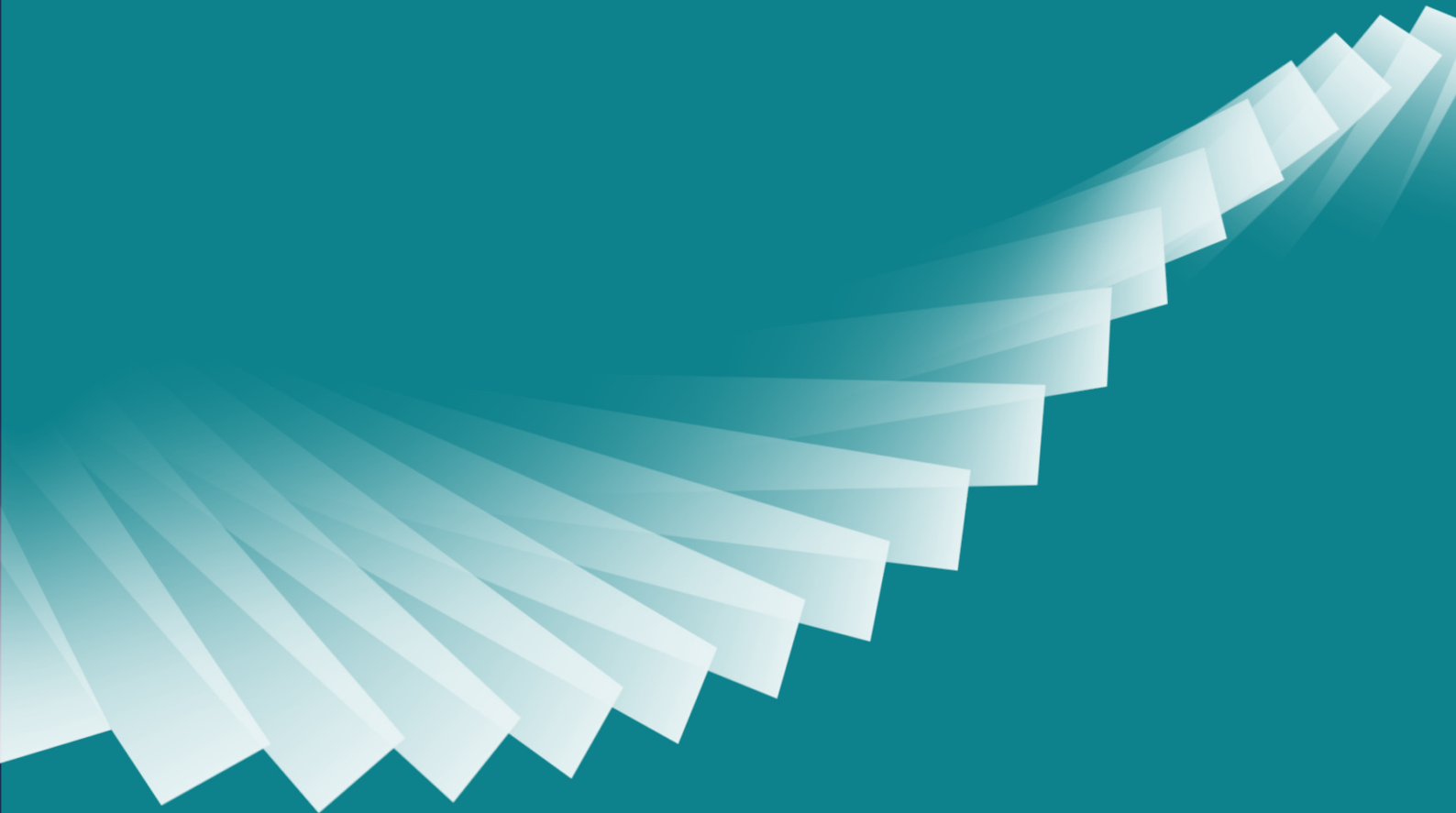




Bute Energy
Aberedw Energy Park

Appendix 5.4:

Landscape Assessment Tables



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Appendix 5.4: Landscape Assessment Tables

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Contents

1. **Powys Landscape Character Areas**
1
2. **Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Landscape Character Areas**
43

Table of Tables

Table 1.1 Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 (Host LCA)	1
Table 1.2 Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40	5
Table 1.3 Aberedw Valley LCA 54	9
Table 1.4 Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55	11
Table 1.5 Northern Mynydd Epynt LCA 56	14
Table 1.6 Painscastle Uplands LCA 51	17
Table 1.7 Mynydd Epynt LCA 57	20
Table 1.8 Irfon Valley LCA 53	23
Table 1.9 Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 44	25
Table 1.10 Eastern Mynydd Epynt Hills LCA 58	28
Table 1.11 Radnor Forest LCA 43	30
Table 1.12 River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 38	33
Table 1.13 Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys LCA 59	36
Table 1.14 Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 47	38
Table 1.15 Southern Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 52	41
Table 2.1 Wye Valley Foothills LCA 14	43
Table 2.2 The Black Mountains LCA 13	46
Table 2.3 Middle Usk Valleys LCA 6	49
Table 2.4 Eastern Usk Valley LCA 11	52
Table 2.5 Central Beacons LCA 7	55
Table 2.6 Western Usk Tributaries LCA 5	58
Table 2.7 Fforest Fawr LCA 3	60

1. Powys Landscape Character Areas

Table 1.1 Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 (Host LCA)

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 ¹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Local Landscape Character Assessment for the Powys Local Development Plan Area – Landscape Character Assessment Report ('Powys LCA') ²	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 20: Bryniau Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Hills ³ . A very small area in the south-west of the LCA falls within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ⁴ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	This landscape unit comprises two geographically distinct areas, separated by the Aberedw Valley. The western part of the LCA covers the entirety of the Site (comprising Aberedw Hill, Llan-fraith Hill, and Wylfre), as shown on Figures 5.9a and b. The wider extents of the LCA covers areas to the south, south-east and east of the Site and extends to the north-east for approximately 12 km (from the nearest turbine). It covers a series of other hills including Gwaunceste Hill (542 m AOD), Glascwm Hill (522 m AOD), Little Hill (491 m AOD), Red Hill (509 m AOD), Llanbedr Hill (465 m AOD) and Llandeilo Hill (439 m AOD). Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 7: Twm Tobacco's Grave on Llandeilo Hill, Viewpoint 14: Unnamed lane, north-east of Llanbedr Hill, Viewpoint 18: Llanfihangel Hill and Viewpoint 20: Bridleway off A44 near Castell Crugerydd (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	The proposed turbines are located within this LCA.	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(As this is the host landscape unit, all Aspect Areas that fall within the landscape unit are listed here, with those evaluated as 'high' or 'outstanding' listed in bold text. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS164 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>'good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.'</i> 17 of the proposed turbines and access tracks are located within this VSAA. RDNRVS127 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation – <i>'one of the finest landscapes in the region, very attractive, well composed, upland valley landform, very well-defined traditional field pattern, and diversity of landcover types within a coherent structure – make a high to outstanding landscape.'</i> The proposed Turbine 8 is located within this VSAA. RDNRVS133 Rolling hills, central south-east: Moderate overall evaluation - <i>'attractive traditional pastoral landscape with strong field pattern, often with well laid hedges typifies Radnor - and results in overall moderate values as it is not unusual or particularly distinctive'</i> The proposed substation and underground cabling are located within this VSAA. RDNRVS168 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>'Attractively rugged.'</i> RDNRVS106 Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>'Attractively rugged.'</i> RDNRVS119: Improved upland, Radnor Forest: Moderate overall evaluation - <i>'intrinsically higher landscape value has been degraded by insensitive intensive farming with conversion of rough grassland/moorland areas to improved grassland fields by drainage, enlargement and reseeded, plus fencing -resulting in disturbed messy rather barren unattractive landscape.'</i> RDNRVS166: Rolling hills, south-east: Moderate overall evaluation - <i>'attractive traditional pastoral landscape with strong field pattern, often with well laid hedges typifies Radnor - and results in overall moderate values as it is not unusual or particularly distinctive.'</i> RDNRVS109 Upland moor, south-east outliers: High overall evaluation – <i>'good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.'</i> RDNRVS108 Upland moor, Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation – <i>'good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.'</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL244 Aberedw Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>'Relatively rare area of unenclosed upland common with patches of undisturbed and significant archaeology.'</i> 17 of the proposed turbines, and access tracks are located within this HLAA. RDNRHL914 Edw: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'A large sinuous area covering entire length of the Edw valley and its tributaries. The land is enclosed with systems of irregular fields and is intensely settled and farmed and contains significant archaeological remains of all periods all of which enhances its score'</i> The proposed Turbine 8 is located within this HLAA. RDNRHL235 Pentre: Moderate overall evaluation - <i>'An amorphous area of mixed fields at the broad mouth of the Cnithro valley. Apart from its field pattern however it is remarkably devoid of historical interest.'</i> The proposed substation and underground cabling are located within this HLAA. RDNRHL371 Glascwm Hill: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Large straggling area of unenclosed upland. Significant evidence of multi-layered landscapes from prehistoric funerary through medieval and post medieval agriculture to 19th century shooting estate.'</i>

¹ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands

² LUC on behalf of Powys County Council (2022) Local Landscape Character Assessment for the Powys Local Development Plan Area – Landscape Character Assessment Report

³ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills

⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 ¹	
		RDNRHL801 Castle Hill: Moderate overall evaluation – ‘Enclosed straggling upland area dominated by evidence of post medieval and possibly earlier agriculture with occasional outbreaks of prehistoric activity, but little else with which to enhance its cores.’ RDNRHL256 Bachawy: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A large area of mixed fieldscapes encompassing some exceptional areas of medieval and prehistoric settlement. which considerably enhance its value’ RDNRHL949 Upper Arrow: High overall evaluation – ‘The upper reaches of the Arrow valley marked by regular fieldscapes. Eclectic mixture of minor medieval and later farms and settlements and scattered prehistoric remains all help to enhance its score.’ RDNRHL950 Fedw: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fields at the head of the Edw. Mixed patterns and mixed but extensive and high scoring historic content – a prehistoric rock carving, standing stones, round barrows, a stone circle, a motte and bailey castle, and sundry farms.’ RDNRHL122 Nant Melan: High overall evaluation – ‘The flattish valley floor of the Summergill Brook is divided into squarish regular fields of on moderate historical interest but the area's value is increased by its eclectic archaeological content.’ RDNRHL765 Weythel: High overall evaluation – ‘An area of mixed fieldscapes with a scatter of extant, shrunken and deserted medieval (and possibly Saxon) settlements, some with relict field systems, occupying rolling ground to the south of the Walton Basin. Scores highly in all areas.’ RDNRHL763 Walton Basin: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A truly outstanding area encompassing prehistoric complexes of international importance, Roman forts and settlement, early medieval and medieval settlements and their strip field systems, later fieldscapes and even associations with William Wordsworth!’
	Geological Landscape Aspect Area (GLAA):	RDNRGL435: Aberedw-Glascwm: High overall evaluation – ‘Significant upland area dominated by siltstones and sandstones of late Silurian (Ludlow-Pridoli) age, including several sites of at least regional geological significance.’ The proposed turbines and access tracks are located within this GLAA. RDNRGL187 Penybont-Hundred House: Moderate overall evaluation - ‘Outcrop of widespread geology; exposures of at least regional importance not currently recorded.’ The proposed substation and underground cabling are located within this GLAA. RDNRGL807 Radnor Forest: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Upland area with sites of national importance (candidate SSSIs) for Silurian (Ludlow) stratigraphy and significant glacial features.’ RDNRGL614 Maesyfed: Moderate overall evaluation – ‘Potential for scientifically useful temporary exposures in Silurian rocks. Natural river/stream flood plain systems may have some research value.’
	Landscape Habitat Aspect Area (LHAA):	RDNRLH041: High overall evaluation – no justification given. 17 of the proposed turbines and access tracks are located within this LHAA. RDNRLH050: High overall evaluation – no justification given. The proposed Turbine 8 is located within this LHAA. RDNRLH051: Moderate overall evaluation. The proposed substation and underground cabling will be located in this LHAA. RDNRLH005: High overall evaluation – no justification given RDNRLH036: High overall evaluation – no justification given RDNRLH030: High overall evaluation – no justification given RDNRLH060: Moderate overall evaluation. RDNRLH058: Moderate overall evaluation. RDNRLH059: Low overall evaluation. RDNRLH010: Low overall evaluation. RDNRLH024: High overall evaluation - No justification given. RDNRLH032: Moderate overall evaluation
	Cultural Landscape Aspect Area (CLAA):	RDNRCLS074 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation No justification given. The proposed Turbine 8 is located within this CLAA. RDNRCLS123 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation No justification given. 17 of the proposed turbines and access tracks are located within this CLAA. RDNRCLS080 Rolling hills, central south-east: Moderate overall evaluation. The proposed substation and underground cabling are located within this CLAA. RDNRCLS131 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - No justification given. RDNRCLS096 Wye floor, south of Rhayader: High overall evaluation - No justification given. RDNRCLS012 Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill: High overall evaluation - No justification given. RDNRCLS122 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation - No justification given. RDNRCLS050 Improved upland, Radnor Forest: Moderate overall evaluation. RDNRCLS126 Rolling hills, south-east: Moderate overall evaluation. RDNRCLS132 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - No justification given.

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 ¹									
		RDNRCLS073 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation - <i>No justification given.</i> RDNRCLS020 Upland moor, south-east outliers: High overall evaluation - <i>No justification given.</i> RDNRCLS017 Upland moor, Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation - <i>No justification given.</i> RDNRCLS107 New Radnor basin: High overall evaluation - <i>No justification given.</i>								
Description of Landscape Unit ⁵	- A large-scale landscape of elevated hills, plateaux and ridges, incised by upland brooks which create a gently undulating landform. Hill summits frequently exceed 400 m AOD in elevation. - Landcover primarily comprises unenclosed upland commons of heathland and moorland. Woodland cover is sparse, limited to occasional conifer shelterbelts. - Evidence of prehistoric settlement includes Bronze Age funerary and ceremonial monuments, boundary features and a hillfort. Medieval rural settlements, platform houses and a mound-and-bailey castle add to the time depth of the landscape unit. Frequent disused quarries on the lower slopes indicate the industrial heritage of the landscape. - Settlement comprises the small church settlement of Llanfihangel-nant-Melan, with a small number of farmsteads on the lower hill slopes. A limited number of unenclosed moorland roads cross the uplands which are otherwise remote, with an absence of man-made influence. - There are expansive views from the upland landscape over the surrounding lower-lying areas and to other upland landscapes including distant views south to summits within Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP). The landscape unit has a strong visual relationship with the Aberedw Valley which it overlooks. - An exposed, wild and rugged landscape with a strong sense of remoteness from populations, particularly experienced from the upland summits. Traffic on the A44 locally influences the sense of remoteness and tranquillity. - The landscape unit experiences dark skies, as indicated by the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales⁶. - The area is well served by Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and the majority of the LCA is Open Access Land. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height)⁷ is located in an adjacent landscape unit (LCA 40) approximately 1.5 km to the north-west of this landscape unit (from the nearest boundary to the nearest turbine) and is seen in views from hill summits across the north and north-western parts of the landscape assessment unit.									
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of medium susceptibility to the type and scale of the Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of lower susceptibility (large scale plateau landform and simple landcover pattern) and indicators of higher susceptibility (valleys, presence of archaeological assets, limited modern development, strongly rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, the landscape value is considered to be high. Although it is not designated, the component LANDMAP VSAs are evaluated as having a ‘high’ overall evaluation (with the justification provided relevant to this assessment), it has some conservation interest (with component HLAs that are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, as well as prehistoric and medieval features), has high recreational value (with PRoWs and extensive areas of Open Access Land), and has a strongly rural character (although is locally influenced by traffic on the A44 main road). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high. <table><tr><td>Low</td><td>Low-Medium</td><td>Medium</td><td>Medium-High</td><td>High</td></tr></table>					Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High						
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be direct effects on the landscape unit as a result of the 18 turbines, crane hardstandings, tracks, revegetated borrow pits and part of the revegetated grid connection cable trench being introduced within this landscape unit. The turbines and infrastructure will be located within an area of large-scale upland plateau, avoiding the steeper land, and avoiding the key environmental constraints. The Proposed Development will not significantly affect the heritage features noted as important characteristics of the area in the Powys Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP, and the landcover will largely remain between the turbines and tracks (see ES Chapter 7: Ecology (non-avian) for further information). The Proposed Development will however increase the presence of modern man-made influence within the landscape and add new built features to the skyline, affecting the sense of rurality and views over upland and adjoining valleys (including from the summits of Aberedw Hill, Llan-fraith Hill, and Wylfre). However, a sense of remoteness from populations will remain, along with other key characteristics such as the exposed upland landform of hills, plateaux and ridges, the presence of upland heathland and moorland habitats, prehistoric and medieval assets, the PRoW and extensive areas of Open Access Land, and the long-ranging views across surrounding uplands, as well as distant views south to summits within BBNP. Nevertheless, the Proposed Development will result in a large scale of effect to the character of the area directly affected by the Proposed Development, changing this area to a wind farm landscape. The scale of effect will reduce with distance from the Proposed Development, reducing to a medium scale of effect for the parts of the landscape unit located beyond 1.5 km, i.e. the north facing slopes including Llandeilo Hill, Cradle Rocks, and Rhulen Hill, as well as west- and south-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Glascwm Hill, and Little Hill. Beyond 5 km, the scale of effect will reduce to small i.e. for the elevated upper slopes and hill summits, including Gwaunceste Hill and Colva/Llanfihangel Hill. Aviation lighting on the nacelles of 6 of the 18 turbines will introduce artificial light sources to the landscape at night. These will be perceived from across the landscape unit, as illustrated in Figure A5.8.3. The effects arising from the introduction of visible aviation lighting are set out in Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.									

⁵ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

⁶ **Natural Resources Wales (2021) Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales Mapping**

⁷ Construction is understood to be complete and the wind farm awaits a connection to the electricity network (as of June 2025), therefore the development is considered as part of the existing baseline situation.

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Uplands LCA 50 ¹				
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and mostly reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased, but the tracks will remain (to be left for use by the landowner or covered in topsoil). <u>Overall judgement of magnitude of landscape change and Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of landscape change during operation is judged to be high for the western part of the landscape unit that falls within the Site, which will be directly affected by the Proposed Development (including all 18 turbines) and up to 1.5 km from the turbines. It will reduce to medium for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north and west facing slopes and summits 1.5-5 km from the turbines. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a medium-high magnitude of change will apply].				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north and west facing slopes and summits 1.5-5 km from the turbines.	High for the western part of the landscape unit that falls within the Site, which will be directly affected by the Proposed Development (including all 18 turbines) and up to 1.5 km from the turbines.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a major (significant) effect for the western part of the landscape unit that falls within the Site, which will be directly affected by the Proposed Development (including all 18 turbines) and up to 1.5 km from the turbines. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of the north and west facing slopes and summits 1.5-5 km from the turbines. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a moderate-major effect will apply].				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north and west facing slopes and summits 1.5-5 km from the turbines.	Moderate-Major (significant) for the western part of the landscape unit that falls within the Site, which will be directly affected by the Proposed Development (including all 18 turbines) and up to 1.5 km from the turbines.
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are no consented wind energy developments located within this landscape unit. The consented wind energy developments of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m blade tip height) and Llandinam Repowering (34 turbines at 121 m blade tip height) are located over 21 km to the north-west. There will be limited interaction between the Proposed Development and the two consented wind energy developments given the intervening distance between them. The Proposed Development will have a much greater influence on this LCA than the Garn Fach/ Llandinam Repowering group. It is considered that the additional cumulative impact arising from the Proposed Development assuming the presence of the Garn Fach/ Llandinam group will be negligible. Therefore, the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are currently no undetermined planning applications for wind energy developments located within this LCA. However, Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m blade tip height⁸) would be located approximately 9.2 km to the north-east (within LCA 43: Radnor Forest) and Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) would be located 25 km to the north/ north-east (in LCA 35: Beacon Hill). The Proposed Development and Nant Mithil would both be seen from this LCA in a similar direction when viewed from the south-western part of the LCA. However, they will appear as clearly separate developments in different parts of the landscape. The proposed turbines at Bryngydfa Wind Farm will consolidate the existing wind farm of Garreg Lwyd Hill, but would only be seen in distant views (25 km away, clear conditions only) to the north-east of the LCA. With these proposed wind energy developments in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa, but will be clearly separated from them; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the nearer of the two proposed wind energy developments, Nant Mithil (although acknowledging the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be the only proposed wind farm located within this landscape unit. Although the Proposed Development and Nant Mithil will both be close to, and seen from, this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development under Scenario B will remain high (for the area directly affected and up 1.5 km from the turbines) resulting in an effect of major (significant), and is therefore the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.				

⁸ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 1.2 Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40

Landscape Unit	Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40 ⁹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 20: Bryniau Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Hills ¹⁰	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	This landscape unit is located immediately adjacent to the north of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b. The wider extents of the LCA extend to the north for approximately 24 km (from the nearest Aberedw turbine), incorporating the hills of Carneddau (436 m AOD), Gilwern Hill (439 m AOD), Llandegley Rocks (436 m AOD) and Maelienydd (350 m AOD), meeting the lower slopes of Beacon Hill (LCA 35) along its northern boundary. Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 2: A481 at Matts Common, Viewpoint 3: A481 at Hundred House, Viewpoint 6: Perthi Common (dusk/night-time Viewpoint N1), Viewpoint 8: Carneddau, Viewpoint 11: Castle Bank, Viewpoint 13: Unnamed lane at Bettws, Viewpoint 22: Llandegley Rocks, and Viewpoint 26: Elan Valley Way near Cwmwrach (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	0.4 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T13). The substation (located to the north of Aberedw Hill) is proposed in this landscape unit.	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS127 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation – ‘One of the finest landscapes in the region, very attractive , well composed, upland valley landform, very well defined traditional field pattern, and diversity of landcover types within a coherent structure – make a high to outstanding landscape.’ RDNRVS164 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation – ‘Good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.’ RDNRVS141 Wye floor, south of Rhayader: High overall evaluation – ‘Part of highly visible attractive main valley.’ RDNRVS152 Llandrindod Wells: High scenic quality evaluation – ‘Some very attractive townscape and open spaces.’ RDNRVS129 Hills east of Llandrindod: High overall evaluation – ‘A mixture of small scale characteristics create an overall attractive variety in close proximity to town.’ RDNRVS108 Upland moor, Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation – ‘good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL914 Edw: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A large sinuous area covering entire length of the Edw valley and its tributaries. The land is enclosed with systems of irregular fields and is intensely settled and farmed and contains significant archaeological remains of all periods all of which enhances its score.’ RDNRHL235 Pentre: Moderate overall evaluation – Ancillary infrastructure (underground cables and substation) are located within this aspect area. RDNRHL304 Carneddau: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of unenclosed upland with significant survival of prehistoric landscapes (burial and settlement) and distinct but scattered post medieval farming and settlement remains.’ RDNRHL427 Gelli Hill: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Area of unenclosed upland with rich early and late prehistoric and medieval landscape elements in a relatively undisturbed condition.’ RDNRHL141 Trecoed: High overall evaluation – ‘A large but 'busy' area dominated by mixed fieldscapes, but with a mixed historic content in relatively good condition.’ RDNRHL950 Fedw: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fields at the head of the Edw. Mixed patterns and mixed but extensive and high scoring historic content – a prehistoric rock carving, standing stones, round barrows, a stone circle, a motte and bailey castle, and sundry farms.’ RDNRHL825 Cefnlllys: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fields occupying undulating hills surrounding the Ithon east of Llandrindod Wells. The overall pattern is diffuse and the historical content surprisingly light, but its overall value is considerably enhanced by the concentration of significant features around Cefnlllys itself.’ RDNRHL237 Llandrindod Common: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘An area of relatively uniformly enclosed former common land containing a nationally important complex of Roman practice camps.’ RDNRHL992 Llandrindod Wells: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Fine, if a little shabby, example of a planned 19th century rural spa town retaining many of its original features. Also encompasses potential early medieval church site at Capel Maelog and medieval church and settlement at Llandrindod and contains sporadic Roman remains associated with Castell Collen fort – all of which enhance its value.’ RDNRHL828 Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation – ‘Straggling upland ridge at the heart of Radnorshire and marking the highest point in the county at 660 m. Mostly enclosed with large (presumably 19th century) fields and with scattered remains of medieval and later farming but also prehistoric funerary monuments and finds. A valuable historic landscape but with widely spread but important content.’

