Nant Mithil Energy Park, Powys.
PEDW DNS Application Ref: DNS CAS-01907-D7Q6Z1.

CPRW-RE-think Chapter 4 on

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Nant Mithil Energy Park, Powys.
PEDW DNS Application Ref: DNS CAS-01907-D7Q6Z1.

Evidence by CPRW-RE-think on:

Landscape and Visual Amenity.

This chapter discusses the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment produced by LUC and identifies the principle significant adverse landscape and visual effects.

Prepared by: Kelda Platt for Munro Landscape, Chartered landscape Architect.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This appraisal of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park has been prepared by Kelda Platt, CMLI of Munro Landscape on behalf of CPRW-RE-think. It is based on a review of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR) and associated documents and visits to the proposed Energy Park site and the surrounding area. This appraisal focusses on verifying compliance with best practice, in terms of methodology of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as well as identifying the principle landscape and visual effects of the proposed development. This appraisal does not comprise an alternative detailed LVIA.

1.2. Within my assessment, I adopt the Applicant's LVIA terminology and methodology for levels of sensitivity, magnitude of change and levels of effects , as detailed within **Technical Appendix 5.1 – LVIA Methodology**[1].

2. THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1. The proposed development would comprise 30 wind turbines, with maximum tip heights of 220m, 205m and 180m. Due to all turbines exceeding 150m, turbines are required to be lit by the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) Air navigation Order (ANO). Fourteen number turbines, to the perimeter of the proposed site have been identified as being provided with 2000/200 candela (CD) lights, at hub height.

2.2. Ancillary development will include hardstanding areas to each wind turbine of approximately 1,045m^{2,} with cabling running alongside tracks, within a 3-10m verge. Access tracks within the proposed site will constitute a 21.81km length of new routes and upgrading of 1.8km to existing routes. Running width of tracks will be 5.5m, with existing tracks widened by approximately 2.5m to accommodate this requirement. In addition, 130 passing places will be constructed. A total of 2.62km of access track is proposed within Common Land, and approximately 5km through Open Access Land.

3. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT

3.1. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), set out in Chapter 5 of the EIAR, complies with the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3). I am broadly in agreement with the LVIA's conclusions on landscape and visual effects and consider the assessment to be robust and credibly evidenced. However, I do find that a number of impacts are conservatively assessed, with lower levels of effects than I find within my own independent assessment. This results in a more contained spread of effects than I determine.

[1] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices - Appendix 5.1 – LVIA Methodology

4. THE DESIGN OF THE PROPOSAL.

SITE SELECTION

4.1. The site selection process is detailed within Chapter 3 of the EIAR: Selection and Design Strategy. The early process of site selection is described as "*A desk-based assessment to identify land suitable for development using Geographical Information System (GIS) by mapping technical and environmental constraints."*[2] Considerations pertinent to landscape and visual amenity included the avoidance of nationally designated landscape resource such a National Parks and National Landscape / Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and proximity to nearby residential properties.

4.2. Site selection seeks to align with planning and renewable energy policy, with reference to early stages of the Pre-Assessed Areas (PAAs) for wind development[3], which were under development at the time. The PAA area 4 (PAA4) lies directly adjacent to the proposed site, to the west, with a small portion reaching into the proposed site area. The remainder of the area of the proposed site was not included in any iteration of the PAA, with exclusion in particular to areas to the east of PAA4, due to visibility from the Shropshire hills. Inclusion of part of the proposed site within PAA4 is detailed as part of the key characteristics which makes the site a suitable location. It should be noted that PAA4 constitutes under 20% of the land area of the proposed site and exactly 20% of the proposed turbines lie within the PAA, with the majority of the site out of this zone.

4.3. Other than the inclusion of a portion of PAA within the proposed site, there are no other determining factors, relevant to landscape and visual concerns, detailed within site selection factors for the proposed site.

DESIGN LAYOUT

4.4. Within design layout, a number of design parameters have been developed, in order to *"create a layout that relates sympathetically to the landform and scale of the Site and surrounding area, and that is well-composed from key views"* (**EIAR Volume 1, Chapter 3, page 3-4, para 3.11**). Design objectives which relate to landscape and visual concerns are as follows:

- Considering landform, scale and land use to locate turbines on the larger scale hill tops/ridges;
- Avoiding turbines appearing as overbearing on the steep sided slopes on the western and northern peripheries of the Site;
- Considering different turbine heights across the Site to respond to the varying topography and relative proximity to residential properties;

[2] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 1 Environmental Statement - Chapter 3, page 3-2, para 3.7.

[3] ARUP (2019) Assessment of on-shore wind and solar energy potential in Wales.

- Minimising effects on nationally designated landscape, most notably the Shropshire Hills National Landscape / AONB and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, including cumulative effects;
- Minimising the effects of visible aviation lighting through the implementation of all available mitigation measures to reduce the number, frequency and intensity of visible lighting required;
- Avoiding breaching the 'residential visual amenity threshold' at nearby properties, beyond which these properties could be widely regarding to be unattractive places to live;
- Minimising the requirement for significant earthworks by considering topography and slope stability;
- Limiting infrastructure on common land to access tracks and its associated drainage and cable trenches, and minimising land take overall as far as possible across the Site;
- Minimising effects on the access and recreation opportunities provided by the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network within the Site;
- Exploring opportunities within the Site to provide greater access and recreational opportunities.

4.5. Considerations of scale are implicit within the first three design objectives. The installation of turbines of the size proposed, at between 180m to 220m requires a landscape of large horizontal extent, with limited features, such as single trees, field boundaries and dwellings against which to judge scale. Open moorland sites are often selected on this basis, with sufficient offset from smaller scaled and populated landscape resource. Within best practice guidance it is concluded that *"Larger wind turbines may appear out of scale or visually dominant in lowland, settled, or smaller scale landscapes."*[4] (Designing Wind Farms in Wales (2014) page.15) The siting of turbines along the 'larger scale hill ridges' does not sufficiently diminish the visual presence within the adjacent lowland and smaller scale landscape of the west, north and south sides. The prominence of the proposed turbines, along the full breadth of the feature of Radnor Forest, is one of the key factors in creating and strengthening effects, rather than reducing them. Strong visual attachment is evident within Viewpoints 2, 4, 6, 11, 16 and 17, where turbines appear to step down into the more gentle and populated landscape, appear set against dwellings and attach to field boundaries and single tree features. This is in a large part due to insufficient setback, proximity to 'steep sided slopes', and the limited breadth of the landscape unit of the Radnor Hill.

4.6. Turbines heights are varied, with smaller sizes, at 180m, proposed toward the northern extent of the proposed site, where intervisibility with populated landscape is greater. At 180m this remains a very tall turbine structure, sited within proximity to domestic setting. This is detailed as a response to 'varying topography and relative

[4] Design Commission for Wales (2014) Designing Wind Farms in Wales

proximity to residential properties.' The landscape scale can be seen to reduce toward the norther site area, however, as represented within Viewpoint 2 the turbines appear very large in scale, visible from base to tip, set against smaller scale landscape features.

4.7. Design approaches seeking to retain and enhance the recreational qualities of the site do not appear successful and indeed the *Major* levels of effects across the Proposed Site area attest to this. In addition, it is found that the removal and erosion of the defining characteristics of the Proposed Site will likely impede the desire of users to access any further recreation, with wider resource of undeveloped landscape available within the area.

5. GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL MATTERS.

5.1. The 2023 *Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales*[5] (hereafter called 'current design guidance') provides high level guidance for siting and design layout, superseding the earlier 2014 guidance of Designing Wind Farms in Wales[6]. Within the current design guidance, there is an acceptance that the introduction of wind farm developments may alter the key characteristics of a landscape, with "*a change of emphasis from turbines considered as features in a landscape to turbines much more defining the landscape character."* (Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales, page 32, para 5.2) However, the occurrence of 'unacceptable impacts' continues to be a material consideration within Future Wales Policy 18, within the context of surrounding landscape, visual impacts, nearby communities and individual dwellings.

