

Appendix 5.5 Assessment of Effects on Views at Representative Viewpoints

- 5.1 The assessment of effects on views has been undertaken with reference to the representative viewpoints listed in Table 5.5.1, which are considered representative of the range views that are available to receptors in the study area. A detailed assessment of effects at each of these viewpoints is presented below, and has been informed by the visualisations presented in Figures 5.12 to 5.29.
- 5.2 Effects arising from construction activity have only been assessed for receptors within 5 km of the site.

Table 5.5.1 Viewpoint Locations

No.	Name	X	Y	Distance (km)	Reason for Selection
1	A4107, Hairpin Bend	291709	195676	0.9 km	Represents sequential views gained from the A4107, and recreational receptors.
2	Mynydd Llangeinwyr	291951	193247	1.2 km	Representative of views from the highest hill in the Bridgend County Borough area.
3	Craig Ogwr	293803	194554	1.3 km	Representative of views experienced by recreational receptors.
4	Parc Calon Lan, Blaengarw	289854	193095	1.8 km	Representative of views from community recreational receptor.
5	Ogmore Terrace, Nant-y-moel	293550	192759	1.9km	Representative of views from residential street in Nant-y-moel Conservation Area.
6	Caroline Street, Blaengwynfi	289242	196548	2.2km	Represents views from the settlement of Blaengwynfi.
7	Mynydd William Meyrick	295215	192726	3.1 km	Representative of views from high point in the county borough and Open Access land.
8	Meadow Street, Pontycymer	290481	191472	3.2 km	Representative of views experienced by residents of Pontycymer.
9	Cwmparc	295537	196197	3.6 km	Represents views from settlement of Cwmparc
10	Pen y Foel	291900	189554	4.8 km	Representative of views gained by walkers to this location.
11	A4061, Hendre'r Mynydd	292316	202014	7.2 km	Represents views experienced by road users and visitors to the Forest.

12	Mynydd Bach	283587	191195	7.7 km	Representative of views experienced from walking routes west of Maesteg.
13	Penrhys	300261	194560	7.8 km	Representative of views gained from the settlement of Penrhys and similar views experienced by walkers.
14	Ogwr Ridgeway	284591	187303	9.5 km	Representative of views gained by road users and walkers on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk.
15	Bridgend Circular Walk	291189	182879	11.5 km	Panoramic view of recreational receptor and principal access road / gateway to the Ogmores and Garw valleys.
16	Ergyd Isaf	279463	188684	12.5 km	Represents views gained from local hill summit.
17	B4287 East of Neath	277723	195861	12.8 km	Represents sequential views experienced by road users and similar views gained by walkers and those on horseback.
18	Cadair Fawr	297792	212317	18.5 km	Representative of views from the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Table 5.5.2 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 1: A4107, Hairpin Bend

Grid reference	Figure number	Direction of views
291709E, 195676N	Figure 5.12	190°
Receptor type	Distance from site (m)	Approximate elevation
Transport	0.9 km	516 m
Description of baseline views: Representative of sequential views experienced by transport receptors on the A4107, and by recreational users parking at the car park to access the forest to the north. The view looks out across rolling elevated moorland that forms the horizon in the southward view, with the carriageway of the A4107 in the immediate foreground. The turbines at Llynfi Afan (operational) are prominent in the fore and middle-ground, with the telecommunications masts at Werfa visible against the skyline. To the east there are views down into the head of the valley, with Blaengwynfi visible beyond forestry. In other directions views are screened by topography.		
Sensitivity of receptor		
Susceptibility of visual receptor: Representative of views experienced by road users, and people parking to access the footpaths and cycle routes within the forest to the north. Receptor susceptibility is assessed as medium .		
Value of View: The view is valued at a local level as a roadside viewpoint.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
Scale of effect: Construction activity, including cranes erecting the turbines, would be visible from this location and occupy a large section of the immediate middle-ground of the view. Closer at hand, construction works on the access route through the forest to the north will be visible, with construction traffic passing this point. This would result in a large scale of change in the view.		

