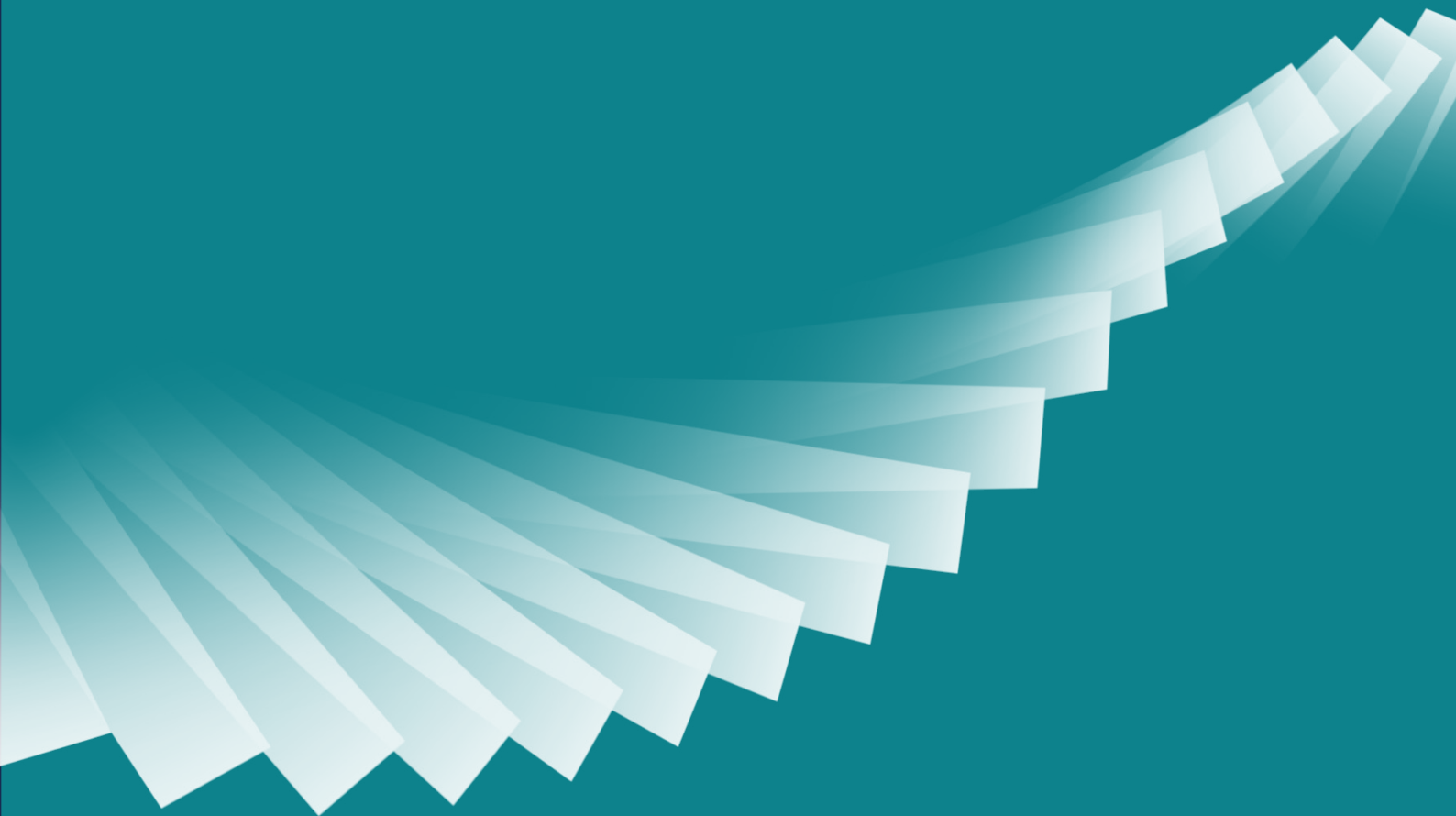




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Appendix 5.6:

Assessment of Designated Landscapes



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Appendix 5.6: Assessment of Designated Landscapes

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1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix details the assessment of impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) located within the LVIA study area.
- 1.1.2 The assessment draws upon the assessment of landscape effects contained in **Appendix 5.4: Landscape Assessment Tables** and the assessment of visual effects contained in **Appendix 5.5: Visual Assessment Tables**.
- 1.1.3 Where the existence of darkness or dark skies represent a key component of the special landscape qualities and features of the BBNP, the assessment also makes reference to **Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment**.

1.2 Nationally Designated Landscapes

- 1.2.1 The following Nationally Designated Landscapes are located within the study area of the Proposed Development, (and are shown on **Figures 5.12a** and **b**):
- BBNP¹ – located to the south of the Site, approximately 14 km from the outermost turbine of the Proposed Development at its nearest point, with visibility of turbines from the slopes at a distance of over 19 km away. The extents of the BBNP are also designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve².
 - Shropshire Hills National Landscape – located to the north-east of the Site, approximately 26 km from the outermost turbine of the Proposed Development at its nearest point. No visibility of turbines is predicted in the extents of the National Landscape that fall within the study area, as indicated by the ZTV map (see **Figure 5.12b**), and as such potential effects on this designated landscape have not been assessed.
- 1.2.2 The assessment contained in **Table 1.1** considers the potential effects on the special qualities and features of the BBNP (and by association the International Dark Sky Reserve in respect to potential effects on its dark skies and dark sky character).

1.3 Historic Landscape Designations

- 1.3.1 The Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales recognises a number of historic landscapes of national significance across Wales.
- 1.3.2 Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest are shown on **Figures 5.12a** and **b**. The nearest Registered Historic Landscapes are the Middle Wye Valley³ located approximately 11.5 km to the south-east of the outermost turbine of the Proposed Development, and the Elan Valley⁴, located approximately 18 km to the north-west of the outermost turbines of the Proposed Development. The Middle Wye Valley is considered to be of Outstanding Historic Importance, and the Elan Valley is of Special Historic Importance. Potential effects on these Registered Historic Landscapes are considered within **Chapter 6: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**, although they have also informed 'value' in both the landscape assessment (**Appendix 5.4**) and visual assessment (**Appendix 5.5**).

¹ The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) was renamed Bannau Brycheiniog in April 2023. The term Brecon Beacons is still used when referring to existing documents prepared before this name change or when quoting directly from an extant document.

² The Brecon Beacons National Park was designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve in 2013. [DarkSky International \(2015\) Bannau Brycheiniog National Park \(Brecon Beacons\)](#)

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

⁴ Cadw (2001) Full Reports of Registered Historic Landscape – Elan Valley (HLW (P) 4)

Table 1.1 Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	
The Designated Landscape (as described in Y Bannau: The Future – The Management Plan For Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2026, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, 2023)⁵	The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) is one of 15 National Parks in the UK, and three in Wales. Bannau Brycheiniog received formal designation as a National Park in 1957. The boundary covers some 520 square miles of scenic countryside, extending from the rural heartland of Mid-Wales in the north to the post-industrial ex-mining communities of the South Wales valleys. From east to west, the National Park spans from the Marches on the English border, to the fringes of Llandeilo. As set out in the Management Plan, the National Park has three main purposes: ■ Purpose 1: To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park. ■ Purpose 2: To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park. ■ Purpose 3: To seek to foster the economic and social wellbeing of local communities within the National Park. The Management Plan identifies ten special qualities which best illustrate the existing character and value of the landscapes found within the National Park. Effects on these special qualities, with reference to effects on both landscape character and views and visual amenity (including those arising from the introduction of visible aviation lighting) form the basis of this assessment on the designated landscape presented below. Areas of the National Park are also covered by a number of other nationally and internationally recognised designations, including the Fforest Fawr United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Global Geopark designation⁶, Brecon Beacons International Dark Sky Reserve designation⁷ and the Blaenavon UNESCO World Heritage Site designation⁸. Whilst each of these designated areas to some degree relate to the protection and enhancement of the landscapes of the National Park, owing to their location, distance and the likelihood of adverse effects arising from the introduction of the Proposed Development, only the Brecon Beacons International Dark Sky Reserve designation forms a key consideration within the assessment of landscape and visual effects, with a particular focus on the core dark skies area⁹ and the relevant special qualities that could be affected by the introduction of visible aviation lighting.
Location of the designated landscape and theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development	The boundary of the BBNP is located approximately 14 km from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development. The ZTV shown on Figure 5.10b indicates theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development across elevated upland areas of the National Park, particularly from higher north and north-east facing slopes, and from higher ridges and hill summits within the interior of the National Park, such as at Allt Du (562 m AOD), Bryn (561 m AOD), Pen Allt mawr (719 m AOD), as well as Pen y Fan (886 m AOD), Corn Du (873 m AOD), Cribyn (795 m AOD) and Fan y Big (717 m AOD). Visibility within the study area is indicated from parts of 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; and LCA 14: Wye Valley Foothills Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) within the BBNP.