5.2. Detailed design guidance, pertinent to siting and layout of wind farms is embedded within the 2014 guidance document. Where this is considered useful, in terms of providing further understanding for high levels of effects produced through the proposals, this is referenced. This includes guidance relating to size and scale, perspectives, focal features, settlement, woodland, turbine size and scale and ancillary structures. This guidance is cited as having *"an important influence on reducing the overall landscape and visual impacts of a wind farm".* The design principles included within the guidance have *'the same format as SNH guidance for 'Siting and Design of wind farms in the landscape'*[7] *however this section is in context of the landscape in Wales'.*

5.3. Strategic assessment includes the aforementioned Wales-wide study for on-shore wind and solar energy developments.[8] The PAA created within the study aim to provide an evidence-based evaluation of where and how large-scale onshore wind and

[5] Design Commission for Wales (2023) Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales

[6] Design Commission for Wales (2014) Designing Wind Farms in Wales

[7] NatureScot (2017) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape, Version 3a.

[8] ARUP (2019) Assessment of on-shore wind and solar energy potential in Wales.

solar energy development could take place in Wales. As discussed within para 4.02 of this review, the proposed site is directly adjacent to, and partially within, PAA4. The ARUP assessment moved through an iterative process to develop the PAA, with the majority of the area of the proposed site omitted at all stages due to visibility with the Shropshire Hills.

6. EFFECTS ON LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

6.1. The landscape surrounding the Proposed Site comprises a combination of wider uplands and adjoining lowland and valley landscapes. Areas of high ground extend to the south-west within LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands and across the host landscape, LCA 40: Radnor Forest, with further elevated land to the east around Black Mixen. In contrast, the landscapes immediately to the west and east are lower-lying and differ in terrain and enclosure; however, both are strongly defined by visual connections to the relief and mass of the Radnor Forest uplands. The prominence and scale of the landform selected for the Proposed Energy Park is therefore a critical consideration. This is highlighted within best-practice design guidance, which advises that *"distinctive and prominent skylines should not be interrupted by turbines"* (NatureScot, para. 3.28) and cautions that "*narrow bands of uplands between settled and smaller-scale valleys should be avoided, if a wind farm on the hills would dominate the landscape on both sides"* (NatureScot, para. 3.29).

6.2. The LVIA identifies significant adverse effects on landscape character extending up to approximately 6 km to the west of the Proposed Site and up to 8 km to the east. I assess that these effects extend considerably further. In my view, major adverse effects occur across the entirety of the host landscape area, rather than being confined to the 2 km extent identified by the Applicant, with significant adverse effects extending to approximately 8 km to the west, within LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands, and to over 11 km to the east, within LCA 45: Presteigne and Beggar Bush Hillsides. In addition, two landscape character areas, LCA 45 and LCA 49, are assessed to experience significant adverse effects, not identified within the Applicant's LVIA. Collectively, these effects result in an effective encirclement of the Radnor Forest area, influencing relatively undeveloped upland landscapes and introducing wind farm development into skyline and upland zones where views are currently largely uninterrupted by existing wind energy influences.

LCA 43: RADNOR FOREST

6.3. All of the constructed elements of the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park lie within the regional *Landscape Character Area (LCA) 43: Radnor Forest*. I am in agreement that the proposal would produce significant adverse effects on the entirety of LCA 43: Radnor Forest, but assess *Major* levels of effects to extend beyond the 2km distance determined by the Applicant.

6.4. The introduction of large-scale wind turbines within LCA 43: Radnor Forest would fundamentally change the qualities that define this upland landscape. The area is characterised by a dramatic plateau landform rising steeply from the surrounding countryside, with distinctive features such as Great Rhos and the conical Whimble forming clear and highly visible focal points. The proposed turbines would introduce vertical structures that compete with these natural landmarks, break the simple open skylines, and diminish the strong backdrop role the upland hill form plays in views from adjacent LCAs. The moorland summits are noted for their remoteness, tranquillity, and dark night skies. The proposed turbines, together with their lighting, movement, and associated access infrastructure, would erode these valued perceptual qualities. Due to the extensive panoramic visibility from the upland ridge, including distant views toward the Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia National Parks, the presence of turbines would intrude widely across long-range vistas and alter the scenic composition of both the LCA and its wider landscape context.

6.5. Recreational users of the extensive PRoW network and open access land would encounter a marked reduction in the sense of wildness and scenic quality that currently defines the upland experience. Overall, the introduction of wind turbines and access tracks will conflict with the LCA's development management objectives, which emphasise retention of open character, protection of valued views, safeguarding of historic features, and preservation of tranquillity and dark skies.

6.6. The sensitivity of this LCA is detailed within the LVIA Appendix 5.4 – Landscape Assessment Tables. Susceptibility is recorded as *Medium-high*, with the presence of prominent skylines listed as a key component to a high susceptibility to high levels of effects from the proposals. I suggest that susceptibility is increased due to lack of depth within the landscape unit and chosen site, and limited offset to the adjacent and smaller scaled landscape to the west, reducing the accommodating effects of the *'large-scale landform*'[9] (Appendix 5.4, page A-5). I also find that landscape value would be increased due to a large proportion of the Site falling into an area of high visual and sensory value (within LANDMAP area RDNRVS108*).* I agree that effects will erode the '*sense of remoteness and tranquillity*', with *High* sensitivity combining with *high* magnitude of effects to produce LCA-wide *Major* levels of effects.

LCA 50: ABEREDW UPLANDS

6.7. Located directly to the south of the proposed site, adjoining LCA 43 and with high levels of intervisibility due to upland characteristics within both LCAs, this area is determined to encounter *Moderate* levels of impacts for up to a range of 5km. The sensitivity levels for this LCA are judged to be *Medium-High*, although I would judge this to be *High,* due high value levels expressed through LANDMAP survey results.[10]

[9] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices - Appendix 5.4 – Landscape Assessment Tables

[10] LANDMAP

This combines with *Medium-High*, rather than *Medium* susceptibility. As discussed within reference to LCA 43, the large-scale landscape expressed within this LCA, is tightly constrained by surrounding, smaller scale landscape, reducing landscape capacity to absorb and dimmish the effects of large-scale turbines, sited within and increasing susceptibility levels.

6.8. The Aberedw Uplands are defined by open, elevated upland ridges, broadly running south-west from Radnor Hill. Largely undeveloped skylines produce a strong sense of wildness, tranquillity and remoteness. The siting of the Energy Park within the northern views will introduce a new, elevated developed presence within the surroundings of this LCA, interrupting simple upland skylines and altering the perceived scale and balance of the surrounding landforms. Owing to the open and elevated nature of the landscape, the proposals would be visible as a broad span of development, covering the entirety of the Radnor Hill skyline from upland commons, public rights of way and open access land, becoming conspicuous features within wide and panoramic views over the Aberedw Valley and towards neighbouring uplands. This would reduce the legibility and visual separation of distinct upland landscapes and diminish valued perceptual qualities, including tranquillity and dark night skies, Resulting effects are judged of *Medium-High* magnitude, resulting in *Major* effects within 5km, reaching Glascwm Hill at *Moderate* levels at 8km.

LCA 40: Llanbister – Penybont Uplands

6.9. This LCA represents the more populated and finely detailed landscape to the south-west, west and north of the proposed site. The Llanbister - Penybont Uplands are characterised by a gently rolling and complex landform of low hills and small stream valleys, with a strong pastoral character defined by small to medium-scale pastoral fields enclosed by managed hedgerows and mature trees. The landscape is strongly influenced by the adjoining Radnor Forest area, with *"a strong visual relationship with the more elevated character areas to the east, which overlooks the landscape and forms a backdrop to many views."*[11] Where views are gained to the proposed site, the large scale of the turbines, when set against the foreground of smaller patterning becomes starkly apparent.

