

for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape are likely to be more susceptible to change than people viewing from an industrial context. Table A2-7 illustrates indicative criteria used to determine visual receptor susceptibility:

Table A2-7 Indicative criteria to determine visual receptor susceptibility

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	Residents at home. People engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views. Visitors to designated landscapes, heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience. Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.
Low Susceptibility	People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape. People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity not on their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life. Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, except along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high.

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., "medium." The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the visual receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgments were made about the value attached to the views identified, taking account of recognition, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, promotion of particular locations or provision of facilities provided for their enjoyment, such as parking places, sign boards and interpretive material, or references to them in literature or art.

The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below.

Table A2-8 Indicative criteria for visual sensitivity

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	Viewers in residential or community properties. Views experienced by many viewers. Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant. A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued nationally or internationally for its visual amenity.
Moderate sensitivity	Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site. Frequent open views available. Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view. A view from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route.
Lesser sensitivity	A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer's attention is not focused their surroundings. A view from a landscape of moderate or less importance, or a locally important recreation facility. Occasional open views or glimpsed views available; passing views available to travellers in vehicles. A view available to few viewers.

Magnitude of visual change

The visual effects identified are evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

Table A2-9 Considerations for assessing magnitude of visual change

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	Categorised on a scale of major, moderate, minor or none, based upon: The degree of the loss or addition of features in the view; The extent of changes in the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;

Consideration	Indicative criteria
	The degree of contrast or integration of the changes with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics; The nature of the view of the proposed development, whether full, partial or glimpsed, or the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced.
Geographical area over which the changes would be experienced	The geographic extent reflects: The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible; The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor; The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.
The duration of the changes	Categorised as: Short term: zero to five years; Medium term: five to ten years; Long term: ten to twenty-five years Permanent: more than twenty-five.
Reversibility	The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years, or within a generation

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

Table A1-10 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of visual change

Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting a large proportion of the angle of the view, or affecting views from a wide area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility.
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the angle of the view, or affecting some views from the wider area, or larger scale of change in views from within the immediate context of the site; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility.
Small change	A minor proportion of the angle of view is affected or the contribution of the changed elements or characteristics to the composition of the view is not important; the changes are viewed from longer distances, are short term and reversible.

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Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Negligible/no change	Barely perceptible change or the change is difficult to discern; No change in the view or the changes due to the development are out of view.

Judging the overall visual effects

Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in Table A2-11:

Table A2-11 Indicative criteria for assessing visual effects

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Great change or visual intrusion experienced by highly sensitive viewers or from highly sensitive public viewpoints; The proposal would cause a great deterioration in the existing view available to highly sensitive viewers; Great improvement in the view, sufficient to upgrade overall visual amenity. Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view, especially where affecting people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity or people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes.
Moderate	Medium change or visual intrusion experienced by moderately sensitive viewers; Smaller change to higher sensitivity viewers or greater change to less sensitive viewers.
Minor	Small or localised visual intrusion in the existing view, especially for less sensitive viewers. Small or localised reduction in visual intrusion, or improvement in the view. Reversible short-term changes, in views available to people for whom the view of the landscape is not the principle focus of interest.

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Negligible	Negligible change in the view or the change is difficult to discern even for a highly sensitive viewer.

In addition to these criteria, in some instances the effect may be discernible or greater, but offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals for the development, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.