⁵ Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (2023) Y Bannau: The Future – The Management Plan for Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028

⁶ Fforest Fawr Geopark website

⁷ Brecon Beacons Park Society (undated) Brecon Beacons Dark Sky Reserve

⁸ Blaenavon World Heritage Site website

⁹ As identified in the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (2015) Local Development Plan Policy 12: Light Pollution & Obtrusive Lighting – Supplementary Planning Guidance

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park	
How the area is used and experienced by people	The National Park is a popular tourist destination, for people visiting from far away and also for people visiting from the local area and from the settled valleys around its edge. Many people also reside within the National Park, often living in scattered isolated properties, along main arterial roads which run through the Park, or within picturesque villages. The National Park is covered for a large part by Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Access Land, including common land, open country and public dedicated forest, and is crossed by an extensive network of PRow. The National Park is also crossed by several National Trails and long-distance walking routes, including the Brecon Beacons Way, Celtic Way, Cambrian Way and the Taff Trail, with Offa's Dyke Path running along its eastern boundary. National Cycle Network (NCN) Routes 8, 42 and 46 cross the National Park, often following small rural lanes (see Figure 5.16a). Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff, Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid, and Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan are located within the BBNP (as illustrated on Figure 5.4a) and represent views experienced by people using the National Park. Photomontages for Viewpoints 27 and 28 (and a wireline for Viewpoint 29) are provided in Volume 4 and illustrate potential visibility of the Proposed Development and other wind energy developments. Views from these representative viewpoints at a distance of 19.6 km (Viewpoint 27), 27 km (Viewpoint 28), and 29.6 km (Viewpoint 29) from the nearest turbine of the Proposed Development, inform the assessment of effects on the relevant special qualities of the BBNP. Additionally, the landscape and visual effects on the summits of Corn Du, Cribyn, and Fan y Big are considered within the assessment. Effects on visual receptors within the BBNP are assessed in Appendix 5.5: Visual Assessment Tables.
Summary of Landscape and Visual Effects (see Appendix 5.4: Landscape Assessment Tables and Appendix 5.5: Visual Assessment Tables)	<u>Summary of Landscape Effects (assessed in Appendix 5.4)</u> The landscape assessment units within the BBNP that will have potential visibility of the Proposed Development are: ■ LCA 3: Fforest Fawr ■ LCA 5: Western Usk Tributaries ■ LCA 6: Middle Usk Valleys - representative views illustrated by Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid (photomontage visualisation) ■ LCA 7: Central Beacons - representative views illustrated by Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan (wireline) ■ LCA 11: Eastern Usk Valley ■ LCA 13: The Black Mountains - representative views illustrated by Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff (photomontage visualisation) ■ LCA 14: Wye Valley Foothills These LCAs are all judged to have high sensitivity to landscape change due to the National Park designation, provision of recreational access (including public rights of way, long distance footpaths, and Open Access Land), sense of time-depth and cultural associations, presence of semi-natural habitats with high nature conservation value, strong sense of place, and high scenic quality. Although none of these LCAs will be directly affected, the turbines of the Proposed Development will be visible in long distance views over 19 km away on a skyline outside of these LCAs and the National Park, as shown in Figure 5.12b. The substation, access tracks and crane pads will not be noticeable in views from these LCAs. As set out in Appendix 5.4: Landscape Assessment Tables, no LCA within the BBNP will be subject to any more than a minor-moderate level of effect on landscape character.

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	Summary of Visual Effects (assessed in Appendix 5.5) Visibility of the proposed turbines from the BBNP (within the study area) will be limited to upland locations within the National Park where views are afforded to the north, as illustrated by the ZTV shown on Figure 5.12b. The Proposed Development will be seen as a new man-made feature at distances of over 19 km away in clear atmospheric conditions, predominantly from upland areas of the BBNP. The Proposed Development will be visible within part of the expansive panoramic views experienced from elevated locations within the northern extent of the National Park, affecting popular hill summits, areas of open access land and PROWs (including promoted walking routes), as illustrated in the visualisations for Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff, Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid, and Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan (wireline only). Similar views predominantly from upland areas of the BBNP including the summits of Corn Du, Cribyn and Fan y Big will be experienced in clear atmospheric conditions. Views into and across the interior of the BBNP will be unaffected. As set out in Appendix 5.5: Visual Assessment Tables, no visual receptor within the BBNP will be subject to any more than a minor – moderate (not significant) visual effect. Summary of Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment in relation to BBNP (assessed in Appendix 5.8) Aviation lighting on the nacelles of 6 of the 18 proposed turbines will add distant artificial light sources to the landscape at night.. As illustrated by the visible aviation lighting ZTV on Figure A5.8.1, pockets of theoretical visibility of the visible turbine lights are indicated from the northern fringes of the National Park and International Dark Sky Reserve and from elevated hill summits along the great north-west scarp of the Black Mountains. As set out in Appendix 5.8, it is considered that in dusk/night-time views, the Proposed Development will not prejudice the values or integrity of this designated landscape by adversely impacting on the special qualities for which it was designated.	
	Special Qualities <i>‘Sweeping grandeur & outstanding natural beauty: The National Park’s sweeping grandeur and outstanding natural beauty observed across a variety of harmoniously connected landscapes, including marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with limestone pavement, caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops with extensive views in all directions. A landscape that provides a sense of time depth and timelessness.’</i>	Effects arising from Proposed Development Although the Proposed Development will not directly affect the ‘Sweeping grandeur & outstanding natural beauty’ of the BBNP, the Proposed Development will appear in some of the ‘extensive views’ from elevated upland areas, including north-facing upper hill slopes and summits where they will increase the presence of man-made development on a distant skyline seen to the north of the National Park. The turbines will form a small part of the skyline. The features and qualities which contribute to the natural beauty and sense of place (the ‘marvellous gorges and waterfalls, classic karst geology with limestone pavement, caves and sink holes, contrasting glacial landforms such as cliffs and broad valleys carved from old red sandstone and prominent hilltops’) will continue to be expressed strongly throughout the BBNP. Although there will be views of the Proposed Development from the BBNP, their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the ‘Sweeping grandeur & outstanding natural beauty’, which will continue to be strongly expressed across the BBNP.

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	<i>‘Contrasting patterns, colours & textures:</i> A working, living “patchwork” of contrasting patterns, colours and textures comprising well-maintained farmed landscapes, open uplands, lakes and meandering rivers, punctuated by small-scale woodlands, country lanes, hedgerows and stone walls and scattered settlements.’	The patterns, colours & textures of the National Park will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP. The features which contribute to this special quality will be unaffected and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	<i>‘A sense of place & cultural identity:</i> A sense of place and cultural identity – “Welshness” – characterised by the indigenous Welsh language, religious and spiritual connections, unique customs and events, traditional foods and crafts, relatively unspoilt historic towns and villages, family farms and continued practices of traditional skills developed by local inhabitants to live and earn a living here, such as common land practices and grazing.’	The sense of place and cultural identity will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP. The features which contribute to the sense of place and cultural identity, including the Welsh language, traditions and practices will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	<i>‘An intimate sense of community:</i> An intimate sense of community where small, pastoral towns and villages are comparatively safe, friendly, welcoming and retain a spirit of cooperation.’	The intimate sense of community will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP. The features which contribute to this sense of community, including the small pastoral towns and villages, and spirit of cooperation will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	<i>‘Enjoyable & accessible:</i> Enjoyable and accessible countryside with extensive, widespread and varied opportunities to pursue walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other forms of sustainable recreation or relaxation.’	Although there will be views of the proposed turbines from the BBNP, at distances of over 19 km, their presence will not affect the enjoyability and accessibility of the National Park or alter the opportunities to access and enjoy activities such as walking, cycling, fishing, water-based activities and other outdoor recreation or relaxation activities.
	<i>‘Sounds, sights, smells & tastes:</i> A feeling of vitality and wellbeing that comes from enjoying the National Park’s fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods.’	There will be views towards wind turbines from parts of BBNP, experienced at distances of over 19 km, which will have a minor effect on the rural setting of the National Park to the north. However, the Proposed Development will form a distant element in a small proportion of the often expansive and panoramic outward views in this direction. The views into and across the interior of the BBNP (for example to the south and south-west, as demonstrated by the views from Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff) will be unaffected by the introduction of the Proposed Development. Although there will be views of turbines from the BBNP, their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the feeling of vitality and wellbeing that comes from enjoying the National Park’s