⁹ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 40: Llanbister-Penybont Uplands
¹⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills

Landscape Unit	Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40 ⁹				
		RDNRHL566 Rhos-swydd: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Area of unenclosed common. Contains various medieval settlement remains and a rare scheduled stretch of Roman road later utilised by an 18 th century Turnpike which increases its value.’ RDNRHL990 Cwmaran: High overall evaluation – ‘Undulating ground surrounding the Cwm Aran valley. Dominated by post medieval farmsteads and irregular fieldscape, but with no other clear focus.’			
	Geological Landscape Aspect Area (GLAA):	RDNRGL807 Radnor Forest: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Upland area with sites of national importance (candidate SSSIs) for Silurian (Ludlow) stratigraphy and significant glacial features.’ RDNRGL152 Beacon Hill-Bryn Mawr: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Major upland block with potential GCR site/SSSI (Beacon Hill) and at least two potential geological SINC’s (Knucklas castle and Nant Rhyty-Fedw) located within the LCA but beyond the 15 km Study Area.’ These GLAAs are identified as having a special functional link with RDNRGL435: Aberedw-Glascwm (<i>host GLAA</i>). RDNRGL546 Llanbister: High overall evaluation – ‘includes Blaen y Cwm Quarry potential geological SINC.’ This GLAA is identified as having a special functional link with RDNRGL187: Penybont-Hundred House (host GLAA).			
Description of Landscape Unit ¹¹	- A complex landform of low rolling hills (rising to a maximum elevation of 445 m AOD at Carneddau), incised by shallow stream valleys. - Landcover is dominated by traditional small to medium scale pasture fields enclosed by strong hedgerow boundaries, interspersed with pockets of nationally designated grassland habitats and small broadleaved woodlands. There are distinctive areas of open common land on the low hills. - Evidence of prehistoric settlement includes scattered burial and ritual monuments and Iron Age Hillforts, with later occupation evident in the presence of a section of Roman turnpike road and many deserted medieval settlement sites, Motte and Bailey castles and nucleated church settlements. Pencerrig Registered Historic Park and Garden (RHPG) (Grade II) is located in the south-west of the landscape unit. - Settlement pattern of scattered hamlets and farmsteads connected by a sparse network of minor lanes. Several larger roads and The Heart of Wales Line railway cut through the centre and south of the landscape unit and exert an urbanising influence on the landscape. There are many disused quarries, reflecting the long industrial heritage of the area. - Some far-reaching views are available from the hill summits, with a greater sense of visual enclosure in the valleys. The landscape unit has a strong visual relationship with upland areas to the east which overlook the landscape and form a backdrop in views (noted as a key landscape quality in the Powys LCA). - A scenic, tranquil pastoral landscape with a sense of timelessness resulting from the general absence of modern development. - Numerous PRoWs cross the landscape, including The Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath. Much of the unenclosed moorland is Open Access Land. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) is located within this landscape unit and is particularly visible from the undulating farmland to the south of Llandegley. Other existing wind farm developments are evident in views to the north (Garreg Lwyd Hill, 17 turbines at 126.5 m to blade tip height) located less than 2 km to the north of the northern tip of the LCA (within LCA 35 Beacon Hill). In longer distance views to the north-west Llandinam Wind Farm (102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height) will be visible in views 10 km to the north-west. Bryn Titli Wind Farm (22 turbines at 53.5 m blade tip height) is located 17 km to the west and will be visible from elevated areas of the LCA (as illustrated in Figure 5.23).				
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to more indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform of low hills and valleys, varied landcover pattern of small to medium-scale fields with hedgerows and semi-natural habitats, presence of archaeological features from a range of time periods, the strong visual relationship with adjacent upland landscapes, and the rural, tranquil character with a sense of timelessness owing to the absence of modern development). There are comparatively few indicators of lower sensitivity, including the presence of main roads and a railway line which exert urban influence on the landscape unit and locally detract from the sense of rural tranquillity. <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, the landscape value of the landscape unit is considered to be high as although it is not designated, several of the component LANDMAP VSAAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ or ‘high’ (with the justifications provided relevant to this assessment), it has conservation interest (with heritage assets from a range of time periods, as well as an RPHG, and several component LANDMAP HLAAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ or ‘high’). It has recreational value (with PRoWs including the Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath, large areas of Open Access Land across the upland areas), and has a strong sense of rurality and tranquillity, with few detracting features (although is locally affected by the presence of the railway line and main roads). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, direct effects will arise as a result of the substation and part of the revegetated grid connection cable trench occupying a small area in the south of the landscape unit, locally affecting the rural character. The substation will be located within a relatively flat area (away from the development area of the proposed turbines), avoiding the steeper and smaller-scale areas, and avoiding the key environmental constraints. It will not directly affect the heritage features noted as important characteristics of the area in the Powys Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP. Indirect effects will arise as a result of views of up to 18 turbines being introduced within an adjacent landscape unit. The Proposed Development will add new features to the skyline, increasing the presence of modern human development seen in views to the south from this landscape unit.				

¹¹ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40 ⁹				
	affecting the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of upland areas in proximity to the Site. However, the undulating landform of hills and valleys, varied semi-natural habitats, presence of archaeological features from a range of time periods, and strong visual relationship with adjacent upland landscapes will continue to give the landscape unit its distinctive character. The proximity of the Proposed Development to the southern part of the landscape unit (less than 1 km in places) will result in a large change to the landscape character in areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines including the area around the Fforest Fields campsite (noting that due to the valley landform, there will be areas within 1.5 km where only the blades of some turbines will be visible), and a medium change for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of areas between 1.5 km and 5 km, including from elevated, open common land at Perthi Common (illustrated by Viewpoint 6) and from south-facing slopes of Carneddau/Castle Bank (illustrated by Viewpoint 11). There will be a small change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the rolling farmland to the north of the Site (beyond 5 km), including Gilwern Hill and rolling pastoral land around Llandegley. The Proposed Development will increase the presence of modern development seen in views to the south from this landscape unit, affecting views from upland areas. However, the undulating hills and open commons, small-scale field patterns interspersed with woodland, and sense of rural tranquillity will continue to give the area its distinctive character. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and mostly reversible as the turbines and substation will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased, but the tracks will remain (to be left for use by the landowner or covered in topsoil). <u>Overall judgement of magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of landscape change during operation is judged to be high for areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines, reducing to medium for the visual and sensory character of areas up to 5 km from the proposed turbines including from elevated, open common land at Perthi Common and from south-facing slopes of Carneddau/Castle Bank. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a medium-high effect will apply].				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of areas up to 5 km from the proposed turbines, including from elevated, open common land at Perthi Common and from south-facing slopes of Carneddau/Castle Bank.	High for areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a major (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines. There will be a moderate (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of areas 1.5-5 km from the proposed turbines, including the elevated, open common land at Perthi Common and south-facing slopes of Carneddau/Castle Bank. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a moderate-major effect will apply].				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of areas up to 5 km from the proposed turbines, including from elevated, open common land at Perthi Common and from south-facing slopes of Carneddau/Castle Bank.	Moderate-Major (significant) Major (significant) for areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines.
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are no other consented wind energy developments located within this landscape unit. The consented wind energy developments of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m blade tip height) and Llandinam Repowering (34 turbines at 121 m blade tip height) are located over 25 km away from the Proposed Development (and over 7 km from the northern boundary of the LCA), from where they will be evident in views to the north-west from this LCA (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The larger (121 m blade tip height) turbines associated with the repowered Llandinam Wind Farm will replace the 102 operational turbines (45.5 m blade tip height) and will increase the perceptibility of this wind farm in views from the northern extents of the LCA, seen behind Garn Fach as one cluster, while the Proposed Development will appear in views from the southern and central extents of the LCA, often seen in combination with the existing turbines of Hendy Wind Farm. There will be limited visual interaction between Garn Fach/ Llandinam and the Proposed Development, and so the effect of the Proposed Development under Scenario A will remain the same as in the primary assessment. The <i>additional</i> cumulative impact arising from the Proposed Development assuming the presence of the Garn Fach/ Llandinam group will be negligible. <u>Scenario B</u>				

Landscape Unit	Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA 40 ⁹
	The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height¹²) is located within an adjacent landscape unit less than 1 km to the east of this LCA. If consented, Nant Mithil would be visible to the east of this LCA. The proposed Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) would extend the existing Garreg Lwyd Hill Wind Farm (17 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) to within 1 km of the northern part of the LCA, with the proposed turbines appearing to consolidate the existing wind farm. With these proposed Scenario B wind energy developments in place, the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy developments, whilst appearing clearly separate (and in a different direction) from them; ■ Introduce views of more wind turbines to the south (as well as to the north and east); ■ Be at a scale comparable with the nearer of the two proposed wind energy developments, Nant Mithil (although acknowledging the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be similar in prominence compared to Nant Mithill and Bryngydfa, as it will be a similar distance from the landscape unit as Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa (albeit all three will be in different directions of view). Although the presence of the Proposed Development, in addition to Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa, will mean turbines will be seen in multiple directions from this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development under Scenario B will remain high (for the southern edge of this area that lies within 1.5 km of the turbines) resulting in an effect of major (significant), and is therefore the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.

¹² The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 1.3 Aberedw Valley LCA 54

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Valley LCA 54 ¹³	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills ¹⁴ . A small area in the south of the LCA falls within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ¹⁵ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	Located to the south and south-east of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b . Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 1: St David's Church, Cregrina, Viewpoint 5: NCN 825 near Cregrina, and Viewpoint 10: Rhulen, south east of Aberedw (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	0.4 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T17).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS127 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation – <i>'one of the finest landscapes in the region, very attractive , well composed, upland valley landform, very well defined traditional field pattern, and diversity of landcover types within a coherent structure - make a high to outstanding landscape.'</i> RDNRVS164 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>'good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.'</i> RDNRVS106 Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>'Attractively rugged'</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL244 Aberedw Hill High overall evaluation – <i>'Relatively rare area of unenclosed upland common with patches of undisturbed and significant archaeology.'</i> RDNRHL914 Edw: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'A large sinuous area covering entire length of the Edw valley and its tributaries. The land is enclosed with systems of irregular fields and is intensely settled and farmed and contains significant archaeological remains of all periods all of which enhances its score.'</i> RDNRHL371 Glascwm Hill: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Large straggling area of unenclosed upland. Significant evidence of multi-layered landscapes from prehistoric funerary through medieval and post medieval agriculture to 19th century shooting estate.'</i>
Description of Landscape Unit ¹⁶	■ A distinctive, large-scale landform comprising the deep, steep-sided valleys of the River Edw and its associated tributaries. ■ Land cover comprises a mosaic of small to medium-scale pastoral fields, with frequent tracts of broadleaved woodland which follow the watercourses and extend up the slopes, including nationallydesignated woodland at Coed Aberedw Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the south-west. ■ Evidence of early settlement within the landscape unit including prehistoric castle earthworks, medieval churches, and some remnant areas of ridge and furrow. ■ A relatively settled landscape, with small historic settlements on the lower valley slopes (including Aberedw, Llanbadarn-y-garreg, Rhulen, Cregrina and Glascwm), and scattered farmsteads elsewhere. ■ There are attractive views within the valley along the River Edw. From the upper slopes there are extensive views towards the adjacent Aberedw Uplands (LCA 50). The LCA notes a <i>"strong visual relationship with the elevated Aberedw Uplands (LCA 50)"</i> and the visual relationship between the two areas is noted as a key landscape quality of this LCA. ■ A rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity resulting from the wooded river valleys, and the traditional pastoral character. The landscape unit experiences dark skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales, locally reduced around settlements. ■ A well-connected network of PRoW cross the landscape, as well as part of National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 825.	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to the presence of more indicators of higher susceptibility (distinctive valley landform, presence of archaeological features including prehistoric, medieval and Roman assets, general absence of modern development, strong sense of tranquillity (particularly within the wooded valleys), and important visual relationship with surrounding upland landscapes) and fewer indicators of lower susceptibility. <u>Judgment of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be medium as it is not designated, (although has some VSAAs evaluated as 'high' overall evaluation), and it has some conservation interest (with prehistoric and medieval features, and HLAAAs evaluated as 'high' and 'outstanding'), has some recreational value (with a well-connected network of PRoW) and has a strongly rural character with limited modern human influence and sense of tranquillity.	

¹³ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 54: Aberedw Valley

¹⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills

¹⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Wye and Usk Vales

¹⁶ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Aberedw Valley LCA 54 ¹³				
	Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high .				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in a different landscape unit immediately adjacent to this landscape unit to the north-west, introducing a new feature on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen as a prominent feature in views from the landscape unit between 0.5 km - 4.7 km to the west, affecting views from west-facing upper valley sides and hill slopes, including the “ <i>strong visual relationship with the elevated Aberedw Uplands (LCA 50)</i> ”, noted as a characteristic of the landscape unit in the Powys Landscape Character Assessment.. The Proposed Development will result in a large change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the landscape unit within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines, and a medium change beyond 1.5 km (i.e. the remainder of the landscape unit). However, the steep sided valley landform, mosaic of small to medium-scale pastoral fields interspersed with frequent broadleaved woodland (including nationally designated sites), evidence of early settlement (including prehistoric and medieval features), rural character, and provision of recreational access will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The large scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in a high magnitude of landscape change for the visual and sensory character of areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines, and a medium magnitude of landscape change to the visual and sensory character of areas beyond 1.5 km. The effect will occur across much of the landscape unit, particularly the north and west-facing valley sides, as well as lower-lying land around Cregrina in the north of the landscape unit. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a medium-high effect will apply].				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of north and west facing valley slopes beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines.	High for areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines e.g. around Cregrina.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a major (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines. There will be a moderate (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of areas beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a moderate-major effect will apply].				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of north and west facing valley slopes beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines.	Moderate-Major (significant) Major (significant) for areas within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines e.g. around Cregrina.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from within this LCA, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B No other consented or proposed wind farms will be visible from within this LCA, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.				

Table 1.4 Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55 ¹⁷	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 29: Wye and Usk Vales ¹⁸ . A small area in the north-west falls within NLCA 27: Vales of Irfon and Ithon ¹⁹ and NLCA 28: Epynt ²⁰ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The south-eastern part of this landscape assessment unit falls within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape ²¹ .	
Location	The LCA is located immediately adjacent to the west of the Site boundary, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b. The wider extents of the LCA incorporate the town of Builth Wells, extending to the south and east, following the Wye Valley towards Glasbury, then north-eastwards towards Hay-on-Wye. Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 4: A470 at Aberduhonw, Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells, and Viewpoint 15: Royal Welsh Showground (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	0.3 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T3).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’, or with a ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’ scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS168 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Attractively rugged.’</i> RDNRVS141 Wye floor, south of Rhayader: High overall evaluation - <i>‘Part of highly visible attractive main valley.’</i> RDNRVS167 River Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Attractive and varied watercourse, seen from various routes and settlements. Strong character and unspoilt. One of the more distinctive rivers in Wales.’</i> BRCKNVS160 River Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘The river and its associated features have a very high scenic quality and frame views of the surrounding countryside. The variety of vistas and character that the river displays throughout its course are stimulating and yet restful to the viewer. The river generally appears clean, well managed and in good condition, with a strong integrity. The Wye forms county and national boundaries and is nationally significant. It attracts visitors and there is strong consensus on its value.’</i> BRCKNVS004 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>‘all criteria high.’</i> BRCKNVS529 Wye Valley Slopes: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Varied topography and steep slopes, rock outcrops, mature woodland and pastoral mosaic give the area a high scenic quality. The valley sides are unspoilt and the area has a strong and distinctive character. This is enjoyed by travellers on the A470 which gives the area importance and prominence.’</i> RDNRVS127 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation — <i>‘one of the finest landscapes in the region, very attractive , well composed, upland valley landform, very well defined traditional field pattern, and diversity of landcover types within a coherent structure – make a high to outstanding landscape.’</i> BRCKNVS731 Duhonw Valley: High overall evaluation – <i>‘The area is an attractive hill and valley landscape with a consistent pastoral mosaic of unspoilt woodland, hedgerows and pasture. The River Duhonw and its tributaries form attractive foci for the valley. Overall the area has high scenic qualities and integrity on and a pleasant, tranquil rural character.’</i> BRCKNVS920 Upper Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>‘Distinct valley bottom in good condition and consistent character throughout. The area is rare county wide as a flat bottom valley.’</i> BRCKNVS927 Erwood Hinterland: High overall evaluation – <i>‘The scenic steep topography of hills and valley is complemented by a mosaic of pasture, hedgerows and woodland which is dominated by riparian, deciduous woodland. The area is very attractive with views to surrounding uplands. Its isolated position means the area is relatively unspoilt with very limited development.’</i> RDNRVS150 Lower Wye floor: High overall evaluation – <i>‘pleasant well-used attractive landscape with good views to area from busy main road.’</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL244 Aberedw Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Relatively rare area of unenclosed upland common with patches of undisturbed and significant archaeology.’</i> RDNRHL874 Upper Wye: High overall evaluation – <i>‘The narrow floor of the Wye valley. Divided into a series of regular field systems and containing medieval and post medieval settlements and an eclectic mixture of features from other periods all of which bring up its overall value.’</i> BRCKNHL742 Llangoed: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Regular fieldscapes occupying the narrow valley floor of the Wye. Mixed but sparse content.’</i> BRCKNHL004 Crickadarn: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Large area of irregular fieldscapes occupying upper valley side and land above the river Wye. Predominantly medieval and later agricultural landscape with well preserved medieval settlements with churches, and early priory site and scattered farms and houses. This and its large size increase its value.’</i> BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.’</i>

¹⁷ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye)
¹⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Wye and Usk Vales
¹⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: Vales of Irfon and Ithon
²⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28: Epynt
²¹ Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (undated) Historic Landscape Classification – The Middle Wye Valley

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55 ¹⁷				
		BRCKNHL849 Builth Wells: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Two phase medieval town (12th century castle and town, 13th century planted borough) with post medieval and modern expansion. Good survival of early and late layout, but little early building’ RDNRHL371 Glaschw Hill: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Large straggling area of unenclosed upland. Significant evidence of multi-layered landscapes from prehistoric funerary through medieval and post medieval agriculture to 19th century shooting estate.’ RDNRHL141 Trecoed: High overall evaluation – ‘A large but ‘busy’ area dominated by mixed fieldscapes, but with a mixed historic content in relatively good condition.’ BRCKNHL005 Ystrad: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fieldscapes occupying narrow floor of the river Wye. Predominantly post medieval agricultural landscape with scattered farmsteads and houses. Little other historical interest but potential for alluvial archaeology or palaeoenvironment.’ RDNRHL256 Bachawy: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A large area of mixed fieldscapes encompassing some exceptional areas of medieval and prehistoric settlement. which considerably enhance its value’ RDNRHL469 Llanstephen: High overall evaluation - ‘Area of larger irregular fields. Its value is raised by elements of medieval settlement.’ RDNRHL569 Pen-y-fforest: High overall evaluation - ‘Large area of irregular fieldscapes occupying gentle south east facing slope. Predominantly a medieval and later farming landscape of scattered farms and hamlets but with no major settlement. Mixed but wide ranging historical content’ RDNRHL993 Middle Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Regular fieldscapes occupying the floor of the Wye valley. Significant medieval settlements and castles, designed landscapes, a Roman fort and various prehistoric monuments al help to increase its score.’ BRCKNHL687 Porthamal: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fields with high status houses and farms and larger medieval settlements, defensive sites and associated field systems. Significant numbers of early prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments and later defended settlements.’ BRCKNHL966 Pipton: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Regular fields occupying Wye valley floor and containing diverse and significant historic evidence including early church site and medieval manor and settlement and a tower with historical associations. All of which bring up its score.’			
Description of Landscape Unit ²²	■ A narrow valley containing the River Wye. Elevation ranges from 70 m AOD on the valley floor to 420 m AOD along the upper valley slopes. ■ Land cover is dominated by large-scale pastoral fields interspersed with a mix of broadleaved, conifer and mixed woodland along the valley floor and slopes. ■ Early settlement is indicated by the presence of prehistoric standing stones and round barrows, with evidence of medieval settlement including remains of churches and castles. Llangoled Hall and Maesllwch Castle Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (both Grade II) are located in the valley. ■ Settlement comprises small riverside hamlets and farmsteads, connected by minor lanes. Several larger roads including the A470, A4079, and A483 cut through the centre of the landscape unit along the valley floor, converging in the north-west at Builth Wells. ■ Long distance views are afforded from higher elevations, particularly in the south-east. The Powys LCA notes the “<i>distinctive views from the east of the LCA to the Black Mountains within the Brecon Beacons National Park to the south</i>” as a key characteristic of this LCA. ■ A largely rural landscape with a strong sense strong sense of tranquillity and dark night skies, as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. Traffic on the A470, A4079 and A483 and around Builth Wells local disrupts the sense of tranquillity. ■ The landscape unit is crossed by several PRoW, including Offa’s Dyke Path National Trail and the Wye Valley Walk long distance footpath. There are several areas of Open Access Land across the upper valley slopes.				
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of medium-high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development due to the presence of indicators of higher susceptibility (which include valley landform with strong topographical variety, presence of historic features including prehistoric and medieval remains, small-scale historic settlements, undeveloped skylines, and dark night skies) and fewer indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale, regular fields and presence of main roads). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be high as it is partially designated within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape, component VSAAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ or ‘high’, it has conservation interest (with component HLAAs that are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, as well as prehistoric and medieval features), has high recreational value (with PRoWs including Offa’s Dyke National Trail and areas of Open Access Land), and has a strongly rural character (although tranquillity is locally influenced by traffic on main roads and around Builth Wells). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in the adjacent landscape unit (the closest point being approximately 0.3 km to the east, north-east), introducing a new feature on the adjacent skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen in views to the east, particularly from the north-western part of the LCA (including from Builth Wells and the lower slopes of Banc y Celyn). There is no predicted				

²² Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Appendix 5.4: Landscape Assessment Tables

LUC I 12

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55 ¹⁷					
	visibility from across much of the eastern part of the LCA (including Glasbury and along the valley floor extending towards Hay-on-Wye). The “<i>distinctive views from the east of the LCA to the Black Mountains within the Brecon Beacons National Park to the south</i>” noted in the Powys Landscape Character Assessment as a key characteristic of the landscape unit will not be affected by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views to the north and east, from west and south-western parts of the LCA, including the low-lying land around Builth Wells, and from north-east facing valley sides. However, the distinctive valley landform, mosaic of pasture fields and woodland, prehistoric and medieval historic features, scenic views (including views south to the BBNP) and the rural character will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. Nevertheless, the Proposed Development will result in a large change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the LCA within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines, and a medium change beyond 1.5 km, most notably from north-east facing slopes. There will be no change to the low-lying valley floor between Glasbury and Hay-on-Wye, where intervening landform screens views towards the Site. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The large scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in a high magnitude of landscape change for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the upper north-east facing valley sides within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines, and a medium magnitude of landscape change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north-east facing valley sides beyond 1.5 km, particularly the upper slopes to the west and south of Alltmawr. The effect will occur across the north-western part of the landscape unit, including Builth Wells and the upper valley slopes of the Wye Valley, extending south-west toward Erwood. Beyond this, predicted theoretical visibility is limited. There is no theoretical visibility predicted for the eastern part of the landscape unit along the valley floor between Glasbury and Hay-on-Wye, or for west-facing valley sides. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a medium-high effect will apply].					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north-east facing valley sides beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines.	Medium-High	High for the upper north-east facing valley sides within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a major (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of the upper north-east facing valley sides within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines. There will be a moderate (significant) effect for the visual and sensory character of the north-east facing valley sides beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines. [N.B. as the scale of effect reduces with distance there will be an area of overlap around the 1.5 km mark where a Moderate-Major effect will apply].					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) for the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the north-east facing valley sides beyond 1.5 km from the proposed turbines.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) for the upper north-east facing valley sides within 1.5 km of the proposed turbines.
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are no consented wind energy developments located within this landscape unit. The consented wind energy developments of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m tip height) and Llandinam Repowering (34 turbines at 121 m tip height) are located over 26 km to the north of the Proposed Development and this LCA. There will be limited interaction between the Proposed Development and the two consented wind energy developments given the intervening distance between them. The Proposed Development will have a much greater influence on this LCA than the Garn Fach/ Llandinam Repowering group. It is considered that the <i>additional</i> cumulative impact arising from the Proposed Development assuming the presence of the Garn Fach/ Llandinam group will be negligible, and the effect arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario A will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are no proposed wind farm developments within the LCA, however the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines up to 220 m blade tip height²³) would be visible approximately 14 km to the north-east from elevated north-east facing upper valley slopes including elevated land to the south of Builth Wells and north-east facing slopes of Banc y Celyn which form the upper valley sides of the River Wye. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil development; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park.					