Appendix 3 – Assessment of Effects

Table Appendix 3.1: Landscape Magnitude of Change

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change <u>during construction</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>at completion</u>
Sloping landform	The sloping topography would remain largely unaltered by the construction of the development. Temporary site hoarding and the use of large vehicles including tall equipment such as cranes may temporarily alter the skyline from some viewing angles, however the topography would remain largely intact. The scale of the change would be small. The defining landscape features of the receptor would not be altered by construction. The geographical area affected would be small-medium – change would be at the site level but may be visible from a number of surrounding character areas. Change would be over the short-term. Magnitude of construction phase change is small.	The physical features of the topography would remain largely intact. The sloping landform would accommodate broadly east-west running streets, set within the existing profile. The masterplan layout accommodates development parcels, public open space and infrastructure within the existing, defining landform. The scale of the change would be small – the defining topography of the site would be mostly unaltered. The geographical area affected would be small-medium – change would be at the site level but may be discernible in the backdrop to views from surrounding character areas. Change would be permanent. Magnitude of change is small.
Field pattern defined by hedgerows, mature trees and linear woodland	The field boundaries within the site would remain largely intact, with some limited disturbance through the removal of some sections of hedgerow to accommodate development blocks and site access points. The mature trees and linear woodland would generally be undisturbed; however, some limited removal may be required. Fencing would be erected to protect trees and hedgerow that are to be retained. Fields would be stripped. Areas of green space would turn into a construction site as development spreads in phases across the site. The scale of the changes on the site would be small-medium as the construction activities would involve largely tree and hedgerow protection rather than removal. The stripping of fields/land would occur across most of the site. The geographical area affected would be at the site level only and is therefore small. Change would be over the short-term. Magnitude of construction phase change is medium-small.	For the most part, existing field boundaries within the site would be retained, with some small sections of hedgerow removal to accommodate development blocks, site access and connections between field parcels, accommodated within the pattern of the existing field structure. The prominent tree structure would be largely retained, with some limited tree removal. Linear woodland within the site would remain largely intact and would continue to contribute to the setting of Neath. The pasture in the site would be replaced with built development and landscape areas. The scale of the changes would be medium due to the extent of existing landscape elements lost. A small extent of the wider geographical area would be affected. Change would be permanent. Magnitude of change is medium-small.
Recreational public access on footpaths in the eastern part of the site	During construction there are likely to be some interruptions/ diversions along the footpaths that cross within the site and its boundary. Beyond the site boundary, changes to the routes would be indirect. Perceptual changes during the activities would include the movement of vehicles and associated sound but this would be in context to the sound and movement associated with the nearby urban areas. The activities would be over the short-term, the magnitude of change is considered to be small.	The footpaths through the site would be retained. Changes to the routes would be limited; however, there would be perceptual changes to views from the routes as a result of the proposed development, including residential properties and some hedgerow and tree planting alongside the routes. Recreational access would be strengthened through the creation of new pedestrian routes in the site, including in public open space and a nature trail. The scale of the changes would be medium as a result of the addition of new routes, affecting a small geographical area. The indirect changes would be permanent but reversible. Magnitude of change is considered to be medium-small.



Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change <u>during construction</u>	Magnitude of Change <u>at completion</u>
Urban context within the Neath valley	The construction effects, comprising the activity and movement of large vehicles and equipment, including the use of tall cranes, would be experienced from the community of Neath and the surrounding settlements within the valley, notably the Rhydding area closest to the site. Movement and noise would be experienced alongside the existing traffic and human activity within the urban context. Construction access routes would be located along residential streets within the vicinity of the site; however, the impact of this on the wider valley settlement would be limited. The scale of the changes would be small due to a degree of assimilation with urban character and activity within the valley, over a small extent of the wider character of the area. The changes would be over the short-term but would lead to permanent change. Overall, the magnitude of change is considered to be small.	The footprint of the settlement of Neath would expand within the valley; however, there would be a degree of integration with the existing urban fabric and forms through the design of the scale, materiality and layout of the development, which would reflect that of the existing settlement. Views would be altered by the development, but this would be experienced in context with existing development of a similar nature. The broad character of the valley would remain prevalent. The scale of the changes would be medium-small, affecting a small geographical area across the broad valley and assimilating with existing urban context. The changes would be permanent. Magnitude of change is therefore medium-small.
Uplands backdrop to the west	Construction activity and movement associated with the use of vehicles and equipment would be seen within the valley context. Construction within the site, including the erection of site hoarding, stripping of land and construction of development would be seen against the uplands backdrop. It is unlikely that the use of tall structures such as cranes would break the skyline due to the elevated nature of views from the uplands and the rising landform to the north of the site. Construction activity would be seen in context with the simple palette of elements that give the uplands their strong character, and against the existing contrasting mix of elements within the broad valley below. The geographic area affected would be relatively large due to the scale of the upland landscape and long-ranging views. However, the scale of the change resulting from construction would be small – this expansive and dominant landscape receptor would accommodate construction activities with limited effects on its key characteristics. Effects would be temporary, leading to long-term change. Magnitude of change during construction is assessed as small.	Following construction, the development would be seen within the context of the existing settlement of Neath. The upland backdrop to the west would continue to overlook the settlement and development would be accommodated within expansive views, alongside the contrasting mix of elements within the valley. The geographic area affected would be relatively large due to the scale of the upland landscape and long-ranging views. However, the scale of the change would be small. The expansive and dominant landscape receptor would accommodate change of the type proposed. Effects would be permanent. Magnitude of change is assessed as small.