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
		fresh air, clean water, rural setting, open land and locally produced foods.
	'Sense of discovery: <i>A sense of discovery where people explore the National Park's hidden secrets and stories such as genealogical histories, prehistoric ritual sites, relic medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths and legends and geological treasures from time immemorial.'</i>	The sense of discovery will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP. The features which contribute to this special quality, including the prehistoric ritual sites, relic medieval rural settlements, early industrial sites, local myths and legends and geological treasures will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	'Peace, tranquillity & darkness: <i>A National Park offering, dark, night time skies, peace and tranquillity with opportunities for quiet enjoyment, inspiration, relaxation and spiritual renewal.'</i>	The peace and tranquillity of the National Park will not be affected by the Proposed Development because the turbines will be located outside the National Park, and seen at a distance of over 19 km. Although the <i>'dark night time skies'</i> will not be directly affected, visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of 6 of the 18 proposed turbines will introduce distant light sources to the landscape at night, illustrated by the photomontage visualisation from Viewpoint N2 (VP 27): Hay Bluff, located approximately 19.6 km from the nearest lit turbine (T7). The visible aviation lights will be seen above the distant skyline, but will appear less prominent than other existing artificial lighting associated with settlement and transport corridors. As set out in Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment, the lit turbines <i>'will not significantly impact the special qualities of the National Park...nor will it be contrary to the dark skies aspirations in the Management Plan.'</i> Overall, the expression of this quality will remain.
	'Mosaic of diversity: <i>The geology and climate vary greatly across the Park creating an elaborate patchwork landscape rich in biodiversity. The Park hosts heathlands, grasslands and woodlands, with uplands and lowlands, natural lakes and riparian habitats. The Park contains limestone pavement and blanket bogs of international and national importance. Several endangered species survive in the Park, including some for which the Park is their furthest extent of their natural range.'</i>	The <i>'mosaic of diversity'</i> expressed across the National Park will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP. The features which contribute to the natural character and diversity, including the geology, climate and range of semi-natural habitats found across the National Park, including features of international and national importance will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	'Living landscape: <i>An abundance of wildlife thrives in semi-natural habitats that have been lived in and shaped by human settlement for millennia. The landscape is interlaced with ancient hedgerows bustling with life, enclosing wildlife-rich hay meadows, and primeval woodlands that cloak some steep-</i>	The <i>'living landscape'</i> of the National Park will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the BBNP (approximately 14 km from the outermost turbine of the Proposed Development at its nearest point). The features which contribute to

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	<i>sided valleys. Veteran trees adorn the landscape, carrying the scars of centuries of changing dependency on their resources. Heather-dominated uplands maintained through grazing by horses, sheep and cattle are a testament to the intimate relationship between biodiversity and farming.'</i>	this special quality, notably the ancient hedgerows, <i>wildlife-rich hay meadows, and primeval woodlands, veteran trees, and Heather-dominated uplands 'abundance of wildlife'</i> and varied semi-natural habitats found across the National Park will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
Assessment of effects on Special Qualities of landscape character areas (as defined in The Brecon Beacons National Park Landscape Character Assessment, Fiona Fyfe Associates on behalf of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority, 2012)	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 3: Fforest Fawr	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>High scenic quality and a strong sense of place, particularly where there are views of distinctive summits and over surrounding lower land to provide a landscape context.</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Impacts from built or other developments (including quarrying within the LCA) which may detract from the LCA's sense of tranquillity and remoteness.</i> <i>Visual impacts, noise and night time light pollution associated with developments beyond the National Park boundary.</i> <i>Features which break the smooth, open skylines.</i> <i>Small-scale features within the landscape (e.g. Glastir markers and waymarking) which have an individual and cumulative impact on the sense of remoteness and relative wildness. Traffic impacts: visual and noise. Neglect of estate features such as stone walls, particularly if estate management or ownership rechanges in the future.'</i>	The Powys LCA identifies '<i>Visual impacts, noise and night time light pollution associated with developments beyond the National Park boundary</i>' as a sensitivity of this special quality. The Proposed Development will increase the presence of man-made development in distant views to the north-east, and will add a new feature to the skyline outside the National Park. However, the high scenic quality and strong sense of place provided by the '<i>views of distinctive summits and over surrounding lower land</i>' will continue to give the landscape its distinctive character, particularly in views south and east into the interior of the National Park.
	Landscape quality and integrity <i>'An extensive area of upland which is particularly valued for the integrity of its historic landscapes, and for its tranquillity and sense of remoteness.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as above (see 'Scenic quality and Sense of place').	The landscape quality and integrity will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The integrity of its historic landscapes, tranquil character, and sense of remoteness will remain.
	Perceptual qualities <i>High tranquillity, resulting from many factors including openness, perceived naturalness, low noise (though roads have localised impacts at the periphery of the LCA), landform and dark skies (this LCA is within the BBNP core dark skies area). With the exception of occasional roads and Penwyllt</i>	The Proposed Development on a distant skyline outside the National Park will contribute to the human influence seen outside the BBNP, but not within it. The aviation lighting will not alter the darkness of the skies associated with the National Park, but the lights will be just visible at night, as outlined in Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	<i>quarry, few factors detract from the tranquillity. The LCA's inaccessibility, openness, timelessness and relative lack of human influence also contribute to its sense of relative wildness. In poor weather conditions the landscape becomes much more hostile and disorientating.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as above (see 'Scenic quality and Sense of place').	Impact Assessment, the visible aviation lighting ZTV on Figure A5.8.1, and the dusk/ night-time photomontage visualisation for Viewpoint N2 (27): Hay Bluff (see Figures 5.53 in Volume 4). The high tranquillity resulting from the inaccessibility, openness, perceived naturalness and low noise intrusion will remain.
	Artistic and cultural associations <i>Associations with Opera singer Madam Adelina Patti, who lived at Craig-y-nos (in LCA 4) and had a private area at Penwyllt railway station.</i>	The artistic and cultural associations (including associations with Opera singer Madam Adelina Patti) will be unaffected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The expression of this special quality will remain.
	Rarity or representativeness <i>'An example of an extensive upland landscape with a history of private land ownership going back to Medieval times, leaving distinctive traces in the landscape. The links between geology, biodiversity and people through time are readily apparent. The LCA also contains cliff habitats which support plant communities unique to the Brecon Beacons and are important examples of glacial geomorphology.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as above (see 'Scenic quality and sense of place'), and <i>'Cliff habitats are sensitive to damage by climbing, abseiling etc.'</i>	The rarity and representativeness of the landscape unit will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the landscape unit (and BBNP). The strong sense of time depth in the landscape including <i>'extensive upland landscape with a history of private land ownership going back to Medieval times'</i>, the perceptible <i>'links between geology, biodiversity and people through time'</i> will also be unaffected by the proposed development. The natural heritage features including <i>'cliff habitats which support plant communities unique to the Brecon Beacons'</i> will remain, and this special quality will continue to be expressed.
	Natural heritage features <i>'Extensive SSSIs, designated for their vegetation representing limestone and brownstone plant communities including some Alpine plants, rare hawkweeds and whitebeam species unique to the Brecon Beacons. National Nature Reserves at Ogof Fynnon Ddu and Craig Cerrig-gleisiad. Part of the Brecon Beacons SAC is also within this area. An important geological landscape, within the Geopark and containing good examples of limestone features such as limestone pavements (some designated RIGS sites), solution hollows and sink holes. The Ogof Fynnon Ddu cave system (designated SSSI) is the deepest (and one of the largest) in Britain.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as:	The natural heritage features, including extensive geological and botanical Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)-designated sites, National Nature Reserves, and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development. The important geological features including limestone pavements (some designated Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) sites), solution hollows, sink holes, and cave systems will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	<i>'Changes in land management, e.g. Changes in grazing levels affecting the composition of moorland vegetation. Changes in environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality) and water retention affecting surface vegetation, geological exposures and cave systems.'</i>	
	Cultural heritage features <i>'A rich archaeological environment with an exceptionally large assemblage of prehistoric ritual sites (including ring cairns, round cairns and standing stones designated Scheduled Monuments). Other Scheduled Monuments include a section of Roman road, deserted Medieval settlements, Post-medieval pillow mounds (resulting from rabbit farming) and WW2 infantry support trenches. Other archaeological sites include those associated with mining and transport, including quarries, tramways (e.g. the Brecon Forest Tramroad) and the route of the Neath and Brecon Railway with its station at Penwyllt. Southeast part of LCA included on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales (no.48).'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Damage to archaeological features through natural processes (e.g. erosion), neglect, visitor pressure and also visual impacts on their settings'.</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the cultural heritage features of LCA 3: Fforest Fawr as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>'exceptionally large assemblage of prehistoric ritual sites'</i> as well as later historic features (many of which are Scheduled Monuments), as well as other archaeological sites, will be unaffected and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>'Opportunities to explore and appreciate some of the most remote land in the National Park (and in Southern Britain) via the Beacons Way, extensive open access land and publicly-accessible nature reserves. Summits afford spectacular views.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Insensitive visitor management and over-intensification of visitor numbers may impact on the LCA's special qualities.'</i>	The opportunities for landscape enjoyment will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>'opportunities to explore and appreciate some of the most remote land in the National Park (and in Southern Britain) via the Beacons Way, extensive open access land and publicly-accessible nature reserves'</i> will remain. The Proposed Development will introduce a new man-made feature on the skyline in some of the <i>'spectacular views'</i> to the north-east, including from the summits and north-east facing slopes of Fan Frynych and Fan Bwlch Chwyth. However, the Proposed Development will occupy a relatively small part of the skyline and will be seen in distant views in clear conditions, in the context of existing man-made development including nearby settlements. Overall, the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Recreation provision and access:	The recreational provision and access will not be affected by the Proposed Development as it will be located outside of the LCA (and

