

Appendix 8

Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

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Glossary

Term	Definition
Baseline Studies	Work done to determine and describe the environmental conditions against which any future changes can be measured or predicted and assessed.
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 statue 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 Statement	A document reporting the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and produced in accordance with the EIA Regulations.
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.

Term	Definition
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.
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.

Term	Definition
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined seascape/landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
The proposed development	Y Bryn Wind Farm development.
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 Load
BCBC	Bridgend County Borough Council
CCBC	Caerphilly County Borough Council
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council
CRoW	Countryside and Rights of Way Act
DNS	Development of National Significance
ES	Environmental Statement
km	Kilometre
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
m	Metres
MW	Megawatts
NC	Newport City Council
NCR	National Cycle Routes
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NPTCBC	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
NSIP	Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project
PAA	Pre-Assessed Areas
RCTCBC	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
REP	Renewable Energy Park
SAC	Site of Area of Conservation
SC	Swansea Council
SCA	Seascape Character Area
SINC	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SLVIA	Seascape Landscape Visual Impact Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Areas
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TCBC	Torfaen County Borough Council
VILL	Visually Important Local Landscape
VoGC	Vale of Glamorgan Council
VP	Viewpoint
WWTW	Welsh Water Treatment Works

A8.7 POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON SEASCAPE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

A8.7.1 This section looks at both the effects on seascape and landscape character during the operational phase of the proposed development. It is anticipated that the operational life of the wind farm would last for up to 50 years.

Potential Effects on Seascape Character

A8.7.2 The significance of effects on seascape character as a result of the proposed development during the operational phase, has been assessed against the significance criteria defined in Appendix 8.1. The location of the Seascape Character Areas (SCA) within the study area are shown in *Figure 8.44: Seascape Character Areas with Theoretical Visibility of Y Bryn Wind Farm Identified with Potential for Significant Effects*.

A8.7.3 Where it was identified that there will be no cumulative effects at either consented, application or scoping stage, no further assessment has been provided.

SCA 02: Carmarthen Bay East

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.4 This area is simple, unspoilt and remote with panoramic views out to sea and across the Loughor Estuary to the Gower and its hills. Views further east beyond the Gower are unavailable. This is a seascape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Seascape Value

A8.7.5 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. There multiple designations extending into this seascape. The coast of Gower is covered by both a Heritage Coast and an AONB designation. The Gower and the Taf and Teifi Estuaries are designated as Landscapes of Outstanding/Special Historic Interest. Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries is designated as a Special Landscape Area (SLA). There are also designations covering natural heritage and conservation values, including Site of Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), National Nature Reserve (NNR) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Overall, this SCA is considered to be of high to outstanding value.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.6 The seascape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.7 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of 16-18 turbines across this open and largely unspoilt seascape. However, the proposed development will be potentially viewed at distances exceeding

35 km. At this distance it is predicted that it will occupy a very limited proportion of any views and may also be screened entirely by intervening topography and vegetation on the Gower Peninsula to the east of the SCA. It is considered that there will be no perceptible impact on the overall quality of available views or any key characteristics of this SCA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.8 The seascape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.9 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 35 kilometres (km) plus from the proposed development. Although the consented wind farms of Maesgwyn Extension, Melin Court, Upper Ogmere and Foel Trawsant, will all in theory be visible. The former two wind farms are likely to be subsumed amongst operational developments, although the turbines of Foel Trawsant Wind Farm, may intensify the presence of wind farm development along the distant ridgeline. However, the addition of the proposed development will be barely perceptible and will have no perceptible relationship with the consented developments at this distance. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.10 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.11 The nearest application wind farm to the SCA is Foel Trawsant (S73), which is located over 35 km away. At such distances the application and proposed development will be barely perceptible and will have no impacts on the character of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.12 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.13 The scoping stage wind farms of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road and Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible within this SCA although both will be experienced at considerable distances and will be subsumed amongst operational wind farm developments. The proposed development and scoping stage developments will have a no influence on the character of this SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.14 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.15 The proposed development will have no perceptible influence on this SCA at this distance and it is predicted that there will be no perceptible interaction with any cumulative developments within the 45 km ZTV and no change to the seascape character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.16 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

SCA 03: Bury Inlet and Loughor Estuary*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

- A8.7.17 This seascape is large and open in scale, remote and largely unspoilt, although the influence of modern built form and industry is notable around Llanelli and Burry Port. The south is predominantly rural. Views are contained by the wooded slopes of the Gower Peninsula and there is limited connection with landscapes beyond this area. This is a seascape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. On balance the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.18 This seascape has a remote open and generally unspoilt character. There are views across to the Gower and along the estuary from the Wales Coast Path and from some popular tourist destinations such as the Millennium Coastal Park. Some modern built form and industry around Burry port and Llanelli detracts from some views. The estuary provides a plethora of habitats with important feeding grounds and resting areas for birds. Designations include Burry Inlet RAMSAR site and SPA, Carmarthen Bay SPA and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC. These overlay SSSI designations. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.19 The seascape contains some key characteristics that may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.20 It is predicted that there will be partial visibility of 16-18 turbines across areas of the estuary to the north extending to Loughor to the east. These areas are open and largely unspoilt with long views

south to the Gower. Elsewhere, to the south and upstream of Loughor, the area is visually contained, and potential views of the proposed development obscured by intervening elevated areas. However, where potential views are available from this SCA, the proposed development will be seen at distances ranging from around 25 km to 35 km. At such distances, it is predicted that the proposed development will occupy a very limited proportion of any views. It is considered that there will be no perceptible impact on the overall quality of available views or any key characteristics of this SCA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.21 The seascape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.22 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 22 km to 37 km from the proposed development. Although the consented wind farms of Maesgwyn Extension, Melin Court, Upper Ogmores and Foel Trawsant, will all in theory be visible, it is highly unlikely that they will be perceptible at this distance, and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The addition of the proposed development will also be barely perceptible and will have no perceptible relationship with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.23 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.24 The proposed development together with the application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) are located over 20 km away. At such distances they will be barely perceptible and will have no impacts on the character of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.25 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.26 The scoping stage wind farms of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road and Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible within this SCA although both will be experienced at considerable distances and will be subsumed amongst operational wind farm developments. The proposed development together with the scoping stage developments will have no influence on the character of this SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.27 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.28 The proposed development will have no perceptible influence on this SCA at this distance and it is predicted that there will be no perceptible interaction with any cumulative developments within the 45 km ZTV and no change to the seascape character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.29 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

SCA 06: Oxwich and Port Eynon Bays*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

- A8.7.30 This area has a strong aspect to the south and south east with views out to Lundy and Exmoor and along the coast, available from the beaches, cliffs tops and offshore areas. Although views are generally framed by the enclosing headlands, many of the beaches, such as Oxwich Bay and the more elevated coastline areas have an open and expansive feeling. The area is a popular tourist destination, including for boating and beach activities, and forms the central core of the Gower Peninsula coastline. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.31 This seascape comprises a distinctive and diverse coastline, including exposed, indented rocky headlands between large sandy beaches with areas of coastal heath, grassland and woodland. The area is largely unspoilt and possesses a sense of wildness. The main detractors are the Caravan Parks at Port Eynon and Horton. The area is part of Gower AONB and Heritage Coast. There is also SAC, SPA and SSSIs designations relating to the nature conservation value along the coast. The area is a popular tourist destination, including bathing activities, leisure boaters and users of the Wales Coast Path. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be outstanding.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.32 The seascape is designated at a regional and national level and contains seascape characteristics that may have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.33 It is predicted that localised visibility of the proposed development will be potentially available from the foreshore/coast at the headlands, Oxwich Point and Pwlldu Head. Beyond the headlands to the south, the offshore areas will be visually open, and views along the coast, including east to the proposed development, and, more widely, south to Exmoor are available. The proposed development in all cases will be viewed within a broad scale, open seascape at a distance of around 30 km. At such distances, it will occupy a very small proportion of the overall view and will be seen obliquely to the main views that characterise this SCA to the south. The bays are visually enclosed and will be unaffected. The key characteristics relating to the scenic quality and sense of wildness will also be unaffected. On balance, the magnitude of impact is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.34 The seascape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate to slight - moderate (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.35 This SCA, which is located between approximately 22 km – 33 km west of the proposed development. The SCA has a strong relationship with the adjacent Gower coastline and areas within the northern half of the SCA are typically enclosed by the bays and cliffs of this coastline. From open waters to the south, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Upper Ogmore and Foel Trawsant would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. At such distances, the proposed development together with the consented will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.36 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the landscape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.37 This SCA, which is located between approximately 22 km – 33 km west of the proposed development. The SCA has a strong relationship with the adjacent Gower coastline and areas within the northern half of the SCA are typically enclosed by the bays and cliffs of this coastline. From open waters to the south, the application development of Foel Trawsant (S73) Wind Farm would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. At such distances the proposed development together with the application will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.38 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the landscape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.39 In addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms Fforch Dwm and Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will theoretically be visible. However, the former will be experienced at a considerable distance and subsumed into the existing wind farm developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. The single turbine at Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, due to distance will again be a very minor. The proposed development together with the scoping stage developments will be imperceptible and will have no cumulative impacts on existing seascape character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.40 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.41 The proposed development will have a very limited influence on this SCA due to the intervening distance. However, in very clear conditions and from limited locations on the foreshore and more widely from the offshore areas, the proposed development will extend operational cumulative wind farm development along the distant skyline visible to the east. However, at such distances, cumulative development will occupy a very small proportion of the overall view and will be seen obliquely to the main views that characterise this SCA to the south. The bays are visually enclosed and will be unaffected. The key characteristics relating to the scenic quality and sense of wildness will also be unaffected. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.42 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

SCA 07: Pwll-du Head to Mumbles Head*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

- A8.7.43 This area has a strong aspect to the south and south-east with views out to Lundy and Exmoor from the enclosed coves and beaches and cliff tops. From the more open and exposed offshore areas, views are more extensive with the coast extending around Swansea Bay and Port Talbot visible. The area is a popular tourist destination, including for leisure boating and beach activities, and is a positive backcloth to suburban development especially around Langland and Bracelet Bays and is of higher susceptibility to change than are the more enclosed coves and beaches with

views to the south and south east. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.44 This seascape comprises an indented coast of moderately high sloping cliffs or steep slopes. Beaches and coves are enclosed by unspoilt headlands, areas of grassland, heath and woodlands. The area offshore is open and exposed with a sense of wildness and distant views along the coast and south to Exmoor. Most of the bays offer shallow sandy areas which are popular for bathing and informal water sports such as body boarding and surfing. They are also very busy in sunny weather, with associated car parking issues and queuing vehicles. The offshore area is popular for leisure boating and recreational fishing vessels out from Swansea. The popularity of the area has also resulted in development that impinges on the accessible bays and some clifftops, giving it a suburban character in places towards the east. Mumbles Head to the east forms an iconic feature at the mouth of Swansea Bay, with the lighthouse on the outer of the two distinctively profiled tidal islets. The area is part of Gower AONB and Heritage Coast. The coastal sections at Pwll-du Head and Bishopston Valley, Caswell Bay, Langland Bay and Bracelet Bay are SSSIs. Overall, the value of this seascape is considered to be outstanding.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.45 The seascape is designated at a regional and national level and contains seascape characteristics that may have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.46 Visibility east towards the proposed development is likely to be fragmented from the foreshore and limited to the more elevated and visually open headlands, such as Pwll-du Head and the Mumbles. The beaches have a strong aspect to the south and the ZTV indicates that in theory there will be no visibility of the proposed development in these popular locations. Beyond the headlands, the offshore areas are open and exposed with long views along the coast and across to Exmoor. Port Talbot and Swansea are visible beyond the Mumbles Headland. The SCA is located approximately 14 km at its closest point from the proposed development and therefore any impacts will be indirect. At these distances, the proposed development will occupy a very limited proportion of views and will be seen in combination with other man-made elements such as the extensive Port Talbot steel works and existing Mynydd Brombil wind turbines. The key elements that define the character of the SCA, including the cliffs, coves and sandy beaches will all remain unchanged. On balance, the magnitude of impact is evaluated as low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.47 The seascape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate to slight-moderate (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.48 This SCA is located between approximately 14 km – 22 km west of the proposed development. The SCA has a strong relationship with the adjacent Gower coastline and areas within the northern areas of the SCA are typically enclosed by the bays and cliffs of this coastline. From open waters to the south, the consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsnant would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau but largely be subsumed within the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP respectively. There will be no direct interaction between the turbines of the proposed development and Melin Court Wind Farm. However the addition of the proposed development to the consented development of Foel Trawsnant will result in an increase in the influence of wind farm development within the SCA. Where the wind farm of Upper Ogmere will be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau, it will be a minor feature that will marginally increase the extent of wind turbines across the skyline. Although the addition of the proposed development located in front of this consented wind farm will result in a slight intensification in the influence of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline, these effects will be indirect and barely perceptible at this distance. The characteristics of the SCA are not predicted to fundamentally change, including the strong association with the Gower coast. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.49 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the seascape, rather than wind farm development.

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.50 The application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau and will largely be subsumed within the operational turbines of Llynfi Afan REP. The proposed development will interact with the turbines of the application wind farm and will result in a minor intensification in the influence of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Effects, however, will be indirect, ranging between 14 km - 22 km to the proposed development, the characteristics of the SCA are not predicted to fundamentally change, including the strong association with the Gower coast. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.51 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the landscape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.52 The proposed development, when viewed with the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm, and the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. However, due to scale all will have very limited influence on

the character of the SCA including the strong association with the Gower coast. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.53 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.54 From offshore areas, operational and consented cumulative development would be experienced intermittently when weather conditions allow at distances of around 20 km. The proposed development will theoretically extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline to the west. The Mynydd Brombil, Swansea Queens Docks and Welsh Water Treatment Works (WWTW) operational wind farms will be seen more clearly to the fore of and below the cumulative development. However, cumulative development on the coalfield plateau will be experienced at distances exceeding 18 km and will occupy a very limited proportion of the overall view. It will also be seen in combination with other man-made elements such as Port Talbot steel works. The magnitude of cumulative impact is evaluated as low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.55 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key seascape features that characterise this SCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the seascape, rather than wind farm development.

SCA 08: Swansea Bay West*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

- A8.7.56 A large-scale seascape, where at low tide a wide expanse of sandy beach is exposed. However, there is a sense of enclosure formed by the rising hills to the north, west and to a lesser extent to the east. In clear visibility the coast of Exmoor can be seen in the distance. The beach contrasts with the hard urban edge of the promenade and where views to the east include the Meridian Tower, the steel works at Port Talbot (including the harbour cranes, sinter plant stack, blast furnace flare stack and blast furnace), Swansea Docks, plus the existing wind turbines within the docks and to the ridgeline, all of which are influencing characteristics of the SCA and reduces the sense of tranquillity and remoteness. To the west, Mumbles Head and The Mumbles Lighthouse are distinctive features and primary visual foci. The SCA is relatively sheltered and therefore the water within the bay is often relatively calm. The beach and promenade attract a large number of people, and the water is frequently used by both leisure craft and commercial vessels. This is a seascape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium within eastern parts of the SLA, which are more indirectly influenced by industry to around Port Talbot and Swansea and higher in eastern parts, which are more directly

influenced by Mumbles, including Mumbles Head and the lighthouse. On balance the susceptibility of receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.57 A seascape of high scenic quality and one that has a strong sense of place and due to its proximity to an urban centre, it is considered to be rare in terms of its character. The western half of the SCA around Blackpill contains important natural habitats for overwintering birds and has been designated as a SSSI. The area has a number of cultural associations, including the poet Dylan Thomas and through a series of paintings, mainly from the 19th Century. Although the seascape within the SCA it is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory designations, it is considered a key tourist destination and likely to be the primary attraction. The seascape value is predominantly considered to be medium, although with some areas of high value, including important habitat areas, around Blackpill and the tourist areas around the promenade and particularly within Mumbles. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.58 This seascape contains key characteristics that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.59 Impacts will be indirect; however, the proposed development will be widely visible across the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. The turbines to the proposed development will introduce a recognisable new element to the Coalfield Plateau that will be more prominent in eastern parts of the SCA and will add to the existing large-scale structures and buildings that are also visible in this direction. This will include the steel works, Swansea Docks, Meridian Tower and existing wind farms at Mynydd Brombil and at Swansea Docks. However, the backcloth of the coalfield plateau is only one of many key characteristics that form this SCA. The majority of key characteristics, including the sweeping form of Swansea Bay, the distinctive backdrop of Swansea and Mumbles, plus the open expanse of water, including views to Exmoor will all be unaffected. Therefore, there will only be a slight change in seascape character. Magnitude of impact is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.60 The seascape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impact low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of key characteristics that form this SCA will remain fundamentally unaffected by the proposed development.

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.61 This SCA, which is located between approximately 11 km – 18 km west of the proposed development, where the consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsant would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. The consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsant will largely be subsumed within the turbines of the existing winds of Pen

y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP respectively. There will be no direct interaction between the turbines of the proposed development and Melin Court Wind Farm, however there is with the turbines of Foel Trawsant, and the addition of the proposed development will result in an increase in the influence of wind farm development within the SCA. Where the wind farm of Upper Ogmere will be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau, it will be a minor feature that will marginally increase the extent of wind turbines across the skyline. The addition of the proposed development located in front of the consented wind farm will result in an intensification of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Effects, however, will be indirect and at distances ranging from between approximately 11 km - 18 km to the proposed development, the characteristics of the SCA are not predicted to fundamentally change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.62 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the seascape, rather than wind farm development.

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.63 The application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau and will largely be subsumed within the operational turbines of Llynfi Afan REP. The proposed development will interact directly with the turbines of the application wind farm and will result in an intensification of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Effects, however, will be indirect, and at distances ranging between 11 km - 18 km to the proposed development, the characteristics of the SCA are not predicted to fundamentally change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.64 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the landscape is medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key seascape features that characterise this SCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the seascape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.65 The proposed development when viewed with the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm, together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. However, due to scale all will have very limited influence on the character of the SCA, including the strong association with Swansea Bay. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.66 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.67 The proposed development will extend the arc of turbines from the operational wind farms at Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. The Mynydd Brombil, Swansea Queens Docks and WWTW operational wind farms will be seen to the fore of the proposed development. The Foel Trawsnant and Melin Court consented wind farms will also be experienced further beyond the proposed development. The proposed development will be visible in combination with the cumulative wind farms on the skyline of the Coalfield Plateau and to a lesser extent on the coastal plain below. However, the proposed development will increase the existing influence of wind farm development on the character within the SCA. The sense of enclosure provided by the Coalfield Plateau and its contribution as a backcloth to views will be retained although there may be a reduction in the sense of its scale. Cumulative development may also slightly reduce characteristics relating to remoteness and tranquillity. However, impacts will be indirect and the contrast between the open sandy beaches and the enclosing urban areas will not be fundamentally altered. The primary visual foci within this SCA, comprising views around the arc of the bay to Mumbles Head and Mumbles Lighthouse to the west will also be unaffected. Magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.68 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of key characteristics that form this SCA will remain fundamentally unaffected by the proposed development.

SCA 09: Swansea Bay East*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.69 A large-scale seascape forming part of the smooth wide arc of Swansea Bay. Key views are from the popular Aberavon seafront and beach west across the Bay to Mumbles. The simple pattern of the wide sandy beach that is visible at high tide, contrasts with the industrial seascape ranging from Swansea East Docks, oil storage and refining, and Port Talbot steel works and docks. Movement of commercial vessels used for the import of raw materials to the steel works and cargo vessels to Swansea Docks is a key feature within the SCA. The cranes and steel works, including the sinter plant stack, blast furnace and blast furnace flare stack to the rear dominate the foreground and middle distance of views along the seafront and to the east. This industrial landscape/seascape forms the primary visual foci within the SCA. Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm and the solar farm at Mynydd Emroch blur the limits of development on the coastal plain. However, the rising hills, including those of Kilvey Hill, Mynydd Brombil and Mynydd Dinas continue to provide a sense of enclosure and form a backcloth to the coast and offshore areas. There are dunes either side of the Neath and at Crymlyn Burrows which together with the beaches offer a sense of tranquillity and remoteness, contrasting the busy industrial hinterland. This side of the bay is used commercially with craft creating some visual interest, it is used less for leisure than the western side. This is a seascape where the majority of attributes are relatively robust, and it is considered

able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting overall character. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Seascape Value

A8.7.70 The wide, open, sandy beaches form the eastern part of a bay that encompasses Aberavon Seafront, a popular tourist destination. Visually, the area forms part of the smooth wide arc of Swansea Bay and there are spectacular panoramic coastal views extend south-west across Swansea Bay to the Mumbles. The enclosing hills form an attractive green backcloth to the scene. Between the coast and the hills, the hinterland contains suburban areas and large-scale industry and docks infrastructure that detract markedly from the scenic quality. Furthermore, Brombil Wind Farm and the solar development on Mynydd Emroch now blur the clear limits of large-scale commercial development on the coastal plain and reduce scenic value. The beaches are backed by sand dunes around the Neath estuary and Crymlyn Burrows is an SSSI. The Wales Coast Path is a popular route on the Neath estuary and to south towards Aberavon. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.71 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.72 The proposed development will be an influencing feature on the skyline within views to the north at distance ranging from around 7 km to approximately 12 km and therefore any impacts will be indirect. The extent of the proposed development will vary over these distances. The proposed development will, therefore, be seen as additional feature within views north, often in combination with the urban areas and the large-scale industry, including the steel works and docks infrastructure located along the hinterland to this SCA. Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm and the solar development at Mynydd Emroch, however are also existing elements within the seascape/landscape. The hills that enclose this SCA to the north, consisting of the southern edge of the Coalfield Plateau, form a green backcloth to these views. The proposed development will further blur the clear limits of large-scale commercial development on the coastal plain and reduce attributes relating to scenic quality and sense of enclosure. However, the coalfield plateau forms only one component of many features that contribute to the character of the SCA. The key feature that defines the character within the SCA, however, is to the west across the unspoilt, wide sweep of Swansea Bay and to Mumbles Head, all of which will remain fundamentally unaffected by the proposed development. Magnitude of impact is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.73 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.74 From this SCA, the consented scheme at Foel Trawsnant may be experienced, most notable within western parts of the SCA. Upper Ogmere may be theoretically visible from areas further out to sea in the west. However, it will likely be subsumed by the turbines to the existing wind farm of Llynfi Afan REP, most notably within western parts of the SCA. Within areas nearer to the coast, to the east, its influence will diminish due to topography that rises above the coastal plain. The addition of proposed development will further intensify the influence of wind farm development along the distant skyline. This will further blur the distinction between development on the coastal plain and that on the coalfield plateau. However, the wide sweep of Swansea Bay that is a key feature that defines the character within the SCA, will remain fundamentally unaffected by the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.75 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.76 From this SCA, the application scheme at Foel Trawsnant (S73) may be experienced, most notable within western parts of the SCA. Within areas nearing to the coast, to the east, its influence will diminish entirely due to the topography that rises above the coastal plain. The addition of proposed development will further intensify the influence of wind farm development along the distant skyline, within areas of the SCA extending within western parts of the SCA. However, due to distance, there will be little interaction between the two and no fundamental change to the character of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.77 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.78 The wind farm of Fforch Dwm, when viewed with the proposed development, together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. However, due to scale will have very limited influence on the character of the SCA including the strong association with Swansea Bay. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.79 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.80 Operational development at Mynydd Brombil would be experienced to the east and north-east from the open water of this SCA on the coalfield plateau skyline. Operational and cumulative development to the north of the proposed development, including the wind farms Mynydd Brombil and Foel Trawsnant will also be experienced to varying degrees, more widely from open water to the south-west but decreasing nearer to the foreshore. To the west, operational development would be seen at Queens Docks and Swansea Bay WWTW. The existing seascape character is strongly influenced by large scale industrial development on the coastal plain and estuary. The proposed development in combination with the operational development will increase the influence of wind farm development across this SCA. It will also further blur the distinction between development on the coastal plain and that on the coalfield plateau. The proposed development and other cumulative developments, primarily Mynydd Brombil, will result in a minor alteration of a key characteristic. Cumulative development will reduce attributes relating to scenic quality and sense of enclosure. However, on balance, the underlying character of the seascape would be retained. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.81 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, cumulative effects are considered to be not significant as the key defining elements of the seascape will be retained.

SCA 10: Neath Estuary

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

- A8.7.82 The open and exposed estuary has a tranquil and remote character. In particular, the flat grazing marsh provides an open contrast to the surrounding hills which act as a positive backcloth. The presence of the M4 viaduct and the A48 trunk road along with the developed land in and around Neath, including the docks, industrial structures, and dereliction, detracts from the character. This is a seascape where the majority of attributes are relatively robust and tolerant of change. It is considered able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting overall character. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.83 This seascape offers possesses a tranquil and relatively remote character close to the Swansea Bay. However, 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 area was once known for its picturesque juxtaposition of wooded hills with water and early industry. Paintings by late 18th and early 19th century artists such as Julius Caesar Ibbetson, John Varley, JMW Turner and William Daniell show idyllic scenes with the hills juxtaposed with the water and boats. The Wales Coast Path is very well used, especially on the south side of the estuary. Crymlin Dunes are designated as a SSSI but also cater for recreational uses. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be low.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.84 The seascape contains some key characteristics that may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be low.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.85 Although the estuary is open and exposed in character, visibility of the proposed development within this SCA will be marginal and likely to be limited to no more than five turbines at blade tip height. These will be seen beyond large scale foreground detractors, including the M4 viaduct, industrial buildings and areas of dereliction and may be further obscured by woodland on the hills forming the backcloth to views in the direction of the proposed development. The magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.86 The seascape is considered to be of low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.87 There will be limited and localised influence only from the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm. The addition of the proposed development will also have minor influence on this SCA. The existing industrial characteristics will remain as dominant features. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.88 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.89 Operational developments at Pen-y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Mynydd Brombil are likely to be partially experienced to the north-east and also from southern parts of this SCA at Queens Docks and Swansea Bay WWTW to the west. The existing character in this SCA is strongly influenced by large scale industrial development on the coastal plain and estuary. The proposed development, where visible, will increase the influence of wind farm development. The combined impacts of the proposed development and cumulative developments will result in a minor scale loss to key

elements of the landscape character and the magnitude of impact is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.90 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

SCA 11: Margam to Porthcawl

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

- A8.7.91 This seascape comprises coastline that is relatively straight and low, with large-scale unspoilt views primarily offshore, but also towards the southern Gower peninsula and across the Bristol Channel to Exmoor. The main visual foci include the seafront buildings just set back from the coast and the Golf Club. Port Talbot steel works, including the sinter plant stack and blast furnace flues are apparent features within the SCA. This is a seascape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Seascape Value

- A8.7.92 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. The main visual foci locally are widely spaced on the open coast and include the highly distinctive, isolated Sker House, the Royal Porthcawl Golf Club buildings just back from the coast and the seafront buildings at Porthcawl. Port Talbot steel works are apparent to the north with backclothed 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 the Wales 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. The Wales Coast Path extends around the coast including the busy promenade. To the west Kenfig Dunes are a NNR, designated as SAC and SSSI and also a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The Porthcawl Coast and Kenfig Burrows are also designated as SLAs. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be high.

Seascape Sensitivity

- A8.7.93 The seascape is designated at a local level and contains key characteristics that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.94 This SCA has an open, exposed and unspoilt character, where key views are over the open water to Exmoor and to the Gower. The majority of the turbines will be visible as an apparent feature on

the skyline to the north of the SCA and so any impacts will be indirect. The access track may also be visible more obliquely along the edge of the Coalfield Scarp, extending up the slope to the plateau. Following the construction of the proposed development there may be a minor loss to some existing seascape elements, however the majority of the key elements, including the open character and views to the Gower and Exmoor will remain fundamentally unaffected. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.7.95 The seascape is considered to be medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.96 The proposed development will be experienced in combination with the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsnant and Upper Ogmere across the skyline to the north at distances of around 12 to 20 km. However, within northern areas of the SCA, within proximity to coast, the influence of the consented will diminishes due to the effects of topography from the adjacent land. In addition, the consented development of Upper Ogmere Wind Farm will be partly subsumed by the turbines to the wind farms of Pen Y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. The consented wind farm of Pant y Wal Phase 2 will also be occasionally experienced from within this SCA, but will be subsumed within the existing Pant y Wal development, and there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and this consented development. From the majority of the SCA there will be very limited perception of the proposed development with consented developments and other operational developments, due to the distance and therefore no change in character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

- A8.7.97 The sensitivity of the landscape is medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.98 Within SCA located at distances at approximately 12 km – 20 km to the south west of the proposed development, the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) would be visible across the skyline to the north. However, within northern areas of the SCA, within proximity to coast, the influence of the consented development will diminish due to the effects of topography from the adjacent land. The influence will increase to the south and west of the SCA but will be mitigated by distance. Therefore, it will have very limited influence on the existing character. The addition of the proposed development to the consented will result in some intensification of wind turbines across the skyline across the Coalfield Plateau. However due to separation distant, there will be no direct interaction between the proposed and consented developments, with the exception of Foel Trawsnant (S73) where there is direct interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

- A8.7.99 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.100 The proposed development when viewed with the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm, together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. However, due to scale all will have very limited influence on the character of the SCA including the strong association with the coastline. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.7.101 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.102 From the foreshore, operational cumulative developments at Stormy Down, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm will be experienced within views inland. Operational cumulative developments will also be experienced at more distant locations inland to the north-east, at Pen y Cymoedd and nearer to the coast at Mynydd Brombil. The proposed development will increase the influence of wind farm development from the foreshore, infilling the open skyline between the operational cumulative developments. The cumulative impact will reduce with distance within the offshore areas, with any contribution from the cumulative developments to the north of the proposed development receding markedly. Furthermore, it is likely that the influence of the land and any cumulative development on it will be only apparent in clear weather conditions from the outermost sections of this SCA. Cumulative developments will be seen in combination with Port Talbot steel works on the coastal plain. The proposed development and cumulative developments will reduce attributes relating to scenic quality and sense of enclosure provided by the Coalfield Scarp to the north. On balance, the magnitude of impact is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.7.103 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance cumulative effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

SCA 12: Porthcawl

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

- A8.7.104 This seascape has a simple, open, exposed character with views out over the Bristol Channel to Exmoor to the south and east to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Key visual foci are the lighthouse on Porthcawl Point and the Coney Beach Amusement Park. The main focus of views is towards

the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The seascape is influenced by the presence of large-scale elements, including a caravan park, the funfair and lighting associated with the town centre, car parking and funfair. This is a seascape that is considered to be tolerant of the type of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Seascape Value

A8.7.105 This seascape has an open and exposed character with panoramic long sea views to Exmoor and to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Although the wide sandy beaches, Coney Beach Fun Fair and the historic lighthouse and harbour are key tourist attractions, some land uses, including caravan parks and car parking detract. The Wales Coast Path extends along the seafront and promenades. The coast is also designated as a SLA. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.106 The seascape is designated at a local level and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.107 The foreshore, including the promenade and harbour have a strong aspect to the south-east, particularly along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. Secondary views inland to the north and west, will be influenced by the funfair and the developed hinterland. There will be more open views from offshore areas, likely to be experienced by leisure craft. It is predicted that proposed turbines will be potentially visible from offshore and more open areas of the SCA with a reduction in or no potential visibility likely from foreshore areas. The proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature within views from the offshore areas, including blade movement, although these are likely to occupy only a small proportion of the overall views and will not form its defining feature. The primary aspect south-east towards the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and out across the Bristol Channel to Exmoor, particularly from the foreshore areas will remain unaffected. Where visibility of the proposed development is possible from the foreshore, the proposed development is likely to be seen in combination with the detractors evident in this SCA, including caravan parks, the funfair and car parks. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.108 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.109 From this SCA, there is a wide separation distance between the proposed development and consented developments of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Upper Ogmere and Graig Fatha. Furthermore, these consented developments will be extremely limited in scale

and extent, due to the screening effects of distance and topography. There will be some interaction between the proposed development and Foel Trawsant, although they will be experienced within the context of the operational turbines including Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down to the foreground. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.110 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.111 From this SCA, the application scheme of Foel Trawsant (S73) may be theoretically visible and will result in an intensification of wind turbines that extend across the distant ridgeline. The addition of the proposed development in combination with the application development will further intensify wind farm development although they will be experienced within the context of the operational turbines, including Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down to the foreground. However, at this distance, the fundamental character of the SCA will remain unchanged. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.112 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.113 Operational developments at Stormy Down, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm will be experienced from the foreshore and offshore areas. Operational cumulative developments will also be experienced at more distant locations inland to the north, at Pen y Cymoedd and nearer to the coast at Mynydd Brombil. It is likely that the addition of the proposed development to the operational developments will infill the skyline formed by the coalfield plateau and may result in a slight increase in the perception of wind farm development across this SCA. However, the proposed development is located approximately 11 km to 15 km away. Any change will be minor and not to the extent that the key characteristics of the seascape will be lost or altered, particularly the primary aspect south-east towards the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and out across the Bristol Channel to Exmoor. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.114 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight-moderate to slight (not significant).

SCA 13: Nash Sand Bar*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.115 This offshore seascape has an open exposed, wild and unspoilt character. There are open extensive views along the coast, and the area is essentially unspoilt, although some intrusion from development and lighting at Porthcawl is notable. It is likely that the hills and skylines forming a backcloth to views inland will be an apparent feature contributing to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. Tranquillity and remoteness, however, will be reduced by Porthcawl's proximity and character. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

A8.7.116 This seascape is open, exposed, wild and unspoilt in 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. There are no designations extending into this area. Some occasional use by jet skis is a noted detractor. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.117 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.118 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of 16-18 turbines within open views to the north from this SCA. These will be seen on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau to the north, beyond developed areas of Porthcawl. It is likely that the turbines will be perceived as noticeable, moving features at a distance of around 18 km. Nash Sand Bar forms part of the open setting of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and this key aspect will be unaffected. Although there may be a marginal reduction of characteristics relating tranquillity, remoteness and wildness, the proposed development will also occupy a very limited proportion of the overall view and will be seen in combination with other man-made elements such as Porthcawl, the funfair and Port Talbot steel works. On balance, the magnitude of impact is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.119 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight - moderate to slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.120 There is a wide separation distance between the proposed development and consented developments and therefore no interaction between the developments of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Upper Ogmore and Graig Fatha. There will be some interaction with

the consented development of Foel Trawsnant. However both the proposed development and the consented will be extremely limited in scale and extent, due to distance and the screening effects of topography. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.121 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.122 The addition of the proposed development to the application development of Foel Trawsnant (s73) will further intensify wind farm development on the distant horizon. The fundamental character of the SCA however, due to distance and scale, will remain unchanged. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.123 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.124 The proposed development will be visible within views to the north in combination and to the rear of operational developments at Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down. Mynydd Brombil and Newlands Farm will also be visible further to the north. More extensive operational development to the north and north-west of the proposed development, including the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP and the consented wind farm of Upper Ogmore, all of which will be less perceptible due to the intervening distance and landforms. The proposed development will increase the influence of wind farm development on this SCA, infilling the open coalfield plateau skyline to the north. However, whilst there may be a marginal reduction of characteristics relating to tranquillity, remoteness and wildness, the proposed development will have very little influence on the character of this SCA. In addition, they will be perceived in combination with other man-made elements such as Porthcawl, the funfair and Port Talbot steel works. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.125 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant),

SCA 14: Bristol Channel Southeast*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.126 This area of open water has a simple consistent and unified character at a vast-scale and a strong sense of openness, isolation and exposure. The area is tranquil, wild and remote. The influence of the land will be apparent on both sides of the channel and the upland areas and skylines appearing

as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. The hills and skylines forming a backcloth to views inland will be a feature contributing to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. However, the backcloth of hills forming the coal field plateau to the north will be only apparent in clearer weather. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Seascape Value

A8.7.127 This simple, open area of sea contributes to open sea views and setting of Porthcawl and Vale of Glamorgan Heritage Coast. There are no designations extending across the area. Commercial shipping traverses this area relatively frequently. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.128 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.129 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of all 18 turbines within open views to the north from this SCA. These may be perceptible on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau in clearer weather conditions. Key characteristics that will be altered by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is likely that there may be a minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and perception of the changes will be very intermittent. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.130 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant)

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.131 This SCA located at distances of approximately 25 km – 27 km to the south of the proposed development. The influence of land including the features on it are likely to be reduced within this SCA due to the distance and variability of weather conditions. The consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court and Pant y Wal Phase 2, Upper Ogmores and Graig Fatha will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. The turbines will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the

proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.132 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.133 This SCA located at distances of approximately 25 km – 27 km to the south of the proposed development. The influence of land including the features on it are likely to be reduced within this SCA due to the distance and variability of weather conditions. The application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. This development will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.134 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.135 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of over 30 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. The proposed development and scoping stage developments will be barely perceptible. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.136 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.137 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of the proposed development with operational and consented wind farm developments on upland areas to the north and the smaller operational developments nearer the coast within open views to the north from this SCA. The cumulative development and the influence of the land, including the coalfield plateau will be variable and likely to be perceptible only in clearer weather conditions. The increased influence of cumulative wind farm development may result in a minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and perception of the

changes will be very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.138 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant)

SCA 15: Bristol Channel - East

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.139 This area of open water has a simple consistent and unified character at a vast-scale and a sense of opened, isolation and exposure. The area is tranquil, wild and remote. There is likely to be occasional leisure craft avoiding Nash Bank, with views of commercial vessels plying the channel. The influence of the land will reduce with distance, with the backcloth of hills forming the coal field plateau only apparent in clearer weather from areas further out to sea. Nearer to the coast the hills and skylines forming a backcloth to views inland will be a more apparent feature contributing to the character of the area. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

A8.7.140 This seascape, comprising open sea, will be simple, consistent and unified in character at a vast scale with a sense of openness, isolation and exposure. Its qualities are determined entirely by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind. There is a strong likelihood of tranquillity and sense of wildness and remoteness in this open sea. These aesthetic characteristics indicate that the sense of place will be distinctive and strong. The seascape is not designated although it forms part of the open setting of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast to the east contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. Although there are occasional leisure craft visiting the area primarily avoiding Nash Bank to the east, the seascape is not a popular tourist or leisure destination. The sense of tranquillity and remoteness is reduced however through visual intrusion of the many commercial vessels plying the channel, mainly to the south and west. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.141 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.142 It is predicted that there will be extensive visibility of all 18 turbines within open views to the north from this SCA. These will be seen on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. From areas nearer the coast, where the influence of the land will be greater, the turbines are likely to be perceived as noticeable, moving feature. Further out to sea, where the influence of the land will be

reduced, the turbines and the back cloth of hills will only be apparent in clearer weather. Key characteristics that will be altered by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is likely that there will be a slight loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness across areas where visibility is greatest. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and perception of the changes will be very intermittent. In addition, the majority of key characteristics including the simple, open and vast character of the seascape, plus the key views to Lundy will all be retained. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.143 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.144 This SCA located at distances of approximately 15 km – 27 km to the south of the proposed development. The influence of land diminishes with distance across this SCA. Within sections to the east, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court and Pant y Wal Phase 2, Upper Ogmere and Graig Fatha will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. The turbines will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.145 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.146 This SCA located at distances of approximately 15 km – 27 km to the south of the proposed development. The influence of land diminishes with distance across this SCA. The application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will be experienced from within this SCA on the skyline to the north when weather conditions allow. This development will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.147 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.148 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, and will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of over 30 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. They will be barely perceptible and have very limited interaction with the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.149 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.150 There will be widespread visibility of the proposed development in combination with operational cumulative developments to the north and east, including Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, and Mynydd Brombil nearer to the coast. These will be seen on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. From areas nearer the coast, where the influence of the land will be greater, the proposed development in combination with the cumulative developments are likely to increase the influence of wind farm development. Key characteristics that will be altered by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is likely that there will be an additional loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness across areas where visibility is greatest. Further out to sea, where the influence of the land will be reduced, the cumulative development and proposed development located on the hills will only be apparent in clearer weather. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and any perception of change will be very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.151 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

SCA 16: Mid Swansea Bay*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.152 This area has an open, exposed, wild, unspoilt character although remoteness is reduced through commercial vessels approaching the ports. Although the influence of the land will reduce with increased distance, with the backcloth of hills including the coal field plateau only apparent in

clearer weather from areas further out to sea. Nearer to the coast the hills and skylines including the coalfield plateau form a backcloth to views inland, with the Port Talbot steel works visible in the middle ground. The hills will be a more apparent feature contributing to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

A8.7.153 This seascape, comprising open sea, will be simple, consistent and unified in character at a vast scale with 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 sense of tranquillity and remoteness is strong but reduced by visible development on the coast, including intrusion of the Port Talbot steel works and the docks at Swansea and commercial shipping enroute or departing the docks at Swansea and Port Talbot. The seascape is not designated although it forms part of the open setting of Gower to the north-west contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. Although there are often leisure craft visiting the area, the seascape is not a popular tourist or leisure destination. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.154 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed, such as the coastal features of Cefn Bryn and southern Gower, which are likely to be more sensitive than the steel works. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.155 It is predicted that there will be visibility of all 18 turbines within open views to the north-east from this SCA. These will be seen on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. From areas nearer the coast, where the influence of the land will be greater, the turbines are likely to be perceived as moving features on the skyline. Further out to sea, where the influence of the land will be reduced, the turbines and the back cloth of hills will only be apparent in clearer weather. Key characteristics that will be altered by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the wider character of the seascape. It is likely that there will be a slight loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness across areas where visibility is greatest. Other key characteristics, including the coastal features of Cefn Bryn and cliffs to the north west, plus the simple open character of the sea will all be retained. The seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and perception of the changes will be very intermittent. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.156 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.157 From this SCA, at distances of between 13 and 19 km, the consented schemes at Foel Trawsant and Melin Court may be experienced on the skyline to the north east, subsumed amongst operational developments that include Pen y Cymoedd. The consented scheme at Upper Ogmere may be experienced on the skyline to the north east, partly subsumed amongst the operational development of Llynfi Afan REP. The addition of proposed development to the fore of the consented Foel Trawsant development will slightly intensify the influence of wind farm development along the distant skyline. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.158 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.159 From this SCA, at distances of between 13 and 19 km, the application scheme at Foel Trawsant (S73) may be experienced on the skyline to the north-east, partly subsumed amongst the operational developments that include Pen y Cymoedd. The addition of the proposed development to the fore of this development will slightly intensify the influence of wind farm development along the distant skyline. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.160 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.161 The proposed development when viewed with the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm, together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. However, due to scale will have very limited influence on the character of the SCA including the sense of remoteness. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.162 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.163 There will be widespread visibility of the proposed development in combination with operational cumulative developments to the north and east, including Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, and Mynydd Brombil nearer to the coast. These will be seen on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. From areas nearer the coast, where the influence of the land will be greater, the proposed development in combination with the cumulative developments are likely to increase the influence of wind farm development. Key characteristics that will be altered by the proposed development

will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is likely that there will be an additional loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness across areas where visibility is greatest. Further out to sea, where the influence of the land will be reduced, the cumulative development and proposed development located on the hills will only be apparent in clearer weather. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and any perception of change will be very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.164 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

