



# Land at Pentre Bach, Torfaen

## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

On behalf of **Elgin Energy**

## Document Control Sheet

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# 1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Stantec was commissioned by Elgin Energy in March 2020 to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to accompany a planning application for a proposed Solar Energy Facility and associated built form ('the Proposed Development') on land at Pentre Bach farm ('the Site') within the administrative area of Torfaen County Borough Council.
- 1.1.2 The key objectives of this assessment are to:
- Assess the landscape characteristics and quality of the Site and its surrounding and function within the landscape;
  - Assess the visibility of the Site and the nature and quality of the existing views from the surrounding area;
  - Identify opportunities and constraints to development on the Site from a landscape and visual perspective; and
  - Assess the likely landscape and visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development during operation.
- 1.1.3 The LVIA process has been used to inform the design of mitigation included with the Proposed Development with the aim of avoiding or reducing adverse landscape and visual effects. The principal elements of the LVIA are an analysis of the physical context of the Site, summary of key planning policy and evidence base relevant to the Proposed Development, appraisal of the landscape features and character of the Site and its surroundings and consideration of the landscape and visual qualities of the Site and the wider landscape, followed by an assessment of the effects on landscape character and visual amenity likely to result from the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.4 The study area for this assessment broadly equates to the extents of the landscape shown on **Figure 1: Site Context Plan**. The study area has been informed by the baseline appraisal and field surveys.
- 1.1.5 The methodology used for the LVIA is drawn from principles of good practice in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013)<sup>i</sup> and is set out in **Appendix A.1: LVIA Methodology**.

## 2 Site Context

### 2.1 Location and Land Use

- 2.1.1 The Site comprises an area of 46.72 hectares (ha), of agricultural fields situated within the Torfaen County Borough. The Site is Surrounded by agricultural landscape which itself is enclosed by a near continuous band of existing built development, in all but westerly directions. On a wider scale, the settlement of Risca lies approximately 2.8km south-west, and Malpas lies approximately 2.7km to the south-east; **see Figure 1: Site Context Plan**. There are also existing solar farms located approximately 3km east and 2.3km west of the Site, while a network of high voltage overhead power lines cross over the wider agricultural landscape.
- 2.1.2 On a local scale, the settlement of Cwmbran lies approximately 435m north of the Site and Bettws lies approximately 800m to the south-east. Built form in principal areas of settlement are predominantly residential, however there are larger scale buildings including substantial retail and industrial units on the southern edge of Cwmbran which lie approximately 1km to the north-east of the Site. Within the broad arc of settlement outlined above, the agricultural landscape comprises a patchwork of irregular size and shape fields defined with treebelts and woodlands, chiefly in pastoral use, with sporadic farmsteads and small clusters of houses.

### 2.2 Topography and Hydrology

- 2.2.1 The landform generally drops from the north-western part of the study area (3km from the Site) towards the south-east where it reaches the River Usk in the south-eastern corner of the study area. Between the valley bottom and the Cwmcarn foothill, sits a transitional landscape comprising a series of foothill ridges and tributary valleys that rise from east to west. The most prominent foothill is the outermost wooded ridgeline in Cwmcarn lies approximately 3km from the Site and peaks at ca.380m AOD. This ridgeline forms a prominent backdrop to the valley, with the castle mound of Twmbarlwm Scheduled Monument forming a notable high point in the study area at 419m AOD.
- 2.2.2 There are 3 prominent ridgelines in the local area which inform the topography and nature of the Site. These include a ridgeline of Castell-y-bwch, where levels peak at ca.150m AOD approximately 550m to the west of the Site where the landform directly to the west of the Site rises in a westerly direction. From this point levels dip again before rising to the Cwmcarn ridge. The second ridgeline begins at the southern edge of Hollybush, Henllys Vale to the north which peaks at approximately 112m AOD where it travels in a southerly direction where it intersects the northern Sitr boundary and dips before rising again to a local hillock that peaks at approximately 90m AOD near Craig-y-ceiliog farm. As the northern part of the Site occupies the southern flank of a foothill, the landform within the Site peaks at this point as ca.85m AOD and slopes in a southerly direction where it reaches its lowest point at ca.30m AOD in the south-eastern corner of the Site.
- 2.2.3 The most prominent watercourses in the study area lies in the more gently rolling and lower-lying part of the study area to the east. The Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal lies approximately 680m to the east of the Site where it travels in a north-south direction from the edge of Hollybush, Cwmbran where it passes between the settlement of Bettws to the west and Malpas to the west. The River Afon Lwyd approximately 2.2km north-east of the Site adjacent to the industrial edge of Oakfield, Cwmbran. The western and southern boundaries of the Site are closely associated with a minor watercourse which sits within an incised valley, while three smaller tributaries extend within the Site along internal field boundaries.
- 2.2.4 There is notable relationship between landform and settlement pattern, with principal areas of existing built development and transport routes generally following the lowland landscape and the higher ridges left open. Notwithstanding the above, there are places where existing development extends further up valley sides, most notably in the west of Cwmbran and in Risca, to the south-west of the study area.

## 2.3 Transport and Rights of Way

2.3.1 Principal transport routes within the study area are the A4042 dual carriageway and the A4051 (Cwmbran Drive) which runs parallel to the A4042 lies within 2km from the eastern Site boundary and travel south where they join the M4 along the northern edge of Newport. A subservient network of minor roads are laid out within areas of settlement, with a series of country lanes passing through the agricultural landscape containing the Site. Most notable of these are an unnamed road which runs south from Cwmbran and extends along the ridgeline to the west of the Site, passing through Castell-y-bwch; and Pentre Lane, which links the aforementioned road at Castell-y-bwch and Cwmbran Drive in the east, passing along the southern Site boundary for approximately 435m.

2.3.2 As shown in **Figure 9: Visual Appraisal Plan** a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are present within the study area, the most notable of which are:

- PRoW 416/40/1, which extends from Hollybush to the north where it travels in a southerly direction through the northern Site boundary and travels south-east in the direction of farmstead adjacent to the south-east Site boundary;
- PRoW 419/12/1, which extends from the 416/40/1 in a north-easterly direction from Pentre Bach to Cwmbran;
- PRoW 416/33/1, 416/32/1 and 416/29/1 run east to west along the southern extent of Cwmbran approximately 400m north of the Site;
- A series of PRoW in the local landscape with 1km west of the Site include 418/81/1, 418/82/1, 418/80/1, 418/79/1, and 418/75/1;
- PRoW 387/5/1 and 387/6 are located within 1km south of the Site and which rise up to Craig-y-ceiliog from the west and north-east;
- A PRoW which comprises the towpath along the The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal lie approximately 1km east of the Site; and
- Cambrian Way National Trail lies approximately 3.2km north-west of the Site.

## 2.4 Vegetation

2.4.1 The local landscape surrounding the Site is marked by a strong pattern of vegetation. The 12 irregular shaped pastoral fields varying in size with boundaries typically demarcated by wide belts of established trees and blocks of woodland, with occasional hedgerows. To the east of the Site, the agricultural landscape becomes more open as the landform gently rolls in the direction of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal which is defined by tree belts and small woodlands. To the south and west of the Site, vegetation patterns become stronger where field parcels are strongly defined with tree belts and the presence of large blocks of woodland increase. These include Mill Wood, Coed Craig y Ceiliog, Garth Fawr Ancient Woodlands to the south and Greenmeadow Woodland and Coed y Twrch Ancient Woodland to the west all within a 1.2km radius of the Site. Craig y Merchant Ancient Woodland lies ca.19km south-west of the Site. Woodland become more prevalent in the wider area along the Mynydd Henllys, Cwmbran ridgeline which is defined by linear woodlands such as Ebbw Forest and Coed Odyn.

2.4.2 The north-eastern Site boundary sits adjacent to the Limekiln Ancient Woodland and the south-western Site boundary is defined by Henllys Ancient Woodland. The Site itself, consists of a series of linear treebelts, hedgerow with few hedgerow trees interspersed along them and a small group of trees in the south-eastern part of the Site. Field parcels within the Site are of an irregular form and vary in size and of which most are delineated by tree belts.



## 2.5 Designations

2.5.1 As demonstrated by **Figure 1: Site Context Plan**, a number of designations are relevant to the Site and study area, including the following:

- The Site and the wider landscape to the south of Cwmbran and to the west of Bettws are within the Southern Lowlands Special Landscape Area (SLA), and are designated as Green Wedge;
- There are numerous blocks of Ancient Woodland in the study area, including two small parcels within the Site (Henllys Wood) and a larger parcel to the north-east, identified as Limekiln Wood.
- The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal is designated along its length as a Conservation Area, with the locks also designated as listed buildings;
- Listed buildings are also dispersed across the wider rural landscape, most notably at Pentre-Bach and attached outbuildings (Grade II\*) and a pair of Grade II listed lime kilns to the east of the Site;
- Extensive areas of the upland landscape of the Mynydd Henllys, Cwmran ridge are designated as Countryside Rights of Way Access Areas; and
- Scheduled Monuments are present within the landscape, most notably including the ruins of the Twmbarlwm castle.
- The Site and a majority of the study area lies within a Special Landscape Area. The Site lies in Landscape Area Unit 52: Hellys Valed, Castell-y-bwch & Hollybush.

## 3 Landscape Planning Policy

3.1.1 The relevant policies in relation to the Site and the Proposed Development are summarised below.

### 3.2 National Policy

#### Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

3.2.1 Future Wales is a national development framework, setting the direction for development in Wales to 2040, providing a framework for planning the change and development needed in Wales to address key national priorities. Future Wales is a spatial plan, focussed on solutions to national issues and challenges at a national scale. The Spatial Strategy Diagram identifies Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys as one of three National Growth Areas where there will be **“growth in employment and housing opportunities and investment in infrastructure”**.

3.2.2 Future Wales presents the Welsh Government’s strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, and achieving decarbonisation and climate resilience.

3.2.3 Future Wales was adopted on 24th February 2021 and recognises that Wales can become a world leader in renewable energy technologies. The Welsh Government recognises Wales’ potential for solar generation and supports both large and community scaled projects and commits to ensuring the planning system in Wales provides a strong lead for renewable energy development.

3.2.4 Policy 17 sets out that the Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of renewable and low carbon energy development from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. Furthermore, it states that decision makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales’ international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030.

3.2.5 Policy 18 provides the criteria for assessing large scale proposals for renewable and low carbon energy and is required to be read together with Policy 17. The criteria set out in Policy 18 require that proposed development:

- Does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape, with particular reference to the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- Has no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;
- Has no unacceptable adverse impacts on national statutory designated sites for nature conservation, protected habitats and species;
- Includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity;
- Has no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets; and
- Has no unacceptable adverse impacts by way of shadow flicker, noise, reflected light, air quality or electromagnetic disturbance.

3.2.6 Policy 18 also states that the *“cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered”*.

3.2.7 The supporting text to both policies states that Policy 17 demonstrates the Welsh Government’s support in principle for all renewable energy projects and technologies.

### Planning Policy Wales (2021)

3.2.8 Edition 11 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) was published on the same day as Future Wales, 24th February 2021. PPW sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government and is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars and policy clarification letters.

3.2.9 With respect to Renewable and Low Carbon Energy, set out under Theme 5: Productive and Enterprising Places, Paragraph 5.9.1 states:

*“Local authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development.”*

3.2.10 Furthermore, Paragraph 5.9.14 states that planning authorities should use evidence to establish spatial policies for their development plan which identify the most appropriate locations for development of energy development below 10MW and that **“there should be a presumption in favour of development in identified areas, including an acceptance of landscape change”**.

3.2.11 Paragraph 5.9.20 relates to development management of renewable and low carbon energy projects and states that **“Planning authorities should also identify and require suitable ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts”**. This includes consideration of the impact on the natural and historic environment and cumulative impact.

3.2.12 Theme 6 of PPW addresses Distinctive and Natural Placemaking and Well-being, and includes protecting and enhancing landscapes, habitats, biodiversity, geodiversity and the historic environment in their own right as well as other components of the natural world. PPW recognises the fundamental role played by Green Infrastructure in shaping places and our sense of well-being. Paragraph 6.3.3 states that **“all the landscapes of Wales are valued for their intrinsic contribution to a sense of place”**.

3.2.13 Paragraph 6.2.4: Integrating Green Infrastructure and Development states that green infrastructure plays a key role in shaping places which is integral to our well-being and the quality of space we encounter through, play, work or residency. Biodiversity must be protected and enhanced alongside green infrastructure to maximise benefits to society and local areas. Paragraph 6.2.5 states:

*“The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate site selection and use of creative design”*

3.2.14 Paragraph 6.3 refers to Landscape and how rich and varied Welsh landscapes are. A quarter of land in Wales is designated as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Local authorities are therefore urged to protect and enhance special characteristics of these areas through early consideration of landscape in strategies and policies for long-term sustainability. Where adverse effects on landscape character are encountered, planning permission will be refused.

### Technical Advice Notes (TANs)

3.2.15 Under the title of Design (TAN 12, March 2016), sub-heading 5.5 Landscape and Townscape, Paragraph 5.5.1, the TAN supports the use of landscape character assessment as a tool for understanding and responding to a site: "The way in which development relates to its urban or rural landscape or seascape context is critical to its success. Because of this, an understanding of landscape quality, including its historic character, is fundamental to the design process". The site analysis process is further supported by the Site and Context Analysis Guide: Capturing the value of a site, commissioned by the Welsh Assembly Government (March 2016), which provides an informative approach to site analysis, to support all development proposals.

3.2.16 Paragraph 5.8.2 of TAN 12 considers that:

*“Policies and guidance should take account of the need to steer activity to avoid negative impact on distinctive rural landscapes and the best agricultural land and to conserve and enhance diversity of species and habitats. Managing change by means of a landscape strategy based on a thorough landscape assessment is one means of safeguarding a rural sense of place.”*

### 3.3 Local Policy

#### **Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan (to 2021), Adopted December 2013**

3.3.1 The Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) Local Development Plan represents the current spatial planning policy and proposals to control development in the county borough. The following spatial policies are of relevance to the Proposed Development.

3.3.2 Policy S1 Urban Boundaries states: “Development proposals in the countryside will be dealt with in line with relevant LDP policies and national planning policy”

3.3.3 Policy S2: Sustainable Development states: “Development proposals will need to demonstrate they have taken account of the following principles and where relevant that they: - c) Conserve and enhance the natural and built environment; h) Are located within the Urban Boundary unless it is an acceptable development in the countryside.”

3.3.4 Policy S3: Climate Change Development states:

*“Development proposals shall seek to mitigate the causes of further climate change and adapt to the current and future effects of climate change; and will be supported where they demonstrate consideration of the following hierarchy of criteria (where appropriate):*

*b. Achieving Sustainable Design to ensure residual energy requirements are minimised through: -*

*i. Supporting climate responsive development through location, orientation, density, layout, built form, materials and landscaping;*

*iv. Exploring opportunities to maintain habitat connectivity through the provision of green infrastructure in design;*

*e. Utilising renewable and low or zero carbon energy technologies to generate heat and electricity requirements which includes heating, cooling and power networks powered by renewable energy sources...”*

3.3.5 Paragraph 5.3.7 goes on to state:

*“The Council is committed to reducing the demand for and hence use of energy in new developments. Development proposals that utilise renewable and low carbon technologies will be encouraged, whether part of a development scheme or as individual renewable and low carbon energy projects.”*

3.3.6 Policy S7: Conservation of the Natural and Historic Environment states: “Development proposals should seek to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the Natural, Built & Historic Environment of Torfaen, in particular:

*Biodiversity resources;*

*a. Geodiversity resources;*

*b. Water environment;*

- c. *Landscape setting;*
- d. *Character of the built environment; and*
- e. *Historic assets.”*

3.3.7 The policy justification for S7 states: “Areas of the County Borough designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLA’s) for their high landscape value, will be afforded protection to ensure that their character and setting is not harmed by inappropriate development proposals. Development proposals within a SLA will be assessed against Policy C2” (Paragraph 5.7.7).

*“Green Wedges have been identified to protect the character and open nature of these designated areas, their countryside setting and to prevent coalescence between settlements ... Development proposals within a Green Wedge will be assessed against Policy C1” (Paragraph 5.7.8).*

3.3.8 BW1 General Policy - Development Proposals states that:

*“All development proposals will be considered favorably [sic] providing they comply with the following criteria where they are applicable: -*

*A        Amenity and Design*

- i. The proposal does not constitute over development of the site in terms of the scale, density, massing and form of the development;*
- iii. The proposal includes a landscaping and planting scheme, which enhances the site and the wider context including green infrastructure and biodiversity networks and allows it to adapt to climate change;*
- vi. The proposal does not have an unacceptable impact upon the amenities of the occupiers of adjoining or neighbouring properties.*

*B        Natural Environment*

- i. The proposal does not result in unacceptable adverse effects in respect of land contamination, instability or subsidence; air, heat, noise or light pollution; landfill gas; water pollution; or flooding, from or to the proposal;*
- ii. The proposal does not result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of a European designated site or its designated features in the context of the site’s conservation objectives;*
- iii. The proposal does not result in a significant adverse effect on a nationally designated site;*
- iv. The proposal contributes to the conservation and/ or enhancement of the strategic biodiversity network of Torfaen and does not result in a significant adverse effect on the network;*
- v. The proposal does not result in the unacceptable loss or harm to features of landscape importance including trees and woodland that have natural heritage or amenity value;*

*C        Built Environment*

- i. The proposal contributes to the preservation and enhancement of the historic built environment wherever possible (including heritage assets and their settings);*
- ii. The proposal does not detrimentally affect the character of the immediate and surrounding built environment...”*

- 3.3.9 Policy C1: Green Wedges states: “Development within designated Green Wedges will only be permitted where the use is either conducive to or enhances the open character of the Green Wedge, respects its rural setting in terms of layout & design and minimises visual intrusion into the landscape.”
- 3.3.10 Policy C2 Special Landscape Areas (SLA’s) states: “In order to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the defined SLA’s development proposals that could impact on these designations will be expected to conform to high standards of design and environmental protection which is appropriate to the LANDMAP character of the area.”
- 3.3.11 Policy C3: Rural Development and Diversification states that:
- “Proposals for rural development and farm diversification schemes will be permitted where:*
- a. They are appropriate for and compatible with its rural location and that the proposed scale, form, siting, design and materials are appropriate to the rural setting and proposed use and that immediate and distant views are not adversely affected by the proposal;*
- 3.3.12 Policy HE1: Buildings and Structures of Local Importance states: “Development proposals affecting buildings and structures of local importance which make a valuable contribution to the character and interest of the local area will not be permitted where the distinctive appearance, architectural integrity or their settings would be significantly adversely affected, unless the benefits of the proposal would outweigh such adverse effects.”

### **Torfaen Replacement Local Development Plan: Preferred Strategy, November 2021**

- 3.3.13 TCBC is preparing a replacement Local Development Plan which is anticipated to cover the period from 2018 to 2033. Whilst this emerging policy is not formally adopted, a number of aspects are relevant to the Proposed Development.
- 3.3.14 Paragraph 2.4.22 states that Torfaen Council declared a ‘climate emergency’ in June 2019 and that the council has pledged to “*support of the future Welsh Government’s All Wales’ Low Carbon 2021 Plan*”.
- 3.3.15 Under the heading ‘Key Issues Challenges and Drivers’ Paragraph 3.1.1, sub-heading ‘Renewables’ states “that there is a continuing need to encourage renewable and low carbon energy generation in appropriate locations and the incorporation of appropriate renewable energy schemes within new developments”.
- 3.3.16 Strategic Policy S6 – Climate Change states:
- “All development proposals will be required to make a positive contribution towards addressing the causes of, and adapting to, the impacts of climate change. Means of achieving this will include .... supporting the development of renewable and low / zero carbon energy...”*
- 3.3.17 Strategic Policy S16 - Green Infrastructure states:
- Development proposals must: maintain, protect and enhance the integrity and connectivity of Torfaen’s green infrastructure, landscape and biodiversity assets through the following key functions:*
- i. Landscape Setting and Quality of Place, by identifying, protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the distinctive landscape and historical, cultural, ecological and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;*
- ii. Habitat Provision and Connectivity by protecting, positively managing and enhancing biodiversity and geological interests, including designated and non-designated sites, and habitats and species of importance and the ecological connectivity between them”.*

3.3.18 Strategic Policy S17 - Conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment states:

*“Development proposals should seek to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the natural, built & historic environment of Torfaen, in particular:*

- a. biodiversity resources;*
- b. geodiversity resources;*
- c. the water environment;*
- d. landscape setting;*
- e. the character of the built environment; and*
- f. historic assets.”*

### Other Relevant Evidence Base

#### Sensitivity and Capacity Study for Renewable Energy Development Blaenau Gwent CBC and Torfaen CBC, October 2021

3.3.19 The study was prepared to assess the sensitivity of the landscape to solar and wind energy development, and in turn their capacity to absorb developments of these type. Landscape sensitivity is rated on a five-grade scale from Very Low to Very High. The Site is located within Landscape Area Unit (LAU) 52: Henllys Vale, Castell-y-Bwch Hollybush.

3.3.20 LAU 52 is identified as being of High sensitivity to solar development, with the following summary provided:

*“The landscape is assessed as of high sensitivity with low tolerance to change of this type without adverse impacts on landscape character.”*

3.3.21 Notwithstanding the above, the following ‘Guidance on Siting’ is given:

*“A fairly large area with a tranquil rural character contrasting with the nearby urban settlement. The following advice should be considered for renewables development within this landscape unit:*

- *Consider using existing woodland and local topography to screen solar development from wider views.*
- *Consider opportunities to site solar development within existing field boundaries, or where these can be enhanced as part of the development.*
- *Only site solar farms within SINC’s where their management can be consistent with management objectives of SINC.*
- *Respect the setting of the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, Conservation Area and listed structures.”*

3.3.22 In terms of landscape capacity, the study states:

*“There is no existing solar development in this landscape unit. There is a single small scale solar development at Cwrt Henllys Farm to the southwest. The landscape **sensitivity is high**. There may be potential to site several small scale solar developments in this area, taking care to avoid cumulative effects and following the guidance above.”*

3.3.23 Small scale solar developments are defined in the study as those under 10ha.



## 4 Landscape Character

- 4.1.1 Landscape character is the combination of physical, perceptual, cultural and historic features of a particular area which together create the unique and distinctive experiential qualities of a given landscape.
- 4.1.2 Landscape Character Assessment is a descriptive approach that seeks to identify and define the distinct character of landscapes that make up the country. This approach recognises the intrinsic value of all landscapes, not just 'special' landscapes, as contributing factors in people's quality of life, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention.
- 4.1.3 This section of the LVIA describes the characteristics and landscape management guidelines of Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and Aspect Areas (AAs) identified in published Landscape Character Assessments and LANDMAP interactive mapping data at a national and regional level that are relevant to the Site and the study area.
- 4.1.4 The description and key characteristics of each LCA are used as a basis for evaluation in order to inform proposed mitigation of landscape and visual effects and to make judgements on the significance of those effects.

