

Appendix 5.4 Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character

- 5.1 Each of the following assessment tables discusses one landscape receptor, starting with the site itself, and continuing with relevant LCAs and LANDMAP aspect areas, as listed in Table 5.4.1. Receptors are listed in order of distance from the site.
- 5.2 LCAs are illustrated on Figure 5.5. LANDMAP visual and sensory aspect areas are illustrated on Figure 5.6e.
- 5.3 Effects arising from construction activity have only been assessed for receptors within 5 km of the site.

Table 5.4.1 Landscape receptors

Group	Receptor
N/a	The landscape of the site.
Bridgend LCAs	Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands (Bridgend LCA 6)
	Ogmore Valley Floor and Lower Slopes (Bridgend LCA 7)
	Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes (Bridgend LCA 5)
	Ogmore Forest and Surrounding Uplands (Bridgend LCA 8)
	Llynfi and Garw Uplands and Forestry (Bridgend LCA 7)
	Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry (Bridgend LCA 1)
	Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges (Bridgend LCA 9)
Neath Port Talbot LCAs	Mynydd y Gelli (NPT LCA 15)
	Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna (NPT LCA 11)
	Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg (NPT LCA 18)
	Foel Fawr (NPT LCA 14)
Rhondda Cynon Taf LANDMAP VS aspect areas	St Gwynno (CYNONVS580)
	Cefn y Rhondda (CYNONVS738)

Table 5.4.2 Effects on the landscape of the site

Baseline Description	The site is described in full at paragraph 5.39 onwards.
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The site comprises open moorland, influenced by the presence of the communications mast and nearby wind turbines, but essentially undeveloped and quiet. It is a large scale landscape, with limited topographical variety across the site. Overall the susceptibility of the site to change of the nature proposed is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The site is located within a locally designated SLA and its upland moorland land cover is typical of the designated area. The site has some recreational value in that it is crossed by public footpaths and bridleways. The site landscape is judged to be valued at a local level.</p>
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Adverse effects on landscape character would arise from the presence of construction activity forming an influence on site character. The works will entail the removal of existing semi-natural landcover and introduction of disturbance including excavation and vehicle movements. The scale of landscape change is judged to be large.</p> <p>Geographical extent of site affected</p> <p>Construction activity will extend across the locations where turbines will be built, and the areas between them. No disturbance will occur across the southern and western edges of the site. The geographical extent of the effect will be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction effects would be short term (approximately 12 months) and partly reversible, in that much of the site will be restored once construction activities cease.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, due to the scale of disturbance during construction works, and the change this will cause to the open upland character of the site, and taking account of duration and reversibility, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) .
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Direct operational effects will arise as a result of the introduction of seven wind turbines into this upland landscape. The change in character will be smaller in scale to the north-west, where the influence of the Llynfi Afan turbines is strongest. The scale of landscape change is judged to be large.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The operational scheme would occupy part of the site, while the change in character would be experienced across most of the site area. The geographical extent would be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p>

	Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible , in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.
Significance at operation	Overall, considering the scale and duration of the changes, the level of effect is judged to be major (significant) on the landscape of the site.

Table 5.4.3. Effects on Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands (Bridgend LCA 6)

Baseline Description	Located to the north east of Bridgend County Borough, this LCA forms an exposed plateau sitting above the Garw and Ogmore valleys. The area is characterised by an open and remote landscape, comprised of unenclosed uplands, a sparse settlement pattern and limited woodland cover. The topography affords long range views across the Brecon Beacons to the north with intervisibility available with adjacent valley settlements.	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	CYNONGL033 (Upper Ogwr Fawr Valley) CYNONGL034 (Upper Gawr Valley)
	Landscape Habitats	CYNONLH007 (Acid Grassland)
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS622 (Mynydd Llangeinwyr) CYNONVS349 (Mynydd Llangeknwyr)
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL215 (H05 Unenclosed Uplands)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Areas)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>When combined with the distinctive plateau landform, the intervisibility with adjacent valley settlements dictates that this LCA is susceptible to change. The landscape also exhibits an element of remoteness and degree of exposure. Distant views of wind farms in adjacent areas are available, as well as the influence of nearer wind farms and a number of man-made structures such as the telecommunications masts on the high summit of Werfa. Panoramic views are noted as a characteristic of this LCA. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape value</p> <p>The landscape of the LCA is locally designated as a SLA in virtue of its scenic quality. Formal recreational opportunities are provided by a network of PROW and expanses of Open Access Land. The equivalent LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area has a high overall evaluation (regional value), and the Historic Landscape aspect area has an outstanding overall evaluation (national value). The landscape overall is therefore judged to be valued at a regional level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Adverse effects on landscape character would arise from the presence of construction machinery and disturbance as an incongruous element. This will include establishment and operation of a construction compound, excavation of borrow pit(s), track construction, excavation and construction of turbine foundations, development of the substation, control building and ESF, and use of large cranes to erect turbines. Features including lighting, fencing, signage and increased human activity will result in a change to the perceived character across the site area. Effects would be of large scale due to the contrast with key characteristics of remoteness.</p>	