SCA 17: Outer Swansea Bay*Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.165 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 19 km – 30 km to the south west of the proposed development. The influence of land diminishes with distance across this SCA. This area of open water has a simple consistent and unified character at a vast-scale and a strong sense of openness, isolation and exposure. The area is tranquil, wild and remote. 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. Nearer to the coast the hills and skylines forming a backcloth to views inland will be a more apparent feature contributing to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Seascape Value

A8.7.166 This simple, open, wild and unspoilt area of sea contributes to open sea views from the Swansea Bay and South Gower coast as well as Exmoor and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The area is important to the open setting of Gower to the north-west contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. There are no designations extending across the area. Commercial shipping traverses this area relatively frequently. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.167 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.168 There may be extensive visibility of the turbines within open views to the north-east from this SCA at distances increasing from around 18 km. These may be perceptible on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau, and in clearer weather conditions only from areas further out to sea. However, the proposed development will occupy a very limited proportion of the overall view and may be seen in combination with other man-made elements such as Port Talbot steel works. Key characteristics that will be affected by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is possible that there may be a very minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. The Magnitude of impact is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.169 The seascape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight - moderate to slight (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.170 Within sections to the east, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court, Upper Ogmere and Pant y Wal Phase 2 and Graig Fatha will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. The turbines will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms when viewed with the consented developments. However, due to the intervening distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.171 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.172 Within sections to the east, the application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. This development will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north-east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms when experienced with application but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and application. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.173 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.174 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, and will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of between 19 and 30 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. The proposed development will have very limited interaction with the scoping stage developments, due to scale and distance. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.175 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.176 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of the proposed development with operational and consented wind farm developments on upland areas to the north and the smaller operational developments nearer the coast within open views to the north-east from this SCA. The cumulative development and the influence of the land, including the coalfield plateau will be variable and likely to be perceptible only in clearer weather conditions. The proposed development together with perceptible cumulative development will have limited influence and may be experienced in combination with other man-made elements such as Port Talbot steel works. The increased influence of the cumulative wind farm development may result in a minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. However, the seascape is not considered to be a popular leisure or tourist destination and perception of the changes will be very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.177 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant)

SCA 18: Offshore Oxwich Point to Mumbles Head

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.178 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 16 km – 30 km to the south west of the proposed development. The SCA has a strong relationship with the Gower Coastline around 2.5 km to the north and the relationship with the Coalfield Plateau to the north east diminishes with distance across this SCA. This area of open water has a simple consistent and unified character at a vast-scale and a strong sense of openness, isolation and exposure. The area is tranquil, wild and

remote. The influence of the land will be apparent on both sides of the channel in the majority of weather and visibility conditions. The main features visible along the coast will be 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 and the block of flats in Langland and Caswell Bays, Exmoor appears as a low single dimensional line on the horizon with simple colours. These hills and skylines will form a backcloth to views inland and will contribute to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Seascape Value

A8.7.179 This area of sea contributes strongly to the open and unspoilt sea views from the southern Gower coast including from the Wales Coast Path. It is used primarily by leisure boats and fishing. Tranquillity is strong but reduced by visible development on the coast. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.180 The seascape contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.181 The ZTV indicates that there will be extensive visibility of 16-18 turbines within open views to the north-east from this SCA at distances increasing from around 16 km. These may be perceptible on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau, and in clearer weather conditions only from areas further out to sea. However, the proposed development will occupy a very limited proportion of the overall view and may be seen in combination with other man-made elements such as Port Talbot steel works. Key characteristics that may be affected by the proposed development will relate to the contribution that the Coalfield Plateau makes to the unspoilt natural marine character of the area. It is possible that there may be a very minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. On balance, the magnitude of impact is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.182 The seascape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.183 Within sections to the east, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsnant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court, Upper Ogmores and Pant y Wal Phase 2 and Graig Fatha will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. The turbines will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north

east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms when experienced with the consented developments but will be largely subsumed within the operational developments. Due to the distance, there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. The strong relationship with the Gower Coastline will be retained. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.184 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.185 Within sections to the east, the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will be experienced from within this SCA, when weather conditions allow. This development will however be subsumed within a plethora of operational development along the skyline to the north-east. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms when viewed with the application and operational developments. However, the strong relationship with the Gower Coastline will be retained. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.186 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.187 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, and will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of over 16 to 30 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. The proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms when viewed with the scoping stage and operational developments. However, the strong relationship with the Gower Coastline will be retained. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.188 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.189 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of the proposed development with operational and consented wind farm developments on upland areas to the north and the smaller operational developments nearer the coast within open views to the north-east from this SCA. The cumulative development and the influence of the land, including the coalfield plateau will be variable and likely to be perceptible only in clearer weather conditions, particularly in areas further out to sea. The proposed development together with perceptible cumulative development will have limited

influence and may be experienced in combination with other man-made elements such as Port Talbot steel works. The increased influence of the cumulative wind farm development may result in a minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. However, it is likely that the perception of the cumulative changes will be very intermittent. On balance, the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.190 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

SCA 19: Bristol Channel Offshore

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.191 This seascape would have a range of influences from the coast, increasing nearer to areas including cliffs along the south Gower. However, for the majority of the area, the overriding characteristic would be of open sea, away from the influence of land. On balance, the susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Seascape Value

A8.7.192 This area of sea is wild and remote, with a unified and open scale at a vast scale. Near the coast leisure craft and fishing vessels will be more numerous, with some longer distance cruising and sailing. Further out to sea there will be intermittent views of commercial vessels using the shipping lanes to Swansea, Port Talbot, Cardiff and Bristol. Some reduction in the sense of tranquillity may be notable from the shipping. The area forms part of the unspoilt sea views from Southern Gower and from the Pembrokeshire Coast including Caldey Island. The area is important to the open setting of Gower to the north contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. The northern edge of this area is part of Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.193 The seascape contains some key characteristics that may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.194 The ZTV indicates that there will be extensive visibility of 14-18 turbines across this open and largely offshore seascape. However, the proposed development will be potentially viewed at distances predominantly exceeding 30 km. At such distances, it is predicted that it will occupy a very limited proportion of any potential views and is likely to be visible in only very clear weather conditions. It is considered that there will be no perceptible impact on the overall quality of available views or any key characteristics of this SCA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.195 The seascape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.196 Although the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court and Pant y Wal Phase 2, Upper Ogmores and Graig Fatha will all in theory be visible, at such distances they will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The proposed development will have no perceptible relationship with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.197 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.198 Although the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will in theory be visible, at such distances it will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The proposed development will have no perceptible relationship with the application developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.199 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.200 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, and will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of over 30 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. The proposed development will have very limited interaction with the scoping stage and operational developments. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.201 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.202 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of the proposed development with operational and consented wind farm developments on upland areas to the north and the smaller operational developments nearer the coast within open views from this SCA. The cumulative development and

the influence of the land, including the coalfield plateau will be variable and likely to be perceptible only in very clear weather conditions. The proposed development together with perceptible cumulative development will have very limited influence. Cumulative wind farm development may result in a minor loss of tranquillity, remoteness and wildness. However, it is likely that the perception of the cumulative changes will be very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.203 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

SCA 21: Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sand

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.204 This distinctive and high-quality seascape possesses a lightly settled coastline, with significant stretches free from development. Key characteristics include remoteness, tranquillity and wildness. There are some interruptions to the east by air traffic from Cardiff Airport, and the large-scale Aberthaw Power Station. There are wide open views south and west over the channel, extending as far west as the Gower in suitable weather conditions. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be high.

Seascape Value

A8.7.205 The lightly settled coastline is largely free from development and has a remote, highly tranquil and often 'wild' character. 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 south and south-west facing coastline is designated as a Heritage Coast. Merthyr Mawr Warren is internationally designated (as SAC, SSSI and NNR) for its extensive sand dunes and other coastal habitats. This area is also registered as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be high.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.206 The seascape contains characteristics likely to be sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.207 Potentially there will be visibility of 16-18 turbines from the more elevated and/or open sections of the foreshore, such as around Ogmores-by Sea and more extensively from offshore areas beyond the screening effects of intervening cliffs. Potential views will be available from distances increasing from around 14 km to the east. The proposed development will be a noticeable feature within views from the northern areas of the SCA, such as at Ogmores-by-Sea and areas offshore. The proposed development will become less apparent with increasing distance. In all cases the proposed

development will occupy a small proportion of the overall view. The primary views out over and along the Bristol Channel will remain unchanged and key characteristics relating to tranquillity, wildness and remoteness will be largely unaffected. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.208 This seascape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant) On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.209 Within this SCA the consented schemes, including Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Upper Ogmores and Taff Ely Repowering, will be experienced along the horizon to the north and north west, predominantly from the more open areas further out to sea. Within areas closer to the foreshore, the screening effects of the coastline, will eliminate or reduce the influence of these schemes on the character of the SCA. Where visible, the consented schemes will be subsumed within and to the rear of the adjacent operational developments and at this distance they will have very limited influence on the character overall. The addition of the proposed development to the consented schemes will result in some intensification of wind turbines within limited areas of the SCA. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.210 The sensitivity of the seascape is high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible to low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.211 Within this SCA the application scheme of Foel Trawsant (S73) Wind Farm will be experienced along the horizon to the north, predominantly from the more open areas further out to sea. Within areas closer to the foreshore, the screening effects of the coastline, will eliminate or reduce the influence of this development on the character of the SCA. Where visible, at this distance the application scheme will have a very limited influence on the character overall. The addition of the proposed development to the consented schemes will result in some intensification of wind turbines within limited areas of the SCA, however there is little interaction between the two them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.212 The sensitivity of the seascape is high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.213 The proposed development will be experienced with intervening operational wind farm developments at Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm. As a consequence, from the more elevated and/or open sections of the foreshore, such as around Ogmore-by Sea and more extensively from offshore areas beyond the screening effects of intervening cliffs, there may be a slight increased perception of wind farm development. However, the proposed development is located at distances beyond 11 km away and from the SCA and any cumulative impacts will be indirect. The influence of the proposed development in combination with the cumulative developments will become less apparent with increasing distance. The primary views out over and along the Bristol Channel will remain unchanged and key characteristics relating to tranquillity, wildness and remoteness will be largely unaffected. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.214 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance effects are considered to be not significant as the majority of the key characteristics that form this SCA will remain unaffected by the proposed development.

SCA 24: Bristol Channel

Susceptibility of Seascape Receptors to Change

A8.7.215 This seascape would have a range of influences from the coast, increasing nearer to areas including cliffs along the remote coastline of Exmoor and North Devon. However, for the majority of the area, the overriding characteristic would be of open sea, away from the influence of land. The susceptibility of seascape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Seascape Value

A8.7.216 This area of sea is wild and remote, with a unified and open scale at a vast scale. Near the coast leisure craft and fishing vessels will be more numerous but infrequent in this remote area. Further out to sea there will be intermittent views of commercial vessels using the shipping lanes to Swansea, Port Talbot, Cardiff and Avonmouth. Some reduction in the sense of tranquillity may be notable from the shipping. The area is important to the open setting of Exmoor and north Devon contributing to the essentially unspoilt natural marine character of the area. Overall, the seascape value is considered to be medium.

Seascape Sensitivity

A8.7.217 The seascape contains some key characteristics that may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and seascape value indicates that on balance, seascape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.218 Potentially there will be extensive visibility of the proposed development across the areas of the SCA that fall within the 45 km study area. However, the proposed development will be viewed at

distances predominantly exceeding 16 km and more frequently beyond 30 km. At such distances, it is predicted that it will occupy a very limited proportion of any potential views and is likely to be visible in only very clear weather conditions. It is considered that there will be no perceptible impact on the overall quality of available views or any key characteristics of this SCA. The magnitude of impact is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Seascape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.219 The seascape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.220 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 27 km plus from the proposed development. Although the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant, Llynfi Afan Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Melin Court, Pant y Wal Phase 2, Upper Ogmore and Graig Fatha will all in theory be visible, at such distances they will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The addition of the proposed development will also be barely perceptible and will have no perceptible relationship with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Seascape Character (consented wind farms)

A8.7.221 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.222 This SCA is located at distances of approximately 27 km plus from the proposed development. Although the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant (S73) and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will in theory be visible, at such distances they will be barely perceptible and will have no influence on the character of the SCA. The addition of the proposed development will also be barely perceptible and will have no perceptible relationship with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (application wind farms)

A8.7.223 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.224 Although the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, and will be theoretically visible, they will be experienced at distances of over 27 km. They will also be predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. They will be barely perceptible and have very limited interaction with the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impact is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.7.225 The sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Cumulative Impacts on Seascape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.226 Potentially there will be some perception of the proposed development with operational and consented wind farm developments on upland areas to the north and east of the proposed development. However, any influence from these cumulative developments with the proposed development, is likely to be perceptible only in very clear weather conditions and will have a very limited influence of seascape character and likely to be imperceptible and very intermittent. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.7.227 Within this SCA the sensitivity of the seascape is medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative seascape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Potential Effects on Landscape Character

A8.7.228 The significance of effects on landscape character as a result of the proposed development during the operational phase, has been assessed against the significance criteria defined in Appendix 8 – 8.1. The location of the LCAs are shown in *Figure 8.31 – Landscape Character Areas with Theoretical Visibility of Y Bryn Wind Farm*.

A8.7.229 Following the assessment of individual effects on landscape character, cumulative impacts and effects in relation to all LCA's within the study are described separately thereafter.

LCA 01 Margam Marsh*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.230 Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir is an important wetland and habitat area; however, it is visually influenced by the adjacent industrial landscape, powerlines, and infrastructure, including a mainline railway and M4 motorway and consequently considered to be of low scenic quality. This is a landscape that is considered to be tolerant of the type of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.231 The LCA has some habitat features of note; however, the landscape is considered to be low scenic value and is not a tourist destination or recognised by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.232 The landscape is not designated and is considered to contain key landscape characteristics, such as the strong visual influence of the adjacent industrial landscape that will be tolerant of wind farm

development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.233 The LCA is located approximately 4 km from the nearest proposed turbine, where it is predicted that they would form a new element within the wider landscape and at a scale that may result in a partial change in character, as wind farm development would have a greater visual influence on the LCA. However, the important and sensitive wetland and habitat areas will remain unaffected. In addition, this is a landscape that is indirectly influenced by large scale industrial developments and infrastructure routes and with little sense of remoteness or tranquillity. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.234 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

LCA 02 Margam Burrows*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.235 A simple, but rare landscape, with minimal public access that creates some sense of remoteness, although this is eroded to an extent by the presence of the landfill site and visual intrusion of the M4 motorway and the adjacent steel works. Therefore, this is a landscape that is predicted to be able to accommodate some degree of change from the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.236 The landscape has a strong sense of place and contains important habitats areas, including coastal grazing marsh, which is considered to be of high value. However, the M4 motorway, adjacent steel works and landfill site are all detracting elements. The area is not recognised as a tourist area and is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. However, there are historic landscape values of high and outstanding within LANDMAP Aspect Areas across this LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.237 The landscape is not designated and contains some key characteristics that may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed, such as the visual influence of the M4 motorway and the steel works at Port Talbot. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity is medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.238 The turbines will form a new element within the wider landscape that may lead to the wind farm development becoming a more influencing feature and therefore resulting in a partial change in landscape character across a wide proportion of the LCA. Although the important habitat of the coastal grazing marsh that is of high value will remain unaffected. In addition, the existing features that form the character of this landscape, most notably the coastal dunes and landfill site is predicted to remain as its defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.239 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 05 Coedhirwaun and Open Scarp Tops

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.240 A simple landscape pattern of moderate scenic quality, which is considered to be in poor condition, although the scarp slopes are seen as a locally important landscape feature. This is a landscape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.241 A landscape that is locally distinctive and considered to be of moderate scenic quality, although the LCA falls within the locally designated Margam SLA. The area is noted for its historic interest which includes evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval activity. The area is not associated with recreation. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.242 The landscape is designated at the local level, and it contains some landscape characteristics, such a low scenic quality, with a sense of openness and exposure within the simple upland areas of the LCA and which may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.243 There may be minor local change in landscape character within the far northern more elevated edge of the LCA, where it abuts the southern boundary of the proposed site, as due to the proximity of the proposed development, wind turbines would become a key influencing factor on its character. Any change however will occur over a limited extent of the LCA. From all other areas within the LCA, topography and woodland vegetation restricts any visual or sensory connection with the wider landscape to the north. Furthermore, the key defining features of the LCA will fundamentally be

retained, particularly the scarp slope with its strong relationship with the coastal plain. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.244 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

LCA 11 Cwm Afan and Cwm Peleenna

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.245 A relatively small scaled, enclosed river valley, with an organised pattern containing a mix of elements that create an attractive landscape and sense of remoteness. Land uses include open grassland, small pastures, rough bracken and scrub and areas of deciduous woodland. Views are generally contained to within the river valley and therefore the landscape may be able to accommodate some degree of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.246 A landscape of moderate scenic quality although it has a distinctive sense of place, with a notable historical past as a key industrial communication corridor that includes the Pontrhydyfen Aqueduct that now forms part of NCR 887. These are reflected in the high and outstanding values for LANDMAP historic landscape aspect areas. In addition, Afan Forest Park is a key regional tourist destination. However, the LCA is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.247 The landscape is not designated; however, it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes, the landscape habitat areas and historic features, which are considered more sensitive than the valley bottom, which has a sense of enclosure. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.248 Impacts on landscape character will be indirect and extend over a very limited area of the LCA due to topography restricting any visual association with the surrounding landscape. Therefore, it is predicted that the proposed development will result in such minor loss or alteration to key elements of the character overall that there will be no perceptible impact. The key landscape characteristics of this LCA will remain fundamentally unchanged and will continue to be defined by its existing characteristics, rather than by the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.249 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 14 Foel Fawr

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.250 A landscape of low quality and rarity that was previously dominated by coniferous forestry plantation that has been recently felled and therefore could easily be replaced. This is a landscape that is considered robust of the type of development proposed and could easily be restored. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.251 A landscape of low scenic quality, with a moderate sense of place. The landscape is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations and although there are numerous tracks and some footpaths within the LCA, it is not a tourist destination. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.252 The landscape is not designated and contains some key characteristics, such as the simple form of the landscape, which may be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.253 Impacts on landscape character will be limited to the western fringes of the LCA, which is located approximately 4 km from the proposed development. Following construction, the proposed development may have an indirect visual influence within western parts of the LCA that could result in an alteration to its character. However, the large tracts of recently felled forestry that define the LCA are not considered sensitive to change and will remain as key defining features of the landscape following the construction of the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.254 The landscape is considered to be of low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 15 Mynydd-y-Gelli

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.255 A simple, large scale, upland landscape that is partially dominated by nine of the existing 12 turbines of Llynfi Afan Renewable Energy Park (REP) Wind Farm that are located within this LCA. Therefore, this is a landscape that is considered to be tolerant and robust to the type of

development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.256 A landscape considered to be of high scenic quality, where the uniform ground cover, which includes areas of BAP habitats, and wind turbines provides a simple and distinct character to the area. The area is noted for its historic features, extending from the Mesolithic Period to the present day. The area is locally designated as an SLA, although it is not a tourist destination. Overall, landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.257 The landscape is designated at a local level although considered to be a landscape that is robust to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.258 Impacts on landscape character will be restricted to western and southern fringes of the LCA. However, this is a landscape that is dominated by the existing wind farm development Llynfi Afan REP. Therefore, the introduction of the proposed development may lead to a small increase in the perceived sense of wind farm development within the wider landscape, but not to the extent that they will be a characterising element of the landscape. Any changes would be indirect and minor and not change the underlying character of the LCA that is currently defined by existing wind farm development set within a simple upland landscape, and which is considered to be tolerant to the type of change proposed. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.259 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts also low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

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

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.260 A simple, large-scale upland plateau dominated by the operational wind farm developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, plus large blocks of coniferous woodland planting, form the key landscape elements to this LCA. These characteristics are considered to be robust and tolerant of the type of development proposed and could easily be restored. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.261 A landscape of moderate scenic quality, which is not considered to be rare and does not have a strong sense of place, although the western fringes of the LCA have been locally designated as an SLA. Partially located within the LCA is Afan Bike Park, which includes a number of mountain bike

trails and is a key tourist destination and seen as a primary reason for visitors. The LANDMAP historic landscape aspect area evaluation for this area is outstanding, describing the area as a rich multi-period landscape with evidence of a remarkable continuity of human activity and adaptation of the landscape from the Mesolithic period to the present day. However, modern forestry plantation has slightly diminished the coherence of this aspect. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.262 The landscape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics, which will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. However, some, such as the historic landscape characteristics, may be more sensitive to change. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.263 Indirect impacts on landscape character will potentially extend across a notable extent of the more elevated areas of land within the LCA. However, the extensive coniferous forestry that characterises the LCA largely restricts any visual relationships with surrounding landscape and the more open areas of the LCA are dominated by existing large-scale wind farm developments. There may be some increased perceptions of a greater influence of wind turbines affecting the existing character of the LCA from the addition of the proposed development. However, this will be localised due to the influence of forestry and most likely experienced in southern parts, which are within proximity to the site boundary of the proposed development. Overall, the key landscape elements of the LCA, including the more sensitive elements such as the historic landscape characteristics, will remain unaffected. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.264 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of impacts on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the key elements that currently characterise this LCA, including the upland plateau with coniferous forestry and existing wind farm development will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 23 Bryn Mawr, Mynydd Carnllechart, Mynydd y Baran & Mynydd Gellionnen

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.265 A large scale, simple landscape consisting of rolling upland common that has a sense of exposure, together with a sense of tranquillity, wilderness and remoteness. These characteristics form a scenic, high-quality landscape. Panoramic views across the surrounding landscape are possible, which include the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm to the east and Swansea to the south, which partly reduces the sense of wilderness and sense of remoteness. This is a landscape, which is considered to be where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type

of development proposed, however not exclusively so. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.266 A landscape with a moderately distinctive sense of place, although of high scenic quality. The land within the LCA has been locally designated as an SLA and includes important Bronze Age Cairns and the important chapels of Baran and Gellionnen. There are no tourist attractions associated with the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.267 The landscape is designated at a local level and contain characteristics, such as the historic features and the sense of wilderness/remoteness, which may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.268 For areas within the LCA that fall within the 15 km study, impacts on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to the southern fringes of the LCA. The turbines of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm and Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm, plus urban development of Swansea is already an influencing element on character within this part of the LCA. Therefore, whilst the proposed wind farm may be a perceptible new element within the wider landscape, it may only result in a very minor loss to the sense of remoteness that is experienced within the LCA. All other key landscape character elements that define this LCA, including the open, upland, rolling common that has a sense of remoteness and wilderness, plus the historic features will all fundamentally remain unaffected by the proposed development. Therefore, on balance any change to character will be very slight. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.269 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 26 Mynydd Drumau

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.270 A medium sized scaled landscape, containing a mix of elements, including coniferous woodland and areas of irregular shaped fields, bound by overgrown hedgerow that are used for pasture and which are generally in poor condition and of moderate scenic quality. There are views out of the LCA that provides a sense of connection to the surrounding landscape that include the existing turbines of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer wind farms, plus the urban developments of Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot. It is therefore considered that the combination of attributes that define the landscape are capable of absorbing some degree of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.271 A landscape of moderate scenic quality and a moderate sense of place, however the area is of historic importance due to the number of prehistoric monuments and medieval settlement features found within the LCA. There are no tourist attractions within the LCA, and the landscape is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.272 The landscape is not designated, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed, including the more sensitive historic features, to the areas of coniferous woodland, which is considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.273 Impacts on landscape character will potentially extend across a wide proportion of the LCA and following construction of the proposed development there may be an increase in the perception of wind farm developments affecting the character of the LCA. However, any impacts would be indirect and at distance of over 10 km to the proposed development. Combined with the scale and existing elements that form the existing character of the LCA any change will be slight to the degree that the fundamental character of the landscape will be retained, as the key elements will continue to be the defining elements of the landscape rather than the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.274 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts is medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 28 Neath*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.275 A small scale, sprawling urban landscape of commercial and residential buildings located around the river Neath. The mix of building styles provides a low scenic quality, particularly in locations away from the town centre. The majority of attributes are likely to be robust/tolerant of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.276 A landscape of low scenic quality and with a weak sense of place, especially within locations outside of the historic core of the town centre. The LCA contains important historic features, including the Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden of Victoria Gardens, Neath Abbey, Neath Abbey Ironworks and Aberdulais Tinplate Works. These are all locally important tourist attractions;

however, recreation is not seen as the primary attraction within the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.277 The landscape is not designated and contains key characteristics that will be predominantly tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed, however areas around the registered parks and gardens may be more sensitive to the type of development proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.278 Impacts on landscape character will be indirect, restricted to the western half of the town and isolated areas within the eastern areas of the LCA. The dense urban character of Neath that dominates the LCA, creating little visual connection with the surrounding landscape. As a result, it is predicted that the existing character within the town will be retained and there will be no perceptible change or alteration to its key characteristics following the construction of the proposed turbines. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.279 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight to negligible (not significant).

LCA 37 Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan and Margam*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.280 A sprawling urban development of limited quality and in poor condition that spreads across the coastal plain without any perceptible pattern, and which could be easily replaced or restored. This is a landscape where the majority of attributes will be robust/tolerant of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.281 The LCA includes the Grade II* Registered Park and Garden of Talbot Memorial Park, however overall, the landscape within the LCA is of low scenic quality and with a weak sense of place. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.282 The landscape is designated at a national level, however the key characteristic of the LCA will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.283 In theory Impacts on landscape character may potentially extend across a wide proportion of the LCA, however in reality impacts will be contained by the existing urban developments that limits the visual connection with the surrounding landscape. There may be a slight perception of change to landscape character where there are glimpsed views of the proposed development on the skyline of the coalfield plateau. The proposed development may result in wind turbine development becoming a more influencing feature within the landscape; however, the underlying character of the landscape will not fundamentally change. The LCA will continue to be defined by sprawling urban development, as opposed to the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.284 The landscape is considered to be low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 40 Margam Sands/Aberavon Sands

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.285 A large scale, open and exposed stretch of sand, which forms a simple yet coherent and scenic seascape/landscape of high quality. The LCA is characterised by the large sweep of sand of Aberavon Sands and Margam Sand, with extensive views across the Bristol Channel and Swansea Bay. The promenade to Aberavon and the large Sandfields housing estate forms the backdrop to the northern half of the LCA, while heavy industry, including the steel works and Baglan Green Energy Centre, plus dock infrastructure forms the backdrop to the southern half of the LCA. This is a landscape where due to existing influencing elements, the landscape may be able to absorb some degree of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.286 A seascape/landscape of high scenic quality, whose characteristics are considered to be rare landscape and one which has a strong sense of place. The LCA is also noted for its historical interests, ranging from the Neolithic to post-medieval period. The area has strong tourist associations and recreation is likely to be the primary attraction, particularly in northern areas of the LCA. However, the LCA is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.287 The landscape is not designated and contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed, including the sweeping arc of Margam and Aberavon Sands, which may be sensitive to change, to the steel works and Baglan Green Energy Centre, which will be less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.288 The LCA is located approximately 4 km from the proposed development and may be seen as an influencing element on character within this the wider landscape. Any impacts, however, will be indirect and the key characteristics that define the LCA, including the wide sweeping stretch of sand and the open views across Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel towards the Somerset Coast will remain unaffected and as defining elements, rather than the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.289 The landscape is considered to be medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

LCA 41 Neath Estuary Mouth

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.290 This expansive and simple estuarine landscape forms part of the broad sweep of Swansea Bay, with superb views beyond this stretch of water, across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset Coast. Higher ground to the east, creates a sense of enclosure. The area is remote and undeveloped, although the river Neath, steel works and some other large-scale industry, including Baglan Green Energy Centre as well as the M4 viaduct are all key characteristics of the landscape. The susceptibility is evaluated as low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.291 This seascape offers possesses a tranquil and relatively remote character close and extending into Swansea Bay. However, in part, the estuary is dominated by the M4 viaduct with its movement and noisy traffic and there are also larger scale detractors including the steel works and other industrial developments. The sand dunes around the Neath estuary and Crymlyn Burrows is an SSSI. Overall, the value of this LCA is evaluated as medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.292 A locally designated landscape, where the sand dunes are likely to be sensitive to wind farm development, whereas the more industrial parts less so. Therefore, this landscape and it contains some characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.293 The proposed development will be an indirect influencing feature in the character of the wider landscape, to the extent that there may be a slight change. However, the key characteristics that define this LCA, including the broad sweep of Swansea Bay and River Neath, plus the existing detractors of the heavy industry and M4 viaduct will all remain as key and defining characteristics of the landscape. On balance the magnitude of this indirect impact is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.294 The landscape is considered to be medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

LCA 46: Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.295 A narrow, enclosed river valley that includes a number of settlements along the A4064 road and which reduces the sense of tranquillity within the LCA and creating a low sense of scenic quality. Views are generally contained, however there is intervisibility between the surrounding uplands and forestry. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.296 A landscape of predominantly low scenic quality and with a moderate sense of place. However, the southern part of the LCA, contains Bryngarw Country Park, an SLA and a Grade II Registered Park and Garden, which is locally recognised as a tourist attraction, although recreation is the not the primary attraction within the LCA. The LCA also has cultural associations with the novel 'Carrie's War', written by Nina Bawden. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.297 The landscape is designated at a local and national level; however, it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. These range from the sensitive areas within Bryngarw Country Park to the less sensitive development that extends along the valley floor. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.298 Due to topography, any impacts on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to the far southern extent of the LCA, adjacent to the settlement of Llangeinor and the eastern edge of Bryngarw Country Park. However, vegetation is predicted to constrain and visual association with the surrounding landscapes and therefore restricting any loss or alteration to the existing character to the extent that there will be no perceptible impact. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.299 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 47: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.300 An exposed, open and large-scale landscape predominately of rough grassland used for grazing that creates a simple landscape, considered to be of high scenic quality. The lack of roads and settlements creates a sense of remoteness; however, this is reduced by the visual connection to the surrounding wind farms of Taff Ely, Llynfi Afan REP, Fforch Nest 1& 2 and Pant y Wal (including the extension) which are notable features of this LCA. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.301 A landscape of high scenic quality and with a strong sense of place and which is considered to be rare within the region. It contains important landscape habitats, which includes a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), SSSI and a local wildlife site. The LCA also contains notable historic features ranging from the Bronze Age through to the early 20th century. Land within the LCA is also designated as an SLA, however it does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.302 The landscape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the habitat and areas of archaeological importance, plus the views across the Vale of Glamorgan and Bristol Channel, all of which are considered to be sensitive, to the areas that are influenced by existing wind farms, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.303 Effects on landscape character will be indirect and limited to the western edge of the LCA, where it abuts the settlements of Blaengarw and Pontycymer. Due to the type of elements that form the existing character, this is an LCA that is considered to be robust to change and there will be no perceptible impact. There will be no change to the existing key characteristics that define this LCA. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.304 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 48: Ogmere Valley Floor and Lower Slopes

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.305 Narrow river valley of where land use predominantly consists of a mix of pastoral agricultural fields on the lower slopes, with woodland cover on valley sides and rough grassland on upper slopes.

The settlements along the valley floor and the noise from the A4061 and A4093 are visually detracting and reduces scenic quality and the sense of tranquillity within the LCA. There is a visual connection with the adjacent higher ground, which includes the wind farms of Taff Ely and Fforch Nest. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.306 A landscape of moderate scenic quality and a moderate sense of place, whose character is considered to be relatively rare. It contains important landscape habitats, including a SAC and a SSSI. The LCA also contains notable historic features predominately associated with the 19th century and coal mining. It also has a cultural association with the novel/film, ‘*How Green Was My Valley*’, written by Richard Llewellyn. Land within the LCA is also designated as an SLA, however it does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.307 The landscape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the swathes of woodland, rough grassland, landscape habitats and views to the surrounding uplands that are all sensitive to change to areas along the more developed valley floor which is less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.308 Any effects on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to the valley sides within the south-eastern corner of the LCA. This part of the LCA is vegetated with dense forestry, which will remain unaffected and restrict views across the surrounding landscape, including views towards the sensitive upland areas. It is therefore predicted there will be no loss or alteration to key elements of the landscape following construction of the proposed development. The existing landscape features will remain as the defining elements of the landscape rather than the proposed development. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.309 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 49: Ogmore Forest and Surrounding Uplands

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.310 A remote, undulating, large, scaled upland landscape of moderate scenic quality and where land use is dominated by the turbines of Pant-y-Wal and Fforch Nest Wind Farms, plus the large coniferous plantation of Ogmore Forest. The majority of attributes will be robust/tolerant of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.311 A landscape of moderate scenic quality, sense of place and rarity. The LCA contains locally important habitats, including grassland, heath bracken and scrub, plus broadleaved semi natural woodland. It also contains some notable historic features, including the earthwork of Bwlch y Clawdd. Areas to the north of Ogmore Forest is designated as an SLA, however it does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.312 The landscape is designated at a local level; however, it contains key characteristics which will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.313 This LCA is between approximately 10 km and 15 km from the nearest proposed turbine and any impacts on landscape character will be indirect and predominantly limited to central areas of the LCA and the upper western facing slopes. This, however, is a landscape that is already characterised by wind farm development and therefore whilst the introduction of the proposed development may result in an increased perception of wind turbines, it is not predicted to alter the existing character. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.314 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 50: Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.315 An undulating, complex landscape that contains a mix of elements, which is a predominately rural landscape, which provides an exposed, upland feel to the higher ground. The northern parts of the LCA, which include Mynydd y Gaer are generally considered to be high in scenic quality, whereas areas to the south, which include Hirwaun Common are considered to be of moderate scenic quality. Mynydd y Gaer has a strong visual relationship with the adjacent Taff Ely Wind Farm. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.316 A landscape of high to moderate scenic quality, which has a strong rural character, but is also partially influenced by existing wind farm development. Hirwaun Common includes areas of important landscape habitats that have been designated as a Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC). It is also noted for its historic associations, which predominantly range from

the medieval/post medieval period. Mynydd y Gaer is designated an SLA. The LCA is not noted for its tourist associations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.317 The landscape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degree of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the areas of landscape habitats and archaeological features that are sensitive to change to the areas within the LCA that are partially influenced by wind farm development and considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.318 Impacts on landscape character may extend across a notable area of the LCA, including the Hirwaun Common and the western fringes of the LCA that include the lower slopes of Mynydd y Gaer, which are already partially influenced by Taff Ely Wind Farm within the neighbouring LCA and therefore considered less sensitive to change. The LCA is located between 10 km and 15 km from the nearest proposed turbine and therefore any impacts as a result of the proposed development would be indirect and likely perceived as a slight change within the wider landscape, rather than within the LCA itself. The key characteristics of the LCA will fundamentally remain unaffected and continue to be defined by its existing elements, rather than the proposed development. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.319 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 52: Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.320 A simple landscape that is dominated by the undulating dune system that has a rural, tranquil character – although slightly reduced in northern areas by traffic noise from the A48 and is considered to be of high scenic quality. The LCA has a strong visual relationship with the adjacent coast and out to the Bristol Channel to the south. An extremely rare landscape and where the attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.321 A landscape of high scenic quality, which is rare and that has a distinct sense of place. The LCA includes internationally important landscape habitats and has been designated as a NNR, SAC, SSSI and a Local Wildlife Site. The LCA falls within a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, which includes Ogmere Castle, Candleston Castle, Chapel Hill Iron Age hillfort and Vervil Dyke.

The LCA also includes the Grade II* listed Registered Park and Garden of Merthyr Mawr House. The Glamorgan Heritage Coast lies partly within the LCA and through which the Wales Coast Path passes through. The dunes have a cultural association with the film 'Lawrence of Arabia', as they were used as a location during filming. Recreation is a key feature within this LCA and is likely to be the main attraction. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be outstanding to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.322 The landscape is designated at an international level and contains landscape characteristics, which have a high sensitivity to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.323 Any impacts on landscape character will be restricted to the farmland within the northern fringes of the LCA. From within these areas, there may be a slight perception of wind farm development, however, the nearest proposed turbine is located approximately 11 km away from the LCA and any impacts will be indirect. Any change will be minor and not to the extent that the rural character of the landscape will be lost, or there will be an alteration in the key characteristics that define this LCA. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.324 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA, including the strong visual relationship with the coast, will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 53: Newton Down Limestone Plateau

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.325 A medium scale, open plateau that is predominately rural in character, which is of moderate scenic quality. The existing character of the landscape is partly defied by the recent construction of wind turbines of Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm, plus a solar farm on the plateau. There is a visual connection with the urban development of Porthcawl and along the coast, whilst to the north the ridge top settlement of Cefn Cribwr is notable. The sense of tranquillity is reduced by noise from the transport routes of the M48, A48 and A4106, plus the mainline railway line and noise from the opencast quarry. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.326 A landscape of moderate scenic quality, sense of place and rarity. The LCA contains some notable historic features, including the Grade II Registered Park and Garden of Tythesgston Court, the

medieval motte of Stormy Castle, remains of prehistoric barrows and settlement remains to hill summits. Land within the LCA has been locally designated as an SLA, however there are no tourist associations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.327 The landscape is designated at a local level, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the historic features and the open, elevated downland, both of which are considered to be sensitive, to the areas that are influenced by existing wind farms, urban development and quarrying, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.328 Impacts on landscape character will in theory extend across a wide proportion of the LCA, however in reality existing vegetation will significantly restrict any visual connection that the LCA has with the wider landscape and therefore reducing impacts. Wind turbines may be a more notable, although indirect influencing element on the character of the landscape following construction of the proposed development, which may result in a minor change in character, most notably within the elevated downland. However, this is a landscape that is already influenced by a number of manmade elements, including wind turbines, solar arrays, quarrying and encroachment of urban development to its fringes. Other key sensitive characteristics, including historic features will remain unaffected. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.329 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 54: Porthcawl Coastline and Settled Farmland

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.330 A simple, low-lying seascape/landscape of moderate scenic quality where the coastline contrasts with the adjacent caravan park and urban development of Porthcawl. The LCA has a sense of exposure that is reinforced by a strong visual connection with the sea. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.331 A landscape of moderate scenic quality, sense of place and rarity. The coastline however has some nationally important historic features from the Mesolithic period up to the present day, including the remains of Sker House, which has a cultural association with R.D/ Blackmores book, 'The Maid of Sker'. The area is a popular tourist destination, for walkers using the Wales Coast Path and surfers. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.332 The landscape is not designated, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the settled, farmland character, areas of archaeological/historic importance, plus the views across the Bristol Channel, all of which are considered to be sensitive and areas within the south east of the LCA that are influenced by the existing urban development of Porthcawl and caravan park, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.333 Any impacts on landscape character are likely to be restricted to the northern edge of the LCA, located above the lower lying beach. Wind turbines may be a more notable, although indirect influencing element on the character of the landscape following construction of the proposed development. However, the sense of exposure and visual connection with the sea, which are key characteristics of the landscape will remain unaffected. As will the important historic/archaeological sites within the LCA. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.334 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

LCA 55: Kenfig Dunes and Coastline

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.335 A large scale, simple dune system with a strong sense of remoteness, which is reinforced by the lack of man-made influences within the LCA. Visual connection across the adjacent Bristol Channel is a key visual characteristic of the landscape and scenic quality is considered to be high. There however is also, a visual connection with the extensive steel works in Port Talbot with associated busy docks, and in conjunction with traffic noise from the M4 motorway that reduces the sense of remoteness and tranquillity that is experienced. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.336 A landscape of high scenic quality, with a strong sense of place and a character that is considered to be rare. The LCA contains nationally and internationally important natural habitats and has been designated as a SAC, SSSI and NNR. There are also important historic features, including the remains of a medieval castle and town and the area is designated as a Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest. The landscape, which is designated as a SLA, is an important local tourist attraction and is likely to be the primary reason for attraction to the LCA. The landscape value is considered to be outstanding.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.337 The landscape is designated at a local and national level for its landscape and at an international level for its natural habitats. It contains landscape characteristics that may have a high sensitivity

to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that landscape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.338 The perceived influence of the proposed development is likely to extend across a wide proportion of the LCA, however at approximately 7 km, impacts will be indirect. The proposed development will be intermittently perceptible on the skyline where the varied landform and vegetation pattern allows. Where perceptible, there may be a loss to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity that may result in a change in the character. However, the undulating dune system and connection with the adjacent coast will remain as the defining key element of the LCA. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.339 The landscape is considered to be medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). The proposed development will have an influence, albeit indirectly, however the key defining characteristics of the LCA will be retained.

