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ELY VALLEY SOLAR FARM
- (LVIA) APPENDIX 1

ELY VALLEY SOLAR FARM | YNYSMAERDY | NR LLANTRISANT

PREPARED BY

Sirius Planning | 4245 Park Approach |Thorpe Park | Leeds | LS15 8GB

PREPARED FOR

WINDEL SOLAR 8 Ltd

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WRITTEN & PREPARED BY

Alex Stappard | Senior Principal Landscape Architect

REVIEWED & APPROVED BY

James Cook | Associate Planner

AUTHORISED BY

Sirius Planning

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1. METHODOLOGY

1.1 METHODOLOGY

Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) Methodology (EIA)

Introduction

1.1.1 The methodology for this LVIA is based upon the relevant parts of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013). The assessment (appraisal in this instance) focuses on the identification of likely significant landscape and visual effects, including those that are, positive and negative, direct and indirect, long, medium and short term, and reversible and irreversible, as well as cumulative effects.

1.1.2 For the purposes of clarity, the European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000), the term 'landscape' is defined as:

"An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors".

1.1.3 The ELC confirms that the landscape should be considered as a resource in its own right. It provides an integrated way of conceptualising our surroundings and is increasingly considered to provide a useful spatial framework for thinking about a wide range of environmental, land use and development issues. The ELC applies to all landscapes; natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas, including land, inland water and marine areas. It considers land landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes.

1.1.4 Additional guidance has also been taken from the following publications:

- Council of Europe, The European Landscape Convention (2000, ratified 2006) ETS No. 176.
- Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21, (Landscape Institute 2021)
- Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19, (Landscape Institute, 2019)
- Landscape Character Guidance for England and Scotland, Topic Paper 6 & 9, Techniques for Judging Capacity and Sensitivity & Climate change and natural forces, the consequences for landscape character, SNH/CA, 2004.
- Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002); and
- Council of Europe, The European Landscape Convention (2000, ratified 2006) ETS No. 176.
- LANDMAP Wales, 2003.
- Solar parks: maximising environmental benefits (TIN101) Natural England, 2011.
- Planning Guidance for the development of large scale solar ground mounted PV systems, BRE and National Solar Centre, 2013; and
- National Solar Centre Biodiversity Guidance for Solar Developments, BRE and National Solar Centre, 2014.

Data Gathering Methodology

Introduction

1.1.5 The LVIA has been conducted across a study area of 2.5 km with a more detailed study area of 1km. The LVIA incorporates a desktop review, field study and modelling of predicted effects through visualisations including photomontages and wire frames. The evaluation of landscape and visual effects are discussed in separate sections. At the outset of the LVIA it is useful to provide a definition of the terms 'landscape effects' and 'visual effects':

- **Landscape Effects:** These consist of the changes in the fabric, character and quality of the landscape which it is predicted would result from the development, "*assessing effects on the*

landscape as a resource in its own right" (GLVIA 2013). Consideration is given to how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. The development will have direct and indirect effects on the landscape. Direct effects physically alter landscape elements (directly attributable to the proposed development), whereas indirect effects can affect the landscape character, often away from the site. In order to establish the potential landscape effects the value of the landscape needs consideration.

- **Visual Effects:** These are the predicted effects on views available from publicly accessible areas and residential dwellings i.e. visual receptors and people's general visual amenity. Specific effects result from changing the constituent elements within an existing view. This may be caused by the construction of a feature, or the obstruction, or modification of an existing view. *"assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people*" (GLVIA 2013).

1.1.6 The significance (level) of any landscape / visual effects is a product of the magnitude of any change and the sensitivity of the receptor, which may include the landscape, landscape receptors or people either at home, using the local roads, cycle ways and public rights of way (PROW) network, visiting viewpoints, tourist attractions, and undertaking recreational activities.

Appraisal Methodology

1.1.7 The following section outlines the stages in the appraisal of the landscape and visual effects as a result of the proposed development.

Assessing Landscape Effects

1.1.8 The potential landscape effects, occurring during the construction and operation period, may therefore include but are not restricted to, the following:

- Changes to landscape elements.
- Changes to landscape qualities.
- Changes to landscape character.
- Effects upon nationally and locally designated landscapes (e.g. Registered Parks and Gardens, Country Parks; and,
- Cumulative landscape effects.

Establishing the value of the landscape

1.1.9 The landscape value of a site in its context needs to be assessed as part of carrying out a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The current guidance for LVIA is the third edition of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3; LI and IEMA, 2013) which states that the value of a landscape should be assessed as one of two components of landscape sensitivity. Landscape value is the 'inherent' component, which is independent of the development proposal, while the other component, susceptibility, is development specific.

1.1.10 GLVIA3 recognises that landscape value is not always signified by designation: 'the fact that an area of landscape is not designated either nationally or locally does not mean that it does not have any value' (paragraph 5.26). GLVIA3 recommends that when undertaking a LVIA/LVA in an undesignated area, landscape value should be determined through a review of existing assessments, policies, strategies and guidelines and, where appropriate, by new survey and analysis (paragraphs 5.27 and 5.28). It is recommended that the process for identifying landscape value outside nationally designated areas is based upon a structured and transparent assessment process including community-based evidence

where practical to do so.

1.1.11 Reference is also made to Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/21 on assessing landscape value outside of national designations which provides a list of value factors and indicators used to determine the value of landscapes.

1.1.12 The value of the landscape potentially affected by a proposed development is evaluated when establishing the landscape baseline and is judged as being High, Moderate or Low. This is in accordance with paragraph 5.44 of GLVIA3. Landscape value is also referred to in the following section as part of the method for 'Assessing the Level of Landscape Effects'

1.1.13 Factors that can help (but are not limited to) in the identification of valued landscapes are listed in Table 1

Table 1: Range of Landscape Value Factors and Susceptibility Criteria

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Natural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest which contribute positively to the landscape.	Presence of wildlife and habitats of ecological interest that contribute to sense of place. Extent and survival of semi-natural habitat that is characteristic of the landscape type. Presence of distinctive geological, geomorphological or pedological features Landscape which contains valued natural capital assets that contribute to ecosystem services, for example distinctive ecological communities and habitats that form the basis of ecological networks. Landscape which makes an identified contribution to a na**tu**re recovery/ green infrastructure network
Cultural heritage	Landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest which contributes positively to the landscape	Presence of historic landmark structures or designed landscape elements (e.g., follies, monuments, avenues, tree roundels) Presence of historic parks and gardens, and designed landscapes Landscape which contributes to the significance of heritage assets, for example forming the setting of heritage assets (especially if identified in specialist studies) Landscape which offers a dimension of time depth. This includes natural time depth, e.g., presence of features such as glaciers and peat bogs and cultural time depth e.g., presence of relic farmsteads, ruins, historic field patterns, historic rights of way (e.g., drove roads, salt ways, tracks associated with past industrial activity)
Landscape Condition	Landscape which is in a good physical state both regarding individual elements and overall landscape structure	Good physical condition/ intactness of individual landscape elements (e.g., walls, parkland, trees) Good health of elements such as good water quality, good soil health Strong landscape structure (e.g., intact historic field patterns) Absence of detracting/ incongruous features (or features are present but have little influence)

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
Associations	Landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts	Associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music that contribute to perceptions of the landscape. Associations with science or other technical achievements Links to a notable historical event Associations with a famous person or people
Distinctiveness	Landscape that has a strong sense of identity	Landscape character that has a strong sense of place (showing strength of expression of landscape characteristics) Presence of distinctive features which are identified as being characteristic of a particular place. Presence of rare or unusual features, especially those that help to confer a strong sense of place or identity. Landscape which makes an important contribution to the character or identity of a settlement Settlement gateways/approaches which provides a clear sense of arrival and contribute to the character of the settlement (may be ancient/historic)
Recreational	Landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important.	Presence of open access land, common land and public rights of way (particularly National Trails, long distance trails, Coastal Paths and Core Paths) where appreciation of landscape is a feature. Areas with good accessibility that provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and spiritual experience/ inspiration. Presence of town and village greens Other physical evidence of recreational use where experience of landscape is important. Landscape that forms part of a view that is important to the enjoyment of a recreational activity
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense	Distinctive features, or distinctive combinations of features, such as dramatic or striking landform or harmonious combinations of land cover. Strong aesthetic qualities such as scale, form, colour and texture Presence of natural lines in the landscape (e.g., natural ridgelines, woodland edges, river corridors, coastal edges) Visual diversity or contrasts which contributes to the appreciation of the landscape.

Factor	Definition	Examples of Indicators of landscape value
		Memorable/ distinctive views and landmarks, or landscape which contributes to distinctive views and landmarks.
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity)	Landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies	High levels of tranquillity or perceptions of tranquillity, including perceived links to nature, dark skies, presence of wildlife/ birdsong and relative peace and quiet. Presence of wild land and perceptions of relative wildness (resulting from a high degree of perceived naturalness, rugged or otherwise challenging terrain, remoteness from public mechanised access and lack of modern artefacts) Sense of remoteness, seclusion or openness Dark night skies A general absence of intrusive or in harmonious development, land uses, transport and lighting
Functional	Landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape	Landscapes and landscape elements that contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g., natural hydrological systems/ floodplains, areas of undisturbed and healthy soils, areas that form carbon sinks such as peat bogs, woodlands and oceans, areas of diverse landcover (benefits pest regulation), pollinator-rich habitats such as wildflower meadows. Areas that form an important part of a multifunctional Green Infrastructure network Landscapes and landscape elements that have strong physical or functional links with an adjacent national landscape designation or are important to the appreciation of the designated landscape and its special qualities.

1.1.15 Following consideration of the value indicators, landscape value is classified as either, High, Medium or Low, based on the criteria set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Landscape Value Classification

Value	Sub Value	Typical criteria, scale and examples.
High	Exceptional	Very high importance and rarity, no or limited potential for substitution. International, national importance. World Heritage Site, National Park, NLA
	High	High importance and rarity, limited potential for substitution. National importance. National Park, NLA, AGLV. Important to the setting of a registered historic park and garden. Presents locally important landscape characteristics or scenic value; or Presents important public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
Medium	Medium	Medium importance and rarity, limited potential for substitution. Regional and local scale. Undesignated but value expressed through nonofficial publications or demonstrable use. Lies wholly or partially within a designated landscape but where localised character and scenic value is less distinctive or has become degraded. Lies adjacent to a designed landscape. Presents locally distinctive landscape characteristics with some scenic interest. Presents some public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
Low	Low	Low importance and rarity at local scale. Areas identified as having some redeeming feature(s) and possibly identified for improvement. Does not lie within or adjacent to a designated landscape. Does not present locally important / distinctive landscape characteristics or scenic interest / value. Does not present important public amenity value by way of views, access, biodiversity, cultural or opportunity for quiet enjoyment (relative tranquillity).
	Very Low	Low importance and rarity at local scale. Areas identified for recovery, restoration and enhancement.

Assessing the significance of landscape effects

1.1.16 Landscape effects, for each identified landscape receptor, are established through combination of (i) the sensitivity of the landscape receptor and (ii) the magnitude of effect.

Landscape Sensitivity

1.1.17 Landscape receptors are assessed in terms of their sensitivity combining judgements of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the landscape. Sensitivity is specific to the particular project or development that is being proposed and to the location in question.

Susceptibility to change

1.1.18 Susceptibility in considering landscape sensitivity considers the ability of a defined landscape (or visual receptor) to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences. This means "the ability of the landscape receptor (whether it be the overall character or quality / condition of a particular landscape type or area, or an individual element and/or feature, or a particular aesthetic and perceptual aspect) to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies". (GLVIA 2013). Susceptibility to change should not be recorded as part of the landscape baseline but it should be considered as part of the appraisal of effects.

Table 3: Landscape and Visual Susceptibility Criteria, Thresholds and Indicators

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Landscape		
Landform	Landscapes with a high degree of landform intricacy and topographical variation (e.g., escarpments and foothills, valleys and ridges). Consider whether development would interrupt the relationship between distinctive landform features such as escarpments, prominent hills or open landscapes. Skyline character affected	Simple, large scale or predominantly flat landscapes. Little topographical variation
Landscape pattern / landcover / scale	Landscapes with a small scale, complex and highly intricate and/or varied landscape pattern arising from landcover elements including settlement, field pattern or vegetation cover. Established or intact landscapes with appreciable time depth and legibility.	Large scale pattern, simple regular or rectilinear. Little sense of time depth or legibility. Landscapes enclosed by buildings, trees and woodlands offer more opportunity to accommodate development without affecting landscape character.
Settlement character and pattern/existing development edges	Settlement pattern provides a strong contribution to or is a key characteristic of its character area. Very intact, legible historic pattern and consistent materials palette. Strong, well-integrated edges- refer to materials, planting, landform	Poor relationship of settlement with its landscape. Very weak, open, exposed or poorly integrated settlement edges with detracting elements. Consider whether potential development would integrate with the general settlement form/pattern and how it may affect the character of the existing settlement edge and the functional relationship

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Intactness of field boundaries	Highly intact (hedgerows, stone walls or fences) helping to screen development but also susceptible to loss or degradation from development. Historic hedgerows with protection are particularly susceptible to loss. Valued semi-natural habitats present such as woodland and hedgerows with good levels of connectivity	Disjointed or degraded field boundaries, large simple arable fields with poor framework or loss of boundaries. Poor sense of legibility and historic time depth. Lack of notable or valued habitats/natural boundaries such as woodlands and hedgerows
Tranquillity	Landscape has a strong sense of tranquillity, where development is likely to result in disturbance or loss of rural nature/qualities.	Low levels of tranquillity, proximity to urbanising or infrastructure influences such as busy road and rail corridors
Visual		
General visibility/ types of views/ intervisibility/	Open landscape with extensive inward and outward views. Strong visual relationship of the land parcel between existing landscape and settlement edge or high degree of intervisibility/forming a backdrop to nearby areas of landscape sensitivity such as AONB, Special Landscape Area, Heritage asset. Landscape associated with approaches/gateways to sensitive landscapes or settlement.	Highly visually contained landscape with limited inward or outward views. Maybe presence of visual detractors which reduce susceptibility and increase capability of accommodating development with its surroundings. Views short range contained by vegetation, development or landform.
Skylines/focal points	Highly visible skylines with notable features or rural qualities or attractive skylines forming a backdrop to settlement. Presence of prominent or distinctive historic features such as hilltop monuments, church spires/ towers or historic villages. Land parcel forming part of or visually linked to a distinctive skyline.	Larger scale or predominantly flat developments. Set down with existing modern development dominating the skyline.