	<p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The extent of the change in the baseline character of Mynydd Llangeinwyr Uplands LCA would be limited to the northern section of the LCA within the site, though the activity and disturbance would be visible from elevated land to the south. The construction of the Proposed Development would only directly affect a small part of this LCA as evidenced by the ZTV, resulting in a small geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a relatively short term period (around approximately 12 months). Once construction activity ceases, temporary features will be removed and the ground restored, and changes are therefore reversible in nature.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, considering the scale and duration of the changes, and the value placed on the landscape, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) .
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The turbines, tracks and ancillary structures will be a new feature in this LCA, in an area of presently open upland grassland. The presence of the turbines will be apparent from across much of this LCA, although there are areas to the south where they will not be seen. The Proposed Development would generally be seen in northward views, in the context of existing man-made structures in the surrounding landscape, including Llynfi Afan and the communications mast, but would be more apparent in the view, and could draw further attention to this element of local character. (see Viewpoint 10). The scale of the effect would be large.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The Proposed Development would physically affect a small part of the LCA, though the changes in character would extend further south along the upland ridge, affecting perhaps half of the LCA. The geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	Overall, considering the scale, extent and duration of the change to the baseline, and the value placed on the resource, the level of effect is judged to be major (significant) .

Table 5.4.4. Effect on Ogmore Valley Floor and Lower Slopes (Bridgend LCA 7)

Baseline Description	Characterised by the steep sided valley system comprising the two branches of the River Ogmore, this LCA exhibits strong visual and cultural links between the wider valley landscape and the surrounding uplands. This LCA encompasses the settled valley floor with areas linked by busy roads. The river channels cut deeply into the surrounding coalfield plateau with upper slopes defined by rough grassland grazed by sheep.	
	Geological Landscape	Not within study area

LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS148 (Cwm ogwr) CYNONVS357 (Mynydd Ton, Bwllfa, William Meyrick) CYNONVS550 (Mynydd y Aber)
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL382 (H08 Cwm Ogwr Fawr) CYNONHL582 (H09 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 1)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL023 (Llynfi Garw and Ogmore Valleys) CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Area)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The steep sided valley exhibits some topographic variety, especially in the outcrops at Craig Ogwr. The surrounding skylines are a key contributor to local character, and the intervisibility with adjoining areas forms a key characteristic of this LCA. There are already wind turbines at Pant y Wal along part of these skylines, which do not strongly affect character. The valley floors are intensively developed with busy roads, but woodland reduces the impact of this and there is a strong sense of place. Susceptibility is judged to be high.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the Cwm Ogwr Visual and Sensory aspect area is low, though higher for valley slopes. This part of the LCA is surrounded by, but not included within, an SLA. The valley forms the setting for settlements and has some scenic quality. It is judged to be valued at a local level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity would be barely perceptible from within the valley, since the site is over the brow of the ridge. Only the final stage of turbine installation is likely to be seen, involving cranes and part-built turbines on the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Construction activity (turbine erection) would be visible from parts of this LCA, between Ogmore Vale and Nant-y-moel, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), though the visible stage of turbine erection will only be a few weeks. The changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) due to the majority of construction activity not being visible from this LCA.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Some of the turbines will be seen on the northern skyline of the valley, appearing as large structures on a currently open skyline, in the same visual context as the Craig Ogwr outcrops. In part of the valley they will be opposite to the Pant y Wal turbines above Price Town. The ZTV indicates the availability of views from the</p>	

