



Pennant Walters Ltd

Trecelyn Wind Farm

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6C LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Baseline
Descriptions and Sensitivity Assessments



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Contents

Appendix 6C LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Baseline Descriptions and Sensitivity Assessments²

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Baseline Descriptions	4
2.1	Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)	4
2.2	Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs)	4
2.3	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)	5
2.4	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)	8
2.5	Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAAs)	17
3.	Sensitivity Assessments	18
3.1	Overview	18
3.2	Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs) Sensitivity Assessment	18 19
3.3	Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs) Defining value and susceptibility Sensitivity Assessment	21 21 21
3.4	Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) Defining value and susceptibility Sensitivity Assessment	23 23 24
3.5	Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs) Defining value and susceptibility Sensitivity Assessment	28 28 29
3.6	Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAAs) Defining value and susceptibility Sensitivity Assessment	34 34 35

Appendix 6C

LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Baseline

Descriptions and Sensitivity

Assessments

1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix sets out the baseline descriptions and landscape sensitivity assessments for the LANDMAP Aspect Areas which have been scoped into the LVIA following the application of the filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**.
- 1.1.2 The appendix is structured as follows:
- Section 2: Baseline Descriptions; and
 - Section 3: Sensitivity Assessments.

2. Baseline Descriptions

2.1 Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

2.1.1 A description of the two GLAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 4 and Question 6 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.1**. GLAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10a**.

Table 2C.1 LANDMAP Geological Landscape Aspect Areas: Baseline Description

GLAA	Description (Q4 and Q6)
CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley	<p>Upland plateau of south to southeast dipping upper Pennant sandstones and siltier Grovesend formations (Upper Carboniferous), forming moderately steep east side of Northwest-Southeast Ebbw valley, dissected by steep Northeast-Southwest tributary valleys. Glacial sand/ gravel in lower Cwm y Glyn valley floor. Northeast-Southwest Glyn fault controls Nant Gawn valley to Newbridge. North-South fault partly controlling main Ebbw valley. Disused quarries in sandstone, workings into Grovesend coals in northern part.</p> <p>Contributors to the geological character of the area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s) - South Wales Pennant - Grovesend formations (Upper Carboniferous). • Superficial deposits - Glacial sand and gravel, alluvium. • Structural features - Northeast-Southwest, North-South faults. • Active processes – Fluvial. • Past processes – Glacial.
CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon	<p>Steep-sided, symmetrical V-shaped valley dissected in upland plateau of north and west dipping South Wales Pennant Formation sandstones (Upper Carboniferous). Upper Pennant sandstones form valley sides and lower Pennant siltstones the valley floor.</p> <p>Contributors to the geological character of the area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratigraphic formation(s) - South Wales Pennant Fm (Upper Carboniferous). • Active processes – Fluvial. • Past processes – Glacial.

2.2 Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs)

2.2.1 A description of the single LHAA scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 24 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.2**. LHAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10b**.

Table 2C.2 LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas: Baseline Description

LHAA	Description (Q24)
CYNONLH149 Unnamed	An area of improved grassland on the upland fringe. The area does not contain any habitats of international importance with improved grassland forming the only habitat type (99%) outside areas of built development (1%).
CYNONLH150 Unnamed	Unenclosed upland mosaic with bracken, heath and acid grassland mosaic. Ecologically, the most notable feature is dry heath.

2.3 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

2.3.1 A description of the 16 VSAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 3 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.3**. VSAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10c**.

Table 2C.3 LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: Baseline Description

VSAA	Description (Q3)
BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan	Undulating plateau above main Sirhowy valley with undisturbed farmland of small pasture fields with overgrown beech hedges throughout giving very distinctive and attractive sense of place. Totally separated visually and contrasting with 'valleys' landscape. Tranquil rural character. Merges with similar farmland in adjacent Caerphilly. Seen from minor road beyond county boundary. Prominent tip to north on skyline.
BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd	Gentle west-facing upper slopes overlooking main Ebbw valley. All farmland with pattern of small fields still bounded in parts by stone walls and large hedges, predominately beech, all part of ancient countryside and giving strong sense of place. Hedges give well-tree'd skyline from valleys below. Small pre-industrial village of St. Illtyd is focal point, separate and isolated from valleys. Fine views generally west and south into valleys and across to similar areas (beyond Blaenau Gwent). Generally remote and tranquil with some poorer quality parts adjacent to housing estates at western edge.
BLNGWVS404 Ebbw/ Ebbw Fach valley	Steep valley sides of Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach, and Cwm Big, with mainly dense coniferous forestry. Valleys narrow, V-shaped and winding, plus forestry means area enclosed and views more restricted than other parts of valleys, adding contrast and clear sense of place. But rather overpowering at Abertillery and other valley-bottom settlements. Viewed extensively from main routes along both valleys and from the settlements in Ebbw Fach valley but not accessible.
BLNGWVS542 Garden Festival	Lower western slopes of valley with mosaic of open spaces, including parkland, and recent development - mainly housing. Elements of former garden festival but structure of festival layout lost to new housing. Generally disjointed development, mainly on series of terraces of reclaimed land. Not very prominent apart from distinct white Festival Park building. Merges with valley side above.
BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte	Series of north-south high open rounded ridges forming 'backbones' of Blaenau Gwent. Consisting of Mynydd Bedwellte, Cefn Manmoel,

VSAA	Description (Q3)
	<p>Mynydd Carn-y-cefn, and Mynydd Coety. They are open, with mainly grass/heather moorland, with sheep, and no settlement. There are a few remnants of quarrying and tipping and associated disturbance in past. They provide sweeping skylines to both sides of most settled valleys, giving great contrast. Uncluttered, wild, unpeopled character contrast with/is antithesis of valleys giving strong sense of place. 360 degree long-distance views from tops, with valleys totally hidden, gives very important remote quality, appears to be just miles and miles of open country from the tops. None of the ridges have any road access apart from sections of minor, little-used roads along edges of the areas, well away from the highest points. There are a few places where fly-tipping, etc. near roads detract from close-up views. Also continuing bike activity. Recent washery above Cwm Big is local detractor.</p> <p>This VSAA comprises three separate areas as shown in Figure 6.10c.</p>
<p>BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley</p>	<p>Most of both sides of the three main south-flowing valleys of Sirhowy, Ebbw and Ebbw fach. Steep, wild hillsides form major backdrop and enclosing elements of all settlements and therefore very important visually. Strong contrasts of dark and light throughout day/year. Variety of old industrial scars, including quarries, tips, inclines, mines, deciduous add interest throughout, in addition to semi-natural woodland, rocky outcrops, small fields and scattered small settlements with distinctive long-row patterns mainly associated with the quarries and mines. Edges around settlements tend to have unsightly neglect and abuse such as fly-tipping. Few large-scale detractors, e.g., landfill, but well hidden from most parts, also recent landslip/reclamation at Nantyglo. Various tracks and minor roads give access with interesting, good views, but much of the area is not very accessible, adding to sensory appeal. Recent closure of Silent Valley landfill has reduced intrusion.</p> <p>This VSAA comprises four separate areas as shown in Figure 6.10c.</p>
<p>BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri</p>	<p>South-facing side valley enclosed by high ridges giving it a hidden, tranquil quality separate from main Ebbw Fach valley. Upper part retains scattered farms and field pattern up to clear edge of enclosed land, while lower part mainly reclaimed, including series of lakes/ponds forming focus for recreation. These reclaimed parts are currently rather uninteresting but have potential for developing more variety as vegetation develops. They are hidden from most views from the adjacent settlement (Abertillery) but seen from above from the paths up the slopes. Steep slopes above with good variety of woodland including some coniferous forestry. There are no routes through.</p>
<p>CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug</p>	<p>A very remote feeling ridgeline of open grass & conifer woodland. Stone walls - some derelict - gives some height. Dramatic views all around. Feeling of separation from valley floors below. Views southwards to Caerphilly. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness.</p>
<p>CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen</p>	<p>Areas of upland comprising both heath and grassland on the western slopes of both Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Llwyd. These areas are largely flanked by coniferous plantation woodland with more open areas to the east. More westerly areas in valleys have smaller field patterns. Some views to adjacent upland areas and to urban area of Newbridge in the valley to the west.</p>