Grid reference	Figure number	Direction of views
<p>Geographical extent: These visual effects and the change in view would be experienced by people on the local section of the A4107, and not along other parts of the road. This is considered to be small in geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 1 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect: The proposed wind farm will increase the number of turbines visible on the skyline and will be clearly visible, though seen in the context of, and partly behind, the Llynfi Afan turbines. The hubs and blades of six turbines would be partially or wholly visible on the skyline, across a foreground of open rolling moorland. The scale of visual change would be large at operation.</p> <p>Geographical extent: These visual effects and the change in view would be experienced by people on the local section of the A4107, and not along other parts of the road. This is considered to be small in geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 1 at operation.		

Table 5.5.3 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 2: Mynydd Llangeinwyr

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
291951E, 193247N	Figure 5.13	350°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	1.2 km	529 m
<p>Description of baseline views: This viewpoint is located adjacent the trig point at the summit of Mynydd Llangeinwyr approximately 1.2 km south of the site. The view affords open panoramic views across the surrounding ridgeline in all directions. Woodland at Mynydd William Meyrick forms a wooded backdrop in views to the east, although the immediate fore and middle-ground is largely devoid of tree cover and delineation. The turbines at Llynfi Afan are visible on the skyline to the north at around 1.7 km, slightly behind the ridge of Werfa, and also to the west around 3 km away. A number of other wind farms are visible, including Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest to the east and Pen y Cymoedd to the north-west.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
Susceptibility of visual receptor:		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level as a scenic viewpoint associated with the locally designated SLA.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: Construction activity, including cranes erecting the turbines, would be visible from this location and occupy a large section of the middle-ground of the view. This would result in a medium scale of landscape change.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced by people across this area of high ground, much of which is open access land, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at construction</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 2 at construction.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The hubs and blades of all seven turbines would be visible against the skyline in views to the north. The turbines will be seen in the context of Llynfi Afan, though appearing closer and larger, and extending the presence of turbines on the skyline to the north-east. The scale of change is judged to be large at operation.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced by people across this area of high ground, much of which is open access land, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at operation</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be major on Viewpoint 2 at operation.</p>		

Table 5.5.4 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 3: Craig Ogwr

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
293803E, 194554N	Figure 5.14	270°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	1.3 km	447 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Located on a public footpath at Craig Ogwr, the viewpoint is representative of sequential views experienced by people walking on this route. Panoramic views are available to the west and</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
south, along the Ogmore valley which is framed by elevated moorland and forestry, and the Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest Wind Farm. Tracts of woodland on the lower slopes, and the rocky crags on the upper slope, characterise the immediate foreground of the view west. The masts at Werfa and Llynfi Afan Wind Farm are visible against the skyline. To the north, sections of the A4107 are apparent with views to the high ground beyond topped by Mynydd Bwllfa and Maerdy Wind Farms, 5 km away. A number of operational wind farms are discernible in the view including; Llynfi Afan, Pant y Wal, Pen y Cymoedd, and Ferndale.		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level as it is associated with the locally designated SLA, close to a marked viewpoint, and with scenic views across the Ogmore Valley.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
<p>Scale of effect: Cranes erecting the turbines would be visible from this viewpoint in middle-ground views, as well as disturbance and activity across the site. The scale of visual change at construction is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced by relatively few people from this location, resulting in a localised in geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 3 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect: Turbines would be seen in the fore and middle-ground, seen in front of existing turbines at Llynfi Afan, and appearing larger and closer. The Proposed Development would occupy a large part of the view. A large scale of visual change is anticipated.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced by relatively few people from this location, resulting in a localised in geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be major (significant) on Viewpoint 3 at operation.		

