Contents

1. Appendix 6E LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas: Assessment of effects

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The filtering process described in **Appendix 6B**, identified the 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 6I**, the landscape assessment has concentrated on those VSAAs entirely or partially within 10km of the Proposed Development, which includes the following 17 VSAAs:

- CYNONVS142 Mynydd y Glyn;
- CYNONVS436 Mynydd gaer;
- CYNONVS496 Mynydd Maes-teg;
- CYNONVS317 Mynydd Eglwysilon & Mynydd Meio;
- MRTHRVS767 Taff/Bargoed Confluence;
- CRDFFVS003 Garth- west;
- CRDFFVS002 Tyn-y-Coed;
- CRDFFVS006 Pentyrch- north;
- CRDFFVS007 Pentyrch- south;
- CRDFFVS004 Garth Hill;
- VLFGLVS962 Ystradowen/Hensol area;
- VLFGLVS406 Ely Valley Flood Plain;
- VLFGLVS002 Hensol Park;
- MRTHRVS119 Gelligaer Farmlands;
- CYNONVS113 Cwm dar;
- VLFGLVS933 Upper Thaw Valley; and
- CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr.

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 6.9**.

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 6E.1** assesses the magnitude of change which is likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance.

Table 6E.1 Assessment of effect: VSAAs

Receptor	Overall landscape sensitivity*	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
CYNONVS142 Mynydd y Glyn	High-Medium	Very High to Zero	**Major Significant** to No Effect	The Proposed Development is located within the centre of the VSAA and the ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would also be visible from a large proportion of the VSAA with visibility more fragmented to the east. There are no other wind turbines within the VSAA, however the Pant-y-Wal Wind Farm lies ~0.1km to the north/west and Taff Ely Wind Farm ~1.25km to the south. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new urbanising influence within the VSAA that would contrast with the relatively remote upland landscape and some smaller scale elements in the landscape including scattered farmsteads. The magnitude of change would range from Very High for the central part of the VSAA, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs, most notably to the east.
CYNONVS436 Mynydd Gaer	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	**Major/Moderate** to **Moderate Significant** to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~3.0km. There are many existing wind turbines within the VSAA including the Taff Ely Wind Farm. Views of the proposed turbines and associated rotor movement would therefore be an incremental indirect influence within this VSAA. The Proposed Development would introduce an additional urbanising element in views and 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.
CYNONVS496 Mynydd Maes-Teg	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	**Major/Moderate** to **Moderate Significant** to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~4.4km. There are many existing wind turbines within the VSAA including the Pant-y-Wal and extension wind farms and the Fforch Nest Wind Farm. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore introduce an additional urbanising element in views,

Receptor	Overall landscape sensitivity*	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
				incremental to views of closer operational wind turbines in the VSAA. The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CYNONVS317 Mynydd Eglwysilon & Mynydd Meio	High-Medium	Medium to Zero	**Major/Moderate** to **Moderate Significant** to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~5.4km. There are a small number of operational wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would represent an incremental urbanising element in views from the VSAA set beyond the urban extent of Pontypridd in the valley. The magnitude of change would range from Medium for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
MRTHRVS767 Taff/Bargoed Confluence	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a small proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~5.6km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA. Several busy A roads (A472 and A470) are within or adjacent to the VSAA. Views of the proposed turbines and associated movement would be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CRDFFVS003 Garth- west	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~6.9km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.

Receptor	Overall landscape sensitivity*	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
CRDFFVS002 Tyn-y-Coed	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.0km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CRDFFVS006 Pentyrch-north	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a very small proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.6km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CRDFFVS007 Pentyrch-south	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a small proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.6km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CRDFFVS004 Garth Hill	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~7.9km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.

Receptor	Overall landscape sensitivity*	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
VLFGLVS962 Ystradowen/Hensol area	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~8.5km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
VLFGLVS406 Ely Valley Flood Plain	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~8.7km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new indirect man-made vertical influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
VLFGLVS002 Hensol Park	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.3km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
MRTHRVS119 Gelligaer Farmlands	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a large proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.4km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA. At this distance the presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be a new urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.

Receptor	Overall landscape sensitivity*	Magnitude of Change	Level of effect	Rationale
CYNONVS113 Cwm Dar	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a very small proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.6km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA, however there are several other wind farm schemes present in the landscape closer to the VSAA including the Ferndale Wind Farm. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be an incremental urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
VLFGLVS933 Upper Thaw Valley	Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate/ Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a moderate proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.7km. There are no existing wind turbines within the VSAA, however, there are several other wind turbine schemes present in the landscape closer to the VSAA including the Mynydd Portref Wind Farm. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be an incremental urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.
CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr	High-Medium	Low to Zero	Moderate to Moderate/Minor Not Significant to No Effect	ZTVs demonstrate that the hubs and blades of the proposed turbines would be visible from within a small proportion of the VSAA at a minimum distance of ~9.9km. There are no wind turbines within the VSAA, however there are several other large wind farms present in the landscape between the Proposed Development and VSAA at Pant-y-Wal and Fforch Nest wind farms. The presence of the proposed turbines and associated movement would therefore be an incremental urbanising influence. The magnitude of change would range from Low for the parts of the VSAA within ZTVs, to Zero for the parts of the VSAA outside the ZTVs.

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