6.10. Great Rhos, with a summit height of 660 m AOD, is experienced from within the adjacent valley landscape as landscape relief rising 360 to 400 m above the valley floor. The siting of turbines with blade tip heights of up to 220m on this landform will therefore introduce man-made structures exceeding half the apparent height of the visible landform. These scale relationships are clearly illustrated in views from Viewpoint 8 – Llandegley (246 m AOD), Viewpoint 11 – A481 (319 m AOD), and Viewpoint 12 – Llandegley Rocks (429 m AOD), where turbines would be perceived as dominant vertical elements set against the backdrop hills. Best practice guidance seeks

[11] Powys County Council (2022) Landscape Character Assessment: LCA 40 – Llanbister – Penybont Uplands.

to avoid such conflicts of scale and perspective, recognising *that "it is important that the addition of a wind farm neither compromises the simplicity of the backcloth hills, or the hierarchy or pattern of the lowland landscape below".* (Design Commission for Wales 2014[12], page 12). These jarring effects upon prominent views are repeated regularly, with *high* levels of effects assessed to a distance of 5km, represented by Viewpoint 13 and reducing to *Medium* levels by 7km at Viewpoint 21, with resulting *Major* and *Moderate* levels of impacts.

LCA 49: NEW RADNOR VALLEY

6.11. Lying to the east side of Radnor Forest and forming a relatively contained pocket of land, this LCA is characterised by medium-scale arable and pastoral fields with tranquil qualities, and a strong visual relationship with the enclosing uplands which form a defining backdrop to views. The landform of Radnor Forest is defined from this aspect by the easily recognisable form of the Wimble. The introduction of the proposed development into these surrounding hillsides, will form prominent visual influence and a redefinition of the characteristics of the broader landscape. Views from roads traversing the LCA will experience the large turbines set against and adjacent to, the distinct feature of the Wimble, unbalancing key focus within views. I assess scales of effects to be higher than the LVIA, at *Medium-High*, rather than *Low-Medium*, with *Moderate* levels of effects throughout.

LCA 45: PRESTEIGNE & BEGGAR'S BUSH HILLSIDES

6.12. Directly to the north of LCA 49, the Presteigne & Beggar's Bush Hillsides comprise smooth, east–west aligned hills and ridges forming a pastoral, well-wooded upland fringe landscape. Positioned between the Lugg Valley and the New Radnor Valley, the area gains expansive views and a strong visual relationship to the elevated Radnor Forest to the west, including clear views of the distinctive conical summit of The Wimble.

6.13. Views towards Radnor Forest will encounter a large proportion of turbines sited along the skyline and interrupting appreciation of the Wimble feature. Viewpoint 23 represents views from this area, along Offa's Dyke, with clear views towards the proposals, stretching broadly across the full extent of Radnor Forest, re-defining the local skyline. I asses the magnitude of change to be *medium*, rather than *low-medium*, due to prominent development within the enclosing hillsides, and impacts on the relatively unspoilt characteristics of the area. This will result in *moderate* and *significant* effects throughout the LCA.

[12] Design Commission for Wales (2014) Designing Wind Farms in Wales

Table 1: Significant Landscape Effects (operational)				
LCA	Distance to Nearest Turbine	Applicant LVIA Effects *Significant effects in **bold***	CPRW-RE-think Effects *Significant effects in **bold***	Primary Reason(s) for Difference
LCA 43: Radnor Forest	Host Landscape	***Major*** (within 2km) ***Moderate*** (for wider LCA)	***Major*** *(*for entirety of LCA)	Increase to sensitivity levels due to lack of landscape capacity and higher judgement of landscape value.
LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands	0.9km from nearest turbine	***Moderate*** (within 5km). *Minor* (for wider LCA)	***Major*** (to 5km) ***Moderate*** (to 8km)	Increase to sensitivity levels due to lack of landscape capacity and higher judgement of landscape value, combined with greater magnitude of effects.
LCA 40: Llanbister-Penybont Uplands	Contains some of site boundary within LCA	***Moderate-Major*** (within 5km). *Minor-Moderate* (for wider LCA)	***Major*** (to 5km) ***Moderate*** (to 7km)	Increases to magnitude of effects due to perceived scale dominance of turbines against backdrop hills and pastoral landscape.
LCA 49: New Radnor Valley	2km from nearest turbine	*Minor-Moderate*	***Moderate*** (for entirety of LCA)	Increased magnitude of effects due to prominent visual influence and redefinition of the characteristics of the broader landscape.

LCA 45: Presteigne & Beggar's Bush Hillsides	3.1km from nearest turbine	*Minor-Moderate*	***Moderate*** (for entirety of LCA)	Increased magnitude of effects due to prominent development within the enclosing hillsides, and impacts on the relatively unspoilt characteristics of the area

7. EFFECTS ON DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES

7.1. The Shropshire Hills National Landscape / AONB is located approximately 10.1km from the nearest proposed turbine, with views represented from locations along the Offa's Dyke path by Viewpoints 24, 25 and 27. Within the AONB management plan[13] "*The surroundings and setting of the AONB are important to its landscape and scenic beauty. Views out of the AONB and into it are a significant consideration."* (Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan, page A-20). The Applicant assessment determines no significant effects upon these viewpoints, with the expectation that "*turbines will be seen as a relatively distant element in views at distance of 10km and greater and will be seen in the context of existing commercial scale turbines seen at similar distances"*[14] (Appendix 6: Assessment of Designated Landscapes, page A-32). Within this review, I judge that the nearest of these views, at Viewpoint 24 – Ridge north of Knighton, will encounter *moderate* and *significant* effects, with resulting impacts upon Special Qualities of 'Scenic and Environmental Quality', 'Tranquillity' and 'Culture and Opportunities for Enjoyment' within the Clun Forest and Valley Area within proximity to Knighton.

7.2. I judge that although there will not be effects upon the Shropshire Hills National Landscape as a whole, the introduction of large-scale wind energy development to the western perimeter will introduce a prominent feature into the skyline with localised significant effects. The proposals will also introduce a new extension of wind farm development, expanding upland development to the south and altering the balance within wider horizons.

[13] Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership (2019) Shropshire Hills AONB management Plan 2019-24

[14] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices – Appendix 5.6: Assessment of Designated Landscapes.

8. VISUAL EFFECTS

8.1. ZTV mapping (Figures 5.4 and 5.5[15]) shows that the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park would have extensive theoretical visibility across the host landscape and throughout much of the surrounding area up to 10 km, with more fragmented but still notable visibility beyond. This reflects the elevated position of the Proposed Site, its connectivity with adjoining upland topography, and strong visual connections with surrounding valleys. The scale of the proposed turbines, combined with the prominence of the selected site, results in high levels of visibility and presents challenges in containing effects within the wider landscape.

VIEWPOINTS

8.2. I am broadly in agreement with the LVIA findings regarding the number of viewpoints assessed as significant. The Applicant concludes that 19 of the 28 viewpoints would experience significant adverse effects, extending to a distance of up to 9 km. However, I consider that a further two viewpoints (Viewpoints 23 and 24) would also experience significant adverse effects, extending the range of significant visual effects to approximately 11.5 km, as represented by Viewpoint 24. In terms of levels of effects, I find that a large number of viewpoints have been assessed conservatively, with higher levels determined for fourteen viewpoints. This reassessment results in *Major* levels of effect for receptors along the long-distance routes of Offa's Dyke and the Heart of Wales Line Trail, as well as for adjacent Open Access land, elevated hill summits, the A44, and travellers in close proximity to the site to the south and west. In total, nine viewpoints are assessed as experiencing *Major* effects, compared with two identified within the Applicant's LVIA. For details on re-assessment of individual Viewpoints, see Appendix A.

[15] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 2 Figures – Figures 5.4 & 5.5 Hub Height ZTV / Tip Height ZTV.