Assessment of Impacts on the Special Qualities of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park		
	<i>Accessible from major roads, and can be appreciated whilst driving along them. Caving offers further recreational opportunities.</i>	BBNP). The major roads will continue to provide access to the landscape and the views from them will remain. Opportunities for other recreational activities will also be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 5: Western Usk Tributaries	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>‘High scenic quality and a strong sense of place, resulting from the landforms, visual variety, distinctive upland backdrops and traditional pastoral management of the area.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of large scale or incongruous features, particularly where skylines are interrupted. Decline in hill farming affecting the traditional management and landscape features of the area.’</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the scenic quality and sense of place as it is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The features that contribute to this special quality, including the landforms, visual variety, distinctive upland backdrop, and traditional pastoral management of the area which will remain. The Proposed Development will be visible in distant views to the north-east from elevated ground, including the summits of Fforest Fawr, however the turbines will occupy a small part of the skyline, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>‘High landscape quality and integrity as a result of centuries of consistent agricultural management, and few incongruous features.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of large scale or incongruous features, particularly where skylines are interrupted. Decline in hill farming affecting the traditional management and landscape features of the area.’</i>	The high landscape quality and integrity will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, including the long history of consistent agricultural management, and few incongruous features will not be affected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Perceptual qualities: <i>‘A peaceful, pastoral landscape with few factors detracting from its tranquillity and timelessness. The western part is within the BBNP core dark skies area.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of large scale or incongruous features, particularly where skylines are interrupted. Decline in hillfarming affecting the traditional management and landscape features of the area.’</i>	The perceptual qualities of the landscape unit will not be directed affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The Proposed Development on a distant skyline outside the National Park will contribute to the human influence seen outside the BBNP, but not within it. The aviation lighting will not alter the darkness of the skies associated with the National Park, but the lights will be just visible at night (see Figures 5.53 in Volume 4). The <i>‘peaceful, pastoral landscape’</i> and its sense of tranquillity and timelessness will remain.

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	Rarity or representativeness: <i>‘This landscape typifies the traditional hill farming landscape, centred on the relationship between enclosed valleys and the open common land above.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of large scale or incongruous features, particularly where skylines are interrupted. Decline in hill farming affecting the traditional management and landscape features of the area.’</i>	The <i>‘traditional hill farming landscape, centred on the relationship between enclosed valleys and the open common land above’</i> will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Natural heritage features: <i>‘A range of habitat sites designated SSSI, including rare examples of once-common habitats, e.g. unimproved wet pastures and fens. The River Usk is designated SSSI and SAC as an example of a river flowing over sandstone, and the associated plant and animal communities within this linear ecosystem.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Changes in grazing patterns or improvement to grasslands could affect rare habitats.’</i>	The natural heritage features identified as part of this special quality will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality including the nationally designated River Usk and its associated species and habitats, as well as rare examples of habitats such as unimproved wet pastures and fens will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Cultural heritage features: <i>‘A strong sense of time-depth from built landscape features including lanes, bridges, farms and field patterns, as well as Scheduled Monuments from the Prehistoric period on higher land (cairns, barrows, standing stones and Twyn-y-Gaer hillfort) and the Medieval motte and bailey at Trecastle.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Loss of archaeological/ historic features as a result of erosion, damage, neglect or insensitive modernisation.’</i>	The cultural heritage features and strong sense of time-depth identified as part of this special quality will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, notably the <i>‘lanes, bridges, farms and field patterns, as well as Scheduled Monuments from the Prehistoric period on higher land (cairns, barrows, standing stones and Twyn-y-Gaer hillfort) and the Medieval motte and bailey at Trecastle’</i> will be unaffected and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>‘Local Nature Reserve at Twyn-y-Gaer enables public access to a woodland site.’</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the opportunities for landscape enjoyment as the turbines are located outside the LCA (and BBNP). Conservation sites including Twyn-y-Gaer Local Nature Reserve will continue to provide public access to and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Recreation provision and access: <i>‘A good network of lanes, footpaths and bridleways providing access into this attractive landscape.’</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the opportunities for landscape enjoyment as the turbines are located outside of the

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	The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	LCA (and BBNP), and the existing network of rights of way will continue to enable recreational access to the landscape.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 6: Middle Usk Valleys	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>‘Strong sense of place, and high scenic quality particularly due to the visual dominance of the Central Beacons to the south.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of visually intrusive features, particularly on skylines or in locations which impact on views to or from the Central Beacons, and on the setting of Brecon’.</i>	There will be views towards the Proposed Development from elevated, north and north-east-facing slopes in the south of the LCA which will increase the presence of modern development on distant skylines outside the BBNP, including from the Central Beacons area, identified as a sensitivity of this special quality. However, views into the Central Beacons to the south (as noted within this special quality) will not be affected by the Proposed Development and will continue to contribute to the scenic quality and sense of place of the LCA. Due to the distance between the Proposed Development and the LCA, the turbines will form a relatively distant element in views (as illustrated by Viewpoint 28: Cefn Llechid (see Figures 5.54 in Volume 4) and their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the scenic quality and sense of place of the LCA. There is no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development predicted from Brecon or its immediate surroundings.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>‘A well-managed landscape which forms the setting to the Central Beacons and to the town of Brecon.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Changes in agricultural practices resulting in loss of traditional landscape features such as hedgerows and vernacular buildings. Decline in grazing affecting common land in the Central Beacons’.</i>	The landscape quality and integrity will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality (including the traditional landscape features such as hedgerows and vernacular buildings) will be unaffected by the Proposed Development. The expression of this special quality will remain.
	Perceptual qualities: <i>‘Away from towns and main roads, the area has a peaceful, pastoral quality with a sense of timelessness.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Insensitive development; loss of traditional hillfarming landscapes; Localised impacts of military training’.</i>	The perceptual qualities of the landscape unit will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of LCA 6 (and BBNP). Due to the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and LCA 6, the features which contribute to the <i>‘peaceful, pastoral quality’</i> and <i>‘sense of timelessness’</i> in the landscape will remain, and this special quality will continue to be expressed.

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	Artistic and cultural associations: <i>‘Early cultural association with Gerald of Wales who resided at Llanddew outside Brecon. Later strong military associations.’</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The artistic and cultural associations of the assessment unit will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of LCA 6 (and BBNP). The cultural associations of Llanddew as well as the later military associations which contribute to this special quality will be largely unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Rarity or representativeness: <i>‘Contains some of the most familiar and well-known views in the National Park, creating a very strong sense of local identity.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Insensitive development; loss of traditional hillfarming landscapes; Localised impacts of military training’.</i>	There will be views towards the Proposed Development from parts of the assessment unit, which will affect some views, including views from Pen-y-crug hillfort and Cefn Llechid (illustrated by Viewpoint 28, see Figures 5.54 in Volume 4). However, the turbines will be located 20 – 27 km away, and will form a small element of the views (as illustrated in Viewpoint 28). Whilst there will be views of turbines, their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the <i>‘familiar and well-known views’</i> or the <i>‘very strong sense of local identity’</i> which will continue to be expressed across the LCA.
	Natural heritage features: <i>‘Designated nature conservation sites include ancient woodland (especially in river valleys) SSSIs at Nant Menasgin and Blaen-Car woods, Gyfartha meadow, Illtyd Pools (upland marsh) and the River Usk and its tributaries. The latter is also designated SAC as an example of a river running over sandstone forming a linear ecosystem with its associated habitats. Illtyd Pools is a Local Nature Reserve.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Decline in management of woodland and other sites; river water quality issues’.</i>	The natural heritage features of this LCA will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The features that contribute to this special quality (notably the ancient woodlands within river valleys, nationally designated grassland habitats, and the important aquatic and riparian habitats associated with the River Usk and its tributaries) will be unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Cultural heritage features: <i>‘Numerous Scheduled Monuments, many of which represent the occupation and defence of this area over millennia. Much of the area is within the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (area 58). Sites included on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens include Penpont (grade II*), an early C.19th ‘picturesque’ park in the Usk Valley influenced by Humphrey Repton and containing some of the earliest larch trees in Britain. The attractive town of Brecon, with its castle, cathedral, bridges, historic college, Georgian buildings and 19th Century barracks. The core of the town is a Conservation Area, and there are numerous Listed Buildings.’</i>	The Cultural Heritage features in this LCA will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, notably the numerous Scheduled Monuments, sites listed on the RHPG, and historical assets associated with Brecon Conservation Area, will be unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.