Criteria	Indicators of Higher Susceptibility	Indicators of Lower Susceptibility
Scenic quality	High scenic quality or landscape characteristics which form the setting of highly susceptible landscapes. Development would result in a loss of integrity or disturbance to the landscape	Landscape strongly influenced by man-made urbanising features or activities. Low quality views/scenery with no notable characteristics
Typical Receptors	This is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing a view at a particular location, and therefore the extent to which their attention or interest may be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience. The most susceptible receptors are residents, communities, people engaged in outdoor recreation or where the landscape is part of the experience. Visitors to landscape whose interest is focussed on natural and built heritage assets and users of scenic routes.	Transport users (particularly of high-speed roads) are usually considered less susceptible receptors unless the road is a scenic route or important gateway.
Access/visitor numbers	Large number of sensitive visual receptors with a significant number in close proximity to the site or if distant with direct and open views towards it from sensitive raised vantage points such as elevated hills. Highly accessible with well-connected public rights of way network that results in higher susceptibility	Low numbers of sensitive visual receptors reducing susceptibility to development. Low levels of public access with few/no views or intervisibility with the land parcel.

1.1.19 Following consideration of the landscape and visual susceptibility criteria, thresholds and indicators relevant to the proposed development taken from Table 1, landscape susceptibility is classified as either, High, Medium or Low, based on the criteria set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Guidelines Indicating the Susceptibility of Landscape Character to Change

Susceptibility	Description
Very High	Key characteristics of the landscape highly vulnerable to the proposal and the development could not be accommodated without a significant change in character, leading to a new character.

High	Key characteristics are vulnerable to the proposal, and it is likely that the development could not be accommodated without a significant change in character.
Medium	Some characteristics of the landscape are vulnerable to the proposal, but in general the landscape could accommodate the development without a significant change in the character.
Low	The development is only likely to have a minor influence on the key characteristics and the landscape could accommodate the development without a significant change in character.
Negligible	The development is not likely to influence the key characteristics, and the landscape could accommodate the development with no change in character.

Value of the Landscape Receptor

1.1.20 The value of the landscape receptors is established during the baseline covering:

- The value of the landscape character types / areas or landscape receptor that may be affected, based on a review of designations at both a national and local levels, and, where there are no designations, judgments based on criteria that can be used to establish landscape value.
- The value of individual contributors to landscape character, especially the key characteristics, which may include individual elements of the landscape, particular landscape features, notable aesthetic, perceptual or experiential qualities, and combinations of these contributors.

1.1.21 There can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change. This is especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. For example:

- An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically, or by definition, have high susceptibility to all types of change. It is possible to have a low susceptibility to change resulting from a particular type of development, by virtue of the characteristics of the landscape and nature of the proposal.
- The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

Magnitude of Landscape Effect

1.1.22 Effects of development upon landscape receptors need to be assessed in terms of its scale of effect, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

Scale of effect

1.1.23 Judgements on the scale of change in the landscape that is likely to be experienced as a result of each effect. The effect of both loss or addition of new features may be judged as major, moderate, minor or none, taking account of:

- The extent of landscape elements that will be lost, proportion of total extents and contribution of elements to the landscape character.
- The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or addition of new ones; and

- Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.

Geographical Extent

1.1.24 This is distinct from the size / scale of effect, there may, for example, be moderate loss of landscape elements over a large geographical area, or a major addition affecting a very localised area. In general, effects may have an influence at the following scales, although this varies due to the nature of the project, and all are not always relevant on every occasion:

- At the site level, within the development site itself.
- At the level of the immediate setting of the site.
- At the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies.
- On a larger scale, influencing several landscape types or character areas.

Duration of Landscape Effect

1.1.25 Duration can be judged on the scale such as short term, medium term or long term, where, for example, short term might be zero to five years, medium term five to ten years and long term ten to twenty-five years. There is no fixed rule on this definition however (GLVIA 2013). When duration is included in an appraisal of effects, the assumptions behind the judgement must be made clear.

Reversibility of effect

1.1.26 Reversibility is a judgement about the prospects and the practicality of the particular effect being reversed in, for example, a generation. Some forms of development, like housing, can be considered permanent however other developments such as wind turbines are considered to be reversible since they have a limited and defined life span (c.25 years) and they can be removed and land reinstated.

1.1.27 Consideration of the effect of the development upon the landscape resource is assessed through professional judgment, based on (i) the sensitivity of receptors and (ii) the magnitude of the predicted effects. (GLVIA 2013).

Landscape Sensitivity and Magnitude

1.1.28 The evaluation of landscape sensitivity and magnitude are described in the following table and the level of an effect is determined by the consideration of sensitivity and magnitude of change.

Table 5: Landscape Sensitivity and Magnitude

Landscape Sensitivity Categories	
High	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses where through consideration of the landscape resource and value they would be unable to accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • High value landscapes, protected at an international or national level (World Heritage Site/NLA). However, aspects which underpin such value may also be present outside designated areas, especially at a local scale. • Areas of special recognised value through use, perception or historic and cultural associations.

	• Likely to contain features that are rare and could not be replaced. • Landscape elements with a high susceptibility to change, unable to accommodate proposed development without undue consequences.
Medium	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses which by nature of their character would be able to partly accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • Medium value landscape protected at a local level (Area of Important Landscape Value) or at a non-designated local level. • Where there is evidence of local value and use (non-statutory local publications) through use, perception or historic / cultural associations. • Comprised of commonplace elements and features creating generally unremarkable character, but some sense of place. • Likely to contain some features and elements that could not be replaced. • Landscape elements with a medium susceptibility to change, partly able to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences.
Low	Landscape character, elements, and associated land uses which by nature of their character would be able to accommodate change of the type proposed. Generally, this would be: • Lower value and non-designated landscapes. • Comprised of features and elements that are discordant, derelict or in decline, indistinct character with little or no sense of place. • Containing few, if any, features of value through use, perception or historic / cultural associations. • Likely to contain few, if any, features or elements that could not be replaced. • Landscape elements with a low susceptibility to change, able to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences.
Magnitude of Change Categories	
High	Total loss or substantial alteration to key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline or introduction of uncharacteristic elements which would give rise to a fresh characterising effect.

Medium	Partial loss or moderate alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or introduction of elements that may be prominent but not necessarily substantially uncharacteristic with the attributes of the receiving landscape, but which could co-characterise parts of the landscape.
Low	Minor loss or alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or introduction of elements that may not be uncharacteristic with the surrounding landscape or may not lead to a characterising or co-characterising effect.
Negligible	Very minor loss or alteration to one or more key landscape elements/features/characteristics of the baseline and/or the introduction of elements that are not uncharacteristic of the surrounding landscape. Change would be barely distinguishable approximating to no change.
No Change	No noticeable loss, damage or alteration to character or features or elements.

Significance of Landscape Effect

1.1.29 The significance of effect is determined by consideration of landscape sensitivity and the magnitude of change.

1.1.30 In accordance with paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 of GLVIA 3rd Edition it is acknowledged that the historic use of a matrix, a formulaic approach, led to the same weighting of level of effect (significance in EIA terms) levels which were not always appropriate. The following criteria are therefore provided to assist in determining the level of effect. The table applies typical criteria to each level of effect however it should be noted that different scenarios of landscape value, sensitivity, susceptibility to change, scale of effect, geographical extent, and reversibility of effects could apply to influence significance as discussed in the appraisal. The criteria are typical examples, intermediate levels (e.g. Moderate - Minor) may apply and all effects are clearly explained.

Table 6: Typical criteria for determining the overall level of landscape effects

Level (Significance in EIA terms) of Landscape Effect	Typical Criteria
Severe	The proposal would: • Be at complete variance with the character (landform, scale, and pattern) of the landscape, both locally and at a wider scale. • Permanently degrade, diminish or destroy the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and/or their setting. • Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be permanently changed. • Cause a sense of place to be lost. *Indicates an effect that is very important in the planning decision making process.*
Major	The proposal would: • Be at considerable variance with the character (landform, scale,

	and pattern) of the landscape. • Degrade or diminish the integrity of valued characteristic features, elements and /or their setting. • Cause a high value / high susceptible to change landscape to be markedly changed. • Large effect within the context of the wider area. • Cannot be fully mitigated and may cumulatively amount to a 'significant' effect. • Damage a sense of place. *Indicates an effect that is, in itself, material in the planning decision making process.*
Moderate	The proposal would: • Conflict with the character (including quality and value) of the landscape. • Have an adverse impact on characteristic features or elements. • Cause a medium value / medium susceptible to change landscape to be markedly changed. • Noticeable effect within the context of the wider area. • Diminish a sense of place. *Indicates a noticeable effect that is not, in itself, material in the decision-making process.*
Minor	The proposal would: • Not quite fit into the landform and scale of the landscape. • Affect an area of recognised landscape character of medium to low value / susceptibility to change. • Limited effect within the local context. • Affect an area of undistinctive sense of place. *Indicates that effect that is trivial in the planning decision making process.*
Neutral	The proposal would: • Complement the scale, landform and pattern of the landscape. • Maintain / un-affect existing landscape policy. • Result in a degree of change so small as to have little or no effect upon landscape receptors of low sensitivity. *Indicates an effect that is akin to no change and is thus not relevant to the planning decision making process.*

1.1.31 For this assessment, 'Significant' landscape and visual effects resulting from the proposed development would be all those effects that result in a 'Severe' or a 'Major' effect and any exceptions

would be clearly explained. There may, for example, be exceptions in the case of lower magnitudes of change affecting receptors of higher landscape and or visual sensitivity leading to a Major effect. Significant effects are not necessarily adverse effects or unacceptable.

1.1.32 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. Moderate-Minor, this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases the higher range is always given first, but this does not mean the impact is closer to that higher rating but done to facilitate the identification of effects within tables. A Major-Moderate effect can be either significant or not significant and dependent upon locally specific factors which will be clearly explained.

1.1.33 The conclusion that some effects are 'significant' must not be taken to imply that the development should warrant refusal. As with many aspects of landscape and visual appraisal, the level of the effect also needs to be qualified with respect to the scale over which it is felt and the type or nature of the effect. An effect may be locally significant, or significant with respect to a small number of receptors, but not significant when judged in a wider context, considered with other potential effects and benefits.

1.1.34 A final statement summarising the significant effects will be provided distinguishing between significant effects that are likely to influence the eventual decision and those that may be of a lesser concern.

Scale of the Development

1.1.35 It is also worth noting that renewables development is in a different category to other forms of development such as mineral extraction or housing development. Generally solar farm development will have a large development footprint and entails the addition of numerous standard sized arrays following the topography of the landscape, usually without removing other physical elements of the landscape, although the site area may be large. Solar development also includes aspects of visual permeability, and reversibility, although generally visual effects are most likely to form the greater part of the assessed effects.

Nature of Landscape Effect

1.1.36 This LVIA does not state explicitly whether the effects of the development on landscape and visual amenity are adverse, neutral or beneficial, however it is acknowledged in the GLVIA 2014 state that professional opinion should be applied, and a positive or negative judgement applied (Para 5.37 and 6.29).

1.1.37 It is commonly accepted that the nature (or valency) of effects of a development is subjective based upon the attitude of the individual and public opinion should also be considered. All responses are equally valid and will affect the perceptual aspects of landscape character. In examining landscape effects, it is not realistic to ignore public opinion (nor the likelihood that professionally qualified landscape architects may have differing positions).

1.1.38 In accordance with GLVIA a precautionary approach is taken so although the nature of effects is not stated within the appraisal, effects would be negative unless stated otherwise. The precautionary approach of negative effects should be considered with the caveat that the valency of effect must always be considered by the decision makers, the approach should not be concluded to be the final judgement, and it should be acknowledged that many people would see the development as either a positive or neutral addition.

Assessing Visual Effects

1.1.39 The assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. Consideration is given to assessing how the surroundings

of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements.

1.1.40 The visual effects are identified for different receptors (people) who will experience the view; at their places of residence, during recreational activities, at work, or when travelling through the area. The visual effects may include the following:

- Visual obstruction: Physical obstruction or blocking of a view, only likely to occur close to the development or within the development site boundary.
- Visual effect: a change to an existing view, views or wider visual amenity as a result of development or the loss of particular landscape elements or features already present in the view.
- Visual amenity: The overall visual amenity of an area may be affected to the extent that the visual appearance of a particular visual setting, or 'sense of place' of a particular location, such as a settlement or individual property, could be altered by a development. Effects on visual amenity of key locations are considered in the context of landscape change and may also be either negative or positive; and
- Cumulative visual effects: the cumulative or incremental visibility of similar types of development may combine to have a cumulative visual effect.

Assessing the significance of visual effects

1.1.41 Visual effects, for each identified visual receptor, are established through combination of (i) the sensitivity of the visual receptor and (ii) the magnitude of visual effect.

