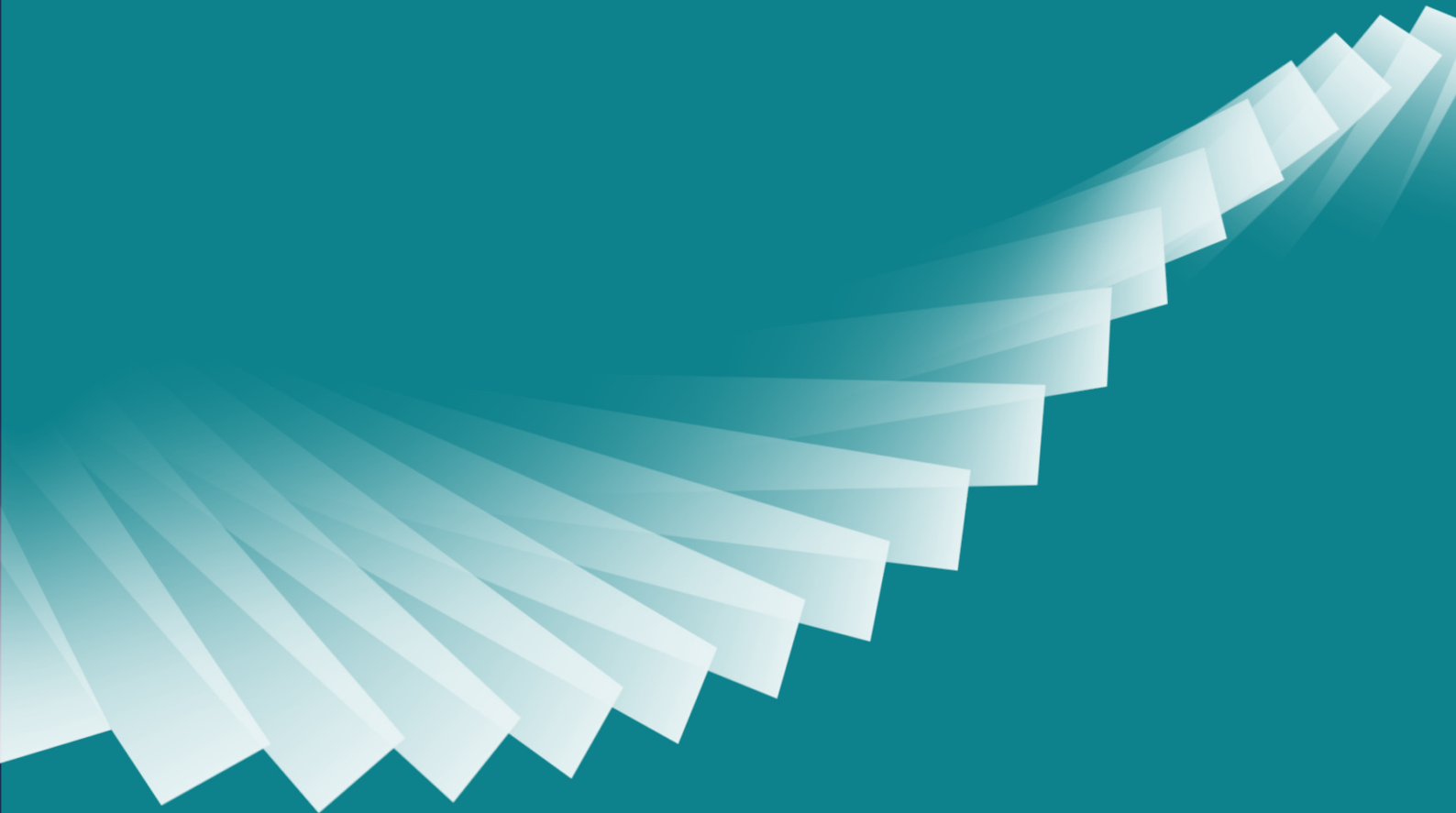




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Appendix 5.5:

Visual Assessment Tables



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Appendix 5.5: Visual Assessment Tables

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1. Assessment of Visual Effects on People within Settlements (Local Communities)

Table 1.1 Cregrina

Cregrina					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	0.8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	West to North-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 1: St. David's Church, Cregrina
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 54: Aberedw Valley	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS127 – Upland valley, Edw & adjacent	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The small village of Cregrina is centred on the junction of two minor lanes, and is situated along the western banks of the River Edw, to the east of the Site. It is incised by a minor tributary that extends north-west from the river, while another tributary, the wooded Clas Brook, meanders through pastoral fields south of the settlement. The village sits at the foot of the prominent upland feature of Wylfre; a focal feature in the landscape when viewed from the settlement that rises sharply to the west, providing an imposing backdrop with mixed woodland covering its lower slopes. Therefore, direct steeply pitched views towards the north-eastern edge of the Site exist from within the settlement, comprising the bracken covered slopes seen above the tree line associated with the woodland on the lower slope. These views are relatively open due to its elevation above the village, experienced from along the minor lanes and properties, while views from the graveyard associated with St. David's Church are more filtered by surrounding trees. Visibility towards the remaining Site is curtailed by the landform of Wylfre. Intervening landform, buildings and vegetation also restrict views to the north. Within the settlement, views east are filtered by buildings and garden vegetation along the minor lane (that runs north-south), although glimpses beyond extend across the pastoral Edw Valley towards the forms of Little Hill and Glascwm Hill. Views in this direction are more open and scenic from the rear of properties along the minor lane, particularly from upper storeys. Immediate views south are largely filtered by the wooded corridor of the River Edw and trees along the settlement edge. However, the upland forms of Rhulen Hill and Cefn Wylre form the skyline in mid-distance views to the south and south-east, and are particularly visible while travelling along the minor lane where it crosses the river. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation and buildings restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Upland valley, Edw & adjacent VSAA (RDNR127) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to surrounding hills"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, the prominent landform of Wylfre will obscure most of the turbines, given the position of the village at the foot of the steep slope. However, three of the turbines (T16-T18) will breach the skyline and will be visible to varying degrees from the village (although due to their elevated position will appear above the line of sight in many cases). The closest turbine (T18) will be seen at a distance of between 0.8 km and 1 km. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). From the northern end of the village, the hubs and blades of T17 and T18 will be visible on the skyline of Wylfre in views west, but the landform will completely obscure the towers. The blade tip of T16 will also breach the skyline but views towards it will be filtered by intervening woodland on the lower slope of Wylfre and will largely go unnoticed. From this part of the village the clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from properties along the western edge of the minor lane (that runs north-south) as the direct steep pitched views will generally be open and unimpeded. There will also be relatively clear direct views from some of the properties along the eastern edge of the minor lane where vegetation does not form an intervening feature (although noting that in some cases buildings and overhead lines mounted on wooden poles interrupt views). Views of the Proposed Development will be more intermittent and oblique from along the minor lane itself, and will be seen in gaps between intervening vegetation and buildings. Visibility of the Proposed Development will reduce when seen from other parts of the village, being at a slightly lower elevation and in some cases, closer to the foot of the slope (compared to the northern end). From the southern part of the village (near to where the minor lane crosses the river), the landform of Wylfre will have a greater screening effect (with the blade and hub of T18 still visible but T16 and T17 obscured). From the south-western extent of the village (by St. David's Church), views of the Proposed Development will be limited with just T18 breaching the skyline although with its hub and blade largely screened by coniferous vegetation on the lower slope (as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 1). From the graveyard associated with the church, views of the Proposed Development will be filtered by surrounding trees in summer and winter. From the northern end of the village, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium, as a small part the Proposed Development will be close and perceptible on the skyline (although limited to the hubs and blades), whilst the landform of Wylfre will remain as the prominent feature within views. As less of the Proposed Development will be visible from the southern and south-western parts of the village the scale of visual effect during operation will reduce to low. Duration/Reversibility				

Cregrina						
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both low-medium from the northern part of the village and low from the southern and south-western parts of the village.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the southern and south-western parts of the village	Low-Medium from the northern part of the village	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the northern part of the village. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor effect from the southern and south-western parts of the village.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant) from the southern and south-western parts of the village	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the northern part of the village	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, 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 this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.2 Hundred House

Hundred House					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.6 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 3: A481 at Hundred House
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The linear village of Hundred House is located along the bottom of the River Edw valley, to the north of the Site. It is defined by buildings that line the A481 (east to west) and a minor road that runs perpendicular (north to south). From the southern edge of the settlement (including from the dwellings along the A481, the picnic benches outside the Hundred House Inn and the car park/ recycling facility), and intermittently from along the A481, scenic views extend south across the wooded, pastoral valley floor, with the meandering course of the River Edw being a distinctive feature in some views. The prominent uplands of Little Hill and Cefn Wylfre to the south-east provide broad skylines and containment of the views, along with Aberedw Hill and Wylfre to the south. Relatively open views are therefore afforded towards the Site, particularly from the houses along the southern edge of the A481. From parts of the village with an outlook to the north/ north-west (including the minor road and the houses along it, and from the back of the houses along the northern edge of the A481), pastoral fields interspersed with woodland are seen extending towards the ridge of Hirlwyn Bank in the north-west and Perthi Common in the west, forming a wooded backdrop in the mid-distance. There are also some distant views north-east towards the Radnor Forest upland complex. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the hubs and blades associated with two of the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the north-east (over 5 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNR133) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to higher land, open hills and across valleys"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, most of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the village and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views spanning the south to south-west. The closest turbine (T16) will be seen at distances of between 1.6 km and 1.9 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 55 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 3. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T11 - T14 and T16 - T18 will be visible. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers for T4, T6 and T15 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the village. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from locations within the central part of the village (including the carpark/ recycling facility), as they will generally be open and unimpeded (although noting that in some cases buildings and overhead lines mounted on wooden poles interrupt views). The Proposed Development will also be clearly seen when travelling south along the minor road (and the wide mown grass verges along its edge), but from the properties along this road the Proposed Development will be seen obliquely as the views are focused west across the southern part of the Hundred House Common and towards the distinctive ridge of Hirlwyn Bank. From other parts of the village (including from the picnic benches outside the Hundred House Inn in the east and the front of properties along the northern edge of the A481 in the west), turbines will be partly obscured by intervening buildings and vegetation, and interrupted by existing overhead lines (mounted on wooden poles) in the foreground. From the central part of the village and the minor road in the north (when looking south), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as most of the turbines will be clearly seen, extending across 55 degrees of the skyline, and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills which provide an attractive landscape setting to the south of the local community and contribute towards the scenic views. From the eastern and western parts of the village, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on the hill, but intervening features will screen/ filter some of the Proposed Development, and/ or the turbines will be seen obliquely. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both high from the central part of the village and the minor road in the north and medium from the eastern and western parts of the village.				

Hundred House						
	Due to the high magnitude of visual change within the central part of the village, properties along the southern edge of the A481 have been assessed further in Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) . Since the visual assessment from local communities focuses on the views from public parts of the settlement, the magnitude of visual change associated with private views (particularly from upper storey windows) could be higher. For this reason, the properties along the northern edge of the A481 in the west of the village (which have filtered views at ground level but more open views from upper storey windows) have also been taken forward to the RVAA.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the eastern and western parts of the village	Medium-High	High from the central part of the village and the minor road in the north
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the central part of the village and the minor road in the north. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the eastern and western parts of the village.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the eastern and western parts of the village	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the central part of the village and the minor road in the north
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this local community, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some successive cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 7.5 km away in views north-east from the village. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in opposite directions; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be almost 6 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, there will be a clear interaction between the two wind farms seen in different directions. The magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of major (significant), and is therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.3 Llansantffraed-in-Elwel

Llansantffraed-in-Elwel					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	2.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 6: Perthi Common is close by and is representative.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The small village of Llansantffraed-in-Elwel is located upon the valley slopes between the Camnat and Colwyn Brooks, to the north of the Site. It is situated below the eastern/south-eastern slopes of Perthi Common. A large part of the settlement is occupied by the Llandre Sawmill in the north but it also comprises dispersed properties along minor lanes that follow the contours of the Perthi Common landform. Irregular pastoral fields bound by hedgerows and hedgerow trees surround the settlement to the north-east and south, while the western edge is contained by the steep slopes of Perthi Common, limiting views in this direction. Scenic long-distance views across the valleys and the undulating upland landscape are visible from the northern, eastern, and southern edges (although with some intermittent filtering provided by occasional trees along the settlement edge). Aberedw Hill is prominent on the skyline in views south, particularly from the minor lane and houses along the southern edge of the settlement, with far-reaching and open views towards the Site. Views become more enclosed from along the minor lane that runs along the western edge of the village, although with some glimpses of Aberedw Hill seen on the skyline between intervening buildings, vegetation and the landform of Perthi Common to the west. Views from the south-eastern settlement edge extend across the River Edw Valley and hills beyond, providing an attractive vista. In the north of the settlement, scenic views to the north extend over the pastoral valley, with the upland forms of Gilwern Hill and Castle Bank forming the skyline in the mid-distance. A church and graveyard are located in the north-east of the settlement, and whilst enclosure from vegetation and surrounding landforms largely limit outward views, the distinctive form of Aberedw Hill remains visible in filtered views. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation and buildings restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling Hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to higher land, open hills and across valleys"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, most of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the village and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views spanning the south-east to south-west. The closest turbine (T13) will be seen at distances of between 2.1 km and 2.4 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 65 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 6. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T9-T14 and T16-T18 will be visible. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers of T4-T6 and T15 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There may be glimpsed views of the substation in views to the south-west, although the intervening landform and vegetation will likely limit views of it. The nature of the views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the village, and from some parts of the village, buildings and vegetation will restrict/ limit views. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from along the southern edge of the village as they will generally be open and unimpeded with the Proposed Development clearly seen on top of Aberedw Hill (although noting that in some cases overhead lines mounted on wooden poles interrupt views). This includes direct views from the properties orientated to the south, and more oblique views from along the minor lane in the south. There will also be intermittent views of the Proposed Development from the minor lane that runs along the western edge of the village, although these will be limited to glimpses seen between intervening buildings, vegetation and the landform of Perthi Common to the west (which will obscure most of the Proposed Development), as well as being interrupted by existing overhead lines (mounted on wooden poles) in the foreground. From the church graveyard located in the north-east of the village, views of the Proposed Development will be screened by coniferous vegetation in both summer and winter. From the southern edge of the village, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as most of the turbines will be seen extending across 65 degrees of the skyline and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills which provide an attractive landscape setting to the south of the local community and contribute towards the scenic views. From the minor lane along the western edge of the village, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be low as the Proposed Development will be perceptible but will largely be screened/ filtered by intervening features. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines and substation will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both high from the southern edge of the village, and low from the minor lane along the western edge of the village.				

Llansantffraed-in-Elwel						
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the minor lane along the western edge of the village.	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High from the southern edge of the village
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the southern edge of the village.					
	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the minor lane along the western edge of the village.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the minor lane along the western edge of the village.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the southern edge of the village.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this local community, 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 this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.4 Frank's Bridge

Frank's Bridge					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.3 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 13: Unnamed lane at Bettws can be used as a proxy
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The village of Frank's Bridge is situated along the lower slopes of the River Edw valley to the north-east of the Site. It is located on the east bank of the River Edw with the historic core centred on the junction of two minor roads. Within the settlement, intervening buildings, roadside trees and garden vegetation typically filter outward views. The views south and east are curtailed by woodland and rising ground. Aberedw Hill distinctively shapes the skyline in views to the south-west. There are relatively open views of this landform feature from the central part of the village (near to the junction of where a minor lane meets a cul-de-sac), being the most elevated part of the village. Some of the properties located along the minor lane that runs within the north-western part of the village are also afforded with views towards Aberedw Hill as they are orientated to the south-west, although they are at a slightly lower elevation and intervening vegetation along the settlement edge filters their views. Aberedw Hill is also visible from the southern edge of the settlement (including from the rear of properties and the elevated south-eastern corner of the graveyard associated with Franksbridge Baptist Church). However, views in this direction (and towards the Site) are filtered by intervening vegetation and intermittent between buildings when viewed from the minor road. The outlook to the west is more open, as the settlement is located on the eastern slopes of the River Edw valley and is afforded elevated scenic views across the pastoral valley where intervening buildings and vegetation allow (especially from the northern end of the village). In these views the upland forms of Hirlwyn Bank, Gilwern Hill and Castle Bank form the skyline in the mid-distance. To the north, views open up at the edge of the settlement, with views directed along the valley and extending across pastoral fields lined by hedgerows and bands of woodland. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation and buildings restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling Hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNR133) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to higher land, open hills and across valleys"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, most of the turbines will be visible from the village, and seen on the skyline of Aberdew Hill in views south-west. The closest turbine (T16) will be seen at a distance of 3.3 km and the turbines will occupy approximately 35 degrees of the undeveloped skyline. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T10–T14 and T16–T18 will breach the skyline, creating a noticeable presence in the landscape. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers for T1-T6, T9 and T15 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the village, and from some parts of the village buildings and vegetation will restrict/ limit views. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the central part of the village, near to the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac, and where the village is most elevated. Views from this junction and from some of the properties along the cul-de-sac are partially open and the Proposed Development will be clearly seen on top of Aberedw Hill. The turbines will also be visible on the skyline from some of the properties that are orientated to the south-west, located along the minor lane that runs within the north-western part of the village. However, views from these properties will be glimpsed by intervening vegetation in summer and winter. The Proposed Development will also be seen along the southern settlement edge (including from the rear of properties and the elevated south-eastern corner of the graveyard associated with Franksbridge Baptist Church), although will be filtered by the foliage of trees running along the River Edw in summer and partly filtered by a tracery of branches in winter. Similar views will also be afforded from the minor lane running along the southern edge of the village, although will be more intermittent and oblique, seen in gaps between intervening vegetation (and noting that in some cases buildings and overhead lines mounted on wooden poles interrupt views). From the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill (which provides an attractive landscape setting to the local community) and will be seen in the direct line of vision of residents along the cul-de-sac. From the southern settlement edge and from the properties in the north-western part of the village (orientated to the south-west), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but will be screened/ filtered by intervening features and in some cases will be seen obliquely. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u>				

Frank's Bridge						
	Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac, and low-medium from the southern settlement edge and from the properties in the north-western part of the village (orientated to the south-west).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the southern settlement edge and from the properties in the north-western part of the village (orientated to the south-west)	Medium from the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac.					
	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the southern settlement edge and from the properties in the north-western part of the village (orientated to the south-west).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the southern settlement edge and from the properties in the north-western part of the village (orientated to the south-west)	Moderate (significant) from the junction of where the minor lane meets the unnamed cul-de-sac	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A					
	No other consented wind farms will be visible from this local community; 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 this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.5 Builth Wells

Builth Wells					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS684 - Builth Wells RDNRVS141 - Wye floor, south of Rhayader	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The town of Builth Wells, situated west of the Site, is located at the confluence of the Rivers Wye and Irfon, and is bisected by the A483 running east-west through the urban core. It contains the remains of Builth Castle in the east of the settlement, comprising the mound, ditches and embankments. Set within the pastoral Wye Valley, the settlement extends to the west and north-west, and is surrounded by upland landform. Outward views from within the settlement vary, with some relatively open, whilst others are obstructed by buildings or filtered by vegetation. To the north, the distinctive forms of Carneddau can be seen in the mid-distance, while Banc y Celyn and Moelfre lie to the south and south-west. The imposing forms of Garth Hill and Aberedw Hill stand directly east, and are prominent features. The Site on top of Aberedw Hill can often be seen in views from properties, roads and green spaces, where they are not restricted by buildings, including from the mound at Builth Castle, the Wye Bridge river crossing and from areas of higher elevation in the south of the settlement. Views to the north-east also reveal the tops of Carneddau and the wooded Llanelwedd Rocks. Westerly views are enclosed by dense tree cover at the settlement edge, including along the River Ithon, and mature vegetation at the adjacent Builth Wells Golf Club. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation and buildings restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Builth Wells VSAA (BRCKNVS684) notes that there are attractive views out (although does not provide any evidence for this). The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the <i>"highly visible attractive main valley"</i> form part of its justification. There are some attractive views of the surrounding hillsides (as judged on site) that are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the settlement, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at distances of between 4 km and 5 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as they will appear on top of the imposing form of Aberedw Hill. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6 will breach the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine tower for T12 (but with hubs and blades visible) and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the town. Given the prominence of Aberedw Hill due to its elevation, the Proposed Development will be visible from several areas of Builth Wells. There are also several areas where intervening buildings, landform and/or vegetation will obstruct views towards it. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will generally be from locations that are elevated, where views of the turbines will be seen above intervening foreground elements. This includes from elevated properties oriented to the east and north-east along Castle Road (as well as from along the street itself), with the turbines seen at a distance of approximately 4 km. Similar views of the Proposed Development will also be afforded from the southern part of the settlement (i.e. south of the A483), including from the streets and properties off Brecon Road (B4520), Smithfield Road and Hospital Road (approximately 4-5 km away), although the landform of Garth Hill will largely obscure turbines within the south-western part of the Proposed Development (i.e. T1-T3). The Proposed Development will also be clearly visible from the elevated mound at Builth Castle, but this is considered separately with the relevant assessment included within the 'Assessment of Visual Effects from Visitor Attractions' section later in this appendix. There will also be relatively clear views from areas of lower elevation where views look directly towards Aberedw Hill. This includes areas within the north-western part of the settlement, particularly from properties facing east along the northern extent of Golf Links Road and from along east-west aligned streets such as Pendre and Irfon Road (approximately 4.5-5 km away). The Proposed Development will also be clearly seen from the Wye Bridge (A483) as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 12, with the turbines seen at a distance of approximately 4 km and occupying approximately 25 degrees of the skyline. Those travelling along the road or footpath will have oblique but open views of the turbines, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill, which forms a backdrop to the River Wye in the foreground. From Castle Road in the east, elevated areas south of the A483, east-west aligned streets in the north-west (such as Pendre and Irfon Road) and properties along the north-western settlement edge (including along Golf Links Road), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change). This is because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill (which provides an attractive landscape setting to the local community), and in most cases will be seen in the direct line of vision of residents, although views will be partly interrupted by existing buildings, streetlights and overhead lines (mounted on wooden poles) in the foreground. From the Wye Bridge (A483), the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be medium as views of the Proposed Development will be more open and unimpeded, but will be seen obliquely by those travelling along the road.				