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	Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss of archaeological sites as a result of natural processes, erosion and damage by visitors.</i> <i>Loss of historic landscape features due to neglect or changes in land management (particularly sites in private ownership).</i> <i>Insensitive modernisation affecting the appearance of built heritage features'.</i>	
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>'Many opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape, including walking, cycling, horse riding, canoeing and boating. Many historic sites are publicly accessible (e.g. Pen-y-crug hillfort; Y Gaer Roman fort).'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The opportunities for landscape enjoyment will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>'many opportunities for enjoyment of the landscape, including walking, cycling, horse riding, canoeing and boating'</i> as well as access to historic sites such as Pen-y-crug hillfort and Y Gaer Roman fort will remain. The Proposed Development will be seen in long-distance views to the north at distances of over 19 km from some public rights of way, including from the Three Rivers Ride locally promoted route. The proposed development will also be visible in long distance views from publicly accessible historic sites including Pen-y-crug hillfort and Y Gaer Roman Fort. Although the effects of the Proposed Development will vary for different recreational activities - people walking on the hills and open access land will be more focussed on views than people undertaking recreational activities such as fishing and water sports - the ProW network, open access land, and other features used for recreation (including watercourses, lakes, publicly accessible historic sites, and hills) will remain. The proposed Development will occupy a relatively small part of the skyline and will be seen in distant views in clear conditions. Overall, the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Recreation provision and access: <i>'A popular tourist/recreation area with good tourist infrastructure and a range of attractions including the National Park Visitor Centre, horse riding centres, canoeing launch points on the Usk, the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and towpath, the Taff Trail and the Three Rivers Ride. Accommodation includes numerous hotels, Bed and</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the opportunities for landscape enjoyment as the turbines will be located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, including the National Park Visitor Centre, horse riding centres, canoeing launch points on the Usk, as well as promoted routes including the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal and towpath,

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	<i>Breakfasts, campsites and a youth hostel. The area also provides access to popular walks in the Central Beacons.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Concentrations of recreational activities causing erosion problems and damage to historic/environmental features.</i> <i>Informal signage and recreational development impacting on the character of the landscape'.</i>	the Taff Trail and the Three Rivers Ride, will continue to provide opportunities for active recreation and enjoyment of the landscape.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 7: Central Beacons	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>'An iconic landscape which forms the centre of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It has exceptionally high scenic quality and a strong sense of place resulting from its elevation, dramatic and distinctive topography, and panoramic views.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape which affect perceptions of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. These can include recreational infrastructure e.g. car parks, waymarkers, paved paths. Concentrations of people can also reduce the sense of tranquillity.</i> <i>Development within or outside the LCA which impacts on views from summits (particularly on the lower land which forms the LCA's northern setting, and on the summits of the east-west ridge of the Brecon Beacons).</i> <i>As this open, exposed landscape is higher than its surroundings, it forms the horizon in views from many surrounding areas. It is therefore particularly sensitive to the introduction of features on its skylines (e.g. trees, telecommunications masts) which would be prominent in views from a wide area'.</i>	There will be views towards the Proposed Development from elevated, north-facing slopes in the north of the LCA, as well as from the iconic summits of Pen y Fan (illustrated by Viewpoint 29 (see Figures 5.55 in Volume 4), Corn Du, and Fan y Big, as well as Y Gryn and Allt Lwyd. The proposed turbines will increase the presence of modern development on distant skylines in clear conditions. However, at 29.6 km away, the Proposed Development will form a relatively distant element in views and their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the scenic quality and sense of place of the LCA. This LCA will continue to form an iconic landscape at the heart of the BBNP with exceptionally high scenic quality and a strong sense of place.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>'An extensive and generally well-managed area of open, undeveloped landscape of high quality, which forms some of the highest land in southern Britain.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape which affect perceptions of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. These can</i>	The high landscape quality and integrity will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of LCA 7 (and the BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality including the <i>'generally well-managed area of open, undeveloped landscape of high quality'</i> will remain unaffected by the Proposed Development. It is noted that <i>'Development within or outside the LCA which impacts on views from summits'</i> is a key sensitivity of this landscape. The

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	<i>include recreational infrastructure e.g. car parks, waymarkers, paved paths. Concentrations of people can also reduce the sense of tranquillity.</i> <i>Development within or outside the LCA which impacts on views from summits (particularly on the lower land which forms the LCA's northern setting, and on the summits of the east-west ridge of the Brecon Beacons).</i> <i>As this open, exposed landscape is higher than its surroundings, it forms the horizon in views from many surrounding areas. It is therefore particularly sensitive to the introduction of features on its skylines (e.g. trees, telecommunications masts) which would be prominent in views from a wide area'.</i>	Proposed Development will introduce new man-made elements in distant views to the north, north-east from distant summits, however at 29.6 km away their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the quality of integrity of this open, undeveloped landscape at the heart of the BBNP, as illustrated by Viewpoint 29 (see Figures 5.55 in Volume 4).
	Perceptual qualities: <i>'High levels of tranquillity due to the landscape's openness, perceived naturalness, low noise and dark skies (the LCA is within the BBNP core dark skies area). There are few detracting features in terms of human development, but the numbers of people present on paths and summits can reduce the sense of tranquillity. The combination of inaccessibility, landform and absence of settlement gives the central part of the LCA a sense of remoteness. These qualities, combined with its sense of openness and exposure also create a sense of relative wildness, particularly when contrasted with the settled valleys to the north. The landscape can become hostile in poor weather conditions.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape which affect perceptions of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. These can include recreational infrastructure e.g. car parks, waymarkers, paved paths. Concentrations of people can also reduce the sense of tranquillity.</i> <i>Development within or outside the LCA which impacts on views from summits (particularly on the lower land which forms the LCA's northern setting, and on the summits of the east-west ridge of the Brecon Beacons).</i> <i>As this open, exposed landscape is higher than its surroundings, it forms the horizon in views from many surrounding areas. It is therefore particularly sensitive to the introduction of features on its skylines (e.g. trees, telecommunications masts) which would be prominent in views from a wide area'.</i>	The high levels of tranquillity will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). LCA 7 falls within the core dark skies area of the BBNP International Dark Sky Reserve designation, due to the dark night skies and absence of light pollution. Although the aviation lighting will not alter the darkness of the skies associated with the National Park, visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of 6 of the 18 proposed turbines will introduce distant light sources to the landscape at night in northerly views from the LCA, including from elevated slopes and summits which are within the International Dark Sky Reserve, illustrated by the photomontage visualisation from Viewpoint N2 (VP 27): Hay Bluff (see Figures 5.53 in Volume 4), located approximately 19.6 km from the nearest lit turbine (T7). Effects arising from the visible aviation lighting are considered further in Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment. The introduction of the Proposed Development with visible aviation lighting will affect some views from summits, but their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the 'peace, tranquillity & darkness' or the 'dark, night time skies' which will continue to be strongly expressed from across the LCA.