Table 5.5.5 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 4: Parc Calon Lan, Blaengarw

Grid reference	Figure numbers	Direction of views
289854E, 193095N	Figure 5.15	310°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	1.8 km	198 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Recreational users at Parc Calon Lan are afforded north easterly views across the upland moorland towards the site, where the steep slopes of Darren Goch and wooded valley sides of Craig Walter are prominent in middle-ground views. The proliferation of vegetation dominates the immediate foreground, partially screening views towards residential properties within Blaengarw. A single turbine of the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm is visible against the skyline in views looking north east.</p>		
<p>Sensitivity of receptor</p>		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational and community users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a local level and is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The upper extents of cranes erecting the turbines would be visible from this viewpoint. No other construction works would be visible. The scale of visual change at construction is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around the settlement of Blaengarw.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (only the turbine erection stage) and reversible.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at construction</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 4 at construction.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: Three turbines would be visible on the skyline from this viewpoint, next to the Llynfi Afan turbine and appearing larger. The Proposed Development would occupy the middle-ground and extend the angle of view affected by turbines. The remaining turbines would be screened by intervening landform. The scale of visual change at construction is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around the settlement of Blaengarw.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at operation</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 4 at operation.</p>		

Table 5.5.6 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 5: Ogmorm Terrace, Nant-y-moel

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
293550E, 192759N	Figure 5.16	315°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Local community	1.9 km	212 m
<p>Description of baseline views:</p> <p>The view from within Nant-y-moel looks north to the head of the Ogwr Fawr valley landscape. It is characterised by settlement on the valley floor and lower sides, framed by wooded valley slopes and open moorland above. The ridge of Braich yr Hydd is a prominent landform in this view, with the Werfa masts and one of the Llynfi Afan turbines visible in the saddle. The crags at Craig Ogwr are visible further north. Looking south there are views along the Ogwr Fawr from this area, with the Pant y Wal Wind Farm visible on the skyline to the south east.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor:</p> <p>The receptors at this location are the local community, typically of high susceptibility to changes in views / visual amenity.</p> <p>Value of view:</p> <p>The view is valued at a local level as it is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
<p>Scale of effect:</p> <p>The upper extents of cranes erecting the turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, though most construction activity will not be visible. The scale of visual change at construction is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent:</p> <p>The view would be experienced from locations close to Nant-y-moel, and the geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility:</p> <p>The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at construction		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 5 at construction.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect:</p> <p>Six of the turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east, with three turbines grouped on Braich yr Hydd, which may draw the eye to their presence. One turbine is located within the saddle, framed by the landform. All the turbines are set well back from the valley edge, and are seen as being on the open upland. The turbines will be seen in front of Llynfi Afan, and will appear closer and larger in the view; they will be on the opposite horizon to Pant y Wal Wind Farm to the south east. The scale of effect from this location is considered to be large.</p> <p>Geographical extent:</p> <p>The view would be experienced from locations close to Nant-y-moel, and the geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility:</p> <p>The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be major on Viewpoint 5 at operation.		

Table 5.5.7 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 6: Caroline Street, Blaengwynfi

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
289242E, 196548N	Figure 5.17	135°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Local community	2.2 km	298 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Representative of the local community at Blaengwynfi, the valley topography offers south easterly views towards the site. This view overlooks the settlement of Abergwynfi on the lower valley, with the steep open grassland slopes rising to the gently rounded summits of Werfa and Mynydd y Gelli. The turbines of Llynfi Afan Wind Farm stand on this skyline to the south-east, in two groups. Other views are contained within the valley landform, which curves out of sight to the west.</p>		
<p>Sensitivity of receptor</p>		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: The receptors at this location are the local community, typically of high susceptibility to changes in views / visual amenity.</p> <p>Value of view: The view is valued at a local level as it is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The upper extents of cranes erecting the turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, but not wider disturbance and activity on site. The scale of visual change at construction is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The change in view would be experienced across a small area around Blaengwynfi.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) and reversible.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at construction</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 6 at construction.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The Proposed Development will be seen adjacent to the groups of operational turbines at Llynfi Afan. The arrangement of the turbines serves to present the Proposed Development as an extension of this scheme, with turbines falling into two groups as with Llynfi Afan, both of which will appear balanced. The Proposed Development will be set further back from the valley edge. The scale of effect from this location is considered to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around Blaengwynfi.		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 6 at operation.		

