

# **Appendix 6D**

## **Local Landscape Character Assessment and LANDMAP VSAA Assessment**

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## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix sets out the Local Landscape Character assessment for the LVIA. It is to be read in conjunction with the Baseline Descriptions and Sensitivity Assessment in **Appendix 6B**.
- 1.1.2 The appendix is structured as follows:
- Section 1.2: Local Landscape Character Assessments; and
  - Section 1.3: LANDMAP VSAA Assessments.

## 1.2 Local Landscape Character areas

- 1.2.1 The assessment for the Local Landscape Character Areas are set out in **Table 6D.1** below.

Table 6D-1 - Local Landscape Character Assessment

### LCA 1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry

#### Magnitude of Change during Construction

During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on this LCA. The construction of sections of the proposed northern and southern OHL's and a section of the UGC will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to the character area.

The main compound would not be located within this LCA. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary.

There will be a small amount of tree removal for the construction of the UGC just to the southwest of Pen-y-lan residential property to the northwest of Kings Terrace. Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works.

There are areas within the character area which have higher levels of tranquillity, therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of High-Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Medium** (northern and southern OHLs).

#### Magnitude of Change during Operation

At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the landscape character.

The underground section will cease to have any impacts on landscape character as the trench would have been restored.

The proposed OHLs would run through a rural farmland landscape in areas where there is little built development and therefore the introduction of the OHLs would have a negative effect on the landscape character over a small-medium geographical extent. There are however many elevated vantage points within the character area which would result in the OHLs being viewed in conjunction with built development such as the settlement of Maesteg, overhead transmission lines with large pylons, other OHLs on timber poles and numerous wind farm developments on hillsides at varying distances, in these views the effect on landscape character would be reduced. Many of the woodlands on the hillsides are coniferous and the woodland on Rhiw Tor Cymry adjacent

## LCA 1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry

to the proposed northern OHL has undergone an area of deforestation which reduces the scenic quality in this locality.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of High-Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be **Medium** (northern and southern OHLs).

**Level of Effect (Project)** Level of effect during Construction –**Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**

Level of effect during Operation - **Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**

**Type of Effect** Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).

### Cumulative assessment

#### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm (8 turbines, 145m high) would be highly visible from the northern part of this character area due to the proximity of the turbines within the adjacent character area LCA 7. This consented windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Medium

Additional Effect (PD Only) - **Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**

Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – High-medium

Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major to Moderate and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm)

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

#### Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project

Y Bryn Windfarm is an application Wind Farm for 18No turbines with 250m blade tip height. Five turbines would be located on the coniferous hillside of Rhiw Tor Cymry to the south-southwest of the proposed northern OHL within the adjacent LCA 12. The remaining turbines would be located on Mynydd Margam within the adjacent LCA 7. Whilst there would be no direct effects on this LCA there would be intervisibility which would affect the setting of this character area. The application windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Medium

Additional Effect (PD Only) - **Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**

Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High

Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm)

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

### LCA 3: Llynfi & Garw Uplands and Forestry

#### Magnitude of Change during Construction

There will be no direct impacts on this LCA as the OHL and UGC sections lie to the west of the character area. The LCA lies within 0.6km of the proposed northern OHL at its closest point and within approximately 2km of the proposed southern OHL at its closest point.

There would be views of construction machinery and vehicle movement during the construction period which would be more noticeable during the construction of the proposed northern OHL given its closer proximity to the LCA. There may also be views of the machinery associated with the construction of the UGC for the section which lies outwith the settlement. The main compound is also proposed near the proposed northern OHL which may be visible within more elevated parts of the LCA where topography would not screen it from view.

The effects on tranquillity are considered to be negligible given that the settlement of Maesteg is positioned between the Project and the LCA.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Low** (northern OHL) – **Negligible** (southern OHL).

#### Magnitude of Change during Operation

At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the landscape character.

The proposed northern OHL would be partially visible against the skyline from some areas within the LCA and the proposed southern OHL would be visible against landform in more distant views. The Project would be visible in context with the settlement of Maesteg and the 400kv overhead transmission lines from some locations. Operational Wind Farms would also be visible in the wider views (away from the Project). The coniferous woodland located on Rhiw Tor Cymry adjacent to the proposed northern OHL has undergone an area of deforestation which reduces the scenic quality.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be **Low** (northern OHL) and **Low-Negligible** (southern OHL).