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	Artistic and cultural associations: <i>‘Visited by Tudor chronicler John Leyland (1506-52) who distinguishes between ‘Arture’s hille – the top or highest of the peaks’ (probably Pen y Fan) and Banne Brekeniawk – the Brecon Beacons.’</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The artistic and cultural associations of the assessment unit will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of LCA 7 (and the BBNP). The historic associations with Tudor chronicler John Leyland will remain unaffected and this special quality will continue to be expressed.
	Rarity or representativeness: <i>‘The northern scarp of the Central Beacons, with its triangular crags, is an iconic symbol for the Brecon Beacons National Park, and contains rare plant species.’</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The rarity and representativeness of LCA 7 will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside the LCA. The features which contribute to this special quality, including the triangular crags of the northern scarp for the LCA, and the rare plant species they contain, will continue to be expressed throughout the LCA.
	Natural heritage features: <i>‘Of importance for nature conservation, containing a very extensive SSSI (with smaller areas also designated SAC) designated for their moorland and cliff habitats. Crags and wet flushes contain a number of rare plants including Arctic alpine plants, bog orchids and Hawkweeds unique to the Brecon Beacons. Relict soil deposits enable the reconstruction of past environments.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Changes in land management, e.g. changes in grazing levels affecting the composition of moorland vegetation.</i> <i>Damage to fragile habitats through intense recreational use.</i> <i>Changes in environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality) and water retention affecting surface vegetation, geological exposures and cave systems’.</i>	The natural heritage features of this LCA will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The features that contribute to this special quality, including the extensive nationally designated moorland and cliff habitats, rare plant species found within crags and wet flushes, and relict soil deposits which are important for paleoenvironmental reconstruction will be unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the strong expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>‘Main summits and ridges are exceptionally popular walking routes with stunning views. The summit of Pen y Fan is relatively accessible, being an hour’s walk from the A470 on a well-made path.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘The popularity of the area for recreation can lead to footpath and habitat erosion, and also reduce the sense of tranquillity and remoteness which visitors come to seek’.</i>	The opportunities for landscape enjoyment will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside LCA 7 (and BBNP). The popular walking routes and access to the main summits and ridges including Corn Du, Cribyn, Pen y Fan, and Fan y Big will remain. Although there will be views of the proposed turbines from some of these summits, at around 29 km away they will only be visible in clear conditions and their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the ability of recreational users to access and enjoy the landscape of this assessment unit.

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	Recreation provision and access: <i>‘Good recreation infrastructure in terms of car parks, paths, Beacons Way etc. providing access into the landscape.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘The popularity of the area for recreation can lead to footpath and habitat erosion, and also reduce the sense of tranquillity and remoteness which visitors come to seek’.</i>	The provision of recreation and access facilities and infrastructure will be unaffected as the Proposed Development is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The provision of infrastructure that enables recreational access to the landscape, including car parks, well-maintained footpaths, and associated facilities, will remain.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 11: Eastern Usk Valley	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>‘The contrasts between the settled, fertile, wooded valley and the open rugged land above it create a landscape of high scenic quality and with a strong sense of place. This is enhanced by the distinctive profiles of the ridges along the tops of the valley sides. Vistas constantly change along the valley.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Introduction of intrusive development which affects the composition of the landscape, or the profiles of the ridges’.</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the scenic quality and sense of place as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>‘distinctive profiles of the ridges’</i> and the visual <i>‘contrasts between the settled, fertile, wooded valley and the open rugged land above it’</i> which creates a scenic and varied landscape will continue to contribute to the high scenic quality and sense of place, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>‘A well-managed landscape, with a strong sense of time-depth, and although in places there is an awareness of modern developments this is generally not overwhelming.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Agricultural changes affecting the traditional management and appearance of the landscape (e.g. hedgerow loss).</i> <i>Insensitive development which is poorly designed, sited or out of scale in relation to the surrounding landscape’.</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the landscape quality and integrity as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>‘well-managed’</i> character of the rural landscape, and strong sense of time depth will remain. The Proposed Development will be visible in occasional distant views to the north, north-west from elevated parts of the LCA, including from Buckland Hill (where vegetation allows), the north facing-slopes of Craig Danywenallt, and from the south-west slopes of Cefn Moel), where the turbines will increase the presence and awareness of modern development in views from the LCA. However, intervening topography and vegetation will frequently screen views towards the Site, and so this special quality will continue to be strongly expressed across much of LCA 11, particularly where views are contained within the valley.
	Perceptual qualities: <i>‘Pockets of tranquillity occur in tributary valleys, away from the influences of main roads and settlements. Western ends of tributary valleys (below the Central Beacons) are within the BBNP core dark skies area.’</i>	The perceptual qualities of the landscape unit will not be directed affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The Proposed Development on a distant skyline outside the National Park will contribute to the human influence seen outside the BBNP,

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	Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Impacts from visually or audibly intrusive development. Increase in light pollution from roads and settlements'.</i>	but not within it. The proposed turbines will increase the presence of development seen in distant views to the north, north-west, contributing to the <i>'impacts from visually or audibly intrusive development'</i>, identified as a sensitivity of this special quality. The <i>'pockets of tranquillity which occur in the tributary valleys'</i>, as well as the dark skies experienced in the western ends of the tributary valleys (with in the BBNP core dark skies area) will remain.
	Artistic and cultural associations: <i>'Tretower and the Usk Valley sketched by artist JMW Turner. Writer JRR Tolkien reputedly stayed at Buckland Hall while writing Lord of the Rings.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The artistic and cultural associations will not be directly or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development. The features that contribute to this special quality, including the association with artist JMW Turner and author JRR Tolkien will remain, and the special quality will continue to be expressed throughout the LCA.
	Rarity or representativeness: <i>'One of the best examples in the National Park of a fertile valley in very close proximity to rugged uplands.'</i> <i>Contains important and rare industrial archaeology, particularly in relation to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, and the transport of industrial products to it.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss of the traditional composition of the landscape.'</i> <i>Loss of industrial archaeology due to neglect, damage and natural processes'.</i>	The rarity and representativeness of LCA 11 will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to the rarity and representativeness of the landscape unit, including the exemplar <i>'fertile valley in very close proximity to rugged uplands'</i>, and the <i>'important and rare industrial archaeology, particularly in relation to the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal'</i>, will remain, and this special quality will continue to be expressed.
	Natural heritage features: <i>'Nature conservation sites include the River Usk (designated SSSI and SAC as a high-quality example of a river flowing over sandstone, with its associated habitats, plant and animal species within a linear ecosystem). The Usk tributaries are also designated SSSI, as are the Usk Bat Sites. Ancient woodland occurs along tributary streams, and there is a forest nature reserve at Dyffryn Cwannon.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Pollution affecting water quality. Decline in traditional woodland management.'</i> <i>Loss of ecological connectivity'.</i>	The natural heritage features identified as part of this special quality will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The nationally designated River Usk (and its tributaries) and the associated species and habitats, as well as ancient woodland sites (including the nature reserve at Dyffryn Cwannon), will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.

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	Cultural heritage features: <i>'A series of historic parks and gardens along the valley, reflecting the many opportunities to exploit its picturesque setting. Many contain veteran trees.'</i> <i>Numerous Scheduled Monuments, plus other archaeological sites, reflect the area's need for defence in the Iron Age, Roman and Medieval periods. Others represent its surviving built heritage (churches, bridges etc). The historic core of Crickhowell is a Conservation Area. The north and south of the area are included on the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales (areas 58 and 16).</i> <i>Important industrial archaeology associated with the canal and transport of iron products from Blaenavon (e.g. Llanfoist canal basin, tunnels, tramways, inclines, lifts etc.). The southern part of the LCA is included within the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site.'</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss of mature parkland trees due to age, disease or storm damage. Lack of replacement of parkland trees.'</i> <i>Loss of archaeological sites/features due to erosion, damage and natural processes.</i> <i>Neglect of built heritage and designed landscapes (particularly those in private ownership) and loss of character due to insensitive modernisation'.</i>	The cultural heritage features within LCA 11 will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The <i>'series of historic parks and gardens along the valley'</i> and <i>'numerous Scheduled Monuments, plus other archaeological sites'</i>, <i>'important industrial features associated with the canal'</i> and Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site in the south of the LCA, and the historic core of Crickhowell Conservation Area (and its setting), will be unaffected and the strong expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>'A network of footpaths (including the Beacons Way, Usk Valley Walk and canal towpath) provide opportunities to explore the valley landscape and access the surrounding higher land. Forest Nature Reserve at Dyffryn Cwannon.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The opportunities for landscape enjoyment will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The <i>'network of footpaths (including the Beacons Way, Usk Valley Walk and canal towpath)'</i> will continue to <i>'provide opportunities to explore the valley landscape and access the surrounding higher land.'</i> The Proposed Development will be seen in distant views to the north, north-west from rights of way (including the Usk Valley Walk), rural lanes and open access land (including on Tor y Foel) and will introduce new man-made elements on skylines in distant views to the north in clear conditions. However, the opportunities to access and appreciate the landscape will be largely unaffected and the expression of this special quality will remain.

