



**Heolddu Solar Farm
Carmarthenshire
Carmarthenshire**

*Assessment of Significance of the Impact of the
Development on Historic Landscape: ASIDOHL2*

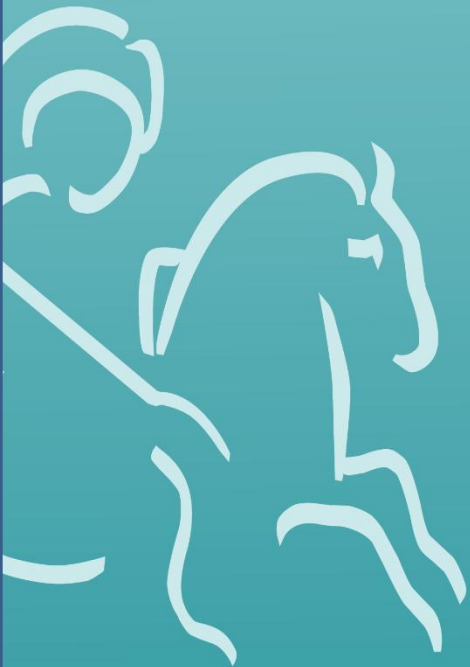


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September 2025



Heolddu Solar Farm, Carmarthenshire

Assessment of Significance of the Impact of the Development on the Historic Landscape: ASIDHOL2

CA Project: CR1831

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SUMMARY

Project Name: Heolddu Solar Farm
Location: Ferryside, Carmarthenshire
NGR: 238742 210196

In November 2024, Cotswold Archaeology (CA) was commissioned by Heolddu Solar Park Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological and heritage works in respect of a proposed solar farm development (the Proposed Development) at Land at Maesmawr and Treforris Fawr Farm, Carmarthenshire (the Site). The works included a desk-based heritage assessment, geophysics survey, archaeological trial trenching (forthcoming) and Assessment of Significance of the Impact of the Development on Historic Lands (ASIDHOL2), the results of which are reported on in this report.

Fields 1-15 within Solar Area West, and the short westernmost section of the cable route, are located in Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape (RHL), but these areas do not occupy any of its defined Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA). Conversely, the Site's southern boundary is located over 700m north of the Taf and Tywi RHL, but fields 4-9 occupy Allt Hilltop HLCA, one of its defined HLCAs.

ASIDHOL2 comprises 5 stages. Stage 2 forms an assessment of direct physical impacts. Allt Hilltop HLCA occupies the southernmost six fields (fields 4 – 9, Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 2, Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan) within Solar Area West and was the only HLCA progressed for this stage. Very low levels of potential truncation to buried archaeological features of agricultural and post-medieval origin were identified. Adverse changes in the ability to experience and understand the character of the historic landscape as a result of changed land-use and reduced visibility from the surrounding landscape of the regular field pattern were also noted, although these are not permanent changes, and are fully reversible due to the finite life of the proposals (40 years). As part of Stage 3, some limited indirect non-physical impacts to Allt Hilltop HLCA were also identified, resulting from changes to the visual experience of historic fields from the surrounding landscape, as well as some changes in views from barrows occupying the high ground on Allt Cunedda, located to the south-east of the Site.

Overall, impacts to Allt Hilltop were found to be 'slight', and in Stage 4 its relative value was found to be 'moderate'. For other HLCAs, no indirect physical or non-physical impacts were identified. Some limited intervisibility with the Site was found from localised areas of higher ground, but it was concluded that key historic elements and landscape characteristics would

remain unaffected by the Proposed Development. Due to the lack of impacts at Stage 2 and 3, no other HLCA was assessed for relative value at Stage 4.

Informed by the preceding stages and using professional judgment, Stage 5 concluded that the overall significance of the impact of development on Taf and Tywi Estuary Registered Historic Landscape (RHL) was 'slight', and for Tywi Valley Estuary RHL 'very slight'.

CRYNODEB

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In November 2024, Cotswold Archaeology was commissioned by Heolddu Solar Park Ltd (the Applicant) to undertake a programme of archaeological, and heritage works in respect of proposed solar development (the Proposed Development) on Land at Maesmawr and Treforris Fawr Farm, Carmarthenshire (hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’; NGR 238742 210196). This report forms the Assessment of Significance of the Impact of the Development on Historic Landscape (hereafter ASIDOHL2). It has been prepared in association with a heritage desk-based assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2025) and the results of a geophysical survey, undertaken by Terra Dat in November 2024 (2025).
- 1.2. ASIDOHL2 is a staged process for the assessment of the significance of the impact of development on landscapes included in the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales. Part of the Site (fields 1-15 and the short westernmost section of the cable route) lies within the very southern tip of the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape (RHL; Cadw Ref: HLW (D) 5), although it does not occupy an associated Historic Landscape Character Area (HLCA). Conversely, the Site’s southern boundary is located beyond the boundary of the Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL (Cadw Ref: HLW (D) 9), approximately 700m to the north, but fields 4-9 occupy Allt Hilltop, one of its Historic Character Landscape Areas.
- 1.3. Therefore, in March 2025, the requirement for an ASIDHOL2, addressing potential impacts on these designated historic landscapes was requested by Neil Maylan, Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer, Cadw further to informal pre-application engagement. This document comprises the assessment of impacts upon both the Tywi Valley, and the Taf and Tywi Valley Estuary RHL.
- 1.4. The proper method of implementation of ASIDOHL2 is outlined in the Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (Revised 2nd Edition; CCW/ Cadw /WAG 2007). The ASIDOHL2 process assesses both the direct, physical impacts of the Proposed Development as well as indirect physical and non-physical impacts upon the Site and surrounding landscape. The following stages form the assessment:
 - Stage 1: Gathering and presentation of contextual information, providing the introduction to the report.

-
- Stage 2: Assessment of direct physical impacts of the Proposed Development, in absolute, relative and landscape terms.
 - Stage 3: Assessment of indirect impacts of the Proposed Development, in terms of both indirect physical impacts and also indirect (non-physical) visual impacts.
 - Stage 4: Evaluation of the relative importance of the Historic Character Area, either directly or indirectly impacted by the Proposed Development.
 - Stage 5: Assessment of the overall significance of the Proposed Development impacts.

1.5. In the following assessment, the tables present the ASIDOHL2 scoring results and assessment, following the guidance. These are accompanied by a summary explanation of the objectives and results of each stage. Photographs are used to illustrate the text as appropriate.

2. STAGE 1: CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

Project Background

- 2.1. The objective of ASIDOHL2 Stage 1 is to gather and present essential information that provides an introduction to the ASIDOHL2 process. However, this report should be read alongside the Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (ES Volume 3, Appendix 8.1), which sets out comprehensively the relevant archaeological and heritage baseline data and should be consulted for further information as required (Cotswold Archaeology 2025a¹).
- 2.2. The assessment has been carried out by Clive Meaton, Senior Heritage Consultant for Cotswold Archaeology. Mr Meaton is a full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA) and has over 25 years' experience as a heritage consultant. In that time, he has undertaken a wide range of assessment work including heritage desk-based assessments, ASIDOHL2, environmental impact assessments, historic landscape surveys, buildings recording, Conservation Management Plans and Condition Surveys.
- 2.3. Cotswold Archaeology is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). As an independent company it is one of the country's leading providers of professional heritage and archaeological services, offering a comprehensive range of expertise and services to a wide range of clients.
- 2.4. The Site measures approximately 81.78ha and occupies a rural farmed landscape, located within the administrative boundary of Carmarthenshire County Council, approximately 1km to the east of Ferryside, 4km north of Kidwelly and 8.8km south of Carmarthen.
- 2.5. The Proposed Development includes the construction and operation of a solar photovoltaic electricity generating station ('solar farm') and associated ancillary development, including a 132kV substation, cable route, and access track, along with landscape and environmental enhancements. The Site comprises the following areas:
- Solar Area West (c.24.58ha)
 - Solar Area East (c.18.94ha)
 - Underground cable route connecting the two solar the solar Areas

¹ Environmental Statement Volume 3, Appendix 8.1: Desk Based Assessment

- Temporary construction access track linking Solar Area East to the rural road to the north
- 2.6. The Proposed Development will form an application submitted for a Development of National Significance (DNS) to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). The DNS will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Archaeological and heritage elements of the Environmental Statement will be informed by a programme of appropriate works, including a Desk-Based Heritage Statement, ASIDOHL2, Geophysical Survey, and archaeological trial trenching with associated reporting (forthcoming). Cotswold Archaeology were commissioned to undertake these works by the Applicant in November 2024.
- 2.7. The scope of works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (2025b), approved by Mike Ings, Regional Head and Archaeological Planning Manager, Heneb and Neil Mayland, Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer, Cadw in June 2025.
- 2.8. A previous planning application for a 19MW solar photovoltaic park, complete with all necessary inverters, switchgear, transformer, security fence, infra-red cctv, and all necessary ancillary works was approved on 8th September 2015 (Ref: W/32171). This application was located partly within the Site, occupying approximately 57% of the current area (fields 9-12, 14-15). It was informed by a Cultural Heritage Desk Based Assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting (2015).
- 2.9. The Site is in the local authority of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC). The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted on 10th December 2014. Whilst the revised draft 2018-2033 LDP remains unadopted, the existing 2006-2021 LDP will remain in place for all planning decisions.
- 2.10. This ASIDOHL2 has been undertaken in accordance, and as relevant, with the key statute, policy, and guidance context presented within Table 1.

Statute	Description
Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023	This became an Act of Senedd Cymru in 2023. Thereafter, a suite of supporting secondary legislation was compiled before it came into full effect on 4 November 2024. It provides consolidated legislation to supersede the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 in Wales.

