Foel Fach Wind Farm Limited.

Foel Fach Wind Farm – Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 9.4: LANDMAP Detailed Assessment

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Energy for generations

Coriolis Energy

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APPENDIX 9.4 – LANDMAP DETAILED ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The assessment of effects on landscape character has been informed by the LANDMAP landscape characterisation and in particular the Visual and Sensory aspect areas which cover the Site and surrounding landscape. Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas have been overlaid with the blade tip ZTV in Environmental Statement (**ES) Volume IV, Figure 9.24: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Overall Evaluation with Blade Tip ZTV with Viewpoints**. This overlay plan helps to provide an indication of potential 'worst-case' maximum intervisibility between the Proposed Development and each of the character areas. This potential visibility of the turbines has also been calculated for each of the character areas in terms of the percentage of the character area that would have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, and these percentages are referred to throughout the discussion of the potential effects set out below.

1.1.2 It is important to reiterate that potential visibility of the turbines is only one component of a consideration of the magnitude of impact to landscape character and the potential visibility set out is not the sole basis on which judgements of impacts are made. In addition, other factors are also relevant, including the distance between the character area and the Proposed Development, the proportion of the turbines that would be visible (i.e. is it only blade tips, rather than the full turbine height) and the underlying characteristics of the landscape and the extent to which there is an interrelationship between key elements or features of the landscape and the Proposed Development. The Visual and Sensory aspect area which covers the Site SNPVS091 - Foel Goch Uplands is considered in detail in the main text of **ES Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual.** This Appendix provides assessment of all other aspect areas up to 20 km from the Site, organised by distance bands and directions from the Proposed Development.

1.1.3 Sensitivity is determined through a structured methodology that begins with LANDMAP vs_50 Overall Evaluation values, representing the authoritative professional assessment of landscape value by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) assessors. These baseline values are then considered with reference to additional factors contributing to value and susceptibility including:

- Designation status (National Park, National Landscape, Special Landscape Area)
- Proximity to the Proposed Development
- Specific topographic characteristics identified in LANDMAP assessments

- Visual detractors and existing infrastructure noted in LANDMAP surveys and (depending on the age of such surveys) as additionally noted by the author through their own site visits, photography and other analysis, including existing wind energy development which was not constructed when the LANDMAP survey work was undertaken, such as the Clocaenog Wind Farm..
- Degree of theoretical visibility from the ZTV analysis

1.1.4 This tiered approach ensures that sensitivity assessments are grounded in established professional evaluations while accounting for site-specific factors that may increase or reduce susceptibility to wind energy development.

1.2 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas within 5 km

Areas to the North of the Site Within 5 km

CNWVS050 - Foel Goch

1.2.1 CNWVS050 - Foel Goch comprises *"a mountainous ridge of moorland and upland pasture in a series of gentle peaks reaching 611 m AOD with steep slopes in incised valleys. The landcover is open moorland with some upland grazing. Three highs and one moderate equals high scenic value, demonstrating high landscape quality with regional importance."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Mountainous ridge of moorland and upland pasture
- Series of gentle peaks reaching 611 m AOD with steep slopes in incised valleys
- Open moorland with some upland grazing
- Large scale open upland moorland with exposed plateau, hillsides and scarp slopes

Distance and Direction

1.2.2 Located approximately 2.8 km to the north of the Site.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.2.3 Theoretical visibility data reveals 76% total visibility (24% no visibility; 57% at 1-4 turbines; 8% at 5-7 turbines; 10% at 8-10 turbines). Visibility is concentrated along the ridgeline boundary from around Garnedd Fawr to Foel Goch summit, with north-facing slopes benefiting from some topographic screening.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.4 The aspect area is assessed as having high susceptibility to the change proposed due to its exposed upland character, prominent ridgeline position, and valued moorland qualities. Combined with the High LANDMAP overall evaluation, this results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.5 Construction activities, primarily the cranes erecting the turbines, would be visible from the elevated ridgeline portions of this upland area due to proximity to the Site and elevated viewing positions along the ridge between Garnedd Fawr and Foel Goch summit. The theoretical turbine visibility data shows that while 76% of the aspect area has some degree of theoretical tip-height visibility, the majority (57%) would see cranes associated with only 1-4 turbine locations, with visibility concentrated along the ridgeline rather than from north-facing slopes. The distance of 2.8 km combined with the distribution of visibility across varied portions of the upland area would result in a medium scale of change experienced primarily from elevated ridgeline positions, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.6 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and significant. Given the high landscape value (High overall evaluation), proximity to the Site, and extent of visibility from elevated positions, this moderate effect is considered significant despite the concentration of visibility along specific elevated portions of the aspect area.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.7 During operation, the visibility analysis confirms that while 76% of the aspect area would have some theoretical turbine visibility, this is distributed across varied portions with 57% seeing only 1-4 turbines, 8% seeing 5-7 turbines, and just 10% seeing 8-10 turbines. The turbines would introduce prominent vertical development into views from elevated ridgeline positions, though the visibility would be more varied across the area rather than a uniform change, with north-facing slopes retaining much of their existing character. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across substantial portions of the elevated areas, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.8 Combined with the high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate and significant effect to the character of this upland area, with effects concentrated on the elevated ridgeline portions that have direct views toward the Site.

Overall Assessment CNWVS050:

1.2.9 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Significant**

CNWVS048 - Maes-newyddion Uplands

1.2.10 CNWVS048 - Maes-newyddion uplands comprises *"upland grazing with all moderate scenic value and Moderate overall evaluation."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Upland grazing landscape
- Moderate scenic value across all evaluation criteria

Distance and Direction

1.2.11 Located at approximately 4.2 km to the north.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.12 Theoretical visibility data shows 41% total visibility (59% no visibility; 8% at 1-4 turbines; 8% at 5-7 turbines; 24% at 8-10 turbines). Substantial topographic screening limits visibility across much of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.13 The moderate value combined with limited visibility extent and distance of over 4 km results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.14 Construction activities would be partially visible from elevated positions within this upland area. The theoretical visibility data shows that 59% of the area would have no views of construction, while the visible areas are split between limited views and more comprehensive views from specific elevated positions. The distance of 4.2 km combined with substantial topographic screening would limit the perceived scale of construction activities. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited portions of the area, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.15 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant, considering the moderate landscape value and limited extent of visibility from this aspect area.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.16 During operation, the visibility analysis shows that while 25% of the area would theoretically see 8-10 turbines, the majority (59%) would have no views at all. Where visible from elevated positions, the turbines would appear as distant elements with the upland grazing character largely maintained across the majority of the aspect area. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited geographical extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.17 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a minor and not significant effect.