²³ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye) LCA 55 ¹⁷
	Although the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain high resulting in an effect of major (significant), and is therefore the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.

Table 1.5 Northern Mynydd Epynt LCA 56

Landscape Unit	Northern Mynydd Epynt LCA 56 ²⁴	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 28: Epynt ²⁵ . A small area in the north falls within NLCA 27: Vales of Irfon and Ithon ²⁶ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	Located to the south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.9a and b . The wider extents of the landscape assessment unit extend to the south-west, encompassing the summit of Moelfre (441 m AOD) and an unnamed summit at 445 m AOD. Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 9: Garth Hill and Viewpoint 21: Heart of Wales Line Trail at Moelfre (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	2.5 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T3).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS529 Wye Valley Slopes: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Varied topography and steep slopes, rock outcrops, mature woodland and pastoral mosaic give the area a high scenic quality. The valley sides are unspoilt and the area has a strong and distinctive character. This is enjoyed by travellers on the A470 which gives the area importance and prominence.’ BRCKNVS731 Duhonw Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is an attractive hill and valley landscape with a consistent pastoral mosaic of unspoilt woodland, hedgerows and pasture. The River Duhonw and its tributaries form attractive foci for the valley. Overall the area has high scenic qualities and integrity on and a pleasant, tranquil rural character.’ BRCKNVS987 Mynydd Eppynt Scarp slope: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘The dramatic topography complemented by the tree cover in parts gives the area a high scenic quality. It allows panoramic attractive views of the area to the north. It has a strong sense of place and is fairly rare as a feature in this landscape.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.’ BRCKNHL323 Pant y Llyn High overall evaluation – ‘Unenclosed upland ridge containing medieval and post medieval settlement and field systems, and prehistoric ritual and funerary sites. in generally good condition but a slightly diffuse pattern.’ BRCKNHL335 Pentre Dolau Honddu High overall evaluation – ‘Predominantly a landscape of regular fields with small regular-sided blocks of forestry. A fossilised post medieval landscape containing a range of prehistoric ritual monuments adapted for use as a military training ground and therefore with good survival.’
Description of Landscape Unit ²⁷	■ A large-scale upland landscape with two hill summits, reaching a maximum elevation of 445 m AOD. The deep valley of the River Duhonw cuts through the east of the landscape unit and is fed by a number of tributaries which incise the surrounding uplands. ■ Landcover comprises a pattern of small to medium-sized pastoral fields enclosed by intact hedgerows. Deciduous woodland occurs along watercourses and on steep slopes, with oak woodland at Allt Cynhelyg SSSI designated for its diverse ground flora. Coniferous plantations occur in small blocks, typically associated with farms. ■ Evidence of historic settlement includes the medieval church settlement of Llanddewi'r Cwm, centred on the Grade II listed Church of St David. Scattered post-medieval farmsteads further contribute to the sense of time-depth. ■ Sparse settlement pattern of hamlets and farmsteads spread across the rural landscape, with limited modern development. ■ The elevated landform enables wide views over upland areas and into adjacent LCAs. Powys LCA notes the “Panoramic views” afforded from this LCA, including “views north to the Cambrian Mountains across the Irfon Valley” as a key characteristic of this LCA. The sense of openness in the upland areas contrasts with the enclosed wooded valleys at lower elevations. ■ A rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity, although traffic on the B4520 and activity around Builth Wells (in adjacent LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Hay-on-Wye)) locally reduces tranquillity. The landscape unit experiences dark skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales.	

²⁴ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 56: Northern Mynydd Epynt

²⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28: Epynt

²⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: Vales of Irfon and Ithon

²⁷ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Northern Mynydd Epynt LCA 56 ²⁴					
	■ A well-connected network of PRow cross the landscape unit, including the Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath. There is Open Access Land on the hill summits.					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility This landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to the presence of features of higher susceptibility (varied topography including hill summits and incised valleys, mixed landcover including nationally-designated semi-natural woodland, small-scale field patterns, sense of time depth with features of medieval and post-medieval origin, scattered settlement pattern of farmsteads with limited modern development, rural character with limited modern development, and dark night skies, and fewer indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale landscape, presence of main road which limits the sense of tranquillity). Judgement of Landscape Value Landscape value is considered to be medium as although it is not designated, component VSAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, it has some conservation interest (with component HLAs evaluated as ‘high’, and occasional medieval features), has some recreation value with PRowS including promoted routes, as well as Open Access Land, and has a generally rural, tranquil character (although is locally disrupted by traffic on valley roads and around Builth Wells). Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
	Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 2.5 km to the east, north-east, and the Proposed Development will introduce a new feature on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen in views from the landscape unit between 2.5 km-10.5 km to the east, north-east, affecting views from hill summits and north-east facing upper valley sides, including the ‘ <i>panoramic views</i> ’ (noted as a characteristic of the landscape unit). The proposed turbines will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views to the north-east, however, the large-scale upland landform, mosaic of small-scale pasture fields and semi-natural woodland, nucleated historic settlements, and rural character will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a medium change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of north-east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes between 2.5 km and 5 km, and a small change to the landscape character beyond 5 km. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The medium scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall medium magnitude of landscape change for north-east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes within 2.5-5 km of the Proposed Development. Beyond 5 km, the magnitude of change will be low . The geographical extent of these effects will occur across elevated land and north-east-facing slopes, including the summit and slopes of Moelfre, as well as lower hillsides to the south of Builth Wells. There will be no effect to south and west facing slopes, where intervening topography will screen views towards the Proposed Development.				
Barely Perceptible		Low for areas beyond 5 km from the Proposed Development.	Low-Medium	Medium for north-east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes between 2.5-5 km of the Proposed Development	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation		A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a moderate (significant) effect for north-east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes between 2.5-5 km of the Proposed Development. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate (not significant) effect for elevated land including north-east-facing slopes beyond 5 km of the Proposed Development.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) for areas beyond 5 km from the Proposed Development.	Moderate (significant) for north-east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes between 2.5-5 km of the Proposed Development	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
	Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A There are no consented developments within or close to the LCA (within 5 km). The landscape effect will remain moderate (significant) for areas between 2.5-5 km of the Proposed Development and minor-moderate (not significant) for areas beyond 5 km, as for the primary assessment. Scenario B				

Landscape Unit	Northern Mynydd Epynt LCA 56 ²⁴
	The Proposed Development of Nant Mithil (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height) would be located approximately 14.3 km to the north-east, and will increase the presence of wind turbines in views to the north-east from elevated land. With these proposed wind energy developments in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); and ■ Be located closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil development and will therefore be more prominent than Nant Mithil from this LCA. Although the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain medium and the effect will remain moderate (significant), and is therefore the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.

Table 1.6 Painscastle Uplands LCA 51

Landscape Unit	Painscastle Uplands LCA 51 ²⁸	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly located within NLCA 20: Bryniau Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Hills ²⁹ , whilst the south-eastern and south-western fringes of the landscape unit are located within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ³⁰ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The south-eastern edge of this landscape assessment unit falls within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape ³¹ .	
Location	The landscape unit is located to the east and south-east of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b . The wider extents of the LCA extend to the east and south-east to meet the English border with Herefordshire, and southwards to meet the Wye Valley between Builth Wells and Hay-on-Wye (LCA 55). Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 19: The Begwns Roundabout (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	3.4 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T7).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS106 Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Attractively rugged.’</i> RDNRVS164 Upland moor, Glascwm Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>‘good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.’</i> RDNRVS127 Upland valley, Edw & adjacent: High overall evaluation – <i>‘one of the finest landscapes in the region, very attractive , well composed, upland valley landform, very well defined traditional field pattern, and diversity of landcover types within a coherent structure – make a high to outstanding landscape.’</i> RDNRVS168 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Attractively rugged.’</i> RDNRVS109 Upland moor, south-east outliers: High overall evaluation – <i>‘good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed.’</i> RDNRVS150 Lower Wye floor: High overall evaluation – <i>‘pleasant well-used attractive landscape with good views to area from busy main road.’</i> RDNRVS165 Upland moor, Hanter Hill: High overall evaluation – <i>‘good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed.’</i> RDNRVS149 New Radnor basin: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Although not particularly scenic or strong character, it appears unspoilt and unlike other parts of the county.’</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL256 Bachawy: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘A large area of mixed fieldscapes encompassing some exceptional areas of medieval and prehistoric settlement. which considerably enhance its value.’</i> RDNRHL371 Glascwm Hill: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Large straggling area of unenclosed upland. Significant evidence of multi-layered landscapes from prehistoric funerary through medieval and post medieval agriculture to 19th century shooting estate.</i> RDNRHL949 Upper Arrow: High overall evaluation – <i>‘The upper reaches of the Arrow valley marked by regular fieldscapes. Eclectic mixture of minor medieval and later farms and settlements and scattered prehistoric remains all help to enhance its score.’</i> RDNRHL564 The Begwns: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Unenclosed and relatively undisturbed upland area with limited but significant areas of prehistoric and medieval monuments and potential for further discoveries.’</i> RDNRHL469 Llanstephen: High overall evaluation - <i>‘Area of larger irregular fields. Its value is raised by elements of medieval settlement.’</i> RDNRHL569 Pen-y-fforest: High overall evaluation - <i>‘Large area of irregular fieldscapes occupying gentle south east facing slope. Predominantly a medieval and later farming landscape of scattered farms and hamlets but with no major settlement. Mixed but wide ranging historical content’</i> RDNRHL765 Weythel: High overall evaluation – <i>‘An area of mixed fieldscapes with a scatter of extant, shrunken and deserted medieval (and possibly Saxon) settlements, some with relict field systems, occupying rolling ground to the south of the Walton Basin. Scores highly in all areas.’</i> RDNRHL993 Middle Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Regular fieldscapes occupying the floor of the Wye valley. Significant medieval settlements and castles, designed landscapes, a Roman fort and various prehistoric monuments al help to increase its score.’</i>

²⁸ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 51: Painscastle Uplands
²⁹ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills
³⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
³¹ Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (undated) Historic Landscape Characterisation – The Middle Wye Valley

Landscape Unit	Painscastle Uplands LCA 51 ²⁸										
		RDNRHL763 Walton Basin: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A truly outstanding area encompassing prehistoric complexes of international importance, Roman forts and settlement, early medieval and medieval settlements and their strip field systems, later fieldscapes and even associations with William Wordsworth!’									
Description of Landscape Unit ³²	- A strongly undulating upland landscape dissected by tributary valleys of the River Wye and River Arrow. The skyline is punctuated by a line of distinctive upland hills known as the Hergest Ridge, the summits of which all exceed 350 m AOD. - Land cover is dominated by improved grassland in irregular fields of mixed sizes, with woodland on lower slopes and in tributary valleys, with open unenclosed moorland at higher elevations. Lowland mires, grassland, and heathland habitats add contrast and diversity. - Early settlement is indicated by the presence of prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments with evidence of Roman and medieval occupation in the form of several Marcher castles. Two Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (RHPG) at Harpton Court and Maesllwch Castle further contribute to the time depth of the landscape. - A rural but relatively settled landscape occupied by historic nucleated settlements of medieval origin, connected by a network of minor lanes. The B4594 main road traverses the landscape unit and locally influences the sense of tranquillity. - The landscape unit has strong intervisibility with adjacent landscapes, including scenic views to the Aberedw Uplands as well as views south over the Wye Valley from the edge of the landscape unit. There are distant views to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park to the south-west from elevated areas (noted as a key landscape sensitivity in the Powys LCA). - A strongly rural landscape with a sense of tranquillity and remoteness, particularly in upland areas. The sense of openness and exposure experienced on the elevated plateau contrasts with the enclosed, sheltered character of the valleys. - Numerous PROWs cross the landscape unit, including part of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail. There are large areas of Open Access Land on the uplands and across the Hergest Ridge.										
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of medium-high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to the presence of indicators of higher susceptibility (undulating landform of distinctive hills incised by valleys, varied landcover pattern, archaeological features of prehistoric, Roman, and medieval origin, strong intervisibility with adjacent landscapes including distant views to BBNP, strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness) and some indicators of lower susceptibility (presence of the B4594 main road, which locally disrupts the sense of tranquillity). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium-high as it is not designated (apart from a small area of approximately 11 km² in the south-east of the landscape unit, which falls within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape), component LANDMAP VSAAs are evaluated as 'high', it has conservation interest (with prehistoric, Roman, and medieval features, and several component HLAAs evaluated as 'high' and 'outstanding'), has high recreational value (with a network of PROWs including parts of the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, and large areas of Open Access Land), and has a strongly rural character and sense of tranquillity, with limited modern influence. <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high. <table><tr><td>Low</td><td>Low-Medium</td><td>Medium</td><td>Medium-High</td><td>High</td></tr></table>					Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High							
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced onto a ridge some 7km to the north-west of this LCA. There will be limited visibility from this LCA, with views of the Proposed Development focussed on the central ridge, including from Twyn y Garth (6.3 km away), The Begwns (7.8 km away, illustrated by Viewpoint 19), Trewern Hill (7.5 km away) and Clyro Hill (10.1 km away). The Proposed Development will add new features to the skyline which will increase the presence of modern development in views, however the undulating topography, sense of time depth, historic nucleated settlements, attractive views out (including south-west towards BBNP) and the sense of rurality and tranquillity will continue to give the landscape unit its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change in landscape character. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines which are visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased . <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in a low magnitude of landscape change to elevated, north-west facing parts of the landscape unit. The geographical extent of these effects will be predominantly focused across the south of the landscape unit in views from elevated parts of the landscape unit within 10 km of the Site, including from The Begwns, Trewern Hill, and Clyro Hill. There will be no landscape effects across most of the northern part of the landscape unit, the undulating farmland around Painscastle and Llanbedr, or to the rolling farmland and south-east facing slopes in the south-east. <table><tr><td>Barely Perceptible</td><td>Low</td><td>Low-Medium</td><td>Medium</td><td>Medium-High</td><td>High</td></tr></table>					Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High						
	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate (not significant) effect.										

³² Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Painscastle Uplands LCA 51 ²⁸					
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore no cumulative landscape effects will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). <u>Scenario B</u> The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height³³), would be located approximately 3.4 km away from the boundary of this LCA to the north-west (and approximately 8.5 km away from the nearest part of this LCA that has visibility of the Proposed Development). With Nant Mithil Energy Park in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed development at Nant Mithil; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the two proposed wind energy developments (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a similarly prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be at a similar distance from the landscape unit as Nant Mithil Energy Park (albeit will be seen in a different direction of view). Although the Proposed Development will be seen in addition to the Nant Mithil Energy Park from some parts of this LCA, the two proposed developments will be in different directions of view from the LCA and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant). This is the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

³³ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 1.7 Mynydd Epynt LCA 57

Landscape Unit	Mynydd Epynt Landscape Character Area (LCA) 57 ³⁴	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 28: Epynt ³⁵	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	An extensive upland area located to the south-west of the Site, as illustrated in Figures 5.9a and b . The wider extents of the LCA extend to the south-west, comprising high moorland summits including Twyn-Rhyd-car (454 m AOD), Bryn Du (462 m AOD) and Bryn y Garn (410 m AOD), incised by numerous stream valleys. The LCA incorporates a large area of Sennybridge Military Training Area (SENTA). Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 16: Wye Valley Walk near Banc y Celyn and Viewpoint 25: Promoted viewpoint south of Cwm Graig-ddu (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	3.6 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T2).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS731 Duhonw Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>'The area is an attractive hill and valley landscape with a consistent pastoral mosaic of unspoilt woodland, hedgerows and pasture. The River Duhonw and its tributaries form attractive foci for the valley. Overall the area has high scenic qualities and integrity on and a pleasant, tranquil rural character.'</i> BRCKNVS529 Wye Valley Slopes: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Varied topography and steep slopes, rock outcrops, mature woodland and pastoral mosaic give the area a high scenic quality. The valley sides are unspoilt and the area has a strong and distinctive character. This is enjoyed by travellers on the A470 which gives the area importance and prominence.'</i> BRCKNVS927 Erwood Hinterland: High overall evaluation – <i>'The scenic steep topography of hills and valley is complemented by a mosaic of pasture, hedgerows and woodland which is dominated by riparian, deciduous woodland. The area is very attractive with views to surrounding uplands. Its isolated position means the area is relatively unspoilt with very limited development.'</i> BRCKNVS987 Mynydd Epynt Scarp slope: High overall evaluation – <i>'The dramatic topography complemented by the tree cover in parts gives the area a high scenic quality. It allows panoramic attractive views of the area to the north. It has a strong sense of place and is fairly rare as a feature in this landscape.'</i> BRCKNVS337 Honddu Valley: High overall evaluation – <i>'The combination of interesting valley topography, strong woodland cover and pastoral mosaic gives the area high scenic quality. It is generally well managed throughout and has a consistent and unspoilt character. Settlements complement the landscape character. Pleasant views are possible throughout the valley.'</i> BRCKNVS117 Llaneglwys Wood: High overall evaluation – <i>'This area has a distinct character derived from its beech avenue and hidden nature of pasture / settlement area in centre of forest plantation. this area has a high scenic quality, enclosed by the forest. This arrangement is rare in the county, only occurring in one/two other locations. The coniferous forest itself is a detractor where it abuts other areas as a hard straight edge.'</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – <i>'Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.'</i> BRCKNHL323 Pant y Llyn: High overall evaluation – <i>'Unenclosed upland ridge containing medieval and post medieval settlement and field systems, and prehistoric ritual and funerary sites. in generally good condition but a slightly diffuse pattern.'</i> BRCKNHL004 Crickadarn: High overall evaluation – <i>'Large area of irregular fieldscapes occupying upper valley side and land above the river Wye. Predominantly medieval and later agricultural landscape with well preserved medieval settlements with churches, and early priory site and scattered farms and houses. This and its large size increase its value.'</i> BRCKNHL335 Pentre Dolau Honddu: High overall evaluation – <i>'Predominantly a landscape of regular fields with small regular-sided blocks of forestry. A fossilised post medieval landscape containing a range of prehistoric ritual monuments adapted for use as a military training ground and therefore with good survival.'</i> BRCKNHL204 Sennybridge Training Area: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Large area of unenclosed moorland used as a military training area. Numerous historical sites and landscape features survive from all periods, including some modern military features.'</i> BRCKNHL431 Upper Chapel: High overall evaluation – <i>'Extensive area of irregular fieldscape dominated by post medieval and earlier agricultural remains with farms and houses and a number of small medieval settlements. Number of early prehistoric burial and ritual sites as well as a handful of later prehistoric hillforts which together with its size contribute to its value.'</i> BRCKNHL600 Llwynfynwent: High overall evaluation – <i>'Area of regular square fields now surrounded by forestry. Intact pattern but in moderate condition.'</i> BRCKNHL107 Cae Garw: High overall evaluation – <i>'Broad valley of the Cilieni in south side of Mynydd Epynt dominated by small regular fields and blocks of woodland with numerous medieval and later farming remains'</i> BRCKNHL260 Trecastell: High overall evaluation - <i>'Large and diverse area of irregular fields. Sites and landscape features from all periods, most notable small settlements and associated field systems of medieval date.'</i>

³⁴ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 57: Mynydd Epynt

³⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28: Epynt

Landscape Unit	Mynydd Epynt Landscape Character Area (LCA) 57 ³⁴										
		BRCKNHL158 Mynydd: Bwlch-y-Groes High overall evaluation – ‘Unenclosed upland with blocks of forestry. Post medieval farming landscape preserved as part of the Sennybridge military range which raises its value’									
Description of Landscape Unit ³⁶	- A large-scale upland landscape comprising an elevated plateau punctuated by rolling peaks, reaching 474 m AOD. The landform is incised by the upper reaches of several river valleys, flowing south to meet the River Usk (located outside of this LCA). - Fields of improved grassland are generally large and enclosed by a mixture of wire fences and low hedgerows. Across the uplands, a mosaic of moorland vegetation including upland grassland and marsh habitats (including small areas designated as SSSI) provide diversity and contrast. Woodland cover is limited to occasional conifer plantations in distinctive angular blocks. - Evidence of early settlement is indicated by the presence of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments on hill summits, with limited evidence of later settlement including areas of relic agricultural land use. The area has been used as a miliary training ground since the start of the 20th Century, and its influence overrides any other cultural influence in the area. - Sparsely settled, dominated by 20th century military infrastructure as part of the SENTA military training ground. The remote village of Tirabad and occasional isolated farmsteads are dispersed across lower-lying land. - Expansive views are afforded from the elevated, open plateau. The Powys LCA notes the “<i>broad views available across the plateau and valleys which dissect it, with long views towards the Brecon Beacons National Park in the south and Cambrian mountains to the north-west</i>” as a key characteristic of this LCA. - Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness across much of the uplands, with limited road access (apart from the B4520), although military activity locally affects tranquillity. The LCA experiences dark night skies, as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. - Crossed by numerous PRowWs including The Epynt Way long distance footpath which forms a circular route following the boundary of the LCA. There are areas of Open Access Land to the east of the B4520 (outside of the military training area) and on some ridges in the south-west.										
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of medium susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (varied topography of rolling peaks and incised valleys, some semi-natural landcover including nationally-designated sites, some sense of time depth inferred by the presence of prehistoric assets, strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity (away from military training areas), and dark night skies, and fewer indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale landscape, relatively simple land cover pattern of improved grassland, strong influence of 20th century military use). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be medium-high as although it is not designated, component VSAAAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, it has some conservation interest (with prehistoric hill monuments and component HLAAAs evaluated as ‘high’), has recreational value (including promoted routes and Open Access Land), and experiences high levels of tranquillity (away from military training areas). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high. <table><tr><td>Low</td><td>Low-Medium</td><td>Medium</td><td>Medium-High</td><td>High</td></tr></table>					Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High							
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of 18 turbines being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 3.6 km to the east, north-east, and the Proposed Development will introduce a new feature on the skyline. It will be seen in views from the landscape unit between 3.6 km-20 km to the north-east affecting views from east-facing upper valley sides and hill slopes, including the “<i>attractive views out to surrounding uplands, including from the A470</i>” (noted as a key characteristic of the landscape unit). The Proposed Development will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views to the north-east, however, the large-scale upland plateau landform, mosaic of moorland vegetation and improved grazing pastures, sense of remoteness, and expansive views, will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a medium change to the perceptual (visual and sensory) character of the landscape unit within 5 km of the Proposed Development (including the east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn), and small change to the character of the landscape unit beyond 5 km. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The medium scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in a medium magnitude of landscape change for parts of the landscape unit within 5 km of the Proposed Development. Beyond 5 km, the magnitude of landscape change will be low. The geographical extent of these effects will occur across elevated east and north-east facing hill slopes and summits (over 400 m AOD) up to 20 km from the Site, including from Banc y Celyn (472 m AOD) and Pant-y-llyn Hill (469 m AOD), as well as the summits of Garreg Fawr (429 m AOD), Drum Ddu (474 m AOD), Bryn Du (462 m AOD), and Crug Du (468 m AOD). There will be no effect to the deep valleys which incise the south/south-eastern edge of the landscape unit, or to west-facing parts of the landscape unit, where intervening landform screens views. The overall magnitude of landscape change is judged to be medium for east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Proposed Development, and low for the landscape unit beyond 5 km. <table><tr><td>Barely Perceptible</td><td>Low</td><td>Low-Medium</td><td>Medium</td><td>Medium-High</td><td>High</td></tr></table>					Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High						

³⁶ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Mynydd Epynt Landscape Character Area (LCA) 57 ³⁴					
		for the landscape unit beyond 5 km.		for east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Proposed Development.		
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a moderate effect to east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Proposed Development.					
	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect to parts of the landscape unit beyond 5 km.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate for the landscape unit beyond 5 km. (not significant)	Moderate for east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Proposed Development. (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore the landscape effect will remain moderate (significant) for east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Site), and minor-moderate (not significant) for areas beyond 5 km, as for the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade top height) would be located approximately 16.2 km away and will be visible in distant views to the north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of Nant Mithil; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging that the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); and ■ Be a more prominent component when considered against Nant Mithil Energy Park as it is located closer to the landscape unit . Although the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain moderate (significant) for east-facing slopes within 5 km of the Site, and minor-moderate (not significant) for areas beyond 5 km, and is therefore the same level of effect recorded for the primary assessment.					