	<p>corridor of the A4061 and from rising landform south of Ogmore Vale. The scale of change in this part of the valley will be large.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible from several areas between Lewistown and Nant-y-Moel, an extensive section of this LCA within 5 km, although the valley floors are less affected. The geographical extent would be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the scale and extent of the change, and the relationship with other wind turbines on the skyline, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) on the landscape in the northern part of the LCA, including the areas around Nant-y-moel and Price Town, though reducing to minor or negligible further south.</p>

Table 5.4.5. Effect on Garw Valley Floor and Lower Slopes (Bridgend LCA 5)

Baseline Description	<p>This LCA comprises the settled valley floor and lower slopes of the Garw Valley to the north of Bridgend. The river channels cut deeply into the surrounding coalfield plateau with upper slopes defined by rough grassland grazed by sheep. Linear settlements stretch along the valley bottom, overlooked by elevated uplands on either side. The landscape offers strong intervisibility with the surrounding uplands and heavily wooded uplands above.</p>	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS148 (Cwm ogwr) CYNONVS349 (Mynydd Llangeknwyr)
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL346 (H06 Cwm Garw)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL023 (Llynfi Garw and Ogmore Valleys) CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Areas)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The steep sided valley exhibits some topographic variety. The surrounding skylines are a key contributor to local character, and the intervisibility with adjoining upland areas forms a key characteristic of this LCA. Llynfi Afan Wind Farm can be seen along parts of these skylines, and do not strongly affect character. The published LCA description for the LCA highlights the strong intervisibility with surrounding undeveloped uplands, enabling views to higher ground and introducing a sense of remoteness. The valley floors are intensively developed with busy roads, but woodland reduces the impact of this and there is a strong sense of place. Susceptibility is judged to be high.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the Cwm Ogwr Visual and Sensory aspect area is low, though higher for valley slopes. This part of the LCA is surrounded by, but not included within, an SLA. The valley forms the setting for settlements and has some scenic quality. It is judged to be valued at a local level.</p>	

<p>Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction</p>	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity would be barely perceptible from within the valley, since the site is over the brow of the ridge. Only the final stage of turbine installation is likely to be seen, involving cranes and part-built turbines on the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Construction activity (turbine erection only) would be visible from parts of this LCA, north of Pont y Rhyl and mainly on the western slope, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), though the visible stage of turbine erection will only be a few weeks. The changes will be reversible in nature.</p>
<p>Significance of landscape effect at construction</p>	<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) due to the majority of construction activity not being visible from this LCA.</p>
<p>Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation</p>	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Some of the turbines will be seen on the northern skyline of the valley, appearing as large structures in the context of, though appearing larger than, the Llynfi Afan turbines. The turbines will be set further back from the brow of the ridge, in comparison with the Ogmore Valley, and turbines will be less visible. The introduction of the Proposed Development would result in a medium scale of effect.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible from parts of this LCA north of Pont y Rhyl and mainly on the western slope. Visibility from the settled valley floor is likely to be limited. There may be more distant visibility from the area near Bettws. The geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
<p>Significance of landscape effect at operation</p>	<p>Overall, considering the scale and extent of the change, and the appearance of the turbines on skyline, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) on the northern section of this LCA around Blaengarw, reducing to minor (not significant) further south.</p>

Table 5.4.6. Effects on Ogmore Forest and Surrounding Uplands LCA (Bridgend LCA 8)

<p>Baseline Description</p>	<p>Characterised by forestry plantations (including the Ogmore Forest), this LCA forms a highly undulating plateau and ridge landscape dissected by steeply incised valleys. Agricultural land is characterised by sheep grazing on upland slopes. The sense of remoteness is exacerbated by the largely unsettled and inaccessible nature of the landscape.</p>	
<p>LANDMAP aspect areas</p>	<p>Geological Landscape</p>	<p>Not within study area</p>
	<p>Landscape Habitats</p>	<p>Not within study area</p>