Table Appendix 3.2: Landscape effects

Landscape Receptor	Sensitivity to changes arising from the proposals	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects <u>during construction</u>	Degree & nature of effects <u>at completion</u>
Sloping landform	Moderate sensitivity	During Construction: Small Completion: Small	Effects would be minor adverse due to combination of moderate sensitivity receptors and small magnitude change. Landform change because of construction would be limited.	Effects would be minor adverse due to the combination of moderate sensitivity receptors and small scale change. Defining topography would remain mostly unaltered.
Field pattern defined by hedgerows, mature trees and linear woodland	Moderate sensitivity	During Construction: Medium-small Completion: Medium-small	Effects would be moderate-minor adverse as the construction activities would remove some sections of hedgerow and strip land within the site.	Effects would be moderate adverse due to the combination of moderate sensitivity receptor and medium-small scale change. Many existing field boundaries, tree structure and woodland would be retained however the site would no longer contribute to the pasture field pattern.
Recreational public access on footpaths in the eastern part of the site	Moderate sensitivity	During Construction: Small Completion: Medium-small	Effects would be minor adverse as there may be some short term diversions or perceptual change to routes however a degree of recreational value would remain throughout construction.	Effects would be moderate-minor beneficial as there may be some aesthetic and perceptual alteration to the setting of the existing routes however the scheme would include new recreational routes and public open spaces.
Urban context within the Neath valley	Lesser sensitivity	During Construction: Small Completion: Medium-small	Effects would be minor adverse due to the combination of lesser sensitivity receptors and small scale change. Construction activity would likely be experienced by residents local to the site however the impact of this on the communities of Neath as a whole would be limited.	Effects would be moderate-minor adverse due to the combination of lesser sensitivity receptors and medium-small scale change. The urban valley character would be retained. Development would integrate with existing surrounding settlement.
Uplands backdrop to the west	Moderate sensitivity	During Construction: Small Completion: Small	Effects would be minor adverse as construction activity would be absorbed within the expansive upland setting.	Effects would be moderate-minor adverse due to the combination of moderate sensitivity receptors and small-scale change. The expansive landscape would accommodate the development without affecting its key characteristics