1, Visual Receptor Sensitivity

1.1.42 The sensitivity of visual receptors (people) is assessed in terms of their susceptibility to the type of change or development proposed and the value attached to the particular views. Sensitivity is specific to the particular project or development that is being proposed and to the location and view in question.

Susceptibility to change

1.1.43 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of:

- The occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and
- The extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and the visual amenity they experience at particular locations.

1.1.44 The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:

- Residents at home.
- People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and particular views.
- Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, whose views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience; and

- Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.

1.1.45 Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes, awareness of views is likely to be particularly high.

1.1.46 The visual receptors likely to be least sensitive to change include:

- People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape; and

- People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although to be judged on case-by-case basis as there may on occasion be cases where views are important to the setting and quality of working life).

1.1.47 The division in levels of susceptibility to change is a gradual one; each project should consider the nature of the groups of people who will be affected and the extent to which their attention is likely to be focused on views and visual amenity. The susceptibility of visual receptors to change is recorded as high, medium or low. (GLVIA 2013).

Value attached to views

1.1.48 When considering the susceptibility of visual receptors to change additional judgements should be made about the value attached to the views experienced, this should take account of:

- Recognition of the value attached to particular views, for example in relation to designed landscapes, or through planning designations.

- Indicators of the value attached to views by visitors, for example through appearances in guidebooks, tourist maps or through the provision of facilities for their enjoyment (e.g. parking / viewing areas, interpretation material and references in literature / art. (GLVIA 2013)

2, Magnitude of Visual Effects

1.1.49 Effects of development upon landscape receptors need to be assessed in terms of its scale of effect, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

Scale of effect

1.1.50 Judging the magnitude of the visual effects identified needs to take account of:

- The scale of the change in view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including the proportion of the view occupied by the development.

- The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale, mass, line, height, colour and texture.

- The nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses.

Geographical extent

1.1.51 The geographical extent of a visual effect will vary with different viewpoints and is likely to reflect:

- the angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor.
- the distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.
- the extent of area over which changes would be visible.

Duration and reversibility of visual effects

1.1.52 As with landscape effects these are separate but linked considerations. Similar categories are used, short term, medium term or long term, provided that their meaning is clearly stated with criteria for the lengths of time encompassed in each case. (GLVIA 2013).

Visual Sensitivity and Magnitude

1.1.53 The evaluation of visual sensitivity and magnitude are described in the following table: the level of an effect is determined by the consideration of sensitivity and magnitude of change.

Table 7 Visual Receptor Sensitivity and Magnitude

Definition of Visual Receptor Sensitivity (Susceptibility to change) Categories	
High	Residents. Users of outdoor recreational facilities including footpaths, cycle ways and recreational (scenic) road users. People experiencing views from important landscape features of physical, cultural or historic interest, beauty spots and picnic areas.
Medium	Road users and travellers on trains experiencing views from transport routes. People engaged in outdoor sport that involves an appreciation of the landscape. Schools and other institutional buildings, and their outdoor areas.
Low	Workers, users of facilities and commercial buildings (indoors) experiencing views from buildings, where setting is not important to the quality of working life. People engaged in outdoor sport / recreation that does not involve / depend upon an appreciation of the landscape.
Magnitude of Change	
High	Substantial change, where the proposals would have a defining influence on the view. Change very prominent leading to a substantial obstruction or complete change in character and composition of the baseline existing view.
Medium	Moderate change in view, occurs where the proposals would be clearly noticeable and an important new element in the view. It may involve partial obstruction of existing view or partial change in character and composition of the baseline existing view.
Low	The proposals would be partially visible or visible at sufficient distance to be perceptible and result in limited or minor changes to the view. The character and composition, although altered will be similar to the baseline existing situation.

Negligible	Change would be barely perceptible. The composition and character of the view would be substantially unaltered, approximating to little or no change.

Significance of Visual Effect

1.1.54 The significance of effect is determined by consideration of the visual receptor sensitivity and magnitude of visual change.

1.1.55 In accordance with paragraphs 3.34 and 3.35 of GLVIA 3rd Edition it is acknowledged that the historic use of a matrix, a formulaic approach, led to the same weighting of levels which were not always appropriate. The following criteria are therefore provided to assist in determining the level of effect. The table assigns typical criteria to each level however it should be noted that the different scenarios of susceptibility to change, value of the view, sensitivity of the receptor location, size, geographical extent and reversibility of effects could apply to influence effects as described in the appraisal. The criteria in the following table are provided as typical examples only, intermediate levels (e.g. Moderate- Minor) may apply and all effects will be clearly explained.

Table 8 Typical criteria for determining the overall level of visual effects

Level (Significance in EIA terms) of Visual Effect	Typical Criteria
Severe	The proposal would: • Cause the permanent loss of views from a high sensitivity / susceptibility to change receptor and / or experienced by a very large number of people, and. • Constitute a dominant discordant feature in the view, totally out of character with the existing situation. *Indicates an effect that is very important in the planning decision making process.*
Major	The proposal would: • Cause a substantial deterioration to a view from a high sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor, and. • Constitute a major discordant feature in the view. *Indicates an effect that is, in itself, material in the planning decision making process.*
Moderate	The proposal would: • Cause a noticeable deterioration to a view, but not dominating from a medium sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor, • Be experienced by a medium number of people, and. • Constitute a moderate discordant feature in the view *3 Indicates a noticeable effect that is not, in itself, material in the decision-making process.* *4*

Minor	The proposal would: • Cause a barely noticeable deterioration to a view from a low sensitivity / susceptible to change receptor • Be experienced by a small number of people, and. • Constitute a minor discordant feature in the view *5 Indicates that effect that is trivial in the planning decision making process.* 6
Neutral	The proposal would: • Result in no discernible deterioration (or improvement) to the existing view. • Be experienced by a very small number of people, visual receptors would be of low sensitivity to the changes. *Indicates an effect that is akin to no change and is thus not relevant to the planning decision making process.*

1.1.56 For this assessment, 'Significant' visual effects resulting from the development would be all those effects that result in a 'Severe' or a 'Major' effect and any exceptions would be clearly explained. There may, for example, be exceptions in the case of lower magnitudes of change affecting receptors of higher sensitivity leading to a Major effect. Significant effects are not necessarily adverse effects or unacceptable.

1.1.57 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. Moderate-Minor, this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Minor, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases the higher range is always given first, but this does not mean the impact is closer to that higher rating but done to facilitate the identification of effects within tables. A Major-Moderate effect can be either significant or not significant and dependent upon locally specific factors which will be clearly explained.

1.1.58 A final statement summarising the significant effects will be provided distinguishing between significant effects that are likely to influence the eventual decision and those that may be of a lesser concern.

Nature of Visual Effect

1.1.59 This LVA does not state explicitly whether the effects of the development on landscape and visual amenity are adverse, neutral or beneficial, however it is acknowledged the GLVIA 2014 state that professional opinion should be applied, and a positive or negative judgement applied (Para 5.37 and 6.29).

1.1.60 It is commonly accepted that the nature (or valency) of effects of a development is subjective based upon the attitude of the individual and public opinion should also be considered. All responses are equally valid and will affect the perceptual aspects of visual amenity. In examining visual effects, it is not realistic to ignore public opinion (nor the likelihood that professionally qualified landscape architects may have differing positions).

1.1.61 In accordance with GLVIA a precautionary approach is taken so although the nature of effects is not stated within the appraisal, effects would be negative unless stated otherwise. The precautionary approach of negative effects should be considered with the caveat that the valency of effect must always be considered by the decision makers, the approach should not be concluded to be the final

judgement, and it should be acknowledged that many people would see the development as either a positive or neutral addition.

1.1.62 It should be reiterated that although the LVA has considered visual effects from a number of viewpoints, including some from near residential properties, and that planning law confers no right of view. Accordingly, a finding that there may be adverse effect upon a view would not be, of itself, capable of justifying a decision to grant or refuse planning permission.

DISTANCES / DIRECTIONS

1.1.63 Where distances and directions are given within the assessment, these are distances between the nearest part of the property (including the domestic curtilage) and the nearest area of the development, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Distances given are rounded to the nearest 10m to account for the level of accuracy available in techniques used to measure (usually based on aerial photography within a GIS / Autocad mapping environment).

CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

1.1.64 Cumulative assessment considers the assessment of the effects of more than one development. The search area from the proposal site (typically of a similar scale to the study area) is agreed with the planning authority and agreement is sought regarding the scope and scale of the assessment.

1.1.65 Generally, operational and consented developments are considered, as well as developments in planning that are deemed sensitive to the proposal, i.e., within the ZTV / close to the site area. Typically, operational and consented developments are treated as being part of the landscape and visual baseline. i.e. it is assumed that consented schemes are / will be built and theoretically visible and present in the landscape.

1.1.66 The cumulative assessment examines the same groups of landscape and visual receptors as the assessment for the main scheme, though there can be different viewpoints used in order to better represent the likely range of effects arising from the combination of schemes.

1.1.67 The assessment is informed by an analysis of the cumulative sites ZTVs (if available) and cumulative ZTVs as necessary, showing the extent of visual effects of the schemes in different colours to illustrate where visibility of more than one development is likely to arise. Cumulative schemes are shown on the photomontages, if operational and visible, or as additionally wirelines or photomontages if not visible or awaiting construction.

1.1.68 Cumulative effects are defined as *"the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments, taken together (SNH, 2012:4)".*

Cumulative Landscape Assessment

1.1.69 Cumulative landscape effects are described as effects that *"can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it"* (SNH, 2012:10).

1.1.70 Cumulative landscape effects are likely to include effects:

- On the fabric of the landscape as a result of removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape and/or the introduction of new elements or features.
- On the aesthetic aspects of the landscape e.g. scale, sense of enclosure, diversity, pattern, and / or on perceptual or experiential attributes such as a sense of naturalness or tranquillity; and

- On the overall character of the landscape as a result of changes in the landscape fabric and/or in aesthetic or perceptual aspects, leading to a modification of key characteristics and possible creation of new landscape character if the changes are substantial enough.

1.1.71 The magnitude of cumulative change to landscape character is the additional influence the development has on the character and characteristics of the area assuming the other schemes are already present.

1.1.72 The magnitude of cumulative change is determined with reference to the following table.

Table 1.9: Definition of Magnitude of Cumulative Change to Landscape Character

Magnitude of Cumulative Change	Definition
High	An obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character.
Medium	Discernible, but not obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character.
Low	Slight additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character.
Negligible	Indiscernible additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character.

1.1.73 The level of significance of cumulative effect is judged in the same way as for the prescribed LVIA methodology.

Cumulative Visual Assessment

1.1.74 Cumulative visual effects are defined as effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which "occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one view point" and / or sequential effects which *"occur where when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments" (SNH, 2012:11).*

1.1.75 The cumulative visual assessment employs the same methodology described previously but is applied to the proposed development in combination with other developments (solar farms in this case). The cumulative visual assessment incorporates other developments that have planning permission but are not yet built as well as other proposed developments currently in the planning system, where sufficient information is available i.e. proposals for which a planning application has been submitted. Existing solar farm developments that are already constructed/operational form part of the visual baseline and if visible will be visible in the viewpoints / visual receptors.

1.1.76 The cumulative assessment focuses on the additional effect of the proposal in conjunction with the other identified developments. Three types of cumulative visual effect are considered, and the type noted in the assessment:

- Combined Visibility – In combination: where the receptor would be able to see two or more developments from a viewpoint in combination (where more than one solar farm would be simultaneously visible within the receptor's arc of vision i.e. up to 90d).
- Combined Visibility – In succession: where the receptor can see two or more solar farms from one viewpoint but must move their head through 90-180-360d to do so; and,

- Sequential Visibility - the potential situation where a viewer may gain progressive views of two or more developments along a course of their route. The developments may not be inter-visible at the same time but could combine to have a cumulative effect on the viewer as they travel through the study area.

1.1.77 The cumulative assessment only considers the effects generated during the operational period. This is because the construction period is comparatively brief and there is no way of knowing which of the identified developments in the study area would be operational or being constructed during the proposed construction period.

1.1.78 There must be clear visibility of more than one development (of which one is the proposed development) for there to be an additional cumulative effect. Where the proposed development is clearly visible and other developments are not, the effect would be the same as recorded in the LVIA (not a cumulative effect).

1.1.79 The magnitude of cumulative change is determined with reference to the following table.

Table 1.10: Definition of Magnitude of Cumulative Change to Views

Magnitude of Cumulative Change	Definition
High	An obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to the view.
Medium	Discernible, but not obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to the view.
Low	Slight additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to the view.
Negligible	Indiscernible additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to the view.

1.1.80 The level of significance of cumulative effect is judged in the same way as for the prescribed LVIA methodology.

PHOTOMONTAGE PRODUCTION

1.1.81 See separate technical methodology (Appendix G3).

2. LANDMAP ASPECT AREAS

2.1 LANDMAP

2.1.1 LANDMAP (Natural Resources Wales) details the Welsh national level approach to landscape assessment. It is a GIS (Geographical Information System) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

2.1.2 LANDMAP is formally recognised in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2012) as the starting point for landscape assessments in Wales. LANDMAP provides information for all of Wales' landscapes apart from the built up areas of Cardiff and Swansea. LANDMAP GN 46 discusses the use of LANDMAP in LVIA, Planning Policy Wales Edition 11 (6.3.20) also advocates the use of LANDMAP assessments to inform development management decisions, landscape character assessment, design and landscape sensitivity studies. LANDMAP is used to inform a thorough understanding of the landscape baseline from nationally mapped set of datasets.

