1 APPENDIX 5.5 - VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Appendix provides an assessment of the visual effects of the proposed wind farm from the 37 viewpoints. For each of the assessment viewpoints a short description is given of the baseline view followed by a description of the features of the proposed wind farm which would be visible from that viewpoint. For each viewpoint there is a comment on how vegetation, buildings or topography would affect the visibility of the turbines, as well as a comment on the sensitivity of the viewpoint, the magnitude of change experienced and the significance of visual impacts. Finally, a judgement is provided regarding whether the overall effect for each viewpoint is considered to be significant or not in terms of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.1.2 A list of each viewpoint location and receptor type represented is given in Table 5.5: Assessment Viewpoints of Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual within the Environmental Statement. The locations of these viewpoints is illustrated on Figures 5.3: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km with Viewpoints and 5.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 24 km with Viewpoints of Chapter 5. Each assessment viewpoint is illustrated within the set of figures provided with this appendix. For each viewpoint Sheet A illustrates the existing view and cumulative wireline at 90 degrees, Sheet B illustrates the wireline of the proposed wind farm at 53.5 degrees, and Sheet C shows a photomontage of the proposed wind farm at 53.5 degrees.

1.2 Viewpoint Assessment

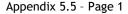


Table 1.1 VIEWPOINT 1 - CAMBRIAN WAY CAR PARK

Baseline					
Grid reference	327729	197987	Elevation (m AOD)	306	
Nearest turbine	T9 1585 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West	
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Unique Area ID and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: Boundary between TRFNVS024 – Upland grazing and TRFNVS042 – Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	
Designations	SLA 7: South We	est Uplands	Receptor	Recreational / road users	

Description of Baseline View

Representative of views experienced by road users of the Mountain Air Car park to the west of Mountain Road between Cwmbran and Pontypool, and by recreational users parking to access the Cambrian Way long distance route.

The existing view extends across the rolling, elevated moorland landscape that forms the horizon to the west. Low, moorland vegetation is visible in the foreground, occasionally reaching above the horizon. The existing telecommunications mast on Mynydd Twyn-glas is the highest visible feature, with existing electricity pylons also visible along the exposed upland plateau of Mynydd Maen to the south-west. To the east, farm buildings, telegraph poles and field boundary trees provide a foreground to the valley beyond.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is located within a special landscape area designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is representative of users of a minor road and people parking to access footpaths. There are distant views of existing turbines in other directions. Receptors are assessed as high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of four turbines would be visible beyond the horizon to the west, with only the hubs of three turbines (T11, T12 and T13) potentially visible. This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (<1.6 km) and would occur at direct angle to the orientation of the Cambrian Way route from the car park.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the landform. They are set back from the brow of the hills, partially screened by intervening vegetation, and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate significant effect.

Table 1.2 VIEWPOINT 2 - PRESCOCH LANE

Baseline					
Grid reference	328552	199578	Elevation (m AOD)	208	
Nearest turbine	T2 2707 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-west	
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Uniqu Sensory Classifi		UID: TRFNVS042 - Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Recreational / Residential	

Description of Baseline View

Representative of views experienced by recreational users walking the Cambrian Way long distance route, and by residents at Fir Tree Cottage, adjacent to Prescoch Lane.

The existing view towards extends across sloping grazing pasture towards the rolling, elevated moorland landscape that forms the horizon to the south-west. Shrub vegetation is visible in the middle distance, occasionally reaching above the horizon. The existing telecommunications mast on Mynydd Twyn-glas is the highest visible feature on the distant horizon, with low voltage electricity poles visible below the ridgeline.

Panoramic views are available across the low-lying settled valley landscape to the west.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it is acknowledged that attractive views are available. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is representative of people walking along the Cambrian Way long distance footpath. There are no existing views of turbines from this point on the route. Receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of nine turbines would be visible beyond the horizon to the south-west, with the hubs of five turbines (T1, T2, T4, T8 and T9) visible. This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (approx. 2.7 km) and would occur at an oblique angle to the orientation of the route.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the landform. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a Major significant effect.

Table 1.3 VIEWPOINT 3 - A4042 OVERBRIDGE, NEW INN

Baseline					
Grid reference	329786	200147	Elevation (m AOD)	110	
Nearest turbine	T2 4065 m	4065 m Direction to Proposed Wind Farm Sou			
LPA	Torfaen	rfaen LandMap Unique Area ID and Visual UID: TRFNVS040 - Sensory Classification Urban			
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Road users	

Description of Baseline View

Representative of views experienced by road users of The Highway between Pontypool and New Inn.

Existing views above the bridge barriers extend along the A4042 road corridor and adjacent railway line towards the partially wooded hillside to the south-west. Street furniture, including large-scale streetlights and road signs are visible in the foreground, with housing at Griffithstown visible on the hillside beyond. A large amount of tree cover is present in this location, with only the existing telecommunications masts at Penrheol and Mynydd Twyn-glas reaching above the horizon.

The primary focus of the view from this overbridge is channelled between roadside barriers, along The Highway that connects Pontypool in the north-west with New Inn in the south-east.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is not recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	The viewpoint is located on a minor road that is generally used for transport connections rather than recreation. There are no views of existing turbines in this location. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.	Medium low

Magnitude of Change

Parts of ten turbines would be visible beyond the horizon to the south-west, with the hubs of six turbines (T1, T2, T4, T8, T9 and T13) visible. This change would be experienced at approx. 4.0km and would occur at a broadly perpendicular angle to the orientation of the road.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the built environment in the foreground view. They are set back from the brow of the hills, are partially screened by intervening vegetation and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.4 VIEWPOINT 4 - LLANDEGFEDD RESERVOIR

Baseline					
Grid reference	332896	198513	Elevation (m AOD)	117	
Nearest turbine	T9 6772 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West	
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: MNMTHVS085 Llandegfedd Reservoir – Lake	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	People at recognised vantage points / recreational	

Description of Baseline View

Representative of views experienced by recreational users parking to access Llandegfedd Lake Visitor & Activity Centre at a recognised vantage point with interpretation boards.

