



Foel Fach Wind Farm Limited.

Foel Fach Wind Farm – Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 9.8: Preliminary Assessment of Receptor Groups

Project Reference: 664094

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APPENDIX 9.8 – PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF RECEPTOR GROUPS

1.1 Filtering Exercise

- 1.1.1 An initial filtering exercise has been undertaken to identify which representative viewpoints and visual receptors identified in the baseline (Section 9.3 of Environmental Statement **(ES) Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**) have the potential to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.2 The intention has been to ensure that the level of assessment given to each visual receptor is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The tables below list the principal visual receptors identified in the baseline study, and summarises the initial assessment carried out to determine which visual receptors have the potential to experience significant effects and require detailed assessment.
- 1.1.3 The principal visual receptors are illustrated overlaid with the blade tip ZTV with viewpoints at **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.31: Principal Visual Receptors to 20 km Blade Tip ZTV and Viewpoints**.
- 1.1.4 The comments for each viewpoint in **Table 1, Table 2** and **Table 3** below provide technical justification for the filtering decision, explaining anticipated visibility and the types of receptors represented at each location.

Table 1 Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
1. Cefnddwysarn	Approximately 3.0 km to the south-east	All of the proposed wind turbines would be visible against the skyline from this elevated location. The viewpoint represents users of the A4212, residents, and is within a Special Landscape Area. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
2. A4212	Approximately 4.3 km to the south-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this A road location. The viewpoint represents road users, residents, and is within a Historic Landscape Area and National Park. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes



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Viewpoint	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
3. Caer-gerreg	Approximately 3.6 km to the north-west	All of the proposed wind turbines would be visible from this location representing road users, residents, and Public Rights of Way users. The location is within a Special Landscape Area and National Park. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
4. Mwnwgl-y-llyn Bridge	Approximately 5.4 km to the south-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this location representing tourists, promoted recreational walk users, railway users, and B road users. The location is within a Historic Landscape Area and National Park. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
5. Llangower	Approximately 8.0 km to the south-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this more distant location. The viewpoint represents tourists, promoted recreational walk users, railway users, and B road users within a Historic Landscape Area and National Park. Some visual effects are anticipated despite the increased distance.	Yes
6. Footpath Bryn-yr-Hydd	Approximately 6.2 km to the west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this footpath location within the National Park. The viewpoint represents footpath/route users within a Historic Landscape Area. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
7. Carnedd y Filiast	Approximately 7.0 km to the north-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this elevated peak within the National Park. The viewpoint represents hill walkers at a prominent peak location. Visual effects are anticipated from this sensitive receptor location.	Yes
8. Cerrigydrudion	Approximately 6.7 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this settlement location. The viewpoint represents road users, residents, and promoted recreational route users. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes



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Viewpoint	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
9. B4391 South of Rhanneg	Approximately 10.2 km to the south	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this B road location within the National Park, though at increased distance. The viewpoint represents tourists and B road users. Some visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
10. Picnic Area west of Llyn Celyn Reservoir	Approximately 8.5 km to the west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this recreational location within the National Park. The viewpoint represents tourists and A road users at a designated picnic area. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
11. Footpath North of Bryn-y-gwrgi	Approximately 10.1 km to the north-east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this footpath location, though visibility could be limited by intervening topography and distance. The viewpoint represents footpath/route users. Some visual effects are possible.	Yes
12. Arenig Fawr	Approximately 11.1 km to the west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this prominent mountain peak within the National Park. The viewpoint represents hill walkers at a significant peak within a Historic Landscape Area. Visual effects are anticipated from this elevated and sensitive location.	Yes
13. Footpath South of Hafodty Hafod Dre	Approximately 11.7 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this promoted recreational route location, though distance may limit visual prominence. The viewpoint represents route users, road users, and residents within Historic Landscape Area and Special Landscape Area. Some visual effects are possible.	Yes
14. Green Lane, Corwen	Approximately 13.3 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this promoted recreational route within the National Landscape designation, though distance would significantly reduce visual prominence. The viewpoint represents recreational route users	Yes



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Viewpoint	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
		within a designated landscape. Limited visual effects are anticipated.	
15. East of Cynwyd	Approximately 14.1 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this promoted recreational route within the National Landscape designation, though distance would significantly reduce visual prominence. Limited visual effects are anticipated due to distance.	Yes
16. Castell Dinas Brân	Approximately 27.2 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines may be theoretically visible from this elevated tourist and footpath location within the National Landscape designation, but at this distance visual effects would be very limited. The turbines would appear as small elements on the distant horizon. Significant visual effects are considered unlikely.	No
17. B4501 North of Cerrigydrudion	Approximately 8.5 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this minor road location used by road users and forest park visitors. Visual effects are anticipated from this closer viewpoint representing local road users.	Yes
18. B4501 South of Cerrigydrudion	Approximately 4.2 km to the north	All of the proposed wind turbines would be visible from this minor road location within a Special Landscape Area. The viewpoint represents road users at a relatively close distance. Visual effects are anticipated.	Yes
19. Moel y Garnedd (ENP)	Approximately 6.4 km to the south-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this elevated location within the National Park. The viewpoint represents hill walkers and recreational users within this highly designated landscape. Visual effects are anticipated from this sensitive receptor location.	Yes