### 4.2 National Landscape Character

- 4.2.1 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has developed a series of National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) which are defined at a broad landscape scale throughout Wales. The descriptive profiles for the 48 NLCAs highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics.
- 4.2.2 As shown on **Figure 1: Site Context Plan**, the Site is located within NLCA 35: Casnewydd, Caerdydd a'r Barri / Newport, Cardiff and Barry, which is identified as having the following key characteristics:
- *“Edge to the coalfield - lowland margins to the south-east of the South Wales coalfield.*
  - *A varied geology of mudstones, sandstones and a few outcrops of limestone. Many glacial moraine features.*
  - *Busy, heavily urbanised areas - containing Cardiff, and other large settlements including Penarth and Barry to the south to the west and the city of Newport and new town of Cwmbran to the east...*
  - *Ports – Cardiff, together with Barry and Newport with it's [sic] industrialised river frontage.*
  - *Urban fringe / peri-urban areas – for example land between Penarth and Barry, which contains linear settlement linked by rural roads but has an urban fringe character in parts.*
  - *Green belt with lush fieldscapes and woodlands - rural pastures and woodlands provide a contrasting peaceful in Wales. Medium sized fields are mainly enclosed by hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees.*
  - *Prominent landmark structures - include Millennium Stadium in Cardiff; the series of bridges in Newport including the Transporter bridge; the chemical works at Barry, standing out prominently on the skyline.*
  - *The M4 motorway - forms a noisy, busy corridor between and bypassing the two cities, together with the main railway.*

- *Green wedges / corridors penetrating urban areas – including wooded river corridors in Cardiff and Newport and the coast at Barry.*
- *Lowland river corridors - Rivers Taff and Ely drain into Cardiff Bay and the tidal River Rhymney runs through east Cardiff; the tidal River Usk forms the focus of Newport with the River Ebbw meandering to the south east.”*

4.2.3 The key characteristics of the NLCA and provide useful background to the character of the wider area and the overarching aims for management of the landscape. However, due to the extensive area of the NCA in relation to the Site, and the wide range of landscape characteristics found within it, it is considered highly unlikely that the Development has the potential to result in appreciable effects on the character of the LCA as a whole and so is scoped out of the assessment.

### 4.3 Local Landscape Character

#### Torfaen County Borough Council Designation of Special Landscape Areas (May 2011)

- 4.3.1 TCBC commissioned a review of SLAs in 2009 which drew on NRW SLA Designation Criteria included within LANDMAP Information Guidance Note 1 (June 2008).
- 4.3.2 The review identified eight SLAs with the Site lying with SLA 6 – Southern Lowlands, a predominantly agricultural landscape to the south-west of Cwmbran that comprises approximately 886 hectares (ha). SLA 6 is described as

*“A large area of pleasant rolling, lowland agricultural landscape formed by a series of enclosed hollows and valleys ranging between 20 and 150 metres AOD. It provides for a distinct sense of enclosure and isolation. The majority of the area is of medium scale with muted colours. The western edge rises slightly higher to some 200 metres AOD on the lower side slopes of Mynydd Henllys. It includes Henllys Bog, designated a SSSI, a rich soligeneous lowland fen. Around Henllys are remnants of an earlier medieval landscape characterised by irregular field patterns although the majority of the area is post medieval, with regular fields bounded by hedgerows and in places hedgebanks. With associated sunken lanes there are a number of small spinneys and larger woodlands scattered across the area such as Coed Y Twlch near Greenmeadow. The Monmouthshire-Brecon Canal crosses the eastern part of the areas as does part of the National Cycle network – Lon Las Cymru. There are a number of detractors, particularly along the northern edge of the area on boundary with Cwmbran, and in the Cwmbran Drive area to the east. Furthermore the area is crossed by a number of overhead power lines.”*

4.3.3 Under the heading ‘Key Policy and Management Issues’, the following is identified:

- *“Pressure for development, particularly along the northern and eastern boundaries.*
- *Fly tipping. Litter an issue in places.*
- *Maintenance and management of agricultural landscape features, hedgerows and trees, hedgebanks, spinneys and woodlands.*
- *Management of Monmouthshire – Brecon Canal corridor.*
- *Cross boundary working with Newport on SLA management.”*

4.3.4 The Site lies towards the eastern part of the SLA as represented in **Figure 1: Site Context Plan**. The size, scale, nature of landform and vegetation patterns have created a sense of enclosure and isolation particularly towards the southern part of the Site. The SLA possesses distinctive components and characteristics which make a strong positive contribution to the landscape character. It is noted within the published landscape assessment the overhead powerlines and associated large pylons are detracting feature within the Site and local area therefore it has some scope to accommodate the type of development proposed. On balance, the SLA is considered to have a **High** Value. Due to the size of

the Site in relation to the scale of the overall SLA and retention of woodland blocks and nature of existing landform as part of the landscape strategy it is considered have **Medium** susceptibility and an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

## 4.4 LANDMAP

4.4.1 LANDMAP is the all-Wales spatial landscape character assessment which describes and evaluates the landscape baseline to assist in decision making. LANDMAP classifies the landscape according to 5 separate spatial datasets, dividing Wales into discrete geographical areas known as Aspect Areas ('AAs'), each of which is identified by its own landscape characteristics and qualities. The five LANDMAP spatial datasets are:

- Geological Landscape;
- Landscape Habitats;
- Visual & Sensory;
- Historic Landscape; and
- Cultural Landscape.

4.4.2 The extent of relevant AAs in the study area are illustrated on Figure 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas and Evaluation, Figure 5: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas and Figure 6: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas and Figure 7: Visual and Sensory Evaluation.

4.4.3 Evaluation levels provided within LANDMAP have been reviewed and aligned as appropriate to the criteria as set out within Appendix 1: LVIA Methodology, as depicted in Table 1.

**Table 1: AA Evaluation Criteria for LANDMAP and ES Chapter equivalent**

Level	Criteria	ES Chapter Value
Outstanding	Of international or national importance to the Aspect Area	High
High	Of regional or county importance to the Aspect Area	High - Medium
Moderate	Of sub-regional importance to the Aspect Area	Medium - Low
Local	Of little or no importance to the Aspect Area	Low

### Site LANDMAP Aspect Areas

4.4.4 The Site is located within the following AAs, with relevant evaluations and guidance also set out:

- *Geological Landscape AA: Castell y Bwch (TRFNGL007), which is characterised as "Parallel, N-S ridges, formed in two units of W-dipping St Maughans Fm sandstones, interbedded with marls. Psammosteus Limestone (calcrete horizon) in narrow outcrop band below and east of lower sandstone. No mineral extraction. Very restricted alluvium in minor valleys". The area is identified as having Moderate overall value and fair condition, with a long-term guideline of retaining "geomorphological landscape features (ridges) outside urban areas".*
- *Landscape Habitats AA: TRFNLH030, a large area to the south-west of Cwmbrian which is identified as having **Outstanding** overall evaluation due to the presence of protected sites and important species, with management guidelines including protecting, enhancing and managing all key habitats and restoring degraded habitats.*

- *Cultural Landscape AA: TRFNCLS003, which is identified as having **Moderate** character and scenic quality, with no guidance given and no information relating to art, folklore or events/traditions.*
- *Historic Landscape AA: Cefn Mynach Grange (TRFNHL005), which is described as: “Medieval/post-medieval estate managed agricultural landscape. Communications route, specifically canal. Former monastic grange site. Ancient woodland.” The overall evaluation is **High**, “reflecting the survival of a remarkably intact irregular fieldscape and an associated pattern of dispersed settlement of medieval/early post-medieval origin”. The guidelines are stated as “keep as present, restrict development”.*

### GN46 LANDMAP Filtering

4.4.5 The process by which the LANDMAP (Aspect Areas) AAs to be included within the scope of the LVIA are filtered is set out in NRW Guidance Note 46: Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Assessments<sup>ii</sup>. NRW Guidance Note 46 identifies an appropriate study area for the Proposed Development to be 2km. Therefore, only the LANDMAP AAs within 2km of the Site have been detailed below.

### Geological Landscapes

4.4.6 As set out above, the Site is located within Geological Landscape AA: Castell y Bwch (TRFNGL007)<sup>iii</sup> and is scored as Moderate for Rarity/Uniqueness and has an overall **Moderate** evaluation. The AA also has a special or functional link with AA St Maughans Fm Outcrop Area (TRFN006)<sup>iv</sup>; has an overall Moderate evaluation. However, TRFN006 AA is not considered to have a special or functional link with an adjacent area (Q2). The Site also lies adjacent to AA Craig-y-Ceilog (NWPRTGL051)<sup>v</sup>; however, this AA is not identified as being Outstanding or High under Q31 or Q33 and is therefore scoped out of the assessment.

4.4.7 As a temporary and reversible solar development with minimal changes to landform or impacts on underlying geology as whole, it is likely that any effects arising from the Proposed Development will be negligible at most, and therefore not likely to be of importance to the decision-making process. Geological Aspect Areas have therefore been scoped out of the LVIA.

### Landscape Habitats

4.4.8 As set out the above, the Site entirely within AA: TRFNLH030<sup>vi</sup> and is considered to have an overall **Outstanding** (of international or national importance) evaluation. The value of the AA is due to the presence of protected sites and important species, with management guidelines including protecting, enhancing and managing all key habitats and restoring degraded habitats. However, under Q6 and 7, there is ‘No Answer’ with regards to the AA possessing international importance. The AA is defined by Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland, Planted Coniferous Woodland, Improved Grassland, Semi-Improved Grassland and pastoral land which is representative of the Site to some degree. On balance, the AA is considered to make strong positive contribution to the landscape character as it contains designated Ancient Woodlands and mature hedgerow trees resulting in a **High** Value. Majority of the landscape features/habitats will be retained with limited hedgerow removal for proposed access. Existing woodlands, copses and treebelts will all be retained as part of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the fields will be used for grazing during the course of the Proposed Development. As a result, the AA is considered to be of **Low** susceptibility with an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

4.4.9 The southern Site boundary lies adjacent to AA: NWPRTLH048<sup>vii</sup>, with a **High** overall evaluation due to “a large number of locally important biodiversity sites, the mosaic of grassland, with arable and denser hedges, together with the brook and canal”. This AA has a special function link with AA: TRFNLH030 and lies adjacent to the southern Site boundary. Habitat types include Semi-Natural Broadleaved Woodland, Improved Grassland, Semi-Improved Grassland and Arable land which is representative of the Site to some degree. However, under Q6 and 7, there is ‘No Answer’ with regards to the AA possessing international importance. There are no designated wildlife sites or ancient woodland within the immediate setting of the Site. On balance, it is considered be of **Medium** value as the AA has some

contribution towards landscape character at borough level. Susceptibility is considered **Low** as the nature of the Proposed Development will result in little/no consequence upon the overall integrity of the AA, as the Site lies outwith. The AA is considered to have an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the type of development proposed.

- 4.4.10 AA NWPRTLH048 is considered to have a special link with AA NWPTLH007 but this lies beyond the search area and TRFNH030 which the Site lies in and is therefore scoped out.

### Cultural Landscape Services

- 4.4.11 As noted above, the Site is located within AA: TRFNCLS003<sup>viii</sup> and is described as having attractive views in and out, with a **Moderate** (of sub-regional importance) sense of place, scenic qualities and character. In line with GN46 Q17 to 21 all describe the AA as have no answer for artistic expressions, folklore/legends and events/traditions associated with the landscape/area. It is considered to have Moderate Visual and Sensory Landscape Value. The AA is considered to be of predominantly local value particularly in the vicinity of the Site, and as such is considered to be of **Low** value. The type of development proposed would likely have some localised effects on the visual and sensory landscape elements of the AA but is likely to have limited effect on the geological and historic landscape elements. It is therefore considered AA is likely to accommodate the type of development proposed with little/no consequences on the overall AA. As a result, the susceptibility and overall sensitivity are considered to be **Low**.
- 4.4.12 The AA: Maescoed (NWPRTCLS021)<sup>ix</sup> is adjacent to the southern Site boundary which is defined as having **High** (Of regional or county importance) Visual and Sensory Landscape Value and is noted as “*attractive despite poor condition in limited areas*”. It is also described as “tranquil” and possessing attractive views in and out. However, no art, folklore or events / traditions are identified. In line with GN46 Q17 to 21 all describe the AA as “*no answer*” for artistic expressions, folklore/legends and events/traditions associated with the landscape/area. The AA is considered to be of importance at borough level particularly with views in and out in the vicinity of the Site, and therefore considered to be of **Medium** value. The type of development proposed would likely have some localised effects on the visual and sensory landscape elements of the AA but is likely to have limited effect on the geological and historic landscape elements. It is therefore considered AA is likely to accommodate the type of development proposed with little/no consequences on the overall AA. As a result, the susceptibility and overall sensitivity are considered to be **Medium**.
- 4.4.13 AA NWPRTCLS024<sup>x</sup> also adjacent to the southern Site boundary and TRFNCLS002 AA adjacent to NWPRTCLS021 AA to the west are both described as **Moderate** Visual and Sensory Landscape Value. Q17 to 21 all describe the AA as having “*No Answer*” for artistic expressions, folklore/legends and events/traditions associated with the landscape/area. As a result of the Site Survey, it is considered highly unlikely there will be views of the Proposed Development due to intervening woodlands scattered across the study area which significantly screens views from the two AAs and so is scoped out of the assessment.
- 4.4.14 In accordance with Filter 3 in GN46 all AAs where the Proposed Development will be visible in the ZTV are to be assessed. The following AAs within the 2km study area include: Torfaen TRFNCLS039, Bettws NWPRTCLS068, Malpas Brook Valley NWPRTCLS023 and Malpas NWPRTCLS066. As a result of the Site Survey, it is considered highly unlikely there will be views of the Proposed Development due to intervening woodlands scattered across the study area which significantly screens views from Torfaen TRFNCLS039 AA, Bettws NWPRTCLS068 AA, Malpas Brook Valley NWPRTCLS023 AA and Malpas NWPRTCLS066 AA.

### Historic Landscapes

- 4.4.15 As noted above the Site is within AA: HL005 Cefn Mynach Grange (TRFNHL005)<sup>xi</sup>. The AA is assigned a **High** value (of regional or county importance) and is in good condition. It is identified as being an area which reflects “*the survival of a remarkably intact irregular fieldscape and an associated pattern of dispersed settlement of medieval/early post-medieval origin, in spite of limited encroachment by modern urban housing on its northern fringes.*” It also has a special/functional link with the “*surviving fieldscape of Magna Porta Grange, now separated by urban TRFNHL001 Cwmbran*”. The intact, irregular field

pattern is representative of the nature of the Site however encroachment of modern urban housing is not limited as stated in the description for the AA. Based on the following information, it is considered to have **Medium** value as the AA has some positive contribution towards landscape character at borough level. Susceptibility is considered to be **Low** as the AA and has the potential to accommodate the proposed development due to retention of existing field patterns and woodlands. There will be with little/no consequences upon its overall integrity and an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

4.4.16 The following AAs within the study area are indicated by the ZTV to have intervisibility with the Site:

- *Cwmbran (TRFNHL001) – Overall Evaluation High;*
- *Mescoed Mawr (NWPRTL004) – Overall Evaluation High;*
- *Park Farm (NWPRTL007) – Overall Evaluation High;*
- *Edlogan and Tregrug (TRFNHL002) – Overall Evaluation High;*
- *HL006 Henllys (TRFNHL006) – Overall Evaluation High;*
- *Mynydd Henllys and Mynydd Maen (TRFNHL007) – Overall Evaluation Outstanding;*
- *Llantarnam Abbey (TRFNHL004) – Overall Evaluation Outstanding.*
- *Ebbwy Settlement Corridor (CYNONHL465) - Overall Evaluation High*

4.4.17 In accordance with GN46 only those AAs with intervisibility with the Site and identified as having an Outstanding or High overall evaluation are included within the scope of this assessment or AAs evaluated as ‘Moderate’ or ‘Low’ where there is a potential for a large magnitude of change and opportunities for restoration and interpretation. The key characteristics of these AAs are set out below:

#### **Cwmbran (TRFNHL001)**

4.4.18 The AA is described as “New town of Cwmbran; modern expansion of urban settlement over medieval/post-medieval open fields. Scattered post-medieval coal, iron, steel and tinplate industries and lines of communication (road, rail and canal). Post medieval industrial settlement. Partly former monastic grange land”<sup>xii</sup>. Although the AA is considered to be of High value due to its post-medieval industries, its condition is considered “poor”. Based on the following information it is considered that the AA has a **Medium** value. The AA has an urban character which differs from the pastoral character of TRFNHL005 Cefn Mynach Grange (in which the Site lies) and the nature of the type of development proposed. Furthermore, there is very limited to no intervisibility of the Proposed Development from the AA therefore it is considered to have **Low** Susceptibility and an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

#### **Mescoed Mawr (NWPRTL004)**

4.4.19 The AA sits adjacent to the southern Site boundary and is described as “A large aspect area with the M4 corridor (NHL024) bordering to the south, Malpas to the east and Rogerstone to the west (NHL036) and enclosing the planted estate of Bettws (NHL026). The area was heavily forested until the post-medieval period when large areas were opened up into a regular fieldscape of large fields”<sup>xiii</sup>. The value is High with “moderate” condition and has a special/functional link with HL006 Henllys AA and Torfaen. Based on the condition and nature of the AA it is considered to have a **Medium** value due to its regular fieldscape of large fields and intact boundary vegetation (hedgerows and hedgerow trees) which is similar to that of HL005 Cefn Mynach Grange (TRFNHL005) in which the Site lies. As a result, it is considered to have some positive contribution to landscape character at borough level. Susceptibility is considered **Low** as the AA has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed as no direct effects are considered to arise from the Proposed Development. On balance, there will be an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

### Henllys (TRFNHL006)

4.4.20 The AA is described as a “Medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape with dispersed settlement of scattered farmsteads centred on ecclesiastical and manorial centres. Wealth of early post-medieval vernacular buildings. Ancient woodland”<sup>xiv</sup>. Value is attributed as High, with condition stated as good. The AA is considered to have made some positive contribution to the landscape character at borough level and contains designated Ancient Woodlands as does HL005 Cefn Mynach Grange (TRFNHL005) AA in which the Site lies. It is considered to have some positive contribution to landscape character at borough level and is therefore considered to have **Medium** value. Although, there will be some intervisibility of the Proposed Development from the AA Susceptibility is considered **Low** due to existing intervening woodland blocks and so has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed with little consequences upon its overall integrity. Overall sensitivity is also considered to be **Medium**.

### Park Farm (NWPRTL007)

4.4.21 The AA is described as “A rural landscape of large regular fields to the north of the modern settlement at Caerleon” with Iron Age and Roman archaeology. The value is assessed as High with the condition given as Moderate. Based on the condition and nature of the AA it is considered to have a **Low** value as it is considered to have little to no wider recognition or value due to urbanising influences (A4042) detracting from the rural character of the AA and increased distance from the Site; approximately 2.7km. Susceptibility is considered **Low** as the AA has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed with little consequences upon its overall integrity and an overall **Low** Sensitivity.

### Edlogan and Tregrug (TRFNHL002)

4.4.22 The AA is characterised as a “Medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape with dispersed settlement of scattered farmsteads and small ecclesiastical/manorial centres. Wealth of early post-medieval vernacular buildings. Ancient woodland. Specific elements include: agricultural landscape; dispersed settlement centred on small ecclesiastical/manorial centres. Early post-medieval buildings. Communication routes”. The value is High, with condition stated as Good. The AA is considered to have made some positive contribution to the landscape character at borough level and contains designated Ancient Woodlands. It is therefore considered to have **Medium** value. Susceptibility is considered **Low** as the AA has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed with little consequences upon its overall integrity and an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

### Mynydd Henllys and Mynydd Maen (TRFNHL007)

4.4.23 The AA is described as a “Medieval/post-medieval agricultural landscape with small areas of industrial incursion, mostly mineral extraction (iron and coal). Prehistoric (Bronze Age) funerary/ritual landscape, specific elements include cairn group. Wealth of early post-medieval vernacular buildings. Grange land. Ancient woodland”. Its value is Outstanding and is in “good” condition. The AA is considered to be of **High** value as it is considered to make a strong positive contribution to landscape character. Furthermore, it contains a series of Ancient Woodland, series of Public Rights of Way and CROW access land. In line with the ZTV and site survey there will be views of the Proposed Development long distance views however may be filtered due to the presence of intervening woodland blocks therefore it is considered to have **Medium** susceptibility to the proposed development and an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

### Llantarnam Abbey (TRFNHL004)

4.4.24 The AA is described as a “Medieval Abbey and Grange; post-medieval house, gardens, park and estate. Registered park and garden. Archaeologically Sensitive Area”. Value is identified as Outstanding and is in “good” condition. The AA contains designated Ancient Woodland, Listed Buildings, a Conservation Area and lies within a Special Landscape Area and Green Wedge. As a result, it is considered to have some contribution to landscape character as borough/county level and have **Medium** value. Susceptibility is considered **Low** as the AA has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed with little consequences upon its overall integrity and an overall **Medium** Sensitivity.