VSAA	Description (Q3)
CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen	An upland area of ridges (reaching 450m AOD) and valleys (at approximately 200m AOD) with conifer and mixed woodland mosaic. Open ridgelines and woodland spaces afford views across adjacent wooded valleys, and urban areas. Visual detractors on open ridgelines include overhead power lines and telecom mast, strong intrusive vertical elements that disrupt the mosaic pattern of the landscape.
CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common	Landscape of rough grazed grassland. Wind noise is a dominant aesthetic factor which evokes particular experience of exposure and wildness. An exposed open landscape of rough grazing & bracken. Dramatic views all around. Noise & movement - more noticeable within generally quiet landscape. Sheep & horses grazing. Traffic was quite frequent on main road through area despite it only being an apparently minor road.
CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan	Open upland ridge, land cover of rough grazing and bracken, with some old stone walls. panoramic views out over lower lying land to the south (longer views) and coniferous plantation to south and west (shorter views). To north there are views to higher land the built up areas of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith. Some visual clutter of pylons slightly detracts from this otherwise wild/exposed typical upland area. Not remote as close to valleys and their associated urban areas.
MNMTHVS010 Mynydd Garnlochdy	An open exposed upland ridge forming part of Mynydd Garnlochdy. The land cover is dominated by bracken and interspersed with small enclaves of heather. There is no settlement, although the area is crossed by a number of footpaths. Long views occur both to the east across the Usk valley floodplain and westwards across the Cwmavon valleys.
TRFNVS019 Unnamed	Outlier of upland ranging from approximately 350m to 385mAOD. Open grazed hilltops with panoramic views over adjacent valleys and to other areas of upland to the north. Some damage by joyriders/bikes. Windy, quiet, exposed - dominant position over valleys below.
TRFNVS022 Unnamed	Lower spur/slopes of upland grazing ranging from approximately 300m to 380mAOD, with a predominant southerly aspect. enclosed grazed moorland - plateau form, forest fringes, sense of remoteness despite being adjacent to developed valleys.
TRFNVS024 Unnamed	Upland area ranging from approximately 400m to 550mAOD. land cover dominated by open grazed hill tops of rough grassland/heath, exposed/windy and with panoramic views over upland areas and over valleys. Strong sense of place result of views and simple set of defining /distinctive elements (open/ hilly /rough grassland/exposure/elevation).
TRFNVS027 Unnamed	Upper slopes of broad valley ranging from approximately 200m to 350mAOD. Rough pasture, mixed boundaries of trees, hedge and fence. Discordant influence of golf course and clubhouse, conifers and lawns on the enclosed rough grazing pattern of small to medium sized geometric fields, along whose boundaries, and occasionally across, run a network of public footpaths, several of which connect with residential areas in northern Pontypool.
TRFNVS033 Unnamed	Dominant ridgeline on tight valley below and landscape to the east. Exposed, no trees/scrub. Views across valley-not into floor. Component of broader landscape form.

2.4 Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

2.4.1 A description of the 27 HLAAs scoped into the assessment, as informed by Question 4 of the LANDMAP Survey, is set out in **Table 6C.4**. HLAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10d**.

Table 2C.4 LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas: Baseline Description

HLAA	Description (Q4)
BLNGWHL022 HAA 22 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn	Extensive area of unenclosed moor. In addition to the remnants of mining activity, particularly at the northern end of the area, there are Bronze Age cairns and post-medieval sheepfolds found here, which indicate human activity within this landscape over many millennia. The West Monmouth Golf Course is found at the northern end of the aspect area.
BLNGWHL025 HAA 25 Mynydd Coety	A large area of moorland (mostly common) with a wide range of archaeological remains varying from mining structures to cairns and sheep folds.
BLNGWHL034 HAA 34 Cwmtillery	This aspect area includes the upper part of the Tyleri valley, which is still characterised by farmland. There is still a working farmstead dominating the top of the valley. Heritage interest is also represented in the form of several disused quarries.
BLNGWHL037 HAA 37 Maes Mawr	An area of tipping and quarrying now largely reclaimed.
BLNGWHL041 HAA 41 Hafod y dafal	An area of fields based around a Hafod, this appears to be a planned landscape; a number of buildings (mostly ruinous) are scattered across the area.
BLNGWHL044 HAA 44 St Illtyd Fieldscape	An area with important monuments and a well maintained fieldscape of small rectangular fields bounded by stone walls and grown out hedges.
BLNGWHL045 HAA 45 Llanhilleth	A classic Blaenau Gwent industrial townscape, albeit of somewhat later date than others (early 20th century), set above a river valley.
CYNONHL004 Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate	The Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate was first developed in a rural landscape during the 1980s, when the western half of the estate was constructed. The eastern half of the estate was used to tip spoil from the adjacent Oakdale colliery, via an aerial ropeway, during the 1980s. The former coal tips were subsequently levelled, and the eastern part of the industrial estate was under construction by the early years of the 21st century. Before the site was developed, this was a rural landscape in which post-medieval farms existed. A damaged Bronze Age round barrow has also been identified here, just to the east of Manmoel Road, which may survive within an area of scrub.
CYNONHL290 Llanfabon and Llanbradach	An enclosed agricultural landscape bounded to the east by the Rhymni Valley transport corridor (CynonHL701), and to the west by the Cwm valley side (CynonHL448) and Pontypridd transport corridor (CynonHL977). The unenclosed moorland of Mynydd Eglwsilan (CynonHL878) defines the aspect areas southern boundary whilst the town of Nelson borders the north of the aspect area. Modern planted forestry dominates the area to the south of the aspect at Llanbradach with ancient and semi-natural woodland scattered across the area at Coed Llanbradach, Coed y Graig and Coed Pant-du Isaf. The aspect