Table 2: Significant Viewpoint Effects (operational)				
Viewpoint	Distance to Nearest Turbine	Applicant LVIA Effects *Significant effects in **bold***	CPRW-RE-think Effects *Significant effects in **bold***	Primary Reason(s) for Difference Grey shading indicates increased levels of effects within CPRW-RE-think assessment
VP2: Heart of Wales Line Trail	1.13km	***Major***	***Major***	
VP3: A44 east of Castell Crugerydd	1.19km	***Moderate-Major***	***Moderate-Major***	
VP4: A488 Llanfihangel Rhydithon	1.29km	***Moderate***	***Moderate***	
VP5: Black Mixen	1.67km	***Major***	***Major***	
VP6: A44 outside the Fforest Inn	1.75km	***Moderate-Major***	***Major***	Higher magnitude of change due to views to full extent of turbines in close range.
VP7: Dolau	2.25km	*Minor*	***Major***	High magnitude of change for broad views to development from main aspects of properties
VP8: Llandegley	2.29km	***Moderate***	***Moderate-Major***	Higher levels of effects due to Broad expanse of development and incongruity of scale within the landscape setting

VP9: Heart of Wales Line Trail near the Pales	2.36km	***Moderate-Major***	***Major***	Higher levels of effects due to wide lateral extent and fundamental change to nature of view
VP11: A481 near Rhewey	3.11km	***Moderate-Major***	***Moderate-Major***	
VP12: Llandegley Rocks	3.16km	***Moderate-Major***	***Major***	Higher levels of effects due to wide lateral extent and fundamental change to nature of view
VP13: Bwlch-llwun Bank	4.37km	***Moderate***	***Moderate-Major***	Higher levels of effects due to dominant of focus within view and strong visual attachment to Hendy Wind Farm.
VP14: A44 bridge approaching Penybont	4.61km	***Moderate***	***Moderate-Major***	Higher levels of magnitude due to framing and channelling of views.
VP15: Llanfihangel Hill	5.05km	***Moderate***	***Major***	Higher levels of effects due to dominance within view and introduction of development into upland scenario.
VP16: Caergynan Bank	5.81km	***Moderate***	***Major***	Higher levels of effects due to dominance within view and attachment of proposed turbines to smaller scale landscape.

VP17: Glyndŵr's Way near Lanlluest	6.73km	***Moderate***	***Moderate-Major***	Higher magnitude of change due to prominence of development and incongruity of attachment to smaller scaled landscape
VP18: Crossgates	6.96km	***Moderate***	***Moderate***	
VP19: Old Radnor	7.37km	***Moderate***	***Moderate-Major***	Higher magnitude of change due to prominence above the undeveloped skyline and scale of large turbines against smaller-scaled landscape
VP21: Castle Bank	8.53km	***Moderate***	***Moderate***	
VP22: Hergest Ridge near Offa's Dyke Path	8.95km	***Moderate***	***Major***	Higher magnitude of change due to wide extent of development and full height views of proposed turbines, creating a highly prominent new feature.
VP23: Offa's Dyke, Castle Ring Pen Offa	9.12km	Minor-Moderate	***Moderate-Major***	Higher magnitude of change due to development extending over full extent of hillside and interrupting key focus.
VP24: Ridge north of Knighton	11.54km	Minor-Moderate	***Moderate***	Higher levels of magnitude due to proposals appearing clearly perceptible and aligned with main focus of the view.

N1 (AP1): A44 south of Llandegley	2.09km	***Moderate***	***Moderate***

SETTLEMENT

8.3. The majority of settlements within 5 km of the proposed Energy Park are identified as experiencing significant adverse effects, extending to Old Radnor at 7.4 km to the south-east and Crossgates at 6.9 km to the east. The majority of significantly impacted settlements lie to the west of Radnor Forest and have a strong perceptual relationship with the surrounding hill forms. The introduction of large-scale turbines within eastward views would become a defining feature, sitting prominently on the skyline and often perceived as stepping down into the smaller-scale settled landscape.

8.4. Adverse effects on settlements arise primarily from a combination of proximity, scale and orientation of views towards the site, coupled with the elevated siting of turbines on the adjoining uplands. In several settlements, turbines are introduced into key outward views from residential areas and local roads, where they occupy a large proportion of the skyline and appear as prominent, large-scale features relative to the small scale and enclosed character of the surrounding settled landscapes. Levels of effects are determined as between *Moderate* and *Moderate-Major* for six out of the thirteen settlement areas assessed. I agree with this assessment, but find that Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Dolau would experience higher magnitude of effects, due to views to a broad span of the development across the hillside above the village and competing visual perspective where turbine scale is viewed against the smaller scale landscape setting. Levels of effects would be ***Major*** for these settlements.

ROUTES

8.5. High levels of adverse effects along the A44 and A481 are represented by Viewpoints 3, 6 and 11**,** where the routes pass through open upland landscapes in close proximity to the Proposed Site. At these locations, turbines occupy a large proportion of the field of view, with broad lateral extent**,** frequently breaking the skyline and appearing as large-scale vertical elements out of scale to the surrounding landscape. Resulting *Moderate–Major* to *Major* effects extend for over 10km**.**

HEART OF WALES RAILWAY LINE

8.6. Significant adverse effects on the Heart of Wales Railway Line are demonstrated by Viewpoints 18 and 7, where intermittent but clear views are available from the rail corridor and its immediate setting. Turbines are seen as prominent skyline features, extending across wide horizontal extents. Although views are transitional,

the repeated exposure during travel and the scenic value of the route contribute to elevated adverse effects for an assessed 6.8km.

LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

8.7. High levels of adverse effects on key long-distance recreational routes arise from their elevated alignments, open panoramic character and high sensitivity of users, as shown by Viewpoints 2 (Heart of Wales Line Trail), 22 (Offa's Dyke Path), 17 along Glyndŵr's Way and Viewpoint 7 along the Elan Way. The proposed turbines will be experienced as the introduction large scale development to the skyline and within the adjacent upland landscape, often extending across wide horizontal extents and remaining visible over long sections of the routes. The effects will be intensified by prolonged and immersive exposure**,** with walkers experiencing turbines repeatedly as they move through the landscape rather than at isolated locations. The contrast between the industrial scale of the turbines and the scenic, historic and tranquil qualities of these routes results in up to *Major* levels of adverse effects. The experience from these routes varies from trails which pass through the immediate setting, such as The Heart of Wales Line Trail, to wider and more panoramic views, such as along the Offa's Dyke National Trail.

OFFA'S DYKE NATIONAL TRAIL

8.8. An increase to the range of significant effects is assessed for sections of the Offa's Dyke National Trail, resulting in intermittent exposure to significant levels of effects for a 20km section of the trail. Significant adverse effects extend to 11.5 km from the Proposed Site, beyond the location of Viewpoint 24 (Ridge north of Knighton). The Offa's Dyke National Trail follows a route alongside the proposed site, varying in proximity from between 8.3km and 11.5km to the nearest turbine. The trail is usually walked south to north, with Knighton forming a rough mid-way point and with the Offa's Dyke Centre located there. Visitors to this section would experience *Major* adverse effects within the elevated and expansive views from Hergest Ridge (Viewpoint 22), with a broad panorama sweeping south towards the Black Mountains and into England and with clear views over the wild ridge of Radnor Forest. Travelling north, the route drops into the rolling, pastoral landscape north of Kington, gaining views to Radnor Forest once reaching Evenjobb, with the dyke forming a distinct feature and views projected toward the Proposed Site, drawn by the feature of the Wimble summit. The trail winds through the rural landscape, following the side of Radnor Forest to the town of Knighton. Travelling back into the hills to the north, Radnor remains a prominent focal point, forming a wilder backdrop to the populated and gentler landscape to the fore. The proposals will be experienced as a prominent and often dominant feature to the skyline of Radnor Forest, with repeated and clear views along the trail, re-defining the experience of this section of the route.

Residential Visual Amenity

8.9. Within residential visual amenity assessment, 149 properties were identified within a 2km radius from the Proposed Site. A total of 22 properties were determined to encounter high levels of effects. The large number of properties included is demonstrative of the large scale of the proposals, in terms of number of turbines and the span of the site. It is also indicative of the highly visible nature of the Site, it's strong visual connectivity to the adjacent landscape and limited setback from populated resource. The properties thus affected are located primarily to the west and north-west side of the Proposed Site, within relatively close proximity and often experiencing the relief of the Site as lesser, due to positioning at a slight elevation. The proposed turbine appear to span wide portions of views appearing out of scale against the existing landform and landscape features.

8.10. This review does not represent an additional residential visual amenity assessment, and therefore not all properties assessed as experiencing high levels of effects have been visited. A representative proportion were visited, with one property noted as likely to experience overbearing effects. This was property 20 – The Mountain. Details are included within Appendix B – Residential Visual Amenity Review.

