



Pennant Walters Ltd

Trecelyn Wind Farm

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendix 6F LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas:
Assessment of effects

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Appendix 6F

LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**, identified 54 Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (VSAAs) that should be carried through to the assessment of effects. On the basis of the Viewpoint Assessment and analysis of significance threshold set out in **Appendix 6J**, the landscape assessment has concentrated on those VSAAs entirely or partially within 10km of the Proposed Development, which includes the following 18 VSAAs:

- BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan;
- BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd;
- BLNGWVS404 Ebbw/ Ebbw Fach valley;
- BLNGWVS542 Garden Festival;
- BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte;
- BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley;
- BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri;
- CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug;
- CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen;
- CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen;
- CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common;
- CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan;
- MNMTHVS010 Mynydd Garnlochdy;
- TRFNVS019 Unnamed;
- TRFNVS022 Unnamed;
- TRFNVS024 Unnamed;
- TRFNVS027 Unnamed; and
- TRFNVS033 Unnamed.

1.1.2 The location of the VSAAs in relation to the Proposed Development and the blade and hub height ZTVs is illustrated in **Figure 6.10c**

1.1.3 The landscape sensitivity of the VSAAs to the Proposed Development is presented in **Appendix 6C** in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 6A**. **Table 6F.1** assesses the magnitude of change likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance.

Table Error! No text of specified style in document.F.1 Assessment of effect: VSAAs