Overall Assessment CNWVS048:

1.2.18 Value**:** Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor Not Significant**

CNWVS049 - Moel Gwern-nannau

1.2.19 CNWVS049 - Moel Gwern-nannau comprises "*upland grazing with three moderates and one high equals moderate scenic value and Moderate overall evaluation*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Upland grazing character
- Mixed scenic value (three moderates and one high)

Distance and Direction

1.2.20 Located at approximately 4.5 km to the north.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.21 Theoretical visibility data shows only 30% total visibility (70% no visibility; 5% at 1-4 turbines; 2% at 5-7 turbines; 23% at 8-10 turbines), demonstrating substantial topographic screening across the majority of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.22 The moderate value combined with very limited visibility extent (70% no visibility) and distance of 4.5 km results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.23 Construction activities would have very limited visibility from this area with 70% experiencing no theoretical views. Where visible, construction would be seen primarily from the highest elevations where 23% of the area might see activities associated with 8-10 turbine locations, though even these views would be at substantial distance. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across a very limited geographical extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.24 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant, given the substantial topographic screening and distance.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.25 During operation, the limited visibility pattern would continue with only 30% of the area having any theoretical views of turbines. The turbines would appear as distant elements where visible from the most elevated positions, with the upland grazing character maintained across the majority (70%) of the area. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.26 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a minor and not significant effect.

Overall Assessment CNWVS049:

1.2.27 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor Not Significant**

Areas to the North-east of the Site Within 5 km

CNWVS006 - Ceirw and Medrad Narrow Valleys

1.2.28 CNWVS006 - Ceirw and Medrad narrow valleys comprises "narrow upland valleys with flat valley floor rising from 230 m AOD to 340 m AOD with steep slopes. Three highs and one moderate = high scenic value with High overall evaluation and Special Landscape Area designation."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Narrow upland valleys with flat valley floor rising from 230 m AOD to 340 m AOD with steep slopes
- High scenic value (three highs and one moderate)
- Special Landscape Area designation

Distance and Direction

1.2.29 Located at approximately 4.8 km north-east of the Site.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.2.30 The valley containment provides some screening with theoretical visibility data showing 71% total visibility (29% no visibility; 41% at 1-4 turbines; 18% at 5-7 turbines; 12% at 8-10 turbines). Visibility is concentrated on elevated valley side positions due to the valley's orientation toward the Site, with lower valley floor areas benefiting from topographic screening.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.31 The combination of High evaluation, Special Landscape Area designation, and valley characteristics results in high sensitivity despite some topographic mitigation from valley containment.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.32 Construction activities would be visible from elevated valley side positions due to the valley's orientation toward the Site, though the substantial distance of 4.8 km and valley containment provide mitigation for lower valley floor areas. The theoretical visibility data confirms that 29% of the valley area would have no views of construction, while the remaining areas would have varied visibility with the largest proportion (41%) seeing construction associated with only 1-4 turbine locations. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across varied portions of the aspect area, with effects concentrated on elevated valley sides rather than valley floor areas, resulting in a low to very low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.33 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.34 During operation, the visibility analysis confirms that elevated valley sides would provide theoretical views of turbines with varied numbers visible - 41% of the area seeing 1-4 turbines, 18% seeing 5-7 turbines, and only 12% seeing the full array of 8-10 turbines. The valley would maintain its essential character as an upland valley system, though with alteration from visible turbines in elevated positions, while lower valley floor areas retain their existing intimate character. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions of the valley, with effects concentrated on elevated slopes, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.35 Combined with the high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate and significant effect on the character of this Special Landscape Area, with significant effects primarily on elevated valley side positions.

Overall Assessment CNWVS006:

1.2.36 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Significant**

Areas to the East of the Site Within 5 km

SNPVS135 - Cefn Caer-Euni

1.2.37 SNPVS135 - Cefn Caer-Euni comprises *"hillside and scarp slopes moorland outside the National Park boundary with High overall evaluation. Upland moorland with exposed character. Not actually in the National Park and forms part of the Gwynedd Landscape Strategy 2012."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Hillside and scarp slopes moorland
- Exposed upland moorland character
- Located outside the National Park boundary
- Forms part of the Gwynedd Landscape Strategy 201

Distance and Direction

1.2.38 At approximately 3.4 km to the east

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.2.39 Theoretical visibility data shows 83% total visibility (17% no visibility; 10% at 1-4 turbines; 7% at 5-7 turbines; 65% at 8-10 turbines). The elevated scarp slope positions provide extensive visibility across the majority of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.40 The aspect area is assessed as having high susceptibility due to its exposed elevated character, proximity to the Site, and valued upland moorland qualities. Combined with the High LANDMAP overall evaluation, this results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.41 Construction activities would be partly visible from this elevated moorland scarp due to proximity (3.4 km) and elevated viewing positions across the scarp slopes. With 65% of the area having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbine construction locations, the exposed character would allow some views of construction operations primarily the cranes erecting the turbines. This would result in change experienced across some portions of the scarp, resulting in a low to medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.42 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and not significant, given the infrequent views of only some of the construction activities.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.43 During operation, 65% of the scarp would have theoretical views of 8-10 turbines with an additional 17% seeing fewer turbines. The turbines would appear as prominent new elements across parts of this elevated landscape, though some lower-lying areas would retain more of their existing character. This would result in a high scale of change experienced across parts of the scarp, resulting in a high magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.44 Combined with the high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a major and significant effect on the character of this elevated moorland landscape.

Overall Assessment SNPVS135:

1.2.45 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: High | Effect: **Major Significant**

SNPVS137 - Parc y Derwgoed and area

1.2.46 SNPVS137 - Parc y Derwgoed and area comprises *"wooded hillside outside the National Park boundary with Moderate overall evaluation. Not actually in the National Park and forms part of mixed wooded farmland character."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Woodland and estate parkland character
- Moderate landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.2.47 Located at approximately 4.8 km to the east.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.48 Theoretical visibility data shows 66% total visibility (34% no visibility; 10% at 1-4 turbines; 4% at 5-7 turbines; 53% at 8-10 turbines). Woodland coverage provides substantial screening across much of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.49 The moderate value combined with woodland screening characteristics and distance of 4.8 km results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.50 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this area with 34% experiencing no views due to woodland screening. Where visible from more open or elevated positions, construction would be seen across varied portions with 53% potentially seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations at 4.8 km distance. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions with visibility, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.51 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate but not significant, considering the moderate landscape value and substantial woodland screening.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.52 During operation, the woodland character would continue to provide screening much of the area. Where visible, the turbines would appear as distant elements, with the woodland and parkland character maintained across the majority of the area. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across limited geographical extent, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.53 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS137:

1.2.54 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

Areas to the South of the Site Within 5 km

SNPVS094 - Bala Plain

1.2.55 SNPVS094 - Bala Plain is characterised as a distinctive flat lowland plain surrounding the market town of Bala.

1.2.56 The aspect area encompasses the town of Bala and its immediate agricultural hinterland, occupying a level valley floor position at the northern end of Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake).