LCA 56: Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.340 A medium scale, broad valley, where land-use is predominantly dominated by agricultural fields used for pasture and is not considered to be rare or unique in terms of its character and does not have a strong sense of place. The M4 motorway, including traffic noise and overhead electricity powerlines are key man-made features that partially reduces the otherwise rural character. The LCA has a strong visual relationship within areas around the settlement of Cefn Cribwr to the urban areas of Pyle and Bridgend south towards the Bristol Channel and north towards the upland areas. This is a landscape that may be able to absorb some degree of change from the type of development proposed without affecting the overall character. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.341 A landscape of moderate scenic quality and one that is not considered to be rare in terms of its defining elements. However, southern areas of the LCA are designated as a SLA and the Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden of Court Colman is located within the south-east of the LCA. There are also a number of nationally important historic features, including Tondu Ironworks, Cefn Cribwr Ironworks, Pen-y-Castell Iron Age hillfort, Cefn Cross prehistoric standing stone and the remains of Llangewydd church. In addition, habitat areas include a SAC, plus a number of SINCs and SSSIs. The LCA however is not noted for its tourist associations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.342 The LCA is designated at a local and national level, however it contains a range of elements, whose characteristics vary in their degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the

scale proposed. This includes a strong rural character, landscape habitats and areas of historic/archaeological importance all which are considered to be sensitive, to the areas that are influenced by urban developments of Pyle and Bridgend, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.343 The LCA is located between approximately 4 km to 10 km from the proposed development and therefore impacts on landscape character will be indirect. Following construction of the proposed development there may be an increase in the perception of wind farm development being a feature of the wider landscape, which may result in a minor change in change to character. However, impact will predominantly be restricted to northern parts of the LCA and therefore will be limited in extent. The key sensitive landscape elements that currently define the character of the LCA, including the strong rural character, landscape habitats and historic/archaeological features, is predicted to remain as dominant features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.344 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features will remain as the defining characteristic of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 61: Pyle

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.345 An urban landscape, consisting of a mix of residential, warehouse and light industry that creates a sense of enclosure and restrict views to surrounding areas. Any sense of tranquillity is reduced by traffic noise from noise from the M4 motorway. The mix of developments creates a discordant pattern and scenic quality is considered to be low. The majority of attributes will be robust/tolerant of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.346 A landscape of low scenic quality and with a predominantly weak sense of place. It does not contain any tourist attractions and is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.347 The landscape is not designated, and it contains characteristics which will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.348 Effects on landscape character will in theory extend across the whole of the LCA, however the LCA is located approximately 12 km from the proposed development and any impacts will be indirect. The dense urban grain of the urban landscape that creates a strong sense of enclosure, will limit the impacts of the proposed development to the extent that there will be no loss or alteration to the existing character. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.349 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 62: Northern Vale Lias Slopes

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.350 A medium scaled, open, rural landscape, predominantly consisting of pastoral fields, however views to the urban edge of Bridgend, Taff Ely Wind Farm, plus the A48 and M4 motorway reduces the rural character, including sense of tranquillity. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.351 A landscape of moderate scenic quality and moderate in terms of rarity, however it is weak in terms of its sense of place. The LCA lies partially within a SLA and has some historic features of note, ranging from prehistoric times, the Bronze Age, Roman and the medieval period. There are however no tourist attractions within the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.352 The landscape is designated at a local level, however key characteristics, including the urban influences on the rural character, will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.353 The northern edge of this LCA is located within the 15 km of the proposed development, therefore a very small proportion of the overall area of land within the LCA. Following construction of the proposed development there may be slight alteration to landscape character as wind farm development will potentially be a more notable feature across the ridgeline that is a feature within the wider landscape. However, the key landscape characteristics that define this LCA, including the pastoral fields and views to adjacent urban areas, will fundamentally remain as the defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.354 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

LCA 63: Heritage Coast Hinterland

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.355 A predominately large-scale rural landscape, with a sense of exposure and with a strong visual connection with adjacent waters of the Bristol Channel. The area is tranquil, despite the presence of a number of minor roads. This is an attractive seascape/landscape, with a high scenic quality and one where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.356 A landscape of high scenic quality, with a distinct and strong sense of place and one that is rare in terms of its attributes. The LCA contains important historic sites, ranging from the Neolithic to Bronze Age, including the remains of a Cistercian grange complex at Monknash. The LCA partially lies within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. The area is a recognised tourist destination and is likely to be the primary attraction. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.357 The landscape is designated at a national level and contains landscape characteristics that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed, including its connection with the adjacent open water and sense of tranquillity, plus its historic features. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be high

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.358 Impacts landscape character within 15 km of the proposed development will be restricted to the settlement of Ogmore-by-Sea. There may be a slight increase in the perception of wind farm development within the LCA following the construction of the proposed development. However, impacts will be indirect and the key elements, such as the open views across the Bristol Channel, the sense of exposure and tranquillity, plus the historic features will all fundamentally remain unaffected. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.359 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

LCA 64: Norton Down*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.360 A small-scale agricultural landscape of moderate scenic quality, with few trees and woodlands, which creates a sense of exposure and bleakness, and which forms a distinctive character to the LCA. The lack of development provides a sense of tranquillity and remoteness, however there is a visual connection with the upland areas to the north, however due to distance, it is not a strong connection. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.361 A landscape of moderate scenic quality, but with a strong sense of place. The LCA forms part of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, however there is limited access and it is not noted for any tourist associations. There are no historic or landscape habitat features of note within the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.362 The landscape is designated at a local level and contains elements that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the size proposed including its sense of exposure and remoteness. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.363 Impacts on landscape character may occur over an extensive proportion of the LCA, however the proposed development is located between approximately 14 km to 16 km away. The proposed wind farm development may have an indirect influence on the character of the LCA, however any change will be to the extent that there will only be a very minor alteration or loss. The key elements that currently defines the landscape, including the sense of exposure and remoteness, will remain as the dominant features of the LCA. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.364 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 65: Ogmore Down*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.365 Land use within this LCA includes areas of rough grass used for pasture, a golf course and a quarry. The LCA has a visual connection with the Bristol Channel and the Ogmore valley, with a sense of exposure and remoteness, with along with views across the Bristol Channel creates a landscape of high scenic quality. The sense of tranquillity is slightly reduced by noise from the quarry. This is an attractive landscape and one where the majority of attributes are unlikely to

withstand change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.366 A landscape of high scenic quality, with a distinct and strong sense of place. Seascape/landscape contains important habitats as recognised through its designations as a SSSI and Local Wildlife Site and the eastern half of the LCA is designated as a SLA. Recreation associations is limited to the golf course. On balance, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.367 The landscape is designated at a local level and contains some landscape characteristics that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed, including its connection with the adjacent open water and sense of exposure and remoteness. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.368 Impacts on landscape character potentially extends across a wide proportion of the LCA, however the nearest proposed turbine is located at a distance of approximately 15 km and therefore any impacts will be indirect. Following construction of the proposed development, wind farm development may be a more perceptible feature of the landscape, including a slight reduction in the sense of remoteness, but not to the extent that there will be a fundamental change. Other key defining features, including the visual connection with the Bristol Channel, sense of exposure will all remain unaffected. On balance, the magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.369 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 66: Alun/St. Brides Valley*Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change*

A8.7.370 A small scale, narrow wooded valley that creates a sense of enclosure and shelter. Despite the presence of the railway line the LCA has a sense of tranquillity to it, although reduced slightly by noise from the nearby quarry. This is an attractive seascape/landscape, with a high scenic quality and one where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.371 A landscape of high scenic quality, with a distinct and strong sense of place, although not overly rare in terms of its character within the area. The landscape contains important habitat, predominantly for its population of High Brown Fritillary Butterflies. It also contains important

historic sites, including a Neolithic causeway enclosure at Ewenny Park. Land within the LCA has been designated as a SLA, however there are no tourist attractions associated with the area. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.372 The landscape is designated at a local level and contains some landscape characteristics that may be sensitive to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.373 Impact on landscape character will in theory be restricted to the north western corner of the LCA. However, the combination of topography and existing vegetation that creates a sense of enclosure throughout the LCA and prevents a visual relationship with the surrounding landscape will result in the proposed development having no precipitable impact on the character of the LCA. The key characteristics that define this LCA will remain unaffected. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.374 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 67: Ewenny Valley

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.375 A medium scale, enclosed valley, of moderate scenic quality and containing a mix of pastoral fields, woodland belts, small settlements and parkland. The sense of enclosure is enhanced by the tree cover to valley sides that also creates a sense of shelter. This sense of enclosure also extends to the historic parkland of Ewenny Priory. The LCA has a tranquil feel to it, which is slightly eroded by noise from the nearby quarry. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.376 A landscape of moderate scenic quality and moderate sense of place, although it increases at Ewenny Priory. It is a landscape that is not considered to be particularly rare. The LCA includes some notable historic features, including Ewenny Priory, that dates to the Norman period, with later Georgian influences. This is also a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden, which has local recreation associations. However, recreation is not the main attraction within the LCA. The LCA partly falls within a SLA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.377 The landscape is designated at a local and also at a national level, however, it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the

scale proposed. This includes the historic features and sense of tranquillity within the LCA that are considered to be sensitive and the area adjacent to the quarry, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.378 In theory the impact of the proposed development on landscape character will extend across a wide proportion of the LCA, which is located nearly 15 km from the nearest proposed turbine. However, any impacts will be indirect and the existing landscape elements, most notably vegetation is likely to restrict views of the proposed development and therefore restrict any impacts to a level where there will be no loss or alteration to key landscape elements. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.379 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low to negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

LCA 68: Swansea Bay

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.380 A large scale, open and exposed seascape/landscape of high scenic quality and dominated by the promenade and sweeping sandy beach, which has a strong visual and sensory connection to the open water of Swansea Bay. The urban edge is a dynamic and popular destination for visitors; however, the built form of the promenade is an influencing element on the scenic quality and in sense of tranquillity on the inter tidal areas. This is a landscape that is considered to be able to accommodate some degree of change of the type of development proposed without affecting its overall character. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Value

A8.7.381 A landscape/seascape of high scenic quality and one that has a strong sense of place and due to its proximity to an urban centre is considered to be rare in terms of its character. The LCA contains important natural habitats and also the Wales Coast Path extends through it. Although the seascape/landscape within the LCA is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory designations, it is considered a key tourist destination and likely to be the primary attraction. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.382 The seascape/landscape is not designated, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.383 Impacts on landscape character will potentially extend across a wide proportion of land within the LCA, where the proposed development will be visible on the skyline of the Coalfield Plateau, within distance ranging from approximately 10 km to 15 km away, to the nearest proposed turbine. Effects will be indirect, however the proposed turbines will be of a scale that may result in wind farm development having a greater influence on the character within the LCA, to the extent there may be a partial change. However, any change will not be to the extent that the open and exposed sweep of Swansea Bay will no longer be the defining element of the LCA. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be medium.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.384 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any effects will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA, including the open and exposed sweep of Swansea Bay will remain as the dominant characteristic of the landscape rather than the proposed development.

LCA 69: Swansea

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.385 An extensive urban landscape, consisting of a mix of residential, industrial, commercial and leisure developments of varying scales, types and quality. There is little sense of tranquillity with the exception of the larger city parks such as Singleton Park. The mix of developments creates a discordant pattern and scenic quality is considered to be low. The majority of attributes will be robust/tolerant of change from the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.386 A landscape of low scenic quality and with a predominantly weak sense of place. Although it does contain some tourist attractions and statutory designated historic parks and gardens, it is not covered by any other statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.387 The landscape is not designated, (outside historic parks and gardens), and it contains characteristics which will be tolerant to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.388 Effects on landscape character will in theory extend widely across southern and central parts of the LCA. However the LCA is located approximately 10 to 20 km from the proposed development

and any impacts will be indirect. Furthermore, the dense urban grain of the urban landscape that creates a strong sense of enclosure, will limit the impacts of the proposed development to the extent that there will be no loss or alteration to the existing character. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.389 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight to negligible (not significant).

LCA 73: Rhyd-y-Pandy

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.390 A large scale, open, predominantly rural landscape, consisting of agricultural fields used for pasture. The more elevated areas of the LCA have a visual connection with the wider landscape including the upland areas to the north and the Gower to the south. However, the character of the landscape is partially influenced by overhead powerlines and the adjacent urban edge of Morriston and Clydach, plus the M4 motorway, all of which contribute to reducing a sense remoteness and tranquillity within the LCA. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.391 A landscape of high to moderate scenic quality, moderate sense of place and of moderate rarity. South western parts of the LCA contain important wildlife habitats (Marsh Fritillary butterflies), which include a SSSI. The LCA does not contain any tourist attractions and is not covered by any statutory or non-statutory landscape designations. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.392 The landscape is not designated, and it contains a range of characteristics with varying degrees of tolerances and sensitivities to wind farm development of the scale proposed. This includes the views towards Gower which are considered to be sensitive and the influence of the existing urban development of Morriston, Clydach and other manmade influences on its character, which are considered less sensitive. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.393 Only the far western edge of the LCA is located within the 15 km and therefore a very small proportion of the total areas land within the LCA. Following construction of the proposed development there may be slight alteration to landscape character as wind farm development will potentially be a more notable feature within the wider landscape. However, any impacts will be indirect and the fundamental key elements that define the character of the LCA will remain as its defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.394 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

LCA 79: Mynydd Maendy

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.395 A large scale, open, rolling landscape with an upland character and sense of exposure, which is considered to be of high scenic value. Land use is typically rough grassland used for grazing; however, the turbines of Taff Ely Wind Farm and Mynydd Portref Wind Farm are notable characteristics. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.396 A landscape of high scenic quality and with a strong sense of place. The landscape has been locally designated as a SLA and it includes historic features of note that date from the prehistoric times to the present day. The LCA does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.397 The landscape is designated at a local level; however, it contains a number of key characteristics such as existing wind farm development that will be tolerant of wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.398 Only a small proportion of the LCA is located within the 15 km and is directly influenced by the existing turbines of Taf Ely Wind Farm and Mynydd Portref Wind Farm that extends across large parts of the western edges of the LCA. It is predicted that there would be no perceptible impact on the existing landscape character as existing wind farms within the LCA will remain as the prominent and defining feature of the landscape. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.399 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 80: Gower Southern Coastline

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.400 Distinctive headland and varied coastline forming the edge to Gower and the division to Swansea Bay to the east. There are open and high quality views both in and out the LCA, particularly across Swansea Bay and out across the Bristol Channel. The eastern part of the LCA has a strong visual and sensory connection to the open water of Swansea Bay. While the remaining areas within the

LCA have a southerly aspect across the Bristol Channel. Within these areas there is strong sense of visual containment towards inland areas and Swansea Bay due by the headlands and cliff. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.401 A landscape of high scenic quality with a strong sense of place. The LCA falls within Gower AONB and forms an important tourist destination. The landscape value is considered to be outstanding.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.402 A landscape designated at a national level with a strong sense of place, reflected in the popularity of this LCA as a tourist destination. Mumbles Head is considered to be more sensitive than the more enclosed southern coast of the LCA due to its elevated landform and position that allows for open views across Swansea Bay (towards the proposed development). Overall landscape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.403 From Mumbles Head, and the eastern coastal strip below, the proposed development will be experienced on the skyline of the Coalfield Plateau, at distances ranging from approximately 17 km away. There will, therefore, be some indirect impact to the special qualities of the LCA. This will relate to the visual setting only, through the additional indirect influence of man-made features. Other special qualities of the LCA will remain as existing, including the historic landscape values and open access. Impacts on the visual setting will be confined to the edge of Mumbles Head and in other areas there will be no impacts on character. Overall, the integrity of the LCA is considered to remain predominantly intact, as the defining characteristics of the LCA will remain the prominent features. Overall, magnitude for this LCA is considered to be medium – low to low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.404 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impact, overall, medium-low to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as the defining characteristics of the LCA will be retained overall.

LCA 105 Pentwyn Mawr

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.405 A large scale, open, rolling landscape with an upland character and sense of exposure, which is considered to be of high scenic value. Land use is typically rough grassland used for grazing; However, the turbines of Mynydd y Gwair and Mynydd y Bettws Wind Farm are notable characteristics. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.406 A landscape of high scenic quality and with a notable sense of place. The landscape includes historic features of note that show intensive agricultural use from the Middle Ages, with activity also evident from the Bronze Age, such as extensive funerary and ritual monuments. The LCA does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.407 The landscape contains a number of key characteristics such as existing wind farm development that will be tolerant of wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.408 The LCA is directly influenced by the existing turbines of Mynydd y Gwair and Mynydd y Bettws Wind Farms that extend across a large section of the LCA. The proposed development will further increase the influence of wind farm development sporadically within the LCA. However, due to the intervening distance to the proposed development, it is predicted that there would be no perceptible impact on the existing landscape character. Furthermore, the existing wind farms within the LCA will remain as the prominent and defining feature of the landscape. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.409 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 106 Mynydd Uchaf and Mynydd Garth

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.410 A vast scale, open, rolling landscape with an upland character and sense of exposure, which is considered to be of high scenic value. However, the turbines of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Perthigwynion Wind Farms are notable characteristics. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Landscape Value

A8.7.411 A simple upland landscape of moderate scenic quality. The landscape includes historic features of outstanding value including prehistoric landscapes associated with funerary, ritual or field clearance activity. The LCA does not contain any tourist attractions. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to high.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.412 The landscape contains a number of key characteristics such as existing wind farm development that will be tolerant of wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of

susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.413 The LCA is directly influenced by the existing turbines of Mynydd-y-Gwrhyd Resubmission and Perthigwynion Wind Farms that extend across the LCA. The proposed development will further increase the influence of wind farm development sporadically and indirectly within the LCA. However, due to the intervening distance to the proposed development, it is predicted that there would be no perceptible impact on the existing landscape character. Furthermore, the existing wind farms within the LCA will remain as a prominent and defining feature of the landscape character. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.414 The landscape is considered to be of medium sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

LCA 112 Mynydd Du

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.415 A vast scale, open moorland, with a sense of remoteness that has a dramatic upland character and sense of exposure, which is considered to be of outstanding scenic value. The landscape has a strong sense of place, engendered by its tranquillity, naturalness, distinctive topography and panoramic views over the LCA and lower land beyond, despite the presence of wind farm development to the south. It is predicted that the combination of existing landscape attributes may be capable of absorbing some degree of change from the type of development proposed without affecting the overall character. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.416 A dramatic upland landscape of outstanding scenic quality and sense of place. The landscape includes historic features of outstanding value including prehistoric landscapes associated with ritual activity through the Roman period and more recent medieval and industrial archaeology. The LCA is a popular tourist attraction and is nationally designated (BBNP). Overall, the landscape value is considered to be outstanding.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.417 The landscape is designated at a national level and possesses characteristics that will have a very high sensitivity to wind farm development of the type proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.418 The south facing slopes of this LCA, extending widely across the southern half of the LCA, will benefit from panoramic views south over the South Wales valleys. Within these the proposed development will indirectly add to the influence of windfarm development within the LCA. However, the proposed development is located at distances exceeding 20 km and will be seen in conjunction with the plethora of existing operational developments and therefore, the baseline characteristics that currently defines this LCA will not be altered. The sense of openness, remoteness, wilderness and tranquillity, which form the key attributes to this LCA will all be retained.. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.419 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

LCA 113 Forest Fawr

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.420 A vast scale, open, bleak and remote landscape with a dramatic upland character and sense of exposure, which is considered to be of outstanding scenic value. The landscape has a strong sense of place, with distinctive topography and panoramic views over the LCA and lower land beyond. Despite the indirect influence of existing wind farm development, especially from the wind farm of Maesgwyn, the LCA retains a strong sense of tranquillity and wildness. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be able to capable of absorbing some degree of change from the type of development proposed without causing a change to overall character. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.421 A dramatic upland landscape of outstanding scenic quality and sense of place. The landscape includes historic features of outstanding value including prehistoric landscapes associated with ritual occupation through to more recent medieval and industrial archaeology. The LCA is a popular tourist attraction and is nationally designated (BBNP). Overall, the landscape value is considered to be outstanding.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.422 The landscape is designated at a national level and possesses characteristics that will have a very high sensitivity to wind farm development of the type proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be high.

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.423 The south facing slopes of this LCA, extending widely across the southern half of the LCA, will benefit from panoramic views south over the South Wales valleys. Within these the proposed development will indirectly add to the influence of windfarm development within the LCA. However,

the proposed development is located at distances exceeding 20 km and will be subsumed amongst a plethora of existing operational developments. At these distances, the fundamental key elements that define the character of the LCA will remain as its defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.424 The landscape is considered to be of high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

LCA 145 Upper Thaw Valley

Susceptibility Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.425 An open, broad lowland valley landscape, predominantly consisting of large fields with wooded valley sides. The M4 motorway has some influence on northern sections of this LCA. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.426 A landscape of moderate to high scenic quality. The LCA has some historic features of note, ranging from prehistoric times, the Bronze Age, Roman and the medieval period and the area is designated as a SLA. There are however no tourist attractions within the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.427 The landscape is designated at a local level, however key characteristics, including the influence of the M4 Motorway on the rural character, will have some tolerance to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.428 This LCA is located around 20 km from the proposed development, and at this distance it will have a limited influence on the skyline to the west on more open and elevated sections. Within lower lying areas the influence will diminish due to the sense of enclosure from vegetation and landform. Overall, the key landscape characteristics that define this LCA, including the dramatic sense of landscape form and valley character, will fundamentally remain as the defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.429 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

LCA 148 Lias Plateau

Susceptibility of Landscape Receptors to Change

A8.7.430 An open, rolling plateau landscape, predominantly consisting of medium and large arable fields bound by hedges and trees. Urban areas of St Athan and Llantwit Major, as well as the Llandow Trading Estate have some influence on this LCA. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change to the type of development proposed. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Landscape Value

A8.7.431 A landscape of high scenic quality partially designated as a SLA. There are however no tourist attractions within the LCA. Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium to low.

Landscape Sensitivity

A8.7.432 The landscape is partially designated at a local level, however key characteristics, including the influence of the urban areas on the rural character, will have result in some tolerance to wind farm development of the scale proposed. The combination of susceptibility of receptors to change and landscape value indicates that on balance, landscape sensitivity will be medium to low

Magnitude of Impact on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.433 This large LCA extends beyond 15 km from the proposed development, and at this distance it will have a limited influence on the skyline to the west. The influence will diminish due to the sense of enclosure from vegetation and the rolling landform. Overall, the key rural landscape characteristics that define this LCA, will fundamentally remain as the defining features. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Effects on Landscape Character (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.7.434 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character Areas

A8.7.435 Following the assessment of individual effects on each LCA within the study area, broad similarities in landscape type and effects were identified. This allowed, where possible, for a grouping of LCAs.

A8.7.436 From LCA 28, LCA 39, LCA 46 and LCA 48, it was predicted that there will be no cumulative effects on landscape character, as from these areas there will be no perception of the proposed development together with any cumulative developments and therefore excluded from further assessment. From the remaining LCAs, the cumulative effects on landscape character are described in detail below.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects (in addition with consented wind farms)

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 41)

A8.7.437 From coastal areas to the west of the proposed development, including LCA 41, the consented scheme at Foel Trawsant may be experienced as a minor feature. The character in this area is strongly influenced by large scale industrial development on the coastal plain and estuary. The proposed development when experienced with the consented development of Foel Trawsant would indirectly increase the influence of wind farm development across the plateau skyline to the east. However, any impacts will be more from the proposed development than the consented. Furthermore, the key characteristics that define this LCA, including the broad sweep of Swansea Bay and River Neath, plus the existing detractors of the heavy industry and M4 viaduct will all remain as key defining characteristics of the landscape. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 41)

A8.7.438 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – negligible (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 02, LCA 52, LCA 54 LCA 55)

A8.7.439 Within coastal LCAs located approximately 10 to 12 km to the south the proposed development will be occasionally experienced with the consented wind farm of Pant y Wal Phase 2. The consented development will however be subsumed within the existing Pant y Wal development and therefore there will be very limited interaction evident between the proposed development and consented. Within the coastal LCA 54 and LCA 55 located approximately 10 km to the south, the consented wind farm of Upper Ogmere would be intermittently experienced across the skyline to the north, where vegetation and topography allow. Upper Ogmere Wind Farm will be partly subsumed by the turbines to the wind farms of Pen Y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. From these two LCAs the consented wind turbine Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will be visible below and breaking the skyline, topography within the LCAs will limit visibility. Therefore, as a result of this and the distance from the LCAs, the consented developments will have very limited influence on the existing character. From the majority of the LCAs the addition of the proposed development will result in some intensification of wind turbines across the distant skyline, however due to separation distant, there is no interaction between the proposed and consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 02, LCA 52, LCA 54 LCA 55)

A8.7.440 Within these 4 LCAs, the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 52, medium to high in LCA 55, medium in LCA 54 and medium to low in LCA 02. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible for all LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight moderate in LCA 52, LCA 54 and LCA 55, to slight in LCA 2, (not significant for all).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.441 Within LCAs to the south-east extending beyond 14 km along the coast, consented schemes, including Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Taff Ely Repowering, will be experienced along the horizon to the north and north west. However, the consented schemes will be subsumed within and to the rear of the adjacent operational developments and at this distance they will have very limited influence on the character overall. Within LCAs to the south-east extending beyond 14 km along the coast, the consented schemes of Upper Ogmere Wind Farm, will be experienced along the horizon to the north. However, it will be subsumed within and to the rear of the adjacent operational developments and at this distance it will have very limited influence on the character overall. From these LCAs the consented wind turbine Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will be visible on the skyline along the coast, topography within the LCAs will limit visibility and any impacts will be indirect. The addition of the proposed development will result in some intensification of wind turbines across the distant skyline. The turbines within the northern section of the proposed development will interact with the turbines of Foel Trawsnant, resulting in a minor increase in the influence of wind farm development on the LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.442 Within these 3 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 63 and medium to high in LCA 64 and 65. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for all. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate in all 3 LCAs. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise these LCAs will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.443 These LCA's, which are located between around 10 and 20 km to the west of the proposed development, where the consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsnant would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. The consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsnant will largely be subsumed within the turbines of the existing turbines of Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP respectively. There will be no direct interaction between the proposed development and Melin Court Wind Farm. However, there will be some interaction with the consented development of Foel Trawsnant and the addition of the proposed development will theoretically result in an increase in the influence of wind farm development within the LCA's. Within the urban area of LCA 69, any influence will be markedly reduced through the modifying effect of the built form. The consented wind farm of Upper Ogmere will also be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. It will be a minor feature that will marginally increase the extent of wind turbines across the skyline. However, due to scale, it will have very limited influence on the character of the LCA's. The consented development at Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will also be visible below and breaking the skyline. The addition of the proposed development, located in front of the consented wind farm and at a more pronounced scale will result in an intensification and increase in the influence of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Effects, however, will be indirect and at approximately 10 to 20 km to the proposed development, the

characteristics of the LCA's are not predicted to fundamentally change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low for LCA 68 and negligible for LCA 69.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.444 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is medium to high for LCA 68 and for LCA 69 medium to low. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for LCA 68 and negligible for LCA 69. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant) for LCA 68 and slight to negligible (not significant) for LCA 69. On balance, effects for LCA 68 are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.445 The consented development of Melin Court Wind Farm is located within LCA 18, which is located approximately 6.5 km to the north of the proposed development. The existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd dominates the character of the landscape within the LCA. Consequently, the turbines of Melin Court Wind Farm, will be subsumed within the existing turbines of Pen y Cymoedd. The consented development of Upper Ogmere will add to the extent of the operational wind farms that significantly contributes to the existing character of the LCA. The addition of the proposed development will further increase the influence of wind farm development, although Upper Ogmere is located approximately 12 km to the east and will have limited interaction with the proposed development. In addition, the consented development of Foel Trawsnant will be viewed to the front of the proposed development. However, the operational wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd together with coniferous forestry will be retained as the key defining characteristics rather than any cumulative interaction between the proposed development and consented. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible for LCA 18.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.446 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.447 Within these open upland LCAs, the proposed development together with the consented developments of Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Taff Ely Repowering will be experienced as distinct developments, forming an arc of wind farms extending east to west. However, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Taff Ely Repowering will largely be subsumed within the turbines of the existing larger scale wind farms, including Pen Y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Pant Y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension and Taff Ely. The proposed development will be experienced in combination with Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and may marginally increase the influence of wind farm developments within the LCAs. The consented development of Upper Ogmere will have direct impacts on LCA 47 and will add to the extent of the operational wind farms that form an arc across upland areas to the north, extending to the east. However, the turbines of Upper Ogmere and Nant y Gwyddon Landfill are predicted to be subsumed within the turbines to the wind farms of Pen y

Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Llynfi Afan REP and will have limited interaction with the proposed development. Any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development, which will increase the influence of wind farm development further to the south. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low for LCAs 15 and 44, due to proximity and extent of visibility and low for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.448 Within these 7 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from very low within LCA 14 to medium to low within LCA 15 and LCA 49, medium within LCA 44, LCA 50 and LCA 79, and medium to high in LCA 47. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low for LCAs 15 and 44 and low for all other LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from moderate in LCA 44 and LCA 47, slight – moderate within LCA 15, LCA 49, LCA 50 and LCA 79, to negligible within LCA 14. Within LCAs 44 and 47 effects are not considered to be not significant as the open upland will remain as the fundamental character. Effects within all remaining LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 10 and LCA 17)

A8.7.449 Located to the west and north-west of the proposed development, LCAs 10 and 17 are predicted to experience some perception of the consented developments of Melin Court, Upper Ogmored and Foel Trawsant. However, the turbines of Melin Court Wind Farm and Upper Ogmored will be subsumed within the turbines of the existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP and Pant y Wal, and will therefore have very limited interaction with the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development to the consented development of Foel Trawsant will add to the influence of wind farm development on the LCAs. However, any alteration to landscape character is likely to be a result of the addition of the proposed development in isolation rather than with the consented, although any changes will not be to the extent that the fundamental character of the LCAs will change. The cumulative magnitude of impact is predicted to be low for LCA 10 and LCA 17.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 10 and LCA 17)

A8.7.450 Within these two LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium within LCA 10 and LCA 17, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be slight – moderate for both LCAs. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 62)

A8.7.451 Within the LCAs to the south east, including LCA 53, LCA 56 and LCA 62 any cumulative impact will be more from the consented development of Taff Ely Repowering more than from any interaction with the proposed development. The proposed development will however be experienced in combination with the consented development of Foel Trawsant to the west/northwest although any cumulative impact will be reduced through intervening topography and vegetation to the extent that there will be little cumulative influence. However, there will be a more pronounced cumulative influence on landscape character within LCA 45, which is located within proximity to the proposed development and Foel Trawsant. Within LCA 53 and LCA 62, There will be further impacts from the proposed development in combination with the consented

wind farm of Upper Ogmored will have limited influence as this consented development will largely be subsumed within the turbines of operational wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP and Pen y Cymoedd. Any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development in isolation which is likely to increase the influence of wind farm developments further to the south and extend the arc of wind turbines indirectly to LCAs to the east. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium for LCA 45 and low for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 62)

A8.7.452 Within these 4 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium to high within LCA 56, medium with LCA 45 and LCA 53, and medium to low in LCA 62. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character are predicted to range from moderate in LCA 45 and LCA 56, slight – moderate for LCA 53 and LCA 62 (not significant). Within LCA 45 the effects are considered to be not significant as the fundamental characteristics are retained.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 06)

A8.7.453 Cumulative impacts are predicted to be limited to the summits of Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Brombil, the latter of which is partly characterised by the existing wind farm of Mynydd Brombil. The turbines to the consented development of Foel Trawsant Wind Farm will likely be subsumed within the existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd that lies within LCA 18 to the north of Foel Trawsant. The proposed development will add to the influence of wind farm development provided by the consented and operational development and will extend the presence of wind turbines further south towards the LCA. However, any impacts on landscape character are predicted to be a result of the proposed development in isolation rather than any cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character LCA 06)

A8.7.454 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 09)

A8.7.455 Located between the northern and southern sections of the proposed development. The consented development at Foel Trawsant may have some minor influence on character although views north and south are visually contained by the enclosing landform and vegetation. Impacts will be from the proposed development in isolation rather than any cumulative interaction with any consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 09)

A8.7.456 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight to negligible. Effects are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 07 and LCA 12)

A8.7.457 Intervening topography, vegetation and distance between these two LCAs will significantly limit any influence that the consented wind farms of Upper Ogmored and Nant y Gwyddon Landfill will have

upon character. The addition of the proposed development will have direct impacts on these two LCAs, however there will be no perceived interaction between the proposed development and consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 07 and LCA 12)

A8.7.458 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 08 and LCA 11)

A8.7.459 Within these well vegetated and sharply incised valleys there will be sporadic influence from the proposed development with the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant. This will be predominantly limited to the northern, more elevated areas within LCA 8 and eastern fringes of LCA 11. Impacts on landscape character will be predominantly as a result of the proposed development, however, limited by existing vegetation and topography. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 08 and LCA 11)

A8.7.460 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high within LCA 08 and medium within LCA 11, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight for both LCAs. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.461 Located to the east from the proposed development, due to topography and vegetation within the LCA, it has a limited relationship with the surrounding landscape. Within northern parts of this LCA, the consented wind farms of Melin Court and Taff Ely Repowering have some influence although both will be subsumed by the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Taff Ely Repowering respectively. Therefore, any impacts on character are likely to be a result of the proposed development more in isolation than any cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.462 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 67)

A8.7.463 Located approximately 14.5 km south-east of the proposed development, vegetation present throughout the LCAs creates a sense of enclosure. The wind farm of Upper Ogmere, located to the north, will be subsumed within the turbines of the existing wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP and Pen y Cymoedd. The introduction of the proposed development will extend wind farm development across the distant skyline and result in an increase in an indirect influence of wind farms within the LCA. However, due to distance from the proposed development, the fundamental character of the LCA will not be altered. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 67)

A8.7.464 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LC 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.465 Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwair operational wind farms within LCA 105 and Perthigwynion Farm and Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission within LCA 106 will be key characteristics within and around the LCAs. Located over 15 km from the proposed development, there may be some indirect influence on the character of the LCA from the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Upper Ogmere and Foel Trawsant. These form distinct clusters, although the turbines of Melin Court Wind Farm and Upper Ogmere, will largely be subsumed within the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP and Pant y Wal Wind Farms. The addition of the proposed development to the consented and operational development will potentially further increase the influence of wind farms across the skyline. The turbines within the northern section will be strongly associated with the Foel Trawsant Wind Farm cluster of turbines. The southern section will form a distinct cluster on the skyline further to the south. However, due to distance, the character of the LCA's are not predicted to fundamentally alter. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LC 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.466 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high for LCA 23 and medium for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate for LCA 23 and slight – moderate (not significant) for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant for LCA 23, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise the LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 and LCA 113)

A8.7.467 The LCAs are located over 15 km from the proposed development. From these open, upland areas, the consented farms of Melin Court, Upper Ogmere, Maesgwyn Extension Phase 2, Foel Trawsant and Abergorki and will exist as separate cluster of turbines and will be visible within areas to the south. The addition of the proposed development will increase the intensification of turbines across the distant skyline. However, all consented and proposed developments will be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms and therefore will not increase the influence of wind farm development within these two LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 and LCA 113)

A8.7.468 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.469 Within these LCAs to the south-east, any impacts from consented wind farms on landscape character, are likely to be due to the developments of Foel Trawsnant, Upper Ogmored, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Taff Ely Repowering. However, these development will likely be subsumed within the turbines of the operational wind farms that include Llynfi Afan REP, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and Pen y Cymoedd. The addition of the proposed development will extend the arc of developments further to south. However, any impacts will be indirect and the separation distance between the consented and operational development and the proposed development results in limited interaction between the two, or influence on the character of these LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.470 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Assessment of Cumulative Effects (in addition with application wind farms)*Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 54 and LCA 55)*

A8.7.471 Within these coastal LCAs any influence from application wind farms on landscape character will be limited particularly within LCA 54. Within LCA 55 the application wind farm Cefn Gwrgan Road will be visible below the skyline although with little influence due to the turbine height. The addition of the proposed development to the baseline will result in some further intensification of wind turbines across the skyline, however due to separation distant, there is no direct interaction between the proposed and application developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 54 and LCA 55)

A8.7.472 The sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium to high in LCA 55, to medium in LCA 54. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight moderate in LCA 55, to slight – moderate to slight in LCA 54. Effects will be not significant within both LCAs.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.473 Within LCAs to the south-east extending beyond 14 km along the coast, application schemes including Foel Trawsnant (S73) and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, will be experienced along the horizon to the north and north east. However, the application schemes will be largely subsumed to the rear of the adjacent operational developments and at this distance they will have very limited influence on the character overall. The addition of the proposed development will result in some intensification of wind turbines across the distant skyline. The turbines within the northern section of the proposed development will interact with the turbines of Foel Trawsnant (S73), resulting in only a minor increase in the influence of wind farm development on the LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.474 Within these 3 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 63 and medium to high in LCA 64 and 65. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for all. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate in all 3 LCAs. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise these LCAs will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.475 These LCA's, which are located approximately 10 and 20 km to the west of the proposed development, where the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) would in theory be experienced along the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau. The application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will largely be subsumed within the turbines of the existing turbines of Llynfi Afan REP. The addition of the proposed development, located in front of the application wind farm and at a more pronounced scale will result in an intensification and increase in the influence of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Effects, however, will be indirect and in the case of LCA 69, accommodated by the urban fabric. Furthermore, any influence at approximately 10 to 20 km is not predicted to fundamentally change the character of these LCA's. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low for LCA 68 and negligible for LCA 69.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.476 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is medium to high for LCA 68 and medium to low for LCA 69. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for LCA 68 and negligible for LCA 69. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant) for LCA 68. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development. For LCA 69, effects will be slight to negligible and not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.477 Intervening topography and the vegetation within the LCA will significantly limit any influence that the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will have upon the character. The addition of the proposed development, located behind the application wind farm and at a more pronounced scale will result in an intensification and increase in the influence of wind farm development, further to the south along the ridgeline. Impacts will however be restricted by coniferous productive forestry that extends across much of the landscape within LCA 18. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible for LCA 18.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.478 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 07 and LCA 12)

A8.7.479 Intervening topography, vegetation and distance between these two LCAs will significantly limit any influence that the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will have upon their character. The addition of the proposed development will have direct impacts on these two LCAs, however there will be limited interaction between the proposed development and application development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 07 and LCA 12)

A8.7.480 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.481 Within these open upland LCAs the application developments of Foel Trawsnant (S73) and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be experienced as distinct developments, extending east to west. These may have a marginal influence on the character of the LCAs where wind farm development will be visible both to the east and west. However due to distance the effects of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be lower. Any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development in isolation, which will increase the influence of wind farm development further to the south. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low for LCA 15 and LCA 44 and low for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.482 Within these 7 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from very low within LCA 14 to medium to low within LCA 15 and LCA 49, medium within LCA 44, LCA 50 and LCA 79, and medium to high in LCA 47. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low for LCAs 15 and 44 and low for all other LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from moderate in LCA 44 and LCA 47, slight – moderate within LCA 15, LCA 49, LCA 50 and LCA 79, to negligible within LCA 14. Within LCAs 44 and 47 effects are not considered to be not significant as the open upland will remain as the fundamental character. Effects within all remaining LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 10 and LCA 17)

A8.7.483 Located to the west and north-west of the proposed development, LCAs 10 and 17 are predicted to have an indirect relationship with the wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73). The turbines to this wind farm will indirectly influence the LCA and the addition of the proposed development will lead to an intensification of wind farm development across the Coalfield Plateau. However, any alteration to landscape character is likely to be a result of the addition of the proposed development in isolation. Any changes will not be to the extent that the fundamental character of the LCAs will change. The cumulative magnitude of impact is predicted to be low for LCA 10 and LCA 17.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 10 and LCA 17)

A8.7.484 Within these two LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for both LCAs. Significance of effects within both LCAs are considered to be slight moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 53 and LCA 62)

A8.7.485 Located to the south-east of the proposed development, both LCA 53 and 62 have visual connections with Foel Trawsnant (S73) to the north on the skyline, although local topography and vegetation will reduce visibility and effects. There is no direct interaction between the proposed development and the application wind farm and any impacts will be indirect. However, any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development in isolation. This will increase the influence of wind farm developments further to the south and extend the arc of wind turbines to areas to the east. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 53 and LCA 62)

A8.7.486 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium within LCA 53 and medium to low in LCA 62. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate, not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.487 Located over 15 km from the proposed development, there may be some indirect influence on the character of the LCA from the application wind farm Foel Trawsnant (S73). The addition of the proposed development will potentially further increase the influence of wind farm development across the skyline. The turbines within the northern section will be strongly associated with the Foel Trawsnant (S73) Wind Farm cluster of turbines. The southern section will form a distinct cluster on the skyline further to the south. However, due to distance, the character of the LCA is not predicted to fundamentally alter. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.488 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high for LCA 23 and medium for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate for LCA 23 and slight – moderate (not significant) for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant for LCA 23, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise the LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 and LCA 113)

A8.7.489 The LCAs are located over 15 km from the proposed development. From these open, upland areas, the application farms of Trawsnant and Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn and visible to the south and east respectively and will exist as separate clusters of turbines, extending the arc of visible developments. The addition of the proposed development will increase the intensification of turbines across the distant skyline. However, due to distance, the character of the LCA is not predicted to fundamentally alter. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 and LCA 113)

A8.7.490 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant for both LCA 112 and LCA 113, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise these LCAs will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.491 Within these LCAs to the south-east, any impacts from application wind farms on landscape character will be from the Foel Trawsant (S73) development. However, there will be little effect due to the local topography and vegetation and the distance to the application development. The addition of the proposed development will extend the arc of developments further to south. However, any impacts will be indirect and the separation distance between the application development and proposed development results in limited interaction between the two, or influence on the character of these LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.492 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Assessment of Cumulative Effects (in addition with scoping stage wind farms)*Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)*

A8.7.493 LCAs 63, 64 and 65 will experience the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm wind farm to the north west where it will be an influence of windfarm development along the distant horizon, together with the operational developments at Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. Nearer to the LCAs the operational developments at Stormy Down, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm are notable features. The addition of the proposed development will have limited interaction with the scoping developments due to their perceived scale and distance and any change will be minor and not to the extent that the rural character of the landscape will be lost or altered. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.494 Within these 3 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 63 and medium to high in LCA 64 and 65. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight-moderate in LCA 63 and slight in LCA 64 and LCA 65 (not significant for all).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.495 The proposed development when viewed with the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm, together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. Cumulative impacts on landscape character will theoretically extend across a wide proportion of land within the LCA's. There would be limited interaction

between the proposed development and the scoping stage developments and any change will be more as a result the proposed development in isolation. Furthermore, any change will not be to the extent that the open and exposed sweep of Swansea Bay or the urban character of Swansea will no longer be the defining element of these LCA's. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.496 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts low. Significance of effects on landscape character within these LCA's is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.497 To the north of the proposed development is the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm which will be partially located within LCA 18 and will form a prominent feature within this LCA. The introduction of the proposed development to the scoping stage development will indirectly extend the influence of wind farm development across adjacent LCAs. However, impacts will be restricted by coniferous productive forestry that extends across much of the landscape within this LCA 18. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 18)

A8.7.498 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate to slight - moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.499 Within LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50 and LCA 79, operational cumulative wind farm development is a key characteristic of these expansive upland landscapes, together with extensive tracts of coniferous plantation woodland. LCA's further to the east, (including LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50 and 79) will be strongly influenced by Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension, Fforch Nest 1 and 2 and Taff Ely. Predominantly within LCAs 14, 15 and 44, the addition of the proposed development with the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will extend the influence of wind farm development to the south. However, overall, the LCAs are considered to be robust and able to accommodate large scale wind farm development, predominantly due to their scale. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.500 Within these 7 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from very low within LCA 14 to medium to low within LCA 15 and LCA 49, medium within LCA 44, LCA 50 and LCA 79, and medium to high in LCA 47. The magnitude of combined cumulative impacts is considered to be low for all LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from moderate LCA 47, to slight - moderate within LCA 44, LCA 50 and LCA 79, slight within LCA 15 and negligible for LCA 14. Effects within all LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 10, LCA 17)

A8.7.501 From upland areas to the west and north-west of the proposed development, cumulative operational developments will indirectly influence the expansive open upland landscapes to the north-west including Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. The addition of the proposed development to the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will extend the influence of wind farm development further south. There may be a partial alteration in the sense of remoteness and tranquillity within these LCAs but not to the extent that there will be a change to the character of these LCAs. The cumulative magnitude of impact is predicted overall to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 10, LCA 17)

A8.7.502 Within these two LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges is medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight - moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 61, LCA 62, LCA 66 and LCA 67)

A8.7.503 Within these LCAs operational development extends across upland skylines broadly to the north and east, including Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP and Taff Ely although vegetation and landform will reduce impacts locally. The scoping stage wind farms of Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will be experienced from LCAs 53, 56, 62 and 67 and will be an influencing feature to the north. However, any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development, which will further increase the influence of wind farm development to the south. The magnitude of cumulative impacts overall is considered to be medium to low for LCA 45 and low for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 61, LCA 62, LCA 66 and LCA 67)

A8.7.504 Within these 8 LCAs, the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium to high within LCA 56, LCA 66 and LCA 04, medium in, LCA 45, LCA 53 and LCA 66, medium to low within LCA 62 and very low in LCA 61. The magnitude of cumulative impacts overall is considered to be medium for LCA 45 and low for all other LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from negligible in LCA 61, slight – moderate within, LCA 53, LCA 62 and LCA 67 and moderate in LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 56 and LCA 66. Effects are considered to be not significant including LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 56 and LCA 66 where the fundamental characteristics will be retained.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 05, LCA 06)

A8.7.505 From the scarp slopes to the south of the proposed development that include LCA 05 and LCA 06, LCA 06 will be influenced by the operational wind farm development of Mynydd Brombil. From elevated sections of this LCA the addition of the proposed development, together with the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will further intensify wind farm development more to the south, within LCA 06. The proposed development would also infill the landscape between these developments and would result in a greater influence from wind farm development within the LCA. There would be a reduction in characteristics relating to scenic value, remoteness, and tranquillity within LCA 06. Impacts on LCA 05 would be unlikely to be influenced by the operational and

scoping stage developments to the north of the proposed development sites due to the intervening effect of Mynydd Margam. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium for LCA 06 and low to negligible for LCA 05.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 05, LCA 06)

A8.7.506 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be medium for LCA 06, and low to negligible for LCA 05. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight within LCA 05 to moderate within LCA 06. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 08, LCA 11)

A8.7.507 Within these well vegetated and sharply incised valleys, the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm will be partially located within LCA 11 and within this area there will be some direct and indirect impacts from the scoping stage development. The addition of the proposed development may to the influence of wind farm development although any impacts will be restricted by the strong vegetation and topography that characterises the LCAs to the extent that there will be no alteration to their character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 08, LCA 11)

A8.7.508 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high within LCA 08 and medium within LCA 11, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight for both LCAs. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.509 From valleys to the east and southeast of the proposed development, cumulative impacts on landscape character will be predominantly constrained by the valley sides and vegetation that characterise this LCA. These elements create a sense of enclosure and restrict views across the surrounding landscape. There will be limited interaction between the proposed development and the scoping stage developments due to topography and local vegetation. Cumulative impacts are likely to be more as a result of the interaction between the existing developments and proposed development, rather than the scoping stage developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.510 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.511 There will be indirect impacts on the LCA from the scoping stage developments Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park to the north east and to a lesser extent, the wind farm of Fforch Dwm to the north west. The addition of the proposed development to the scoping stage developments

will extend the arc of developments further to south. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

- A8.7.512 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

- A8.7.513 Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwair operational wind farms within LCA 105 and Perthgwynion Farm and Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission within LCA 106 will be key characteristics within and around the LCAs. The single scoping stage turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will also have some local influence on the character of these LCAs, as will the operational developments within this area. The scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm will have an indirect influence on the character of the LCAs, although due to distance this will be limited. The addition of the proposed development to the scoping stage and operational developments will marginally increase the influence of wind farms on the distant skyline. However, due to distance, the character of the LCA is not predicted to fundamentally alter. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

- A8.7.514 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high for LCA 23 and medium for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate within LCA 23 and slight – moderate to slight for the remaining LCAs. Effects within all LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 112 LCA 113)

- A8.7.515 These 2 LCAs are located over 20 km from the proposed development. From these open, upland areas, the existing wind farms including Pen y Cymoedd, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer, Upper Ogmre, Maesgwyn, Mynydd y Bettws, Mynydd y Gwair, Mynydd y Gwrhyd will be visible, as will the scoping stage developments of Fforch Dwm and Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road. The addition of the proposed development together with the scoping stage developments will increase the intensification of turbines across the distant ridgeline to the south. However, due to distance there will be minimal increase in the influence of wind farm development within these two LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 LCA 113)

- A8.7.516 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant).