Builth Wells						
	The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from Castle Road in the east, elevated areas south of the A483, east-west aligned streets in the north-west (such as Pendre and Irfon Road) and properties along the north-western settlement edge (including along Golf Links Road), and from along the Wye Bridge (A483).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from Castle Road in the east, elevated areas south of the A483, east-west aligned streets in the north-west (such as Pendre and Irfon Road) and properties along the north-western settlement edge (including along Golf Links Road), and from along the Wye Bridge (A483).	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from Castle Road in the east, elevated areas south of the A483, east-west aligned streets in the north-west (such as Pendre and Irfon Road) and properties along the north-western settlement edge (including along Golf Links Road), and from along the Wye Bridge (A483).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from Castle Road in the east, elevated areas south of the A483, east-west aligned streets in the north-west (such as Pendre and Irfon Road) and properties along the north-western settlement edge (including along Golf Links Road), and from along the Wye Bridge (A483).	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen over 15 km away in views north-east from elevated areas south of the A483. With the proposed wind energy development in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 10 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.6 Llanelwedd

Llanelwedd					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells Viewpoint 15: Royal Welsh Showground
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS001 – Royal Welsh Showground	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The village of Llanelwedd lies near to Builth Wells, situated within the pastoral Wye Valley, and features the Royal Welsh Showground. It comprises two small populous areas situated on the western bank of the River Wye to the west of the Site, separated by the showground and connected by the A483. Its north-western extent is nestled under Llanwedd Rocks - the southern end of a craggy ridge that dramatically ends above the river. From the edges of the settlement along the banks of the river (including from along the A483), views to the south/ south-east extend across the Wye Valley with the upland landscape seen beyond (although views are typically filtered from low-lying areas by trees along the river). This includes the distinctive landform of Garth Hill, with Aberedw Hill seen further to the east (and therefore far-reaching views towards the Site). Within the north-eastern part of the village, properties are generally orientated to the east or north-east, facing towards Aberedw Hill. However, views of the Site are limited to the properties that are set away from the valley floor and are slightly elevated (i.e. from the western edge of 'The Crescent'), in comparison to those that are situated closer to the bank of the river where views are heavily filtered by vegetation along the river (i.e. from along the eastern edge of 'The Crecent' and along the A483). Outward views from the edge of the village (within its south-western part) are generally more open. To the north-east, the rising landform of Llanelwedd Rocks and intervening vegetation limit outward views. From the opposing edges of the settlement, views north and north-west extend across the showground and pastoral slopes, but intervening landform and vegetation limits long-distance views. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation and buildings restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Royal Welsh Showground VSAA (RDNRVS001) notes that there are attractive views "<i>out to the valley</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation and the "<i>attractive views out</i>" form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the village, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at distances of between 3.5 km and 4 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoints 12 and 15. The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the receptor's location within the village. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel as they will generally be open, with the turbines appearing on the skyline, and seen beyond attractive foreground views of the pastoral valley floor. From here, the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6 will breach the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine tower for T12 (but with hubs and blades visible) and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. Similar views will also be experienced from the rear of properties along Llanelwedd Terrace, although will be partly obscured by intervening buildings and vegetation, and interrupted by existing overhead lines (mounted on wooden poles) and streetlights in the foreground. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). There will also be relatively clear views from the north-eastern part of the village, as the south-western extent of the Proposed Development will be visible on top of Aberedw Hill from properties oriented east/north-east and located at the western end of 'The Crescent'. From this location the towers, hubs and blades of T1, T2 and T3 will be clearly seen above the intervening tree line in direct views. Vegetation associated with the landform of Llanelwedd Rocks will filter the hubs and blades of T4-T6 in summer and winter. The vegetation across the valley floor will heavily filter/ limit views of the Proposed Development from the eastern end of 'The Crescent' and along the A483. The Proposed Development will also be clearly visible from the Royal Welsh Showground, but this is considered separately with the relevant assessment included within the 'Assessment of Visual Effects from Visitor Attractions' section later in this appendix. From the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel in the south of the village, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill (which provides an attractive landscape setting to the local community) and will generally be seen in the direct line of vision. From the rear of properties along Llanelwedd Terrace and from the western end of 'The Crescent' (in the north-east), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill but intervening features will screen/ filter some of the Proposed Development. The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u>				

Llanelwedd						
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel in the south of the village and low-medium from the western end of ‘The Crescent’ (in the north-east).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the western end of ‘The Crescent’ (in the north-east).	Medium from the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel in the south of the village.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel in the south of the village. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the western end of ‘The Crescent’ (in the north-east).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the western end of ‘The Crescent’ (in the north-east).	Moderate-Major (significant) from the front of The Llanelwedd Arms Hotel in the south of the village.	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this local community, 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 this local community, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.7 Caerwnon Park

Caerwnon Park					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	7.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 17: NCN 8 near Cilmerly can be used as a proxy (the view from VP 17 is clearer than from Caerwnon Park)
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS141 - Wye floor, south of Rhayader	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	This residential park containing mobile homes is located on the eastern valley side of the River Wye, to the north-west of the Site. Situated on a hill terrace overlooking the river, the park is surrounded by pasture fields with clipped hedges and mature hedgerow trees, as well as scattered blocks of woodland. To the north and north-east, mature vegetation lining the road and edge of the park, as well as adjacent woodland blocks, provide enclosure and limit views in these directions (although with some intermittent glimpsed views of the broad undulating valley seen through the vegetation). To the east and south-east attractive views extend over the River Wye Valley, although are partly filtered by intervening vegetation, with the upland landforms of Carneddau, Aberedw Hill, and Banc y Celyn merging to form the skyline in the mid-distance. Views from the southern and south-western edges of the park extend over the pastoral valleys towards the upland landforms, including Moelfre and Garth Bank. A wooded quarry lies to the west of the park and coupled with tree cover along its western edge, limits outward views. However, elevated areas in the east and south of the park offer far-reaching views over the static homes to the west, with the wooded quarry in the foreground and the upland forms associated with the Elan Valley forming the backdrop in the distance, including Y Garth and Gornoeth. The surrounding landform restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u>				
	The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this residential park are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement.				
	<u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u>				
	Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the <i>"highly visible attractive main valley"</i> form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them.				
	<u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u>				
	Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the residential park is judged to be medium-high .				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u>				
	During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the residential park on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east. The closest turbine (T6) will be seen at distances of between 7.1 km and 7.6 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 20 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 17. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of turbines T1-T5 will breach the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill and the landform of Carneddau will screen most of the tower of T6 (with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the receptor's location within the residential park. The clearest and most direct views of the Proposed Development will be from the north-eastern corner, particularly from the mobile homes that are oriented east along The Dell. Here the turbines along the western edge of the Site will be visible on the skyline in the attractive views over the valley, although partly filtered by intervening trees located along the eastern edge of the residential park in summer and winter. From central areas, particularly around The Green and The Glade, the turbines will be visible above intervening mobile homes in the foreground that partially interrupt the views, and will be filtered by vegetation. From the north-eastern corner of the residential park (including the mobile homes orientated east along The Dell) and from central areas, the visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance, and views will be partly interrupted by existing mobile homes and filtered by vegetation. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the local community.				
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u>				
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u>				
	Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the north-eastern corner and central areas of the residential park.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
					High

Caerwnon Park						
		from the north-eastern corner and central areas of the residential park.				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the north-eastern corner and central areas of the residential park.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the north-eastern corner and central areas of the residential park.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this residential park, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u> No other consented or proposed wind farms will be visible from this residential park, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.8 Cilmery

Cilmery					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	7.3 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 17: NCN 8 near Cilmery can be used as a proxy (the view from VP 17 is clearer than from Cilmery)
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 53: Irthon Valley	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS503 – Irfon Valley East	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The village of Cilmery is situated along the A483 within the Wye Valley to the west of the Site. It is located on a gentle knoll between the Rivers Wye and Chwefri, and to the west of Builth Wells. The village is surrounded by a mosaic of pastoral fields, bounded by low hedgerows and scattered trees. A minor road off the A483 runs through the village. Views from the centre of the settlement along the A483 are intermittently open, with far reaching views to the north-west and south, as the landform gradually descends into pastoral valleys in both directions. Westerly views encompass the immediate pastoral fields, but ascending landforms beyond limit long-distance views. Easterly views are overall limited with those directed along the roadway generally enclosed by roadside vegetation and buildings, although with the landform of Aberedw Hill intermittently glimpsed on the skyline and framed between buildings and vegetation that line the road. From the settlement's eastern edge at Cefn Llewelyn, views east are also enclosed by woodland that runs along a railway embankment, but with long-distance scenic views north afforded towards the upland forms of Carneddau. However, there are oblique views to the east from the northern edge of the village, seen from the backs of properties that are situated along the northern edge of the village road, although the focus of views from this part of the settlement are directly north across the rolling wooded slopes of the valley. The surrounding landform restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Irfon Valley East VSAA (BRCKNVS503) notes that there are attractive views "<i>to...surrounding uplands</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, with its justification stating that the scenic quality is "<i>enhanced by the backcloth of the surrounding uplands</i>". The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, most of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from parts of the village, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at a distance of approximately 8 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 20 degrees skyline, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 17. The nature of the views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of receptors within the village. In most areas, buildings and vegetation will limit views. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the rear of properties along the northern edge of the village, although the turbines will be seen obliquely as the views are focused north, and will be partially filtered by intervening vegetation. From this location the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6 and T9 -T12, will be visible. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers of T13, T14 and T16 (but with blades and hubs visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). There will also be intermittent glimpsed views of the Proposed Development from along the A483 where it runs through the centre of the village, with the turbines seen directly on the skyline above intervening buildings and vegetation in the foreground. From the northern edge of the village the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and at an oblique angle. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. From the A483 the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be small as although the Proposed Development will be seen in direct easterly views, it will be seen intermittently and at distance. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to low from the northern edge of the village and from along the A483.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High

Cilmery						
		from the northern edge of the village and from along the A483.				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the northern edge of the village and from along the A483.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the northern edge of the village and from along the A483.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u> No other consented or proposed wind farms will be visible from this local community, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.9 Llandrindod Wells

Llandrindod Wells					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 24: A4081 at Llanyre can be used as a proxy (the view from VP 24 is clearer than from Llandrindod Wells)
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS152 – Llandrindod Wells	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The town of Llandrindod Wells is located along the eastern banks of the River Ithon, to the north-west of the Site. The town is generally arranged in a linear pattern, north-south along the A483, while the A4081 forms the western settlement edge. It is situated across the lower western slopes of the wooded Little Hill, and Bongam Bank. The promoted long-distance footpath, Heart of Wales Line Trail, passes through the southern half of the settlement, continuing to the north-east. Irregular and hedgerow-lined fields surround the settlement, with larger concentrations of woodland to the south-east and north-east. Outward views from within the settlement are heavily screened by buildings and vegetation. However, there are clearer views from the very southern and south-western edges (e.g. from along Lakeside Avenue, Brynteg and Pentrosfa Road) where the distinctive form of Carneddau is seen in the distance with Aberedw Hill beyond. From most of the settlement views to the east are curtailed by intervening landform, including Little Hill. Longer distant views are occasionally afforded from the northern and western edges of the settlement that extend across the Ithon Valley, although roadside vegetation provides intermittent filtering. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the south-east (over 1.5 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Llandrindod Wells VSAA (RDNRVS152) notes that there are "<i>generally attractive rural views out</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. There are some attractive views of the surrounding hillsides (as judged on Site) that are valued by the local community who experience them. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from limited parts of the town, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views south-east. The closest turbine (T6) will be seen at a distance of approximately 8 km, and turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 24. Views of the Proposed Development will be limited throughout the town as intervening buildings and vegetation will restrict views in most places. There will be some visibility of the turbines within the western part of the Site, seen from the southern and south-eastern edges of the settlement where they are less enclosed. This includes the properties along Brynteg and Pentrosfa Road, as well as those within the cul-de-sac of Lakeside Avenue. From these locations the topography of Aberedw Hill and the landform of Carneddau will partially screen the turbine towers of T4-T7 and T9-14 (with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). In most cases the Proposed Development will be seen obliquely as the properties along these streets are typically oriented to the east, although there will be more direct views from some of the properties along Lakeside Avenue where they are orientated more to the south-east. From the southern and south-eastern edge of the town (including properties along Brynteg, Pentrosfa Road and Lakeside Avenue), the visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and in most cases at an oblique angle. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the southern and south-eastern edge of the town (including properties along Brynteg, Pentrosfa Road and Lakeside Avenue).				
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the southern and south-eastern edge of the town (including properties along Brynteg,	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High

Llandrindod Wells						
		Pentrosfa Road and Lakeside Avenue).				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the southern and south-eastern edge of the town (including properties along Brynteg, Pentrosfa Road and Lakeside Avenue).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the southern and south-eastern edge of the town (including properties along Brynteg, Pentrosfa Road and Lakeside Avenue).	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, 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 this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.10 Newbridge-on-Wye

Newbridge-on-Wye					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	9 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint (due to lack of opportunities for clear views from the settlement) - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effect on the receptor.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS156 – Newbridge on Wye	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The village of Newbridge-on-Wye is located on the eastern banks of the River Wye, to the north-west of the Site, and north of its confluence with the River Ithon. The wooded Dynfant Brook meanders through the northern half of the settlement before it joins the River Wye to the east. The A470 cuts north-south through the centre, and the B4358 branches off at the middle of the settlement, travelling to the north-east. Pastoral fields surround the village, with concentrations of dense woodland to the west and along the watercourses. Intermittent views from within the settlement are typically directed west across the lower elevations of the pastoral Wye Valley, although roadside vegetation and woodland filter views. Easterly views are curtailed by gradually rising landform and blocks of woodland, with mature trees dotting the skyline. From the southern settlement edge, Aberedw Hill and Gilwern Hills can be seen above the tree line in long-distance views to the south-east, particularly from the dwellings located south of Knapplands (and east of the A470) and those east of Meadowlands. The upland landscape to the south and south-west, encompassing Banc y Cwm, Moelfre and Banc y Celyn, also provides a backdrop to the village in the far distance when seen on the approach in the north due to this part of the village being more elevated. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the north-east (over 5 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Newbridge on Wye VSAA (RDNRVS156) notes that there are attractive views "<i>out to rural surrounds</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. There are some attractive views of the surrounding hillsides (as judged on site) that are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from limited parts of the village, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views south-east. The closest turbine (T6) will be seen at a distance of approximately 9 km. In the clearest views, the topography of Aberedw Hill and the landform of Carneddau will partially screen the turbine towers of T1-T6 (with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Views towards the Proposed Development will be limited throughout the village as intervening buildings and vegetation will restrict views in most places. There will be some visibility of turbines within the western part of the Site, seen from southern parts of the settlement where they are less enclosed. This includes the properties located to the south of Knapplands (and east of the A470), where they will be afforded with direct views towards the turbines from their rear, given that they are orientated to the south-east. From some of the properties, the turbines will be seen above intervening treelines, whereas from others they will be filtered by the riparian woodland along the River Ithon. Similar views will be afforded from the rear of the properties located east of Meadowlands, although as they are orientated more to the east, the turbines will be seen obliquely. From the southern settlement edge (namely the properties along Knapplands and Meadowlands), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be small, as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance, and in some cases views will be filtered by vegetation. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of visual effect is barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the southern settlement edge (namely the properties along Knapplands and Meadowlands).				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High

Newbridge-on-Wye						
		from the southern settlement edge (namely the properties along Knapplands and Meadowlands).				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the southern settlement edge (namely the properties along Knapplands and Meadowlands).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the southern settlement edge (namely the properties along Knapplands and Meadowlands).	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen over 14 km away in views north-east from the village. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a slightly more noticeable component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as Aberedw will be over 5 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 1.11 Llanyre

Llanyre					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	11.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 24: A4081 at Llanyre
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS145 – Lower Ithon valley RDNRVS135 - Rolling hills, between Ithon & Wye	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The village of Llanyre is located in the valley of the River Ithon, approximately 2 km north-west of Llandrindod Wells, situated to the north-west of the Site. The village extends along a minor road between the A4081 and the A44. Views from within the village are largely screened by intervening vegetation and buildings, but there are more extensive views afforded from locations along the edges of the village, including from the graveyard of St Llyr Church and from the rear of properties along Penrhiw in the south, from the rear of properties along Cagebrook Lane in the east, and from properties near Roundfield in the north-east. Here, rural views to the east and south-east extend over Llandrindod Wells towards the low wooded hills just beyond, including Little Hill and Careg-Wiber Bank appearing directly east. Beyond these, the upland forms of Gilwern Hill and Carneddau extend to the south-east on the horizon, with part of Aberedw Hill also visible between these two upland forms (although its eastern extent is obscured by Carneddau). Long-distance views in these directions are also afforded from the cluster of residences in the southern part of the village, as well as from the church grounds where there are open views. Views to the west and south-west are enclosed by the rounded edges of Rhiw Gwraidd and Dol-y-fan Hill. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the south-east (over 4 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as local communities have an interest in their surroundings, and views from this settlement are enjoyed by residents and contribute to the landscape setting of the settlement. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Lower Ithon valley VSAA (RDNRVS145) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to adjacent hills"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic and are valued by the local community who experience them. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the settlement is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible from parts of the village and seen on the skyline of Aberdew Hill in long-distance views to the south-east. The closest turbine (T6) will be seen at distances of between 11.1 km and 11.6 km and the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 24. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T9-T13 will appear on the skyline. The intervening topography of Aberedw Hill and the landform of Carneddau will screen the turbine towers for T7, T8 and T14 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Views of the Proposed Development will be limited throughout the village as intervening buildings and vegetation will restrict views in most places. There will be some visibility from the southern part of the village, including from the graveyard of St Llyr Church where some of the turbines will be seen on the distant skyline above an intervening roadside hedgerow that runs along the A4081 in the foreground. Similar views will also be afforded from properties-oriented south-east along Penrhiw, although views will slightly be interrupted by existing overhead lines (mounted on wooden poles) in the foreground. From the eastern parts of the village, the Proposed Development will be visible from the rear of properties along Cagebrook Lane, although will mostly be seen obliquely as the properties along these streets are typically oriented to the east, as well as being filtered by vegetation along garden boundaries. Similar views will also be afforded from the north-eastern part of the village, including from the cluster of properties near Roundfield, although will be more heavily filtered by intervening vegetation in summer and winter. From the southern, eastern and north-eastern edges of the village (including the graveyard of St Llyr Church, and properties along Penrhiw, Cagebrook Lane and near Roundfield) the visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and in some cases at an oblique angle and/or filtered by intervening vegetation. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well, resulting in a small change to the rural views experienced by the local community. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the local community. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent				