The existing view extends across the car park towards the wooded hillside to the west. The exposed upland plateau of Mynydd Maen in the distance provides the backdrop and encloses the view.

The reservoir, enclosed by wooded slopes, is visible between the trees in views to the northwest.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
People at recognised vantage points / recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, lying outside of the Llandegfedd Reservoir Special Landscape Area to the west. However, it is recognised for its scenic views by LandMap. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is representative of people at a recognised vantage point at Llandegfedd Reservoir, with no existing views of wind turbines. Receptors are assessed as having very high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines would be visible above the ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view in the west, with the hubs of all thirteen visible. This change would be experienced at distance of (>6.7 km) and at an oblique angle to the primary focus of the view towards the reservoir.

The proposed turbines occupy medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the valley side, they do not dominate the scale of the valley landform, nor loom over and down into it. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond rather than the more intimate scale reservoir valley.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Visitors to the vantage point at Llandegfedd Reservoir would experience a **moderate significant effect**.

Table 1.5 VIEWPOINT 5 - B4236 / LLANFRECHFA

Baseline					
Grid reference	331663	193726	Elevation (m AOD)	75	
Nearest turbine	T9 6490 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North-west	
LPA	Torfaen	, ,	LandMap Unique Area ID and Visual UII Sensory Classification Mo		
Designations	SLA 5: South Eas	stern Lowlands	Receptor	Residential / road users	

Description of Baseline View

During the winter months, existing views extend across farmland, towards the distant moorland landscape which rises above the hedge line to the north-west. During the summer months, roadside vegetation obscures views of the adjacent farmland, however, the moorland ridge is visible above it. A narrow, glimpsed view is available along the road corridor, channelled between streetlamps, telegraph poles and a mature tree, which form vertical features in the view.

Panoramic views are available across the lower-lying wooded valley landscape to the south-west towards distant hills.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential /road users	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located adjacent to the village of Llanfrecha, on a B road with no views of existing wind turbines available at this point on the route. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines would theoretically be visible above the horizon, with the hubs of ten turbines (T1, T2, T4, T5 and T8-T13) visible. However, the roadside vegetation would obscure most of turbines T1-T9, with only the hubs of T10-T13 being visible, filtered between lampposts and telegraph poles, in a direct line of sight.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the ridgeline, they do not dominate the scale of the roadside street furniture. They are set back from the brow of the ridge and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residents would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.6 VIEWPOINT 6 - TWMBARLWM

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	324198	192605	Elevation (m AOD)	418		
Nearest turbine	T13 4052 m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		North		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS372 Mynydd Maen – Mosaic Upland & Plateaux		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	People at recognised vantage points / recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across the steep-side, enclosed, forested valley landscape of Cwmcarn Forest in the middle distance, towards the forested hillsides to the north. The exposed upland plateau of Mynydd Maen is visible above the trees.

Existing electricity pylons extend along the ridgeline. Some individual small scale wind turbines are also visible.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
People at recognised vantage points / recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it is recognised for its scenic views by LandMap, as well as detractive views. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is representative of people at a recognised vantage point on the Cambrian Way, albeit with distant views of existing wind turbines. Receptors are assessed as having very high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines would be visible above the ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view in the north, with the hubs of all thirteen visible. This change would be experienced at distance of circa 4.0 km and roughly perpendicular to the direction of travel.

The proposed turbines occupy medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the ridgeline, they do not dominate the scale of the landform, nor loom down into the valley side. They appear more closely associated with the upland plateau landscape rather than the more intimate scale valley below.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Visitors to the vantage point at Twmbarlwm would experience a **moderate major significant effect**.

Table 1.7 VIEWPOINT 7 - EBBW VIEW TERRACE, NEWBRIDGE

Baseline					
Grid reference	320979	196839	Elevation (m AOD)	110	
Nearest turbine	T7 4088 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	East	
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS114 Blackwood – Urban	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / road users	

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend above and through the pedestrian footbridge over Newbridge Station to the wooded hillside to the east. The horizon is covered with a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees, with an isolated section of smooth landform visible.

Iron roadside railings with concrete posts, concrete bridge supports, and the steel bridge deck and handrails in the foreground all detract from the view.

This viewpoint had originally been selected to represent views from the A472 overbridge at Newbridge, however following consultation it was micro-sited to Ebbw Terrace.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential / road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	The viewpoint is located on a residential street with no views of existing wind turbines available. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

The blade tips of two turbines would theoretically be visible above the horizon, however, the intervening trees on the hillside would screen any available views.

The proposed wind farm introduces no change in the view.

Significance of Effect

Residents would experience no effect.

Table 1.8 VIEWPOINT 8 - B4471 / SWFFRYD

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	321729	198795	Elevation (m AOD)	213		
Nearest turbine	T7 3088 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	East		
LPA	Blaenau Gwent	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification UID: BLNGWVS693 Brynithel/Llanhilleth Urban				
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / road users		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views are channelled along the B4471, Sofrydd Road, between housing and associated gardens, including fencing, hedging and occasional trees, towards the forested hillsides to the east. Streetlights combined with telegraph poles form vertical features in the view, which extend above the horizon.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential / road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. It is acknowledged that some pleasant views are available. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is located on a residential road with no views of existing wind turbines available from this location. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of eight turbines, including hubs would theoretically be visible above the horizon (T1-T8). This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (circa 3.0 km) and would occur in a direct line of travel to the orientation of the route.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. The existing forestry on the horizon would provide partial screening of the turbines, particularly T8. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the residential street, nor loom over and down into it. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond rather than the more intimate scale residential area.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residents would experience a moderate significant effect.