2.1.3 LANDMAP Information is defined by five methodological chapters: Cultural Landscape, Geological Landscape, Historic Landscape, Landscape Habitats and Visual & Sensory. These chapters are considered the key national level landscape guidance for Wales. LANDMAP, as the most comprehensive landscape resource, will be utilised in this assessment.

2.1.4 LANDMAP does not specifically discuss solar farm development however Guidance Note 3 discusses the scale of the study area and Aspect Areas to be considered when assessing wind turbine development. Whilst solar is a large scale renewable development the vertical scale of the development types, and surface area required, is substantially different. As such the approach to the assessment of Aspect Areas is used as a guide only, the following is considered appropriate for this assessment, with regard to Table A7.1 within LANDMAP Guidance Note 3 the following aspect area study area radius have been considered

Table A7.1 1: Approach to Aspect Areas

Aspect	Search area defined by aspects which:	Typical study area radius dependent on wind farm and turbine size and location	Evaluation of aspect areas which should be main focus of the study	Useful thematic maps to inform study (can be overlaid with ZTV)
Geological Landscape	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and rarity / uniqueness evaluation criteria
Landscape Habitats	Contain site boundary and those adjacent	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation and connectivity / cohesion criteria
Visual and Sensory	Area intervisible with development	2 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation. Plus, moderate evaluation (where scenic quality and/or character criteria are outstanding or high).	Overall evaluation and scenic quality and character evaluation criteria
Historic Landscape	Are intervisible with development	1 km	Outstanding and high overall evaluation	Overall evaluation
Cultural Landscape Services	Are intervisible with development	Site and immediately adjoining areas	Outstanding and high in rarity and group value evaluation criteria	Overall evaluation and rarity and group value evaluation criteria

2.1.5 The referenced Aspect Areas are considered in detail in the following section including reference tables containing the additional Landmap Aspect Areas within the study area and commentary notes.

LANDMAP – Visual and Sensory

2.1.6 With regard to Visual and Sensory element, the following Aspect Areas are found within the 2.5km study area:

Table A7.2 2 : Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas within 2.5km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
VS966	Bettws	Host area – northern area of the site	**Moderate**
VS633	Nant Muchudd	Host area – southern area of the site	**Moderate**
VS436	Mynydd Gaer	Yes- focussed on areas north of Llantrisant Forest	**High**
VS006	Llantrisant Business Park	Yes – adjoining the south eastern boundary	**Low**
VS320	Tonyrefail	None	**Low**
VS142	Mynydd y Glyn	Very restricted	**Moderate**
VS999	Llantrisant	Yes- localised at northern edge of the AA within elevated village centre	**Low**

2.1.7 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed below (Visual and sensory characteristics) with potential effects upon the areas considered in the following landscape assessment section.

Visual and Sensory

CYNONVS966 Bettws

Description: Undulating landscape of generally southerly facing agricultural land with pronounced field pattern (some hedges) and feeling of a more controlled/managed/settled landscape (cf: northern valley)... comfortable and settled landscape with scattered farmsteads and villages with isolated woodland e.g. country park... views south dominated by urban form

*Value: **Moderate**. Undulating/rolling farmland compromised in part by urban/built influence.*

Guidelines: Medium Term: woodland management, retain woodland and hedges

*Overall Evaluation – **Moderate***

No single defining criteria to distinguish from otherwise local importance... scenic quality varies from high to low, with pleasant attractive views to north and unattractive views of urban area to the south...

CYNONVS633 Nant Muchudd

Description: Aspect area altered and re-assessed at change detection monitoring, to exclude all large scale industry/business/hospital development in valley floor (Refer to neighbouring Llantrisant Business Park). *Valley sides with rural feel evoked by grazed fields and woodland blocks and riparian vegetation and common land. Main road through western part*

*Value: **Moderate**, mosaic lowland valley*

Guidelines: Continuation of farming and common grazing, ensure no encroachment from industrial and other developments.

Overall Evaluation: ***Moderate***

Attractive and generally unspoilt but not strongly distinctive, Attractive traditional farmland and common land with pleasant views

CYNONVS436 Mynydd Gaer

Description: undulating ridgelike landform with distinct upland character... extensive views to uplands and over adjacent lower farmland to coast... field pattern defined partially by hedgerow/trees but higher ground predominantly open rough grass and bracken... scattered clumps of trees and larger areas of conifer plantation provide some shelter from exposure, borne out by presence of wind farm, which is a dominant vertical element, together with pylons main visual detractor... traffic noise and movement from A473 is minor disruption. Windfarm has increased in size and therefore more prominent, at change detection. Also, Coedely reclamation has greened up and less conspicuous. Recent housing at Hendreforgan has reduced aspect area, at change detection.

Value: ***High****, Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic with high scenic qualities*

Guidelines: agriculture and forestry- limit windfarm spread, restrict pylons, hedgerow management

Overall Evaluation: ***High***

very prominent ridge with good views and strong sop

CYNONVS006 Llantrisant Business Park

Description: New aspect area at change detection monitoring due to substantial additional development in recent years. Formerly part of CYNONVS 633. Established industrial estate with recent extensions including major hospital and business park. Set in valley so pleasant views out to hillsides. Seen from main road and from a distance where large sheds and roofs are discordant in wider landscape. Generally well maintained landscape surrounding buildings.

Value: ***Low*** *Built land urban - Not unpleasant established built area, but nothing special*

Guidelines: Landscape management and maintenance around buildings, enhance natural and planted landscape where relevant

Overall Evaluation: ***Low***

Not unpleasant established built area, but nothing special

LANDMAP – Geological Landscape

2.1.8 With regard to the Geological Landscape element, the following Aspect Area covers the entire study area:

Table A7.3 3: Geological Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
GL032	**Upper Ely**	**Host area**	**Moderate**

2.1.9 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Geological Landscape

GL032 Upper Ely

Description: Upper Ely valley system, cut into Pennant sandstones (Upper Carboniferous) folded into regional E-W antiform & synform... N-dipping Pennant scarp N of Tonyrefail forms E-W ridge to the N of E-W strike valley in thrust-thickened strata... Extensive thick boulder clay cover with unmodified glacial form including ice gap with recessional moraine at Talbot Green & sand/gravel aprons... Patches of peat on higher ground but with glacial sand/gravel & alluvium in valleys... Numerous closed mine workings...

Value: ***Moderate***

Guidelines: Maintain natural systems and ensure that RIGS are safeguarded using Local Plan policies and constraint mapping and that other features of particular geological or geomorphological significance in the area are not lost/damaged due to development,

Overall Evaluation: ***Moderate*** *Glacial mountain valley*

Widespread Pennant sandstone succession, with regional fold structures and thrust zone; also glacial features including moraine including small section of RIGS for geomorphology and structural geology

LANDMAP - Landscape Habitats

2.1.10 With regard to **Landscape Habitats** aspect, the following Aspect Areas cover the site and immediately adjoining area:

Table A7.4 4: Landscape Habitat Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
LH094	**Unnamed**	**Host area**	**Moderate (Grassland and marsh/improved grassland)**
LH088	**Unnamed**	**No**	**High (Grassland and Marsh Mosaic)**

2.1.11 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Landscape Habitats

LH094 (unnamed) Grassland and marsh/ improved grassland

Value: Moderate. Much of area is improved grassland, which is generally low ecological value, there are however a number of more valuable habitats present in small areas such as marshy grassland and Broadleaved woodland...

Guidelines: Encourage appropriate management of notable features and species...

Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: ***Moderate***

Generally low value habitat but some areas of higher value habitat are present and there are a number of key species present... Improved grassland is not declining but areas of heath and acid grassland are as they are converted to improved grassland...

LH088 (unnamed) Grassland and marsh mosaic

Value: ***High*** *Acid grassland and marshy grassland present*

SSSI of large area of marshy grassland and acid flush associated within the areas broadleaved woodlands

Guidelines: Heath community and associated acid grassland is main focus – encourage appropriate management- Preserve heath and acid grassland areas...

Overall Evaluation Habitat and Species: ***High***

Generally low value, but large SSSI of marshy grassland and heath add considerable value, as do the number of key species

LANDMAP – Historic Landscape

2.1.12 With regard to the Historic Landscape element, the following Aspect Areas are found within the 1km study area:

Table A7.5 5: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Evaluation
HL649	**Nant Castellau and Nant Machudd**	**Host area**	**High**
HL785	**Cwm Ely Settlement Corridor**	**Yes - limited**	**Low**
HL888	**Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy**	**Yes- partial, areas north of Llantrisant Forest**	**Outstanding**

2.1.13 The Aspect Areas with a 'High' or 'Outstanding' evaluation and those covering (or immediately adjoining) the proposed development are discussed in the following section (see highlighted rows).

Historic Landscape

HL649 Nant Castellau and Nant Machudd

*Description: This aspect area is characterised as surviving agricultural landscape characterised by varied and evolved enclosure, dominated by hedged boundaries, and dispersed non-nucleated agricultural settlement and a well-established network of narrow rural lanes. The area is centred on what appear to be long established focal points, ie Castellau, ie Castellau House (a Grade II*listed building), Treferig, Tir-mab-Ellis, Berthlwyd and Pantyddraenen, among others. An important landscape element is provided by the area's numerous post-medieval farmsteads, and farm buildings, several of which are listed. These include Castellau Ganol, built parallel with the slope (Listed Grade II), Pant y Ddraenan located in a low-lying position (Listed Grade II), the Pig Sty at Berthlwyd Farm, an upland farm S of Treforest, (Listed Grade II) and Treferig Isha (Listed Grade II). Several of these settlements probably have medieval, if not earlier precursors.*

Industrial activity in the area has had a limited but notable effect with extractive remains visible at Penrhiw Colliery (ST06408893) and a number of minor quarries, usually created for agricultural or local building needs. Limekilns are also in evidence examples being at Beddau, and near Llantrisant Common. Other industrial sites include the mill at Melin Tre-Feirig, while an early forge site is also recorded, described in c16th papers as Penbough, relates to Penbwch, where remains of ancient iron works existed.

Value: **High** *Irregular fieldscapes*

Overall Evaluation: The high value assigned to this aspect area is based on two criteria: 1/the extremely well-preserved nature of the irregular fieldscape in this area 2/ The diverse, multi-period nature of the archaeological resource containing evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation...

Overall Evaluation: **High**

The high value assigned to this aspect area is based on two criteria: 1/the extremely well-preserved nature of the irregular fieldscape in this area 2/ The diverse, multi-period nature of the archaeological resource containing evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation...

HL785 Cwm Ely Settlement Corridor

Description: A large settlement corridor situated within the Ely Valley, this aspect area acts as a communication hub with transport networks stretching north into Cwm Taf and Cwm Rhondda, and south along Cwm Ely. The aspect area consists of three post-medieval settlements, which grew up around the railways and colliery. Pontyclun to the south of the aspect area was little more than a small hamlet of scattered houses in the 18th century. By the mid-19th century, with the opening of GWR Ely line, for both mineral and passengers, Pontyclun station was added hastening the urbanisation of the surrounding countryside. Talbot Green and Ynysmaerdy grew up in much similar ways, although the former later than the latter. Ynysmaerdy still boasts the remains of a substantial colliery that was established by the Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company after WWI. It closed in 1942 following an underground explosion. Numerous roads now supplant the earlier rail links as the main transport and communication routes through the aspect area. Pontyclun railway station is still in use today, but the Cwm Ely north from here has since been abandoned. Occupation within the aspect area is now dominated by manufacturing instillations along the valley floor. Earlier quarries located along the periphery of the valley are now redundant. The modern Royal Mint is located to the north of the aspect at Ynysmaerdy. Although now an entirely urbanised environment, this aspect was settled in the prehistoric period. Several ploughed out and subsequently destroyed Ring-cairns were located south of Pontyclun with the recovery of a bronze axe in the same location, all dating to the Bronze Age.

Value: **Low** *settlement*

Overall Evaluation: **Low**

An important industrial communications corridor, now dominated by evidence of late 20th century industrial facilities and residential development, which has significantly obscured evidence of earlier landscape and settlement patterns, the low overall value assigned to this area reflects the impact of this relatively recent development...

HL888 Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy

Description: A complex aspect area comprising of an irregular and regular fieldscape, areas of unenclosed moorland and modern forestry. The aspect area is bounded to the north by Gilfach Goch (CynonHL639) and the Rhondda Uplands (CynonHL687). The Cwm Ely settlement corridor defines the eastern boundary; likewise, the Unitary Authority boundary delineates the western boundary, Llanharan (CynonHL762) and Llanharri (CynonHL295) bound the aspect area to the south. The northern area of this aspect is characterised by a regular fieldscape of large uniform fields enclosing what was once open moorland. The higher elevations of Mynydd Maendy now boast numerous modern wind turbines, occupying the same location as many outstanding examples of Bronze Age funerary monuments, representing an ironic continuity of occupation within the landscape. The south of the aspect area is dominated by an irregular fieldscape enclosing the valley sides and elevated summits. The elevated area of Mynydd Meiros is the only remaining unenclosed landscape within this aspect area; modern forestry, to the east of Mynydd Meiros, now occupies what was once unenclosed moorland. The aspect area exhibits an extensive settlement history from prehistory into contemporary times. Bronze Age cairns litter the upland landscape of Mynydd Garthmaelwg, Mynydd Hugh and Mynydd Maendy. Medieval hollow ways exist to the north of Mynydd Maendy as do house platforms belonging to the same period. A medieval deserted rural settlement is rumoured to exist in the locality of the now ruined St Peters Church, although at present unsubstantiated Continuity of the settlement record from medieval into the successive periods is represented by dwellings such as Gelli''r Haedd Isaf and Argoed Edwin, simple 16th century buildings with probable medieval origins. Current settlement is characterised by dispersed and isolated farmsteads belonging to the post-medieval period. Industrial remains, such as quarries, coal levels, collieries and tips litter the small valleys to the south and east of the aspect area. An explosives store belonging to Ynysmaerdy Colliery survives to the extreme east of the aspect area. The Powell Duffryn Steam Coal Company established the colliery after WWI when the

South Wales coal industry was at its height. It closed in 1942 following an underground explosion. The Second World War is represented by earthworks located on Mynydd Meiros; a field of interest which is becoming ever more popular.