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	<p>area is dominated by irregular fieldscapes and dispersed isolated Post-medieval farmsteads. A cairn cemetery and several possible Bronze Age standing stones represent the prehistoric period within this aspect area. In 1976 the RCAHMW described a group of five stony mounds at Bryn Owen Farm to the south of the aspect area; they were thought to be Bronze Age burials and considered to be "classic" examples of their type. A further mound and two standing stones recorded by Caple & Owen-John (1987) have since been discounted as a later post-medieval spoil heap and boundary markers. The Roman presence is almost unrepresented; however, one coin was recovered from Fid-Gelyn, near Llanfabon. The house forms within the aspect area generally belong to the post-medieval period with many later alterations. A dominant pattern to the development of these houses is their medieval longhouse origins; many, including Bryn Owen Farmhouse, still have original medieval features attached to the properties, in this case an internal cow shed. Llechwenlydan, a two-and-a-half storey two-unit, direct-entry house built in c1600, with 18th century modifications, has the appearance of a longhouse but without intercommunication, and retains a hall ceiling with corn-drying rollers above the fireplace. A genuine medieval hut platform survives to the far south of the aspect area on the slopes of Graig Wylt. Small-scale industrial activities took place in the aspect area in the form of quarries and coal Levels. A coalmine, at Llanfabon, is mentioned in a "compotus" or ministers account for the year 1281; however, this claim at present remains unsubstantiated. Two Levels are recorded at Ffynnon Rhingyll, one with an arched structure is just visible beneath an over burden of soil. Penywaun boasts an airshaft and Llanbradach several small limestone quarries. During the laying of a gas-pipeline a tramroad was discovered immediately southeast of Nelson. Interestingly this aspect area would appear to represent continuity in the settlement record, in its present form, from the medieval period into the present. Although this aspect was occupied in the Bronze Age and later periods, the landscape as we see it today is the result of agricultural and, to a lesser degree, industrial activities.</p>
<p>CYNONHL426 Maes Manor Hotel</p>	<p>Maes Manor Hotel is situated on a south-facing slope above the Sirhowy valley, on the west side of the river to the north of Blackwood. Although set in a highly industrialized and built-up area, its immediate surroundings are rural, and it is reached up a narrow lane from the main road in the valley bottom (Cadw 1994, 93). The site, originally known as Maesruddud, is first mentioned in 1434. A stone barn to the west of the house appears to be the earliest building on the site; the house and other ancillary buildings date to about 1890 and were built by Captain Edmund Williams, a local mine owner and Sheriff of Monmouthshire. The architect was F P Warren. The house is a two-storey mansion of grey stone with a pitched slate roof and mullioned and transomed windows. It is L-shaped with a projection on the east side, at the end of which is the main entrance (Cadw 1994, 93). Various outbuildings lie to the west of the house. The most prominent is the Coach House, a two-storey rendered building with a pitched slate roof and a small clock lantern on top. This has a date of 1914 on the front. To its south is a yard surrounded by a high stone wall, in which are a number of utilitarian stone outbuildings including a stone barn aligned east-west along the south side, which may be older than the rest of the buildings. At the entrance to the site twin lodges flank the drive (Cadw 1994, 93). Thomas H Mawson designed the garden of Maes Manor Hotel in about 1907 for L Brewer-Williams, a mine owner. At that time, the house was called Maesruddud. Mawson thought that his garden was successful,</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	<p>but that "having regard to its locality it was rather like a jewel stuck into a lump of lead." Its design is formal and architectural with two main axes: one north-south down the centre of the walled garden and the semi-circular garden, and one east west along the entrance drive (Cadw 1994, 93). The garden lies to the northeast, east and southeast of the house, on ground sloping gently to the south. The entrance, to the east of the house, is off a narrow lane. Stonewalls, side entrances and gate piers flank the entrances, with a pair of lodges on either side of the drive just inside. These are identical, of two storeys, with pitched slate roofs, and casement windows. Each has a wooden bench under a pent roof facing the drive. The drive runs straight to the small, rectangular entrance forecourt on the north side of the house and is flanked by ornamental woodland of mixed deciduous and coniferous trees with an underplanting chiefly of rhododendrons and laurels. The entrance to the forecourt is flanked by high stonewalls and gate piers (Cadw 1994, 93). A raised terrace, with a roughly coursed and buttressed stone revetment wall, runs the full length of the north side of the forecourt with dressed stone steps up to it on the main north-south axis of the garden. At the west end, the terrace projects a little way out into the forecourt and is topped by Stone balustrading, much of which has now gone or is broken. A wide gravel path runs the length of the terrace and leads, at the east end, to a square stone pavilion with a pyramidal roof topped by a ball finial (Cadw 1994, 93). Above the terrace, on its north side, is a rectangular walled garden bounded on the north, east and west sides by high stonewalls, stepped down at intervals with ridged tops of stone tiles. The inside of the walls are lined with brick and the two northern corners are curved. Along the south side is a roughly coursed retaining wall above the terrace, topped by a clipped yew hedge. On the central north-south axis is a flight of stone steps leading up to iron gates into the walled garden, flanked by dressed stone piers topped with ball finials. The interior layout of the garden has gone, the whole being grassed over, and two modern chalets are built in it towards the north end. To the east of the walled garden is a belt of mixed woodland which continues around the field to the east, along its north and east sides (Cadw 1994, 93). The southern part of the garden, to the south of the forecourt, consists of a series of shallow semi-circular grass terraces leading down to the semi-circular stone revetment wall topped by a box hedge on the boundary of the garden. The ground slopes away below the garden, giving views to the south, and a few clumps of pines have been planted in the field below. In the upper, level lawn are a number of notable trees, including two large yews and a large Monkey Puzzle. The formal garden merges into the informal woodland to the east, where there are further notable trees including pines, and where there is also a ruinous revolving summerhouse. The terraces are bounded by grass scarps or dry stonewalling, with stone steps down the central north-south axis, at the south end of which steps lead down to a wooden gate into the field. An interesting feature of the garden is the drainage, with small iron grilles in the lawns at the top of vertical drainage holes (Cadw 1994, 93).</p>
<p>CYNONHL465 Ebbw Settlement Corridor</p>	<p>A heavily urbanised transport corridor with the emphasis placed firmly on industrial occupation activity. The aspect area is defined by the meandering course of both the Cwm and Afon Ebbw south from Crumlin, through Abercarn and Cross Keys to the Unitary Authority boundary at Risca. Settlement activity along Cwm Ebbw during the prehistoric period is represented by the recovery of a Bronze Age socketed axe at Cefn Bychan. Also, at Cefn Bychan are the remains of</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	<p>an unclassified road to Hafodyrynys; it may well have origins in the Roman period due to its paved construction. However, it seems just as likely to have originated in medieval period. Other Roman settlement evidence includes a building beneath St Mary's church, Risca, and a bronze figurine of a horse found at Pant-yr-Heol House, Pentwyn. Medieval activity within the area is well attested with sites such as St Mary's church, Risca, which show continuity from the Roman period right through to the present day. The present building was built on the site of the 12th/13th century St Peter's Church; this earlier building was demolished in 1852. Also, at Risca there are the remains of a socket stone and the stump of a shaft from a medieval cross. At Cwmcarn, Chapel Farm and Chapel Bridge Station retains the name of a medieval chapel that once stood on this site; the chapel has since been converted to a farmhouse. A barn on the west side of the farmhouse may incorporate part of the chapel; the walls are of stone rubble, 3m high and 1m thick. An early 17th century outer kitchen is set close to house. An outside stair reaches the loft above where there is a blocked window of medieval type. Pont Mynachlog, as the name suggests, is the remains of a medieval bridge visible in the centre of the modern one. At Jamesville is the supposed site of an unfortified medieval manor, courthouse or grange, which was extant in the 14th century. Although this aspect area has been settled from the prehistoric period, it is the post-medieval and Industrial periods, which have witnessed the greatest level of urban and industrial development. Post-medieval ribbon development has clung to the valley sides housing the skilled labourers working in the new industrial centres found in the valley bottom; these include sites such as the 18th century charcoal blast furnace at Abercarn or the collieries of Celynyn and Navigation. The Navigation Colliery, Crumlin, was built by the firm of Partridge Jones and Co between 1907 and 1911; the colliery was a show-pit of the period, with high quality buildings and modern machinery, much of which still survives in various states of repair. Crumlin is a part of a much earlier transport system belonging to the Monmouthshire Canal consisting of a canal aqueduct at Pont y Waun and a pair of 18th century canal locks with a possible lock keepers' cottage, built around 1794. A viaduct from the Sirhowy tramroad, the precursor to the main Ebbw and Sirhowy Valley line, still exists north of Pontymister and was built sometime between 1802 and 1810. Moving into the modern period a pillbox is known at near Cwm-dows, Abercarn, which overlooks the railway cutting to the south. The WWII monument is now a garden feature, with trellis and climbing plants. The Ebbw settlement corridor is a heavily industrialised and urbanised valley. A valley which has remained an important transport and communication route, from the southern lowlands into the uplands of the Eastern Coal Measures, throughout the ages.</p>