Table 1.9 VIEWPOINT 9 - PEN-Y-FAN POND COUNTRY PARK

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	319456	200483	Elevation (m AOD)	301		
Nearest turbine	T7 5742 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-east		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS144 Pentrapeod – Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across Pen-y-fan pond towards the trees around its edge. Filtered views of the exposed upland plateau at Mynydd Maen are available between the trees to the southeast. Existing electricity pylons are also visible above the trees.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is recognised that pleasant views are available from this location, but there are also detractive views. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is located on a footpath within a country park, adjacent to existing renewable energy developments at Pen-yfan Solar Park, Darran Solar Farm and Oakdale Business Park wind farm. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would theoretically be visible above the horizon. However, the intervening trees would provide some partial screening of views, particularly of turbines T11-T13. The turbines that are visible would be filtered through overhead electricity wires, the turbines appearing at a similar scale to the existing pylons.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the tree line, they do not dominate the scale of the trees or the existing pylons in the view. They appear more closely associated with the distant moorland landscape rather than the more intimate scale country park.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.10 VIEWPOINT 10 - ST ILLTYD

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	322124	201968	Elevation (m AOD)	377		
Nearest turbine	T6 4405 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-east		
LPA	Blaenau Gwent		LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and UID Visual Sensory Classification Myn Upla			
Designations	ENV2.1 St Illtyd Ebbw Eastern Sid		Receptor	Road users		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across the rolling, farmed landscape, incised by the wooded valley of Nant Cyffin in the foreground, towards the exposed upland plateau of Mynydd Maen to the southeast. Scattered tree cover along field boundaries and areas of moorland vegetation creates a patchwork landscape in the middle distance. Areas of coniferous forest are visible on more distant slopes.

Occasional farm buildings, agricultural fencing and telegraph poles are visible on lower slopes, whilst electricity pylons extend along the ridgeline to the south-east.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road users	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located on a minor road with distant views of existing wind turbines available in other directions. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.	Medium high

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon. This change would be experienced at circa 4.4km and broadly perpendicular to the direction of travel.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the horizon, they appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale upland grazing / wooded mosaic upland valley landscape below.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a **moderate major significant effect**.

Table 1.11 VIEWPOINT 11 - CEFN MANMOEL

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	316609	207176	Elevation (m AOD)	498		
Nearest turbine	T6 11979 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-east		
LPA	Blaenau Gwent	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification UID: BLNGWVS688 Mynydd Bedwellte – Upland Moorland				
Designations	ENV2.5 Cefn Mar	nmoel (SLA)	Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend along the settled valley landscape of Ebbw Vale in the foreground, towards the distant upland plateau of Mynydd Maen to the south-east. The valley slopes are heavily wooded, with areas of open moorland generally on higher ground. Built form is generally confined to the valley floor, with electricity pylons extending along the valley sides. Pylons are also visible on the far horizon of Mynydd Maen.

Several existing wind turbines are visible from this viewpoint, including at Oakdale Business Park.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational		The viewpoint is located on a public footpath with distant views of existing wind turbines, including at Oakdale Business Park. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon. This change would be experienced at circa 12.0km.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the horizon, they appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale valley landscape below.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.12 VIEWPOINT 12 - PEN GARN-BUGAIL / GELLIGAER COMMON

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	310047	203555	Elevation (m AOD)	475		
Nearest turbine	T7 15632 m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-east		
LPA	Merthyr Tydfil / Merthyr Tudful	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: MRTHRVS858 Gelligaer Common – Upland Moorland		
Designations	SLA 5: Gelligaer Bargoed	and Taf	Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across the exposed, upland moorland plateau of Gelli-gaer Common, beyond a mosaic of partially wooded upland valleys, grazing hillsides and scarp slopes, towards the upland plateau of Mynydd Maen in the south-east.

The settled valley landscape is partially visible amongst woodland in the middle distance. Within the foreground view, scattered farmsteads, moorland roads, occasional wind turbines, low voltage electricity poles and a telecommunications mast are the only built features.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is recognised on LandMap that there are attractive panoramic views in this location. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located at a local high point within an area of access land, with views of existing wind turbines. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, however this change would be experienced at over 15km away (<15.6km).

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the intervening wooded upland valleys or scarp slopes.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.13 VIEWPOINT 13 - RHYMNEY VALLEY RIDGEWAY WALK / MYNYDD BACH

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	317027	192471	Elevation (m AOD)	313		
Nearest turbine	T12 9460m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North-east		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS260 Valley slopes Machen - Ystrad Mynach – Hill & Lower Plateau Grazing		
Designations	NH1.4 – North C	aerphilly (SLA)	Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views to the north-east extend over scrub vegetation and a dry-stone wall towards rolling farmland, with scattered areas of woodland and farmsteads. Existing development is visible in the settled valley urban area of Pontllanfraith, and on the hillside solar farm and telecommunications masts at Mynyddistwyn.

Existing wind turbines are visible at Oakdale Business Park.

Two smaller scale turbines are visible in other views, approx. 270m to the east-south-east, and 850m to the south-south-east. A telecommunications mast is also visible approx. 230m to the north-west.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high	The viewpoint is located on the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway long distance footpath, with views of existing wind turbines. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon. This change would be experienced at approx. 9.5km.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the landscape. They appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale valley landscape below.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.14 VIEWPOINT 14 - CEFN EGLWYSILIAN

Baseline					
Grid reference	309707	190514	Elevation (m AOD)	382	
Nearest turbine	T12 16961m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	East-north-east	
LPA	Rhondda Cynon Taf	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS317 Mynydd Eglwysilon & Mynydd Meio – Upland grazing	
Designations	SSA 23 - Specia Area 10. Taff Val Slopes		Receptor	Recreational	

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across the rough grassland of the upland plateau of Cefn Egwysilian, beyond the mosaic of hillsides, scarp slopes and lower plateau grazing, towards the distant exposed upland plateau of Mynydd Maen to the east-north-east.