Table 1.8 Irfon Valley LCA 53

Landscape Unit	Irfon Valley LCA 53 ³⁷	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 27: Dyffrynnoedd Irfon ac Ieithon / The Vales of Irfon and Ithon ³⁸	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	The LCA is located to the west of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b . The LCA runs north-east to south-west following the Irfon Valley between Builth Wells and Llanwrtyd Wells. It is contained by the Mynydd Epynt Uplands (LCA 28) to the south and the southern Bryn-Glas Valleys (LCA 52) to the north.	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	4.7 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T3).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS987 Mynydd Epynt Scarp slope: High overall evaluation – <i>'The dramatic topography complemented by the tree cover in parts gives the area a high scenic quality. It allows panoramic attractive views of the area to the north. It has a strong sense of place and is fairly rare as a feature in this landscape.'</i> BRCKNVS726 Cambrian Mountains southern fringes: High overall evaluation – <i>'The varied and interesting topography with steep sided hills and valleys is given added drama and texture by the woodland cover and watercourses in valley bottoms. Overall the area has a very high scenic quality and a strong sense of place. The area is unspoilt and is rare as a landscape type in the county.'</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – <i>'Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.'</i> BRCKNHL849 Builth Wells: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Two phase medieval town (12th century castle and town, 13th century planted borough) with post medieval and modern expansion. Good survival of early and late layout, but little early building.'</i> BRCKNHL520 Llangammarch Wells: High overall evaluation – <i>'Possible early medieval church site acting as focus for later settlement and 18th century and later development as a minor spa. An eclectic and unusual mix compensates for its paucity of historic building.'</i>
Description of Landscape Unit ³⁹	■ A medium-scale valley landform comprising the River Irfon and its tributaries. Some low hills are located to the north-east of the landscape assessment unit including Lan Ystenu (331 m AOD), Comin-y-garth (248 m AOD) and Comin Cefn-poeth (224 m AOD). ■ Land cover is characterised by a mosaic of medium-sized pasture fields of semi-improved grassland. Semi-natural habitats including purple moor grass and rush pastures, blanket bog, SSSI-designated lowland peatland, and fen-meadow habitats in the valley bottom add diversity and texture. Areas of broadleaf woodland are often associated with watercourses, with small pockets of coniferous plantation on the valley sides in the east of the landscape assessment unit. ■ Evidence of early settlement includes prehistoric standing stones, features of Roman origin including Caerau Roman Fort and Tynewydd Roman Road, and medieval earthworks. Listed buildings of varying age further contribute to the sense of time depth and include churches within settlements, milestones, farmhouses, and bridges. ■ A settled landscape comprising the Victorian spa town of Llanwrtyd Wells and the large village of Llangammarch Wells, with scattered cottages and farmhouses along roadsides. ■ Attractive views are available to and from the surrounding uplands, as well as along the river valley. Woodland cover provides a degree of enclosure and limits views in some places. ■ A rural landscape with a sense of tranquillity across much of the area, locally reduced around the A483 and near settlements. The LCA experiences dark night skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales, locally reduced around settlements. ■ A well-connected network of PRow cross the landscape unit, including the Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath There are several areas of Open Access Land in the east of the landscape assessment unit including at Comin Coch, Comin Cefri-poeth, and Comin y Garth.	

³⁷ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 53: Irfon Valley
³⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon
³⁹ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Irfon Valley LCA 53 ³⁷					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of medium susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of lower susceptibility (medium-scale landscape, regular field pattern, presence of A483 main road), and indicators of higher susceptibility (undulating valley landform with low hills, mosaic of semi-natural habitats including designated sites, presence of archaeological features including prehistoric, medieval and Roman assets, sense of tranquillity, limited presence of modern development). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, the landscape value is considered to be medium . Although it is not designated, some component LANDMAP VSAs are evaluated as ‘high’, it has some conservation interest (with component HLAAs that are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, as well as prehistoric, Roman and medieval features), has high recreational value (with PROWs including the Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath and areas of Open Access Land), and has a strongly rural, remote character (although tranquillity is locally influenced by traffic on the A483 main road). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 4.8 km to the east, and the Proposed Development will be seen in views from the landscape unit between 5 km-15 km to the east, affecting views from east-facing upper valley sides and hill slopes, including the “ <i>Attractive views...to and from the surrounding uplands</i> ” (noted as a key characteristic of the landscape unit). The turbines will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views east. However, the gently undulating landform, mosaic of small-scale pasture fields, woodland and semi-natural habitats, presence of prehistoric and medieval heritage features, and the rurality of the landscape unit will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the landscape unit. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased . <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change. The geographical extent of these effects will occur across much of the landscape unit within 15 km, including the rolling farmland between Cilmerly and Garth. There will be no landscape effects to the south-western extents of the landscape unit around Llangammarch Wells due to screening provided by intervening topography. There will also be no landscape effects to the enclosed river valleys, including the Irfon and Chwefri valleys.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore no cumulative landscape effects will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario A will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor (not significant), as for the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> The proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height ⁴⁰) would be located approximately 16.2 km away to the north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil energy park; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil energy park (although acknowledging the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a more prominent component compared to Nant Mithil Energy Park as it will be located closer to the landscape unit than Nant Mithil. Although the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor (not significant), and is therefore the same level of effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

⁴⁰ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 1.9 Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 44

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 44 ⁴¹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly located within NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon ⁴² . The north-western part of the landscape unit extends into NLCA 26: Blaenau Gwy/Upper Wye Valley ⁴³ , whilst a very small area in the west of the area is located within NLCA 21: Cambrian Mountains ⁴⁴ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	This landscape unit is located to the west, north-west of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b). The landscape unit extends to the north and west from Builth Wells, incorporating the towns of Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge-on-Wye, and branching north-west along the River Elan towards Rhayader. Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 17: NCN 8 near Cilmeri and Viewpoint 24: A4081 at Llanyre (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	5.2 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T3).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS196 Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes: High overall evaluation – <i>‘The area is consistent and unspoilt in character overall. It encloses the Wye valley to the east and the combination of mixed woodland on steep slopes, pastoral mosaic and a series of parkland landscapes make the valley sides attractive with high scenic quality. Higher slopes allow attractive views to upland areas.’</i> RDNRVS141 Wye floor, south of Rhayader: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Part of highly visible attractive main valley.’</i> RDNRVS167 River Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>‘Attractive and varied watercourse, seen from various routes and settlements. Strong character and unspoilt. One of the more distinctive rivers in Wales.’</i> BRCKNVS160 River Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>‘The river and its associated features have a very high scenic quality and frame views of the surrounding countryside. The variety of vistas and character that the river displays throughout its course are stimulating and yet restful to the viewer. The river generally appears clean, well managed and in good condition, with a strong integrity. The Wye forms county and national boundaries and is nationally significant. It attracts visitors and there is strong consensus on its value.’</i> BRCKNVS920 Upper Wye Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>‘Distinct valley bottom in good condition and consistent character throughout. The area is rare county wide as a flat bottom valley.’</i> RDNRVS152 Llandrindod Wells: High scenic quality evaluation – <i>‘Some very attractive townscape and open spaces.’</i> BRCKNVS999 Bryn Glas and Bryn Moel uplands: High overall evaluation - <i>‘The area is vast in scale and extent with a strong, consistent and distinctive character which gives the area a scenic quality. Panoramic views are possible to other upland areas and to surrounding valleys. The area has a quality of wildness and remoteness and a strong sense of place.’</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL849 Builth Wells: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>‘Two phase medieval town (12th century castle and town, 13th century planted borough) with post medieval and modern expansion. Good survival of early and late layout, but little early building’</i> RDNRHL874 Upper Wye: High overall evaluation - <i>‘The narrow floor of the Wye valley. Divided into a series of regular field systems and containing medieval and post medieval settlements and an eclectic mixture of features from other periods all of which bring up its overall value.’</i> BRCKNHL005 Ystrad: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Area of irregular fieldscapes occupying narrow floor of the river Wye. Predominantly post medieval agricultural landscape with scattered farmsteads and houses. Little other historical interest but potential for alluvial archaeology or palaeoenvironment.’</i> BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.’</i> RDNRHL141 Trecoed: High overall evaluation – <i>‘A large but ‘busy’ area dominated by mixed fieldscapes, but with a mixed historic content in relatively good condition.’</i> RDNRHL237 Llandrindod Common: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘An area of relatively uniformly enclosed former common land containing a nationally important complex of Roman practice camps.’</i> RDNRHL992 Llandrindod Wells: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Fine, if a little shabby, example of a planned 19th century rural spa town retaining many of its original features. Also encompasses potential early medieval church site at Capel Maelog and medieval church and settlement at Llandrindod and contains sporadic Roman remains associated with Castell Collen fort – all of which enhance its value.’</i>

⁴¹ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)
⁴² Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon
⁴³ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 26: Blaenau Gwy/Upper Wye Valley
⁴⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 21: Cambrian Mountains

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 44 ⁴¹									
		RDNRHL825 Cefnlllys: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fields occupying undulating hills surrounding the Ithon east of Llandrindod Wells. The overall pattern is diffuse and the historical content surprisingly light, but its overall value is considerably enhanced by the concentration of significant features around Cefnlllys itself.’ RDNRHL194 Llanyre: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Although a large and fairly amorphous area of mixed fields its overall value is considerably increased by the presence of high profile elements such as medieval settlements and Castell Collen Roman fort and vicus.’ BRCKNHL316 Carnau Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Vast area of unenclosed and undeveloped upland pasture and moorland. Numerous prehistoric funerary and ritual sites and medieval and post medieval settlement and farming sites. Scores well because of its diversity and condition.’								
Description of Landscape Unit ⁴⁵	A medium-scale landscape comprising the gently rolling valley of the River Wye. Tributary streams create small undulations along the valley sides. Land cover is characterised by a mosaic of improved pasture in small to medium sized fields, interspersed with broadleaved woodland, coniferous plantation, semi-natural grassland habitats, and some areas of scrub, bracken and gorse on the upper hill reaches. Extensive evidence of early settlement including prehistoric cairns and standing stones, medieval earthworks and churches. Features of Roman origin including forts, settlements, road systems and practice camps. Registered Historic Parks and Gardens at Doldowlod and Llandrindod Wells Public Parks add further time depth. A settled landscape comprising the Victorian Spa town of Llandrindod Wells and the village of Newbridge-on-Wye, with many scattered cottages and farmhouses along roads and on the lower valley slopes. Attractive views along the river and out to adjacent upland landscapes, including from the A470 (noted as a key landscape quality in the Powys LCA). Broad views across the valley include views to the Llanbister-Penybont Uplands LCA to the east and the Epynt Hills to the south-west. A rural landscape with a sense of tranquillity within the wooded valleys and along the river corridor. Traffic on the main A470 valley road, as well as the presence of industrial and agricultural buildings locally reduce tranquillity. The landscape unit experiences dark skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales, locally reduced around settlements. A well-connected network of PRowWs cross the landscape unit, including the Wye Valley Walk and Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpaths. There is a small area of Open Access Land at Comin Coch Common. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) is under construction in an adjacent landscape unit approximately 5.6 km to the east of this landscape unit, and is seen in views to the east. There are also distant views of existing wind farms from elevated areas of the LCA surrounding the upper slopes of the Wye Valley in clear conditions, including the operational Bryn Titli (22 turbines at 53.5 m blade tip height), Llandinam (102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height), and Garreg Lwyd (17 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) Wind Farms which are at distances of between approximately 14 km and 16 km in views to the north-west, north and north-east respectively.									
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of medium susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of lower susceptibility (gently rolling topography, presence of modern development), and indicators of higher susceptibility (varied landcover pattern of small-scale pasture fields interspersed with diverse semi-natural habitats, presence of archaeological features including Prehistoric, medieval and Roman assets, and the sense of seclusion and tranquillity within the wooded valleys). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be high as although it is not designated, several of the component VSAs are evaluated as ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’, it has conservation interest (with several component HLAAs evaluated as ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’, as well as the presence of archaeological assets from a range of time periods), has recreational value (with PRowWs including promoted routes, and small areas of Open Access Land), and has some sense of rurality (although is affected by the presence of settlement and busy transport corridors). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high. <table><tr><th>Low</th><th>Low-Medium</th><th>Medium</th><th>Medium-High</th><th>High</th></tr></table>					Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High						
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in a landscape unit between 5.2 km-15 km to the east, affecting views from east-facing upper valley sides and hill slopes, including the “<i>attractive views out to surrounding uplands, including from the A470</i>” (noted as a key characteristic of the landscape unit). Most visibility will be from the more distant parts of the unit where land rises (including viewpoints 17 and 24). However, the gently undulating valley landform, mosaic of small-scale pasture fields, woodland and semi-natural habitats, Prehistoric and medieval heritage features, and the rurality of the landscape unit will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. Overall, the Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the landscape unit. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change for east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes. The geographical extent of these effects will occur across east-facing slopes, including the valley sides of the River Wye to the west of Newbridge-on-Wye. Views from lower-lying land (including the valley floors) and west-facing valley sides will mostly be screened by									

⁴⁵ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see **Table 5.2** within **Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology**), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 44 ⁴¹					
	intervening topography and vegetation. There will be no landscape effects on north-western ‘branch’ of the landscape unit which contains the Wye Valley and its confluence with the River Elan to the south of Rhayader (beyond 15 km).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate (not significant) effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A The consented Llandinam Repowering scheme will be located approximately 13.9 km north of this landscape unit (within LCA 29: Waun Ddubarthog). This will replace the 102 existing turbines (45.5 m blade tip height) with 34 turbines at an increased blade tip height of 121 m, resulting in fewer, larger-scale turbines. The change in turbine scale will be perceptible, but at this distance is unlikely to result in any change in the influence of wind energy development on the LCA within the cumulative baseline scenario (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The consented development of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m blade tip height) will bring turbines to within 11 km of the northern extents of the LCA in views to the north, and will be seen in combination with the existing wind turbines at Llandinam Wind Farm from more elevated north facing slopes of the LCA. The Proposed Development will be seen in a different direction to these consented schemes and the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario A will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. Scenario B The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height) will be located approximately 6.7 km to the east of this LCA (within LCA 43) and will increase the presence of wind turbines in views to the east. The proposed Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) will marginally extend the existing cluster of turbines at Garreg Lwyd Wind Farm within LCA 35: Beacon Hill, however the change will be largely undiscernible from this LCA. With Nant Mithil Energy Park and Bryngydfa in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be seen to the right of Nant Mithil Energy Park (see viewpoints 17 and 24); ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa wind energy developments; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the two proposed wind energy developments (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a more prominent compared to Nant Mithil Energy Park from the southern part of the LCA (e.g. viewpoint 17) and less prominent than Nant Mithil Energy Park when viewed from the northern part of the LCA (e.g. viewpoint 24). Although the Proposed Development and Nant Mithil will both be seen from this LCA, they will be in different directions of view, and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

Table 1.10 Eastern Mynydd Epynt Hills LCA 58

Landscape Unit	Eastern Mynydd Epynt Hills LCA 58 ⁴⁶	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 28: Epynt ⁴⁷ . An area in the eastern part of the landscape unit falls within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ⁴⁸ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	The landscape unit is located to the south, south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.9a and b . It comprises an undulating area of upland situated on the upper south-western valley side of the River Wye south of Builth Wells, comprising undulating hills incised by small stream valleys, and the summit of Mynydd Forest (400 m AOD).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	6.2 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T1).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS927 Erwood Hinterland: High overall evaluation – ‘The scenic steep topography of hills and valley is complemented by a mosaic of pasture, hedgerows and woodland which is dominated by riparian, deciduous woodland. The area is very attractive with views to surrounding uplands. Its isolated position means the area is relatively unspoilt with very limited development.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL323 Pant y Llyn: High overall evaluation – ‘Unenclosed upland ridge containing medieval and post medieval settlement and field systems, and prehistoric ritual and funerary sites. in generally good condition but a slightly diffuse pattern.’ BRCKNHL004 Crickadarn: High overall evaluation – ‘Large area of irregular fieldscapes occupying upper valley side and land above the river Wye. Predominantly medieval and later agricultural landscape with well preserved medieval settlements with churches, and early priory site and scattered farms and houses. This and its large size increase its value.’
Description of Landscape Unit ⁴⁹	■ A complex, undulating landscape comprising a series of hill summits, reaching 400 m AOD at Mynydd Fforest. The landform is heavily incised by tributary valleys which drain eastwards to the River Wye. ■ Land cover comprises extensive open grassland commons across the elevated land, with small-scale pastoral fields on lower slopes. Woodland is limited to small blocks within the valley streams of the LCA. Tributaries of the River Wye are SSSI-designated. ■ Early settlement is indicated by the presence of prehistoric standing stones and cairns, with small medieval settlements and relict medieval field systems. ■ Settlement is concentrated around the historic church settlements of Crickadarn and Gwenddwr. Elsewhere are scattered farmsteads on the valley sides, linked by a series of narrow lanes. ■ There are attractive views to adjacent landscapes including the Mynydd Epynt Uplands, Painscastle Uplands and the Wye Valley, as well as long views south to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. ■ A rural landscape with a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, particularly within the valleys. Dark night skies are experienced across the LCA, as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. ■ Recreational access to the landscape is provided by a network of PRoW. There are areas of Open Access Land on Mynydd Fforest and Brechfa Common.	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility This landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to more indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform with distinctive hill summits, varied landcover pattern of open grassland commons, small-scale pasture fields and occasional semi-natural habitats, presence of archaeological features including prehistoric assets and medieval features, undeveloped skylines, and a sense of tranquillity, with dark night skies). There are comparatively few indicators of lower susceptibility. Judgement of Landscape Value Landscape value is considered to be medium as the assessment unit is not designated, has some conservation interest (with upstanding prehistoric assets and medieval settlements, and component HLAAs evaluated as 'high'), has some recreational value (including PRoWs and Open Access Land), and experiences high levels of tranquillity. Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high.	

⁴⁶ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 58: Eastern Mynydd Epynt Hills
⁴⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28: Epynt
⁴⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
⁴⁹ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Eastern Mynydd Epynt Hills LCA 58 ⁴⁶					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced approximately 6.3 km from the northern boundary of this LCA. The Proposed Development will be , seen between 7 km-13 km to the north-east. This will affect views from north and north-east facing hill-slopes, as well as from the summits of Mynydd Fforest (400 m AOD), and a series of unnamed hill summits to the south of Gwenddwr. The turbines will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views to the north-east, however, the undulating landform of low hills and valleys, mosaic of small-scale pasture fields and woodland on lower ground, prehistoric to medieval heritage assets, and the rural, tranquil character will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the landscape unit.					
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased.					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change for hill summits (including Mynydd Fforest), north and north-east facing valley sides and upper hill slopes including hillsides to the south of Gwenddwr, and slopes surrounding Crickadarn. In low-lying and west-facing parts of the landscape unit where intervening landform and vegetation screens views, there will be no effect.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u> The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines up to 220 m blade tip height ⁵⁰) will be approximately 19.2 km away to the north-east, and therefore likely to be visible in clear conditions. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will:					
	Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed development at Nant Mithil; Be at a scale comparable with the two proposed wind energy developments (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and Be a more prominent component when compared to Nant Mithil. Although the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of a (more distant) Nant Mithil from some parts of this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as is recorded for the primary assessment. The presence of Nant Mithil will not change this judgement.					

⁵⁰ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 1.11 Radnor Forest LCA 43

Landscape Unit	Radnor Forest LCA 43 ⁵¹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 20: Bryniau Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Hills ⁵²	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	The LCA is located to the north-east of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b. It comprises the extensive Radnor Forest upland complex, including the summits of Great Rhos (660 m AOD), Black Mixen (650 m AOD), Glog Hill (408 m AOD), and Litton Hill (309 m AOD). Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 23: Open access land on Mynd (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint locations, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	8.2 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T13).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(As this is the host landscape unit, all Aspect Areas that fall within the landscape unit are listed here, with those evaluated 'high' or 'outstanding' highlighted in bold text. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS108 Upland moor, Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation – ‘good example of wild, open, spacious, natural, diverse, tranquil upland moorland which is generally well managed, plus attractive views.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL828 Radnor Forest: High overall evaluation – ‘Stragglings upland ridge at the heart of Radnorshire and marking the highest point in the county at 660 m. Mostly enclosed with large (presumably 19th century) fields and with scattered remains of medieval and later farming but also prehistoric funerary monuments and finds. A valuable historic landscape but with widely spread but important content.’ RDNRHL122 Nant Melan: High overall evaluation - ‘The flatish valley floor of the Summergil Brook is divided into squarish regular fields of on moderate historical interest but the area’s value is increased by its eclectic archaeological content.’ RDNRHL990 Cwmaran: High overall evaluation - ‘Undulating ground surrounding the Cwm Aran valley. Dominated by post medieval farmsteads and irregular fieldscape, but with no other clear focus.’ RDNRHL763 Walton Basin: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘A truly outstanding area encompassing prehistoric complexes of international importance, Roman forts and settlement, early medieval and medieval settlements and their strip field systems, later fieldscapes and even associations with William Wordsworth!’
	Geological Landscape Aspect Area (GLAA):	RDNRGL807: Radnor Forest: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Upland area with sites of national importance (candidate SSSIs) for Silurian (Ludlow) stratigraphy and significant glacial features. This GLAA is identified as having a special functional link with RDNRGL435 Aberedw-Glascwm (host GLAA).
Description of Landscape Unit ⁵³ <i>(Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development – see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA Methodology.)</i>	- A large-scale, elevated upland plateau reaching a high point of 660 m AOD at Great Rhos. Incised by a regular series of deep, steep-sided glacial valleys that have created distinctive finger-like profiles along the edge of the plateau. - Land cover comprises extensive tracts of unimproved acid grassland, with large straight-sided fields defined by post and wire fences, or coniferous shelterbelts. Large, angular blocks of coniferous plantation with characteristically straight edges cover a substantial area to the east. Elsewhere, extensive areas of blanket bog, dry heathland and bracken habitats provide contrast and diversity. Radnor Forest SSSI comprises large areas of well-developed submontane heath communities. - Early settlement indicated by the presence of prehistoric round barrows (hilltop burial monuments) and enclosures, with evidence of later settlement including the remains of medieval house sites, isolated relict field systems and occasional pillow mounds. The area has cultural associations as a former medieval hunting ground; Bleddfa means ‘place of the wolf’ and is thought to be the where the last Welsh wolves were killed. - Sparsely settled with two small hamlets at Bleddfa and Fishpools, and isolated farmsteads elsewhere, often nestled within the valleys. Large areas of commercial forestry plantation exert man-made influence on the landscape and often form the skyline in views. - The distinctive landform is a prominent feature that forms a backdrop to views and is noted as a key characteristic of the landscape unit. The “far-reaching and scenic views including distant views to the Brecon Beacons National Park to the south-west and to Snowdonia National Park to the north-west” are noted as a key landscape quality of this LCA. - Strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness across much of the upland plateau. Noise and movement of traffic on the A488 and A44 locally disrupt the sense of tranquillity in the valleys. The Powys LCA notes the “strong sense of remoteness, high levels of tranquillity and dark skies experienced at moorland summits” as a key landscape sensitivity of this LCA.	