#### Level of Effect (of Project)

Level of effect during Construction – Minor (northern OHL) to Minor to Negligible (southern OHL) and not Significant.

Level of effect during Operation - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor - Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).

#### Type of Effect

Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).

#### Cumulative assessment

##### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsant consented Wind Farm would be positioned to the west-northwest of this LCA. There would be a high level of intervisibility due to the elevated position of this LCA which would affect the setting. This consented windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Low (northern OHL), Low- Negligible (southern OHL)  
Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor - Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL) Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – High-medium

### LCA 3: Llynfi & Garw Uplands and Forestry

Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major to Moderate and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm)

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

#### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Applications + Project

Y Bryn application Windfarm would be positioned to the west/ southwest of this LCA on the coniferous hillsides of Rhiw Tor Cymry and Mynydd Margam. Whilst there would be no direct effects on this LCA there would be a high level of intervisibility which would affect the setting of this character area. The application windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Low (northern OHL), Low- Negligible

Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor - Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL)

Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High

Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

### LCA 7: Mynydd Margam

#### **Magnitude of Change during Construction**

During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on a small area within this LCA. The construction of a small section of the proposed southern OHL will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to this character area. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary. Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works. There are areas within the character area have higher levels of tranquillity, therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Low-Negligible** (southern OHL).

#### **Magnitude of Change during Operation**

The proposed southern OHL will connect with the existing pylon and transmission line to the south. The OHL would therefore not introduce an uncharacteristic element to this part of the LCA. The proposed southern OHL also lies above an existing forestry track and would be surrounded by conifer trees.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during operation would be **Negligible** (southern OHL).

#### **Level of Effect (of Project)**

Level of effect during Construction – Minor – Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).

Level of effect during Operation – Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).

#### **Type of Effect**

Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and neutral (Operation).

## LCA 7: Mynydd Margam

### Cumulative assessment

#### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm would be positioned to the north of this LCA. The LCA is heavily forested with conifer trees which would likely provide screening towards the consented windfarm. The consented windfarm would result in a Low-Negligible magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Negligible

Additional Effect (PD Only) – Minor to Negligible and not significant

Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – Low - Negligible

Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – Minor to Negligible and not Significant (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

#### Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project

Y Bryn application Windfarm would directly impact this LCA with 13No turbines located within the LCA. The remaining 5No would be located further north in LCA 12. The application windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Negligible

Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor to Negligible and not Significant

Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High

Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major to Moderate and Significant** (Y Bryn Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

## LCA 13: Foel Trawsnant

### Magnitude of Change during Construction

During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on this LCA. The construction of sections of the proposed northern OHL will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to the character area.

The main compound area will be located within this LCA. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary. Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works.

This character area has higher levels of tranquillity; therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Medium**. (northern OHL).

### Magnitude of Change during Operation

At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the landscape character.

Only the proposed northern OHL would be visible within this LCA which would be between 12-15m high. The visibility would be limited to the eastern and southern parts

### LCA 13: Foel Trawsnant

of the LCA and would extend east into the neighbouring LCA 1 Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands and Forestry. The OHL would be backclothed by coniferous woodland in views towards the south and west and potentially against the skyline in views north and west.

The magnitude of change for this LCA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be **Medium**. (northern OHL).

**Level of Effect (of Project)** Level of effect during Construction – Moderate and not Significant (northern OHL).  
Level of effect during Operation - Moderate and not Significant (northern OHL).

**Type of Effect** Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).

#### Cumulative assessment

##### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm would be located within this character area. The western section of the proposed northern OHL would pass between some of the turbines. This consented windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Medium

Additional Effect (PD Only) - Moderate and not significant (northern OHL)

Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) - High

Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

##### Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project

Five turbines within the Y Bryn Windfarm would be located on the coniferous hillside of Rhiw Tor Cymry to the south-southwest of the proposed northern OHL within the adjacent LCA 12. The remaining turbines would be located on Mynydd Margam within the adjacent LCA 7. Whilst there would be no direct effects there would be intervisibility which would affect the setting of this character area. The application windfarm would result in a High-medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Medium

Additional Effect (PD Only) - Moderate and not significant (northern OHL)

Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) - High

Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

## 1.3 LANDMAP VSAA Baseline Descriptions

1.3.1 The assessment for the LANDMAP VSAA are set out in **Table 6D.2** below.



Table 6D-2 - LANDMAP VSAA Assessment

<b>Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS473 – Mynydd baedan (Ref 18 - Figure 6.4)</b>	
<b>Magnitude of Change during Construction</b>  Viewpoints 1, 3, 4 & 5	<p>During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on this VSAA. The construction of sections of the proposed northern and southern OHL's and a section of the UGC will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to the character area.</p> <p>The main compound would not be located within this VSAA. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary.</p> <p>There will be a small amount of tree removal for the construction of the UGC just to the southwest of Pen-y-lan residential property to the northwest of Kings Terrace Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works.</p> <p>There are areas within the character area which have higher levels of tranquillity, therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of High-Medium sensitivity) during construction would be <b>Medium</b> (northern and southern OHLs).</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change during Operation</b>	<p>At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the VSAA.</p> <p>The underground section will cease to have any impacts on VSAA as the trench would have been restored.</p> <p>The proposed OHLs would run through a rural farmland landscape in areas where there is little built development. There are however many elevated vantage points within the character area which would result in the OHLs being viewed in conjunction with built development such as the settlement of Maesteg, overhead transmission lines with large pylons, other OHLs on timber poles and numerous Wind Farm developments on hillsides at varying distances. Many of the woodlands on the hillsides are coniferous and the woodland on Rhiw Tor Cymry adjacent to the proposed northern OHL has undergone an area of deforestation which reduces the scenic quality in this locality.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of High-Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be <b>Medium</b> (northern and southern OHLs).</p>
<b>Level of Effect (of Project)</b>	<p>Level of effect during Construction –<b>Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).</b></p> <p>Level of effect during Operation - <b>Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).</b></p>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).
<b>Cumulative assessment</b>	<p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project</u></p> <p>Foel Trawsant consented Wind Farm (8 turbines, 145m high) would be highly visible from the northern part of this VSAA due to the proximity of the turbines within the adjacent VSAA (NPTVS358 Foel Trawsant). This consented windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.</p>

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS473 – Mynydd baedan (Ref 18 - Figure 6.4)

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Medium  
 Additional Effect (PD Only) - **Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**  
 Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – High-medium  
 Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major to Moderate and Significant (PD & Foel Trawsnant Windfarm).**

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

#### Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project

Y Bryn Windfarm is an application Wind Farm for 18 No turbines with 250m blade tip height. Five turbines would be located on the coniferous hillside of Rhiw Tor Cymry to the south-southwest of the proposed northern OHL within the adjacent LCA 12. The remaining turbines would be located on Mynydd Margam. Whilst there would be no direct effects on this LCA there would be intervisibility which would affect the setting of this VSAA. The application windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Medium  
 Additional Effect (PD Only) - **Moderate and Significant (northern and southern OHLs).**  
 Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High  
 Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).**

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - NPTVS358 – Foel Trawsnant (Ref 3 - Figure 6.4)

#### **Magnitude of Change during Construction**

During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on this VSAA. The construction of sections of the proposed northern OHL will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to the character area.

The main compound area will be located within this VSAA. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary. Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works.

This character area has higher levels of tranquillity; therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.

The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Medium** (northern OHL).

#### **Magnitude of Change during Operation**

At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the VSAA.

Only the proposed northern OHL would be visible within this VSAA which would be between 12-15m high. The visibility would be limited to the eastern and southern parts of the VSAA and would extend east into the neighbouring VSAA (CTNONVS473 Mynydd

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - NPTVS358 – Foel Trawsnant (Ref 3 - Figure 6.4)

Baedan). The OHL would be backclothed by coniferous woodland in views towards the south and west and potentially against the skyline in views north and west.

The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be **Medium** (northern OHL).

**Level of Effect (of Project)** Level of effect during Construction – Moderate and not Significant.  
Level of effect during Operation - Moderate and not Significant.

**Type of Effect** Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).

#### Cumulative assessment

##### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm would be located within this VSAA. The western section of the proposed northern OHL would pass between some of the turbines. This consented windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Medium  
Additional Effect (PD Only) - Moderate and not significant  
Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) - High  
Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

##### Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project

Five turbines within the Y Bryn Windfarm would be located on the coniferous hillside of Rhiw Tor Cymry to the south-southwest of the proposed northern OHL. The remaining turbines would be located on Mynydd Margam. Whilst there would be no direct effects there would be intervisibility which would affect the setting of this character area. The application windfarm would result in a High-medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Medium  
Additional Effect (PD Only) - Moderate and not significant  
Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) - High  
Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - NPTVS927 – Mynydd Margam (Ref 14 - Figure 6.4)

**Magnitude of Change during Construction** During the construction period there will be direct temporary and permanent effects on a small area within this VSAA. The construction of a small section of the proposed southern OHL will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to this VSAA. Poles will be stored at the compound; on the day of installation, poles will be transported to the works area and laydown within the Site boundary. Soils/ grasslands that have been disturbed will be reinstated following the construction works. There are areas

## Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - NPTVS927 – Mynydd Margam (Ref 14 - Figure 6.4)

within the VSAA have higher levels of tranquillity, therefore the movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect.