Llanyre						
	Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the southern, eastern and north-eastern edges of the village (including the graveyard of St Llyr Church, and properties along Penrhiw, Cagebrook Lane and near Roundfield).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the southern, eastern and north-eastern edges of the village (including the graveyard of St Llyr Church, and properties along Penrhiw, Cagebrook Lane and near Roundfield).	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the southern, eastern and north-eastern edges of the village (including the graveyard of St Llyr Church, and properties along Penrhiw, Cagebrook Lane and near Roundfield).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the southern, eastern and north-eastern edges of the village (including the graveyard of St Llyr Church, and properties along Penrhiw, Cagebrook Lane and near Roundfield).	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen over 11 km away in views north-east from the village. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be similar in prominence to the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and Nant Mithil will be at similar distances to the village. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

2. Assessment of Visual Effects on People Travelling along Roads

2.1 Road Users of Main Roads

Table 2.1 Road users of the A481

Road users of the A481					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 2: A481 at Matts Common Viewpoint 3: A481 at Hundred House
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The A481 is a single carriageway running south-west to north-east, connecting Llanelwedd in the west to Llanfihangel-Nant-Melan in the east via the village of Hundred House. It passes through the centre of the study area, with the south-central stretch winding around the northern edge of the Site. The south-westerly terminus connects with the A483 at Llanelwedd, located to the north of Builth Wells, and is situated near the Royal Welsh Showground. The north-easterly terminus joins the A44, halfway between the villages of Llandegley and New Radnor, and close to Llanfihangel-Nant-Melan. The road originates at Llanelwedd on the northern valley side of the River Wye, following the contours of Llanelwedd Rock, and here road users have restricted outward views due to the intervening topography and vegetation on both sides of the road. Travelling eastwards, views gradually open up as the roadside vegetation becomes less dense, and as the road heads directly towards the Site (on the approach to the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park), the horizon opens up, revealing Aberedw Hill. Continuing towards the junction with the B4567, roadside vegetation decreases further, allowing road users to see the Site directly ahead and the wider valley extending south and south-west, including the upland forms of the wooded Garth Hill, and Banc y Celyn. As the road progresses from the junction, it winds along the valley floor between the uplands of Carneddau to the north and Aberedw Hill to the south, running parallel with the Cnithio Brook. Views are more limited along this stretch due to intervening vegetation and the road being in a cutting. As the road follows the northern edge of the Site, gaps in roadside vegetation affords intermittent oblique views south towards Aberedw Hill, with some stretches of more prolonged open views where roadside vegetation is low or absent. For motorists travelling eastwards, the views ahead are focused on the uplands of Little Hill and Gilwern Hill, whereas longer distant views are more limited for those travelling westwards due to intervening vegetation and topography. The road continues north-eastwards, where it no longer skirts the Site, heading towards the south of Radnor Forest. This section of the road winds through the valley, crossing the River Edw at Hundred House, with views of the uplands of Little Hill and Gwancheste Hill to the east and south-east. Continuing to the north-east views of the Radnor Forest complex are visible ahead, marking the end of the road. There are intermittent direct views of the Site afforded along the north-eastern extent of the road where it passes between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House for those travelling to the south-west. The presence of vertical man-made elements on the skyline are present along the route through the presence of multiple overhead lines and wooden pylons which cross or run adjacent to the road and partly detract from the views. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be clearly seen in views to the north/ north-west from the north-eastern extent of the road (over 2.5 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling Hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNR133) which much of the road passes through notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to higher land, open hills and across valleys"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, the turbines will be prominent in views experienced by users of the A481 given the proximity of the Proposed Development to the road and the elevated nature of Aberedw Hill for which it will be located upon. They will be visible to varying degrees, with intermittent filtering from roadside vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the road, as follows: ■ Direct views of the turbines will be experienced by road users travelling east along the western extent of the road where it runs between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567. Here the turbines along the western edge of the Proposed Development will be prominent, seen at distances of between 2.2 km and 2.8 km, comprising the towers, hubs and blades of T2-T5, and the hub and blades of T1 and T6. ■ Direct views will also be afforded for road users travelling south-west, along the north-eastern extent of the road where it passes between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House. Views of the Proposed Development along this stretch will be intermittent in places due to intervening roadside vegetation and buildings; however, where there are more open views towards the Proposed Development, the towers, hubs and blades of T1-6 and T7-16, and the hubs and blades of T17 and T18 will be seen. This is particularly the case between Llanhowell and Llangyfrwys where the road is elevated, with the Proposed Development seen at distances of between 3.5 km and 4.5 km. As the road decreases in elevation (i.e. on the approach to Hundred House and through the village itself), some turbines will become obscured by the topography of Aberedw Hill; however, there will still be clear direct views of most turbines, seen at distances of between 1.3 km and 2 km.				

Road users of the A481					
	■ There will be more prolonged views of the turbines along the stretch of the road that runs parallel with the northern site boundary, where roadside vegetation is low or absent. Although views will be more oblique along this stretch, the proximity of the Proposed Development (approximately 1.1-1.6 km) will result in the turbines to be prominent, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoints 2 and 3, occupying approximately 60-80 degrees of the skyline. The northern part of the Proposed Development will be seen along this stretch, and in the clearest views the towers, hubs and blades of T11 - T14 and T16 - T18 will be visible, along with the hubs and blades of T4, T6 and T15. There will also be clear views of the substation as it will be adjacent to the edge of the road, although views towards it will be relatively brief and incidental. From the stretch of road in the west (between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567) and from the stretch of road in the north-east (between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the higher end of medium, as although views will be intermittent in places (seen in gaps between intervening vegetation and buildings), there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development seen in a direct line of vision at distances ranging between 2.2 km and 4.5 km. The Proposed Development will create a distinct new element in the views. From the stretch of road that runs parallel with the northern edge of the Site, the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be on the higher end of medium as the turbines (and substation) will be clearly seen, extending across 60-80 degrees of the skyline, and the Proposed Development will be in relatively close proximity, albeit seen obliquely and in some cases intermittently. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills which rise above the road. The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the road, due to intervening vegetation filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as the turbines and substation will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. <u>Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium-high from the stretch of road in the west (between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567), from the stretch of road in the north-east (between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House), and from the stretch of road that runs parallel with the northern edge of the Site.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High from the stretch of road in the west (between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567), from the stretch of road in the north-east (between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House), and from the stretch of road that runs parallel with the northern edge of the Site.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium-high magnitude is judged to result in a moderate-major effect from the stretch of road in the west (between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567), from the stretch of road in the north-east (between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House), and from the stretch of road that runs parallel with the northern edge of the Site.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant) from the stretch of road in the west (between the roundabout junction with the Wyeside Enterprise Park and the junction with the B4567), from the stretch of road in the north-east (between Llangyfrwys and Hundred House), and from the stretch of road that runs parallel with the northern edge of the Site.
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at distances of 1.6 km and beyond in views north and north-east from the road. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines be visible in opposite directions; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and				

Road users of the A481	
	be similar in prominence to the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and Nant Mithil will be at similar distances to the road from the closest views. Taking the above into consideration, there is a clear interaction between the two wind farms seen in different directions. The magnitude of visual change will remain medium-high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate-major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.

Table 2.2 Road users of the A470

Road users of the A470					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.6 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North to North-east and East to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 4: A470 at Aberduhonw Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells and Viewpoint 15: Royal Welsh Showground are near to the central section of the road and are also representative.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The A470 crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: - RDNRVS145 - Lower Ithon valley - RDNRVS141 - Wye floor, south of Rhayader - RDNRVS001 - Royal Welsh Showground - BRCKNVS004 - Wye Valley - BRCKNVS529 - Wye Valley Slopes	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The A470 is a single carriageway that broadly follows the River Wye, in a general north-south orientation. In the north, the road enters the study area between the villages of Llangurig and Rhayader. As it heads south, the road passes through the village of Newbridge-on-Wye shortly before crossing the River Ithon. Towards its central section, the road skirts around Builth Wells before continuing south to follow the course of the River Wye. The northern section of the road cuts through the bottom of the River Wye valley where it is typically enclosed by steep upland forms and lined by woodland/ mature tree belts, limiting outward views to the east and west, although with the exception of some intermittent short-distance views that look obliquely to the west across the valley floor. On the approach to Newbridge-on-Wye, views begin to open up as the road travels through a flatter area of pastoral fields, with very brief glimpses of Gilwern Hill and Aberedw Hill visible in the distance to the east and south-east. These views are short-lived as the buildings within the village restrict outward views as the road travels through it. Along the stretch between Newbridge-on-Wye and Builth Road, the road is partly enclosed by woodland and in some parts travels in a cutting. However, it also occasionally crosses raised embankments for short sections, affording oblique views east towards Aberedw Hill and direct views south towards Banc y Celyn. These features become prominent and more prolonged in views as the road approaches Builth Wells given their close proximity to the receptors at this point. Leaving Builth Wells, the road skirts along the western edge of Aberedw Hill (running parallel with the Site) which rises above it in views to the east. For road users traveling north, there are scenic views along the stretch between Alltmawr and Tregaer, that look along the River Wye with the surrounding uplands to the east and west, framing direct views of Aberedw Hill to the north. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, all of the VSAA's note that there are attractive views out to surrounding hills and valley sides. The Wye Valley Slopes VSAA (BRCKNVS529) is deemed have an 'outstanding' overall evaluation and its justification states that "<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>". The Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the "<i>highly visible attractive main valley</i>" form part of its justification. The Royal Welsh Showground VSAA (RDNRVS001) is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation and the "<i>attractive views out</i>" form part of its justification. The Wye Valley VSAA (BRCKNVS004) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the "<i>positive scenic quality</i>" form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be prominent in views experienced by users of the A470 given the proximity of the Proposed Development to the road and the elevated nature of Aberedw Hill for which it will be located upon. They will be visible to varying degrees, with intermittent filtering from roadside vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the road, as follows: - Direct views of the turbines will briefly be experienced by road users travelling east/south-east along the stretch of the road leaving Builth Wells in the east of the town, although initially views of the Proposed Development will be filtered by the intervening woodland along the roadside in summer and winter. However, as road users progress towards Aberedw Hill, views will open up to reveal the turbines along the western edge of the Proposed Development which will be prominent, seen at a distances of between 1.5 km and 2.4 km. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 45 degrees of the skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of T2, T3 and T5, and the hubs and blades of T4 and T6, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 4. The direct nature of the views described above will quickly change for road users travelling south-east as the road bends to the south near Aberduhonw (to run parallel with the western Site boundary), with views of the Proposed Development becoming much more oblique, brief and incidental. - Direct views of the turbines will also be afforded to road users traveling north along the stretch that follows the course of the River Wye, with views of the Proposed Development first apparent near to Tregaer (approximately 6 km away) and framed by uplands that flank the road. Views of the Proposed Development along this stretch will be intermittent due to intervening roadside vegetation, and will be brief as upon reaching Alltmawr				

Road users of the A470						
	(approximately 3.6 km away) the landform associated with the southern slopes of Aberedw Hill obscure the turbines. The road then becomes enclosed by dense riparian woodland which heavily filters outward views for the remainder of this stretch, before opening up again near Aberduhonw, although by this point the Proposed Development will be sharply oblique in views. Between Tregaer and Alltmawr the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T3, and the hubs and blades of T4 and T5 will be visible. ■ From the stretch of the road approaching Builth Wells in the north, skirting along the western edge of Royal Welsh Showground, oblique views of the Proposed Development are also afforded. The views from this stretch of the road are mostly intermittent due to an intervening tree-lined avenue within the Royal Welsh Showground, but very briefly open up and become more direct on the approach to the roundabout junction with the A483. Here, the turbines along the western edge of the Proposed Development will be seen at distances of between 4.1 km and 4.8 km, occupying approximately 25 degrees of the skyline (as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 15), although will be seen alongside streetlights in the foreground that partly detract from the views. From the stretch of road leaving Builth Wells in the east and near to Aberduhonw the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium, as there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element in the view and seen at a close distance. Apart from some very brief direct views of turbines, they will mostly be seen obliquely. From the stretch of road between Tregaer and Alltmawr, and along the approach to Builth Wells in the north, the scale of visual effect is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the turbines will create distinct new elements on the skyline. However, the views will be brief and intermittent as they are frequently filtered by intervening vegetation. From other stretches of the A470, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the stretch of road leaving Builth Wells in the east and near to Aberduhonw, and low-medium from the stretch of road between Tregaer and Alltmawr, and along the approach to Builth Wells in the north.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the stretch of road between Tregaer and Alltmawr, and along the approach to Builth Wells in the north.	Medium from the stretch of road leaving Builth Wells in the east and near to Aberduhonw	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the stretch of road leaving Builth Wells in the east and near to Aberduhonw.					
	A medium sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the stretch of road between Tregaer and Alltmawr, and along the approach to Builth Wells in the north.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the stretch of road between Tregaer and Alltmawr, and along the approach to Builth Wells in the north.	Moderate (significant) from the stretch of road leaving Builth Wells in the east and near to Aberduhonw.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u> No other consented or proposed wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 2.3 Road users of the A483

Road users of the A483					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.6 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	East and South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells Viewpoint 15: Royal Welsh Showground is near to the central section of the road and is also representative. Viewpoint 17: NCN 8 near Cilmeri can be used as a proxy for the western extent of the road.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	- LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) - LCA 53: Irfon Valley	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The A483 crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: - BRCKNVS503 - Irfon Valley East - RDNRVS141 - Wye floor, south of Rhayader - RDNRVS001 - Royal Welsh Showground	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The A483 is a single carriageway running through the west of the study area, which it enters from the south-west near the town of Llanwrtyd Wells. It bears north-east, passing the village of Beulah, before running broadly eastwards to the town of Builth Wells (crossing through the villages of Garth and Cilmeri on its way), where it crosses the River Wye and turns north to Llandrindod Wells. It continues north through Crossgates and up the valley of the River Ithon, crossing through the northern part of the study area. Travelling north-east from Llanwrtyd Wells, the road winds through the Irfon Valleys, offering views of pastoral fields interspersed with woodland and rolling hills. As the route runs east of Beulah, the road briefly follows the Afon Cammarch and then skirts past Garth Bank, crossing the River Dulas at the village of Garth. The upland moorland of the Mynydd Epynt forms the southern skyline, with upland forms of Banc y Cwm and Moelfre prominent. Shortly after leaving Cilmeri, direct views east open up to reveal the distinctive landforms of Aberedw Hill and Garth Hill on the eastern skyline and these views are prolonged as the road approaches Builth Wells. The road then crosses the River Wye along the Wye Bridge, and passes through the village of Llanellwedd, where views to the south/ south-east extend across the Wye Valley with the upland landscape seen beyond (although views are typically filtered by trees along the river). As the route runs northwards from Llanellwedd, views comprise pastoral fields, hedgerows and intermittent trees. After passing through the town of Llandrindod Wells, the route briefly bears eastwards and the western Radnor Forest hills briefly become visible. Continuing northwards, the route runs through the village of Crossgate, where there is another brief glimpse of the Radnor Forest from the outskirts. For the rest of the route through the study area, the views are mainly of hedgerows, pastoral fields and intermittent woodland. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the View Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Irfon Valley East VSAA (BRCKNVS503) notes that there are attractive views "<i>to...surrounding uplands</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, with its justification stating that the scenic quality is "<i>enhanced by the backcloth of the surrounding uplands</i>". The Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the "<i>highly visible attractive main valley</i>" form part of its justification. The Royal Welsh Showground VSAA (RDNRVS001) is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation and the "<i>attractive views out</i>" form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from parts of the road, with intermittent filtering from roadside vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the road, as follows: - Direct views of the turbines will be experienced by road users travelling east along the stretch of the road leaving Cilmeri (in the west of the village) towards Builth Wells. Along this stretch, Aberedw Hill forms a prominent backdrop and the turbines will be seen upon it at distances of between 5.6 km and 7.4 km. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 20 degrees of the expansive skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6, and the hubs and blades of T9-13 and T16, and will be similar to the views illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 17. The direct views of the Proposed Development will be prolonged until approaching Builth Wells where woodland associated with the River Irfon will screen/ filter views in summer and winter. - The Proposed Development will also be clearly seen from the stretch of the road that crosses the Wye Bridge as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 12, with the turbines seen at a distance of approximately 4 km and occupying approximately 25 degrees of the skyline. Users will experience oblique but open views of the turbines, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill, which forms a backdrop to the River Wye in the foreground. As users travel past the Royal Welsh Showground and through Llanellwedd, vegetation across the floor of the Wye valley will heavily filter/ limit views of the Proposed Development.				

Road users of the A483						
	From the stretch of road between Cilmeri and Builth Wells the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium, as there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element in the view. Although the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance of over 5 km, views of the turbines will be prolonged and seen in a direct line of vision by the road user travelling east. From the stretch of road that crosses the Wye Bridge, the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be medium as views of the Proposed Development will be open and unimpeded but will be seen obliquely by those travelling along the road. From other stretches of the A483, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from the stretch of road between Cilmeri and Builth Wells and along the Wye Bridge.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the stretch of road between Cilmeri and Builth Wells and along the Wye Bridge.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the stretch of road between Cilmeri and Builth Wells and along the Wye Bridge.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the stretch of road between Cilmeri and Builth Wells and along the Wye Bridge.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> No other consented or proposed wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 2.4 Road users of the A44

Road users of the A44					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	8.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 20: Bridleway off A44 near Castell Crugerydd
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 38 - River Dulas Hills & Valleys LCA 39 - Ithon Valley LCA 40 - Llanbister - Penybont Uplands LCA 50 - Aberedw Uplands LCA 51 - Painscastle Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The A44 crosses through several VSAA's, but the Site is visible from RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east.	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The A44 is a single carriageway running broadly east-west through the centre of the study area. From Rhayader in the west it runs south-east, broadly following the River Dulas corridor before crossing into the Irfon Valley. It continues through Crossgates and Penybont, before turning further south at Llandegley, skirting along the eastern edge of the Llandegley Rocks before turning north and west at Llanfihangel Nant Melan. The road passes through New Radnor before crossing into England and extending beyond the study area. Travelling east into the study area towards Rhayader, views are largely of adjacent farmland, with fields bounded by low hedgerows and scattered mature trees. South-east of Rhayader the road gradually climbs, with views to the south-east extending towards the rounded and elongated form of Rhiw Gwraidd, before entering a short enclosed section approaching the community of Nantmel. Here views are directed east along the wooded Dulas Valley, contained by rising ground of Penllan to the south. Approaching Crossgates, views are mainly of adjacent pastoral fields with long distance views largely curtailed by hedgerows and intermittent woodland. Between Crossgates and Penybont, dense patches of woodland and rising ground enclose views to the north and south. The route bears south-east approaching Llandegley, with views extending over pastoral fields and hedgerows towards the Llandegley Rocks to the south-east. As the route swings south on the eastern edge of Llandegley Rocks, views are entirely screened to the west. The road then proceeds to skirt around the base of Nyth-grug at Radnor Forest with views extending to the upland forms of Gilwern Hill to the west, and Aberedw Hill and Gwaunceste Hill to the south-west. The Site becomes visible for a brief stretch of road (between Rhosdeglia and Gryliss) before disappearing as the route continues towards Llanfihangel Nant Melan and beyond. The under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) is prominent in views west from the stretch between Rhosdeglia and Gryliss, seen at a distance of 1.5 km and beyond. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of other operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the Rolling Hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNR133) which the central section of the road passes through notes there are attractive views " <i>out to higher land, open hills and across valleys</i> ". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be long-distance oblique views towards the Proposed Development in the south-west from along the stretch of road between Rhosdeglia and Gryliss, where the roadside vegetation is low or absent. All of the turbines will be seen at a distance of approximately 8 km by road users travelling in both directions; however, due to the speed at which vehicles will be travelling along this road, views will generally be brief and incidental. As illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 20, the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped distant skyline. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement, and they will sit relatively uniformly along the skyline. They will be seen in a similar direction to the turbines associated with Hendy Wind Farm which will appear more prominent than the Proposed Development, due to being approximately 6.5 km closer. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The scale of visual effect during operation is therefore judged to be small for users travelling along this short stretch of the A44 as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and an oblique angle. From other stretches of the A44, the scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the short stretch of the A44 between Rhosdeglia and Gryliss.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
High					