assessed within this LCA	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS142 (Mynydd y Glyn) CYNONVS357 (Mynydd Ton, Bwllfa, William Meyrick) CYNONVS496 (Mynydd Maesteg) CYNONVS550 (Mynydd y Aber)
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL215 (H05 Unenclosed Uplands) CYNONHL582 (H09 Ogmore Valley Agricultural 1) CYNONHL633 (H10 Ogmore Forest)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Areas)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility Panoramic views and a sense of remoteness and are noted as characteristic of this LCA, suggesting a degree of sensitivity to development outside its boundaries. There are human features in the form of the Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest Wind Farm, as well as conifer plantations. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value The overall evaluations for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect areas are moderate, except CYNONVS550 (Mynydd y Aber) which is high, and the Historic Landscape aspect area has an outstanding overall evaluation. The area north of Ogmore Forest is part of a SLA designation, including the Pant y Wal turbines. The area is valued at a regional level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect Construction activity on the site will be visible from the higher ground, including vehicle movements, disturbance, cranes and turbine parts. At a distance of 2-4km this would not be a substantial feature in the view. The scale of the change would be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent Construction activity related to the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible across the higher ground of Mynydd yr Aber and Mynydd William Meyrick, and the slopes above Price Town. The geographical extent will be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility Construction will occur over a relatively short term period (around approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, considering the scale of the change in outlook from this LCA, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) .	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect The Proposed Development would introduce seven wind turbines on the north-western skyline where they will be seen in front of, and appearing larger than, the Llynfi Afan turbines. The Proposed Development will not introduce turbines into a currently undeveloped part of the skyline, and will not be so close as to affect the panoramic outlook from these hills. The scale of the change would be medium.</p>	

	<p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible from across the higher ground of Mynydd yr Aber and Mynydd William Meyrick, and the north of the LCA around the rising valley sides at Price Town. Pockets of visibility also stretch along the northern boundary of Ogmore Forest, though these views will be screened by trees. The geographical extent would be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the scale and extent of the effect, and the value placed on this area, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) on the landscape in the northern part of the LCA, including Mynydd William Meyrick and the slopes above Price Town, though reducing to minor or negligible south and east of Mynydd yr Aber.</p>

Table 5.4.7. Effects on Llynfi and Garw Uplands and Forestry (Bridgend LCA 3)

Baseline Description	<p>The LCA is characterised by a strongly rolling upland landscape with fast flowing streams and waterfalls feeding the Llynfi and Garw river valleys below. Rough moorland sheep grazing with extensive tracts of mature forestry typify the upland landscape, with enclosed semi-improved pastures on lower slopes. Limited to a handful of scattered farmsteads on lower slopes, the sparse settlement pattern contributes to a strong sense of remoteness and bleakness.</p>	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS813 (Garw and Caerau Forest)
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL224 (H04 Mynydd Caerau and Garw Forest)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Area)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The published LCA description indicates that the area exhibits a strong sense of remoteness, affording panoramic views with strong visual connections to the adjacent Llynfi and Garw valleys. Extensive conifer plantations limit views in places, and lend a human influence. There is a degree of topographical variety across the area. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is moderate and for Historic and Cultural Landscape it is high (Garth Hill). The LCA does not lie within an SLA designation. It is not rare, but it does have recreational value through the network of PRowS. The landscape is therefore judged to be valued at a local level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity will be theoretically visible from within this LCA, though it will be seen as a minor element in wider panoramic views. The scale of effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p>	

	<p>Conifer plantations across this LCA will reduce the availability of views of construction activity to locations close to the site, such as the summit of Mynydd Caerau. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, considering the scale, extent and duration of the change, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) .
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development would introduce seven wind turbines on the north-eastern skyline where they will be seen in the context of, and appearing larger than, the Llynfi Afan turbines. The Proposed Development will not introduce turbines into a currently undeveloped part of the skyline, and will not be so close as to reduce the panoramic outlook from these hills. The scale of the change would be medium.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Although theoretical visibility is indicated across much of the eastern part of the LCA, conifer plantations will reduce the availability of views on the ground. Clear views of the turbines will be experienced from the summit of Mynydd Caerau. Further afield there are some hills, such as Moel Cynhordy, that will enable views. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	Overall, considering the scale and extent of the predicted change in outlook, the level of effect is judged to be moderate (significant) on the landscape in the northern-most part of the LCA, around the summit of Mynydd Caerau, though reducing to minor or negligible elsewhere.