The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Low-Negligible** (southern OHL).

<b>Magnitude of Change during Operation</b>	<p>The proposed southern OHL will connect with the existing pylon and transmission line to the south. The OHL would therefore not introduce an uncharacteristic element to this part of the VSAA. The proposed southern OHL also lies above an existing forestry track and would be surrounded by conifer trees.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during operation would be <b>Negligible</b> (southern OHL).</p>
<b>Level of Effect (of Project)</b>	<p>Level of effect during Construction – Minor – Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).</p> <p>Level of effect during Operation – Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).</p>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and neutral (Operation).
<b>Cumulative assessment</b>	<p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project</u></p> <p>Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm would be positioned to the north of this VSAA. The VSAA is heavily forested with conifer trees which would likely provide screening towards the consented windfarm. The consented windfarm would result in a Low-Negligible magnitude of change.</p> <p>Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Negligible  Additional Effect (PD Only) – Minor to Negligible and not significant  Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – Low - Negligible  Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – Minor to Negligible and not significant (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm).</p> <p>The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project</u></p> <p>Y Bryn application Windfarm would directly impact this VSAA with 13No turbines located within the VSAA. The remaining 5No would be located further north (VSAA NPTVS366 Mynydd Penhydd). The application windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.</p> <p>Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Negligible  Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor to Negligible and not significant  Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High  Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – <b>Major to Moderate and Significant</b> (Y Bryn Windfarm).</p> <p>The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.</p>

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS351 – Maesteg (Ref 17 - Figure 6.4)

<b>Magnitude of Change during Construction</b>	<p>During the construction period there will be direct temporary on this VSAA. The installation of ducting along Kings Terrace, Garwen Road, Heol Ty Gwyn will introduce vehicle movement and construction machinery to a small part of the character area along its central western edge.</p> <p>Tranquillity within the settlement would be low due to existing road noise therefore the construction activities would have a small temporary adverse effect.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Low-Medium sensitivity) during construction would be <b>Medium-Low</b> (UGC).</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change during Operation</b>	<p>The underground section will cease to have any impacts on landscape character as the trench would have been restored. It is not considered the visibility of the OHLs would affect the landscape character of this VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA area during Operation would be <b>Zero</b>.</p>
<b>Level of Effect (of Project)</b>	<p>Level of effect during Construction – Moderate to Minor and not Significant.</p> <p>Level of effect during Operation – Zero.</p>
<b>Type of Effect</b>	Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and neutral (Operation).
<b>Cumulative assessment</b>	There would be no landscape character effects during the operation phase for this VSAA and therefore would be no cumulative effects.

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS731 – Conifer to west of study area (Ref 19 - Figure 6.4)

<b>Magnitude of Change during Construction</b>	<p>The construction period will introduce vehicle movement to the VSAA as the track to the compound will proceed along the existing Foel Trawsnant forestry track in the northern part of the VSAA. Movement, visual intrusion and noise of construction activity shall have a temporary adverse effect on this VSAA.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium-Low sensitivity) area during construction is considered to be <b>Low</b>. (northern &amp; southern OHL).</p>
<b>Magnitude of Change during Operation</b>	<p>At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the landscape character.</p> <p>Both the proposed northern OHL and the proposed southern OHL would be visible from the edges of the VSAA. The coniferous planting with the VSAA would screen the majority of the OHL routes.</p> <p>The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium-Low sensitivity) during Operation would be <b>Negligible</b> (northern &amp; southern OHL).</p>
<b>Level of Effect (of Project)</b>	<p>Level of effect during Construction – Minor and not Significant (northern &amp; southern OHL).</p> <p>Level of effect during Operation – Minor to Negligible - Negligible and not Significant (northern &amp; southern OHL).</p>

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS731 – Conifer to west of study area (Ref 19 - Figure 6.4)