⁵¹ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 43: Radnor Forest

⁵² Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills

⁵³ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Radnor Forest LCA 43 ⁵¹					
	Crossed by numerous PRow including the Heart of Wales Line Trail⁵⁴ long distance footpath, and NRW promoted walks. Extensive areas of the uplands in the south of the landscape unit are Open Access Land. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) is under construction in an adjacent landscape unit (LCA 40) 2.6 km to the south-west, and exerts an influence of wind energy development on the surrounding character of the landscape unit, predominantly on the south-western extents of the LCA as illustrated by Figure 5.23. Other existing wind farm developments are evident in longer distance views to the north (Garreg Lwyd Hill, 17 turbines at 126.5 m to blade tip height), north, north-west (Llandinam Wind Farm, 102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height) and north-west (Bryn Titli Wind Farm, 22 turbines at 53.5 m blade tip height).					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity (See <i>Table 5.1, 5.1.4, and Table 5.1.5 within Appendix 5, and 1: LVIA Methodology.</i>)	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of medium-high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale landform, uniform land cover of large-scale upland grazing pasture, and commercial forestry plantation) and indicators of higher susceptibility (presence of designated semi-natural habitats, presence of archaeological features, the strongly rural character with dark skies and limited modern development , intervisibility with designated landscapes, and the strong sense of tranquillity). Judgement of Landscape Value Landscape value is considered to be medium. The landscape unit is not located within any designated landscape, has some conservation interest (with archaeological evidence of early settlement from prehistoric and medieval periods), has high recreational value (with numerous rights of way including The Heart of Wales Line Trail promoted route and large areas of Open Access Land) and a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, with dark skies (although is affected by the presence of Black Mixen telecommunications mast nearby). Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high.					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation (See <i>Tables 5.1.6-5.1.8 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA Methodology.</i>)	Scale of Effect Indirect effects will arise as a result of the 18 turbines being introduced approximately 8.2 km to the south-west of this LCA. The Proposed Development will increase the presence of modern man-made influence in views and will add built features to the skyline, affecting the sense of remoteness and tranquillity. However, the exposed upland landform, presence of blanket bog and dry heathland habitats, evidence of prehistoric and medieval settlement, access to the land via numerous PRow and extensive areas of Open Access Land, and the far-reaching and scenic views (including distant views to BBNP to the south-west and to Eryri National Park to the north-west) will remain. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the area. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that will be visible from this area will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The overall magnitude of landscape change during operation is judged to be low. The geographical extent of effect will occur across the elevated upper south and south-west facing hill slopes including Great Creigiau, Black Mixen, Bache Hill, Great Rhos, Nyth-grug, Cowlod, Fron Hill, and Shepherds Tump. There will be no landscape effects to the slopes of the incised valleys or to north and east-facing areas of the landscape unit.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate (not significant) level of effect on the landscape unit during operation.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects (See <i>Assessment of Landscape & Visual Effects section in Appendix 5.1: LVIA Methodology which includes definitions of each cumulative scenario.</i>)	Scenario A There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or in proximity to this LCA, however, views of wind farms in other LCAs will be afforded from extents of the LCA similar to those from where visibility of the Proposed Development will arise. The consented Garn Fach Wind Farm (17 turbines at 149.9m blade tip height) will consolidate the two consented clusters of turbines which are formed by the repowered Llandinam Wind Farm (34 turbines at 121 m blade tip height), creating a perception of one large wind farm cluster, with turbines of comparable scale evident across a reasonably large extent of the horizon in distant views of over 15 km to the north-west. The consented Llandinam Repowering scheme will be evident in views from this LCA (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The larger turbines will replace the existing operational turbines of Llandinam Wind Farm, appearing more perceptible at distances of 18 km from the LCA, whilst occupying a similar horizontal extent to the existing scheme, and comprising two discrete clusters of turbines separated by a perceptible gap. However, there will be limited interaction between the Proposed Development and the consented Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering schemes given the intervening distance between the developments. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario A will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. Scenario B: The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height) would be located within this LCA and would result in a significant landscape change from an undeveloped upland plateau to a wind farm landscape. The proposed turbines of Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) would be perceptible in distant views to the north, north-west, with turbines appearing to consolidate the existing wind farm of Garreg Lwyd Hill.					

⁵⁴ [The Heart of Wales Line Trail website](#)

Landscape Unit	Radnor Forest LCA 43 ⁵¹
	With Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy developments; Be at a scale comparable with the two proposed wind energy developments (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil, but higher tip hight and more turbines that Bryngydfa); and Have less influence on character than Nant Mithil Energy Park which is located within this landscape unit and would therefore has more influence on it. Despite the presence of Nant Mithil in this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B, will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.

Table 1.12 River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 38

Landscape Unit	River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 38 ⁵⁵	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	The northern part of the LCA falls within NLCA 20: Bryniau Sir Faesyfed/Radnorshire Hills ⁵⁶ . The southern part of the LCA falls within NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon ⁵⁷ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	This landscape unit is located to the north-west of the Site, as shown on Figures 5.9a and b . The wider extents of the LCA extend to the north, north-west, encompassing tributary valleys of the Dulas and Ithon rivers, and the historic market town of Rhayader.	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	8.6 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T16).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’, or with a ‘high’ or ‘outstanding’ scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	RDNRVS141 Wye floor, south of Rhayader: High overall evaluation – ‘Part of highly visible attractive main valley.’ RDNRVS144 Ithon at Alpine Bridge: High overall evaluation – ‘Quiet and secluded, with attractive variety of scenes.’ RDNRVS113 Upland moor, east of Wye: High overall evaluation: ‘Attractive wild areas seen from main road.’ RDNRVS143 Abbeycwmhir valley: High overall evaluation – ‘Attractive small valley, made distinctive by village and abbey.’ RDNRVS114 Upland moor, west of Ithon: High overall evaluation – ‘Attractive wild areas seen from main road.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	RDNRHL825 Cefnlllys: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of irregular fields occupying undulating hills surrounding the Ithon east of Llandrindod Wells. The overall pattern is diffuse and the historical content surprisingly light, but its overall value is considerably enhanced by the concentration of significant features around Cefnlllys itself.’ RDNRHL141 Trecoed: High overall evaluation – ‘A large but ‘busy’ area dominated by mixed fieldscapes, but with a mixed historic content in relatively good condition.’ RDNRHL237 Llandrindod Common: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘An area of relatively uniformly enclosed former common land containing a nationally important complex of Roman practice camps.’ RDNRHL194 Llanyre: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Although a large and fairly amorphous area of mixed fields its overall value is considerably increased by the presence of high profile elements such as medieval settlements and Castell Collen Roman fort and vicus.’ RDNRHL874 Upper Wye: High overall evaluation – ‘The narrow floor of the Wye valley. Divided into a series of regular field systems and containing medieval and post medieval settlements and an eclectic mixture of features from other periods all of which bring up its overall value.’ RDNRHL120 Llwyn-barried: High overall evaluation – ‘A large area of mixed fieldscapes, which although dominated by agricultural remains and settlement themes of medieval and later date and containing prehistoric and Roman elements is made rather diffuse because of its size.’
Description of Landscape Unit ⁵⁸	■ A medium-scale landscape of gently undulating minor hills and valleys forming a transitional landscape sloping down from the uplands in the north to the lowland valleys to the south. The hills form distinctive landform features. ■ Land use dominated by improved pasture with regular, straight-sided, medium scale fields in the north and irregular fields in the south, with intact mature hedgerows. Fields are interspersed with semi-natural habitats including hay meadows, valley mires, deciduous ancient woodlands and rhos pastures⁵⁹ which add diversity and texture. ■ Strong sense of time depth with prehistoric monuments, Roman artefacts and extensive evidence of medieval settlement, including Cwmhir Abbey set within the Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden (RHPG) of The Hall, Abbeycwmhir. ■ A relatively settled landscape with scattered historic villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads, linked by minor lanes. Major road corridors including the A44, A470 and A483 introduce some modern built development. ■ Has a strong visual relationship with surrounding uplands to the north which form a backdrop to many views from the landscape unit (noted as a key landscape quality in the Powys LCA). From elevated areas there are expansive views across the landscape unit. ■ Strongly rural character with scenic views across the traditional rolling pastoral landscape. Generally tranquil, although traffic noise and visual disturbance on major road corridors locally reduces tranquillity. ■ Experiences dark skies, as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales.	

⁵⁵ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 38: River Dulas Hills & Valleys

⁵⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 20: Radnorshire Hills

⁵⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon

⁵⁸ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

⁵⁹ Rhos pasture is defined as marshy grassland dominated by purple moor grass and rushes.

Landscape Unit	River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 38 ⁵⁵				
	- A traditionally managed pastoral landscape enclosed by intact hedgerows, in overall good condition, which reinforces the rural character of the landscape. - A network of PRoWs cross the landscape including small parts of the Glyndŵr's Way National Trail, the Wye Valley Walk, and the Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpaths. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) is located in an adjacent landscape unit (LCA 40), 3.5 km to the south-east of this landscape unit. The turbines have an influence on the surrounding character of the landscape unit, particularly in views from the undulating farmland in the south-east of the landscape unit, as illustrated in Figure 5.23. Other existing wind farm developments are only evident in the clearest conditions from elevated areas of the LCA. To the north-east are Garreg Lwyd Hill 17 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height 26km away, and Llandinam Wind Farm, 102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height 29km away. To the north-west is Bryn Titli Wind Farm, 22 turbines at 53.5 m blade tip height 26km away. Visibility of existing turbines from within the Dulas Valley is limited due to intervening landform (as illustrated by Figure 5.19).				
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development. Indicators of higher susceptibility include the undulating landform of small hills and valleys, presence of archaeological assets which provide a sense of time-depth, the varied landcover pattern, scenic views and strong intervisibility with surrounding landscapes, and the rural character of the landscape unit. In comparison, there are few indicators of lower susceptibility, apart from the presence of some modern man-made development (including main roads which limit the sense of tranquillity). Judgement of Landscape Value Landscape value is considered to be medium as the LCA is not part of a designated landscape, has some component VSAs evaluated as 'high', it has some conservation value (with archaeological assets from a range of time periods and several component LANDMAP HLAs evaluated as 'high' or 'outstanding'), has recreational value (with a good network of PRoWs, including National Trails and promoted routes), and has a strongly rural character with some sense of tranquillity (although is affected by traffic noise on main roads). Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, there will be indirect effects as a result of the introduction of the Proposed Development in a landscape unit approximately 8.6 km away (from the nearest turbine to the nearest LCA boundary). The Proposed Development will not be perceptible from most of the LCA due to its low-lying nature and the presence of intervening vegetation. However, the Proposed Development will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline views from the south-east facing hill slopes and summits that form the edge of the valley. Nevertheless, the small-scale rolling pastoral fields interspersed with woodland and semi-natural habitats, diverse heritage assets, and strong visual relationship with surrounding uplands to the north will continue to give the landscape unit its distinctive character. Overall, the Proposed Development will result in no more than a small change to the (perceptual) character of a part of this landscape unit. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that will be visible from this LCA will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall judgement of magnitude of landscape change and Geographical Extent The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change. The effect will mainly occur on the rolling farmland to the north-west of Llandrindod Wells and small-scale farmland to the north-east of Crossgates (between distances of approximately 10.3 km and 15 km of the Site) and the elevated land at Gwastodyn Hill (477 m AOD) and Castle Hill (388 m AOD)) beyond 15 km, with effects gradually diminishing with distance. No landscape effects will arise for much of the lower-lying land.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), however, views of consented wind farms in other LCAs will be afforded from similar extents of the LCA to those from where visibility of the Proposed Development will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The consented development at Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9m blade tip height located less than 2 km to the west from the LCA) will consolidate and extend the two consented clusters of turbines (totalling 34 turbines at 121 m blade tip height) which form the repowered Llandinam Wind Farm. The Garn Fach turbines will have greatest influence over the north-western extents of the LCA, west of the Dulas Valley, where the Proposed Development will exert little to no visual influence. Despite the visibility of Garn Fach from this LCA, the magnitude of landscape change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario A will remain low for the more elevated areas that surround the valley, and the effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant) for this area, as for the primary assessment. . Scenario B				

Landscape Unit	River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 38 ⁵⁵
	There are currently no other undetermined planning applications for wind farms located within this LCA. However, the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height) would be located approximately 4.7 km to the east and south-east, and proposed turbines of Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) would be located 7.1 km to the to the north-east will be seen from the same parts of the LCA but in different directions. With Nant Mithil Energy Park and Bryngydfa in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy developments, but will be clearly separated from them; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the nearer of the two proposed wind energy developments, Nant Mithil (although acknowledging the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be similar in prominence compared to Nant Nithil and Bryngydfa, as it will be at a similar distance from the landscape unit as Nant Mithil and Bryngydfa (albeit seen in a different direction of view). Although the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of Nant Nithil and Bryngydfa, these will be in different directions and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B will remain low for the elevated land on the edges of the valley, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant) for this area, which is the same as is recorded for the primary assessment. .

Table 1.13 Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys LCA 59

Landscape Unit	Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys LCA 59 ⁶⁰	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly with NLCA 28: Epynt ⁶¹ . Three valleys in the south of the LCA fall within NLCA 29: Wye and Usk Vales ⁶² .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation. The Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscape extends into the south-eastern part of the LCA.	
Location	Located to the south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.9a and b . The wider extents of the landscape unit extend to the south and west, incorporating the southern slopes of the Mynydd Epynt uplands, comprising of spurs of high ground incised by river valleys, including the Rivers Honddu, Ysgir, Nant Bran and Cilieni.	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	10.1 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T2).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS337 Honddu Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘The combination of interesting valley topography, strong woodland cover and pastoral mosaic gives the area high scenic quality. It is generally well managed throughout and has a consistent and unspoilt character. Settlements complement the landscape character. Pleasant views are possible throughout the valley.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL335 Pentre Dolau Honddu: High overall evaluation – ‘Predominantly a landscape of regular fields with small regular-sided blocks of forestry. A fossilised post medieval landscape containing a range of prehistoric ritual monuments adapted for use as a military training ground and therefore with good survival.’ BRCKNHL431 Upper Chapel: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fieldscape dominated by post medieval and earlier agricultural remains with farms and houses and a number of small medieval settlements. Number of early prehistoric burial and ritual sites as well as a handful of later prehistoric hillforts which together with its size contribute to its value.’ BRCKNHL323 Pant y Llyn: High overall evaluation - ‘Unenclosed upland ridge containing medieval and post medieval settlement and field systems, and prehistoric ritual and funerary sites. in generally good condition but a slightly diffuse pattern.’ BRCKNHL204 Sennybridge Training Area: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Large area of unenclosed moorland used as a military training area. Numerous historical sites and landscape features survive from all periods, including some modern military features.’
Description of Landscape Unit ⁶³	■ A large-scale elevated upland plateau, incised by the deep valleys of the Honddu and Ysgir Rivers to the east, and Nant Bran and the Cilieni valleys to the west. ■ Land cover is dominated by semi-improved grassland pastures. Extensive tracts of deciduous woodland occur along the valley sides and following watercourses, with conifer plantations often associated with settlements. ■ Early settlement indicated by the presence of numerous Bronze Age burial sites, ritual monuments and Iron Age hillforts. Later settlement is represented by medieval and post-medieval settlement sites, enclosures and ring forts. Penoyre House (Grade II*) is listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in Wales. ■ Moderately settled, with small hamlets and scattered farmsteads within the valleys. The B4520 traverses the Honddu Valley floor to Brecon, with small settlements dispersed along its length. ■ There are attractive views from and within the LCA, including south towards the summits of the Black Mountain (Y Mynydd Du) and Fforest Fawr in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The assessment unit forms part of the setting to Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. ■ A rural landscape with a strong sense of remoteness, particularly within the enclosed river valleys and upland areas. Traffic on the B4520 road locally affects the sense of tranquillity. The LCA experiences dark night skies, as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. ■ A network of PROWs cross the landscape, including part of The Epynt Way long distance footpath. There is a small area of Open Access Land at Mynydd Aberysgir.	
Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of medium susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale landform, presence of modern development), and indicators of higher susceptibility (presence of archaeological features from a range of time periods, sense of remoteness and tranquillity away from the valley roads, intervisibility with BBNP). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be medium as although it is not designated, it has some conservation interest falling partially within the Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscape, has component HLAA's evaluated as 'outstanding' and 'high', has recreational value with PROWs (including long distance routes) and pockets of Open Access Land, and has a rural character with a sense of remoteness. <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium.	

⁶⁰ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 59: Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys
⁶¹ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28: Epynt
⁶² Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
⁶³ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

Landscape Unit	Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys LCA 59 ⁶⁰					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 10 km to the north-east, and the Proposed Development will introduce a new feature on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen as a relatively distant element in views from the landscape unit between 10.1 km – 20 km, affecting views from north-east facing upper slopes and summits, including Cefn Bach (391 m AOD), Alltarnog (387 m AOD), and Cefn Trum yr Hwch (433 m AOD). There is no predicted visibility across the lower-lying areas of the landscape unit, where topography will screen views towards the Proposed Development. The proposed turbines will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in distant views to the north-east. However, the large-scale elevated landform, pastoral land use with contrasting wooded valleys, views towards summits within BBNP, and the sense of tranquillity will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the landscape unit within 15 km. Beyond 15 km, the proposed turbines will be visible from only the highest points in the landscape (above 380 m AOD).					
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this LCA will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased.					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change for east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes. In low-lying and west-facing parts of the landscape unit where landform screens views, there will be no effect. The geographical extent of these effects will be limited to the most elevated parts of the landscape unit including upper north-east facing slopes and hill summits, of Cefn Bach (391 m AOD), Alltarnog (387 m AOD), Cefn Trum yr Hwch (433 m AOD), as well as other unnamed summits above 350 m AOD. There will be no change to the lower-lying parts of the landscape unit, including along the valley floor and lower valley sides, where visibility will be screened by intervening topography.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit, or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore the landscape effect will remain minor (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B:</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this landscape unit, or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore effects will remain minor (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

Table 1.14 Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 47

Landscape Unit	Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 47 ⁶⁴	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly located within NLCA 21: The Cambrian Mountains ⁶⁵ . The south-eastern section of the landscape unit extends into NLCA 27: Vales of Irfon and Ithon ⁶⁶ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	The landscape unit is located to the north-west of the site, as shown in Figures 5.9a and b . The landscape unit comprises an extensive upland moorland plateau lying to the south of the Elan Valley. The eastern and southern edges are defined by the Wye and Bryn Glas valleys, respectively. To the south-west, the landscape extends to meet the Twyi Forest Uplands (LCA 48).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	10.8 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T6).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS726 Cambrian Mountains southern fringes: High overall evaluation – ‘The varied and interesting topography with steep sided hills and valleys is given added drama and texture by the woodland cover and watercourses in valley bottoms. Overall the area has a very high scenic quality and a strong sense of place. The area is unspoilt and is rare as a landscape type in the county.’ BRCKNVS196 Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes: High overall evaluation - ‘The area is consistent and unspoilt in character overall. It encloses the Wye valley to the east and the combination of mixed woodland on steep slopes, pastoral mosaic and a series of parkland landscapes make the valley sides attractive with high scenic quality. Higher slopes allow attractive views to upland areas.’ BRCKNVS999 Bryn Glas and Bryn Moel uplands: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is vast in scale and extent with a strong, consistent and distinctive character which gives the area a scenic quality. Panoramic views are possible to other upland areas and to surrounding valleys. The area has a quality of wildness and remoteness and a strong sense of place.’ BRCKNVS238 Dulas and Cymrun Valleys: High overall evaluation – ‘These steep sided valleys with attractive oak woodland clinging to the sides contrasting with the flat valley bottom mosaic have a high scenic quality and strong sense of place. The area is unspoilt and tranquil and is of consistent character.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.’ BRCKNHL316 Carnau: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Vast area of unenclosed and undeveloped upland pasture and moorland. Numerous prehistoric funerary and ritual sites and medieval and post medieval settlement and farming sites. Scores well because of its diversity and condition.’
Description of Landscape Unit ⁶⁷	■ A large-scale, gently undulating upland plateau with a series of gentle peaks ranging in height from 500 m to 600 m AOD, rising to 641 m AOD at Drygarn Fawr. Tributaries of the Irfon and Elan Rivers incise the plateau in steep-sided valleys. ■ Land cover is characterised by upland heath, blanket bog and acid grassland habitats on the elevated plateau, with internationally significant nature conservation designations including Elenydd SSSI and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Elenydd – Mallaen Special Protection Area (SPA) and Important Bird Area (IBA). Tree cover is limited at higher elevations, though small areas of conifer plantations and broadleaf woodlands exist on lower slopes. ■ Extensive evidence of early settlement, including prehistoric cairns, standing stones and hillforts. The Elan Valley Registered Historic Landscape⁶⁸ covers the northern part of the landscape unit, reinforcing the historical significance of the landscape. ■ Settlement is limited to a small number of isolated farmsteads located in the south-east of the landscape assessment unit. ■ Extensive panoramic views are afforded across the plateau and beyond, including intermittent views north-east to the Dulas Valley (LCA 46), south-east to the Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) (LCA 44), and south-west to the Twyi Forest Uplands (LCA 48). ■ A rural landscape with a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity due to the absence of modern development. The landscape unit experiences dark skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. The north-west of the landscape unit is located within the Elan Valley International Dark Sky Park, designated for its exceptionally low levels of light pollution. ■ A number of PRoW cross the landscape unit. Much of the upland plateau is Open Access Land. Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) is under construction in a landscape unit (LCA 40) approximately 13.3 km to the east of this landscape unit (from the nearest boundary to the nearest turbine) and has increased the presence of wind energy development seen in views, particularly from east-facing slopes.	

⁶⁴ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 47: Bryn Glas Uplands

⁶⁵ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 21: The Cambrian Mountains

⁶⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon

⁶⁷ Based on the criteria for determining susceptibility to wind energy development (see Table 5.2 within Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology), and informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.

⁶⁸ Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (undated) Historic Landscape Characterisation – The Elan Valley

Landscape Unit	Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 47 ⁶⁴				
	Distant views of existing wind farms arise from elevated areas of the LCA surrounding the upper slopes of the Wye Valley around Llandrindod Wells and Newbridge-on-Wye. Operational schemes at Bryn Titli (22 turbines at 53.5 m blade tip height) and Llandinam (102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height), appear at distances of between approximately 9.8 km and 19 km in views to the north, and north-east, respectively.				
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to the presence of indicators of higher susceptibility (varied landcover pattern of diverse semi-natural habitats including internationally-designated sites, presence of archaeological features including prehistoric, medieval and Roman assets, strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness, absence of modern development, undeveloped skylines) and comparatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (simple, large-scale landform). Judgement of Landscape Value Landscape value is considered to be high as the northern part of the assessment unit falls within the Elan Valley Registered Historic Landscape, some of the component VSAs are evaluated as 'high', it has conservation interest (with historic assets from a range of time periods, and component HLAs evaluated as 'high' and 'outstanding'), has recreational value (with numerous PROWs and large areas of Open Access Land across the uplands) and has a strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity, with few detracting features and a good experience of dark night skies (reflected by its inclusion as part of the Elan Valley International Dark Sky Park). Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 11 km to the south-east, and the Proposed Development will introduce a new feature on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen as a relatively distant element in views from the landscape unit between 11 km-25 km to the south-east, affecting views from east-facing upper valley sides and hill slopes, including the “<i>intermittent views... south-east to the Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)</i>” (noted as a key characteristic of the landscape unit). The turbines will increase the presence of modern human development on the skyline in views south-east, however, the gently undulating valley landform, mosaic of small-scale pasture fields, woodland and semi-natural habitats, prehistoric to medieval heritage features, and the rurality and sense of remoteness will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of the landscape unit. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines that are visible from this LCA will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change. The geographical extent of these effects will occur across east- and south-east-facing upper slopes and summits, including Drum Ddu (514 m AOD), Craig Chwefri (430 m AOD), Trembyd (475 m AOD), and Banc Creigol (382 m AOD). Views from lower-lying land and west-facing slopes will be screened by intervening topography, and so there will be no effect from these areas.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A The consented Llandinam Repowering scheme is located approximately 18 km north-east of this landscape unit (within adjacent LCA 29: Waun Ddubarthog). This will replace the 102 existing turbines (45.5 m blade tip height) with 34 turbines at an increased blade tip height of 121 m, resulting in fewer, larger-scale turbines. The change in turbine scale will be perceptible at this distance, but is unlikely to result in any change in the influence of wind energy development on the LCA within this cumulative baseline scenario. The consented development of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m blade tip height) will be located approximately 17 km to the north-east and will appear as an extension of the Llandinam repowering scheme. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario A will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. The additional cumulative impact arising from the Proposed Development assuming the presence of the Garn Fach/ Llandinam group will be negligible. Scenario B The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height) would be located approximately 16.9 km away and will increase the presence of wind turbines in distant views to the east. The proposed Bryngydfa Wind Farm (12 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) located approximately 21.8 km away would marginally extend the existing cluster of turbines at Garreg Lwyd Wind Farm, however the change would be largely undiscernible from this LCA (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). With these proposed wind energy developments in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy developments				

Landscape Unit	Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 47 ⁶⁴
	Be at a scale comparable with the two proposed wind energy developments (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline as it is located closer to the landscape unit than the two other proposed developments. These proposed wind farms will consolidate the existing pattern of wind energy development seen in views to the east and north-east from the LCA. However, the introduction of the Proposed Developments will still result in a small scale change to elevated parts of the landscape unit, including from the western upper slopes of the River Wye Valley, west of Newbridge-on-Wye and Llandrindod Wells. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B, which includes all operational, under construction, consented and Proposed Developments, will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.