Road users of the A44						
		from the short stretch of the A44 between Rhosdegla and Gryliss.				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor effect from the short stretch of the A44 between Rhosdegla and Gryliss.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant) from the short stretch of the A44 between Rhosdegla and Gryliss.	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road; therefore, the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen less than 0.7 km in views north/east from the road. Both Nant Mithil and the Proposed Development at Aberedw will be briefly seen at the same time. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different part of the view; resulting in the turbines of both developments and the existing Hendy Wind Farm to partially encircle the road in places (although this would still largely occur without Aberedw in place); - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a less prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as Aberedw will be over 7 km further away than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 2.5 Road users of the A4081

Road users of the A4081							
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	10.4 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 24: A4081 at Llanyre		
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44 - Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS145 - Lower Ithon valley	Designated Landscape	No		
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The A4081 is a single carriageway running through the north-west of the study area. Its western extent begins near Doldowlod, branching east off the A470. It runs directly east towards Llandrindod Wells, where it loops along the western settlement edge, before terminating at the A483. Travelling along the route from the west, views are initially heavily screened by dense forestry for a short stretch as the road bends around Dol-y-fan Hill before opening up to afford oblique views to the south-east that look across pastoral fields and blocks of woodland as the route curves north. The views extend beyond these foreground elements towards the distinctive form of Carneddau, as well as other upland forms that extend across the horizon including Aberedw Hill and Gilwern Hill. After the B4358 junction, the road sharply turns to the north towards Llanyre. Along this stretch intermittent oblique rural views to the east and south-east extend over Llandrindod Wells towards the low wooded hills just beyond, including Little Hill and Careg-Wiber Bank appearing directly east. Beyond these, the upland forms of Gilwern Hill and Carneddau extend to the south-east on the horizon (which are seen more clearly by those travelling southbound), with part of Aberedw Hill also visible between these two upland forms (although its eastern extent is obscured by Carneddau). Approaching Llandrindod Wells, direct views to the east are open, with the settlement expanding across lower ground, and the rising forms of Gilwern Hill, Mynyddyrheol and Bwlch-y-cefn Bank seen beyond. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the south-east (over 4 km away).						
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Lower Ithon valley VSAA (RDNRVS145) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to adjacent hills"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.						
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High		
	Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be intermittent long-distance oblique views towards the Proposed Development in the south-east from along the road where the roadside vegetation is low or absent. Some of the turbines will be seen on the distant skyline at distances of between 10.4 km and 11 km by road users travelling in both directions; however, due to the speed at which vehicles will be travelling along this road, views towards the Proposed Development will generally be incidental. As illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 24, the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped distant skyline. The intervening landform of Carneddau will play a role in obscuring turbines within the western part of the Site (although the extent of screening will change depending on the position of the receptor along the road). However, there will be views towards the towers, hubs and blades of the more central turbines which will breach the skyline in the distance. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) although will mostly appear at a similar height. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The scale of visual effect during operation is therefore judged to be small for users travelling along the A4081 where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views, as the Proposed Development will be seen at distance and an oblique angle. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from along the A4081 where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
Barely Perceptible		Low from along the A4081 where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation		A medium sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor effect from along the A4081 where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
		Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)

Road users of the A4081						
		from along the A4081 where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.				
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at distances of over 11 km in views east from the road. Both Nant Mithil and the Proposed Development at Aberedw will be briefly seen at the same time. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be similar in prominence to the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and Nant Mithil will be at similar distances to the road from the closest views. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

2.2 Road Users of Minor Roads

Table 2.6 Road users of the B4567

Road users of the B4567					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.3 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east and East	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 4: A470 at Aberduhonw can be used as a proxy
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The B4567 crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ RDNRVS141 - Wye floor, south of Rhayader ■ RDNRVS133 - Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The B4567 is a single carriageway following the River Wye's eastern bank downstream from Builth Wells. It is oriented in a north-to-south/south-east direction, and runs parallel to the A470 on the opposite side of the river. The road passes through the centre of the study area, with the first half of the stretch following close to the western edge of the Site. The northerly terminus connects with the A481 east of Llanellwedd while the south-easterly terminus intersects with the B4594 south of the community of Llandeilo Graban. Southbound travel from the A481 junction offers direct views towards the south-western part of Aberedw Hill, and open views across the wider valley to the south-west, including the upland forms of the wooded Garth Hill, and Banc y Celyn. In this location the Builth Wells Substation is nestled within adjacent farmland along the western edge of the road and clearly visible in the foreground. As the road descends from the junction the views to the east become more limited due to intervening topography, although intermittent oblique views of Aberedw Hill are afforded due to gaps in the roadside vegetation. Continuing southwards, views are briefly enclosed along Glanwye View but become open with prolonged close views of Aberedw Hill to the east, Banc y Celyn to the west and Llandeilo Hill to the south-west as the road skirts around the western edge of the Site. Between the hamlet of Llanfaredd and village of Aberedw, views consist of the valley floor with pastoral fields, while long-distance views east and west are limited by the steep valley sides frequently clothed with woodland. Beyond the village of Aberedw the dense roadside vegetation limits outward views for those travelling to the south. However, for road users traveling north along the stretch of road that skirts the edge of Llandeilo Hill, there are direct views of Aberedw Hill. The presence of vertical man-made elements on the skyline are present along the route through the presence of multiple overhead lines mounted on wooden poles which cross or run adjacent to the road and partly detract from the rural views. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the <i>"highly visible attractive main valley"</i> form part of its justification. The Rolling Hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNR133) notes that there are attractive views <i>"out to higher land, open hills and across valleys"</i>. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be prominent in views experienced by users of the B4567 given the proximity of the Proposed Development to the road and the elevated nature of Aberedw Hill for which it will be located on the top of. They will be visible to varying degrees, with intermittent filtering from roadside vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the road, as follows: ■ Oblique close views of the turbines within the western part of the Proposed Development will be experienced by road users travelling along the stretch of the road that runs parallel with the western Site boundary (between its junction with the A481 in the north and The Hall residence) when looking east. The turbines will appear prominent, seen at distances of between 1.3 km and 2 km, and will occupy approximately 45 degrees of the skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of T2, T3 and T5, and the hubs and blades of T4, and will be similar to the views illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 4. ■ Direct views of some of the turbines will be afforded to road users traveling north along the shorth stretch of the road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber (approximately 4.4 km away) and where the road crosses the River Edw (approximately 3.4 km away). The towers, hubs and blades of T1-T3, and the hubs and blades of T4, T5, T11 and T13 will be visible. Views of the Proposed Development will not be interrupted by intervening vegetation which is absent along the edge of this short stretch of road. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement, and they will sit relatively uniformly along the skyline. From the stretch of road between its junction with the A481 and The Hall residence, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium, as there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element in the view and seen at a close distance, although obliquely. From the stretch of road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber and the River Edw crossing, the scale of visual effect is also judged to be medium as the turbines will create distinct new elements on the skyline in direct views. From other stretches of the B4567, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. Duration/Reversibility				

Road users of the B4567						
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from the stretch of road between its junction with the A481 and The Hall residence, and from along the stretch of road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber and the River Edw crossing.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the stretch of road between its junction with the A481 and The Hall residence, and from along the stretch of road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber and the River Edw crossing.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the stretch of road between its junction with the A481 and The Hall residence, and from along the stretch of road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber and the River Edw crossing.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the stretch of road between its junction with the A481 and The Hall residence, and from along the stretch of road between the farmstead at Coed-yr-aber and the River Edw crossing.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, 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 this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 2.7 Road users of the B4520

Road users of the B4520					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	4 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east and East	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effects on the receptor.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 57 - Mynydd Epynt/SENTA LCA 59 - Southern Mynydd Epynt Valleys	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The B4520 crosses through several VSAA's, but the Site is visible from BRCKNVS731 - Duhonw Valley.	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The B4520 is a single carriageway that is situated to the south-west of the Site. It runs broadly from north to south, connecting Builth Wells in the north to Brecon in the south. It passes through the communities of Llanddewi'r Cwm, Llangynog, Upper Chapel, Lower Chapel, Pwllgloyw, and Llandefaelog Fach. The road gains elevation as it meanders southbound from Builth Wells, crossing River Duhonw near the small settlement of Llanddewi'r Cwm and continuing to run along the valley slopes of the Nant Gwyn. Views along this stretch consist of the rolling valley sides with pastoral fields and the upland form of the distinctive wooded Garth Hill and Aberedw Hill rising behind on the eastern and north-eastern horizon. Long-distance western views are limited by intervening topography, while views ahead are focused on the upland form of Banc y Celyn. From this stretch of the road, motorists travelling northwards and southwards experience oblique views of the Site until the road skirts along the western edge of Banc y Celyn which encloses views to the north-east. As the road winds along the upland valley slopes between Llangynog and Upper Chappel, the road users are afforded views of the remote landscape characterised by pastoral fields with angular conifer blocks forming distinctive, discordant features to the west. Beyond Upper Chappel, the road runs along the valley floor of River Honddu until reaching its southern terminus at Brecon. The views extend along the valley floor and become more enclosed due to the topography and woodland on the valley slopes, and along the river. As the road approaches Brecon, views open up southward, with the mountain range of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park forming the skyline. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen in long-distance views to the north-east from a small stretch of the road (over 17 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as people travelling on local road routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Duhonw Valley VSAA (BRCKNVS731), which the northern extent of the road passes through, notes that there are attractive views out "<i>to north and east</i>". The VSAA is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the road users is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation there will be slightly oblique views towards the Proposed Development in the east from along the stretch of road between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn, comprising the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6, and the hub and blades of T10-T13 visible. The turbines will be seen at a distance ranging between 4 km and 6.5 km by road users travelling in both directions. The views will mostly be open along this stretch although with occasional screening/ filtering by vegetation, particularly where the road crosses the River Duhonw. In views from the northern end of the road, the turbines will be seen above the distinctive landform of Garth Hill which obscures the profile of Aberedw Hill. However, as the road quickly gains elevation, Aberedw Hill is revealed in views and the Proposed Development will be clearly seen on top of it. Although the views will mostly be of an oblique nature, there will be brief direct views north as the road travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm (approximately 5.2 km away). From this location, views of the Proposed Development on top of Aberedw Hill will be framed by the historic buildings that line the road (including the Church of St David). The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. The scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium for users travelling along the B4520 between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but will be seen obliquely, and the scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well. From the short stretch of road that travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm, the scale of visual effect is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill and will be seen in the direct line of vision of motorists traveling north. From other stretches of the B4520, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and reversible as they will be dismantled and removed from the Site once the operational period has ceased. Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the short stretch of road that travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm and low-medium from the road between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn.				

Road users of the B4520						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the road between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn.	Medium from the short stretch of road that travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the short stretch of road that travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm. A medium sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the road between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the road between Builth Wells and Cwm-nant-gwyn.	Moderate (significant) from the short stretch of road that travels through the village of Llanddewi'r Cwm.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this road, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at distances of over 15 km and beyond in views north-east from the road. Both Nant Mithil and the Proposed Development at Aberedw will be briefly seen at the same time. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 9 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a cumulative effect of moderate (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

3. Assessment of Visual Effects on People Using Open Access Land, Walking Routes and Cycle Routes

3.1 Users of Open Access Land (and Users of Surrounding PRowWs within 5 km)

Table 3.1 Users of Open Access Land (Aberedw Hill, Llan-fraith Hill and Wylfre) and the PRowWs on the Site

Users of the Open Access Land (Aberedw Hill, Llan-fraith Hill and Wylfre) and the PRowWs on the Site						
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	The proposed turbines will be located on the open access land.	Direction of View to Proposed Development	All directions	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effects on the receptors.	
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS164 - Upland moor, Glaschw Hill	Designated Landscape	No	
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Site is predominantly covered with open bracken moorland, areas of acid dry heath/grassland and pasture, and is mostly designated as open access land. It contains the elevated undulating upland plateau of Aberedw Hill, its summit marked by a triangulation point at 451 m AOD, and the outlying summits of Wylfre and Llan-faith Hill in the east. The Site contains a comprehensive network of PRowWs, including footpaths and bridleways that cross the plateau and traverse the valley slopes, and it is also crossed by a small number of moorland access tracks. Users of the open access land and PRowWs are afforded with long distance panoramic views over the surrounding low-lying valleys, and distant uplands as follows: ■ Northerly views overlook the Cnithio Brook valley and extend across to the upland forms of Carneddau and Gilwern Hill. ■ Easterly views stretch across the River Edw valley towards the upland forms of Little Hill, Glaschw Hill, and Gwanceste Hill. ■ Southerly views overlook the upland forms of Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill, and Llandeilo Hill, with far-reaching views toward the hills of the Black Mountains to the south-east and the summits of Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park to the south-west. ■ Westerly views overlook the narrow River Wye valley with long-distance views spanning across the elevated and exposed undulating plateau of Mynydd Epynt, with its rolling hills, including Banc y Celyn. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen in views to the north-east (over 6 km away), and the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) is visible in views to the north-west (over 6.5 km away). There will also be longer-distance views towards the single operational turbine at Cefncynfal (35 m tip height) in views to the north-west (over 15 km away). Other operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance from the Site.					
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of Aberedw Hill. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the Upland moor, Glaschw Hill VSAA (RDNRVS164) which covers the open access land notes that there are attractive “long views in most directions”. The VSAA is deemed to have a ‘high’ overall evaluation and “attractive views” forms part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land and PRow on the Site, is judged to be medium-high					
	Low	Low-Medium		Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, the turbines will be dominant within the panoramic views, surrounding the receptors in places as they engage in outdoor recreation. The turbines will be close range, occupying up to all directions (particularly from the centre of the Site), and becoming very large and prominent features across the undeveloped skyline. The tracks between turbines, as well as the turbine crane pads and 'platforms', will also be very visible from the open access land of the Site. Open views will remain between the turbines meaning the distant views across adjoining uplands can continue to be appreciated. There will also be clear views of the substation from a PRow that traverses the steep northern slope of Aberedw Hill, although the topography will restrict views from other parts of the Site given that it will be located at the foot of the slope. The scale of effect during operation is therefore judged to be large across the entire open access land and PRow network within the Site, predominantly due to the proximity of turbines in views from most directions. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the construction compounds and borrow pits will be restored/ vegetation reinstated, but other parts of the Proposed Development will remain for the long-term (beyond 10 years). The long-term changes will be partially reversible as the turbines, substation and crane pads 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be high from the entirety of the open access land and PRow across the Site.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High

Users of the Open Access Land (Aberedw Hill, Llan-fraith Hill and Wylfre) and the PRowS on the Site						
						from the entirety of the open access land and PRow across the Site.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the entirety of the open access land and PRow across the Site.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the entirety of the open access land and PRow across the Site.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 25 km to the north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at distances of 8 km and beyond in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, depending on the position of the receptor using the open access land/ PRow on the Site; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, given that the turbines will be located on the open access land that the receptor will experience the views from, and therefore over 8 km closer than Nant Mithil. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 25 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a cumulative visual effect of major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.2 Users of the Open Access Land at Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill (including users of the PRowS to the north and north-west of the Site and within 5 km)

Users of the Open Access Land at Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill (including users of the PRowS to the north and north-west of the Site and within 5 km)					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South/ South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 2: A481 at Matts Common Viewpoint 6: Perthi Common Viewpoint 8: Carneddau Viewpoint 11: Castle Bank
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40 Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS112 - Upland moor, north of Hundred House RDNRVS133 - Rolling hills, central south-east RDNRVS107 - Rocky moorland, Gilwern Hill	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These areas of open access land are located to the north and north-west of the Site. Panoramic views are afforded from all three areas with Aberedw Hill forming a prominent landform in the mid-distance (and clear views of the Site). The open access land at Perthi Common is a small, undulating upland area extending west of Llansantffraed-in-Elwel, and is the closest of the three areas to the Site (approximately 1.5 km away). It is contained to the north by the Camnant Brook and to the south by the Colwyn Brook. To the north, rural views stretch across the pastoral valley floor of the Camnant Brook, towards the distinctive Castle Bank and further beyond towards Gilwern Hill. To the south, the panoramic rural view extends across the pastoral and wooded valley, with the prominent Aberedw Hill on the horizon and with most of the Site clearly visible. To the north-west of the Site (approximately 2.2 km away) is the open access land at Carneddau, characterised by heath and rough grassland. PRowS run along the eastern and north-western edges and traverse the southern edge. The south-facing slopes offer panoramic rural views of Aberedw Hill, particularly from the prominent elevated peaks of Caer Fawr and Caer Einion, and views stretching south-west across the Wye Valley and to Builth Wells. On the north-facing slopes, views extend across the Dulus Brook valley, with north-easterly views extending across the Colwyn Brook valley towards Castle Bank and Gilwern Hill which are seen in the mid-ground. There are distant views towards Llandegley Rocks with Radnor Forest seen beyond. The open access land at Gilwern Hill (approximately 3.2 km away) comprises upland moorland and unimproved grazing. Immediate views focus on the vast upland complex, with south and south-east facing slopes affording panoramic and rural views of Aberdw Hill, particularly from the prominent, dual-peaked Castle Bank. To the south and south-east, views extend over the pastoral Camnant Brook Valley and Edw Valley. From Castle Bank, northerly and north-easterly views are focused on the summits of Gilwern Hill and Gelli Hill. As well as those that cross the summits and traverse the slopes of the open access land, other PRowS run in between the areas and traverse lower valley slopes to the north and north-west of the Site. Users of these routes are afforded with similar views to those described above, although are more intermittent due to intervening vegetation seen along their routes. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Tremaen (27 m blade tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the south-east, south and south-west (under 1 km away from Carneddau and beyond 2.8 km from Perthi Common and Gilwern Hill). The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) are also visible to the north-east at distances of between 5 km and 9 km, from parts of the north and north-east-facing slopes on the open access land at Carneddau and Gilwern Hill.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, all the VSAAs that cover the open access areas note that there are attractive views out to uplands and across valleys. All of the VSAAs are deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of their justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land and surrounding PRowS is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, all 18 turbines will extend across the skyline in views from the summits and south-facing slopes of Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, and from the PRowS that run between these two areas. The closest turbines of T6 and T12 will be seen at distances of 2.2 km and 3.2 km from Carneddau and Gilwern Hill respectively. The turbines will occupy approximately 40-50 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoints 8 and 11. The crane pads and the tracks between turbines will largely be obscured by the landform of Aberedw Hill, although from Carneddau those in the east (T3 and T5) and west (T14 and T18) will be visible. Similar views of the Proposed Development will also be experienced from Perthi Common and its surrounding PRowS, although slightly less will be seen given the lower elevation of the open access land and with it being closer to the foot of the slopes of Aberedw Hill. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers of T4 - T6 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for T1 – T3, T7 and T8 (as well as the crane pads and the tracks between turbines). The closest turbine will be seen at a distance of 1.5 km from Perthi Common, and the turbines will occupy approximately 60-80 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, and be prominent in views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoints 2 and 6.				