Tree cover is sparse, with dry stone walls forming field boundaries. Occasional wind turbines re visible in the landscape, and electricity pylons reach above the horizon in places, and stretch across the view in the foreground.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located at a local high point within an area of access land, with views of existing wind turbines. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, however this change would be experienced at approx. 17.0km, so the turbines would appear relatively small.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the intervening upland grazing landscape. They appear smaller than the intervening electricity pylons.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.15 VIEWPOINT 15 - MYNYDD MACHEN

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	322380	190010	Elevation (m AOD)	361		
Nearest turbine	T13 7176m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		North-north-east		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS260 Valley slopes Machen - Ystrad Mynach – Hill & Lower Plateau Grazing		
Designations	NH1.4 – North C	aerphilly (SLA)	Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend across the rough grassland plateau of Mynydd Machen, beyond a group of telecommunications masts and associated infrastructure, towards the wooded hillsides, scarp slopes and upland grazing plateau of Mynydd Maen to the north-north-east. Distant views are available towards lower, settled valley landscapes to either side. Occasional wind turbines are also visible in distant views.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high	The viewpoint is located at a local high point on the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway long distance footpath, with views of existing wind turbines. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, which would be experienced at approx. 7.2km away.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the landform. They are set back from the brow of the hills, and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.16 VIEWPOINT 16 - BETTWS, MONNOW WAY

Baseline					
Grid reference	328725	190293	Elevation (m AOD)	57	
Nearest turbine	T13 6763m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North-north-west	
LPA	Newport / Casnewedd	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: NWPRTVS050 Bettws - Urban	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / road users	

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend over the residential area of Bettws, which is partially screened/filtered by intervening woodland along Bettws Brook, towards the mosaic rolling lowland to the north-north-west.

There are no existing wind turbines visible from this location, however, the solar farm at Cwrt Henllys is partially visible to the west-north-west.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential / road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is not recognised for its scenic views, although it is acknowledged that pleasant views are available. Its value is assessed as mediu.	The viewpoint is located on a residential road with no views of existing wind turbines. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of eleven turbines would be visible beyond the horizon to the north-north-west, with the hubs of nine turbines (T1, T2, T4 & T8-T13) potentially visible. This change would be experienced at approx. 6.8km.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the landform, or the more intimate scale urban area below. They are set back from the brow of the hills, and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residents would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.17 VIEWPOINT 17 - RIDGEWAY, NEWPORT

Baseline				
Grid reference	329311	188245	Elevation (m AOD)	102
Nearest turbine	T13 8867m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North-north-west
LPA	Newport / Casnewedd	1 , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		UID: NWPRTVS018 Alt- yr Yn – Mosaic Iowland Valleys
Designations	N/A		Receptor	People at recognised vantage points / road users

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend over a hedgerow towards the rolling lowland valley landscape, including areas of woodland, coniferous forest, and grazing land. The upland landform of Mynydd Maen rises in the distance to the north-north-west.

There are no existing wind turbines visible from this location, however, the solar farm at Cwrt Henllys is partially visible to the west-north-west.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
vantage points /	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it is recognised that scenic views are available from this location. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is located at a recognised vantage point on Allt-Yr-Yn Avenue, Newport, where benches are positioned to enjoy the panoramic view. Receptors at vantage points are assessed as having very high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines would be visible beyond the smooth ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view, with the hubs of eleven turbines (T1-T6, T8-T10 & T12-T13) visible. This change would be experienced at approx. 8.9 km and would occur at a slightly oblique angle to the primary direction of view.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the ridgeline, they do not dominate the scale of the landform. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond rather than the more intimate scale landscape below.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Visitors to the Ridgeway vantage point would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.18 VIEWPOINT 18 - LODGE HILL, CAELEON

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	332116	191635	Elevation (m AOD)	51		
Nearest turbine	T13 7942m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North-west		
LPA	Newport / Casnewedd	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: NWPRTVS025 Caerleon Farmlands – Open Lowland Valleys		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend over across grazing pasture towards a line of hedgerow trees. The upland landform of Mynydd Maen rises in the distance to the north-west, with areas of settlement visible on its lower slopes.

A group of farm buildings are visible in the foreground to the west-north-west and low voltage electricity wires pass overhead.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is acknowledged that attractive views are available. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is located on a public footpath with no views of existing wind farms available at this location. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines would be visible beyond the smooth ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view, with the hubs of eleven turbines (T1-T5 and T8-T13) visible. This change would be experienced at approx. 7.9 km and would occur roughly perpendicular to the direction of travel.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the ridgeline, they do not dominate the scale of the landform. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond rather than the more intimate scale landscape below.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.19 VIEWPOINT 19 - PEN-Y-CAE-MAWR

Baseline				
Grid reference	341325	195039	Elevation (m AOD)	235
Nearest turbine	T9 15373m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		West-north-west
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: MNMTHVS019 Chepstow parkland – Open Hillside & Scarp Slopes
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / road users

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend over across grazing pasture towards two layers of hedgerows. The upland landform of Mynydd Maen is visible in the distance to the west, above the hedge line.

Telegraph poles and low voltage electricity poles extend above the horizon and associated wires pass overhead. There is some partial careening/filtering of the ridgeline by Pen y cae-mawr Methodist Church roof and occasional trees.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreatio nal / road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, however it is recognised for its scenic views within LandMap. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located at a field gateway on a minor road within the small settlement of Pen-y-cae-mawr, with no views of existing wind farms. Road users are generally ssessed as having medium susceptibility, however as the road passes within a settlement, residential receptors are assessed as high sensitivity.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, however this change would be experienced at over 15km away (approx. 15.4km), so the turbines would appear relatively small in relation to intervening features in the foreground.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale landscape of the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residential receptors would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.20 VIEWPOINT 20 - DEVAUDEN

Baseline				
Grid reference	348556	199031	Elevation (m AOD)	270
Nearest turbine	T9 22420m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		West
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	Visual Sensory Classification		UID: MNMTHVS027 Devauden scarp slope – Wooded Hillside & Scarp Slopes
Designations	Wye Valley AONE	3	Receptor	Residential / recreational

Description of Baseline View

Existing views extend over the rooftops of Devauden village, towards the part-wooded hillside in the middle distance. The upland landform of Mynydd Maen is visible in the far distance to the west. Views are heavily filtered by intervening vegetation.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is located within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located on the eastern edge of the village of Devauden, in an area of open, elevated land, near to public footpath 357/202/1. Both residential and recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be theoretically visible above the horizon, however this change would be experienced at over 22km away (approx. 22.4km), so the turbines would appear very small in relation to intervening features in the foreground. Intervening vegetation would heavily screen/filter views of the turbines.