Table 1.15 Southern Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 52

Landscape Unit	Southern Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 52 ⁶⁹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Powys LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	The north, west, and south-western parts of the landscape unit are located within the NLCA 21: The Cambrian Mountains ⁷⁰ . The eastern part of the LCA falls within NCLA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon ⁷¹ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA does not form part of any local or national level landscape designation.	
Location	The landscape assessment unit is located to the west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.9a and b . It forms a transitional landscape between the adjacent Bryn Glas Uplands (LCA 47) and Twyi Forest (LCA 48) to the north and west, and the farmed lowlands of the Irfon Valley (LCA 53) to the south-east.	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	11.7 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T6).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS726 Cambrian Mountains southern fringes: High overall evaluation – ‘The varied and interesting topography with steep sided hills and valleys is given added drama and texture by the woodland cover and watercourses in valley bottoms. Overall the area has a very high scenic quality and a strong sense of place. The area is unspoilt and is rare as a landscape type in the county.’ BRCKNVS999 Bryn Glas and Bryn Moel uplands: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is vast in scale and extent with a strong, consistent and distinctive character which gives the area a scenic quality. Panoramic views are possible to other upland areas and to surrounding valleys. The area has a quality of wildness and remoteness and a strong sense of place.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL847 Dyffryn Irfon: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive medieval and later agricultural landscape of irregular field systems and farms with several (18) medieval villages (many based on early churches). Significant numbers of prehistoric burial and ritual monuments Single roman fort and vicus settlement and associated road network. Complex landscape with significant content, but mixed pattern.’ BRCKNHL316 Carnau: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Vast area of unenclosed and undeveloped upland pasture and moorland. Numerous prehistoric funerary and ritual sites and medieval and post medieval settlement and farming sites. Scores well because of its diversity and condition.’
Description of Landscape Unit ⁷²	■ A strongly undulating upland landscape of round-topped hills ranging between 200 m AOD and 510 m AOD, incised by tributary streams which create steep V-shaped valleys in the landform. ■ Land cover is characterised by open moorland and rough grassland on the hills and higher ground, while lower areas are characterised by small to medium sized pastoral fields. ■ Prehistoric features include Bronze Age standing stones and cairns located on hill summits, whilst a medieval church adds further time depth. Features of Victorian origin, including two grade listed pump rooms at Dol-y-Coed, reflect the spa town heritage of this region. ■ A sparsely settled landscape comprising isolated dwellings and farmsteads on the lower valley sides, linked by minor rural lanes. ■ Attractive long-distance views are afforded from elevated ground and hill summits including north-west across the Cambrian Mountains over the Irfon Valley to the south. ■ A rural landscape with a sense of tranquillity. The open hilltops are exposed landscape whereas the valleys provide a sense of enclosure. The landscape unit experiences dark night skies as indicated by the NRW map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. ■ Crossed by numerous PRowS including The Heart of Wales Line Trail long distance footpath⁷³ which passes through the south of the LCA from Llanwrtyd Wells. There is an area of Open Access Land on Y Garth.	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to fewer indicators of lower susceptibility (relatively simple land cover pattern of open moorland, rough grassland, and pastoral fields on lower slopes), and comparatively more indicators of higher susceptibility (strongly undulating landform of hills and valleys, presence of archaeological features (including Prehistoric and medieval assets, as well as visible Victorian features), limited modern development, and the sense of tranquillity). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Landscape value is considered to be medium as it is not designated, some component VSAAs are evaluated as 'high', it has some conservation interest (with prehistoric, medieval, and Victorian features), has recreational value (with a well-connected network of PRowS including part of the Heart of Wales Line Trail, and an area of Open Access Land) and has a strongly rural character and sense of tranquillity, with limited modern influence. <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be medium-high.	

⁶⁹ Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment Profiles – LCA 52: Southern Bryn Glas Uplands
⁷⁰ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 21: The Cambrian Mountains
⁷¹ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 27: The Vales of Irfon and Ithon
⁷² Informed by a combination of LCA profile description, key characteristics and qualities, LANDMAP survey records and fieldwork.
⁷³ The Heart of Wales Line website

Landscape Unit	Southern Bryn Glas Uplands LCA 52 ⁶⁹					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 12 km to the east, and the Proposed Development will introduce a new feature on the skyline. The Proposed Development will be seen as a relatively distant element in views from the landscape unit between 12 km - 20.8 km to the east/south-east. There will be a small scale of effect to east and south-east facing hill slopes and summits within 15 km of the Site, including from sloping land to the north-west of the B4358 road, and from the hamlet of Pentre-llwyn-llwyd. There will be some views of the Proposed Development from the summits of Gornoeth (13.5 km away) and Garth Bank (14.2 km away), although these views will mainly be screened by intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development will add new features to the skyline in long-distance views, however the undulating topography of round-topped hills and V-shaped valleys, sense of time-depth, attractive long distance views (including north-west across the Cambrian Mountains) and the strong sense of rurality and tranquillity will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes to the landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term duration is judged to result in an overall low magnitude of landscape change for east-facing valley sides and upper hill slopes. There will be no effect to low-lying areas (including within stream valleys) and from west-facing parts of the landscape unit where intervening landform screens views. The geographical extent of the small scale of effect will occur across elevated east-facing slopes within 15 km of the Site. Views from lower-lying land and stream valleys and west-facing valley sides will be screened by intervening topography.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
	Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation					
A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.						
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind energy developments are located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA, therefore no cumulative landscape effects will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). <u>Scenario B</u> There are no proposed developments located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), or will be evident in views from the LCA. However, distant views of wind farms in other LCAs will be afforded from elevated extents of the LCA, (as illustrated by Figure 5.22). The proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height) would be located approximately 18.9 km to the north-east and would increase the presence of wind turbines in views to the north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park , Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (although acknowledging that the Proposed Development will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); and Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline as it is located closer to the landscape unit than the proposed development at Nant Mithil. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B will remain low and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. The additional cumulative impact on this landscape unit will be negligible.					

2. Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) Landscape Character Areas

2.1.1 Further detail on the assessment of BBNP is provided in **Appendix 5.6: Assessment of Designated Landscapes**.

Table 2.1 Wye Valley Foothills LCA 14

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley Foothills LCA 14 ⁷⁴	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA ⁷⁵	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains ⁷⁶ . The north-western edge of the LCA lies within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ⁷⁷ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The majority of the landscape unit falls within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape, with a small area in the south-west falling within the Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse ⁷⁸ .	
Location	Located to the south-east of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b .	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	14 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T7).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS160 River Wye: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘The river and its associated features have a very high scenic quality and frame views of the surrounding countryside. The variety of vistas and character that the river displays throughout its course are stimulating and yet restful to the viewer.’ BRCKNVS004 Wye Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘all criteria high.’ BRCKNVS527 Hay-on-Wye: High overall evaluation – ‘Hay on Wye’s core is consistently attractive with vernacular architecture and distinctive ‘offer’ of bookshops which give it a particular character and quality. The town has a positive relationship with the River Wye. The town is a popular visitor attraction for books as well as quality of place which is an indication of consensus of its value.’ BRCKNVS683 Black Mountains Northern fringe - Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘The striking topography of the series of parallelridges and valleys combined with the strong mixed woodland cover and pastoral mosaic give the area a very high scenic quality. Stream corridors are very attractive with waterfalls on most. Superb long and varied views are possible. The area has a strong integrity with consistent character throughout. It has a strong sense of place in its own right despite being a transition area between upland and lowland.’ BRCKNVS711 Llanfilo Farmlands: High scenic quality evaluation – ‘The area has a varied and interesting topography with distinct hills and landcover dominated by pastoral agriculture with attractive woodland blocks and diversity of views’ and High character evaluation – ‘the area’s varied and interesting topography with distinct hills gives a sense of place.’ BRCKNVS151 Talgath: High scenic quality – No justification given. BRCKNVS660 Black Mountains: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘These impressive wild uplands have a very high scenic quality through their dramatic landform. There are panoramic views possible over the Wye valley to the north and Usk Valley to the south. The area has a consistent character throughout and a strong sense of place. The escarpment is a landmark when viewed from the north. The strong popularity of the Black Mountains for walking is indicative of their perceived value.’ BRCKNVS522 Llangorse Lake Basin: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is a very attractive setting to Llangorse lake with the backcloth of the uplands including Mynydd Llangorse. Superb views are possible across the basin. The area is generally unspoilt and has consistent character and integrity although there is some recreational/tourism development which slight degrades the northern part of Llangorse lake margins. The area has a sense of place deriving primarily from its relationship with Llangorse lake and adjacent uplands to the east. The area is similar to other countryside but as a basin has a slightly distinctive character from adjacent valleys. It is visited often as a setting for the lake and this is an indication of consensus on its value.’ BRCKNVS998 Llangorse Lake: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘The lake is a rare distinctive natural lake with a varied edge of trees, pasture and reeds, which is used for water based recreation. It is a popular visitor destination for people who wish to enjoy its attrcative qualities and which is generally unspoilt. It is of high scenic quality and there is strong consensus based on the above. It complements its surroundings of pleasant rural landscape rising to form pasture to moorland and acts as a strong visual focus in this bowl. It creates a beautiful setting for Llangorse Church.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL966 Pipton: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Regular fields occupying Wye valley floor and containing diverse and significant historic evidence including early church site and medieval manor and settlement and a tower with historical associations. All of which bring up its score.’ BRCKNHL687 Porthamal: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fields with high status houses and farms and larger medieval settlements, defensive sites and associated field systems. Significant numbers of early prehistoric ritual and funerary monuments and later defended settlements.’

⁷⁴ Fiona Fyfe Associates (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 14: Wye Valley Foothills
⁷⁵ Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment
⁷⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains
⁷⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
⁷⁸ Cadw (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse (HLW (P) 7)

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley Foothills LCA 14 ⁷⁴	
		BRCKNHL846 Hay: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Medieval town (castle, town walls, church) with (?)earlier motte. Post medieval and later redevelopment and expansion masking some detail but most of the original form and function is still clear.’ BRCKNHL485 Maestorglwydd: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fieldscapes occupying striated sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Predominantly medieval and later agricultural landscape with well preserved medieval and early medieval settlements with churches, and a scatter of early prehistoric burial sites and some later prehistory add to this complex but diffuse landscape.’ BRCKNHL269 Great Porthmael: High overall evaluation – ‘Small area of regular fields, remnants of medieval field systems belonging to Talgarth. A single focus landscape in reasonable condition.’ BRCKNHL669 Rhos Fawr: High overall evaluation – ‘Mixed enclosure with some unenclosed common surviving. Outstanding pair of chambered tombs in an otherwise fairly bland landscape.’ BRCKNHL848 Talgarth: High overall evaluation – ‘Medieval town confused by post medieval and later redevelopment and expansion.’ BRCKNHL642 Black Mountains: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fieldscapes occupying striated sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Predominantly medieval and later agricultural landscape with well preserved medieval and early medieval settlements with churches, and a scatter of early prehistoric burial sites and some later prehistory add to this complex but diffuse landscape.’ BRCKNHL611 Trefecca: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of regular fields dominated by medieval and later agriculture with significant houses and farms and lone but important Neolithic chambered tomb. significant content and good survival.’ BRCKNHL172 Cathedine: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of regular fields partly originating in medieval strip systems. Early prehistoric activity indicated by lithic finds. A medieval motte and a masonry castle also lie within the area. Diverse historic interest and good potential.’ BRCKNHL857 Llanhamlach: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Complex intensive utilised area of field systems and associated significant medieval and early medieval settlements (with churches, castles and moated sites). Scattered earlier (chambered tombs, round barrows, finds) and later (hillforts) prehistoric remains.’ BRCKNHL567 Mynydd Llangorse: High overall evaluation – ‘Elongated unenclosed ridge with significant early (and fewer later) prehistoric and medieval and later farming evidence which contribute to its score.’ BRCKNHL285 Castell Dinas: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Small area of regular fields and woodland focused on a medieval castle within an Iron Age hillfort. A significant singled themed landscape.’ BRCKNHL701 Llangorse: High overall evaluation - ‘Small settlement with medieval core and early medieval origin, but with later expansion masking some of its pattern.’ BRCKNHL377 Llangorse Lake: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Natural lake and immediate shore, most notable or its early medieval crannog and waterlogged finds. Although a single focus area it is of key historical and archaeological importance and offeres significant opportunities for interpretation.’
Description of Landscape Unit	■ A large-scale landscape comprising a series of ridges and valleys that cut through the landscape from the Black Mountains towards the Wye Valley. ■ Land cover is predominantly pastoral fields enclosed by high hedgebanks, with extensive areas of deciduous woodland on steep valley sides, small areas of coniferous plantation, and occasional parkland trees. ■ Evidence of early settlement includes prehistoric ritual sites, with later settlement indicated by the presence of Medieval features such as Llangors Lake, as well as castle and churches. Much of the area is included in the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales. Historic parks and gardens further contribute to the time depth of the area. ■ A settled landscape comprising the town of Hay-on-Wye, with nucleated villages, and isolated farmsteads scattered throughout the landscape unit. ■ Attractive views within and from the landscape unit are noted as a key characteristic of this LCA “views within the LCA are often dominated by the Black Mountains scarp, and there are long views out across the Wye valley from high land”. ■ A landscape with moderate levels of tranquillity; despite being relatively settled, the ridged landform reduces traffic noise and screen views of settlements. ■ The landscape is served by a well-connected network of PRoW, including the Three Rivers Ride locally promoted route. Further recreational access is provided by areas of open access common land at higher elevations.	
Key Views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment).	‘This LCA forms the foreground to views north from the top of the Black Mountains scarp, and also forms the setting to the Black Mountains scarp in views looking south-east from the Wye Valley. Views within the LCA are often dominated by the Black Mountains scarp, and there are long views out across the Wye valley from high land.’	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (complex, rugged and distinctive landform, varied land use with irregular small-scale field patterns on the lower valley sides, strong sense of time depth with extensive archaeological remains as well as strong cultural associations, prominent undeveloped skylines which form a backdrop to views from surrounding landscapes) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (large, regular field pattern on hilltops, presence of modern settlement and main roads in the valleys).	
	<u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u>	

Landscape Unit	Wye Valley Foothills LCA 14 ⁷⁴					
	Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as it is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park, as well as being designated as part of the Middle Wye Valley and Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscapes. Much of the landscape unit is of high scenic quality and condition (as noted in the BBNP LCA), has high conservation interest (with artefacts from a range of time periods, as well as strong cultural associations), is of high recreational value (with PROWs and recreational facilities) and has a sense of rurality (although tranquillity is locally degraded by the presence of settlement and main roads in the valleys).					
	Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity					
	Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect					
	During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 14 km to the north-west (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA).					
	Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from upper north-west facing hill slopes and ridges within the LCA, situated at distances between 19 km-27 km. This visibility will arise from the summits of Wenallt (400 m AOD) and from Tregoyd Common (c. 280 m AOD) and Rhos Fawr (c.360 m AOD), as well as from hillsides and elevated land around Trefecca. From lower-lying land e.g. south of Hay on Wye, views towards the Proposed Development will be partially screened by intervening landform and vegetation, although visibility of up to five blade tips is predicted from lower slopes.					
	Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views north from the LCA, the valleys and ridges of the Black Mountains scarp, varied landscape pattern with semi-natural habitats, heritage features and cultural associations, and the rurality with a sense of timelessness will be unaffected, and will continue to contribute to its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will introduce new built development in distant views to the north resulting in a small scale of effect.					
	Duration/Reversibility					
	During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased and no other on-site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA.					
	Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent					
	The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude of change to elevated parts of the landscape unit (including north-facing upper hillslopes and ridges) where long views to the north are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA where intervening landform and vegetation will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible.					
	The geographical extent of effects will cover the majority of the landscape unit including the elevated ridges, slopes and hill summits extending from the Black Mountains Scarp, and the lower north-west facing slopes (as indicated by the ZTV shown on Figure 5.10b). No effects will arise for the west-facing valley sides of valleys which incise the scarp, or for the south-west facing slopes around Llangorse.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A					
	There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 10 km). The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario A will remain low , and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					
	Scenario B					
	Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height ⁷⁹) would be seen approximately 20 km away in distant views to the north in clear conditions. However, the Proposed Development will be closer to, and more prominent in views from, this LCA. Although both Nant Mithil and the Proposed Development will be seen from this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B, will remain low , and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

⁷⁹ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 2.2 The Black Mountains LCA 13

Landscape Unit	The Black Mountains LCA 13 ⁸⁰	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 30 Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains ⁸¹ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the BBNP. The northern fringe of the LCA lies within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape ⁸² .	
Location	Located to the south-east of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b . Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (dusk/night-time Viewpoint N2) (refer to Figures 5.4a and b in Volume 2 for viewpoint location, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	18.2 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T7).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS660 Black Mountains: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘These impressive wild uplands have a very high scenic quality through their dramatic landform. There are panoramic views possible over the Wye valley to the north and Usk Valley to the south. The area has a consistent character throughout and a strong sense of place. The escarpment is a landmark when viewed from the north. The strong popularity of the Black Mountains for walking is indicative of their perceived value.’ BRCKNVS858 Mynydd Llangorse: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘The area is a distinctive and impressive landform, particularly when viewed from the north. It has a consistent character throughout and has a high scenic quality appropriate to its close relationship with the Black Mountains to the east. Superb views are possible from the aera and it is used for walking and trekking (pony) which confirms its percieved wider value.’ BRCKNVS389 Vale of Ewyas: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Distinctive ‘U’ shaped valley bottom and lower sides have consistent character focussed on Afon Honddu river course. The valley has high scenic quality due to the topography and landcover and contrast of pastoral valley floor with steep moorland sides.’ BRCKNVS368 Rhiangoll Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘The valleys distinct topography and high woodland cover and mosaic farmland have a high scenic quality. The area is relatively unspoilt and has a consistent character throughout.’ MNMTHVS006 Olchon Valley Ridge: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘A distinct broad upland ridge of heather moorland with superb views across the Welsh mountains to the west and English lowlands to the east. The areas generally is in good condition and is unspoilt by development although there is encroachment by bracken on the lower slopes. As a Ridgetop on the Welsh/English border it has a dramatic sense of place. As upland heather moorland it is relatively rare in Monmouthshire.’ MNMTHVS020 Vale of Ewyas: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘The valley is a superb example of a U-shaped valley with strong field pattern and scattered traditional settlement contrasting with the open upper valley sides and moorland. Superb views possible up and down the valley. The valley is unspoilt and maintains integrity of its field pattern generally. The valley has a very strong sense of place due to its distinctive landform and the presence of Llanthony Priory which is a visual focus. A U-shaped valley with a distinctive pattern and Priory is very rare in Monmouthshire.’ MNMTHVS005 Black Mountains: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘This dramatic and exposed ridgetop has superb scenic policy with long views over the Black Mountains and the adjacent vale. The large-scale heather bog and seminatural grassland dominate although these are encroached upon to the west by the coniferous woodland, and also by bracken and scrub. The area is unspoilt and has a strong sense of place has an upland ridge. Its character as heather dominated moorland is rare in Monmouthshire.’ BRCKNVS580 Vale of Grwyney: High overall evaluation – ‘The area has high scenic quality as the foreground and setting for the surrounding uplands. Its juxtaposition of woodlands and generally intact field boundaries are complemented by attractive scattered settlement. The area is in good condition and has a consistent, pleasant and unspoilt rural character. Elements in the landscape are distinctive including holly hedges. Attractive views across the valley are possible to the surrounding uplands.” MNMTHVS022 Monnow Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘Three highs and one moderate equals a high due to the areas scenic quality and unspoilt border character and integrity.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL642 Black Mountains: High overall evaluation – ‘Unenclosed upland. Varied content of palaeoenvironmental deposits, prehistoric funerary and domestic sites and medieval and later agricultural remains which contribute to its score.’ BRCKNHL669 Rhos Fawr: High overall evaluation – ‘Mixed enclosure with some unenclosed common surviving. Outstanding pair of chambered tombs in an otherwise fairly bland landscape.’ BRCKNHL567 Mynydd Llangorse: High overall evaluation – ‘Elongated unenclosed ridge with significant early (and fewer later) prehistoric and medieval and later farming evidence which contribute to its score.’ BRCKNHL172 Cathedine: High overall evaluation– ‘Extensive area of regular fields partly originating in medieval strip systems. Early prehistoric activity indicated by lithic finds. A medieval motte and a masonry castle also lie within the area. Diverse historic interest and good potential.’

⁸⁰ Fiona Fyfe Associates (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 13: The Black Mountains

⁸¹ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains

⁸² Cadw (2002) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Middle Wye Valley (HLW (P) 3)

Landscape Unit	The Black Mountains LCA 13 ⁸⁰				
		BRCKNHL285 Castell Dinas: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Small area of regular fields and woodland focused on a medieval castle within an Iron Age hillfort. A significant singled themed landscape.’ MNMTTHL033 Black Mountains & Vale of Ewyas: High overall evaluation – ‘The dominant landscape pattern reflects a traditional pastoral economy based upon the seasonal movement of livestock from the uplands to the valley floor and lower slopes. This land-use pattern has been shaped largely by the area's diverse topography and similar patterns occur in other areas of Monmouthshire subject to similar constraints. Recent fieldwork has revealed the archaeological potential of valley bottom locations and there is potential also for the investigation of known sites. Llanthony Priory is a notable visitor attraction while the wider landscape has significant potential as a visitor destination for outdoor pursuits.’ BRCKNHL636 Cwmcrawnon: High overall evaluation – ‘Medieval and early post-medieval landscape of small irregular fields, wooded slopes and stream valleys. Early settlement and land use indicated by early prehistoric burial and ritual monuments and by later prehistoric hillforts. Mixed pattern but significant content over a large area.’ BRCKNHL385 Penygaer: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Area of mixed size regular fields occupying minor river confluence. Medieval and later farming landscape considerable enhanced by the presence of the outstanding medieval settlement at Tretower and the Roman fort and settlement at Pen-y-Gaer.’ BRCKNHL890 Cwm-gu: High overall evaluation – ‘Distinctive regular fieldscape on the eastern slopes of the Rhiangoll valley. A single theme landscape dominated by medieval and later remains, but with mixed appearances by other periods.’ BRCKNHL176 Vale of Grwyney; High overall evaluation – ‘Landscape of evolved, irregular fields and dispersed farmsteads of medieval and post-medieval date. Some prehistoric sites in the way of Bronze Age standing stones. Many ruinous post medieval house sites. Diverse, complex landscape’.			
Description of Landscape Unit	- A large-scale upland landscape comprising a series of broad ridges separated by narrow, steep-sided valleys, with scarp slopes and landslips creating distinctive landforms. - Landcover comprises upland grazing on unenclosed common land on higher ground, with a patchwork of pastoral farming, conifer plantation and deciduous woodland in the valleys. - Early settlement and land use indicated by the presence of numerous prehistoric sites (ritual and defensive) particularly on higher ground. Surviving medieval ecclesiastical sites include Llanthony Priory and Cwmyoy Church. - Sparse settlement pattern of scattered farms and hamlets, although from higher ground, views to larger settlements (e.g. Hay-on-Wye & Crickhowell) outside the LCA give the perception of a more settled landscape. Roads are generally restricted to valley bottoms with the exception of Gospel Pass which rises from Hay-on-Wye through the Vale of Ewyas. Grwyne Fawr Reservoir also contributes to the sense of human influence in the landscape. - Wide, open skylines with distinctive flat horizons and an absence of vertical features or built structures. Skylines are prominent in views from surrounding lower-lying landscapes and contribute to the setting of Crickhowell and settlements in the Usk Valley. - The LCA is located wholly within the BBNP. There are panoramic views from higher land over adjacent LCAs, as well as longer views out of the National Park to the north and east. The BBNP LCA notes the importance of the LCA in the setting it provides to the Usk Valley, and its visual prominence from summits and high ground across the National Park. - The higher moorlands are empty and remote, contrasting with the lower lying settled pastoral valleys. - Numerous PRowWs (including Offa’s Dyke Path National Trail and The Beacons Way long distance footpath) as well as extensive areas of Open Access Land on high ground enable recreational access to the landscape.				
Key Views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment).	<i>‘Panoramic views are obtained from high land over surrounding LCAs and out of the National Park to the north and east. The distinctive northern scarp and long ridges of this LCA contribute to views from a considerable distance away, including from Herefordshire to the east, and from the northern side of the Wye Valley, beyond the National Park. This LCA also contributes to the setting of the Usk Valley, and is visible from many summits and areas of high land within the National Park.’</i>				
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform of distinctive ridges, valley and scarp slopes), presence of heritage features which provide a sense of time depth, prominent skylines which form a rural backdrop in views from surrounding landscapes, strongly rural character with a sense of tranquillity) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (simple landcover pattern of unenclosed moorland on higher ground). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> The landscape value is considered to be high as it is nationally designated as part of BBNP, as well as falling partially within the Middle Wye Valley Registered Historic Landscape, has high conservation interest, high recreation value, and a strong sense of rurality, particularly on the high moorland away from settlement in the valleys. <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines being introduced into views at a distance of over 19 km from this LCA. The Proposed Development will add a new element to the skyline seen in distant views to the north-west. Visibility is predicted at between 19 km and 30 km from north-west facing hill slopes and summits including Hay Bluff, Twmpa (Lord Hereford's Knob), Mynydd Troed, and Waun Fach. Beyond 30 km, across south-facing hillsides, and within the valleys, there is no predicted visibility.				