Table 5.4.8. Effects on Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry (Bridgend LCA 1)

Baseline Descriptions	Lying to the east of Maesteg, this LCA forms a rolling upland landscape crossed by a number of fast-flowing springs and streams. Pastoral land use characterises the wider landscape, with a strong pattern of irregular fields enclosed by hedgerows and stone walls. Coniferous forestry plantations on some slopes contrast with the linear broadleaved woodlands located on valley sides. Settlement is dominated by the nucleated hill-top village of Llangynwyd although the intervisibility with Maesteg forms a string feature of the northern half of the LCA.	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS473 (Mynydd Baedan)
	Historic Landscape	Not within study area
	Cultural Landscape	Not within study area

Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The nature of the topography affords panoramic views across the landscape, though much of the northern skyline is now characterised by wind turbines, including Llynfi Afan and Pen y Cymoedd. The area retains a sense of tranquillity despite the proximity of the settlement of Maesteg. There is some topographical variety, though mostly this is a simple landscape of upland fringe farming with large fields. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is high (Mynydd Baedan). South of Maesteg this LCA is within an SLA. It is crossed by a number of PRoWs as well as the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk. The LCA is therefore valued at a regional level.</p>
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce further turbines into the north-eastern view. The turbines will be seen alongside Llynfi Afan, which will appear both in front of and behind the Proposed Development, forming a cluster of development on high ground. Turbines will not be introduced into a currently undeveloped part of the skyline, and will not be so close as to affect the wider panoramic outlook from these hills. The scale of the change will be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the proposal across most of this LCA south of Maesteg, as well as from Rhiw Tor Cymry further north. Most of this area has open views, and the geographical extent is judged to be large.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the scale of the perceived change in outlook from this LCA, in terms of distance and the relationship with Llynfi Afan, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>

Table 5.4.9. Effects on Hirwaun Common and Surrounding Ridges (Bridgend LCA 9)

Baseline Description	<p>This LCA forms a strongly undulating landscape with prominent open ridgelines. Strong intervisibility exists between ridges with views available to the uplands to the north. The topography of the area is also influenced by the incised river valleys which grade to a low-lying valley bottom. Tracts of open common land contrast with surrounding enclosed farmland, with infrastructure dominated by the route of the B4280 which dissects the wider landscape.</p>	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	CYNONVS436 (Mynydd Gaer)
	Historic Landscape	Not within study area
	Cultural Landscape	Not within study area

<p>Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)</p>	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>An undulating landscape with semi-natural upland grassland, though not without human influence. The availability of ridge-top views creates a sense of exposure which contrasts with the enclosure of the lower valley slopes. Strong intervisibility over large areas indicates sensitivity to development outside its boundaries. Northward views include a number of existing wind farms including Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest and Llynfi Afan. Within this is the Taff Ely/Mynydd Portref group of wind turbines. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is high. Mynydd y Gaer is included within an SLA, along with part of the Ogmore Valley to the north and the wind turbines to the east. The area has some scenic quality and a number of PROWs, including the Ogmore Ridgeway Walk. It is valued at a regional level.</p>
<p>Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation</p>	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development will introduce further turbines into the northward view. The turbines will be seen in the context of Llynfi Afan, which will appear further west, forming a cluster of development on high ground. Turbines will not be introduced into a currently undeveloped part of the skyline, and will not be so close as to affect the wider panoramic outlook from these hills. The scale of the change will be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the proposal across the northern edge of this LCA, comprising the flanks of Mynydd y Gaer. Most of this area has open views, and the geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
<p>Significance of landscape effect at operation</p>	<p>Overall, considering the scale of the perceived change in outlook from this LCA, in terms of distance and the relationship with Llynfi Afan, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>

Table 5.4.10. Effects on Mynydd y Gelli (NPT LCA 15)

<p>Baseline Description</p>	<p>The published assessment for this area describes how a dramatic topography and simple landcover creates an imposing presence. It is an exposed and open landscape distinct from closed and complex adjacent areas, and is influenced by the A4107. This area is directly adjacent to the site, and forms a westward continuation of the Werfa ridge.</p>	
<p>LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA</p>	<p>Geological Landscape</p>	<p>Not within study area</p>
	<p>Landscape Habitats</p>	<p>Not within study area</p>
	<p>Visual and Sensory</p>	<p>NPTVS547 (Mynydd y Gelli)</p>
	<p>Historic Landscape</p>	<p>NPTHLO26 (Afan Wallia)</p>