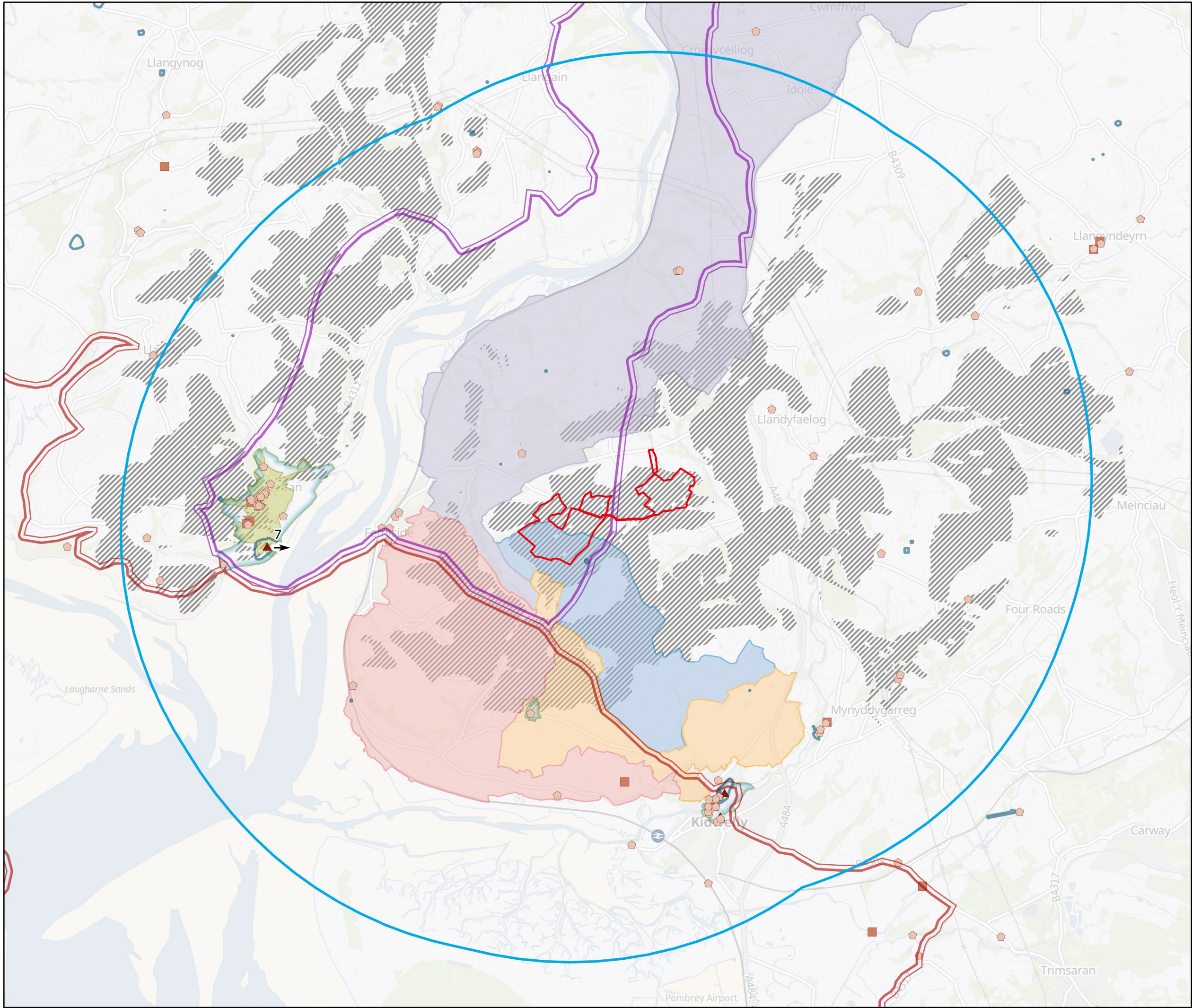
Statute	Description
Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, February 2024)	Provides the Welsh Government's planning policies and describes how these are expected to be applied within the planning system. The Historic Environment is addressed in Chapter 6 (page 129).
Technical Advice Note (TAN) 24: The Historic Environment	The TAN provides guidance on how the planning system considers the historic environment and should be read in conjunction with Planning Policy Wales (PPW).
Cadw Best Practice Guidance	Includes, Conservation Principles (2011), Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (2017), etc.
CCW/Cadw/WAG 2007	<i>Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (2007)</i> Guidance on the assessment of impacts on Registered Historic Registered Landscape as a result of proposed development
Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (2017) & (2018-2033)	Comprises the local development plan (local plan), as required to be compiled, published, and maintained by the local authority, consistent with the requirements of PPW (2024) and TAN 24 (2017). Intended to be the primary planning policy document against which planning proposals within that local authority jurisdiction are assessed. Where the development plan is found to be inadequate, primacy reverts to PPW (2024) and TAN 24 (2017).

Table 1 Key Statute, policy and guidance

Scope and Approach

- 2.11. The scope of the ASIDHOL2, including which HLCAs require the assessment, was agreed with Neil Maylan, Senior Historic Environment Planning Officer, Cadw via emails dated 11th and 12th June 2025. The assessment, comprising Stages 1 – 5 of the ASIDHOL2, was undertaken in accordance with the guidance set out in Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales in the Planning and Development Process (Revised 2nd Edition; CCW/ Cadw /WAG 2007).
- 2.12. The primary objectives of the site visit undertaken in early July 2025 in relation to the ASIDHOL2 were to assess the Site's historic landscape context, with reference to Tywi Valley RHL and Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL, as well as those component HLCAs identified above. The HLCAs were assessed with reference to their key defining elements, and with focus to visual, historical and/or physical relationships with the Site, as appropriate. The Site visit and identification of key locations within the HLCAs was informed beforehand by digital mapping viewed in Esri ArcPro 3.1.3 combined with the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV; Volume 2, Figures 5.2-5.3 of the ES) and Historic Environment Data (provided by Heneb and Cadw) as well as professional judgment, both before and during the Site visit.

-
- 2.13. The Registered Historic Landscapes and their respective HLCAs assessed as part of this ASIDHOL2 are shown on Figure 1, along with designated historic assets. Other heritage assets discussed in the text below are illustrated on Figure 2, as appropriate.
- 2.14. Scoping and assessment of the HLCAs, as well as designated and non-designated historic assets was informed by a Zone of Theoretical Visibility, prepared by RPS Group (2024).
- 2.15. The study has been fully informed by information supplied by Cadw (including Scheduled Monuments, Listed buildings and Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest) and by Heneb (HER Records).
- 2.16. A Site visit was undertaken as part of the Heritage Desk Based Assessment as well as the ASIDHOL2. This work was carried out in sunny and dry conditions, between 1st and 3rd July 2025.
- 2.17. Photographs were taken during the Site visit and are used to illustrate the results below as appropriate. Selected photographs were taken using a Cannon Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera equipped with an 18-55mm lens and a 20-megapixel sensor. The digital camera on a Samsung Galaxy A25 5G mobile phone, downloaded directly to Microsoft One Drive, was used for more general shots.
- 2.18. Data on the Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA) was supplied by Heneb as part of the Historic Environment Record search for the Site (Heneb PRN:1694). Details of four potentially susceptible HLCAs were provided, which fall within the 1km study area, as well as one HLCA within the 5km study area. The summaries of the specific HLCAs included below are informed by this information, supported by the results of the walkover survey, as appropriate.



- ▭ Site
- 5km Study Area
- Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL
- Tywi Valley RHL
- Conservation Area
- Scheduled Monument
- ▲ Grade I Listed Building
- Grade II* Listed Building
- ◻ Grade II Listed Building
- Allt Hilltop HLCA
- Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA
- Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA
- Llansteffan HLCA
- St Ishmael HLCA
- ZTV
- ↑ Photo Location



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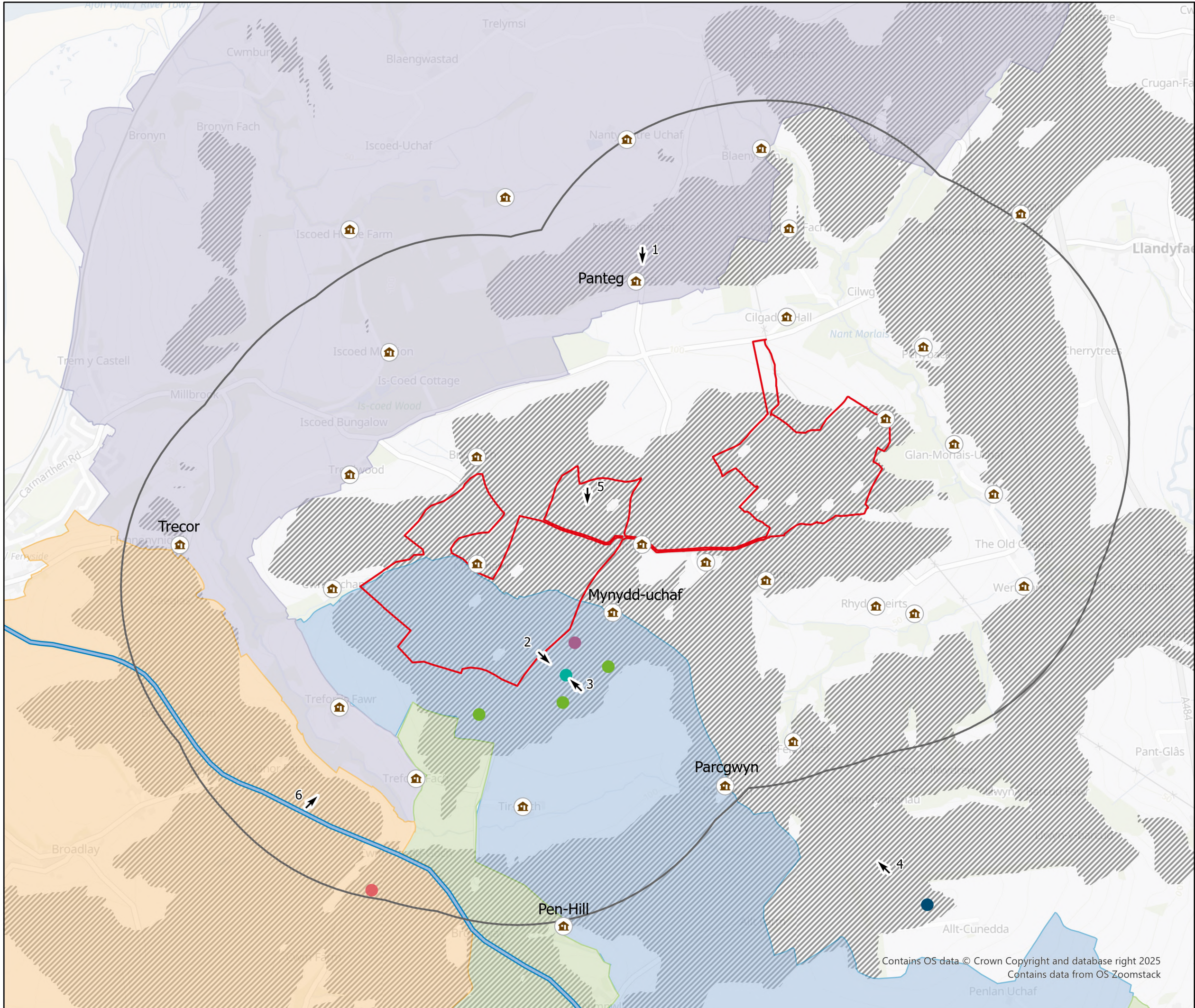
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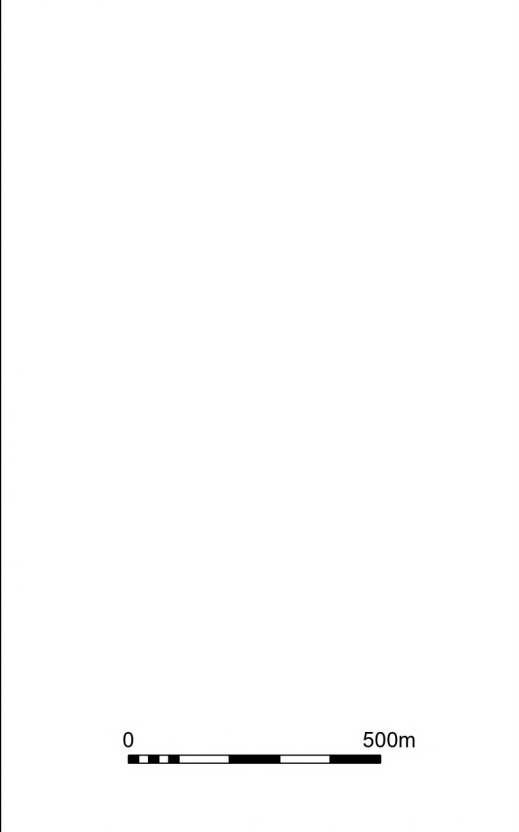
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Heolddu Solar Farm: ASIDOHL2

FIGURE TITLE
Registered Historic Landscapes, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Photo Locations

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- ▭ Site
- 1km Study Area
- Scheduled Round Barrow
- Barrows on Allt Cunedda
- Barrow Cemetery
- Site of Bronze Age Barrow
- Site of Standing Stone
- 🏠 Post Medieval Farm
- Port Way
- Allt Hilltop HLCA
- Croesyceilog - Cwmfrwd HLCA
- Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA
- Llansteffan HLCA
- St Ishmael HLCA
- ZTV
- ↑ Photo Location



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PROJECT TITLE
Heolddu Solar Farm: ASIDOHL2

FIGURE TITLE
Selected Heritage Assets and Photo Locations

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Overview of the HLCAs

2.19. Fields 1-15 within Solar Area West, and the short westernmost section of the cable route, lie within the very southern tip of the Tywi Valley RHL (Cadw Ref: HLW (D) 5) but notably, does not occupy an associated HLCA (Fig. 1). In contrast, the Site is located 700m to the north-east of the Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL boundary (Cadw Ref: HLW (D) 9), but the southern part of Solar Area West, comprising six fields (fields 4 – 9, ES Volume 2, Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan) does occupy the very northern extent of Allt Hilltop HLCA. Allt Hilltop HLCA forms part of the Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL.