The proposed turbines only occupy a small lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale landscape of the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a very low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residential and recreational receptors would experience a minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.21 VIEWPOINT 21 - LLANCAYO

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	336926	203290	Elevation (m AOD)	28		
Nearest turbine	T2 11866m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West-south-west		
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: MNMTHVS046 Upper Usk Valley – Flat Open Lowland Farmland		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The existing view extends across an arable field towards a hedgerow. Two rows of rendered cottages are visible above the hedgerow, with a further row of rendered cottages and a windmill beyond. Telegraph poles and low voltage electricity poles extend above the roof line, with associated wires stretching overhead. In the distance to the west-north-west, the upland grazing slopes of Coety Mountain / Mynydd Coety are visible. To the west-south-west, a glimpsed view of Mynydd Maen is available above intervening areas of woodland.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities however it is recognised for its scenic views within LandMap. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located on a public footpath 360/63/1 with no views of existing wind farms available. Both residential and recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be theoretically visible above the horizon, however intervening features in the foreground would filter and partially restrict views. This change would be experienced at approx. 11.9km, so the turbines would appear relatively small.

The proposed turbines occupy a small-medium lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the more intimate scale landscape of the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residential and recreational receptors would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.22 VIEWPOINT 22 - BLORENGE

Baseline				
Grid reference	326979	211841	Elevation (m AOD)	556
Nearest turbine	T1 13080m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South
LPA	Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory		UID: MNMTHVS003 The Blorenge – Upland Moorland
Designations	Blaenavon Indus Heritage Site / N		Receptor	Recreational

Description of Baseline View

Existing, open, exposed panoramic views of moorland plateau extend towards Coety Mountain/Mynydd Coety and beyond to Mynydd Maen in the south.

Views are uninterrupted by two telecommunications masts to the south-west. To the south-east, a 'U' shaped wooded upland valley cuts into the plateau.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a World Heritage Site, designated for its industrial heritage, and in a National Park landscape designated for its scenic views amongst other special qualities. Its value is assessed as very high.	The viewpoint is located on the Cambrian Way long-distance footpath, within an area of access land, with no views of existing wind turbines available at this location, however there are views of telecommunications masts. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, which would be experienced at approx. 13.0km away. The turbines would appear relatively small in relation to the existing telecommunications masts in the middle-distance.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau, rather than the moorland landscape of the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate non-significant effect.

Table 1.23 VIEWPOINT 23 - B4560

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	316454	215622	Elevation (m AOD)	513		
Nearest turbine	T6 19002m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		South-south-east		
LPA	Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog	LandMap Uniqu Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: BRCKNVS372 Mynydd Llangynidr and Mynydd Llangattock – Upland Moorland		
Designations	National Park		Receptor	Road users		

Description of Baseline View

Existing, open, exposed panoramic views of upland moorland grazing plateau extend towards Coety Mountain/Mynydd Coety and Mynydd Carn-y-cefn, and beyond to Mynydd Maen in the south-south-east.

The B4560 extends across the landscape towards the south.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located on a 'B' road with no views of existing wind turbines available at this location. Road users are generally considered to be less susceptible, however in this instance this is tempered due to its remote location with panoramic scenic views. Road users are assessed as having medium high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines would be visible above the horizon, with the hubs of eight turbines (T4-T7 and T10-T13) visible. This would be experienced at approx. 19.0km and at an oblique angle to the direction of travel.

The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the intervening landforms of Coety Mountain/Mynydd Coety and Mynydd Carn-y-cefn, they do not dominate the scale of the landscape. They are set back from the brows of the hills, and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a moderate minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.24 VIEWPOINT 24 - PEN-Y-FAN

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	301253	221491	Elevation (m AOD)	861		
Nearest turbine	T6 32967m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-east		
LPA	Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: BRCKNVS833 Brecon Beacons – Upland Moorland		
Designations	National Park		Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

Existing, open, exposed panoramic views of upland moorland plateau extend towards the southeast, incised by Taf Fechan Forest, Pontsticill Reservoir and Pentwyn Reservoir.

There are distant views available of upland areas including scattered existing wind turbines, wooded scarp slopes and settled valley landscapes.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is at an important landmark within the Brecon Beacons National Park. Its value is assessed as very high.	The viewpoint is located at a meeting point between a network of public footpaths, including the Cambrian Way and the Brecons Way. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	Very high

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible, however this change would be experienced at over 30km away (approx. 33.0km).

The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the Brecon Beacons in the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a very low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Road users would experience a minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.25 VIEWPOINT 25 - MYNYDD MAENDY

Baseline	Baseline				
Grid reference	294657	194813	Elevation (m AOD)	461	
Nearest turbine	T7 30331m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	East	
LPA	Rhondda Cynon Taf	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: CYNONVS738 Cefn y rhondda – Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic	
Designations	NSA 25 – Specia Area 7. Rhondda Cwm & Slopes		Receptor	Recreational	

Description of Baseline View

Existing, open, exposed panoramic views of upland grazing hillsides and scarp slopes with areas of coniferous forest extend towards the east. The upland plateau of Mynydd Maen is visible above the intervening landform in the distance.

Ferndale wind farm is clearly visible in the centre of the view.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	Although the viewpoint is located within a special landscape area, it is acknowledged on LandMap that the scenic quality is only moderate with a 'mixture of urban and upland influences, but still of local importance, with some accessible attractive views'. Its value is assessed as medium.	The viewpoint is located on a public bridleway, within an area of access land. There are views of existing wind turbines available from this location, including at Ferndale Wind Farm. Recreational receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible, however this change would be experienced at over 30km away (approx. 30.3km).

The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view. The turbines appear more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the hillside and scarp slopes mosaic landscape in the foreground.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a very low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a minor non-significant effect.