	Cultural Landscape	NPTCL046 (Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The nature of the topography creates a sense of exposure which contrasts with the enclosure of the valley below. Llynfi Afan wind farm occupies this area, introducing human features into the landscape, alongside the mast at Werfa. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is high, and for Historic Landscape it is outstanding. The LCA is within an SLA. It is valued at a regional level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Most of the LCA is at lower elevation than the site, so that the majority of the ground disturbance and construction activity will not be visible. Construction activity may still be perceived as a result of noise, and views of taller structures such as cranes. The scale of the effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Construction activities are only likely to be perceived along the eastern part of the LCA where it is close to the site. Geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a relatively short term period (around approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	<p>Overall, considering the scale of the change in character perceived from this LCA, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be clearly visible at short range from within this LCA. However, most of the LCA is already occupied by Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, and the Proposed Development will be seen in this context. The change in character will be limited and the scale of the effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent of site affected</p> <p>The proposed Development will be visible from across this LCA, as indicated by the ZTV, and the geographical extent will be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the limited change in character that will occur, due to the existing presence of wind turbines, extent of the effect, and the value placed on this area, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>	

Table 5.4.11. Effects on Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna (NPT LCA 11)

Baseline Description	This LCA comprises deeply incised valleys with sinuous alignments, extending from the edge of Port Talbot up to Blaengwynfi on the Afan. The valley bottom has been significantly modified by past mining activities, with settlements and features, such as viaducts and aqueducts, relating to this past. A mosaic landscape, the valley bottom contains substantial deciduous tree cover. Substantial recreational use within the valley, especially Afan Forest Park.	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	NPTVS936 (Cwm Afan and Cwm Pelenna)
	Historic Landscape	NPTHL045 (Upper Afan Valley)
	Cultural Landscape	NPTCL031 (Cynonville, Dyffryn, Cymer, Croeserw)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The combination of the valley landform and existing vegetation results in a degree of visual containment within the valley, limiting intervisibility. Despite the presence of the A4107 running the length of the Afan Valley, and extensive settlement, the LCA exhibits a sense of remoteness due to its upland context. The surrounding skylines are a key contributor to local character, and the Llynfi Afan turbines appear on this skyline above Blaengwynfi and Croeserw. Susceptibility is judged to be high.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the Cwm Ogwr Visual and Sensory aspect area is moderate. The SLA at Mynydd y Gelli abuts this area but does not overlap. The valley forms the setting for settlements, and has some recreational value. It is valued at a local level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity is unlikely to be perceived from this area, as the site is located over the brow of the valley sides. Only the final stage of turbine installation is likely to be seen, involving cranes and part-built turbines on the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Construction activity (turbine erection) would be visible from small parts of this LCA around Croeserw and Blaengwynfi, resulting in a small geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), though the visible stage of turbine erection will only be a few weeks. The changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) due to the majority of construction activity not being visible from this LCA.	
Nature of Effect	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Turbines will be visible on the south-eastern skyline of the valley, appearing behind the existing Llynfi Afan turbines. The Proposed Development will appear</p>	

(magnitude) at operation	<p>as part of this existing wind farm in views from this valley (see Viewpoint 6). As such they will not alter the existing characteristics of the valley, and the scale of the effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent of site affected</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from two small areas at Blaengwynfi and at Croeserw. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the limited predicted change, largely due to the presence of Llynfi Afan, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>

Table 5.4.12. Effects on Mynydd Resolfen, Craig-y-Llyn & Mynydd Ynyscorrwg LCA (NPT LCA 18)

Baseline Description	<p>This LCA forms an expansive upland plateau separating the Afan and Neath Valleys, rising to 600m AOD. Extensive coniferous woodland cover acts as distinct element in the adjacent valleys, and there are large areas of open moorland and grazed upland. Evidence of human history from prehistory to the Industrial Revolution, and there are extensive geological SSSI designations primarily to the north of the area.</p>	
LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this LCA	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Visual and Sensory	NPTVS962 (Mynydd Nant y bar / Mynydd Blaenafan)
	Historic Landscape	NPTHLO26 (Afan Wallia)
	Cultural Landscape	NPTCL046 (Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The LCA exhibits a sense of isolation and wildness within the areas of open ground, exacerbated by the lack of roads or settlement. Extensive conifer plantations lend human influence, which is emphasised by the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, which occupies most of this area and extends eastward. Extensive views are likely to be limited, and susceptibility is judged to be low.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is moderate and for Historic Landscape it is outstanding. The area is important for recreation, with St Iltyd's Walk and the Celtic Way providing access, and significant tracts of Open Access Land. The majority of the LCA is not designated, though its north-west fringes are included in an adjacent SLA. It is valued at a regional level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude)	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>There will be physical effects in this LCA, including felling and track widening along the access route. This will be similar to the type of forestry operations</p>	