Cumulative Effects

8.11. I agree that there will be no significant additional effects produced through the introduction of the Proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park when considered against other consented or proposed schemes. The Proposals will, however, represent a notable change in wind energy development within the upland landscape of the eastern Powys area and Radnor Hills. The large scale, in terms of turbine height and span of development will introduce a dominant form into the upland margins, which will alter significantly the balance of energy development within this area.

8.12. Cumulative effects, with regard to Hendy wind farm, are included within the existing baseline. Although referred to as combined effects, the assessment against the existing baseline is also an 'additional assessment' i.e the effects of adding the Proposed Development to the baseline. It is usual to include existing wind farm resource within both future cumulative scenarios. A consented scenario therefore includes both existing and consented energy development. A proposed scenario would include existing, consented AND proposed wind farms. This ensures that the full impact of introducing any proposed development into each scenario is understood. This is not clear within individual assessment, although it is referenced as the intended approach within the LVIA. With regard to Hendy wind farm, there will be additional effects encountered at eight viewpoints. In particular there will be sequential impacts along the roads of the A44 and A481 and the recreational resource of Llandegley Rocks and Open Access land.

NIGH TIME EFFECTS

8.13. The LVIA concludes that there are limited significant adverse effects attributable to visible aviation lighting associated with the proposed development, with effects judged to be *Moderate* and significant at Viewpoint N1: A44 South of Landegley (Appendix 5.8[16]). At the same time, it should be acknowledged that assessing night-time visual effects, is challenging due to the limitations of visual representations in darkness, and the complex way in which light is perceived by observers. Current guidance (e.g., *Guidance on Aviation Lighting Impact Assessment* prepared by NatureScot[17]) recognises these challenges and promotes a proportionate approach. These impacts, intruding into the dark skies atmosphere, will affect those travelling along the A44, at more elevated positions and also residential receptors facing towards the sites at higher elevations.

9. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1. The **Proposal comprises** 30 large turbines, fourteen of which require aviation lighting, together with extensive new and upgraded access tracks and associated infrastructure across common and open access land.

9.2. **Site selection** was undertaken through a desk-based GIS assessment focused on technical and environmental constraints, including avoidance of nationally designated landscapes and nearby residential properties. The process referenced Pre-Assessed Areas for wind development, with a small part of the site and a minority of turbines falling within PAA4; however, most of the proposed site lies outside any PAA, and no other landscape or visual factors are identified as having materially influenced site selection.

9.3. Although the Applicant sets out a comprehensive suite of **design objectives** intended to reduce and contain adverse effects, my review demonstrates that these objectives are not realised in practice. While turbines are nominally sited along larger-scale upland ridges, their extent, height and continuous spread across the Radnor Forest skyline results in a scheme that dominates surrounding smaller-scale and more populated landscapes to the west, north and south, contrary to guidance seeking to avoid dominance on both sides of upland landforms. The objective to avoid overbearing effects on steep-sided slopes is not achieved, with multiple viewpoints demonstrating strong visual attachment, stepping-down effects and close proximity to settled landscapes. Variation in turbine height does not materially reduce effects, as turbines of up to 180 m remain visually dominant in areas where landscape scale reduces and residential and recreational sensitivity increases.

[16] LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices – Appendix 5.8: Lighting Impact Assessment.

[17] NatureScot (2024) Guidance on Aviation Lighting impact Assessment

9.4. Similarly, despite intentions to minimise effects on designated landscapes, recreational routes and residential amenity, the proposals introduce widespread skyline development, long-range visibility and repeated exposure along nationally important routes including Offa's Dyke Path, Glyndŵr's Way and the Heart of Wales Line Trail, and result in high levels of effects for a substantial number of residential receptors. The extent of new access tracks, earthworks and infrastructure across common and open access land further compounds these effects, diminishing perceived wildness and tranquillity rather than conserving or enhancing recreational experience. Taken together, the design approach relies heavily on proposed mitigation by layout and perceived scale, but does not adequately respond to the limited capacity, high sensitivity and strong visual connectivity of the surrounding landscape.

9.5. **Landscape character effects** arising from the Proposed Development are determined to extend beyond those identified in the LVIA, reflecting the prominent upland siting of turbines within Radnor Forest and the strong visual connectivity with surrounding landscapes. *Major* adverse effects are assessed across the entirety of the host LCA 43: Radnor Forest, with further *Major* effects identified within adjoining upland landscapes, including parts of LCA 50: Aberedw Uplands and the Llanbister–Penybont Uplands (LCA 40), where skyline and backdrop views are dominated by turbines. Significant adverse effects extend more widely into surrounding valley and hillside landscapes, and in contrast to the LVIA, my assessment identifies significant adverse effects within LCA 49: New Radnor Valley and LCA 45: Presteigne & Beggar's Bush Hillsides, resulting in a broad spread of landscape effects and an effective encirclement of the Radnor Forest landscape.

9.6. Although the **Shropshire Hills National Landscape** lies over 10 km from the Proposed Site, my assessment finds localised *Moderate* and significant effects along Offa's Dyke at Viewpoint 24, affecting the setting and special qualities of the designation. While the National Landscape as a whole, would not be significantly affected, the proposals would introduce a prominent new skyline feature and expand wind farm influence along its western perimeter.

9.7. **Visual effects** arising from the Proposed Development are extensive, with widespread theoretical visibility across the host landscape and surrounding areas, reflecting the elevated and visually connected nature of the Proposed Site. While I broadly agree with the LVIA on the number of viewpoints experiencing significant effects, my assessment identifies significant adverse effects at two additional viewpoints, extending the range of significant visual effects to approximately 11.5 km. I also find that effects have been conservatively assessed at many locations, with higher levels of effect identified at fourteen viewpoints, including *Major* effects along key long-distance recreational routes, open access land, elevated summits and principal transport corridors.

9.8. The majority of **settlements** within 5 km of the Proposed Development are assessed as experiencing significant adverse visual effects, extending to Old Radnor and Crossgates at distances approaching 7 km. Effects arise from the scale and elevated siting of turbines, which become prominent skyline features in key outward views from settlements, particularly to the west of Radnor Forest. While the LVIA identifies *Moderate* to *Moderate-Major* effects for several settlements, my assessment finds higher, *Major* effects at Llanfihangel Rhydithon and Dolau due to broad, dominant views of the development across the hillsides above these villages.

9.9. Within **Residential Visual Amenity Assessment** a total of 22 residential properties are assessed as experiencing high levels of effects, reflecting the scale, extent and strong visual connectivity of the site, with one property identified as likely to experience overbearing effects. I find that one of the representative properties visited was judged to encounter **overbearing effects**.

9.10. **Transport routes and recreational resource** experience some of the highest levels of visual effects arising from the Proposed Development. Along the A44 and A481, close proximity and open upland settings result in turbines dominating views, with *Moderate-Major* to *Major* adverse effects extending for over 10 km. Significant adverse effects also occur along the Heart of Wales Railway Line, with repeated, intermittent views from the scenic rail corridor. Long-distance recreational routes, including Offa's Dyke Path, Glyndŵr's Way, the Heart of Wales Line Trail and the Elan Way, are particularly sensitive, with prolonged and immersive views of large-scale turbines across upland skylines resulting in up to *Major* adverse effects. Notably, significant effects along Offa's Dyke National Trail extend intermittently over approximately 20 km, with prominent and often dominant views from elevated sections such as Hergest Ridge, fundamentally altering the experience of this nationally important route.

9.11. **Overall,** the Proposed Development's location, scale and extent results in landscape and visual effects that are more widespread than those identified within the LVIA. While the Applicant sets out design objectives intended to reduce and contain effects, the assessment indicates that extensive skyline development, long-range visibility and repeated exposure occur across upland, valley and settled landscapes. *Major* adverse effects are identified across the host landscape character area, with further *Major* and significant effects extending into adjoining LCAs, including areas not identified within the LVIA. High lees of adverse effects are also experienced by residential receptors, transport routes, recreational resources and the setting of designated landscapes. In combination, these findings indicate that the landscape has limited capacity to accommodate development of the scale proposed, and that the prominent and visually connected nature of the site presents inherent challenges to achieving a well-contained design.

