041	High	x	x		x	x
Swansea Coastal Strip	SWNSHL042	High		x			x
Cnap-Ilwyd and Graig Trewyddfa	SWNSHL043	High		x		x	x
Llewelyn Park	SWNSHL044	High	x	x		x	x
Plasmarl	SWNSHL046	High		x		x	x
Morriston Park	SWNSHL050	High		x	x	x	x

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Cardiff Flats	CRDFFHL032	High	x	x			x
Leckwith Moors	CRDFFHL033	High	x	x	x	x	x
Trelai Park	CRDFFHL034	High	x	x	x	x	x
Ely	CRDFFHL035	High	x		x	x	x
Northwest Cardiff	CRDFFHL036	High	x	x	x	x	x
Cardiff Cemetery	CRDFFHL045	Outstanding	x	x	x	x	x
Cathays Park	CRDFFHL048	Unassessed		x	x	x	x
Cardiff City Centre	CRDFFHL049	High		x	x	x	x
Cardiff Bay	CRDFFHL051	High	x	x		x	x
Tredegaville	CRDFFHL053	High		x		x	x
Adamsdown, Splott, Roath and Cathays Residential Area	CRDFFHL062	High		x	x	x	x
Whitchurch, Gabalfa	CRDFFHL063	High	x	x	x	x	x
Cultural Landscape Services							
Mynydd Bedan	CYNONCLS058		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 42				
Conifer To West of Study Area	CYNONCLS086		Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 42				
Conifer To West of Study Area	CYNONCLS087		Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 42				
Mynydd Emorch And Mynydd Bycham	NPTCLS003		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 10				
Upland Settlements	NPTCLS015		Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 09				
Foel Trawsnant	NPTCLS033		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 13				
Mynydd Penhydd	NPTCLS035		Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 12				
M4	NPTCLS036		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCAs 03, 37				
Margam Country Park	NPTCLS038		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 03				

Name	Code	Overall evaluation	Reason for Exclusion				
			Limited proportion of aspect area with visibility	Limited proportion of views occupied by proposed development	Limited extent of proposed development visible	Screening due to built form or vegetation	Distance
Cefn Cethin	NPTCLS050		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent/within to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 09				
Margam Scarp	NPTCLS089		Carried forward for further assessment, partially within and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 06				
Mynydd Brombil & Scarp Tops	NPTCLS102		Carried forward for further assessment, partially within and adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 06				
Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops	NPTCLS103		Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 05				
Mynydd Bromil & Scarp Tops	NPTCLS104		Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 06				
Cwm Dyffryn	NPTCLS107		Carried forward for further assessment, adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 08				
Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna Farmed Sides	NPTCLS111		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 11				
Mynydd Margam	NPTCLS112		Carried forward for further assessment, within Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 07				
Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna	NPTCLS114		Carried forward for further assessment, partially adjacent to Y Bryn site boundary within LCA 11				

*Blank cells indicate no LANDMAP data available.

Landscape Character Areas Within Study Area

LCA 01 Margam Marsh.

Table A8.8.5.2: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 01 Margam Marsh

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS799 - M	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.2 This character area lies in the south of the coastal plain. The land, crossed by the London to Swansea rail line and including Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir, is situated between Margam Burrows to the south and west, and the heavy industry and M4 motorway to the north and east respectively. It is low-lying and is comprised of reclaimed salt marshes at heights of between 4.5 m and 5 m AOD, and the reservoir raised at 10 m AOD. It sits on part of the northwest to southeast coastal strip of alluvium, which fringes the coast. This flat predominantly cattle grazed land, is heavily veined with drainage ditches. These are in turn topped with post and wire fences, and are more dominant towards the west. Willows are prominent through the area especially lining ditches, but also encroaching into fields forming scrubby clumps. To the west, large blocks of wetland species create a more complex and interesting mosaic. To the east the coherence of the area is diluted by areas of industry and amenity landscapes. Eglwys Nynydd Reservoir is the most important stretch of inland still water in the county borough. The Reservoir is used for sailing which adds visual interest. Public access is limited to a single track, which terminates at the railway and a single footpath. However, the area is overlooked by the M4 and mainline railway. The skyline to the south is dominated by numerous electric pylons and to the west by the steel works. To the north, there is some influence of the operational Mynydd Brombil Windfarm on the ridgeline.

LCA 02 Margam Burrows

Table A8.8.5.3: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 02 Margam Burrows

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS274 - M	NA	NA	NPTHL006 - H	NA
NPTHL057 - O				

A8.5.3 This character area of coastal dunes is located against the southern boundary of the County Borough at the mouth of the Afon Cynffig. It forms the northern extent of a much more extensive dunes complex to the south. This exposed coastal landscape comprises of sand dunes varying from approximately 5 m to 10 m in height and the site of a former quarry within the southern half of the LCA. The dunes are clothed in mainly Marram grass although erosion occurs in some areas. Scrub is invading in parts. There are no dwellings or other infrastructure and only minimal PRoW. Views are dominated by the M4 inland and by Swansea Bay to the west. To the north, there is some influence of the operational Mynydd Brombil Windfarm on the skyline. Newlands Farm

operational wind farm also has minor influence to the east. The area feels relatively remote despite the intrusiveness of industry and the M4.

LCA 03 Margam Country Park

Table A8.8.5.4: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 03 Margam Country Park

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS403 – H	NPTLH067 - H	NPTGL028 - M	NPTHL016 - O	NPTCS038
NPTVS811 - H				

- A8.5.4

This roughly triangular character area lies to the south of the County Borough. It extends above the scarp slope to the north and east with upland grazed fields. Although the area lies close to both the M4 and Port Talbot, the surrounding areas beyond the LCA are predominantly rural; lowland to the south and upland to the north and east. The park can be sub-divided into three main areas, the Deer Park to the north, the ornamental gardens along the north-western fringe and the parkland south of the scarp slope.
- A8.5.5

Along the northern western edge, the LCA contains a wealth of historic features amongst a mature wooded landscape. This section to the north-west is well-contained within an intimate wooded valley and contains the original approach to Margam Castle and a large pond. The valley is strongly enclosed by the distinctive, dramatic landforms of Graig -Fawr to the west and Mynydd-y-Castell to the east. The valley broadens beyond the pond to the east onto a series of terraces containing many historic features including the abbey, the orangery and the church. Vegetation in this area is a distinctive mix of mature ornamental trees and shrubs, with a series of paths, seating and a play area. This section of the park is sheltered and enclosed with limited visibility across the surrounding landscape.
- A8.5.6

The northern sections of the LCA referred to as the Deer Park, rise through a sharply defined, wooded scarp slope onto open upland fields on the edge of the coalfield plateau. This area is visually open and exposed with panoramic views, particularly south across the coastal plain from the upper edges of the scarp slope. The area distinctly contrasts with the well-vegetated parkland landscape extending south beyond the base of the scarp slope. The operational wind farm of Mynydd Brombil within the adjacent LCA 6 to the west has a minor influence across this portion of the LCA.
- A8.5.7

Areas of the LCA extending south of the scarp slope and beyond the Castle is typically parkland in character with open grassed spaces orchestrated by a structure of wooded copses and mature parkland trees. Amongst this portion of the LCA are many visitor attractions including a zoo and the Discovery Centre, a forest adventure playground, child’s play area, miniature railway and a fishing pond. Nearer to the Castle there are formal ornamental gardens. The area is well accessed by a network of paths and cycle routes throughout and there are often events facilitated throughout this popular tourist destination. This section of the LCA is enclosed by the wooded scarp slope and views of Margam Castle against this landform and the adjacent landforms of Mynydd-y-Castell and

Garig Fawr to the west are often a key feature in framed views north and north west. The area has a gentle aspect to the south to the lower lying coastal plain. Where vegetation allows, there are occasional views out to the steel works to the west and to the coast to the south. Operational windfarms at Newlands Farm and beyond at Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down have some intermittent and minor influence to parts of the lower parkland.

- A8.5.8

To the south east and to the east of the LCA, the character appears more functional with agricultural, with maintenance buildings, storage yards and other mixed boundary treatments set amongst pasture fields. Although well-vegetated with woodland and some hedges, the area feels more discordant and is less notable as a tourist attraction. The boundaries to the LCA to the south and to the east are well defined, however, by mature trees, hedges and stone walls.

LCA 04 Coedhirwaun

Table A8.8.5.5: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 04 Coedhirwaun

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NPTLH066 - O	NA	NPTHL052 - O	NA

- A8.5.9

This large area of rolling, low-lying land lies to the south of the County Borough. Sitting below the scarp slope, the areas extent is defined by the County Borough boundary to the south and east while the M4 defines its western limits. This low-lying area of mixed agriculture is dominated by grazed land and has a distinctly rural quality. This character is disrupted to the west, through encroachment of new small-scale developments and a golf course abutting the M4. Blocks of woodland and hedges restrict wide views out and add to a feeling of intimacy. The new settlement of Coed Hirwaun is the only significant settlement within the area. It sits low in a valley in a wooded setting and is not widely visible. There are a scattering of smaller settlements, dwellings and commercial units through the area, which are beginning to suburbanise the character in parts, plus the single wind turbine at Newlands Farm. Some minor indirect influence may also be possible from Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down further to the south beyond the LCA. This is most prevalent to the west, where newer buildings are generally constructed from non-traditional materials, metal sheds and concrete. The area is highly visible from the M4 to the west and the A48 runs through it. Yet the settlements are primarily connected by numerous narrow deep-set lanes and bank hedgerows, which, along with disused railway lines, provide green corridors through the area. Power lines and further development disrupt the rural character of the area towards Pyle in the south.

LCA 05 Coedhirwaun and Open Scarp Tops

Table A8.8.5.6: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 05 Coedhirwaun and Open Scarp Tops

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS897 – M	NPTLH066 – M	NPTGL028 – M	NPTHL016 – O	NPTCS103

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS811 - H			NPTHL021 – O	
			NPTHL052 - O	

A8.5.10 This section of scarp and associated upland is located in the southern part of the County Borough and represents the southern extent of the scarp slope which dominates the coastal plain. It lies above the lowland landscape of Coedhirwaun and is defined by the wooded upland of Mynydd Margam, to the north and east and Margam Park to the north west. The scarp slope ranges from approximately 90 m AOD adjacent to the Coedhirwaun lowlands to over 200 m. The open land above continues to rise, ultimately reaching over 270 m AOD. The landscape ranges from mixed lowland pasture at the foot of the scarp to upland sheep grazing on higher ground. This altitudinal change is emphasised by the field boundaries, predominantly hedged at the lower slopes and with fences on higher ground. Coarse grass species, bracken and gorse have colonised on higher ground and on the less accessible slopes. There is significant deciduous woodland cover on the lower slopes creating a more settled character, contrasting with the sense of exposure on higher ground, which is extensively open, providing wide views to the west. The landform of the scarp provides a backcloth to the settled lowland landscape of Coedhirwaun and is visible from the M4 and surrounding lowland. The higher ground above the scarp is visually less dominant. Some minor indirect influence may also be possible from Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down further to the south beyond the LCA.

LCA 06 Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Dinas

Table A8.8.5.7: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations - LCA 06 Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Dinas

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS897- M	NPTLH064 - M	NPTGL028 – M	NPTHL069 - O	NPTCLS104
NPTVS811- H	NPTLH065 - L	NPTGL027 – M	NPTHL016 - O	NPTCLS102
NPTVS187 - H	NPTLH066 - M	NPTGL023 – H		NPTCLS089
	NPTLH010 - M			

A8.5.11 This area takes in the scarp slope and open scarp tops rising to the east of Port Talbot and sitting above the M4 motorway and upon which the four turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm are located and have a direct influence. It forms the edge between the South Wales pennant formation to the east and the coastal plain to the west. The continuity of the area is interrupted by the Afan and Dyffryn Valleys, which cut through the scarp. The scarp slope rises steeply and dramatically from approximately 30 m AOD to approx. 210 m AOD. A gentler topography continues above the scarp edge, ultimately rising to 258 m AOD at Mynydd Dinas, 244 m AOD at Mynydd Brombil and

over 250 m above Margam Park. The landform provides a solid backcloth for the coastal plain creating an important and prominent feature. The steep slopes are primarily covered with bracken and scrub, with areas of coniferous plantation and occasional deciduous woodland on lower ground. There are also areas of rock exposure on steep, high ground enhancing its upland character.

A8.5.12 The topography and landcover, generates an exposed upland feel, contrasting with the settled coastal plains below. The sense of exposure continues above the scarp edge, where the convex slopes of upland sheep grazed landscape, contained by broken down walls and fences, provides wide views across Swansea Bay. To the east, the upland is hemmed in by the woodland of Mynydd Margam. The scarp is highly visible from the M4, as it runs along the base, while the higher ground is generally hidden from view. The upland characteristics creates a unique in such close proximity to the M4. A solar farm is located on Mynydd Emroch.

LCA 07 Mynydd Margam

Table A8.8.5.8: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 07 Mynydd Margam

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS927 – M	NPTLH107 – M	NPTGL027 - M	NPTHL031 – M	NPTCS112
NPTVS897 – M	NPTLH070 - M		NPTHL068 - M	
			NPTHL021 - O	
			NPTHL016 - O	
			NPTHL052 - O	

A8.5.13 This area is a large block of unenclosed upland, much of which is under modern forestry. It is situated on the southwest fringe of the Coalfield Plateau that visually dominates the coastal plain. The boundary of the area is defined by the extent of enclosure into this upland and to the east by the County Borough boundary. The woodland, consist of significant coniferous plantation cover. Composition of the woodland is predominantly spruce and occasional pine. Areas of larch have been felled due to infection by *Phytophthora ramorum*. Its elevation means the area provides the skyline to views from the south and west. Within the forest there is a tranquil quality and its extent allows a sense of isolation to develop.