during construction	<p>common in this area and will not be perceived as a change in character. Views of construction activity on the site are likely to be very limited due to forest cover. The scale of the effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The track widening and felling will take place along a narrow strip around 3.5 km long in the south-east of the area. Effects arising from construction works on site will be limited to locations very close to the site itself. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at construction	<p>Overall, considering the scale, extent and duration of the change, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development would introduce seven wind turbines on the southern skyline where they will be seen in the context of the Llynfi Afan turbines. Views of these turbines are likely to be glimpsed through the trees, rather than affecting open views. From further into the LCA, the turbines will be seen in the context of the Pen y Cymoedd turbines closer at hand. The scale of the change would be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across large upland parts of the LCA, conifer plantations will substantially reduce the availability of views on the ground. Clear views of the turbines will be experienced from limited areas of open ground, including the small hill above Glyncorwg and the Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the scale and extent of the predicted change in outlook, due to the existing presence of wind farms and the forest cover, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant).</p>

Table 5.4.13. Effects on Foel Fawr (NPT LCA 14)

Baseline Description	<p>This LCA comprises a small tract of coniferous woodland on a dominant topographical feature, which contributes to enclosure in Afan Valley. Woodland creates an abrupt edge against open ground to the south-west, and forms a significant backdrop to the settlement of Croeserw. There is extensive public access across the area via numerous paths and tracks.</p>	
LANDMAP aspect areas	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area

assessed within this LCA	Visual and Sensory	NPTVS465 (Foel Fawr)
	Historic Landscape	None identified
	Cultural Landscape	NPTCL046 (Eastern High Lands: Resolven Mountain)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>The LCA is dominated by coniferous forestry, which allows access but limits outward views. It is a simple landscape with limited naturalness. The area has a strong relationship with the adjacent settled valleys. Susceptibility is judged to be low.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is low, though for cultural landscape it is high. The area is valued for recreation and for its contribution to settlement setting, but is not designated. It is valued at a local level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity on the site is unlikely to be visible from this LCA, due to distance, topography and intervening trees. The scale of change is judged to be imperceptible.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Views of construction activity will be glimpsed between trees. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a relatively short term period (around approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	<p>Overall, considering the scale of the change in character perceived from this LCA, the level of effect is judged to be negligible (not significant).</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible around 4-5 km to the east, though the availability of views is likely to be limited by the density of conifer plantation across the area. The Proposed Development will be seen in the context of Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, which will appear in front. The scale of change in landscape character is judged to be imperceptible.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across most of this small LCA, though this will be reduced by forestry. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the limited change in character that will occur, the level of effect is judged to be negligible (not significant).</p>	

Table 5.4.14 Effects on St Gwynno Aspect Area (CYNONVS580)

Baseline Description	An area of exposed upland wooded plateau, this aspect area extends across high ground between Abercynon in the east and the County boundary in the west. It is a large scale landscape of undulating topography with ridges and valleys creating a variety of enclosure. It is dominated by extensive conifer plantations, interspersed with small areas of rough grazing. Outward views are limited by trees, and are mainly available from higher open areas.	
Other LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this area	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL687 (Rhondda Uplands) CYNONHL805 (Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Areas)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>This landscape has some topographical variety, and is generally large in scale. Conifer forest lends a human influence across the area. This landscape also hosts the eastern part of Pen y Cymoedd wind farm, as well as the Maerdy and Mynydd Bwllfa schemes. Naturalness is therefore relatively low, and intervisibility is limited by the dense forest cover. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is moderate, for Cultural Landscape it is high and for Historic Landscape it is outstanding. Parts of this landscape are within SLA designations, and the area is a recreational resource. It is valued at a regional level.</p>	
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>There will be physical effects in this LCA, including felling and track widening along the access route. This will be similar to the type of forestry operations common in this area and will not be perceived as a change in character. Construction activity on site may be visible from the southern edge of the LCA, around the summit of Mynydd Ty-isaf. However this will be relatively distant, and the scale of the effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The track widening and felling will take place along a narrow strip around 3.5 km long in the west of the area. Effects arising from construction works on site will be limited to locations very close to the site itself. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Construction will occur over a short term period (approximately approximately 12 months), and the changes will be reversible in nature.</p>	
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, considering the scale, extent and duration of the change, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) .	
Nature of Effect	Scale of effect	