Assessment of Cumulative Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 01, LCA 37, LCA 40)

- A8.7.517 Within areas of the coastal plain to the south-west, within approximately 5 km from the proposed development, the influence of Mynydd Brombil operational wind farm will extend across LCA 01, LCA 37 and LCA 40. The addition of the proposed development when viewed with other cumulative developments would result in a slight increased influence of wind farm development in the landscape. It will further blur the division between large-scale development on the coastal plain and the open hills/skyline. The proposed development and other cumulative developments will result in a minor alteration of a key characteristic. However, on balance, the underlying character of the landscape would be retained. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 01, LCA 37, LCA 40)

- A8.7.518 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium to very low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low for all LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight - moderate in LCA 40 to negligible within LCA 01 and LCA 37. Effects within all LCAs are considered to be not significant

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 02, LCA 52, LCA 54, LCA 55)

- A8.7.519 From areas to the coastal plain to the south and south-west of the proposed development there may be a potential increase in the influence of wind farm development. Some very marginal visibility of operational wind farm development at Newlands Farm and at Mynydd Brombil may be experienced along more distant windfarms including Pant y Wal, Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. However, this will be minor as these LCA's are locally well vegetated and the topography undulating. The proposed development will also be occasionally experienced with the consented wind farm of Pant y Wal Phase 2, although this will be subsumed within the existing Pant y Wal development. The consented turbine Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate may also indirectly influence where local topography and vegetation allow. From LCA 54 and LCA 55 only, the consented wind farm of Upper Ogmre would be intermittently visible across the skyline to the north, again where vegetation and topography allow and will be partly subsumed by the turbines to the wind farms of Pen Y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. Overall, the proposed development and other cumulative developments will result in only a very minor change to landscape character within these LCAs so that there will be little perceptible impact. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 02, LCA 52, LCA 54, LCA 55)

- A8.7.520 Within these LCAs, the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 52, medium to high in LCA 55, medium in LCA 54 and medium to low in LCA 2. The magnitude of combined cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible for all LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight moderate in LCA 52, to slight in LCA 54, LCA 55 and LCA 2, (not significant for all).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 41)

- A8.7.521 From coastal areas to the west of the proposed development, including LCA 41, the operational developments at Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer and Mynydd Brombil would be experienced to the

north east. To the west of these LCA's operational development would be seen at Queens Docks and Swansea Bay WWTW. The consented scheme at Foel Trawsnant will also be experienced. The character in these areas is strongly influenced by large scale industrial development on the coastal plain and estuary. The proposed development would increase the influence of wind farm development. It may also blur the distinction between development on the coastal plain and that on the coalfield plateau. The combined impacts of the proposed and cumulative developments would result in a minor scale loss to key elements of the landscape character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 41)

A8.7.522 Within this LCA the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low to negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.523 LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65 to the south east between a distance of between 10 km – 15 km from the proposed development will experience the operational developments at Stormy Down, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Haregrove Farm. The consented wind farms, including Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Upper Ogmores, Taff Ely Repowering and Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, and also the application scheme Foel Trawsnant (S73) will also be experienced along the horizon to the west. However, these schemes, excluding Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will be subsumed within and to the rear of the adjacent operational developments and at this distance they will have very limited influence on the character overall. More to the north the scoping stage developments of Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will add to the influence of windfarm development along the horizon. Any cumulative impacts will be indirect. Any change will be minor and not to the extent that the rural character of the landscape will be lost or altered. From the majority of areas within the LCA's, there will be limited perception of the operational, consented and application wind farms in combination with the proposed development, due to the existing landscape elements constraining view out and therefore no change in character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 63, LCA 64, LCA 65)

A8.7.524 Within these 3 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from high in LCA 63 and medium to high in LCA 64 and 65. The magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight-moderate in LCA 63 and slight in LCA 64 and LCA 65 (not significant for all).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.525 The proposed development together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer will extend the arc of turbines along the Coalfield Plateau skyline. The Mynydd Brombil, Swansea Queens Docks and WWTW operational wind farms will be seen to the fore of the proposed development. The Foel Trawsnant (and Foel Trawsnant (S73) application) and Melin Court consented wind farms would also be experienced, subsumed amongst the operational developments and this will be accentuated by addition of the scoping stage development at Fforch

Dwm. Cumulative impacts on landscape character will potentially extend across a wide proportion of land within the LCA's. The proposed development will be visible in combination with the cumulative wind farms on the skyline of the Coalfield Plateau and to a lesser extent on the coastal plain below. Effects will be indirect; however, the proposed development will increase the existing influence of wind farm development on the character within LCA 68 and less so within the urban area defined by LCA 69. The sense of enclosure provided by the Coalfield Plateau and its contribution as a green backcloth to views will be reduced. However, any change will not be to the extent that the open and exposed sweep of Swansea Bay or the urban character of LCA 69 will no longer be the defining element of the LCA's. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low for both LCA 68 and LCA 69.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 68, LCA 69)

A8.7.526 The landscape is considered to be of medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts medium for both LCAs. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate for LCA 68 and slight - moderate (not significant) for LCA 69. Effects for LCA 68 are considered to be not significant as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise this LCA will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than the proposed development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.527 Within LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50 and LCA 79, operational cumulative wind farm development is a key characteristic of these expansive upland landscapes, together with extensive tract of coniferous plantation woodland. LCA's further to the east, (including LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50 and 79) will be strongly influenced by Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal extension, Fforch Nest 1 and 2 and Taff Ely. The consented developments of Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Taff Ely Repowering will also be experienced, although partially subsumed within operational developments. The consented development of Upper Ogmores will have direct impacts on LCA 47 and will add to the extent of the operational wind farms that form an arc across upland areas to the north, extending to the east. However, the consented turbines of Upper Ogmores and Nant y Gwyddon Landfill are predicted to be subsumed within the operational developments and will have limited interaction with the proposed development. Within LCAs 14, 15 and 44, the addition of the proposed development together with the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will extend the influence of wind farm development to the south. Overall the LCAs are considered to be robust and able to accommodate large scale wind farm development, predominantly due to their scale. The cumulative developments combined with the proposed development may result in a perceived increase in the perception of wind farm development, more so to the east. LCA 44 and LCA 47 may experience an increased sense of enclosure from wind farm development although this new characteristic will reduce markedly to the south. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low overall.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 14, LCA 15, LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 49, LCA 50, LCA 79)

A8.7.528 Within these 7 LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from very low within LCA 14 to medium to low within LCA 15 and LCA 49, medium within LCA 44, LCA 50 and LCA 79, and medium to high in LCA 47. The magnitude of combined cumulative impacts are considered to be medium to low for all LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from moderate in LCA 44, LCA 47, LCA 50 and LCA 79 to slight moderate within LCA 15 and LCA 49, to slight to negligible within LCA 14. Effects within all LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 10, LCA 17)

A8.7.529 From upland areas to the west and north-west of the proposed development, cumulative operational developments will indirectly influence the expansive open upland landscapes to the north-west including LCA 10 and LCA 17. To this the consented developments of turbines of Melin Court Wind Farm will be subsumed within the operational developments and therefore have no direct relationship with the proposed development. Similarly, the turbines of the consented development of Upper Ogmored will be subsumed within the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP and Pany Y Wal, and therefore have no direct relationship with the proposed development. The turbines to the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant, and the application turbines of Foel Trawsant (S73) will however indirectly intensify wind farm development across the Coalfield Plateau. The addition of the proposed development together with the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will further intensify wind farm development more to the south. There may be a partial alteration in the sense of remoteness and tranquillity within these LCAs. The cumulative magnitude of impact is predicted overall to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 10, LCA 17)

A8.7.530 Within these two LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate and not significant as the fundamental characteristics are retained.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 61, LCA 62, LCA 66 and LCA 67)

A8.7.531 Within these LCAs operational development extends across upland skylines broadly to the north and east, including Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP and Taff Ely although vegetation and landform will reduce impacts locally. Impacts from consented wind farms on landscape character, are likely to be due to the wind farm of Taff Ely Repowering only, located in the east. However, this development will largely be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farm development. There will be little influence from consented Foel Trawsant Wind Farm and application Foel Trawsant (S73) within these LCAs due to intervening topography and vegetation. However, it will have a more pronounced influence on landscape character within LCA 45, which are located within proximity to the proposed development and Foel Trawsant. Foel Trawsant Wind Farm and Foel Trawsant (S73) may be experienced as a more distinct cluster and may marginally increase the influence of wind farm developments within LCA 45. However, any change to existing character will largely be due to the introduction of the proposed development, which will increase the influence of wind farm development further to the south. Impacts from consented Upper Ogmored

will largely be subsumed within the turbines of operational wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP and also Pen y Cymoedd. The addition of the proposed development will lead to some intensification of wind farm development and extend the arc of wind turbines to areas to the east. Within LCA 04, LCA 56 and LCA 61 the consented turbine of Land at Kenfig Industrial estate will have a slight increase on the influence of wind farm development along the coast where visible. Scoping stage wind farms of Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will be experienced from LCAs 53, 56, 62 and 67 and will intensify wind farm development to the north. The magnitude of cumulative impacts overall is considered to be medium for LCA 45 and low for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 53, LCA 56, LCA 61, LCA 62, LCA 66 and LCA 67)

A8.7.532 Within these 8 LCAs, the sensitivity of the landscape ranges from medium to high within LCA 04, LCA 56 and LCA 66, medium in, LCA 45, LCA 53 and LCA 66, medium to low within LCA 62 and very low in LCA 61. The magnitude of cumulative impacts overall is considered to be medium for LCA 45 and low for all other LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from negligible in LCA 61, slight – moderate within, LCA 53 and LCA 67, slight moderate to moderate in LCA 62, moderate in LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 56 and LCA 66. Effects are considered to be not significant including LCA 04, LCA 45, LCA 56 and LCA 66 where the fundamental characteristics will be retained.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 05, LCA 06)

A8.7.533 From the scarp slopes to the south of the proposed development that include LCA 05 and LCA 06, LCA 06 will be influenced by the operational wind farm development of Mynydd Brombil. From elevated sections of this LCA the cumulative developments to the north will be partially visible, including Pen y Cymoedd and the consented Foel Trawsant. The addition of the proposed development together with the scoping staged development of Fforch Dwm will further intensify wind farm development more to the south, within LCA 06. The proposed development would also infill the landscape between these developments and would result in a greater influence from wind farm development within the LCA. There would be a reduction in characteristics relating to scenic value, remoteness, and tranquillity within LCA 06. Impacts on LCA 05 would be unlikely to be influenced by the operational and consented and scoping stage cumulative developments to the north of the proposed development sites due to the intervening effect of Mynydd Margam. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium for LCA 06 and low to negligible for LCA 05.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 05, LCA 06)

A8.7.534 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be medium for LCA 06, and low to negligible for LCA 05. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to range from slight within LCA 05 to moderate within LCA 06. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 09)

A8.7.535 To LCA 09, which is located between the northern and southern sections there will be minimal influence on landscape character from the proposed development and any cumulative

developments. The consented development at Foel Trawsant and the application Foel Trawsant (S73) may have some influence on character although views north and south are visually contained by the enclosing landform and vegetation. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 09)

A8.7.536 The landscape is considered to be of medium to low sensitivity and the magnitude of cumulative impacts negligible. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be slight to negligible. Effects are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 08, LCA 11)

A8.7.537 Within these well vegetated and sharply incised valleys there will be sporadic influence from the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant, predominantly limited to the northern, upper lying areas within LCA 8 and eastern fringes of LCA 11. Also, to the north west, the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm will be partially located within LCA 11 and within this area, direct and indirect impacts will be more notable with the addition of the proposed development. Elsewhere within both LCAs there will be very limited cumulative impacts due to the screening by topography. The addition of the proposed development will increase the influence of wind farm development, but it will be significantly limited by existing vegetation and topography, to the extent that there will be no alteration to its character. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 08, LCA 11)

A8.7.538 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high within LCA 08 and medium within LCA 11, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible for both LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight for both LCAs. Effects within both LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.539 From valleys to the east and southeast of the proposed development, cumulative impacts on landscape character will be predominantly constrained by the valley sides and vegetation that characterise this LCA. These elements create a sense of enclosure and restrict views across the surrounding landscape. There may be a slight change in character due to the presence of the operational wind farm of Land South of Gelli Las Farm. The consented wind farms of Melin Court and Taff Ely Repowering may also result in an intensification and increase the influence of wind farm development within the LCA. However, both developments will be subsumed by the existing wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Taff Ely Repowering respectively. There will be limited interaction between the scoping stage developments and the proposed development due to topography and local vegetation. Cumulative impacts are likely to be more as a result of the interaction between the existing developments and proposed development, rather than the consented and scoping stage developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 43)

A8.7.540 Within these LCAs the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be negligible. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.541 Within these LCAs to the southeast, operational wind farm developments will have some influence on the character, including Pen y Cymoedd, Taff Ely and Llynfi Afan REP to the north and Parc Stormy Down and Newton Down to the west. The consented development of Taff Ely Repowering will add to the influence of wind farm development to the north. The consented wind farm development of Upper Ogmere, located to the north, will also add to this, although this development will be subsumed within the turbines of the existing wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP and Pen y Cymoedd. There will be indirect impacts on the LCA from the scoping stage developments Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park to the north east and to a lesser extent, the wind farm of Fforch Dwm to the north west. The addition of the proposed development will extend the arc of developments further to south. However, any impacts will be indirect and the separation distance between the application development and proposed development results in limited interaction between the two, or influence on the character of these LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 145 and LCA 148)

A8.7.542 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.543 Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwair operational wind farms within LCA 105 and Perthigwynion Farm and Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission within LCA 106 will be key characteristics within and around the LCAs. Beyond these to the east, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Maesgwyn Extension Phase 2, Foel Trawsant, Upper Ogmere and Abergorki and the application wind farm of Foel Trawsant (S73) will exist as separate cluster of turbines along the distant skyline. However, these will be subsumed within the turbines of existing wind farms, including Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. The single scoping stage turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will have some local influence on the character of these LCAs as will the operational developments within this area. The wind farm of Fforch Dwm will have an indirect influence on the character of the LCAs, although due to distance this will be limited. The addition of the proposed development will marginally increase the influence of wind farms on the distant skyline. However, due to distance, the character of the LCA is not predicted to fundamentally alter. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and low to negligible for all other LCAs.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105, LCA 106)

A8.7.544 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to high for LCA 23 and medium for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be

low for LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and low to negligible for all other LCAs. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight-moderate within LCA 23, LCA 73, LCA 105 and LCA 106, and slight – moderate to slight for the remaining LCAs. Effects within all LCAs are considered to be not significant.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 112 LCA 113)

A8.7.545 These 2 LCAs are located over 20 km from the proposed development. From these open, upland areas, the existing wind farms including Pen y Cymoedd, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer, Upper Ogmere, Maesgwyn, Mynydd y Bettws, Mynydd y Gwair, Mynydd y Gwrhyd and the consented farms of Melin Court, Maesgwyn Extension Phase 2, Foel Trawsnant and Abergorki and will be visible across the skyline within areas to the south. In addition, the application wind farm of Foel Trawsnant (S73) will also be visible, as will the scoping stage developments of Fforch Dwm and Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road. The addition of the proposed development will increase the intensification of turbines across the distant ridgeline to the south. However, due to distance there will be minimal increase in the influence of wind farm development within these two LCAs. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 112 LCA 113)

A8.7.546 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant for both LCA 112 and LCA 113, as any impacts will be indirect and the existing key landscape features that characterise these LCAs will remain as the dominant characteristics of the landscape, rather than wind farm development.

A8.8 POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON VISUAL AMENITY

A8.8.1 This section looks at the effects of the visual amenity during the operational phase of the proposed development. It is anticipated that the operational life of the wind farm would last for up to 50 years.

Potential Effects on Visual Amenity

A8.8.2 This Appendix should be read alongside Figures and Visualisations found in Volume 2 of this Environmental Statement (ES) and Chapter 8: SLVIA found in Volume 1 of the ES. This chapter provides details of all non-significant effects on visual amenity that are predicted for the operational phase of the proposed development.

A8.8.3 The significance of visual effects as a result of the proposed development during the operational phase, from each of the selected viewpoint, has been assessed against the significance criteria defined in Appendix 8.1. Effects during the operational phase of the project are considered to be long term and permanent in duration.

A8.8.4 Table A8.8.1 below indicates the location of the 20 viewpoints that have been assessed as having, either individual and/or cumulative non-significant effects.

Table A8.8.1: Viewpoint locations

VP	Location	X Co-ordinate (Easting)	Y Co-ordinate (Northing)	Distance from Nearest Turbine (Km)
3	Bryn (Play area off Neath Road)	281348	192438	1.46
5	Rhiwlas, Neath	274278	198813	9.74
7	Gower Way National Trail, Cefn Bryn	249418	189884	31.48
9	Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu (BBNP)	287456	216033	22.77
12	Twmbarlwm	324190	192609	40.40
15	Clwyd Road, Pen-Lan, Swansea	264716	195792	17.27
16	The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon	273840	190276	7.12
17	Margam Park	280636	186001	2.89
18	Pen-y-Fan (BBNP)	301211	221585	33.09
19	Wales Coast Path, Rest Bay / Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Porthcawl	279990	178709	10.13
21	Sarn Helen, Aberdulais	279972	202684	9.56
22	Baxter Terrace, Glyncorrwg	287629	199343	7.04
23	Margam Park (Access Road)	280104	185810	3.29
29	Oxwich Point	251169	184981	30.01
30	Nash Point, Glamorgan Heritage Coast	291191	169275	21.31
31	Esgair Hir, Bannau Brycheiniog Way National Trail (BBNP)	277769	220292	27.25
32	Junction of Stallcourt Road/A48, Margam	278265	187798	2.97
34	South of Porthcawl Marina	281987	173999	14.70
35	Bristol Channel	258573	174494	26.68
36	Mouth of River Neath	270487	190509	10.48
37	Outer Swansea Bay/Bristol Channel	254300	174769	30.21

Viewpoint 3: Bryn (Play area off Neath Road)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 1.46 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.5 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be people engaged in outdoor sports and children using the play equipment, whose activities do not involve or depend on the appreciation of views. However, the viewpoint is also intended to be representative of typical views that residents may

receive within more elevated sections the settlement. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.6 From this viewpoint location there are views towards the proposed development, however it is not within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature. There are benches adjacent to the play area, but these are unlikely to be related or connected to the enjoyment of the view. Views for residents will however be of increased value. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.7 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape and the majority are predicted to be people undertaking an activity unrelated to the landscape and therefore unlikely to be responsive to the size of wind farm proposed. Residents will, however, be more sensitive to change. Sensitivity of visual receptors overall is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

- A8.8.8 From this elevated location on the northern edge of the village, the foreground view to the south is defined by a relatively flat, grassed playing field, enclosed by a metal fence. Beyond the field, the densely wooded slopes of Mynydd Bach and Moel Galt y Cwm, which are covered with coniferous forestry plantations, form a backdrop to the view and limit views further south. Views to the east and to the north are restricted to relatively shorter distances by the slopes of Pen Disgwylfa and Mynydd Penhydd. Extending across the ridgelines are coniferous forestry plantations, some of which have been replanted following felling. The lower slopes are typically a mix of acid grassland and semi-improved grassland used for pasture. Nestled within the lower slopes there are glimpsed views of light industrial units and residential dwellings that are located to the eastern edge of Bryn. Steel lattice electricity pylons and overhead cables extend across the view and there is some filtered visibility of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm beyond foreground vegetation.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.9 Figures 8.47a to 8.47d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented scheme of Foel Trawsnant is theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.10 In theory 3 of the 11 turbines to the wind farm of Foel Trawsnant will be visible from this location, 1 at partial tower height, 1 at hub height and 1 at blade tip height only. In reality however, the existing coniferous forestry to Mynydd Penhydd will screen views of the consented turbines. Therefore, there will be no perceivable sense of other this wind farm development being present within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.11 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

- A8.8.12 Figures 8.47a to 8.47d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.13 Figures 8.47a to 8.47d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.14 Figures 8.47a to 8.47d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farm of Mynydd Brombil and the consented turbines of Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm may be visible from this location, where intervening foreground vegetation allows.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.15 Due to screening from existing vegetation, it is predicted that in addition to the proposed development, only the blade tip to one turbine to the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm will be visible. Therefore, when viewed with the proposed development it is likely that there will be no perceptible awareness of other wind farm developments within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.16 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible, therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity is predicted to be slight (not significant)

Viewpoint 5: Rhiwlas, Neath

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 9.74 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.17 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be local residents and people engaged in outdoor sports, whose recreation does not involve or depend on the appreciation of views. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.18 From this viewpoint location, there are primary views towards the proposed development, however it is not within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature and there are no facilities provided. However, the view may be valued by local residents. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.19 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape, or a location recognised for its view. However, the majority receptors are predicted to be local residents and people undertaking an activity unrelated to the landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

- A8.8.20 Rising above the mature trees that enclose the sports field, and that dominate the foreground views, are the western facing slopes of Foel Fynyddau, upon which the communications masts that are located on its summit can be seen. The built form within the Cimla area of Neath, which predominately consists of residential housing extends across the lower slopes of Foel Fynyddau, whilst the upper slopes consist of a mix of semi-improved grassland that is enclosed by managed hedgerows and rough grassland. To the north-west the gently rounded ridgeline of Cefn Morfudd can be seen, which includes blocks of coniferous forestry on the summit and deciduous woodland blocks on the lower slopes. Interspersed between the woodland blocks is a mix of semi-improved and rough grassland that is used for pasture. The residential area to the north-western edge of Neath can be seen, above which are a line of steel lattice electricity pylons and overhead powerlines, plus partial visibility of operational turbines to the wind farms or Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd, where existing vegetation and topography allows.

Predicted View

- A8.8.21 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.49a – 8.49f. The wirelines indicate that 7 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 7 visible, 5 will be visible at hub height and 2 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.48f) and due to screening from view by existing vegetation, turbines T1, T3, T4 and T5 will potentially be visible at blade tip height only as opposed to hub height and turbine T7 will potentially be screened from view entirely. In addition to the turbines visible the meteorological mast within the northern section of the site will in theory be visible, however due to distance will form a very minor feature of the view.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.22 The proposed turbines would be viewed at nearly 10 km away and whilst the proposed development may be readily observed, due to distance it is not predicted to be prominent. The turbine towers will be screened by topography and forestry and visible at hub and blade tip only. They will occupy a low point along the horizon and sit comfortably below the high points of Cefn Morfudd and Foel Fynyddau to the north and south of the proposed development. It is predicted that the proposed development would not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view to the west, or fundamentally change the overall nature of the view. The ridgeline, upon which the turbines are viewed, will remain a defining feature of views rather than the proposed development. The operational wind farms of Pen-y-Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer will be seen as a distinct smaller scale cluster further to the north along the skyline, beyond the higher ground of Cefn Morfydd. Although the introduction of the proposed development will extend wind farm development along the ridgeline, there is a notable separation distance between the operational and proposed developments and, therefore, wind farms will not become a defining feature within the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.23 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.24 Figures 8.49a to 8.49d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, Melin Court is theoretically visible to the north. However, it will be entirely screened by existing vegetation and there will be no cumulative effects as a result of consented wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

- A8.8.25 Figures 8.49a to 8.49d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of consented wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

- A8.8.26 Figures 8.49a to 8.49d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm is theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping wind farms)

- A8.8.27 When viewed with the turbines of Fforch Dwm and with existing operational developments, the proposed development will extend wind farm development further south along the skyline. The turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will be viewed at partial tower height, hub height and blade tip height and likely to be an apparent feature of the view. There however, will be a notable separation distance between the proposed development and the scoping stage development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping wind farms)

- A8.8.28 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant, as due to the scale of the developments, they will occupy a limited proportion of the view and awareness of the developments will not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.29 Figures 8.49a to 8.49d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd may be visible from this location. Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Perthigwynion Farm, plus the consented turbine of Melin Court are indicated on the wirelines but will not be visible due to intervening vegetation, landform and built form.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.30 Existing vegetation and/or built form will screen views to the cumulative developments to the north-west, and north-east including all turbines to Perthigwynion Farm, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Melin Court Wind Farm, plus a number of turbines to the wind farms to Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. However, turbines to Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd wind farms will be visible along the far ridgeline to the north, separated by the higher ground of Cefn Morfydd. The scoping stage wind farms of Fforch Dwm will be a notable feature. These turbines when viewed in combination with the turbines to the proposed development will form a recognisable element within

the view, extending the proportion of the ridgeline along which turbines are visible. Wind farm development will occupy a moderate proportion of the overall view, but not to the extent that it is a prominent feature or changes the overall nature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.31 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant). Effects are considered to be not significant, as due to the scale of the developments, they will occupy a limited proportion of the view and awareness of the developments will not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view.

Viewpoint 6: Mumbles Hill, Swansea

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 18.18 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.32 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers using the public footpath, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. By virtue of the location of the receptors at approximately 18 km from the proposed development, some visual change of the type proposed may be accommodated. However, it is also recognised that the intervening Swansea Bay is visually open. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.33 From this viewpoint location, there are primary views towards the proposed development, and it is located within Gower AONB. It is also on the Wales Coast Path, as recorded on OS maps and included within tourist information literature and websites and is a popular tourist destination. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as very high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.34 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors are at a location that is valued for its views and undertaking an activity related to the landscape and therefore will be responsive to the type and size of wind farm proposed. However, wind farm developments and other existing built forms are an existing feature of views and viewers will be located at a considerable distance from the proposed development and may, therefore, be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.35 This is a glimpse view from the wooded headland known as Mumbles Hill. It is a large-scale view dominated by the wide expanse of open water. The view is contained by the Coalfield Plateau to the east where a rim of mountains forms a pronounced backdrop to the view and define the distinctive sweep of Swansea Bay. To the south, the bay opens into the wide-open water of the Bristol Channel, with Exmoor visible, in clear conditions, beyond. Together with the open sky, these elements combine to provide a simple and expansive landscape/seascape. The intertidal changes,

as well as maritime vessels and traffic and the occasional plumes of steam from the steel works in the distance, also provide some visual activity and movement within this simple view. To the foreground, where vegetation allows, Mumbles Lifeboat Station is just visible, adding to the urban development of Swansea that sweeps around the rim of the bay in the middle distance. Areas of the city rising up a series of hill, including Brynmill and Uplands are also distinguishable. To the east, buildings within the civic and city centre are perceptible landmarks, as is Swansea Marina, including Meridian Tower and the docks. Operational wind farms are also an established feature of the view, particularly on the coastal plain at Swansea Docks and across the Coalfield Plateau, that include the operational wind farms at Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer, more to the north. At a smaller scale the distant operational wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP, Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension and Fforch Nest 1 and 2 can also be perceived. Nearer to the proposed development site, minor features include the operational turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm and solar farm at Mynydd Emroch.

Predicted View (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.36 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.50a – 8.50h. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location at a mixture of full and partial tower height. The proposed development will be set within a context notable for the extent of windfarm development visible. This includes on the skyline, Ffynnon Oer, Pen-y-Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension, Fforch Nest 1 and 2. On the coastal plain to the east, Newton and Parc Stormy Down. Nearer to the viewpoint at Swansea Docks, Queens Dock and Swansea Bay WWTW are visible. Immediately adjacent and to the fore of the proposed development, (southern section), is Mynydd Brombil. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 18 km away they are unlikely to be discernible. The new access road from the M4, including earthworks, will theoretically be visible, but at over 15.5 km away is unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.37 The proposed development will be viewed within a simple/expansive landscape/seascape at a distance of over 18 km to the nearest turbine. At such distance the new access road from the M4, including earthworks, would be barely perceptible and would have no discernible impact on the overall quality of the view. It is predicted that the turbines will form a recognisable new element that will be readily observed, including the movement of the blades. Whilst the towers of T3, T4 and T5 will be partially 'backclothed' against the landforms to the rear and may be more readily perceived, the remaining turbines will be seen on the skyline of the Coalfield Plateau. At this distance, visibility of the turbines will be variable depending on weather conditions. The receiving landscape/seascape is very large in scale and while the proposed turbines will form recognisable feature on the skyline, including movement of blades, due to the large scale of the view, the proposed development could be accommodated into the seascape/landscape without dominating or changing the key elements of the view. 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 and simplicity of the 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 within the view. Furthermore, views are likely to be short in duration, as existing vegetation is predicted to screen views as receptors walk along the coast path. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.38 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the extent of operational wind farm and other development that influences the panoramic view.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.39 Figures 8.50a to 8.50f illustrate that the consented wind farm of Upper Ogmere will be visible amongst the operational development of Llynfi Afon REP, to the rear of the proposed turbines within the northern section of the proposed development. In addition, the wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate Margam will also be visible. Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm will infill the void on the skyline to the rear of the proposed development. Melin Court and Pant-y-Wal Extension Phase 2 will be largely subsumed within the array of existing operational wind development. Due to distance, the single turbine at Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate Margam will be imperceptible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.40 The consented developments of Foel Trawsnant and Upper Ogmere Wind Farm will be viewed amongst the turbines of Llynfi Afon REP Wind Farm. The turbines to the northern section of the proposed development will be seen to the fore of these developments and add to the density of this cluster of turbines. The consented wind farm of Pant-y-Wal Extension Phase 2 will be imperceptible due to intervening topography, restricting visibility to blade tip height only. However, the turbines within the southern section will be notably larger in scale than the turbines of Pant-y-Wal Extension Phase 2 and other operational developments. All wind farms will be viewed at a distance of over 18 km away and any impacts are likely to be more of a result of the proposed turbines within the southern section than with any consented developments. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.41 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the extent of operational wind farm and other development that influences the panoramic view.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

- A8.8.42 Figures 8.50a to 8.50d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.43 Figures 8.50a to 8.50d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will be visible in front of the operational developments of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.44 The turbines of Fforch Dwm will be visible to the front of the operational wind farms of Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd. However, at this distance the scale of the turbines will largely be subsumed within the existing turbines of the operational wind farms. The proposed development and the wind farm of Fforch Dwm, will be viewed at a similar vertical scale to the turbines of the proposed development. Due to separation distance, they will be viewed as two distinct clusters. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.45 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the extent of operational wind farm and other development that influences the panoramic view.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.46 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.50a – 8.50h. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that all 21 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location at a mixture of full and partial tower height. The proposed development will be set within a context notable for the extent of windfarm development visible. This includes on the skyline, Ffynnon Oer, Pen-y-Cymoedd, Llynfi Afon REP, Pant-y-Wal, Pant-y-Wal Extension, Fforch Nest 1 and 2. On the coastal plain to the east, Newton and Parc Stormy Down. Nearer to the viewpoint at Swansea Docks, Queens Dock and Swansea Bay WWTW are visible. Immediately adjacent and to the fore of the proposed development, (southern section), is Mynydd Brombil. To this will be added the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmere. Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm will infill the void on the skyline to the rear of the proposed development. Melin Court and Pant-y-Wal Extension Phase 2 will be largely subsumed within the array of existing operational wind development. The wind farm of Upper Ogmere will be visible to the rear of the turbines within the northern section of the proposed development.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.47 Within this wide open panorama, the proposed development will occupy a small proportion of the overall view and to an extent the turbines will be subsumed within the extensive array of operational, consented and scoping stage wind farm development along the skyline. However, the increased scale of the proposed development, particularly of the turbines within the southern section will be pronounced to the edge of the plateau and will contrast the smaller operational Mynydd Brombil development to the fore and many of the operational development further in the distance. However, key visual attractors such as the sweep of Swansea Bay, the open water and the backcloth of hills enclosing the bay would be remain as key defining features within the view.

Furthermore, views are likely to be short in duration, as existing vegetation is predicted to screen views as receptors walk along the coast path. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.48 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the extent of operational wind farm and other development that influences the panoramic view.

Viewpoint 7: Gower Way National Trail, Cefn Bryn

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 31.48 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.49 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 31 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.50 From this viewpoint location, there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape, which is situated within Gower AONB and within a Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Importance. It is located on the Gower Way National Trail as recorded on OS maps, where it is also noted as a viewpoint. There is a concrete plinth with a plaque that indicates key features within the view. Reference to the area is included within tourist information literature/websites, predominantly for its archaeological importance. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.51 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated footpath. The majority of receptors are at a location that is valued for its views and undertaking an activity related to the landscape and therefore will be responsive to the type and size of wind farm proposed, however they are located a considerable distance from the proposed development. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

- A8.8.52 From this location there are good panoramic views across the surrounding landscape, including north across the adjacent rough grazing grassland to the salt marsh and mud flats of the Lougher Estuary. On the northern shores of the estuary lie the settlements of Burry Port and Llanelli. Further to the east there are further views across Gower and rough grassland, with rolling farmland that contain fields enclosed by hedgerows and larger blocks of mixed woodland. There are a number of individual farms and residential properties visible within the view, plus the settlements of Gowerton and the north fringes of the City of Swansea. To the east, views of the flues and other apparatus within the steel works at Port Talbot are possible, as is the stretch of beach that forms Margam Sands and Kenfig Sands. Forming the backdrop of the view is the coalfield plateau, across which a number of existing wind farms can be seen including Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer,

Maerdy, plus further to the south-east, the turbines of Llynfi Afan REP, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension, and Mynydd Brombil. Within the far distance is the distinctive topography of Pen y Fan. Looking across the water of Swansea Bay, the turbines of Parc Stormy Down, and Newton Down are visible

Predicted View

- A8.8.53 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph and wirelines in Figures 8.51a – 8.51e. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location and at either full or partial tower height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will also be visible. However, at over 31 km away they will not be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.54 The proposed development will be viewed within a broad scale, open landscape and where the nearest turbine will be viewed at over 31 km away. The proposed turbines may be perceptible, but due to distance and the very small proportion of the overall view it will occupy, it is predicted that it will have a very limited impact on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development will be viewed within the same arc of view together with the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.55 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.56 Figures 8.51a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented schemes of Melin Court, Abergorki Wind Farm, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Upper Ogmre and the single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam are all theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.57 The consented single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will be viewed at a considerable distance and will be a barely perceptible feature of the view. All other consented developments will also be viewed at a considerable distance but will be subsumed into the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline. The proposed development at this distance will only marginally add to the perceived sense of cumulative development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.58 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

- A8.8.59 Figures 8.51a to 8.51d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.60 Figures 8.51a to 8.51d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms Fforch Dwm, Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road and Twyn Hywel Energy Park.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.61 The wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will be viewed at a considerable distance and subsumed into the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline. The single turbine at Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, due to distance will be a very minor feature within distance views, adding to the existing turbines of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission wind farm. The proposed development at this distance will only marginally add to the perceived sense of cumulative development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.62 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.63 Figures 8.51a to 8.51d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd, Maerdy, Swansea Bay WWTW, Llynfi Afan REP, Queens Dock, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Taf Ely, Newlands, Hill House, Haregrove Farm, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and Mynydd y Betws may be visible. In addition, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Abergorki Wind Farm, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmor may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.64 Except for the wind farms of Mynydd y Betws and Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, the proposed development and all other cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view. The proposed development will be viewed in conjunction with other turbines, although the turbines within the southern section will be perceived to be a slightly larger scale. However, the proposed turbines and all other cumulative development will be viewed at a considerable distance and form a minor component within a large-scale landscape. Consequently, they will only occupy only a very small proportion of the overall view available from this location and may be missed by the casual

observer. There will be no perceptible impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.65 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 8: Margam Park (Deer Park)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 2.33 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.66 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.67 Located within the Margam SLA and a Registered Landscape of Special Historic Importance, which is also a Grade I Registered Park and Garden, there are panoramic views, most notably to the south across the surrounding landscape. The views south, are noted within the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales¹. However, it does contain notable man-made elements, including the steel works at Port Talbot. Facilities are limited to a timber bench, which is orientated to take in the views south, rather than north towards the proposed development. It is located on St. Illtyd's Walk/Ogwr Ridgeway Walk National Trail's as recorded on OS maps. The value of the view is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.68 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors are at a location that is valued for its views, although not towards the proposed development and will be undertaking an activity related to the landscape and therefore may be responsive to the type and size of wind farm proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.69 From this elevated location, looking west, the wooded hill of Mynydd y Castell is a recognisable feature within the middle ground of the view. Whilst extending above the ridgeline that is formed by the lower slopes of Mynydd Margam, the turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm can be seen. To the south-west there are good views across the parkland within Margam Park towards the steel works at Port Talbot and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir. Beyond the steel works are views towards the Bristol Channel and Swansea Bay, with Gower Peninsula visible in the far distance. To the south-east, there are further views across Margam Park and the gently undulating agricultural landscape beyond. Several woodland blocks are scattered throughout this part of the view, which also includes the settlements of Pyle, Bridgend and Porthcawl, where the turbines of Newton Down and

¹ Cadw/ICOMMOS UK (2000) The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Part I: Parks and Gardens) page 102

Parc Stormy Down are visible within the far distance and the Bristol Channel beyond. To the north there are views across the mosaic upland landscapes that extend across the slopes of Mynydd Margam. Dense coniferous forestry plantation, some of which has been recently felled, covers the ridgeline and screens longer views to the north.