Users of the Open Access Land at Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill (including users of the PRoWs to the north and north-west of the Site and within 5 km)						
	The views from all three areas will be unimpeded due to the open and elevated nature of the open access areas. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that the turbines will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height in the views south from Perthi Common and Gilwern Hill. However, the spacing of the turbines will appear to be more consistent and even, resulting in a slightly more balanced visual arrangement in views to the south-east from Carneddau. There may be glimpsed views of the substation in views from all three areas, although the intervening vegetation will likely limit views of it. From the summits and south-facing slopes of Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, as well as surrounding PRoWs where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as the turbines will be seen, extending across 40-80 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity and may be seen in a direct line of vision (depending on the receptor's direction of travel). The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills and will affect the panoramic rural views experienced by people as they engage in outdoor recreation. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines, substation and crane pads 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be high from the summits and south-facing slopes of Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, as well as surrounding PRoWs where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High from the summits and south-facing slopes of Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, as well as surrounding PRoWs where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the summits and south-facing slopes of Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, as well as surrounding PRoWs where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the summits and south-facing slopes of Perthi Common, Carneddau and Gilwern Hill, as well as surrounding PRoWs where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> 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 21 km to the north and north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be frequent sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 8-10 km away in views north-east from the open access areas of Gilwern Hill and Carneddau, although will be obscured by intervening landform from Perthi Common. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in opposite directions; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be closer than Nant Mithil from the open access areas Gilwern Hill and Carneddau (by approximately 5 km and 8 km respectively). Taking the above into consideration, there is a clear interaction between the two wind farms seen in different directions. The magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.3 Users of the Open Access Land at Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill (including users of PRowS to the south and south-east of the Site and within 5 km)

Users of the Open Access Land at Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill (including users of PRowS to the south and south-east of the Site and within 5 km)					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	2 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North/ North-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 7: Twm Tobacco’s Grave on Llandeilo Hill Viewpoint 14: Unnamed lane, north-east of Llanbedr Hill Viewpoint 10: Rhulen, south east of Aberedw is representative of the lower-lying PRowS to the south-east of the Site
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 50 - Aberedw Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS164 - Upland moor, Glascwm Hill RDNRVS106 - Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These interconnected areas of open access land are located to the south and south-east of the Site. Panoramic views are afforded from all four areas with Aberedw Hill forming a prominent landform in the mid-distance (and clear views of the Site). The areas are characterised by upland hills and plateaus with moorland punctuated by numerous upland pools. These hills also contain a number of distinctive rock outcrops and are traversed by numerous PRowS that cross the summits and run along the slopes. The summits of Red Hill and Llandeilo Hill are marked by triangulation points at 509 and 479 m AOD. From the north and north-west facing slopes, panoramic views look across the rolling pastoral landscape of the River Edw valley, with the prominent form of Aberedw Hill (including Wylfre and Llan-fraith Hill) rising on the opposing valley side and more distant views towards other upland areas including the undulating plateau of Mynydd Epynt, with its rolling hills, including Banc y Celyn. Other upland forms are seen in views in all other directions. Views to the south-west overlook the low-lying Wye valley (and associated tributary valleys), with distant vistas extending to the summits within the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park. Views spanning east to south stretch across the rolling upland farmland, revealing the distinctive forms of Hergest Ridge to the east and Roundabout Hill to the south. Long-distance views to the south-east look towards the distinctive peaks of the Black Mountains. The PRowS that cross the summits and traverse the slopes of the open access land, and extend further north/ north-west along the lower slopes of the River Edw valley and nearer to the Site. Views from these sections of the PRowS are more contained by the surrounding landforms and intermittent due to intervening vegetation seen along their routes. In some northerly views from Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen (over 10 km away). Other operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation points on the top of Red Hill and Llandeilo Hill. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Upland moor, Glascwm Hill VSAA (RDNRVS164) notes that there are attractive “<i>long views in most directions</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a ‘high’ overall evaluation and “<i>attractive view</i>” forms part of its justification. The Rocky moorland, Llandeilo Hill VSAA (RDNRVS106) also notes that there are attractive views “<i>out across valleys to other hills</i>” and is deemed to have a ‘high’ overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land and surrounding PRowS is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, all 18 turbines will be visible to varying degrees across the open access land at Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill. The closest turbine (T7) will be seen at distances of between 2.5 and 5.5 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 40-50 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoints 7 and 14. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. Most of the crane pads and tracks between turbines will also be visible. The nature of the views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the open access land, as intervening landform will restrict or limit views in places. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the summits and the north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill. From lower elevations of the open access land, the topography of Aberedw Hill will screen some of the turbine towers, although the hubs and blades of most turbines will still be clearly visible in north/ north-westerly views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 10. From the summits and north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as all the turbines will be seen extending across 40-50 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity and may be seen in a direct line of vision (depending on the receptor’s direction of travel or by those appreciating the views form the triangulation points). The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills and will affect the panoramic rural views experienced by people as they engage in outdoor recreation. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u>				

Users of the Open Access Land at Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill (including users of PRowS to the south and south-east of the Site and within 5 km)						
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines and crane pads 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). Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be high from the summits and north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High from the summits and north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the summits and north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the summits and north/ north-west facing slopes of Red Hill, Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 29 km to the north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 10 km and beyond in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within the same undeveloped part of the view, depending on the position of the receptor using the open access land/ PRow on the Site; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 7.5 km closer than Nant Mithil. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 28 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.4 Users of the Open Access Land at Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill (including users of PRowS to the north-east and east of the Site and within 5 km)

Users of the Open Access Land at Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill (including users of PRowS to the north-east and east of the Site and within 5 km)					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	2.4 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-west/ West/ North-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint from the areas of open access land - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effects on the receptors. Viewpoint 5: NCN 825 near Cregrina is representative of the lower-lying PRowS to the east of the Site.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 50 - Aberedw Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS164 - Upland moor, Glascwm Hill	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These interconnected areas of open access land are located to the east and north-east of the Site. Panoramic views are afforded from all three areas with Aberedw Hill forming a prominent landform in the mid-distance (and clear views of the Site). The areas are characterised by upland hills and plateaus, dissected by upland brooks, creating a rugged and elevated terrain. The summits are crossed by PRowS. From the west and south-west facing slopes, panoramic views look across the rolling pastoral landscape of the River Edw valley, with the prominent form of Aberedw Hill (including Wylfre and Llan-fraith Hill) rising on the opposing valley side and more distant views towards other upland areas including Carneddau. Other upland forms are seen in views in all other directions. This includes the distinctive upland forms of Rhulen Hill and Llanbedr Hill which rise on the horizon in views south, whilst there are distant views to summits within the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park to the south-west. Northerly views extend toward Gwanceste Hill, with the Radnor Forest Complex visible in the distance, and easterly views span the rolling upland farmland, encompassing the distinctive upland hills of Hergest Ridge. The PRowS that cross the summits and traverse the slopes of the open access land, and extend further west along the lower slopes of the River Edw valley and nearer to the Site. Views from these sections of the PRowS are more contained by the surrounding landforms and intermittent due to intervening vegetation seen along their routes. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Upland moor, Glascwm Hill VSAA (RDNRVS164) which covers the areas of open access land notes that there are attractive “<i>long views in most directions</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a ‘high’ overall evaluation and “<i>attractive view</i>” forms part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land and surrounding PRowS is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, all 18 turbines will be clearly visible at a comparable elevation to the summits of the open access land at Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill. The closest turbines on top of Wylfre (T16, T17 and T18) will be seen at distances of between 2 km and 4 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 45 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. T7 and T8 will appear as slight outliers from the rest of the turbines and will sit lower in the landscape, largely seen against a backdrop comprising the landform of the Site. Most of the crane pads and tracks between turbines will also be visible. There may be glimpsed views of the substation in views from the top of Little Hill, although the intervening landform and vegetation will likely limit views of it. The nature of the view towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the open access land, as intervening landform will restrict or limit views in places. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the summits and the west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill. In westerly views from the most elevated areas, the lower portions of the turbine towers will be seen against a backdrop comprising the landform of the Site and the distant landscape beyond. From lower elevations of the open access land, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower valley slopes, the topography of Aberedw Hill will screen some of the turbine towers, although the hubs and blades of all turbines will still be clearly visible in westerly views, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 5. From the summits and west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as the turbines will be seen extending across 45 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity and may be seen in a direct line of vision (depending on the receptor's direction of travel). The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills and will affect the panoramic rural views experienced by people as they engage in outdoor recreation. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines, substation and crane pads 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be high from the summits and west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.				

Users of the Open Access Land at Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill (including users of PRoWs to the north-east and east of the Site and within 5 km)						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High from the summits and west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill, as well as from the sections of PRoWs that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the summits and west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill, as well as from the sections of PRoWs that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the summits and west/ south-west facing slopes of Little Hill, Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill, as well as from the sections of PRoWs that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 25 km to the north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 6-9 km away in views north and north-east from the summits of the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in different directions; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a more prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be approximately 4 km closer than Nant Mithil. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 23 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.5 Users of the Open Access Land at Garth (including users of PRoWs to the west of the Site and within 5 km)

Users of the Open Access Land at Garth (including users of PRoWs to the west of the Site and within 5 km)					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	2.7 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	East	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 9: Garth Hill Viewpoint 4: A470 at Aberduhonw is representative of the lower-lying PRoWs to the west of the Site.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 56: Northern Mynydd Epynt	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS529 - Wye Valley Slopes	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The open access land on Garth Hill is located to the west of the Site and east of Builth Wells. It comprises a distinctive rounded ridge and forms steep valley slopes south of the River Wye and to the west of the tributary Duhonw stream. The area is predominantly characterised by lowland dry acid grassland and woodland (which restricts access to its slopes), and its summit is crossed by a PRoW which ends at a triangulation point at 281 m AOD. Users of the open access land and PRoW are afforded with long distance panoramic views over the surrounding low-lying valleys, and towards uplands as follows: ■ From the summit easterly views overlook the narrow pastoral valleys of the River Wye and Duhonw, with the prominent form of Aberedw Hill rising on the opposing valley side in the mid-distance (with clear views of the Site), forming an expansive skyline, and curtailing longer distant views in this direction. ■ To the south and south-west, the immediate views encompass the pastoral landscape of the Duhonw valley, and extend across towards the elevated, exposed, and undulating plateau of Mynydd Epynt, with its rolling hills, including Banc y Celyn and Moelfre. ■ Westerly views overlook the town of Builth Wells with the River Wye seen meandering through the valley. ■ Northerly views reveal the flat valley floor of the River Wye, with the distinctive Llaelwedd Rocks seen on the opposing valley side and the distinctive peaks of Caer Fawr and Caer Einion (part of the wider Carneddau upland area) on the skyline. PRoWs also traverse the lower slopes of Garth, extending further east within the River Wye valley and nearer to the Site. Views from these sections of the PRoWs are more contained by the surrounding landforms and intermittent due to intervening vegetation seen along their routes. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Tremaden (27m blade tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the north-east, approximately 2.5 km away. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) are also visible to the north-east at a distance of approximately 11.5 km. Other operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of Garth Hill. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Wye Valley Slopes VSAA (BRCKNVS529) notes that there are attractive views out “<i>to...surrounding upland</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have an ‘outstanding’ overall evaluation and its justification states that “<i>Varied topography and steep slopes, rock outcrops, mature woodland and pastoral mosaic give the area a high scenic quality</i>”. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land and surrounding PRoWs is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, most of the turbines will be visible on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east from the open access land at Garth. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at a distance of approximately 2.7 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 35 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 9. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation), with the exception of the crane pads and tracks associated with T3 and T5. The clearest views will be from the summit of Garth Hill as they will be open and unimpeded. From here the towers, blades and hubs of T1 - T6, T11 and T12 will be prominent on the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers for T10, T13 and T14 (but with hubs and blades visible) and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The prominence of turbines will be similar in views from the PRoWs that traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley, although the topography of Aberedw will screen more of the turbines when seen from these lower-lying routes. From the east-facing hill side of Garth (which is largely inaccessible due to the density of woodland), views of the Proposed Development will be heavily filtered by intervening vegetation (even in winter). From the summit of Garth Hill, as well as from the sections of PRoWs that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as the turbines will be seen extending across 35 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity and may be seen in a direct line of vision (depending on the receptor's				

Users of the Open Access Land at Garth (including users of PRowS to the west of the Site and within 5 km)						
	direction of travel or by those appreciating the views from the triangulation point). The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hill and will affect the panoramic rural views experienced by people as they engage in outdoor recreation. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines and crane pads 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). Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be high from the summit of Garth Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High from the summit of Garth Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a major effect from the summit of Garth Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant) from the summit of Garth Hill, as well as from the sections of PRowS that extend along the lower slopes of the valley where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views.
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this open access land, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at a distance of approximately 15 km away in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within the same undeveloped part of the view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 12 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.6 Users of the Open Access Land at Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd

Users of the Open Access Land at Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd										
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	West	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 18: Llanfihangel Hill Viewpoint 23: Open access land on Mynd					
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS164 - Upland moor, Glascwm Hill RDNRVS108 - Upland moor, Radnor Forest	Designated Landscape	No					
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These areas of open access land are interconnected (with the exception of Mynd) and located to the north-east of the Site. They are characterised by upland hills and plateaus that are incised by upland brooks, including Gilwern Brook, and covered by moorland and punctuated by numerous upland pools. Numerous PRoWs and tracks cross the summits and run along the slopes. The summits of Gwaunceste Hill and Llanfihangel Hill are marked by triangulation points at 542 and 532 m AOD respectively. The outlying area at Mynd is located approximately 1.5 km to the north of the other areas and is similar in character, although is not crossed by a PRoW. Users of the open access land and PRoWs are afforded with long distance panoramic views over the surrounding low-lying valleys, and towards uplands as follows: The northern views are dominated by the Radnor Forest upland complex, while to the north-west, the views extend over the pastoral valley of the River Edw, backclothed with the upland forms of Gilwern Hill and Llandegley Rocks. Views east stretch across the rolling upland farmland, revealing the distinctive forms of Hergest Ridge. The hill summits offer sweeping southerly vistas that stretch over the pastoral valleys of the River Arrow and the River Wye, with distant views extending towards the uplands, culminating in the striking peaks of the Black Mountains. To the west, the views look across rolling upland forms in the foreground that are incised by narrow tributary stream valleys (including the Clas Brook). The rising forms of Aberedw Hill and Carneddau can be seen beyond extending across the skyline, and there are distant views towards the expansive, elevated moorlands of Mynydd Epynt. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.									
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation points on the top of Gwaunceste Hill and Llanfihangel Hill. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the VSAAs covering these areas of open access land note that there are attractive “<i>long views in most directions</i>”. The VSAAs are deemed to have a ‘high’ overall evaluation and “<i>attractive views</i>” forms part of their justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land 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 Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, most of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees in views from across the open access land at Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill and Colva Hill. The closest turbine (T17) will be seen at distances of between 5 km and 6 km from Gwaunceste Hill and Little Hill, between 7.5 and 9 km from Llanfihangel Hill and Colva Hill, and over 9.5 km from Mynd. The turbines will occupy approximately 10-15 degrees of the undeveloped skyline in westerly views, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoints 18 and 23. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. T7 and T8 will appear as slight outliers from the rest of the turbines and will sit lower in the landscape, largely seen against a backdrop comprising the landform of the Site. Most of the crane pads and tracks between turbines will also be visible. The nature of the views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the open access land, as the undulating landform will restrict or limit views in places. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd. From lower elevations of the open access land, the intervening upland forms in the foreground of views, will screen some of the turbines. From the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill and Little Hill, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill and may be seen in a direct line of vision (depending on the receptor's direction of travel or by those appreciating the views form the triangulation point at Gwaunceste Hill). The increased distance will slightly reduce the scale of visual effect to be on the lower end of medium from Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd as the scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a smaller proportion of the skyline. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines and crane pads 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u>									

Users of the Open Access Land at Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd						
	Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill and Little Hill, and low-medium from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd.	Medium from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill and Little Hill.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill and Little Hill.					
	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Llanfihangel Hill, Colva Hill and Mynd.	Moderate (significant) from the summits and upper west-facing slopes of Gwaunceste Hill, Little Hill, Llanfihangel Hill and Colva Hill.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 25 km to the north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 4-6.5 km away in views north and north-west from the summits of the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in different directions; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be similar in prominence to the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and Nant Mithil will be at similar distances to the open access land. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.7 Users of the Open Access Land at The Begwns

Users of the Open Access Land at The Begwns						
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	7 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 19: The Begwns Roundabout	
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 51: Painscastle Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS109 - Upland moor, south-east outliers	Designated Landscape	No	
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The open access land at The Begwns is located to the south-east of the Site and is predominantly characterised by unimproved grassland and upland moorland, punctuated by upland pools, and contains numerous springs that feed streams which run to the north and south. At the centre of the area is 'The Roundabout,' a wooded hilltop feature enclosed by a wall (the trees were planted to commemorate Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee) and a triangulation point at 281 m AOD is located just outside of it. The area is traversed by several PRowWs and is also crossed by minor roads. To the north, views overlook the River Bachawy valley and extend across the undulating upland landscape, towards an expansive skyline comprising the upland forms of Llandeilo Hill, Rhulen Hill and Llanbedr Hill (which obscure views of Aberedw Hill), and with Red Hill and Cefn Wylfre seen beyond. Easterly views span the rolling upland farmland. To the south, views are afforded over the narrow River Wye Valley with long-distance views to the distinctive peaks of the Black Mountains. To the west, views extend across the wooded slopes of the River Wye, with long-distance views of the elevated, exposed, and undulating plateau of Mynydd Epynt. The surrounding landform largely restricts views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Upper Pengarth (42 m blade tip height) is visible in views to the north-west, approximately 1.5 km away.					
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of The Begwns. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Upland moor, south-east outliers VSAA (RDNRVS109) notes that there are attractive views “<i>out to other hills and intervening lower land, including to Brecon Beacons</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land is judged to be medium-high.					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible from parts of the open access land and seen on the skyline above the intervening landforms of Llandeilo Hill, Rhulen Hill and Llanbedr Hill in views to the north-west. The closest turbine (T7) will be seen at distances of between 7 km and 9 km and the turbines will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 19. In the clearest views, the towers, hubs and blades of T9-T12 will appear on the skyline. The intervening topography will screen the turbine towers for T1-T3, T8, T13, T14 and T18 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of the views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the open access land, as the undulating landform will restrict or limit views in places. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the summits and upper north-facing slopes. From lower elevations of the open access land, the intervening upland forms in the mid-distance, will screen more of the Proposed Development. From the summits and upper north-facing slopes, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but seen at a distance and partly obscured by the intervening landforms of Llandeilo Hill, Rhulen Hill and Llanbedr Hill. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the open access land, due to intervening landform. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low-medium from the summits and upper north-facing slopes of The Begwns.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the summits and upper north-facing slopes Begwn.	Medium	Medium-High	High
	Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the summits and upper north-facing slopes of The Begwns.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)

Users of the Open Access Land at The Begwns						
			from the summits and upper north-facing slopes of The Begwns.			
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this open access land, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at a distance of approximately 15 km away in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a more noticeable component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be approximately 8 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual will remain low-medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.8 Users of the Open Access Land at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth

Users of the Open Access Land at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	7 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east/East/South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 21: Heart of Wales Line Trail at Moelfre is close by and is representative.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 53: Irfon Valley LCA 56: Northern Mynydd Epynt	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS731 - Duhonw Valley BRCKNVS503 - Irfon Valley East	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These areas of open-access land are discrete from one another and located broadly to the east of the Site. Panoramic views are afforded from all three areas with Aberedw Hill visible on the distant skyline in views to the west. The open access land at Moelfre (in the south of the group) is situated to the south-west of Builth Wells and is the closest of the three areas to the Site (approximately 7 km away). It comprises undulating upland hills that are incised by the Cneiddion tributary stream resulting in two summits (the eastern summit is marked by a triangulation point at 441 m AOD). The lower slopes of both hills are traversed by the Heart of Wales promoted route. This elevated area offers views over the pastoral, low-lying valleys, including the River Wye to the north and the River Duhonw to the south and east. Views to the east extend across towards Aberedw Hill. To the north-east, the view includes Builth Wells nestled in the valley, stretching towards the uplands of Carneddau and Gilwern Hill. Views south and south-east encompass the exposed and undulating plateau of Mynydd Epynt. The open access land at Comin Cefn-poeth (in the centre of the group) is a small upland hill located to the west of the village of Cilmeri and to the east of the Site (approximately 9.5 km away). The area is characterised by lowland dry acid grassland and is crossed by two PRoWs. There are views over the rolling pastoral valley in all directions, with views extending to upland forms in all directions including Aberdw Hill to the east, Banc y Cwm and Moelfre to the south, Drum Ddu to the north and the wooded Garn Wen to the west. The open access land at Comin-y-garth (in the north of the group) is a small upland hill, located between the valleys of the River Wye and Chwefri, and to the north-west of the Site (approximately 10 km away). There are views across the undulating pastoral river valley in all directions, with views east extending to the upland forms of Carneddau and south-east to Aberedw Hill. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Tremaen (27 m blade tip height) and the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110 m blade tip height) can be seen from the summit of Moelfre in views to the north-east (approximately 7 km and over 15 km away respectively). Other operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of Moelfre. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the VSAA that covers the open access areas note that there are attractive views out including to the surrounding uplands. The Duhonw Valley VSAA (BRCKNVS731) is deemed have a 'high' overall evaluation and its justification states that "<i>the area has high scenic qualities</i>". The Irfon Valley East VSAA (BRCKNVS503) has a 'moderate' overall evaluation and "<i>The gentle enclosed pastoral mosaic valley landscape with rivers and enclosure provided by woodlands and hedgerows give the area a scenic quality which is enhanced by the backcloth of the surrounding uplands...</i>" forms part of their justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, most of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees in views from the summits and east-facing slopes of the open access land at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth. The closest turbine (T3) from the summits of Moelfre and Cefn-poeth will be seen at distances of between 7 km and 10 km respectively, in north-easterly/ easterly views. The closest turbine (T6) from the summit of Comin-y-Garth will be seen at a distance of approximately 10 km in a south-easterly direction. The turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 21. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor on the open access land. The clearest views will be from the summit and east-facing slopes of Moelfre as views towards the Proposed Development will be open and unimpeded affording the towers, hubs and blades of all turbines to be seen on the skyline, except for T8 where the turbine tower will be screened by intervening topography (but with hubs and blades visible). As the other areas of open access land at Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth are at a lower elevation, the intervening topography will further screen the turbine towers for T8 and T14-T18 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for T7. From the summits and east-facing slopes at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but seen at a distance. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low-medium from the summits and east-facing slopes at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth.				