### Ebbw Settlement Corridor (CYNONHL465)

4.4.25 The AA is described as “A heavily urbanised transport corridor with the emphasis placed firmly on industrial occupation activity. The aspect area is defined by the meandering course of both the Cwm and Afon Ebbw south from Crumlin, through Abercarn and Cross Keys to the Unitary Authority boundary at Risca...”<sup>xv</sup>. Value is identified as High, and condition is “unassessed”. There is a very limited part of the AA that lies within the extents of the search area and does not contain any designations which reduces its value to **Low**. There is very limited to no intervisibility therefore susceptibility is considered **Low** as the AA has the potential to accommodate the type of development proposed with little consequences upon its overall integrity and have an overall **Low** Sensitivity.

### Visual and Sensory

4.4.26 Figure 6: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Landscapes shows that there are 6 Visual and Sensory AAs that fall within the 2km Study Area and 3km Search Area and are overlain by the ZTV, in accordance with Filters 1 to 3 of GN46.

4.4.27 The Site lies in AA TRFNVS004<sup>xvi</sup> and is described as “Enclosed series of hollows and valleys ranging from approximately 20m to 150m AOD with defined wooded blocks and vegetated boundaries. Pleasant rural character overall, but the sharp urban edge to the north detracts from this locally and sensitises the observer to other detractors that include overhead power lines and traffic noise from Cwmbran Drive. Possibly due to its location adjacent to the urban rae [sic], the area has a network of Public Rights of Way and a cycle route along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, that provide recreational facilities [sic] for the residents of southern Cwmbran”. AA TRFNVS004 is identified as having a Moderate overall evaluation as a “pleasant rural landscape with some attractive views” but “no single noteworthy quality”. The sense of place and character are also described as Moderate. Sense of place is described as “pleasant rolling farmland with no determining distinctive characteristics [sic] but mix of rural with tinge of urban edge”. Management guidelines include conserving existing agricultural management, protecting broadleaved woodland and managing hedgerows. The AA is considered to make some positive contribution to landscape character and contains designated Ancient Woodlands thus resulting in a **Medium** Value. The landscape strategy as part of the proposed development seeks to retain woodland blocks within the Site, although its rural character will be lost to some degree. Due to the urbanising influences in proximity to the Site (Hollybush settlement) and overhead powerlines within the Site it is considered to **Medium** susceptibility and an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

4.4.28 In the recommendations section management remarks include to conserve agricultural management as existing and medium-term guidelines suggest to “*protect woodland: broadleaf*” and “*manage hedgerows*”.

**Table 2: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas with a Low or Moderate value.**

Value	Aspect Areas
Low	AA: TRFNVS045 (the urban area of Cwmbran) AA: Malpas NWPRTVS048 AA: Bettws NWPRTVS050
Moderate	AA: Bettws Farmland NWPRTVS017 (Q46 and Q48 Moderate also) AA: TRFNVS008 (Q46 and Q48 Low) AA: Carleone Farmlands NWPRTVS025 – (Q46 and Q48 Moderate also) AA: Ynysfro NWPRTVS015 (Q46 and Q48 Moderate also);

4.4.29 The following AAs within the study area are indicated by the ZTV to have intervisibility with the Site:

- AA: Malpas Brook Valley NWPRTVS016 – Overall Evaluation Moderate (Q46 and Q48 Moderate also);
- AA: TRFNVS002 – Overall Evaluation Moderate (Q46 High);



- AA: TRFNVS011 – Overall Evaluation High;
- AA: Maescoed NWPRTVS014 – Overall Evaluation High;
- AA: TRFNVS044 – Overall Evaluation High; and
- AA: TRFNVS024 – Overall Evaluation High.

4.4.30 In accordance with GN46, only those Visual and Sensory AAs with intervisibility with the Site and High overall evaluations, or Moderate overall evaluations and High evaluations for scenic quality or character (Q46 or Q48) are included in the scope of the assessment. The key characteristics of these AAs are set out below.

### TRFNVS002

4.4.31 The AA is described as an “Upland area with easterly aspect ranging from approximately 120m to 200m AOD, dominated by slopes, wooded (broadleaf and conifer) blocks and open tops to produce a mosaic pattern... Very quiet, secluded, with slight lowland feel engendered by proximity to, and extent of views over, the adjacent rolling farmland, and the wider views to the urban area of Cwmbran and Sebastopol... This proximity may explain the network of public footpaths that criss cross the area, several of which provide a direct access link with the urban area”. The overall evaluation of the AA is Moderate due to the “generally intact/unspoilt upland area with mosaic pattern and distinct lowland feel, moderate top, with some attractive views but also some detractive views in places”, however scenic quality (Q46) is evaluated as High due to “some attractive views both within and out”. Following field assessment and due to the nature of the landform and intervening vegetation which reduces the potential for intervisibility between this AA and proposed development, will not result in a large magnitude of change and in accordance with GN46 has been scoped out.

### TRFNVS011

4.4.32 The AA is described as “A quiet secluded rolling landscape ranging from approximately 30m to 110mAOD, with generally wast [sic] Facing slope. It is sandwiched by the large urban area of Cwmbran to the west, and to a lesser extent by Caerleon Road and Ponthir to the south. The rolling [sic] landscape is characterised [sic] by the mosaic pattern of hedges and broadleaf woodland, along/through which run a comprehensive network of footpaths. Views E enclosed by opposite valley side. large scale landscape with strong visual unity”. The overall evaluation is High due to “noteworthy qualities include generally unspoilt landscape and strong visual unity”, however scenic quality (Q46) is Moderate due to being “slightly enclosed by landform/cover”. Following field assessment and due to the nature of the landform and intervening vegetation which reduces the potential for intervisibility between this AA and proposed development, and therefore will not result in a large magnitude of change and in accordance with GN46 has been scoped out.

### Maescoed (NWPRTVS014)

4.4.33 The AA is described as a “Ridge with the steep slopes in places rising from 60m AOD to up to 213m AOD. The landcover consists of coniferous woodland dominated by spruce with some deciduous woodland on the lower northern slopes and a mosaic of small - medium scale pastures bounded by cut hedges, overgrown in parts. Trees are prominent in some field boundaries and on skylines. The area is accessed by a narrow hedged lanes sometimes with holly and settlement is scattered with occasional farmhouses. The area borders expanded settlements with housing estates which cause pressure on the landscape with signs of vandalism, worn road verges and rubbish dumping. The area acts as an important rural backcloth to these settlements. There are two reservoirs- one, the tranquil and hidden Pant-yr-Eos to the north and at the more accessible YnysFro to the south. These add interest to the landscape. There is evidence of horsiculture, a small hilltop reservoir and there is an established golf course which breaks up the field pattern, all of which introduce an urban fringe character. The area is generally tranquil, disturbed only by adjacent housing.” The AA is evaluated as High for Scenic Quality and Character (Q46 and Q48). The overall evaluation and scenic qualities of the AA are High due to it being “An attractive and distinct ridge wooded mosaic landscape with attractive waterbodies”. The AA is considered to make some positive contribution to landscape character along with containing

designated Ancient Woodland and Countryside Rights of Way Access Land thus resulting in a **Medium** Value. The landscape strategy as part of the Proposed Development seeks to retain woodland blocks within Site therefore the AA has the ability to accommodate the type of development proposed without little to no consequences upon its overall integrity. On balance, it is considered to have **Low** susceptibility and an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

#### TRFNVS044

4.4.34 The AA is characterised as “Rough grazing on slopes below upland grazing/hill tops, ranging approximately from 200m to 350mAOD... strong relationship between higher area of Cwmbran and hills beyond... Dramatic views over valley below and rest of Cwmbran... landscape on lower slopes dominated **[sic]** by urban development, elsewhere mosaic of field pattern and broadleaf woodland and conifer plantation are the dominant characteristic... Visual detractors include the sharp urban edge **[sic]** to east and overhead electricity cables...”. Overall evaluation is High due to “notable qualities include scenic value for the views of adjacent upland and general unspoilt nature/integrity”, however, under scenic quality the following is noted: “views out to upland and within attractive, but views out to urban are unattractive **[sic]**, therefore borderline high/moderate”. Following field assessment and due to the nature of the landform and intervening vegetation which reduces the potential for intervisibility between this AA and proposed development, and therefore will not result in a large magnitude of change and in accordance with GN46 has been scoped out.

#### TRFNVS024

4.4.35 The AA is described as an “Upland area ranging from approximately 400m to 550mAOD... land cover dominated by open grazed hill tops of rough grassland/heath, exposed/windy and with panoramic views over upland areas and over valleys... Strong sense of place result of views and simple set of defining /distinctive elements (open/ hilly /rough grassland/exposure/elevation)”. Overall evaluation, character and scenic qualities are **High** due to “upland areas with attractive upland views, strong sense of place and generally unspoilt”. The AA is considered to make some positive contribution to landscape character and contains designated Countryside Rights of Way Access Land thus resulting in a **Medium** Value. Due to increased distance from the Site (nearly 3km) and the landscape strategy proposing to retain woodland blocks within Site therefore resulting in little/no consequence upon its overall integrity. On balance, it is considered to have **Low** susceptibility and an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### 4.5 Published Landscape Character Receptors

4.5.1 On the basis of a comprehensive review of published landscape character assessments, LANDMAP information and analysis of the landscape of the Site and its context, a series of receptors have been identified against which the landscape effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed. Beyond the AA in which the Site is situated, data from the LANDMAP AA has been consolidated in Table 3 below.

**Table 3: Summary of Sensitivity of Published Landscape Receptors**

<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Reason for inclusion</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
SLA 6: Southern Lowlands	Site within SLA	High	Medium	Medium
Landscape Habitats AA: TRFNLH030	Site within AA	High	Low	Medium
Cultural Landscape Services AA: TRFNCLS003	Site within AA	Low	Low	Low
Historic Landscapes AA: Cefn Mynach Grange TRFNHL005	Site within AA	Medium	Low	Medium
Visual and Sensory AA: TRFNVS004	Site within AA	Medium	Medium	Medium
<b>Landscape Habitats AA:</b>				
NWPRTLH048	Adjacent to the Site	Medium	Low	Medium
<b>Cultural Landscape Services AA:</b>				
Maescoed NWPRTCLS021	Adjacent to southern Site boundary	Medium	Low	Medium
<b>Historic Landscapes AA</b>				
Cwmbran TRFNHL001	In Study Area (2km)	Medium	Low	Medium
Mescoed Mawr NWPRTLH004	Adjacent to southern Site boundary	Medium	Low	Medium
Henllys TRFNHL006	Adjacent to AA	Medium	Low	Medium
Park Farm NWPRTLH007	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Low	Low	Low
Edlogan and Tregrug TRFNHL002	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Medium	Low	Medium
Mynydd Henllys and Mynydd Maen TRFNHL007	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	High	Medium	Medium
Llantarnam Abbey TRFNHL004	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Medium	Low	Medium
Ebbwy Settlement Corridor CYNONHL465	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Low	Low	Low
<b>Visual and Sensory AA</b>				
Maescoed (NWPRTVS014)	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Medium	Low	Medium
TRFNVS024	Intervisibility in Search Area (3km)	Medium	Low	Medium

## 5 Site Appraisal

- 5.1.1 A landscape appraisal has been undertaken to ascertain the existing character of the Site through assessing existing landscape features and landscape character. This is achieved through recording and analysing existing landscape features and characteristics, the way the landscape is experienced and the value/importance of the landscape and visual resources in the vicinity of the Site. Elements of the landscape that contribute to landscape character include the built and natural form, the pattern of features, detailing, scale, planting, land use and human perception. In this regard, landscape character is derived as a result of the perception of, and action and interaction of, natural and human factors. The character and physical features of the Site are described below with reference to Site Appraisal Photographs (SAPs) A-P, included in **Appendix A.3 Site Appraisal Photographs**. The locations of photographic viewpoints are illustrated on **Figure 3: Site Appraisal Plan**.
- 5.1.2 The Site comprises approximately 46.72 ha of agricultural land and mixed woodland, 12 pastoral fields of irregular size and shape, defined by a mixture of substantial tree belts and clipped hedgerows. Similarly, the Site itself is bounded by dense tree belts with more extensive woodland blocks to the north-east (Limekiln Wood) and north-west (Henllys Wood). As the northern part of the Site occupies the southern flank of a foothill, the landform within the Site peaks at this point at approximately 85m AOD and slopes in a southerly direction where it reaches its lowest point at ca.30m AOD in the south-eastern corner of the Site.
- 5.1.3 SAPs A to D demonstrate views of the northern parts of the Site particularly Fields 1 and 2 which are the more elevated parts of the Site, with PRoW 416/40/1 and a hedgerow running north - south between the two. The strongly wooded nature of intervening field boundaries strongly filters views of the local landscape, however the rising landform of Mynnedd Henllys is such that the ridgeline forms a prominent western horizon, with Twmbrlwm visible in the distance. **SAP C** shows the view from PRoW 416/39/1 in the western extent of Field 1, where the combination of mature trees and lower landform results in a greater sense of enclosure. Electric pylons and overhead electrical lines are also notable crossing the Site as shown in **SAP B** in Field 1 as well as **SAP D** where they are visible in the background of the view to the west in Field 2. Field 2 occupies the eastern flank of the ridgeline, with the lower lying valley landscape and robust tree belts on the Site boundary resulting in a more limited visual envelope, albeit there are views outwards to the south-east where built form in Bettws can be seen from elevated positions, as demonstrated by **SAP D**.
- 5.1.4 **SAP E** illustrates views looking south from Field 3 showing individual canopy oak trees located centrally in the grassland field. The view demonstrates the strong enclosure provided by vegetation to the margins of the view due to existing internal field boundary vegetation, but also the open views that are available to the wider rolling landscape to the south. This is demonstrated in **SAP F** taken from PRoW 416/40/1 where there is a stronger sense of enclosure as levels fall away from the ridge.
- 5.1.5 **SAPs G to I** illustrate views from Field 4 in the southern part of the Site. From **SAP G and H**, mid to long distance views of the landscape particularly of wooded hills such as Wern yr Huad and Coed Badw which decreases incrementally towards lower lying field margins. A small patch of scrub and canopy trees is also located centrally within Field 4 as shown in **SAP G**. Due to the nature of the rolling landform views of Fields 5 and 12 in the south-eastern corner of the Site are visible. Steep sloping ground marks the southern extent of the ridgeline in Field 5, further south, the land is broadly level. Similarly, **SAP I** demonstrates open views of the wider landscape and the rolling nature of Field 4 to the south-east. **SAP J** shows the view experienced from PRoW 416/40/1 where it enters the Site from the south at the edge of Field 5 of a hill bounded by native tree belts. The south-eastern boundary of Field 4 is defined by robust hedgerows with trees, notable on the elevated skyline.
- 5.1.6 **SAP K** illustrates the view looking south-east from the northern end of Field 6, which comprises a narrow, north-south oriented pasture on the eastern edge of the Site. Other than framed views out to the local rolling landscape to the south and a small gap in the tree belts on the eastern boundary, there is a strong sense of enclosure in this part of the Site. An electric pylon and overhead power lines are also a notable feature in the view.

**SAPs L, M, N, O and P** illustrate views of Fields 7 to 11, all of which are small fields framed by dense tree belts on the western flank of the Site. The rising landscape of Cwmcarn is also seen visible rising above the intervening vegetation particularly in **SAP L** with limited long distant views present in **SAP M and N**. Due to the strong framework of vegetation and scale of parcels in the western part of the Site (Fields 8, 10 and 11), there is a notable sense of enclosure in this part of the Site particularly in **SAPs O and P**.

## 5.2 Landscape Receptors

5.2.1 On the basis of the Site Appraisal a series of landscape features have been identified as receptors for the assessment of effects arising from the Proposed Development. Full commentary on value, susceptibility and resulting sensitivity of these receptors, is set out in Table 4 below.

### Fields

5.2.2 The Site and surrounding local and wider area particularly to the west consists of irregular field parcels varying in size. The character of the field varies where some are strongly defined by woodlands and tree belts and others consist of individual or small groups of trees intermittently situated along or within field boundaries. The Site itself consists of 12 irregular shaped pastoral fields varying in size with boundaries typically defined by established tree belts and woodland blocks, with occasional hedgerows and trees. The fields are a key feature of the Site and local area and make some positive contribution to the landscape character, therefore the feature is considered to have **Medium** value. Although, there will be development on the fields, the feature will not be lost as a whole as they will continue to be used for grazing during the lifetime of the Proposed Development. As a result, the receptor is considered to have some scope to accommodate the type of development proposed resulting in **Medium** susceptibility and overall sensitivity.

### Tree Belts/Woodland

5.2.3 The Site is strongly defined by mature, native woodland and treebelts. A majority of the Site boundaries are defined by woodland and tree belts with woodland along the northern boundary being designated as ancient woodland. The following landscape features are considered to be typical and defining features of the Site and local landscape character as they contribute to the scenic quality of the area. The Proposed Development allows for the retention of such features. Nonetheless, the landscape strategy allows for the retention and proposed new native woodland which will strengthen the landscape character. On balance, the value is considered **High**, and susceptibility is considered to be **High** as they are not readily replaced. On this basis, the receptor is judged to have a **High** sensitivity.

### Individual Trees/Small Trees Groups

5.2.4 There are some notable large mature trees across the Site. However, they are not designated features. The mature trees scattered across the Site make some positive contribution to the local landscape character, giving it a **Medium** value. The trees within the Site have the potential to be retained and so will not affect the overall integrity of the feature. This results a **Low** susceptibility and an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### Hedgerows

5.2.5 The Site is comprised of mature low-lying gappy hedgerows with occasional hedgerow trees parcels particularly in the northern and western parts of the Site and are a typical feature within the landscape setting with some scenic quality. Therefore, the value is considered to be **Medium**. The layout of the Proposed Development allows for the retention of most hedgerow although a limited amount will be removed for access and maintenance access into the Site. The landscape strategy also proposes the management and reinforcement of existing hedgerows across the Site. On this basis, the receptor is judged to have a **Low** susceptibility and resulting **Medium** sensitivity.

### Hedgerow Trees

5.2.6 There are some hedgerow trees within the Site along field parcels particularly in the northern and western parts of the Site. Hedgerow trees are not rare and considered a typical feature within the landscape setting, therefore, the value is considered to be **Medium**. The layout of the Proposed Development allows for the retention of hedgerow trees although their susceptibility is considered **Medium** as they are not easily replaced. On this basis, the receptor is judged to have an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### The Character of the Site and its Immediate Context

5.2.7 The Site and its immediate setting are predominantly rural. The local agricultural landscape comprises a patchwork of irregular size and shape fields defined with tree belts and woodlands, chiefly in pastoral use, with sporadic farmsteads and small clusters of houses. This is largely the case with the Site itself. The nature of the Site is largely shaped by the local landform as the northern part of the Site occupies the southern flank of a foothill, where the landform within the Site peaks at ca.85m AOD and slopes in a southerly direction where it reaches its lowest point at ca.30m AOD in the south-eastern corner of the Site. The Site comprises 12 irregular shaped pastoral fields strongly defined by established mature woodland and tree belts some of which are ancient woodland which are characteristic features of the local landscape character. The nature of the landform combined with existing woodland and tree belts form a mix of enclosed spaces on low-lying land to rising parts of the Site which have an open nature. Other common landscape features across the Site include hedgerows, hedgerow trees and small groups of trees. On this basis, the character of the Site and its immediate context are considered to have a **Medium** value.

5.2.8 It is considered that the character of the Site and its immediate setting have some capacity to accommodate the type of development proposed without disturbing the integrity of valued landscape features such as the existing woodland and tree belts which will all be retained and managed through the course of the Development. There will be loss of a small proportion of hedgerows, however a majority of the hedgerows will be reinforced and managed. Furthermore, there will be a change in character of the fields however they will not be lost as a whole, rather there will be a temporary change in use albeit there will be a loss of openness to some degree. As a result, it is considered the Site and its immediate setting have some scope to accommodate change so is considered to be **Medium** susceptibility with an overall **Medium** sensitivity.

**Table 4: Summary of Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors**

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
Fields	Medium	Medium	Medium
Tree Belts/Woodland	High	High	High
Individual Trees/Small Trees Groups	Medium	Low	Medium
Hedgerows	Medium	Low	Medium
Hedgerow Trees	Medium	Medium	Medium
The Character of the Site and its Immediate Context	Medium	Medium	Medium

## 6 Visual Appraisal

- 6.1.1 A visual appraisal was undertaken to determine the relationship of the Site with its surroundings and the approximate extent of its visibility within the wider landscape as experienced from publicly accessible viewpoints (roads, footways, public rights of way and open spaces). The visibility of the Site is predominantly influenced by landform and the extent and type of vegetation cover and built elements within the surrounding landscape. Baseline studies of these features enabled the identification of the potential visibility of the Site from the surrounding area to be tested through fieldwork.
- 6.1.2 A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) was prepared to assist in the selection of viewpoints and inform the assessment of likely visual effects. Visibility of the Site is predominantly influenced by landform and the extent and type of vegetation cover and built elements within the surrounding landscape. Baseline studies of these features enabled the identification of the potential visibility of the Site from the surrounding area to be tested through fieldwork. The ZTV was used to inform and guide field surveys, which have been carried out to assess the visual effects of the Proposed Development robustly and accurately, in accordance with the GLVIA.
- 6.1.3 On the basis of the ZTV and field surveys, a series of representative views have been selected to support the assessment of the potential visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. The location and quantity of the Site Context Photographs (SCPs) were agreed with officers of TCBC and Newport City Council on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 following extensive consultations. A record of these consultations is set out in **Appendix A.5: Consultation Record**. The ZTV is presented on **Figure 7: Visual Appraisal Plan and Zone of Theoretical Visibility**, with the location of the SCPs also shown. The SCP images (1 - 23) are presented in **Appendix A.3: Site Context Photographs**, with a description of the baseline visual characteristics of the Site set out below.

### Immediate Context

- 6.1.4 People travelling along public footpath 416/39/1 will experience filtered views of the Site through occasional gaps in the existing woodland belt (Henllys Wood Ancient Woodland) situated along the north-western Site boundary; illustrated in **SCP 6**. Views for people travelling along Pentre Lane just south of the Site will consist of filtered and transient views through gaps in the treebelt; see **SCP 8** and **9**. **SCP 10** demonstrates views from the grade II\* listed building and public footpath 419/14/1 where there are views of the treebelt along the south-eastern edge of the Site. Views into the Site are very limited due to the viewpoint being taken from low-lying landform and built form in the foreground. In the right of the view, the eastern boundary hedgerow of the Site along the ridgeline and Limekiln Wood are visible.