Value: **Outstanding** *This area is of outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, diverse multi-period upland landscape with continuous evidence of human activity from prehistory to the present day...*

Overall Evaluation: **Outstanding**

This area is of outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, diverse multi-period upland landscape with continuous evidence of human activity from prehistory to the present day.

LANDMAP – Cultural Landscape Services

2.1.14 With regard to the Cultural Landscape Services, the following Aspect Areas cover the site and the immediately adjoining area:

Table A7.6 6: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas within 1km

Aspect Area	Area name	Potential for theoretical inter visibility (ZTV with Barriers)	Habitat Type
CLS127	**Bettws**	**Yes- Host area**	**Open Rolling Lowland**
CLS075	**Nant muchudd**	**Yes- Host area**	**Mosaic Lowland Valleys**
CLS006	**Llantrisant Business Park**	**Yes- partial within open urban areas**	**Urban- Built Land**

2.1.15 The Aspect Areas do not have specific evaluations and descriptions however the assessment classifications covering the proposed site area and immediate context (up to 1km) are considered in the assessment of effects section. Key elements area highlighted below, which tend to encompass a combination of stated elements from the other Landmap layers.

CLS127 Bettws

Sense of place/ local distinctiveness: Moderate, Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Moderate. Scenic quality: Moderate. Character: Moderate. Landscape Habitats Evaluation: Over 75% Moderate, Historic Landscape evaluation: Over 75% High or outstanding

CLS075 Nant muchudd

Sense of place/ local distinctiveness: Moderate, Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Moderate Scenic quality: Moderate. Character: Moderate. Landscape Habitats Evaluation: Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low, Historic Landscape evaluation: Over 75% High or outstanding

CLS006 Llantrisant Business Park

Sense of place/ local distinctiveness: Weak, Visual and sensory landscape evaluation: Low Scenic quality: Low Character: Low Landscape Habitats Evaluation: Mosaic of: Moderate, Low, High or outstanding Historic Landscape evaluation: Over 75% Low

3. DRAWINGS

3.1.1 **Please Note:** See Appendix 3. The drawings to be read in conjunction with this Appendix and the LVIA are to be submitted separately in pdf A3 format . Please Refer to the Schedule of Drawings at Page 5 of this Appendix for the list of drawings as referenced in the Appendix text.

4. PHOTOMONTAGES

4.1.1 **Please Note:** See Appendix 4. The photomontages to be read in conjunction with this Appendix and the LVIA are to be submitted separately in large pdf format. Please Refer to the Schedule of Photomontages at Page 5 of this Appendix for the list of photomontages as referenced in the Appendix text.

5. LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT TABLES

5.1 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER – ASSESSMENT TABLES

5.1.1 Landscape characteristics of the application site and effect of the development upon the landscape are considered.

5.1.2 In the absence of a District level Landscape Character assessment this assessment focuses on the following Landmap Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas:

- VS966 Bettws Host area – northern area of the site
- VS633 Nant Muchudd Host area – southern area of the site
- VS436 Mynydd Gaer
- VS006 Llantrisant Business Park
- In addition, the other Aspect Area layers as identified in the following groups (geological landscape, landscape habitats, historic landscape and cultural landscape) are considered where necessary.

Landmap Assessment Tables

Landmap Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas – VS966, VS633, VS006 and VS436

VS966- Bettws		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'undulating landscape of generally southerly facing agricultural land with pronounced field pattern(some hedges) and feeling of a more controlled/managed/settled landscape (cf: northern valley)... comfortable and settled landscape with scattered farmsteads and villages with isolated woodland e.g. country park... views south dominated by urban form.* **Medium** susceptibility to the form of development
	Value of landscape receptor	No single defining criteria to distinguish from otherwise local importance... scenic quality varies from high to low, with pleasant attractive views to north and unattractive views of urban area to the south... **Medium**.
	Sensitivity	**Medium** (Moderate Landmap evaluation)
Scale of landscape effect		Direct effects upon the fields of improved grassland only, a common place element. Development set within (and no changes to) established field and tree structure. Overall development area a small scale feature within the expansive AA although scale of effect increased as combined with adjacent operational solar (C1) despite intermediate field. AA already influenced by the presence of operational solar farm and 2 x wind turbines in the locality. **Medium**
Geographical extent		Localised effects, very limited intervisibility with the wider AA. A characterising effect upon this site and local area only (<500m), not the wider AA, despite the adjacent operational solar. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Low-Medium**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect**
Cumulative Level of Landscape Effect (with Talgren Solar) (C3)		Ely Valley SF in additional to the consented Talgren SF will result in direct effects upon a focussed and small part of the overall AA, set within existing field structure, with established renewable energy infrastructure in the locality. The site is set on the fringe of the AA, close to an urban (light industrial) valley floor, the wider character and special

	qualities of the AA beyond these areas will remain. Set beside an existing scheme, development of the same form is focussed, therefore not forming isolated islands of solar throughout the remainder of the AA and forming a unified development form to the field coverage. A 'Medium' magnitude of change is concluded, this is a 'discernible, but not obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character'. A Moderate / Major, NOT SIGNIFICANT cumulative landscape effect is concluded upon the AA.

VS633 Nant Muchudd		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'Aspect area altered and re-assessed at change detection monitoring, to exclude all large scale industry/business/hospital development in valley floor. Valley sides with rural feel evoked by grazed fields and woodland blocks and riparian vegetation and common land. Main road through western part.* **Medium** susceptibility to the form of development
	Value of landscape receptor	'Attractive and generally unspoilt but not strongly distinctive' '*Distinct area of common land associated with Llantrisant and adjoining traditional field pattern'* **Medium**
	Sensitivity	**Medium** (Moderate Landmap evaluation)
Scale of landscape effect		Direct effects upon the fields of improved grassland only, a common place element. Development is set within (and no changes to) the established field and tree structure. Overall development area is a small scale feature, within the expansive AA, although scale of effect is increased as scheme is combined with near operational solar (C1). AA already influenced by the presence of operational solar farm, 2 x wind turbines, and the Llantrisant Business Park light industrial areas in the locality. **Medium**
Geographical extent		Localised effects, very limited intervisibility with the wider AA. A characterising effect upon this site and local area only (<500m), not the wider AA despite the near operational solar. The sense of development spread over the main AA is limited as the lower areas are contained by the adjoining Llantrisant Business Park urban zone. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Low-Medium**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Moderate-Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect**
Cumulative Level of Landscape Effect (with Talgren Solar) (C3)		Ely Valley SF in addition to the consented Talgren SF will result in indirect effects upon this AA, as Talgren is located within VS 966 only. The existing field structure and coverage of the AA is unaltered, but with established renewable energy infrastructure in the locality. The site is set on the fringe of the AA, bordering the urban industrial valley floor, however away from this area, the wider character and special qualities of the AA will remain. Set close to an existing scheme, development of the same form is focussed, therefore not forming isolated islands of solar throughout the remainder of the AA and forming a unified development form to the field coverage. A Medium magnitude of change is concluded, this is a 'discernible, but not obvious additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape

	character'. A Moderate, NOT SIGNIFICANT cumulative landscape effect is concluded upon the AA

VS006 Llantrisant Business Park		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*New aspect area at change detection monitoring due to substantial additional development in recent years. Formerly part of CYNONVS 633. Established industrial estate with recent extensions including major hospital and business park. Set in valley so pleasant views out to hillsides. Seen from main road and from a distance where large sheds and roofs are discordant in wider landscape. Generally well maintained landscape surrounding buildings.* **Low** susceptibility to the form of development
	Value of landscape receptor	*'Built land urban - Not unpleasant established built area, but nothing special'* **Low**
	Sensitivity	**Low** (Low Landmap evaluation)
Scale of landscape effect		Direct effects upon the pasture fields of adjoining AA. Urban development characteristic of this AA and solar is of a smaller scale to existing built form in the AA of limited aesthetic / perceptual quality. **Very Low**
Geographical extent		Localised effects just beyond site and immediate setting into this adjacent aspect area, otherwise limited intervisibility from the enclosed valley bottom **Very Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Low-Negligible**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Minor - Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect**
Cumulative Level of Landscape Effect (with Talgren Solar) (C3)		Considering the urban nature of the AA, the addition of Ely Valley SF to Talgren SF will result in a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of this AA, this is a 'Indiscernible additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character'. A Minor-Neutral, NOT SIGNIFICANT cumulative landscape effect is concluded upon the AA.
VS436 Myndd Gaer		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'undulating ridgelike landform with distinct upland character... extensive views to uplands and over adjacent lower farmland to coast... field pattern defined partially by hedgerow/trees but higher ground predominantly open rough grass and bracken... scattered clumps of trees and larger areas of conifer plantation provide some shelter from exposure, borne out by presence of wind farm, which is a dominant vertical element, together with pylons main visual detractor... traffic noise and movement from A473 is minor disruption. Windfarm has increased in size and therefore more prominent, at change detection. Also Coedely reclamation has greened up and less conspicuous. Recent*

		housing at Hendreforgan has reduced aspect area, at change detection. **High** susceptibility to the form of development
	Value of landscape receptor	'very prominent ridge with good views and strong sense of place' **High**
	Sensitivity	**High** (High Landmap evaluation)
Scale of landscape effect		No direct effects upon the AA. Within this AA no landscape elements will be lost, and the development is of a scale where there will no effect upon elements that contribute to the landscape character. AA hosts a large scale wind farm. **Very Low**
Geographical extent		Very limited intervisibility/connection at the landscape AA scale due to areas being distinct in terms of character, well separated by intervening valley bottom. Effects focussed to the site and adjoining area, away from this AA. **Very Low**.
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Negligible**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect.**
Cumulative Level of Landscape Effect (with Talgren Solar) (C3)		Considering the separation distance between the AA, the site and the cumulative scheme and the absence of direct impacts, the addition of Ely Valley SF to Talgren SF will result in a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of this AA. This is a 'Indiscernible additional change, in conjunction with other developments, to landscape character'. A Minor-Neutral, NOT SIGNIFICANT cumulative landscape effect is concluded upon the AA.

Landmap Geological Landscape Aspect Areas - GL032 Mynydd Drumau (Host Area)

GL032 Upper Ely		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'Upper Ely valley system, cut into Pennant sandstones (Upper Carboniferous) folded into regional E-W antiform & synform... N-dipping Pennant scarp N of Tonyrefail forms E-W ridge to the N of E-W strike valley in thrust-thickened strata... Extensive thick boulder clay cover with unmodified glacial form including ice gap with recessional moraine at Talbot Green & sand/gravel aprons... Patches of peat on higher ground but with glacial sand/gravel & alluvium in valleys... Numerous closed mine workings...'* **Very Low** minimal ground disturbance with solar development
	Value of landscape receptor	Medium (geological)
	Sensitivity	Medium (geological)
Scale of landscape effect		No direct effects upon geological landscape, development of a light footprint considering scale.
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site. No effect upon characteristics of this AA.

Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit). Negligible.
Magnitude of landscape effect	No Change
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)	**Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (geological)**

Landmap Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (All Unnamed Areas) –

LH094 Improved grassland of rolling farmland inclusive of site and immediate context (Host Area)

LH088 Mosaic of grassland found across study area (inclusive of Llantrisant Common) and some marsh within upland areas.

