

APPENDIX 5.3 PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS (SLA)

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Within the detailed 24 km LVIA study area there are 65 SLA. With reference to Figure 5.9 showing landscape designations within 24 km, beyond 10 km from the proposed wind farm theoretical visibility from the SLAs is limited to either small intermittent parts of the SLA where elevated areas allow views towards the proposed wind farm, or where theoretical is more extensive, the distance from proposed wind farm would mean that any indirect effects on available views would mean that effects would not be considered significant.
- 1.1.2 As such the filtering exercise undertaken has focussed on SLA within 10 km of the site to identify which SLA have the potential to be significantly affected by the proposed wind farm.
- 1.1.3 The intention has been to ensure that the level of assessment given to each visual receptor is proportionate to the likelihood of significant effects arising. The tables below list the SLA identified in the baseline study and summarises the initial assessment carried out to determine which visual receptors have the potential to experience significant effects and require detailed assessment.

Table 5.3.1 - PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF SPECIAL LANDSCAPE AREAS

SLA	Local Authority	Comments	Detailed Assessment Required
South West Uplands	Torfaen	Theoretical visibility of all 13 turbines limited to the western edge of the SLA, with visibility of a reduced number of turbines with large parts where no visibility is predicted. Given the proximity and that one turbine is located within it there is potential for direct and indirect effects on the SLA.	Yes
St Illtyd Plateau & Ebbw Eastern Sides	Blaenau Gwent	Limited theoretical visibility from most of the SLA. Theoretical visibility from more elevated area near Brynhilleth, with potential for significant effects on the character of available views.	Yes
Southern Lowlands	Torfaen	Limited theoretical visibility across the SLA. Where visibility is predicted it would be of a limited number of turbines. Prominent ridge where the proposed wind farm would be located provides the backdrop to views, with potential for significant effects on the character of available views.	Yes
Eastern Ridge & Mynydd James	Blaenau Gwent	Intermittent theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines from the SLA. Potential for significant effects on the character of available views.	Yes
Western Uplands	Torfaen	Intermittent theoretical visibility of up to 13 turbines from the southern and northern parts of the SLA. Potential for significant effects on the character of available views.	Yes

Mynyddislwyn	Caerphilly	Theoretical visibility from the eastern part of the SLA. Extensive woodland along the eastern fringes of the SLA would partially screen some views. Existing views influenced by solar development and telecoms masts. Potential for limited effects but would not be considered significant.	No
Afon Lwyd Valley	Torfaen	Narrow wooded valley with limited theoretical visibility. Potential for some limited effects but would not be considered significant.	No
South Eastern Lowlands	Torfaen	Extensive theoretical visibility across the SLA. Potential for significant effects on the character of available westerly views.	Yes
North of Bettws	Newport	Theoretical visibility from majority of the area but of a limited number of turbines and given the distance effects would not be considered significant.	No
Llandegfedd Reservoir	Torfaen	Theoretical visibility from the western part of the area of all 13 turbines. Potential for effects on character of westerly views but not considered significant due to the distance and level of intervening screening.	No
Mynydd Carn-y-Cefn & Cefn yr Arail	Blaenau Gwent	Theoretical visibility from the higher parts of the area with visibility of up all 13 turbines. Potential for effects on character of south-easterly views but not considered significant due to the distance.	No
Cefn Manmoel	Blaenau Gwent	Theoretical visibility from the eastern part of the area with visibility of up all 13 turbines. Potential for effects on character of south-easterly views where available but not considered significant due to the distance and the level of intervening screening.	No
Eastern Uplands	Torfaen	Theoretical visibility from the majority of the area with visibility of up all 13 turbines at over 6.6 km. Potential for effects on character of south-westerly views but not considered significant due to the distance and the level of intervening screening.	
Cwm Tyleri & Cwm Celyn	Blaenau Gwent	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
North Caerphilly	Caerphilly	Very limited theoretical visibility from the eastern edge of the SLA. The majority of the would experience no effects.	No
West of Rhiwderin	Newport	Very limited theoretical visibility. Majority of the area would not experience visibility. Where theoretical visibility is predicted it is mostly of a reduced number of turbines. At distances of over 7.1 km no potential for significant effects.	No
Blaenavon Heritage Landscape	Torfaen	Very limited theoretical visibility from the southern edge of the SLA. Given the distance from the proposed wind farm no potential for significant effects.	No
River Usk	Newport	Very limited theoretical visibility. No potential for significant effects.	No
South Caerphilly	Caerphilly	No theoretical visibility within 10 km.	No

Gelligaer	Caerphilly	Theoretical visibility of up to all 13 turbines at over 9 km from the proposed wind farm. No potential for significant effects.	No
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