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

1.2.57 The Visual and Sensory characteristics of SNPVS094 include:

- **Landform:** Distinctive flat to gently undulating lowland plain, a relatively uncommon landform within the National Park
- **Settlement Pattern:** Nucleated market town of Bala as the principal settlement, with scattered farmsteads and small clusters on the plain edges
- **Built Environment:** Historic market town character in Bala with predominantly traditional Welsh stone buildings, alongside more recent development. Agricultural buildings scattered across the plain
- **Field Pattern:** Regular pattern of medium to large scale agricultural fields, predominantly pastoral use, bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees
- **Enclosure:** Open character to the plain with long views across level farmland, though enclosed by surrounding upland landforms providing a strong sense of containment
- **Views Out:** Panoramic views available from the plain towards surrounding upland horizons, including views north-east towards the Foel Goch uplands where the Site is located
- **Views In:** The plain is visually prominent from surrounding elevated locations due to its level topography contrasting with upland surroundings
- **Scenic Quality:** High scenic quality derived from the harmonious composition of level agricultural plain, historic market town, and dramatic mountain backdrop
- **Tranquillity:** Mixed tranquillity - relatively peaceful agricultural character away from Bala, but influenced by town activity and traffic on A roads (A494, A4212) crossing the plain
- **Cultural Associations:** Strong cultural associations with traditional upland farming and the historic market town of Bala, serving the wider agricultural area
- **National Park Setting:** The plain's location entirely within Eryri National Park emphasises its recognised landscape importance

Distance and Direction

1.2.58 Located at approximately 4.2 km to the south.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.2.59 Theoretical visibility data shows 93% total visibility (22% no visibility; 8% at 1-4 turbines; 12% at 5-7 turbines; 58% at 8-10 turbines). The flat plain topography combined with northward views toward elevated turbine positions results in extensive visibility across much of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.60 Combining the **High** value assessment from LANDMAP with **high** susceptibility to change from wind energy development on adjacent uplands results in an overall **high sensitivity** for SNPVS094 - Bala Plain.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.61 Construction activities would be visible from this flat plain landscape due to northward views toward the elevated turbine locations on Foel Goch uplands. The theoretical visibility data shows that 58% of the plain would have views of 8-10 of the cranes erecting the turbines. This would result in a a high magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.62 Overall, the effect is judged to be major and significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.63 During operation, 58% of the plain would have theoretical views of 8-10 turbines, with an additional 20% seeing fewer turbines. The turbines would introduce vertical development into the northern horizon . This would result in a high scale of change experienced across parts of the plain, resulting in a high magnitude of change, albeit the key characteristic of the area would remain the built form of Bala itself.

Effects During Operation

1.2.64 Combined with the high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a **major** and **significant** effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS094:

1.2.65 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: High | Effect: **Major Significant**

SNPVS099 - Bala Lake (Llyn Tegid)

1.2.66 SNPVS099 - Bala Lake comprises "*large natural lake with High overall evaluation. Located within Eryri National Park. Important recreational and scenic resource*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Large natural lake
- Located within Eryri National Park
- Important recreational and scenic resource
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.2.67 Located at approximately 4.5 km to the south.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.2.68 Theoretical visibility data shows **98.0%** total visibility (**2.0%** no visibility; **10.0%** at 1-4 turbines; **5.0%** at 5-7 turbines; **83.0%** at 8-10 turbines). The open water setting provides uninterrupted theoretical views across the lake surface, with visibility particularly extensive from the northern shores and across the open water **Sensitivity Assessment:**

1.2.69 The combination of High evaluation, National Park designation, and recreational importance results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.70 Construction activities, limited to views of the cranes erecting the turbines would be visible across much of the lake due to northward views toward the elevated turbine locations. The open water setting would provide clear sightlines to the cranes, with 72% of the lake area having theoretical views of 8-10 turbines being erected . This would result in ahigh magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.71 Overall, the effect is judged to be major and significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.72 During operation, the turbines would introduce vertical development into views. This would result in a high magnitude of change, albeit the key characteristic of the area when looking towards Bala from the lake would remain the built form of Bala itself.

Effects During Operation

1.2.73 Combined with the high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a major and significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS099:

1.2.74 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: High | Effect: **Major Significant**

Areas to the South-east of the Site Within 5 km

SNPVS092 - Bethel

1.2.75 SNPVS092 - Bethel is characterised as a small village settlement within the upland landscape context south-east of the Site. The Visual and Sensory Aspect Area encompasses the nucleated settlement form of Bethel, which sits within the broader agricultural and upland landscape mosaic between Llanfor and the eastern slopes rising towards the Site.

1.2.76 The settlement is of **moderate landscape value**, reflecting its modest scale and relatively limited designation coverage, though it maintains characteristic qualities of traditional Welsh upland settlement patterns. The village exhibits typical features of small rural settlements in this part of Gwynedd, with predominantly residential properties arranged in a compact form, connected by minor rural roads.

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Small village settlement character
- **Settlement Pattern:** Compact nucleated village form typical of upland Gwynedd settlements
- **Built Environment:** Mix of traditional and more recent residential properties, predominantly two-storey scale
- **Landscape Setting:** Village nestled within agricultural landscape with fields providing immediate context
- **Enclosure:** Moderate sense of enclosure provided by landform, mature hedgerows and scattered trees
- **Views Out:** Some views available from settlement edges towards surrounding upland areas including directions towards the Site
- **Tranquillity:** Rural character with low traffic levels on connecting minor roads
- **Land Use:** Predominantly residential with agricultural land immediately adjacent

  Distance and Direction: Located at approximately 3.9 km to the south-east

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.77 Theoretical visibility data shows 64.0% total visibility (36.0% no visibility; 20.0% at 1-4 turbines; 12.0% at 5-7 turbines; 32.0% at 8-10 turbines). Settlement structure and vegetation provide some screening, though elevated positions within the village have more extensive views.