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Viewpoint	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
20. Moel Morfydd (CRDVNL)	Approximately 21.4 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines may be theoretically visible from this elevated location within the National Landscape designation, but distance would significantly reduce visual prominence. The viewpoint represents users within a designated landscape. Limited visual effects are anticipated.	No
21. Moel y Plas (CRDVNL)	Approximately 25.9 km to the north-east	The proposed wind turbines may be theoretically visible from this elevated location within the National Landscape designation, but at this distance visual effects would be very limited. The turbines would appear as small elements on the distant horizon. Significant visual effects are considered unlikely.	No

Notes:

- 18 viewpoints recommended for detailed assessment - these are generally within 15 km and/or represent particularly sensitive receptors.
- 3 viewpoints initially recommended to be scoped out (VPs 16, 20, 21) - these are at distances of 21 - 27 km where visual effects would be very limited.

The filtering considers:

- Distance from the development (closer viewpoints more likely to experience significant effects).
- Receptor sensitivity (National Park, Special Landscape Areas, etc.).
- User types (residents, tourists, recreational users).
- Landscape designations and their relative importance.

1.1.5 Although 3 of the more distant viewpoints were assessed as unlikely to be subject to significant effects, for completeness a detailed assessment has been carried out on the full set of 21 representative viewpoints. This was due to the fact the three viewpoints are located within a National Landscape Designation (CRDVNL) and these additional viewpoints had been requested by National Resources Wales (NRW) following feedback at the scoping stage. With Reference to Table 9.1 Summary of Scoping Direction comments relevant to this landscape and visual assessment of **ES Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**: *'Additional viewpoints 19-21 have been added within CRDVNL to account for visibility extending into sensitive and publicly accessible elevated areas of this NL between c.12-32 km out from the site.'*



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Table 2 Settlements

Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Bala	Approximately 4.0 km to the south	This is the nearest main town to the Proposed Development. The proposed wind turbines would be visible from elevated parts of the settlement, particularly northern areas with open views towards the development site. The town contains numerous residential properties and represents a significant population of visual receptors. Visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes
Llandderfel	Approximately 4.2 km to the south-east	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this settlement, though some screening may be provided by intervening topography and vegetation. The settlement contains residential properties with potential views towards the development. Visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes
Tynant	Approximately 5.0 km to the north-east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this settlement located on elevated ground. The ZTV for the 20 km detailed study area however shows areas with no visibility and some with a reduced number of turbines 1 - 4 potentially visible within the settlement. At worst minor visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated and reduced in comparison to closer settlements.	No
Wenallt	Approximately 3.6 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines would lie outside of the ZTV and have no potential visibility from the settlement.	No



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Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Sarnau	Approximately 2.7 km to the south-east	This is one of the closest settlements to the Proposed Development. All of the proposed wind turbines would be clearly visible from residential properties within the settlement. The proximity means the turbines would appear prominent in views. Significant visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes
Bethel	Approximately 3.9 km to the south-east	The proposed wind turbines would lie outside of the ZTV and have no potential visibility from the settlement.	No
Llanfor	Approximately 3.1 km to the south-east	The proposed wind turbines would be clearly visible from this relatively close settlement. Residential properties would have views towards the development site across the intervening landscape. Significant visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated due to the proximity.	Yes
Cefnddwysarn	Approximately 3.0 km to the south-east	This is one of the closest settlements to the Proposed Development. All of the proposed wind turbines would be clearly visible from residential properties within the settlement. The close proximity means the turbines would appear prominent and potentially dominant in views. Significant visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes
Frongoch	Approximately 2.7 km to the south-west	This is one of the closest settlements to the Proposed Development. The proposed wind turbines would be clearly visible from residential properties, including from the primary school (Ysgol Bro Trywery) and holiday homes within the settlement. Significant visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes



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Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Rhyd-uchaf	Approximately 4.2 km to the south-west	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from this settlement, though some screening may be provided by intervening topography. Residential properties would have potential views towards the development. Visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	Yes
Cerrigydrudion	Approximately 6.3 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from parts of this larger settlement, particularly from elevated areas and properties on the southern edge. The increased distance would reduce visual prominence compared to closer settlements, but visual effects on residential amenity are still anticipated.	Yes
Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr	Approximately 8.2 km to the north-west	With reference to the ZTV analysis, this settlement has very limited theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development. The distance (8.2 km) and the settlement's location in the valley system, combined with intervening upland topography, would provide substantial screening. Very limited visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	No
Maerdy	Approximately 7.5 km to the north-east	The proposed wind turbines would be visible from elevated parts of this settlement. The distance would reduce visual prominence, though some visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated from properties with open views towards the development site.	Yes