LCA 08 Goytre Valley

Table A8.8.5.9: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 08 Goytre Valley

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS916 – H	NPTLH060 – M	NPTGL027 – M	NPTHL069 – O	NPTCS107

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
	NPTLH061 – M	NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL070 - H	
	NPTLH064 - M		NPTHL031 - M	

A8.5.14 This narrow steep sided valley rises from approximately 30 m AOD, adjacent to Port Talbot to approximately 200 m AOD at its higher reaches. The valley lies between the wooded upland of Mynydd Margam to the south and Mynydd Emroch to the north. bottom and sides are a mosaic of deciduous, coniferous, mixed woodland and grazed pasture. The pasture is bounded by outgrown hedges, frequently reinforced with fences. The deciduous cover, outgrown hedges and topography, create a strong sense of enclosure and shelter, while the surrounding coniferous plantation enhances the upland character of the area. There are a scattering of dwellings and developments, connected by the single road which runs through the valley. The valley has a quiet character despite its proximity to Port Talbot, with a 'hidden' landscape in the valley bottom, creating a tranquil sense of place.

LCA 09 Cefn Cethin

Table A8.8.5.10: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 09 Cefn Cethin

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS448 – L	NPTLH061 – M	NPTGL027 – M	NPTHL021 - O	NPTCS050
		NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL031 - M	NPTCS015
		NPTGL023 - H		

A8.5.15 This narrow strip of mixed-use upland landscape focused around the settlement of Bryn, is situated against the County Borough’s eastern boundary. The area is bounded by the woodland plantation of Mynydd Penhydd to the north, and Mynydd Margam the south and runs into Cwm Dyffryn. The landcover of the area is a mixture of managed Golf course, disturbed land, rock outcrops and grazing. Boundaries are almost entirely post and wire fences, although these are sparse through the area. The golf course and its manicured greens and tree planting contrasts with the character of the surrounding rough grass upland, much of which is primarily grazed by sheep. The whole area feels open and exposed in contrast to surrounding forestry and valley bottoms. The ex-mining settlement of Bryn is essentially linear in character strung out along the B4282, with newer development has expanded outwards lying awkwardly on higher ground. The original buildings are a mix of stone, brick and render with slate roofs, while newer buildings tend to be render and pebbledash. The core of the settlement is difficult to define, having a limited number of commercial enterprises. The B4282 road passing from east to west provides the only significant vehicle access, although numerous footpaths and recreation routes provide extensive access.

LCA 10 Mynydd Bycham.

Table A8.8.5.11: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 10 Mynydd Bycham

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS139 - M	NPTLH061 - M	NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL070 - H	NPTCLS003
	CYNONLH005 - M	NPTGL027 – M	NPTHL031 - O	
	CYNONLH009 - H	NPTGL023 – H		
	CYNONLH010 – M			
	NPTLH043 - H			

A8.5.16 This upland ridge and valley, forms a saddle across the high ground between Cwm Dyffryn and Cwm Afan. This upland landscape is primarily enclosed grazing, but also includes a large coniferous woodland running from Mynydd Emroch into Cwm Afan. The patchwork of this medium sized mixed grazed landscape is bound by a combination of fences and outgrown hedges. There are scattered isolated dwellings through the area, mainly farmsteads. The only through road, the B4282, crosses the lower saddle from Bryn to Cwmafan, additionally numerous footpaths, tracks and recreation routes provide extensive public access throughout. On higher ground there is a distinct sense of exposure and isolation. From these sections of the LCA there may be some indirect influence of operational wind farm development within other LCAs, particularly Mynydd Brombil. The high elevation also affords wide views to the adjacent valleys and surrounding upland. The character gradually becomes more settled and sheltered on lower ground as enclosure of the valleys and increased maintenance influences the landscape.

LCA 11 Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna

Table A8.8.5.12: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 11 Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS920 - M	NA	NPTGL027 – M	NPTHL045 - H	NPTCLS111
NPTVS936 - M		NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL055 - O	NPTCLS114
		NPTGL023 - H		

A8.5.17 This character area follows the upland valleys of the Afan, Pelenna and minor tributaries. The valley floor is a mosaic of open grassland, very small pastures, rough bracken and scrub and substantial deciduous tree cover. Much of the deciduous cover is focused around the strong riparian vegetation of the river courses. The river is rocky in parts with a character that reflects high seasonal flow. The open valley sides are covered by grazed pasture, which is suffering from significant encroachment of bracken and scrub, and the development of coarse grasses. Most of the boundaries in the area

are fenced, or with outgrown hedges and trees marking diminished enclosures. The enclosed valley squeezes in settlement, which relates to past industrial uses and features such as the dismantled railway with embankments, aqueducts and viaducts. This adds to the drama and interest of the valley. There is substantial recreation use of surrounding woodland [Afan Country Park] and also along the valley floor following the course of the river and disused railway line. The coniferous plantation of the valley sides in places form abrupt edges. The valley has a dramatic and at times remote feeling away from the roads and settlement. There may be some localised influence of operational windfarms at Pen-y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. Yet as views are generally contained within the valley by both vegetation and the topography, an intimate and sheltered nature is created.

LCA 12 Mynydd Penhydd

Table A8.8.5.13: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 12 Mynydd Penhydd

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS366 - M	NPTLH101 – M	NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL045 - H	NPTCLS035
		NPTGL023 - H	NPTHL060 - H	
			NPTHL031 -M	

A8.5.18 This area comprises a rolling, afforested plateau cut with minor valleys, and running in to the Afan Valley. It ranges from approximately 120 m AOD in the Afan Valley to 360 m AOD at Pen Disgwyllfn, north of Bryn. The area is bordered to the east by the County Borough boundary and to the north by the Afan Valley. The landform creates a distinct topographical element, acting as an enclosing incisor to the Afan valley and forming an integral part of the Valley and to a lesser extent the Ffrwd Wyllt valley. Woodland, which covers much of the area, is comprised of coniferous plantation, predominantly spruce with larch, reduces the distinctiveness of the area, but helps to enhance its upland nature. Abrupt edges to moorland and grazed land and extensive areas of clear felling detract from the scenic qualities of the area. Access through the area is along forestry roads, a significant number of which are integrated into the recreation routes of the Afan Argoed Country Park centre, which abuts the area. Much of the area has a tranquil and remote feel.

LCA 13 Foel Trawsnant

Table A8.8.5.14: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 13 Foel Trawsnant

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS358- M	NPTLH047 - M	NPTGL023 – H	NPTHL060 - H	NPTCLS033
	NPTLH044 - M		NPTHL045 - H	

A8.5.19 This area of upland grazing ranges from approximately 220 m AOD to 371 m AOD at the summit. It is bounded to the east by the County Borough boundary, to the south by the woodland of Mynydd

Penhydd and to the north by the Afan Valley. This upland grazed landscape has simple cover of unenclosed sheep grazed coarse grass and continues beyond the assessment area to the east. It is bounded by woodland creating a strong edge and preventing views into this area from the surrounding valleys. Minor valleys holding minor watercourses, as well as house platforms on higher ground add visual interest to an area, which generally feels bleak and exposed. There are no dwellings or structural development present and the only public access is via a footpath and bridleway. Significant tracts of land surrounding access routes have been provisionally designated open county.

LCA 14 Foel Fawr

Table A8.8.5.15: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 14 Foel Fawr

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL023 - H	NPTHL045 - H	NA

A8.5.20 Adjacent to the County Borough Boundary of NPT and Bridgend and abutting Croeserw to the east. The area ranges from approximately 200 m AOD to 350 m AOD at its peak. The landform of this hillside creates a sharp intervention into the Afan valley, reducing views and exaggerating the sense of enclosure within the valley. Cover is predominantly felled forestry, although a block within the centre of the LCA has been retained. There is extensive public right of way across the area with numerous paths and tracks.

LCA 15 Mynydd-y-Gelli

Table A8.8.5.16: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 15 Mynydd-y-Gelli

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS547- H	NA	NA	NPTHL026 - O	NA
			NPTHL045 - H	

A8.5.21 These exposed upland rolling hillsides and valleys extend beyond the county boundary to the south and are dissected by the Afon Afan, a deeply dissected U-shaped valley. This area contains a number of small valleys, tributaries to the Afan. The topography creates an imposing presence, which is enhanced by its simple cover of predominantly coarse grasses. The area provides a contrast to the more complex landscapes of surrounding areas creating a sense of exposure and wilderness after the enclosure of the valley. LANDMAP values for historic landscape aspect areas are high and outstanding and reflect its potential as an exceptionally rich multi-period landscape. Located within the LCA are nine of the 12 turbines of Llynfi Afan Renewable Park and these have a direct influence on the character. The A4107 skirts the northern edge of the area, running along the contours of the slope, acts as a processional entrance into valley and providing the only significant access within the area.

LCA 17 Foel Fynyddau.

Table A8.8.5.17: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 17 Foel Fynyddau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL026 - M	NPTHL055 - O	NA
		NPTGL023 - H	NPTHL032 - O	
		NPTGL027 - M		

A8.5.22 This extensive area forms the shoulder of upland, which separates the Neath Valley from the Afan and Pelenna valleys. This mosaic landscape ranges from approximately 50 m AOD to 370 m AOD at Foel Fynyddau. This landscape forms a mosaic pattern of upland grazing and coniferous plantation is dominated by the mass of Foel Fynyddan topped with communication masts. There are numerous field boundary types across the character area including dry stonewalls, but most are in a poor state of repair and fences dominate. The riparian corridors, lined with deciduous trees, act as distinct features and provide a sense of sheltered enclosure to the lower ground. A settled nature is engendered by the presence of individual dwellings, which are scattered through the area, connected by a number of minor hedge lined roads. The settled character gradually dissipates on high ground, where a more rugged exposed nature prevails. Here the presence of coniferous woodland has a more significant impact as the edges appear abrupt against the open landscape. While views are frequently contained on the lower ground, by deciduous cover, there are panoramic views across the coastal plain and to adjacent valleys from the high ground. There may be some influence from operational wind farm development within LCAs to the north east including Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer.

LCA 18 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn and Mynydd Ynyscorrwg.

Table A8.8.5.18: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 18 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn and Mynydd Ynyscorrwg

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL023 - H	NPTHL026 - O	NA

A8.5.23 This extensive plateau constitutes much of the high ground between the Neath and Afan valleys. This undulating plateau is dominated by coniferous forest, but also contains significant areas of open grazed land and moorland including Carn Caca and tributary valleys of the Afan. Smaller areas of open ground and exposed rock, primarily at summits or on steeper ground further break up the woodland. The landform is riven with numerous small valleys and watercourses, creating fissures in the hillsides and adding topographical interest to this landscape. Plantations of spruce with areas of larch characterise the woodland cover and also create an abrupt, at times, angular edge to open landscape. To its northern and southern extremes, the woodland runs downs into the Neath and Afan Valleys. The areas of open landscape contain numerous minor landscape features;

numerous cairns, disused mine works and other historic elements, dating back to the Mesolithic period, which add to the natural features present. The woodland conveys a homogenised appearance, lacking significant character and cloaking any underlying landscape elements. The woodland cover is a significant feature from both the Neath and Afan Valleys. Conversely the open land has little visual impact on the surrounding landscape, being surrounded by woodland or located beyond the ridge line of the valleys. There are no roads, settlements, however the 16 turbines of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm and turbines to Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm are prominent features across a wide proportion of the LCA. The Coed Morgannwg Way and St Illtyd’s Walk provide access, along long-distance trails.

LCA 23 Bryn Mawr, Mynydd Carnllechart, Mynydd-y-Baran and Mynydd Gellionnen

Table A8.8.5.19: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 23 Bryn Mawr, Mynydd Carnllechart, Mynydd-y-Baran and Mynydd Gellionnen

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	NPTHL066 - O	NA

A8.5.24 This constitutes three separate areas of upland common to the north east. Although segregated within the County Borough this landscape continues beyond the boundary and forms an extensive area of open upland. This upland common predominantly sheep grazed grassland which produces the simple smooth cover evident over much of the area. At the peripheries and on steeper ground running to Cwm Gors coarse grass cover, gorse, bracken and rhododendron have significantly encroached, disrupting the simplicity. The presence of cairns provides distinct features in this simple landscape and promote the upland character. The mountain fence is a remnant drystone wall reinforced by post and wire fencing. The elevation of the area provides a distinct sense of exposure and allows extensive views out to surrounding valleys while providing only minimal views in. Within some views northwest there will be an influence on the character from operational wind farms of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Mynydd y Bettws. The lack of settlements and with single-track roads and footpaths traversing the areas providing the only access to area enhance a sense of isolation and wilderness.

LCA 26 Mynydd Drumau

Table A8.8.5.20: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 26 Mynydd Drumau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	NPTHL040 - O	NA

- A8.5.25 The hill side of Mynydd Drumau forms the southern side of Clydach Valley, and a shoulder between the Neath and Swansea valleys. This significant landform, forming the backdrop to Neath and Skewen is predominantly covered by coniferous woodland particularly on steeper sloping land. The presence of dramatic cliff faces enhances a remote upland character created by the steep topography and presence of pine woodland and individual pines species on the skyline. The ridge top is pasture, enclosed primarily by hedges. The lower reaches contain scattered farmsteads and the only road; a minor track. Pasture, enclosed with both managed and overgrown hedges is present around the dwellings. The LCA represents a remarkably rich, multi-period landscape, with particularly significant concentrations of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features on Mynydd Drumau.