Users of the Open Access Land at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the summits and east-facing slopes at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth.	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the summits and east-facing slopes at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the summits and east-facing slopes at Moelfre, Cefn-poeth and Comin-y-garth.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 23 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at a distance of over 18 km away in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a more noticeable component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 8 km closer than Nant Mithil. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 27 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low-medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.9 Users of the Open Access Land at Llandegley Rhos

Users of the Open Access Land at Llandegley Rhos					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 22: Llandegley Rocks
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40 Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	- RDNRVS107 - Rocky moorland, Gilwern Hill - RDNRVS112 - Upland moor, north of Hundred House	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The areas of open access land at Llandegley Rhos are located to the north-east of the Site, comprising the summits of Llandegley Rocks and an unnamed upland area that extends from the western edge of the A44 and is bordered by the River Edw to the south. The area is predominantly characterised by lowland dry acid grassland and lowland heathland with distinctive rock outcrops. The areas are traversed by PRoWs which cross the summits and traverse the slopes, and the summit of Llandegley Rocks is marked by a triangulation point at 436 m AOD. Users of the open access land and PRoWs are afforded with long distance panoramic views over the surrounding low-lying valleys, and towards uplands as follows: - Views north and east encompass the rolling pastoral Mithil Brook valley and extend towards the upland forms of Coed-swydd and the Radnor Forest which forms an extensive skyline. - Views to the south and south-west are generally open from elevated parts of the open access land where rolling pastoral valleys interspersed with woodland are backclothed by the more distant landforms of Gwauncestre Hill, Little Hill, and Aberedw Hill. - Westerly views from Llandegley Rocks look across the expansive rolling pastoral and wooded landscape towards the upland forms of Castle Bank and Cwm-brith Bank and to distant uplands beyond. Views west from the unnamed upland area are curtailed by the undulating landform of Llandegley Rocks. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) are prominent as they are visible immediately to the south/ south-west, although they sit low in the River Edw valley and do not breach the skyline. The single operational turbine at Cefncynfal (35 m blade tip height) is also visible in views to the north-west (over 7 km away). There are also longer distance views to the north of the operational Garreg Llwyd Hill Wind (17 turbines at 126.5 m blade tip height) seen over 16 km away. Other operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of Llandegley Rocks. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, both of the VSAA's that cover the open access areas note that there are attractive views out to hills and across valleys. Both of the VSAA's are deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of their justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, all 18 turbines will extend across the skyline in views from the summits and elevated south-facing slopes of the open access land at Llandegley Rhos. The closest turbine (T16) will be seen at distances of between 8 km and 9 km, and the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the distant skyline, as illustrated by the visualisation from Viewpoint 22. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). Most of the crane pads and tracks between turbines will also be visible in the distance. The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary due to the undulating nature of the open access land areas. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the central summit and south-facing slopes at Llandegley Rocks and the south-facing slopes within the north-western part of the unnamed upland area (adjacent to the A44). However, the Proposed Development will be seen in the same direction and above the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) which interrupt the foreground of views to the south/ south-west. The turbines of Hendy Wind Farm will appear more prominent than the Proposed Development, due to being over 7 km closer. From the summits and south-facing slopes of Llandegley Rhos, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but seen at a distance and behind the turbines of Hendy Wind Farm. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the open access land, due to intervening vegetation and landform. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development will be long-term (beyond 10 years) and partially reversible as the turbines and crane pads 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). Overall Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low-medium from the summits and south-facing slopes of Llandegley Rhos.				

Users of the Open Access Land at Llandegley Rhos						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the summits and south-facing slopes of Llandegley Rhos.	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the summits and south-facing slopes of Llandegley Rhos.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the summits and south-facing slopes of Llandegley Rhos.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 18 km to the north-west and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen over 1.8 km in views north-east/east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different part of the view; resulting in the turbines of both developments and the existing Hendy Wind Farm to partially encircle the receptors (although this would still largely occur without Aberedw in place); ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a less prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as Aberedw will be over 7 km further away than Nant Mithil. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 15 km to the north but at this distance interactions between the Proposed Development at Aberedw and this proposed wind energy development will be limited. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low-medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.10 Users of the Open Access Land at Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt and Cefn Clawdd

Users of the Open Access Land at Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt and Cefn Clawdd					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	8.5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effect on receptors.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 57: Mynydd Epynt/SENTA	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS006 - Cefn Gledwen and Banc y Celyn uplands	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	These interconnected areas of open-access land are located to the south-west of the Site and are characterised by rolling upland hills that are incised by upland brooks and punctuated by several small upland pools. They are crossed by several PRowS and tracks, and the summit of Cefn Llwydallt is marked by a triangulation point at 415 m AOD. Users of the open access land and PRowS are afforded with sweeping, panoramic views across the plateau and valleys as follows: ■ To the north, views are afforded of the elevated hills and ridges, including Banc y Celyn and Moelfre. There are also long-distance views towards the Cambrian Mountains to the north-west. ■ Easterly views extend across the rolling pastoral River Wye valley towards the uplands of Rhulen Hill, Llanbedr Hill and Llandeilo Hill in the north-east, with Aberedw Hill rising behind to form the skyline (with the Site clearly visible). ■ Southerly views are partly limited by the large conifer plantation at Brycheiniog Forest (which abuts Cefn Clawdd to the south), although long-distance vistas are available from Cefn Llwydallt, that stretch across pastoral farmland, interspersed with woodland blocks, and distant views reaching the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park. ■ Westerly views stretch over the upland valleys of the River Honddu, Ysgir Fawr and Ysgir Fechan. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of Cefn Llwydallt. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the Cefn Gledwen and Banc y Celyn uplands VSAA (BRCKNVS006) that covers the areas of open access land notes that there are attractive views “<i>out to Brecon Beacons...</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a ‘moderate’ overall evaluation, and the “<i>attractive long views to the Beacons</i>” forms part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the users of the open access land is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, all 18 turbines will extend across the skyline in views from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd. The closest turbine (T1) will be seen at a distances of between 8.5 km and 11 km, and the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped distant skyline. The positioning of the turbines means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring). There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The views towards the Proposed Development will be clear from across the majority of the open access land due to its elevated and open nature, although the towers the north-westernmost turbines will be partly screened by the intervening landform of Banc y Celyn when seen from Cefn Gledwen (but with hubs and blades visible). From the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but seen at a distance. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low-medium from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd.	Medium	Medium-High

Users of the Open Access Land at Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt and Cefn Clawdd						
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Cefn Gledwen, Cefn Llwydallt, and Cefn Clawdd.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 35 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be frequent sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height). Although it will be seen at a distance of over 20 km away, it will appear directly behind the Proposed Development at Aberedw in views north-east from the open access land. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within the same undeveloped part of the view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the two proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a more noticeable component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 12 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low-medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

3.2 Users of Promoted Walking and Cycle Routes

Table 3.11 Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 825 (including users of the Open Access Land at Hundred House Common)

Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 825 (including users of the Open Access Land at Hundred House Common)					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South/ West	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 3: A481 at Hundred House Viewpoint 5: NCN 825 near Cregrina Viewpoint 13: Unamed lane at Bettws
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister: Penybont Uplands LCA 54: Aberedw Valley	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	NCN Route 825 crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: RDNRVS133 - Rolling hills, central south-east; and RDNRVS127- Upland valley, Edw & adjacent.	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	NCN Route 825 is a long-distance cycle path that starts in Llandrindod Wells and ends in Kington, traversing the study area in a general northwest-to-east direction. The route winds through rolling hills and meandering river valleys. From Llandrindod Wells, the route winds through the River Ithon valley, running eastward past Castle Bank before turning south through the pastoral landscape with views framed by the upland valley. The route briefly follows the River Edw towards the settlement of Frank's Bridge, revealing views of the upland Aberedw Hill to the south and the distinct, rounded form of Little Hill the south-east in the mid-distance. The views open up approaching the village of Hundred House revealing the forms of Gwaunceste Hill to the east and Carneddau in oblique views. To the south, Aberedw Hill stands as a prominent upland feature, with the Site clearly visible ahead. The route then descends through Hundred House Common and the village of Hundred House, turning south-east to skirt past Aberedw Hill, with the Site visible in oblique views. It then turns south and north-east, ascending through the uplands and skirting between Little Hill and Glascwm Hill. The route then turns broadly eastwards through upland moorlands before descending toward Kington. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Penllanerch (34.5 m blade tip height) is briefly visible, seen at a distance of 0.6 km from the southern extent of the cycle route. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) are also visible intermittently from the northern-central extent of the cycle route near Bwlch-llwyn Bank, seen at a distance of 1.2 km within the nearest views.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of the cyclists using NCN Rot is judged to be medium as cyclists travelling on local road and trail routes are likely to be focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the VSAA's note there are attractive views out to the surrounding hills and valleys. The Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133) is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, while the Upland valley, Edw & adjacent VSAA (RDNRVS127) is afforded a 'high' overall evaluation, although views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of their justifications. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors using NCN Route 825 is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from parts of NCN Route 825, with intermittent filtering from intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the route, as follows: For users travelling along the route from Glascwm towards Cregrina, there will be brief direct views of the turbines between the properties at Busnant and Rhos (although partly obscured by rising landform and filtered by intervening vegetation) before being seen obliquely as the route bends to the north towards Hundred House. From this stretch (between Cregrina and Hundred House) in both directions, the proximity of the Proposed Development (approximately 1.1 km to 2 km) will result in the turbines to be prominent, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoints 3 and 5, occupying approximately 60 degrees of the skyline, although views will be intermittent in places due to intervening roadside vegetation and buildings. There will also be clear views of the access track as it will be adjacent to the edge of the route, although views towards it will be relatively brief and incidental. Similar views will also be afforded from where the route crosses Hundred House Common, although for users travelling south bound the views will be direct and generally unimpeded. Direct views of the turbines will be experienced by cyclists travelling south along the stretch of the route between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge. Along this stretch, Aberedw Hill forms a distinctive backdrop and the turbines will be seen upon it at distances of between 3 km and 7 km. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 35 degrees of the expansive skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of T9-T18, and the hubs and blades of T1-T6, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 13. The direct views of the Proposed Development will be relatively prolonged, although with occasional filtering from intervening vegetation. From the stretch of the route where it crosses Hundred House Common (when looking south), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large as most of the turbines will be clearly seen in the direct line of vision, extending across approximately 60 degrees of the skyline, and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on the hills.				

Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 825 (including users of the Open Access Land at Hundred House Common)						
	The scale of effect is judged to slightly reduce to be on the higher end of medium from the stretch of the route between Cregrina and Hundred House as although the turbines will be clearly seen and will be in relatively close proximity, they will mostly be seen obliquely and in some cases intermittently. From the stretch between Busnant and Rhos (east of Cregrina) the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium as the turbines will be seen in a direct line of vision and in close proximity (seen at a distance of approximately 2 km) but will be partly interrupted by intervening landform and vegetation. From the stretch of the route between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge, the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be medium, as although views will be intermittent in places (seen in gaps between intervening vegetation), there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element in the view. Although the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance of over 3 km, views of the turbines will be relatively prolonged and seen in a direct line of vision by cyclists travelling south. From other stretches of NCN Route 825, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be: ■ high from the stretch of the route where it crosses Hundred House Common (when looking south); ■ medium-high from the stretch of the route between Cregrina and Hundred House; and ■ medium from the stretches of the route between the properties at Busnant and Rhos (east of Cregrina) and between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the stretches of the route between the properties at Busnant and Rhos (east of Cregrina) and between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge.	Medium-High from the stretch of the route between Cregrina and Hundred House.	High from the stretch of the route where it crosses Hundred House Common (when looking south).
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a moderate-major effect from the stretch of the route where it crosses Hundred House Common (when looking south). A medium sensitivity combined with a medium-high magnitude is also judged to result in a moderate-major effect from the stretches of the route between Cregrina and Hundred House. A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the stretches of the route between the properties at Busnant and Rhos (east of Cregrina) and between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the stretches of the route between the properties at Busnant and Rhos (east of Cregrina) and between Bwlch-llwyn and Frank's Bridge.	Moderate-Major (significant) from the stretches of the route where it crosses Hundred House Common (when looking south); and between Cregrina and Hundred House.	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> No other consented wind farms will be visible from this cycle route, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be some sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 4.5-8 km away in intermittent views east and north-east from the cycle route. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in opposite directions; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 3 km closer than Nant Mithil when seen from the closest views to each development. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate-major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.12 Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 8

Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 8					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	2.7 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	East/South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells Viewpoint 17: NCN 8 near Cilmerly
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44 -Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 55 - Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	NCN Route 8 crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: BRCKNVS196 - Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes; and BRCKNVS920 - Upper Wye Valley.	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	NCN Route 8 is a 243-mile cycling route connecting Cardiff and Holyhead along riverside paths, forest trails and mountain routes. It enters the study area north of Rhayader, roughly following the course of the River Wye, and ends at Builth Wells. From Rhayader, the route follows the River Wye, hugging the lower valley slopes, where it is typically enclosed by steep upland forms limiting outward views. It passes the base of Carn Gaffalt before continuing south-east past Dol-y-fan Hill and then turns west to ascend the slopes of Drum Ddu. As the elevation increases, the views become more expansive, stretching east over the Wye Valley, Llandrindod Wells, and the surrounding uplands, which form a dramatic, panoramic backdrop with Aberedw Hill visible to the south-east. To the north-east, the distinct shape of Dol-y-fan Hill stands out in the mid-distance. As the route approaches Builth Wells, views open up along the pastoral valley, with Aberedw Hill forming a prominent upland feature with the Site clearly visible in direct views. The route skirts the northern edge of Builth Wells with Aberedw Hill by this point, seen in oblique views eastwards. It crosses the Wye Bridge into the village of Llanelwedd, and runs along the edge of the River Wye, with views east looking along the wooded river corridor towards Aberedw Hill, and with oblique views north-east featuring the distinctive form of Llanelwedd Quarry. The surrounding landform restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium as cyclists travelling on local road and trail routes are likely to have some attention focused on the surrounding landscape, but views are transitory. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the VSAA's note there are attractive views out to the surrounding hills and valley sides. The Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes VSAA (BRCKNVS196) is deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and its justification states that the <i>"higher slopes allow attractive views to upland areas"</i>. The Wye floor, south of Rhayader VSAA (RDNRVS141) is also deemed to have a 'high' overall evaluation and the <i>"highly visible attractive main valley"</i> form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors using NCN Route 8 is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from parts of NCN Route 8, with intermittent filtering from intervening vegetation. The Proposed Development will be clearly seen from different stretches of the route, as follows: From the stretch of the road that crosses the Wye Bridge, the turbines will be seen at a distance of approximately 4 km and will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the skyline, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 12. Cyclists will experience oblique but open views of the turbines, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill, which forms a backdrop to the River Wye in the foreground. As cyclists travel through Builth Wells, intervening buildings and vegetation will heavily filter/ limit views of the Proposed Development. As the elevation and distance of the route from the Site increases, more of the turbines will become visible. Direct views of the turbines will be experienced by cyclists travelling south-east towards Builth Wells from Cmon Coch and will be relatively prolonged for approximately 5 km. Along this stretch, Aberedw Hill forms a prominent backdrop and the turbines will be seen upon it at distances of between 5 km and 10 km. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 20 degrees of the expansive skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of T1-T6, and the hubs and blades of T9-13 and T16, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 17. Sequential views will be mostly open, although some stretches of roadside hedgerow and belts of trees will filter the Proposed Development. From the stretch of the route that crosses the Wye Bridge, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium as views of the Proposed Development will be open and unimpeded but will be seen obliquely by cyclists. From the stretch of the route between Cmon Coch and Builth Wells the scale of visual effect during operation is also judged to be medium, as although views will be intermittent in places (seen in gaps between intervening vegetation), there will be a clearly perceptible change with the Proposed Development creating a distinct new element in the view. Although the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance of over 5 km, views of the turbines will be relatively prolonged and seen in a direct line of vision by cyclists travelling south-east. From other stretches of NCN Route 8, the scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible due to distance, and/ or intervening vegetation and/ or topography filtering views of the Proposed Development. Duration/Reversibility				

Users of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 8						
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from the stretch of the route that crosses the Wye Bridge and from the stretch of the route between Cmon Coch and Builth Wells.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the stretch of the route that crosses the Wye Bridge and from the stretch of the route between Cmon Coch and Builth Wells.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the stretch of the route that crosses the Wye Bridge and from the stretch of the route between Cmon Coch and Builth Wells.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the stretch of the route that crosses the Wye Bridge and from the stretch of the route between Cmon Coch and Builth Wells.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this cycle route, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen at distances of 16 km and beyond in views north-east from the cycle route. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a similar direction of view; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 12 km closer than Nant Mithil when seen from the closest views to each development. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 20 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate (significant) , and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 3.13 Users of the Wye Valley Walk (including users of the Open Access Land at Banc y Celyn and PRowS to the south-west of the Site within 5 km)

Users of the Wye Valley Walk (including users of the Open Access Land at Banc y Celyn and PRowS to the south-west of the Site within 5 km)										
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.3 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east/ East/ South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 16: Wye Valley Walk near Banc y Celyn					
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 44: Wye Valley (Rhayader to Builth Wells) LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The Wye Valley Walk crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: BRCKNVS006 - Cefn Gledwen and Banc y Celyn uplands BRCKNVS196 - Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes BRCKNVS731 - Duhonw Valley BRCKNVS529 - Wye Valley Slopes	Designated Landscape	No					
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Wye Valley Walk is a long-distance footpath (136 miles) broadly running north-west to south-east through the study area. It roughly follows the River Wye and users are afforded with varying views, that are at times intermittent due to the filtering provided by woodland within the valley. The route enters the study area north of Rhayader where it runs south-east along the valley floor with views contained by the steep valley sides. As it travels towards Newbridge-on-Wye the route briefly leaves the river, ascending its western valley side (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed), where the elevation affords views across the valley including towards the distinctive landform of Aberedw Hill (seen at a distance of approximately 11 km). The route then runs through the valley floor again, with views afforded across the river but with longer-distance views limited by vegetation along the river. After passing through Builth Wells the route ascends the uplands of Mynydd Epynt, including traversing the eastern slopes and open access land of Banc y Celyn. Its summit lies just over 1 km from the Wye Valley Walk and is marked by a triangulation point at 472 m AOD. From the upper eastern slopes and summit of Banc y Celyn, there are panoramic views over the surrounding lowlands, with Aberedw Hill extending across the skyline and appearing prominent in north-easterly views (seen less than 4 km away), and east towards the upland hills of Llandello Hill and Rhulen Hill, and with Cefn Wylfre and Glascwm Hill forming the distant horizon. The route then descends back to the valley floor with views of the surrounding uplands, including the northern fringes of the Black Mountains to the south-east. Other PRowS extend from the Wye Valley Walk and those to the south-west of the Site along the lower slopes of the River Wye valley are afforded with similar views although are slightly more contained by the surrounding landforms and intermittent due to intervening vegetation seen along their routes. The Wye Valley Walk continues to largely follow the river towards Hay-on-Wye before exiting the study area at Monnington-on-Wye. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the hubs and blades of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen in long-distance views to the north-east (over 15 km away).									
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Users of the open access land at Banc y Celyn will include visitors to the triangulation point on the top of its summit. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value as although they are not designated, the VSAA's note that there are attractive views out to the valley floor and uplands. The Wye Valley Slopes VSAA (BRCKNVS529) is deemed have an 'outstanding' overall evaluation and its justification states that <i>"Varied topography and steep slopes, rock outcrops, mature woodland and pastoral mosaic give the area a high scenic quality"</i>. Both the Wye Valley slopes and Cambrian fringes VSAA (BRCKNVS196) and the Duhonw Valley VSAA (BRCKNVS731) have a 'high' overall evaluation, and <i>"Higher slopes allow attractive views to upland areas"</i> and <i>"high scenic qualities"</i> forms part of their justifications respectively. The Cefn Gledwen and Banc y Celyn uplands VSAA (BRCKNVS006) is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, and the <i>"attractive long views to the Beacons"</i> forms part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of the receptors using the Wye Valley Walk (including the open access land at Banc y Celyn and surrounding PRowS) 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 Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, all of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from parts of the Wye Valley Walk and from the open access land at Banc y Celyn (that the promoted footpath provides access to). The clearest views will be from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land) as there will be open and unimpeded views of the turbines, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views north-east at a distance of between 3.6 km and 5.5 km. The Proposed Development will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the expansive skyline, and comprise the towers, hubs and blades of all turbines, as illustrated by the visualisations for Viewpoint 16. Similar views will also be afforded from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site. The turbines may be seen in direct views depending on the receptor's direction of travel across the open access land or by those appreciating the views from the triangulation point at the top of Banc y Celyn, whereas they will be seen more obliquely by those travelling along the promoted footpath in this area. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Overall, the									