### Close Range Views

- 6.1.5 Despite its proximity, there are limited views to the Site from Pentre Lane due to the presence of dense hedgerows. There are some views into the Site from gateways, with views to south-west facing slopes possible near Cwm Farm; see **SCP7**.
- 6.1.6 From public footpath 387/6/1 to the south-east of the Site views of the Site are heavily filtered views to the sloping landform of fields 5 and 12 by mature hedgerow trees along Pentre Road and the low-lying landform; see **SCP12**. As receptors travel further south along the footpath, people will experience open to filtered views of the Site. At an elevation of ca.85m AOD, part way up the slopes, views to the south-facing slopes of field 4 are visible, as well as the woodland along the streams within the west of the Site are visible; see **SCP11**. Further south along the public footpath near Bettws Reservoir the south-facing slopes of parts of fields 2 and 4 are visible to receptors as well as screened views through mature trees on Site to fields 9 and 10; see **SCP13**.

### Middle Distance Views

- 6.1.7 **SCP1** demonstrates views from public footpath 416/33/1 ca.470m north-west of the Site where views are predominantly screened by the nature of the landform and strongly filtered by intervening tree belts and woodland, with only the more elevated northern extent of Field 1 easily perceived in the wider landscape. As the receptor travels east along public footpath 416/32/1, the Site is heavily screened by the effect of low-lying landform on which the Site lies and intervening woodland and tree belts; see **SCPs 2 and 3**.
- 6.1.8 Views from public footpath 418/75/1 and Castell Farm are situated along a ridgeline to the west of the Site. Receptors will experience filtered to heavily filtered views of the Site particularly the western fields of the Site due to existing structural vegetation such as hedgerows and Henllys Wood Ancient Woodland; see **SCP4 and 5**.
- 6.1.9 For receptors travelling along Pentre Lane to the south-west of the Site, views will be heavily filtered and of a transient nature due to the nature of the rising landform towards the Site and intervening hedgerows, tree belts and woodland along the eastern edge of the Site screening views; see SCP 23.
- 6.1.10 Views from Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Path are screening by the ridge that lies between the Site and the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Path along with existing tree belts and woodland which lies along the eastern Site boundary; see **SCP14**. Views towards the Site from the south-west of the Site along the from Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Path are screening by intervening structural vegetation such as tree belts and hedgerows as well as by the rising landform between the Site and the canal path; see **SCP15**.
- 6.1.11 Views for receptors travelling along public footpath towards the south-west of the Site again are screened by intervening structural vegetation such as tree belts and hedgerows as well as by the rising landform between the Site and public footpath. There may be limited partial views between gaps in vegetation but will be barely perceptible from this distance; see **SCP22**.

### Long Distance Views

- 6.1.12 From the north facing slopes in Bettws settlement to the south of the Site, there are long distance of the southern part of the Site. This is due to the landform gently rising in a north-easterly direction and the lack of structural vegetation along fields 3 and 4; see **SCP16**.
- 6.1.13 Despite its elevated position and theoretical visibility highlighted in the ZTV there are no public views of the Site from Risca Leisure Centre. As shown in **SCP17**, manmade embankments associated with sports pitches and the northern hedgerow boundary screening views north-east from this location.
- 6.1.14 Views for people travelling along Mountain Road to the south-west of the Site in the wider area are screening by the landform of the Ridge to the west of the Site; see **SCP18**.
- 6.1.15 **SCPs 19 to 21** are representative of views from the distinctive Mynydd Maen ridgeline to the west of the Site. There are open long distance views into the Site Views from the Scheduled Monument. The southernmost part of the Site (field 4) and the woodland copse are visible as well as parts of the western fields. From public footpath 418/44/1 views of the Site are screened by the intervening rising landform; see **SCP20**. Further north, to the north-west of the Site along the ridgeline near Ebbw Forest on PRoW 418/48/1, only the more elevated west facing slopes of the Site are visible including parts of fields 1, 4 and 9; see **SCP21**.

## 6.2 Visual Receptors

- 6.2.1 On the basis of the visual appraisal, a series of visual receptors have been selected against which the effects of the Proposed Development on visual amenity have been assessed. Visual receptors, together with their susceptibility, value of views, and resultant overall sensitivity of the receptor to development of the type proposed are set out below with full narrative in **Appendix A3: Visual Effects Table**.



#### Receptors travelling along PRoW within the Site: 416/40/1 (SAPs A and D)

- 6.2.2 Views are from a location that is not designated with although it is likely to be of some local importance and/or cultural associations, resulting in a **Medium** value. Receptors are people using a PRoW who attention is focused on the landscape surroundings thus having a **High** susceptibility to development of the type proposed, resulting in a **Medium** overall sensitivity.

#### Receptors travelling along PRoW in the immediate context: 416/39/1, 419/14/1 (SCPs 6 and 10)

- 6.2.3 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Users are travelling along a Public Right of Way and will experience filtered to open views of the Site, so susceptible is considered to be **High**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Medium** to the type of development proposed.

#### Receptors travelling along Pentre Lane (SCPs 7, 8, 9, 15 and 23)

- 6.2.4 Views are from a minor undesignated road with minimal cultural associations adjacent to the Site, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Depending on proximity to the Site, the receptor will experience filtered to heavily filtered transient views of the Site. As receptors will be travelling along a secondary lane and have some appreciation of their surroundings, susceptibility is considered to be **Medium**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Low** to the type of development proposed.

#### Receptors travelling along Craig-y-ceilog Lane (SCP 11 and 13)

- 6.2.5 Views are from a minor undesignated road with minimal cultural associations adjacent to the Site, so it is considered to have **Low** value. Receptors will be travelling a country lane where views will be filtered to heavily filtered due to being defined by hedgerows and hedgerow trees, however there are views of the southern part of the Site through gaps in vegetation so susceptibility will be **Medium**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.

#### Receptors travelling along local PRoW 387/6/1, 416/33/1, 416/32/1, 416/29/1 (SCPs 1, 2, 3 and 12)

- 6.2.6 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Users are travelling along a Public Right of Way and will experience filtered to open views of the Site, so susceptible is considered to be **High**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Medium** to the type of development proposed.

#### Residents in Hollybush (SCPs 1 to 3)

- 6.2.7 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** value. Users are people at their place of residence where there filtered views due to field boundary vegetation such as tree belts and woodland filtering views of the Site thus resulting in a **High** susceptibility and overall **Medium** sensitivity.

#### Receptors from Castell-y-bwch Inn (SCP 5)

- 6.2.8 Views are from outdoor space from a local pub which is considered to be of local importance thus resulting in **Medium** value. Users' attention will be focussed on and have appreciation of the landscape, thus resulting in **High** susceptibility. Overall, it is considered to have **Medium** susceptibility.

#### Receptors travelling along Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area from PRoW 419/10/1 (SCP 14 and 15)

- 6.2.9 Views are from the designated Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area and has local cultural associations, so it is considered to be of **Medium** value. Users are travelling along Public Right of Way where attention will be focussed on the landscape thus having a **High** susceptibility. Although, views from the path are screened by intervening vegetation. On balance, it is considered to have overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### Receptors at Open space near Wye Crescent (SCP 16)

- 6.2.10 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Users are people at their place of residence where there are open partial views of the Site thus resulting in a **High** susceptibility and overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### Residents in Bettws (SCP 16)

- 6.2.11 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** value. Users are people at their place of residence where there are open partial views of the Site thus resulting in a **High** susceptibility and overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### Receptors outside Risca Leisure Centre (SCP 17)

- 6.2.12 Views are from a leisure centre and is likely to be of local importance and so have **Medium** value. Users will have some appreciation of their surroundings however views of the Site are screening by rising landform and structural vegetation, so susceptibility is considered to be **Low**. Overall sensitivity is considered to be **Low**.

### Receptors travelling along PRoW in mid-distance: 418/75/1 and 418/9/1 (SCP 4 and 22)

- 6.2.13 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Users are travelling along a Public Right of Way and will experience partial filtered to open views of the Site, so susceptible is considered to be **High**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Medium** to the type of development proposed.

### Receptors travelling along Mountain Road (SCP 18)

- 6.2.14 Views are from a footpath with minimal cultural associations, so it is considered to have **Low** Value. Receptors will be travelling a country lane where views will be heavily filtered due to intervening structural vegetation, so susceptibility will be **Medium**. Overall, sensitivity is judged to be **Low**.

### Receptors from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument (SCP 19)

- 6.2.15 Views are from designated Scheduled Monument which is of national importance thus resulting in **High** value. Users experience is incidental to their enjoyment and experience of the countryside where they will experience partial open views of the Site thus resulting in **High** susceptibility and overall sensitivity.

### Receptors travelling PRoW in the long distance 418/44/1, 418/48/1 (Cambrian Way) (SCP 20)

- 6.2.16 Views are from designated Public Rights of Way/Long Distance route and are of local importance thus resulting **Medium** value. Users experience is incidental to their enjoyment and experience of the countryside where they will experience partial open views of the Site thus resulting in **High** susceptibility and overall **Medium** sensitivity.

### Receptors travelling PRoW in the long distance 418/48/1 (Cambrian Way) (SCP 21)

- 6.2.17 Views are from designated Public Rights of Way/Long Distance route and are of local importance thus resulting **Medium** value. Users experience is incidental to their enjoyment and experience of the countryside where they will experience partial open views of the Site thus resulting in **High** susceptibility and overall **Medium** sensitivity.

**Table 5: Summary of Sensitivity of Visual Receptors**

<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Susceptibility</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>
Receptors travelling along PRow in the immediate context: 416/39/1, 419/14/1	Low	High	Medium
Receptors travelling along Pentre Lane	Low	Medium	Low
Receptors travelling along Craig-y-ceilog Lane	Low	Medium	Low
Receptors travelling along local PRow 387/6/1, 416/33/1, 416/32/1, 416/29/1	Low	High	Medium
Residents in Hollybush	Low	High	Medium
Receptors from Castell-y-bwch Inn	Medium	High	Medium
Receptors using the PRow within the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area	Medium	High	Medium
Receptors at Open space near Wye Crescent	Medium	Medium	Medium
Residents in Bettws	Low	High	Medium
Receptors outside Risca Leisure Centre	Medium	Low	Low
Receptors travelling along PRow in mid-distance: 418/75/1 and 418/9/1	Low	High	Medium
Receptors travelling along Mountain Road	Low	Medium	Low
Receptors from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument	High	High	High
Receptors travelling PRow in the long distance 418/44/1	Medium	High	Medium
Receptors travelling along PRow in the long distance: 418/48/1 (Cambrian Way)	Medium	High	Medium

## 7 Development Proposals and Landscape Principles

### 7.1 The Proposed Development

7.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the installation of ground mounted photo-voltaic array and storage facility with an installed generating capacity of between 10 and 350 megawatts over an area of 46.72 hectares (ha) with associated infrastructure including:

- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.
- Inverters measuring approximately 7m x 2.5m x 3m high. They convert the DC electricity produced by the panels into grid compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the Site.
- A primary substation.
- Energy storage facility.
- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation.
- Several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters.
- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2 - 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.
- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm.

7.1.2 The Proposed Development will require the removal of small sections of existing hedgerow (approximately 42m in length) to facilitate access and fencing requirements. This compares to over 1095m of retained hedgerow and 930m of reinforced hedgerow.

7.1.3 The design of the Proposed Development is set out in the following drawings forming part of the planning submission:

- C0002459\_01 Site Layout;
- C0002459\_05 Typical Building Plans and Elevations;
- C0002459\_06 Typical Section Through Array; and
- C0002459\_08 Typical Fence Detail.

7.1.4 As demonstrated by the above drawings, the Proposed Development has a restricted height, with the panels no higher than approximately 3m above ground level and fences no higher than 2.4m above ground level. Fencing proposed is akin to deer fences used to protect planting from browsing animals and is therefore not uncharacteristic in a rural environment.

7.1.5 The panels themselves are arranged in rows and mounted on ground mounted metal frames, with individual rows set approximately 5m apart. The bulk of the Proposed Development will retain a relatively open, visually permeable appearance and does not have a substantial mass or volume of built development. Furthermore, the 40-year lifespan of the Proposed Development and the way in which it is constructed is such that it has a temporary character, and the existing baseline is readily reinstated on removal.

7.1.6 In addition to the panels themselves the Proposed Development also includes 10 containers in energy storage compound reaching 2.6m in height, a substation, a Distribution Network Operator (DNO)

substation and 16 inverter substations. Other ancillary features include access roads, security/ deer fencing, CCTV cameras and a construction compound.

## 7.2 Site Opportunities and Constraints

7.2.1 On the basis of a review of the Site's context, character and visual characteristics, as well as relevant policy and landscape character information, a landscape mitigation strategy has been developed and coordinated with the consultant ecologists, SLR. The mitigation strategy is illustrated in **Figure 10: Landscape Strategy Plan**.

7.2.2 The proposed landscape mitigation measures include:

- Where possible, retaining and managing existing structural vegetation and grassland to encourage biodiversity and strengthen existing habitats;
- Offsetting proposed panels a minimum of 15m from PRow crossing the Site, to limit the potential for close range views and reduce the impact on long distance views;
- Retention of existing hedgerows, except for limited removals of approximately 42m where access is required;
- Implementation of a comprehensive site-wide hedgerow improvement strategy through gapping up, reinforcement and enhanced management, including letting up to a height of 3-4m;
- The installation of interpretation boards in the northern part of the Site along public footpath 416/40/1, and provide an area of new native species rich grassland to improve the experience for users of the route; and
- Continued allowance for grazing of the Site.

7.2.3 The aforementioned principles of mitigation are considered to provide appropriate mitigation for the scheme through reducing visual impact, improving the experience of users of the PRow network, and through the potential for improvements to the structure and quality of the fabric of the landscape.

7.2.4 As shown by **Figure 10: Landscape Strategy Plan**, a substantial number of native tree and shrub planting, comprising over 900m of new hedgerow and nearly 0.1ha of woodland/scrub. Existing grassland areas within the fence will be mown or grazed regularly, while that outside the fence will be allowed to grow to a tall sward and mowed infrequently, resulting in improved habitat potential. Consequently, the comprehensive landscape mitigation strategy is considered to have the potential to lead to substantial benefits in terms of landscape features, character and biodiversity.

## 8 Assessment of Effects

- 8.1.1 This section sets out the anticipated landscape and visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development at Year 1 and Year 15 after completion, the latter taking into account the substantive establishment of the planting proposals. Woodland planting is anticipated to grow at a rate of approximately 1m every 3 years, whilst it is assumed that reinforced and proposed hedgerows around the Site will have reached full maturity and a height of approximately 3 - 4m.
- 8.1.2 It is acknowledged that the construction phase will also result in a number of alterations to landscape character and visual amenity through the addition of plant, machinery and construction traffic movements in the landscape together with groundworks and construction of the facility and landscape implementation operations. In this regard the effects that will occur during construction will typically be adverse in nature and fluctuating in intensity due to the different operations occurring on the Site. However, due to the limited duration of the construction programme these effects will only be experienced for a brief period, thereby reducing their significance.
- 8.1.3 Additional illustrative material was requested by officers of PCC to assist in illustrating the potential impact of the Proposed Development and solar development in general. This includes annotated versions of the Site Context Photographs and precedent images of previous solar schemes; see **Appendix A3**.

### 8.2 Glint and Glare

- 8.2.1 A Glint and Glare Study has been prepared by Pager Power to assesses the potential effects arising from the Proposed Development on surrounding receptors including road users, dwellings, and port navigation lights.
- 8.2.2 The study states that “reflections produced [by solar panels] are of intensity similar to or less than those produced from still water and significantly less than reflections from glass and steel”.
- 8.2.3 The study notes that in technical terms, there is no maximum distance at which reflections could be experienced, however the study emphasises that the **“significance of a reflection however decreases with distance because the proportion of an observer’s field of vision that is taken up by the reflecting area diminishes as the separation distance increases”**. The study area for the glint and glare study is set at 1km from the Site, with receptors to the north of proposed solar panels also scoped out as reflections towards ground based receptors are **“highly unlikely”**.
- 8.2.4 Residential receptors have been considered in the study and scoped out due to a lack of dwellings within the 1km glint and glare study area. With respect to road receptors the study similarly has scoped out any further assessment due to a lack of potential receptors within the study area.
- 8.2.5 With respect to marine receptors, the study includes a number of receptors within the MHW that have been assessed, with the results presented in Section 7.1, Figures 7 and 8. The figures show that the areas most likely to experience reflectivity as a result of the Proposed Development are in narrow channels to the south-east and south-west of the Site, within the MHW. Whilst the study does not extend to include land based receptors to the south of the MHW, the study gives a guide as to which LVIA receptors may have the potential to have views of solar reflections.
- 8.2.6 Whilst the study concludes that “No significant impacts upon the surrounding road users, dwellings and shipping pilots are predicted and mitigation is not required”, it is acknowledged that any reflectivity perceived by visual receptors has the potential to make the Proposed Development more noticeable at certain times of the day. On this basis, the potential for solar reflections has been taken account in the assessment of visual effects for the following receptors:
- Receptors on the Cambrian Way
  - Receptors at the OS 360 viewpoint at Twmbarlwm Castle Mound Scheduled Monument

- Receptors using the PRoW within the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area
- Receptors using the public rights of way network surrounding the Site
- Residents in Hollybush
- Residents in Bettws
- Receptors using the secondary road network (Pentre Lane, Craig-y-ceilog Lane and Mountain Road) within the Study area

8.2.7 The visual effects on the aforementioned receptors are set out below with consideration for solar reflectivity where relevant. In line with the findings of the Glint and Glare Study, the remaining visual receptors are considered highly unlikely to experience visual effects as a result of solar reflectivity.

8.2.8 The perception of solar reflection is not anticipated to cause any appreciable change to the landscape effects resulting from the Proposed Development.

### 8.3 Effects on Landscape Features

#### Fields

8.3.1 During the construction phase, fields will be subject to plant and vehicle movement that will gradually progress across the Site during the course of the Proposed Development. As a result, there will be a gradual loss of the openness of the landscape feature which will lead to a partial change to the landscape receptor, although the overall integrity of the feature will remain. However, as the construction period is limited to one year, it is considered to have a **Small** magnitude of effect and **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

8.3.2 At Year 1, the open and pastoral nature of the fields will be lost as a result of the Proposed Development and replaced with solar panels and associated built form set within the existing field structure. As a result, the Proposed Development itself does not appear as a solid mass of built form, with unsubstantial massing, and has visual permeability that allows filtered views between and underneath panels and fences. The physical changes to the feature are readily reversible on decommissioning of the Proposed Development after 40 years. Furthermore, the panels do not cover the full extent of the fields, with substantial field margins and offset areas around most field boundaries. The altered management regime for existing grassland across the Site will also increase the value of the Site in habitat and landscape terms which will be used for grazing during the course of the Proposed Development. On this basis, the magnitude of effect is considered to be **Small**, resulting in a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect at Year 1.

8.3.3 By Year 15, the reinforced hedgerows and proposed woodland/trees will have established in turn strengthening the existing green infrastructure network. The Proposed Development will be set within an enhanced vegetation structure, to include notable green buffers along Site boundaries. The proposals will maintain long distance views from the higher ground within the Site whilst reinforcing the sense of enclosure in others provided by the robust vegetation framework, alongside which the pastoral use will also remain. Nonetheless, the open fields will lose their innate rural character, so, it is considered there will be a **Small** magnitude of effect and **Minor Adverse** significance of effect at Year 15.

#### Woodland

8.3.4 Existing woodlands across the Site will be retained and protected during construction. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **None** and the significance of effect will be **Neutral** during construction.

8.3.5 At year 1, as part of the landscape strategy, woodland planting is proposed along the western Site boundary. The planting will reinforce the existing fieldscape structure within which the Proposed Development will be set. This will provide additional habitat enhancement and connectivity across the

Site. As such the Proposed Development will increase the extent of this feature. Whilst the contribution of new planting to the overall value of the receptor is considered to be limited at Year 1, there would still be a measurable improvement due to the extent of planting. As such, this receptor would be subject to a **Very Small** effect magnitude and resultant **Negligible Beneficial** effect at Year 1.

- 8.3.6 By Year 15, the existing woodland network will have further established resulting in a strengthened green infrastructure and habitat network and result in a slight improvement on the overall receptor. As a result, it is considered to give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and the significance will be **Negligible Beneficial**.

#### Individual Trees/Small Groups of Trees

- 8.3.7 Existing trees across the Site will be retained and protected during construction, where possible. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development this would result in a magnitude of effect will be **None** and the significance of effect will be **Neutral** during construction and at Year 1.
- 8.3.8 By Year 15, the existing tree cover will have established resulting in a strengthened green infrastructure and habitat network. It is considered to give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and the significance will be **Negligible Beneficial**.

#### Hedgerows

- 8.3.9 The Proposed Development will require the clearance of a small section of hedgerow to allow access. However, as demonstrated in Figure 10: Landscape Strategy Plan, the mitigation measures include substantial new hedgerow planting and new native tree and scrub planting. On this basis the scale of magnitude will be compact and combined with the medium duration, will result in a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.3.10 The Proposed Development includes retaining most hedgerows across the Site, along with reinforcing existing hedgerows. The planting will reinforce the existing fieldscape structure within which the Proposed Development will be set. This will provide additional habitat enhancement and connectivity across the Site. As such the Proposed Development will considerably increase the extent of this feature on the Site. Whilst the contribution of new planting to the overall value of the receptor is considered to be limited at Year 1, there would still be a measurable improvement due to the extent of planting. As such, this receptor would be subject to a **Small** effect magnitude and resultant **Negligible Beneficial** effect at Year 1.
- 8.3.11 Following successful establishment of new hedgerow planting there will be an improvement to the overall structure and cohesiveness of the receptor, the Year 15 effect magnitude would be **Small**, with the significance judged to be **Minor Beneficial**.