2.20. Those HLCAs included for assessment are listed below under their respective RHL, with the form of assessment also identified (i.e. physical or non-physical impacts):

Tywi Valley RHL (Site located within this RHL)

- Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd (HLCA 187)

Located approximately 350m north, west and south-west of the Site; hence, only indirect physical and non-physical impacts are considered.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL (Site not located within this RHL)

- Allt Hilltop (HLCA 175)

Located within the southern extent of the Site; hence, direct physical impacts, as well as indirect physical and non-physical impacts are considered.

- Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields (HLCA 165)

Located approximately 200m south of the Site; hence, only physical and non-physical indirect impacts are considered.

- St Ishmael (HLCA 173)

Located approximately 500m south-west of the Site; hence, only physical and non-physical indirect impacts are considered.

- Llansteffan HLCA (141)

Located approximately 3km west of the Site; hence, only physical and non-physical indirect impacts are considered.

2.21. Assessment is undertaken on individual HLCAs through Stages 1 – 3, then with specific regard to their RHL, as appropriate, through Stages 4 – 5.

Limitations

2.22. This assessment is principally a desk-based study and has utilised secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly

examined for the purpose of this assessment. The assumption is made that this data, as well as that derived from secondary sources, is reasonably accurate. The records held by Heneb and Cadw are not a record of all surviving historic assets, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the historic environment. The information held within these repositories is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

- 2.23. During the Site visit, HLCAs were examined, as appropriate from accessible roads, villages, pavements and other public rights of way and open spaces. However, it was not possible to access a number of public footpaths and tracks identified beforehand as suitable locations for informing the assessment. Indeed, access to those public footpaths crossing rural fields and farms was not possible in the majority of instances, excepting one, where a more established track climbed the slopes of Allt Cunedda. Where access was not possible, this was always due to hedgerows and/or fences blocking access along the prescribed route, along with a complete lack of signage. Even so, it is considered that there was sufficient access to other public rights of way to inform the assessment. Visual relationships were adequately established from lanes, roads, pavements, village streets and public locations, especially where potential lines of sight toward the Site opened up through gates, over hedges and from open public spaces, corroborating levels of intervisibility one way or the other.
- 2.24. Neither the Site nor the study area has been subject to any comprehensive intrusive archaeological investigations, so the full presence/survival of remains of historical and/or archaeological interest is not known.
- 2.25. Historic Landscape Character Area information was supplied by Heneb and reflects the current level of coverage around the Site. Although some areas of the surrounding landscape to the west of the Site are not covered, it is considered that assessment results for adjacent HLCAs, as set out below, can be readily transposed onto these areas, and that the overall significance of impact on the Tywi Valley RHL would not be affected by their omission.

3. STAGE 2: ASSESSMENT OF DIRECT, PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

Objectives of ASIDHOL Stage 2

- 3.1. The objective of ASIDOHL2 Stage 2 is to describe and quantify, as far as possible, the direct physical impacts of the Proposed Development upon the HLCA(s) affected by the Proposed Development.

Method

- 3.2. Much of the methodology employed for Stage 2 of the ASIDOHL2 informs subsequent stages, most especially the tabulated prescriptive quantifications. Therefore, the methodology is set out in some detail at this point, so that tables can be referred to as appropriate in subsequent stages.

A – Assessment of Impact in Absolute Terms

- 3.3. Stage 2 requires the assessment of the actual proportion of the surface area of the HLCA which will be impacted upon by the Proposed Development. This is expressed according to the following scale, in Table 2, which is then numerically ‘scored’ to enable ASIDOHL2 calculations relating to the magnitude of impacts:

Percentage loss	Magnitude of Impact	Score
75-100% permanently lost or removed	Very Severe	6
50-74% permanently lost or removed	Severe	5
30-49% permanently lost or removed	Considerable	4
15-29% permanently lost or removed	Moderate	3
5-14% permanently lost or removed	Slight	2
0-4% permanently lost or removed	Very Slight	1

Table 2. Grades of Direct Physical Impacts (absolute and relative)

B – Assessment of Impact in Relative Terms

- 3.4. The key elements of the HLCA should be identified, and the percentage of the known heritage resource which will be impacted upon should be defined, again according to Table 2 above. To further enable the ASIDOHL2 calculations the Guide to Good Practice recommends the categorisation of monuments/features, or ‘elements’ as they are referred to, according to known ‘importance’ in a National, Regional and Local context. These categories are again scored, and the method is summarised in Table 3 below. The features for each landscape area have been categorized below and are labelled with a two-part notation based on both the HLCA they are within, and a unique identifier within that HLCA.

Category	Description	Score
Category A	Sites and Monuments of National Importance. These sites include Scheduled Monuments, Grade 1 and 2* (and potentially some Grade 2) Listed buildings, and sites of similar quality	4
Category B	Sites and monuments of Regional Importance. This includes sites of particular importance in a regional context, but which would not fulfil the criteria for Scheduling. It includes Grade 2 Listed buildings	3
Category C	Features of Local Importance. This category includes components of the historic environment that help define local distinctiveness and character. The <i>Guide to Good Practice</i> includes examples such as field walls, gateposts and tracks	2
Category D	Minor and Damaged Sites/Features. This category includes sites/features which are of minor importance or badly damaged	1
Category U	Sites/features whose character, importance or location is undetermined	1

Table 3. Assignment of Sensitivity Values to Individual Elements

- 3.5. The Guide to Good Practice recommends that where large areas are involved, or where there is a high concentration of elements, these are brought together and considered as a single element or characteristic.

C – Assessment of Impact in Landscape Terms

- 3.6. The contribution that the individual element or group of elements makes to the value of the HLCA as a whole should be assessed. Different elements/groups may be of different typologies or periods, but may combine with other historic features to provide an overall character and value of the landscape. This ‘landscape value’ of the element/group is graded according to Table 4 below. This value is a matter of professional judgement.

Landscape value	Score	Landscape value effect	Score
Very High	6	Lost	6
High	5	Substantially Reduced	5
Considerable	4	Considerably Reduced	4
Medium	3	Moderately Reduced	3
Low	2	Slightly Reduced	2
Very Low	1	Very Slightly Reduced	1

Table 4. Direct Physical Impacts, Landscape Value and Landscape Value Effect

Assessment

Summary of Physical Development Impacts

- 3.7. The following works will be associated with the Proposed Development:
- Installation of solar panel modules.
 - Installation of perimeter fencing.

-
- Excavation of service trenches and foundation pads for any buildings housing equipment (inverters, welfare, customer switch room, storage containers etc.).
 - Excavations for connective cable trenches.
 - Stripping associated with the construction of access tracks and temporary construction compounds.
 - Excavation of drainage trenches/swales.
 - Landscaping and planting.

3.8. It is anticipated that there will be no meaningful truncation of internal upstanding field boundary divisions, or boundaries that define the extent of the Site (see ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Tree Survey and Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme). As such there will be no subtraction of rural physical landscape forms that are currently visible within the Site. The Proposed Development would be largely contained within the existing field boundaries, and hedgerows will be fully retained (no impacts). Therefore, development will result in no change to the physical historic layout of the landscape.

3.9. Physical impacts will most likely relate to discrete areas of ground truncation. However, the footprint of the entire Proposed Development – piling, topsoil stripping and excavations – is anticipated to be very limited in area (typically a fraction of the area of any given solar farm), resulting in only minor adverse effects upon most classes of buried archaeological features, if and where they survive. Specifically, regarding the piling, the quantity of displaced archaeological remains in the case of larger features such as infilled ditches or furrows would be insignificant compared to that left undisturbed. For discrete or less robust buried features such as pits, post holes or stake holes, the probability that piles would be aligned in such a way that any more than a small percentage of the features would be affected is very low, and complete avoidance is the most likely outcome. The ‘generally limited’ nature of below ground impacts from solar development is widely acknowledged and accepted.

3.10. The cable trenches would be sufficient to encounter and affect buried archaeological remains (where present), although due to the narrow width of the trench, most of the likely archaeological features which may be encountered (such as ditches) would be preserved. This would result in only limited impacts overall on any features or deposits of archaeological interest.

Tywi Vallely RHL: Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187

- 3.11. Although the Site is located within Tywi Vally RHL (Fields 1-15 within Solar Area West, and the short westernmost section of the cable route), occupying rural fields on its southern edges, it does not lie within an associated HLCA; hence direct impacts are not assessed.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Allt Hilltop HLCA 175

- 3.12. The southernmost part of the Site (fields 4-9) is located within the northern extent of Allt Hilltop HLCA, although as highlighted above, it is not actually located within the boundary of Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL. No other HLCAs occupy any other part of the Site.
- 3.13. The part of the Site that falls within the Allt Hilltop HLCA measures approximately 27.8ha (southern half of Solar Area West – fields 4-9). In total Allt Hilltop measures 346.41ha; therefore, the Site occupies approximately 8% of Allt Hilltop HLCAs total area ($27.8\text{ha} / 346.1\text{ha} \times 100 = 8\%$). It is only within this 8%, where the Proposed Development may have direct physical impacts on Allt Hilltop HLCA.
- 3.14. Allt Hilltop occupies the southern and western flanks of a hill known locally as Allt Cunedda, between 70m and 160m aOD (above Ordnance Datum). The slopes are distinguished by a pattern of large, and generally regular field enclosures, mostly defined by hedgebanks. The field system is thought to have been laid out during the 16th and 17th centuries, and land-use is almost entirely improved pasture, with no woodland. Farmsteads are relatively scattered and mostly appear to be of a 18th or 19th century date.
- 3.15. Within Allt Hilltop HLCA recorded archaeological features and remains include a Bronze Age round barrow and cist to the south. The site of possible Bronze Age round barrow and standing stones are also suggested by field names in the north part of the area. Notably, there is a Scheduled barrow located approximately 120m east of the Site, recorded as 'Round Barrow 330m SW of Mynydd-Uchaf' (Cadw Ref: CM190). Also, to the south and east of the Site, within 250m there are three possible sites of standing stones recorded on the HER, all based on placename evidence (Heneb PRNs: 11219, 11220 & 11222).
- 3.16. The element of the Site contained within Allt Hilltop HLCA, comprises six individual fields (fields 4-9), currently farmed as pasture. Fields boundaries are established

hedgebanks, measuring up to 2m high. No previously unrecorded archaeological features or earthworks were recorded within them during the walkover survey. That said, a recent geophysical survey included a small number of linear anomalies identified within these fields (Terra Dat 2025; Refs **a**, **c**, **d**, **e**, **I**, & **k**). Five long linear features were interpreted as ditched boundaries, with evidence for at least one being accompanied by a trackway, distinct from modern routes. These features were thought to pre-date the modern field layout but were not considered to be pre-date the medieval period, given a probable relationship of one linear with the nearby Parish boundary. A single rectilinear anomaly was of uncertain age and purpose (**k**).