Designated Landscape

No

Users of the Wye Valley Walk (including users of the Open Access Land at Banc y Celyn and PRowS to the south-west of the Site within 5 km)						
	scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land), as well from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site (where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views), because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill and may be seen in a direct line of vision. There will also be views of the Proposed Development in easterly and south-easterly directions from along the elevated stretch of the Wye Valley Walk that runs for approximately 2.5 km along the western valley sides to the north-west of Newbridge-on-Wye (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed). The turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the skyline and will be seen at a distance of over 10 km, and the turbines will be seen intermittently due to intervening vegetation. Therefore, the visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the promoted footpath, due to intervening vegetation (particularly along the edge of the River Wye) screening/ filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both medium from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land), as well as from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site (where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views); and low from along the elevated stretch of the Wye Valley Walk that runs for approximately 2.5 km along the western valley sides to the north-west of Newbridge-on-Wye (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low from along the elevated stretch of the Wye Valley Walk that runs for approximately 2.5 km along the western valley sides to the north-west of Newbridge-on-Wye (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed).	Low-Medium	Medium from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land), as well from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site (where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views).	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land), as well from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site (where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views). A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from along the elevated stretch of the Wye Valley Walk that runs for approximately 2.5 km along the western valley sides to the north-west of Newbridge-on-Wye (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from along the elevated stretch of the Wye Valley Walk that runs for approximately 2.5 km along the western valley sides to the north-west of Newbridge-on-Wye (around Upper Cefncoed and Ty'n-y-coed).	Moderate (significant) from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land), as well from the other PRowS that extend from the Wye Valley Walk and traverse the lower slopes of the River Wye valley to the south-west of the Site (where intervening vegetation does not screen/ filter views).	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> 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 30 km to the north from the summit and east-facing slopes of Banc y Celyn (including from along the Wye Valley Walk where it traverses the open access land) and will be barely perceptible at this distance. There will no/ limited visibility from other sections of the promoted footpath. Therefore, the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u>					

Users of the Wye Valley Walk (including users of the Open Access Land at Banc y Celyn and PRowS to the south-west of the Site within 5 km)	
	There are likely to be some sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height). Although seen at a distance of over 16 km away, it will appear directly behind the Proposed Development at Aberedw in views north-east from the open access land at Banc y Celyn. It will also be over 16 km from other elevated sections of the Wye Valley Walk. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within the same undeveloped part of the view from the open access land at Banc y Celyn, whilst being in a different undeveloped part of the view from other elevated sections of the Wye Valley Walk; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be over 8 km closer than Nant Mithil when seen from the open access land at Banc y Celyn, whilst being of similar prominence from other elevated sections of the Wye Valley Walk. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 30 km to the north-east from the open access land at Banc y Celyn and will be barely perceptible at this distance. There will no/ limited visibility of it from other sections of the promoted footpath. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.

Table 3.14 Users of the Heart of Wales Line Trail

Users of the Heart of Wales Line Trail					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	4 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South/South-east/East/North-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Viewpoint 21: Heart of Wales Line Trail at Moelfre
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	The Heart of Wales Line Trail crosses through several LCAs, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands ■ LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye) ■ LCA 56: Northern Mynydd Epynt	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The Heart of Wales Line Trail crosses through several VSAAs, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ RDNRVS117 - Moorland, east of Ithon ■ BRCKNVS731 - Duhonw Valley ■ RDNRVS133 - Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Heart of Wales Line Trail is a 141-mile long-distance route that winds between railway stations along the Heart of Wales Line, running from Craven Arms to Llanelli. It follows ridges and traverses valleys, staying within a few miles of the railway line. The trail traverses the study area from Knighton in the north-east to Llanwrtyd Wells in the south-west, passing through Penybont, Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells. On the eastern approach to Penybont in the north-east, the trail traverses the upland forms of Coed-swydd and Rhos-swydd (east of the village) where there are extensive views across the upland landscape to the south, including Llandegley Rocks which forms a distinctive skyline and largely obscures Aberedw Hill beyond. As the trail passes through Penybont and heads south-west towards Llandrindod Wells, it runs through the valley between the River Irlthon and River Wye where outward views are largely contained by the valley landform, limiting long distance views. As the trail departs Llandrindod Wells and heads south-west towards Newbridge-on-Wye, it runs through the pastoral valley of the River Ithon and crosses the river. Along this stretch, views encompass the surrounding valley landscape, and includes intermittent long distance views south-east towards Carneddau and Aberedw Hill (approximately 10 km away) which are seen along the skyline, while the upland complex of Duhonw Valley and Irfon Valley form the backdrop in views to the south. Upon leaving Newbridge on Wye, the trail doubles up with the Wye Valley Walk and follows the River Wye towards Builth Wells, with views afforded across the river but with longer-distance views limited by vegetation along the river. Once reaching Builth Wells, the route splits into two sections: one crosses the Wye Bridge and loops along the valley slopes of the River Wye between Llanelwedd and Builth Road Station, with Aberdew Hill clearly visible in the mid-distance from the south-east facing valley slopes. The other ascends south-west into the upland landscape of northern Mynydd Epynt, crossing the lower slopes associated with the open access land at Moelfre, with intermittent views revealing the distant forms of Gilwern Hill and Aberedw Hill to the north-east. It then descends west into the River Irfon valley, continuing past Llangammarch Wells and towards Llanwrtyd Wells. The surrounding landform and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines, although the single operational turbine at Ty Gwyn Farm (35 m tip height) is visible intermittently from elevated parts of the footpath, seen at a distance of 2.5 km within the nearest views. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) are also visible intermittently from elevated parts of the footpath, seen at a distance of 3.5 km within the nearest views.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced from this route are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, all VSAAs note that there are attractive views out to hills and valleys. The Moorland, east of Ithon VSAA (RDNRVS117) and the Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133) have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, while the Duhonw Valley VSAA (BRCKNVS731) has a 'high' overall evaluation; but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of their justification. The views have been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors using the Heart of Wales Line Trail is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, the turbines will be noticeable on the skyline in long-distance views from limited elevated sections of the Heart of Wales Trail. From along most of the route, there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development due to intervening topography and vegetation. The clearest views of the Proposed Development will be from where the footpath travels along the Wye Bridge (A483), as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 12, with the turbines seen at a distance of approximately 4 km and occupying approximately 25 degrees of the skyline. Users travelling along this stretch will experience oblique but open views of the turbines, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill, which forms a backdrop to the River Wye in the foreground. The scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill, although seen obliquely. There will similar views afforded from the short section of the footpath where it traverses the south-east facing valley slopes of the River Wye between the edge of Llanelwedd and Lower Llanelwedd Wood. However, the turbines will be seen more intermittently in gaps between intervening vegetation. The scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium. There will also be clear views from the along the stretch of the footpath that traverses the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre, as views towards the Proposed Development will generally be open and unimpeded affording the towers, hubs and blades of all turbines to be seen on the skyline, except for T8 where the turbine tower will be screened by intervening topography (but with hubs and blades visible). The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at a distance of approximately 7 km and the turbines will occupy approximately 15 degrees of the undeveloped skyline, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 21. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the				

Users of the Heart of Wales Line Trail						
	Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Similar views will be experienced from the footpath where it runs between the bottom of Moelfre and Builth Wells, although views towards the Proposed Development will be slightly more intermittent, seen in gaps between intervening vegetation. Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be on the lower end of medium as the Proposed Development will be perceptible on the skyline but seen at a distance. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. There will be intermittent views towards some of the proposed turbines in southerly views from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd east of Penybont, although the intervening landform of Llandegley Rocks will partly obscure the Proposed Development, particularly the turbines within the eastern half of the Site. The proposed turbines that will be seen at a distance of over 11 km, occupying approximately 10-15 degrees of the skyline. They will be seen between the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) which will be of similar prominence on the skyline. The proposed turbines will appear as a small element in the distant views, and the views towards the Proposed Development will generally be incidental. Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and at a slightly oblique angle. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the promoted footpath, due to intervening vegetation screening/ filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from where the footpath travels along the Wye Bridge (A483); low-medium from along the south-east facing valley slopes of the River Wye (between the edge of Llanelwedd and Lower Llanelwedd Wood) and the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre; and low from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd (east of Penybont).					
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd (east of Penybont).	Low-Medium from along the south-east facing valley slopes of the River Wye (between the edge of Llanelwedd and Lower Llanelwedd Wood) and the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre.	Medium from where the footpath travels along the Wye Bridge (A483).	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from where the footpath travels along the Wye Bridge (A483). A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low-medium magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from along the south-east facing valley slopes of the River Wye (between the edge of Llanelwedd and Lower Llanelwedd Wood) and the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre. A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd (east of Penybont).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from along the south-east facing valley slopes of the River Wye (between the edge of Llanelwedd and Lower Llanelwedd Wood); from the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre; and from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd (east of Penybont).	Moderate (significant) from where the footpath travels along the Wye Bridge (A483).	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> 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 20 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be some sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height). The Heart of Wales Line Trail runs close to the site of Nant Mithil with the closest turbine being less than 0.5 km away); however, the Proposed Development at Aberedw will not be visible from this location. From the elevated sections of the Heart of Wales Line Trail that Aberedw will be visible from the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil will also be seen at distances of approximately 1 km (from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd (east of Penybont) and 20 km (from where the Heart of Wales Line Trail traverses the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre). With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view when seen from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd, and within a similar direction of view when seen from the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and					

Users of the Heart of Wales Line Trail	
	be a less prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline when seen from the elevated slopes at Coedswydd and Rhos-swydd, as Aberedw will be over 11 km further away than Nant Mithil. From the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre, Aberedw will be over 12 km closer than Nant Mithil and will therefore be more prominent in views. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 30 km to the north-east from where the Heart of Wales Line Trail traverses the lower slopes of the open access land at Moelfre and will be barely perceptible at this distance. There will no/ limited visibility of it from other sections of the promoted footpath. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.

Table 3.15 Users of the Elan Valley Way

Users of the Elan Valley Way					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	14.3 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 26: Elan Valley Way near Cwmwrach
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	■ LCA 38: River Dulas Hills & Valleys ■ LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands ■ LCA 41: Elan Valley Reservoirs ■ LCA 43: Radnor Forest	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	The Elan Valley Way crosses through several VSAA's, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ RDNRVS135 - Rolling hills, between Ithon & Wye ■ RDNRVS133 - Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Elan Valley Way is a long distance trail (16 miles) that follows the course of the River Elan. The trail runs east to west through the northern part of the study area, between the settlements of Elan Village and Knighton. Starting at Elan Village, the route follows the course of several reservoirs and passes through wooded areas. It then ascends to the village of Rhayader and traverses rolling hills, including Gwastedyn Hill, before crossing the River Dulas at Nantmel, with views mostly comprising fields, woodland and low hills. From Nantmel, the route heads east, ascending the valley slopes with views over the pastoral valley of the River Ithon and extending to the distant uplands to the south-west, which form an expansive skyline (with Aberedw Hill making up a small part of it over 14 km away). The route continues broadly north-east through the valley of the River Ithon, with the Radnor Forest upland complex becoming visible to the south-east with occasional distant views south across fields towards Aberedw Hill. It then turns south climbing into the uplands of Radnor Forest, where the landscape is dominated by sweeping views of rolling uplands and dense woodlands, before heading northwards to cross the Rugg Valley, and continue broadly north-west towards Knighton. The single operational turbine at Cefncynfal (35 m blade tip height) is located less than 1 km from the Elan Valley Way and is therefore clearly visible in views to the north. The turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (7 turbines at 110m blade tip height) are also visible from elevated parts of the footpath, seen over 6 km away to the south within the nearest views. There are also longer distance views to the north from elevated parts of the footpath towards the operational Llandinam Wind Farm (102 turbines at 45.5 m blade tip height) seen over 16 km away.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as people's interest is likely to be focused on the landscape as they engage in outdoor recreation. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133) notes there are attractive views “<i>out to higher land, open hills and across valleys</i>”. However, the Rolling hills, between Ithon & Wye VSAA (RDNRVS135) states that there are “<i>not many notable longer views</i>”. The VSAA's are deemed to have a ‘moderate’ overall evaluation but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of their justification. The views have been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors using the Elan Valley Way is judged to be medium-high				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, the turbines will be noticeable on the skyline in long-distance views from limited elevated sections of the Elan Valley Way. From along most of the route, there will be no visibility of the Proposed Development due to intervening topography and vegetation. The proposed turbines will be seen from the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr and its lower southern slopes where the Elan Valley Way traverses the valley slopes east of Nantmel. Similar views will be available as the route crosses the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and the hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan), as illustrated by the visualisation from Viewpoint 26, although will be partially filtered by the foliage of trees along intervening field boundaries in summer and partly filtered by a tracery of branches in winter. The turbines will occupy approximately 10 degrees of the skyline, appearing as a small element in the distant views (of over 14 km), although views towards the Proposed Development will generally be incidental. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at a distance and at a slightly oblique angle. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. The scale of effect is judged to be barely perceptible from other parts of the promoted footpath, due to intervening vegetation screening/ filtering views of the Proposed Development. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr and from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan).				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
High					

Users of the Elan Valley Way						
		from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr and from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan).				
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr and from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr and from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan).	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u> There are likely to be some sequential cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the consented wind energy developments at Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m tip height) and Llandinam Repowering (34 turbines at 121 m tip height), seen over 13 km and 16 km respectively in views to the north-west from the hilltop at Little Hill (to the west of Penlan). With both of these consented developments in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view; ■ be at a slightly larger scale to the consented wind energy development at Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering (as it will have a higher tip height, although substantially fewer turbines than Llandinam Repowering); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy developments at Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering; and ■ be similar in prominence when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and the proposed wind energy developments at Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering will be at similar distances to the Elan Valley Way. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low under Scenario A resulting in a visual effect of minor- moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment. <u>Scenario B</u> There are likely to be some sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height). The Elan Valley Way runs through the site of Nant Mithil at Graig Hill and there will be turbines located on either side of the footpath (with the closest turbine being less than 150 m away); however, the Proposed Development at Aberedw will not be visible from this location. From the elevated sections of the Elan Valley Way that Aberedw will be visible from the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil will also be seen at distances of approximately 4 km (from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill) and 11 km (from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr). With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: ■ introduce turbines within a similar part of the view; ■ be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); ■ be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and ■ be a less prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as Aberedw will be over 10 km further away than Nant Mithil (from the elevated slopes on the eastern side of the River Ithon and hilltop at Little Hill) and over 4 km further away than Nant Mithil (from where the Elan Valley Way traverses the hilltop at Bwlch-Mawr). Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain low under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

4. Assessment of Visual Effects on People at Visitor Attractions

Table 4.1 Visitors to Builth Castle

Visitors to Builth Castle					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	3.8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 12: Wye Bridge, Builth Wells is close by and is representative.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS684 – Builth Wells	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The site at Builth Castle consists of the remains of its mound, ditches, and embankments. It is located to the west of the Site and situated on the gentle western slopes of the River Wye valley, nestled in the eastern part of Builth Wells. From the top of the remains, outward views are limited by vegetation growing on top of the mound and its complex landform. However, there are glimpses of roofs, including housing along Hay Road and Castle Road, and rolling pasture fields beyond. Aberedw Hill provides a prominent landform feature on the skyline in views to the north-east. South-easterly views look over the roofs of houses along Castle Road and Oaklands Crescent, with the wooded Garth Hill seen beyond in the mid-distance. Mature vegetation and embankments hinder visibility of the settlement edge to the south, west, and north. However, there are outward views to the north-east, with the upland form of Llanelwedd Rock prominent in the mid-distance, and the views extend towards the upland form of Carneddau. To the south and south-west, visitors are afforded views of the undulating upland landscape, including the upland forms of Banc y Celyn and Moelfre. The surrounding landform largely restricts views of operational turbines, although a single operational turbine at Tremaen (27m blade tip height) is visible approximately 3 km to the north-east.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high, as views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience of visiting the heritage asset. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are seen from an important heritage asset, the views themselves are not protected or designated (and there is no reference to views in the citation for the scheduled monument). The Builth Wells VSAA (BRCKNVS684), notes that there are attractive views out (although does not provide any evidence for this). The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors at the visitor attraction is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible from Builth Castle, and appear prominent in views to the east. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at a distance of approximately 3.8 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be similar to the views illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 12. The towers, hubs and blades of T1- T6 will breach the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen the turbine towers of T10-T12 (but with hubs and blades visible) and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The clearest views of the Proposed Development will be experienced from the footpath running along the eastern edge of the mound, as due to its elevated nature, views of the turbines will be seen above intervening foreground elements. From the public footpaths to the north, west and south, views towards the turbines will be filtered by mature vegetation and/or obscured by the landform of the mound. Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) from the eastern edge of the mound, as the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill (which provides an attractive landscape setting to the remains of Builth Castle), although seen beyond buildings in the foreground. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from the eastern edge of the mound.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the eastern edge of the mound	High

Visitors to Builth Castle						
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium-high sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the eastern edge of the mound.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the eastern edge of the mound.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this visitor attraction, 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 the visitor attraction, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 4.2 Visitors to the Royal Welsh Showground

Visitors to the Royal Welsh Showground					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	4.1 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	East to South-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 15: Royal Welsh Showground
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 55: Wye Valley (Builth Wells to Haye-on-Wye)	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS001 – Royal Welsh Showground	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Royal Welsh Showground is located within the village of Llanelwedd, at the junction of the A470 and A483, and to the west of the Site. It primarily occupies the valley floor of the River Wye apart from its northern edge which extends onto the south-facing valley side. The showground consists of a blend of permanent infrastructure and buildings (including offices, sheds, tracks, car parking), and open green spaces. Due to the showground's location on the valley floor, long-distance views are afforded that look across the valley and towards the surrounding uplands in most directions, as follows: ■ South-easterly views reveal the distinct wooded Garth Hill in the mid-distance, with Aberedw Hill forming the backdrop beyond and extending across the horizon to the east. ■ To the south, close views consist of buildings associated with the village of Llanelwedd that are seen in front of Banc y Celyn which is visible on the horizon. ■ In views to the south-west, pasture fields are visible in the foreground, while the wooded River Wye corridor screens the nearby settlement of Builth Wells. The view extends to reveal the upland form of Moelfre, with the distant uplands of Mynydd Epynt on the horizon. ■ Westerly views consist of gently undulating upland valleys of the River Lfon and River Chwefri, including the prominent upland form of Garth Bank. Views are more limited to the north-east as they are enclosed by the steep, wooded slopes of Upper Llanelwedd Wood and the rising landform of Llanwedd Rocks. A mix of permanent structures, including buildings and car parking, feature in foreground views to the north-west, although in the mid-distance to the north and north-west views of wooded valley slopes are visible. The A483 delineates the south-eastern edge of the showground, and glimpsed views of the River Wye are afforded through gaps in the vegetation situated along the road and the river itself. The surrounding valley sides restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be low as the attention of visitors is likely to be focused on the events within the showground itself, rather than on the surrounding landscape. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Royal Welsh Showground VSAA (RDNRVS001), notes that there are attractive views out “<i>to the valley</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation and the “<i>attractive views out</i>” form part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors visiting the showground is judged to be low-medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the showground, and seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views east. The closest turbine (T3) will be seen at distances of between 4.1 km and 4.6km. The turbines will occupy approximately 25 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 15. The towers, hubs and blades of T1- T6 will breach the skyline. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers for T12 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views toward the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the Royal Welsh Showground. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from the open areas within the showground, such as the Horse Ring in the east as well as the 'Avenues' in the centre and in the south, where views will generally be unimpeded. However, during the annual Royal Welsh Show (and other events during the year), people's attention will be largely directed towards the events and activities taking place on the showground rather than the wider landscape, and therefore views of the Proposed Development will be incidental. From areas in the north-west, turbines will either be partly or fully obscured by intervening buildings and/ or structures, whilst vegetation will filter/ screen views from within the car park in the north. Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) from open areas within the showground because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill (which provides an attractive landscape setting to the showground) and in some cases will be seen in the direct line of vision of visitors. The scale of effect is judged to be small or barely perceptible from other parts of the showground. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium from open areas within the showground.				