Table Appendix 3.3: Existing viewpoint descriptions

Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
01 - Wern Fraith, Neath, looking northeast toward the site	The viewpoint is located on the residential street Heol Glynderwen, within the settlement of Neath. The surrounding area comprises residential streets, generally containing detached two-storey dwellings. The street is lined by pedestrian footways.	The view looks down Heol Glynderwen toward the site. Properties on either side of the road frame the view, comprising two storey dwellings within property curtilages defined by a mix of fences and walls and containing garden trees. Within the middle ground of the view, the eastern part of the settlement of Neath is visible, similarly containing two-storey development with a roofscape broken up by tree canopies. The hillside northeast of Rhydding rises above the settlement, visible between properties and above/ between tree canopies within the residential area local to the viewpoint. The hillside northeast of Rhydding is characteristically formed by a series of regularly enclosed fields, bounded by hedgerow and tree belts with some significant tree groups. The site forms the lower slopes. The northwestern part of the site is well-treed, and the central-northern site boundary is formed by a hedgerow containing a single tree. The landform of the site slopes toward the viewer and the lower parts of the site are obscured from view by trees on the southern site boundary. The eastern parts of the site are also out of view as a result of eastern-facing site landform and tree cover.
02 - Near Dwr y Felin School, looking northeast toward the site	The viewpoint is located on a footpath that skirts the edge of the playing fields at Dwr y Felin School. The A474 is immediately to the south of the viewpoint, divided from the footpath by a fence and trees. Nearby to the northeast lies the residential area of Neath Abbey. Approximately 260m east lies the Scheduled Monument Neath Roman Site and 400m west lies Court Herbert Cross and Grave Slab Scheduled Monument.	The view is characterised by the flat playing fields and school campus, set against the rising hillside backdrop that contains the site. The foreground to the view contains a flat grass area that borders the nearby Dwr y Felin School playing fields, where a footpath skirts the edge of the pitch. The middle ground of the view contains the large-scale buildings at the school and Neath College beyond. On higher ground above the school buildings are the communities of Rhydding and Cadoxton-Juxta-Neath. The distinctive hillside northeast of Rhydding rises above the residential areas. The site is partially visible on the lower slopes. The lower part of the site is obscured from view by trees on the southern edge of the site. The northern boundary along the central field of the site is visible above the tree canopies. The northwestern part of the site contains blocks and lines of trees. The eastern and southeastern fields are obscured from view by intervening tree cover within the middle ground.
03 – The Drive, west of Neath Abbey, looking northeast toward the site	The viewpoint is located on a footpath that runs along a long, straight lane named The Drive. The Drive continues west to Abbey Primary School and a private property The Craig, which is entirely screened by mature trees. On adjacent land to the southeast there is a local public open space containing play equipment. On the opposite side of The Drive there is an area of grassy open land. The residential areas within the Neath Abbey part of the settlement of Neath lie nearby to the north and east.	The view contains residential development within the settlement of Neath, set on sloping landforms and within a wider valley context. The foreground to the view is framed by vegetation on the edge of the lane and looks onto the adjacent open grass area and verge to the north of The Drive. To the south lies a local play area, bounded by a metal railing. The middle ground to the view contains the residential areas of Neath Abbey, largely comprising detached properties visually separated by tree canopies. Beyond the residential areas of Neath Abbey, the skyline is formed by a rising backdrop, including the hillside northeast of Rhydding and the ridgeline to the northwest, where the distinctive crest of Mynydd Marchywel is discernible. The ridgeline slope contains woodland around Gilfach and open areas on higher ground. The hillside northeast of Rhydding is characterised by regular fields divided by hedgerow. The site is contained on the lower slopes, with visibility focussed largely on the western and central fields of the site. Trees on the southern boundary of the site obscure the lower parts of the site from view. Visibility of the eastern field is limited to oblique and partial views obscured by tree cover. The lower, southeastern field is not visible as a result of southern boundary tree cover. To the east, the longer distance backdrop looks down the Vale of Neath, shaped by the valley landform.
04- Gnoll Country Park, looking northwest toward the stie	The viewpoint is located within Gnoll Country Park Registered Historic Park and Garden. The view is obtained from the edge of the access road to the Country Park car park, where there is an open grass field. There are several park benches nearby to the viewpoint. To the rear of the viewer lies the car park and the main areas of the Country Park beyond.	The view is primarily a short-ranging view across the grass field within the foreground toward the adjacent line of mature trees. The tree canopies break up and obscure the longer distance backdrop to the view, creating partial and framed glimpses of the hillside beyond. The hillside contains the regular fields above the site, bounded by hedgerow. The site itself is partially visible on lower slopes, between the foreground tree canopies. An oblique view of the eastern field of the site is available, with trees in the ancient woodland near Cwmbach obscuring the southeastern field from view. The central and western fields are further limited from view as a result of tree cover and the west-facing landform of this part of the site. A partial glimpse of the distance backdrop of Mynydd Drumau to the northwest is also available between the foreground tree canopies.