Table 1.26 VIEWPOINT 26 - CWMBRAN TOWN CENTRE

Baseline	Baseline				
Grid reference	329777	195784	Elevation (m AOD)	64	
Nearest turbine	T9 4061m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West-north-west	
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Unique Sensory Classifi		UID: TRFNVS045 - Urban	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Road users / people in place of work	

Description of Baseline View

The existing view towards the west-north-west extends across a car-park towards an industrial building and associated yard surrounded by a steel palisade fence. Streetlights and security camera poles form vertical features in the foreground view.

Beyond the urban environment, the landform rises at the partially tree-covered hillsides and scarp slopes of Mynydd Maen.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Road users / people in place of work	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is not recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	The viewpoint is located on a minor road (Edlogan Way) that is generally used for transport connections rather than recreation. There are no views of existing turbines in this location. Road users are assessed as having medium susceptibility.	Medium

Magnitude of Change

Parts of nine turbines (T2, T4, T5 and T8-T13) would be visible above the horizon, with the hubs of six turbines (T8-T13) visible. This would be experienced at an oblique angle to the direction of travel.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the built environment in the foreground view. They are set back from the brow of the hill and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a moderate significant effect.

Table 1.27 VIEWPOINT 27 - PANTYGASSEG

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	325141	199780	Elevation (m AOD)	331		
Nearest turbine	T3 1038m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South		
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Unique Sensory Classifi	e Area ID and Visual ication	UID: TRFNVS018 - Hillside & Scarp Slopes Grazing		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / road users		

Description of Baseline View

Existing views to the south look across the road and adjacent stone wall towards the grazing slope, which falls away into the valley. The tops of trees are visible within the valley before the landform climbs again at the scarp slopes of Mynydd Maen. Telecoms poles and electricity poles form vertical features in the near to middle distance.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential / road users	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. However, it is acknowledged that there are attractive views available. Its value is assessed as medium	The viewpoint is located on a residential street with no views of existing wind turbines available. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of ten turbines (T1-T10) would be visible above the horizon, with the hubs of eight turbines (T1-T8) visible. This would be experienced at a direct angle from the front of residential properties, or oblique to the direction of travel for road-users.

The proposed turbines occupy a broad lateral extent of the view. The intervening valley between the proposed wind farm and the residential properties in Pantygasseg provides a degree of separation that would prevent the turbines from being overbearing.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residential receptors would experience a major significant effect.

Table 1.28 VIEWPOINT 28 - TREVETHIN

Baseline				
Grid reference	327794	202174	Elevation (m AOD)	221m
Nearest turbine	T1 3869m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-west
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Unique Sensory Classifi	UID: TRFNVS040 - Urban	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential

Description of Baseline View

The existing, elevated view from residential properties on the north-east side of Upland Drive, represented by this viewpoint, looks over the road towards properties on the south-west side. Forested hills are visible above rooftops. A parking area at the road level provides a view between houses towards the settled and wooded valley landscape beyond. Streetlamps provide vertical features in the view, which reach above the horizon.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Residential	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	The viewpoint is located on a residential street with no views of existing wind turbines available. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of ten turbines (T1-T9 and T13) would theoretically be visible above the horizon, with the hubs of nine turbines (T1-T9) visible. This would be experienced at a direct angle from the front of residential properties.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. The existing forestry on the horizon would provide partial screening of the turbines, particularly T6 and T7. The turbines that are visible would not dominate the scale of the landform or the residential street scene.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium high magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Residential receptors would experience a moderate major significant effect.

Table 1.29 VIEWPOINT 29 - CEFN FFOREST / BLACKWOOD SHOWFIELDS

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	316671	198015	Elevation (m AOD)	222		
Nearest turbine	T7 8118m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	East		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: CYNONVS114 Blackwood - Urban		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The existing view towards the east extends across the recreation ground towards woodland at Blackwood Golf Course and Sirhowy valley beyond. Glimpsed views are available of residential areas at Oakdale to the east of the valley. The upland landform of Mynydd Maen rises in the distance. Features in the foreground view include goal posts and sports club buildings.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	The viewpoint is located on a recreation ground, adjacent to a residential street. Residential receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view in the east. This change would be experienced at distance of (>8.1 km).

The proposed turbines occupy medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the settled valley landscape below. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a moderate significant effect.

Table 1.30 VIEWPOINT 30 - MYNYDD GARN-WEN

Baseline	Baseline				
Grid reference	328916	204319	Elevation (m AOD)	424	
Nearest turbine	T1 6289m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		South-south-west	
LPA	Boundary between Monmouthshire, Torfaen and Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: Boundary between TRFNVS033 and MNMTHVS010 Mynydd Garnclochdy – Upland Grazing	
Designations	National Park (or	n boundary)	Receptor	Recreational	

Description of Baseline View

The existing view extends across upland grazing slopes towards the partially wooded and settled valley area of Pontypool to the south-south-west. The scarp slopes of Mynydd Maen rise above the town beyond.

Occasional existing wind turbines are visible in the distance to the south.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located on the boundary of Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park, recognised for its scenic quality. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is representative of people walking along the Cambrian Way long distance footpath. There are no existing views of turbines from this point on the route. Receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view in the south-south-west. This change would be experienced at distance of approx. 6.3 km.

The proposed turbines occupy medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the settled valley landscape below. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Recreational receptors would experience a moderate major significant effect.

Table 1.31 VIEWPOINT 31 - CAMBRIAN WAY

Baseline	Baseline				
Grid reference	326446	196475	Elevation (m AOD)	419	
Nearest turbine	T13 725m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	North	
LPA	Torfaen	LandMap Unique Area ID and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: TRFNVS024 – Upland Grazing	
Designations	South West Upla	ands SLA	Receptor	Recreational	

Description of Baseline View

The existing view from this location towards the north extends across upland grazing plateau towards a line of high voltage electricity pylons with overhead wires.

There are long-distance panoramic views available across the settled valley landscape to the east, towards the lowland valleys beyond.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. Its value is assessed as high.	This viewpoint is representative of walkers on the Cambrian Way. There are no existing views of turbines from this point on the route. Receptors are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of eleven turbines would be visible beyond the horizon (T1-T5 and T8-T13), with the hubs of nine turbines (T1, T2, T4 and T8-T13) visible. This change would be experienced at close distance (under 1km away).