#### Hedgerow Trees

- 8.3.12 Existing hedgerow trees across the Site will be retained and protected during construction, where possible. Given the scale and nature of the Proposed Development this would result in a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and the significance will be **Neutral** during construction and at Year 1.
- 8.3.13 By Year 15, the existing hedgerow tree network will have further established resulting in a strengthened green infrastructure and habitat network. It is considered to give rise to a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and the significance will be **Negligible Beneficial**.

#### The Character of the Site and its Immediate Context

- 8.3.14 During the construction phase, fields will be subject to plant and vehicle movement that will gradually progress across the Site during the course of the Proposed Development. As a result, there will be a gradual loss of the openness of fields and a loss of small proportion of hedgerows. Structural vegetation across the Site such as woodland, tree belt and groups of trees, hedgerow trees and the majority of the hedgerows will all be retained and protected during construction. The construction period is limited to



one year, therefore on balance it is considered to have a **Medium** magnitude of effect and **Moderate Adverse** significance of effect.

- 8.3.15 Whilst the Proposed Development will adversely affect the character of the Site through the introduction of built form, loss of openness and changes to the physical fabric of the landscape, these effects are reversible with the Proposed Development decommissioned after 40 years and the land returned to its current use and character. The underlying character of the Site will remain legible, with the existing pattern retained, and the Proposed Development will not be perceived as entirely incongruous in the context of existing industrial and renewable energy development. The mitigation measures include elements that will improve local character from an early stage, such as the removal of dilapidated fencing and installation of interpretation boards. Nonetheless, the Proposed Development will extend the perception of industrial built form in the local area, resulting in a **Medium** magnitude and **Moderate Adverse** significance of effect at Year 1.
- 8.3.16 Following establishment of the landscape mitigation strategy, comprising new locally characteristic features such as native trees, hedgerow, scrub and species rich grassland, the beneficial effects of the Proposed Development would be more pronounced. The Proposed Development will be set within an enhanced vegetation framework, with notable green buffers along Site boundaries whilst maintaining the existing long distance views from the higher ground within the northern part of the Site whilst maintaining a sense of enclosure in others as well as its pastoral use. The extent to which the Proposed Development is perceptible in the local landscape would be reduced by new planting, Anticipated effects will be considerably less during conditions of full leaf. Nonetheless, the open fields will lose their innate rural character, so, it is considered the magnitude of effect would reduce slightly to **Medium to Small** and **Moderate to Minor Adverse** significance of effect at Year 15.

## 8.4 Effects on Landscape Character

### SLA 6: Southern Lowlands

- 8.4.1 During construction, the Site will be subject on plant and vehicle movement that will progress across the Site over the course of a year. The Site will retain a number of valued landscape features to include most field boundary hedgerows, woodland, hedgerow trees and individual trees/tree groups, thus maintaining the overall integrity of the landscape character of the Site. Albeit there will be a loss of openness of the fields as construction progresses across the Site. Nonetheless, the valued characteristics of the SLA such as the woodland and irregular field pattern will be retained during the lifespan of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the Site covers a small proportion of the overall SLA therefore it is considered that there will be a **Small** magnitude of effect and **Minor Adverse** significance of effect during construction and at Year 1.
- 8.4.2 By Year 15, proposed structural planting such as woodland belt along the Western Site boundary and the reinforced hedgerows will have established to contribute and strengthen the existing landscape framework across the Site and in the immediate context. As well as screening, this will provide additional ecological benefits. Given the scale of the SLA and the Site the magnitude of effect will remain **Small** with a **Minor Beneficial** significance of effect.

### Landscape Habitats AA: TRFNLH030

- 8.4.3 Existing woodland, hedgerow trees and individual trees/groups of trees will be retained and protected from the Construction Phase to Year 15. A very limited section of hedgerow will be removed to facilitate access. The majority of the landscape framework across the Site will be retained and protected during construction with new planting at part of the proposals reinforcing the vegetation structure. The Site is currently under pastoral use which will continue throughout the course of the Proposed Development. Furthermore, the Site takes up a small proportion of the overall AA. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect during the construction phase and at Year 1 will be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.4.4 By Year 15, the proposed planting as part of the landscape strategy (woodland belts and hedgerows) will have established to strengthen the existing green infrastructure network and provide ecological

benefits to existing habitats. Overall, it is considered there will be a **Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Beneficial** significance of effect.

#### Landscape Habitats AA: NWPRTLH048

- 8.4.5 The Proposed Development will retain all existing woodland and tree belts across the Site; therefore, it is considered that there will be no change to the AA during the course of the Proposed Development from Construction to Year 15. The grassland areas will be retained for grazing will be retained and managed. As a result, magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral**.

#### Cultural Landscape Services AA: TRFNCLS003

- 8.4.6 The Site lies in the following AA. The AA is not notable for artistic expressions, folklore/legends and events/traditions associated with the landscape/area but has Moderate Visual and Sensory Landscape Value with attractive views in and out with a Moderate sense of place, scenic qualities and character. During the construction phase, there will be an introduction of plant and vehicle movement across the Site which will give rise to a slight change to scenic qualities, character and views in and out of the Site due to the existing green infrastructure network and varying nature of the landform across the Site. Furthermore, the Site takes up a small proportion of the overall AA. The construction phase is short term and limited to a year. During Construction, it is considered to have a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.4.7 At Year 1, there will be introduction of solar panels and associated built form across the Site. However, as mentioned above, the existing green infrastructure network and varying nature of the landform across the Site will help break up the overall massing and limit effect on the scenic qualities, character and views in and out of the Site. On balance, it is considered, there will be a **Small** magnitude of effect and **Minor Adverse** significance of effect at Year 1 and 15.
- 8.4.8 By Year 15, proposed woodlands and hedgerows will have established to reinforce the existing character and further break up the massing of the overall proposals. On balance, it is considered, there will be a slight reduction in the magnitude of effect, although it will still remain **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect at Year 1 and 15.

#### Cultural Landscape Services AA: Maescoed NWPRTCLS021

- 8.4.9 The following AA is adjacent to the southern Site boundary and is described as “*attractive despite poor condition in limited areas*”. As the Site lies adjacent to the AA and the Proposed Development is limited 2.4m height, it will not block views in and out; based on ZTV and Site Survey. The AA is not considered to have any notable artistic expressions, folklore/legends and events/traditions associated with the landscape/area. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect from Construction to Year 15 will be **None** with a **Neutral** significance of effect.

#### Historic Landscapes AA: Cefn Mynach Grange TRFNHL005

- 8.4.10 The field pattern is largely intact across the Site however, with strongly defined field boundaries. During the course of the Proposed Development from Construction to Year 15, the irregular and mostly intact field pattern will remain intact. Although, the fields will lose a degree of openness their overall integrity will remain intact. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral** during the course of the Proposed Development.

#### Historic Landscapes AA: Mescoed Mawr NWPRTLH004

- 8.4.11 The Proposed Development will retain all existing woodland and tree belts across the Site; therefore, it is considered that there will be no change to the AA during the course of the Proposed Development from Construction to Year 15. As part of the landscape strategy woodlands and retention and reinforcement of existing hedgerows is proposed which once established, by Year 15 will make a small positive contribution to the fieldscape on a local scale. It is not considered that there will be no change the AA therefore this will result in a magnitude of effect of **None** and **Neutral** significance of effect.

8.4.12 The following Historic Landscapes AA Cwmbran TRFNHL001, Henllys TRFNHL006, Park Farm NWPRTL007, Edlogan and Tregrug TRFNHL002, Llantarnam Abbey TRFNHL004 and Ebbwy Settlement Corridor CYNONHL465 have been scoped out of the assessment. This is due to the increased distance from the Site. Furthermore, based on the ZTV exercise and site survey, it intervisibility of the Proposed Development is limited and are not considered to have any significant visual impacts; see Figure 8: Visual Appraisal and Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan.

#### Visual and Sensory AA: TRFNVS004

8.4.13 The AA is evaluated as Moderate and described having a “*pleasant rural landscape with some attractive views*” but “*no single noteworthy quality*”. The sense of place and character are also described as Moderate and is described as “*pleasant rolling farmland with no determining distinctive characteristics [sic] but mix of rural with tinge of urban edge*”. During the Construction Phase, the Proposed Development will retain woodland blocks across the Site and majority of the vegetated boundaries; a part of hedgerow will be removed for access. It is considered, that during construction magnitude of effect will be **Very Small** and significance of effect will be **Negligible Adverse**.

8.4.14 At Year 1, the sense of place and character of the Site will have altered to some degree due to the presence of the solar panels and associated built form. However, the pastoral use of the fields will be retained along with majority of the existing vegetation such as woodlands, treebelts, small groups of trees, hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The following features will also be managed and strengthened with additional planting as part of the landscape strategy. As proposed planting will not have fully established and the rural nature of the Site will have altered to some degree, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

8.4.15 By Year 15, proposed woodland and hedgerow across the Site will have established to strengthen the rural character of the Site and overall AA. Furthermore, urban influences are not characteristic of the AA. It is considered there will be a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Beneficial** significance of effect.

#### Visual and Sensory AA: Maescoed (NWPRTVS014) and AA: TRFNVS024

8.4.16 The following AAs lie within the 3km search area however due to increased distance from the Site and limited to no intervisibility; based on ZTV and Site Survey. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral** from construction to Year 15.

**Table 6: Summary of Landscape Effects**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Significance of Effect (Year 1)	Significance of Effect (Year 15)
Fields	Medium	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Woodland	High	Negligible Beneficial	Minor Beneficial
Individual Trees/Small Trees Groups	Medium	Neutral	Minor Beneficial
Hedgerows	Medium	Negligible Beneficial	Minor Beneficial
Hedgerow Trees	Medium	Neutral	Negligible Beneficial
The Character of the Site and its Immediate Context	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Moderate to Minor Adverse
SLA 6: Southern Lowlands	Medium	Minor Adverse	Minor Beneficial
Landscape Habitats AA: TRFNLH030	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Beneficial
Landscape Habitats AA: NWPRTLH048	Medium	Neutral	Neutral
Cultural Landscape Services AA: TRFNCLS003	Low	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Cultural Landscape Services AA: Maescoed NWPRTCLS021	Medium	Neutral	Neutral
Historic Landscapes AA: Cefn Mynach Grange TRFNHL005	Medium	Neutral	Neutral
Historic Landscapes AA: Mescoed Mawr NWPRTLH004	Medium	Neutral	Neutral
Visual and Sensory AA: TRFNVS004	Medium	Minor Adverse	Negligible Beneficial
Visual and Sensory AA: TRFNVS024 and NWPRTVS014	Medium	Neutral	Neutral

## 8.5 Effects on Visual Receptors

### Receptors travelling along PRow within the Site: 416/40/1 (SAP A and D), 416/39/1 (SCP 6)

- 8.5.1 Effects will not be assessed for the construction phase at the following public footpaths will not be publicly accessible during this time.
- 8.5.2 The existing landscape framework will be retained and strengthened with additional planting as part of a comprehensive green infrastructure network within which the existing public footpath passes with a short section redirected. A short section of public footpath 416/39/1 passes through and runs parallel with the northern Site boundary, a limited area of panels will be visible to the south with a mature hedgerow beyond being retained and enhanced with additional planting, however it will not have fully established and will provide limited additional screening at Year 1.
- 8.5.3 Users of public footpath 416/40/1 will be travelling within a green corridor through the northern part of the Site, with the panels are set back and located on lower landform, this retains a sense of openness and allows views into the wider area of Mynnd Maen and Castle Mound scheduled monument to the west. PRow 416/40/1 heads south east through a central field within the Site where the route will be diverted – along the field boundary – where the proposed fencing and panels will extend within 5m of the route. Along with additional landscape planting, an interpretation board will be situated close to the north entrance of the public footpath (see **Figure 10: Landscape Strategy Plan**) providing information on benefits of the Proposed Development.
- 8.5.4 On balance, based on the overall massing of the Proposed Development and structural planting as part of the landscape strategy not being fully established users will experience a range of views, where the Proposed Development is within proximity to the path there will be noticeable change to the view, where views are attained from the within the green corridor the impact from the proposals will be lessened. As

a result, it is considered the magnitude of effect will be **Medium** with a **Moderate Adverse** significance of effect.

- 8.5.5 At year 15 the proposed planting as part of the landscape strategy (see Figure 10) will have matured, reinforcing the hedgerow network and provide further screening and reducing the sense of scale and massing of the wider proposals. By Year 15, the magnitude of effect is considered to have reduced but still remain **Medium** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect, which is short term (40 years) and reversible.

#### Receptors travelling along PRow in the immediate context: 416/39/1 (SCP 6)

- 8.5.6 Users of public footpaths in proximity to the Site will experience filtered to heavily filtered views during Construction and at Year 1 through existing structural vegetation such as woodland and hedgerows above the rising landform. There may be some filtered glimpsed views of plant and vehicle movements during construction across the Site through gaps in vegetation or above the rising landform. Overall, there are views into the Site for a limited section due to gaps in roadside vegetation. Furthermore, the construction is limited to 1 year. Overall, it is considered that the magnitude of effect for users will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect will be **Negligible Adverse**.
- 8.5.7 As part of the landscape strategy (see Figure 10) the existing hedgerow along the south-eastern Site boundary will be reinforced and will have established by this point in time to provide a strong vegetation edge that provide further screening. By Year 15, it is considered that there will be a **Very Small** magnitude of effect as the Proposed Development will be barely susceptible and is short term (40 years) with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.

#### Receptors travelling along PRow in the immediate context: 419/14/1 (SCP 10)

- 8.5.8 Users of public footpaths in proximity to the Site will experience partial views of the Proposed Development particularly during the Construction Phase due to presence of the Construction Zone to the north-east of the footpath. Views of the remainder of the Site will be set back from existing structural vegetation such as woodland and hedgerows above the rising landform. There may be some filtered views of plant and vehicle movements during construction across the Site through gaps in vegetation or above the rising landform. Furthermore, the construction is limited to 1 year. Overall, it is considered that the magnitude of effect for users will be **Small**, at most and significance of effect will be **Minor Adverse**.
- 8.5.9 As part of the landscape strategy (see Figure 10) the existing hedgerow along the south-eastern Site boundary will be reinforced and will have established by this point in time to provide a strong vegetation edge that provide further screening of the Site from public footpath 419/14/1. It is considered at Year 1 and Year 15, the magnitude of effect for users will be **Very Small** and significance of effect will be **Negligible Adverse**.

#### Receptors travelling along Pentre Lane (SCPs 7 to 9)

- 8.5.10 Users of the road particularly in the local area will experience transient filtered to partial views of plant and vehicle movement during the construction phase through gaps in the Site boundary vegetation and the occasional field gateway. Mid-range views from Pentre Lane (within 1km) are heavily screening by intervening treebelts in the local area and the rolling landform. Views of plant and vehicle movements may be glimpsed above the rising landform; however, views will be barely perceptible for road users. Furthermore, Due to the construction period running for 1 year, overall, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.
- 8.5.11 The landscape strategy includes the reinforcement of the existing hedgerow along the south-western Site Boundary, however at Year 1 this will not have fully established and will provide little additional screening albeit existing views will be filtered by the existing intervening vegetation. Furthermore, views into the Site will be present through gateways although it will be set back from the Site boundary by approximately 20m. Due to the overall massing of the Proposed Development and structural planting as

part of the landscape strategy not being fully established it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

- 8.5.12 By Year 15, existing vegetation along the Site boundaries and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to approximately 3-4m and play a role in more heavily filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

#### Receptors travelling along Craig-y-ceilog Lane (SCP 11)

- 8.5.13 During the construction phase, users will experience filtered partial and transient views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in vegetation along this country lane which will be barely perceptible from this due to elevation and intervening woodland and tree belts heavily filtering / screening views. As the construction phase is limited to 1 year and temporary, magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.14 At Year 1, users will experience filtered partial and transient views of the Proposed Development through gaps in vegetation. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however at Year 1 this will not have established to full and provide little additional screening albeit existing views will be filtered by the existing intervening vegetation, resulting in a limited change in views. On balance, it is considered the magnitude of effect will be **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.15 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown taller (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in heavily filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will reduce to **Very Small**, and significance of effect will be **Negligible Adverse**, at most.

#### Receptors travelling along local PRoW 387/6/1, 416/33/1, 416/32/1, 416/29/1 (SCP 1 to 3, 12)

- 8.5.16 People travelling along public footpaths in the local area will experience filtered to heavily filtered glimpsed views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in vegetation along the northern and southern Site boundaries. Furthermore, the Site lies on low-lying land, so it partially screened by rising land in proximity to the Site. Views of construction activity will be barely perceptible, and it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be at most be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.17 The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site. However, at Year 1 this will not have established to full height and will provide limited additional screening, albeit existing views will be filtered by existing intervening vegetation, resulting in a limited change in views, particularly along the south-western Site boundary. Tall sward hay meadow will be retained which separates the two northern parcels thus breaking up the overall massing and views of the Proposed Development from the north in the local area. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will at most be **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.18 By Year 15, existing vegetation along the Site boundaries and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to approximately 3-4m and play a role in providing additional filtering of views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development and any glimpsed views of associated built form. Overall, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

#### Receptors travelling along PRoW in mid-distance: 418/9/1 (SCP 22)

- 8.5.19 Users travelling along the public footpath will experience filtered to heavily filtered views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in tree belts along the south-western Site boundary. Views of construction activity will be of a glimpsed and filtered nature due to layers of structural vegetation defining field boundaries in the local area. On balance it is considered that there will be a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.

- 8.5.20 At Year 1, users will experience filtered views of the Proposed Development through gaps in structural vegetation along field boundaries in the local area and the western Site boundary. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. Overall, it is considered there will be a limited change to the view resulting in a **Small** magnitude of change and a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect, at most.
- 8.5.21 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown taller (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in additionally filtering / screening views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

#### Receptors travelling along PRoW in mid-distance: 418/75/1 (SCP 4)

- 8.5.22 Users of the public footpath will experience partially filtered views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in tree belts along the western Site boundary. Views of construction activity will be filtered due to layers of structural vegetation defining field boundaries in the local area. It is considered that there will be a **Very Small** to **Small** magnitude of effect as construction progresses across the Site and **Negligible** to **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.23 At Year 1, users will experience partially filtered views of the Proposed Development through gaps in structural vegetation along field boundaries in the local area and the western Site boundary. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however at this will not have established to full height and will provide little additional screening, albeit the existing vegetation structure will provide a limited change in views. Overall, it is considered there will at most, be a **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.24 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3m) and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. Due to the increased elevation of the receptor, there will still be views into the Site; see View 4 Appendix A.4: Verified Photomontages. As a result, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will remain at **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

#### Residents at Hollybush (SCP 1)

- 8.5.25 Residents in Hollybush will experience filtered glimpsed views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in vegetation along the northern Site boundary. Furthermore, the Site lies on low-lying land, so it partially screened by rising to the north of the Site. Consequently, views from Hollybush will be barely perceptible and is not highlighted in the ZTV. On balance, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.26 The landscape strategy includes the reinforcement of the existing hedgerow along the south-western Site Boundary, however at Year 1 this will not have fully established and will provide little use in the form of screening views albeit existing views will be filtered. Due to the overall massing of the Proposed Development and structural planting as part of the landscape strategy not being fully established. Hay meadow buffer will be retained which separates the two northern parcels thus breaking up the overall massing and views of the Proposed Development from the north in the local area. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.27 By Year 15, existing vegetation along the Site boundaries and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to approximately 3-4m and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Development. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

### Receptors from Castell-y-bwch Inn (SCP 5)

- 8.5.28 People at Castell-y-bwch Inn will experience filtered views of plant and vehicle movement through gaps in tree belts along the western Site boundary. Views of construction activity will be of a glimpsed and filtered nature due to layers of structural vegetation defining field boundaries in the local area. On balance it is considered that there will be a **Very Small** magnitude of effect and **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.29 At Year 1, users will experience filtered views of the Proposed Development through gaps in structural vegetation along field boundaries in the local area and the western Site boundary. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. Overall, it is considered there will be a **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.30 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in further filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. However, it is considered that the magnitude of effect will remain **Small**, at most and significance of effect will be **Minor Adverse**.

### Receptors using the PRoW within the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area (SCP 14 and 15)

- 8.5.31 Views of for people travelling along Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area will be barely perceptible to no discernible view due to the rising landform which screens views of construction activity, Proposed Development at Year 1 and at Year 15. Therefore, it is considered the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral**.

### Receptors at open space near Wye Crescent (SCP 16)

- 8.5.32 Users of the open space will experience glimpsed long distance filtered views of plant and vehicle movement across the Site during the Construction Phase. Views will be filtered and softened by intervening structural vegetation along field parcels in the local and wider area. Furthermore, the Site appears in the background where the viewers' attention is drawn to residential dwellings in Bettws in the immediate context and long distance views of the Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Twyn-glass hills. As a result, views of construction activity will be barely perceptible and magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.
- 8.5.33 The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. As a result, it is considered that there will be glimpsed/partial long distance filtered views of the Proposed Development seen in the context of the intervening roofscape. Due to increased distance and the Site taking up a very small proportion of the view, the magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.34 By year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. The now established planting will have strengthened to create a strengthened landscape and habitat framework thus contributing to the local character, although visual effects will remain the same; see View 16 Appendix A.4: Verified Photomontages. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.

### Residents in Bettws (SCP 16)

- 8.5.35 Residents in Bettws will experience glimpsed long distance filtered views of plant and vehicle movement across the Site during the Construction Phase. Views will be filtered and softened by intervening structural vegetation along field parcels in the local and wider area. Furthermore, the Site appears in the background where the viewers attention is drawn to residential dwellings in Bettws in the immediate context and long distance views of the Mynydd Maen and Mynydd Twyn-glass hills. As a result views of



construction activity will be barely perceptible and magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

8.5.36 The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. As a result, it is considered that there will be glimpsed long distance filtered views of the Proposed Development, that will be barely perceptible due to increased distance and the Site taking up a very small proportion of the view. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.

8.5.37 By Year 15, existing vegetation along the Site boundaries and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to approximately 3-4m and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Development. The now established planting will have strengthened to create a strengthened landscape and habitat framework thus contributing to the local character. The magnitude of effect is considered to remain **Very Small** with a **Negligible Adverse** significance of effect.