<p>CYNONHL556 Mynydd Bach and Mynydd-y-Grug</p>	<p>The aspect area is characterised by an irregular fieldscape dominated by Mynydd Machen to the east, Mynydd Dimlaith to the west and Mynydd Bach and Mynydd y Grug to the north. The Rhymni Valley Ridgeway, stretching from Upper Ochryth in the southeast to Maescymmer in the northwest, joins all but Mynydd Dimlaith together in an unbroken swath of upland pasture. The slopes of these hills tend to be enclosed, whilst the higher slopes and summits tend to remain unenclosed moorland. Ancient and semi-natural woodland is distributed in small pockets uniformly across the aspect area. A higher concentration and distribution of both ancient and semi-natural woodland, and modern planted forestry can be found dominating the</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	<p>slopes to the north of the Sirhowy and Ebbw Valley Ridgeway. The slopes south and west of Mynydd Machen have been extensively planted with forestry during the middle of the last century. As one might expect with an aspect area this size there is little in the landscape untouched by the human hand. Bronze Age cairns dominate the Sirhowy and Ebbw Ridgeway with densities on the higher summits. Two rare Bronze Age palstave axes were recovered from Mynydd Machen hinting that settlement occupation in the aspect area is more diverse than funerary cairn building. During later Roman occupation lead and iron was exploited at the Dan-y-Graig quarry northwest of Mynydd Machen. The Medieval occupation of Mynydd Machen is extensive with many surviving house platforms. A little way to the west along the Ridgeway is the impressive remains of at least four Medieval Pillow Mounds. During the Post-medieval period, large areas of this aspect were enclosed with many dispersed and isolated farmsteads that originated in the preceding period. Industrial activity remained small with the numerous quarries, coal Levels and tips adhering to the Sirhowy Ridgeway and Valley.</p>
CYNONHL558 Cwm Dows and Cwm Philkins	<p>A rural island fieldscape enclosed by the Ebbw Valley (CynonHL465) to the east, and the Sirhowy Valley (CynonHL660) to the west. The aspect area is characterised by an irregular fieldscape, with scattered and isolated Post-medieval farmsteads, and dispersed semi-natural woodland. Industrial activity is absent however the aspect does contain three listed post-medieval houses, Penmaen, Cincoed Cottage and Pentwyn Isaf.</p>
CYNONHL602 Nant Bargod Rhymni	<p>This large rural aspect area is characterised by an extensive irregular fieldscape, ancient and semi-natural woodland, modern forestry, a small lake and three settlement areas; Deri, Pentwyn and the larger Fochriw. The post-medieval fieldscape is the defining feature covering the larger part of the aspect; this agricultural landscape is bounded by Gelligaer Common to the south and west, from Fforest Gwladys to Fochriw, with Cefn Brithdir, the Rhymni Valley and Bargoed defining the aspects northern and eastern limits, respectively. The Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn, north from Bargoed to Fochriw, divides the main areas of fieldscape neatly in two. It is along this valley that the ancient and semi-natural woodland of Coed Groes-faen, Cefn Bach and Deri-newydd still survives; however, the forestry to the north of the valley is modern. Prehistoric activity in the area is unusually absent considering the aspects proximity to the dense distribution of prehistoric remains found on Cefn Brithdir and Gelligaer Common. This absence, one assumes, is due to intense and prolonged agricultural activity, from the medieval period to the present, found in this area. Roman activity is represented by practice works located to the extreme south of the aspect area on the border with Gelligaer Common; these earthworks are associated with the Roman occupation of the auxiliary fort at Gelligaer. A 7th century inscribed memorial stone of Tegernacus was recovered from a fields c150m northeast of the now demolished Capel y Brithdir, the monument was removed to the National Museum in 1920. This monument stood in an arable field a few meters west of the Cefn Brithdir Ridgeway. Until its demolition in 1960, the medieval chapel of Capel-y-Brithdir stood alongside the Cefn Brithdir Ridgeway, during the demolition a cross-incised slab of probable 10th century date was recovered. The overriding feature of this aspect is the extensive post-medieval fieldscape, and farmstead distribution. Many are ruined, such as Ty Mawr Farmstead situated immediately south of Pentwyn, and</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
CYNONHL634 Gelligaer and Llancaiach	<p>represents settlement continuity from the medieval period through into the post-medieval occupation of the area. This continuity is accentuated by the survival of Ridge and Furrow earthworks in the fields south of Bryn-coch Farmstead, demonstrating a respect in the post-medieval period of the earlier enclosed landscape. Extraction on a fairly intensive level occurred within this aspect, large quarries and Levels are distributed along the entire length of the Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn. The largest colliery in the area was Ogilvie Colliery and was established at the beginning of WWI, when the South Wales coal industry was at its height. It was owned by the Powell Duffryn Company, subsequently nationalized and continued in production until 1975. An exceptionally rare timber footbridge, which crossed the former Brecon and Merthyr Railway Bargoed Line, the bridge opened in 1868 and still survives. The bridge consists of two timber spans with bullnozed sandstone abutments. The Brecon and Merthyr Bargoed Line, later became the Cilhaul Branch Railway, and followed the Cwm Ysgwydd-gwyn from Bargoed to Fochriw through this aspect area.</p>
CYNONHL660 Blackwood and the Sirhowy Valley	<p>A large, enclosed landscape of irregular field-systems defines this aspect south of Gelligaer Common. The village of Gelligaer comprises a pre-Industrial Revolution core, centred on the early church of St Cattwg and the remains of a castle mound, probably of 12th-century date. The northern outskirts of Gelligaer contain the earthworks and buried remains of Roman military installations and associated features. At the heart of the complex lie the visible and substantial remains of an early 2nd-century stone-built fort. This fort, the Roman name of which is lost, occupies a commanding and strategic position on the broad spur of Cefn Gelligaer. It also straddles the line of the major Roman road running south from Brecon, via Gelligaer Common, to Caerphilly and Cardiff. A well-preserved section of the road can be traced for some distance on the east side of Garn Penbugail. To the north-west of the fort lies a large rectangular earthwork enclosing an area of about 2.4ha, representing the remains of an earlier and larger fort, constructed as part of the 1st-century campaigning and military dispositions in South Wales (Cadw et al 2001, 50). Continuity of settlement in the area is further demonstrated by the construction of the earthwork castle at Gelligaer, known as Twyn Castell. The construction of this small castle has been attributed to the Welsh rulers of the mountain commotes of Senghenydd. The castle probably dates to the 12th century, as does the parish church of Gelligaer located on slightly higher ground to the west. Both the castle and the church, situated close to the Roman forts, represent not only the core of the medieval settlement of Gelligaer, but also reflect a complex shift in settlement pattern (Cadw et al 2001, 51). Industrial activity seems to have been minimal with just a small distribution of airshafts in what is a dominant agricultural landscape. A rare set of six bee boles, constructed in a similar manner to those found at Boverton Place, which may date from 1778, survive in the early post-medieval farmstead of Gelliargwellt Uchaf.</p> <p>An entirely urbanised aspect area stretching along the length of the Sirhowy Valley from Lower Machen to the Unitary Authority boundary at Pont Gwaithyrhaearn. The aspect area is bounded to the west by Mynydd Bach (CynonHL556), Cwm Rhymni communication corridor and Bedwellte (CynonHL885). The western boundary of the aspect area is defined by Mynydd Manmoel and Trinant (CynonHL636), the Cwm Ebbw settlement corridor (CynonHL465), Cwm Dows (CynonHL558) and Mynyddisilwyn (CynonHL936). The aspect area is heavily</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
CYNONHL724 Nant Gawni and Hafod-fach	<p>influenced by industrial activity, a theme that characterises this landscape. This urban aspect area grew up around small scale localised industry, a woollen factory, quarries, Levels and collieries, and was also part of the Sirhowy and Tredegar ironworks transport corridor connecting these industrial centres to the coastal ports of Newport and Cardiff.</p>