- 3.17. In addition, possible ridge and furrow marks were also identified on lidar imagery, during the heritage desk-based assessment (Volume 3, Appendix 8.1) (Cotswold Archaeology 2025a¹). These features were aligned broadly north-west to south-east and located in the western most two fields of the parcel of six located within Allt Hilltop HLCA. However, surface remains were not identified during the Site visit, where instead, modern cultivation marks appeared to overlay the earlier features, aligned broadly north-east to south-west. The heritage desk-based assessment concludes that during the medieval period the vast majority of the Site was open ground and therefore these agricultural marks are likely to be of a post-medieval date (*ibid.*).
- 3.18. Any buried archaeological features surviving within the Site may contain evidential value. However, given that the recorded features and anomalies most likely identify agricultural activity, cultivation marks, field divisions, and/or access routes dating from the medieval period onwards, they would be considered to be of generally low, or even no, heritage significance.
- 3.19. As discussed above, and especially within the area of Allt Hilltop HLCA, the footprint of sub-surface impacts associated with the Proposed Development will be very limited. Indeed, the proposed developed is expected to have a minimal impact on any surviving buried deposits, including those anomalies identified during the geophysical survey, with the potential for associated truncation anticipated to fall into the lowest level of the prescriptive range, with between 0-4% loss. Furthermore, any surviving remains are likely to be a of low significance, relating to well understood and documented agricultural practices dating from the medieval periods onwards.
- 3.20. Importantly, the Proposed Development will retain the individual land parcels and hedgebank divisions with limited alteration. Therefore, the element of the historic

landscape with the greatest interest will not be harmed by the Proposed Development. Even so, it is accepted that the Proposed Development would change the broad character of the historic landscape. There would be a partial loss in the ability to experience and understand the character of the historic landscape as a result of the changed land-use and the reduced visibility of the regular field pattern from the surrounding landscape. However, the Proposed Development is fully reversible and temporary in duration (40 years), and there will be no truncation of historically important elements of the physical landscape. As such all evidential and historical values of the historic landscape will be retained for posterity.

Allt Hilltop HLCA175: Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL				
ASIDOHL Stage 2: Assessment Of Direct, Physical Impacts				
Development: Heolddu Solar Farm				
ABSOLUTE IMPACT (LOSS OF AREA): Character Area = 346.41ha Development Area = 27.80ha Absolute Impact = 8% of HLCA			MAGNITUDE OF ABSOLUTE IMPACT AND SCORE: Slight (2)	
RELATIVE AND LANDSCAPE IMPACTS (LOSS OF KNOWN CHARACTERISTICS OR ELEMENTS) AND SCORES				
Element/% loss	Category	Magnitude	Landscape Value	Landscape Value Effect
Partial loss of ability to experience and understand the character of the historic landscape as a result changed land-use and the reduced visibility of the regular field pattern. But no permanent physical loss (0% loss anticipated).	C (2)	Very Slight (1)	Very High (6)	Slightly Reduced (2)
Undated geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological interest (a, c, d, e, l, & k), pre-dating the current field system layout. Possible post-medieval ridge and furrow. Anticipated total loss 0-4%.	U (1)	Very Slight (1)	Low (1)	Very Slightly Reduced (1)

Table 5: Direct, Physical Impacts, Allt Hilltop HLCA175

Overall Assessment Results of Direct Physical Development Impacts

- 3.21. The magnitude of absolute impact in Table 5 above calculates the actual percentage of the HLCA impacted upon by the Proposed Development. In accordance with the guidance and according to the sliding scale set out in Table 1, this is calculated to be Slight (2).
- 3.22. The ASIDOHL2 process (page 19 of the Guide to Good Practice) then requires the scores for each specific element impacted upon in the table to be added up to produce a combined total i.e. Category + Magnitude + Landscape Value + Landscape

Value Effect. This figure is then divided by the number of identified elements to obtain an average figure, in this instance 2.

3.23. This average score is then added to the score for the magnitude of absolute impact to find an overall magnitude of direct physical impact. Thus:

- $2 + 1 + 6 + 2 = 11$
- $1 + 1 + 1 + 1 = 4$
- Therefore, $11 + 4 = 15$ and then, $15 / 2 = 7.5$
- Finally, $7.5 + 2 = 9.5$ (rounded to nearest whole number) = **10**

3.24. Therefore, the overall magnitude of direct physical impacts upon the Allt Hilltop HLCA is **10**. The ASIDOH2 process grades overall magnitudes of direct physical impacts according to the scale set out in Table 6 below. Note: the table utilises whole numbers, and thus whilst measuring scores numbers are rounded to the nearest whole number, as above.

Overall Score	Grading
24-28	Very Severe
19-23	Severe
14-18	Considerable
9-13	Moderate
4-8	Slight
0-3	Very Slight

Table 6: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Direct Physical Impacts

3.25. Thus, the overall magnitude of direct physical impact upon Allt Hilltop HLCA 175 is **10**, or Moderate.

4. STAGE 3: ASSESSMENT OF INDIRECT DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

Objectives of ASIDHOL2 Stage 3

- 4.1. The objective of Stage 3 of the ASIDHOL process is defined by the Guide to Good Practice as to determine the effect of the Proposed Development upon areas not directly subject to the Proposed Development, through describing and quantifying as objectively as possible the indirect impacts on all Historic Character Areas affected. This is divided into two separate parts: Stage 3a indirect **physical** impacts, and Stage 3b indirect **non-physical visual** impacts.

Stage 3a: Assessment of indirect physical impacts

- 4.2. The Guide to Good Practice summarises the indirect physical impacts which can occur to elements within an HLCA as:

- Increased risk of erosion or other detrimental physical change;
- Related to the above, increased management needs to maintain historic elements;
- The severance, fragmentation, dislocation or alteration of functional connections between elements;
- The frustration or cessation of historic land-use practices; and
- The frustration of access leading to a decrease in educational or amenity value.

- 4.3. Indirect physical impacts are assessed with reference those HLCAs falling within the study area.

Tywi Vallely RHL: Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187

- 4.4. There are considered to be no indirect physical impacts to Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA (hereafter Croesyceilog HLCA), which is located over 300m distance, from the Proposed Development. Hence, the score for indirect physical impacts is **0**.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Allt Hilltop HLCA 175

- 4.5. Excluding the change in land use there are considered to be no other meaningful indirect physical impacts to Allt Hilltop HLCA. Changes to land use, and the experience of the fields as a farmed landscape through the introduction of photovoltaic panels within this part of the Site, has been considered as a direct

physical impact, discussed and evaluated above. It is not double counted here. Hence the score for indirect physical impacts on this HLCA is **0**.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165

- 4.6. There are considered to be no indirect physical impacts to Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA (hereafter Kidwelly HLCA). Its northern most boundary is located over 150m south of the Site. Hence, the score for indirect physical impacts on this HLCA is **0**.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: St Ishmael HLCA 173

- 4.7. There are considered to be no indirect physical impacts to St Ishmael HLCA, which is located over 500m to the south-west of the Site. Hence, the score for indirect physical impacts on this HLCA is **0**

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Llansteffan HLCA 141

- 4.8. There are considered to be no indirect physical impacts to Llansteffan HLCA, which is located over 2.5km to the west of the Site. Hence, the score for indirect physical impacts on this HLCA is **0**.

Overall Assessment Results of Indirect Physical Development Impacts

- 4.9. No indirect physical impacts have been found to any of the assessed HLCAs. Hence the average score for indirect physical impacts is considered to be **0**.

Stage 3b: Assessment of Indirect (non-physical) Visual Impacts

Objectives of ASIDOHL2 Stage 3b

- 4.10. The objective of ASIDOHL Stage 3b is to assess to what extent the Proposed Development will constitute a visual intrusion on the HLCA in which the Proposed Development is sited, and HLCAs in the vicinity which may be subject to adverse visual intrusions upon their setting. The HLCAs surrounding the Site, with susceptible heritage features within the ZTV were assessed.

- Visual impacts on elements from which a development can be seen (considered up to its maximum height), including ‘views to’ and ‘views from’ these elements, in relation to a site’s original character and function and the present visual form;
- Impact on the visual connections between related elements by occlusion, obstruction, etc (including sight lines between historically linked sites);

-
- The creation of inappropriate visual connections between elements not originally intended to be inter-visible (through the removal of intervening elements); and
 - Visual impact of the development itself, considering its form and appearance.

Method of Visual Impact Assessment

- 4.11. The analysis below assesses the potential visual impacts of the Proposed Development within this context. The Guide to Good Practice recommends that ‘*Assessment should generally be confined to the key elements identified during characterisation within the affected area(s) i.e. Category A and B sites [National and Regional value] and closely linked, or groups of, Category C sites [Local value]*’.
- 4.12. In accordance with the guidance the following categories are considered in respect of this assessment:
- Category A sites (score value of 4) include Scheduled Monuments, Grade I or II* Listed buildings, Registered Parks/Gardens and Conservation Areas
 - Category B sites (score value of 3) include Grade II Listed buildings, and archaeological ‘sites of particular importance within a regional context’ (Guide to Good Practice, page 17). Professional judgement has been used to categorise these sites. Sites/features within this category include known prehistoric monuments such as clearance/burial cairns, standing stones and settings, etc, and known medieval monuments including settlement evidence. This forms the largest category in the assessment
 - Category C (score value of 2) sites include components of the historic landscape and are mostly of post-medieval date. In line with the guidance these sites are largely excluded from this assessment, although those within the 1km study area and close proximity to the Site, and any sites of this category of particular sensitivity or value are also considered briefly below, as appropriate.
- 4.13. Historic sites/features falling within these recommended categories are assessed below, according to the HLCA in which they lie.
- 4.14. Category A sites located within the HLCA, ZTV, and 5km of the Site are fully considered. Designated Category B sites are similarly considered. Other Category B and C sites, considered to be of ‘*particular importance within a regional or local context*’, as well as being located within the ZTV and 1km of the Site are also

assessed as appropriate for each HLCA. Information on HER sites is based upon data gathered from Cadw and Heneb for the Desk-Based Heritage Assessment (Cotswold Archaeology 2025a¹), which should be consulted for further information. The information for designated historic assets is based upon data gathered from Cadw and Heneb.

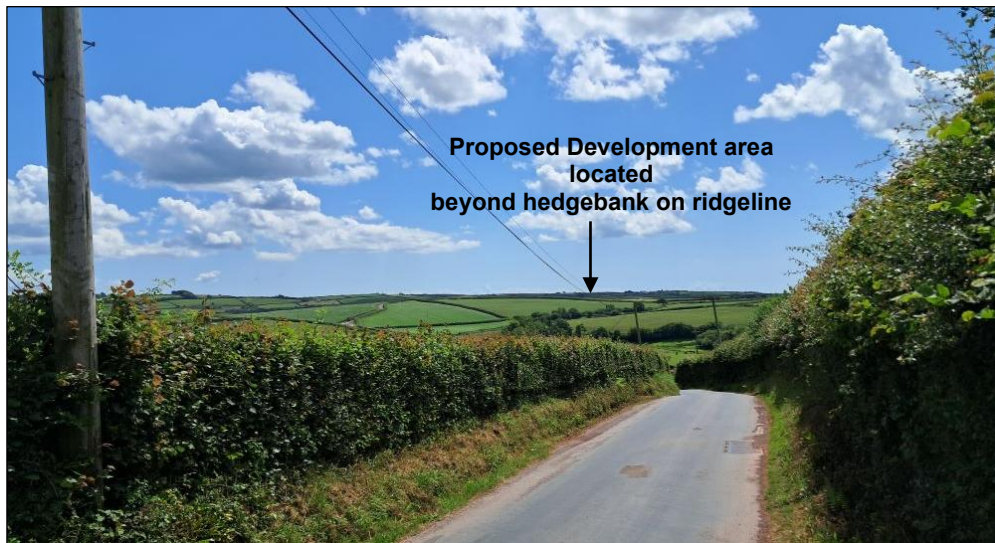
- 4.15. An assessment of the severity of the impact upon identified elements was made, graded as per the sliding scale and prescriptive point scoring summarised in Table 1 above i.e. 'Very Severe (6)', 'Severe (5)', 'Considerable (4)', 'Moderate (3)', 'Slight (2)', or 'Very Slight (1)'.
- 4.16. This information is presented within a table for each HLCA (if required), and a calculation carried out to determine the overall magnitude of indirect impacts (this is explained as relevant).