1.2.78 The settlement's susceptibility to change from wind energy development would be considered **medium to medium-high**, given that:

- Existing settlement character is small-scale and intimate
- Traditional building forms and scale would contrast with large vertical turbine structures

- Settlement edge properties may have views towards the Site from windows or gardens
- The upland landscape context already includes some modern elements but retains predominantly rural character

Sensitivity Assessment:

1.2.79 Combining the moderate value assessment from LANDMAP with medium to medium-high susceptibility to change from wind energy development results in an overall **medium sensitivity** for SNPVS092 - Bethel.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.80 Construction activities would be visible from portions of this village settlement, particularly from elevated positions, with 32% having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbine construction locations. Settlement structure and vegetation would provide screening for much of the village area. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions of the settlement, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.81 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate but not significant, considering the moderate landscape value and partial screening from settlement structure.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.82 During operation, the settlement would experience varied visibility with 32% having theoretical views of 8-10 turbines and 36% having no views. The village character would be altered by the introduction of visible turbines on the northern horizon for some properties, though a substantial proportion would retain their existing outlook. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions of the village, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.83 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS092:

1.2.84 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

Areas to the West and South-west of the Site Within 5 km

SNPVS087 - Migneint

1.2.85 SNPVS087 - Migneint comprises "*extensive upland moorland plateau within Eryri National Park with Outstanding overall evaluation. Wild and remote character with international importance for blanket bog habitat."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Extensive upland moorland plateau
- Located within Eryri National Park
- Wild and remote character
- Outstanding landscape value
- International importance for blanket bog habitat

Distance and Direction:

1.2.86 Located at approximately 4.8 km to the west.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Outstanding (Very High)

ZTV Analysis

1.2.87 Theoretical visibility data shows 21.0% total visibility (79.0% no visibility; 5.0% at 1-4 turbines; 2.0% at 5-7 turbines; 14.0% at 8-10 turbines). The extensive plateau topography provides substantial screening for much of this aspect area, with visibility concentrated on eastern margins facing toward the Site.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.88 The combination of Outstanding evaluation National Park designation and relatively wild and remote character, results in very high sensitivity, despite substantial topographic screening. .

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.89 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this extensive moorland plateau with 79% experiencing no views due to the plateau topography. Where visible from eastern margins facing the Site, construction would be seen across varied portions with only 14% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations at 4.8 km distance. The wild and remote character would be preserved across the majority of the plateau. This would result in a low scale of change experienced primarily from eastern margins of the plateau, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.90 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and significant, limited to the closest parts of the Aspect Area, with the effects being no greater than moderate and not significant for the more distant parts of the landscape. Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.91 During operation, the extensive topographic screening would restrict views of the Proposed Development from much of this landscape, with 79% having no views. Where visible from eastern margins, the turbines would appear as relatively distant elements, with only 14% of the area theoretically seeing 8-10 turbines. The wild and remote character would be largely maintained across the vast majority of the moorland plateau. This would result in a low scale of change experienced primarily from eastern margins, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.92 Combined with the very high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate and significant effect on that part of the landscape within 5 km of a proposed turbine, but these significant effects would not extend beyond around 7 km, after which there would be very limited visibility of the Proposed Development.

Overall Assessment SNPVS087:

1.2.93 Value: Outstanding (Very High) | Sensitivity: Very High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Moderate Significant**

SNPVS089 - Afon Mynach Valley

1.2.94 SNPVS089 - Afon Mynach valley comprises "*open upland valley of medium scale. Pleasant green valley with open rural character. Field boundary predominantly post & wire. Borrowed view of Arenig mountains in good weather. Wind turbine (outside study area) slight visual detractor*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Open upland valley of medium scale
- Pleasant green valley with open rural character
- Field boundaries predominantly post and wire
- Borrowed views of Arenig mountains
- Existing wind turbine outside study area noted as slight visual detractor

Distance and Direction

1.2.95 The proposed access route uses an existing track through this aspect area to the immediate west of the Site,

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.96 Theoretical visibility data shows 67.0% total visibility (33.0% no visibility; 14.0% at 1-4 turbines; 10.0% at 5-7 turbines; 43.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment provides some screening, particularly for lower valley floor areas, though elevated valley sides have more extensive views toward the proposed turbines on adjacent upland areas.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.97 The moderate value combined with valley containment characteristics results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.98 Construction activities would be visible from portions of this valley, particularly from elevated valley side positions, with the existing access track being upgraded to serve the development. The theoretical visibility shows that 33% would have no views due to valley containment, while 43% would see 8-10 turbine construction

locations. The presence of an existing wind turbine noted in LANDMAP provides some context for vertical infrastructure. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions of the valley, with effects concentrated on elevated positions, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.99 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate but not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.100 During operation, the valley would continue to benefit from containment providing screening for 33% of the area. Where visible from elevated positions, the turbines would appear as new vertical elements on adjacent uplands, adding to the existing wind turbine already noted as present in the wider landscape. The open rural valley character would be maintained across lower valley floor area. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions with visibility, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.101 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS089:

1.2.102 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS090 - Afon Tryweryn

1.2.103 SNPVS090 - Afon Tryweryn comprises "*river valley landscape with Moderate overall evaluation. Wooded valley character."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP):

- River valley landscape
- Wooded valley character
- Moderate landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.2.104 Located at approximately 4.2 km to the south-west.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.105 Theoretical visibility data shows 65.0% total visibility (35.0% no visibility; 32.0% at 1-4 turbines; 16.0% at 5-7 turbines; 18.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment and woodland coverage provide substantial screening across much of this aspect area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.106 The moderate value combined with valley containment and woodland screening, results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.107 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this wooded valley landscape with 35% experiencing no views due to valley containment and woodland screening. Where visible from elevated or more open positions, construction would be seen at approximately 4.2 km distance with 18% of the area having views of 8-10 turbine construction locations. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across limited portions with visibility, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.108 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate but not significant, considering the moderate landscape value and substantial screening from valley topography and woodland.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.109 During operation, the wooded valley character would continue to provide screening for 35% of the area. Where visible, the turbines would appear as distant elements at 4.2 km, with the river valley character maintained across the majority of the area. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across limited geographical extent, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.110 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS090:

1.2.111 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS095 - Rhyd-uchaf

1.2.112 SNPVS095 - Rhyd-uchaf comprises "*rolling farmland with Moderate overall evaluation. Mixed agricultural character with scattered settlement*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Rolling farmland character
- Mixed agricultural character
- Scattered settlement
- Moderate landscape value

Distance and Direction:

1.2.113 Located at approximately 4.2 km to the south-west.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.2.114 Theoretical visibility data shows 77.0% total visibility (23.0% no visibility; 4.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 70.0% at 8-10 turbines). The rolling farmland topography provides limited screening, with extensive visibility across much of this aspect area, particularly from elevated farmland positions.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.2.115 The moderate value combined with extensive visibility and rolling open character results in medium sensitivity, though the high degree of visibility increases susceptibility.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.2.116 Construction activities would be visible from much of this rolling farmland due to limited topographic screening and elevated viewing positions across the agricultural landscape. With 70% of the area having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbine construction locations at 4.2 km distance, and an additional 7% seeing fewer turbines, construction, primarily the cranes erecting the turbines would be a noticeable feature in the agricultural landscape. This would result in a high magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.2.117 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate-major and significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.2.118 During operation, 70% of the farmland would have theoretical views of 8-10 turbines with an additional 7% seeing fewer turbines. The turbines would introduce vertical development into this rolling agricultural landscape, with only 23% of the area having no theoretical views. The open rolling farmland character would provide some screening from trees and hedgerows, resulting in the turbines being a notable feature across parts of this landscape. This would result in a high magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.2.119 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate-major and significant effect on the character of this rolling farmland landscape, within 5 km. However, the significant effects would not extend across the whole Aspect Area, which extends to around 13 km and instead would become non-significant within less than 10km.

Overall Assessment SNPVS095:

1.2.120 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: High | Effect: **Moderate-Major Significant**

1.3 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas 5-10 km

Areas to the North within 5-10 km

CNWVS044 - Cerrigydrudion

1.3.1 CNWVS044 - Cerrigydrudion comprises "*village settlement with Low overall evaluation. Roadside settlement character along A5 corridor*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Village settlement character
- Roadside settlement along A5 corridor
- Low landscape value

Distance and Direction:

1.3.2 Located at approximately 6.3 km to the north (Viewpoint 8: Cerrigydrudion at 295344, 348743)

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Low

ZTV Analysis

1.3.3 Theoretical visibility data shows 100% visibility, however this does not allow for the screening effects of the built form within the village. The elevated position of the village provides some southward views toward the Site.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.4 With a Low LANDMAP overall evaluation, and some intervisibility with the wider surrounding landscape context there would be a medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.5 Visible construction activities would be limited to long distance views of the canes erecting the turbines, which in the context of the predominant urban character of the village would result in no more than a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.6 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.7 The built up nature of the area is such that intervening buildings would often prevent views towards the Site and the primary influence on the character of the Area is its immediate village context.

1.3.8 Some views of the turbines may be available from parts of the village, though at around 6.5 km distance would not appear prominent in scale.

Effects During Operation

1.3.9 Combined with the medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect .

Overall Assessment CNWVS044:

1.3.10 Value: Low | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

CNWVS077 - Garn Prys

1.3.11 The Garn Prys area is located around 6.5 km from the nearest turbine, to the north-west of the Site, outside of the National Park. The area would experience very limited visibility (only 17% would have any theoretical visibility of the turbines) and these limited views, combined with the distance from the turbines serves to reduce the potential for there to be effects on landscape character, with no greater than a **minor** and **not significant** effect at all phases.

CNWVS004 - Mwdwl Eithin

1.3.12 CNWVS004 - Mwdwl Eithin comprises "*upland moorland with High overall evaluation and exposed character providing extensive views across the surrounding upland landscape."*

1.3.13 The Mwdwl Eithin area is located around 6 km from the nearest proposed turbine at its closest point, to the north-east of the Site, extending to around 7 km away. The area has a High evaluation. There would be theoretical visibility from much of the area, but not the north facing slopes, with only 53% of the area having theoretical visibility of 8-10 turbines. The Aspect Area is comprised of exposed moorland which has some visual connectivity with the wider landscape, including the landscape in which the Proposed Development is located. However, wider views from the area already include various existing wind energy developments, including at Clocaenog, such that views of turbines are already an existing characteristic of the area. Overall, whilst the Proposed Development would form a noticeable element in the view in one direction from the Aspect Area this would not be such as to impact the character of the area to a significant degree, noting the distance and existing views of wind energy which form part of the character of the area.

Areas to the North-east Within 5-10 km

DNBGHVS070 - Maerdy Hills

1.3.14 DNBGHVS070 - Maerdy Hills comprises "*rolling hills with High overall evaluation. Diverse landscape with mixed agricultural and moorland character."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Rolling hills character
- Diverse landscape
- Mixed agricultural and moorland character

- High landscape value

Distance and Direction:

1.3.15 Located at approximately 7.5 km to the east.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.16 Theoretical visibility data shows 47.0% total visibility (53.0% no visibility; 14.0% at 1-4 turbines; 7.0% at 5-7 turbines; 27.0% at 8-10 turbines). The rolling topography provides some screening, though elevated positions have more extensive views. There are also blocks of woodland in the area which are not reflected in the theoretical visibility mapping.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.17 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with diverse landscape character results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.18 Construction activities would be visible from elevated portions of these rolling hills, but generally limited to the cranes erecting the turbines with 27% of the area having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbines being constructed at 7.5 km distance. The rolling topography would provide screening for 53% of the area, while visible areas would have varied views. Distance reduces the apparent scale of construction elements. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions with visibility, resulting in a medium to low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.19 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.20 During operation, 27% of the hills would have theoretical views of 8-10 turbines with an additional 21% seeing fewer turbines. There are however also blocks of woodland in the area which are not reflected in the theoretical visibility mapping. The turbines would introduce vertical elements into views from elevated positions across this diverse landscape, though distance of 7.5 km would reduce their apparent scale. The rolling hills character would be maintained with turbines appearing as noticeable but not dominant elements in certain views. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across portions with visibility, resulting in a medium magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.21 Combined with high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment DNBGHVS070:

1.3.22 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

DNBGHVS073 - Gwyddelwern Hills

1.3.23 DNBGHVS073 - Gwyddelwern Hills comprises "*rolling hills with High overall evaluation. Historic estate landscape character."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Rolling hills character
- Historic estate landscape
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.24 Located at approximately 8 km to the east

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.25 Theoretical visibility data shows 62.0% total visibility (38.0% no visibility; 7.0% at 1-4 turbines; 5.0% at 5-7 turbines; 49.0% at 8-10 turbines). The estate landscape with woodland and rolling topography provides substantial screening.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.26 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with historic estate character and distance of 8 km results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.27 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this estate landscape due to woodland screening and rolling topography that limits visibility for 38% of the area. Where visible from elevated or more open positions, construction would be seen at 8 km distance with 49% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The estate character with woodland provides substantial mitigation. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.28 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.29 During operation, the estate landscape character with woodland would continue to provide screening, with 38% of the area having no theoretical visibility and much more screened by trees and vegetation. Where visible from elevated positions, turbines would appear as relatively distant elements at 8 km with visibility distributed across varied portions. The character would be maintained with the estate's

woodland structure providing substantial mitigation. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a medium to low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.30 Combined with high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate and not significant effect on this valued historic estate landscape.