Kelda Platt of Munro Landscape
For CPRW-RE-think
February 2026

APPENDIX 1: VIEWPOINT ASSESSMENT

As discussed within Chapter 4: Landscape and Visual Amenity, paragraph 8.02, a total of fourteen Viewpoints are judged to encounter higher levels of effects than identified within the LVIA. This includes a determination for three viewpoints assessed as non-significant by the Applicant, which I determine to encounter significant adverse effects (Viewpoints 7, 23 & 24). The following represents a discussion on the assessment of those viewpoints judged to encounter higher levels of effects.

VIEWPOINT 6 - A44 OUTSIDE THE FFOREST INN. LLANFIHANGEL-NANT-MELAN

This viewpoint is located at the junction of the A481 and A44 and represents travellers using these routes, as well as visitors to the Inn and residents of the small community of Llanfihangel-nant-Melan. Views to the north provide close-range visibility of the southern extents of the Proposed Site, with the nearest turbine located at approximately 1.75 km. The surrounding hillsides form a bold patchwork of pastoral fields, dissecting the Radnor Forest uplands of the Mynd and Nyth-grug, which together read as a distinctive double summit within the panorama. The landscape is of medium scale and is judged to be of *Medium-High* sensitivity, reflecting the presence of receptors with varying susceptibility, a conclusion with which I agree.

The proposed development would be visible as large-scale elements prominently sited on the skyline, with views to the full height of the turbines and limited topographical screening. A total of 7 turbines will be visible to hub height. Turbines 2, 3 and 4 would be particularly conspicuous, directly interacting with the summit of Nyth-grug. Overall, I find that the proposals would result in a *High* magnitude of change due to the extent of development across the entirety of the Nyth-grug hillform, displacing the existing focus of the view and affecting a substantial proportion of the wider panorama. The scale of the turbines would contrast markedly with the finer grain of field patterns and dispersed residential dwellings within the immediate landscape. The resulting effects are therefore assessed as ***Major***, rather than the *Moderate-Major* effects identified within the LVIA.

VIEWPOINT 7 - DOLAU

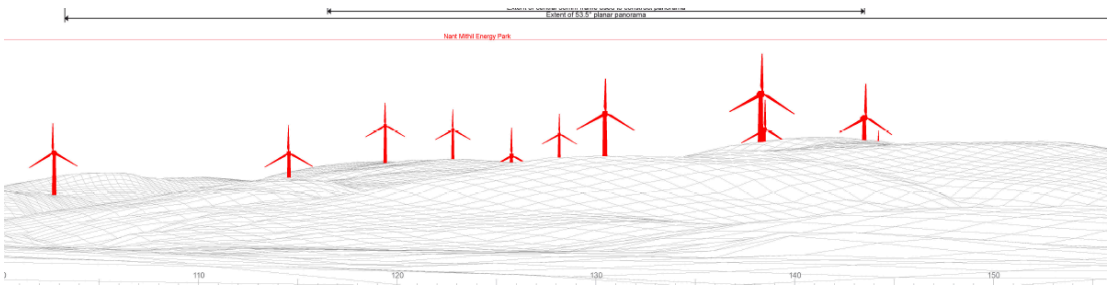
This viewpoint is located along a minor road within the settlement of Dolau and represents views experienced by residents of nearby dwellings, walkers using the Public Right of Way at this location, those accessing Dolau station, and users of the minor roads between Dolau and Llanfihangel Rhydithon (see Figure 6). The principal focus of the view is towards Radnor Forest and the summit of Great Rhos, with properties at the edge of the settlement facing these hills. The summit forms part of a more remote upland area; however, the foreground and middle-distance comprise gentler landscape patterning, with woodland cloughs, scattered dwellings and hedged fields creating a smaller-scale mosaic on the lower slopes closer to the viewpoint. The viewpoint is 2.25km form the nearest turbine.

The proposed development would be visible across the full extent of the skyline from this viewpoint (see Figure 7). A total of 13 turbines would be visible to hub height (extending beyond the panorama within Figure 7), with many visible from base to tip, appearing physically connected to the immediate landscape due to the lack of significant topographical screening. Ground level at the viewpoint is approximately 242m AOD, with Great Rhos rising to 418m AOD, meaning that turbines would occupy more than half of the apparent hill height. Overall, the broad lateral spread of the development, its dominance over the key focal hills, and its influence on both landscape pattern and vertical relief would result in *High* levels of effect from this viewpoint (contrary to the assessment of Low), equating to ***Major*** effects rather than *Minor*.

Figure 6: Viewpoint 7 – Dolau – Existing View

Photograph towards Radnor Forest at Viewpoint 7. GR 314335

Figure 7: Viewpoint 7 – Dolau – LUC Wireline



LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 4 Visualisations - Figure 5.32a: Viewpoint 7: Dolau.

VIEWPOINT 8 - LLANDEGLEY (A44, OUTSIDE THE CHURCH)

This viewpoint is located along the A44 within the settlement of Llandegley, adjacent to the church, with the nearest turbine situated approximately 2.29km away. The Radnor Forest hillsides form a prominent and defining feature in local views, creating a broad backdrop to

the settlement. Properties in the village vary in orientation, with some directly facing the hillside and gaining primary views towards it. I agree with the judgement of *Medium-High* sensitivity, reflecting the balance of residential and community receptors.

The proposed development would appear as a broad lateral extent, forming a wide expanse of turbines along the skyline beyond the village. Although some turbines would benefit from partial topographical screening, around seven turbines would be visible from base to tip, with additional turbines visible to hub height within the panorama. The development would appear proximate and visually dominant, strongly 'attaching' to the foreground landscape due to perceptions of scale, and interrupting the key visual influence of the existing hill backdrop. I assess this as resulting in a *Medium-High* magnitude of change and resulting ***Moderate-Major*** effects, rather than the *Moderate* level reported in the LVIA.

Viewpoint 9 - Heart of Wales Line Trail Near the Pales

This viewpoint is located along the Heart of Wales Line Trail, where elevated and expansive views are gained at The Pales, approximately 2.36km from the nearest proposed turbine. The view is extensive and uplifting, opening toward the Radnor Forest area, with further panoramic views to the south and west across the pastoral lowlands of the surrounding landscape. Great Rhos is perceived as a broad plateau, introducing a sense of wildness and remoteness that contrasts with the smaller-scale, more settled landscape in the foreground and to the west.

The proposed development would appear as a dominant new feature, extending across the full width of the skyline, with turbines appearing to match the height of the hill as it steps down to the south. This would disrupt the balance of the view, eroding the existing sense of wildness and remoteness and resulting in a fundamental alteration to the overall character of the scene. I therefore assess the magnitude of change as High, resulting in ***Major*** effects, rather than the *Moderate-Major* level reported in the LVIA.

Viewpoint 12 - Llandegley Rocks

This viewpoint is located at the trig point on Llandegley Rocks, offering expansive views towards Radnor Forest, which contrast with the wider panorama of the more patterned and settled lower land to the west. The intricate and rugged landform of the Rocks provides strong local focus and interest, with the under-construction Hendy wind farm visible in the lower-lying land to the south.

As with Viewpoint 9, the introduction of the proposed development would fundamentally alter the view, extending across the entirety of Radnor Hill and eroding the existing qualities of wildness and remoteness within views to the east. As recorded within the LVIA, the magnitude of change would be High. Combined with *Medium-High* sensitivity, this would result in ***Major*** effects, rather than the *Moderate-Major* level reported.

VIEWPOINT 13 - BWLCH-LWYN BANK

This viewpoint is located to the south-west of the Llandegley Rocks viewpoint (Viewpoint 12) and offers a similar panoramic experience, although from a lower elevation. Radnor Forest again forms a prominent feature within the view, with the under-construction Hendy wind farm visible in the foreground on lower ground. The proposed development lies to the east, with the nearest turbine at approximately 4.37km distance.