Tywi Valley RHL: Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187

- 4.17. Croesyceilog HLCA forms part of the Tywi Valley RHL. It is located to the north-west of the Site, approximately 350m from proposed areas of solar farm infrastructure, but with an arm wrapping around to the south-west of the Site, also over 350m distant. It should also be noted that the eastern half of the Site, Solar Area East, lies completely outside of Tywi Valley RHL, approximately 200m to the east, and over 500m south-east of Croesyceilog HLCA
- 4.18. Croesyceilog HLCA forms a large historic landscape area, extending across low rolling hills, along the southern and eastern sides of the lower Tywi valley. The ground rises from sea level along the River Tywi, to over 120m aOD on the summit of hills south-west of Cwmffrwd. The area is characterised by medium sized irregular fields of improved pasture, with patches of rougher ground, the latter generally at higher elevations. Field boundaries comprise substantial hedgebanks up to 2m high. Stands of broad-leafed trees are concentrated on the steeper valley sides, with some small conifer plantations occupying the higher ground.
- 4.19. Fields systems are thought to have been predominantly laid out during the 16th and 17th centuries, although the smaller irregular fields may have been enclosed at a slightly earlier date, possibly in the form of later medieval encroachments.

-
- 4.20. The settlement pattern is dominated by dispersed farms, with stone farmhouses mostly dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. In places modern settlement is superimposed over more ancient pattern of dispersed farms.
- 4.21. Unsurprisingly, a range of archaeological sites from all periods are recorded across this large HLCA.
- 4.22. Within the 5km study area and Croesyceilog HLCA, a very small area of landscape is identified by the ZTV as sharing some level of intervisibility with the Site (Figs 1 and 2). For the most part these are discrete areas, falling between 90m and 130m aOD, at similar heights to elevations within the Site, which fall between 90m and 120m. Given these similarities in height, it should be noted that from the larger area within this HLCA, intervening landscape forms, such as tree lines, woodland, tall hedgebanks, and buildings play a significant role when assessing visibility at ground level; most especially in blocking medium and longer-range views.
- 4.23. Most importantly, there are no category A or B sites located within the ZTV and 5km study area, from where views of the post-medieval field system within the Site will be visible.
- 4.24. Within 1km, some limited views towards the Site are possible from within and around the post-medieval farm at Trecor, located approximately 1km to the west and also from the highest elevations to the north of the Site, on the ridge line north of Panteg Farm (Photograph 1). However, given distance, combined with intervening landscape form, such as hedgerows (which in places are up to 2m high), tree lines and woodland, the Proposed Development is not predicted to meaningfully alter the experience of this historic landscape, or to affect its key characteristics. For the vast majority of Croesyceilog HLCA there will be no views of the Proposed Development within the Site. It is anticipated that there will only be glimpsed and fragmented lines of sight towards the Proposed Development from a handful of discrete and relatively distant elevated locations.
- 4.25. Most importantly, there are considered to be no important or designed views, or lines of sight within Croesyceilog HLCA and the ZTV which incorporate the Site. Indeed, the setting and experience of Croesyceilog HLCA is best understood and appreciated with reference to the body of Tywi Valley RHL, which extends extensively to the north

and west across the low rolling hills on the southern and eastern sides of the lower Tywi Valley, but not easterly beyond the Site.



Photograph 1. View from the high ground north of Panteg, looking south at the Site, with the Solar Area West area located beyond the distant hedgebank on the ridge line

- 4.26. General landscape views from within the Site out towards Croesyceilog HLCA are not considered to contribute to the significance of this HLCA.
- 4.27. Therefore, it is considered that there will be **no impact** to the experience or historic character of Croesyceilog HLCA, or to the key historic sites and landscape elements within it. On this basis, quantitative and tabulated assessment of Croesyceilog HLCA, in terms of indirect non-physical impacts, has not been taken further.
- 4.28. As such, the score for indirect, non-physical impacts on this HLCA is assessed as **0**.
- 4.29. In accordance with the guidance the score for indirect, non-physical impacts is combined with the score for indirect, physical impacts, and then the total crossed referenced to a prescriptive grading scheme, as set out in Table 7 below (same evaluation as Table 6: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Direct Physical Impacts but included again for reference). This then provides a descriptive assessment for the overall magnitude of indirect impacts.
- 4.30. Croesyceilog HLCA has been assessed with scores of **0** for both indirect physical and non-physical impacts. Therefore, the overall score is **0**, with impacts therefore graded as **'very slight'**.

Overall Score	Grading
24-28	Very Severe
19-23	Severe
14-18	Considerable
9-13	Moderate
4-8	Slight
0-3	Very Slight

Table 7: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Indirect Impacts

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Allt Hilltop HLCA 175

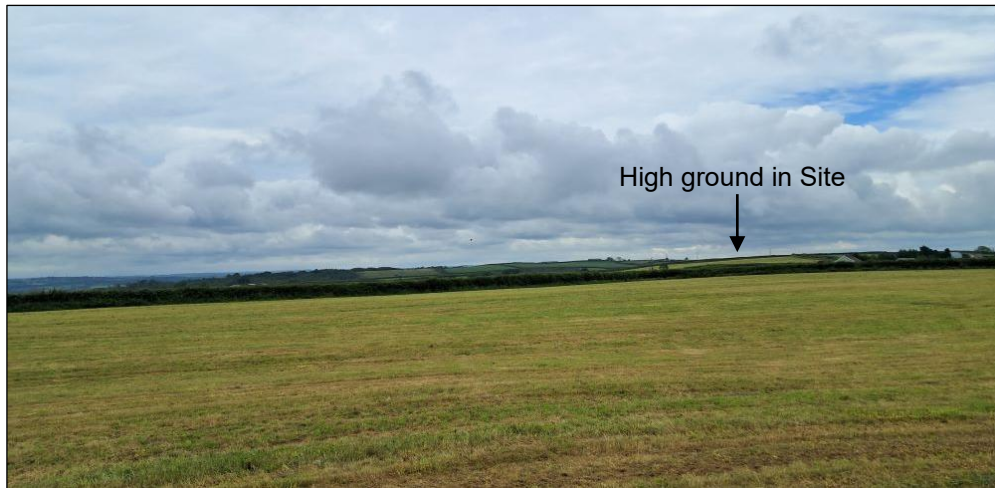
- 4.31. Allt Hilltop HLCA occupies fields 4-9, in Solar Area West. Hence, associated direct physical impacts have been fully considered in Stage 2 of this assessment. However, the HLCA continues further to the south, extending to the south-east from the Site boundary for approximately 2.6km. Therefore, indirect non-physical impacts, to parts of the HLCA within and beyond the Site boundary are considered here.
- 4.32. Unsurprisingly, some areas of the ZTV are located within this HLCA, predominantly where they extend from the Site's south and east boundaries, extending approximately 300m in both directions, before intervisibility with the Site ceases (Figs 1 & 2). Elevations here are generally between 90m aOD and 100m aOD, very similar to those in adjacent parts of the Site. Slightly further afield, the ZTV also occupies north-west facing slopes, where elevations fall from c.160m aOD to c.100m aOD, between 700m and 1.6km to the south-east of the Site. The hill here is called Allt Cunedda, and its ridge line forms the highest ground within Allt Hilltop HLCA, at c.160m aOD.
- 4.33. The description of Allt Hilltop HLCA has been included in the Stage 2 assessment, so is not repeated here, but should be referred to as appropriate.
- 4.34. There is one category A site located in the ZTV and the Allt Hilltop HLCA, but no category B sites. The category A site is a Bronze Age round barrow designated as a Scheduled Monument, located in a field directly to the east of the Site, approximately 120m to the east (Photograph 2). This is known as 'Round Barrow 330m SW of Mynydd-Uchaf' (Cadw Ref: CM190).
- 4.35. Based on the Site visit and lidar analysis undertaken for the heritage desk-based assessment, it is likely that there were once three barrows situated in this general location (Cotswold Archaeology 2025a¹). Certainly, the remains of another smaller and poorly surviving barrow appear to remain upstanding immediately north of the

scheduled barrow, also truncated by the field boundary. The lidar analysis also suggests the presence of another barrow, located just beyond the field boundary to the south-west, in the corner of the adjacent field, although given the height of the hedgebank this could not be verified or viewed.



Photograph 2. Scheduled round barrow looking south-east towards Allt Cunedda

- 4.36. The HER records another possible round barrow located c.100m to the north in the same field but only records it as 'close to this position' (Heneb PRN 11218). There was no surface evidence for this barrow identified during the walkover survey, so it has presumably been ploughed out, or alternatively, refers to one of the three barrows further south and discussed above.
- 4.37. From atop and around these barrows there was very limited intervisibility with the Site. Due to the relatively level localised topography and the very tall hedgebank boundaries, it was only possible to see the surface of fields within the highest part of the Site, directly to the north, within Solar Area West (Photograph 3). Fields directly to the west were not visible, only very distant high ground in the background of the surrounding landscape.
- 4.38. From around these barrows, it was obvious that the most important lines of sight were actually with the ridgeline and summit of Allt Cunedda, located approximately 2km to the south-east (Photograph 2). Two barrows situated on the highest elevations of Allt Cunedda would have likely shared intervisibility with the round barrows located east of the Site. This appears to have been the important visual and associate relationship, although a similarly open level of ground cover at the time of their construction and use, cannot be entirely assumed. Indeed, historically, greater woodland cover may have dramatically reduced levels of broader landscape visibility.



Photograph 3. Atop scheduled barrow looking north-west across the Site

- 4.39. Although located beyond the boundary of Allt Hilltop HLCA, further consideration has been given to the Iron Age enclosure and Bronze Age round barrows on Allt Cunedda, the summit of which is at 190m aOD. From here, views to the north-west towards the Site are across Allt Hilltop HLCA, and incorporate the historic fields systems, and rolling countryside within which they are located. Notably, the Iron Age enclosure is false crested on the western slopes of Allt Cunedda, so much of the site lies beyond the ZTV, only the western most earthworks are located within it. Development within the Site will not impact the experience, understanding or appreciation of these Iron Age earthworks, with its important views directed out toward the Tywi Estuary and HLCAs in this direction.
- 4.40. However, the two Bronze Age round barrows which occupy the highest parts of the ridgeline are located within the ZTV. As discussed above, intervisibility with the Scheduled round barrow (and adjacent barrows) directly east of the Site, was probably an important element in their location. The Proposed Development within the Site will become apparent in the background, in views from around these barrows on Allt Cunedda towards those directly east of the Site. A sense of the likely importance of this visual relationship can be gained to the informed observer, and therefore, the setting of these barrows on Allt Cunedda, in respect of views to the north-west will be partly denuded by the Proposed Development.
- 4.41. Even so, it should be emphasised that the barrows east of the Site are no longer readily appreciable at this distance from Allt Cunedda, and the intervening landscape form and layout will have altered considerably since the Bronze Age period, when they were constructed and in use. Moreover, appreciation and understanding of the

formative visual relationship between these monuments is principally an intellectual exercise, and not one that can be directly or accurately experienced in the modern evolved landscape. Importantly, the Proposed Development will in no way impact the intellectual assessment of the importance of these historical views.