Predicted View (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.70 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.52a – 8.52f. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that 13 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 13 visible, 8 will potentially be visible at partial tower height, 1 at hub height and 4 at blade tip height. To the west, the operational Mynydd Brombil wind farm is visible and to the south Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down wind farms. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.52f) and due to existing forestry, T10 and T12 will be visible at blade tip level, as opposed to hub height. Turbines T6 and T7 will be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.71 Figures 8.52a to 8.52d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the single turbine of Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will be visible in views south.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (consented stage wind farms)

- A8.8.72 The consented turbine would be clearly visible on the coastal plain but will be viewed in succession with the turbines of the proposed development. Due to the scale of the turbine and the receiving landscape it will have a very limited influence on views. Due to the proposed development and consented developments not being within the same arc of view and limited scale of the consented development, any impacts on visual amenity are likely to be as a result of the individual impacts of the proposed development. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented stage wind farms)

- A8.8.73 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Significance of Visual Effects (application wind farms)

- A8.8.74 Figures 8.52a to 8.52d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.75 Figures 8.52a to 8.52d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 9: Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu (BBNP)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 22.77 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.76 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 22 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.77 From this viewpoint location, which is situated within the BBNP there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. It is located within Open Access Land (CRoW Act); however, it is not a recognised viewpoint and there are no tourist facilities or information boards. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.78 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape and comprise walkers. The majority of receptors will be undertaking an activity related to the landscape. However, they may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type and size proposed by virtue of existing wind farm development that extends across a wide proportion of the view and distance. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

- A8.8.79 From this elevated location with the BBNP there are open views to the south, west and east, where the foreground view consists of rough grassland and the coniferous forestry that extends across the nearby slopes of Y Wern, Bryn Bugeilaid and Twyn Brynffaldau. Within the middle distance, the northern facing slopes of Dulais Valley rise to form a ridgeline, upon which the turbines of Maesgwyn Wind Farm, plus the turbines of Maesgwyn Wind Farm Extension are visible. Further to the west is the distinctive, steep slopes of Allt-y-grug and the existing turbines of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission and Mynydd y Betws. To the west and in the far distance, a ridgeline formed by the upland areas including Mynydd Corrwg Fechan, Mynydd Blaenrhondda, Mynydd Ystradffernol and Mynydd Tynewydd dominates. It is typically vegetated with coniferous forestry and includes the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd, which are a recognisable feature across the skyline. Views north are typically contained by the adjacent slopes of Fan Fraith.

Predicted View

- A8.8.80 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph and wirelines in Figures 8.53a – 8.53e. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 17 will potentially be visible at partial tower height and 1 at blade tip height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 22 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.81 The proposed development will be viewed within a large-scale landscape and at over 22 km to the nearest turbine. The majority of the proposed turbines will be screened from view by topography

or restricted to blade tip height only. The proposed development is also predicted to form a small component of the expansive open panorama, which will be viewed in the same cluster of turbines as the operational developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer Wind Farms. It is therefore predicted that due to these contributing factors that the proposed development would barely be perceptible and would have little impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.82 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight to negligible (not significant)

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.83 Figures 8.53a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented schemes of Abergorki Wind Farm, Melin Court, Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmored are all theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.84 The consented wind farms will be viewed at a considerable distance and the turbines of Abergorki Wind Farm and Foel Trawsant Wind Farm will be subsumed into the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline. The turbines of Upper Ogmored will be viewed beyond the operational developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP, which again will subsume them into the view. The turbines to Melin Court Wind Farm will be viewed between the proposed turbines within the northern section of the development and the operational turbines of Maesgwyn. The turbines to the proposed development may lead to a slight intensification of wind farms development within this part of the view, when viewed with Melin Court Wind Farm, but not to the extent that there will be any perceptible change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.85 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

- A8.8.86 Figures 8.53a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (application wind farms)

- A8.8.87 The application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn would be viewed at a distance of approximately 35 km from the proposed development and therefore a minor element of the view. Views of the proposed development would be viewed in succession with the application development and there will be very limited visual connection between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (application wind farms)

- A8.8.88 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

- A8.8.89 Figures 8.53a – 8.53d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms of Fforch Dwm, Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, Manmoel, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will all theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.90 The scoping stage developments will be viewed at a considerable distance and the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will be subsumed into the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline that include Maesgwyn Wind Farm and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm and will have very limited influence within the extensive panoramic view south. The turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will be viewed in succession to the proposed development and with a considerable separation distance. It will be subsumed within the existing operational turbines of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission and therefore will have negligible interaction with the proposed development. The wind farms of Manmoel, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will also be viewed in succession, in views east. There is a very wide separation gap between these developments and the proposed development and consequently little visual interaction between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

- A8.8.91 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.92 Figures 8.53a to 8.53d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Mynydd Bwlfa, Maerdy, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Mynydd y Bettws and Pen Bryn Oer may be visible. In addition, the consented wind farms of Abergorki Wind Farm, Melin Court, Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmored may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.93 With the exception to the wind farms of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, which are visible to views to the west, plus the turbines of Pen y Bryn Oer, which are visible in views to the east. The proposed development and all other cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view. Wind farm developments are established feature to views to the south, where the proposed development would be at the same scale and within the existing tight cluster of turbines that include the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd,

Ffynnon Oer and Maesgwyn. It is therefore predicted that following the construction of the proposed development will be viewed at scale and distance that would make it barely perceptible. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

- A8.8.94 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 11: Wales Coast Path, Ogmere-by-Sea

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 14.23 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

- A8.8.95 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where views of the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. By virtue of the location of the receptors at approximately 14 km from the proposed development, some visual change of the type proposed may be accommodated. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

- A8.8.96 From this viewpoint, which is located on the Wales Coast Path and within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, the main visual focus is south across the adjacent open water and views towards the proposed development are direct when travelling west. There are no facilities provided for enjoyment of the views and, while the area, including the Wales Coast Path is noted within tourist literature/websites, there are no specific references to the viewpoint location. The value of the view is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- A8.8.97 Receptors are within a regionally designated landscape, using a designated long-distance footpath and therefore undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape. However, wind farm developments are an existing feature of views and therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

- A8.8.98 From this location on the Wales Coast Path, views across the Bristol Channel and its wide expanse of open water dominate, which also includes the broad sweeping sandy bay of Traeth y Afon. Looking west across the bay the vegetated dunes of Merthyr Mawr form a backdrop to the beach. Within the dunes the caravans within Happy Valley Caravan Park are visible, with the turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down extending above the ridgeline beyond. Further to the west is Newton Point, which includes the caravans at Trecco Bay Holiday Park and the built form within the town of Porthcawl, further south. To the north east and within foreground views is an open-air car park, together with the predominantly detached houses and bungalows within the village of Ogmere-by-Sea. Extending above the ridgeline of the houses and constraining views further north are the lower slopes of Ogmere Down, which is typically vegetated with gorse.

Predicted View

- A8.8.99 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.55a – 8.55d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location with broadly consistent spacing and maximum elevation from left to right of view. Of the 18 visible, 9 will potentially be visible at either full or partial tower height, 3 at hub level and 6 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.55d) turbine T17 will be visible at hub level only and turbines T1, T5, T9, T12 and T13 will be visible at blade tip level only, due to the screening by existing vegetation.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.100 The proposed development will be viewed within the same arc of view as the existing turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down, albeit at a greater distance away (more than 14 km to the nearest turbine) and at lower apparent tip height elevation. The proposed development sits comfortably on the low and simple horizon formed by the Coalfield Plateau, where this is visible beyond the intervening high ground of Newton Down. The proposed development appears coherently spaced and in proportion to the wide open scale of the panorama. Although the proposed turbines will be a noticeable feature within views, including blade movement, they will occupy only a small proportion of the overall view and will not form a defining feature. Views out towards the Bristol Channel will remain unchanged and therefore the key fundamental elements that currently define the view will all be retained. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

- A8.8.101 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.102 Figures 8.55a to 8.55b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmere will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.103 Only the very tips of the blades would in theory be visible to the wind farm of Foel Trawsant and with the exception of one hub, only the blade tips to Upper Ogmere Wind Farm would also be visible. Both wind farms would be very minor components of the view, which may be screened entirely from view by existing vegetation. The addition of the proposed development when viewed with the consented development and other operational wind farms will have no impact on views. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

- A8.8.104 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.105 Figures 8.55a to 8.55d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.106 Figures 8.55a to 8.55d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 12: Twmbarlwm

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 40.40 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.107 The viewpoint is not located on a designated footpath or trail, however, it is within Open Access Land (CRoW Act) and therefore the predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 40 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.108 From this viewpoint location, there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape and although it is not within a nationally designated landscape, it is located within the Abercarn Visually Important Local Landscape (VILL), as designated by Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC). It is also within open access land and noted on OS maps as a viewpoint. There is, however, no provision of facilities connected to the enjoyment of the view, although reference to views is included within tourist information literature/websites, predominantly for its archaeological importance. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.109 Receptors are within a locally designated landscape and at a location that is recognised for its views across the surrounding landscape. The majority of receptors are likely to be undertaking an activity related to the landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Existing View

A8.8.110 From this elevated location there are good 360° views across the surrounding landscape and across the Bristol Channel towards the coast of North Somerset and North Devon. Looking south-east there are views towards the city of Newport and across the Gwent levels beyond. To the south-west, there are views across gently rolling agricultural land. The fields are typically enclosed by hedgerows, and which also include several coniferous and deciduous woodland blocks. The large urban development of Cardiff can be seen in the distance. Looking west towards Mynydd y Lan, which upon its summit sits several communications masts, the land drops sharply towards the Rhymney valley, where eastern facing sides include the wooded slopes of Mynydd y Grug. Within the far distance the view is formed by a long ridgeline, where there are a number of existing wind

farms visible, including Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal extension, plus the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm. To the north-west there are views of the towns of Ystrad Mynach, Blackwood and Newbridge and beyond to the upland landscape of the Bannau Brycheiniog.

Predicted View

A8.8.111 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph and wirelines in Figures 8.56a – 8.56e. The wirelines indicate that 12 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 12 visible, 1 will be visible at partial tower height, 1 at hub height and 10 at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.112 From this viewpoint location there are panoramic, open views across the surrounding landscape and where, due to topography, views of the proposed development will predominantly be restricted to blade tips only. In conjunction with distance (approximately 40 km to the nearest proposed turbine), it is predicted that the proposed development would barely be perceptible and would have very limited impact on the overall quality of the view. It will be in the same arc of view as the operational wind farms that extend across the ridgeline, although due to distance at a slightly smaller scale. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.113 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant)

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.114 Figures 8.56a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented schemes of Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Abergorki Wind Farm, Melin Court, Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill and Upper Ogmore are all theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.115 The consented wind farms will be viewed at a considerable distance and will predominantly be subsumed into the view by the existing operational wind farm developments, including Taff Ely, Pant y Wal/Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan REP and Pen y Cymoedd that extend across the far ridgeline. Consequently, there will be no interaction between the proposed development and consented wind farms. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.116 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.117 Figures 8.56a – 8.56d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (application wind farms)

A8.8.118 The application development will form a prominent feature of the view north. However, due to distance, the proposed development would barely be perceptible and have no visual interaction with this development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (application wind farms)

A8.8.119 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.120 Figures 8.56a – 8.56d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms of Twyn Hywel Energy Park, Manmoel and Mynydd Llanhilleth are all theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.121 All 3 wind farms will be viewed as distinct individual clusters and the wind farms of Twyn Hywel Energy Park and Mynydd Llanhilleth will be prominent features of the view. However, due to distance, the proposed development would barely be perceptible and have no visual interaction with the scoping stage wind farms. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.122 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.123 Figures 8.56a to 56d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms developments of Hill House, Ford Motor Company, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Taff Ely, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Bwllfa Farm, Llynfi Afan REP, Ferndale, Ffynnon Oer, Mynachdy 1, Mynachdy 2, Pen y Cymoedd, Maerdy, Mynydd Bwllfa, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Oakdale Business Park, Pen Bryn Oer, Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate and Wentloog Environmental Centre will all be visible. In addition, the consented wind farm/single wind farm developments of Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Melin Court, Abergorki Wind Farm, Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill and Upper Ogmere.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.124 The proposed and other cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc as view as one another and within a large scale, open landscape. Except for the turbines at Twyn Hywel Energy Park and Mynydd Llanhilleth all other turbines, including the proposed turbines would be viewed at a considerable distance and form minor components of the view. It is predicted that they

will have no marked impact on the overall quality of the view and may be missed by the casual observer. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.125 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight-moderate (not significant)

Viewpoint 14: Swansea Promenade, Black Pill

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 18.95 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.126 The predominant receptor types are likely to be cyclist and walkers using the promenade, along a national trail. Receptors are within an urban environment and not at a location noted as a tourist destination. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.127 From this viewpoint, which is located on the Wales Coast Path, the main views are south-east across the adjacent open water and, therefore, views towards the proposed development are oblique. Benches orientated south-east towards the open water of Swansea Bay are located on the promenade for enjoyment of the views and, whilst the area, including the Wales Coast Path is noted within tourist literature/websites, there are no specific references to the viewpoint location. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.128 Receptors are not within a designated seascape/landscape, although they are located on a designated long-distance footpath and are, therefore, likely to be undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape. However, wind farm developments are an existing feature of views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.129 From this location there are expansive, open views across the sweeping arc of Swansea Bay and out across the Bristol Channel and towards the North Devon coast. The Bay is enclosed to the west by the landform of the Mumbles and West Cross. The distinctive profiles of Mumbles Head and Middle Head are clearly visible. Looking north-east is the residential area of Uplands, with development extending along the ridgeline, before falling away to Swansea city centre, where several high-rise buildings, including Meridian Tower are visible. Forming the backdrop to this part of the view is Kilvey Hill, which include communications masts to its summit. Adjacent to the city centre is Swansea Marina and the docks, which include several cranes and warehouses, plus 3 no. operational wind turbines (Swansea Bay WWTW and Queens Dock). Rising above the Marina and the docks are the slopes of Mynydd y Gaer, and the ridgelines formed by Mynydd Blaenavon, Mynydd Fforch-Dwm, Mynydd Canol and Mynydd Nant-y-bar and which includes the operational Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd wind farms. At the mouth of the River Neath, Baglan Power

Station is visible, where on the ridgeline beyond, are the existing turbines to Llynfi Afan REP Wind Farm. Further east along the coast is the town of Port Talbot and the narrow strip of Aberavon Sands, which sit at the foot of Mynydd Dinas and Mynydd Brombil, which includes the 4no. turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. The extensive steel works at Port Talbot is visible on the coastal plain, including several flues. To the far eastern extent of the view, there are distant views to Kenfig Sands and Margam Sands, where the turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down are all visible upon the ridgeline.

Predicted View

A8.8.130 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.58a – 8.58d. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location at either full or partial tower height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 18 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.131 The proposed development will be viewed at nearly 19 km to the nearest turbine and therefore, due to distance, it is predicted to be a recognisable new element within the view, but not at a scale or prominence that will fundamentally change the overall nature of the view or result in being a detracting element. The turbines will be visible within a limited proportion of the backdrop to the expansive and open sea views. The proposed development is also within a part of the view, where tall, vertical manmade features are an established feature. The proposed development will be coherently spaced along the skyline, with only very minor stacking evident at this distance between turbines T6 and T7, T10 and T14, and T11 and T17. At this distance, the vertical scale of the proposed development is considered to be proportional to the height of many existing vertical man-made elements visible across the open seascape. As receptors travel around the promenade, views may be possible for a moderate duration of time. However, the sweeping arc of Swansea Bay, including primary views towards Mumbles Head will all remain as key defining characteristics. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.132 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.133 Figures 8.58a to 8.58b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmere will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.134 The consented wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsant will be visible across the ridgeline, albeit viewed at a distance of over 19 km away will minor features of the view. However, the turbines

of Melin Court Wind Farm will be viewed in front of and at a similar scale to the existing turbines to the wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd, which will subsume them within the view. The turbines of Foel Trawsant will be viewed in front of the operational wind farm of Llynfi Afan REP and at a slightly larger scale. The turbines to the wind farm of Upper Ogmere will be viewed adjacent to and at a similar scale to the operational Llynfi Afan REP Wind Farm and at a distance of approximately 29 km away and therefore very minor elements within the view. The northern section of the proposed development when viewed with the consented developments, will be perceived at a larger scale and this may result in an additional increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view. The turbines within the southern section of the proposed development will have little direct visual connection with the consented wind farms due to separation distance. Magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.135 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application stage wind farms)

A8.8.136 Figures 8.58a to 8.58d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

A8.8.137 Figures 8.58a to 8.58b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.138 The turbines of Fforch Dwm will be visible to the front of the operational wind farms of Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd. However, however at a distance of over 20 km, the scale of the turbines will largely be subsumed within the existing turbines of the operational wind farms. The wind farm of Fforch Dwm will be viewed at a similar vertical scale to the turbines of the proposed development. However, due to separation distance, they will be viewed as two distinct clusters. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.139 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.140 Figure 8.58a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Swansea Bay WWTW, Queens Dock, Llynfi Afan REP, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Newlands, Haregrove Farm, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down

may all be visible. In addition, the consented developments of Melin Court, Foel Trawsnant and Upper Ogmere.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.141 The proposed development and all cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view and predominantly extend across the ridgeline that forms the backdrop to the eastern half of Swansea Bay. The turbines within the southern section will result in an increase in the proportion of the ridgeline to which turbines can be seen and enclosing the gap between Mynydd Bombil and Llynfi Afan REP wind farms. The turbines, most notably within the southern section will appear at a larger scale when compared with the other cumulative developments and will form a recognisable new element within the view. However, the proposed development and other cumulative will occupy only a moderate proportion of the view and due to the distance and the broad open seascape/landscape that they will be seen, they will not change the overall nature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.142 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the extent of operational wind farm and other development that influences the panoramic view.

Viewpoint 15: Clwyd Road, Pen-Lan, Swansea

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 17.27 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.143 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be residents and users of adjacent open spaces and the highway. Resident's main views are to the south and not in the same arc of view as the proposed development. The view contains many exiting man-made elements. The susceptibility to change of the predominant visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.144 From this viewpoint location, there are primary views south across the city out across Swansea Bay. Views towards the proposed development to the east are oblique. The viewpoint location is not within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature. There is no provision of facilities related or connected to the enjoyment of the view. However, the view may be valued by residents. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.145 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape or at a location that is valued for its view. However, the predominant receptor group will be residents, who may be particularly responsive to wind farm development of the type and size proposed. However, the existing view contains many existing visual elements including operational wind farms and receptors therefore receptors may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Existing View

A8.8.146 From this elevated location, the main views are south across residential areas of Manselton and St Thomas, the city centre and docks towards the Bristol Channel. To the west there are views of the residential areas of Gendros and Cwmdru and which restrict longer distance views across the landscape. Looking towards the south-east, the rounded topography of Kilvey Hill, which is predominantly vegetated with coniferous woodland and includes communication masts to its summit, is a prominent feature. To the east, the land falls steeply towards the Landore area of the city, where the houses of Winch-wen and Bon-y-maen can be seen. Within the distance there are view to the existing turbines at Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm located beyond Mynydd Fforch-dwm and Mynydd Nant-y-bar. There are also views of Mynydd-y-Gaer and Foel Fynyddau, which include three communication masts. To the southern facing slopes of Foel Fynyddau is the settlement of Cwmafan, which sits within the Afan Valley. The wooded slopes of Mynydd Emroch are also visible, together with Mynydd Penhydd, Mynydd Bach and Mynydd Margam and which form the backdrop to this part of the view. Mynydd Bombil Wind Farm is also partially visible beyond the wooded of Kilvey Hill. To the north-east there are views to Birchgrove and the relatively flat ridgeline of Mynydd Drumau.

Predicted View

A8.8.147 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines, and photomontages in Figures 8.59a – 8.59d. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 16 will potentially be visible at either full or partial tower height and 2 at blade tip height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 17 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.148 The proposed development, which will be viewed at over 17 km to the nearest turbine will form a recognisable new element within the view, albeit together with a number of existing operational wind farms and may be readily observed. However, the proposed development will occupy only a limited proportion of the view and at this distance the vertical and horizontal scale will not form a defining feature. The southern section will be coherently spaced, sitting comfortably on a lower-lying and largely featureless section of the skyline, below more prominent landforms, including Kilvey Hill. The northern section of the proposed development will be seen more as a distinct cluster, balanced around and partially obscured by the relative high point of Mynydd Penhydd. The overall quality of the view, including the main views across Swansea city centre and towards the Bristol Channel will remain intact. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.149 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.150 Figures 8.59a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented schemes of Melin Court, Foel Trawsnant and Upper Ogmore will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.151 The turbines to Melin Court Wind Farm are likely to be subsumed by the existing turbines of Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm and will have no cumulative interaction with the proposed development. However, the proposed development when viewed with the wind farms of Foel Trawsnant and Upper Ogmore will increase the prominence of wind farm development across the ridgeline. The proposed development will partially infill the gap between the existing turbines to Llynfi Afan REP and Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. However, the proposed development together with the consented developments will not be a prominent or the defining feature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.152 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate to slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application stage wind farms)

A8.8.153 Figures 8.59a to 8.59d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.154 Figures 8.59a – 8.59d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.155 The turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm would be an apparent feature together with the operational wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. There however, is a large separation gap between the proposed development and Fforch Dwm Wind Farm. Any cumulative change is likely to be a result of the interaction between the proposed development and existing developments, rather than with scoping stage developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.156 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate to slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.157 Figure 8.59a – 8.59d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Llynfi Afan REP, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil and Queens Dock, plus the consented developments of Melin Court and Upper Ogmore may all be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.158 The turbines to the proposed development will be seen within the same arc of view as the other cumulative developments. They, however, will be viewed between the consented development of Foel Trawsnant and the existing turbines of Mynydd Brombil and will be the most prominent turbines within the view. There may be a perceived increase in wind turbines along the ridgeline, as they will form a recognisable new element, although the overall nature of the view will remain unchanged. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.159 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant). It is considered that effects will be not significant due to the distance and the key features of the view will remain unchanged.

Viewpoint 16: The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon*Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 7.12 km**Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change*

A8.8.160 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be tourists and walkers on a national trail, where views across the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, the main view is not orientated towards the proposed development and therefore the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.161 From this viewpoint, which is located on the Wales Coast Path, main views are south across the adjacent wide expanse of Aberavon beach and the open water of Swansea Bay, as opposed to the north and towards the proposed development. Benches orientated south-west towards the open water views across Swansea Bay are located on the promenade for enjoyment of the views and, whilst the area, including the Wales Coast Path is noted within tourist literature/websites, there are no specific references to the viewpoint location. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.162 Receptors are not within a designated seascape/landscape and at a location that includes many existing visual elements, including wind farm developments, that are an existing feature of views and therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. However, they are also using a designated long-distance footpath and may be likely to be undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.163 Looking south there are open views across promenade to the wide, flat expanse of sand to Aberavon beach and the open water of the Bristol Channel and to the North Devon coast in the far distance. To the south-east the harbour wall to Port Talbot docks and other dock infrastructure, plus the steel works are all visible, whilst views south-west are across Swansea Bay, towards Kilvey

Hill, the urban form of Swansea and Mumbles Head. To the north the rooflines to the houses within the Sandfields area of Aberavon can be seen, with the southern slopes of Mynydd Dinas, Mynydd Emroch, Mynydd Margam and Mynydd Brombil extending above the rooflines and forming the backdrop to views. Within the foreground of views along the promenade and to the north are a multitude of vertical man-made elements including lighting columns, signage and boundary treatments. Located on the ridgeline of Mynydd Emroch together with a communications mast is a solar farm, while the 4 turbines to Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm are visible, further east upon the ridgeline to Mynydd Brombil.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.164 Figures 8.60a to 8.60d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will theoretically be visible from this viewpoint. However, the turbine will be screened from view by the apparatus within Port Talbot steel works and therefore there will be no cumulative effects as a result of consented wind farms from this location.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.165 Figures 8.60a to 8.60d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.166 Figures 8.60a to 8.60d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Viewpoint 17: Margam Park

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 2.89 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.167 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be tourists visiting the park, where the landscape may be a primary reason for their visit. Receptors are within a recognised tourist attraction where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is therefore assessed as high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.168 The viewpoint is located within the Margam SLA and a Registered Landscape of Special Historic Importance, which is also a Grade I Registered Park and Garden. Views south from the Margam Castle are noted within the Register of Landscapes, Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales², however, as recorded within the Register, the view does contain man-made elements including the steel works at Port Talbot and other large-scale developments and transport corridors on the coastal plain. From the viewpoint location itself which is located on a high point on the grassland behind the castle where a couple of timber benches are located, there are primary views north towards the proposed development. The value of the view is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.169 Receptors are within a locally and nationally designated landscape and may be responsive to the type of development proposed and at a location valued for its views that contribute to the setting of this landscape. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View

A8.8.170 This location is representative of the worst case for otherwise occasional glimpsed views that are available within the lower parkland areas. This particular view extends across the open, flat grassland towards Margam Castle, which sits at the foot of the rounded slopes of Mynydd y Castell. The hill is largely covered by deciduous trees, although pines cover higher parts. Located within the woodland and to the north-west of the castle, the ruins of Margam Abbey are visible. Further around to the west, there are glimpsed and filtered views through existing vegetation towards the steel works and other large scale industrial developments on the coastal plain and to Swansea in the far distance, including the existing turbines at Queens Dock. To the north-east, a large broadly rectangular shaped pond can be seen within the foreground, beyond which there is a block of pine trees, which contains the Go Ape Forest adventure attraction. Beyond the stand of trees, are the south facing scarp slopes of Mynydd Margam, which rise steeply and where just below the ridgeline, the square blocks of coniferous forestry known as Brest Plantations can be seen.

Predicted View

A8.8.171 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.61a – 8.61f. The wirelines indicate that 10 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 10 visible, 4 will potentially be visible at partial tower height only and remaining 6 at blade tip height only. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.61f), due to existing vegetation, turbines T18 will be visible at blade tip level only and T8, T13 and T17 will be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.172 Figures 8.61a to 8.61d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will be visible from this viewpoint.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.173 The consented turbine would in theory be viewed in succession to the proposed development in views to the south. However, due to mature vegetation within the park, the consented turbine is predicted to be screened from view and therefore result in very limited interaction between this turbine and the proposed development. Any impacts on visual amenity are predicted to be more as a result of the proposed turbines only. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

² Cadw/ICOMOS UK (2000) The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales (Part I: Parks and Gardens)

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.174 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.175 Figures 8.61a to 8.61d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.176 Figures 8.61a to 8.61d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.177 Figure 8.61a – 60d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Haregrove Farm, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Newlands, Queens Dock and Swansea Bay WWTW, may all be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.178 Due to screening from vegetation within the park, it is predicted that in addition to the proposed development, only 2 number turbines to the wind farm at Queens Dock Farm will be visible. These turbines, which will not be within the same arc of view as the proposed turbines, will be viewed at a distance of over 13 km away and will be minor elements that may be missed by the casual observer. Therefore, when viewed with the proposed development, it is likely that there will be no perceptible awareness of other wind farm developments within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.179 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Viewpoint 18: Pen-Y-Fan (BBNP)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 33.09 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.180 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 33 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.181 From this viewpoint location, which is situated within the BBNP there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. It is located on the Beacons Way National Trail as recorded on OS maps, however there are no tourist facilities at the viewpoint, although there is a National Trust sign marking the summit. The viewpoint is referenced in tourist literature/websites, including the National Trust website, where views from the summit are noted. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.182 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors will be undertaking an activity related to the landscape and at a location that is valued for its views at a national level. However, wind farm developments are an existing feature of distant views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.183 Views to the north, east and west are across the landscape within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, that includes the relatively flat agricultural land of the Usk Valley and around Llangorse Lake, to the slopes of the Black Mountains that rise to form the backdrop of the view to the north-east. To the south-east are the upland areas of Garn Du and Mynydd Llangynidr, the steep sides of which form a narrow, densely wooded valley that contains Pentwynna and Pontsticill Reservoirs. To the south-west there are open, elevated views across the upland landscape of the BBNP and towards the Neath Valley that lies just outside the park. The land adjacent to the Neath Valley includes the forested areas of Mynydd Marchywel, Mynydd Resolfen, Mynydd Corrwg Fechan, Twyn Corrwg Fechan, Mynydd Ystradffernol and Mynydd Tynnewydd and upon which the existing wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Bwlfa, Maesgwyn and Maesgwyn Extension can be seen.

Predicted View

A8.8.184 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph and wirelines in Figures 8.62a – 8.61f. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 6 will potentially be visible at partial tower height, 9 at hub height and 3 at blade tip height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 33 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.185 From this viewpoint location there are panoramic, open views across a large-scale landscape and where, due to topography, views of the proposed development will predominantly be restricted to the upper sections of the turbine towers and hubs. In conjunction with distance (approximately 33 km to the nearest proposed turbine), it is predicted that the proposed development would barely be perceptible and would have limited impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.186 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight to negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.187 Figures 8.62a - 62d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented schemes of Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Abergorki Wind Farm, Foel Trawsant, Melin Court, Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill and Upper Ogmere, are all theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.188 The proposed development when viewed with all consented wind farms that are theoretically visible, will be experienced within a broad, open landscape and seen at a considerable distance. Consequently, they will be viewed within the expanse of existing wind farm developments that extend across the ridgeline and therefore have limited cumulative influence on the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.189 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.190 Figures 8.62a – 8.62d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (application wind farms)

A8.8.191 The proposed development when viewed with the application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn, which is at a distance of approximately 22 km to the south east, will form a minor element of the view. The proposed development will be viewed in succession with the application development and there will be very limited visual connection between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (application wind farms)

A8.8.192 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

A8.8.193 Figures 8.62a – 8.62d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms of Fforch Dwm, Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, Manmoel, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will all theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.194 The scoping stage developments will be viewed at a considerable distance and the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will largely be subsumed into the existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline that include Maesgwyn Wind Farm and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm and will have very limited influence within the extensive panoramic view south. The turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will be viewed in succession to the proposed development and with a considerable separation distance. It will be subsumed within the existing operational turbines of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Bettws and Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission and therefore the proposed development will have negligible interaction with these proposed developments. This will also apply to the wind farms of Manmoel, Mynydd Llanhilleth and Twyn Hywel Energy Park which will be viewed in succession to the south-east. Due to the wide separation gap between the proposed development and all of the scoping stage developments there will be little visual interaction between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.195 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.196 Figures 8.62a to 62d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Mynachdy 1, Mynachdy 2, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Taff Ely, Ferndale, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Bwlfa Farm, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Maerdy, Mynydd Bwlfa, Llynfi Afan REP, Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Mynydd y Bettws, Oakdale Business Park, Pen Bryn Oer and Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate may all be visible. In addition, the consented wind farm/ single turbine developments of Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Abergorki Wind Farm, Foel Trawsant, Melin Court, Nant-Gwyddon Landfill and Upper Ogmere may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.197 The proposed development would be viewed at distance of over 33 km to the nearest turbine and would be viewed within a large-scale landscape, where wind farm development is an established, although not prominent feature of the view. The proposed development would be seen within the same arc of view as other wind farms, including Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, viewed at a similar scale and would not increase the extent of view in which wind farm developments are visible. Although wind farms can be seen within views to the south-east, they occupy only a small proportion of the overall view available from this location and do not have a marked impact on the quality of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.198 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 19: Wales Coast Path, Rest Bay / Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, Porthcawl

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 10.13 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.199 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the views of the surrounding seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, the main view is not orientated towards the proposed development and therefore the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.200 From this viewpoint, which is located on the Wales Coast Path and within the Porthcawl SLA, the main views are south across the adjacent open water and therefore views north towards the proposed development are in the opposite direction. There are no facilities provided for enjoyment of the views and, whilst the area, including the Wales Coast Path, is noted within tourist literature/websites, there are no specific references to the viewpoint location. The value of the view from this viewpoint is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.201 Receptors are within a locally designated landscape, using a designated long-distance footpath and therefore undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape. However, wind farm developments and other industry are an existing feature of some views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.202 From this location on the Wales Coast Path, views south extend across the rocky foreshore, which include the low, rocky headland of Sker Point and the wide, open expanse of water of the Bristol Channel. To the north lies Royal Porthcawl Golf Club, a links course, whose landform is gently undulating and consists of the managed fairways, greens and the less managed rough, which is predominantly gorse. To the north and within the far distance, the ridgelines of Mynydd Baedfan, Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Moel Ton-mawr, Mynydd Margam, Ergyd Isaf and Mynydd Emroch form the backdrop to the view. Extending across the ridgeline are blocks of coniferous forestry, which contrast with the more open upland moorland landscape. The Brest Plantations within Margam Park can be seen as can the 4 turbines to Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. Looking north-west the flues to the steel works at Port Talbot are visible, and beyond these in the distance, Swansea Bay and the built form of Swansea.

Predicted View

A8.8.203 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.63a – 8.63f. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will

potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 10 will potentially be visible at partial tower height, 2 at hub height and 6 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.63f), due to existing vegetation, turbines T9 and T12 will be visible at hub height only as opposed to partial tower height, T7 and T8 will be visible at blade tip level only and turbine T5 will be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.204 Figures 8.63a illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmore, plus the single turbine at the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.205 The consented turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam would form a recognisable feature on the coastal plain and within middle distance views. It will be backclothed against the hills of the coalfield plateau beyond. The turbines to Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 Wind Farm, would be a very minor element of the view, visible at blade tips only and subsumed within the turbines to the existing Pant Y Wal Wind Farm. The turbines of Upper Ogmore Wind Farm will be a visible feature, further to the north that is likely to appear as an extension to Llynfi Afan REP Wind Farm. However, it will be viewed as a small-scale feature, with a wide separation distance with the proposed development. The addition of the proposed development and operational development of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm and Newlands, will significantly add to the influence of wind farm development when viewed with the consented turbine. Consequently, impacts will be from the proposed development more than through any visual connection between the proposed development and the consented development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.206 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application stage wind farms)

A8.8.207 Figures 8.63a to 8.63d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

A8.8.208 Figures 8.63a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will theoretically be visible. However, this single turbine is located at a distance of over 30 km from the viewpoint and visibility is limited to blade tip only. Consequently, there will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farms from this location.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.209 Figure 8.63a – 63d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd Brombil, Pen y Cymoedd, Newlands, Llynfi Afan REP, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Queens Dock, and Swansea Bay WWTW may all be visible. In addition, the consented developments of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmere may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.210 With the exception of the developments of Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down, the proposed development and all other cumulative developments will be seen with the same arc of view. Other cumulative developments will be viewed beyond the turbines of the proposed development and due to a combination of distance and the screening effects of topography, will form minor components of the view. Therefore, the proposed development is predicted to be the most prominent of all developments and will form a recognisable new element within the view. It will be viewed within a part of the view in which wind turbines are currently not a recognisable element, although the horizontal extent of turbines visible within the view will not increase. In addition, key elements of the view, which include open views across the Bristol Channel will remain unchanged. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.211 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, as the key defining visual qualities that currently define the view would be retained, effects are considered to be not significant.

Viewpoint 21: Sarn Helen, Aberdulais

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 9.56 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.212 The viewpoint is not located on a designated footpath or trail, however, it is within Open Access Land and located on a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT), therefore the predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, there are a number of existing wind farms visible and therefore receptors may be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.213 From this viewpoint location, which is situated within the Dulais Valley SLA there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape where wind farm development is an established feature of views. It is not located on a public footpath; however, it is within open access land as noted on OS maps and on a BOAT, which follows the route of Sarn Helen, Roman Road. There is no provision of facilities connected to the enjoyment of the view and although reference to Sarn Helen

is noted in tourist literature/websites, there is no mention of views from this location. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.214 Receptors are within a locally designated landscape, where the majority of receptors are likely to be undertaking an activity related to the landscape. However, they are not at a location valued for its view and may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type and size proposed by virtue of the operational wind farm developments that are widely evident within existing views. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.215 Looking east across towards the western facing slopes of the Neath Valley, the view is a mix of agricultural fields enclosed by hedgerows, many of which are overgrown, and blocks of coniferous forestry plantations, particularly to higher slopes. Beyond the valley sides are the upland areas formed by Mynydd Blaenavon, Mynydd Fforch-dwm, Mynydd Canol, Mynydd Blaen-nant-du and Mynydd Nant-y-bar, which include the turbines of Ffynnon Oer, Llynfi Afan REP and Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farms. To the south-east, the communications mast located upon the summit of Foel Fynyddau and the northern, wooded slopes of Mynydd Dinas are visible, plus the turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. To the south, there are views across the urban development of Britton Ferry, to Baglan Bay and the Bristol Channel beyond. Further south-west there are views across the floodplain of the River Neath, towards Llandarcy, Swansea Docks and Kilvey Hill and where Mumble Head forms a backdrop to the view. This steeply wooded sides of the lower section of the Neath Valley can be seen together with the village of Cilfrew. To the north there are long distance views to the upland landscape and the undulating ridgelines to the mountains within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

Predicted View

A8.8.216 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.65a – 8.65f. The wirelines and photomontage indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, 17 at either full or partial tower height and 1 at hub height. The meteorological masts to the both the northern and southern sections of the site will also be visible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.217 The proposed development will be viewed within a large-scale, upland landscape and at a distance of approximately 9.5 km to the nearest turbine. It is predicted that the turbines will form a recognisable new element within the view, although only occupy a limited proportion of the overall view available. In addition, they will be viewed in conjunction with the operational Pen y Cymoedd turbines, which are at a closer distance to the viewpoint than the proposed turbines and therefore perceived to be a greater scale. The proposed development will be visible along the skyline to the east. It is considered that it will form a coherent and equally spaced cluster proportional to the simple and open scale of the upland landscape. The meteorological masts will also be an additional feature to the landscape, but at over 9 km away, they are not predicted to be prominent.

Consequently, the overall quality and nature of the view will remain intact. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.218 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.219 Figures 8.65a to 8.65d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmere will be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.220 The turbines to the wind farm of Foel Trawsant and the proposed development will be viewed at a similar sized scale and likely as a single development. When viewed with the existing operational developments, there will be a sense of an increase in wind farm development extending further west along the ridgeline. However, this increase will predominantly be a result of the proposed development. The wind farm of Upper Ogmere will theoretically be visible at blade tip height only and therefore form a very minor component within the view. In addition, due to the separation distance between the consented development and the proposed development there is little interaction between the two. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.221 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects will not be significant the key defining visual qualities that currently define the primary view will be retained.

Predicted Cumulative View (application stage wind farms)

A8.8.222 Figures 8.65a to 8.65d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.223 Figures 8.65a to 8.65d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm will be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.224 The turbines to Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will form a prominent feature that will give the perception of extending the influence of the turbines to the existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd further to the south. The addition of the proposed development will be viewed beyond the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm and at a smaller vertical scale. The proposed development will add to the perception of wind farm development within the view, however, the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will be more defining development within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.225 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.226 Figures 8.65a to 65d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Ffynnon Oer, Llynfi Afan REP, Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Brombil, Queens Docks, Swansea Bay WWTW and Pen Bryn Oer, plus the consented developments of Foel Trawsant, Melin Court and Upper Ogmere may all be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.227 Cumulative developments extend across a significant proportion of the view to the south and the east, where with the exception of a number of turbines to Pen y Cymoedd, Melin Court, Queens Dock and Swansea Bay WWTW, will be viewed within the same arc of view. The proposed turbines will form a recognisable new element within the view and will increase the perception of wind farms extending across the ridgeline. However, wind farm development is an established feature within this part of the view and therefore while the proposed turbines will be readily observed in combination with other wind farm developments, the fundamental nature of the view will not change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.228 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as the proposed development in conjunction with other cumulative development will be proportional in scale to the expansive and simple upland landscape.

Viewpoint 22: Baxter Terrace, Glyncorrwg

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 7.04 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.229 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be residents, who's main view from the front of their houses is orientated towards the proposed development. Therefore, the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.230 From this viewpoint location, views from adjacent properties towards the proposed development are primary. However, it is not located within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature and there are no facilities provided for the enjoyment of the view. However, views may be valued by residents. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.231 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape or at a location that is valued for its view, however the majority of receptors will be residents who may be particularly responsive to wind farm development of the type and size proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.232 Located within a narrow valley, views from this location are restricted to the east and to the west by the slopes of the Mynydd Ynyscorrwg and Mynydd Blaen-nant-du respectively, the dramatic scale of which form a strong sense of enclosure. Their ridgelines are cloaked in coniferous forestry plantations, with evidence of recent felling to lower slopes. There are longer views south along the Afan Valley focussed towards an elevated block of coniferous forestry within the distance.

Predicted View

A8.8.233 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.66a – 8.66f. The wirelines indicate that 10 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 10 visible, 2 will potentially be visible at partial tower height and 8 at blade tip height. However, due to existing forestry T7, T8, T13, T14, T17 and T18 will be screened from view entirely.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.234 The proposed development would be a recognisable new feature within views that will be focussed towards the turbines by the enclosing topography of the valley sides. At approximately 7 km to the nearest turbine, views are considered to be middle range in distance and the turbines will occupy only a limited proportion of the view and restricted to upper sections of the turbine towers for two turbines, (T4 and T5) and blade tips for two turbines (T2 and T6). Turbines T4 and T5 will provide a strong visual focus at the lower end of the valley and the scale and spacing of the proposed development is considered both proportional to the scale of the enclosing wooded landscape and coherent with limited interaction evident between visible blade movements. The dramatic, steep, wooded valley sides that rise above the valley floor are at a sufficient scale that they will remain as the defining feature within the landscape, rather than the proposed turbines. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.235 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.236 Figures 8.66a to 8.66d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsnant will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.237 The proposed development will be viewed at a similar scale to the turbines of the consented development of Foel Trawsnant and will be likely perceived as a single development. Views are

focussed towards the consented development and the addition of the proposed development will add to the cluster of turbines, marginally increasing the intensification of wind turbines visible. However, views of the development will however occupy only a small proportion of views. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.238 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects will not be significant the key defining visual qualities that currently define the primary view will be retained.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.239 Figures 8.66a to 8.66d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.240 Figures 8.66a to 8.66d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.241 Figures 8.66a to 66d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms developments of Pen y Cymoedd, plus the consented development of Foel Trawsnant may be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.242 Views of the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd will be screened from the view to the north by adjacent housing and therefore only the proposed turbines and the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm will be visible from this location. Although views are channelled towards the cumulative developments, they will occupy only a small proportion of the overall view and the vertical proportion of the turbines visible will be reduced by existing forestry. In addition, they will be viewed at a similar scale and as a tight cluster of turbines and therefore may be perceived as a single development. Whilst the proposed development and the cumulative development of Foel Trawsnant would form a recognisable new element within the view, that would be readily observed, the overall nature and quality of the view will remain intact. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.243 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as due to large scale and enclosed nature of the surrounding local landscape, the turbines in conjunction with other cumulative developments will be subservient within the view.