Visitors to the Royal Welsh Showground						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from open areas within the showground.	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A low-medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from open areas within the showground.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from open areas within the showground.	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from the showground; 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 the showground; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

Table 4.3 Visitors to the promoted viewpoint south of Cwm Graig-ddu

Visitors to the promoted viewpoint south of Cwm Graig-ddu					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	12.5 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North-east	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 25: Promoted viewpoint south of Cwm Graig-ddu
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 57: Mynydd Epynt/SENTA	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	BRCKNVS001 – Mynydd Epynt (Central)	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	This promoted viewpoint is located to the south-west of the Site along the B4519, and it is positioned at the summit edge of Mynydd Epynt, south of Cwm Graig-ddu. A picnic bench and an interpretation board facilitate enjoyment of the view. Expansive views stretch from north to west across the central-western parts of Powys, including the Tywi Forest Uplands with its distinctive wooded areas to the west. These also include long-range, scenic panoramas of the Irfon Valley and the Southern Bryn Glas Valleys, with the uplands of Bryn Glas forming a dramatic backdrop on the horizon. Immediate views to the north feature the upland form of Pennau, intersected by the head of the Cwm Graig-ddu valley, creating a dramatic landscape. Views to the north-east comprise the immediate upland forms of Banc y Cwm and The Warren, where several angular conifer woodland blocks overlay the landform as distinctive and discordant landscape features, screening parts of the distant skyline beyond. There are glimpses of Aberedw Hill and its surrounding uplands on the horizon, seen just above the intervening landforms that dominate the foreground view and between blocks of coniferous woodland. The view of Aberedw Hill is afforded when looking out from a wooden shelter (approximately 100 metres east of the picnic area) with slightly less seen from the parking area due to screening from a conifer woodland block. It is screened fully by intervening landform when viewed from the picnic area itself which is located down a set of steps and is therefore at a lower elevation than the parking area. The gently undulating, open moorland plateau restricts views to the south and south-west. The surrounding valley sides and intervening vegetation largely restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as views of the surrounding area are an important contributor to the experience when stopping at this roadside promoted viewpoint. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of high value as it is denoted as a promoted viewpoint on OS maps and there are facilities for visitors to enjoy the high-quality views (i.e. parking places, picnic area and interpretative material). The Mynydd Epynt, Central VSAA (BRCKNVS001), notes that there are attractive views out <i>"to surrounding valleys"</i>. Although the VSAA is deemed to have a 'low' overall evaluation, the views on site have been judged as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors visiting the promoted viewpoint is judged to be high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, there will be long-distance oblique views towards the Proposed Development in the north-east. All 18 of the turbines will be seen at a distance of approximately 12.5 km from the wooden shelter, occupying approximately 10 degrees of the undeveloped distant skyline, as illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 25. However, as visitors' attention is likely to be focused on the expansive panoramic views of the surrounding landscape to the north and west (being the key attraction for visiting this viewpoint), views towards the Proposed Development will be incidental. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking) and with variations in height. Fewer turbines will be visible from the parking area (due to the intervening block of coniferous woodland) and none of the Proposed Development will be visible from the picnic area. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). From the wooden shelter and parking area the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be small as the Proposed Development will be seen at distance and an oblique angle. The scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well with it occupying a small proportion of the skyline. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be low from the wooden shelter and parking area.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the wooden shelter and parking area.	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the wooden shelter and parking area.				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)
					Major (significant)

Visitors to the promoted viewpoint south of Cwm Graig-ddu						
			from the wooden shelter and parking area.			
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A 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 32 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance; therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 36 km to the north-east and will be barely perceptible at this distance. There will also be no visibility of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height); therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					

5. Assessment of Visual Effects on People at Campsites

Table 5.1 Visitors to the Fforest Fields Caravan & Camping Site

Visitors to Fforest Fields Caravan & Camping Site					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	0.8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South-east to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	No specific viewpoint - wirelines/ models have been used to assess the effects on the receptor.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The campsite is located to the north of the Site, near the foot of Aberedw Hill, and occupies a very gently sloping terrain on the southern valley sides of the Colwyn Brook. The main area of the campsite comprises hardstand pitches and a reception building served by a circuit road and interspersed with many trees. Grass pitches exist in an open field to the south. There are also two small lakes with four yurts set around one of them in the south-west. Outward views from within the main area of the campsite are filtered by the trees that enclose the hard standing pitches and line the circuit road. However, given its proximity, the prominent form of Aberedw Hill provides a broad skyline and containment of the views to the south and west. From open areas of the campsite including the grass pitches and the lake in the south-west, there are immediate views of the steep slopes of Aberedw Hill (including Fforest Wood) which extend to form the horizon. Views in other directions are also filtered by the trees and woodland within and along the edge of the campsite as well as by angular blocks of woodland beyond, although from the lakes relatively open views extend north towards the upland forms of Carneddau and Castle Bank. The surrounding valley sides and intervening vegetation restrict views of operational turbines.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium, as visitors have an interest in their surroundings and enjoy the views afforded from this campsite which contribute to its landscape setting, but are there for a short period of time. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133), notes that there are attractive views “<i>out to higher land, open hills and across valleys</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the campsite is judged to be medium.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	Scale of Effect During operation, some of the turbines will be visible to varying degrees from the campsite, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views south. The closest turbine (T13) will be seen at a distance ranging between 0.8 and 1.4 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 110 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views. The towers, hubs and blades of T13 and T14 will be visible. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers of T10, T12 and T16 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The spacing of the turbines will be relatively consistent and even, resulting in a balanced visual arrangement; however, the gently undulating topography of the Site means that there will be variations in height. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). The nature of views towards the Proposed Development will vary depending on the location of the receptor within the campsite. The clearest views towards the Proposed Development will be from open areas of the campsite, including the grass pitches in the south and the lakes, as they will generally be unimpeded. From within the main area of the campsite (including from hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building), the turbines will be partially filtered/ screened by the trees within the centre of the campsite, although there will be intermittent visibility. From open areas of the campsite (including grass pitches and lakes), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be large, as some of the turbines will be clearly seen, extending across a large part of the skyline, and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on top of Aberedw Hill which provides an attractive landscape setting to the south of the campsite. From the main area of the campsite (including hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building), the scale of visual effect during operation is judged to be medium (a clearly perceptible change) because the turbines will create distinct vertical elements on Aberedw Hill, but intervening vegetation will screen/ filter some of the Proposed Development, and/ or the turbines will be seen obliquely. Duration/Reversibility During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be both high from open areas of the campsite (including grass pitches and lakes) and medium from the main area of the campsite (including hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building).				

Visitors to Fforest Fields Caravan & Camping Site						
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium from the main area of the campsite (including hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building).	Medium-High	High from open areas of the campsite (including grass pitches and lakes).
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a high magnitude is judged to result in a moderate-major effect from open areas of the campsite (including grass pitches and lakes).					
	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium magnitude is judged to result in a moderate effect from the main area of the campsite (including hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building).					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant) from the main area of the campsite (including hardstand pitches, the circuit road and the reception building).	Moderate-Major (significant) from open areas of the campsite (including grass pitches and lakes).	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this campsite, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some successive cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen over 9 km away in views north-east from the campsite. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in opposite directions; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be approximately 8 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain high resulting in a visual effect of moderate-major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

Table 5.2 Visitors to the Brynchrach Caravan and Camping Site

Visitors to Brynchrach Caravan and Camping Site					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	1.8 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	South to South-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 3: A481 at Hundred House is close by and is representative.
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	RDNRVS133 – Rolling hills, central south-east	Designated Landscape	No
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The campsite is located towards the bottom of the River Edw valley on the lower slopes of Hirllwyn Bank, and to the north of the Site. It is situated near to the village of Hundred House (less than 200 metres away) and lies west of Hundred House Common. The campsite comprises static caravans, hardstand and grass pitches, and a small lake. The southern boundary of the campsite is defined by a line of mature hedgerow trees, limiting immediate outward views. However, the upland forms of Aberedw Hill and Wylfre are visible over the tree line in views south and south-west, forming a prominent and scenic backdrop to the campsite. In views to the east, the campsite overlooks pastoral fields, the linear village of Hundred House, and the wooded River Edw, with the prominent uplands of Little Hill and Cefn Wylfre continuing along the broad skyline. Westerly views are restricted by scattered woodland copses near the campsite and by the form of Hirllwyn Bank. To the north, scenic views of the pastoral valley landscape are afforded, although the agricultural sheds associated with the campsite partially intervene. The surrounding landform, intervening vegetation, and buildings largely restrict views of operational turbines, although four of the turbines of the under-construction Hendy Wind Farm (seven turbines at 110 m tip height) can be seen above intervening vegetation in views to the north-east (over 5 km away).				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	<u>Judgement of Visual Susceptibility</u> The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be medium, as visitors have an interest in their surroundings and enjoy the views afforded from this campsite which contribute to its landscape setting, but are there for a short period of time. <u>Judgement on Value of the Views</u> Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of medium value, as although they are not designated, the Rolling hills, central south-east VSAA (RDNRVS133), notes that there are attractive views “<i>out to higher land, open hills and across valleys</i>”. The VSAA is deemed to have a 'moderate' overall evaluation, but views/visual qualities are not mentioned as part of its justification. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic. <u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u> Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of receptors within the campsite is judged to be medium-high.				
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u> During operation, most of the turbines will be visible from the campsite, seen on the skyline of Aberedw Hill in views south. The closest turbine (T16) will be seen at a distance ranging between 1.8 km and 2 km. The turbines will occupy approximately 55 degrees of the undeveloped skyline and will be prominent in views; similar to the views illustrated by the visualisations from Viewpoint 3. The towers, hubs and blades of T11 - T14 and T16 - T18 will be visible. The topography of Aberedw Hill will screen most of the turbine towers for T1, T4-T6, T10 and T15 (but with hubs and blades visible), and have a greater screening effect of towers, hubs and blades for all other turbines. The positioning of the turbines and the gently undulating topography of the Site means that they will be seen to be relatively uneven in spacing (with some stacking occurring) and with variations in height. There will be no visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Similar views of the Proposed Development will be experienced across most of the campsite, although they will be slightly clearer from central areas, as well as from around the lake, as views will be less impeded by the static caravans. From the southernmost section of the campsite the turbines will still be visible above the intervening line of mature hedgerow trees, which partly encloses the campsite. Overall, the scale of visual effect during operation from the campsite is judged to be on the higher end of Medium, as most of the turbines will be clearly seen, extending across 55 degrees of the skyline, and the Proposed Development will be in close proximity. The Proposed Development will create distinct and prominent vertical elements on top of Aberedw Hill which provides an attractive landscape setting to the south of the campsite, although static caravans and vegetation will slightly intervene. <u>Duration/Reversibility</u> During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u> Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be medium-high from across the campsite.				
	Barely Perceptible	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High from across the campsite.
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A medium sensitivity combined with a medium-high magnitude is judged to result in a moderate-major effect from across the campsite				
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant)	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)

Visitors to Brynchrach Caravan and Camping Site						
					from across the campsite.	
Additional Cumulative Effects	Scenario A No other consented wind farms will be visible from this settlement, therefore the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are likely to be some successive cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height), seen approximately 8 km away in views north-east from the campsite. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will: - introduce turbines within a different and undeveloped part of the view, resulting in the turbines of both developments to be visible in opposite directions; - be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines); - be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and - be a prominent component when considered against the cumulative baseline, as it will be almost 6 km closer than Nant Mithil. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain medium-high under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of moderate-major (significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.					

6. Assessment of Visual Effects on People Visiting Popular Hill Summits in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Table 6.1 Visitors to popular hill summits in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park

Visitors to popular hill summits in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park					
Approx. Distance to Nearest Turbine (km)	14 km	Direction of View to Proposed Development	North/North-east/North-west	Representative Viewpoint(s)	Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
LCA/LCT - Landscape Unit	Several LCAs cover the National Park, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ LCA 3: Fforest Fawr ■ LCA 5: Western Usk Tributaries ■ LCA 6: Middle Usk Valleys ■ LCA 7: Central Beacons ■ LCA 11: Eastern Usk Valley; ■ LCA 13: The Black Mountains ■ LCA 14: Wye Valley Foothills	LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area (VSAA)	Several VSAs cover the National Park, and those that the Site is visible from include: ■ BRCKNVS141 - Fan Fawr/Fan Llia [Fforest Fawr East] ■ BRCKNVS148 - Glyn Tarell and Cynnig valley ■ BRCKNVS361 - Usk Valley – Llangattock ■ BRCKNVS522 - Llangorse Lake Basin ■ BRCKNVS660 - Black Mountains ■ BRCKNVS683 - Black Mountains Northern fringe ■ BRCKNVS833 - Brecon Beacons ■ BRCKNVS858 - Mynydd Llangorse ■ BRCKNVS996 - Usk Valley Hills	Designated Landscape	■ Bannau Brycheiniog National Park/ International Dark Sky Reserve ■ Middle Wye Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest ■ Middle Usk Valley: Brecon and Llangorse Landscape of Special Historic Interest ■ Black Mountain and Mynydd Myddfai Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest
Description of Visual Receptor (including Existing Views)	The Bannau Brycheiniog are designated as a National Park (and an International Dark Sky Reserve), located approximately 14 km south from the outermost turbine at its nearest point. The National Park is predominantly characterised by expansive uplands, incised by glacial cirques with open and uninterrupted views, although large blocks of forestry and intricately incised river valleys also form part of its landscape. The northern extent of the National Park falls within the study area, stretching from Sennybridge in the west to the Vale of Ewyas in the east, encompassing the towns of Brecon, Talgarth, and Hay-on-Wye. The mountain range along this stretch includes the Black Mountains in the east as well as the Central Beacons, reaching its highest point at Pen y Fan (886m AOD). The area is well-connected by a network of roads, including the A40, A479, and A470, as well as National Cycle Routes 8 and 42 that traverse the National Park. The Taff Trail, Brecon Beacons Way, and Cambrian Way promoted routes, as well as the Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, provide long-distance walking opportunities across the study area and the National Park. These routes climb steep hillsides and cross elevated plateaus where panoramic and long-distance views are afforded, including northwards towards the Site. Views from within river and glacial valleys are generally contained by the landform. The exposed upland massif of the Central Beacons, featuring the summits of Pen y Fan (886m AOD), Corn Du (873m AOD), Cribyn (795m AOD) and Fan y Big (717m AOD), provides 360-degree panoramic views, capturing the sweeping east-west expanse of the Brecon Beacons with flat-topped ridges stretching into the distance in both directions. To the north, views are afforded across the long slopes that abruptly descend into steep cliffs, creating a striking pattern of triangular-shaped formations, stretching over the pastoral valleys of Afon Tarell and Afon Cynnig. Long-distance views extend across valleys of the River Usk to the north and River Wye to the north-east, with distant hill ranges visible beyond, including Aberedw Hill. Visitors to the north-eastern part of the National Park will experience a landscape that transitions from dramatic uplands to idyllic lowlands; a series of ridges extend from the Black Mountains toward the Wye Valley, creating narrow, enclosed valleys that gradually open out. Views are possible in all directions, including towards the Black Mountain massif to the south that forms the backdrop and dominates the views. The northern and north-eastern slopes offer sweeping views across the Wye Valley, extending to distant hill ranges like Aberedw Hill to the north. Operational wind energy developments are barely perceptible due to their distance from the National Park.				
Judgement of Visual Sensitivity	Judgement of Visual Susceptibility The visual susceptibility of this receptor is judged to be high as communities, people in engaged in outdoor recreation and users of the local roads have views from this nationally designated landscape. Judgement on Value of the Views Views experienced by this receptor are judged to be of high value as they are high quality views associated with the nationally designated landscape. LANDMAP VSAs for the northern extents of the Bannau Brycheiniog reinforces this; for example, the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) VSAA (BRCKNVS833), which is afforded an 'outstanding' overall evaluation, notes <i>"particularly high scenic quality with panoramic views due to its distinctive and dramatic topography"</i>, going on to say, <i>"the area is a major attraction for hikers and sightseers, which indicates strong consensus on the area's value and scenic quality"</i>. Furthermore, the <i>"extensive views in all directions"</i> is noted as one of the National Park's special qualities within the Bannau Brycheiniog Management Plan. The views have also been judged on site as being attractive and scenic.				

Visitors to popular hill summits in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park						
	<u>Overall Judgement of Visual Sensitivity</u>					
	Taking account of the judgements of susceptibility and value, the overall sensitivity of visitors within the National Park is judged to be high .					
	Low	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High	
Judgement of Magnitude of Visual Change During Operation	<u>Scale of Effect</u>					
	During operation, all of the turbines will be seen in long-distance views to the north, north-east and north-west from the slopes of the BBNP at a distance of over 19 km. They will occupy approximately 5-10 degrees of the skyline, and will be visible within part of the expansive panoramic views experienced from elevated locations within the northern extent of the National Park including areas of open access land, PRow's (including promoted walking routes) and hill summits.					
	From these elevated locations, including the summits of Hay Bluff, Cefn Llechid and Pen y Fan (as well as from Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big), views extend across the River Usk and River Wye valleys, with distant hills forming the horizon. Although the turbines will be distinguishable, they will mostly not breach the skyline and will instead be seen against a backdrop comprising upland areas to the north of the Site when seen from summits that are at a higher elevation than Aberedw Hill, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 27 and 29 . From lower areas within the National Park, the turbines will partially breach the distant undeveloped skyline, as illustrated in the visualisations from Viewpoint 28 . The layout of the turbines appears generally evenly spaced, although some stacking and partial overlapping may occur due to the undulating topography of Aberedw Hill. There will not be any noticeable visibility of the ancillary features of the Proposed Development (e.g. tracks and substation). Views into and across the interior of the BBNP will be unaffected.					
	Where open views are available towards the Proposed Development, for example from hill summits and open moorland, the scale of effect during operation is judged to be no more than small as the turbines will be viewed at a long distance and the scale of the landscape will absorb the Proposed Development well. Where vegetation or topography partially or fully screen the Proposed Development from view, the scale of effect will be barely perceptible.					
	<u>Duration/Reversibility</u>					
	During operation, the changes in views resulting from the Proposed Development 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 Judgment of Magnitude of Visual Change & Geographical Extent</u>					
	Overall, the magnitude of visual change during operation is judged to be no more than low from the northern extent of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, including the areas of open moorland and hill summits at Hay Bluff, Cefn Llechid, Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big.					
	Barely Perceptible	Low from the northern extent of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, including areas of open moorland and hill summits at Hay Bluff, Cefn Llechid, Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big.	Low-Medium	Medium	Medium-High	High
Overall Level of Effect and Significance During Operation	A high sensitivity combined with a low magnitude is judged to result in a minor-moderate effect from the northern extent of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, including areas of open moorland and hill summits at Hay Bluff, Cefn Llechid, Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big.					
	Negligible (not significant)	Minor (not significant)	Minor-Moderate (not significant) from the northern extent of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, including areas of open moorland and hill summits at Hay Bluff, Cefn Llechid, Pen y Fan, Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big.	Moderate (significant)	Moderate-Major (significant)	Major (significant)
Additional Cumulative Effects	<u>Scenario A</u>					
	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 40 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Therefore, the effect will remain the same as in the primary assessment.					
	<u>Scenario B</u>					
	There are likely to be some sequential and combined cumulative effects resulting from interactions with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (30 turbines up to 220 m tip height). Although seen at a distance of over 20 km away, it will appear directly behind the Proposed Development at Aberedw in some of the views to the north-west. With Nant Mithil in place (i.e. the cumulative baseline), the Proposed Development at Aberedw will:					
	introduce turbines within the same undeveloped part of the view;					
	be at a scale comparable with the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil (although acknowledging it will have a slightly lower tip height, and substantially fewer turbines);					
	be in a relatively similar upland landscape to that of the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil, whilst acknowledging that the topography is simpler; and					

Visitors to popular hill summits in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park	
	■ be similar in prominence to the proposed wind energy development at Nant Mithil when considered against the cumulative baseline, as both Aberedw and Nant Mithil will be at similar distances to the National Park. The proposed wind energy development of Bryngydfa (12 turbines at 126.5 m tip height) is located over 40 km to the north and will be barely perceptible at this distance. Taking the above into consideration, the magnitude of visual change will remain to be no more than low under Scenario B resulting in a visual effect of minor-moderate (not significant), and therefore the same level of visual effect recorded in the primary assessment.