Table 5.5.8 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 7: Mynydd William Meyrick

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
295215E, 192726N	Figure 5.18	300°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	3.1 km	515 m
Description of baseline views: This viewpoint offers an elevated vantage point, lying at the western extent of woodland tracts at Mynydd William Meyrick. The view looks across rolling, open moorland to the south and west. Turbines at Pant y Wal /Fforch Nest are visible around 1 km to the south, with the low lying farmland and the distant sea beyond. To the west is the long ridge of Mynydd Llangeinwyr, its open skyline topped by Llynfi Afan Wind Farm and the masts at Werfa, as well as forestry further north. Northward along the ridge of Mynydd William Meyrick the more distant Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm is visible. Views to the east are screened by forestry.		
Sensitivity of receptor		
Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development. Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level as a scenic viewpoint associated with the locally designated SLA.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
Scale of effect: Ground disturbance and activity across the site, including cranes erecting the turbines, would be visible around the Werfa summit. This would form a small part of the wider view and would constitute a small scale of effect. Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across the slopes of this hill, to the north and west of the viewpoint, resulting in a medium geographical extent. Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.		
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 7 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
Scale of effect:		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>The Proposed Development would be clearly visible on the Werfa summit, with turbines seen on the near side of the hill and stepping down the Braich yr Hydd ridge. The Proposed Development would be seen in front of Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, with turbines appearing closer and taller. The Proposed Development would occupy a small section of the wider panorama, in an area where turbines are already a feature of the extensive moorland skyline. A medium scale of visual change is therefore anticipated from this viewpoint.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across the slopes of the hill, to the north and west of the viewpoint, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 7 at operation.		

Table 5.5.9 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 8: Meadow Street, Pontycymer

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
290481E, 191472N	Figure 5.19	355°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Local community / recreational	3.2 km	168 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Representative of the local community at Pontycymer, this view is contained within the valley landscape of the Afon Garw. Views are restricted to the east and west by steep valley sides. To the north, settlement occupies the lower slopes, with pasture and moorland rising behind. The steep slopes at the head of the valley are covered in conifer plantation, with the Llynfi Afan wind turbines seen on the skyline around the upper valley.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: The local community at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a local level and is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community..</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
<p>Scale of effect: The upper extents of some cranes may just be visible above the extent of intervening vegetation during erection of the turbines, though the majority of construction work will be hidden by the brow of the hill. The scale of visual change in the view is anticipated to be imperceptible.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around Pontycymer.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 8 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect: One turbine of the Proposed Development would be seen from this location, with the rest screened by intervening landform. The turbine blades would be perceptible above the woodland cover in the middle-ground. The additional turbine would group well with Llynfi Afan turbines, and would appear to form an extension of the operational wind farm. The scale of visual change is judged to be small at this viewpoint.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around Pontycymer.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 8 at operation.		

Table 5.5.10 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 9: Cwmparc

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
295537E, 196197N	Figure 5.20	245°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Local community	3.6 km	173 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Representative of the local community at Cwmparc, views from this settlement are contained within the valley landscape. Looking south-west along the valley, views are framed in the immediate foreground by vegetation. The roofs of commercial and residential buildings form the foreground, with the steep exposed slopes of Graig-fawr and Graig Fach prominent in background views, and the A4061 cutting across the hillside. Views in other directions are screened by landform and local vegetation. No operational wind farms are visible from this viewpoint.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: The receptors at this location are predominantly the local community within Cwmparc, characterised by a high susceptibility to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a local level and is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
<p>Scale of effect: views of the site are restricted by intervening landform. Construction work would not be visible and the scale of visual change at construction from this location would be imperceptible.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around Cwmparc.</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.		
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 9 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
Scale of effect The upper blades of two turbines would be visible from this viewpoint, seen above the skyline, with the rest of the wind farm hidden. The scale of visual change is judged to be imperceptible . Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible . Geographical extent: The view would be experienced across a small area around Cwmparc.		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 9 at construction.		