LCA 28 Neath

Table A8.8.5.21: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 28 Neath

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL023 - H	NPTHL054 -O	NA

- A8.5.26 This series of settlements are located around and straddle the River Neath. Neath is an industrial town; the centre is a compact area of retail/commercial uses and dwellings, adjacent to the historic castle, on the south side of the river. The River Neath and Tennant canal has no obvious relationship to the centre or surrounding settlements, unsightly industry tends to separate the town from the tidal river. Outside of the centre, Victorian stone buildings lie adjacent to the main arteries in the valley bottom, while behind them newer developments sprawl up the valley side. The new development has been developed piecemeal in blocks with commercial and retail development dominating the main traffic corridors. The areas development is constrained by the adjacent salt marshes and enclosing valley sides. The dense urban centre with its significant stone buildings, castle and market provides a sense of place with significant environmental improvements to the public realm, this sense of place is enhanced by the dominant landform of the valley sides. Towards the periphery this sense of place is lost through poor quality development in places, yet historic features [Neath Abbey ruins and industrial heritage] add distinctiveness to the area.

LCA 37 Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan and Margam

Table A8.8.5.22: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 37 Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan and Margam

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL027 - M	NPTHL054 - O	NPTCLS036

- A8.5.27 These settlements sit on the coastal plain below the scarp slope, stretching from Margam Works in the south to Baglan Works to the north. It is contained to the west by the intertidal Aberavon Sands and to the east by the adjacent scarp slope. The older terraced town centre of Port Talbot extends into Margam with a civic and commercial centre easily distinguishable from the surrounding two-storey housing. The River Afan runs through the town in a canalised course. Although it is a significant visual element within the Town Centre access to the river course is limited. Views are possible down its course from road bridges and riverside walks are possible towards the river mouth. Between the steel works and the former BP works lies the vast homogenous Sandfields estate. It abuts the sea at Aberavon seafront where there are a number of leisure related facilities and superb views across Swansea Bay and new housing development have been constructed along the seafront. On the slopes to the east of the motorway the settlement of Baglan exhibits 20th century housing estates. These climb the slopes of the scarp which has gentler slopes at this point. The stone terraced dwellings of the older areas of settlement engender a sense of place, which is lost in the newer developments. The presence of the scarp slope and sea add to a strong sense of place and allowing views to both. The M4 cuts through the settlement, primarily running along the edge of the coastal plain/scarp. The road is elevated above the surrounding settlement, affords rooftop views of the town and facilitating distant views out. Noise, light and visual disruption from vehicles adds to the impact of the motorway as a structure. To the north, there is some influence of the operational Mynydd Brombil Windfarm on the ridgeline.

LCA 39 Cwmafan

Table A8.8.5.23: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 39 Cwmafan

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NPTGL026 – M	NPTHL013 - H	NA
NPTGL027 - M				

- A8.5.28 The settlement is situated in the lower Afan Valley, focused on the valley floor with development extending up the northern flank. This area is a post industrial settlement lying to the north of the River Afan in the lower reaches of the Afan Valley. LANDMAP historic landscape aspect value for the LCA is high reflecting its value as an historically important industrial communications corridor, The core sits in the base of the valley, while newer developments, often of poorer detailing and design, climb up the northern sides of the valley sides. The centre of the town is set back from the river, with a dispersed core. There is only minor vehicle disturbance as the A4107 [the main road

up the Afan Valley] lies on the southern side of the river. Industrial development dominates the entrance to the town from the west, while the sprawling new estates have a significant impact when approaching the town from the south. The topography of the valley provides a strong sense of enclosure around the sprawling settlement.

LCA 40 Margam Sands/Aberafan Sands

Table A8.8.5.24: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 40 Margam Sands/Aberafan Sands

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS697 - H	NA	NA	NPTHL002 - O	NA

A8.5.29 This area comprises an intertidal sandy beach between Swansea Bay and coastal plain. This large sweeping sandy beach on the northern part of this coastal fringe, with promenade adjacent to the settlements of Sandfields and Port Talbot, is frequently accessed by the public and used as a recreation facility creating an active and settled nature. Dunes back the beach to the north, providing a buffer with the former BP works, these are under pressure from overuse. To the south the inaccessibility of the beach, adjacent to the heavy industry of Margam has an isolated feel. View out are extensive seaward with the Swansea Bay curving in an elegant broad sweep towards the Mumbles to the west. The Somerset Coast can be seen in the distance across the Bristol Channel. To the north-east, there is some influence of the operational Mynydd Brombil Windfarm on the ridgeline.

LCA 41 Neath Estuary Mouth

Table A8.8.5.25: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 41 Neath Estuary Mouth

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NPTVS274 - M	NA	NA	NA	NA
NPTVS297 - H				
NPTVS697 - H				

A8.5.30 This estuarial area consists of the River Neath west of the M4 motorway and surrounding low-lying landscape. The estuary mouth and adjacent areas are characterised by intertidal water and surrounding maritime landscape. The river opens out into the elegant broad sweep of Swansea Bay, providing superb views beyond this stretch of water, across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset Coast. The Training walls, to maintain the channel and prevent sanding, relate to commercial shipping and define the visual extension of the area out to sea. Dunes, which abut the intertidal areas, create a harshly undulating landscape with coarse dune vegetation cover. There are no settlements through this area and only minimal access. Extensive views to the scarp slope and hills of the hinterland are facilitated from this area. To the east, there is some minor influence of the operational Mynydd Brombil Windfarm on the ridgeline and to the west the influence of

Swansea Bay Welsh Water Treatment Works (WWTW) and Queens Dock may also have a minor influence.

LCA 42: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry

Table A8.8.5.26: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 42: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS473 - H	CYNONLH003 - M	CYNONGL034 – H	CYNONHL227 - O	CYNONCS058
CYNONVS731 - M	CYNONLH005 - M	CYNONGL035 – M	CYNONHL242 - O	CYNONCS088
	CYNONLH009 - H	CYNONGL039 - M		CYNONCS087
	CYNONLH010 - M			CYNONCS086

A8.5.31 Located to the east of Margam Mountain, this LCA consists of an undulating landscape, with a series of north-east facing slopes and hill summits ranging from 120 m AOD to 365 m AOD. The landscape has been heavily influenced by the dissected Upper Coal measure plateau and is crossed by a number of fast flowing springs and streams. Dense coniferous forestry plantations are a feature of some slopes and hill summits, including Garn Wen and Waun Lluest-wen, with linear broadleaved woodlands along valley sides. In addition to the forestry plantations, the LCA includes areas of pastoral, irregular shaped fields, enclosed by hedgerows, tree belts and stone walls. Settlements include the village of Llangynwyd, plus a number of small groups of farmsteads and dwellings scattered throughout the LCA. LANDMAP values for visual and sensory and historic extend to high and outstanding for a large proportion of this LCA, reflecting its character as a rich, multi-period agricultural landscape, with historic of national importance, containing remains of settlement and enclosure dating from the prehistoric, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval periods. The turbines to the Land South of Gelli Las Farm are located within the south-eastern corner of the LCA. Some direct influence of wind farm development within the LCA, more locally within the southern parts, is provided by the operational development of Land South of Gelli Las Farm.

LCA 43: Llynfi Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Table A8.8.5.27: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 43: Llynfi Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	CYNONLH09 – H	CYNONGL035 – M	CYNONHL227 – O	NA
	CYNONLH10 - M	CYNONGL039 - M	CYNONHL242 - O	

A8.5.32 This LCA comprises the valley floor and lower slopes of the Llynfi Valley, through which the Llynfi River flows in a south easterly direction. The valley sides are dissected by a number of tributaries that create a landform of rounded spurs between incised valleys. These valleys are frequently vegetated with broadleaved and riparian woodland that create a sense of enclosure. There are

however views to the summits of Craig-yr-hudol in the east and Mynydd Baedan in the west. The lower valley slopes include semi-improved and improved grassland of relatively large, regular shaped fields that are bound by hedgerows, whereas fields on the higher slopes are typically enclosed by dry stone walls, wire fences and gappy hedgerows. Settlements include linear development of 19th century terraces and modern housing at Coytrhen, with occasional hamlets and farmsteads nestled within the rib tray valleys. The Bridgend Paper Mills, including their chimneys forms a prominent feature within the central valley landscape, as does further smaller industrial developments and sewage works that extend along the valley floor. The railway line and A4063 that links Bridgend with Maesteg meanders through the valley floor. Coytrahen House, a Grade II Registered Park and Garden is located within the southern half of the LCA. There are outstanding values for LANDMAP historic landscape reflecting its importance as an industrial communications/settlement corridor with some outstanding relict industrial buildings of national importance.

LCA 44: Llynfi and Garw Uplands and Forestry

Table A8.8.5.28: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 44: Llynfi and Garw Uplands and Forestry

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	CYNONLH003 - M	CYNONGL034 – H	CYNONHL224 – H	NA
	CYNONLH005 - M	CYNONGL035 – M	CYNONHL242 - O	
		CYNONGL039 - M		

A8.5.33 Located to the east of Maesteg, which comprises an exposed upland area, dominated by coniferous plantations, including Garw Forest and agriculturally improved rough grassland. Agricultural fields are typically medium sized in scale and irregular in shape. A rolling landscape, which includes steep slopes and rounded hill summits, reaching a maximum height of 556 m AOD at Mynydd Caerau, which include a large group of Bronze age barrows. The LCA is sparsely populated, limited to scattered farmsteads on lower slopes. Located on the eastern slopes of the Llynfi Valley is Spirt of Llynfi Woodland, a recently developed community woodland, that occupies the site of a former colliery. It includes a number of footpaths, bridal ways and cycle/running trails, plus the statue, ‘The Keeper of the Colliery’. Direct influence of wind farm development in the LCA is provided by the turbines to the wind farm of Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park (REP).

LCA 45: Betws Settled Farmland

Table A8.8.5.29: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 45: Betws Settled Farmland

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	CYNONLH009 - H	CYNONGL039 - M	CYNONHL242 - O	NA
	CYNONLH010 - M			

A8.5.34 Centred on the hilltop village of Betws, which sits an elevation of 160 m AOD, this LCA is located between the Llynfi and Garw valleys. An undulating landscape, with predominantly southerly facing slopes, which include numerous springs and streams that flow into the Llynfi Valley. Fields are typically irregular in shape, with some rush pastures along streams. They are enclosed by mature hedgebanks and trees. Settlements are concentrated around Betws, whose historic core is surrounded by post-war housing estates that spread along the hillside and sit prominently on elevated hill summits. Elsewhere, scattered farmsteads and hamlets are linked by rural lanes.

LCA 46: Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Table A8.8.5.30: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 46: Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	CYNONGL034 – H	NA	NA

A8.5.35 Located north of Bridgend, this LCA comprises the valley floor and lower slopes of the Garw Valley. A valley system that follows the course of the river Garw from its source at the head of the valley to the Brynmenyn confluence, on the northern fringes of Bridgend. The river cuts deeply into the surrounding coalfield plateau along its upper course, with slopes becoming gentler and less dramatic as it widens to the south. Fragments of broadleaved woodland and scrub are found between development on the lower valley slopes. The lower slopes also contain improved and semi-improved pasture, which are enclosed by a network of hedgerows, overgrown trees and woodland belts. The upper slopes are defined by rough grazing land. The Grade II, Bryngarw Registered Park and Garden is located at the southern end of the LCA. The A4064 extends along the valley floor, along which there are numerous linear settlements, including Blaengarw, Pontycymer and Llangeinor.

LCA 47: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands

Table A8.8.5.31: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 47: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS662 – H	CYNONLH005 - H	CYNONGL034 – M	CYNONHL215 - O	NA

A8.5.36 An exposed upland ridge located between the Garw and Ogmore valleys, which rises to a height of 568 m AOD. It is predominantly vegetated with rough grassland, with patches of heathland, scrub, marshy grassland and flushes and some plantation forestry. The Craig Ogwr tor and ridgeline to the north-east of the LCA forms a prominent feature. This is a large scale and open landscape with little tree cover, expect for the coniferous plantations at the head of the Ogmore Valley. There are panoramic and sometimes dramatic views over upland and adjoining valleys and from lower slopes across nearby settlement in the Garw and Ogmore valleys. Some visual clutter of pylons and the operational wind farm developments in adjacent LCAs including Llynfi Afan, Pant-y-Wal (and the extension) and Fforch Nest 1 and 2 have some influence within this wild/exposed

typical upland area. Lower lying farmland of irregular shaped fields are found within the south of the LCA, which include linear belts of woodland along field boundaries, with a mixed plantation at Parc Cefnmachen. The area is sparsely populated, except for the small village of Llangeinor and the occasional hamlet and farmstead. Road access is also limited to southern areas of the LCA, where the A4093 links Ogmored with Betws

LCA 48: Ogmored Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Table A8.8.5.32: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 48: Ogmored Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS436 - H	CYNONLH005 - M	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.37 A narrow, steep sided valley system comprising the branches of the River Ogmored (Cwm Ogwr and Cwm Ogwr Fach), which are met by the River Garw at the Brynmenyn confluence, north of Bridgend. This is a dramatic landscape as a result of a series of incised re-entrant valleys and spurs. The valley sides are frequently wooded, particularly the upper Ogmored, with a mix of coniferous and semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Lower slopes are characterised by pastoral fields, which are enclosed by a network of hedgerows and woodland belts. Linear settlements, including Nant-y-moel, Lewistown, Ogmored Vale and Gylfach Goch extend along the valley floor and up the valley sides. These settlements are link by the A4061 and A4093. The large-scale warehouse at Blackmill forms a prominent feature within the landscape.

LCA 49: Ogmored Forest and Surrounding Uplands

Table A8.8.5.33: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 49: Ogmored Forest and Surrounding Uplands

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS496 - H	CYNONLH005 - M	NA	CYNONHL215 -O	NA

A8.5.38 An undulating large scale upland plateau and ridge landscape that reaches a height of over 500 m AOD and which is dissected by incised valleys that drain into the Cwm Ogwr Fawr to the west and Cwm Ogwr Fach to the south. There are large tracts of semi improved /semi natural acid grassland, marshy grassland, heath, bracken and scrub, although the coniferous forestry plantation of the Ogmored Forest is located within central parts of the LCA. To the north east wind turbines to the Pant-y-Wal and Fforch Nest wind farms lie partially within the LCA and form a prominent feature with a direct influence on the character. The area is largely unspoilt, particularly to the north east, and there are attractive upland views within and out over Ogmored Vale and to other upland areas. Settlements are restricted to small villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads.