CYNONHL724 Nant Gawni and Hafod-fach	<p>A large enclosed agricultural landscape interspersed with derelict and relict industrial works. The aspect area boundary limits are defined by the extent of the enclosed fieldscape to the east and south with Cwm Ebbw (CynonHL465) providing the boundary to the west and north. Ancient and semi-natural woodland can be found at Coed Poeth and Craig Glan-sion; the remaining woodland in the aspect area is modern planted forestry. Material remains within the landscape are predominantly post-medieval or later; however, at Cae Eglwys a possible lithic blade or knife was recovered suggesting the presence of Neolithic activity in the area. A medieval grange has been suggested at the site of Cil Lonydd Farmstead; no trace of any medieval remains were found in the house or farm buildings. The southern half of the farmhouse is modern. The northern half is a much older unit consisting of a two-room plan built of stone rubble. The aspect area is dominated by post-medieval irregular fieldscapes and scattered isolated rural farmsteads. Since the industrialisation of this region this aspect area has become more heavily influenced by quarries, coal levels and tips. Relict quarrying can be found at Cwm Hafod-fach, but the larger workings to the north at Twyn-y-gnol are now derelict. A number of post-medieval farmsteads, such as Penrhiw Fawr and Twyn-y-gnol farmsteads, have since been abandoned and destroyed beneath the coal tips found in the vicinity of Twyn-y-gnol workings. Much smaller quarries, dating to the post-medieval period and later, than the ones already discussed can be found interspersed through the aspect area amongst the irregular fieldscape. These older quarries tend to adhere to the carboniferous limestone outcrops found along the southern slopes of Cwm-y-Glyn and eastern aspect of Cwm Ebbw. The aspect area in the late 20th century was dominated by fieldscapes interspersed with forestry and woodland with infrequent, but large areas of quarry workings. The landscape today is little different.</p>
CYNONHL878 Mynyddau Eglwysilian a Meio	<p>An enclosed aspect area of mountain moorland covering Cefn Eglwysilan, Mynydd Eglwysilan and Mynydd Meio. The aspect area is bounded to the north and east by Llanbradach (CynonHL290); the Cwm enclosed valley side (CynonHL448) defines the western boundary and the enclosed fieldscape of Cwm yr Aber (CynonHL308) delineates the aspect area's southern boundary. This aspect area represents an important preserved historic landscape with a wealth of evidence from almost every period from the Bronze Age into the present. The Bronze Age is well represented within the aspect area with many varying funerary monuments broadly distributed across this open moorland. These monuments, such as ring-cairns, structured cairns, cairn cemeteries and cemetery pairs, dominate the prehistoric monument assemblage, out numbering later monuments many times over. Later monuments include Iron Age hut circles, usually in groups of three, distributed across the aspect area. Numerous Medieval house platforms litter the open moorland, which is dominated by the Senghenydd Cross Dyke. The Medieval dyke is thought to enclose a deer park belonging to the Lords of Caerphilly Castle on the upper part of the Nant yr Aber valley and surrounding hills. Parts are well preserved comprising of a</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
MRTHRHL015 HL015 Gelligaer Common (west)	<p>bank and internal ditch, c12.5km long enclosing c2500 acres (1000ha) of mountain moorland. Several more medieval cross dykes divide Cefn Eglwysilan into large, parallel sections; these earthworks at Twyn Hywel are also associated with the Norman Deer Park. Modern transmitter towers now dominate the viewshed north of Cefn Eglwysilan. This aspect area is a very busy landscape, with evidence of human occupation from the Bronze Age into the present. The integrity of this unique landscape should be maintained.</p>
NWPRTHL001 Michaelston le Fedw Rolling Hills	<p>The aspect area of Gelli-gaer Common (West) represents the northwestern portion of Gelligaer Common Historic Landscape (HLW [MGL] 4), (Hill, 1999). It is an increasingly rare survival in Southeast Wales of an area of high upland moor. This aspect area includes the summits of Pen Garnbugail (470m) and Mynydd Fochriw (459m) at its northern end, with slopes falling sharply westwards into the Cwm Bargod valley from these hills. A narrow strip of the area extends southwards along the common for some 4km to the south of Pen Garnbugail, mostly between 200 metres and 500 metres in width. The eastern edge of the aspect area is defined by the boundary between Merthyr and Caerphilly counties. The aspect area consists of predominantly unenclosed upland moorland and contains a diversity of archaeological sites. Prehistoric activity is well-represented by Bronze Age burial and ritual sites, of which a notable concentration occurs on Pen Garnbugail, with other examples found along the ridgeline further south. Possible Roman activity has also been noted, in the form of a postulated Roman Road (RR621), which is thought to have run from the south-southeast to the north, connecting Roman forts at Gelligaer and Penydarren. There is good evidence for medieval activity with a cluster of medieval platform houses in the middle valley slope of Cwm Bargod, north of Coly Uchaf, which now survive as bare earthwork terraces, cut into the valley side, where timber framed houses and buildings would have stood in medieval times. During post-medieval times, the enclosure of the lower slopes to increase the farmed area reduced the area of the open mountain pasture to its present extent. The industrial era and the consequent increase in settlement has had little impact on the common, with coal and iron ore mining activity mainly focused on the valleys to the east and west. A small colliery did operate at Nant Gruffydd, just inside the western boundary of the aspect area in the mid-20th century.</p> <p>A large landscape of mixed woodland, an irregular fieldscape and both dispersed and nucleated settlement. The present landscape is post-medieval in character with scattered churches and farmsteads nestled in an enclosed hedgerow countryside created in the medieval and Tudor periods when the spread of cereal-growing led to deforestation and enclosure. The aspect area is bounded to the west by the Rhymni Valley. This landscape is identical in character to CynonHL663 but only where it follows the Lower Rhymni Valley, extending eastward the fieldscape becomes more irregular with smaller sized fields. The modern A468 communication corridor (NHL036) overlies a much older Roman and later medieval route from Caerleon to Caerphilly and forms the northern boundary. Conversely, the M4 communication corridor (NHL24) forms the southern boundary and the informal parkland of Tredegar House (NHL027) forms the eastern boundary of the aspect area. As one would expect with an aspect area of this size there is a wealth of archaeological evidence representing human occupation from almost all periods. Early prehistory is represented by the recovery of</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
	<p>numerous flint tools; these include Mesolithic arrowheads and Neolithic scrapers found in fields to the south and east of Michaelston y Fedw. Later in prehistory the area was settled at Pen y Lan where a small Iron Age defended enclosure survives. Roman influence is stronger and Lower Machen is the site of a significant industrial settlement. Little archaeological excavation of the settlement has taken place, but it appears to be chiefly centred underneath the present village, although it may well expand across most of the floodplain of the River Rhymney. The settlement is thought to have processed lead mined in the neighbouring Ruperra area of Caerphilly. Two Roman roads are known to cross the area, the A468 and the southwest orientated road from Pentre Poeth to Druidstone. The most important is the latter, the main road connecting Caerleon with Cardiff. The A468 connected Caerleon with Caerphilly (see NHL036), this road is assumed to leave the Cardiff to Caerleon road at Basseleg and proceed to Lower Machen, and it then crosses the Ruperra area, presumably providing access to the lead mines. The area was part of the Welshry in the medieval period. There is only one nucleated village, Michaelston y Fedw, with its simple medieval church to St Michael. Michaelston y Fedw may well be a later settlement created in land cleared from the forest. The place-names probably originated in the medieval period and the numerous references to woods and trees (Michaelston y Fedw means Michaels town in the birches and Coed Mawr means Big Wood) indicates a long heritage of woodland in the area. A large part of the area was incorporated into the Machen Park (a deer park), and surviving place-names reflect this use (e.g., Park Wood, Park House). In the post-medieval and modern periods few major changes have occurred to the area which remains well wooded, although agricultural needs have reduced some of the areas of forest. A modern feature of interest is the World War II Anti-Aircraft battery sited at Pen-y-Lan.</p>
TRFNHL011 HL011 Pontypool Park	<p>Post-medieval park and house with historic associations; registered park and garden. The area is coterminous with that on the joint Cadw/ICOMOS UK register (Ref. No PGW (Gt) 26), where it has been evaluated as Grade II*. It also forms an Archaeologic site.</p>
TRFNHL012 HL012 Pontypool	<p>Post-medieval urban/industrial centre, industrial settlement and industry dominated by nucleated 19th/20th century ribbon development. Iron and steel producing area with industrial features and civic buildings. Communications corridor. Archaeologically Sensitive Area.</p>
TRFNHL013 HL013 Cilgoegan and Lasgarn	<p>Medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape with dispersed settlement of scattered farmsteads and small ecclesiastical centres. Wealth of early post-medieval vernacular buildings. Communications route. Replanted Ancient Woodland.</p>
TRFNHL014 HL014 Mynydd Garnlochdy	<p>Upland common with traditional boundaries and communication routes-upland trackways. Common usage.</p>
TRFNHL015 HL015 Cwm Afon	<p>Post-medieval urban/industrial landscape. Communications corridor and ironworking area with early industrial housing. Replanted Ancient Woodland. Partly within Registered Historic Landscape and World Heritage Site. Specific elements include communications, ironworking and mineral extraction, industrial housing, late-medieval ecclesiastical site.</p>