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	Recreation provision and access: <i>‘Good visitor infrastructure in the main valley (hotels, restaurants, pubs, campsites etc.) Recreation opportunities encompassing cultural sites such as Tretower.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Physical impacts (e.g. erosion, traffic) and impacts on the character of popular sites due to recreation pressure’.</i>	The recreation and access provision will not be affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The provision of infrastructure which supports and enables recreational access to the landscape, including accommodation and associated facilities, will be unaffected and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 13: The Black Mountains	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>‘High scenic quality and a strong sense of place, resulting from its elevation, panoramic views, dramatic and distinctive topography, historic sites, and traditional land uses.’</i> Sensitivities of this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Development within this LCA and surrounding areas affecting views, particularly from higher land’.</i>	The Powys LCA identifies <i>‘development within this LCA and surrounding areas affecting views, particularly from higher land’</i> as a sensitivity of this special quality. Although the LCA will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development, there will be views towards the proposed turbines from elevated, open parts of the assessment unit including from the summits of Hay Bluff, Twmpa (Lord Hereford’s Knob), Rhiw y fan, Waun Fach, and Pen Allt mawr, as well as from the extensive open access land which covers much of the upland area of LCA 13. This will increase the presence of modern development seen on distant skylines in views to the north-west, which will interrupt the <i>‘panoramic views’</i> noted within the special quality. However, due to the distance between the Proposed Development and the assessment unit, the turbines will form a relatively distant element in views. However, the panoramic views, dramatic and distinctive topography, historic sites, and traditional land uses will continue to contribute to the high scenic quality and a strong sense of place, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>‘High landscape quality, enhanced by the contrasts between pastoral agriculture in valleys and the open commons above.’</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Decline in traditional hill farming and grazing affecting the appearance of the landscape’.</i>	The landscape quality and integrity of this LCA will not directly be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The perceived contrast between the pastoral agriculture in valleys and the open upland commons will remain largely unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.

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	Perceptual Qualities: <i>'A large-scale landscape, with a strong sense of openness and expansiveness on higher ground, particularly when valley bottoms are not visible. Horizons are notably flat and unbroken. In poor weather the landscape is bleak, exposed and disorientating. Extensive commons have a strong sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness, with very few incongruous features and little noise or disturbance caused by traffic or other detracting influences. Much of the common land is relatively inaccessible by road. Valleys (particularly forested areas) have a much greater sense of enclosure. Although they feel less remote and wild, many have a tranquil feel and few detracting features.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Introduction of incongruous features, particularly on ridge lines'.</i>	The Proposed Development on a distant skyline outside the National Park will contribute to the human influence seen outside the BBNP, but not within it. The perceptual qualities of LCA 13 will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development, where views of the proposed turbines will be experienced from distances of over 19 km, affecting a small part of the <i>'notably flat and unbroken horizons'</i>. The introduction of the Proposed Development will indirectly affect the <i>'strong sense of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness'</i> experienced on the commons, as the turbines will introduce new man-made development on the skyline in distant views to the north. Overall, the strong expression of this special quality will remain, and whilst there will be views of turbines, their presence will not fundamentally or significantly alter the <i>'strong sense of openness and expansiveness'</i> or the sense of tranquillity which can be experienced across the LCA, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Artistic and cultural associations: <i>'Llanthony Priory visited by 12th century chronicler Gerald of Wales, 19th Century poet Walter Savage Landor, and artist JMW Turner, who made studies and paintings of the Priory. 20th Century designer Eric Gill lived at Capel y Ffin.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The artistic and cultural associations of the assessment unit will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality (including Llanthony Priory and its setting) will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Rarity or Representativeness: <i>'Important upland habitats (e.g. peat bogs) and opportunities to experience tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Changes in land management, e.g. changes in grazing levels affecting the composition of moorland vegetation.'</i> <i>Changes in environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality) and water retention affecting surface vegetation'.</i>	The rarity and representativeness of the landscape unit will not be directly affected by the Proposed Development as it is located outside of the landscape unit (and BBNP). The introduction of turbines into distant views (experienced at distances of over 19 km), will introduce man-made development to the skyline in long distance views to the north, and will indirectly affect the <i>'opportunities to experience tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness'</i>, noted as part of this special quality. However, the proposed turbines will form a distant element in a small proportion of the skyline in views from upland areas within the assessment unit. The important upland habitats (including peat bogs) will be unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.

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	Natural heritage features: <i>'Numerous nature/geological conservation designations, including an extensive moorland SSSI. The River Usk tributaries are also designated SAC. Ancient woodland concentrated in the south of the LCA.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Changes in land management, e.g. changes in grazing levels affecting the composition of moorland vegetation.</i> <i>Changes in environmental conditions (e.g. air and water quality) and water retention affecting surface vegetation'.</i>	The natural heritage features of LCA 13 will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, notably the nationally designated moorland and riparian habitats, as well as areas of ancient woodland, will be unaffected, and the strong expression of this special quality will remain.
	Cultural heritage features: <i>'A rich archaeological landscape containing an exceptionally high concentration of Scheduled Monuments (over 40) including numerous prehistoric barrows, cairns, enclosures and hillforts, and also Medieval domestic and ecclesiastical sites (including Llanthony Priory). Several cultural sites (e.g. Iron Age hillfort at Table Mountain) are prominent landmarks. Historic park at Tre-wyn partially within this LCA.</i> <i>Railway and village of up to 450 people constructed in the heart of the LCA 1910-1928 during construction of Grwyne Fawr Reservoir.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss/damage to archaeological features as a result of natural processes or erosion/damage by visitors'.</i>	The cultural heritage features will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The <i>'exceptionally high concentration of Scheduled Monuments'</i> from a range of time periods (including prehistoric and medieval features), as well as important cultural sites which form prominent local landmarks (including the Iron Age hillfort at Table Mountain) will be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>'Good opportunities to access extensive areas of high-quality, remote, tranquil and relatively wild landscape, including open access land, Beacons Way and Offa's Dyke Path (which runs along the eastern boundary of the National Park). Gospel Pass is a popular high-level road with parking areas. The area is particularly popular with less experienced walkers such as Duke of Edinburgh's award groups. Hang gliding at Hay Bluff and Three Wells.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Too much footfall can result in damage to paths and habitats, and also reduce levels of tranquillity'.</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the opportunities for landscape enjoyment as it is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). However, there will be views towards the Proposed Development from elevated areas of the BBNP, including from public rights of way and open access land (including hill summits and north-facing slopes) within 30 km. This will increase the presence of modern development seen on distant skylines to the north from elevated upland areas at distances of over 19 km, affecting the perception of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness. Although not explicitly stated as a special quality, recreational use and landscape enjoyment may include night-time activities (e.g. camping, stargazing). The visible aviation lighting on the nacelles of 6 of the 18 proposed turbines will introduce distant artificial light

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		sources to the landscape outside the BBNP at night, as illustrated by Viewpoint N2 (VP 27): Hay Bluff (see Figures 5.53 in Volume 4) However, due to the distance between the Proposed Development and the BBNP, the turbines and associated aviation lighting will form a relatively distant element in these views, often seen in the context of other existing artificial lighting associated with settlement and transport corridors. Although there will be views of the proposed turbines from the assessment unit, their presence will not fundamentally and significantly alter the opportunities for landscape enjoyment of LCA 13. Effects arising from the visible aviation lighting are assessed in Appendix 5.8: Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment.
	Recreation provision and access: <i>‘Further recreation opportunities at accessible cultural sites including Llanthony Priory and Crug Hywel hillfort on Table Mountain, both with outstanding views. Forestry trails provide active recreation such as mountain cycling, and there are popular picnic sites (e.g. Standing Stone car park).’</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the recreation provision and access as it is located outside of the landscape assessment unit (and BBNP). The accessible cultural sites, forestry trails, and picnic sites, will continue to enable recreational access to the landscape, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Brecon Beacons Landscape Character Area (LCA) 14: Wye Valley Foothills	
	Scenic quality and Sense of place: <i>‘Scenic quality and a strong sense of place resulting from the backdrop of the Black Mountains scarp, the varied landform, and the harmonious but interesting composition of farmland, woodland and common land.’</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>‘Changes in land management and loss of landscape features associated with traditional hillfarming, e.g. common land and hedgerows. Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape’.</i>	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the scenic quality and sense of place as it is located outside the LCA (And BBNP). The <i>‘varied landform, and the harmonious but interesting composition of farmland, woodland and common land’</i> that contribute to this special quality will not be affected by the Proposed Development and will continue to give the LCA its distinctive character. There will be views towards the Proposed Development from elevated north-west facing hillslopes and summits, including common land at Rhos Fawr, Tregoyd Common, and the summit of Wenallt. This will increase the presence of modern development seen on distant skylines in views to the north-west. However, due to the distance between the Proposed Development and the assessment unit, the turbines will form a relatively distant element in views affecting a small part of the skyline. Although there will be views of turbines from this assessment unit, their presence will not