- 4.42. The possible site of Bronze Age standing stones are also recorded on the HER within the ZTV, located to the south and east of the Site, between 250m and 300m distant. However, these sites are based predominantly on placename evidence, but no upstanding stones are recorded (Heneb PRNs: 11219, 11220 & 11222). As such, there can be no non-physical impact to them as a result of development within the Site. Furthermore, these sites are not considered to be of equivalent value to a Category C grading or above.
- 4.43. There are two post-medieval farms located within the ZTV, from where distant views towards the Site are possible. These are Parc-gwyn located approximately 1km to the south-east and Pen-hill located 1km to the south, on the lower north-west facing slopes of Allt Cunedda, at around 110m aOD. However, given distance, scale and intervening landscape forms, it is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development will be meaningfully perceptible from around these farms and surrounding fields.
- 4.44. More obvious views towards the Site are possible from the post medieval farm at Mynydd-uchaf, located in closer proximity, approximately 150m to the east of the Site and 300m to the south. From around this farm, views of the higher ground of Solar Area West, located to the north will be gained. However, given the relatively level topography, which falls gently to the west from Mynydd-uchaf, combined with very high intervening hedgebank boundaries, any views into fields 4-9 which form part of Allt Hilltop HLCA, directly to the west and south-west, will be very restricted, if not entirely precluded. Despite this, the historic rural, and farmed experience of Allt Hilltop may be impacted, at least when looking towards the high ground within the Site. Similarly, from some locations on nearby fields and roads, it seems likely that changes in land-use and the visual appearance and experience of historic fields within the Site, will also be perceptible from places within the surrounding landscape and within Allt Hilltop HLCA.
- 4.45. Distant views towards the Site from the lower slopes of Allt Cunedda are also possible (see Photograph 4 from Kidwelly HLCA for similar view). However, it should be emphasised that the Proposed Development contained within the Site forms a small

area overall within Allt Hilltop HLCA. And that views towards the Site from the south and east, from within Allt Hilltop HLCA, will be orientated in the entirely opposite direction to the Taf and Tywi RHL, the boundary of which is located over 700m south the Site. Furthermore, even at close proximity to the Site from within Allt Hilltop HLCA, topography combined with intervening landscape features such as tall hedgebanks and tree lines will limit, if not, from most locations, entirely preclude views of the Proposed Development.

4.46. Outward views from within the Site, towards the rural landscape of Allt Hilltop HLCA as it continues to the south and south-east within the Taf and Tywi RHL will, in places, be precluded, foregrounded and/or intervened by the Proposed Development. However, these views make a very small contribution to the overall experience and heritage significance of Allt Hilltop HLCA. Furthermore, and importantly, there are no designed views or key lines of sight from within the Site. Indeed, the visual experience from within the Site is of the historic farmed landscape, typical of Allt Hilltop generally. That said, it is accepted that from within the Site, and in particular that small area of Allt Hilltop contained within it, there will be a limited adverse impact to the visual experience and character of the surrounding rural farmed landscape.

4.47. On the basis of the above discussion impacts are assessed and quantified below, in Table 8.

Allt Hilltop HLCA175: Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL		
ASIDOHL Stage 2: Assessment Of Indirect (non-physical Impacts)		
Development: Heolddu Solar Farm		
Impacts	Category & Score	Magnitude & Score
Scheduled round barrow	A (4)	Very Slight (1) Changes within Site barely visible and views towards the Site are not important to its setting
Changes in land-use and the visual appearance and experience of historic fields, from the surrounding landscape and nearby farms, such as Mynydd-uchaf . Also, limited changes in the visual appearance of the historic rural landscape as experienced from within the Site.	C (2)	Very Slight (1) Due to intervening landscape forms, limited intervisibility generally and the small relative development area
Views from Bronze Age barrows on Allt Cunedda towards the Scheduled barrow east of the Site will be altered, with development visible in the landscape beyond	B (3)	Very Slight (1) Slight impact to the modern informed experience, but not when assessing the importance of formative historical views
Development Form*	3	Very Slight (1)

Development Appearance*	3	Moderate (3)
* Prescriptive element. Calculated as average of category scores (so 4+2 +3 / 3 = 3)		

Table 8. Indirect (non-physical) visual impacts on Allt Hilltop HLCA 175

4.48. In accordance with the guidance, the scores are added together and then divided by the number elements of different elements assessed, so:

- $(4+1) + (2+1) + (3+1) + (3+1) + (3+3) / 5 = 4.4$

4.49. This score for non-physical indirect impacts, is then added to the score for physical indirect impacts, so:

- $4.4 + 0 = 4.4$

4.50. For mathematical purposes this total is then multiplied by 28 and the new total divided by 20, so as to convert it correctly to the 28-point scale as set out in Table 7. Therefore:

- $4.4 \times 28 / 20 = 6.16$. Rounded to the nearest whole number = **6**

4.51. Hence, the overall score for the magnitude of indirect impacts on Allt Hilltop is **6**, with impacts graded and described as '**slight**'.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165

4.52. The northern most extent of Kidwelly HLCA forms of narrow arm of land which lies approximately 160m south of the Site. However, the larger proportion, and body of this HLCA is situated over 1km further to the south, with its southern most boundary located over 3km distant, well beyond the areas identified by the ZTV as potentially sharing some level of intervisibility with the Site.

4.53. Kidwelly HLCA occupies ground between 25m and 150m aOD, with a generally southerly aspect, orientated away from the Site; hence, the larger proportion being located outside the ZTV. Much of the landscape is characterised by a fossilised medieval strip field system, with former strips still apparent on the 1840 Kidwelly and St Ishmael tithe maps. The former boundaries of fossilised strip fields are mostly located in the southern half of the HLCA. There is very limited woodland cover, and where present, it is of secondary origin. The settlement pattern comprises the usual scatter of farmsteads and cottages. Farmhouses are generally stone built, and of 19th century origin.

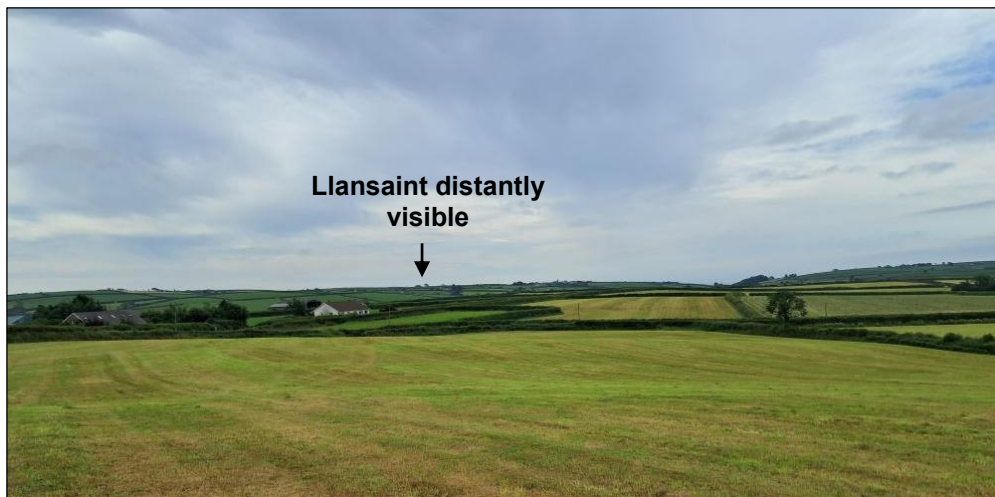
-
- 4.54. The main road between Kidwelly and Ferryside, follows the line of a possible medieval route, now called 'Port Way'. The route is also recorded as a post-medieval toll road (Heneb PRN 109110). A branch from this road, runs south linking with Llansaint and was formerly known as the 'Portway. This western part of the HLCA is all improved pasture with long and medium sized enclosures, bounded by hedgebanks. To the east, within the borough of Kidwelly, there are numerous strip lynchets surviving, but below 90m; the high ground was formerly given over to common pasture.
- 4.55. The recorded archaeology includes the sites of possible standing stones, as well as two possible Bronze Age round barrows. All Saints Church in Llansaint is a Grade II Listed Building (Cadw Ref: 9414), and the historic core of the village is a conservation area. The church is first documented in 1115, although of the upstanding building, only the 16th century tower is of late medieval origin.
- 4.56. Areas of the HLCA within the ZTV generally occupy elevations ranging between 90m and 120m aOD, at similar levels to the Site. As discussed above, this means that from the surrounding landscape generally, intervening landscape features, such as tree lines, woodland copses, hedgebanks and buildings, often substantively intrude on mid and long distant views between the HLCA and the Site. Hence, glimpses of the Proposed Development within the Site, from these similar elevations within the HLCA, are limited and fragmented. This is especially so, given the relatively low-lying form of the solar panels and solar farm infrastructure, which will be of similar heights to the existing hedgebanks bounding the Site and adjacent fields.
- 4.57. An area of slightly higher ground within both the ZTV and Kidwelly HLCA is located approximately 1.5km south of the Site. Here west facing slopes fall from 140m to 90m aOD. From the high ground views toward the Site are possible (Photograph 4). However, given distance, intervening landscapes forms, and the scale of the development, it is concluded that the solar panels and associated infrastructure will only be distantly perceptible, and not adversely impact the experience or understanding of the key characteristics of this HLCA.
- 4.58. Importantly, there are no category A or B sites wholly located within the ZTV and 5km study area, from where views of the post-medieval field system within the Site will be obviously apparent. That said, the northern extent of Llansaint Conservation Area

and the Church of Llansaint, is partly located within the ZTV, approximately 1.8km south of the Site.



Photograph 4. Looking north-west toward Solar Area West from the lower slopes of Allt Cunedda, in Kidwelly HLCA

- 4.59. From within the Site the village of Llansaint, along with the tower of the Grade II Listed Church of All Saints is visible as built form generally (Photograph 5). However, other than the upper level of the church tower, individual structures are not readily discernible.



Photograph 5. Looking south towards Llansaint from high ground within the Site

- 4.60. Most importantly, from within Llansaint Conservation Area and around the Grade II church, there are no clear views towards the Site, which are intervened by built form and on the northern tip of the village by tall hedgerows. Long range views towards the Site are possible from some fields around the edges and surrounds of the village,

but given distance, intervening landscapes forms, and the scale of the Proposed Development, solar panels and associated infrastructure will not be readily apparent. Therefore, the Proposed Development will not adversely impact the experience of the key characteristics of Kidwelly HLCA from around and within Llansaint.

- 4.61. In addition, no post medieval farms, or other relevant non-designated historic assets are located within the ZTV and the 1km study area.
- 4.62. General landscape views from within the Site out towards Kidwell HLCA are not considered to contribute to the significance of this HLCA.
- 4.63. Therefore, on this basis, it is considered that there will be **no impact** to the experience or historic character of Kidwelly HLCA, or to the key historic sites and landscape elements within it, resulting from development of the Site. On this basis, quantitative and tabulated assessment of Kidwelly HLCA, in terms of indirect non-physical impacts has not been taken further.
- 4.64. As such, the score for indirect, non-physical impacts on this HLCA is assessed as **0**.
- 4.65. In accordance with the guidance the score for indirect, non-physical impacts is combined with the score for indirect, physical impacts, and then the total crossed referenced to Table 6: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Indirect Impacts, to derive an overall magnitude of indirect impacts.
- 4.66. Kidwelly HLCA has been assessed with scores of **0** for both indirect physical and non-physical impacts. Therefore, the overall score is **0**, with impacts therefore graded as '**very slight**'.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: St Ishmael HLCA 173

- 4.67. St Ishamel HLCA is located over 500m to the south-west of the Site, from where it extends south and west, up to 2.5km distant from the Site boundary. The vast majority of this HLCA lies outside of the ZTV and shares no intervisibility with the Site.
- 4.68. This HLCA comprises a landscape of medium to large sized irregular fields, that may have evolved from strip fields during the 17th century. The fields are now all improved pasture divided by hedgebanks, with some small areas of woodland and scrub, most likely of secondary origin. The area occupies elevations between sea level and 125m aOD. There are a number of historically important farms within this HLCA, although

settlement is generally dispersed. Farmhouses are mostly stone built and of 19th century origin.