HLAA	Description (Q4)
TRFNHL017 HL017 Waun-wen and Mynydd Llanhilleth	Post-medieval industrial landscape over early post-medieval landscape of hillside enclosure and scattered farmsteads. Ironworking and coal producing area with technological developments. Former monastic grange. Archaeologically Sensitive Area. Industrial extraction and processing of iron and coal. Communication routes, industrial housing, remnant post-medieval agricultural landscape.
TRFNHL018 HL018 Glyn Trosnant and Hafod-yr-Ynys	Communication route. Post-medieval industrial landscape. Mineral extraction. Former monastic grange land. Traditional boundaries. Replanted Ancient Woodland, with extensive deciduous woodlands along the northern valley slope and some coniferous plant.
TRFNHL019 HL019 Waun-wen and Mynydd Llanhilleth	Upland common with exploratory mining and traditional administrative boundaries. Communications route. Former monastic grange land. Traditional boundaries. Upland common with trial shafts.

2.5 Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAs)

2.5.1 No description of the two CLSAs scoped into the assessment is provided in the LANDMAP Survey as confirmed in **Table 6C.5**. CLSAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10e**.

Table 2C.5 LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas: Baseline Description

CLSAA	Description (Q24)
CYNONCLS026 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	No description provided.
CYNONCLS050 Mynydd Maen	No description provided.

3. Sensitivity Assessments

3.1 Overview

- 3.1.1 The landscape sensitivity of the defined Aspect Areas to the Proposed Development is presented in **Sections 3.2 to 3.6**, derived in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A**. Landscape sensitivity is described as 'high', 'medium', 'low' or 'very low' which is assessed by taking into account the landscape value and landscape susceptibility to change, which may vary in response to both the type of development proposed, specific characteristics of the receptor and consideration of Aspect specific criteria.
- 3.1.2 The predicted magnitude of landscape change and the consequent level of effect and its significance is set out in **Appendices 6D to 6H** for the Geological Landscapes, Landscape Habitats, Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape Aspect Areas respectively.