LH094- Improved grassland of rolling farmland inclusive of site and immediate context and parts of adjoining VS aspect areas.		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'Areas of valuable habitat such as Marshy grassland could easily be lost within the wider landscape habitat of improved grassland if grazing pressure intensifies...'* **Medium**
	Value of landscape receptor	*Much of area is improved grassland, which is generally low ecological value, there are however a number of more valuable habitats present in small areas such as marshy grassland and Broadleaved woodland...* **Medium**
	Sensitivity	**Medium** (Moderate Landmap overall landscape habitat evaluation) *Generally low value habitat but some areas of higher value habitat are present and there are a number of key species present... Improved grassland is not declining but areas of heath and acid grassland are as they are converted to improved grassland...*
Scale of landscape effect		Effects directly upon grassland areas within the site only, set within large scale AA. No higher value grassland types affected by the deployment; site design avoids sensitive areas within the site boundary. **Low**
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site and immediate setting. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Low**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Minor a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (landscape habitats)**

LH088- Mosaic of grassland (inclusive of Llantrisant Common) and some marsh within upland areas.		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'Areas of valuable habitat such as Marshy grassland could easily be lost within the wider landscape habitat of improved grassland if grazing pressure intensifies...'* **High**
	Value of landscape receptor	*Acid grassland and marshy grassland present.* **High**

	Sensitivity	**High** (High Landmap overall landscape habitat evaluation) *Generally low value, but large SSSI of marshy grassland and heath add considerable value, as do the number of key species*
Scale of landscape effect		No direct effects upon the AA, limited potential for effects upon landscape habitats found outside of the site and immediate adjoining areas.
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site and immediate setting.
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**No Change**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (landscape habitats)**

Historic Landscape Aspect Areas –

HL649 Nant Castellau and Nant Machudd (Host Area)

HL785 Cwm Ely Settlement Corridor

HL888 Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy

HL649 Nant Castellau and Nant Machudd (Host Area)		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'The irregular agricultural fieldscape and associated settlement pattern of dispersed farmsteads of medieval/post-medieval date is very well-established and largely unaltered from that shown on the OS 1st edition map... 19th-20th century industrial extractive activity also forms a significant component within this landscape...'* **High**
	Value of landscape receptor	'The high value assigned to this aspect area is based on two criteria: 1/the extremely well-preserved nature of the irregular fieldscape in this area 2/ The diverse, multi-period nature of the archaeological resource containing evidence of Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation.' **High**
	Sensitivity	**High** (with regard to Historic Landscape)
Scale of landscape effect		Effects directly upon grassland field areas only, no direct effects upon noted historic landscape features, farm buildings or field boundaries. Field structure to remain. Site a small element of wider AA. The AA is already influenced by the presence of operational solar farm, 2 x wind turbines, and the Llantrisant Business Park light industrial areas in the locality. **Low**
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site and immediate setting, does not extend over the wider AA. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**Low**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Minor, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (historic landscape)**

HL785 Cwm Ely Settlement Corridor		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*The character of this landscape as a 19th-20th century industrial settlement/communications corridor is well established and visually coherent, large scale manufacturing installations along the valley floor (such as the Royal Mint complex) represent the dominant visual element in this area...* **Low**
	Value of landscape receptor	*'An important industrial communications corridor, now dominated by evidence of late 20th century industrial facilities and residential development, which has significantly obscured evidence of earlier landscape and settlement patterns, the low overall value assigned to this area reflects the impact of this relatively recent development...* **Low**
	Sensitivity	Low (with regard to Historic Landscape)
Scale of landscape effect		No direct effects upon the AA and no effects upon noted historic landscape features. **None**
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site and immediate setting. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**No Change**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (historic landscape)**

HL888 Mynyddau Hugh a Maendy		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	*'The dominant landscape pattern in this area, characterised as a complex upland fieldscape with elements of irregular and regular enclosure and discrete tracts of unenclosed moorland, has survived largely intact in spite of intrusion by 19th-20th century industrial extractive activities and modern forestry plantation...'* **Very High**
	Value of landscape receptor	This area is of outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, diverse multi-period upland landscape with continuous evidence of human activity from prehistory to the present day... **Very High**
	Sensitivity of landscape receptor	'This area is of outstanding value, representing an exceptionally rich, diverse multi-period upland landscape with continuous evidence of human activity from prehistory to the present day...' **High** (with regard to Historic Landscape)
Scale of landscape effect		No direct effects upon the AA and no effects upon setting of noted historic landscape features, main area of the AA close to the site is forestry plantation of lower value. Noted that AA already hosts large scale wind farm.
Geographical extent		Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Low
Duration and reversibility of effect		Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect		**No Change**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)		**Neutral, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect (historic landscape)**

Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas –

CLS127 Bettws (partial host area)

CLS075 Nant muchudd (partial host area)

CLS006 Llantrisant Business Park

5.1.3 The Cultural Landscape Aspect areas combine many criteria from the other Landmap areas, so are not assessed in terms of landscape effect, however the following criteria is highlighted from each AA.

CLS127 Bettws

- Perceptual and sensory qualities – Tranquil
- Sense of place/ local distinctiveness – Moderate
- Visual and sensory landscape evaluation – Moderate
- Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value – All moderate criteria
- Scenic quality – Moderate
- Character- Moderate
- Geological Landscape evaluation - Over 75% Moderate
- Landscape Habitats evaluation - Over 75% Moderate
- Historic Landscape evaluation - Over 75% High or outstanding
- Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority - Approximately 79% of people in the area identify as Welsh.

CLS075 Nant muchudd

- Perceptual and sensory qualities – No answer
- Sense of place/ local distinctiveness – Moderate
- Visual and sensory landscape evaluation – Moderate
- Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value – 75% criteria moderate
- Scenic quality – Moderate
- Character- Moderate
- Geological Landscape evaluation - Over 75% Moderate
- Landscape Habitats evaluation - Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low
- Historic Landscape evaluation - Over 75% High or outstanding
- Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority - Approximately 79% of people in the area identify as Welsh.

CLS006 Llantrisant Business Park

- Perceptual and sensory qualities – No answer
- Sense of place/ local distinctiveness – Weak
- Visual and sensory landscape evaluation – Low

- Justification of Visual & Sensory landscape value – 75% Low
- Scenic quality – Low
- Character- Low
- Geological Landscape evaluation - Over 75% Moderate
- Landscape Habitats evaluation - Mosaic of: Moderate, High or outstanding, Low
- Historic Landscape evaluation - Over 75% Low
- Feeling of Welsh national identity in the authority - Approximately 79% of people in the area identify as Welsh.

Landscape Receptors

Special landscape Area and Llantrisant Common

- Ardal Tirwedd Arbennig Special Landscape Area (SLA)
- Llantrisant Common

Ardal Tirwedd Arbennig Special Landscape Area (SLA)		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	**Medium.** Regional and local scale landscape designation, *'some characteristics are vulnerable to the proposal but in general the landscape could accommodate the development without a significant change in character.'*
	Value of landscape receptor	**Medium**. Regional and local scale landscape designation (non-statutory designation applied by the local planning authority to define areas of high landscape importance within their administrative boundary). Note that higher value landscape to the south west of the study area lies outside of the SLA. SLA does not cover area of highest value according to Landmap, the Visual Sensory AA of VS436 Myndd Gaer.
	Sensitivity of landscape receptor	**Medium** – SLA an area of *'intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape.'* Landscapes designated as an SLA may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the local authority area. An SLA designation does not preclude development but is a material consideration in assessment of any proposals. The data from LANDMAP should be utilised to ensure developments are appropriate so that the intrinsic qualities of the recognised SLA are protected and retained.
Scale of landscape effect		The SLA covers a large proportion of the study area inclusive of the site and its immediate context. Deployment areas are within existing grassland fields of the site with a fully retained hedgerow field pattern. The potential effects upon the SLA are considered primarily in terms of the scenic qualities of the designated area due to the nature of development having limited ability to effect associated landscape value indicators (LANDMAP geological, historic, cultural) and the landscape pattern remaining intact (field boundaries, structural planting). Due to limited vertical scale of the solar arrays and the rolling, farmland landscape, with hedgerow field boundaries and woodland blocks to adjoining slopes and valleys, the effects on the SLA are concentrated to the site and its immediate setting and defined areas of intervisibility further afield as evidenced by the ZTV. These include Llantrisant

	Common and limited elevated distant vantage points to the west, south and east. The main effects are on landcover with grassland to be partially covered by the solar arrays upon a very small overall area of the SLA. Whilst from some local areas within the near study area the changes will be noticeable, focussed to a change in field coverage, the impacts on the overall scenic qualities of the SLA are limited by the retention of the prevailing landscape structure and pattern. The SLA is already influenced by the presence of an operational solar farm (C1), 2 x wind turbines, and the Llantrisant Business Park light industrial areas in the locality. The development will not break the skyline with views to distant higher value upland landscapes fully retained and it is considered for most of the SLA, the legibility of the landscape and the intrinsic qualities which it is recognised for will remain. **Medium.**
Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Some perceptible landscape change (landcover) is intervisible to parts of wider landscape within the SLA. **Medium**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect	**Medium**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)	**Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect upon the SLA**

Llantrisant Common (Open Access Lane)		
BASELINE	Susceptibility to change	**High**, open common land, could not accommodate development (access rights and policy protection)
	Value of landscape receptor	**High**, provides opportunity for public amenity by way of open unrestricted access.
	Sensitivity of landscape receptor	Historic rights for grazing- not including sheep which has led to the development of a diverse grassland fauna including acidic marshy grassland and smaller areas of species rich neutral and dry acidic grassland and is designated as a SSSI. Open views north across the common and to upland areas beyond are inclusive of rolling intermediate valleys such as that of the site and surrounds. Recreational use is high with several PROW crossing the common in close proximity to the settlements of Llantrisant, Talbot Green and Beddau from which to enjoy walking, appreciate local scenery and quiet enjoyment of landscape. Setting is negatively influenced by nearby light industrial; areas and road corridors which reduce overall tranquillity. The common area is also influenced by the presence of an operational solar farm, 2 x wind turbines in the locality. The sensitivities of the common to wider development beyond it are also offset by significant landscape detractors (large industrial sheds, OHT towers within the adjacent valley floor (Llantrisant Business Park AA). **Medium**
Scale of landscape effect		A high level of landscape habitat and cultural sensitivity is evident with reference to LANDMAP scoring. However, the main emphasis of the assessment of likely landscape effects of solar development is judged to be on visual sensory aspects of the landscape (inclusive of structure,

	pattern, levels of tranquillity, landform, landcover and scenic quality. Therefore, the overall sensitivity is judged to be in accordance with the ***Moderate*** overall LANDMAP scoring for the area inclusive of the common. The use of the common and people's ability to enjoy the landscape resource, inclusive of appreciating the wider landscape is considered to be able to accommodate the level of change that would occur (largely to landcover and the small scale interruption of it with the landform and overall pattern and scale remaining intact and legible. Whilst the solar arrays may be prominent from certain parts of the common and the effects experienced do occur across a high proportion of the open access area designated, the nature of the proposed development will not greatly impact on many of the aforementioned landscape sensitivity indicators. **Medium**
Geographical extent	Localised effects, site and immediate setting. Some perceptible landscape change (landcover) is intervisible to parts of wider landscape of the common. **Medium**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of landscape effect	**Medium**
Level of Landscape Effect (Significance)	**Moderate, a NOT SIGNIFICANT landscape effect upon the SLA**

6. VISUAL & RESIDENTIAL RECEPTORS ASSESSMENT

6.1 VISUAL ASSESSMENT, BASELINE VIEWPOINTS

Table 6.1: Baseline Viewpoints

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location		Comments	Receptors (type and relative numbers)
VP1	Ynsmaerdy Footway adjacent to roundabout, Ely Valley Road	**Distance from site boundary**	c.350m	Location representative of views from the public highway	Road users (Medium Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	E 303419, N 184578		
		Height	c.66m aod		
VP1 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The road serves the business parks and light industrial area to the south east of the site located Ely Valley Road & Heol-Y-Sarn, whilst also forming the main arterial route between Talbot Green and Tonyrefail. Visibility to the site area is limited by the large buildings close to the dual carriageway and roundabout. There is some partial visibility towards the north eastern flank of the deployment area, but the visible area forms a very low vertical field of view. Much of the site is screened by woodland, scrub and hedgerows on lower valley slopes set above the industrial/commercial zone of the valley bottom.					
VP2	Llantrisant Forest	**Distance from site**	c.660m	Location representative of views from track within woodland	Recreational destination- visitors to picnic area /footpath users (High Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	Southwest		
		NGR	E 302423, N 184678		
		Height	c.117m aod		
VP2 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility is not indicated on the ZTV. As illustrated by the photograph, mature woodland cover within the forest screens all views out towards the site area. The exception to this would be when an area old plantation is felled however these works generally take place away from the popular recreational trails.					
VP3	Layby on dual carriageway Ely Valley Road (A4119)	**Distance from site**	c.1.2km	Location representative of views from the public highway	Road (and footway) users (Medium Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	E 303761, N 184202		
		Height	c.62m aod		
VP3 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. Set to the south of the site on Ely Valley Road the location allows for more open views north to the southern facing slopes of the site, rising above the industrial estate areas. The existing solar farm (C1) can be seen upon the hillside, together with partial views to the two 'daffodil' turbines, set on the hillside to the north east, above the Royal Mint. The near area is dominated by the road, associated highway lighting, with electrical pylons. Views are channelled north to the industrial development around the Ely Valley Road roundabout. There is more open visibility towards the northern (most elevated) area of the					

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location		Comments	Receptors (type and relative numbers)
deployment, but the visible area forms a small vertical field of view. Much of the site is screened by woodland, scrub and hedgerows on the lower valley slopes set above the industrial/commercial zone of the valley bottom.					
VP4	Public Footpath RH|ANT|225/1 Hoel-Y-Sarn Llantrisant Common, Llantrisant	**Distance from site**	c.1.6 km	Location representative of views from the common at public footpath	Footpath Users (High Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	South east		
		NGR	E 304419, N 184338		
		Height	c.94m aod		
VP4 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The position is set upon the north western side of the common which is publicly accessible area of open grassland with few trees, providing open panoramic views towards hillsides to the west and north of the site. At the centre of the view the rounded valley spur on which the site is set on terminates, with more distant views north west up the Ely Valley. The industrial and commercial ribbon development of the valley floor forms a continuous strip of built form separating the common area from the hillsides beyond. At this zone the character changes abruptly to the lower valley farmed slopes leading towards the site on the hillside fringes. The two Daffodil turbines form prominent features, set above the small scale solar site (C1). There are further distant views north west to large scale hilltop wind farm and a small scale solar farm (C4). To the west of the smaller turbine, the mid slopes of the site utilised for the deployment area are visible on sloping land that gently drops towards the Ely Valley floor. The larger field at the lower end of the site is also partially visible above the Dyffryn Farm complex.					
VP5	Swan Street Car Park, Bullring, Llantrisant	**Distance from site**	c.2.3km	Location representative of views from the car park providing a vantage point from centre of Llantrisant	Public Car Park (High Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	Southeast		
		NGR	E 304691, N 183544		
		Height	c.145m aod		
VP5 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The position provides an open vantage point within the hill on which the small hill town sits. Beyond this point, land falls away towards the common. The business park in the valley bottom is prominent although neighbouring industrial areas along the Ely Valley are screened by housing lining slopes seen in the foreground of the view. The two Daffodil turbines and small scale solar (C1) act as local points seen on gently rising hillside on the far side of the valley. The elevated location in relation to the site allows for wide panoramic views across the valley over the housing in the foreground and common beyond. The view is framed to the west by the wooded slopes of Llantrisant Forest and takes in most of the deployment area of the site as well as adjacent farmland either side of the plateau.					
VP6	Mynydd Meiros Footpath, ref, close to the Taf Ely Ridgeway Trail	**Distance from site**	c.1.7km	Location representative of views from the public footpath to the west side of the Ely Valley	Footpath Users (High Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	West		
		NGR	301115 , 185149		
		Height	c.223m aod		