(magnitude) at operation	<p>The Proposed Development would introduce seven wind turbines on the southern skyline where they will be seen in the context of the Llynfi Afan turbines. Views of these turbines are likely to be glimpsed through the trees, rather than affecting open views. From further north and east in the aspect area, the turbines will be seen in the context of the Pen y Cymoedd, Maerdy and Mynydd Bwllfa turbines closer at hand. The scale of the change would be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The ZTV indicates theoretical visibility across large upland parts of the aspect area. Conifer plantations will substantially reduce the availability of views on the ground, particularly further away from the site. Clear views of the turbines will be experienced from limited areas of open ground, including the ridge above Cwm Dar which is the closest part of the area to the Proposed Development. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	<p>Overall, considering the scale and extent of the predicted change in outlook, and due to the existing presence of wind farms and the forest cover, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) for areas closer to the site, reducing to negligible elsewhere.</p>

Table 5.4.15 Effects on Cefn y Rhondda Aspect Area (CYNONVS738)

Baseline Description	<p>This aspect area includes upland either side of the Rhondda Fawr, comprising ridges and adjacent upper valley sides. It shows a typical upland character of rough grazing, expansive views and exposure. A mixture of urban and upland influences, is apparent, with views across the built up Rhondda Valleys. There are some accessible attractive views. The area hosts wind farms including Ferndale and Maerdy, and the single turbine at Bwllfa Farm.</p>	
Other LANDMAP aspect areas assessed within this area	Geological Landscape	Not within study area
	Landscape Habitats	Not within study area
	Historic Landscape	CYNONHL687 (Rhondda Uplands) CYNONHL805 (Rhondda Fawr Enclosed Valley Side)
	Cultural Landscape	CYNONCL056 (Designated Landscape Areas)
Nature of Receptor (sensitivity)	<p>Susceptibility</p> <p>This landscape shows topographical variety, and is generally large in scale. It is open and exposed with long views, suggesting susceptibility to outside influences. The area overlooks urban development, though it largely comprises semi-natural land cover. The area hosts wind farms including Ferndale and Maerdy, and the single turbine at Bwllfa Farm. Susceptibility is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Landscape Value</p> <p>The overall evaluation for the LANDMAP Visual and Sensory aspect area is moderate, for Cultural Landscape it is high and for Historic Landscape it is outstanding. Small parts of this landscape are within SLA designations. The area</p>	

	is a recreational resource and forms the setting for the adjacent settlements. It is valued at a regional level.
Nature of Effect (magnitude) during construction	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>Construction activity will be theoretically visible from within this aspect area, though it will be seen as a minor element in wider panoramic views. The scale of effect is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>Clear views of construction activity will be limited to locations close to the site, mainly restricted to the ridge of Mynydd Maendy. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at construction	Overall, considering the scale, extent and duration of the change, the level of effect is judged to be minor (not significant) .
Nature of Effect (magnitude) at operation	<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>The Proposed Development will be visible in views to the west from this aspect area. It will appear in the context of Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, and will appear larger and closer than the existing turbines. Close range views of the Proposed Development will be available from the ridge of Mynydd Maendy. From the main section of the aspect area, north of Rhondda Fawr, the Proposed Development will be seen across the settled valley and will be set well back from the valley edge. The scale of the change is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent</p> <p>The Proposed Development will theoretically be visible from across much of the main section of the aspect area, north of Rhondda Fawr, and from closer parts of the southern section. The geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility</p> <p>Changes to landscape character would be long term (35 years) and reversible, in that turbines and other above-ground structures can be removed.</p>
Significance of landscape effect at operation	Overall, considering the scale and extent of the predicted change in outlook, the level of effect on the character of this aspect area is judged to be minor (not significant) .