Table 5.5.11 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 10: Pen y Foel

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
291900E, 189554N	Figure 5.21	265°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	4.8 km	356 m
Description of baseline views: This view affords panoramic views from the trig point at Pen y Foel, a low summit at the southern end of the Mynydd Llangeinwyr ridge. Northerly views towards the site are dominated by open moorland grazing across the undulating ridge, with Llynfi Afan Wind Farm seen on the skyline. Views into the adjacent valleys of the Garw and Ogmore are limited, though there are long views across to adjacent ridges. Other turbines are visible at Pant y Wal / Fforch Nest to the east, where tracts of Ogmore Forest are also prominent. To the south, the land drops away offering wide open views across the settled lowland towards the sea.		
Sensitivity of receptor		
Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development. Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level as a scenic outlook, accessed from the car park at the Llangeinor Arms, and located within an SLA.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at construction		
Scale of effect:		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>Cranes erecting the turbines would be visible in the middle and background of this viewpoint, but ground level disturbance and activity is unlikely be seen. This would constitute a small scale of effect.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced from a small area of high ground in this area.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view would be short term (approximately 12 months) in duration and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at construction		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 10 at construction.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect</p> <p>All seven of the turbines forming the Proposed Development would be partially visible from this location, adjacent to the existing operational scheme at Llynfi Afan. The Proposed Development would increase the number of turbines on the horizon in views to the north, where the two schemes would appear as one development, though they would appear larger and closer than Llynfi Afan, and would extend the presence of turbines across the Werfa summit. The additional turbines would be clearly visible from this location and the scale of visual change is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced from a small area of high ground in this area.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be moderate on Viewpoint 10 at operation.		

Table 5.5.12 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 11: A4061, Hendre'r Mynydd

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
292316E, 202014N	Figure 5.22	85°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	7.2 km	473 m
<p>Description of baseline views:</p> <p>Located at a picnic site accessed via the A4061, at the head of the Rhondda Fawr, the viewpoint offers a locally elevated view southward. Settlement is visible in the valley bottom, framed by steep valley sides with rock outcrops. The surrounding high ground of Mynydd Blaenrhondda and Mynydd Blaengwynfi is covered in coniferous forestry: views in other directions are restricted by rising ground and forestry, and are characterised by the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm to the east and west. Longer views towards the site include Llynfi Afan Wind Farm on the forested skyline, though this is a small feature in the view.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
Susceptibility of visual receptor:		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level in virtue of the views associated with the locally designated SLA, and the location at a car park with information boards.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect All seven of the turbines comprising the Proposed Development would be visible from this location. They would be seen partly behind the existing turbines at Llynfi Afan, and rising above them due to land form and turbine height. The turbines will be evenly spaced across the convex hill, and will form a small element in the wider view along the Rhondda Fawr. The Proposed Development will not introduce turbines into a currently open skyline, and the scale of visual change is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view is particular to this location, with surrounding areas covered in dense conifer forest. The geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at operation</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 11 at operation.</p>		

Table 5.5.13 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 12: Mynydd Bach

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
283587E, 191195N	Figure 5.23	335°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	7.7 km	263 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Looking north-east towards the site, the foreground of the view is occupied by pastoral land use extending to an elevated moorland plateau with woodland blocks in the middle distance, topped by Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, visible as two groups of three turbines on the skyline. The settlement of Maesteg is largely screened by low hills in the foreground, which are topped by the telecommunications mast at Bryn mawr which protrudes above the horizon. Views extend north up the Llynfi valley towards Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm on the forested skyline. To the east, the Pant y Wal / Fforch Nest turbines are visible beyond the forested ridge that contains the Llynfi valley.</p>		
<p>Sensitivity of receptor</p>		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View:</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
The view is valued at a regional level in virtue of the views associated with the locally designated SLA and its location on a promoted long-distance route (Coed Morgannwg Way and St Illtyd's Walk).		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect:</p> <p>The Proposed Development would be visible from this location, seen behind the southern group of Llynfi Afan turbines. The new turbines would appear lower on the horizon, and set behind the existing turbines. Though clearly visible, perceptibility of the change in view would be limited due to the way in which the Proposed Development appears within, and forming part of, the existing Llynfi Afan development. The scale of change in view is judged to be imperceptible.</p> <p>Geographical extent:</p> <p>The view would be experienced along a relatively short section of the long-distance walking routes, and from another section further north near Nantyyffyllon, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility:</p> <p>The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 12 at operation.		