Landscape Unit	The Black Mountains LCA 13 ⁸⁰					
	The turbines will increase the presence of modern development in distant views on the skyline, however the distinctive landform of large-scale ridges, valleys and scarp slopes, the open high moorlands and contrasting enclosed, settled valleys, the heritage assets and sense of time depth, and the strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness will continue to give the landscape unit its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to the character of views from elevated, north-facing parts of the landscape unit, up to 30 km from the Site. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and will be reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. No other on-Site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA. <u>Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude of landscape change to north facing hill slopes and hill summits in the northern part of the landscape unit. For areas beyond 32 km, the change will be barely perceptible. The geographical extent of effects will be focused on the north, north-western edge of the landscape unit, comprising the north, north-west facing upper slopes and summits of the Black Mountains scarp, including the summits of Hay Bluff, Twmpa, Rhos Dirion, Waun Fach, Mynydd Troed, and Mynydd Llangorse. Landscape effects will also occur across summits within the interior of the landscape unit, including Pen Twyn Glas, Pen Allt-mawr, and Pen Cerrig-calch. No landscape effects will arise for the majority of the landscape unit located beyond the 33 km Study Area.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 10 km), however, distant views of consented wind farms in other LCAs will be afforded from extents of the LCA similar to those from where visibility of the Proposed Development will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.21). The consented developments of Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering will be evident in long distance views from this LCA, and whilst the larger turbines will replace the existing operational turbines of Llandinam Wind Farm and be more perceptible in these long distance views, they will slightly narrow the horizontal extent of the view occupied by turbines, with the two discrete clusters of consented turbines appearing separated by a perceptible gap. However, there will be limited interaction between the Proposed Development and the consented Garn Fach and Llandinam schemes given the intervening distance between the developments. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario A will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> The proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height⁸³) would be seen in views to the north at approximately 24 km away in clear conditions. However, the Proposed Development will be closer to, and more prominent in views from, this LCA. Although both Nant Mithil and the Proposed Development will be seen from this LCA, the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development under Scenario B, will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

⁸³ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 2.3 Middle Usk Valleys LCA 6

Landscape Unit	Middle Usk Valleys LCA 6 ⁸⁴	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA ⁸⁵	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	The northern part of the LCA lies within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ⁸⁶ , whilst the southern part of the landscape unit is within NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains ⁸⁷ . A very small area in the north falls within NLCA 28:Epynt ⁸⁸ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The north and north-eastern part of the landscape unit falls within the Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscape ⁸⁹ .	
Location	Located to the south, south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b . Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (refer to Figure 5.4a in Volume 2 for viewpoint location, and to the relevant visualisations in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	19.8 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T1).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS337 Honddu Valley: High overall evaluation – ‘The combination of interesting valley topography, strong woodland cover and pastoral mosaic gives the area high scenic quality. It is generally well managed throughout and has a consistent and unspoilt character. Settlements complement the landscape character. Pleasant views are possible throughout the valley.’ BRCKNVS711 Llanfilo Farmlands: High scenic quality evaluation – ‘The area has a varied and interesting topography with distinct hills and landcover dominated by pastoral agriculture with attractive woodland blocks and diversity of views’ and High character evaluation – ‘the area’s varied and interesting topography with distinct hills gives a sense of place.’ BRCKNVS633 Brecon: High overall evaluation – ‘Brecon’s core is very attractive with strong vernacular and georgian architecture and well proportioned spaces and streets. The town relates well to the rivers and canal. It is popular with visitors to the area and as a venue for festivals which is an indication of consensus on its value. It does however have detractors in the form of development of housing to the north west and other parts of the town.’ BRCKNVS544 Usk Valley West of Brecon: High overall evaluation – ‘The area has a strong integrity with a consistent pattern of pastoral landscape along the valley floor. The combination of hedged fields, fine houses and farm complexes and riparian vegetation provide a pleasing gentle landscape. The area is well managed and is in good condition. The area is generally unspoilt by development and settlement complements the surrounding landscape. The valley floor combines with the River Usk, the valley sides and hilltops to provide a pleasing range of complementary landscapes.’ BRCKNVS980 River Usk: High overall evaluation – ‘The river and its associated features have a very high scenic quality intrinsically and in framing views of the surrounding countryside. The variety of vistas and character that the river displays through its course are stimulating and yet soothing to the viewer. The river appears clean, well managed and in good condition with a strong integrity. The Usk has a distinctive character which attracts visitors and there is strong consensus on its value.’ BRCKNVS735 Usk Valley East of Brecon: High overall evaluation – ‘The area has a strong integrity with a consistent pattern of pastoral landscape along the valley floor. The combination of hedged fields, parkland in places, riparian vegetation and settlement provide a pleasing and attractive gentle landscape. The area is well managed and is in good condition. The area is generally unspoilt by development and the rural vernacular farms and dwellings complement the surrounding landscape. The valley floor combines with the River Usk, the valley sides and hilltops to provide a pleasing range of complementary landscapes.’ BRCKNVS148 Glyn Tarell and Cynnig valley: High overall evaluation – ‘The mosaic of upland pasture and woodland centred on attractive river corridors has a high scenic quality. The area’s textures and patterns are a superb foil to the bare uplands of the Brecon Beacons. Attractive views are possible to and from the Beacons. The area also acts as a setting to the Usk valley. Overall, the area is unspoilt, in good condition and has a consistent character throughout. It is used for walking as a contrast to the uplands.’ BRCKNVS394 Clos Coed and environs: High overall evaluation – ‘The area forms an attractive backcloth to the Usk Valley, contributing to the high scenic quality of the area. It is generally in good condition and is unspoilt by development. The topography is varied and pronounced, which, with the landcover of deciduous woodland and pasture and occasional conifers, produces an attractive landscape with scenic quality.’ BRCKNVS884 Mynydd Illtyd: High overall evaluation - ‘The area is highly distinctive as low elevation moorland with superb views to Brecon Beacons. It has features of interest such as waterbodies and wetland. Its character give the area a particular sense of place. The area lies adjacent to Brecon Beacons visitor centre and many people use it as a starting point for walks. This popularity indicates consensus on the area’s value.’ BRCKNVS833 Brecon Beacons: High overall evaluation – ‘The area has particularly high scenic quality with panoramic views due to its distinctive and dramatic topography. The skyline of Pen y Fan and Fan y Big form an important landmark which express the essence and high point [literally and metaphorically] of the Beacons. The area has a consistent and distinctive character throughout with a strong sense of place. The area is a major attraction for hikers and sightseers, which indicates strong consensus on the area’s value and scenic quality.’

⁸⁴ Fiona Fyfe Associates (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 6: Middle Usk Valleys
⁸⁵ Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment
⁸⁶ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
⁸⁷ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains
⁸⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 28 Epynt
⁸⁹ Cadw (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse (HLW (P) 7)

Landscape Unit	Middle Usk Valleys LCA 6 ⁸⁴	
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL541 Pen-y-crug: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Area of regular fields occupying gently rising ground to the north of Brecon. Post medieval farmland with residual medieval systems and related settlement and significant houses. Two large hillforts and Brecon Gaer Roman fort and the potential site of the 11th century battle of Brecon raise its overall score.’ BRCKNHL694 Llanddew: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of regular field systems of medieval and post medieval date. Complex shrunken medieval villages with churches, castles, mottes, moated sites and associated infrastructure, add significantly to its scores.’ BRCKNHL121 Brecon: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Nucleated medieval town with castle and town defences. Considerable post medieval and modern expansion, but retaining many original features and and of outstanding archaeological potential.’ BRCKNHL951 Llanspyddid: High overall evaluation – ‘Area of regular fields occupying low hill south of the Wye. Medieval settlement and relict field patterns and later farming dominate with good survival of pattern south of the Usk.’ BRCKNHL857 Llanhamlach: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Complex intensive utilised area of field systems and associated significant medieval and early medieval settlements (with churches, castles and moated sites). Scattered earlier (chambered tombs, round barrows, finds) and later (hillforts) prehistoric remains.’ BRCKNHL431 Upper Chapel: High overall evaluation – ‘‘Extensive area of irregular fieldscape dominated by post medieval and earlier agricultural remains with farms and houses and a number of small medieval settlements. Number of early prehistoric burial and ritual sites as well as a handful of later prehistoric hillforts which together with its size contribute to its value.’ BRCKNHL453 Aberbran: High overall evaluation – ‘Small area of well preserved regular fields occupying the floor of the Wye valley. Mixed historic content ranging from roman road to post medieval mills and railways, raising this area’s score’ BRCKNHL525 Libanus: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fields and sinuous woodland occupying sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Dominated by medieval and later agriculture with numerous high (and lower) status farms and houses, some designed landscapes, potentially early medieval settlement, scattered early and late prehistoric sites, all of which compensate for its slightly diffuse nature.’ BRCKNHL903 Ffrwdgrech: High overall evaluation – ‘Well preserved 19th century country house and gardens. A single themed landscape with good survival’ BRCKNHL260 Trecastell: High overall evaluation - ‘Large and diverse area of irregular fields. Sites and landscape features from all periods, most notable small settlements and associated field systems of medieval date.’ BRCKNHL970 Mynydd Illtud: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Narrow mainly unenclosed ridge. Wide range of content but in small numbers - early prehistoric funerary and ritual, Iron Age hillfort, roman road, early medieval / medieval church and churchyard, post medieval pillow mounds and other agricultural remains. All of which help to bring up its otherwise moderate score.’ BRCKNHL517 Penpont: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Small but historically important area of parkland surrounding 17th century country house and evaluated accordingly.’ BRCKNHL829 Bannau Brycheiniog: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Extensive open upland common with numerous archaeological sites from all periods in reasonable condition. High amenity value.’
Description of Landscape Unit	■ A gently undulating transitional landscape that links the elevated Central Beacons in the north with the Lower Usk Valley to the south. The River Usk and its tributaries cut through the northern boundary. ■ Landcover is characterised by a mosaic of regular pastoral fields bound by trimmed hedgerows, interspersed with areas of dry heath and neutral grassland. Broadleaved woodland, pockets of conifer plantations and parkland trees add diversity and contrast. ■ Evidence of early settlement includes Iron Age hillforts, with later occupation evident in the presence of a Roman fort, and medieval castles. The Grade II Registered Historic Park and Garden at Penpont adds further time depth. ■ A settled landscape comprising the historic town of Brecon and the villages of Sennybridge, Libanus and Llanfrynach, with scattered hamlets and historic farmsteads elsewhere. ■ There are attractive views to and from the Central Beacons, noted as a key characteristic of the LCA “views south from within Brecon town towards the Central Beacons create a very strong sense of place. The area also forms the foreground to views northwards from the summits of the Central Beacons”. The LCA forms an attractive rural backdrop to Brecon. ■ A moderately tranquil landscape, however traffic around Brecon and on the A40 and A470 main roads locally reduces the sense of tranquillity. ■ A well-connected network of PRowS crosses the landscape unit, including the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and towpath, and the Taff Trail locally promoted route.	
Key views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment)	‘High points such as Pen-y-crug hillfort offer panoramic views across the LCA and the countryside to the north outside the National Park. Views south from within Brecon town towards the Central Beacons create a very strong sense of place. Many major and minor roads within the LCA also have excellent views of the Central Beacons. The area also forms the foreground to views northwards from the summits of the Central Beacons.’	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (varied land cover with a mosaic of semi-natural habitats and pastoral farmland, strong sense of time depth with prehistoric, Roman, and medieval remains, prominent undeveloped skylines which form a backdrop to views from Brecon and surrounding landscapes) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (presence of modern settlement around Brecon and main roads in the valleys which locally disrupt tranquillity). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as it is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park, as well as being designated as part of the Middle Wye Valley and Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscapes. Much of the landscape unit is of high scenic quality and condition (as noted in the BBNP LCA and indicated by component VSAs evaluated as ‘high’), has high conservation interest (with	

Landscape Unit	Middle Usk Valleys LCA 6 ⁸⁴						
	artefacts from a range of time periods, as well as numerous component HLAAs evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’), has recreational value (with PRoWs including promoted routes) and has a sense of rurality (although tranquillity is locally degraded by the presence of settlement and main roads in the valleys).						
	Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high .						
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High		
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 19.8 km to the north (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA). Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from upper north-facing hill slopes and ridges within the LCA, situated at distances between 23.4 km-29 km from the nearest proposed turbine. This visibility will arise from north-facing hill slopes to the south of Brecon including Cefn Cantref (293 m AOD), and from unnamed summits of Mynydd Illtud and Cefn Llechid (400 m AOD) in the west of the LCA. Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views north from the LCA, the rolling farmland, varied land cover pattern of pastoral fields interspersed with semi-natural habitats, heritage features, and views south towards the Central Beacons will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will result in a small change to elevated north-facing slopes up to 30 km from the Site. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. No other on-site changes will be evident from the LCA at this distance. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude of change to elevated parts of the landscape unit (including north-facing upper hillslopes and ridges) where long views to the north are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA where intervening landform and vegetation will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible. The geographical extent of effects will extend across the southern extents of the landscape unit including the ridges, slopes and hill summits extending from the Central Beacons, as well as from north-west facing slopes associated with Mynydd Illtud in the west of the LCA (as indicated by the ZTV on shown on Figure 5.9b).						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
	Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity of the LCA combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
		Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 10 km), therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.						
	Scenario B There are likely to be some cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height ⁹⁰), seen approximately 35 km away in distant views to the north, north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil development; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be slightly closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B will remain low , and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment [the additional cumulative impact on this landscape unit will be negligible].						

⁹⁰ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 2.4 Eastern Usk Valley LCA 11

Landscape Unit	Eastern Usk Valley LCA 11 ⁹¹	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	Predominantly within NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains ⁹² . A small area in the north-east of the LCA lies within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ⁹³ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. A small area in the north of the landscape unit falls within the Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscape ⁹⁴ . The southern part of the LCA (beyond the Study Area) forms part of the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site ⁹⁵ .	
Location	Located to the south of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b .	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	24.1 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T7).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS980 River Usk: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>'The river and its associated features have a very high scenic quality intrinsically and in framing views of the surrounding countryside. The variety of vistas and character that the river displays through its course are stimulating and yet soothing to the viewer. The river appears clean, well managed and in good condition with a strong integrity. The Usk has a distinctive character which attracts visitors and there is strong consensus on its value.'</i> BRCKNVS735 Usk Valley East of Brecon: High overall evaluation – <i>'The area has a strong integrity with a consistent pattern of pastoral landscape along the valley floor. The combination of hedged fields, parkland in places, riparian vegetation and settlement provide a pleasing and attractive gentle landscape. The area is well managed and is in good condition. The area is generally unspoilt by development and the rural vernacular farms and dwellings complement the surrounding landscape. The valley floor combines with the River Usk, the valley sides and hilltops to provide a pleasing range of complementary landscapes.'</i> BRCKNVS711 Llanfilo Farmlands: High scenic quality evaluation – <i>'The area has a varied and interesting topography with distinct hills and landcover dominated by pastoral agriculture with attractive woodland blocks and diversity of views'</i> and High character evaluation – <i>'the area's varied and interesting topography with distinct hills gives a sense of place.'</i> BRCKNVS996 Usk Valley Hills: High overall evaluation – <i>'Distinctive series of hills with strong woodland cover has high scenic quality. Hills of this type are rare in the county and they give the Usk Valley additional interest. Overall the area is in good condition and managed well.'</i> BRCKNVS361 Usk Valley – Llangattock: High overall evaluation – <i>'The area has high scenic quality through its combination of upland valley topography and high proportion of woodland cover and attractive scattered farmsteads. Superb panoramic views are possible from the area to uplands surrounding and into the valley floor. The valleys sides act as an attractive setting to these areas. The area is unspoilt and is of consistent character. Features such as the Mon and Brec canal are an attraction to visitors who also come for the quality of the scenery.'</i> BRCKNVS797 Carnafell Valley and Talybont Forest: High overall evaluation - <i>'The high U shaped valley sides clothed in woodland have a high scenic quality with long attractive views down the valley and to the uplands surrounding. The valley has a distinctive character which is enhanced by the Talybont Reservoir. The area is popular as a visitor destination which gives a consensus view of its value.'</i> BRCKNVS397 Usk Valley Northern Slopes: High overall evaluation – <i>'High scenic quality with distinct steep slopes, woodland cover interspersing a variety of pastures and scattered farms/dwellings, superb views. Consistent rural character which is unspoilt. Important valley sides providing enclosure and setting to Usk valley bottom.'</i> MNMTHVS029 Sugar loaf scarp slopes: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'One outstanding, two high and one moderate equals a high value.'</i> BRCKNVS302 Cwannon Valley: High overall evaluation – <i>'The dramatic topography of the steep sided asymmetrical valley is complemented by the significant woodland cover in the valley interspersed with pasture and rough bracken slopes. In all the area has a high scenic quality. It is relatively unspoilt and is an attractive foil to surrounding uplands.'</i> BRCKNVS372 Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangattock: High overall evaluation – <i>'The area has affords panoramic views particularly on its northern fringes. The consistent expansive open character of the landscape maintains its integrity and is relatively unspoilt. The area provides an important refuge from the urban character of the valleys to the south. It has a strong sense of place with its simple horizons and vegetation cover which are highly influenced by weather and sky.'</i> BRCKNVS622 Crickhowell: High overall evaluation - <i>'The town generally sits well in the Usk valley and addresses the river in an attractive way. It complements its setting where the traditional core reaches the edge of the built form. The town core is in good condition and is of fairly consistent and distinctive character with some fine landmark buildings. The town is a popular visitor destination and so there is consensus in its value.'</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL857 Llanhamlach: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Complex intensive utilised area of field systems and associated significant medieval and early medieval settlements (with churches, castles and moated sites). Scattered earlier (chambered tombs, round barrows, finds) and later (hillforts) prehistoric remains.'</i> BRCKNHL492 Gilestone: High overall evaluation – <i>'Area of regular fields occupying flat valley bottom of the Usk. Eclectic but sparse historic content including early and later prehistory, a medieval tower house, post medieval houses and agriculture and the Brecon and Swansea canal, help to bring upits otherwise mundane value.'</i>

⁹¹ Fiona Fyfe Associates (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 11: Eastern Usk Valley
⁹² Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains
⁹³ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales
⁹⁴ Cadw (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse (HLW (P) 7)
⁹⁵ UNESCO (2000) Blaenavon Industrial Landscape

Landscape Unit	Eastern Usk Valley LCA 11 ⁹¹	
		BRCKNHL525 Libanus: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of irregular fields and sinuous woodland occupying sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Dominated by medieval and later agriculture with numerous high (and lower) status farms and houses, some designed landscapes, potentially early medieval settlement, scattered early and late prehistoric sites, all of which compensate for its slightly diffuse nature.’ BRCKNHL172 Cathedine: High overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of regular fields partly originating in medieval strip systems. Early prehistoric activity indicated by lithic finds. A medieval motte and a masonry castle also lie within the area. Diverse historic interest and good potential.’ BRCKNHL835 Buckland: High overall evaluation – ‘Small area of historically significant registered parkland, with several parkland features surviving intact, but also partly afforested.’ BRCKNHL385 Penywaer: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Area of mixed size regular fields occupying minor river confluence. Medieval and later farming landscape considerable enhanced by the presence of the outstanding medieval settlement at Tretower and the Roman fort and settlement at Pen-y-Gaer.’ BRCKNHL298 Bwch: High overall evaluation – ‘A relatively rare survival of an historic pattern of cottage settlement. Although of mixed quality it is unusual for this area.’ BRCKNHL270 Talybont Reservoir: High overall evaluation – ‘20th-century conifer woodland, reservoir and earlier small irregular fields. Notable features include early prehistoric waterlogged sites and burial sites and later prehistoric hillforts. Important but diffuse content.’ BRCKNHL636 Cwmcrawnon: High overall evaluation - ‘Medieval and early post-medieval landscape of small irregular fields, wooded slopes and stream valleys. Early settlement and land use indicated by early prehistoric burial and ritual monuments and by later prehistoric hillforts. Mixed pattern but significant content over a large area.’ BRCKNHL890 Cwm-gu: High overall evaluation - ‘Distinctive regular fieldscape on the eastern slopes of the Rhiangoll valley. A single theme landscape dominated by medieval and later remains, but with mixed appearances by other periods.’ BRCKNHL642 Black Mountains: - ‘High overall evaluation Unenclosed upland. Varied content of palaeoenvironmental deposits, prehistoric funerary and domestic sites and medieval and later agricultural remains which contribute to its score.’ BRCKNHL484 Glanusk Park / Gliffaes: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Glanusk Estate parkland surrounding country house and adjoining partly afforested hill (with large hillfort) belonging to the estate. Good survival and condition and conjunction with Gliffaes Estate make this area outstanding.’ BRCKNHL183 Llangynidr: High overall evaluation overall evaluation - ‘A bipartite village, comprising the early core (Llangynidr) focused on the, now replaced, medieval church, and a later spread of cottages and smallholdings. Diverse historic content and good preservation’. BRCKNHL133 Mynydd Llangynidr: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Extensive area of marginal land dominated by prehistoric settlement and burial archaeology and post medieval farming remains. An area scoring highly in all areas.’ BRCKNHL707 Crickhowell: Outstanding overall evaluation - ‘Small medieval town (castle, church, high status town houses) with significant post medieval and modern expansion but managing to retain much of its original character.’ BRCKNHL389 Ffawyddog: Outstanding overall evaluation – ‘Highly unusual example of dispersed 18th / 19th cottage settlement. Surviving well.’
Description of Landscape Unit	■ A broad, flat valley with steep sides, occasionally interspersed with distinctive domed hills. The River Usk follows a meandering course along the valley floor and is fed by a network of tributaries which form further undulations in the landscape. ■ Landcover is characterised by a mosaic of pastoral agriculture interspersed with areas of deciduous woodland, coniferous plantations and historic parkland. Fields are generally regular (with some irregular field patterns on valley sides) and bound by hedges, with stone walls at higher elevations. ■ Semi-natural habitats include ancient woodland within tributary streams. The River Usk and its tributaries are SSSI and SAC designated for the aquatic and riparian habitats they provide. ■ Long history of settlement in the landscape indicated by the presence of Iron Age hillforts on upper valley sides, with later defensive features including a series of medieval mottes and castles such as Tretower. A series of historic parks and gardens along the valley floor further contribute to the time depth of the area. ■ Attractive views into the LCA from the surrounding uplands, including from the Central Beacons, Black Mountains, Skirrid, and Sugar Loaf. Views within the valley are often contained. ■ A settled agricultural landscape, which contrasts with the surrounding rugged uplands. Pockets of tranquillity exist away from settlements and main roads. A small part of the LCA is within the BBNP core dark skies area. ■ A well-connected network of PRow crosses the landscape unit, including the Beacons Way and Usk Valley Walk long distance footpaths.	
Key Views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment).	“Views across and into the valley from above contribute to the landscape quality and sense of place of adjacent LCAs, including the Central Beacons, Black Mountains, and Skirrid and Sugar Loaf. Framed views within the valley are contained - and often dominated - by the profiles of ridge tops above the valley sides.”	
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility Overall, this landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (valley landform with steep sides and flat, broad valley floor, varied land use with irregular small-scale field patterns on the lower valley sides, presence of nationally-designated semi-natural habitats, strong sense of time depth with extensive prehistoric features as well as historic houses and parklands, intervisibility with surrounding upland landscapes) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (regular field pattern, presence of modern settlement and main roads in the valleys).	