- 4.69. Despite the large area encompassed by St Ishmael HLCA, the documented archaeological resource is limited, although the site of several possible Bronze Age standing stones are suggested by field names. In addition, a possible Bronze Age round barrow cemetery was identified on lidar imagery in 2024. This revealed four low mounds in a line on the east side of the road, and a single mound opposite, on the west side of the road (Heneb PRN: 130780). A follow up site visit revealed the mounds to be very plough reduced, with those on the east side of the road surviving up to a maximum of 0.5m high with a diameter of c.30m, and the one on the west side of the road surviving to c.1m high with a c.50m diameter. These ploughed out barrows are located approximately 1km south of the Site. The former toll road, discussed above in respect of Kidwell HLCA also runs through St Ishmael HLCA, linking Kidwelly with Ferryside (Heneb PRN 109110).
- 4.70. As emphasised for other HLCAs, large parts of St Ishmael HLCA located within the ZTV occupy similar elevations to the Site, ranging between 80m aOD and 120m aOD. Hence, general views towards the Site are mostly prevented by intervening landscape form, such as hedgebank boundaries, woodland copses, treelines and in places, built form. This is especially so, as above, given the relatively low-lying nature of the solar panels and solar farm infrastructure, which will be of similar heights to the existing hedgebanks boundaries around the Site and in the surrounding landscape.
- 4.71. Importantly there are no category A or B sites within this HLCA that are located within the 5km study area and ZTV. From the possible barrow cemetery discussed above (Heneb PRN: 130780), there is no meaningful visibility towards the Site, despite being located within the ZTV. Hence, the Proposed Development will not be readily perceptible from around these poorly surviving Bronze Age round barrows.
- 4.72. Likewise, topography combined with intervening landscape form significantly reduces visibility towards the Site from Port Way, the post-medieval toll road. That said, from some higher stretches along the road, in places, the higher ground within the Site can be distantly discerned, from approximately 800m to the south-west (Photograph 6). Similarly, from the higher ground overlooking the estuary near Pengay Farm, approximately 1.8km to the south-west of the Site, some of the higher fields within the Site can just be made out.



Photograph 6. Looking north-east towards the Site from Port Way

- 4.73. From some elevated locations within Ishmael HLCA the Site will be visible. However, given distance, and intervening landscape forms, the Proposed Development will not be readily apparent or obviously incongruous to the rural landscape, and therefore, will not adversely impact the experience of the key characteristics and historic landscape from around these parts of the HLCA.
- 4.74. No post medieval farms, or other relevant non-designated historic assets are located within the ZTV and the 1km study area.
- 4.75. General landscape views from within the Site out towards St Ishamel HLCA are not considered to contribute to the significance of this HLCA.
- 4.76. Therefore, it is considered that there will be **no impact** to the experience or historic character of St Ishamel HLCA, or to the key historic sites and landscape elements within it, resulting from development of the Site. On this basis, quantitative and tabulated assessment of St Ishamel HLCA, in terms of indirect non-physical impacts has not been taken further.
- 4.77. As such, the score for indirect, non-physical impacts on this HLCA is assessed as **0**.
- 4.78. In accordance with the guidance the score for indirect, non-physical impacts is combined with the score for indirect, physical impacts, and then the total crossed referenced to Table 6: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Indirect Impacts, to derive an overall magnitude of indirect impacts.

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- 4.79. St Ishamel HLCA has been assessed with scores of **0** for both indirect physical and non-physical impacts. Therefore, the overall score is **0**, with impacts therefore graded as ‘**very slight**’.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Llansteffan HLCA 141

- 4.80. Llansteffan HLCA is located approximately 3km west of the Site, occupying the opposite banks of the of Tywi Estuary. It encompasses the village of Llansteffan, which is dominated by a steep-sided hill to the south. The summit of the hill is occupied by a well-preserved Iron Age promontory fort, and the masonry remains of a medieval castle, first established in 1146.
- 4.81. This HLCA occupies ground between 60m aOD and 10m aOD, with the Iron Age hillfort and medieval castle located on the higher ground. Intermittent and small discrete areas of the ZTV are located within Llansteffan HLCA, indicating the potential for some intervisibility with the Site.
- 4.82. Llansteffan HLCA is located on the western side of the Tywi Estuary, where sea banks protect the lower lying part of the village. The historic heart of the village is clustered around the Grade II Listed Church of St Ystyffan (Cadw Ref: 9404). The church is thought to have been founded here in c.AD 650, possibly by St Ystyffan, but then rebuilt by the Normans in the early 12th century. A second nucleus of settlement fronts the estuary. The medieval castle dominates the high ground, and the surviving masonry remains are substantial. Iron Age earthworks also survive, reflecting the readily defensible nature of the local topography. Otherwise, recorded archaeology is mainly represented by buildings and former structures.
- 4.83. The castle is a Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building (Cadw Refs: 9404 & 9405). Furthermore, the village of Llansteffan is designated as a conservation area. Within the Llansteffan Conservation Area there are a number of Grade II and II* Listed Buildings. The castle is also encompassed within the extent of the conservation area. Parts of the conservation area are included within the ZTV, as are parts of the Scheduled Monument area, including the masonry remains of the castle. However, most of the listed buildings within the village are located outside of the ZTV.
- 4.84. From within the higher ground within the Site some parts of the village of Llansteffan are distantly visible, as are the upper battlements of the castle. However, individual structures are not discernible, and the eye has to make a concerted effort to locate

the castle. Moreover, from atop the castle battlements it was not possible to securely identify any of the fields within Site (Photograph 7). Lines of sight appear to be intervened by topography, hedgerows, tree lines, woodland copses and built form. Notably, Ferryside village lies on the opposite side of the estuary, from where the river valley slopes climbs steeply behind, to elevations of between 90m aOD and 100m aOD. The valley sides here achieve similar elevations to those in much of the Site. Therefore, given topography and intervening landscape features, combined with the 3km distance and the scale of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that solar panels and attendant infrastructure within the Site, will not be meaningfully visible from within the conservation area or around the castle and its scheduled area.



Photograph 7. Looking east toward the Site, although fields not readily visible

- 4.85. In addition, it should be emphasised that the fundamental elements to the setting of Llansteffan HLCA and the castle are the Tywi Estuary, not rural fields, barely visible (if at all), almost 3km distant to the north-east.
- 4.86. General landscape views from within the Site out towards Llansteffan HLCA are not considered to contribute to the significance of this HLCA.
- 4.87. Therefore, it is considered that there will be **no impact** to the experience or historic character of Llansteffan HLCA, or to the key historic sites and landscape elements within it, resulting from development of the Site. On this basis, quantitative and tabulated assessment of Llansteffan HLCA, in terms of indirect non-physical impacts has not been taken further.

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- 4.88. As such, the score for indirect, non-physical impacts on this HLCA is assessed as **0**.
- 4.89. In accordance with the guidance, the score for indirect, non-physical impacts is combined with the score for indirect, physical impacts, and then the total crossed referenced to Table 6: Grading of Overall Magnitude of Indirect Impacts, to derive an overall magnitude of indirect impacts.
- 4.90. Llansteffan HLCA has been assessed with scores of **0** for both indirect physical and non-physical impacts. Therefore, the overall score is **0**, with impacts therefore graded as '**very slight**'.

5. STAGE 4: EVALUATION OF RELATIVE IMPORTANCE

Objectives of ASIDHOL2 Stage 4

5.1. Stage 4 of the ASIDHOL2 process aims to evaluate the relative importance of HLCAs (or parts thereof) directly and/or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development. The Guide to Good Practice outlines three stages, 4a-c in which this may be done:

- Assess the relative importance of the part of the HLCA affected by development in relation to the importance of the whole of the HLCA itself (Stage 4a).
- Assess the importance of each HLCA affected by the development in terms of the whole of the Landscape of Outstanding/Special Historic Landscape on the Register (Stage 4b).
- Assess the importance of the HLCAs in relation to the whole of the landscapes on the Register of Landscapes of Outstanding/Special Historic Interest in Wales (Stage 4c).

Method

5.2. Stage 4 uses defined criteria to judge the comparative assessments, which is applied as appropriate. These criteria comprise the following:

- Rarity
- Representativeness
- Documentation
- Group value
- Survival
- Condition
- Coherence
- Integrity
- Potential
- Amenity
- Associations

5.3. The assigned values are scored in the following manner: Very High/Very Good (4 points); High/Good (3 points); Moderate/Medium (2 points); Low (1 point); or Poor/None (0 points).

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- 5.4. In accordance with the guidance, only those HLCAs directly and/or indirectly affected by the Proposed Development have been assessed. As such, for those HLCAs, where no direct or indirect impacts have been found during Stage 2-3, as set out above, then Stage 4 assessment, concerning reactive impacts has not been undertaken.

Tywi Valley RHL: Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187

- 5.5. No indirect physical or non-physical impacts were found to Croesyceilog HLCA as a result of the Proposed Development; hence, an evaluation of relative importance has not been undertaken.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Allt Hilltop HLCA 175

Allt Hilltop HLCA: Stage 4a

- 5.6. The area of Allt Hilltop HLCA affected by the Proposed Development includes fields 4-9 within Site, as well as rural fields around the edges of the Site to the south and east and some fields occupying north-west facing slopes approximately 700m to the south-east. Overall, the affected area is considered to be relatively small, and this informs the assessment accordingly.
- 5.7. In summary, within the affected areas of the HLCA, enclosed pasture fields are considered to be commonly representative of fields across this HLCA generally. These fields systems and boundaries survive comparatively well, with a level of coherence assessed to be slightly than for elsewhere within this HLCA. Farms, lanes and other rural landscape features within the affected area are commonly represented across the HLCA as a whole. The Bronze Age round barrow located approximately 120m east of the Site is of additional consideration and provides some degree of rarity. Likewise, the potential for standing stones to have been located within affected areas of Allt Hilltop HLCA are also noted. These are relatively unusual elements with the HLCA overall, although it should be noted that the three recorded close to the Site have no upstanding remains, and are based on place-name evidence.
- 5.8. The assessment criteria evaluated are summarised as follows. Scores relate to the value of criteria in areas affected by the HLCA, relative to those elements as a whole within the HLCA.

Value/Criterion	Very High/ Very Good 5 points	High/ Good 4 points	Moderate/ Medium 3 points	Low 2 points	Poor/ None 1 point
Rarity			✓		
Representativeness				✓	
Documentation					✓
Group value					✓
Survival				✓	
Condition				✓	
Coherence				✓	
Integrity					✓
Potential					✓
Amenity					✓
Associations					✓

Table 9. Stage 4a summary of relative importance for Allt Hilltop HLCA

Allt Hilltop HLCA: Stage 4b

- 5.9. The important characteristics of Allt Hilltop HLCA are considered to be common features for a number of HLCAs generally located within Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL, as well as HLCAs within RHLs nationally.
- 5.10. The key characteristics of Allt Hilltop are post-medieval enclosed fields, combined with patchwork woodland, dispersed post-medieval and modern settlement, as well as archaeological remains, including a scattering of prehistoric earthwork monuments and designated historic assets. These are generally common historic elements located within the HLCAs of Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL. Therefore, in local and regional comparative terms, Allt Hilltop HLCA is a form of historic landscape regularly encountered, and as such all values are considered to be either low or poor/none.

Value/Criterion	Very High/ Very Good 5 points	High/ Good 4 points	Moderate/ Medium 3 points	Low 2 points	Poor/ None 1 point
Rarity					✓
Representativeness					✓
Documentation					✓
Group value					✓
Survival					✓
Condition					✓
Coherence				✓	
Integrity					✓

Potential					✓
Amenity					✓
Associations					✓

Table 10. Stage 4b summary of relative importance for Allt Hilltop HLCA

Allt Hilltop HLCA: Stage 4c

5.11. Allt Hilltop HLCA is considered to be a common form of historic landscape within the national context of Wales, with commonplace rural landscape features, as well as archaeological remains and designated historic assets. In national comparative terms, Allt Hilltop HLCA is a form of historic landscape regularly encountered, and as such all values are considered to be either low or poor/none.