<table>
<tr><th>Viewpoint reference</th><th>Name</th><th>Location</th><th></th><th>Comments</th><th>Receptors (type and relative numbers)</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">VP6 Baseline Views:

Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The position provides a vantage point looking eastwards from the footpath upon Mynydd Meiros. The upper and central areas of the site can be seen, set before the two daffodil turbines. The industrial and warehousing areas around the Ynysmaerdy roundabout form large scale urban features, contrasting with the pasture hillside and large areas of woodland and mature field boundaries. This could be said to be a typical view of the region when viewed from this angle.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">VP7</td><td rowspan="4">Public Footpath RH|ANT|232/1 B4595, Beddau, Llantrisant.</td><td>Distance from site</td><td>c.2.2km to deployment area</td><td rowspan="4">Location representative of views from the public footpath to the east of the site at edge of Beddau</td><td rowspan="4">Footpath Users

(High Sensitivity)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Direction from site</td><td>East</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR</td><td>E 305647,

N 184743</td></tr>
<tr><td>Height</td><td>c.128m aod</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">VP7 Baseline Views:

Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The viewpoint is set at the edge of the plateau on which the settlement of Beddau sits c.2.2km to the east. The site's deployment fields can be seen as a thin band on the brow of the hill set beyond the existing solar scheme (C1) and the two prominent 'daffodil turbines. There is limited visibility to the site despite the open nature of the viewpoint as the mature woodland, scrub and hedgerows to the east of the site limit views to the pasture fields that will host the deployment. The location offers distant views to large scale wind farms, forming hilltop horizon features to the west and north. Limited visibility to the C4 solar scheme upon the distant Ely Valley hillside. Limited visibility to the roof tops of the industrial and warehousing buildings set around the Ynysmaerdy roundabout.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">VP8</td><td rowspan="4">Llantrisant Common / Llantrisant</td><td>Distance from site</td><td>c.1.9km</td><td rowspan="4">Location representative of views from the common at public footpath</td><td rowspan="4">Footpath Users

(High Sensitivity)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Direction from site</td><td>South east</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR</td><td>304828 , 183817</td></tr>
<tr><td>Height</td><td>114m aod</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">VP8 Baseline Views:

Theoretical visibility indicated on the ZTV. The position is set upon the southern fringe of the common, beside the town of Llantrisant. The publicly accessible area of open grassland with few trees offers open panoramic views towards distant hillsides to the west and north of the site. There is no visibility to the intermediate industrial and commercial ribbon development of the valley floor at Ynysmaerdy roundabout. The two Daffodil turbines form prominent features, set above the small scale solar site (C1). There are further distant views north west to large scale hilltop wind farms and a small scale solar farm (C4) . To the west of the smaller turbine, the mid slopes of the site utilised for the deployment area are visible on sloping land that gently drops towards the Ely Valley floor. The larger field at the lower end of the site is also partially visible above the Dyffryn Farm complex. Considering the angle of view and distance to the site, the vertical field of view occupied by the proposed site area is small. The focus of the view remains the turbines, and distant views to the hill top horizons beyond.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">VP9</td><td rowspan="3">Site Entrance, Ely Valley Road</td><td>Distance from site</td><td>c.25m</td><td rowspan="3">Location representative of views from the busy road corridor at the</td><td rowspan="3">Road Users

(Medium Sensitivity)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Direction from site</td><td>South west</td></tr>
<tr><td>NGR</td><td>302862 , 184825</td></tr>
</table>

Viewpoint reference	Name	Location		Comments	Receptors (type and relative numbers)
		Height	c.79m aod	site entrance	
VP9 Baseline Views: The road offers glimpsed views towards the site area; however views are focussed upon the site entrance track and the Dyffryn Farm complex, the deployment areas set beyond so largely screened from this location. Newly constructed dual carriageway dominates all views in the near area.					
VP10	Taf Ely Ridgeway Walk	**Distance from site**	c.1.45km	Location representative of views from the public footpath (regional Trail) to the south of the site approaching Llantrisant	Footpath Users (High Sensitivity)
		Direction from site	South		
		NGR	303978 , 183682		
		Height	c.93m aod		
VP10 Baseline Views: Theoretical visibility is indicated on the ZTV. As illustrated by the photograph, mature tree and scrub cover beside the path screens all views out towards the site area.					

6.2 VISUAL ASSESSMENT, RESIDENTIAL RECEPTORS – ASSESSMENT TABLES

All properties:

Susceptibility to change	Residents (property not accessible so view considered from closest road / publicly accessible location. Supplemented by consideration of views from within the site and analysis of aerial photography. High
Value of view	No recognition of importance in local planning policy or published literature. Views are likely to be valued by the residents and visitors to the properties.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**High**

Table 6.2: Residential receptors assessment

- R1 - Duffryn Uchaf Farm, Ely Valley Road Ynysmaerdy Llantrisant, c.35 south. (landowners farm)
- R2 - Dyffryn Isaf Farm, Ely Valley Road Ely Valley Road Ynysmaerdy Llantrisant. C.110m south.
- R3 – Signalman's Cottage. Ely Valley Road, Ynysmaerdy, Llantrisant. C.200m south.
- R4 – Ynysmaerdy residential area. C.330m south.
- R5, Farmhouse Rhiwfelin Fawr Farm Heol Sticil-Y-Beddau Llantrisant. C.320m north
- R6 – Pantglas Farmhouse (and associated houses) Cae Pantglass, Ynysmaerdy, Portclun. C.470m west.

6.3 VISUAL ASSESSMENT SETTLEMENTS – ASSESSMENT TABLES

Table 6.3: Settlements

Ynysmaerdy	
Distance	c. 380m south
Scale of visual effect	Very small Village / isolated housing estate. ZTV illustrates that there is very little potential for theoretical visibility to any of the solar development. Visibility is screened by intermediate landform, buildings and vegetation. There may be limited opportunity for views from north elevation upper storey windows however the scale of effect will be no greater than that illustrated by Viewpoint 1, from the road corridor to the north of the houses. Where visible, the arrays would be seen set within the existing field structure, the surrounding hedges and trees softening the development, only a small change to the visible field texture and coverage. The solar deployment closely follows the topography of the hillside and so does not look overly dominant or incongruous to the existing landscape pattern. Low change in view.
Geographical extent	Views focussed to a small number of properties only, not representative of the village, c.389m south of the site. Change is visible within a limited area. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration (40 years), but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation to remain.
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Minor / Moderate** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect (limited to a small number of houses only)

Coedely	
Distance	c. 700m north west
Scale of visual effect	Small Village. ZTV confirms no potential for theoretical visibility to any of the solar development. All visibility screened by intermediate landform, buildings and vegetation. No change in view.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	NA – no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	Negligible (no change)
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral -** a 'Not Significant' visual effect

Llantrisant	
Distance	c. 1.75 km south
Scale of visual effect	ZTV confirms theoretical visibility to the solar development is limited to the northern edge of the settlement, including the lower areas bordering the common and then the central elevated areas around the church / castle. These two areas with the greatest levels of visibility are considered within the Viewpoint Assessment, see Viewpoints 5 and 8. It is highlighted that these locations present the areas with expansive views to the north towards the site and generally within the settlement, views will be restricted by near features or

	not orientated in the direction of the site. Existing views north also include Llantrisant Business Park, C1 solar scheme and the two 'Daffodill' wind turbines. **Medium.**
Geographical extent	c.1.75km from the edge of settlement, deployment is visible set within the existing field structure, a small scale feature within a wide panorama. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low-Medium** The conclusion is for the settlement as a whole, much of which is within a tight grain layout with inward looking terraced streets with limited views out over the landscape for the majority of residents.
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Moderate -** a 'Not Significant' visual effect Changes to the view would be clearly noticeable at the edge of the settlement and form a new element but experienced by few residents and visitors to the settlement. The arrays being minor features when seen at this distance in what is a wide panorama where distant views are unobstructed, and the scheme is a small component.

Talbot Green	
Distance from site	c. 1.8 km south
Scale of visual effect	Town. ZTV shows very limited theoretical visibility to the solar development from properties on the northern edge of the town. In reality, due to mature tree cover around the properties and in the near areas (golf course and hospital sites) all views would be screened. No change in view.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	NA – no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	Negligible (no change)
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral, -** a 'Not Significant' visual effect

Porth	
Distance from site	c. 2km north west
Scale of visual effect	Large Village. ZTV confirms no theoretical visibility to any of the solar Development. All visibility screened by a combination of undulating intervening landform and woodland / vegetation. No change in view.
Geographical extent	No change
Duration and reversibility of effect	NA – no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	Negligible (no change)

LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral, -** a 'Not Significant' visual effect

Beddau	
Distance from site	c. 2.3km east
Scale of visual effect	Large Village. ZTV confirms theoretical visibility to the solar development is limited to the western edge of the settlement, properties fronting the ridge of the B4595 only. The extent of visibility from these areas is represented by Viewpoint 7 taken from the public right of way in fields to the immediate west of B4595 and opposite Beddau Junior School. The resulting change at Viewpoint 7 was "Minor - Moderate - a 'Not Significant' visual effect (Focussed within a small area of the fields at the edge of settlement where views behind B495 roadside hedgerow are generally well screened)". Away from this area there is no visibility to the development from the vast majority of the settlement, all views screened by intermediate landform. **Low**
Geographical extent	Long range view to eastern edges of deployment from c.1km section of road corridor at the western edge of settlement only. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Minor / Moderate -** a 'Not Significant' visual effect

6.3.1 The ZTV shows very limited visibility from the settlement of Ynsmaerdy which is considered by Viewpoint 2 of the following viewpoint assessment. No views out of the settlement are possible as it is well screened by woodland and most residences are inward looking with rear gardens backing onto woodland.

6.4 Assessment of Predicted Visual Effect on Transportation Network

6.4.1 The following key transport routes within the study area, as illustrated on drawing WN 1011/07/01 Landscape Planning Constraints are considered in the following table.

6.5 Assessment of Predicted Visual Effects on Viewpoints

6.5.1 The current views from each of the viewpoint locations are shown in the baseline photo plates for Viewpoints 1 – 10, beneath the baseline photograph a photomontage has been produced together with the solar Development Area site extents markers. Detailed analysis of the viewpoints is made with reference to the current baseline views and photomontages. The analysis of the magnitude of change, and the predicted visual effect (including cumulative), are considered in the following tables.

Viewpoint 1 - Ynsmaerdy Footway adjacent to roundabout Ely Valley Road	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the footway and road upon the A4119 between the small village of Ynysmaerdy and commercial/industrial area.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route, set within an urban area.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**Medium** – road users (including pedestrians) close to commercial and industrial area, road users on dual carriageway.
Scale of visual effect: The photomontage illustrates that there would be very limited visibility to the solar arrays, focussed to the most elevated sections of the site only in the north eastern boundary. The majority of the site (as shown on the wireframe) would be screened by buildings and vegetation upon the valley floor and fringe areas. The arrays can be seen set within the existing field structure, the surrounding hedges and trees forming an established natural setting for the development, only a small change to the visible field texture and coverage. From this area there is very limited visibility to the blade tips of the western daffodil turbine. The solar deployment closely follows the topography of the hillside and so does not look overly dominant or incongruous to the existing landscape pattern. So, there is a partial change in land coverage (long term albeit temporary loss of grassland cover) the valley side pasture field structure is still legible with vegetation defining the fields. **Low change in view.** Cumulative: There would be potential visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view. It is likely that a small area of the upper (central and northern) section of the scheme would be visible in the field to the west of the visible deployment area of Ely Valley SF. Considering the areas of the fields currently visible this scheme will be of a smaller scale overall to that seen within the existing photomontage and again set and enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme. **Low / Medium change in view** All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.	
Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. A very short section of road and footway are subject to the view at a distance of c.700m. Most users would not be focussed on views out of (and above) the road corridor given the industrial and commercial context. Change is visible within a limited area. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration (40 years), but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible but landscape mitigation to remain.
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low** **Low / Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Minor** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect **Minor/Moderate** – a 'Not Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 2 - Llantrisant Forest	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Visitors to forest park with recreational footpaths / trails, picnic area and car parking. **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Within an area of high landscape value for its scenic qualities. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High. Visitors engaged in outdoor recreation, including the use of PROW whose attention is likely to be focused on the landscape and particular views.