LCA 50: Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges

Table A8.8.5.34: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 50: Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS436 - H	CYNONLH010 - M	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.39 Situated to the north of the urban areas of Pencoed and Bridgend, this large area of common land is an undulating landscape with prominent ridges at Mynydd y Gaer (295 m AOD) and Cefn Hirgoed (10 m AOD). This is an open, largely treeless common with a distinct upland character, with the more ridges contrasting with the surrounding enclosed farmland. There are extensive views to uplands and over adjacent lower farmland to coast. Vegetation cover is typically unimproved grassland and rush pasture that is used for grazing, with broadleaved semi-natural woodland on the valley sides and hedges and trees defining field patterns on lower lying areas. The busy B4280 cuts through the landscape and detracts from the character, which forms a route connecting Bridgend with the M4 motorway. The main settlement is Heol-y-Cyw, which contains a mix of 19th century terraces and 20th century/modern housing. Although not located within the LCA, the neighbouring Taff Ely Wind Farm is a prominent vertical element, along with pylons with indirect influence on character.

LCA 52: Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

Table A8.8.5.35: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 52: Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS304 - H	NA	NA	CYNONHL231 - O	NA
CYNONVS920 - O			CYNONHL685 - O	

A8.5.40 A coastal landscape, dominated by the high sand dune of Merthyr Mawr that rises to a height of 80 m AOD and is backed by rolling estate farmland. Littoral areas to the west of the LCA are more open and exposed, including Newton Point, a rock platform area with views out to sea /along coast and inland to urban areas. Kenfig Sands extends beyond this, comprising an open sandy expanse with attractive coastal views, slightly compromised by detractive views to parts of Porthcawl. The sands are wild, extensive and unspoilt. The beach has a strong sense of place especially adjacent to dunes and is a unifying visual element along the coast. The LCA is a popular tourist destination and has a strong, unspoilt sense of place. The dunes are backed by trees, scrub and woodland and sea buckthorn creating a series of intimate spaces although there are some views from the edges out to sea and to the south contained within the Ogmored Valley. Beyond the sand dunes, there is a mix of semi-natural broadleaved woodland and mixed estate planting, plus regular shaped fields enclosed by stone walls and remnants of unimproved grassland. Historic features include Ogmored Castle, Candleston Castle, Chapel Hill Age Hill Fort and Vervil Dyke. The LCA

also includes the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Merthyr Mawr House. Settlements are limited to the historic, nucleated village of Merthyr Mawr. There may be some minor indirect influence of wind farm development in adjacent LCAs, including Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm.

LCA 53: Newton Down Limestone Plateau

Table A8.8.5.36: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 53: Newton Down Limestone Plateau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL973 - O	NA
CYNONHL179 - H				

- A8.5.41 Located between the settlements of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Pyle, this is a distinctive, elevated limestone plateau, rising to height of just over 100 m AOD and includes the operational turbines of Newton Down Wind Farm and the single turbine developments of Parc Stormy Down (plus a solar farm) and Haregrove Farm. The southern boundary of the LCA is defined by a steep scarp slope that drops away from Newton Down towards the coast. Predominantly an agricultural landscape of regular shaped medium-large fields enclosed by well-maintained hedgerows, although fields become smaller and more irregular on the slopes. Mixed broadleaved plantations are found on Stormy Down. The LCA contains Tythegston Court, a Registered Historic Park PGW and beyond this a rich multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity ranging from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hillforts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of medieval castles, monastic granges and relict settlements and field systems. A large opencast quarry is located within the northern part of the LCA. Main settlements within the LCA include the nucleated villages of Tythegston and Laleston. The M48, A48 and A4106, plus the Swansea to London mainline railway all pass through the LCA.

LCA 54: Porthcawl Coastline and Settled Farmland

Table A8.8.5.37: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 54: Porthcawl Coastline and Settled Farmland

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS920 - O	NA	NA	CYNONVS654 - O	NA
CYNONVS973 - O				

- A8.5.42 A simple, low coastal plateau that rises gently to a height of approximately 50 m AOD that includes Limestone pavements and rocky headlands punctuating wide sandy bays, including Trecco Bay, Rest Bay and Sandy Bay, all of which are popular tourist destinations. There are views out to sea and inland in places and the coast possesses a strong coastal sense of place, heightened by the partial views to north over Margam moors that encompass the industrial works. The south-west facing hinterland predominantly consists of small improved agricultural fields used for pasture, with

a significant number converted to pony paddocks. This part of the LCA is a rich multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity ranging from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hillforts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of medieval castles, monastic granges and relict settlements and field systems. The coastal/intertidal foreshore also represents an outstanding, nationally important landscape containing evidence of human activity from the Mesolithic period up to the present day. The LCA is sparsely populated, although includes the villages of Mawdlam and South Cornelly on the eastern boundary, as does the A4229 that links with the M4 motorway at Porthcawl. There may be some minor indirect influence of wind farm development from adjacent LCAs, including Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm.

LCA 55: Kenfig Dunes and Coastline

Table A8.8.5.38: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 55: Kenfig Dunes and Coastline

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNONVS920 - O	NA	NA	CYNONHL413 - O	
CYNONVS630 - O			CYNONHL654 - O	
CYNONVS304 - H				

- A8.5.43 This large scale LCA is dominated by a coastal dune system, which lies adjacent to a westerly facing, large sandy beach, the rocks of Sker Point marking its southerly extent. There are attractive views both in and out of the area especially out to sea. Although there are views of detractors to the north-east, including the steelworks and M4, the area is unspoilt in itself and covers a large area with consistent character. It has a very strong sense of place with large scale dunes covering a wide area and giving a sense of isolation in places. To the west of the LCA is a sandy beach with attractive coastal views, slightly compromised by detractive views to parts of Porthcawl. The sands are wild, extensive and unspoilt and this part of the LCA has a strong sense of place especially adjacent to dunes and is a unifying visual element along the coast. The LCA is also an exceptionally well-preserved, multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity potentially dating back to the Neolithic; medieval occupation is particularly well represented by the extensive remains of the castle and abandoned medieval town of Kenfig, a site of national importance in historical terms. The LCA also includes Kenfig Pool, the largest freshwater lake in South Wales. Pyle and Kenfig Golf Course is located within the south-eastern corner of the LCA, which includes areas of grassland, scrub and bracken. Much of the LCA is inaccessible by road, although a minor road runs close to the eastern boundary. There is some minor indirect influence of wind farm development in adjacent LCAs, at Mynydd Brombil and Newlands Farm.

LCA 56: Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland

Table A8.8.5.39: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 56: Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	CYNONHL973 -	NA

- A8.5.44 Located between the settlements of Pyle and Bridgend, this is a broad valley at the southern edge of the Coalfield plateau that rises steeply to the prominent ridge of Cefn Cribwr (132 m AOD). To the south of the ridge the land falls away to the south, where it comprises an intricate landscape of undulating slopes. Numerous springs and streams drain from the ridge, with ponds and water filled former quarries on the valley floor. Former open cast workings, filled with water is a major feature in western parts of the valley. There are extensive mixed woodland plantations at Parc Slip Nature Park and a conifer dominated woodland at Pennsylvania Wood on the eastern end of the ridge. Medium sized agricultural fields used for pasture and bond by thick hedgerows is a dominant feature. The LCA is a rich multi-period landscape with evidence of human activity ranging from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, represented by prehistoric funerary monuments and hillforts, Roman occupation sites, substantial remains of medieval castles, monastic granges and relict settlements and field system. Cefn Cribwr is the main settlement within the LCA, while individual properties and farmsteads are spread throughout the LCA. The M4 motorway and mainline railway dissects through the centre of the LCA. A large solar farm is located to the south west of Court Colman.

LCA 57: Maesteg

Table A8.8.5.34: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 57: Maesteg

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	CYNONLH009 - H	CYNONGL035 - M	CYNONHL242 - O	NA
		CYNONGL039 - M		

- A8.5.45 A small town with mix of modern and traditional buildings in an upper valley setting between approximately 100 m and 200 m AOD. The town is set in Industrialised glacial valley with widespread Coal Measures evident. The elevation and close proximity of upland provides a slight upland sense of place to the northern area of the town. It is an important industrial communications/settlement corridor with some outstanding relict industrial buildings of national importance (e.g., Llynfi Ironworks; Tondy Ironworks) and a collection of impressive late 19th-early 20th century civic buildings at Maesteg (including the Town Hall, Council Office and several chapels). The town centre dominated by traffic, with variable housing quality on outskirts, including modern developments. There are some good views to upper valley sides and beyond across urban

area in valley floor, particularly from the higher ground in the south looking north. Piecemeal recent expansions on edges, including prominent school.

LCA 61: Pyle

Table A8.8.5.41: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 61: Pyle

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

- A8.5.46 Bound by the M4 motorway to the south and through which the Swansea to London mainline railway runs, this LCA is dominated by the urban built form of Pyle and North Cornelly. Predominantly residential in character and containing a mix of 19th Century terraced housing and post war semidetached housing. The large Village Farm Industrial Estate, which includes a number of large industrial units dominates the southern eastern extent of the LCA. There are some pleasant views out to the coast in the south and the uplands in the north.

LCA 62: Northern Vale Lias Slopes

Table A8.8.5.42: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 62: Northern Vale Lias Slopes

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	VLFGHL022 - O	NA

- A8.5.47 A relatively large area of open, rolling lowland agricultural landscape that extends from Ewenny across to the edge of the Thaw Valley. The northern edge of the LCA is formed by the M4 motorway and an operational wind farm at Hill House provides a minor influence on the character. The LCA is characterised by medium to large sized fields bound by hedgerows and trees. Distant views to Bridgend and Waterton create an urban feel to the LCA. The area is a rich multi-period landscape, with evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later occupation, distinguished by a particularly large and broad distribution of Bronze Age funerary sites.

LCA 63: Heritage Coast Hinterland

Table A8.8.5.43: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 63: Heritage Coast Hinterland

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS890 – O	NA	NA	VLFGHL036 – O	NA
VLFGVLS765 – O			VLFGHL037 - O	
VLFGVLS920 - O			VLFGHL001 - O	

- A8.5.48 A broad, lowland rolling plateau that is dissected with a series of small, truncated valleys associated with the streams of Pant y Slade, Pant Llawn-dwr, Cwm Nash and Cwm Macroes. There is a

mixture of medium to large agricultural fields, typically bund by well managed hedgerows. Although some fields are bound by stone walls at Southerndown. There are a number of small, nucleated villages within the LCA, including Ogmores-by-Sea, St Brides Major, St Donats and Monknash. The regular fieldscape and pattern of small, nucleated settlements within this area, of medieval/post-medieval origin, largely survives intact. In archaeological and historical terms, this area represents an important multi-period landscape with a particularly significant density of surviving prehistoric sites. The combination of vernacular buildings and settlements, well maintained walls and hedgerows, wind sculpted trees and woodland in secluded incised valleys result in pleasing patterns often against a backdrop of the Bristol Channel. Overall, this gives the area an outstanding scenic quality. The area is in good condition and is of consistent character throughout. The area has a strong sense of place through its coastal location, wind sculpted trees and use of stone in walls and vernacular buildings. Overall, it is unspoilt apart from small scale development in places. To the south of the LCA, the coast is an unspoilt, simple but highly dramatic seascape with constant variety through play of light and fluctuating weather and other elements. There are superb views to the sea and across to England and Flatholm from this LCA. There may be some minor indirect influence of wind farm development locally on character along the north western fringes from adjacent LCAs at Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm wind farms.

LCA 64: Norton Down

Table A8.8.5.44: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 64: Norton Down

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS890 - O	NA	NA	VLFGVLS036 - O	NA

A8.5.49 A small, undulating landscape to the east of Ogmores by Sea, which is intensively farmed. The LCA is predominantly made up of gently rolling agricultural fields, medium to large in size and used for pasture. The fields are typically bound by well-maintained hedgerows. There are no settlements within the LCA and access is limited to small minor lanes. The LCA has a strong sense of place with lias walls, hedgebanks and stone buildings and some superb occasional long views to sea, and hidden wooded valleys, narrow lanes. There are also historic landscape patterns in place with the regular fieldscape and pattern of small, nucleated settlements of medieval/post-medieval origin, largely surviving intact. There may be some minor indirect influence of wind farm development locally on character along the western fringes from adjacent LCAs at Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm wind farms.

LCA 65: Ogmores Down

Table A8.8.5.45: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 65: Ogmores Down

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS663 - O	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.50 Located south west of Bridgend, this LCA is a large area of open, rolling lowland heathland that rises up to 100 m AOD. It is visually dominated by the clubhouse and course of Southerndown Golf Club. Pont Alun quarry lies on its eastern boundary, where the ridge is dissected by the steeply sloped Pant St Bridge valley. The LCA is sparsely populated with the exception of a few scattered farmsteads that are accessed by minor roads. The area is elevated, open and exposed with long views over the Ogmores Valley, the Vale and the estuary and Bristol Channel. There is a strong sense of place, with a feeling of remoteness brought about by the wildness of vegetation and the exposed hillside location. There may be some minor indirect influence of wind farm development locally on character along the western fringes from adjacent LCAs at Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm wind farms.

LCA 66: Alun/St. Brides Valley

Table A8.8.5.46: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 66: Alun/St. Brides Valley

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS378 - H	NA	NA	NA	NA
VLFGVLS663 - O				

A8.5.51 A narrow, V-Shaped valley located south of Bridgend that includes incised valleys into the limestone plateau and running into the Ewenny Valley. Running from 80 m to 13 m AOD, the landform creates, together with the woodland that extends along the valley sides, creates a sense of tranquil, isolated feeling, despite the presence of the Bridgend – Barry railway line. To the west the LCA is more open rising up to Ogmores Down, with an increased feeling of remoteness brought about by the wildness of vegetation and the exposed hillside location.