Overall Assessment DNBGHVS073:

1.3.31 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate Not Significant**

DNBGHVS068 - Clocaenog Forest

1.3.32 DNBGHVS068 - Clocaenog Forest comprises "*extensive commercial forestry with Moderate overall evaluation. Large-scale coniferous forest plantation*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Extensive commercial forestry
- Large-scale coniferous forest plantation
- Moderate landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.33 Located at approximately 12.8 km to the north-east (hosts large operational wind farm with 32 turbines).

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.3.34 Theoretical visibility data shows 37.0% total visibility (63.0% no visibility; 4.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 28.0% at 8-10 turbines). The extensive forest canopy provides substantial screening with the majority of the area having no views. The area already hosts a large operational wind farm.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.35 The moderate value combined with forest screening characteristics, distance of 12.8 km, and existing large wind farm context (32 turbines) results in medium sensitivity, with existing wind development reducing susceptibility to additional distant wind turbines.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.36 Construction activities would have very limited visibility from this extensive forest due to the canopy screening that limits visibility for 63% of the area and the substantial 12.8 km distance. Where visible from more open areas or forest edges, construction would be seen at substantial distance with 28% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The existing operational 32-turbine wind farm within the forest provides established context for wind energy development. This would result

in a low scale of change experienced across very limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.37 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant, considering the substantial forest screening, distance, and existing major wind farm context.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.38 During operation, the forest canopy would continue to provide screening for 63% of the area. Where visible from limited open areas, the turbines would appear as minor distant elements at 12.8 km distance in a landscape that already hosts a major 32-turbine wind farm. The forest character and existing wind energy context means the proposed turbines would be seen as a minor additional element. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across very limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.39 Combined with medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a minor and not significant effect.

Overall Assessment DNBGHVS068:

1.3.40 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor Not Significant**

DNBGHVS095 - Dee Valley-Corwen

1.3.41 DNBGHVS095 - Dee Valley-Corwen comprises "*river valley landscape with Moderate overall evaluation. Valley containment provides screening*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- River valley landscape
- Valley containment character
- Moderate landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.42 Located at approximately 9 km to the east (Viewpoint 14: Green Lane, Corwen at 308116, 343840)

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Moderate

ZTV Analysis

1.3.43 Theoretical visibility data shows 31.0% total visibility (69.0% no visibility; 5.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 23.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment provides substantial screening with the majority of the area having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.44 The moderate value combined with strong valley containment characteristics and distance of 9 km results in medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.45 Construction activities would have very limited visibility from this valley landscape due to containment that limits visibility for 69% of the area and the 9 km distance. Where visible from elevated valley sides, construction would be seen at substantial distance with 23% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. Valley containment provides strong mitigation. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across very limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.46 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant, considering the strong valley containment, distance, and moderate landscape value.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.47 During operation, valley containment would continue to limit visibility for 69% of the area. Where visible from limited elevated positions, turbines would appear as minor distant elements at 9 km. The valley character would be maintained with the contained topography providing substantial screening from the proposed development. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across very limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.48 Combined with medium sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a minor and not significant effect.

Overall Assessment DNBGHVS095:

1.3.49 Value: Moderate | Sensitivity: Medium | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor Not Significant**

Areas to the South and South-east within 5-10 km

SNPVS093 - Llandderfel and Dee Valley Bottom

1.3.50 SNPVS093 - Llandderfel and Dee Valley bottom comprises "*valley floor landscape with High overall evaluation. Flat valley floor with agricultural character*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Valley floor landscape
- Flat valley floor
- Agricultural character
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.51 Located at approximately 5.8 km to the south-east.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.52 Theoretical visibility data shows 46.0% total visibility (54.0% no visibility; 19.0% at 1-4 turbines; 6.0% at 5-7 turbines; 22.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment provides substantial screening with the majority of the valley floor having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.53 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with valley containment characteristics and distance of 5.8 km results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.54 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this valley floor landscape due to containment that provides screening for 54% of the area. Where visible from elevated margins of the valley floor, construction would be seen at 5.8 km distance with 22% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The flat valley floor topography limits visibility to marginal areas. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.55 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor-moderate but not significant despite the High landscape value, due to substantial valley screening.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.56 During operation, valley containment would continue to provide screening for 54% of the valley floor. Where visible from marginal elevated areas, turbines would appear as distant elements at 5.8 km with the majority of visible areas (19% of the total area) seeing only 1-4 turbines. The flat agricultural valley floor character would be maintained across the vast majority of the area. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.57 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS093:

1.3.58 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS097 - Cwm Pennant

1.3.59 SNPVS097 - Cwm Pennant comprises "*upland valley with High overall evaluation. Enclosed valley character*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Upland valley landscape
- Enclosed valley character
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.60 Located at approximately 6.5 km to the south

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.61 Theoretical visibility data shows approx. 32.0% total visibility. Valley containment provides substantial screening with the majority of the enclosed valley having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.62 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with enclosed valley character and distance of 6.5 km results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.63 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this enclosed valley due to containment that provides screening for 68% of the area. Where visible from elevated valley sides, construction would be seen at 6.5 km distance with only 2% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The enclosed valley character provides substantial mitigation. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.64 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor-moderate but not significant despite the High landscape value, due to enclosed valley character and distance.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.65 During operation, the enclosed valley character would continue to provide screening for 68% of the area. Where visible from limited elevated positions, turbines would appear as distant elements at 6.5 km with most visible areas (24%) seeing only 1-4 turbines. The enclosed valley character would be maintained with turbines appearing as minor distant elements in limited views. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.66 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS097:

1.3.67 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS104 - Cwm Hirnant Valley

1.3.68 SNPVS104 - Cwm Hirnant valley comprises "*narrow valley with High overall evaluation. Enclosed valley with wooded character*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Narrow valley landscape
- Enclosed valley
- Wooded character
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.69 Located at approximately 7.8 km to the south-east.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.70 Theoretical visibility data shows 26.0% total visibility (74.0% no visibility; 7.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 16.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment and woodland provide substantial screening with the majority of the valley having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.71 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with enclosed wooded valley character and distance of 7.8 km results in high sensitivity, despite substantial screening.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.72 Construction activities would have very limited visibility from this enclosed wooded valley due to containment and woodland that provides screening for 74% of the area and the 7.8 km distance. Where visible from limited elevated or more open positions, construction would be seen at substantial distance with 16% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The narrow enclosed valley character with woodland provides strong mitigation. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across very limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.73 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor-moderate but not significant despite the High landscape value, due to strong valley containment, woodland screening, and distance.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.74 During operation, valley containment and woodland would continue to provide screening for 74% of the valley. Where visible from very limited positions, turbines would appear as minor distant elements at 7.8 km. The enclosed wooded valley character would be maintained with strong screening from the proposed

development. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across very limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.75 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS104:

1.3.76 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS105 - Bwlch y Groes Uplands

1.3.77 SNPVS105 - Bwlch y Groes uplands comprises "*upland landscape with High overall evaluation. High mountain pass area."*

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Upland landscape
- High mountain pass area
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.78 Located at approximately 9.5 km to the south.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.79 Theoretical visibility data shows 26.0% total visibility (74.0% no visibility; 4.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 21.0% at 8-10 turbines). The upland topography provides substantial screening across much of this area.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.80 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with upland mountain pass character and distance of 9.5 km results in high sensitivity, despite substantial topographic screening.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.81 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this upland area due to the topography that provides screening for 74% of the area and the 9.5 km distance. Where visible from elevated positions, construction would be seen at substantial distance with 21% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The high mountain pass setting means even limited visibility has some impact. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.82 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor-moderate but not significant despite the High landscape value, due to substantial topographic screening and distance.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.83 During operation, the topography would continue to provide screening for 74% of the area. Where visible from elevated positions, turbines would appear as distant elements at 9.5 km with 21% seeing 8-10 turbines and 4% seeing only 1-4 turbines. The upland mountain pass character would be maintained across the majority of the area. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.84 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS105:

1.3.85 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

DNBGHVS100 - Berwyn Mountain

1.3.86 DNBGHVS100 - Berwyn Mountain comprises "*high mountain landscape with High overall evaluation. Exposed mountain character forming the Berwyn range."*

1.3.87 The Aspect Area is located primarily beyond 10 km, however a small part extends to within 7.5 km, to the south-east of the Site. This separate part covers the landscape around Cefn Llystyn where some visibility of the Proposed Development would be possible, but with lower lying areas having no visibility due to topographic screening.

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- High mountain landscape
- Exposed mountain character
- Forms the Berwyn range
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.88 Located at approximately 8.5 km to the south-east.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.89 Theoretical visibility data shows 54.0% total visibility (46.0% no visibility; 5.0% at 1-4 turbines; 3.0% at 5-7 turbines; 47.0% at 8-10 turbines). The upland character provides some visibility despite distance, with 47% seeing 8-10 turbines from elevated exposed slopes.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.90 The High LANDMAP overall evaluation combined with open upland character forming the Berwyn range results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.91 Construction activities would be visible from exposed mountain slopes and comprise of long distance views towards the cranes erecting the turbines, with 47% of the mountain having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbine construction locations at a 8.5 km distance. The upland character provides clear sight lines, though distance considerably reduces the apparent scale of construction elements. A large proportion (46%) would have no views due to opposing slopes. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across exposed portions facing toward the Site, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.92 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and not significant.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.93 During operation, 47% of the mountain would have theoretical views of 8-10 turbines from exposed slopes facing toward the Site, with an additional 8% seeing fewer turbines. The turbines would introduce vertical elements into views from these elevated positions, though the 8.5 km distance would reduce their apparent scale. The mountain's exposed slopes offer clear long-distance views where topography allows. This would result in a medium scale of change experienced across some portions with visibility, resulting in a low to medium magnitude of change. However, the distance from the Proposed Development serves to limit the potential for impacts to the overall character of the landscape.

Effects During Operation

1.3.94 Combined with high sensitivity, the operational phase would result in a moderate and not significant effect.

Overall Assessment DNBGHVS100:

1.3.95 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Medium | Effect: **Moderate not Significant**

Areas to the West and South-west Within 5-10 km

SNPVS125 - Arenig Fawr

1.3.96 SNPVS125 - Arenig Fawr comprises "*iconic mountain landscape within Eryri National Park with Outstanding overall evaluation. Distinctive mountain peak with high scenic value*."

1.3.97 The Aspect Area is located just over 5 km from the nearest proposed turbine at its closest point and extends out to just less than 15 km away. The entirety of the Aspect Area is located within the National Park, with a resulting High sensitivity. The part of the Aspect Area between 5 km and 10 km has only partial visibility of the Proposed Development, with no visibility at all in the area between Llyn Arenig Fawr and the summit of Mynydd Nodol. Elsewhere the Proposed Development would be seen located beyond the boundary of the National Park, the majority of which is predominately located in the opposite direction, as is the summit of Arenig Fawr itself, which lies around 11.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine.

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Iconic mountain landscape
- Located within Eryri National Park
- Distinctive mountain peak
- Outstanding landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.98 Located at approximately 6.8 km to the south-west (Viewpoint 12: Arenig Fawr at 282694, 336942)

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: Outstanding (Very High)

ZTV Analysis

1.3.99 Theoretical visibility data shows 44.0% total visibility (56.0% no visibility; 4.0% at 1-4 turbines; 2.0% at 5-7 turbines; 38.0% at 8-10 turbines). Visibility is concentrated on northeastern slopes facing toward the Site, with western and southern slopes having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.100 The combination of Outstanding evaluation and, National Park designation results in very high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.101 Construction activities, limited to the cranes erecting the turbines, would be visible from northeastern slopes of this area, with 38% having potential theoretical views of 8-10 turbine construction locations at distance. The majority (56%) of therea would have no views due to topographic screening of opposing slopes. This would result in a low scale of change experienced from northeastern slopes, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.102 Overall, the effect is judged to be moderate and significant limited to the closest part of the Aspect Area to the Proposed Development around the eastern slopes of Mynydd Nodol.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.103 During operation, northeastern slopes would have 38% seeing 8-10 turbines with an additional 6% seeing fewer turbines. The turbines would introduce vertical elements into views from the area , though the distance would reduce their apparent scale. The western and southern slopes (56% of the area) would have no views of the Proposed Development. The closest part of the Aspect Area to the Proposed Development around the eastern slopes of Mynydd Nodol would experience a low magnitude of change. However, this magnitude would only occur across a limited section of the Aspect Area, not extending beyond around 6.5 km, with the remaining area more heavily influenced by the surrounding National Park landscape and experiencing the turbines at greater distances where visible. The area beyond 6.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine would therefore experience no greater than a low to very low magnitude, noting that the part of the Aspect Area between 5 km and 10 km has only partial visibility of the Proposed Development, with no visibility at all in the area between Llyn Arenig Fawr and the summit of Mynydd Nodol.