Viewpoint reference	Landscape context at viewpoint location	Existing view towards site
05 - Fairyland Road, looking northwest toward the site	The viewpoint is located on Fairyland – a minor local road that runs along the Neath valley hillside. The road connects the Ty’n-y-Caeau community of Neath with Blaen Cwmbach on the Neath valley sides. Fairyland skirts the edge of the Gnoll Country Park Registered Historic Park and Garden. The National Cycle Route 47 is located on the route. SINC woodland lies at close distance to the south of the viewpoint. The minor local road Fairyland inclines as it runs westward and is generally lined by hedgerow along its length. The viewpoint is obtained at a field gate where a break in hedgerow cover allows for northwest-facing views. A layby lies to the east, where car parking and access to the Gnoll Country Park is possible.	An open and long-reaching view is available from this location. The foreground looks across a triangular pasture field toward a block of woodland nearby to the west, close to Cefn-y-don. The middle ground contains the Vale of Neath, where there is woodland on the valley floor, which rises onto the slopes of Craig Gwladus. Within the central part of the view, the River Neath is visible alongside its floodplain, and the settlement of Neath is characterised by mixed property types on sloping land. Blocks of trees and individual canopies break up properties. The rising land at Craig and Neath Abbey Primary School overlooks the town, which extends northwards toward Bryncoch. The distance backdrop is formed by the distinctive profile of Mynydd Marchywel and its wooded flanks. Tree cover on the slopes at Craig Gwladus and within the setting of the site largely obscures the site fields from view. The northern boundary of the site is discernible, along with the northeastern site field. The adjacent regularly shaped fields are more clearly visible to the north.
06 – Mynydd Drumau, looking southeast toward the site	The viewpoint is located on a bridleway that crosses the upland ridge of Mynydd Drumau. Approximately 100m north lies the Scheduled Monument House Platforms West of Dyffryn Wood. SINC woodland is located nearby to the south.	This is an elevated and expansive view, looking over the confluence of the River Clydach and River Neath. The view is characterised by the ridges that contain the river valleys, with mixed landcover and settlement on the valley floors and lower slopes. The foreground contains eastward sloping grassland, with a linear tree grouping close by to the east. Fields on the western sides of the Clydach Valley slope toward the settlement of Bryncoch, which is clearly visible in the middle ground of the view. Settlement within Bryncoch typically comprises detached properties. The ridge that defines the eastern side of the Clydach valley rises above the settlement, containing blocks of woodland and tree belts. The quarry at Gilfach is prominent on the ridge. The southern end of the ridge is formed by the hillside to the northeast of Rhydding, which contains that site on its lower flank. The settlement of Neath is visible to the southeast, comprising a mix of property types with tree cover breaking up blocks. The distance backdrop is formed by the crests of uplands to the east, including Foel Fynyddau above the Neath community of Cimla, Cefn Morfudd and the wind turbines at Cefn Mawr.