Viewpoint 23: Margam Park (Access Road)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3.29 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.244 Receptors are within a recognised tourist location. However, at this viewpoint, the predominant receptor type is predicted to be motorists travelling along the access road when entering the park, whose main focus is unlikely to be on the landscape. Therefore, the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.245 Located within the Margam SLA and a Registered Landscape of Special Historic Importance, which is also a Grade I Registered Park and Garden. This access road forms the main vehicular gateway into the Park. The value of the view is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.246 Receptors are within a local and nationally designated landscape where views will be experienced by drivers and passengers enroute to the park only. The sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View

A8.8.247 From the road that leads to the main car park, immediate foreground views are across a flat open grassland area that is used for grazing, and which is enclosed by a post and wire timber fence. Adjacent to the area of grassland is a cricket pitch, which includes a pavilion. Beyond the low-lying foreground, the land rises dramatically to the dominating and distinctive rounded, forested, landform of Graig Fawr with glimpsed visibility of Capel Mair, a ruined church, available through the trees. The wooded slopes extend around to the east rising to a less distinctive, more expansive horizon. Nestled within the deciduous trees on the lower slopes, glimpsed and filtered views of the ruins of Margam Abbey and the Orangery are available. Looking further east, the southern edge of Mynydd Margam can be seen rising above the belt of mature, predominantly deciduous trees that border the grassland within the foreground and restrict longer distance views across the park. Set within the trees, the top section of the tower to Margam Castle is visible, as is the toilet block.

Predicted View

A8.8.248 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.67a – 8.67f. The wirelines indicate that 11 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 11 visible, 5 will potentially be visible at partial tower height, 1 at hub level and 5 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.67f), due to existing vegetation, turbines T14 and T17 will be visible at hub level as opposed to partial tower height, T11 will be visible at blade tip as opposed to hub height and turbines T10 and T12 will be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.249 Figures 8.67a to 8.67d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will be visible from this viewpoint.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.250 The consented turbine would in theory be viewed in succession to the proposed development in views to the south east. However, due to mature vegetation within the park, the consented turbine is predicted to be screened from view and therefore result in very limited interaction between the proposed development and the consented turbine. Any impacts on visual amenity are predicted to be more as a result of the proposed turbines only. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.251 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.252 Figures 8.67a to 8.67d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.253 Figures 8.67a to 8.67d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.254 Figures 8.67a to 8.67f illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farms/single turbine developments of Newlands, Newtown Down, Parc Stormy Down and Mynydd Brombil, may be visible from this location. However, due to screening from existing vegetation within the park it is predicted that the proposed development will be the only wind farm development visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.255 Due to screening from existing vegetation, there will be no perceptible awareness of other wind farm developments within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.256 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Viewpoint 25: Bryn East, picnic area opposite Royal Oak Public House

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 1.16 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.257 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, people using the picnic facilities and also local residents. The landscape may be the primary reason for their visit and therefore the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.258 The viewpoint is located on St. Illtyd's National Trail, where facilities include picnic benches/table and information boards, although the latter provides historical information that is unrelated to the view. The viewpoint is not noted within tourist literature/websites and is not recognised by or associated with a designated landscape. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.259 Receptors are not within a designated landscape, or a location which is noted for its views; however, the local landscape forms an important backdrop to the setting of Bryn. In addition, local residents and walkers, will be using the designated long-distance footpath/picnic benches and therefore likely to be undertaking an activity related to the landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View

A8.8.260 Looking south from this location, situated on the eastern edge of the village, the foreground views include the modern detached properties that extend along the unnamed road adjacent to the Public House, Cwm Farteg and Station Road, extending around to the Royal Oak PH to the west. Beyond these buildings, the land formed by the north facing slopes of Mynydd Bach rises steeply above the rooflines. The slopes and ridgelines are predominantly vegetated with dense coniferous forestry and together with the landform restrict further views south. To the west, there are views across the rooftops of Bryn towards the rounded topography of Moel y Fen and Foel Fynyddau, upon which four communications masts sit. The slopes Foel Fynyddau show evidence of recent tree felling, although a block of coniferous forestry on its southern facing slopes is a noticeable feature. To the north, views are restricted to short distances only by the slopes of Mynydd Penhydd. The slopes of typically vegetated with rough grassland, although coniferous woodland forestry extends along the ridgeline. Also extending across the slopes in a broad east – west direction are steel lattice electricity pylons and overhead cables. To the east, there are views along the busy B4282 with associated highways infrastructure including traffic, bus shelters, lamp columns and signage. Views in this direction are flanked by the prominent rounded landforms and slopes of Garn Wen, Rhiw Tor Cymry and around to Mynydd Penhydd to the north and Mynydd Bach to the south. The steel lattice electricity pylons and overhead cables also extend through this part of the view.

Predicted View

A8.8.261 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.69a – 8.69h. The wirelines indicate that 8 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 3 visible within the southern section, 1 will

potentially be visible at partial tower height and 2 at blade tip height. However, due to existing vegetation, T12 will be screened from view. Of the 5 potentially visible within the northern section, the wireline indicates that all 5 will be visible at partial tower height. However, due to forestry plantation, visibility of turbine T1 will be restricted to hub height as opposed to partial tower height and turbine T3 will be restricted to blade tip level only, as opposed to hub height.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.262 Figures 8.69a to 8.69d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsnant will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.263 Due to screening from existing vegetation, it is predicted that in addition to the proposed development, only two turbines from the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm would be visible, one at blade tip and partial tower height. They will be viewed within the same arc of view and will likely be perceived as a single development. However, any impacts will be more from the proposed development than as a result of any cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.264 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Cumulative effects will not be significant as the effects will be more from the proposed development in isolation.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.265 Figures 8.69a to 8.69d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.266 Figures 8.69a to 8.69d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.267 Figures 8.69a to 69d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the consented wind farm development of Foel Trawsnant may be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.268 Due to screening from existing vegetation, it is predicted that in addition to the proposed development, only two turbines from the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm would be visible, one at blade tip and partial tower height. They will be viewed within the same arc of view and will likely be perceived as a single development. However, any impacts will be more from the proposed development than as a result of any cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.269 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as the cumulative and proposed developments will be viewed together within the large-scale landscape.

Viewpoint 26: Ogwr Ridgeway Walk near Y Bwlwarcaw Hillfort

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 1.42 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.270 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.271 Wind turbines are an existing feature of views, however the viewpoint is located on Ogwr Ridgeway Walk National Trail, as noted on OS maps and is also set within the Margam SLA and a Registered Landscape of Special Historic Interest. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.272 Receptors are within a locally and nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors will be undertaking an activity related to the landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Existing View

A8.8.273 Views west are across an upland landscape of semi-improved grassland that is used for grazing and towards the coniferous forestry plantations that extend across much of Mynydd Margam. To the south, views are restricted to short distances only by the slopes of Moel Ton-mawr, which are vegetated with coniferous forestry plantations, some of which has been recently felled. To the north-east, there are two groups of operational turbines within views. One is formed by the wind farms of Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP and a second group is formed by the operational turbines of Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension and Fforch Nest 1 and 2 wind farms. To the east, views are more open and there are good longer distance views across the upland plateaus that sits above the Llynfi Valley, Garw Valley and Ogmore Valley and which include the wind farms of Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension and Taff Ely.

Predicted View

A8.8.274 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.70a – 8.70h. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible the wirelines indicate that, 11 will potentially be visible at either full or partial tower height, 4 at hub level and 3 at blade tip height. However, due to existing vegetation, turbine T9 will be visible at hub height as opposed to partial tower height

and T17 will be viewed at blade tip level only as opposed to partial tower level. Turbines T1 and T3 are predicted to be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.275 Figures 8.70a to 8.70d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.276 Figures 8.70a to 8.70d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park and the single turbine of Fforch Dwm is theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.277 The turbine at Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible at blade tip level only, however existing forestry is likely to screen all views of this turbine and there will be no cumulative impacts as a result. The proposed development will be viewed in succession to the wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park within distance views to the east. The proposed development will have little interaction with the scoping development as it will be a minor component of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.278 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 27: Cemetery Eastern Edge of Maesteg

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3.02 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.279 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be road users and cemetery visitors, where views of the surrounding landscape may not be an important contributor to their experience and the landscape may not be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.280 From this viewpoint location, there are primary views towards the proposed development. However, it is not within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature and there are no facilities provided connected with the enjoyment of the view. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as low.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.281 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape, or a location recognised for its view. The majority of receptors are predicted to be people undertaking an activity unrelated to the landscape and therefore unlikely to be responsive to the size of wind farm proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Existing View

A8.8.282 From this elevated location, there are views across the Llynfi Valley to the north-western parts of Maesteg, and also Nantffyllon, which largely consist of a mix of terraced and semi-detached houses. Beyond the urban development, the land rises to a series of ridgelines, formed by Foel Fawr, upon which a communication masts sits, Foel y Dyffryn, Rhiw Tor Cymry, Mynydd Bach and Mynydd Margam. The ridgelines are typically a mix of open, upland grassland and blocks of coniferous forestry plantations. Lower slopes include agricultural fields enclosed by hedgerows, some of which are gappy or overgrown. Linear blocks of broadleaved woodland are also found on the lower slopes and along the valley floor.

Predicted View

A8.8.283 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.71a – 8.71h. The wirelines indicate that all 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 15 will be visible at either full or full tower height, 2 at hub height and 1 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontages (Figure 8.71f and 8.71h), due to existing vegetation, turbines T2 and T4 will be viewed at hub height as opposed to partial tower height (albeit entirely screened from view by an individual tree in foreground in photomontage), turbine T12 will be visible at blade tip level only as opposed to hub height level and turbine T1 is predicted to be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.284 Figures 8.71a to 8.71d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsnant will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.285 The turbines to the northern section of the proposed development will be viewed in combination with the consented development of Foel Trawsnant at a similar scale, where intervening vegetation allows. It will likely be perceived as a single development. Views are focussed towards the proposed development and consented. The addition of the proposed development to the consented will add to the extent of wind farm along the skyline. However, any intensification of wind turbines will be as a result of the proposed development rather than cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.286 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate to slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.287 Figures 8.71a to 8.71d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.288 Figures 8.71a to 8.71d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.289 Figures 8.71a to 8.71d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farm developments of Llynfi Afan REP and Gelli Las Farm, plus the consented development of Foel Trawsnant may be visible from this location. However, due to screening and filtering from existing vegetation it is predicted that the proposed development will be the only wind farm development visible and therefore there will be no cumulative impacts from this viewpoint.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.290 In addition to the proposed development, only turbines to the consented wind farm of Foel Trawsnant will be visible. The turbines to the northern section of the proposed development will be viewed in combination with the consented development of Foel Trawsnant at a similar scale, where intervening vegetation allows. It will likely be perceived as a single development. Views are focussed towards the proposed development and consented. The addition of the proposed development to the consented will add to the extent of wind farm along the skyline. However, any intensification of wind turbines will be as a result of the proposed development rather than cumulative interaction. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.291 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Viewpoint 28: Llangynwyd*Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 2.61 km**Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change*

A8.8.292 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be road users, where views of the surrounding landscape may not be an important contributor to their experience and the landscape may not be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.293 From this viewpoint location, which is situated within the Western Uplands SLA there are restricted views towards the proposed development. There are no facilities provided for the enjoyment of the view, however views from The Old House PH towards the Gadlys Valley are noted in tourist information³. Some residents may have direct views of the proposed development depending on orientation of properties. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

³ Available at: <https://www.visitbridgend.co.uk/be-inspired/a-locals-guide-to-llangynwyd> [Accessed 15/12/2023]

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.294 Receptors are located within a locally designated landscape; however, most receptors are predicted to be people undertaking an activity unrelated to the landscape and therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the size of wind farm proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.295 Looking west from the centre of this small village the foreground view is dominated by the Corner House Inn Public House and an additional stone-built building that is located opposite. These buildings screen the majority of the views across the landscape to the west, although there are glimpsed views to the coniferous woodland forestry at nearby Waun y Gilfach and to the eastern slopes of Mynydd Margam and Moel Ton-mawr. Steel lattice electricity pylons and overhead cables are also visible within this part of the view. Views in all other direction are constrained to views within the village by existing trees and built form, including the wall of the nearby St. Cynwyd's Church.

Predicted View

A8.8.296 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.72a – 8.72f. The wirelines indicate that 14 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 14 visible, 4 will potentially be visible at partial tower height, 2 at hub level and 8 at blade tip height. However, as illustrated by the photomontage (Figure 8.72f), due to existing vegetation and buildings all turbines, with the exception of turbine T8, T11, T15 and T16, will be screened from view entirely.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.297 Figures 8.72a to 8.72d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Taff Ely and Upper Ogmore will be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.298 The proposed development will in theory be visible in succession with the consented development of Taff Ely Repowering. However due to the separation distance and intervening vegetation there will be no direct visual link between the two. The consented development would be seen within the same cluster of turbines as the operational wind farms of Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension. One blade tip to the wind farm of Upper Ogmore will also theoretically be visible. However, in reality local built form will screen all views of this development and therefore there will be no cumulative effects as a result of interaction between the proposed development and consented development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.299 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.300 Figures 8.72a to 8.72d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.301 Figures 8.72a to 8.72d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no scoping stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of scoping stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.302 Figures 8.72a to 72d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines to the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Llynfi Afan REP, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Taff Ely, Hill House and Gelli Las Farm, plus the consented development of Taff Ely Repowering and Upper Ogmore may be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.303 Due to screening from existing built form and vegetation within the village, it is predicted that in addition to the proposed development, only 2 turbines of the Taff Ely Wind Farm will be visible. These turbines, which will not be within the same arc of view as the proposed turbines, will be viewed at a distance of over 13 km away and will be minor elements that may be missed by the casual observer. Therefore, when viewed with the proposed development it is likely that there will be no perceptible awareness of other wind farm developments within the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.304 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 29: Oxwich Point*Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 30.01 km**Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change*

A8.8.305 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national walking trail, where views of the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located at 30 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.306 From this viewpoint location, there are primary views towards the proposed development and it is located within Gower AONB and also on the Wales Coast Path as recorded on OS maps. Information on Oxwich Point are included within tourist information literature and websites, where the views across Swansea Bay are noted. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.307 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors will be undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape and at a location that is valued for its views at a national level. Although they are at a location of 30 km from the proposed development. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.308 The open expanse of water of Oxwich Bay and the Bristol Channel form the main focus of views to the south from this location. To the north-east is the sandy beach of Three Cliffs Bay, which is enclosed by steep sided cliffs. The cliff extends from Three Cliffs Bay to Pwlldu Head, further to the east. Beyond Pwlldu Head there are distance views across Swansea Bay and towards the steel works in Port Talbot. Forming the backdrop to the steel works is the coalfield plateau, including Mynydd Brombil, to where the 4 turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm can be seen, subject to suitable weather conditions. Within the far distance the coastline, including the areas of Margam Sands plus Kenfig Burrows and extending to Porthcawl are visible, including the wind turbines of Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down, again subject to suitable weather conditions.

Predicted View

A8.8.309 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, and wirelines in Figures 8.73a – 8.73e. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 14 will potentially be visible at partial tower height and 4 at blade tip height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 30 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.310 The proposed development will be viewed within a broad scale, open seascape/landscape and where the nearest turbine will be viewed at a distance of 30 km away. The northern section will be partially obscured by landform and vegetation. The southern section of proposed turbines may be more perceptible, subject to suitable weather conditions, as a coherent, tightly clustered grouping on the coalfield plateau skyline. However, due to the distance and the very small proportion of the overall view it will occupy, it is predicted that it will have very limited impact on the overall quality of the view and may be missed altogether by casual observers. The variations in weather conditions are also likely to reduce the duration of any visibility. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.311 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.312 Figures 8.73a to 8.73d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Taff Ely Repowering and

Upper Ogmore, plus the single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.313 All consented developments will be viewed at a distance of over 30 km away and will therefore be minor elements within the view. The presence of the consented developments will be further reduced, as they would be subsumed within operational developments along ridgeline. Consequently, there is very little visual relationship between the proposed development and the consented wind farms. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.314 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application stage wind farms)

A8.8.315 Figures 8.73a to 8.73d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.316 Figures 8.73a to 8.73d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms Fforch Dwm and Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.317 The wind farm of Fforch Dwm will be viewed at a considerable distance and subsumed into the existing wind farm developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. The single turbine at Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, due to distance will be a very minor feature and visibility will be limited to blade tip only. Both developments will be imperceptible and have no cumulative impacts when viewed with the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.318 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.319 Figure 8.73a illustrates that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines of the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Mynydd Brombil, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Portref Extension, Taff Ely, Newlands, Haregrove Farm, Hill House, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down may be visible. In addition, the consented developments of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Taff Ely Repowering and Upper Ogmore may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.320 The proposed turbines and all other cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view and will occupy a relatively small proportion of the overall view. The proposed turbines will be seen within the same group of developments as the existing wind farms of Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, and Llynfi Afan REP, plus the consented turbines of Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmere. However, due to distance and the scale of the receiving seascape/landscape it is predicted that the proposed development and other cumulative developments would have no perceptible impact on the view and may be missed by the casual observer. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.321 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 30: Nash Point, Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 21.31 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.322 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 21 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.323 From this viewpoint, which is located on the Wales Coast Path and within the Glamorgan Heritage Coast, the main views are south across the adjacent open water and therefore views towards the proposed development are oblique. There is a car park, with a café and information boards located approximately 1.0 km south of the viewpoint location facilities. Reference on the information boards and in a number of tourist literature/websites is made on views across the Bristol Channel, but no specific reference is made to views towards the proposed development. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.324 Receptors are within a locally designated landscape, using a designated long-distance footpath and therefore undertaking an activity related to the seascape/landscape. However, wind farm developments are an existing feature of some views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.325 From this location on the Wales Coast Path, there are elevated views south across the open water of the Bristol Channel and to the North Devon coast in the distance. To the north views are across adjacent agricultural land, which typically consists of improved and semi-improved fields enclosed by managed hedgerows. A number of farmsteads can be seen within Gladys the landscape,

together with glimpsed views of the village of Broughton. Within the far distance there are views of the upland areas to the north of the M4 motorway, including Mynydd Maendy, upon which are the turbines to Taff Ely Wind Farm can be seen, as can the turbines of Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension and Fforch Nest 1 and 2 wind farms. Looking north-west, steep cliffs rise from the sea and where development within the villages of Southerndown and Ogmere-by-sea are visible, extending across the ridgeline, are the turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down wind farms. To the ridgeline in the far distance Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm is also visible. Further to the north-west, the coastline that extends from Merthyr-mawr Warren to Porthcawl Point and which includes the caravans within Trecco Bay Holiday Park and the built form of Porthcawl. To the east, there are further views across farmland, including residential properties in the village of Marcross, where visible in the distance is the chimney to Aberthaw Power Station.

Predicted View

A8.8.326 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, and wirelines in Figures 8.74a – 8.74e. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, 17 at either full or partial tower height and 1 at hub height. Both the meteorological masts within the northern and southern sections of the site will also be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.327 The proposed development will form a visible new element within the view, however at approximately 21 km to the nearest proposed turbine it is predicted they will not be an immediately apparent or have a marked impact on the quality of the view. The proposed development will occupy a limited proportion of the view and may be perceptible in suitable weather conditions on the distant skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau and at a similar scale to the existing turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down. Both the northern and southern sections will be viewed as a coherent and tightly grouped cluster of turbines on a relative high point of the plateau. The meteorological mast, most notably the one located within the southern section of the site may be discernible, but due to distance not prominent. The views across the open water of the Bristol Channel and adjacent agricultural land will remain the defining features of the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low to negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.328 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low to negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.329 Figures 8.74a to 8.74e illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant Melin Court, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Graig Fatha Upper Ogmere, Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill, Llanwonno and the single turbine on The Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.330 The proposed development and all consented developments will be viewed at a distance of over 20 km. However, the consented development of Foel Trawsnant, will add slightly to the sense of wind farms along the distance ridgeline, albeit a minor element, due to distance. The main impact on visual amenity will arise from the proposed development, which will further enclose the gap between the wind farms of Foel Trawsnant and the cluster of turbines formed by the existing wind farms of Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down. Only the blade tip will be visible to the turbine of Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill and therefore there will be no cumulative impacts. The turbines to Upper Ogmere Wind Farm will be partially subsumed by the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm but will also enclose the gap north eastwards towards the existing wind farm of Pant y Wal Extension. The addition of the proposed development will also extend the proportion of turbines visible along the ridgeline to the south west, in filling the gap with the existing turbines of Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down. This may result in the intensification of wind farms along the ridgeline. The turbines to the wind farm of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 will be subsumed within the turbines of Pant y Extension and due to the separation distance, the turbines to Taff Ely Repowering are unlikely to have a visual relationship with the proposed development. The turbine to Graig Fatha will be visible at blade tip only and have no cumulative impacts. magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.331 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects will not be significant as the key defining visual qualities that currently define the primary view will be retained.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.332 Figures 8.74a to 8.74d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.333 Figures 8.74a to 8.74d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms of Fforch Dwm, Manmoel and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will all theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Visual Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.334 The turbines of Manmoel Wind Farm will be limited to blade tip height and in combination with distance will not be perceptible and have no cumulative impacts. The turbines to the wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park will be visible in views to the north east, however there is a large separation distance between this development and the proposed development. In combination with the proposed development, the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will form a minor feature to the rear. Any impacts on visual amenity are likely to be a result of the proposed development on its own rather than a result of the scoping stage developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.335 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.336 Figures 8.74a and 8.74b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines from the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Queens Dock, Swansea Bay WWTW, Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Haregrove Farm, Ffynnon Oer, Gelli Las Farm, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension may all be visible. In addition, the consented developments of, Foel Trawsnant, Melin Court, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Graig Fatha, Upper Ogmere and Nant-y-Gwyddon Landfill may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.337 The proposed development will be visible within the same arc of view as all cumulative developments, with the exception of the existing wind farms of Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and the consented wind farms of Taff Ely Repowering and Graig Fatha. The proposed turbines will partially enclose the gap that currently exists between the group of turbines that is formed from Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and the turbines of Foel Trawsnant. The combined visibility of these developments may result in wind farm development becoming a more noticeable feature within this part of the view. However, they are located a considerable distance from the viewpoint and therefore while they will form a visible new element, they will not become the defining feature of the view or change the overall nature of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.338 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant as the proposed development and other cumulative windfarms will be located at a considerable distance from the viewpoint and will be absorbed into the wider distant views.

Viewpoint 31: Esgair Hir, Bannau Brycheiniog Way National Trail (BBNP)

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 27.25 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.339 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be walkers on a national trail, where the landscape may be the primary reason for their visit. However, they are located over 27 km from the proposed development. Therefore, due to distance the susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.340 From this viewpoint location, which is situated within the BBNP there are panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. It is located on the Beacons Way National Trail as recorded on OS maps, however there are no tourist facilities at the viewpoint or information boards. Although the Beacons Way is noted in tourist literature/websites, the viewpoint location itself is not specifically noted. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.341 Receptors are within a nationally designated landscape that includes walkers using a designated long-distance footpath. The majority of receptors will be undertaking an activity related to the landscape; however, they may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type and size proposed by virtue existing wind farm development that is within some views. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.342 From this elevated location on the summit of Esgair Hir there are good panoramic views across the surrounding landscape. To the south, there are long distance views across the upland, moorland landscape of the Black Mountain, where in the middle distance the turbines of Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission are visible on lower slopes. Beyond are views towards the coastal plain, where the higher rise buildings within Swansea are visible, set against a backdrop of Swansea Bay and Mumbles Head. Views towards Port Talbot and across the Bristol Channel towards the North Somerset and North Devon coast are also available. From this location there are also views across the Swansea Valley, where the communications mast is visible on Mynydd Emroch as are the wind turbines on Mynydd Brombil and the dense coniferous productive forestry on Mynydd Penhydd and Mynydd Margam. To the south-east views are dominated by the wind farms of Mynydd Bwllfa, Maerdy, Ferndale, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan REP, Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd which extend across a wide proportion of the view. To the north there are open views west, although these are restricted by the adjacent slopes of Cefn y Clychau and Brest y Rhos.

Predicted View

A8.8.343 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, and wirelines in Figures 8.75a – 8.75d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, all at either full or partial tower height. In theory the meteorological masts within both the northern and southern sections of the site will be visible. However, at over 27 km away that are unlikely to be discernible.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.344 From this viewpoint location there are open views across a large-scale landscape and where at over 27 km to the nearest proposed turbine, the proposed development is predicted to form a component of the wider view that may be missed by the casual observer and any visibility will be subject to suitable weather conditions. The proposed development will occupy only a small proportion of the overall view and is not predicted to become a defining feature within the

landscape. The arrangement will form a tightly grouped cluster below the skyline formed by the hills of Exmoor and Dartmoor. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.345 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.346 Figures 8.75a to 8.75d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Abergorki, Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Llanwonno Resubmission and Upper Ogmores will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.347 The wind farms of Abergorki and Melin Court will be subsumed within the existing wind farms of Maerdy and Pen y Cymoedd/Ffynnon Oer respectively and will have no cumulative impacts. The turbines to Foel Trawsant Wind Farm will largely be subsumed by the existing turbines to Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, although there will be some minor extension to the horizontal extent of turbines that are visible across the ridgeline to turbines within the eastern edge of the development. The turbines of Upper Ogmores will be subsumed within the turbines to the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Llynfi Afan REP. However, due to being located over 25 km away, it is unlikely to be a perceptible impact. Any impacts are likely to be a result of the existing wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and the proposed development, rather than with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.348 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.349 Figures 8.75a to 8.75d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the application wind farm of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will also be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (application wind farms)

A8.8.350 The turbines of Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn will be viewed to the east of the proposed development and at a distance of over 30 km. Consequently, due to the separation and distance between the two developments, there will be no visual interaction between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (application wind farms)

A8.8.351 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.352 Figures 8.75a – 8.75d illustrates that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farms of Twyn Hywel Energy Park, Fforch Dwm, Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, Manmoel, Mynydd Llanhilleth and will all theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.353 The scoping stage developments will be viewed at a considerable distance and the addition of the turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will extend the influence existing wind farm developments that extend across the far ridgeline which include the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. To the west of the operational developments the turbines to the wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park, will be visible, further extending wind farm development across the distant skyline. However, there is a well-defined separation between this development and the proposed development. To the west, the single turbine of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road will largely be imperceptible due to intervening topography and distant. The wind farms of Manmoel and Mynydd Llanhilleth will also be viewed in succession, in views east. There is a very wide separation gap between these developments and the proposed development and consequently little visual interaction between them. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.354 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight – moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.355 Figures 8.75a - 8.75d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines of the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Mynydd Bwlfa, Ferndale, Maerdy, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Bwlfa Farm, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Llynfi Afan REP, Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Mynydd Brombil, Swansea Bay WWTW, Queens Dock, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Pen Bryn Oer may be visible. In addition, the consented developments of Abergorki Wind Farm, Melin Court, Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmere, may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.356 With the exception of Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission and Pen Bryn Oer wind farms, the proposed development and all cumulative developments will be seen within the same arc of view. However, it should be noted that the three wind farms that will be viewed in succession will, due to a combination of topography and distance from the viewpoint, be imperceptible features within the landscape. The proposed turbines will result in wind farm development visible extending further to the west, however they will, together with all other cumulative developments, occupy only a small proportion of the overall view. Awareness of the proposed development and other cumulative developments will not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.357 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Viewpoint 32: Junction of Stallcourt Road/A48, Margam*Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 2.97 km**Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change*

A8.8.358 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be road users and residents located on Margam Road/A48, whose properties are orientated towards the proposed development. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as high.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.359 From this viewpoint location, views from properties towards the proposed development are primary and which may be valued by local residents. However, it is not located within a designated landscape, recorded on OS maps or included within tourist information literature and there are no facilities provided for the enjoyment of the view. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.360 Receptors are not located within a designated landscape or at a location that is valued for its view, however the majority of receptors will be residents who may be particularly responsive to wind farm development of the type and size proposed and also road users who will be undertaking an activity unrelated to the landscape. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium to high.

Existing View

A8.8.361 From this location, which is located within the town of Port Talbot, views north-east towards the proposed development are channelled by the housing/garden walls that line both sides of Stallcourt Road. The steep slopes of Mynydd Brombil form a dominant, green backcloth to the view, where the blade tip of 2 turbines to from the wind farm of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm are visible extending above the ridgeline. To the south-west, view is across the adjacent Margam Road/A48 and towards a row of semi-detached houses, which screen views toward the steel works that lie beyond. To the north-west there are views along Margam Road/A48 and towards the lower slopes of Mynydd Dinas, which are visible in the distance. Views to the south-east are contained by existing housing, although a flue to the steel works is visible above the roofline of a house.

Predicted View

A8.8.362 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, wirelines and photomontages in Figures 8.76a – 8.76d. The wirelines indicate that due to the screening by topography none of the proposed turbines will be visible from this location. The AIL access will be visible extending up the steep slopes of Mynydd Brombil, including engineered rock profiles to the inner edge of the access. This is illustrated on the Photomontage 8.76e.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.363 The proposed turbines will be obscured by the landform of Mynydd Margam. The reprofiled slope to AIL access track will however be visible extending up the steep south-facing hillside to the rear of the housing and M4 corridor as, where the track switches back and heads north west up Mynydd Brombil. Rock exposures to the inner side of the route will replace areas of scrub and grassland vegetation to varying depths. Areas of fill to the outer, southern edge of the track will also likely be visible, however any seeding or natural regeneration of these areas will quickly reintegrate these new slopes into the landscape. Elsewhere, lower down the slope and along the edge of the M4, the AIL access and any associated highway infrastructure will be obscured by existing roadside vegetation. The proposed development would form a recognisable new element within the view. Although not prominent, the AIL access track would not fundamentally change the overall nature of the green back cloth to the view. It is considered that the overall quality of the view may remain intact and that the rock exposures would in time weather to form an attractive element within the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.364 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium to high, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 33: Open Water off Mumbles

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 17.89 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.365 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be yacht and inshore recreational boat users, where the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. Due to proximity of Mumbles, views towards the proposed development are more distant and secondary in nature. However, there The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium to low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.366 Located within the open water of Swansea Bay and close to the mean low water mark. There will be open views across the water towards the proposed development and back towards the city of Swansea, Mumbles and around the bay to the industrial areas around Port Talbot. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to high.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.367 Receptors are not within a designated seascape, although, they are likely to be undertaking an activity related to the seascape. However, wind farm developments are an existing feature of some views and therefore receptors may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.368 From this location it is predicted that there will be open views east across the open water of Swansea Bay. To the coastal plain Swansea marina and the docks, including the 3no. wind turbines of Swansea Bay WWTW and Queens Dock will be visible, together with Swansea Bay University,

Crymlyn Burrows, Neath Estuary, land around the former Baglan Bay Power Station and the urban and industrial areas of Port Talbot. Rising above the flat extent of the plain and forming the backdrop of the view will be the summits and ridgelines of Kilvey Hill, Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Dinas, Mynydd Emroch, Mynydd Margam and Mynydd Brombil, upon which 4no. wind turbines will be visible. Within views south, the distinctive headland formed by Mumbles Head and Middle Head will dominate, while to the north and to the west, views will be of the promenade to Swansea Bay and the urban development beyond. To the east, there will views to outer parts of the Swansea Bay and to the open water of the Bristol Channel, where on clear days the North Devon coast will be visible.

Predicted View

A8.8.369 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the wirelines in Figures 8.77a – 8.77d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, 17 at partial tower height and 1 at hub height.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.370 The proposed development will be viewed at nearly 18 km to the nearest turbine and therefore due to distance it is predicted to be a recognisable new element within the view, but not at a scale or prominence that will fundamentally change the overall nature of the view or result in being a detracting element. Views of the proposed development at this distance will also only be visible in clear weather conditions. The turbines will occupy only a limited proportion of the view and within a part of the view, where manmade features are an established and recognised feature. The southern section will be seen as a tightly grouped cluster on the skyline, proportional in scale to the Coalfield Plateau landform. The northern section will be less pronounced and will appear as a smaller scale cluster partially obscured by landform and vegetation. Views towards Mumbles Head, north to Swansea and south across the open water of the Bristol Channel will all remain as key and defining characteristics. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.371 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.372 Figures 8.77a to 8.77d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmore, plus the single turbines at the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.373 The consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant and Upper Ogmore will add slightly to the intensification of wind turbines visible across the ridgeline, albeit viewed at a distance of over 19 km away. The turbines of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 will not be perceptible and have no cumulative impacts. The turbines of Melin Court Wind Farm will be viewed in front of and at a

similar scale to the existing turbines to the wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd, which will subsume them within the view. In addition, the turbines of Foel Trawsant will partly be viewed in front of the operational wind farm of Llynfi Afan REP and at a slightly larger scale. The turbines to Upper Ogmere will be viewed adjacent to and at a similar scale to the operational Llynfi Afan REP Wind Farm and at a distance of approximately 27 km away and therefore very minor elements within the view. When viewed with the proposed turbines, most notably the turbines within the northern section, which will be viewed at a larger scale again to the existing and consented turbines, this may result in an additional increase in the prominence of wind farm development within the view. The turbines within the southern section of the proposed development will have little direct visual connection with the consented wind farms due to separation distance. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.374 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate (not significant). On balance as the key defining visual qualities that currently define the view would be retained and effects are considered to be not significant.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.375 Figures 8.77a to 8.77d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

A8.8.376 Figures 8.78a to 8.78b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm will theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.377 The turbines of Fforch Dwm will be visible to the front of the operational wind farms of Ffynnon Oer and Pen y Cymoedd. However, however at a distance of over 20 km, the scale of the turbines will largely be subsumed within the existing turbines of the operational wind farms. The proposed development and the wind farm of Fforch Dwm, will be viewed at a similar vertical scale to the turbines of the proposed development. Due to separation distance, they will be viewed as two distinct clusters. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.378 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.379 Figures 8.77a - 8.77d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines may be visible for the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Swansea Bay

WWTW, Queens Dock, Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Newlands, Haregrove Farm, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down. In addition, the consented developments of, Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 and Upper Ogmere, may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.380 The proposed development and all cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view and predominantly extend across the ridgeline that forms the backdrop to the eastern half of Swansea Bay. The turbines within the southern section will result in an increase in the proportion of the ridgeline to which turbines can be seen and in filling the gap between the wind farms of Mynydd Bombil and Llynfi Afan REP. The turbines, most notably within the southern section will appear at a larger scale when compared with the other cumulative developments and will form a recognisable new element within the view. However, the proposed development and other cumulative developments will occupy only a moderate proportion of the view and due to the distance and the broad open seascape, the overall nature of the view will not fundamentally change. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (In combination with all cumulative development)

A8.8.381 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. On balance as the key defining visual qualities that currently define the view would be retained and effects are considered to be not significant.

Viewpoint 34: South of Porthcawl Marina

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 14.70 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.382 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be yacht and inshore recreational boat users, where the seascape may be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.383 Located approximately 2.0 km south of the town of Porthcawl and 2.0 km west of Tusker Rock water mark. There will open and direct views towards coastline surrounding Porthcawl, including Trecco Bay Holiday Park and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast and the proposed development beyond. The value of the view from this viewpoint is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.384 Receptors are not within a designated seascape; although there will be views towards the locally designated Glamorgan Heritage Coast and receptors are likely to be undertaking an activity related to the seascape. Wind farm developments are also an existing feature of some views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.385 From this location it is predicted that there will be views north towards Porthcawl, where the lighthouse to Porthcawl Point and the Coney Beach Amusement Park, Trecco Bay Holiday Park and the urban development within the town will all be key features of the view. The dunes of Merthyr-mawr Warren, the rocky foreshore and small sandy bays and cliffs of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will be key features of the view further east along the coastline. The backdrop to this part of the view will include the plateau of Newton Down, where the operational turbines of Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down will be visible, and within the distance the upland landscape formed by Mynydd Margam. To the west there may be long distance views to Mumble Head and south Gower, including Oxwich Point. The steel works at Port Talbot will also be visible on the coastal plain and beyond this on the skyline, the operational turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. To the south, there will be views to the open water of the Bristol Channel, where on clear days the North Devon coast will be visible.

Predicted View

A8.8.386 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the photograph, and wirelines in Figures 8.78a – 8.78d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 18 visible, 13 will potentially be visible at either full or partial tower height and 5 at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.387 From this viewpoint location, it is predicted that due to distance and topography, the turbines within the southern section will be more pronounced than the turbines within the northern section and will form a tightly-clustered and balanced feature on a relative high point of the Coalfield Plateau skyline. The turbines within the northern section will be largely obscured by landform and vegetation. Although the turbines within the southern section will be a recognisable new feature and be readily observed, they will occupy only a very small proportion of a very broad and expansive view and at over 14 km away will not be the key defining feature within the view. The scale of the proposed development at partial tower height is also considered proportional to the visible height of the hosting Coalfield Plateau landform. Awareness of the proposed development will not have a marked impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.388 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as the proposed development will not fundamentally alter the key elements of the view.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.389 Figures 8.78a to 8.78d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Graig Fatha and Upper Ogmere and the single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.390 The turbines of Upper Ogmere Wind Farm would be viewed within the same arc of view as the existing wind farms of Pen Y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down and at a similar scale to the turbines of Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm. The addition of the proposed development would further intensify the presence of wind farm development across the ridgeline. However, impacts are slightly reduced by the presence of the turbines of Newtown Down and Parc Stormy Down, which will be viewed in front of the turbines of Upper Ogmere and at a similar scale and therefore more prominent features of the view. The turbines of Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm in theory will be visible beyond the turbines of the proposed development, however views are restricted to blade tip heights only, as will the turbine of Graig Fatha, which would be viewed in succession. Consequently, these two developments will not be perceptible and will have no cumulative impacts. In addition, it is predicted that the turbines of Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2 will be subsumed within the turbines of Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension and therefore will have no direct relationship with the proposed development. Impacts on visual amenity as a result of the Taff Ely Repowering Wind Farm will be slightly reduced to that of the current baseline conditions, due to a reduction in the number of turbines proposed and which would replace the current 20 turbines. In addition, they would be viewed together with the wind farms of Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and as a distinct cluster of turbines. Any cumulative impacts are predicted to be a result of the proposed development with existing wind farms, rather than with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.391 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.392 Figures 8.78a to 8.78d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping wind farms)

A8.8.393 Figures 8.78a to 8.78b illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park and the single turbine of Tresgrych Fawd Fawr Road will both theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.394 The turbines to both developments will be very minor components of the view due to distance. In addition there is a large separation distance with the proposed development and consequently there will be little visual interaction between the developments. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.395 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.396 Figures 8.78a - 8.78d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines may be visible of the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Swansea Bay WWTW, Queens Dock, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd Brombil, Newlands, Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Haregrove Farm, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 & 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension. In addition, the consented developments of Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering and Upper Ogmere, may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.397 The proposed development turbines will partially infill the gap that currently exist between the operational developments of Llynfi Afan REP, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down, and the Mynydd Brombil turbines. The proposed development, when viewed with other cumulative developments will result in wind farms becoming a more recognisable feature along the ridgeline that forms the backdrop of the views back to the coastline, although not its defining feature. Wind farm development is an existing feature to this part of the view and given the distance at which they will be viewed and the broad open nature of the views, it is predicted that the overall quality of the view will remain intact. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.398 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium to low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate to slight-moderate (not significant).

Viewpoint 35: Bristol Channel

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 26.68 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.399 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be commercial fisherman and vessels, where the seascape will not be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.400 Located approximately 13.0 km south of the coastline of Gower within the open water of the Bristol Channel. There are longer distance views north towards the coastline of Gower AONB, which is nationally designated and east towards the urban areas of Swansea and Port Talbot and south towards the North Devon Coast. However, receptors are not within a location that is noted for its views. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to low.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.401 Receptors are not within a designated seascape or likely to be undertaking an activity related to views from or across the sea and wind farm developments are an existing feature of some views. Receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low.

Existing View

A8.8.402 From this location it is predicted that there will be long distance views north-east across the eastern half of Swansea Bay and towards the coastal plain that includes the former site of the Baglan Bay Power Station, the residential area of Sandfields, within Aberavon, and the tall structures at Port Talbot Docks and the steel works. Forming the backdrop to this part of the view will be scarp slopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Emroch, Mynydd Brombil and the upland areas forming the coal field plateau rising to the relative high point of Mynydd Margam. Operational windfarms at varying scales are widely visible across the panorama, both on the skyline and more intermittently along the coastal plain. To the north and north-west there will be views of the western half of Swansea Bay, with the city of Swansea extending up the hills beyond and the southern coastline of Gower. Views of Gower will extend from Mumbles Head in the east to Worms Head in the west. To the south, views will be across the open water of the Bristol Channel and to the North Devon coast.

Predicted View

A8.8.403 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the wirelines in Figures 8.79a – 8.79d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, all at either full or partial tower height.

Magnitude of Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.404 The proposed development will be viewed across a broad expanse of open water and at distance of over 26 km to the nearest turbine. The proposed development may be perceptible, however due to the scale of the seascape and the distance that they will be viewed, it is predicted that they will have no overall perceptible effect on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development may be missed by the casual observer and any visibility will likely be intermittent and limited in duration subject to suitable weather conditions. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.405 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.406 Figures 8.79a to 8.79d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Graig Fatha, Llanwonno Resubmission and Upper Ogmere, plus the single turbine on the Land at Kenfig Industrial Estate, Margam will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.407 The proposed development will be viewed at a slightly scale larger than the consented wind farms that extend across the distant ridgeline, however all will be viewed at a distance of over 26 km and therefore not predicted to be immediately apparent features within the view. In addition, the consented wind farms will be subsumed within the turbines of the existing wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Pant Y Wal, Plant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and therefore limited direct interaction between the application wind farms and the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.408 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.409 Figures 8.79a to 8.79d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application stage wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.410 Figures 8.79a to 8.79d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping wind farms of Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park, plus the single turbine of Tresgrych Fawd Fawr Road, and will also be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.411 All three developments will be viewed at a distance of over 30 km and predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. They will be barely perceptible and have no visual interaction the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.412 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.413 Figures 8.79a - 8.79d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines may be visible for the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Queens Dock, Swansea Bay WWTW, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Brombil, Llynfi Afan REP, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 & 2, Newlands, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Taff Ely, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Haregrove Farm and Hill House. In addition, the consented developments of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering and Upper Ogmor may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.414 Cumulative development will potentially extend across a wide proportion of views north- east, although this forms only a small proportion of the overall view available. The proposed development will be seen within the same cluster of wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Mynydd Brombil, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension and Taff Ely. The proposed development will further enclose the gap between the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Pant y Wal Extension. However, due to distance and the scale of the receiving seascape/landscape it is predicted that this change will be barely perceptible. The proposed development and other cumulative developments would have no perceptible impact on the view and may be missed by the casual observer. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.415 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 36: Mouth of the River Neath

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 10.48 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.416 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be commercial fisherman, plus yacht inshore recreational boat users accessing the marina at Monkstone Cruising and Sailing Club. The seascape may be primary reason for yacht and recreational users for their visit, however this part of Swansea Bay is noted for its visually detracting industrial features along the coastal plain. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.417 Located approximately 1.0 km south of the mean low water level of Baglan Bay, this part of Swansea Bay is noted for its association with the industrial landscape that dominates the coastal plain. The value of the view from this viewpoint is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.418 Receptors are not within a designated seascape; However, a number of receptors are likely to be undertaking an activity related to the seascape, albeit in one that is dominated by heavy industry. Wind Farm developments are also an existing feature of some views and receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as medium.