3.2 Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

- 3.2.1 The landscape value and susceptibility of the GLAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:
- Landscape Value:
 - ▶ Q33 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet.
 - Landscape Susceptibility:
 - ▶ *Scale*: Q8 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale wind turbines, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or overwhelmed by wind turbines, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Landform and Topography*: Q4 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent a simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes with large scale simple and homogenous land cover, where turbines may be less easily scaled against the landform and the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines. Medium to High susceptibility would represent complex landforms with well-defined changes in level and diverse land cover, landscapes that turbines may dominate.
 - ▶ *Skyline*: OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Surrounding Context*: Q2 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links are present and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with limited relationship with adjacent areas, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High

susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

3.2.2 The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two GLAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.6**. LHAAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10a**.

Table 3C.6 Assessment of Sensitivity: Geological Landscapes Aspect Areas (GLAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility					Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q33)	Scale	Landform and Topography	Skyline	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
CYNONGL001 Upper Ebbw valley	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
CYNONGL002 Nant Gwyddon	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium

3.3 Landscape Habitats Aspects Areas (LHAAs)

Defining value and susceptibility

3.3.1 The landscape value and susceptibility of the LHAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

- **Landscape Value:**
 - ▶ Q45 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet.
- **Landscape Susceptibility:**
 - ▶ *Land Cover:* Q5 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent large scale simple and homogenous land cover including moorland, grasslands, and large forestry plantations, where the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines. Medium to High susceptibility would represent complex and diverse land cover including a diversity of arable fields, grassland, trees / hedges / woodland, open water of a small scale that turbines may dominate.
 - ▶ *Landscape Management:* Q19 and Q23 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent landscapes where habitat and species value is being undermined by current land management activities, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent landscapes where habitat and species value is being enhanced by current land management activities, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Surrounding Habitat Connectivity:* Q2 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with no special or functional link with adjacent area/s, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar landscape habitat character, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

3.3.2 The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two LHAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.7**. LHAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10b**.

Table 3C.7 Assessment of Sensitivity: Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility				Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation (Q45)	Land Cover	Landscape Management	Surrounding Habitat Connectivity	Overall susceptibility	
CYNONLH149 Unnamed	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low
CYNONLH150 Unnamed	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium

3.4 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

Defining value and susceptibility

3.4.1 The landscape value and susceptibility of the VSAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

- **Landscape Value:**
 - ▶ Q26 and Q50 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet.
- **Landscape Susceptibility:**
 - ▶ *Scale:* Q8 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent larger scale landscapes and landform which may be more able to accommodate large scale wind turbines, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent smaller scale well defined landforms which may become dominated or overwhelmed by wind turbines, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Landform, Topography and Land cover:* Q4 & Q8 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent a simple upland plateau, gently rolling or flat landscapes with large scale simple and homogenous land cover, where turbines may be less easily scaled against the landform and the simplicity of the land cover may complement turbines. Medium to High susceptibility would represent complex landforms with well-defined changes in level and diverse land cover, landscapes that turbines may dominate.
 - ▶ *Landscape Pattern:* Q5 & Q16 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Other Development:* Q6 & Q20 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses detracting from the overall landscape sensitivity and value. Landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent rural / traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
 - ▶ *Change and Movement:* Q18 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent closer proximity to busy major roads and other areas of significant mechanised movement where the movement of turbine blades may be in character. Medium to High susceptibility would represent areas where there are no roads or only quiet country lanes where turbine blade movement could be eye catching.
 - ▶ *Remoteness:* Q3, Q18 & Q19 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent an area that feels

closer to people and human activities (conversely a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquillity would have a lower number of visual receptors), characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent an area that feels remote from people and human activities (conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors), characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

- ▶ *Openness and Enclosure*: Q9 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent enclosed landscape with limited opportunities for long range views, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent open landscapes with opportunities for long range views, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Skyline*: OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent broad simple skylines lacking in distinctive or 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent skylines which are an important and noticeable component in the landscape with 'landmark' topography, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Surrounding Context*: Q2 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links are present and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low susceptibility would represent self-contained landscapes with limited relationship with adjacent areas, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High susceptibility would represent landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

- 3.4.2 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**, identified 54 VSAs within the 20km LVIA study area. However, the Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6J** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 9.4km. As a consequence, the landscape assessment has been re-scoped to include only those VSAs which lie within or partially within a 10km buffer of the proposed turbines and therefore considers 18 VSAs.
- 3.4.3 The landscape sensitivity assessment for the 18 VSAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.8**. VSAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10c**.

Table 6C.8 Assessment of Sensitivity: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs)

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Scale	Landform, Topography and Land cover	Pattern	Other Development	Change and Movement	Remoteness	Openness and enclosure	Skyline	Surrounding context	Overall susceptibility	
BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan											
High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	High
BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd											
High	Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium	Medium	High/Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	High
BLNGWVS404 Ebbw/ Ebbw Fach valley											
High	Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	High	Medium/Low	Medium/Low	Very Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
BLNGWVS542 Garden Festival											
Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	Low	Very Low	Very Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low
BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte											
High	Very Low	High/Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley											
High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Scale	Landform, Topography and Land cover	Pattern	Other Development	Change and Movement	Remoteness	Openness and enclosure	Skyline	Surrounding context	Overall susceptibility	
BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri											
High	Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug											
Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen											
Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium
CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen											
Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium to Low
CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common											
High	Low	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium/Low	Medium
CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan											
High	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium
MNMTHVS010 Mynydd Garnclothdy											

Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility										Overall Landscape Sensitivity	
	Scale	Landform, Topography and Land cover	Pattern	Other Development	Change and Movement	Remoteness	Openness and enclosure	Skyline	Surrounding context	Overall susceptibility		
Overall Evaluation (Q26/50)												
High	Very Low	Medium/Low	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	
TRFNVS019 Unnamed												
High	Very Low	Medium/Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	
TRFNVS022 Unnamed												
Medium	Low	Medium	Medium/Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	
TRFNVS024 Unnamed												
High	Very Low	Medium/Low	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	
TRFNVS027 Unnamed												
High	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	
TRFNVS033 Unnamed												
High	Very Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Low	Medium/Low	Medium	