LCA 67: Ewenny Valley

Table A8.8.5.47: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 67: Ewenny Valley

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVLS663 – O	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.52 The Ewenny Valley is part of an active lowland river system that forms a distinctive flood. The Ewenny River that flows through the valley is part of a much wider landscape that extends westwards into Bridgend and includes the historically important Merthyr Mawr landscape. Vegetation is typically a mix of grassland and woodland, including Kemp Wood and Craig Ddu. It also contains the important historic Ogmores Castle and other historic interests such as Ewenny Priory. Ewenny is the main settlement within the LCA and is linear in form, running inland to join the settlement of Corntown (outside of LCA). There are some attractive views to the gentle lower valley slopes of fields and hedgerows as well as to the steeper higher slopes beyond.

LCA 68: Swansea Bay

Table A8.8.5.48: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 68: Swansea Bay

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
SWNSVS007-O	NA	NA	NA	NA
SWNSVS320 - H	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.53 This area comprises the cornice that extends around the sweeping arc of Swansea Bay. It encompasses the parkland, promenade and cycle track which runs the majority of the seafront and allows leisurely enjoyment of the bay, plus the intertidal mud and sand beaches that back onto the urban edge of Swansea. The LCA is large in scale and exposed with attractive open views out into the Bristol Channel and around the dramatic sweep of Swansea Bay. There are also detractive views to the urban edges and to industrial structures and buildings extending to the south around Margam and Port Talbot. However, the primary foci is across the bay towards Mumbles and lighthouse off Mumbles Head with their distinctive profile, often seen in silhouette behind the lifeboat station. This area is large in scale and has a strong sense of place. There is some minor direct influence of wind farm development in the LCA from Queen Docks (later and earlier).

LCA 69: Swansea

Table A8.8.5.49: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 69: Swansea

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
SWNSVS002 - NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
SWNSVS003 -NA				

A8.5.54 This LCA comprises the city of Swansea. It runs from the Swansea Bay waterfront up the slopes of Townhill, along the River Tawe, and up the various valley slopes and hills to the north and west, towards Gower. To the south it includes the suburbs of Oystermouth and Mumbles. The city centre suffered major damage during World War II and was redeveloped post war. This development lacked a sense of place and the area continues to undergo redevelopment to improve its character and offer. Highlights include the Maritime quarter including the Marina which is popular for leisure boats and associate recreation, and the National Waterfront Museum. The tower at Meridian Quay is the tallest building in Wales and forms a strong simple landmark visible across Swansea Bay and from the north. Swansea's key characteristic is its relationship to the sweeping curve of Swansea Bay. Dense urban development on hillsides fringing the bay is a characteristic with the regimented rows of housing at Townhill particularly prominent. The waterfront buildings and core of Oystermouth/Mumbles have a positive former fishing village character which complements the waterfront. The 20th century residential estates running to the west towards Gower have limited coherent pattern or character although some roads are treed and well heeled. The residential and

commercial development spreading to the north of Swansea centre generally lacks sense of place, coherence and understandable pattern.

LCA 73: Rhyd-y-Pandy

Table A8.8.5.50: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 73: Rhyd-y-Pandy

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
NA	NA	NA	SWNSHL398 - O	NA

A8.5.55 This area is located to the north of the City of Swansea. It comprises rolling/undulating mosaic of irregular fields with characteristic dispersed settlement, and ribbon developments associated with industrial activity, which includes parcels of woodland and unenclosed land. At higher elevations the landscape has a more upland character. Erosion of rural character is occurring through intrusion of urban fringe elements, including a network of minor roads and overhead power wires on steel pylons and a solar farm. The southern area is also influenced by road noise from the busy M4 and adjacent settlements appear to be expanding into the area. Some minor influence from wind farm development may occur from the operational wind farm of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Mynydd y Bettws Wind Farms to the north.

LCA 79: Mynydd Maendy

Table A8.8.5.51: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 79: Mynydd Maendy

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CYNINVS436 - H	NA	NA	NA	NA

A8.5.56 This area comprises a very prominent ridge with a strong and distinct upland character. The area has extensive views to uplands and over adjacent lower farmland to the coast. Field pattern is defined partially by hedgerow/trees but on higher ground landcover is predominantly open rough grass and bracken. Scattered clumps of trees and larger areas of conifer plantation provide some shelter from exposure. The Taff Ely Wind Farm and Mynydd Portref Wind Farm (and extension) encompass the western half of the LCA and have a direct influence on the character. Traffic noise and movement from A473 is minor disruption.

LCA 80: Gower Southern Coastline

Table A8.8.5.52: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 80: Gower Southern Coastline

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
SWNSVS004 – O	NA	NA	SWNSHL400 - O	NA
SWNSVS541 – O			SWNSHL726 – O	

	Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
	SWNSHL993 - O				
A8.5.57	Located within the eastern edge of the LCA, Mumbles Hill forms the south western most part of Swansea Bay enclosing and separating it from the Gower to the west. The sloping headland of scrubby coastal heath hides remnants of military installations and there are a number of winding informal paths, popular with visitors and locals. The headland is exposed and there are open and expansive views across Swansea Bay, along the coast and out to sea, with distant views of the Exmoor coastline and on clear days, Lundy. It has a strong sense of place due to the landform providing a dividing line between Swansea Bay and the Gower.				
A8.5.58	The littoral zone comprises rock platforms, with loose rocks and scattered pools that create a strong sense of place. There are attractive views west along the coast with cliffs and beaches, that include Caswell Bay and Oxwich, that have a strong tourist presence.				

LCA 105: Pentwyn Mawr

Table A8.8.5.53: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 105: Pentwyn Mawr

	Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
	SWNSVS735 - H	NA	NA	SWNSHL107 - O	NA
A8.5.59	This area comprises an upland area, with rolling hills covered predominantly by rough grazing/moorland. The area is large in scale, exposed and remote throughout, with elevated views and a lack of human presence. The Mynydd-y-Gwair Resubmission and Mynydd y Bettws Wind Farms have a direct influence on the character. The area has high scenic value and they are attractive long views to the Gower, which add to the sense of place. Settlement pattern comprises scattered rural buildings and farmsteads. The unenclosed uplands form a continuous block showing evidence for more intensive agricultural use from the Middle Ages or Early Post-medieval periods, with activity also evident from the Bronze Age, such as extensive funerary and ritual monuments, and some mining from the 19 th century.				

LCA 106: Mynydd Uchaf and Mynydd Garth

Table A8.8.5.54: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 106: Mynydd Uchaf and Mynydd Garth

	Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
	NA	NA	NA	NPTHL029 – O	NA
	NPTHL029 - O				
A8.5.60	This area comprises an upland moorland plateau occupying the high ground between Twrch valley and Cwm Gors. The area is exposed and vast in scale, and its open, simple nature contrasts to				

the surrounding valleys, to where panoramic views are possible. The area is remote and contains no settlements with access provided by minor roads and tracks. The Mynydd-y-Gwrhyd Resubmission and Perthigwylion Wind Farms have a direct influence on the character It has been assessed as being of outstanding value as an extensive prehistoric landscape associated with funerary, ritual or field clearance activity, represented by numerous, broadly distributed remains of cairns on Mynydd Uchaf, Penllaer Fedwen and Cefn Gwrhyd (although some have now been re-interpreted as boundary markers of medieval/post-medieval date).

LCA 112: Mynydd Du

Table A8.8.5.55: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 112: Mynydd Du

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
CRMVRS015 - O	NA	NA	CRMHL40293 – O	NA
CRMVRS016 – O	CRMHL40294 – O			
BRCKNVS118 – O				
BRCKNVS363 - O				

A8.5.61 This upland area comprises a some of the most remote areas of the BBNP. It includes the open moorland and dramatic scarps and lakes of Y Mynydd Du, locus of the legend of the ‘Lady of the Lake’. It is an open, exposed landscape with few trees or settlements, but numerous prehistoric monuments and a legacy of quarrying and other industrial activity. It is a rich archaeological landscape that includes a large proportion of prehistoric ritual features, including particularly well-preserved Bronze Age ring and round cairns on summits and ridges, as well as Roman roads and camps, medieval settlement sites, and industrial archaeology associated with quarrying and lime burning. This LCA is very prominent in views from outside the National Park, particularly settlements and roads to the south. The area is notable for its outstanding scenic quality and strong sense of place stemming from the scale and openness of the landscape, the distinctive topography of the summits, and the panoramic views over the LCA and surrounding lower land. This includes magnificent views to the north-west (as far as Plynlimon) and South (over south Wales to the north Devon coast). From Mynydd Myddfai it is possible to see the entire length of the Bannau Brycheiniog ridge. There are high levels of tranquillity as a result of the landscape’s openness, perceived naturalness, lack of noise, and dark skies. Some minor indirect influence may be evident from wind farm development in LCAs to the south.

LCA 113: Forest Fawr

Table A8.8.5.56: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 113: Forest Fawr

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS307 – H	NA	NA	BRCKNHL825 - O	NA

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
BRCKNVS141 – O			BRCKNHL829 - O	
BRCKNVS955 – O				
BRCKNVS230 - O				

A8.5.62 This LCA comprises a bleak, upland moorland landscape, simple and expansive, with colours and textures varying subtly with the underlying geology. Much of the LCA remains inaccessible except on foot, giving a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. The LCA has a high scenic quality due to its dramatic landform such as Fan Gyhirych Fan Frynych and Fan Fawr, which form important parts of the Beacons skyline. The area has panoramic views and forms the backcloth to the lower valleys to the north and south. The character is influenced by its past use as a royal hunting ground and more recent estate ownership, apparent through the dry-stone boundary walls, estate cottages, shelterbelts and former rabbit farms. There are remains of prehistoric and medieval occupation, and later industrial archaeological sites. This includes the former Cnewr Estate, created in the C18th as an agri-industrial estate farming rabbits which diversified into mineral exploitation and other industries. It was served by a complex farming infrastructure and was crossed by a network of roads and tramways connecting it to the south Wales valleys and to Swansea via the Brecon and Swansea canal (and later the Swansea and Neath railway) at Ystradgynlais. Much of the area is now common land and the landscape pattern is little changed from its 19th century heyday. Some minor indirect influence may be evident from wind farm development in LCAs to the south.

LCA 145: Upper Thaw Valley

Table A8.5.57: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 145: Upper Thaw Valley

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVS864 – M	NA	NA	VLFGHL042 - H	NA
VLFGVS933 - H			VLFGHL054 - H	

A8.5.63 The area of the Thaw Valley, including the valley floor and associated valley sides that stretches up from Cowbridge up to the northern boundary of the unitary authority area, which largely follows the M4 motorway. A broad, open lowland valley characterised by large fields and in places a rectilinear pattern of drainage ditches (Penllyn Moor). A mosaic of lowland valley habitats - grassland, arable farmland, lowland meadows and drainage ditches. The steep valley sides are largely clothed in primarily deciduous areas of mixed woodland. The steep valley sides and the broad open valley floor give a dramatic sense of landscape form and character. This area represents a rich multi-period landscape, with evidence of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later

occupation, distinguished by a particularly large and broad distribution of Bronze Age funerary sites.

LCA 148: Lias Plateau

Table A8.5.58: LANDMAP aspect area evaluations – LCA 148: Lias Plateau

Visual and sensory	Landscape Habitats	Geological landscape	Historic landscape	Cultural Services
VLFGVS110 – H	NA	NA	NA	NA
VLFGVS139 - H				

A8.5.64 This LCA comprises the inland section of the west Vale plateau, a broad, low, dissected plateau which exhibits little visual, sensory or physical evidence of proximity to the coast. Rising up to some 90 m AOD, it is bounded to the north by the Northern Vale Lias Slopes and to the east by the Thaw Valley and the developed areas of St Athan and Llantwit Major. In the centre of the area is a discrete area relating to the Llandow Trading Estate, an incongruous element within the surrounding landscape. The LCA is open and rolling, predominantly arable farmed landscape with a mixture of medium and large field sizes set in a matrix of hedgerows with hedgerow trees.

Future Baseline

A8.5.65 The Y Bryn site boundary within the redline boundary will continue to be used for commercial forestry for the foreseeable future in line with the forestry design plans. Beyond the redline boundary, landscape and visual resources will continue to evolve and change over time. Operational wind farms in the wider study area are likely to be decommissioned/re-powered or may be considered for 'life extensions.' Consented and submitted windfarms may add to the operational wind farm development that are visible or likely to be experienced in the wider study area.

A8.6 SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Table A8.6.1: Scoping response comments

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
1.0 Bridgend CBC – Responses to Scoping Report		
1.1	Q14. Do consultees agree that assessing the maximum hub height available for the tip height in question is appropriate? <i>The taller the hub height, the smaller the blade length and therefore blade sweep area. This means that the likely visual effect of a turbine 250 m tall with a larger blade sweep is likely to be greater. It is suggested that the ZTVs are based on a maximum blade tip height and maximum hub height but that the visual impact assessment takes into account the maximum sweep area (as in the Rochdale envelope approach).</i>	ZTV will be produced based on the maximum blade tip height and also a ZTV based on the maximum hub height available for the proposed turbine model. The assessment of effects on seascape/landscape and visual amenity, including all visualisations will be based on the maximum swept area (i.e. largest rotor diameter) for the turbine model available.
1.2	Question 15: Do you agree with the proposed size of the study area? <i>The outer 45 km study area appears to be reasonable for development of this scale. The main concern from a BCBC point of view is the likely significant effects more locally and therefore sufficient detailed assessment should be carried out for an inner study area of 15 km supported by mapping and information at a more detailed scale such as ZTVs, viewpoints and constraints.</i>	A 45km study area is proposed to comply with current best practice guidance. However, as requested the assessment will also focus on effects. A separate set of detailed figures for a 15 km radius will be produced to support this.
1.3	Question 16: Do consultees agree with the number, location and receptor types that have been selected as the representative viewpoints in order to assess the effects on visual amenity within the study area? <i>Overall, viewpoints are acceptable but the following additional viewpoints are proposed for BCBC:</i> <i>Kenfig Burrows registered historic landscape/ Kenfig visitors carpark/ Wales Coast Path;</i> <i>Ogwr Ridgeway Walk/ nearby Y Bwlwarcau hillfort and Roman Camp;</i> <i>Cemetery/ view from eastern edge of Maesteg.</i>	We will include five of the six viewpoints requested in the SLVIA. The viewpoint from A4063 users/residents on southern edge of Croeserw is to be excluded due to its close proximity to VP1 Evans Terrace, Caerau. The additional viewpoint requested for Bettws will replace the viewpoint proposed for the Bridgend circular walk. A 2 km study area will be included for the RVAA.