Table 5.5.14 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 13: Penrhys

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
300261E, 194560N	Figure 5.24	190°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Local community	7.8 km	286 m
Description of baseline views:		
<p>Located at the settlement edge of Penrhys on an informal path adjacent the shrine of Our Lady of Penrhys, the viewpoint offers a locally elevated vantage point with views across the Rhondda Valley. Settlement on the valley floor is visible in the middle-ground with rolling moorland and pockets of coniferous plantation forming the skyline. Turbines at Pant y Wal / Fforch Nest are visible on the horizon in views to the south west. To the west the Bwllfa Farm turbine is seen against the wooded skyline of Mynydd William Meyrick, and the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm is visible on the lower skyline slightly further north, at a distance of approximately 8 km.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor:</p> <p>The receptors at this location include the local community at Penrhys, as well as people visiting the shrine and/or using the area for recreation. These receptors have a high susceptibility to the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View:</p> <p>The view is valued at a regional level, as the statue at Penrhys represents a pilgrimage site, accessed from the adjacent car park.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>Scale of effect: Five of the turbines comprising the Proposed Development would be visible from this location, as a compact group seen alongside the Llynfi Afan turbines. The turbines would occupy a very small angle of the overall panorama, and are judged to group well with the turbines at Llynfi Afan. This is considered to be a small scale of visual change.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced from this particular location at Penrhys, and the geographical extent is judged to be small.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 13 at operation.		

Table 5.5.15 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 14: Ogwr Ridgeway

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
284591E, 187303N	Figure 5.25	325°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Transport	9.5 km	260 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Representative of walkers and motorists on a minor road which forms a section of the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk, the viewpoint affords an elevated vantage point over the broad lower section of the Llynfi valley below. The valley floor comprises settled farmland of small pastoral fields with woodland, and the village of Llangynwyd. To the north-east, steep wooded slopes rise up to open moorland ridges in the middle distance. The Llynfi Afan and Pant y Wal / Fforch Nest wind farms are visible on this upland area, the former seen on the summit of Werfa as well as the closer southern turbines. More distant wind farms include Pen y Cymoedd at the head of the Llynfi valley to the north, and Taff Ely to the east. Rising ground and woodland limits views to the west and south.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: Representative of road users and walkers on the Ogwr Ridgeway and adjacent footpaths, receptor susceptibility is assessed as high.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a regional level due to its location on the promoted Ogwr Ridgeway long distance walk, within a designated SLA.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect: All seven turbines comprising the Proposed Development would be visible as an evenly spaced row of turbines across the skyline formed by the Werfa ridge. The turbines would overlap with the Llynfi Afan turbines, and would appear appreciably larger than the existing turbines at Werfa, though similar in scale to the closer Llynfi Afan turbines. The Proposed Development would not</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>introduce turbines into a section of the skyline where they are not currently a feature. The scale of change is judged to be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent: Similar views would be experienced across a long section of the Ogwr Ridgeway, between Cwm Kenfig and Mynydd Baedan, resulting in a medium geographical extent.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p>		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 14 at operation.		

Table 5.5.16 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 15: Bridgend Circular Walk

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
291189E, 182879N	Figure 5.26	270°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	11.5 km	111 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Located on the route of the Bridgend Circular Walk, the viewpoint lies within close proximity of the infrastructure corridors of the M4 and the A4061. The carriageway of the A4063 is visible in north westerly views on rising land towards the middle-ground, where the settlement edge of Sarn is also apparent. Views looking towards the site are characterised by rolling pastoral farmland, delineated by hedgerows and woodland cover. Beyond this rise the moorland ridges with forest that contain the Ogmore and Garw valleys. The Pant y Wal / Fforch Nest wind farm is clearly visible, and Llynfi Afan Wind Farm is seen slightly further away, on the Werfa summit and ridges to the north-east.</p>		
Sensitivity of receptor		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a local level and is likely to be experienced mostly by the local community and users of the locally promoted circular walk.</p>		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
<p>Scale of effect: All seven turbines comprising the Proposed Development would be visible on the skyline to the north, appearing evenly spaced across high ground. The turbines will be more visible than the existing turbines at Llynfi Afan, which are set back from the skyline. The Proposed Development will occupy a small section of the view, in a direction where wind turbines are already a feature. The scale of visual change would be small.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view would be experienced from a section of the circular walk, and from adjacent main transport routes including the A4063 and A4061. The geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility:</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible .		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be minor on Viewpoint 15 at operation.		