<b>Type of Effect</b>	Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and neutral (Operation).
<b>Cumulative assessment</b>	<p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project</u></p> <p>Foel Trawsnant consented Wind Farm would be visible from the edge of the VSAA to the north. The coniferous planting within the VSAA would screen the majority of the Windfarm. This consented windfarm would result in a Medium-Low magnitude of change.</p> <p>Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Negligible  Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor to Negligible - Negligible and not Significant (northern &amp; southern OHL)  Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – Medium – Low  Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – <b>Moderate to Minor and not Significant</b> (Foel Trawsnant Windfarm)</p> <p>The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.</p> <p><u>Cumulative Assessment: Application Sites + Project</u></p> <p>One turbine within Y Bryn Windfarm would be located within the VSAA with a remaining 12No located on the adjacent VSAA 14 and five located within VSAA 4 adjacent to the northern part of the VSAA. The application windfarm would result in a Medium magnitude of change.</p> <p>Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Negligible  Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor to Negligible - Negligible and not Significant (northern &amp; southern OHL)  Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – Medium  Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – Moderate to Minor and not Significant (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).</p> <p>The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.</p>

### Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill (Ref 20 - Figure 6.4)

<b>Magnitude of Change during Construction</b>  (Viewpoint 2)	<p>There will be no direct impacts on this VSAA as the OHL and UGC sections lie to the west of the character area. The VSAA lies within 0.6km of the proposed northern OHL at its closest point and within approximately 2km of the proposed southern OHL at its closest point.</p> <p>There would be views of construction machinery and vehicle movement during the construction period which would be more noticeable during the construction of the proposed northern OHL given its closer proximity to the VSAA. There may also be views of the machinery associated with the construction of the UGC for the section which lies outwith the settlement. The main compound is also proposed near the proposed northern OHL which may be visible within more elevated parts of the VSAA where topography would not screen it from view.</p>
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## Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill (Ref 20 - Figure 6.4)

The effects on tranquillity are considered to be negligible given that the settlement of Maesteg is positioned between the Project and the VSAA.

The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during construction would be **Low** (northern OHL) – **Negligible** (southern OHL).

### Magnitude of Change during Operation

At Operation all construction activity will have ceased and shall have no effect on the VSAA.

The proposed northern OHL would be partially visible against the skyline from some areas within the VSAA and the proposed southern OHL would be visible against landform in more distant views. The Project would be visible in context with the settlement of Maesteg and the 400kv overhead transmission lines from some locations. Operational Wind Farms would also be visible in the wider views (away from the Project). The coniferous woodland located on Rhiw Tor Cymry adjacent to the proposed northern OHL has undergone an area of deforestation which reduces the scenic quality.

The magnitude of change for this LANDMAP VSAA (considered to be of Medium sensitivity) during Operation would be **Low** (northern OHL) and **Low-Negligible** (southern OHL).

### Level of Effect (of Project)

Level of effect during Construction – Minor (northern OHL) to Minor to Negligible (southern OHL) and not Significant.

Level of effect during Operation - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor to Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL).

### Type of Effect

Short term, direct and negative (Construction), Long term, direct and negative (Operation).

### Cumulative assessment

#### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Project

Foel Trawsant consented Wind Farm would be positioned to the west-northwest of this VSAA. There would be a high level of intervisibility due to the elevated position of this VSAA which would affect the setting. This consented windfarm would result in a High-Medium magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) – Low (northern OHL), Low- Negligible (southern OHL)  
 Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor to Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL)  
 Combined Magnitude (Consented and PD) – High-medium  
 Combined Effect (Consented and PD) – **Major to Moderate and Significant** (Foel Trawsant Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

#### Cumulative Assessment: Consented Sites + Applications + Project

Y Bryn application Windfarm would be positioned to the west/ southwest of this VSAA on the coniferous hillsides of Rhiw Tor Cymry and Mynydd Margam. Whilst there would be no direct effects on this VSAA there would be a high level of intervisibility which would affect the setting of this area. The application windfarm would result in a High magnitude of change.

Additional Magnitude (PD Only) - Low (northern OHL), Low- Negligible

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**Visual and Sensory Aspect Area - CYNONVS811 – Garth Hill (Ref 20 - Figure 6.4)**

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Additional Effect (PD Only) - Minor and not Significant (northern OHL) and Minor to Minor to Negligible and not Significant (southern OHL)  
Combined Magnitude (Consented, application and PD) – High  
Combined Effect (Consented, application and PD) – **Major and Significant** (Foel Trawsnant and Y Bryn Windfarm).

The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible), cumulative, direct and negative.

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