Existing View

A8.8.419 Swansea docks, including the turbines at Queens Dock, the eastern breakwater wall, cranes and the single wind turbine at Swansea WWTW are likely to be prominent features within views to the north-west. To the north the buildings to Swansea University Bay Campus, the sand dunes of Crymlyn Burrows and the mouth of the River Neath will all be viewed at close distance. To the east, the long stretch of sand to Aberavon Beach, together with the residential area of Sandfields will be also visible at close distance, as will the western breakwater wall to Port Talbot docks, with the

cranes within the harbour and the apparatus of the steel works beyond. Rising beyond the urban and industrial coastal plain, are the scarp slopes of Mynydd Dinas, Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Brombil, where 4 operational wind turbines are visible. Beyond this the upland areas rise to the high point of Mynydd Margam. To the west there are long distance views to the western half of Swansea Bay and towards Mumbles Head. To the south, on clear days, there will be views to the North Devon coast.

Predicted View

A8.8.420 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the wirelines in Figures 8.80a – 8.80d. The wirelines indicate that 17 of the 18 proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location. Of the 17 visible, 15 will potentially be visible at either full or partial tower height, 1 at hub height and 1 at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.421 The turbines within the southern section of the proposed development will form a notable feature across the ridgeline of the Coalfield Plateau within mid-range views. The turbines will form a coherent cluster, more tightly spaced to the south, extending along an expansive and simple section of the plateau skyline. In contrast the northern section will be largely obscured by landform and forestry, with exception of 2 blade tips. The proposed development will form a recognisable large-scale element within the view. However, given the broad scale of the seascape/landscape, it will occupy only a small proportion of the overall view available. In addition, views towards the proposed development are currently defined by a range of varying tall man-made elements, including existing wind farm development, steel works, docks, a former oil refinery site and a large residential estate. Therefore, it is predicted that the overall quality of the view will remain intact. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.422 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are considered to be not significant due to the existing influence of operational wind farms and other large scale developments within the open panoramic views.

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.423 Figures 8.80a to 8.80d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Foel Trawsant will be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.424 The consented wind farm of Foel Trawsant will result in a slight intensification of wind farms visible across the plateau, although due to distance, will be viewed at a smaller scale than the existing turbines of Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm. The turbines to the proposed development will further intensify the visual extent of turbines visible across the plateau and will result in a reduction in the gap between the wind farms of Mynydd Brombil and Foel Trawsant and due to scale result in wind farms becoming a more noticeable feature of the view, albeit within a moderate proportion of the view. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be medium.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.425 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be medium and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate. Effects are not considered to be significant due to the large separation gap between developments.

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.426 Figures 8.80a to 8.80d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application wind farms visible from this viewpoint. There will be no cumulative effects as a result of application wind farm development.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.427 Figures 8.80a to 8.80d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm will be visible at blade tip height.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.428 The turbines of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm will form a minor feature within views to the north. Any impacts on visual amenity are likely to be a result of the proposed development on its own rather than a result of interaction with the scoping stage development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.429 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be medium, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Viewpoint 37: Outer Swansea Bay/Bristol Channel

Approximate Distance to Nearest Turbine: 30.21 km

Susceptibility of Visual Receptors to Change

A8.8.430 The predominant receptor types are predicted to be commercial fisherman and vessels, where the seascape will not be the primary reason for their visit. The susceptibility to change of visual receptors is assessed as low.

Value Attached to the View

A8.8.431 Located approximately 14.0 km south of the coastline of Gower within the open water of the Bristol Channel. There are longer distance views north towards the coastline of Gower AONB, which is nationally designated and east towards the urban areas of Swansea, Port Talbot and Porthcawl, and south towards the North Devon Coast. However, receptors are not within a location that is noted for its views. The value of the view from this viewpoint towards the proposed development is assessed as medium to low.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

A8.8.432 Receptors are not within a designated seascape or likely to be undertaking an activity related to views from or across the sea and wind farm developments are an existing feature of some views.

Receptors therefore may be able to accommodate some new visual elements of the type proposed. Sensitivity of visual receptors is assessed as low.

Existing View

A8.8.433 From this location it is predicted that there will be long distance views north-east across the eastern half of Swansea Bay and towards the coastal plain that includes the former site of the Baglan Bay Power Station, the residential area of Sandfields, within Aberavon, Port Talbot Docks and the steel works. Forming the backdrop to this part of the view will be scarp slopes of Mynydd y Gaer, Mynydd Emroch, Mynydd Brombil and the upland area of Mynydd Margam, where a number of existing wind farms are visible, including the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Mynydd Brombil, Llynfi Afan REP, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension, and Taff Ely. Further east there will be long distance views across to Porthcawl and the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. To the north there will be views to the southern coastline of Gower, extending from Mumbles Head, which is predicted to screen views to the inner, western areas of Swansea Bay, to Worms Head. To the south, views will be across the open water of the Bristol Channel and to the North Devon coast.

Predicted View

A8.8.434 The effect of the proposed development is illustrated by the wirelines in Figures 8.81a – 8.81d. The wirelines indicate that all 18 of the proposed turbines will potentially be visible from this location, all at either full or partial tower height.

Magnitude of Visual Impacts (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.435 The proposed development will be viewed across a broad expanse of open water and at distance of over 30 km to the nearest turbine. The proposed turbines may be perceptible, however due to the scale of the seascape and the distance that they will be viewed, it is predicted that they will have no overall perceptible effect on the overall quality of the view. The proposed development may be missed by the casual observer. The magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Visual Effects (including operational and under construction wind farms)

A8.8.436 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (consented wind farms)

A8.8.437 Figures 8.81a to 8.81d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the consented wind farms of Melin Court, Foel Trawsant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Taff Ely Repowering, Graig Fatha, Upper Ogmores and Llanwonno Resubmission will all be theoretically visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (consented wind farms)

A8.8.438 Due to all consented developments being located over 30 km away, they will all be minor elements within the view, where the turbines to the wind farms of Melin Court and Foel Trawsant will be largely subsumed within the turbines to the existing wind farm of Pen y Cymoedd. Similarly, the turbines to the wind farm of Pant Y Wal Extension Phase 2, will be subsumed within the turbines of Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension. Impacts on visual amenity as a result of the Taff Ely

Repowering Wind Farm will be slightly reduced to that of the current baseline conditions, due to a reduction in the number of turbines proposed and which would replace the current 20 turbines. In addition, they would be viewed together with the wind farms of Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension and as a distinct cluster of turbines. The turbines of Upper Ogmores Wind Farm would be viewed, beyond the turbines of the proposed development and within the same arc of view as the existing wind farms of Llynfi Afan REP and Mynydd Brombil and a similar scale. Consequently, they will largely be subsumed within the turbines of these developments and at the considerable distance at which they will be viewed, have very limited cumulative impacts. The addition of the proposed development would further intensify the presence of wind farm development across the ridgeline as the turbines would be viewed at larger scale than the turbines of Upper Ogmores Wind Farm. Any cumulative impacts are therefore predicted to be a result of the proposed development with existing wind farms, rather than with the consented developments. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (consented wind farms)

A8.8.439 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (application wind farms)

A8.8.440 Figures 8.81a to 8.81d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, there will be no application stage windfarms visible.

Predicted Cumulative View (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.441 Figures 8.81a to 8.81d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development and the operational schemes, the scoping stage development of Tresgyrch Fawd Fawr Road, Fforch Dwm and Twyn Hywel Energy Park would theoretically be visible.

Magnitude of Cumulative Visual Impacts (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.442 All three developments will be viewed at a distance of over 30 km and predominantly subsumed within the turbines of the operational developments that extend across the skyline. They will be barely perceptible and have no visual interaction the proposed development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be negligible

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (scoping stage wind farms)

A8.8.443 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of impacts is predicted to be negligible and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be negligible (not significant).

Predicted Cumulative View (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.444 Figures 8.81a - 8.81d illustrate that in addition to the proposed development, all or some of the turbines may be visible to the existing wind farm/single turbine developments of Mynydd y Betws, Mynydd y Gwair Resubmission, Mynydd y Gwrhyd Resubmission, Queens Dock, Swansea Bay WWTW, Maesgwyn, Maesgwyn Extension, Ffynnon Oer, Pen y Cymoedd, Maerdy, Mynydd Brombil, Llynfi Afan REP, Bwlfa Farm, Fforch Nest 1 & 2, Newlands, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal

Extension, Mynydd Portref, Mynydd Portref Extension, Taff Ely, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Haregrove Farm and Hill House. In addition, the consented developments of Melin Court, Foel Trawsnant, Pant y Wal Extension Phase 2, Graig Fatha, Taff Ely Repowering and Upper Ogmores may also be visible from this location.

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.445 Cumulative development will potentially extend across a wide proportion of views to the north and to the north-east. The proposed development will be seen within the same cluster of wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd, Llynfi Afan REP, Mynydd Brombil, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension and Taff Ely. The proposed development will further enclose the gap between the wind farms of Pen y Cymoedd and Pant y Wal Extension. However, due to distance and the scale of the receiving seascape/landscape it is predicted that this change will be barely perceptible. The proposed development and other cumulative developments would have no perceptible impact on the view and may be missed by the casual observer. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Visual Effects (in combination with all cumulative wind farms)

A8.8.446 The sensitivity of receptors is considered to be low, and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is predicted to be low and therefore the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be slight (not significant).

A8.9 FOEL TRAWSNANT WIND FARM SECTION 73 APPLICATION

A8.9.1 Currently Pennant Walters (FoelT) Limited have planning consent to construct 11 turbines to a maximum blade tip height of 145 m on land immediately adjacent to the north of the site, of the proposed development. Through a Section 73 application, the applicant proposes to increase the rotor diameter of 5 of the consented turbines (T5, T6, T9, T10 and T11) to 133 metres (m) and an increase the rotor diameter of 3 of the consented turbines (T1, T2 and T8) to 117 m. Separate to the Section 73 application, they also propose to omit 3 turbines (T3, T4 and T7) from the consented scheme, however the overall blade tip height will remain at a maximum of 145 m and positions will remain as consented.

A8.9.2 This section notes any changes to the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity, between the proposed development and consented development, in relation to the changes noted above. Effects from all 37 viewpoint locations were considered and where changes in cumulative visual amenity (consented development) were identified, these are listed below:

Viewpoint 1 Evans Terrace, Caerau

A8.9.3 There will be a reduction in the number of turbines visible from 4 to 3, 1 at hub height and 2 at blade tip height. The consented development is consequently less pronounced as a distinct cluster above the landform of Foel-y-Dyffryn and the visible turbines will be more subservient to the proposed development. The increase in rotor diameter is not evident from this viewpoint. Overall, there will be a marginal reduction in magnitude from high to medium high. The significance of effects will be moderate (significant).

Viewpoint 10 St Illtyd's National Trail, near Cynonville:

A8.9.4 There will be a marginal reduction in the density of the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm visible through the omission of 2 turbines. However, the S73 amendment to the rotor diameter will not be a perceptible change in views from this viewpoint. Overall, there will be no change to the magnitude of cumulative impacts and the significance of cumulative effects will remain as originally assessed.

Viewpoint 22 Baxter Terrace, Glyncorrwg

A8.9.5 There will be a marginal reduction in the density of the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm visible through the omission of 2 turbines so that 2 turbines remain visible, 1 at blade tip height and 1 at partial tower height. However, the S73 amendment to the rotor diameter will not be a perceptible change in views from this viewpoint. Overall, there will be a reduction in the magnitude of cumulative impacts from medium to low, as previously assessed, to low. The significance of cumulative effects will remain as moderate (not significant). The main impact on visual amenity will be from the proposed development rather than Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm.

A8.9.6 From the remaining 34 viewpoints there will be no perceptible change in cumulative visual amenity evident in relation to the omission of the 3 turbines from the Foel Trawsnant layout or to the S73 revisions.

A8.10 POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON STATUTORY AND NON STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

Statutory Designations

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Value

A8.10.1 This National designation is a popular tourist attraction and includes within the study area, dramatic upland landscapes of outstanding scenic quality and sense of place. The landscape includes historic features of outstanding value including prehistoric landscapes associated with ritual activity through the Roman period and more recent medieval and industrial archaeology. Overall, the landscape value of this designation is considered to be outstanding.

Susceptibility

A8.10.2 The designation contains landscapes that are vast in scale, open and remote with a dramatic upland character and sense of exposure. The landscapes have a strong sense of place, engendered by its tranquillity, naturalness, distinctive topography and panoramic views some of which extend over lower land beyond the designation. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes would be unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed without causing a change to overall character. However, the designation is also located at distances beyond 20 km from the proposed development reducing the potential influence it may have on key attributes. The susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be medium.

Sensitivity

- A8.10.3 The value of this designation is assessed as outstanding, and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity of this designation is considered to be high.

Magnitude of Impact

- A8.10.4 The ZTV (Figure 8.1) indicates that from the majority of land within the BBNP there will be no visibility of the proposed turbines. Theoretical visibility is predominantly restricted to the south facing slopes of The Black Mountain and areas within Forest Fawr, which are located between approximately 20 km and 30 km from the proposed development. VP9 – Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu (BBNP) and VP31 – Esgair Hir, BBNP National Trail illustrates typical views of the proposed development from within these areas of the BBNP. As demonstrated by these viewpoints, the turbines to the proposed development will be viewed within a large-scale landscape, which in conjunction with the distance that they will be viewed, will be able to accommodate the proposed development, without changing the nature of the view or the character of the landscape. Beyond 30 km, visibility of the proposed development will be restricted to the summit of Pen y Fan (as illustrated by VP18 Pen-y-Fan BBNP) and the ridgeline of Craig Pwllfa. However, as from the other locations within the BBNP, the proposed development will only have a very limited impact on the visual amenity or landscape character within this area.

- A8.10.5 The following special qualities of the BBNP, which are grouped around *landscapes, community, experiences and wildlife* are considered unlikely to experience any effects from the proposed development:

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

- A8.10.6 Of the above special qualities, the '*sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty*' is likely to be the most sensitive to the type of development proposed. Further consideration of this indicates that from a total of 3 no. viewpoints within the park which have been assessed, impacts have been identified as negligible in all cases. Although the proposed development is likely to be viewed on

the skyline to the south which is outside the Park boundary, due to intervening distances and the scale of the receiving landscape, it will be barely perceptible. It would also occupy a very narrow proportion of the view that contains other intervening man-made elements including operational wind farms. Overall, the proposed development is likely to be accommodated within the extensive hilltop views, where visible, without loss of overall visual quality and the *sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty* across the extent of the BBNP will be retained.

Significance of Effects

- A8.10.7 The magnitude of impacts will be negligible and combined with the high sensitivity, the significance of effects on the BBNP will be slight (not significant).

Gower AONB*Value*

- A8.10.8 This National designation is a popular tourist attraction, and reflects the quality, variety and high scenic beauty of Gower's landscape. The coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast - recognised as one of the most outstanding stretches of undeveloped coastline in England and Wales. There are also historic and cultural features of outstanding value including Upper Palaeolithic caves (and some of the earliest human remains in the UK) through to eighteenth century parklands and industrial heritage. Overall, the landscape value of this designation is considered to be outstanding.

Susceptibility

- A8.10.9 The designation contains landscapes that are highly varied in character within a small geographic area and recognised for attributes relating to its tranquillity and absence of disturbance from visual intrusion. The coastline and seascape in particular are a noted 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. 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. However, the designation is also located at distances beyond 17 km from the proposed development reducing the potential influence it may have on key attributes. The susceptibility of this designation to change is considered to be medium.

Sensitivity

- A8.10.10 The value of this designation is assessed as outstanding, and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity of this designation is considered to be high.

Magnitude of Impact

- A8.10.11 Located approximately 17 km from the proposed development site at its nearest point and extending to a distance of approximately 42 km from the proposed site, views are generally restricted to the more elevated areas of land within the AONB. However, as illustrated by the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) the proposed development may also be visible from Lougher Estuary and adjacent salt marshes of Llandimore Marsh and Llanrhidian Marsh. These areas are predominantly over 30 km from the proposed development and therefore the turbines are predicted to be minor

elements within the view. From the higher ground within central areas of the AONB, including the historically important ridgeline of Cefn Bryn, including Cefn Bryn Common and extending east towards Fairwood Common, views of the turbines may also be possible. As demonstrated by viewpoint VP7 – *Gower Way National Trail, Cefn Bryn*, the proposed development will be viewed within a broad, open and large scale landscape from these areas of common land and it would form a minor component within the wider landscape. From the popular coastal areas and beaches within the southern areas of the AONB, due to the topography, views of the proposed development will in theory be limited to Oxwich Bay, Pwlldu Head and Mumbles Head. As demonstrated by VP29 – *Oxwich Point*, at a distance of approximately 30 km from the proposed development, will occupy a very small proportion of the view and will have no perceptible impact on it. The broad expanse of water of Oxwich Bay and the wider open water of the Bristol Channel will remain as the defining visual focus and defining character of views. From coastal areas further to the east, the proposed development may be a recognisable element within views (refer to viewpoint VP6 – *Mumbles Hill, Swansea*), however at over 18 km away it is not predicted to be prominent. At such distance the new access road from the M4, including earthworks, would be barely perceptible. In addition, eastern areas within the AONB are currently influenced to some extent by existing urban development, most notably from Swansea and to a lesser extent by Port Talbot and Aberavon. There may be some effect on landscape character following construction of the proposed development, most notably to areas around Mumbles Head, where there may be a minor loss to the sense of tranquillity. However, any effect will be limited to a very small proportion of land within the AONB and all other special qualities will be unaffected. The magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effect

A8.10.12 The magnitude of impacts will be negligible and combined with the high sensitivity, the significance of effects on the AONB will be slight (not significant).

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

A8.10.13 The baseline assessment identified 8 Registered Historic Parks and Gardens to be taken forward for further assessment. However, six of these Parks and Gardens will be located within LCAs where no significant effects have been recorded, as listed in Table A8.10.1, with the corresponding LCA for reference. It is considered that similar levels of non-significant effects will be applicable to designations that extend within these LCA's and therefore no further assessment has been provided.

Table A8.10.1: Registered Historic Parks and Gardens with no Significant Effects

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)	Corresponding LCA
Victoria Gardens	II	8.1	LCA scoped out of assessment due to no visibility.
The Gnoll	II*	7.3	LCA scoped out of assessment due to no visibility.

Name	Grade	Approx. Distance from the Nearest Proposed Turbine (km)	Corresponding LCA
Parc Llywelyn	II	14.1	LCA69 Swansea East and West
Cwmgelli Cemetery	II	16.4	LCA69 Swansea East and West
St. James's Garden & Crescent	II	16.8	LCA69 Swansea East and West
Victoria Park	II	16.9	LCA69 Swansea East and West

A8.10.14 The following Parks and Gardens fall within LCA's where significant effects have been identified within section 8.6 of the SLVIA and these are therefore assessed in detail below. Where significant effects on Parks and Gardens are recorded, the assessment is provided in Chapter 8 of the SLVIA:

Bryngarw Country Park

Value

A8.10.15 Bryngarw Country Park comprises extensive informal early-20th-century woodland and water gardens set within the tightly formed River Garw Valley. It also includes Bryngarw House, an early Tudor house and recreational facilities including play areas, paths and seating. The value is assessed as medium to high.

Susceptibility

A8.10.16 The RPG is located within the narrow, enclosed Garw river valley and is well vegetated throughout with riparian and parkland trees and woodland. Views are contained, although there may be occasional glimpses to the surrounding uplands. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Sensitivity

A8.10.17 The value of this designation is assessed as medium to high and the susceptibility is low. The sensitivity of this RPG is considered to be medium.

Magnitude of Effects

A8.10.18 Visibility of the proposed development from within Bryngarw Country Park will be restricted by the existing vegetation and topography. Any impacts on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to occasional increased influence of wind farms in some localised areas of the Park. However, any perceptible change will be only a very minor scale alteration. The magnitude is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects

A8.10.19 The magnitude of impacts will be negligible overall and combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effects will be slight (not significant).

Non Statutory Designations

SLAs

A8.10.20 The baseline assessment identified 25 SLAs to be considered for further assessment. However, a number of these SLAs will be located or fall within LCAs where no significant effects have been recorded. Therefore, it is considered that similar levels of non-significant effects will be applicable to designations that extend within these LCA's. IT is considered that there will be no significant effects on the following SLA's and therefore no further assessment has been provided.

Table A8.10.2: SLAs with no Significant Effects

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance the Nearest Proposed Turbine(km)	Corresponding LCA
Mynydd y Gelli	NPTCBC	3.3	LCA 15 Mynydd y Gelli
Vale of Neath	NPTCBC	6.0	LCA 18 Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn and Mynydd Ynyscorrwg LCA 19 Hirfynydd
Northern Uplands	BCBC	6.2	LCA 47 Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands
Dulais Valley	NPTCBC	7.7	LCA 19 Hirfynydd LCA 20 Dulais Valley LCA 21 Mynydd Marchywel
Mynydd y Gaer.	BCBC	9.2	LCA 48 Ogmore Valley Floor and Lower Slopes LCA 50 Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges
Kenfig Burrows	BCBC	5.6	LCA 55 Kenfig Dunes and Coastline
Laleston	BCBC	7.1	LCA 53 Newton Down Limestone Plateau LCA 56 Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland
Porthcawl Coast	BCBC	8.9	LCA 54 Porthcawl Coastline and Settled Farmland
Merthyr Mawr Warren	BCBC	11.3	LCA 52 Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline
Castle Upon Alun	VoGC	13.4	LCA 62 Northern Vale Lias Slopes LCA 65 Ogmore Down LCA 66 Alun/St. Brides Valley

Name	Local Authority	Approx. Distance the Nearest Proposed Turbine(km)	Corresponding LCA
Mynydd y Garth	NPTCBC	14.5	LCA 67 Ewenny Valley LCA 148 Lias Plateau
			LCA 22 Slopes of Cefn Gwrhyd and Cwm Egel LCA 106 Mynydd Uchaf and Mynydd Garth
Mawr Uplands	SC	15.8	LCA 105 Pentwyn Mawr
North East Gower and Cockett Valley	SC	18.7	LCA 82 LCA 90
Garngoch and Lower Afon Llan Valley	SC	20.3	LCA 82 Llanmorlais and Three Crosses LCA 90 Llanrhidian Estuary
Upper & Lower Thaw Valley	VoGC	15.3	LCA 62 Northern Vale Lias Slopes LCA 131 Hendre LCA 145 Upper Thaw Valley LCA 146 Lower Thaw Valley LCA 148 Lias Plateau
Ely Valley & Ridge slopes			LCA 141 Northern Vale Lowlands LCA 142 Ely Valley LCA 143 Ystradowen Lowland Valleys LCA 153 Central Vale Ridges and Slopes
Mynydd y Betws			LCA 105 Pentwyn Mawr
Llanharry Surrounds	RCTCBC	18.1	LCA 131 Hendre
Talgarn Surrounds	RCTCBC	20.8	LCA 131 Hendre LCA 143 Ystradowen Lowland Valleys
Mynydd Hugh and Llantrisant Forest	RCTCBC	24.0	LCA 79 Mynydd Maendy

A8.10.21 The following SLA's fall within LCA's where significant effects have been identified within section 8.6 of the SLVIA and these are therefore assessed in detail below. Where significant effects on SLA's are recorded, the assessment is provided in Chapter 8 of the SLVIA:

Bryngarw Country Park

Value

A8.10.22 This SLA comprises a small distinct area based upon the grounds and associated woodlands of Bryngarw House. A Grade II, Bryngarw Registered Park and Garden. An early Tudor house with gardens that include ponds and ornamental and natural planting. The SLA area extends beyond the historic park boundaries to include a range of areas of high habitat value including riparian woodlands. The value is assessed as medium to high.

Susceptibility

A8.10.23 The SLA is located within the narrow, enclosed Garw river valley and is well vegetated throughout with riparian and parkland trees and woodland. Views are contained, although there may be occasional glimpses to the surrounding uplands. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Sensitivity

A8.10.24 The value of this designation is assessed as medium to high and the susceptibility is low. The sensitivity of this SLA is considered to be medium.

Magnitude of Impacts

A8.10.25 Due to topography, any impacts on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to occasional increased influence of wind farms in some areas to the southern and eastern extents of the SLA. However, vegetation is predicted to constrain any views of the surrounding areas to the west and any perceptible change will be only a very minor scale alteration. The magnitude is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects

A8.10.26 The magnitude of impacts will be negligible. Combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effects on the SLA will be slight (not significant).

Heritage Coast

Gower Heritage Coast

Value

A8.10.27 This designation covers the entire coastline within the Gower AONB. The southern coast predominantly consists of a series of small, rocky or sandy bays, which include Langland, 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. The heritage coast is an important contributor to the special qualities of the AONB. Many of the classic views of Gower - such as Rhossili, Worm's Head, and Three Cliffs Bay - feature the coastline and the sea beyond. The value of this designation is high.

Susceptibility

A8.10.28 The coastline and seascape in particular are a noted aspect contributor to the setting of the Gower AONB. Many of the classic views of Gower - such as Rhossili, Worm's Head, and Three Cliffs Bay

- feature the coastline and the sea beyond. 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. However, the designation is also located at distances beyond 17 km from the proposed development reducing the potential influence it may have on key attributes. The susceptibility of this designation to change is considered to be medium.

Sensitivity

A8.10.29 The value of this designation is assessed as high and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity of this SLA is considered to be medium-high.

Magnitude of Impact

A8.10.30 As demonstrated by the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) any influence of the proposed development from the Gower Heritage Coast will be limited to glimpses from small sections of the southern and eastern coasts. Elsewhere there will be no visible. At distances greater than 17 km any influence on the character or visual amenity of the designation will be barely perceptible. The magnitude of impacts will be negligible.

Significance of Effect

A8.10.31 The magnitude of impacts will be negligible and combined with the medium-high sensitivity, the significance of effects will be slight and not significant.

Glamorgan Heritage Coast

Value

A8.10.32 The Glamorgan Heritage Coast extends 14 km along the coast of the Vale of Glamorgan and is a popular recreational destination, renowned for its spectacular scenery and coastal views across the Bristol Channel. The value of this designation is assessed as high.

Susceptibility

A8.10.33 This designation extends along a predominately open and large-scale coastal landscape, with a sense of exposure and with a strong visual connection with adjacent waters of the Bristol Channel. The designation is tranquil and often remote, with a high scenic quality and one where the majority of attributes are unlikely to withstand change from the type of development proposed. However, the designation is also located at distances beyond 13 km from the proposed development reducing the potential influence it may have on key attributes. The susceptibility of the designation to change is considered to be medium.

Sensitivity

A8.10.34 The value of this designation is assessed as high and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity of this SLA is considered to be medium-high.

Magnitude of Impact

A8.10.35 Views from the Glamorgan Heritage Coast will be limited to areas near to Ogmore-by-Sea and Nash Point, which are illustrated by VP11 - Wales Coast Path, Ogmore-by-Sea and VP30 – Nash Point, Glamorgan Heritage Coast, respectively. From Ogmore-by-Sea and from locations further east along the coast at Nash Point, the proposed development will be a recognisable feature, but occupy only a very limited proportion of the view and will become less apparent with increasing

distance. In all cases the proposed development will occupy a small proportion of the overall view. The primary views out over and along the Bristol Channel from the Heritage Coast will remain unchanged. There may be localised significant effects on visual amenity, for example from Ogmere-by-Sea. However, on balance the magnitude of impacts will be low to negligible overall.

Significance of Effects

A8.10.36 The magnitude of impacts will be low to negligible and combined with the medium-high sensitivity, the significance of effects will be slight and not significant.

Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales

Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows

Value

A8.10.37 This designation protects a range of important historic features, including the remains of a medieval castle and town within a landscape setting of high scenic quality, with a strong sense of place and a character that is considered to be rare. The landscape value is considered to be outstanding.

Susceptibility

A8.10.38 This designation extends across a large scale, simple dune system with a strong sense of remoteness, which is reinforced by the lack of man-made influences. Visual connection across the adjacent Bristol Channel is a key visual characteristic of the landscape and scenic quality is considered to be high. There however is also, a visual connection with the extensive steel works in Port Talbot with associated busy docks, and in conjunction with traffic noise from the M4 motorway that reduces the sense of remoteness and tranquillity that is experienced. The susceptibility of the designation to change is considered to be medium.

Sensitivity

A8.10.39 The value of this designation is assessed as outstanding and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity is considered to be medium-high.

Magnitude of Impact

A8.10.40 The perceived influence of the proposed development is likely to extend across a wide proportion of the *designation*, however at approximately 7 km, impacts will be indirect. The proposed development will be intermittently perceptible on the skyline where the varied landform and vegetation pattern allows. Due to the subtle undulating nature of the dunes, views will be restricted to glimpsed views rather than prolonged, open views. Therefore, whilst the proposed development may form an apparent large-scale feature within views, due to the scale and nature of the receiving landscape, it will not become a defining characteristic. Where perceptible, there may be a *minor* loss to the sense of remoteness and tranquillity. However, the undulating dune system and connection with the adjacent coast will remain as the defining key *attributes of the setting to this designation*. The magnitude of impacts will be low

Significance of Effect

A8.10.41 The landscape is considered to be medium to high sensitivity and the magnitude of impacts medium to low. Significance of effects on landscape character is predicted to be moderate (not

significant). The proposed development will have an influence, albeit indirectly, however the key defining characteristics of the LCA will be retained.

Country Parks

Afan Forest Park

A8.10.42 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. The Park also includes a visitors' centre, which is home to the South Wales Miners' Museum.

Value

A8.10.43 Afan Forest Park is a popular recreational and tourist destination located within the Afan Valley, approximately 1.4 km from the nearest proposed turbine. It incorporates MTB trails that lead north to a visitor centre as well as five waymarked walking trails. The value is assessed as medium.

Susceptibility

A8.10.44 This country park is located within the well wooded Afan Valley, although two MTB routes extend into the proposed site boundary. Due to the screening by the mature productive forestry and topography the susceptibility of the designation is assessed as medium.

Sensitivity

A8.10.45 The value of this designation is assessed as medium and the susceptibility is medium. The sensitivity of this Country Park is considered to be medium.

Magnitude of Impact

A8.10.46 Afan Forest Park includes the northern section of the proposed development site, incorporating MTB trails that lead north to a visitor centre. Within the park there are five way marked walking trails, all of which are located to the north of the A4107 and extend across Mynydd Pen-rhys and Mynydd Nant-y-bar and therefore outside of the proposed site boundary. Views of the proposed development from the trails will predominantly be restricted to occasional glimpsed views only as tree cover and to a lesser extent, topography will restrict open views. This, however, will be subject to further tree clearance (predominantly larch) that are infected by *Phytophthora ramorum*, which may open views further. Typical views from the walking trails are illustrated by *VP10 – St. Illtyd's Walk National Walking Trail, near Cynonville*. The viewpoint demonstrates that from locations where the proposed development is visible, the turbines will form a new feature that will be viewed at close distance. However, any views will be brief in duration and from the majority of locations from the walking trails, there will be no views of the proposed development. In addition to the walking trails, there are five Cycle/MTB trails and as noted above, two extend into the proposed site boundary, where the northern section of turbines is located; these are the Penhydd and Blue Scar MTB trails. Impacts on the landscape character within this area of the park will be direct and, the 6 turbines within the northern section will be viewed at very close distance, especially from the

eastern sections of the MTB trails. They will be the defining feature of the view, as they form an immediately apparent and large scale element. However, the fundamental purpose of the country park will remain unaffected. The other 3 cycle/MTB trails are located beyond the proposed site boundary and due to topography, it is predicted that views of the proposed development from the Rookie Trail and Rheilffordd Low Level Cycleway will be significantly limited. Y Wal MTB extends predominantly through coniferous forestry and as cyclists travel along the trail, any views of the proposed development will be brief and glimpsed in nature. In addition, the north-eastern section of the trail passes directly past a number of Pen y Cymoedd turbines and therefore wind farm development will not be an unusual or incongruous feature to users of the trail. The magnitude of impacts overall is assessed as medium to low.

Significance of Effects

A8.10.47 The magnitude of impacts will be medium to low and combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effects will be slight-moderate (not significant).

Bryngarw Country Park.

Value

A8.10.48 Bryngarw Country Park comprises extensive informal early-20th-century woodland and water gardens set within the tightly formed River Garw Valley. It also includes Bryngarw House, an early Tudor house and recreational facilities including play areas, paths and seating. The value is assessed as medium to high.

Susceptibility

A8.10.49 This Country Park is located within the narrow, enclosed Garw river valley and is well vegetated throughout with riparian and parkland trees and woodland. Views are contained, although there may be occasional glimpses to the surrounding uplands. It is predicted that the combination of landscape attributes will be capable of absorbing some change or even tolerant to the type of development proposed. On balance, the susceptibility of landscape receptors to change is considered to be low.

Sensitivity

A8.10.50 The value of this designation is assessed as medium to high and the susceptibility is low. The sensitivity of this Country Park is considered to be medium.

Magnitude of Impact

A8.10.51 Visibility of the proposed development from within Bryngarw Country Park will be restricted by the existing vegetation and topography. Any impacts on landscape character will be indirect and restricted to occasional increased influence of wind farms in some localised areas of the Park. However, any perceptible change will be only a very minor scale alteration. The magnitude is considered to be negligible.

Significance of Effects

The magnitude of impacts will be negligible and combined with the medium sensitivity, the significance of effects will be slight (not significant).

A8.11 POTENTIAL; EFFECTS ON CIRCULATION, MOVEMENT AND ACCESS

A8.11.1 Operational Stage effects within the study area on key circulation, movement, and access routes (refer to Figures 8.20 and 8.21) are outlined and discussed below.

Key Road and Rail Corridors

A8.11.2 The vast majority of road and rail users will be locals and commuters, not leisure drivers or tourists. Road and rail users travelling at speed are unlikely to be focussed on views of the landscape and potential visibility of the proposed development will be brief or glimpsed in duration in the majority of occasions. It is also likely that there will be multiple man-made elements within the foreground of views from roads and railways, including highways and rail associated infrastructure and traffic. The sensitivity of road and rail users will be low.

A8.11.3 Visibility along the M4 corridor within 15 km of the proposed development area will be variable. There will be glimpsed views west from elevated sections of the road at Sarn, (Junction 36) at distances of around 9 km. More open and extensive visibility will be available along the stretch broadly between Pyle and Margam, at distances ranging from around 3 km to 8 km, where the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that between 14 to 18 turbines will be visible. This reduces to 9 to 13 turbines visible nearer Margam. These views will be seen in combination with large scale elements including Port Talbot steel works and other industrial development and operational wind farms of Brombil and Newlands Farm. From Margam extending to the west, the M4 will be at the base of the Coalfield Scarp, and visibility of the proposed development is reduced or eliminated by the intervening wooded landform. The AIL access road will however also be visible at close range, although transitory in nature. Although not an unfamiliar feature of motorways, views of the slip road will be the most prominent feature of the AIL access road, especially when travelling in an easterly direction. When passing the slip road, views of the access track may also be visible as it heads east along the slope of Mynydd Brombil. When travelling in a westerly direction and where roadside vegetation allows for longer distance views to the north west, there may be glimpsed, oblique views of the reprofiled slope as the track switches back in a north westerly direction. However, over time it is likely to reduce in prominence as seeding and regeneration of vegetation will assist with visual integration of any exposed slopes. The slip road may also be visible, but due to the direction of travel less prominent than when travelling east. All views, however, will be very brief in duration as motorists pass the site at speed. The magnitude of impacts will range from medium to low or negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from slight-moderate, to slight, through to negligible (not significant).

A8.11.4 Locations from the M4 motorway which are within close proximity to the site, it is predicted that the turbines to the proposed development will be viewed in combination with the existing wind farms of Mynydd Brombil and Newlands Farm. While there will be sequential views with the wind farms of Parc Stormy Down Haregrove Farm, and Newton Down, to the south of the M4 motorway and the larger wind farms of Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension to the north of the M4 motorway. The consented wind farms of Taff Ely Repowering and Graig Fatha would also add to the sequential effects when travelling within areas to the east to the proposed development. The scoping stage wind farms at Mynydd y Glyn and

Twyn Hywel Energy Park will also be sequentially visible along the route. The magnitude of combined cumulative impacts will be medium and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be slight-moderate (not significant).

- A8.11.5 Visibility across the network of A/trunk Roads within the 15 km of the proposed development will also be variable. The blade tip ZTV indicates that drivers using the A4063 extending north to south through the Llynfi Valley will experience a range of direct and oblique views of the proposed development, depending on distance and orientation. Similarly, the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that drivers using the A4167 to the west of the proposed development will also experience varying views. However, large stretches of these and many other A/trunk roads within the 15 km of the proposed development are enclosed by established roadside vegetation and buildings where the road passes through settlements. Impacts will be highly intermittent in all cases and fleeting in duration. The magnitude of impacts will range from low to negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity on users of the A/Trunk Road network will range from slight to negligible (not significant).
- A8.11.6 Cumulative effects will be similar to the individual effects as described above. Views of the proposed development and other cumulative developments will typically be sequential rather than in combination, due to the screening effects of topography, vegetation and buildings. The magnitude of cumulative impacts will range from low to negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity on users of the A/Trunk Road network will range from slight to negligible (not significant).
- A8.11.7 The Swansea to London Paddington Mainline Railway extends around the flat coastal plain from Swansea through Port Talbot, Margam and east into the Vale of Glamorgan. The route is initially developed and the foreground of views in the direction of the proposed development will be heavily influenced by built form. Glimpsed or fleeting views will be available where foreground buildings allow. The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that the line around Pyle will be more open and some oblique views of around 9 to 13 turbines may be available on the skyline formed by the Coalfield Scarp. Further east, the landscape is undulating, and long stretches of the rail line will be in cuttings and/or enclosed by woodland or trees. Local commuter lines will also be enclosed by buildings and vegetation and will be contained within valley landform. On balance, impacts on views of rail users will range from low to negligible in magnitude, combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will range from slight to negligible (not significant).
- A8.11.8 It is predicted that the turbines to the proposed development will be viewed in combination with the existing wind farms of Mynydd Brombil and Newlands Farm, close to the settlement of Margam. There may also be some sequential views with the wind farms of Parc Stormy Down Haregrove Farm, and Newton Down, to the south of the railway line and the larger wind farms of Taff Ely, Mynydd Portref and Mynydd Portref Extension, Pant y Wal and Pant y Wal Extension to the north of the railway line. The consented wind farms of Taff Ely Repowering and Graig Fatha would also add to the sequential effects. The scoping stage wind farms at Mynydd y Glyn and Twyn Hywel Energy Park will also be sequentially visible along the route. However, all views are likely to be glimpsed and very in brief in duration due to the speed of travel and limited to where visibility is not constrained by trackside cuttings. The magnitude of cumulative impacts will be low to negligible

and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be slight (not significant).

- A8.11.9 The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that visibility beyond 15 km will be negligible to the west. To the east there will be some visibility between Pencoed and Llanharry, reducing in extent on stretches further east. The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) also indicates that there will be very limited visibility on the network of trunk roads that continues beyond 15 km. At distances beyond 15 km and given the limited extent of visibility, the magnitude of impacts from key roads will be negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be negligible (not significant).
- A8.11.10 To the east, the Swansea to London Paddington Mainline Railway extends through undulating landscapes often in cuttings or corridors of established enclosing woodland and trees. The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates some intermittent visibility will be available, although it is unlikely that passengers will perceive these as more than brief distant glimpses. There is limited visibility beyond 15 km study from the proposed development on the local rail network. The magnitude of impacts on rail corridors beyond 15 km will be negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be negligible (not significant).
- A8.11.11 Cumulative impacts from key road and rail corridors from areas outside of the detailed 15 km study area will be highly intermittent, brief in duration and very limited in geographical extent. The proposed development in combination with other cumulative developments will be viewed at distance exceeding 15 km. The magnitude of cumulative impacts from key roads and rail corridors will be negligible and combined with low sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be negligible (not significant).

National Trails/Long Distance Footpaths

- A8.11.12 Users of National Trails and Long Distance Footpaths will tend to be focussed on the landscape and available views along the routes and are likely to have a high sensitivity to change, although not exclusively so.
- A8.11.13 Effects on visual amenity within a 5 km radius of the proposed development from the long distance footpaths of St. Illtyd's Way and Ogwr Ridgeway Walk are considered in detail within Section 8.7 of the ES. Beyond 5 km visibility of the proposed development will vary along these two routes. From elevated sections of St. Illtyd's Walk the proposed development will be predominantly visible from the more elevated area to the north west. From these locations the proposed development will be viewed within a broad, expansive landscape and will form a component of a wider view that already contains a number large scale wind farm developments. From the eastern section of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, where it connects with the Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk, when walking west, the proposed development will become a more prominent feature when approaching the site and effects on visual amenity will be similar as to those described with in Section 8.7 of the ES.
- A8.11.14 Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk and Vale Millennium Heritage Trail routes will experience some filtered occasional views at distances of around 14 km. On balance, the magnitude of impacts on these routes will be negligible and combined with medium to high sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be slight-moderate (not significant).