The proposed development would be seen stretching widely across the Radnor Forest skyline, producing effects comparable to those at Llandegley Rocks, but with the added influence of interaction with the Hendy wind farm. The development would appear visually connected with the existing turbines, creating both extensive lateral spread and pronounced vertical presence. As acknowledged within the LVIA, this would establish a connection across landscape areas, disrupting landscape patterning and visual balance. I therefore assess the magnitude of change to be *High*, rather than *Medium,* resulting in overall ***Major***, rather than *Moderate*, effects.

VIEWPOINT 14 - BWLCH-LWYN BANK

This viewpoint is located along the A44 at the bridge in Penybont. The road is aligned east–west through the village, with the Radnor Forest hills forming a distinctive backdrop when travelling east. The bridge marks a point where views open up towards the wider landscape, with receptors comprising both local residents and road users on the A44, resulting in an overall *Medium-High* sensitivity.

The proposed development would be seen centrally to the view, with turbines visible to full height, from base to tip, and positioned prominently above the residential setting along the skyline. Their prominence within the main focus of the view, combined with incongruity of scale relative to surrounding properties and the framing effects of the village setting, leads me to assess the magnitude of change as *Medium-High*, resulting in ***Moderate-Major*** effects rather than the *Moderate* level reported in the LVIA.

VIEWPOINT 15 - LLANFIHANGEL HILL

This viewpoint is located on the summit of Llanfihangel Hill, within an open upland area representative of the higher ground and access land to the south and south-west of the Proposed Site, at a nearest distance of 5.05km. The viewpoint lies on the northern slopes, with views to the south screened by rising ground, and the principal focus directed north towards Radnor Forest. The Radnor Forest hills appear as a receding and undulating complex, conveying a strong sense of wildness above the smaller, more patterned valleys below. The Mynd forms a key feature in the foreground, with Black Mixen visible in the distance.

The proposed development would be prominently sited along the higher reaches of the Radnor Forest area, with a strong visual presence resulting from overlapping and stacking of

turbines within grouped arrangements and views to full extents of turbines from base to tip. To the west, the development would extend across a wide expanse of the upland area, introducing a substantial new developed element within the higher ground of the local landscape. Although it is noted within the LVIA that there is distant wind farm influence, the proposals will introduce a new developed character. I assess the magnitude of change as *High*, with resulting ***Major*** effects, rather than the *Moderate* level reported in the LVIA.

Viewpoint 17 - Glyndŵr's Way near Lanlluest

This viewpoint is located along Glyndŵr's Way National Trail, to the north of the Proposed Site and within upland terrain that follows the Shropshire boundary to the north-west. The trail begins at Knighton and travels via Machynlleth to Welshpool, with this viewpoint representing an early section of the route. Views here are elevated and expansive, overlooking rolling hills patterned with field boundaries and woodland cloughs, with the broad shoulder of the Radnor Forest hills forming a distant backdrop. The nearest turbine would be located approximately 6.73km to the south-east.

The proposed development would be perceived as a relatively close and prominent feature, appearing more closely associated with the valley landscapes than with the broader Radnor Forest uplands. Individual turbines would be clearly visible from base to tip and would be seen in relation to the smaller-scale patterning of fields, woodland and settlement. The development would exert a strong visual presence due to clustering and instances of stacking, although the westernmost turbines present a simpler layout. Overall, the scheme would introduce a prominent and discordant feature that draws the eye, resulting in a *Medium-High* magnitude of change and ***Moderate-Major*** effects, rather than the *Moderate* effects assessed within the LVIA.

Viewpoint 19 - Old Radnor

This viewpoint is located in front of the pub, community green and war memorial, approximately 7.37km from the nearest turbine. Points of interest are highlighted on the information board, with views directed west across the gentle, low-lying pastoral valley floor towards the long upland ridge extending from Fron Hill to Black Mixen, where The Wimble is identified as a clearly recognisable skyline feature. Although the backdrop of hills provides the principal structure to the view, the managed valley landscape remains the dominant perceptual influence, with its medium-scale patterning drawing into the lower hillsides and a sense of increasing wildness only beginning to emerge on the slopes north of The Wimble.

The proposed development would extend across a substantial proportion of the available view. A total of 11 turbines would be visible to hub height, with centrally positioned turbines particularly prominent and visible to full height. The broad lateral spread of the development, combined with its interaction with established focal features, such as The Wimble, would alter the character of the view and affect its principal focus. Additionally, the relative scale of the proposed turbines will appear out of context against the smaller scale

landscape of the valley area. As this would redefine the balance of the scene, I assess the magnitude of change as *Medium-High*, rather than *Medium*, resulting in ***Moderate-Major*** effects rather than *Moderate*.

Viewpoint 22 - Hergest Ridge near Offa's Dyke Path

This viewpoint is located on the broad upland ridge to the south-east of the Radnor Forest area, sited 8.95km from the nearest turbine. Offa's Dyke National Trail follows this ridge, gaining elevated and expansive views along its length. The open ground and broad, rounded landform provide a 360-degree panoramic experience, with visual connection to the Black Mountains to the south. To the west, the long ridge of Radnor Forest forms a strong defining boundary, its higher summits displaying moorland characteristics and a sense of wildness that relates closely to the character of the ridge on which the viewpoint is located.

The proposed development would appear as a continuous band of turbines along the western skyline. At present, wind energy influence is minimal, limited to visibility of a single Hendy wind farm turbine blade, within the wider panorama. From this location, the scheme would therefore introduce wind energy as a new and prominent feature within the upland landscape. The turbines would extend across a broad portion of the hillside, appearing to span several hillforms and visible to full height due to the relative elevation of the viewpoint and the Radnor Forest slopes. I judge the magnitude of change to be *Medium-High*, rather than *Medium*, owing to the prominence of the scheme within the view, resulting in ***Major*** rather than *Moderate* effects.

Viewpoint 23 - Offa's Dyke, Castle Ring Pen Offa

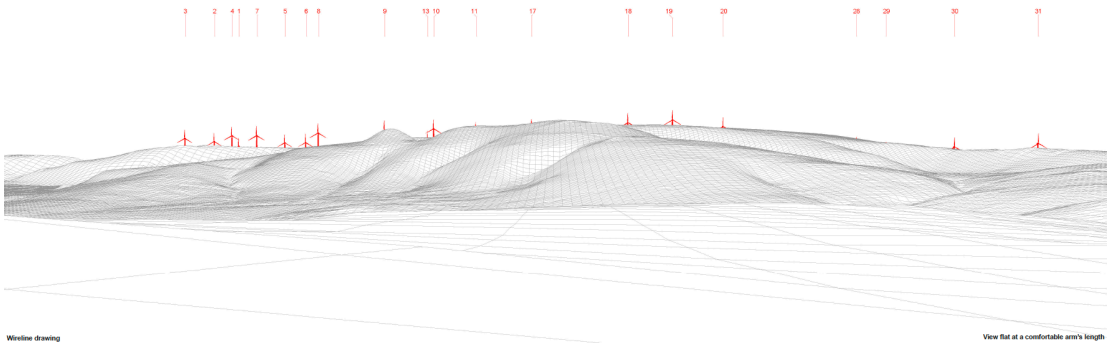
This viewpoint is located along the Offa's Dyke National Trail, passing through the Presteigne and Beggar's Bush area, approximately 9.12 km from the nearest proposed turbine (see Figure 8). Views are open across the pastoral landscape toward the eastern flanks of Radnor Forest. Broadleaf woodland around Pen Offa provides diversity and visual interest in the near foreground, while the rising hillside beyond is characterised by a patchwork of fields and pockets of afforestation. The conical summit of The Wimble forms a strong focal point within the view, naturally drawing the eye.

The proposed development would be visible across much of the Radnor Forest hillsides, with twelve turbines clearly visible to hub height and a further two likely to be perceptible in winter when woodland cover reduces (see Figure 9). The turbines would be positioned behind and adjacent to the form of The Wimble, interacting with and partly displacing this existing visual focus, with turbine heights broadly matching the vertical scale of the landform. The proposals would therefore introduce a clear and noticeable change within the view, affecting a substantial portion of the principal focus. I judge the magnitude of change to be *Medium*, resulting in ***Moderate-Major*** effects, rather than the *Minor-Moderate* level set out in the LVIA.