#### Receptors outside Risca Leisure Centre (SCP 17)

8.5.38 The nature of views for users of the Risca Leisure Centre will be barely perceptible to no discernible view due to the rising landform which screens views of construction activity, the Proposed Development at Year 1 and at Year 15. Therefore, it is considered the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral**.

#### Receptors travelling along Mountain Road (SCP 18)

8.5.39 People travelling along Mountain Road will experience barely perceptible to no discernible view due to increased distance from the Site, low-lying nature of the Site and intervening structural vegetation screening views of construction activity, the Proposed Development at Year 1 and at Year 15. Therefore, it is considered the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral**.

#### Receptors from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument (SCP 19)

8.5.40 People will experience long distance, glimpsed panoramic views of plant and vehicle movements across the Site during the Construction Phase from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument. This is due to the Site taking up a small part of the overall view, increased distance from the Site and intervening structural vegetation playing a role in softening and screening some views of the Proposed Development. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.

8.5.41 At Year 1, users will experience filtered views of the Proposed Development through gaps in structural vegetation along field boundaries in the local area and the western Site boundary. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. Overall, it is considered there will at most, be a **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

8.5.42 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. However, as the view is from an elevated point and designated scheduled monument where people will have an appreciation of views, it is considered that the magnitude and significance of effect will remain the same, **Small** magnitude of effect and **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

#### Receptors travelling PRoW in the long distance 418/44/1 (SCP 20)

8.5.43 The nature of views for users of public footpath will be barely perceptible to no discernible view due to the rising landform which screens views of construction activity. It is considered the magnitude of effect will be **None** and significance of effect will be **Neutral**.

- 8.5.44 The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. As a result, it is considered that there will be glimpsed long distance filtered views of the Proposed Development, that will be barely perceptible due to increased distance and the Site taking up a very small proportion of the view. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small to None** with a **Negligible Adverse to Neutral** significance of effect.
- 8.5.45 By year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3-4m) and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. The now established planting will have strengthened to create a strengthened landscape and habitat framework thus contributing to the local character, although visual effects will remain the same; see View 19 Appendix A.4: Verified Photomontages. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **Very Small to None** with a **Negligible Adverse to Neutral** significance of effect.

**Receptors travelling along PRoW in the long distance: 418/48/1 (Cambrian Way) (SCP 21)**

- 8.5.46 People will experience long distance, glimpsed views of plant and vehicle movements across the Site during the Construction Phase from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument. This is due to the Site taking up a small part of the overall view, increased distance from the and intervening structural vegetation playing a role in softening and screening some views of the Site. It is considered that the magnitude of effect will be **Very Small**, at most and significance of effect at most will be **Negligible Adverse**.
- 8.5.47 At Year 1, users will experience filtered views of the Proposed Development through gaps in structural vegetation along field boundaries in the local area and the western Site boundary. The landscape strategy proposes the retention and reinforcement of the existing hedgerows throughout the Site, however it will not have established and provide little additional screening. Overall, it is considered there will at most, be a **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.
- 8.5.48 By Year 15, existing vegetation along and within the Site and the reinforcement/establishment of hedgerows will have grown to full height (approximately 3m) and play a role in filtering views and breaking up the massing of the Proposed Development. However, as the view is from an elevated point and long distance route where people will have an appreciation of views, it is considered that the magnitude and significance of effect will remain the same; see View 19 Appendix A.4: Verified Photomontages. The magnitude of effect is considered to be **Small** with a **Minor Adverse** significance of effect.

**Table 7: Summary of Visual Effects**

<b>Receptor</b>	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Significance of Effect (Year 1)</b>	<b>Significance of Effect (Year 15)</b>
Receptors travelling along PRow in the immediate context: 416/39/1	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors travelling along PRow in the immediate context: 419/14/1	Medium	Minor Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors travelling along Pentre Lane	Low	Minor Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Residents at Hollybush	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors travelling along Craig-y-ceilog Lane	Low	Minor Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors travelling along local PRow 387/6/1, 416/33/1, 416/32/1, 416/29/1	Medium	Minor Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors from Castell-y-bwch Inn	Medium	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Receptors using the PRow within the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal Conservation Area	Medium	Neutral	Negligible Beneficial
Receptors at open space near Wye Crescent	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Residents in Bettws	Medium	Negligible Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors outside Risca Leisure Centre	Low	Neutral	Neutral
Receptors travelling along PRow in mid-distance: 418/75/1 and 418/9/1	Medium	Minor Adverse	Negligible Adverse
Receptors travelling along Mountain Road	Low	Neutral	Neutral
Receptors from Castle Mound Scheduled Monument	High	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse
Receptors travelling along PRow in the long distance: 418/44/1	Medium	Negligible Adverse to Neutral	Negligible Adverse to Neutral
Receptors travelling along PRow in the long distance: 418/48/1 (Cambrian Way)	Medium	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse

## 9 Summary and Conclusion

### 9.1 Summary

- 9.1.1 The Site lies within an agricultural setting with sporadic farmsteads and small clusters of houses, which extend into the local and wider area to the west. On a local scale, the Site is enclosed by residential settlements containing industrial development. These include Cwmbran ca.440m to the north, Malpas ca.1km to the south-east and Bettws ca.750m to the south of the Site; **see Figure 1: Site Context Plan.**
- 9.1.2 The Site, immediate and local agricultural landscape comprises a patchwork of irregular size and shape fields defined with tree belts and woodlands, chiefly in pastoral use, with sporadic farmsteads and small clusters of houses. The nature of the Site is largely shaped by the local landform as the northern part of the Site occupies the southern flank of a foothill, where the landform within the Site peaks at ca.85m AOD and slopes in a southerly direction where it reaches its lowest point at ca.30m AOD in the south-eastern corner of the Site. The Site comprises 12 irregular shaped pastoral fields strongly defined by established mature woodland and tree belts some of which are ancient woodland which are characteristic features of the local landscape character; **see Figure 3: Site Appraisal Plan.** The nature of the landform combined with existing woodland and tree belts form a mix of enclosed spaces on low-lying land to rising parts of the Site which have an open nature. As a result of this, there are open views into some parts of the Site particularly the southern part in the local and wider area including castle mound of Twmbarlwm Scheduled Monument to screened views of the Site in the local area due to intervening vegetation and nature of the landform; **see Appendix A.2: Site Context Photographs.**
- 9.1.3 A thorough review and analysis of national and local level planning policy and published landscape character assessments has been carried out to inform the baseline assessment and the mitigation strategy. A comprehensive series of mitigation measures has been developed to avoid or reduce adverse landscape and visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. An assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development has been undertaken at Years 1 and 15 of operation. No proposed cumulative schemes have been identified; however a number of existing schemes have been identified and considered in combination with the Proposed Development to assist stakeholders in accordance with the GLVIA; **see Appendix A.1: LVIA Methodology.**

### 9.2 Conclusion

- 9.2.1 The existing local green infrastructure network within and around the Site means it has some capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development with the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures to limit intervisibility and break up massing of the overall scheme. Given the scale of the Proposed Development and the containment currently afforded to the Site and the Immediate Setting, the proposed landscape mitigation measures are to retain and reinforce the existing vegetation structure. The landscape strategy includes measures that will not only mitigate effects but also provide enhancements to the existing character and ecological value across the Site, creating a more diverse range of habitats, with the current pastoral use remaining intact along with enhancement of users' recreational experience across the Site.
- 9.2.2 The design of the Proposed Development has been guided by an iterative landscape and visual mitigation-by-design rationale developed in tandem with the consultant ecologist. This includes a comprehensive landscape strategy with ca.550 native trees and shrubs, with more than 900m of new native hedgerow and improvements to fencing and installation of interpretation boards. These enhancements have been informed by landscape character guidance and designed to mitigate, as far as possible, the visual impact of the Proposed Development, as well as negative effects on the character of the landscape resulting from reversible, renewable energy infrastructure. Additionally, the Proposed Development also has the potential to absorb considerable quantities of carbon dioxide over the lifetime of the Proposed Development.
- 9.2.3 Furthermore, the Proposed Development is temporary, and completely reversible after a period of 40 years, by which time the proposed mitigation planting will have reached maturity which will in turn

strengthen the landscape character and value of the area as well as biodiversity habitats and networks biodiversity.

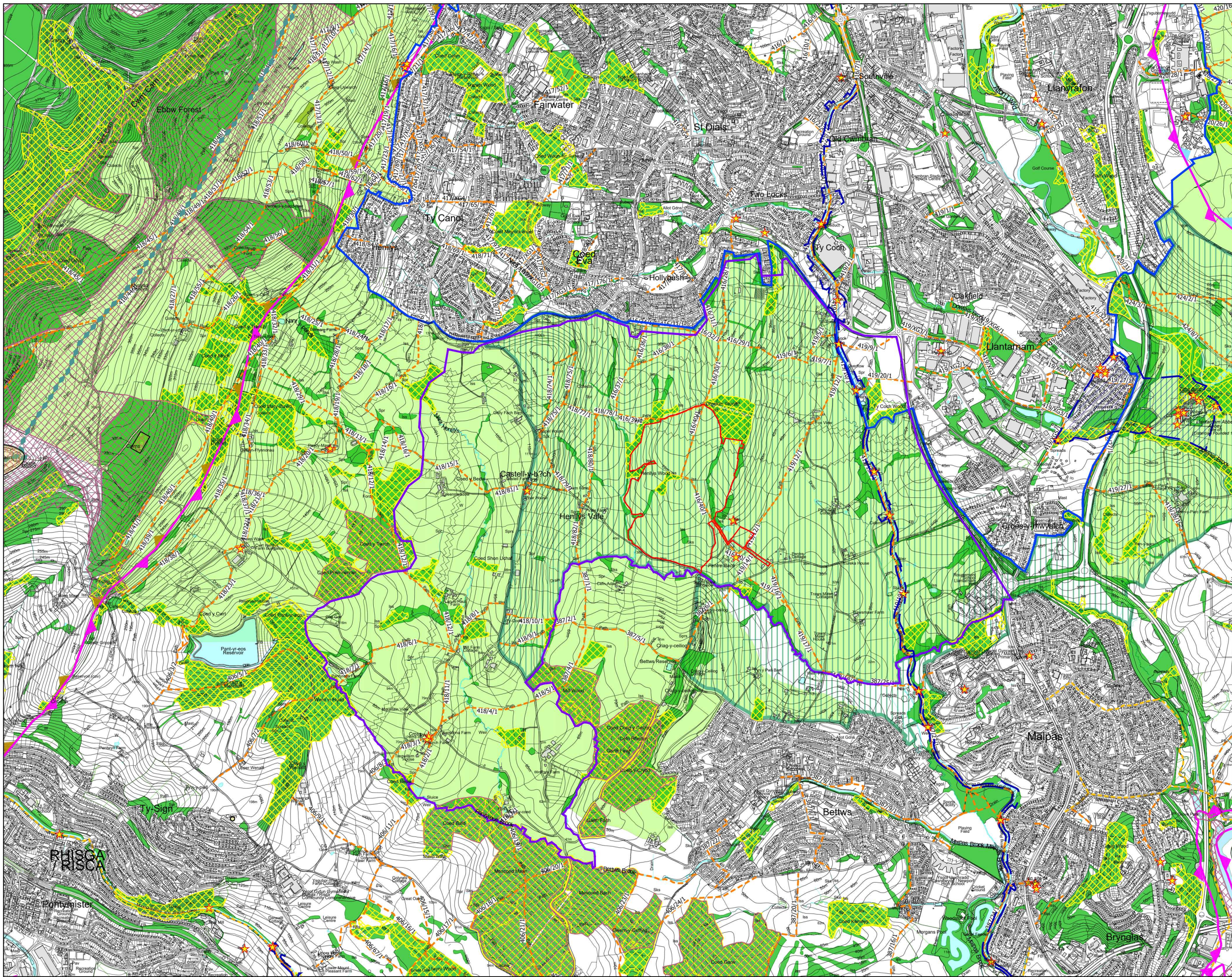
9.2.4 The design principles for the Proposed Development have been guided by local and national planning policy in that it:

- Integrates green infrastructure;
- Minimises adverse effects and demonstrates positive environmental impacts;
- Does not lead to significant detrimental impact on local amenity;
- Respects and protects the natural environment; and
- Protects the character and integrity of sites and landscapes of historical merit and their setting.

9.2.5 It is considered that the Site and its Immediate Setting will experience Moderate Adverse effects at Year 1 which as a result of proposed mitigation measures will reduce to Moderate/Minor Adverse effects by Year 15. The underlying character of the Site will remain legible as the existing vegetation framework will be retained and strengthened. As a result, the Proposed Development will not be perceived as entirely incongruous in the context of existing industrial and renewable energy development. Further mitigation measures include elements that will improve local character from an early stage, such as the removal of dilapidated fencing and installation of interpretation boards.




















9.2.6 Beyond the Site and its immediate setting, some adverse effects are likely to arise, ranging from Moderate Adverse to Negligible Beneficial on local and wider landscape character and visual receptors at Year 1. However, by Year 15, it is considered that effects will reduce between a range from Moderate/Minor Adverse to Minor Beneficial once mitigation and the proposed landscape strategy has established. As a result, it is therefore considered that the Site has the capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development without long-term unacceptable effects on landscape character and visual amenity, whilst the proposed mitigation strategy is deemed to have the potential to provide for long term beneficial effects.

## Figure 1: Site Context Plan



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**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
-  Existing Woodlands, Copses and Tree Belts ^
-  Existing Water Courses and Features ^
-  Cambrian Way - Long Distance Walks ^
-  Public Rights of Way \*
-  Sustrans Cycle Route +
-  Ancient Woodland #
-  Countryside Rights of Way Access Areas #
-  Listed Buildings ~
-  Conservation Area #
-  Scheduled Monument ~
-  Green Wedges ++
-  Special Landscape Areas ++
-  Urban Boundary ++
-  Special Landscape Area 6: Southern Lowland ##
-  National Character Area (NCA) Profiles #
-  31 Canolbarth Mynydd/Central Monmouthshire
-  35 Casnewydd, Caerdydd a'r Barri/Newport, Cardiff and Barry
-  37 Dyffrynnoedd y De/South Wales Valleys

Sources:  
 # OS Mapping  
 ^ Natural Resources Wales GIS Data Set  
 + Cadw GIS Database  
 ++ Torfaen District Council GIS Data Base  
 +++ Newport District Council Interactive Map  
 +++ Sustrans National Cycle Network GIS Data  
 +++ Torfaen District Council Development Plan Proposals Map  
 ## Torfaen County Borough Council Designation of Special Landscape Areas May 2011

Data collected for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation inserted using the British National Grid and may itself not be accurate. Stantec shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

**FIGURE 1**

Project  
 Land at Pentre Bach,  
 Torfaen

Drawing Title  
 Site Context Plan

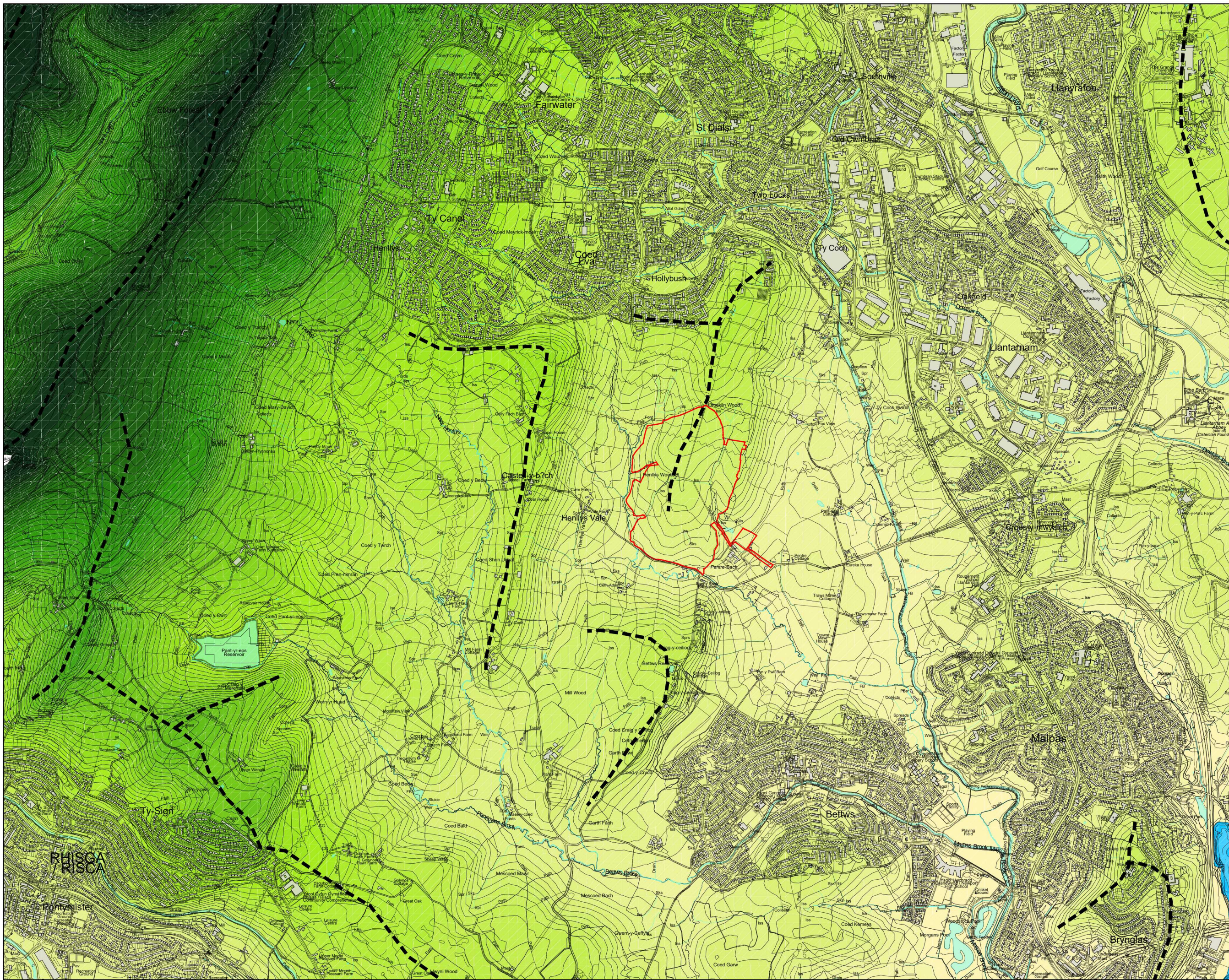
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Project No	Drawing No	Revision	
333100902	LN-LP-01		



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# Figure 2: Topography Plan









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**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
-  Existing Water Courses and Features ^
-  Contours/Spot Heights (Metres AOD) ^
-  Ridgelines

**Elevation**

405 to 415
395 to 405
385 to 395
375 to 385
365 to 375
355 to 365
345 to 355
335 to 345
325 to 335
315 to 325
305 to 315
295 to 305
285 to 295
275 to 285
265 to 275
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145 to 155
135 to 145
125 to 135
115 to 125
105 to 115
95 to 105
85 to 95
75 to 85
65 to 75
55 to 65
45 to 55
35 to 45
25 to 35
15 to 25
5 to 15
0-5 to 5

Sources: ^ OS Mapping  
 Data collated for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation inserted using the British National Grid and new data not be accurate. Stantec shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

**FIGURE 2**

Project: Land at Pentre Bach, Torfaen  
 Drawing Title: Topography Plan

Date	Scale	Drawn by	Check by
28.05.2024	1:10,000 @A1 1:20,000 @A3	ML/SC	MF
Project No	Drawing No	Revision	
333100902	LN-LP-02		



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## Figure 3: Site Appraisal Plan



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Revision	Date	Drn	Ckd

**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
-  Contours/Spot Heights (Metres AOD) ^
-  Public Rights of Way \*
-  Listed Buildings ~
-  Ancient Woodland #
-  Location of Photographic Viewpoints (Site Appraisal Photographs: A-O)
-  Field Numbers (1-9)

Sources:  
 ^ OS Mapping  
 # Natural Resources Wales GIS Data Set  
 ~ Cadw GIS Database  
 \* Torfaen District Council GIS Data Base

Data collated for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation inserted using the British National Grid and may itself not be accurate. Stantec shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

**FIGURE 3**

Project  
**Land at Pentre Bach, Torfaen**  
 Drawing Title  
**Site Appraisal Plan**

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Project No	Drawing No	Revision	
333100902	LN-LP-03		