Table 5.5.17 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 16: Ergyd Isaf

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
279463E, 188684N	Figure 5.27	245°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	12.5 km	256 m
Description of baseline views: This hill offers views to the west across Swansea Bay, with Mynydd Brombil Wind Farm and a power line in the foreground. To the north across the foreground fields, coniferous plantations form a wooded horizon. Beyond this a series of ridges can be seen, characterised by conifer woodland and wind farms including Pen y Cymoedd, Maesgwyn and Ffynnon Oer. The open summit of Werfa is visible to the north-east, with the turbines at Llynfi Afan around it.		
Sensitivity of view		
Susceptibility of visual receptor: Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development. Value of View: The view is valued at a local level as it is not promoted or particularly accessible.		
Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation		
Scale of effect: The Proposed Development would be seen as a group of turbines alongside, and similar in scale to, the operational turbines at Llynfi Afan. It would occupy a very small component of the overall panorama. Considering the distance and the relationship to existing development, the scale of visual change is anticipated to be imperceptible . Geographical extent: The view would be experienced from this particular location only, as other high ground is screened by forestry, resulting in a small geographical extent. Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible .		
Level of effect at operation		
Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 16 at operation.		

Table 5.5.18 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 17: B4287 East of Neath

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
277723E, 195861N	Figure 5.28	85°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
Transport	12.8 km	166 m
<p>Description of baseline views: This viewpoint is a roadside location on a high point of the B4287, with eastward views framed by roadside vegetation. Mynydd Pen-rhys forms a local high point visible against the skyline in background views. Direct views of the site are concealed due to a combination of viewing distance and the screening effect of intervening landform and vegetation.</p>		
<p>Sensitivity of receptor</p>		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor: As appreciation of the landscape is not the primary purpose of road users in this location, overall receptor sensitivity at this location is assessed as low. Value of View: The view is valued at a local level as it is not promoted as a viewpoint.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The Proposed Development would be seen in long distance views from this location and occupy a small field of view adjacent the existing Llynfi Afan scheme. An imperceptible scale of visual change is anticipated due to intervening vegetation and viewing distance. Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible. Geographical extent: This is a passing view on the B4287, and is not representative of views experienced by receptors in the wider area. Geographical extent is judged to be small.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at operation</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 17 at operation.</p>		

Table 5.5.19 Visual assessment of Viewpoint 18: Cadair Fawr

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
297792E, 212317N	Figure 5.29	110°
Receptor type	Distance from site	Approximate elevation
Recreational	18.5 km	481 m
<p>Description of baseline views: Representative of recreational receptors within the Brecon Beacons National Park, the view looks out across an extensive area of unenclosed moorland with tree cover limited to forestry blocks. The southward view includes open cast mining in the Vale of Neath, though this is not prominent against the backdrop of higher ground, topped by forestry and wind turbines, mainly the 76-turbine Pen y Cymoedd scheme. Views towards the settlement of Hirwaun in the middle-ground are obscured by intervening landform.</p>		
<p>Sensitivity of receptor</p>		
<p>Susceptibility of visual receptor:</p>		

Grid references	Figure numbers	Direction of views
<p>Recreational users at this location are of high susceptibility to visual intrusion from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Value of View: The view is valued at a national level due to the location of the viewpoint in the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p>		
<p>Nature of effect (magnitude) at operation</p>		
<p>Scale of effect: The Proposed Development would be theoretically visible on the distant horizon from this viewpoint. However, they will be seen between the closer turbines of Pen y Cymoedd, and would form a small element seen within this larger wind farm. The additional change from the Proposed Development will be of imperceptible scale.</p> <p>Duration/reversibility: The change in the view is considered to be long term (35 years) and reversible.</p> <p>Geographical extent: The view is representative of other southward views that are available from the National Park, and the geographical extent is judged to be medium.</p>		
<p>Level of effect at operation</p>		
<p>Overall, the level of effect is judged to be negligible on Viewpoint 18 at operation.</p>		