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<i>Llangynwyd Conservation Area (south of cross);</i> <i>A4063 users/residents on southern edge of Croeserw; and</i> <i>Bettws.</i> <i>Study area distance of 2 km radius should be provided for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA).</i>	
1.4	Question 17: Do consultees agree with the methodology used to determine which wind farms are to be included within the cumulative assessment and also agree with the list provided in Table 12.8? <i>The list of windfarms to be considered in Table 12.8 appear to have one of two errors. It is understood that Foel Trawsnant has been consented. The turbines east of Porthcawl (e.g. Stormy Down) appear to have been omitted. These affect perceptions in these areas and should be considered. To minimise work, all of these turbines should be considered together in relation to the development.</i>	Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm development and also the wind turbines located on the Margam coastal plain will be included within the cumulative assessment. An updated cumulative methodology and list of the cumulative developments will be provided.
1.5	Question 18: Do the consultees agree with the proposed approach to assess the effects on landscape character and visual amenity? <i>General comments made on the guidance as set out in 12.2.1, some outdated.</i> Landscape <i>The factors that make a landscape more or less susceptible to a particular type and scale of development need to be set out. There are only three categories of sensitivity, Five categories are recommended.</i> <i>The magnitude of landscape effects does not include the criteria of the proposed development becoming a dominant or key characteristic of an area. The definitions of high and high/medium are very similar with the latter being too high a threshold.</i>	A seascape assessment will be included and the methodology for undertaking a SLVIA will be updated/revised. SLAs will be included as a non-statutory designation within the assessment/figures. LCAs will be derived from published Landscape Character Assessments and LANDMAP data. ZTVs will be produced for the 45 km and 15 km study areas, however these will be produced based on 'bare ground' only. Given the size of the study area and the amount of vegetation cover within it, it is considered that it would be difficult to accurately illustrate. Any changes in visibility due to changes in landcover will be assessed through field work surveys. This approach is recommended within paragraph 6.10 of GLVIA 3. Portrait photography will be used where required to ensure that the full height of the turbine is covered. However, please note that it is proposed not to include any cumulative wirelines/photographs in the 360° (4 x 90°) where there are no turbines visible. In

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	The significance of landscape effects appears to use the term 'element' where 'characteristic' would be more. The combination of sensitivity and magnitude of effect should be in line with the IEMA diagram in Appendix A. Seascape The effects on seascape are not addressed in the assessment. Visual Amenity The sensitivity of visual receptors does not mention visitors to the coast, heritage assets and country parks, all of whom would be highly sensitive. It is assumed that medium sensitivity receptors would include users of B roads. As with the landscape sensitivity, three categories do not reflect the range of sensitivities of receptors and users of motorways and A roads may be considered medium/low, not low. The significance of the visual effects indicates that defining visual elements would become subservient within the view. It is agreed that some effects of moderate significance could be significant. The method does not mention that where a series of linked moderate effects occur (e.g. along the footpath) that this may make the combined views significant. The combination of sensitivity and magnitude of effect should be in line with the IEMA diagram in Appendix A. LVIA outputs The following comments are made on the figures: • All map figures should be prepared to cover the 45 km study area and separate more detailed maps showing a 15 km study area; • It is assumed that the non-statutory landscape designations will include Special Landscape Areas; • The access and movement figures should include access land; • LANDMAP should include aspect areas in line with updated Natural	addition, from viewpoints where the extent of the proposed turbines exceeds a horizontal field of view of 53.5°, then the proposed development will be illustrated in the wirelines/photomontages with a horizontal field of view of 90°/180° with a cylindrical rather than planar projection. Removal of forestry associated with the wind farm (if visible only) will be illustrated on the photomontages. Forestry removal as shown on NRW's Forestry Design Plan not directly associated with Y Bryn Wind Farm or that lie outside of the site boundary will be illustrated on visualisations from viewpoints where it is deemed necessary to illustrate any potential changes in the view due as a result of felling. Any potential effects on landscape character and visual amenity as a result of felling will also be described within the assessment text.

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	Resources Wales Guidance Note 046 'Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA)'; January 2021. The change to cultural landscape services should be noted; • Character Areas - the method for defining these has not been identified or are they National?; • Blade tip and hub height ZTVs should be at 15 km with a 1:25k OS base as well as 45 km with a 1:50k base. They should include bare ground and landcover versions to accommodate possible changes in tree cover over the life of the development; • Viewpoints should be shown as points to give an accurate indication of their location; • Viewpoint visualisations should include the additional viewpoints suggested in Table 2; and • Location and details of access roads, battery storage and other ancillary infrastructure.	
1.6	Question 19: Do consultees see value to any particular enhancement measures? Landscape enhancement measures need to be considered hand-in-hand with biodiversity enhancement and cultural heritage measures such as interpretation. The measures should take into consideration the effects of climate change and reinforce resilience to species loss and issues such as flooding. They should be in line with NRW advice on management of forests and general climate change guidance. The clearance of forest to accommodate the development may reduce the capacity of the area to reduce run-off and this should be compensated and enhanced if at all possible. Whilst the above may be considered as benefits, they are likely to be very minor in comparison to the level of landscape and	Comments noted

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<i>visual effects. Whilst they need to be set out clearly with appropriate commitments, they should not be used to obscure the overall residual effects.</i>	
2.0 Neath Port Talbot CBC – Responses to Scoping Report		
2.1	<i>Comments as above for Bridgend CBC where applicable to NPTCBC.</i>	Responses as above for Bridgend CBC, where applicable to NPTCBC. Additional viewpoints will be provided for: • Margam Park visitor access road; and. • Bryn East.
3.0 Swansea Council		
3.1	<i>Request for an additional viewpoint to take account of potential impacts on the Gower AONB and across Swansea Bay.</i>	Viewpoint included in the SLVIA from Oxwich Point, (Viewpoint 29). Wireline and photograph of existing view only to be produced due to distance.
3.2	<i>Gower Landscape Character Assessment 2013 to inform the baseline character assessment to be added to the reference documents.</i>	Noted and will be addressed in the SLVIA.
4.0 Vale of Glamorgan Council		
4.1	<i>Request for an additional viewpoint to take account of potential impacts on the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.</i>	Viewpoint included in the SLVIA from Nash Point, (Viewpoint 30). Wireline and photograph of existing view only to be produced due to distance.
5.0 NRW		
5.1	<i>Q14: Do consultees agree that assessing the maximum hub height available for the tip height in question is appropriate?</i> <i>We suggest that the combination of maximum blade tip and hub height need to be assessed for the worst-case scenario. It is the overall scale of the turbines, including the height and swept area of the blades and scale of hub/column that affects visual impact. The maximum size of turbine potentially to be used should be assessed.</i>	We note that you suggest that a combination of maximum blade tip height and hub height needs to be assessed. However, using the maximum rotor diameter available for the proposed turbine size is standard practice and in addition, both NPTCBC and BCBC have confirmed in their responses that maximum rotor diameter should be used to assess the effects on landscape character and visual amenity and to be shown within the visualisations.
5.2	<i>Q16: Do consultees agree with the number, location and receptor types that have been selected as the representative viewpoints in order to assess the effects on visual amenity within the study area?</i> <i>We advise that a photograph, wireline and photomontage from viewpoints in the Gower AONB and BBNP should be</i>	With regards to the additional viewpoints requested, please note that we propose to include an additional viewpoint from the Beacons Way National Trail, at Esgair Hir (OS co-ords 277735, 220298), which will illustrate views from Y Mynydd Du area of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. Please note that the viewpoint from Esgair Hir is approximately 27 km to the nearest turbine and will, in our opinion, be best represented as a

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<i>included in the assessment, given the scale of the development and sensitivities of these areas. We suggest an additional viewpoint from the Y Mynydd Du area of the BBNP to cover potential impacts on this part of the area.</i>	wireline, and therefore the preparation of a photomontage from this location has been excluded.
5.3	<i>Q17: Do consultees agree with the methodology used to determine which wind farms are to be included within the cumulative assessment and also agree with the list provided in Table 12.8?</i> <i>We consider the methodology generally sound, subject to the above comments. Section 12.4.13 states that the intention is to produce photomontages from only 10 viewpoints. This seems a small number considering the scale of development and likely to require reconsideration following stakeholder comments.</i>	From the 37 no. viewpoints which are to be assessed, it is proposed to produce a photomontage from 23 of these. Please note that paragraph 8.15 of GLVIA 3 states that “ <i>it will not usually be possible to produce a visualisation from every viewpoint</i> ” and paragraph 160 of SNH’s Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2 (February 2017) notes that “ <i>Given the limitations of depicting turbines in photomontages, their production will usually be of most value for views within 20 km of a wind farm site, for turbines up to 150 m high to blade tip. At distances greater than this it can be difficult to represent the turbines well on a photomontage</i> ”. While we acknowledge that the proposed turbines are greater than 150 m to blade tip, we believe that the above still stand true, as with long range views, atmospheric conditions, such as haze, typically reduces the clarity of the view. Therefore, we have excluded photomontages from viewpoints that are either greater than 20 km away from the nearest turbine and for practical reasons, viewpoints located within open water.
5.4	<i>Q18: Do the consultees agree with the proposed approach to assess the effects on landscape character and visual amenity?</i> <i>We note the proposals under section 12.4.14 and advise that changes to forestry as shown on the Forest Design Plans need to be presented on drawings overlaid with the wind farm proposals and forestry proposals associated with the development, as well as being described, to allow a detailed picture to be analysed. It may be that annotated photographs would be required in some instances.</i>	Photomontages will illustrate removal of forestry associated within the wind farm (if visible) only. Forestry removal as shown on NRW’s Forestry Design Plan or not directly associated with Y Bryn Wind Farm that lie outside of the site boundary will not be shown on the photomontages. Any potential effects of removal within the site boundary on landscape character and visual amenity will be described within the assessment text. In addition to your response to the specific questions within the scoping report, several other more general points were also raised in your response, which are addressed.
5.5	<i>We advise that changes to landscape character and the way the landscape is experienced also includes the scenic qualities of views from a landscape at a distance from a development and impacts</i>	Perceptual qualities will be considered within our descriptions of each LCA. These will be established during the baseline assessment and will be informed by field assessment and desktop studies of available published material, including

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	<i>on perceptual qualities such as tranquillity, wildness and remoteness.</i>	existing landscape character assessments and LANDMAP data.
5.6	<i>Cadw and the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trusts (GGAT) should be consulted with regard to Historic Landscapes on the Register of Historic Landscapes in Wales, of which there are several in the Study Area.</i>	Noted.
5.7	<i>We note that aviation lighting will be required for turbines of this scale, as confirmed in section 20.2.12. Night-time photographs/photomontages would therefore be required in this case and acknowledge that section 12.4.13 states that key night-time visualisations would be produced.</i>	To confirm it is proposed that of the 37 no. viewpoint locations assessed as part of the SLVIA, five will be chosen to be included within the aviation lighting assessment. Night-time photomontages will be prepared from all five viewpoints.
5.8	<i>The Melincourt windfarm, Resolven, which was approved in 2014 under Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council planning reference P2014/0883 should also be included in Table 12.8: Cumulative Wind Farms.</i>	To confirm, the Melincourt Wind Farm, near Resolven will be included as part of the cumulative assessment.
5.9	<i>Our advice on this chapter relates to the potential impacts on the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP).</i> <i>LANDMAP - guidance note has now been updated;</i> <i>Reference should be made to the respective Management Plans of the Gower AONB AND BBNP including their special qualities, when assessing impacts on these landscapes; and</i> <i>Additionally, a seascape assessment should be included in the EIA as the proposal could impact on the seascape to the south. A local seascape character assessment has been produced for Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay which may aid your assessment.</i>	We note that the LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 has been updated with Guidance Note 46 and this current guidance will be followed within the SLVIA. Reference will be made to all relevant management plans including the Gower AONB and BBNP Management Plans. We will include a seascape assessment.