- A8.11.15 Within proximity to these routes, wind farms are an existing feature, and the proposed development will not significantly increase the influence of wind farm development. On balance, the magnitude of cumulative impacts on these routes will be negligible and combined with medium to high sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be slight-moderate (not significant).
- A8.11.16 The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that some visibility will be experienced along sections of both the Gower Way to the west and the Beacons Way to the north. Both routes are popular and located in the Gower AONB and the BBNP respectively. Panoramic views towards the proposed development will be available. However, these will be seen at distances of at least 17 km. From the Beacons Way to the north, the proposed development will be seen to the rear of operational wind farms at Maesgwyn, Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon-Oer. It is considered that the proposed development would be barely perceptible at these distances from both routes and would have no perceptible impact on the overall quality of the view. The magnitude of impacts be negligible and combined with high sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be slight-moderate (not significant).
- A8.11.17 The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that there will be visibility of the proposed development from the Wales Coast Path, extending from a distance of approximately 15 km from the proposed development, west along Swansea Promenade to Mumbles Head. Views from these from this section of the Wales Coast Path is demonstrated by *VP16 – Swansea Promenade, Black Pill*. At distances of over 15 km to the proposed development, visibility of the turbines will be variable depending on weather conditions. In clear conditions, they will be viewed in combination with many other existing man-made elements, including wind turbines, the steel works and built development of varying scale and form, extending around the coastal plain of Swansea Bay. Within this wide open panorama, the proposed development will occupy a small proportion of the overall view and would not fundamentally change the overall nature of the view. Key visual attractors such as the sweep of Swansea Bay, including views towards Mumbles Head will be retained, as will the open water and the backcloth of hills enclosing the bay. As receptors travel around the promenade, views may be possible for a moderate duration of time.
- A8.11.18 From areas beyond the 15 km from the proposed development to the east, the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that there will be more intermittent visibility. Views from these areas of the Wales Coast Path are illustrated by *VP30 – Nash Point, Glamorgan Heritage Coast*. From this location the proposed development will occupy a limited proportion of the view and may be perceptible in suitable weather conditions on the distant skyline formed by the Coalfield Plateau. The views across the open water of the Bristol Channel and adjacent agricultural land will remain the defining features of the view.
- A8.11.19 Sensitivity of users of the Wales Coast Path are considered to range from medium to high and the magnitude of impacts on visual amenity will be medium, from locations around Swansea Bay and low to negligible from all other locations. On balance, the significance of effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate to moderate – substantial (significant) from areas around Swansea Bay, to be slight-moderate to slight (not significant) from all other locations, extending to the east.

- A8.11.20 Cumulative effects from the Wales Coast Path, extending west along Swansea Promenade to Mumbles Head are illustrated by *Viewpoint 14- Swansea Promenade, Black Pill*. The proposed development and all cumulative developments will be viewed within the same arc of view and predominantly extend across the ridgeline that forms the backdrop to the eastern half of Swansea Bay. Cumulative developments visible will include Pen y Cymoedd, Ffynnon Oer, Swansea Bay WWTW, Queens Dock, Llynfi Afan REP, Fforch Nest 1 and 2, Pant y Wal, Pant y Wal Extension, Mynydd Brombil, Newlands, Haregrove Farm, Newton Down and Parc Stormy Down. In addition, the consented developments of Melin Court and Foel Trawsant, plus the consented development of Upper Ogmores Wind Farm may and the scoping stage wind farm of Fforch Dwm may also be visible from sections of the path extending to the west to Mumbles Head. The turbines within the southern section will result in an increase in the proportion of the ridgeline to which turbines can be seen and enclosing the gap between Mynydd Bombil and Llynfi Afan REP wind farms. The turbines, most notably within the southern section will appear at a larger scale when compared with the other cumulative developments and will form a recognisable new element within the view. However, the proposed development and other cumulative will occupy only a moderate proportion of the view and due to the distance and the broad open seascape/landscape that they will be seen, they will not change the overall nature of the view.
- A8.11.21 Sections of the Wales Coast Path extending to the east of the study area will experience cumulative visibility of operational developments including, Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down, Haregrove Farm, Ffynnon Oer, Llynfi Afan REP. In addition, the consented developments of Foel Trawsant and scoping stage wind farm of Twyn Hywel Energy Park may also be perceptible from some sections. The proposed turbines will partially enclose the gap that currently exists between the group of turbines that is formed by Newton Down, Parc Stormy Down and the consented turbines of Foel Trawsant. The combined visibility of these developments may result in wind farm development becoming a more noticeable feature from some sections of the Wales Coast Path beyond 15 km to the east. Sensitivity of users of the Wales Coast Path are considered to range from medium to high and the magnitude of cumulative impacts on visual amenity will be medium, from locations around Swansea Bay and low to negligible from all other locations. On balance, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity are predicted to be moderate to moderate – substantial (significant) from areas around Swansea Bay, to be slight-moderate to slight (not significant) from all other locations, extending to the east.
- A8.11.22 The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that there be no or very limited visibility from the remaining long-distance routes within the wider study area, including the Beacons Way. Therefore, at such distances, the magnitude of impacts will be negligible and combined with medium to high sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity will be slight-moderate (not significant). Wind farm developments are established feature within views from upland areas including sections of the Beacons Way. However, from this route and other long distance paths, the proposed development would be seen at a scale and distance that would ensure it would not be a defining element when viewed in combination with cumulative development. The magnitude of cumulative impacts will be negligible and combined with medium to high sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity will be slight (not significant).

National Cycle Routes (NCR's)

- A8.11.23 Users of the NCR that extend within the study area will have a medium sensitivity to visual change as the surrounding landscape is unlikely to be their main focus. It is also likely that any changes will be more fleeting or brief in duration.
- A8.11.24 The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that visibility along NCR 04 (refer to Figures 8.20 and 8.21) will be variable. More extensive visibility will be available along the stretch broadly between Aberkenfig and Margam, at distances ranging from around 3 km to 8 km. Visibility will, however, reduce as the route approaches the scarp slope at Margam Park. Between Kenfig Hill and Aberkenfig the route follows minor lanes enclosed by woodland and trees. Available views from these stretches will also be seen in combination with large-scale man-made elements including Port Talbot steel works and other industrial development and operational wind farms at Brombil and Newlands Farm. From Margam extending to the west, the route will broadly follow the base of the Coalfield Scarp, and visibility of the proposed development is reduced or eliminated by the intervening wooded landform. NCR 04 also follows a route through urban areas and will be enclosed by built form.
- A8.11.25 NCR 887 extends along the Afan Valley around 2 km to 3 km from the proposed development, within the base of the valley. The ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that there will be intermittent visibility along this route although this valley is strongly enclosed by mature plantation and other woodland.
- A8.11.26 As NCR 885 extends along the Llynfi valley floor to the north of Maesteg. views south from this route, particularly along the valley to the southern section will be available. However, this route follows the edge of the urban area and visibility will be partially obscured by intervening buildings and other vertical elements in the foreground of available views.
- A8.11.27 Overall, the magnitude of impact is considered to be medium to low for routes 04, 887 and 885 and therefore combined with medium sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity are considered to be moderate. On balance, effects are considered to be not significant, as the proposed development will not form a key defining element within views from the majority of the length of the routes.
- A8.11.28 From the remaining eight NCRs within 15 km of the proposed development, the ZTV (refer to Figure 8.1) indicates that visibility of the proposed development will be very limited, predominantly due to the routes being contained within valleys. Magnitude of impacts is considered to be negligible. Therefore, combined with medium sensitivity, the significance of effects on visual amenity are considered to be slight (not significant).
- A8.11.29 Cumulative effects will be similar to the individual effects as described above. Views of the proposed development and other cumulative developments will typically be sequential rather than in combination, due to the screening effects of topography, vegetation and buildings. The magnitude of cumulative impacts will range from medium to negligible and combined with medium sensitivity, the significance of cumulative effects on visual amenity on users of the NCR network will range from moderate to negligible (not significant).

Open Access Land (CRoW Act)

- A8.11.30 Extensive areas of Open Access Land, designated under *The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act)* fall within 15 km of the proposed development. This includes broad areas within and around the site boundary and many of the upland plateaux and ridges broadly extending to the north-east. It also includes Kenfig Burrows to the south-east, an important area of coastal dunes and other habitat.
- A8.11.31 Within the site boundary, the proposed development will directly impact on this predominantly forested land. However, the proposed development will not restrict public access and therefore will not conflict with aim of the CRoW Act.
- A8.11.32 From other areas of Open Access Land within 15 km of the proposed development there will be no direct impacts as a result of the proposed development and the aims of the CRoW Act will remain unaffected.

A8.12 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT – NON-WIND FARM DEVELOPMENTS

A8.12.1 The following table lists all Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and Developments of National Significance (DNS) within the 45 km study area and Major Projects within the 10 km study area. The location of each development is illustrated in Figures 8.87 and 8.88.. Developments that fall outside of the ZTV, or where there is s no publicly available data for the project, these have been excluded from further assessment. The remaining developments were then assessed and professional judgement applied to identify all Non-wind farm developments where significant cumulative effects may occur. These were then carried forward for further detailed assessment as identified in table A8.12.1.

Table A8.12.1: Non-wind Farm Cumulative Developments

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
NSIP				
Port Talbot Steel Works	Internal Power Generation	Consented	3.60	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Tidal Lagoon Swansea Bay	Tidal lagoon	Consented	13.30	Planning consent for this development has lapsed. However a revised similar development (Blue Eden) is proposed, although no planning application has been submitted to date. Based on indicative site layout information available, the vertical scale is relatively low and cumulative association between this development and the proposed development will be limited, due distance and urban/industrial of the baseline environment. There is no potential for significant cumulative effects.
Hirwaun Power Station	Power Station	Consented	16.17	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Abergelli Power	Power Station	Consented	19.44	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
DNS				
Eirlys Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	2.38	Potential for significant cumulative effects. Taken forward for further assessment.
Llynfi Energy Recovery Facility	Energy Recovery Facility	Pre-Application	5.74	Located within valley within limited views west towards proposed development and with no perceptible relationship. No potential for significant effects.
Tythegston Estate Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	9.38	The existing character of the landscape is partially influenced by existing wind farm and solar developments. However, due to the scale of the pre application and intervening vegetation, there will be limited visual interaction between this development and the proposed development from surrounding areas. There is no potential for significant cumulative effects.
Ty'n Y Waun Solar	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	11.35	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development
Coed Darcy - STOR	Energy	Consented	11.77	Located within a landscape characterised by small scale industrial and residential development. Due to the nature and scale of this consented development it will have no perceptible relationship with the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Meillion Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	12.49	Development on the edge of theoretical visibility of ZTV and over 12 km from the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Craig Y Perchych Solar	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	13.85	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Pencaerlan Solar/Seven Sister Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	14.67	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Felindre Road STOR (Short Term Operating Reserve)	Energy	Consented	15.73	This development lies on the edge of the theoretical visibility of the ZTV. Due to the nature and scale of this consented development it will have no perceptible relationship with the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Parc Solar Caenewydd, Gowerton	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	21.99	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Gwenlais Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	23.55	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Maes Mawr Solar	Solar Farm	Submitted	27.32	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development
Brynryhd Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Submitted	28.37	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Rock Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	28.70	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development
Tycroes Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Consented	28.74	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Cwm Ifor Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	29.93	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Oaklands Solar Farm and BESS	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	29.18	OS Co-ordinates for development not available. No further

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				assessment of cumulative effects undertaken.
Land at Pen Onn Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	30.30	development on the edge of theoretical visibility of ZTV and over 30 km from the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Llangennech Solar Farm (previously Penderi/ Felinfoel solar)	Solar Farm	Consented	30.50	Development on the edge of theoretical visibility of ZTV and over 30 km from the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
East Aberthaw Solar	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	30.83	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development
Parc Dyffryn Solar Park	Solar Farm	Submitted	31.05	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from proposed development
Parc Worlton Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	32.04	OS Co-ordinates for development not available. No further assessment of cumulative effects undertaken
Wauntysswg - Solar	Solar Farm	Consented	32.90	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Brynwell Farm Renewable Energy Hub	Solar Farm	Submitted	34.39	No potential for significant cumulative effects due to distance from Proposed development
Circuit of Wales Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	36.58	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the Proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Pentre Bach Solar Farm	Solar Farm	Pre-Application	44.42	OS Co-ordinates for development not available. No further assessment of cumulative effects undertaken
Major Developments				
Land at Nantfyllon RFC Blossie Street Maesteg	Residential	Consented	1.30	Infill development set within existing settlement. No potential for significant cumulative effects

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				on landscape character and visual amenity due to different scale and nature of development.
Old School Court Bryn	Residential	Consented	1.55	Residential development on brownfield site set within existing settlement boundary. No potential for significant cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity due to different scale and nature of development.
Afan Valley Adventure Resort	Leisure	Consented	2.67	This consented development will have minimal cumulative interaction with the proposed development due to its location and differing nature and scale which result in little perceptible visual relationship with the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Land West Of Pant Celydd Margam	Residential	Consented	3.08	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Land of Junction 38 of M4 Margam	Industrial	Pre-Application	3.29	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Land of Evelyn Terrace Port Talbot	Residential	Operational	3.96	Existing residential development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Eagle House 2 Talbot Road Port Talbot	Residential/Commercial	Consented	4.10	Residential development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Waste Transfer Facility	Waste	Consented	5.02	Located within landscape characterised by industrial development. Nature and scale of this consented development will have no perceptible visual

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				relationship with the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Kenfig Industrial Estate	Industrial	Operational	5.68	Refit of existing industrial building and therefore considered as part of the baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Margam Surface Mine Restoration	Mineral/Quarrying	Consented	5.76	Restoration of existing opencast mine. The nature of the works and no interaction between this development and the proposed development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Unit 3 Kenfig Industrial Estate Margam	Industrial	Consented	5.86	Existing landscape characterised by large scale industrial units/developments. Proposed development will be off a similar scale and form. No perceptible change to existing character or views as a result of the consented development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Former Afan Lido Site Aberavon Seafront	Residential	Consented	6.24	Residential development located within existing residential/urban landscape. The scale and nature of this consented development will have no visual association with the proposed development; therefore, it is considered there is no potential for significant cumulative effects.
Asbestos Waste Transfer Station Baglan Energy Park	Waste	Consented	7.04	Existing landscape characterised by large scale industrial units/developments within a well vegetated mature designed landscape. Proposed development will be off a similar scale and form. No perceptible change to existing character or views as a result of the consented development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
Land At Mardon Park Central Avenue Baglan Energy Park	Industrial	Operational	7.53	Existing landscape characterised by large scale industrial units/developments. proposed development will be off a similar scale and form. No perceptible change to existing character or views as a result of the consented development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Land West of Maesteg Road Tondu	Residential	Operational	7.69	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Tondu Waste Transfer Station	Waste	Consented	7.71	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
The Old Bakehouse Maesteg Road Tondu	Residential	Operational	7.79	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Development at Former Clun Primary School Clyne Neath	Residential	Consented	7.98	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Land Adjacent to Groves Road Neath	Residential	Operational	8.13	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Mine Water Treatment Scheme, Clyne	Mineral/ Quarrying	Consented	8.22	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Land Off Meadow Road Eaglesbush Valley Neath	Residential	Consented	8.46	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Neath Town Centre Redevelopment	Commercial	Consented	8.63	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
18 Orchard Street Neat	Residential	Consented	8.68	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Resolven Business Park Extension	Industrial	Pre-Application	8.74	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Development at Water Street Neath	Residential/ Commercial	Consented	8.80	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Former Public House The Parade Neath	Residential/ Commercial	Operational	8.80	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Stormy Down Airfield Biomethane	Waste	Consented	8.86	Commercial energy development located within existing REP. The scale, nature and location of this consented development will not result in any perceptible change in landscape character or visual amenity. No significant cumulative effects.
Melyn Close Neath	Residential	Operational	8.94	Existing residential development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Concrete Brick Plant at Cornelly and Grove Quarries	Mineral/ Quarrying	Operational	8.95	Existing industrial development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development and landuse. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Stormy Down Anaerobic Digestion Facility	Waste	Consented	8.96	Commercial energy development located within existing REP. The scale, nature and location of this consented development will not result in any perceptible change in landscape character or visual

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				amenity. No significant cumulative effects.
Waste Disposal Skips, Briton Ferry Recycling Centre	Waste	Consented	9.11	Minor extension to existing recycling centre. Will be perceived as operational development and therefore considered as part of baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Single-Storey Extension to Waste Recycling Centre	Waste	Operational	9.12	Minor extension to existing recycling centre. Will be perceived as operational development and therefore considered as part of baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Bwlch Ffos Quarry Extraction and Restoration	Mineral/ Quarrying	Pre-Application	9.29	Application falls outside of ZTV and there will be no intervisibility with the Proposed development. No cumulative effects.
Land at Parc Newydd Briton Ferry	Residential	Operational	9.39	Existing residential development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development. Considered within baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Land Adjacent to CSN Precision Engineering Neath	Foodstore	Operational	9.40	Existing retail development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale development. Considered within baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Land West of Heol Ty Maen Cefn Glas	Residential	Consented	9.88	Recently constructed housing development located within a landscape characterised by similar scale and type of development. Considered within baseline. No potential for significant cumulative effects.
Gilfach Quarry Extension	Mineral/ Quarrying	Pre-Application	9.98	Development on the edge of theoretical visibility of ZTV. Existing quarry extraction, with limited interaction with proposed development due to nature of development and intervening

Name	Development Type	Status	Distance from Proposed development (Km)	Preliminary Assessment
				vegetation. No potential for significant cumulative effects.

A8.12.2 The preliminary assessment concluded that there will be no potential for cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity as a result of the proposed development with application stage non-wind farm developments. These are not considered further. Significant cumulative effects from operational non-wind farm developments are considered within the baseline assessment on landscape character and visual amenity and therefore considered further.

A8.12.3 Where significant cumulative effects are identified, these are described within section 8.8 of the SLVIA chapter of the ES. Non-significant effects only are described below.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects (in addition with scoping stage non-wind farm developments)

A8.12.4 The preliminary assessment also identified the potential for significant cumulative effects between the proposed development and the pre-application development of Eirlys Solar farm. This development is located approximately 2.38 km southeast of the proposed development. The following landscape and visual receptors will require further assessment to determine the nature and significance of cumulative effects:

- Effects on landscape character from LCA 5, LCA 7;
- Effects on visual amenity, including viewpoints VP8, VP19 and VP24; and
- Statutory and non-statutory designations, including the Registered Historic Park and Garden of Margam Park.

A8.12.5 The cumulative assessment of the wind energy development scoping scenario finds no cumulative effects for these receptors and so there would be no further cumulative effect as a result of scoping stage wind farm development to consider in the effects described below.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 05)

A8.12.6 Impacts on LCA 05 would be unlikely to be influenced by the operational and scoping stage wind farm developments of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm, to the north of the proposed development site due to the intervening effect of Mynydd Margam. However, Eirlys Solar Farm, located on the south west facing slopes of Moel Ton-mawr will have a direct impact on the LCA, resulting in an intensification of development and a notable change in the character within western half of the LCA. There will be a direct change in character due to Eirlys Solar Farm, however interaction between this development and the proposed development will be limited, in part due to topography, vegetation and separation distance. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be medium to low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 05)

A8.12.7 The sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium to low and the magnitude of cumulative impacts are considered to be medium to low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

Magnitude of Cumulative Impacts on Landscape Character (LCA 07)

A8.12.8 From within the LCA 07, the addition of the proposed development will be experienced with the scoping stage development of Fforch Dwm Wind Farm to the north-west, together with the operational developments of Pen y Cymoedd and Ffynnon Oer. The addition of Eirlys Solar Farm and the proposed development will further extend the perceived sense of development further to the south and south east. However, due to the low level nature of the solar farm development, any cumulative impacts with the proposed development are likely to be restricted to the far southern eastern corner of the LCA. Change in character across the wider LCA is likely to be a result of the proposed wind farm developments rather than Eirlys Solar Farm. The magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low.

Significance of Cumulative Effects on Landscape Character (LCA 07)

A8.12.9 Within the sensitivity of the landscape is considered to be medium and the magnitude of cumulative impacts is considered to be low. Significance of effects on cumulative landscape character is predicted to be slight - moderate (not significant).

A8.13 POTENTIAL EFFECTS – DECOMMISSIONING PHASE

Potential Decommissioning Phase Effects on Seascape and Landscape Character

A8.13.1 The decommissioning effects are likely to be similar to those experienced during the construction phase of the proposed development, however it is anticipated that the timescales to undertake this work will be shorter in duration. During this period the upper sections of the turbine foundations is expected to be removed up to a depth of 1.0 m and backfilled/reseeded, together with the removal of the turbines and wind monitoring equipment. The substation and battery compound will also be dismantled, and all affected land reinstated. Some tracks will be left and allowed to grass over or would be covered with soil and reseeded or replanted, and other tracks will be maintained to enable ongoing forestry management. Cabling would be left in-situ, unless ducted.

A8.13.2 As during the construction phase of the works, effects on landscape character will be direct, however confined to within the site boundary of the proposed development as work is undertaken to restore the character of the landscape to the conditions similar to which existed prior to construction works commencing. From areas surrounding the site boundary and within the wider landscape, it is predicted that there will be no effects on landscape character and therefore no significant effects.

Potential Decommissioning Stage Effects on Visual Amenity

A8.13.3 Effects on visual amenity will predominately result from the cranes used to dismantle the turbines and also work traffic used to remove equipment from the site. As during the construction period,

any effects are likely to be restricted to within 5 km of the site boundary and will be brief in duration due to the sequential programme for the dismantling of each turbine. However, visual effects may be most prominent from areas including Caerau, Maesteg, Llangynwyd, Cwmafan and Bryn, plus areas to Maesteg Golf Course and from within Margam Park.

A8.13.4 Beyond 5 km, the cranes may be a recognisable feature within views from the settlement of Glynccorrwg, Aberavon, Neath and Kenfig Burrows.

A8.13.5 From these areas where views of the cranes may be prominent or a recognisable feature, effects on visual amenity are considered to be slight-moderate and not significant.

A8.13.6 Beyond 10 km, there is predicted to be no effects on visual amenity as the crane will be an imperceptible feature of the wider view, that may be missed altogether by the casual observer.

A8.14 SUMMARY TABLE OF EFFECTS

Table A8.14.1: Seascape Effects

SCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative)	Significance (Cumulative)
					C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
02	Carmarthen Bay East	Medium to High	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
03	Bury Inlet and Loughor Estuary	Medium to Low	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
06	Oxwich and Port Eynon Bays	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Slight-Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight-Moderate C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
07	Pwlldu Head to Mumbles Head	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate to Slight Moderate not significant	Low (C) Negligible (A) Negligible (Sc) Low to negligible (Co)	Moderate (C) Slight-Moderate (A) Slight (Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
08	Swansea Bay West	Medium to High	Low	Moderate not significant	Low (C/A) Negligible (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate (C/A/Co) Slight (Sc) not significant
09	Swansea Bay East	Medium	Medium to low	Slight moderate not significant	Low (C) Negligible (A/Sc)	Slight – Moderate (C) Slight (A/Sc)

SCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
					Medium to Low (Co)	Moderate (Co) not significant
10	Neath Estuary	Low	Negligible	Negligible not significant	Negligible (Sc) Low to Negligible (Co)	Slight (Sc/Co) not significant
11	Margam to Porthcawl	Medium to High	Medium to low	Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/Sc) Negligible (A) Medium to Low (Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
12	Porthcawl	Medium	Low	Slight- Moderate not significant	Negligible (C) Low (A) Low to Negligible (Co)	Slight (C) Slight – Moderate (A) Slight-Moderate to Slight (Co) not significant
13	Nash Sand Bar	Medium	Low to Negligible	Slight - Moderate to Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A) Low (Co)	Slight (C/A) Slight-Moderate (Co) not significant
14	Bristol Channel South East	Medium	Low to Negligible	Slight- Moderate to Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
15	Bristol Channel - East	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc) Low (Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc) Slight-Moderate (Co) not significant
16	Mid Swansea Bay	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Negligible (Sc) Low (C/A/Co)	Slight (Sc) Slight-Moderate (C/A/Co) not significant
17	Outer Swansea Bay	Medium	Low to Negligible	Slight- Moderate to Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
18	Offshore Oxwich Point to Mumbles Head	Medium to High	Low to Negligible	Slight- Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant

SCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
19	Bristol Channel Offshore	Medium to Low	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
21	Glamorgan Coastal Waters and Nash Sands	High	Low	Moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (C/Co) Negligible (A)	Moderate (C/Co) Slight – Moderate (A) not significant
24	Bristol Channel	Medium to Low	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant

Table A8.14.2: Landscape Effects

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
01	Margam Marsh	Medium to Low	Medium	Slight – Moderate not significant	Low (Co)	Negligible (Co) not significant
02	Margam Burrows	Medium to Low	Medium	Slight - moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (C) Negligible (Co)	Slight (C/Co) not significant
03	Margam Country Park	High	Medium to High	Moderate – Substantial significant	N/A	N/A
04	Coedhirwaun	Medium to high	Medium	Moderate significant	Low (Sc/Co)	Moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
05	Coedhirwaun and Open Scarp Tops	Medium	Medium to low	Slight- Moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (Sc/Co)	Slight (Sc/Co) not significant
06	Mynydd Brombil, Mynydd Emroch and Mynydd Dinas	Medium to Low	Medium to High	Moderate significant	Negligible (C) Medium (Sc/Co)	Slight (C) Moderate (Sc/Co) Not significant

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
07	Mynydd Margam	Medium	Very high	Substantial significant	Negligible (A) High (C/Co)	Slight (A) not significant Moderate – Substantial (C/Co) significant
08	Goytre Valley	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate significant	Negligible (C/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/Sc/Co) not significant
09	Cefn Cethin	Medium to Low	Medium to high	Moderate significant	Negligible (C/Co)	Slight to Negligible (C/Co) not significant
10	Mynydd Bycham	Medium	High	Moderate - Substantial significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium – Low (Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
11	Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna	Medium	Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/Sc/Co) not significant
12	Mynydd Penhydd	Medium	High	Moderate – Substantial significant	Negligible (A) High (C/Sc/Co)	Slight (A) not significant Moderate – Substantial (C/Sc/Co) significant
13	Foel Trawsnant	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate significant	High (C/Co)	Moderate – Substantial (C/Sc/Co) significant
14	Foel Fawr	Low	Medium	Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium to Low (Co)	Negligible (C/A/Sc) Slight to Negligible (Co) not significant

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
15	Mynydd-y-Gelli	Medium to Low	Low	Slight- Moderate to Slight not significant	Medium to Low (C/Co/A) Low (Sc)	Slight – Moderate (C/Co/A) Slight (Sc) not significant
17	Foel Fynyddau	Medium	Medium	Moderate significant	Low (C/Sc/A) Medium – Low (Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/Sc/A) Moderate (Co) not significant
18	Mynydd Resolven, Craig-y-Llyn and Mynydd Ynyscorrwg	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Negligible (C/A) Medium to low (Sc) High (Co)	Slight (C/A) Moderate to Slight – moderate (Sc) not significant Moderate – Substantial (Co) significant
23	Bryn Mawr, Mynydd Carnlechart, Mynydd y Baran, Mynydd Gelli Onnen	Medium to High	Low to Negligible	Slight- Moderate not significant	Low (C/A) Low to Negligible (Sc/Co)	Moderate (C/A) Slight-Moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
26	Mynydd Drumau	Medium to Low	Medium to Low	Slight- Moderate not significant	N/A	N/A
28	Neath	Medium to Low	Negligible	Slight to Negligible not significant	N/A	N/A
37	Port Talbot, Sandfields, Baglan and Margam	Low	Medium to Low	Slight not significant	Low (Co)	Negligible (Co) not significant
39	Cwmafan	Medium to Low	Medium to High	Moderate significant	N/A	N/A
40	Margam Sands/Aberavon Sands	Medium	Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	Low (Co)	Slight – Moderate (Co) not significant

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
41	Neath Estuary Mouth	Medium to Low	Low	Slight - Moderate to Slight not significant	Negligible (C) Low (Co)	Slight - Negligible(C) Slight – Moderate (Co) not significant
42	Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate significant	Medium to High (C/Co)	Moderate – Substantial (C/Co) significant
43	Llynfi Valley Floor and Lower Slopes	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate significant	Low to Negligible (C/Co) Negligible (Sc)	Slight (Sc) Slight – Moderate (C/Co) not significant
44	Llynfi and Garw Uplands and Forestry	Medium	Medium	Moderate significant	Medium to Low (C/A/Co) Low (Sc)	Moderate (C/A/Co) Slight – Moderate (Sc) not significant
45	Betws Settled Farmland	Medium	Medium	Moderate significant	Medium to Low (Sc) Medium (C/Co) Low to Negligible	Moderate (C/Sc/Co) not significant
46	Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
47	Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands	Medium to High	Negligible	Slight (Not significant)	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium to Low (Co/Sc)	Moderate (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
48	Ogmore Valley Floor and Lower Slopes	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
49	Ogmore Forest and Surrounding Uplands	Medium to Low	Low to Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium to Low (Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
50	Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges	Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium to Low (Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Sc) Moderate (Co)

						not significant
52	Merthyr Mawr Farmland, Warren and Coastline	High	Negligible	Moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (C) Negligible (Co)	Slight -Moderate (C/Co) not significant
53	Newton Down Limestone Plateau	Medium	Low	Slight – Moderate not significant	Low (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
54	Porthcawl Coastline and Settled Farmland	Medium	Low	Slight – Moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (C/A) Negligible (Co)	Slight – moderate (C) Slight – Moderate to Slight (A) Slight (Co) not significant
55	Kenfig Dunes and Coastline	Medium to High	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Low to Negligible (C/A) Negligible (Co)	Slight -Moderate (C/A) Slight (Co) not significant
56	Cefn Cribwr Ridge and Settled Farmland	Medium to High	Low	Moderate not significant	Low (C/Sc/Co)	Moderate (C/Sc/Co) not significant
57	Maesteg	Medium	Medium – to High	Moderate - substantial significant	Medium to High (C/Co)	Moderate – substantial (C/Co) significant
61	Pyle	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (Sc/Co)	Negligible (Sc/Co) not significant
62	Northern Vale Lias Slopes	Medium to Low	Low	Slight – Moderate to Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Sc) Slight Moderate to Moderate (Co) not significant
63	Heritage Coast Hinterland	High	Low to Negligible	Moderate not significant	Low (C/A) Negligible (Sc/Co)	Moderate (C) Slight – Moderate (Sc/Co)

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
						not significant
64	Norton Down	Medium to High	Low to Negligible	Slight – Moderate not significant	Low (C/A) Negligible (Sc/Co)	Moderate (C/A) Slight (Sc/Co) not significant
65	Ogmore Down	Medium to High	Low to Negligible	Slight - Moderate not significant	Low (C/A) Negligible (Sc/Co)	Moderate (C/A) Slight (Sc/Co) not significant
66	Alun/St. Brides Valley	Medium to High	Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (Sc/Co)	Moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
67	Ewenny Valley	Medium	Low to Negligible	Slight - Moderate to Slight not significant	Low to Negligible (C) Low (Sc/Co)	Slight (C) Slight – Moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
68	Swansea Bay	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate not significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium - Low (Co)	Slight -Moderate (C/A/Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
69	Swansea	Medium to low	Negligible	Slight to negligible not significant	Negligible (C/A) Low (Sc) Medium -low (Co)	Slight – negligible (C/A) Slight moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
73	Rhyd-y-Pandy	Medium	Low	Slight – moderate not significant	Low (C/A/Co) Low to Negligible (Sc)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Co) Slight – Moderate to Slight (Sc) not significant
79	Mynydd Maendy	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc) Medium to Low (Co)	Slight -Moderate (C/A/Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
80	Gower Southern Coastline	High	Medium – low to Low	Moderate not significant	N/A	N/A

LCA	Name	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined	Significance (Cumulative) C – Consented A – Application Sc - Scoping Co - Combined
105	Pentwyn Mawr	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Co) Low to Negligible (Sc)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Co) Slight – Moderate to Slight (Sc) not significant
106	Mynydd Uchaf and Mynydd Garth	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Co) Low to Negligible (Sc)	Slight – Moderate (C/A/Co) Slight – Moderate to Slight (Sc) not significant
112	Mynydd Du	High	Negligible	Slight-moderate not significant	Negligible (C/Sc) Low (A/Co)	Slight -moderate (C/Sc) Moderate (A/Co) not significant
113	Forest Fawr	High	Negligible	Slight-moderate not significant	Negligible (C/Co/Sc) Low (A/Co)	Slight -moderate (C/Co/Sc) Moderate (A/Co) not significant
145	Upper Thaw Valley	Medium to Low	Low	Slight – Moderate to Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight -Moderate to Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant
148	Lias Plateau	Medium to Low	Low	Slight – Moderate to Slight not significant	Low (C/A/Sc/Co)	Slight -Moderate to Slight (C/A/Sc/Co) not significant

Table A8.14.3: Visual Effects

VP	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
1	Evans Terrace, Caerau	Medium to High	High	Substantial significant	High (C/Co)	Substantial (C/Co) significant
2	Maesteg Golf Course	Medium to high	High to Very High	Substantial significant	High to Very High (C) Very High (Co)	Substantial (C/Co) significant
3	Bryn (Play area off Neath Road)	Medium to high	High to Very High	Substantial significant	Negligible (C) Low to Negligible (Co)	Slight (C/Co) not significant
4	Brynna Road, Cwmafan	Medium to high	Medium to High	Moderate – Substantial significant	Medium (C/Co)	Moderate – substantial (C/Co) significant
5	Rhiwlas, Neath	Medium to High	Low	Slight - moderate not significant	Medium to Low (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate (Sc) Slight – Moderate (Co) not significant
6	Mumbles Hill, Swansea	High	Medium to Low	Moderate not significant	Low (C/Sc/Co)	Moderate (C/SC/Co) not significant
7	Gower Way National Trail, Cefn Bryn	Medium	Negligible	Slight - moderate not significant	Negligible (C/Sc/Co)	Slight (C/Sc/Co) not significant
8	Margam Park (Deer Park)	High	Medium to High	Moderate Substantial significant	Medium (Co)	Moderate - Substantial (Co) significant
9	Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu (BBNP)	Medium	Negligible	Slight to Negligible not significant	Negligible (C/A/Co) Low (Sc)	Slight (C/A/Co) Slight Moderate (Sc) not significant
10	St Illtyds Walk National Trail, near Cynonville	Medium to high	Moderate	Moderate significant	Medium to High (C/Co)	Moderate - Substantial (C/Co) significant
11	Wales Coast Path, Ogmore-by-Sea	Medium to High	Medium to low	Moderate not significant	Medium (Co)	Moderate – Substantial (Co) significant
12	Twmbarlwm	Medium to Low	Negligible	Negligible not significant	Negligible (C/A/Sc)	Negligible (C/A/Sc)

VP	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
					Low to Negligible (Co)	Slight – Moderate (Co) not significant
13	Junction of Heol Gelli Lenor and Brynlywarch, Maesteg	High	Medium to high	Moderate - substantial significant	N/A	N/A
14	Swansea Promenade, Black Pill	Medium	Medium to Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	Medium to Low (C) Negligible (A) Low (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate (C/Co) Slight (A) Slight – moderate (Sc) not significant
15	Clwyd Road, Pen-Lan, Swansea	Medium to Low	Low	Slight not significant	Medium to Low (C) Low (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate to Slight Moderate (C/Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
16	The Princess Margaret Way, Aberavon	Medium to High	Medium	Moderate significant	Medium (Co)	Moderate (Co) significant
17	Margam Park	High	Medium to High	Moderate – Substantial significant	Negligible (C/Co)	Slight moderate (C/Co) not significant
18	Pen-y-Fan (BBNP)	Medium	Negligible	Slight to Negligible not significant	Negligible (C/A/Co) Low (Sc)	Slight (C/A/Co) Slight – Moderate (Sc) not significant
19	Wales Coast Path, Rest Bay/Royal Porthcawl Golf club, Porthcawl	Medium to High	Medium to low	Moderate significant	Low to negligible (C) Medium to low (Co)	Slight moderate (C) Moderate (Co) not significant
20	Pen Parcau, Bettws	Medium to high	Medium	Moderate – Substantial significant	High (C/Co)	Moderate – Substantial (C/Co) significant
21	Sarn Helen, Aberdulais	Medium	Medium to Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	Medium (C) Low (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate (C) Slight -- Moderate (Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant

VP	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
22	Baxter Terrace, Glyncorrwg	Medium to High	Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	Medium to Low (C/Co)	Moderate (C/Co) not significant
23	Margam Park (Access Road)	High	Medium to High	Moderate – Substantial significant	Negligible (C/Co)	Slight moderate (C/Co) not significant
24	Wales Coast Path, Kenfig Burrows	High	Medium	Moderate – Substantial significant	Medium to High (C/Co)	Moderate – Substantial to Substantial (C/Co) significant
25	Bryn East, picnic area opposite Royal Oak PH	High	High	Substantial significant	Low to negligible (C/Co)	Moderate (C/Co) not significant
26	Ogwr Ridgeway Walk near Y Bwlwarcau Hillfort	High	High	Substantial significant	Medium to High (C) Medium to High (Co)	Moderate - Substantial (C) significant Moderate to Moderate – Substantial (Co) significant
27	Cemetery eastern edge of Maesteg	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate to substantial significant	Medium to low (C/Co)	Slight -moderate (C/Co) not significant
28	Llangynwyd	Medium to high	Medium	Moderate to moderate substantial significant	Negligible (C/Co)	Slight (C/Co) not significant
29	Oxwich Point	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/Sc) Low to Negligible (Co)	Slight (C/Sc) Slight Moderate to Slight (Co) not significant
30	Nash Point, Glamorgan Heritage Coast	Medium to High	Low to Negligible	Slight - Moderate not significant	Negligible (C) Low (Sc/Co)	Moderate (C) Slight - Moderate (Sc) Moderate (Co) not significant
31	Esgair Hir, BBNP	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/A) Low (Sc/Co)	Slight (C) Negligible (A)

VP	Location	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
						Slight - Moderate (Sc/Co) not significant
32	Junction of Stallcourt Road/A48, Margam	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
33	Open Water off Mumbles	Medium	Medium to Low	Slight – Moderate not significant	Negligible (C) Low (Sc) Medium (Co)	Moderate (Co) Slight Moderate (Sc) not significant
34	South of Porthcawl Marina	Medium	Medium	Moderate not significant	Low (C) Negligible (Sc) Medium to Low (Co)	Slight (C) Negligible (Sc) Moderate to Slight Moderate (Co) not significant
35	Bristol Channel	Low	Low	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/Sc) Low (Co)	Slight (C/Sc/Co) not significant
36	Mouth of the River Neath	Medium	Medium	Moderate not significant	Medium to high (C/Co)	Moderate to moderate-substantial (C/Co) significant
37	Outer Swansea Bay/Bristol Channel	Low	Low	Slight not significant	Negligible (C/Sc) Low (Co)	Negligible (C/Sc) Slight (Co) not significant

Table A8.14.4: Statutory Designations

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
National Parks/AONBs					
Bannau Brycheiniog	High	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
National Park					
Gower AONB	High	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens					
Margam Park	High	Medium to High	Moderate - substantial significant	N/A	N/A
Bryngarw Country Park	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A

Table A8.14.5: Non Statutory Designations

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
Special Landscape Areas					
Margam	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate - substantial significant	Medium to high (C/Sc/Co)	Moderate substantial (C/Sc/Co) significant
Western Uplands	Medium to high	Medium	Moderate – substantial to moderate. significant	Medium (C/Co)	Moderate (C/Co) (significant)
Foel Trawsnant	Medium	High	Moderate - substantial significant	High (C /Co)	Moderate substantial (C/Co) significant
Foel y Dyffryn	Medium	Medium to High	Moderate - substantial significant	Medium to high (C/Co)	Moderate substantial (C/Co) significant
Bryngarw Country Park	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
Country Parks					
Margam Park	High	Medium to High	Moderate - substantial	N/A	N/A

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
significant					
Afan Forest Park	Medium	Medium to Low	Slight - Moderate not significant	N/A	N/A
Bryngarw Country Park	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales					
Margam Mountain	Medium	Medium	Moderate significant	Medium to high (C/Sc/Co)	Moderate substantial (C/Sc/Co) significant
Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales					
Merthyr Mawr, Kenfig and Margam Burrows	Medium to high	Low	Moderate not significant	N/A	N/A
Heritage Coast					
Glamorgan Heritage Coast	Medium to high	Low to negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A
Gower Heritage Coast	Medium to high	Negligible	Slight not significant	N/A	N/A

Table A8.14.6: Circulation, Movement and Access

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
Key Road and Rail Corridors					
M4	Low	Medium to Negligible	Slight - moderate to negligible not significant	Medium (Co)	Slight moderate (Co) not significant
A Roads/Trunk Roads	Low	Low to Negligible	Slight to negligible not significant	Medium (Co)	Slight moderate (Co) not significant
Swansea to Paddington Railway	Low	Low to Negligible	Slight to negligible not significant	Negligible (Co)	Negligible (Co) not significant

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
National Trails/Long Distance Footpaths					
St Illtyds Way ⁴	High	High	Substantial significant	High	Substantial (Co)
Ogwr Ridgeway Walk ⁵	High	High	Substantial significant	High	Substantial (Co)
Wales Coast Path	Medium to high	Medium ⁶ Low to negligible ⁷	Moderate to moderate substantial significant ⁶ Slight moderate to slight (Co) not significant ⁷	Medium ⁶ Low to Negligible ⁷	Moderate to moderate substantial (Co) significant ⁶ Slight moderate to slight (Co) not significant ⁷
Taff Ely Ridgeway Walk	Medium to high	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant
Vale Millenium Heritage Trail	High	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant
Gower Way	High	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant	N/A	N/A
Beacons Way	High	Negligible	Slight moderate not significant	N/A	N/A
National Cycle Routes					
NCR 04	Medium	Medium to low	Moderate not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 43	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 46	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 47	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant

⁴ Effects assessed within a 5 km Study Area.

⁵ Effects assessed within a 5 km Study Area

Designation	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance	Magnitude (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined	Significance (Cumulative) C -consented A – application Sc - Scoping Co - combined
NCR 88	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 881	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 883	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 884	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 885	Medium	Medium to low	Moderate not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 887	Medium	Medium to low	Moderate not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant
NCR 888	Medium	Negligible	Slight not significant	Medium to negligible	Moderate to negligible (Co) not significant

⁶ Effects identified are from locations around Swansea Bay

⁷ Effects identified relate to Sections of the path beyond Swansea Bay