Figure 8: Viewpoint 23 – Offa's Dyke, Castle Ring Pen Offa – Existing View

Photograph towards Radnor Forest at Viewpoint 23. GR 327072E, 263603N.

Figure 9: Viewpoint 23 – Offa's Dyke, Castle Ring Pen Offa – Wireline



LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 4 Visualisations - Figure 5.32a: Viewpoint 23: Offa's Dyke, Castle Ring Pen Offa

Viewpoint 24 – Ridge North of Knighton

This viewpoint is located along the Offa's Dyke National Trail, where the route regains higher ground to the north of Knighton. It represents a well-walked section of the Trail with easy access from the town outskirts and nearby campsite. The view is primarily focused to the south across the settlement and valley floor, towards rounded, broadleaf-wooded hillforms and pastoral land defined by field boundaries. The panorama is expansive but gentle in character, with Radnor Forest forming a more distant, wilder presence on the remote upland skyline.

The proposed development would be visible on the skyline of the Radnor Hills, with turbines appearing as tall vertical elements that influence perceptions of the wilder, more remote qualities of the upland landscape in the distance. Elements of the development would also extend beyond this, appearing behind the smaller-scale intervening landscapes, although sufficient topographical screening prevents a direct visual connection. Overall, the proposals

would form a clear new presence within the view, introducing large-scale development into an otherwise undeveloped skyline and reducing the perceived height and remoteness of the distant hills due to the vertical scale of the turbines. I assess the magnitude of change to be *Medium*, resulting in ***Moderate*** effects, rather than the *Minor-Moderate* level reported in the LVIA.

APPENDIX 2: RESIDENTIAL VISUAL AMENITY REVIEW

As discussed within Chapter 4 Landscape and Visual Amenity, paragraph 8.09 & 8.10, a total of 149 properties were identified as being located within a 2km radius from the Proposed Site. Out of this number, 22 properties were determined to encounter 'High' levels of effects. An onsite review was undertaken alongside site visits, with a number of properties visited to enable a greater understating of levels of effects and potential for overbearing effects. It was not possible to visit all properties, do to the large number identified, but within those contacted prior to the site visit the following property, assessed as encountering a 'High' magnitude of change by the Applicant, was determined to encounter **overbearing effects** from the proposed development.

Property 20: The Mountain, is located to the northern extents of the Proposed Site, within south-east facing hillsides to the east of Dolau, set back and above the route of the A488. The property is accessed via a minor road from the A488 and access track to the property. The property consists of a 2-storey cottage and outbuildings, with main aspect to the south to south-east, in the direction of the proposed development. There is some vegetative screening from rooms to the ground floor with clear views from first floor bedrooms. An outside sitting space gains clear views to the hillsides in a south to south-east direction. The views to the south and south-east are directed towards Graig Hill and the Fishpools Forest area. To the west side of the house, there is a small garden area, with views to the south and south-west.

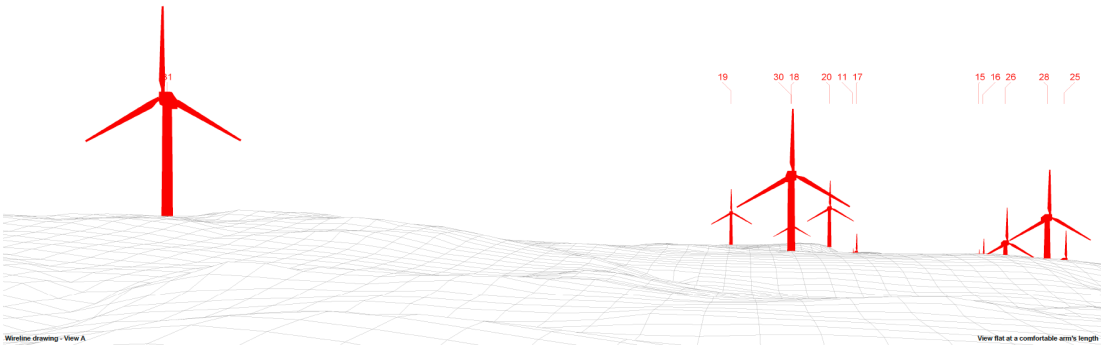
The existing views towards the hillsides of Radnor Forest consist of gently rolling pastoral farmland, woodland cloughs and hedge dissected field patterning, rising to broad, domed hill summits and commercial forestry. Scattered farmsteads appear within the lower slopes, with limited visual influence form the A488, passing within the lower valley.

The Proposed Development will be visible within the hillsides facing the property, at a distance of 1.01km from the nearest turbine. Due to the elevated location of the property, the proposed development will appear to sit within adjacent landscape, with little separation and at only 106m additional height gain. A total of 14 hubs will be visible, the closest turbine being T31, siting within the open ground, visible from base to tip and appearing large against the smaller scaled landscape, individual trees and field patterning. Views to the south-east (see Figures 10 and 11) are gained from the front of the property, from outdoor seating and first floor bedrooms. These views are also attained when moving along the access track to the house, with a defining impact upon the property and its setting. The proposed development will extend across the entirety of the skyline, with fundamental changes to the view, dominance of scale against the height of the hill and adjacent features and overwhelming presence for residents of this property.

Figure 10: Property 20 - The Mountain: Existing View A, South-east

Photograph towards Radnor Forest at Property 20. GR 317968E, 268297N

Figure 11: Property 20 - The Mountain: Wireline View A, South-east



LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices – Appendix 5.7 – RVAA - Figure A5.7.11a: P20: The Mountain – View A

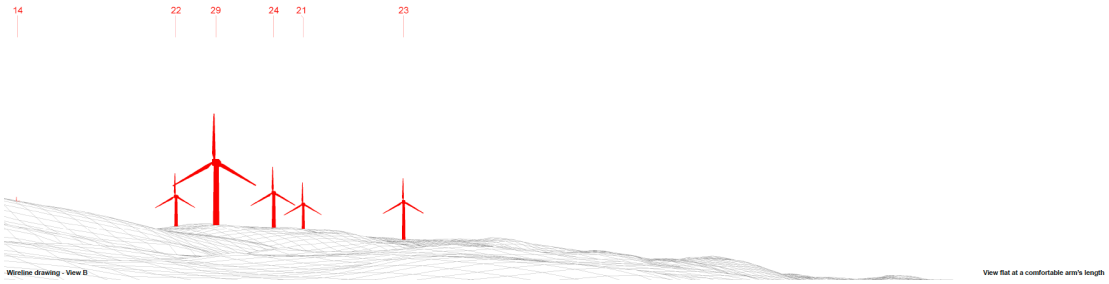
Views to the south-west (see Figures 12 and 13) are experienced from the front of the property, as a direct continuation of the south-east panorama. This view is also a focus from the garden to the west side of the property, with channelled views to the western turbine group. Turbines within this angle of view appear more distant, without the strong connection to the immediate landscape of the south-east views. However, they remain a dominant feature, altering the balance of the view and creating a broad lateral extent of development within the overall view. Issues of scale are again apparent within this view, with turbine 29 in particular, altering perceptions of height for the further hillside, appearing at large vertical scale against the small hill form below and incongruous in size against the farmsteads to the fore. Lack of setback against the smaller scale landscape is indicated within these scaling issues.

Overall, the development will present a dominating presence within the setting and upper floor views of the property. It is judged that the proposed development will form an inescapable presence within views from the access track, curtilage and first floor rooms. The lack of separation results in the appearance of attachment to the immediate landscape of the property, within the open fields of the landscape within the key views. These factors of determined to result in **overbearing effects** for this property.

Figure 12: Property 20 - The Mountain: Existing View B, South-west

Photograph towards Radnor Forest at Property 20. GR 317968E, 268297N

Figure 13: Property 20 - The Mountain: Wireline View A, South-west



LUC (2024) EIAR Volume 3 Appendices – Appendix 5.7 – RVAA - Figure A5.7.11b: P20: The Mountain – View B