Landscape Unit	Eastern Usk Valley LCA 11 ⁹¹					
	Judgement of Landscape Value Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as the assessment unit is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park, as well as being designated as part of the Middle Wye Valley and Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Registered Historic Landscapes. Much of the landscape unit is of high scenic quality and condition (as noted in the BBNP LCA, and indicated by component VSAAs evaluated as 'outstanding' and 'high'), has high conservation interest (with artefacts from a range of time periods, as well as strong cultural associations and several component HLAAs evaluated as 'outstanding' or 'high'), is of high recreational value (with PROWs including promoted routes) and has a sense of rurality (although tranquillity is locally disrupted by settlement and main roads in the valleys). Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
	Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation Scale of Effect During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 24 km to the north (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA). Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from elevated parts of the north-western extent of the LCA, including the north-facing slopes of Tor Y Foel, north-facing hillsides to the to the south of Talybont on Usk. Visibility is also predicted to arise from the north-west facing slopes of Buckland Hill (316 m AOD), and unnamed hillsides to the north-west of Bwlch, although views from these locations will likely be screened by intervening vegetation. From south-facing slopes and lower-lying land on the valley floor, views towards the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views north from the LCA, the distinctive valley landform and domed ills, mosaic of pastoral fields and semi-natural habitats including woodland, rivers and historic parklands, the attractive views into the LCA form surrounding uplands, and the settled, rural character will be unaffected, and will continue to contribute to its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will introduce new built development in distant views to the north, resulting in a small change to elevated, north facing valley sides and hill summits. Duration/Reversibility During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. No other on-site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude of change to elevated parts of the landscape unit (including north-facing upper valley sides, and hill summits) where long views to the north are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA where intervening landform and vegetation will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible. There will be no landscape effects to the low-lying floodplain of the River Usk, or to the majority of the landscape unit beyond the 33 km study area.					
Barely Perceptible		Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity of the LCA combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 10 km), therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height ⁹⁶) which would be seen approximately 37 km away in distant views to the north, north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil development; Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be slightly closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B will remain low , and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

⁹⁶ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Table 2.5 Central Beacons LCA 7

Landscape Unit	Central Beacons LCA 7 ⁹⁷	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains ⁹⁸ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.	
Location	Located to the south, south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b . Representative views from this landscape unit are illustrated by Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (refer to Figure 5.4a in Volume 2 for viewpoint location, and to the relevant visualisation in Volume 4).	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	25.9 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T7).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit <i>(Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.)</i> <i>(Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)</i>	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS833 Brecon Beacons: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘The area has particularly high scenic quality with panoramic views due to its distinctive and dramatic topography. The skyline of Pen y Fan and Fan y Big form an important landmark which express the essence and high point [literally and metaphorically] of the Beacons. The area has a consistent and distinctive character throughout with a strong sense of place. The area is a major attraction for hikers and sightseers, which indicates strong consensus on the area’s value and scenic quality.’</i> BRCKNVS797 Carnafell Valley and Talybont Forest: High overall evaluation - <i>‘The high U-shaped valley sides clothed in woodland have a high scenic quality with long attractive views down the valley and to the uplands surrounding. The valley has a distinctive character which is enhanced by the Talybont Reservoir. The area is popular as a visitor destination which gives a consensus view of its value.’</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL829 Bannau Brycheiniog: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Extensive open upland common with numerous archaeological sites from all periods in reasonable condition. High amenity value.’</i> BRCKNHL525 Libanus: High overall evaluation – <i>‘Extensive area of irregular fields and sinuous woodland occupying sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Dominated by medieval and later agriculture with numerous high (and lower) status farms and houses, some designed landscapes, potentially early medieval settlement, scattered early and late prehistoric sites, all of which compensate for its slightly diffuse nature.’</i> BRCKNHL270 Talybont Reservoir: High overall evaluation – <i>‘20th-century conifer woodland, reservoir and earlier small irregular fields. Notable features include early prehistoric waterlogged sites and burial sites and later prehistoric hillforts. Important but diffuse content.’</i> BRCKNHL864 Taf Fechan: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>‘Complex reservoir system lying within afforested valley. Overlying evidence of prehistoric activity.’</i>
Description of Landscape Unit	■ A glacial landscape comprising a series of dramatic peaks including Pen-y-Fan, the highest point in the BBNP. A network of U-shaped valleys and streams radiate from the centre of the LCA, creating large incisions in the landscape. ■ Land cover is characterised by large areas of semi-improved grassland, much of which is unenclosed common land used for livestock grazing. Tree cover is limited to small patches of wood pasture on sheltered valley sides. Semi-natural habitats include marshy grassland, montane heath, modified blanket bogs, and dry heath/acid grassland, including nationally designated sites. ■ Evidence of early settlement is limited, comprising occasional prehistoric sites and a range of 20th century artefacts including pill box, tank traps and military memorials. ■ There is no settlement within this LCA, however views to surrounding settled valleys influence the perception of remoteness. ■ Strong sense of openness and exposure as a result of the elevated landform, sparse vegetation cover, simple landcover pattern, and absence of modern built development. ■ A distinctive landscape with panoramic views afforded in all directions within and from the landscape unit. ■ A strongly rural landscape with high levels of tranquillity and perceived naturalness and dark skies (as part of the BBNP core dark skies area). There are few detracting features in terms of human development. ■ A well-connected network of ProW including the Beacons Way long distance footpath enable recreational access to the landscape.	
Key Views <i>(As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment)</i>	<i>“Panoramic views in all directions from summits and a sense of being ‘on top of the world’, whilst experiencing the full east-west extent of the Brecon Beacons. This LCA also forms the backdrop to views from adjacent uplands and valleys.”</i>	

⁹⁷ Fiona Fyfe Associates (2012) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 7: Central Beacons

⁹⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2014) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains

Landscape Unit	Central Beacons LCA 7 ⁹⁷					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform including distinctive hill summits, presence of nationally-designated semi-natural habitats, sense of time depth with some prehistoric remains, prominent undeveloped skylines which form a backdrop to views from surrounding landscapes, rural, remote character with a strong sense of tranquillity) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (uniform land use of upland livestock grazing). <u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as the landscape unit is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park. Much of the landscape unit is of high scenic quality and condition (as noted in the BBNP LCA and indicated by component VSAAAs evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’), has some conservation interest (with prehistoric artefacts and occasional later features), has some recreational value (with PRoWs including promoted routes) and has a sense of remoteness and a strong sense of tranquillity arising from the absence of modern built development (although tranquillity is locally influenced by the presence of settlement and main roads in adjacent valleys). <u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high.					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines of being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 26 km to the north (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA). Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from upper north-facing hill slopes and ridges within the LCA between 26 km - 32 km. This visibility will arise from the summits of Pen Melan, Pen y Fan, Fan y Big, and Cribin, as well as from the ridges of elevated land which extend northwards between these summits. From enclosed areas of the valleys and lower valley sides, views towards the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation. Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views north from the LCA, the distinctive, dramatic topography (including iconic hill summits) semi-natural habitats (including nationally designated sites), historic assets, and the rural, tranquil character with a strong sense of remoteness will be unaffected, and will continue to contribute to its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will introduce new built development in distant views to the north from hill summits and ridges of elevated land in the north of the LCA, resulting in a small scale of effect. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased and no other on-site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA. <u>Overall Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude to elevated parts of the landscape unit (including hill summits, upper north-facing slopes, and ridges) where long views to the north are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA where intervening landform will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible. The geographical extent of effects will be focussed in the north of the landscape unit, comprising the north, north-east facing upper slopes and summits of Pen Melan, Pen y Fan, Fan y Big, and Cribin as well as the elevated ridges of land between them. No landscape effects will arise for the majority of the landscape unit located beyond the 33 km study area.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity of the LCA combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate (not significant) effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be some cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height⁹⁹), which would be seen approximately 37 km away in distant views to the north, north-east. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil development; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and					

⁹⁹ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

Landscape Unit	Central Beacons LCA 7 ⁹⁷
	Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.

Table 2.6 Western Usk Tributaries LCA 5

Landscape Unit	Western Usk Tributaries LCA 5 ¹⁰⁰	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA ¹⁰¹	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	The majority of the LCA lies within NLCA 30: Bannau Brycheiniog a'r Mynyddoedd Du / Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) and Black Mountains ¹⁰² . A very small part of the LCA lies within NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales ¹⁰³ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The north-western part of the landscape unit falls within the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai Registered Historic Landscape ¹⁰⁴ .	
Location	Located to the south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b .	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	26.8 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T1).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS544 Usk Valley West of Brecon: High overall evaluation – ‘The area has a strong integrity with a consistent pattern of pastoral landscape along the valley floor. The combination of hedged fields, fine houses and farm complexes and riparian vegetation provide a pleasing gentle landscape. The area is well managed and is in good condition. The area is generally unspoilt by development and settlement complements the surrounding landscape. The valley floor combines with the River Usk, the valley sides and hilltops to provide a pleasing range of complementary landscapes.’ BRCKNVS966 Senni Valley: High overall evaluation - ‘The dramatic landform, particularly in the upper valley and the strong deciduous woodland character and pastoral mosaic give the area high scenic quality. Superb views are possible up and down the valley. The area has a fairly distinctive character and is unspoilt apart from the limited area of conifer belts to the west. The area is a superb foil to the bare uplands that surround it.’ BRCKNVS992 Cwm Crai: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is an attractive valley focussing on the Afon Crai. It has the consistent character of an upland valley with high scenic quality. Elements such as the river and its riparian vegetation, woodland belts and copses and hedgerows all contribute to the areas positive character.’ BRCKNVS790: Upper Usk and Hyddfer valleys: High overall evaluation – ‘The area is of high scenic quality because of its attractive upland valley landscape, mosaic of pasture with strong deciduous woodland element and pleasant river corridor. It is in relatively good condition throughout with a consistent character. Settlement complements and contributes to the landscape character and there are few detractors.’
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL260 Trecastell: High overall evaluation - ‘Large and diverse area of irregular fields. Sites and landscape features from all periods, most notable small settlements and associated field systems of medieval date.’
Description of Landscape Unit	■ An undulating landform comprising a series of narrow valleys separated by ridges of higher land. ■ Predominantly pastoral land use in irregular fields enclosed by hedges, interspersed with areas of woodland, unimproved grassland, wood pasture on valley sides, and moorland on higher ground. ■ Semi-natural habitats include neutral and marshy grassland, swamp, wet heath/acid grassland mosaic and broadleaved woodland, with scattered patches of ancient deciduous woodland in valley bottoms and along streams. ■ Strong sense of time-depth with prehistoric and medieval sites, as well as transport routes including a section of Roman road. The long history of farming in the landscape is evident in the presence of ancient farms, winding lanes, wood pasture and historic field patterns. ■ Dispersed settlement pattern of nucleated villages including Trecastle, Defynnog, Crai and Heol Senni, with scattered farms elsewhere. ■ Wide views are afforded over the valleys, and there is a strong visual connection with Fforest Fawr and Y Mynydd Du to the south and south-west. ■ The landscape has a timeless, peaceful quality owing to the traditional agricultural land use and limited modern development. Traffic on the A40 and A4067 main roads locally detract from the sense of tranquillity. ■ The landscape is crossed by a network of rural lanes, footpaths and bridleways. Open Access Land on Fforest Fach and at Glasfynydd Forest provides further recreational access to the landscape.	
Key views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment)	“The area forms the setting to the higher areas of Fforest Fawr and Y Mynydd Du in terms of their foreground when viewed from the north, and also in views northwards from their summits. Some of the best views within LCA 5 are the long views down valleys (for example down the Senni Valley) often from near the boundaries of the LCA.”	

¹⁰⁰ [Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority \(2012\) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 5 – Western Usk tributaries](#)
¹⁰¹ [Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority \(2012\) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment](#)
¹⁰² [Natural Resources Wales \(2014\) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Bannau Brycheiniog a'r Mynyddoedd Du / Bannau Brycheiniog \(Brecon Beacons\) and Black Mountains](#)
¹⁰³ [Natural Resources Wales \(2014\) National Landscape Character – NLCA 29: Dyffrynnoedd Gwy ac Wysg/Wye and Usk Vales](#)
¹⁰⁴ [Cadw \(2002\) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai \(HLW \(D\) 1\)](#)

Landscape Unit	Western Usk Tributaries LCA 5 ¹⁰⁰					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform of valleys and ridges, varied land cover with a mosaic of semi-natural habitats including woodland, grassland and moorland, strong sense of time depth with historic field patterns, and historic artefacts including prehistoric, Roman and medieval features, prominent undeveloped skylines which form a backdrop to views from surrounding landscapes) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (presence of main roads in the valleys).					
	<u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as it is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park, as well as being designated as part of the Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai Registered Historic Landscape, has high conservation interest (with artefacts from a range of time periods, as well as strong cultural associations), is of high recreational value (with PRoWs and Open Access Land) and has a sense of rurality (although tranquillity is locally degraded by the presence of main roads in the valleys).					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 27.5 km to the north-east (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA). Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from the two summits of Fforest Fach (c. 381 m AOD) and north-east facing slopes of Fan Bwlch Chwyth. From much of the lower lying land in the valleys and surrounding Trecastle and Defynnog, views towards the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform and vegetation.					
	Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views north-east from hill summits within the LCA, the varied landscape pattern with semi-natural habitats, heritage features and cultural associations, and the rural character with a sense of timelessness will be unaffected, and will continue to contribute to its distinctive character.					
	The Proposed Development will introduce new built development in distant views to the north-east, resulting in a small scale of effect to elevated parts of the landscape unit.					
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased and no other on-site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA.					
	The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude to elevated parts of the landscape unit where long views to the north-east are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA where intervening landform and vegetation will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible.					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The geographical extent of effects will occur across the two hill summits of Fforest Fach and north-east facing slopes of Fan Bwlch Chwyth. No effects will arise for much of the lower-lying land around Trecastle and Defynnog. The overall magnitude of change will be low .					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity of the LCA combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u> There are currently no other proposed wind farms located within or close to this LCA (within 5 km), therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.					

Table 2.7 Fforest Fawr LCA 3

Landscape Unit	Fforest Fawr LCA 3 ¹⁰⁵	
Source Landscape Character Assessment	Brecon Beacons National Park LCA ¹⁰⁶	
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA)	The LCA lies within NLCA 30: Bannau Brycheiniog a'r Mynyddoedd Du / Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) and Black Mountains ¹⁰⁷ .	
Relevant Designated Landscape(s)	The LCA lies wholly within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. The south-eastern part of the landscape unit falls within the East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog Registered Historic Landscape ¹⁰⁸ .	
Location	Located to the south, south-west of the Site, as shown in Figures 5.10a and b .	
Approx distance to nearest turbine (nearest boundary to nearest turbine) (km)	28.3 km from the nearest proposed Aberedw Energy Park turbine (T1).	
Relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas that Fall within Landscape Unit (Only Aspect Areas with an overall evaluation of 'high' or 'outstanding', or with a 'high' or 'outstanding' scenic quality and/or character are listed here. See Appendix 5.3: Identification of Landscape Units and LANDMAP Aspect Areas for full details.) (Summary descriptions taken from respective LANDMAP surveys.)	Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA):	BRCKNVS141 Fan Fawr/Fan Llïa [Fforest Fawr East]: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>'This area of upland has a high scenic quality due to its dramatic landform such as at Fan Frynych and Fan Fawr. These peaks are important parts of the Beacons skyline. The area has panoramic views and forms the backcloth to the lower valleys to the north and south. The area has consistent character throughout and a strong sense of place due to its topography and remoteness. It is popular for walking in its northern parts, along the escarpment, which indicates consensus on value.'</i> BRCKNVS966 Senni Valley: High overall evaluation - <i>'The dramatic landform, particularly in the upper valley and the strong deciduous woodland character and pastoral mosaic give the area high scenic quality. Superb views are possible up and down the valley. The area has a fairly distinctive character and is unspoilt apart from the limited area of conifer belts to the west. The area is a superb foil to the bare uplands that surround it.'</i> BRCKNVS955 Fforest Fawr West: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>'The area has a high scenic quality as a varied upland with strong landform. Superb scenic views are possible in and out of the area. The landform of Fan Gyhirych is distinctive and rare nationally although consistent with the Brecon Beacons character. The area has a consistent management and character throughout.'</i> BRCKNVS270 Ystradfelltefellte Reservoir: High overall evaluation - <i>'The reservoir provides an attractive contrast to the steeply sloping valley sides and reflects the impressive topography around it. The reservoir is carefully managed and in good condition and had integrity as a structure and consistency of character'</i> BRCKNVS307 Mynydd y Garn: High overall evaluation - <i>'The area affords panoramic views particularly to the south . The expansive open character of the moorland limestone plateau with its swallow holes and occasional rock exposures maintains its integrity and as relatively unspoilt. It has a distinct sense of place with simple horizons and vegetation cover highly influenced by weather and sky'</i> CYNONVS735 cadair fawr: High overall evaluation - <i>'all criteria are high'</i> BRCKNVS230 Carreg Cadno: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'The area is a high and impressive massif of limestone which echoes the Downen Gledd massif to the west. It has dramatic outcrops of rock and is of high scenic quality. It is essentially unspoilt and has a consistent character throughout. The quarry at its western end is no longer used and is not a significant enough detractor to reduce the areas value'.</i>
	Historic Landscape Aspect Area (HLAA):	BRCKNHL829 Bannau Brycheiniog: Outstanding overall evaluation - <i>'Extensive open upland common with numerous archaeological sites from all periods in reasonable condition. High amenity value.'</i> BRCKNHL525 Libanus: High overall evaluation – <i>'Extensive area of irregular fields and sinuous woodland occupying sloping ground below the Beacons escarpment. Dominated by medieval and later agriculture with numerous high (and lower) status farms and houses, some designed landscapes, potentially early medieval settlement, scattered early and late prehistoric sites, all of which compensate for its slightly diffuse nature.'</i> BRCKNHL260 Trecastell: High overall evaluation - <i>'Large and diverse area of irregular fields. Sites and landscape features from all periods, most notable small settlements and associated field systems of medieval date.'</i> BRCKNHL825 Cnewr: Outstanding overall evaluation – <i>'Large area of predominantly open upland. Physical remains largely date to the 19th century, when the Cnewr estate installed large areas of rabbit farming, and roads and tramways built to transport coal from the south and lime from the estate. Over 70 limekilns are sited within the area. This post medieval landscape overlies an earlier prehistoric one; several items from this period have been found in caves in the area. An important multiperiod landscape'.</i>
Description of Landscape Unit	■ A large-scale upland landscape comprising a steep north-facing escarpment with a series of elevated summits and intervening ridges. Landform in the south of the LCA is less dramatic, comprising a gently sloping plateau dissected by river valleys. ■ Landcover is predominantly unenclosed moorland used for open grazing with few field boundaries, although occasional dry-stone walls marking estate boundaries are locally distinctive. Some coniferous forest blocks, and distinctive coniferous shelter belts in the north. ■ Semi-natural habitats include marshy grassland, dry heath, acid/ neutral flushes and small areas of blanket bog including Extensive SSSIs, National Nature Reserves at Ogof Fynnon Ddu and Craig Cerrig-gleisiad, and part of the Brecon Beacons SAC.	

¹⁰⁵ [Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority \(2012\) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Character Area 3 - Fforest Fawr](#)
¹⁰⁶ [Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Brecon Beacons National Park Authority \(2012\) Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment](#)
¹⁰⁷ [Natural Resources Wales \(2014\) National Landscape Character – NLCA 30: Bannau Brycheiniog a'r Mynyddoedd Du / Bannau Brycheiniog \(Brecon Beacons\) and Black Mountains](#)
¹⁰⁸ [Cadw \(2002\) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog \(HLW \(MGI\) 3\)](#)

Landscape Unit	Fforest Fawr LCA 3 ¹⁰⁵					
	A rich archaeological landscape with a long history of settlement indicated by the presence of extensive prehistoric features. A section of Roman road, medieval settlements, industrial archaeology, WW2 defences and estate influences. Many are Scheduled Monuments. Sparsely settled with occasional estate cottages and isolated farmsteads. Limited road access results in a sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. An elevated, expansive landscape with panoramic views afforded over adjacent lower-lying landscapes and to neighbouring uplands. The LCA is an important component in views from surrounding areas, often forming the horizon. Recreational access is provided by the Cambrian Way and Beacons Way long distance footpaths, extensive open access land and publicly accessible nature reserves. The LCA experiences high levels of tranquillity dark night skies and falls within the BBNP core dark skies area.					
Key views (As identified in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Landscape Character Assessment).	“Key views out from within the LCA include those from the summits, with panoramic views over surrounding lower land, and across to the neighbouring uplands. The LCA is an important component in views from surrounding areas, often forming the horizon.”					
Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility</u> This landscape unit is judged to be of high susceptibility to the type and scale of Proposed Development, due to a balance of indicators of higher susceptibility (complex landform of hill summits and ridges, presence of nationally-designated habitats, strong sense of time depth with extensive historic artefacts including prehistoric, Roman and medieval features, prominent undeveloped skylines which form a backdrop to views from surrounding landscapes) and relatively few indicators of lower susceptibility (large-scale landform).					
	<u>Judgement of Landscape Value</u> Overall, landscape value is considered to be high as it is nationally designated, forming part of a National Park, as well as being designated as part of the East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog Registered Historic Landscape, component VSAAs are evaluated as ‘outstanding’ and ‘high’, has high conservation interest (with artefacts from a range of time periods), is of high recreational value (with PRoWs including long distance routes, and Open Access Land) and has a strong sense of tranquillity.					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity</u> Combining the separate judgements on landscape susceptibility and landscape value, the sensitivity of this landscape unit to the type and scale of Proposed Development is judged to be high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation there will be indirect effects as a result of up to 18 turbines of the Proposed Development being introduced in a landscape unit approximately 27.5 km to the north-east (from the nearest turbine to the boundary of the LCA). Visibility of up to 18 turbines is predicted from the two summits of Fan Fawr, Fan Frynych, and from north-east facing slopes of Fan Bwlch Chwyth (603 m AOD). From much of the lower lying land within the incised valleys including Rhos Dringarth, and from south and west-facing slopes, views towards the Proposed Development will be screened by intervening landform. Although the Proposed Development will introduce new built development on the distant skyline in views to the north-east from upper north-east facing slopes and hill summits within the LCA, the varied landscape pattern with semi-natural habitats, extensive heritage features and cultural associations, recreational access, and the sense of tranquillity and remoteness will be unaffected, and will continue to contribute to its distinctive character. The Proposed Development will introduce new built development in distant views to the north-east, resulting in a small scale of effect to elevated parts of the landscape unit.					
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation the changes in landscape character will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased and no other on-site changes will be evident at this distance from the LCA.					
	<u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Landscape Change and Geographical Extent</u> The small scale of effect over a long-term is judged to result in a low magnitude of change to elevated parts of the landscape unit where long views to the north-east are possible. From lower-lying areas of the LCA and from south and west facing slopes where intervening landform will screen views, the scale of change will be barely perceptible. The geographical extent of effects will occur across the summits of Fan Fawr, Fan Frynych, and north-east facing slopes of Fan Bwlch Chwyth. No effects will arise for land within the incised south-facing stream valleys, or to the south-facing slopes of Rhos Dringarth. The overall magnitude of change will be low .					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	The high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude of landscape change is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u>					

Landscape Unit	Fforest Fawr LCA 3 ¹⁰⁵
	There are currently no other consented wind farms located within or in proximity to this LCA, therefore the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines at up to 220 m blade tip height¹⁰⁹) which would be seen approximately 40 km away in long distance views to the north. With this proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development will: ■ Be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed Nant Mithil development; ■ Be at a scale comparable with the proposed Nant Mithil development (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines than Nant Mithil); and ■ Be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be closer to the landscape unit than the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park. The magnitude of landscape change under Scenario B will remain low, and the landscape effect will remain minor-moderate (not significant), as for the primary assessment.

¹⁰⁹ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.