The proposed turbines occupy a broad lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines appear in close proximity, they do not appear above the height of the existing electricity pylons.

Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a major significant effect.

Table 1.32 VIEWPOINT 32 - BROOKLAND TERRACE / PLAY AREA

Baseline				
Grid reference	329267	196555	Elevation (m AOD)	78
Nearest turbine	T9 3282m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West-north-west
LPA	Torfaen	orfaen LandMap Unique Area ID and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: TRFNVS045 - Urban
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / recreational

Description of Baseline View

The existing view extends across an area of amenity grassland surrounded by hedges, towards residential streets. Telegraph poles and streetlamps form vertical features in the view.

Beyond the houses to the west, areas of woodland screen views of Upper Cwmbran. The wooded hillsides and scarp slopes of Mynydd Maen reach above the rooftops. A line of electricity pylons is visible along the horizon and a telecommunications mast is the highest feature on the hilltop.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	This viewpoint is located on a footpath within a recreation ground, in a residential area. The receptors in this location are assessed as high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of six turbines would be theoretically visible above the horizon (T8-T13), with the hubs of five turbines (T9-T13) visible. This change would be experienced at relatively close distance (circa 3.3 km) and would occur roughly perpendicular to the orientation of the route.

The proposed turbines occupy a medium lateral extent of the view. The existing trees to the west side of properties on Lowlands Road would provide partial screening of the turbines, particularly T11. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the existing pylons on the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the residential streets below.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors would experience a moderate significant effect

Table 1.33 VIEWPOINT 33 - RAGLAN CASTLE

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	341802	208525	Elevation (m AOD)	63		
Nearest turbine	T1 18646m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-west		
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy	LandMap Unique Visual Sensory	e Area ID, Name and Classification	UID: MNMTHVS038 Northern Raglan – Mosaic Lowland Valleys		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The existing view extends up a grassy hillside towards Raglan Castle and the adjacent Castle Farm. The landform in the foreground, together with trees around the castle and farm, partially filter/screen views to the south-west.

Longer distance views are available towards the scarp slopes to the west-south-west and the mosaic lowland valleys to the south-south-west. St Cadoc's Church in Raglan is visible amongst the trees in the valley.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities however it is recognised within LandMap as being visually attractive. Its value is assessed as high.	This viewpoint is located on a public footpath near to Raglan Castle. Receptors in this location are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines would be theoretically visible over the horizon, with the hubs of all but T10 visible. However, the upper parts of the intervening Raglan Castle would heavily filter/screen any views of the turbines, which would be experienced at a distance of a distance of approx. 18.6km.

From this location the proposed wind farm would introduce no greater than a low magnitude of change in the view.

Significance of Effect

Receptors in this location would experience a moderate minor not significant effect.

Table 1.34 VIEWPOINT 34 - LLANHENNOCK

Baseline	Baseline				
Grid reference	335315	192802	Elevation (m AOD)	90	
Nearest turbine	T13 10223m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	West-north-west	
LPA	Monmouthshire / Sir Fynwy			UID: boundary between MNMTHVS037 Llanhennock Valley and MNMTHVS036 Sor Brook valley – both Mosaic Lowland Valleys	
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / recreational / road users	

Description of Baseline View

The existing view extends across the roadside hedgerow towards the distant hillsides and scarp slopes beyond. The intervening lowland valley landscape is filtered by the hedgerow and roadside verge vegetation with some trees in the middle distance appearing above. Telegraph poles also form vertical features in the view.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
recreational	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities however it is recognised within LandMap for its scenic quality. Its value is assessed as high.	This viewpoint is located with the car park of the Wheatsheaf Inn, on a minor road within the small settlement of Llanhennock. The car park is located at a meeting point between several public footpaths. Receptors in this location are assessed as having high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines would be visible above the landform that provides the backdrop to the view in the west-north-west, with the hubs of all thirteen visible. This change would be experienced at distance of approx. 10.2 km, roughly perpendicular to the road.

The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the hillside, they are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the upland landscape beyond rather than the lowland valley landscape below.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors in this location would experience a moderate not significant effect.

Table 1.35 VIEWPOINT 35 - YSGYRYD FAWR

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	333110	218274	Elevation (m AOD)	466		
Nearest turbine	T1 20764m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South-south-west		
LPA	Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog	LandMap Uniqu Sensory Classifi	e Area ID and Visual ication	UID: MNMTHVS012 Ysgryd Fawr – Mosaic Upland & Plateaux		
Designations	National Park		Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The Beacons way footpath along the ridgeline of Ysgyryd Fawr running towards the south-south-west forms the focal point of the view from this location. The lowland valley landscape stretches out into the distance below, with the town of Abergavenny to the south-west, and open farmland to the south. Beyond the valley landscape, the landform climbs towards the slopes of Blorenge, Mynydd y Garn-fawr and Mynydd Garn-wein at the south-eastern edge of the Brecon Beacons / Bannau Brycheiniog.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is at an important landmark within the Brecon Beacons National Park, which is assessed within LandMap as having outstanding scenic quality. Its value is assessed as very high.	This viewpoint is located at a local high point on the Beacons Way long distance footpath. Recreational receptors in this location would have a high susceptibility.	Very high

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs, would be visible above the horizon, however this change would be experienced at approx. 20.8km, so the turbines would appear as small features within the view.

The proposed turbines occupy a small lateral extent of the view with the turbines appearing more closely associated with the distant upland plateau landscape, rather than the intervening lowland valley landscape.

At a distance of over 20km away, the Proposed wind farm introduces a low magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors in this location would experience a moderate not significant effect.