Table A8.6.2: Pre-application consultation (PAC) response comments

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
1.0 Bridgend CBC		
	<i>The SLVIA (Seascape, Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment) now presented contains a large volume of data that has been collected and it is considered generally sufficient. However, there are some points of omission, notably the impacts of such a large scale proposal on:</i> <i>Groups of visual receptors</i> <i>Individual receptors such as dwellings and long distances walking routes</i> <i>How the landscape is currently experienced.</i> <i>It is therefore considered there is insufficient evaluation information provided in the SLVIA, in an appropriate form, for the effects of the proposed scheme to be fully understood and assessed in relation to the overarching policy. There is a large volume of information provided but there is no narrative describing how receptors experience the landscape and how the proposed change would alter perception. For example, only 17 of the 120 dwellings likely to experience significant changes in view have been physically visited. This is an omission, all of these receptors should have been visited individually. The routes of the long distance paths have also not been sufficiently analysed in terms of how the proposed development would change the experience of a path user.</i>	The SLVIA has assessed the effects on visual amenity on a wide range of receptor types and groups within the 45 km radius study area. Specific viewpoints were selected and agreed to represent the most sensitive visual receptor groups i.e. walkers on long distance footpaths, visitors to recognised tourist destination or where effects on visual amenity are likely to be greatest. There may be a range of different receptor groups at each viewpoint, however the narrative that prepared focusses on the most sensitive of these receptor types to ensure that the ‘worst case’ scenario is evaluated. This is reflected within the conclusions of the assessment. With regards to the RVAA and visiting each of the 120 properties, the approach taken, is further clarified within paragraph A8.16.3, Appendix 8.16 of the ES. Further consideration of long distance footpath users is considered within section 8.12 of the ES.
	<i>The original scoping consultation report suggested a study area out to 45km. And an inner study area of 15km, supported by mapping information at a more detailed scale, is necessary. It is noted that in the figures file there is insufficient detail provided on the 15km study area figures. Additional figures are required for the 15km study area. For example, Figure 8.39: LANDMAP Aspect Areas Identified with Potential for Significant Effects: Visual and Sensory Evaluation, is only included at 45km and it is very hard to read the detail within the 15km area when viewed at A3.</i>	Additional figures have been provided for 15 km study area.
	<i>The amount of forestry needing to be felled is recorded in the ES. The total felling required for constructing the proposed development is set out as being 119.24ha. However, being told that it is</i>	Forestry removal has been assessed in detail through selected viewpoints agreed with NRW. These viewpoints were selected where visibility of forestry removal within the site was anticipated most due to proximity to the site and the nature of the

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<i>equivalent to only 4.7% of the study area does not describe the effect sufficiently, and analysis in relation to a long-distance walker experience and the resultant patterns as observed from public rights of way including long distance named paths, for example is essential for the full evaluation of effects to be at a standard required for an ES for such a large-scale development.</i> <i>There is no mention in the landscape and visual impact assessment of the changing patterns that the forestry felling would create, there is only raw data presentation of the area of forestry to be removed. The experience of the landscape through the loss of this forestry in terms of the patterns created is a direct effect as well as an effect on character and needs to be fully evaluated.</i>	view. Within sections on physical landscape effects and the LCA operational assessment, forestry removal has also been assessed, particularly for LCA's 7 and 12. Additional assessment has been added to address effects of forestry removal on users of the long distance footpaths through the site and beyond up to 5km, as part of the sequential assessment.
	<i>The summing up of effects in terms of how the landscape is experienced is absent.</i>	Significant effects on landscape character and both statutory and non-statutory landscape designations is provided in section 8.6 of Chapter 8 of the ES. A summary of conclusions of effects is provided in section 8.9 of Chapter 8. Non significant effects on landscape character and both statutory and non-statutory landscape designations is provided in Appendix 8.7, and 8.10 respectively. Non significant cumulative effects are assessed in Appendix 8.12
	<i>Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Site Selection and Design Evolution talks about the evolution of turbine sizes based on technology but makes no assessment of scale of turbine in relation to landscape scale and form.</i> <i>Therefore, the consideration of alternatives is flawed, and more information in relation to the exploration of other forms of turbine configurations numbers and heights is missing from the report alongside analysis that goes with that. Therefore, the report does not read as being landscape led but led by technology. The output from each of the 18 turbines is assessed as being 6.6 megawatts. However, shorter turbines, whilst having less</i>	Refer to Chapter 4 of the ES.

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
	<i>output, could be more readily accommodated in this landscape and a higher number of much smaller turbines may be more easily accommodated in this landscape and visual terms. This is an omission that potentially needs to be expanded upon in the full submission.</i>	
	<i>The proposed development is larger proportionately than the scale of the landscape, and one turbine T6 in the north-east of the southern cluster, particularly adds to the magnitude of effects on residential receptors and should be considered for removal from the proposals. The reason behind this is that:</i> <i>• This is one of the turbines that is likely to be most visible from the views afforded by the large population in Maesteg and closest to the north-eastern plateau edge. There is a front row of five turbines with T6 in front of these when viewed from Maesteg, and the view would be more harmonious without this turbine.</i> <i>• This turbine sits on higher ground than T7 and T8 and the flow of turbines across landform would be smoother in the absence of this turbine.</i>	From VP27, overlooking Maesteg from the Cemetery, T6 is of a similar scale and proportion as a number of other turbines, which together form an equally spaced arrangement along the skyline, (T8, T9, T10 and T11). To the rear of these turbines, to varying scales, the turbine arrangement will be seen as receding beyond the skyline. The cohesion of the layout would be reduced by the omission of T6 as T7 may be perceived as an outlier. The removal of this turbine may result in an irregular layout, and as noted in paragraph 2.29 of, 'Siting and Designing Wind Farms in The Landscape, (Version 3a 2017, NatureScot)', this may result in negative effects such as uneven visual density of wind turbines and turbine outliers separate from the main group.
	<i>The scale and form of the proposals are such that local residents and communities are likely to undergo significant visual effects with dominant or prominent turbines, and in some cases, residents may suffer unacceptable effect on residential visual amenity.</i>	The RVVA identifies properties where the threshold to visual amenity may be breached However, as noted in paragraph 1.9 of the Landscape Institutes Residential Visual Amenity Assessment, LI Technical Guidance Note 2/19 "Landscape professionals should confine their judgement to Residential Visual Amenity. The final judgement regarding effect on Residential Amenity (which to greater or lesser extent may be informed by the judgement formed by the landscape

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		<i>professional in respect of Residential Visual Amenity) is a planning matter and requires weighing all factors and likely effects (positive as well as negative) in the 'planning balance'. This is a matter for qualified planners and not for landscape professionals". Therefore, whether the effects are 'unacceptable' is beyond the scope of the RVAA.</i>
	<i>There are some concerns raised about the quality of data and impact of the turbines on the settlements within Bridgend notably Caerau, Llangynwyd and Maesteg towards the east of the site, particularly in relation to the experience of being in and around and living in these settlements including cumulative effects and the effects of two clusters on these areas with the impacts not clearly articulated in the SLVIA (although it is noted Chapter 8 of the ES specifically highlights and concludes there will be significant individual effects and cumulative effects on numerous Landscape Character Areas including Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry (42), and Maesteg(57)).</i>	Visual effects from Caerau are assessed in VP1 – Evans Terrace Caerau, from Maesteg from VP13 – Junction of Heol Gelli Lenor and Brynlywarch and VP27 Maesteg Cemetery – Eastern Edge of Maesteg and from Llangynwyd – VP28 Llangynwyd. Significant effects on visual amenity have been identified from all four of these viewpoints. Effects on landscape character, including the settlements of Llangynwyd, which is assessed as part of LCA 42 and Maesteg which is assessed as part of LCA 57. Effects on landscape character from these LCAs has been acknowledged as significant within the SLVIA, however additional text to these LCAs has been included to provide further clarity to the assessment.
	<i>The format however of the reporting of the cumulative assessment and quality of data analysis does not enable a reader to fully understand how the addition of the proposed development would alter the perception of the landscape or views from visual receptors sufficiently well. There is an over reliance on the analysis of individual viewpoints and of the assessor drawing conclusions on the basis of 37 individual points in the landscape rather than looking at groups of receptors and routes more thoroughly. There is generally a limited assessment of impacts on users of outdoor recreation space.</i>	The approach taken to assess the cumulative effects was agreed with BCBC during the Scoping stage of the project (refer to Question 17 in scoping comments and Simon Whites report to BCBC titled “Response to Scoping Report in Relation to Landscape and Visual and Cultural Heritage Matters” (February 2021). Given the extent of the study area and diverse range of visual receptors, it not possible to group these together. The cumulative assessment on visual amenity within the SLVIA was assessed from selected viewpoints. This approach is line with the NatureScot document ‘Assessing the Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (March 2021)’, which states that “The selection of cumulative viewpoints should be based on an analysis of the draft cumulative ZTVs, ideally at the initial scoping stage of the LVIA so that, as far as possible, viewpoints are selected which will serve both the LVIA and CLVIA”. Further to this paragraph 6.20 within the

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		Landscape Institute “Guidelines for Landscape and Visal Impact Assessment (GLVIA) 3” states that the selection of final viewpoints should be take account of “the potential for cumulative views of the proposed development in conjunction with other developments” This guidance has been followed and therefore we do not consider that there has been an over reliance on individual viewpoints.
	<i>In summary, it is considered that there are a few parts of the ES that require attention on terms of outputs, notably:</i> <i>• The construction stage effects appear to be underplayed, with it being anticipated significant effects from a development of this form and scale and extent. The detail of the 15 km study area needs to be more carefully considered in the SLVIA, in particular figures need to be included but cover this study area in addition to the figures included for the 45km study area.</i> <i>• There is a large volume of information provided but there is no narrative describing how receptors experience the landscape and how the proposed change would alter perception.</i> <i>• A more thorough assessment needs to be undertaken of the changing experience for a walker using the long distance paths in both directions around the site, including cumulative changes, with descriptions of how the view would change along the routes, including cumulative changes.</i> <i>• All of the 120 residential receptors likely to be afforded significant effects should be visited to make the assessment more robust.</i> <i>• Whilst the turbine numbers have been reduced, consideration should be given to the removal of turbine 6 from the scheme and an alternative smaller turbine being used throughout the scheme.</i>	The assessment has been revisited and text amended to note that construction phase effects focus on direct effects. This is due to it being considered that any indirect effects would be no worse than experienced during the operational phase of the development as they are likely to be similar in nature and therefore have been scoped out. Significant direct effects during the construction phase are noted in Section 8.6. Additional figures for 15 km study area have also been provided. Perceptual characteristics are provided within LANDMAP and these provide a basis for our baseline assessment for the character of the landscape. In line with the agreed assessment methodology any changes in landscape character are assessed against this LANDMAP data to ensure that the assessment is as objective as possible. Where perceptual; qualities form a key character of the LCA, these are considered within the SLVIA, both individually and cumulatively. We consider that any further narrative is unnecessary. As per the assessment of effects on seascape/landscape character, effects on visual amenity were based on an agreed methodology. As noted above there may be a range of different receptor groups at each viewpoint, however the narrative prepared focusses on the most sensitive of these receptor types to ensure that the ‘worst case’ scenario is evaluated. The visual assessment considers how the most sensitive receptors at each viewpoint will experience/perceive the view. Further consideration of long distance footpath users within proximity to the site (Ogwr Ridgeway Walk and St. Illtyd’s Way) is considered within section 8.7 of the ES.

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		With regards to the RVAA and visiting each of the 120 properties, the approach taken, is further clarified within paragraph A8.16.3, Appendix 8.16 of the ES.
2.0 NPCPC		
	<i>The Chapter of the ES supports the view that the proposal will have a high negative local impact in terms of its landscape and visual effects. At this time we concur with this view, and raise concerns specifically on the impacts identified within Margam SLA, a Registered Historic Park and Garden. The information provided at this time does not in our view override these concerns to an appropriate level.</i>	Additional viewpoints have been produced to illustrate the effects on visual amenity within the Margam Park RHPG - refer to Cultural and Heritage chapter (Chapter 9) of the ES. Reference to these figures together with additional assessment text has been included within Section 8.7.
	<i>In addition it is considered that the proposed access off the M4 has not been given adequate space within the submitted documents, and the impacts of this not clearly identified within the existing submission. As a fundamental part of the proposals we would request that this intrinsic part of the development is brought to the fore within the submission, and appropriately assessed. There is very limited information within the PAC documentation on this and what is provided is limited and difficult to access.</i>	Additional assessment text regarding AIL (Abnormal Indivisible Load) access road included within Section 8.7, Section A8.9 and Section A8.12
3.0 Anne Priscott on behalf of LPAs		
	<i>I consider that whilst generally the proposed development is larger proportionately than the scale of the landscape, there is just one turbine T6 in the north east of the southern cluster that particularly adds to the magnitude of effects on residential receptors and should be considered for removal from the proposals. The reasons I have particular concerns over this turbine are that it is:</i> <i>a) the closest turbine to Bryn. With the removal of this turbine the proximity of development would be closer to 2km (e.g. T6 is 1.46 from Viewpoint 3), and by removing this turbine the horizontal angle of view taken up by turbines closest to the settlement would be narrowed."</i>	From the play area within Bryn (VP3) and from Old School Court, which are both located within the more elevated northern parts of the village, T6 would be prominent on the edge of the southern cluster of turbines. The nearest turbine to these views would be T7 and this turbine would appear marginally more prominent on the ridgeline than T6. However, the residential wirelines produced for the RVAA indicates that from the majority of the lower lying and central areas within Bryn, for example Chapel Terrace, Bryngurnos Street and Heol Penhydd, T6 is proportional in scale to many of the other turbines within the southern section. While we acknowledge that its removal would marginally narrow the horizontal field of view, the degree to which any benefits of its removal would be

Item	Comment	SBC Comment/Action
		perceptible would noticeably vary across the extent of the village. From all locations within Bryn that have been assessed, it is considered that the conclusions reached would remain the same even if T6 was to be removed.
	<i>There is no mention of the two 113m tall met masts in the SLVIA. Linked to this point, I disagree with the assessor's conclusion that there would be no significant effects on the fabric or character of the landscape, or visual receptors, during the construction stage despite what I would class as, using the assessor's own methodology, a high magnitude of change (The proposed development would result in a large-scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character. The extent of the impact will result in a considerable change. Impacts may occur over a wide area and would likely be permanent or long-term). In particular, there is no assessment of the access route and the impact this will have on views looking northeast from the environs of Margam. I therefore conclude that the construction stage effects have been underplayed, particularly on the users of the St Illtyd's Walk that will need to be physically diverted.</i>	Effects of met masts on visual amenity have been included within the assessment.
	<i>The scale and form of the proposals are such that local residents and communities are likely to undergo significant visual effects with dominant or prominent turbines, and in some cases, residents may suffer unacceptable effect on residential visual amenity. The settlements of Duffryn and Maesteg lie to the east, Port Talbot, Margam and Cwmafan to the west and Bryn in the middle of the proposed development. I have concerns over the quality of data analysis, particularly in relation to the experience of being in and around and living in Bryn, including cumulative effects, and the effects of the two clusters impacting on different sides of</i>	Effects on residential visual amenity have been assessed in accordance with LI Guidance Note TGN 2/19. The study area was expanded to 2km to address Scoping stage comments. Detailed consideration of effects on residents/communities is provided within the RVAA for Bryn and parts of Maesteg where they fall within the 2km study area. The SLVIA includes viewpoints at Maesteg (2 no.), Cwmafon (1 no.), Bryn (2no.), Margam (1 no.). Furthermore, many parts of the settlements mentioned fall outwith the ZTV, particularly Margam, Port Talbot and Dyffryn.