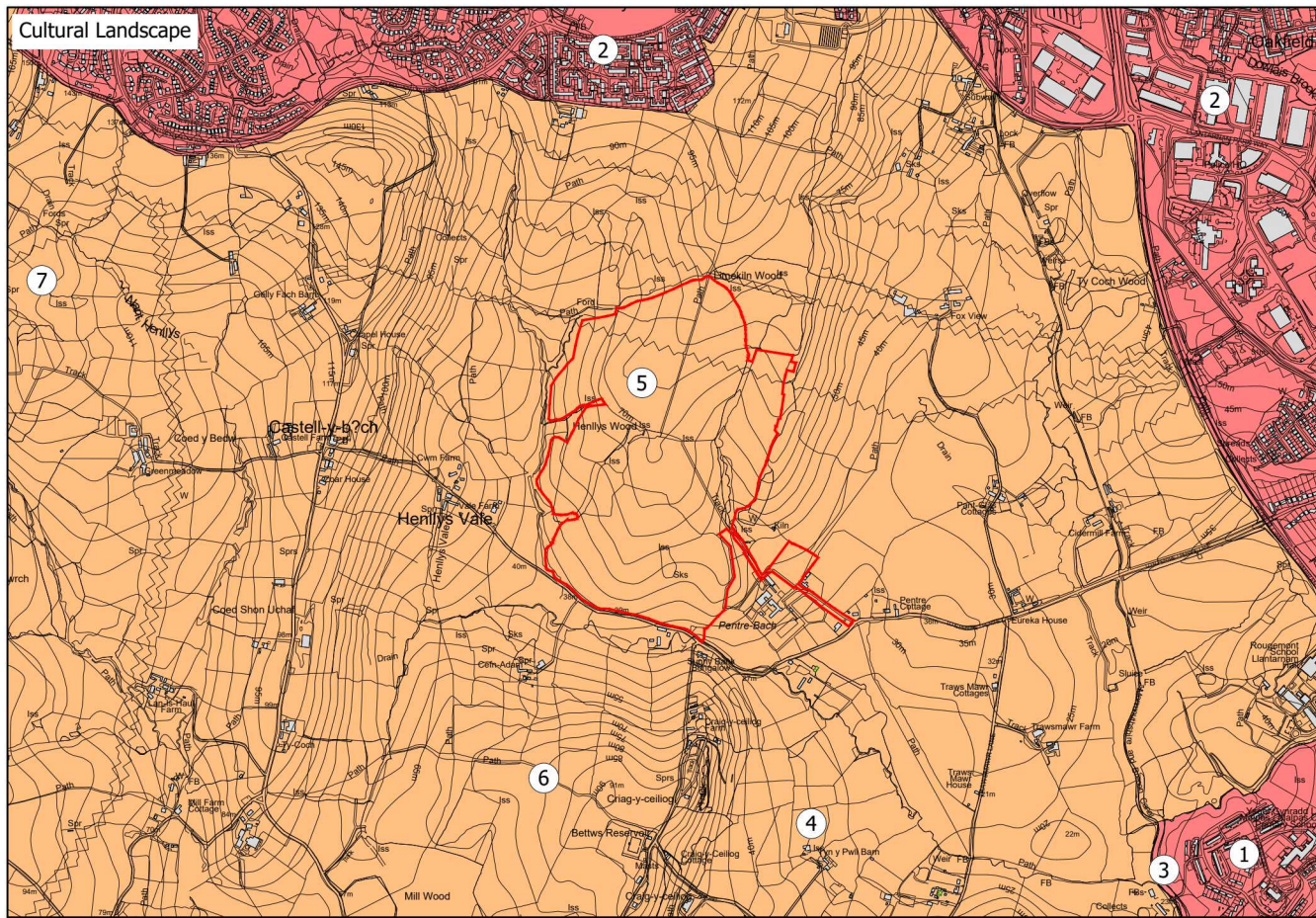


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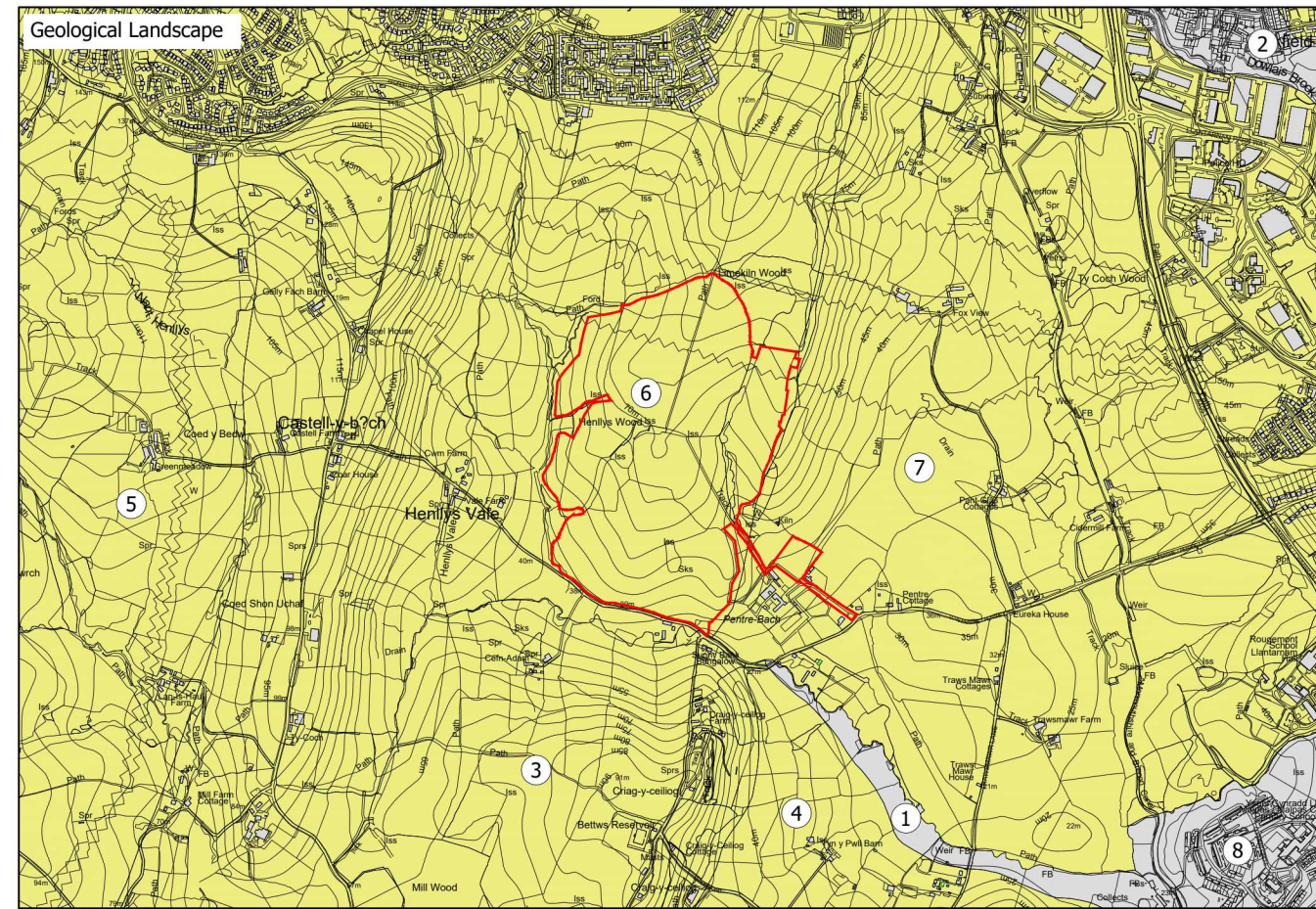


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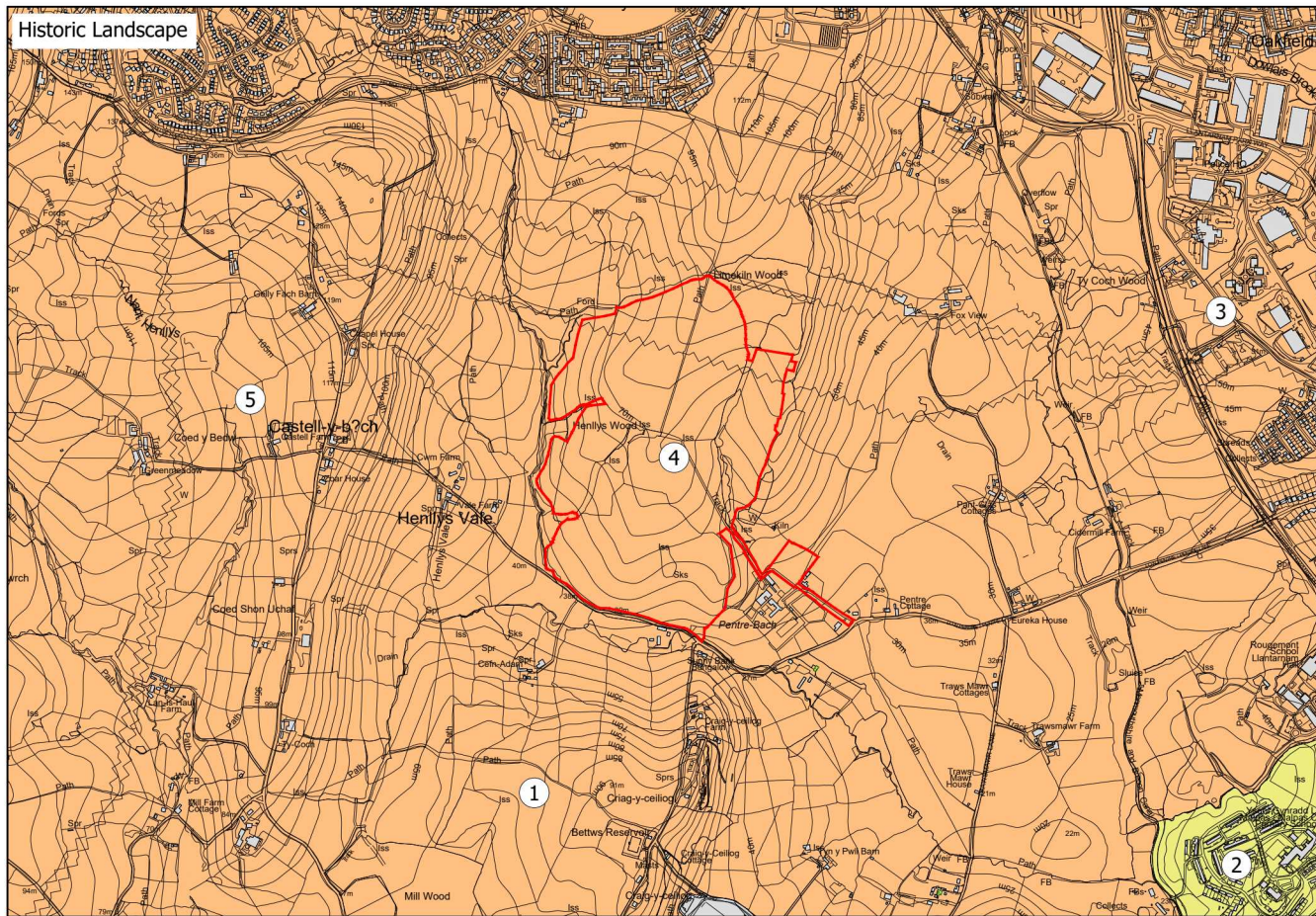
**Figure 4: LANDMAP Aspect Areas and Evaluation**



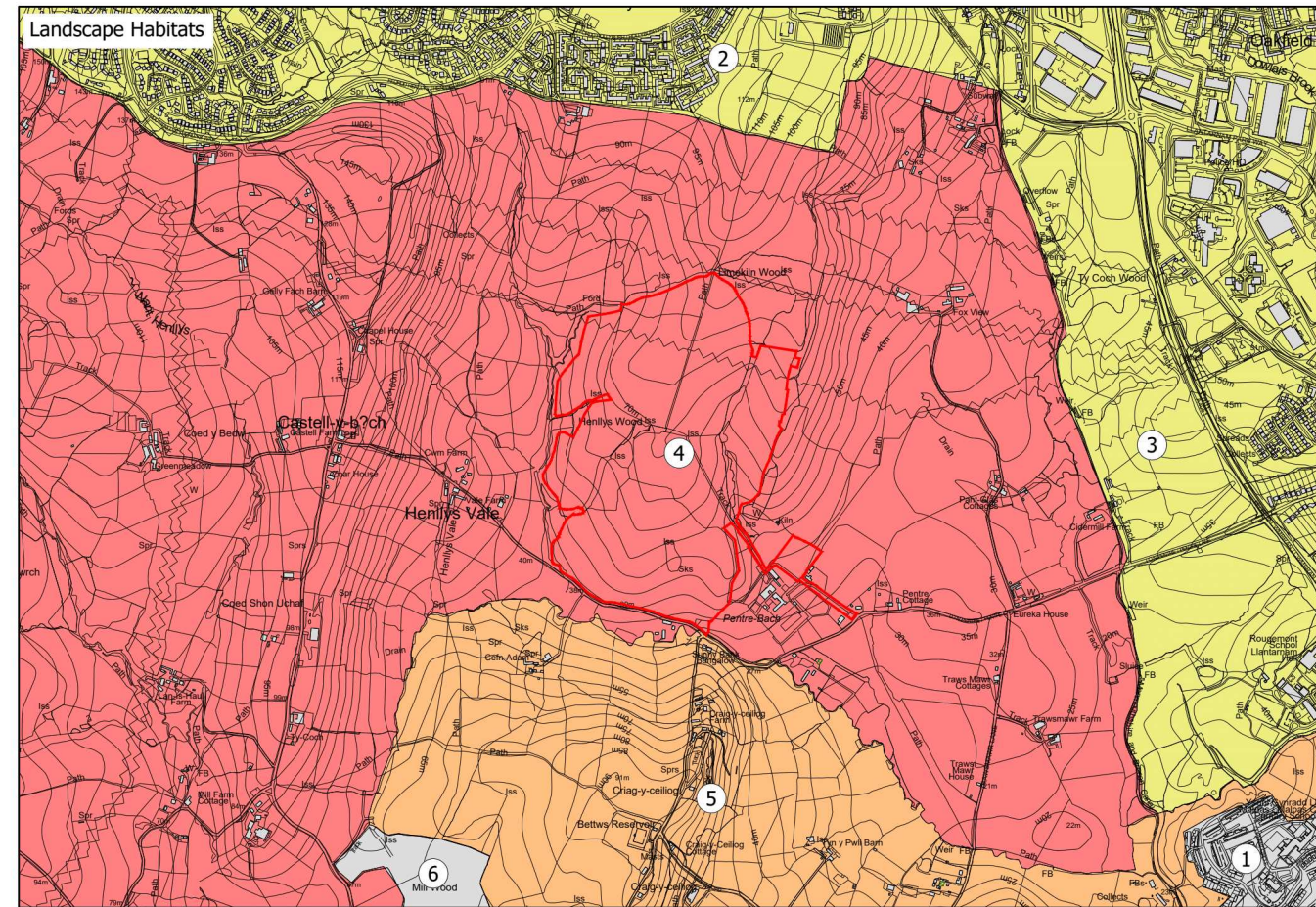
- ① Aspect Area Name: NWPRTCLS066 Malpas Evaluation: n/a
- ② TRFNCLS039 Evaluation: n/a
- ③ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTCLS023 Malpas Brook Valley Evaluation: n/a
- ④ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTCLS024 Bettws Farmland Evaluation: n/a
- ⑤ TRFNCLS003 Evaluation: n/a
- ⑥ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTCLS021 Maescoed Evaluation: n/a
- ⑦ TRFNCLS002 Evaluation: n/a



- ① Aspect Area Name: NWPRTGL018 Bettws Brook - Malpas Brook Evaluation: Low
- ② TRFNGL009 Afon Llwyd Evaluation: Low
- ③ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTGL051 Craig-y-Ceilog Evaluation: Moderate
- ④ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTGL050 Bettws (north) Evaluation: Moderate
- ⑤ TRFNGL006 Oaksford Evaluation: Moderate
- ⑥ Aspect Area Name: TRFNGL007 Castell y Bwch Evaluation: Moderate
- ⑦ TRFNGL008 Llantarnam Evaluation: Moderate
- ⑧ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTGL006 Newport (Malpas) Evaluation: Low



- ① Aspect Area Name: NWPRTL004 Evaluation: High
- ② Aspect Area Name: NWPRTCLS066 Malpas Evaluation: Moderate
- ③ Aspect Area Name: TRFNHL001 Evaluation: High
- ④ Aspect Area Name: TRFNHL005 Evaluation: High
- ⑤ Aspect Area Name: TRFNHL006 Evaluation: High



- ① Aspect Area Name: NWPRTLH008 Evaluation: Low
- ② TRFNHL002 Evaluation: Moderate
- ③ Aspect Area Name: TRFNHL025 Evaluation: Moderate
- ④ Aspect Area Name: TRFNHL030 Evaluation: Outstanding
- ⑤ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTLH048 Evaluation: High
- ⑥ Aspect Area Name: NWPRTLH005 Evaluation: Low

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### LEGEND

- Site Boundary
- Contours/Spot Heights (Metres AOD) ^
- 1 Aspect Area #

Landmap Evaluation: #

- Outstanding
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Sources:  
 ^ OS Mapping  
 # Natural Resources Wales (LANDMAP) 2023

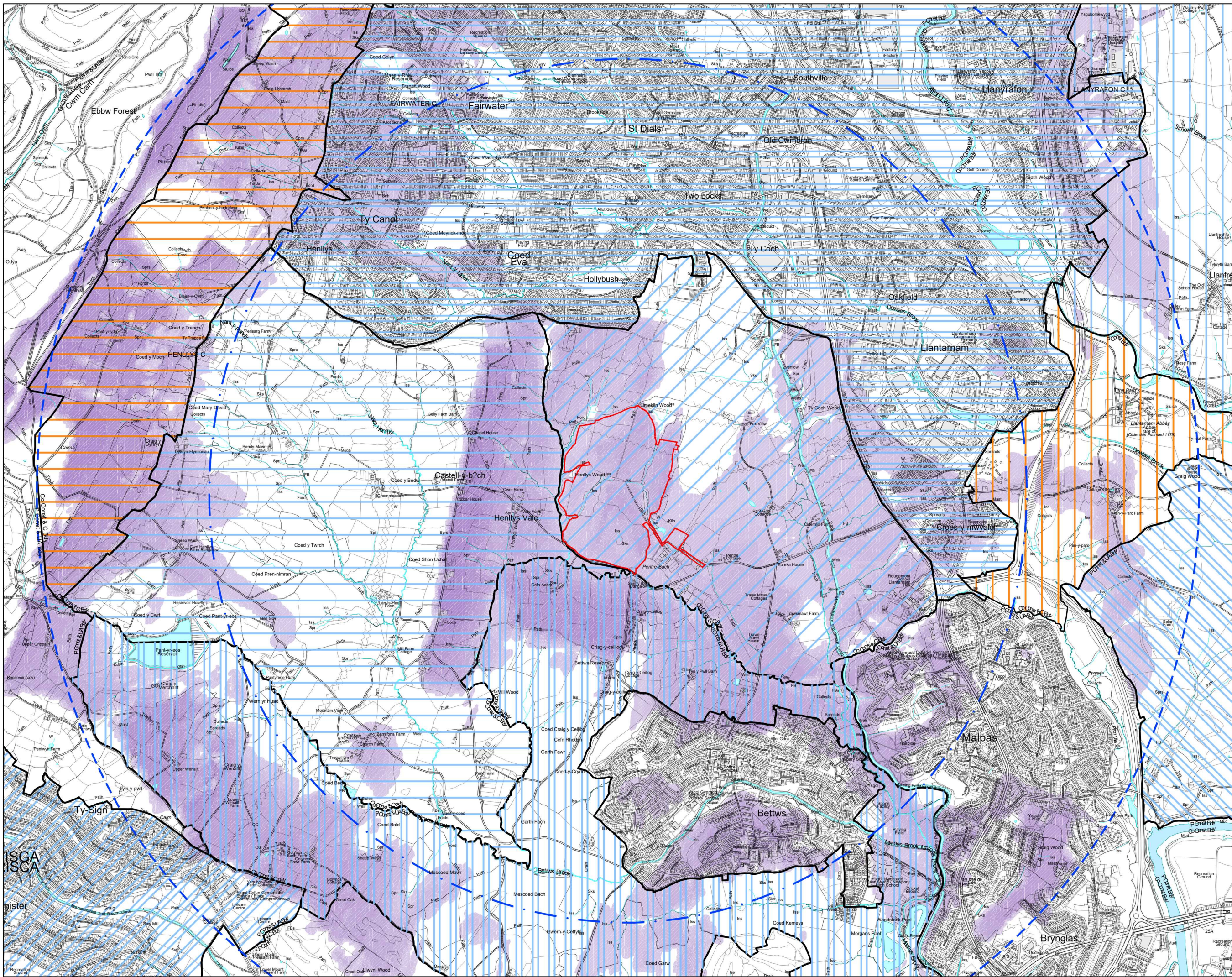
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**FIGURE 4**  
 Project  
 Land at Pentre Bach,  
 Torfan  
 Drawing Title  
 LANDMAP Aspect Areas  
 and Evaluation

Date: 29.05.2024  
 Project No: 333100902  
 Scale: 1:10,000 @A1  
 1:20,000 @A3  
 Drawing No: LN-LP-06  
 Drawn by: ML/CK  
 Check by: MF  
 Revision: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Figure 5: LANDMAP Historic Landscape Aspect Areas**



**LEGEND**

- Site Boundary
- Study Area Boundary  
2km Radius
- Search Area Boundary  
3km Radius
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility**
- Areas with Intervisibility with the Site
- Landmap - Historic Landscape #**
- Outstanding**
- TRFNHL004 / HL004 Llantarnam Abbey  
Built environment, Other built environment, Designed, Other Designed Landscape (specify)
- TRFNHL007 / HL007 Mynydd Henllys and Mynydd Maen: Va  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Irregular Fields
- High**
- CYNONHL465 / Ebbw Settlement Corridor  
Built environment, Settlement, Other Settlement
- NWRPRL004 / Mescoed Mawr  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Regular Fields
- NWRPRL007 / Park Farm  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Irregular Fields
- TRFNHL001 / HL001 Cwmbran  
Built environment, Settlement, Nucleated Settlement
- TRFNHL002 / HL002 Edlogan and Tregrug  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Irregular Fields
- TRFNHL005 / HL005 Cefn Mynach Grange  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Irregular Fields
- TRFNHL006 / HL006 Henllys  
Rural environment, Agricultural, Regular Fields

Sources:  
 # Natural Resources Wales (LANDMAP) 2023  
 Data collated for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation inserted using the British National Grid and may itself not be accurate. Stantec shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