3.5 Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

Defining value and susceptibility

3.5.1 The landscape value and susceptibility of the VSAAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

- **Landscape Value:**

- ▶ Q23 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet

- **Landscape Susceptibility:**

- ▶ *Landscape Pattern:* Q4, Q5 & Q12 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Settlement Pattern:* Q4 & Q5 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent sparse or no settlement with relatively few visual receptors and scale indicators characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent populated areas and lowlands with larger numbers of visual receptors and small-scale indicators, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Other Development:* Q35 & Q36 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses detracting from the overall landscape sensitivity and value. Landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent rural / traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Remoteness:* Q4 & Q5 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent an area that feels closer to people and human activities (conversely a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquillity would have a lower number of visual receptors), characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent an area that feels remote from people and human activities (conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors), characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Landmarks:* Q17, Q18, Q19, Q20, Q21 & Q22 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent landscapes with no sensitive features where turbines might detract from settings, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent landscapes with landmarks and features such as church spires and prominent listed buildings where turbines might compete as landscape foci and detract from settings, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Surrounding Context:* Q2 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet if special or functional links available and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent

self-contained landscape with limited relationship with adjacent areas., characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent Landscapes that are closely connected to the adjacent / surrounding areas in terms of similar character or visual backdrop, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

- 3.5.2 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**, identified 88 HLAA's within the 20km LVIA study area. However, the Viewpoint Analysis presented in **Appendix 6J** identified no significant visual effects beyond a distance of 9.4km. As a consequence, the landscape assessment has been re-scoped to include only those HLAA's which lie within or partially within a 10km buffer of the proposed turbines and therefore considers 28 HLAA's.
- 3.5.3 The landscape sensitivity assessment for the 28 HLAA's scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.9**. HLAA's are illustrated in **Figure 6.10d**.

Table 6C.9 Assessment of Sensitivity: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas (HLAAs)

Aspect Area	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility							Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Landscape Pattern	Settlement pattern	Other Development	Remoteness	Landmarks	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
BLNGWHL022 HAA 22 Mynydd Carn-y-cefn	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
BLNGWHL025 HAA 25 Mynydd Coety	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium
BLNGWHL034 HAA 34 Cwmtillery	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
BLNGWHL037 HAA 37 Maes Mawr	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
BLNGWHL041 HAA 41 Hafod y dafal	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
BLNGWHL044 HAA 44 St Illtyd Fieldscape	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	High
BLNGWHL045 HAA 45 Llanhilleth	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Very Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
CYNONHL004	High	Medium	Medium	Very Low	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium

Aspect Area	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility							Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Landscape Pattern	Settlement pattern	Other Development	Remoteness	Landmarks	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
Pen-y-fan Industrial Estate									
CYNONHL290 Llanfabon and Llanbradach	High	Medium/ Low	Medium/ Low	Medium/ Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
CYNONHL426 Maes Manor Hotel	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
CYNONHL465 Ebbwy Settlement Corridor	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
CYNONHL556 Mynydd Bach and Mynydd-y-Grug	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
CYNONHL558 Cwm Dows and Cwm Philkins	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
CYNONHL602 Nant Bargod Rhymni	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium
CYNONHL634 Gelligaer and Llancaiach	High	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Medium

Aspect Area	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility							Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Landscape Pattern	Settlement pattern	Other Development	Remoteness	Landmarks	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
CYNONHL660 Blackwood and the Sirhowy Valley	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
CYNONHL724 Nant Gawni and Hafod-fach	Medium	Medium/ Low	Low	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium to Low
CYNONHL878 Mynyddau Eglwysilian a Meio	High	Low	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium/ Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium
MRTHRHL015 HL015 Gelligaer Common (west)	High	Very Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
NWPRTHL001 Michaelston le Fedw Rolling Hills	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/ Low	Medium	Medium	High
TRFNHL011 HL011 Pontypool Park	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
TRFNHL012 HL012 Pontypool	High	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium
TRFNHL013	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium

Aspect Area	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility							Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Landscape Pattern	Settlement pattern	Other Development	Remoteness	Landmarks	Surrounding Context	Overall susceptibility	
HL013 Cilgoegan and Lasgarn									
TRFNHL014 HL014 Mynydd Garnclochdy	High	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium/ Low	Medium
TRFNHL015 HL015Cwm Afon	High	Medium	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium	High
TRFNHL017 HL017 Waunwen and Mynydd Llanhilleth: V	High	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium/ Low	Medium	Low	Medium
TRFNHL018 HL018 Glyn Trosnant and Hafod-yr-Ynys	High	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium
TRFNHL019 HL019 Waunwen and Mynydd Llanhilleth	High	Low	Low	Medium/ Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium/ Low	Medium

3.6 Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAAs)

Defining value and susceptibility

3.6.1 The landscape value and susceptibility of the CLSAAAs is considered in relation to the following criteria:

- **Landscape Value:**

- ▶ None provided in LANDMAP Survey Sheet: Collation of Landscape Condition (Q27), Scenic Quality (Q12), Sense of place/ local distinctiveness (Q8), Rarity (World Heritage Sites and HER assets) (Q23, Q26 & Q28) and Artistic/ folklore/ events & tradition Value (Q17, Q19, Q21).

- **Landscape Susceptibility:**

- ▶ *Settlement Pattern:* OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent sparse or no settlement with relatively few visual receptors and scale indicators characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent populated areas and lowlands with larger numbers of visual receptors and small-scale indicators, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Landscape Pattern:* OS/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent unenclosed land or rectilinear field patterns which may complement the modern aesthetic of turbines characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Other Development:* OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent large scale industrial, infrastructure and mineral extraction land uses detracting from the overall landscape sensitivity and value. Landscapes with vertical masts, pylons and turbines, characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent rural / traditional forms of development including parks and gardens and monuments enhancing the overall landscape sensitivity and value, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Change and Movement:* OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent Busy major roads and other areas of significant mechanised movement where the movement of turbine blades may be in character, Characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent irregular small-scale patchwork or medieval field patterns where turbines may overwhelm the scale and landscape pattern, characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.
- ▶ *Remoteness and Dark skies.* Q1, Q6 & Q7 of the LANDMAP Survey Sheet and OS map/ aerial assessment. Low to Very Low would represent an area that feels closer to people and human activities (conversely a remote area not valued for wildness or tranquillity would have a lower number of visual receptors), characteristics that are less susceptible to wind farms. Medium to High would represent an area that feels remote from people and human activities (conversely, landscapes that are settled / built up would have a higher number of visual receptors), characteristics that are more susceptible to wind farms.

Sensitivity Assessment

3.6.2 The landscape sensitivity assessment for the two CLSAAs scoped into the LVIA is set out in **Table 6C.10**. CLSAAs are illustrated in **Figure 6.10e**.

Table 6C.10 Assessment of Sensitivity: Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Areas (CLSAAs)

Aspect Area reference	Landscape Value	Landscape Susceptibility						Overall Landscape Sensitivity
	Overall Evaluation	Settlement pattern	Pattern	Other Development	Change and Movement	Remoteness and dark skies	Overall susceptibility	
CYNONCLS026 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium/ Low	Low	Low
CYNONCLS050 Mynydd Maen	Medium	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium/ Low	Medium/ Low	Low





Pennant Walters Ltd

Trecelyn Wind Farm

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6C LANDMAP Aspect Areas: Baseline
Descriptions and Sensitivity Assessments



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