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	<i>settlement. The impacts on Maesteg are not clearly articulated in the SLVIA.</i>	
	<i>Setting of Margam Historic Park and Garden. The effect on the setting of the Margam Historic Park and Garden and associated visitors to the Country Park forms a key consideration of effects on highly sensitive landscape and visual receptors. I am concerned that the effects on these receptors has been underplayed.</i>	Additional viewpoints have been produced to illustrate the effects on visual amenity within the Margam Park RHPG - refer to Cultural and Heritage chapter (Chapter 9) of the ES. Reference to these figures together with additional assessment text has been included within Section 8.7. to support SLVIA conclusions.
4.0 NRW		
	<i>We require the following in order to undertake site visits to inform our position on whether reported moderate effects are significant or not, and whether the overall effects on the National Park and AONB are acceptable in the context of Future Wales and PPW.</i>	Photomontage prepared for VP7, VP29 and VP31. Hard copies of visualisation pack to be provided.
	<i>We require:</i> • A photomontage from Vp 31 Esgair Hir • A photomontage from Vp 7 Gower Way National Trail, Cefn Bryn • A photomontage from Vp 29 Oxwich Point • Hard copies of the updated visualisation pack relating to Vp 6, Vp 7, Vp 9, Vp 14, Vp 18, Vp 31, Vp 29.	
	<i>In addition to the above, we advise that the SLVIA is updated to include:</i> <i>An assessment of the impact on the first Special Quality described in the Management Plan for the Brecon Beacons National Park 2015-2020, which is 'A National Park offering peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal'.</i>	Additional text included within SLVIA to include an assessment of the special qualities of the BBNP as described within the current Management Plan.
	<i>An assessment of the impacts on LCA 80 which includes parts of LCA 33 Limeslade described in the Gower Assessment, 2013 and Aspect Area SWNSVS004 (Mumbles Hill) which has an outstanding evaluation due in part to the 'outstanding views across Swansea Bay'. The impact</i>	LCA 80 – Gower Southern Coastline has now been assessed within the SLVIA.

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	<i>on the qualities described in these assessments should be considered.</i>	
	<i>In relation to potential impacts on the Gower AONB, we advise that it is the turbines within the southern parcel (T7-T18) that have the greatest impact on views and visual amenity. This is due to their height and location on a prominent site, Mynydd Margam, overlooking Swansea Bay. Unlike the turbines in the northern parcel, Turbines T7-T18 are not located within a PAA and therefore they should not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the setting of the AONB. In order to avoid such impacts, it may be necessary to reduce the heights of these turbines in particular.</i>	As noted within EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, March 2023) 'The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent. The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project. The receiving landscape/seascape is very large in scale and while it is acknowledged that the proposed turbines will form a recognisable feature on the skyline. It is considered that the proposed development will be accommodated into the seascape/landscape without dominating or changing the key features and therefore the integrity of the view. It should be noted that it will occupy only a small proportion of the horizontal view and the vertical scale of the proposed development is considered to be able to be accommodated within the large scale landscape/seascape. The key visual attractors such as the sweep of Swansea Bay, the open water and the backcloth of hills enclosing the bay would remain as the key defining features that are integral to the view.
	<i>The SLVIA assesses the effect at Vp 31 Esgair Hir to be slight and not significant. In relation to cumulative effects scenarios for consented wind farms and application wind farms the SLVIA concludes the effect would be slight and negligible respectively and both not significant. The cumulative effect with wind farms at the scoping stage is assessed as slight- moderate and not significant. We advise we cannot yet agree with the conclusions reached in relation to Vp 31.</i>	Whilst it is agreed that the proposed development would expand the existing spread of development seen from the BBNP, as illustrated by Figure 8.75a – 8.75d the proposed development would occupy only a small part of the same distant horizon that is already strongly characterised by other distant wind farms.' A photomontage prepared for VP31 (refer to Figure 8.75). Hard copy to be provided.

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	As illustrated in the submitted baseline photography and wirelines (ES Figures 8.75a – 8.75e), the development would extend the influence of wind turbine development across the field of view, exacerbating the impact of existing turbines on the scenic quality of views. This impact would be compounded by turbines within Fforch Dwm if permitted (currently at scoping). No photomontage has been prepared from Vp 31. We advise that a photomontage should be prepared to illustrate the impact of the proposals on this receptor and the landscape character of Y Mynydd Du more generally, as discussed below. A hard copy of the updated visualisation pack should be provided for use on our on-site assessment. This will inform our position on whether we agree with the SLVIA conclusions in relation to Vp 31.	
	The SLVIA assesses the impacts on two landscape character areas within the BBNP: • LCA 112: Mynydd Du; and • LCA 113: Forest Fawr. These LCAs are similar to LCAs 2: Y Mynydd Du and LCA 3: Fforest Fawr described in the assessment for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, 2012 (BBNP Assessment, 2012). The SLVIA considers both LCAs have a very high sensitivity to the proposed development, but it assesses the magnitude of change to be negligible. The overall effect on both LCAs is assessed to be moderate adverse and not significant, both individually and in relation to all cumulative impact scenarios assessed. The assessment of effects on LCAs 112 and 113 (Page A8-36) concludes these areas have a high susceptibility to change as a result of the proposed development. Referring to the landscape attributes within these LCAs, the supporting text explains that ‘It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed without causing a change to overall character’. It is not clear from the assessment why the magnitude of change is then found to be negligible, which is defined in the SLVIA as: ‘The proposed development would result in such a minor scale loss or alteration to key elements of seascape/landscape character that there would be no perceptible impact.’. The two statements are not compatible.	The assessment on LCA’s 112 and 113 have been revisited as part of the SLVIA assessment presented in the ES. The conclusions of these assessments were found to be incorrectly reported in the PAC submission, particularly in relation to the susceptibility and sensitivity assessments. These errors have been corrected, please see section A8.8 of the SLVIA.

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	We advise that a photomontage from Vp 31 should be provided in order to support the assessment of effects in relation to LCA 112. Based on the wirelines submitted, we consider the proposed development is likely to have a perceptible impact on landscape qualities within LCA 112. For example, it is expected to have a perceptible impact on scenic qualities .1 such as the ‘panoramic views over the LCA and surrounding lower land’. Further, as evidenced in the ZTV (ES Figure 8.43), impacts similar to those at Vp 31 may be experienced across large parts of LCA 112. The ZTV shows theoretical visibility of all 18 turbines at blade tip height across roughly half of LCA 112. This includes visibility across areas within the BBNP closer to the development site than Vp 31. The SLVIA methodology states: ‘Where effects are determined to have moderate significance, whether these effects are significant or not significant will depend on the individual and specific mitigating circumstances and the professional opinion of the landscape specialist will determine this. If any given receptors are subject to a series of moderate effects, such as a long path or road corridor, the combined effects may be considered to be significant’. In our experience, where a national park is the receptor, a moderate effect has the potential to erode landscape integrity, harming public perceptions of special qualities such as natural beauty (scenic quality) and tranquillity. As a result of the combined effects on views from different parts of LCA 112, we advise that the proposed development may result in a moderate but significant effect overall. The combination of visual impacts resulting from the proposed development, particularly in combination with other existing developments, is likely to harm scenic qualities within the National Park. However, to be able to confirm whether moderate effects in this instance are significant, we will need to undertake site visits with the benefit of a visualisation pack. ES Appendix 8.11 includes an overall assessment on the BBNP. It concludes that the effect on the National Park will be slight adverse and not	The assessment on LCA’s 112 and 113 have been revisited as part of the SLVIA assessment presented in the ES. The conclusions of these assessments were found to be incorrectly reported in the PAC submission, particularly in relation to the susceptibility and sensitivity assessments. These errors have been corrected, please see section A8.8 of the SLVIA. However, as illustrated from VP31, which now includes a photomontage (refer to Figure 8.75f) the proposed development would occupy only a small part of the same distant horizon that is already strongly characterised by other distant wind farms. Conclusions however remain as previously submitted. Visualisation pack as requested to be provided.

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	<i>significant. Based on our findings, we cannot yet agree with this conclusion. On receipt of a hard copy of the visualisation pack we will undertake site visits to inform our position on whether reported moderate effects are significant or not, and whether the overall conclusion with regards to the effect on the National Park is acceptable in the context of Future Wales and PPW.</i> <i>Vp 6 is taken from Mumbles Hill. Photomontages from this Vp are included as ES Figures 8.50a–8.50h.</i> <i>The corresponding assessment in ES Appendix 8.9 concludes that the effects on visual receptors at Vp 6 will be moderate adverse but not significant. The SLVIA reaches the same conclusion in relation to all cumulative impact scenarios. In our experience, moderate adverse visual effects on visitors to an AONB have the potential to erode public perceptions of natural beauty, conflicting with PPW and part of the purpose of the designation to conserve and enhance natural beauty.</i>	As noted within EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (Dept. for Energy Security and Net Zero, March 2023) ‘The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent. The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project. While it is acknowledged that the proposed turbines will form a recognisable feature on the skyline, the proposed development is located at a distance of 18 km from the boundary of the AONB. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed development will be accommodated into the seascape/landscape without dominating or changing the key features and therefore the integrity of the view. The setting of the AONB and it’s special qualities will not be eroded and therefore the integrity of the AONB will be retained.
	<i>We disagree with aspects of the reasoning provided in the SLVIA in relation to its assessment of Vp 6. In particular, we do not agree from this location that ‘to an extent the turbines will be subsumed within the extensive array of operational wind farm development along the skyline’ (Paragraph A8.9.34). With reference to the photomontage in Figure 8.50f, we advise that rather than being subsumed within the context of existing turbines, the proposed turbines will contrast with existing turbines and stand out as distinctly new features because:</i>	The assessment has been revisited to ensure robustness of assessment and justification of effects conclusions. Whilst some adjustment has been made to the description of effect the conclusions remain as previously submitted. It has clearly been recognised throughout the assessment that the proposed development turbines are of a larger scale than existing turbines. It is also recognised in the assessment that this larger scale is a contributing factor of magnitude in certain views, particularly when a contrast in scale occurs. It is not the case however that the proposed development turbines would appear as entirely new features within this context as there is an established baseline of existing wind turbines

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	• <i>The proposed turbines have maximum tip heights of either 206m, 230m or 250m and are therefore significantly larger than existing turbines in the view.</i> • <i>The prominent location of turbines in the southern parcel (T7- T18) on Mynydd Margam overlooking Swansea Bay.</i> • <i>Both towers and rotor blades on the proposed turbines in the southern parcel (T7- T18) will be visible above the horizon as new skyline features.</i>	experienced from many views, including within the same part of the distant horizon seen from Vp 6.
	<i>Currently, views from Mumbles Hill (Vp 6) across Swansea Bay are characterised by a relatively balanced mixture of natural and built features. Swansea Bay has outstanding integrity as an intertidal landscape and its scenic qualities are complemented by the range of enclosing hills. While these same views feature substantial urban areas and notable detractors such as the Port Talbot steelworks, the scale of the Bay and the dark backcloth of hills behind has, to a degree, enabled these elements to be absorbed without dominating the natural scenic qualities of the Bay. These qualities provide a positive setting to the AONB and contribute to the visual amenity experienced by its visitors.</i> <i>Due to the scale of the proposed turbines and their visually prominent location the development is likely to dominate views east across the Bay from Mumbles Hill, where it would detract from the scenic quality of views and visual amenity. The turbines would appear out of scale with existing built elements and potentially with the topography of the landscape in which they are located. They would exacerbate the presence of detractors such as ‘The turbines on Mynydd Brombil and solar farm on Mynydd Emroch’3 and ultimately may tip the balance between built and natural features in the view. To be able to confirm whether moderate effects in this instance are significant, we will need to undertake a site visit with the benefit of a visualisation pack.</i> <i>ES Appendix 8.11 includes an overall assessment on the Gower AONB. It concludes that the effect on the</i>	The assessment of LCA 80 has now been included to ensure robustness of assessment and justification of effects conclusions. It has clearly been recognised throughout the assessment that the proposed development turbines are of a larger scale than existing turbines. It is also recognised in the assessment that this larger scale is a contributing factor of magnitude in certain views, particularly when a contrast in scale occurs (as illustrated in Vp 6). It is not the case however that the proposed development turbines would appear as entirely new features within this context as there is an established baseline of existing wind turbines experienced from many views, including from eastern parts of the coastal strip, which include LCA 80 and a small area of Gower AONB. Visualisation pack to be provided.

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	<i>AONB will be slight adverse and not significant. Based on our findings, we cannot yet agree with this conclusion. On receipt of a hard copy of the visualisation pack we will undertake site visits to inform our position on whether reported moderate effects are significant or not, and whether the overall conclusion with regards to the effect on the AONB is acceptable in the context of Future Wales and PPW.</i>	