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| BLNGWVS119 Mynydd Pen-y-fan | High | Medium to Zero | Major/ Moderate and Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~5.75km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits an attractive sense of place and tranquillity. The Proposed Development would contrast, where visible, with the small-scale field pattern and undisturbed agricultural characteristics of the VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| BLNGWVS226 St. Illtyd | High | High to Zero | Major and Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the northern and southern VSAA at a minimum distance of ~1.75km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a large-scale vertical influence within southerly views from the VSAA, which exhibits a strong sense of place, remoteness and tranquillity. The Proposed Development would contrast with the small-scale field pattern and ancient countryside of the VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from High for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| BLNGWVS404 Ebbw/ Ebbw Fach valley | High | Low to Zero | Moderate and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| | | | | <p>minimum distance of ~5.5km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate to low levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The steep sides of the narrow valley and dense coniferous forestry combine to create an impression of enclosure with outward visibility limited to the main routes within the VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| BLNGWVS542 Garden Festival | Low | Very Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.5km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a distant urbanising influence within the wider setting of the VSAA, which exhibits low levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The structure of the VSAA has been eroded by considerable and somewhat disjointed urban development on reclaimed land.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Very Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte | High | High to Medium to Zero | Major to Major/ Moderate and Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~3.75km. The operational wind turbines at Coed y Gilfach Farm are located within the VSAA, south of Mynydd Coety.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a large-scale, albeit incremental, vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits high levels of remoteness and</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | <p>tranquillity. The open moorland of the VSAA is devoid of settlement and has a wild and uncluttered character that contrasts with the settled valleys below, generating a strong sense of place and important remote quality which would be weakened by the introduction of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from High for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs and closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to Medium with increased separation distance and within closer proximity to the operational turbines with the VSAA and to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| <p>BLNGWVS713 Sirhowy, Ebbw Fawr and Ebbw Fach valley</p> | High | Low to Very Low to Zero | Moderate to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a moderate proportion of the eastern VSAA in the Sirhowy Valley, at a minimum distance of ~7.0km, and the northern VSAA west of Blaina. To the east of Blaina very limited theoretical visibility is shown across the southern part of the VSAA and there no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development shown for the VSAA south of Georgetown. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA, however. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new vertical and urbanising influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The steep and wild hillsides form a major backdrop and enclosing influence to adjoining settlements.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs and closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to Very Low with increased separation distance and to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| <p>BLNGWVS808 Cwm Tyleri</p> | High | Low to Zero | Moderate and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a moderate proportion of the</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| | | | | <p>western VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.5km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. Upper parts of the VSAA incorporate scattered farmsteads and a retained field pattern. A variety of woodland is also present throughout the VSAA including some coniferous forestry.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| <p>CYNONVS129 Mynydd Y Grug</p> | <p>Medium</p> | <p>Low to Zero</p> | <p>Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None</p> | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA, however, the operational turbines at Bryn Ysgawen Farm and Tyle Crwth are present within the landscape between the VSAA and the Proposed Development. The scheme at Tyle Crwth is located in very close proximity to the north-eastern boundary of the VSAA, within ~0.1km.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be an incremental urbanising and vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity generated by the remote feeling of open grass, conifer woodland and dramatic views in all directions.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| <p>CYNONVS214 Mynydd Llwyd and Mynydd Maen</p> | <p>Medium</p> | <p>High to Zero</p> | <p>Major/ Moderate and Significant to None</p> | <p>The Proposed Development would be located within this VSAA with ZTVs demonstrating that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from the majority of the aspect area. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|
| | | | | <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new man-made vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises an upland area of heath and grassland which has a feeling of elevation and exposure in places and allows views to adjoining upland and urban areas. Coniferous forestry is a dominant land use while existing vertical features such as the large-scale overhead electricity transmission line crossing Mynydd Maen and the communications mast on Mynydd Llwyd are existing visual detractors that diminish the overall value of the VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from High for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen | Medium to Low | High to Zero | Major/ Moderate and Significant to None | <p>The Proposed Development would be located within this VSAA with ZTVs demonstrating that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the northern and central parts of the aspect area. More intermittent theoretical visibility is also shown for the southern part of the VSAA at the Iron Age Fort at Twmbarlwn and along the ridgeline at Mynydd Henllys. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new man-made vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises upland areas of exposed ridges, where a feeling of elevation is generated, and more sheltered valleys. A mosaic of coniferous and mixed woodland cloths the valleys while views are achieved from more elevated parts across these wooded valleys to adjoining upland areas and settled valleys. The large-scale overhead electricity transmission line crossing Mynydd Maen and the communications mast on Mynydd Llwyd are existing vertical features of the VSAA that disrupt the composition of the landscape and diminish the overall value.</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|--|
| CYNONVS404 Gelligaer Common | Medium | Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>The magnitude of change would range from High for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA, however, the operational turbines at Pen-y-Fan Industrial Estate and Oakdale Business Park are present within the landscape between the VSAA and the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be an incremental urbanising and vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The open landscape of rough grazing and bracken affords open views in all directions with wind noise contributing to an experience of exposure and wildness. The minor road over Gelligaer Common can be subject to frequent traffic.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| CYNONVS854 Mynydd Y Lan | Medium | Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~3.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be an incremental urbanising and vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits low levels of remoteness and tranquillity. Panoramic views over lower lying land to the south are attained from this VSAA. View to the northwest, towards the Proposed Development, encompass land at higher elevations and the settlements of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith as well as some</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|
| MNMTHVS010 Mynydd Garnclochdy | Medium | Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>pylons and other visual which detract from the wild and exposed upland area.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.75km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new man-made vertical influence within the wider setting of the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises an area of upland fringe that forms part of Mynydd Garnclochdy. There is no settlement within the VSAA, which is crossed by a number of footpaths, with long range views available to the east and west. The Proposed Development is located to the southwest.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| TRFNVS019 Unnamed | Medium | Medium to Zero | Moderate and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~1.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new man-made vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises outlying upland of grazed hilltops attaining panoramic views over adjacent uplands and settled valleys. The VSAA is windy and quiet, generating a feeling of exposure. However, this impression is somewhat diminished by damage by motorbikes.</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| | | | | The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs. |
| TRFNVS022 Unnamed | Medium | Medium to Zero | Moderate and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~2.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new man-made vertical influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity despite close proximity to developed valleys. The VSAA comprises enclosed grazed moorland across lower slopes with a predominantly southerly aspect, towards the Proposed Development Site.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| TRFNVS024 Unnamed | Medium | Medium to Low to Zero | Moderate and Significant to Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the three separate parts of the VSAA lying north of the Proposed Development at a minimum distance of ~2.0km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new vertical influence within closer parts of the VSAA, which exhibits a strong sense of place and high levels tranquillity and remoteness. The strong sense of place exhibited by the VSAA is a result of the attractive and panoramic upland views available and the distinctive characteristics of open, exposed and undulating rough grassland at elevation.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs and closest to the Proposed</p> |

| Receptor | Overall landscape sensitivity* | Magnitude of Change | Level of effect | Rationale |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| TRFNVS027 Unnamed | Medium | Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>Development, reducing to Low with increased separation distance and to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~5.25km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be an incremental urbanising influence within the VSAA, which exhibits low levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises the upper slopes of a broad valley where the pattern of small/ medium scale enclosed pastoral fields is interrupted by the influence of Pontypool Golf Course and its associated buildings.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |
| TRFNVS033 Unnamed | Medium | Low to Very Low to Zero | Moderate/ Minor to Minor and Not Significant to None | <p>ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.5km. There are no operational wind turbines within the VSAA.</p> <p>The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be an incremental urbanising influence within the VSAA, which exhibits moderate levels of remoteness and tranquillity. The VSAA comprises a dominant ridgeline of a narrow valley with a high degree of exposure due to a lack of trees. Views are focussed across the valley rather than orientated to the valley floor.</p> <p>The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within the ZTVs and closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to Very Low with increased separation distance and to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.</p> |

*As set out in **Appendix 6C**.





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