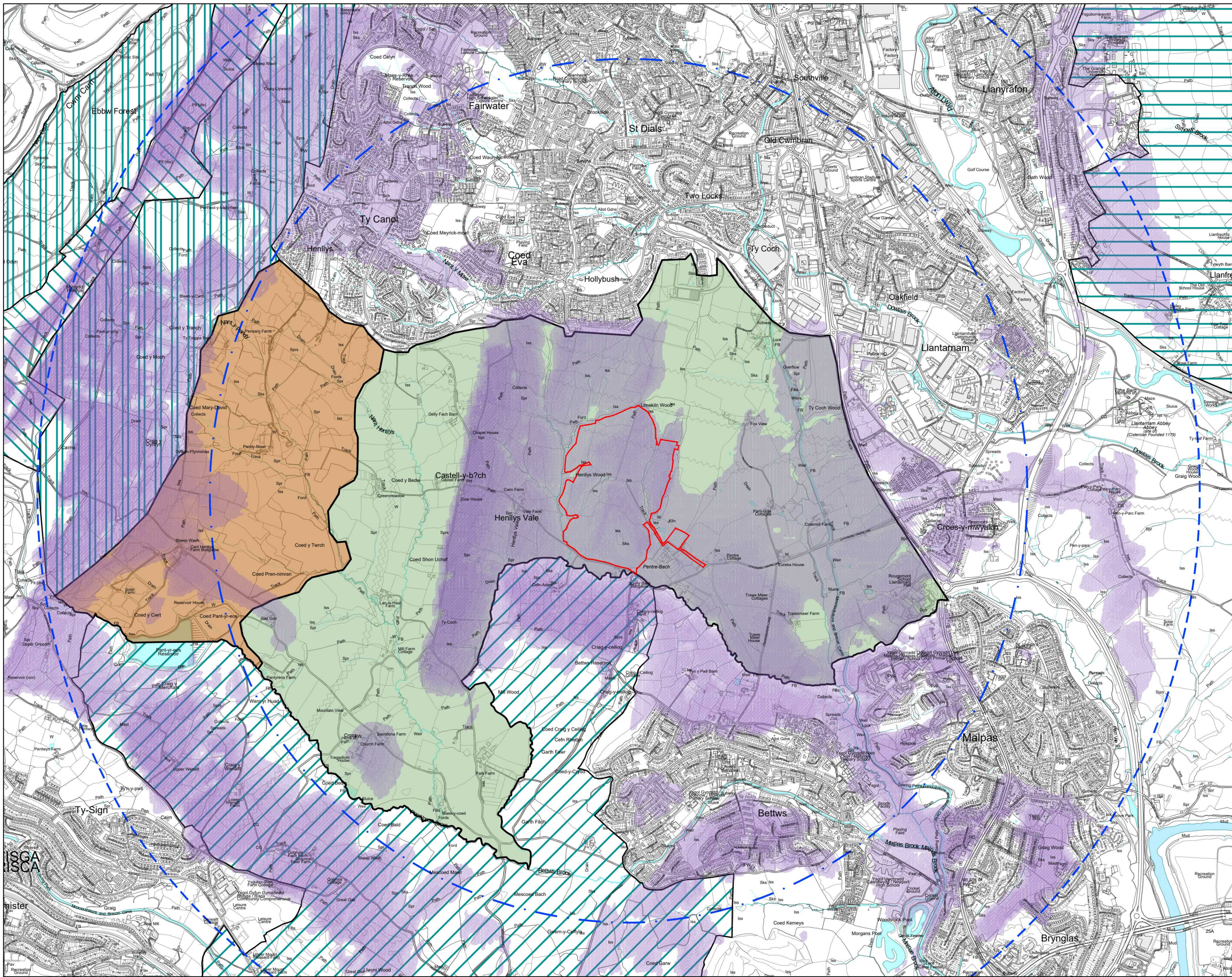
**FIGURE 5**

Project  
 Land at Pentre Bach,  
 Torfaen  
 Drawing Title  
 LANDMAP Historic Landscape  
 Aspect Areas  
 Date  
 29.05.2024  
 Project No  
 333100902  
 Scale  
 1:10,000 @A1  
 1:20,000 @A3  
 Drawing No  
 LN-LP-13  
 Drawn by  
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 Revision  
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**Figure 6: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas**





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 Revision \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Dm \_\_\_\_\_ Ckd \_\_\_\_\_

**LEGEND**

- Site Boundary
- Study Area Boundary 2km Radius
- Search Area Boundary 3km Radius

Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- Areas with Intervisibility with the Site

Landmap - Visual and Sensory Landscapes #

- High
- NWPRTV5014 / Maescod Upland, Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes, Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic
  - TRFNVS011 / Lowland, Rolling Lowland, Mosaic Rolling Lowland
  - TRFNVS024 / Upland, Exposed Upland/Plateau, Upland Grazing
  - TRFNVS044 / Upland, Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes, Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic
- Moderate
- TRFNVS002 / Upland, Hills, Lower Plateau & Scarp Slopes, Hillside & Scarp Slopes Mosaic
  - TRFNVS004 / Lowland, Rolling Lowland, Mosaic Rolling Lowland

Sources:  
 # Natural Resources Wales (LANDMAP) 2023

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**FIGURE 6**

Project  
**Land at Pentre Bach, Torfaen**

Drawing Title  
**LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas**

Date  
 30.05.2024

Scale  
 1:10,000 @A1  
 1:20,000 @A3

Project No  
 333100902

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Revision





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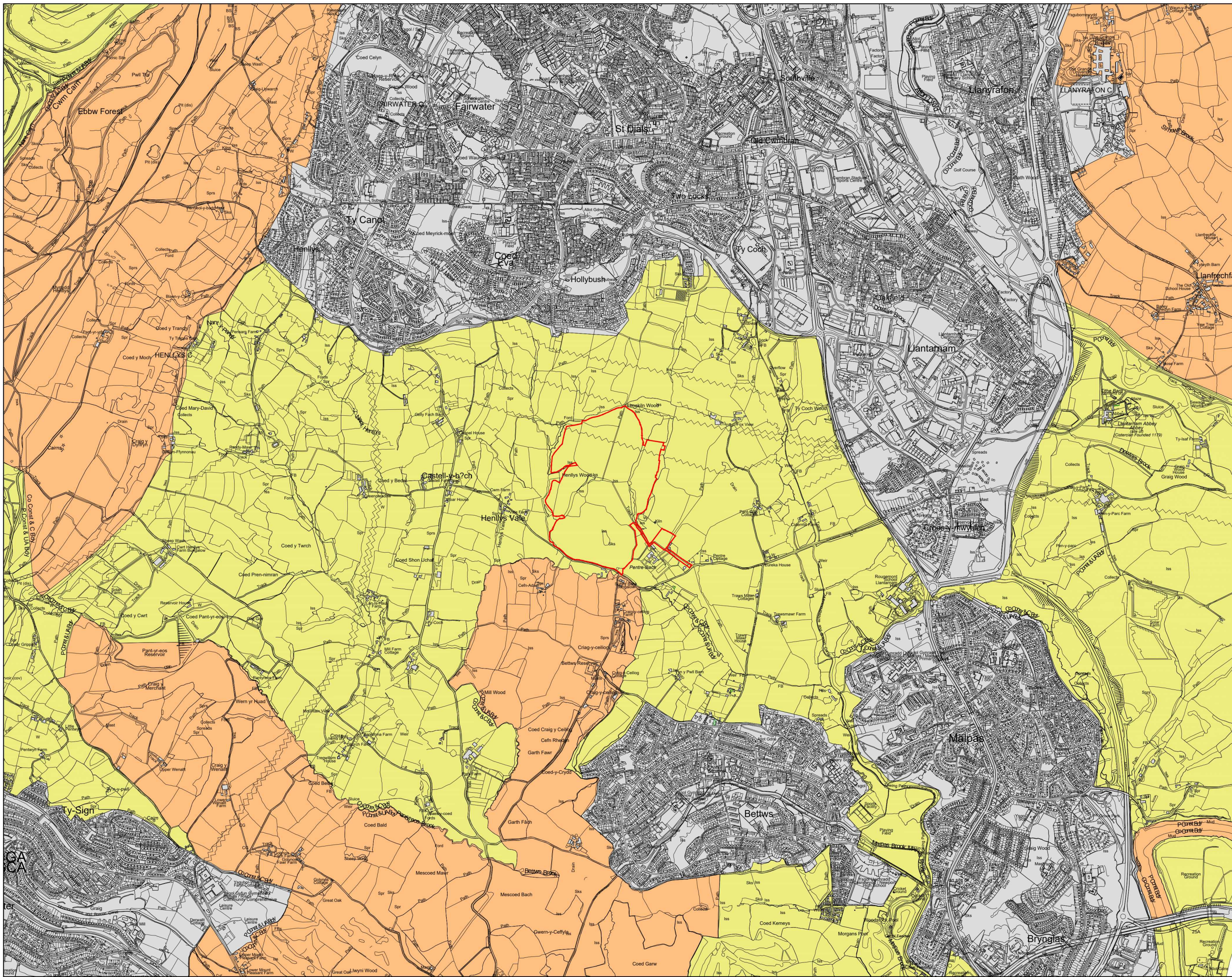
# Figure 7: LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Evaluation

**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
- Landmap Evaluation: #
-  High
-  Moderate
-  Low



Sources:  
 # Natural Resources Wales (LANDMAP) 2023  
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**FIGURE 7**


Project  
 Land at Pentre Bach,  
 Torfaen  
 Drawing Title  
 LANDMAP Visual and Sensory  
 Evaluation  
 Date  
 29.05.2024  
 Project No  
 333100902  
 Scale  
 1:10,000 @A1  
 1:20,000 @A3  
 Drawing No  
 LN-LP-05  
 Drawn by  
 ML/CK  
 Check by  
 MF  
 Revision  
 -



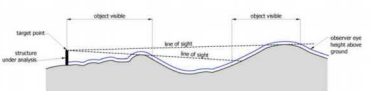
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## **Figure 8: Visual Appraisal and Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan**

**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
-  Existing Woodlands, Copses and Tree Belts ^
-  Existing Water Courses and Features ^
-  Contours/Spot Heights (Metres AOD) ^
-  Cambrian Way - Long Distance Walks ^
-  Public Rights of Way \*
-  Sustrans Cycle Route +
-  Listed Buildings ~
-  Conservation Area #
-  Scheduled Monument ~
-  Location of Photographic Viewpoints (Site Context Photographs: 1-23)
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)**
-  Most Visible
-  Least Visible

**Notes:**  
 The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) provides an approximate portrayal of the greatest possible extent of visibility of the Proposed Development, on the basis of a bare earth model. The extent and nature of specific views towards the Proposed Development is to be verified through fieldwork to take account of other visual barriers, such as existing buildings, woodland, trees and infrastructure.  
 • The ZTV is produced using the specialised software package Key-Terra  
 • Firms which is an AutoCAD based application.  
 • The ZTV is produced by calculating the 'line of sight' from target points to analysis end.



- Parameters:**
- The study area for the ZTV is approximately 7 x 5.5 km;
  - The ZTV accounts for ground topography on the basis of a model made from Natural Resources Wales 2m Digital Terrain Model (DTM) height data, interpolated to a 10m grid;
  - The ZTV takes into account existing features, based on information from Natural Resources Wales 2m Digital Surface Model (DSM) height data, interpolated to a 10m grid;
  - The ZTV is based on 98 target points across the site on a regular 75m grid, assuming a 3m development height; and
  - The ZTV portrays the extent of visibility of the Proposed Development on the basis of if a target point is visible within a given 20m grid square.

**Sources:**  
 # GIS Mapping  
 # Natural Resources Wales GIS Data Set  
 # Cadw GIS Database  
 # Torfaen District Council GIS Data Base  
 # Sustrans National Cycle Network GIS Data

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**FIGURE 9**

Project  
**Land at Pentre Bach, Torfaen**

Drawing Title  
**Visual Appraisal and Zone of Theoretical Visibility Plan**

Date  
 20.05.2024

Scale  
 1:10,000 @A1  
 1:20,000 @A3

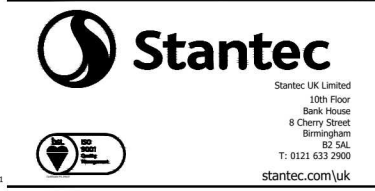
Project No  
 333100902

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 MN/CK

Check by  
 MF

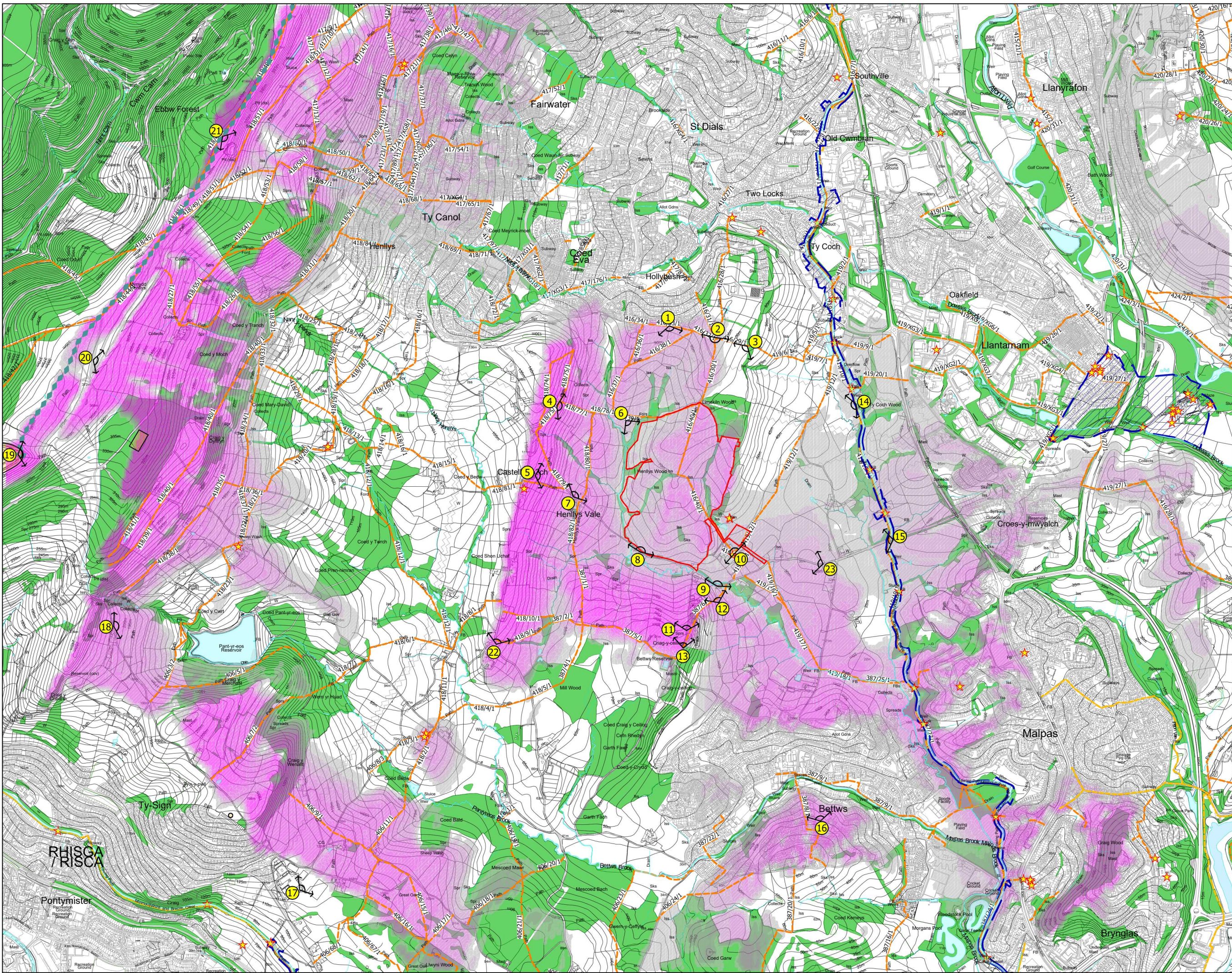
Revision

LN-LP-09



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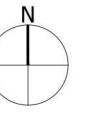
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**Figure 9: Landscape and Visual Development Principles Plan**

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**LEGEND**

-  Site Boundary
-  Contours/Spot Heights (Metres AOD) ^
-  Public Rights of Way \*
-  Listed Buildings ~
-  Ancient Woodland #
-  Proposed 15m Buffers
-  Proposed 5m Buffers
-  Proposed Visual Mitigation Buffer
-  Proposed Native Tree Planting
-  Proposed Extent of Solar Panels
-  Existing Hedgerows Reinforced

Sources:  
 ^ OS Mapping  
 # Natural Resources Wales GIS Data Set  
 ~ Cadw GIS Database  
 \* Torfaen District Council GIS Data Base

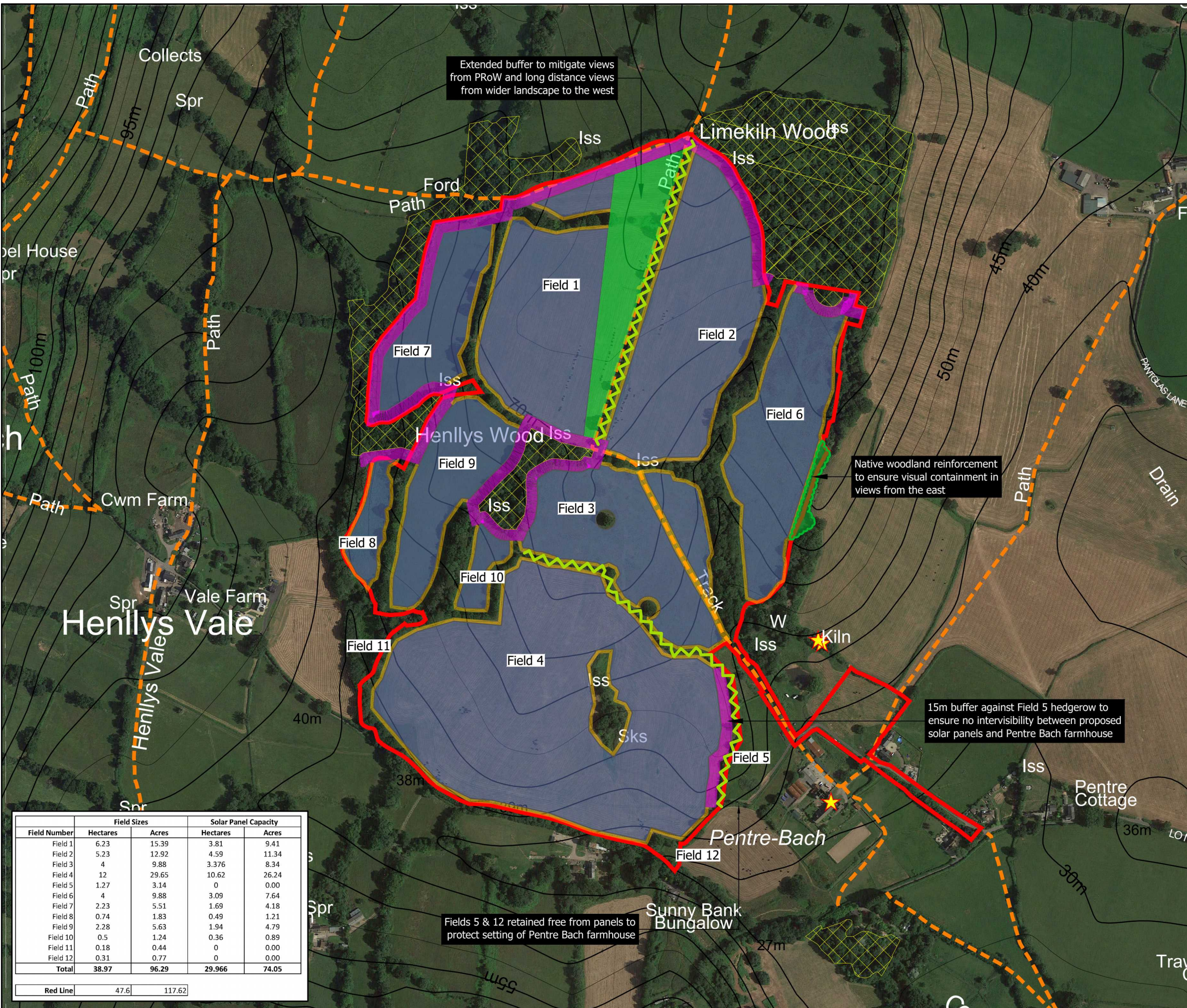
Data collated for constraints and analysis mapping is based on publicly available sources at the time of preparation inserted using the British National Grid and may itself not be accurate. Stantec shall not be liable for the accuracy of data derived from external sources.

Extended buffer to mitigate views from PRoW and long distance views from wider landscape to the west

Native woodland reinforcement to ensure visual containment in views from the east

15m buffer against Field 5 hedgerow to ensure no intervisibility between proposed solar panels and Pentre Bach farmhouse

Fields 5 & 12 retained free from panels to protect setting of Pentre Bach farmhouse



Field Number	Field Sizes		Solar Panel Capacity	
	Hectares	Acres	Hectares	Acres
Field 1	6.23	15.39	3.81	9.41
Field 2	5.23	12.92	4.59	11.34
Field 3	4	9.88	3.376	8.34
Field 4	12	29.65	10.62	26.24
Field 5	1.27	3.14	0	0.00
Field 6	4	9.88	3.09	7.64
Field 7	2.23	5.51	1.69	4.18
Field 8	0.74	1.83	0.49	1.21
Field 9	2.28	5.63	1.94	4.79
Field 10	0.5	1.24	0.36	0.89
Field 11	0.18	0.44	0	0.00
Field 12	0.31	0.77	0	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.97</b>	<b>96.29</b>	<b>29.966</b>	<b>74.05</b>
<b>Red Line</b>	<b>47.6</b>	<b>117.62</b>		

**FIGURE 9**

Project  
 Land at Pentre Back,  
 Torfaen

Drawing Title  
 Landscape and Visual  
 Development Principles Plan

Date 28.05.2024 Scale 1:5,000 @A3 Drawn by JM Check by MF  
 Project No 333100902 Drawing No LN-LP-10 Revision -



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**Figure 10: Landscape Strategy Plan**





# REFERENCES

- 
- <sup>i</sup> Landscape Institute and I.E.M.A (2013). Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Routledge.
- <sup>ii</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2013) Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments GN46. Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/using-landmap-in-landscape-and-visual-impact-assessments-gn46/?lang=en>. Accessed in June 2024.
- <sup>iii</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2000) Survey Details For TRFNGL007. Available at: [Landmap Portal \(naturalresources.wales\)](#). Accessed in June 2024.
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- <sup>v</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2013) Survey Details For NWPRTGL051. Available at: [Landmap Portal \(naturalresources.wales\)](#). Accessed in June 2024.
- <sup>vi</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2007) Survey Details For NWPRTGL051. Available at: [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=9135](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=9135). Accessed in June 2024.
- <sup>vii</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2006) Survey Details For NWPRTLH048. Available at: [Landmap Portal \(naturalresources.wales\)](#). Accessed in June 2024.
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- <sup>xiii</sup> Natural Resources Wales (2006) Survey Details For NWPRTHL004. Available at: [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=7034](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=7034). Accessed in June 2024.
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