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		fundamentally or significantly alter the scenic quality and sense of place, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Landscape quality and integrity: <i>'High landscape quality and condition, reflecting the overall good management of the land. Historic landscape patterns are generally well-preserved with few detracting influences, particularly away from the Wye Valley.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Changes in land management and loss of landscape features associated with traditional hillfarming, e.g. common land and hedgerows. Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape.'</i>	The high landscape quality and integrity will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside the LCA (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality including the well-preserved historic field patterns will be largely unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Perceptual Qualities: <i>'Moderate levels of tranquillity over much of the area, partly due to the ridged landform which creates a sense of isolation, and reduces factors (such as road noise and views to development) which detract from tranquillity. Despite being a settled landscape, much of the LCA has a strong sense of timelessness.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Increased presence of factors detracting from tranquillity (e.g. roads; views of development).'</i>	The Powys LCA identifies <i>'Increased presence of factors detracting from tranquillity (e.g. roads; views of development)'</i> as a sensitivity of this special quality. Although the Proposed Development will not directly affect the perceptual qualities of the assessment unit as it is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP), it will contribute to the human influence seen outside the BBNP. The Proposed Development will increase the presence of man-made development in distant views to the north-west, from elevated parts of the LCA. However, the Proposed Development will only be seen in clear conditions, affecting a small part of the skyline. The moderate levels of tranquillity and strong sense of timelessness will largely be unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Artistic and cultural associations: <i>'Many literary connections, including the annual Hay-on-Wye literary festival. The early Welsh Stanzas Canu Llywarch Hen may have been written at Llangors, and parts of the LCA are also within 'Kilvert Country' described in Rev. Francis Kilvert's 19th century diary. Treffecca College was an early Methodist community and educational establishment.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The artistic and cultural associations of the assessment unit will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The literary connections including the annual Hay-on-Wye literary festival, and the historical significance of Treffecca College will be largely unaffected, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Natural heritage features: <i>'Variety of nature conservation sites, including heathland, woodland, grassland, wetland and geological SSSIs, and SACs at Llangors Lake and River Wye.'</i>	The natural heritage features of the LCA will not be directly affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The diverse range of habitats and variety of nature conservation sites, including geological SSSIs, and SACs at

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	Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss of extent or biodiversity of woodlands and other semi-natural habitats as a result of changing farming practices or reduced management'.</i>	Llangors Lake and River Wye will be largely unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Cultural heritage features: <i>'A historic landscape with a long history of settlement and defence reflected in the number and variety of Scheduled Monuments and other archaeological sites, and the inclusion of much of the area in the Register of Landscapes of Special Historic Interest in Wales. (Areas 36+58). Of particular note are the prehistoric ritual sites (including tombs such as Penywyrhod), surviving medieval field systems on higher areas, and also medieval defensive sites on lower land (including Hay Castle, and Llangors crannog). A rich built heritage (particularly in Hay on Wye) with Conservation Areas at Hay-on-Wye and Talgarth, historic parks and gardens, and associations with 12th century chronicler Gerald of Wales, who visited and described this area.'</i> Sensitivities to landscape change for this special quality are identified as: <i>'Loss of archaeological features as a result of natural processes, erosion or damage.</i> <i>Loss or neglect of historic buildings or landscapes (particularly those in private ownership) and loss of architectural integrity due to insensitive modernisation'.</i>	The cultural heritage features will not be affected as the Proposed Development is located outside of the landscape assessment unit. The <i>'variety of Scheduled Monuments and other archaeological sites'</i> as well as the <i>'rich built heritage in Hay on Wye historic parks and gardens, and associations with 12th century chronicler Gerald of Wales'</i> will be unaffected, and the strong expression of this special quality will remain.
	Opportunities for landscape enjoyment: <i>'A good network of lanes and footpaths (including the Three Rivers Ride) provides access into the landscape. There are accessible conservation sites at Park Wood, Pwll-y-wrach and Llangasty Nature Reserves.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the opportunities for landscape enjoyment as the turbines are located outside of the LCA (and BBNP). The existing network of lanes and footpaths (including the Three Rivers Ride route) and accessible conservation sites will continue to enable recreational access to the landscape, and the expression of this special quality will remain.
	Recreation provision and access: <i>'Varied recreation opportunities, ranging from gliding, to watersports on Llangors Lake to Hay-on-Wye book festival. Hay-on-Wye is a centre for tourist accommodation, and there are also campsites and adventure centres.'</i> The LCA does not identify any sensitivities of this special quality.	The Proposed Development will not directly affect the recreation provision and access within the LCA as the turbines are located outside of the assessment unit (and BBNP). The features which contribute to this special quality, notably the <i>'access to Llangors Lake for watersports'</i>, and provision of tourism activities and information in Hay on Wye (including Hay on Wye Book Festival) will

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		be unaffected by the Proposed Development, and the strong expression of this special quality will remain.
Discussion of the implications for the designated landscape	Summary The Proposed Development will be visible from upland areas of the BBNP in clear atmospheric conditions at distances of over 19 km; however, its presence will not fundamentally and significantly alter the key characteristics of the BBNP landscape, its special qualities or the enjoyment and opportunities for recreation associated with visiting the National Park. The introduction of the Proposed Development will not significantly adversely affect the day-time or night-time views experienced from upland locations within BBNP at distances exceeding 19 km, and the BBNP will remain an iconic landscape with exceptionally high scenic quality and a strong sense of place resulting from its elevation, dramatic and distinctive topography, and panoramic views, as well as its historic features, cultural associations, and natural heritage value. Taking into account the observations above, it is considered that the values (i.e. the special qualities) and integrity of this designated landscape will be preserved.	
Proposed (embedded) mitigation	The appearance of the Proposed Development in views from key locations within the BBNP (including the views from hill summits such as Hay Bluff (Viewpoint 27) (photomontage), Cefn Llechid (Viewpoint 28) (photomontage) and Pen y Fan (Viewpoint 29) (wireline) was a key consideration during the design of the project. The aim was to create a compact but balanced layout that minimised overlapping (acknowledging that there will always be overlapping of turbines in some viewpoints).	
Discussion of the cumulative implications for the designated landscape (see 'Approach to Assessment of Additional Cumulative Effects' section in Appendix 5.1: LVIA and CLVIA Methodology which includes definitions of each cumulative scenario)	Scenario A There are currently no consented wind farms located within or close to the BBNP (within 10 km); however, distant views of consented wind farms in panoramic views to the north will be afforded from extents of the BBNP similar to those from where visibility of the Proposed Development will arise (as illustrated in Figure 5.21). The consented Llandinam Repowering scheme (34 turbines at 121.2 m blade tip height) will be evident in long distance views to the north from the BBNP (in clear atmospheric conditions), alongside the consented development of Garn Fach (17 turbines at 149.9 m blade tip height). However, given the intervening distance, the introduction of the Proposed Development into a baseline containing these schemes will not result in new or different effects to those described in the primary assessment. Scenario B There are currently no proposed wind farms located within or close to the BBNP (within 10 km); however, distant views of other consented and undetermined wind farm applications will be afforded from the extents of the National Park similar to those from where visibility of the Proposed Development will arise (as illustrated by Figure 5.22, and illustrated in the visualisations for Viewpoint 27: Hay Bluff (see Figure 5.53a) and Viewpoint 29: Pen y Fan (see Figures 5.55 in Volume 4). If built, the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park (30 turbines at 220 m blade tip height¹⁰) would be seen in distant views to the north, while turbines of the proposed Bryngydfa Wind Farm would be barely perceptible in the distance to the north/ north-west alongside the operational Garreg Lywd Wind Farm and the consented Garn Fach and Llandinam Repowering Wind Farms. The Proposed Development will appear distinctly separate from the	

¹⁰ The Nant Mithil Energy Park will comprise three turbines at 220 m blade tip height, 24 turbines at 205 m blade tip height, and three turbines at 180 m blade tip height.

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consented and proposed wind farms described above, and will be closer to the BBNP. However, the introduction of the Proposed Development into a baseline containing these schemes will not result in new or different effects to those described in the primary assessment. The addition of the Proposed Development to a landscape containing the above consented and proposed wind energy developments will contribute to a noticeable but small change to long distance views from the BBNP.