Scale of visual effect: Viewpoint photograph illustrates that from the representative point all views to the site are screened. Upon assessment various routes within the wood were walked and no clear views towards the site area could be found. The view from Viewpoint 6, gained after walking through the woods, is the most representative from the northern area of the woods. **No change in view** Cumulative: **No change in view**	
Geographical extent	N/A - no visibility
Duration and reversibility of effect	N/A - no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	N/A - no visibility
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect

Viewpoint 3 - Layby on dual carriageway Ely Valley Road (A4119)	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the footway and road upon the A4119 to the east of the Royal Glamorgan Hospital Ynysmaerdy and commercial/industrial area.
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route, set within an urban area.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**Medium** – road users (including pedestrians) close to commercial and industrial area, road users on dual carriageway.
Scale of visual effect: The view set upon the same road corridor to Viewpoint 1, illustrates the sequential view on approaching from the south at a greater distance. The same area of the site visible from Viewpoint 1, is also visible from this area although a greater proportion of the north eastern edge of the site can be seen from this viewing angle and distance. The arrays of the northern (and most elevated) area of the site seen to the north east above the intermediate vegetation of the main road corridor and beyond the Llantrisant Business Park / Royal Mint area. The arrays are seen in the context of the existing small scale solar to the east site C1, and the two 'daffodil' turbines. The Intermediate area, valley floor, is dominated by the road, associated highway lighting, with electrical pylons. The visible areas of the site are of a similar overall size to the operational site C1. This illustrates how the deployment will be set within the existing field structure, the surrounding hedges and trees forming a natural setting to the development, only a limited change to the visible field texture and coverage. There is also a very oblique view to the low area of the solar deployment but viewed above the distant road corridor approaching the roundabout, this area is generally indiscernible. Overall, there is a change in land coverage (long term albeit temporary loss of grassland cover) of the valley side fields, but this is a small component of the wider view. The valley side pasture field structure is still legible with vegetation defining the fields. **Low / Medium change in view.** Cumulative: There would be potential visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view. It is likely that an area of the upper (central and northern) section of the scheme would be visible in the field to the west of the visible deployment area of Ely Valley SF. Considering the area of the fields currently visible, this scheme will be of a smaller scale overall to that seen within the existing photomontage and again set and enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme, with C1 to the east. **Medium change in view** All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.	
Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. A very short section of road and footway are subject to the view and only when travelling north, at a distance of c.1.2km. Change is visible within a limited area. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but temporary, scheme is reversible. Landscape mitigation likely to remain long term (benefit).
Magnitude of visual	**Low / Medium**

effect	**Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Minor / Moderate** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect **Moderate** – a 'Not Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 4 - Public Footpath, RH|ANT|225/1, Llantrisant Common	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public footpath users / visitors upon the Common - **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Assumed outlook valued by PROW and common users. location is within the LPA defined Special Landscape Area. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**High** – users of the public right of way

Scale of visual effect:

The photomontage illustrates that from this open aspect upon the common, there potential for visibility over the majority of the site area, but due to the changes in topography over the site area, the most elevated, north eastern site area remains the most perceptible (similar to Viewpoints 1 and 3). The north eastern site area is visible set within the field structure, on the mid slopes of the hillside close to the existing 'C1' solar scheme and the western Daffodill turbine. The eastern Daffodil turbine still forms the largest notable built structure on the opposing hillside. The central and southern area of the deployment are perceptible within the lower fields descending to the area around Dyffryn Farm, however due to the viewing angle, only a small vertical plane of development is seen set within the well vegetated field structure.

The rolling valley side landform, although subject to a change in landcover, is still legible. The change in field coverage texture and colour is the most notable feature, as illustrated by the existing C1 solar site to the east. The Ely Valley scheme and C1 seen as one combined (larger) unit in terms of ground cover, although much less subservient to the taller turbines.

The site continues to be framed by the lower and mid valley side woodland which wraps around the site to partially screen the central and lower deployment areas. The larger fields at the foot of the valley and woodland blocks maintain the separation between the side of the valley and the large industrial units forming the expanse of ribbon development which remain as prominent visual detractors spread across the valley bottom.

Medium change in view

Cumulative:

There would be visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view, which is yet to be constructed. It is likely that an area of the upper (central and northern) section of the scheme would be visible in the field to the west of the north eastern visible deployment area of Ely Valley SF. Considering the area of the fields currently visible, this scheme will be of a smaller scale overall to that seen within the photomontage and again set and enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme, along with C1 to the east. The development would have the effect of infilling the current open field between the north eastern and central deployment areas, although the majority of this area would be screened by mature woodland upon the boundary.

Medium change in view

All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.

Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. A short section of PROW and open Common area is subject to the view and when looking north, at a distance of c.1.6km. Change is visible within a small area of the overall wide scale view. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible. Landscape mitigation likely to remain long term (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Medium** **Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Moderate-Major** - a Not 'Significant' visual effect **Moderate-Major** - a Not 'Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 5 - Swan Street Car Park, Bullring, Llantrisant	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Town centre car park - pedestrians and adjacent residential areas, representative of northern views over the landscape. **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Assume view valued by residents and visitors. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**High** – residential and visitors to the town (lower for road users)

Scale of visual effect:

Photomontage illustrates the distant views north towards the site from an elevated position within the centre of Llantrisant. The position allows for a wide panoramic vista north across the Llantrisant Common area towards the hillside of the site and upland areas in the far distance. The solar layout is defined within the existing field pattern with visible development areas focussed on the most elevated north eastern area of the deployment (similar to Viewpoints 1, 3 and 4). The north eastern site area is set on the mid slopes of the hillside close to the existing 'C1' solar scheme and the western Daffodill turbine. The eastern Daffodil turbine forms the largest notable built structure on the distant hillside, the blade tips rising higher than the horizon. The central and southern areas of the deployment are perceptible but generally screened by near vegetation, within the lower fields descending to the area around Dyffryn Farm. Whilst the solar arrays form a noticeable new element in the view, they sit within the retained landscape structure (hedgerow field boundaries and partly bound by woodland) forming a change in field coverage colour and texture, similar to the adjacent C1 solar site. The development does not obstruct views which continue to the distant upland areas.

The site at this distance is a relatively minor component of the wide panoramic view which also takes in the visually prominent detractors (large industrial sheds and business park units) of the valley bottom area. The loss of grassland cover for the operational period forming a long-term change, a partial change in character. The overall character and composition of the view will predominantly remain intact. The two daffodil turbines remain the main visual built form feature in the distant view.

Medium / Low change in view

Cumulative:

There would be visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view, which is yet to be constructed. An area of the upper (central and northern) section of the scheme would be visible in the field to the west and north west of the north eastern visible deployment area of Ely Valley SF. Considering the area of the fields currently visible, this scheme will be of a similar scale overall to that seen within the photomontage and again set and enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed, the developments would be seen as the same scheme, along with C1 to the east. The development would have the effect of infilling the current open field between the north eastern and central deployment areas, although the majority of this area would be screened by mature woodland upon the boundary.

Medium / Low change in view

All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.

Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. An open location on the edge of a public car park at a distance of c.2.3km. Change is visible within a small area of the overall wide scale panoramic view. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible. Landscape mitigation likely to remain long term (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Medium / Low** **Medium / Low (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Moderate** - a Not 'Significant' visual effect **Moderate** - a Not 'Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 6 – Mynydd Meiros Footpath, ref RAN/6/5, close to the Taf Ely Ridgeway Trail	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public footpath users- **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic trail. Set close to a large-scale wind farm. Assumed outlook valued by route users **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**High** – users of the public right of way
Scale of Visual Effect: A viewpoint with site extents is provided. The position provides a vantage point looking eastwards from the footpath upon Mynydd Meiros. Theoretical visibility is indicated on the ZTV and it is likely that the upper and central areas of the site would be perceptible, although from this viewing angle the arrays be more side on in aspect, so there would be a very limited horizontal plane of development visible following the profile of the hillside. The site would be of a small scale compared to the vertical scale of the existing two daffodil turbines and the wide horizontal spread of the industrial and warehousing areas around the Ynysmaerdy roundabout upon the valley floor. This could be said to be a typical view of the region when viewed from this angle. Whilst the site development would be visible, at this separation distance and considering the wider context, the development will form a very small-scale feature, a change to field cover texture and colour, set within the established field structure including mature trees and woodland blocks. **Low / Negligible change in view.** Cumulative: There would be potential visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view. The site would be seen next to the deployment of Ely Valley, wrapping around to the west and north. Considering the area of the fields currently visible this scheme will be of a similar scale overall to that seen of Ely Valley and again enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme. **Low / Negligible change in view** All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section	
Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. Limited number of arrays of the western edge of the deployment visible at a distance of c. 1.7km, visible over a very small area within the wider panoramic view. Low
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible, but landscape mitigation is likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low / Medium** **Low / Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Minor / Moderate** - a 'Not Significant' visual effect **Minor / Moderate** - a 'Not Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 7 - Public Footpath RH|ANT|232/1 off B4595, Beddau	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public footpath users- **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Assumed outlook valued by route users and at the edge of the Special Landscape Area. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – users of the public right of way
Scale of visual effect:	

The photomontage illustrates that the deployment is largely screened however there are angled views to the eastern edges of three deployment zones, the north eastern area beside solar site C1 and then the central and southern site areas. Due to the mature hedge cover, woodland and tree blocks upon the valley side fringes the majority of the site is screened and this also combines to enclose the solar development, integrating it with the hillside, the change in field colour and texture the main differentiating feature.
The arrays form a relatively small component viewed as a thin band hugging the hillside and plateau set within the existing field structure, equating to a minor interruption in landcover and landscape pattern. The arrays do not break the skyline given the low level nature of solar development. The two existing daffodil turbines and the C1 solar site remain the main feature of the middle distance views. A large scale wind farm forms a notable horizon feature.
Low change in view

Cumulative:
There would be very limited visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view, but set in the fields to the west of Ely Valley and generally screened by this scheme and the surrounding mature field boundaries to the east. Considering the area of the fields currently visible this scheme will be of a similar scale overall to that seen of Ely Valley and again enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme.
Low change in view
All of the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section

Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. Small areas (side on) of lower, mid and upper slopes of the deployment visible, c.2.2km from the site. Small zone of intervisibility and this area represents the greatest areas of visibility close to the Beddau settlement. Low.
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible, but landscape mitigation is likely to remain (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Low / Medium** **Low /Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Moderate / Minor** - a 'Not Significant' visual effect **Moderate / Minor** - a 'Not Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 8 - Llantrisant Common / Llantrisant	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the common and residential properties that border the common on the northern edge of Llantrisant- **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Assumed outlook valued by local users of the common, residents and set within Special Landscape Area. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**High** – users of the common / residents

Scale of visual effect:

Photomontage is set upon the common, as is Viewport 4, but located at a greater distance away, closer to Llantrisant. The photomontage illustrates the visibility to the site area, but due to the changes in topography the most elevated, north eastern site areas remain the most perceptible (similar to Viewpoints 1 and 3).
The north eastern site area is visible set within the field structure, on the mid slopes of the hillside close to the existing 'C1' solar scheme and the western Daffodill turbine. The eastern Daffodil turbine partially screened by a near tree. The central deployment is screened and the southern area perceptible within the lower fields descending to the area around Dyffryn Farm. Due to the viewing angle, only a small vertical plane of development is seen set within the well vegetated field structure.
The rolling valley side landform, although subject to a change in landcover, is still legible. The change in field coverage texture and colour is a notable feature, as illustrated by the existing C1 solar site to the east. The Ely Valley scheme and C1 seen as one combined (larger) unit in terms of ground cover, although much less subservient to the taller turbines and still forming a small scale change to field coverage within a wider panorama offering distant views to rising hills to the north.
The larger fields at the foot of the valley and woodland blocks maintain the separation between the side of

the valley and the valley floor. The large industrial units of Llantrisant Business Park are screened by intervening vegetation from this viewing angle and distance. **Medium / Low change in view** Cumulative: There would be visibility to the adjacent cumulative scheme of C3 Talgren Solar, combined in the same view, which is yet to be constructed. It is likely that an area of the upper (central and northern) section of the scheme would be visible in the field to the west of the north eastern visible deployment area of Ely Valley SF. Considering the area of the fields currently visible, this scheme will be of a smaller scale overall to that seen within the photomontage and again set and enclosed by the established field structure. Once both are constructed the developments would be seen as the same scheme, along with C1 to the east. The development would have the effect of infilling the current open field between the north eastern and central deployment areas, although the majority of this area would be screened by mature woodland upon the boundary. **Medium change in view** All the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.

Geographical extent	Focussed to viewpoint location only. Users of the open Common area (and limited near residential) have this view and when looking north, at a distance of c.1.9km. Change is visible within a small area of the overall wide scale view. **Low**
Duration and reversibility of effect	Long term duration, but ultimately temporary, scheme is reversible. Landscape mitigation likely to remain long term (benefit).
Magnitude of visual effect	**Medium** **Medium (cumulative)**
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Moderate** - a Not 'Significant' visual effect **Moderate** - a 'Not Significant' cumulative visual effect

Viewpoint 9 - Site Entrance, Ely Valley Road	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Users of the main road corridor (recently upgraded to dual carriageway) - **Medium**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Not a defined scenic area or route, set within an urban fringe area.
Sensitivity of visual receptor	**Medium** – road users (including pedestrians) close to commercial and industrial area, road users on dual carriageway.
Scale of visual effect: Viewpoint provided with site extents marked. The location offers close range views to the site entrance, which will utilise the current Dyffryn Farm entrance track. There will be no views to the deployment areas, the solar arrays set the north and east of the visible Dyffryn Farm grouping with associated tree and hedgerow cover. **No change in view** Cumulative: **No change in view** All the other operational cumulative solar sites are present within the study area so if visible, these would be discussed within the main assessment section.	
Geographical extent	N/A - no visibility
Duration and reversibility of effect	N/A - no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	N/A - no visibility
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect

Viewpoint 10 - Taf Ely Ridgeway Walk	
Visual receptor / susceptibility to change	Public footpath users - **High**
Value of view	No recognition in planning terms (landscape and heritage) or literature. Assumed outlook valued by route users, a defined regional trail and within the Special Landscape Area. **High**
Sensitivity of visual receptor	High – users of the public right of way
Scale of visual effect: Viewpoint photograph illustrates that from the representative point all views to the site are screened by trees and scrub the surround the path corridor. **No change in view** Cumulative: **No change in view**	
Geographical extent	N/A - no visibility
Duration and reversibility of effect	N/A - no visibility
Magnitude of visual effect	N/A - no visibility
LEVEL OF VISUAL EFFECT	**Neutral** – a 'Not Significant' visual effect


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