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Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Glan-yr-afon	Approximately 7.3 km to the east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this settlement, though distance and potential screening by intervening topography and vegetation would reduce visual effects. Some visual effects on residential amenity are possible from properties with clear views.	No
Glasfryn	Approximately 8.5 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from this settlement, though distance would significantly reduce visual prominence. The settlement's location and intervening landscape features may provide some screening. Limited visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	No
Cefn-brith	Approximately 8.2 km to the north	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from parts of this settlement, though distance would reduce visual prominence. Some screening may be provided by intervening topography and vegetation. Limited visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	No
Betws Gwerfil Goch	Approximately 9.5 km to the north-east	The proposed wind turbines may be theoretically visible from this settlement, though the increased distance and intervening upland topography would significantly limit visual prominence. The settlement's location within the valley system would provide substantial screening. Very limited visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated.	No
Llandrillo	Approximately 9.1 km to the south-east	The proposed wind turbines may be visible from elevated parts of this settlement, though distance would significantly reduce visual prominence. The settlement's location in the Dee valley system and screening by intervening ridgelines would limit actual visibility. Limited	Yes



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Settlement	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
		visual effects on residential amenity are anticipated, though some assessment may be warranted.	

Table 3 Preliminary Assessment of Long Distance Footpaths

Long Distance Footpath	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Wales Coastal Path	Various distances from approximately 10 km to 35 km+ to the north-west, west and south-west	This extensive coastal route extends around the entire Welsh coastline. With reference to the ZTV analysis, theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development may occur from some elevated coastal sections, particularly in the north-west direction. However, the majority of the route would be too distant for significant visual effects, with most sections experiencing no theoretical visibility due to distance and intervening topography. Any visible sections would show the turbines as very small elements on the distant horizon. Limited visual effects are anticipated on this route.	No
Hiraethog Trail	Approximately 8 - 15 km to the north	This trail crosses the Mynydd Hiraethog uplands north of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTV analysis, sections of this upland trail may have theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines, particularly from elevated sections with open moorland character. The trail represents recreational users within an area of similar upland character to the development site. Visual effects are anticipated from sections of this route with clear views towards the development.	Yes



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Long Distance Footpath	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Cross Britain Way	Various distances from approximately 15 km+	This trans-national long-distance route extends across Britain from coast to coast. . With reference to the ZTV analysis, theoretical visibility would be available from sections of this route which runs around 5 km from the Proposed Development at its closest point .	Yes
Cambrian Way	Various distances from approximately 35 km mainly to the west and south-west	This long-distance walking route follows a north-south alignment through central Wales, passing through parts of Eryri National Park. With reference to the ZTV analysis, some elevated sections of the route may have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, particularly those sections crossing upland areas within and adjacent to the National Park. The route represents recreational users within sensitive landscape designations. At distances of around 35 km no visual effects of any note are anticipated from this route.	No
Snowdonia Slate Trail (Eryri NP)	Approximately 17 km to the west at its closest point	This trail follows historical slate industry routes within Eryri National Park. With reference to the ZTV analysis, very few sections may have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development from elevated locations, though much of the route follows valley locations with limited visibility. The trail represents recreational users within the National Park designation. Some visual effects are possible from elevated sections of this route but at over 17 km, with such limited visibility there would be no potential for significant effects.	No



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Long Distance Footpath	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
Offa's Dyke Path	Approximately 25 km to the east	This National Trail follows the historic Offa's Dyke along the Welsh-English border. The baseline text notes this passes c.25 km to the east, and additional viewpoints (VPs 20, 21) were added within the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape to assess effects on this trail. With reference to the ZTV analysis, theoretical visibility may occur from elevated sections crossing the Clwydian Range, though at considerable distance. The trail represents users of a National Trail within a designated landscape. Some visual effects are anticipated from elevated sections, but would not be of a nature that would be considered significant.	No
Dee Valley Way	Approximately 5 - 15 km mainly to the east and south-east	This route follows the River Dee valley system, passing through varied topography from upland to lowland areas. With reference to the ZTV analysis, sections of the route on elevated ground or valley sides may have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development, while lower valley floor sections would likely be screened. The route represents recreational users within the broader landscape context. Visual effects are anticipated from elevated sections with open views towards the development.	Yes
North Berwyn Way	Approximately 8 - 15 km to the south-east	This route crosses the northern parts of the Berwyn uplands south-east of the Proposed Development. With reference to the ZTV analysis, elevated sections of this upland route may have theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines across the intervening landscape. The route represents recreational users within upland areas of similar character to	Yes



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Long Distance Footpath	Location Relative to the Proposed Development	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required?
		the development site. Visual effects are anticipated from elevated sections with clear views towards the development.	