Effects During Operation

1.3.104 The closest part of the Aspect Area to the Proposed Development around the eastern slopes of Mynydd Nodol would experience **moderate** and **significant** landscape character effects, due to the proximity to the proposed turbines and the intervisibility arising from the orientation of the landform, which allows for open views across the valley towards the Site. However, this significant effect would only occur across a limited section of the Aspect Area, not extending beyond around 6.5 km, with the remaining area more heavily influenced by the surrounding National Park landscape and experiencing the turbines at greater distances where visible. Indeed, only –38% of the Aspect Area as a whole would have theoretical visibility of the turbines. The area beyond 6.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine would therefore experience no greater than **moderate** and **not significant** landscape character effects during operation. The Proposed Development would be seen located beyond the boundary of the National Park, the majority of which is predominately located in the opposite direction, as is the summit of Arenig Fawr itself, which lies around 11.5 km from the nearest proposed turbine.

Overall Assessment SNPVS125:

1.3.105 Value: Outstanding (Very High) | Sensitivity: Very High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Moderate Significant**

SNPVS098 - Afon Llafar

1.3.106 SNPVS098 - Afon Llafar comprises "*river valley landscape within Eryri National Park with High overall evaluation*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- River valley landscape
- Located within Eryri National Park
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.107 Located at approximately 7.2 km to the south-west.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.108 Theoretical visibility data shows 16.0% total visibility (84.0% no visibility; 7.0% at 1-4 turbines; 4.0% at 5-7 turbines; 5.0% at 8-10 turbines). Valley containment provides substantial screening with the majority of the valley having no views.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.109 The combination of High evaluation, National Park designation, and valley characteristics combined with distance of 7.2 km results in high sensitivity, despite substantial topographic screening.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.110 Construction activities would have limited visibility from this valley landscape due to containment that provides screening for 84% of the area and the 7.2 km distance. Where visible from elevated valley margins, construction would be seen at substantial distance with only 5% seeing 8-10 turbine construction locations. The National Park valley character provides substantial mitigation through topographic screening. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited portions, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.111 Overall, the effect is judged to be **minor-moderate** but **not significant** despite the High landscape value and National Park designation, due to substantial valley screening and distance.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.112 During operation, valley containment would continue to provide screening for 84% of the area. Where visible from limited elevated margins, turbines would appear as distant elements at 7.2 km with most visible areas (7% of the total area) seeing only 1-4 turbines. The National Park valley character would be maintained with the contained topography providing substantial screening. This would result in a low scale of change experienced across limited extent, resulting in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.113 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS098:

1.3.114 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

SNPVS088 - Llyn Celyn

1.3.115 SNPVS088 - Llyn Celyn comprises "*large reservoir within dramatic upland setting with High overall evaluation. Popular recreational destination with scenic qualities*."

Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP)

- Large reservoir
- Dramatic upland setting
- Popular recreational destination
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction:

1.3.116 Located at approximately 8.4 km to the west (Viewpoint 10: Picnic Area west of Llyn Celyn Reservoir at 284685, 340669).

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.117 Theoretical visibility data shows 45.0% total visibility (55.0% no visibility; 7.0% at 1-4 turbines; 4.0% at 5-7 turbines; 33.0% at 8-10 turbines). The open water setting could provide some theoretical visibility despite distance, though topography provides screening for the majority of the reservoir.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.118 The combination of High evaluation and recreational importance results in high sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.119 Construction would have limited visibility across the reservoir due to distance (8.4 km) and intervening topography providing screening for 55% of the area. Where visible from portions of the reservoir, construction would be seen at substantial distance. This would result in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.120 Overall, the effect is judged to be minor-moderate and not significant .

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.121 During operation, turbines would appear as relatively distant elements where visible from limited areas of the reservoir, with 55% having no views, 33% seeing 8-10 turbines, and 7% seeing only 1-4 turbines at 8.4 km distance. The dramatic upland setting and recreational experience would be maintained with distance providing substantial mitigation. This would result in a low magnitude of change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.122 Combined with high sensitivity, this results in a minor-moderate but not significant effect.

Overall Assessment SNPVS128:

1.3.123 Value: High | Sensitivity: High | Magnitude: Low | Effect: **Minor-Moderate Not Significant**

Areas to the North-west Within 5-10 km

CNWVS025 - Afon Conwy

1.3.124 CNWVS025 - Afon Conwy comprises "*river corridor landscape with High overall evaluation. Important river valley with scenic and ecological value*."

- Key Characteristics (from LANDMAP):
- River corridor landscape
- Important river valley
- Scenic and ecological value
- High landscape value

Distance and Direction

1.3.125 Located at approximately 9.8 km north-west.

LANDMAP Overall Evaluation: High

ZTV Analysis

1.3.126 Theoretical visibility data shows 0% total visibility (100% no visibility). The river corridor has no theoretical visibility of the proposed development.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.127 Despite High evaluation, the complete absence of theoretical visibility results in negligible susceptibility to the proposed development.

Magnitude of Change During Construction

1.3.128 Construction would have no visibility from this river corridor. This results in no change.

Effects During Construction

1.3.129 There would be no effect.

Magnitude of Change During Operation

1.3.130 During operation, there would continue to be no visibility from this important river corridor. This results in no change.

Effects During Operation

1.3.131 There would be no effect.

Overall Assessment CNWVS025:

1.3.132 Value: High | Sensitivity: Negligible | Magnitude: No change | Effect: **No Effect**

1.4 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas 10-20 km from the Site

1.4.1 The majority of aspect areas beyond 10 km show limited theoretical visibility and significant effects would not arise on landscape character beyond this distance. Key reasons for this include:

- Valley settlements screened by topography – Areas such as smaller settlements in valley locations have minimal to no visibility due to topographic containment
- Areas with opposing slope orientation – Slopes facing away from the Site have no visibility
- Forested areas with canopy screening – Woodland areas beyond 10 km with forest canopy have very limited visibility
- Lower-lying agricultural areas – Farmland in valley or lowland areas typically has limited visibility due to intervening topography or vegetation including trees and hedgerows.
- At distances beyond 10-15 km, only the most elevated exposed locations have any meaningful visibility, and even then turbines would appear generally very small on the horizon and seen as part of a wide open panorama, usually from locations where full 360 degree views can be experienced, the majority of which would not include the Proposed Development
- At distances over 10 km, the immediate landscape context has a much greater role in determining the character of the landscape, than the distant views of the Proposed Development