Table Appendix 3.4: View with development & magnitude of change

Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and magnitude of change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and magnitude of change
01 - Wern Fraith, Neath, looking northeast toward the site	During the construction phase, there would be partial views of construction within the upper, western parts of the site. This would likely include the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land and construction of access roads and other infrastructure. The scale of the change to the view would be small due to the small proportion of the view occupied by the development and the distance of the viewpoint from the site. The geographical area affected would include the street Heol Glynderwen and possibly other nearby residential streets with similar view directions. The angle of the view would be above eye-level, at medium distance. The duration of change would be short-medium term, leading to permanent change. The magnitude of change during the construction period is considered to be small.	There would be partial views of the upper, western parts of the site. Completed development within the two western fields of the site would be visible on the hillside. The trees on the south boundary of the site would be retained and would continue to screen the lower parts of the western site fields, meaning that only a small part of the development within this part of the site would be visible. Development would likely comprise mostly two-storey dwellings, on streets running broadly east-west along the site topography. Facades would therefore be partially visible, reflecting the existing landform. The trees which define the northwestern part of the site would remain and would be strengthened through woodland planting. The existing hedgerow with mature trees which runs broadly north-south, dividing the two western fields of the site would be retained and incorporated into the landscape strategy for the site with informal amenity space. The northern boundary hedgerow would also be retained and would be strengthened through the provision of an ecotone. The large Sessile Oak tree in the central part of the site would be retained. The eastern part of the site is largely obscured from view from this location. The scale of change to the view would be small due to the small proportion of the view occupied by the development. The existing remaining framework of vegetation on site would help to integrate the development within the part of the view that contains the site. New built elements would reflect the visual character of the settlement of Neath in the middle ground and residential development in the immediate setting of the viewpoint would remain dominant. The nature of the view is partial. The geographical area affected would include the street Heol Glynderwen and possibly other nearby residential streets with similar view directions. The angle of the view would be above eye-level, at medium distance. The duration of change would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be small – a minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements is not likely to be important to the composition of the view.
02 - Near Dwr y Felin School, looking northeast toward the site	Partial views of construction activity within the upper, western parts of the site would be available. This would likely include the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land, some limited tree removal and construction of access roads and other infrastructure. The scale of the change to the view would be small due to the small proportion of the view occupied by the development and the distance of the viewpoint from the site. The geographical area affected would include the nearby playing fields and connecting footpaths. The angle of the view would be above eye-level, at medium distance. The duration of change would be short-medium term, leading to permanent change. The magnitude of change during the construction period is considered to be small.	Completed development in the upper and western parts of the site would be visible, close to the northern boundary of the site. The canopies of trees on the south boundary of the site would largely be retained and would continue to obscure the lower parts of the site from view. Where some limited removal of southern boundary trees may be required, this may result in some more open views of the new buildings in the western/ central part of the site. Close to the northern boundary, largely two-storey properties would be visible on streets running broadly east-west. Facades would likely be visible, following the existing landform profile. Trees in the northwestern part of the site would be retained and strengthened through woodland planting. The existing vegetation which divides the two western fields of the site would also be retained and incorporated into the landscape strategy. It is possible that some parts of the retained northern site boundary would remain visible between and behind new buildings, along with the retained large Sessile Oak in the central part of the site. The eastern part of the site is largely obscured from view from this location. The scale of the change to the view would be small due to the small proportion of the overall field of view affected. The degree of loss or features and additional features within the view composition would be small. There would be some integration as a result of the retained vegetation framework on the site. There would also be some integration alongside the existing residential development on sloping land in Rhydding and Cadoxton. Views are partial, of a part of the site only. The geographical area affected would include the nearby playing fields and connecting footpaths. This represents a medium size geographical area. The angle of the view would be above eye-level and away from the main activity of the receptors – such as people playing sports on the playing fields. The view would be medium distance. The duration of changes would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be small – a minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements is not likely to be important to the composition of the view.



Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and magnitude of change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and magnitude of change
03 – The Drive, west of Neath Abbey, looking northeast toward the site	There would be some limited, filtered views of the construction activities within the upper parts of the site. This would likely include the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land, some limited tree removal and construction of access roads and other infrastructure. The scale of the change to the view would be minor, as the overall view composition would remain largely unaffected. Geographical area affected would include elevated sections of The Drive and the local area, at medium-long distance. Any discernible effects would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Magnitude of change during construction is therefore small.	Partial views would be available of completed development in the upper parts of the site. Development in the upper western part of the site would be enclosed and obscured by the retained framework of trees that defines this part of the site. Two-storey properties in the upper central/ western part of the site would be visible, occupying east-west running streets, accommodated within the existing landform. Trees on the southern boundary of the site would be largely retained and would continue to obscure the lower parts of these site fields from view. Where some limited removal of trees on the southern boundary of the site may be required, this would result in some increased visibility into the lower part of the central/ western site field. The north-south hedgerow that divides the two western fields of the site would also be retained and incorporated into the landscape strategy. Development in the central/ eastern field of the site would be partially visible in an oblique view, restricted by landform direction and partially obscured by the existing retained north-south hedgerow and retained large Sessile Oak tree, which would be accommodated within a linear public space. There may be some slight perception of residential development in the easternmost field of the site, however views of this part of the site are very partial. The scale of change to the view would be small, as the site occupies a small part of the overall view composition. There would be some limited loss of open field and additional built form within the part of the view that contains the site; however, this would be integrated through the retention of the vegetation framework on site. Views are partial, of a part of the site only. The geographical area affected would include elevated sections of The Drive and the local area where the view faces northeast. The view would be available at medium-long distance, above eye-level. The geographical area affected is considered to be small. The duration of changes would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be small – a minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements is not likely to be important to the composition of the view.
04- Gnoll Country Park, looking northwest toward the stie	There would likely be some limited, medium distance and partial views of construction activity, mostly within the eastern part of the site. This may include the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land and construction of access roads and other infrastructure. The scale of the change to the view would be minor, as the overall view composition would remain largely unaffected. The geographical area affected would be small, limited to the specific locations where glimpses of the site are available between trees, for a short amount of time. Any discernible effects would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Magnitude of change during construction is therefore small.	Partial views of the completed development would be available, glimpsed between the foreground tree canopies. Properties within the eastern field of the site would likely be partially visible, occupying streets that follow the northern boundary hedgeline and site landform. The trees within the ancient woodland adjacent to the eastern edge of the site would be unaffected by the development and would continue to obscure the lower parts of the eastern field and all of the southeastern field from view, incorporating a landscape buffer to the development edge. There may also be some slight perception of development in the central/ western field of the site; however, as a result of the oblique nature of views and the retained framework of boundary vegetation this is likely to be limited. Development in the western fields of the site is not likely to be visible. The scale of change to the view would be slight. There would be some degree of additional built features within the view and loss of open field in the eastern part of the site; however, this would affect a small part of the view composition. New built forms would be integrated into the hillside through retained and proposed landscape elements. The nature of the view is partial and glimpsed for a short amount of time between and above foreground tree canopies. The geographical area affected would be small as the changes would be visible from particular locations only, where glimpses between foreground trees are available. The angle of view would be at eye-level, at medium distance. The duration of change would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be small – a minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements is likely to be difficult to discern.



Viewpoint reference	View of the proposed development <u>during construction</u> and magnitude of change	View of the <u>completed</u> proposed development and magnitude of change
05 - Fairyland Road, looking northwest toward the site	Change as a result of construction activity on the site would be limited to partial glimpses of activity within the western field of the site. This may include very partial perception of the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land and construction of access roads and other infrastructure within that particular, small part of the site. The scale of the change to the view would be minor, as the overall view composition would remain largely unaffected. The geographical area affected would be small, limited to the field gate, for a short amount of time. Any discernible effects would be short-term, leading to permanent change. Magnitude of change during construction is therefore negligible.	Slight views of completed development in the eastern part of the site would likely be available. Northern boundary vegetation would be retained and buffered. There may be some very slight perception of roofs of two-storey properties in the eastern part of the site, below the retained northern boundary hedgerow. The scale of change to the view would be very small – a very limited proportion of the view would change as a result of the development. The degree of loss and addition of features within the view would be minor. The nature of the view of the proposed development would be very partial. The geographical area affected would be very small – the changes would be experienced over the small area where a view is available from the field gate, away from the view direction of cyclists and road users travelling at speed on Fairyland Road. Elsewhere along the route, views of the site would likely not be available as a result of hedgerow along the road. The duration of change would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be negligible – a very minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements is likely to be difficult to discern.
06 – Mynydd Drumau, looking southeast toward the site	Partial views of construction activity within the upper, western and central parts of the site would be available. This would likely include the erection of protective fencing and temporary hoarding, the activities and movement of large vehicles and equipment during the construction period, the clearance of material and the stripping of land construction of access roads and other infrastructure. The scale of the change to the view would be small due to the small proportion of the view occupied by the development and the distance of the viewpoint from the site. The geographical area affected would include the bridleway nearby. Construction activities would be visible at eye level, at distance, away from the view direction of users on the bridleway. The duration of change would be short-medium term, leading to permanent change. The magnitude of change during the construction period is considered to be small.	Development in the western and central parts of the site would be visible from this location. This would include two-storey properties in the western field of the site, contained within the existing retained framework of trees, which would be strengthened through woodland planting in the northwest corner of the site. The hedgerows that run north-south and divide the site fields would be retained and incorporated into the landscape strategy. The central of these hedgerows would form part of a linear public open space. Streets would follow the site landform, running broadly east-west and following a similar visual alignment to the streets within Rhydding to the southwest. Trees on the southern site boundary would largely be retained. Development in the eastern and southeastern fields would likely not be discernible. The scale of change to the view would be small. There would be some loss of open fields and addition of built and other development on the site. The extent of change to the overall composition of the view would be small, occupying a small proportion of the view. The development would likely visually integrate with the existing settlement within Neath and Bryncoch, reflecting the familiar pattern and form of development on the valley floor and lower flanks. The area affected would include the bridleway nearby. The site would be visible at eye level, away from the main view direction of users on the bridleway. Available views would be long distance. The geographical area affected would therefore be small. The duration of changes would be permanent. The overall magnitude of change is considered to be small – a minor proportion of the angle of view is likely to be affected and the contribution of the changed elements would assimilate with the existing composition of the view.