Table 1.36 VIEWPOINT 36 - MYNYDD COETY

Baseline	Baseline					
Grid reference	323159	207989	Elevation (m AOD)	580		
Nearest turbine	T3 9474m	Direction to Pro	posed Wind Farm	South		
LPA	Blaenau Gwent		LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and UII Visual Sensory Classification My Up			
Designations	Eastern Ridge & SLA	Mynydd James	Receptor	Recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The existing view towards the south extends across the exposed upland moorland landscape of Mynydd Coety / Coety Mountain. In the distance, narrow views of other upland plateaux are available, including that of Mynydd Maen.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Recreational	The viewpoint is located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities. It is recognised on LandMap that there are attractive panoramic views in this location. Its value is assessed as high.	The viewpoint is located at a local high point within an area of access land. Recreational receptors at this location are assessed as high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

All thirteen turbines, including hubs would be visible above the horizon to the south, with the hubs of all thirteen visible. The proposed turbines occupy a small to medium lateral extent of the view. This change would be experienced at distance of approx. 9.5 km.

Although the turbines would appear above the horizon, they are set back from the brow of the intervening landform and as such appear more closely associated with the distant upland landscape Mynydd Maen, rather than that of Mynydd Coety.

The Proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors in this location would experience a moderate not significant effect.

Table 1.37 VIEWPOINT 37 - ROYAL CRESCENT / TREOWEN

Baseline						
Grid reference	320825	198007	Elevation (m AOD)	201		
Nearest turbine	T7 3971m	Direction to Proposed Wind Farm		East		
LPA	Caerphilly / Caerffili	LandMap Unique Area ID, Name and Visual Sensory Classification		UID: CYNONVS114 Blackwood - Urban		
Designations	N/A		Receptor	Residential / recreational		

Description of Baseline View

The existing view from this location extends across the play area in the foreground, and rooftops of houses either side, above the Ebbw River / Afon Ebwy valley, towards the partially wooded/forested hillsides beyond. The residential area of Swffryd is visible to the north-east.

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
	The viewpoint is not located within a landscape designated for its scenic qualities, nor is it recognised for its scenic views. Its value is assessed as low.	This viewpoint is located on the edge of a recreation ground, on a residential street. The receptors in this location are assessed as high susceptibility.	High

Magnitude of Change

Parts of all thirteen turbines, would be theoretically visible above the ridgeline that provides the backdrop to the view in the east, with the hubs of ten (T4-T13) visible. However, existing woodland / coniferous forest on the horizon would partially screen lower parts of turbines. This change would be experienced at distance of approx. 4.0 km, roughly perpendicular to the road.

The proposed turbines occupy medium lateral extent of the view. Although the turbines that are visible from this viewpoint appear above the horizon, they do not dominate the scale of the settled valley landscape below. They are set back from the brow of the hills and as such appear more closely associated with the landscape beyond.

The proposed wind farm introduces a medium magnitude of change.

Significance of Effect

Receptors in this location would experience a **moderate significant effect.**

1.3 Summary and Conclusions

1.3.1 Table 2.1: Summary of Visual Effects During Operation below summarises the sensitivity of each viewpoint, the worst-case magnitude of change in the view and significance of effect on views resulting from the proposed wind farm. Where a viewpoint is representative of more than one type of visual receptor, the significance rating represents the most sensitive receptor group represented by the viewpoint.

Table 2.1 SUMMARY OF VISUAL EFFECTS DURING OPERATION

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
1 – Cambrian Way Car Park	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
2 - Prescoch Lane	High	Medium high	Major	Yes
3 - A4042 Overbridge, New Inn	Medium low	Medium	Moderate	No
4 - Llandegfedd Reservoir	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
5 - B4236 / Llanfrechfa	High	Medium low	Moderate	No
6 - Twmbarlwm	High	Medium high	Moderate major	Yes
7 - Ebbw View Terrace, Newbridge	High	None	None	No
8 - B4471 / Swffryd	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
9 – Pen-y-fan Pond Country Park	High	Medium	Moderate	No
10 - St Illtyd	Medium high	Medium high	Moderate major	Yes
11 - Cefn Manmoel	High	Medium low	Moderate minor	No
12 - Pen Garn- Bugail / Gelligaer Common	High	Medium low	Moderate minor	No
13 - Rhymney Valley Ridgeway Walk / Mynydd Bach	High	Medium	Moderate	No
14 - Cefn Eglwysilan	High	Medium low	Moderate minor	No
15 - Mynydd Machen	High	Medium	Moderate	No
16 – Bettws, Monnow Way	High	Medium	Moderate	No

Viewpoint	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Level of Effect	Significant
17 - Ridgeway, Newport	High	Medium	Moderate	No
18 - Lodge Hill, Caerleon	High	Medium	Moderate	No
19 - Pen-y-cae- mawr	High	Low	Moderate minor	No
20 - Devauden	High	Very Low	Minor	No
21 - Llancayo	High	Low	Moderate minor	No
22 - Blorenge	High	Medium	Moderate	No
23 - B4560	High	Medium low	Moderate minor	No
24 - Pen y Fan	Very high	Very low	Minor	No
25* – Mynydd Maendy	High	Very low	Minor	No
26 - Cwmbran Town Centre	Medium	Medium	Moderate	Yes
27 - Pantygasseg	High	High	Major	Yes
28 - Trevethin	High	Medium high	Moderate major	Yes
29 - Cefn Fforest / Blackwood Showfields	High	Medium	Moderate	Yes
30 - Mynydd Garn-Wen	High	Medium	Moderate major	Yes
31 - Cambrian Way	High	High	Major	Yes
32 - Brookland Terrace /play area	High	Medium	Moderate	No
33 - Raglan Castle	High	Low	Moderate minor	No
34 - Llanhennock	High	Medium	Moderate	No
35 - Ysgyryd fawr	Very high	Low	Moderate	No
36 - Mynydd Coety	High	Medium low	Moderate minor	No
37 - Royal Crescent, Treowen/ Treowen	High	Medium	Moderate	No

Bold text indicates a significant effect.

- * Viewpoint 25 has been micro-sited from the A4107/Craig Owr viewpoint to the footpath at Mynydd Maendy where there is theoretical visibility of the proposed wind farm.
- 1.3.2 Of the 37 viewpoints assessed, 12 were found to be subject to a significant level of effect. Given the scale of the proposed wind farm and its location in an area with a high number of

visual receptors, this number of significant effects is no higher than would reasonably be expected.