Table Appendix 3.5: Visual effects

Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects <u>during construction</u>	Degree & nature of effects <u>at completion</u>
Residents of the settlement of Neath, at medium/ medium-long distance from the site, with oblique, filtered or partially screened views toward the site: moderate sensitivity.	01 - Wern Fraith, Neath, looking northeast toward the site 02 - Near Dwr y Felin School, looking northeast toward the site 03 – The Drive, west of Neath Abbey, looking northeast toward the site	During Construction: Small Completion: Small	Construction phase significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view over the short-term, combined with moderate sensitivity receptors.	Significance of effect would be moderate-minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view combined with moderate sensitivity receptors.
Pedestrians and footpaths users in the settlement of Neath, at medium/ medium-long distance from the site, with oblique, filtered or partially screened views toward the site: lesser sensitivity	01 - Wern Fraith, Neath, looking northeast toward the site 02 - Near Dwr y Felin School, looking northeast toward the site 03 – The Drive, west of Neath Abbey, looking northeast toward the site	During Construction: Small Completion: Small	Construction phase significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view over the short-term, combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.	Significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.
Footpath, bridleway and National Cycle Route users at medium/ medium-long/ long distance from the site with oblique, filtered or partially screened views toward the site: lesser sensitivity	04- Gnoll Country Park, looking northwest toward the site 05 - Fairyland Road, looking northwest toward the site 06 – Mynydd Drumau, looking southeast toward the site	During Construction: Small or negligible Completion: Small or negligible	Construction phase significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small or negligible visual intrusion in the existing view over the short-term, combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.	Significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small or negligible visual intrusion in the existing view combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.



Visual Receptors & Sensitivity	Reference Viewpoints	Magnitude of change	Degree & nature of effects <u>during construction</u>	Degree & nature of effects <u>at completion</u>
Users of local roads in and near to the settlement of Neath at medium-long distance from the site with oblique, filtered or partially screened views toward the site: lesser sensitivity. Vehicular users on residential streets in the settlement of Neath at medium distance from the site with oblique, filtered or partially screened views toward the site: lesser sensitivity	03 – The Drive, west of Neath Abbey, looking northeast toward the site 05 - Fairyland Road, looking northwest toward the site 01 - Wern Fraith, Neath, looking northeast toward the site 02 - Near Dwr y Felin School, looking northeast toward the site	During Construction: Small or negligible Completion: Small or negligible	Construction phase significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view over the short-term, combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.	Significance of effect would be minor, adverse due to small visual intrusion in the existing view combined with lesser sensitivity receptors.