Value/Criterion	Very High/ Very Good 5 points	High/ Good 4 points	Moderate/ Medium 3 points	Low 2 points	Poor/ None 1 point
Rarity					✓
Representativeness					✓
Documentation					✓
Group value					✓
Survival					✓
Condition					✓
Coherence					✓
Integrity					✓
Potential					✓
Amenity					✓
Associations					✓

Table 11. Stage 4c summary of relative importance for Allt Hilltop HLCA

Evaluation

5.12. The Stage 4 ASIDOHL2 process requires an overall value to be calculated for the relative importance of each of the HLCAs within the study area. These are combined and an average calculated. The Good Practice Guide (page 27) states that the total values awarded within the table should be combined to provide a total out of a maximum of 55 (i.e. 11 categories with a top value of 5 possible points for each).

5.13. Thus, for Stage 4 of Allt Hilltop HLCA:

- Stage 4a: 3+2+1+1+2+2+2+1+1+1+1 = 17 out of 55
- Stage 4b: 1+1+1+1+1+1+2+1+1+1+1 = 12 out of 55
- Stage 4c: 1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1+1 = 11 out of 55

5.14. The process next requires these scores to be converted to a percentage value. This is done as follows:

- $(17 / 55) * 100 = 30.9$
- $(12 / 55) * 100 = 21.8$
- $(11 / 55) * 100 = 20.0$

5.15. The overall average is then calculated, so:

- $(30.9 + 21.8 + 20) / 3 = \mathbf{24}$ (rounded to the nearest whole value)

Score	Value
80-100	Very High
60-79	High
40-59	Considerable
20-39	Moderate
5-19	Low
0-4	Very Low

Table 12: Stage 4 Grades of Overall Value

5.16. Therefore, the Stage 4 value of Allt Hilltop HLCA is assessed to be **Moderate**.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165

5.17. No indirect physical or non-physical impacts were found to Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA as a result of the Proposed Development; hence, an evaluation of relative importance has not been undertaken.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: St Ishmael HLCA 173

5.18. No indirect physical or non-physical impacts were found to St Ishmael HLCA as a result of the Proposed Development; hence, an evaluation of relative importance has not been undertaken.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL: Llansteffan HLCA 141

5.19. No indirect physical or non-physical impacts were found to Llansteffan HLCA as a result of the Proposed Development; hence, an evaluation of relative importance has not been undertaken.

6. STAGE 5: ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL SIGNIFICANCE OF IMPACT

- 6.1. Stage 5 of the ASIDOHL2 process combines the results of Stages 2 to 4 assessments to quantify the overall significance of the impact of the Proposed Development, and the effect that altering the HLCAs concerned has on the whole of the RHL.
- 6.2. The Guide to Good Practice (page 30) recommends a table summary, as set out in Tables 13 and 14 below, to ‘provide an essential concluding summary and digest of the whole ASIDOHL2 process’ using ‘professional interpretation and judgement, based on carefully weighing up all the scores in the preceding Stages’.
- 6.3. The table provides an overall value for each HLCA for:
- Impact of Development (based on Stage 2 and 3 results)
 - Value of Historic Character Area (based on Stage 4 results)
 - Reduction of Value of the Historic Landscape Area on Register (based on professional judgement)
- 6.4. These values are scored on the following basis: Very High (9 or 10); High (7 or 8); Medium (4, 5 or 6); Low (2 or 3); and Very Low (1). This provides a total score which is provided in the final column, out of a maximum possible value of 30. These scores are graded as per Table 13 below.

Score	Value
26-30	Very Severe
21-25	Severe
16-20	Fairly Severe
10-15	Moderate
4-9	Slight
0-3	Very Slight

Table 13. Stage 5 Grades of Overall Significance of impact

- 6.5. The following summary tables address the overall significance of the impact of development on Tywi Valley RHL and Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL separately.

HCLA	Development Impact Stages 2 and 3	Value of HLCA Stage 4	Value Reduction of Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape	Overall Significance of Impact
Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187	No indirect physical or non-physical impacts - 0 No new visual intrusion upon key elements or characteristics of the historic landscape	No impact - 0	None - 0	Very Slight - 0

Table 14. Summary of Overall Significance of the Impact of Development on Tywi Valley RHL

HCLA	Development Impact Stages 2 and 3	Value of HLCA Stage 4	Value Reduction of Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape	Overall Significance of Impact
Allt Hilltop HLCA17	Low - 2 Long term but wholly reversible changes to appearance and historic land-use across a small area of the HLCA. Minimal truncation of buried deposits associated with agricultural practices also possible. Some changes in views between Bronze Age rounds barrows on Allt Cunedda and narrows near the Site, in which the Site may appear.	Low – 2 Based on the Stage 4 assessment, the overall value was found to be moderate. However, relative values all scored in the lower range and key characteristics were found to be common features of the historic landscape within other HLCAs. Hence the value here is scored as low.	Very Low – 1 There are limited physical impacts within the Site, and no permanent non-physical impacts. The development is readily reversible. There is considered to be no permanent loss of any key historical characteristics of the RHL. Hence there is no meaningful reduction in the value of Taf & Tywi Estuary Registered Historic Landscape	Slight - 5
Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165	No indirect physical or non-physical impacts - 0 No new visual intrusion upon key elements or characteristics of the historic landscape	No impact - 0	None - 0	Very Slight - 0
St Ishmael HLCA 173	No indirect physical or non-physical impacts - 0 No new visual intrusion upon key elements or characteristics of the historic landscape	No impact - 0	None - 0	Very Slight - 0
Llansteffan HLCA 141	No indirect physical or non-physical impacts - 0 No new visual intrusion upon key elements or characteristics of the historic landscape	No impact - 0	None - 0	Very Slight - 0

Table 15. Summary of Overall Significance of the Impact of Development on Taf & Tywi Estuary RHL

Tywi Valley RHL

- 6.6. The overall significance of the impact of development on Tywi Valley RHL is calculated to be **0**, meaning that these impacts are assessed to be **very slight**.

Taf & Tywi Estuary RHL

- 6.7. The overall significance of the impact of development on Taf & Tywi Estuary RHL is calculated to be **5**, meaning that these impacts are assessed to be **slight**.

Mitigation

- 6.8. The Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme - Solar Area West (ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.1) shows that existing hedgerows will be enhanced which will help to minimise levels of intervisibility into Solar Area West from higher ground within the wider landscape. A new hedgerow will also be added along the north-east facing boundaries of fields 4, 7 and 9 to limit views from the PRoW. This will be 3-4m in height, allowing it also to limit views across the northern part of Solar Area West from the southern portion which encompasses the fields within the Allt Hilltop HLCA.

7. CONCLUDING STATEMENT

- 7.1. The application proposes the construction of a Solar Farm on rural fields approximately 1.5km east of Ferryside and the Tywi Estuary. The Proposed Development would include solar panels and attendant infrastructure located across two separate parcels of land. The larger, Solar Area West measuring approximately 55ha, and the smaller, Solar Area East measuring approximately 25ha. Underground cabling would link the two areas.
- 7.2. Solar Area West (Fields 1-15 and the short westernmost section of the cable route) is located within the south-west of corner Tywi Valley RHL, although it does not occupy a HLCA defined within this RHL.
- 7.3. The Site's southern boundary is located approximately 700m north of Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL, but the southernmost fields of Solar Area West (fields 4-9) occupy the northern extent of an Allt Hilltop HLCA, one of the defined HLCAs forming part of Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL.
- 7.4. This ASIDHOL2 was undertaken to assess the potential overall significance of the impact of the Proposed Development, and the effect that altering the HLCAs concerned has on the whole of these Registered Historic Landscapes. The scope of the ASIDHOL2 was agreed beforehand by Heneb and Cadw, as follows:

Tywi Valley RHL:

- Croesyceilog - Cwmffrwd HLCA 187

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL

- Allt Hilltop HLCA 17
- Kidwelly and Llansaint Strip Fields HLCA 165
- St Ishmael HLCA 173
- Llansteffan HLCA 141

Tywi Valley RHL

- 7.5. The western half of the Site (Solar Area West) is located in the far south-east corner of Tywi Valley RHL, and approximately 300m east of Croesyceilog HLCA. From here this very large HLCA extends for 3.5km to the west and 10km to the north.
- 7.6. The Site is not located within any HLCA defined within Tywi Valley RHL, so Stage 2 of the ASIDHOL2, assessing direct physical impacts, was not undertaken.

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- 7.7. As part of Stage 3, no indirect physical or non-physical impacts were identified to Croesyceilog HLCA. Importantly, no category A, B or C heritage sites were identified within the ZTV and 5km study area. Indeed, within 5km only small, localised areas of higher ground were identified by the ZTV as sharing some level of intervisibility with the Site. Given the generally low-lying form of the development, combined with distance, topography and intervening landscape form, such as hedgerows (which in places are up to 2m high), tree lines and woodland, it was concluded that the Proposed Development would not meaningfully alter the experience of this HLCA, or adversely affect any of its key historical elements or landscape characteristics.
- 7.8. As no indirect physical or non-physical impacts were found to Croesyceilog HLCA, the Stage 4 evaluation of relative importance was not undertaken.
- 7.9. Therefore, as part of Stage 5, the overall significance of the impact of development on Tywi Valley RHL was calculated to be **0**, meaning that prescriptively and in accordance with Table 12. Stage 5 Grades of Overall Significance of impact, impacts were assessed to be **very slight**.

Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL

- 7.10. The Site is not located within Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL, but approximately 700m to the north. This RHL extends away from the Site, to the south and west, encompassing the estuaries of the Rivers Tywi and Taf.
- 7.11. Stage 2 assessment of direct impacts was only undertaken for Allt Hilltop HLCA, which occupies the southernmost six fields of Solar Area West (fields 4 – 9, ES Volume 2, Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan). Very low levels of truncation to possible buried archaeological features surviving within this part of the Site, most likely of post-medieval origin, were identified. It was also concluded that there would be a partial loss of the ability to experience and understand the character of the historic landscape as a result of changed land-use and the reduced visibility of the regular field pattern. However, these changes did not represent a permanent physical loss to key characteristics of the HLCA, and moreover, the historic layout and use of the fields would remain legible through the experience and appreciation of the historic field boundaries, which will remain upstanding.
- 7.12. No other HLCA was located within or directly adjacent to the Site and hence, no other direct physical impacts were found.

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- 7.13. As part of Stage 3, some limited indirect non-physical impacts to Allt Hilltop HLCA were also identified. These included changes in land-use and the visual appearance and experience of historic fields within the Site, when viewed from the surrounding landscape and farms around the Site. Some adverse changes in the visual appearance of the historic rural landscape as experienced from within the Site were also found. In addition, views from Bronze Age barrows on Allt Cunedda towards the Scheduled barrow directly east of the Site will also be altered, with the Proposed Development visible in the background landscape. However, it was emphasised that overall, these changes encompass only a small area of Allt Hilltop HLCA, and notably, are all located beyond the extent of the RHL itself. Therefore, the majority of key historic elements and landscape characteristics will remain unaffected by the Proposed Development.
- 7.14. On this basis, the overall score for the magnitude of indirect impacts on Allt Hilltop was assessed as **6**, with impacts prescriptively described as '**slight**'.
- 7.15. For Kidwelly HLCA, St Ishmael HLCA and Llansteffan HLCA varying levels of intervisibility were identified, but all from elevated and localised positions within their respective landscapes. However, in all instances it was concluded that given the generally low-lying form of the Proposed Development, combined with distance, and intervening landscapes features, the Proposed Development would not be readily apparent or obviously incongruous to the rural landscape. Therefore, the key historic elements and landscape characteristics would remain unaffected by the Proposed Development.
- 7.16. These HLCA were assessed with scores of **0** for both indirect physical and non-physical impacts; hence, the overall score for each was **0**, with impacts prescriptively described as '**very slight**'.
- 7.17. Given the outcomes of assessment for Stages 2-3, only Allt Hilltop HLCA was assessed for the Stage 4 evaluation of Relative Importance. Key historic landscape features and archaeological components were found to be commonly occurring, both for the Site and for Allt Hilltop HLCA. Therefore in local, regional and national comparative terms, Allt Hilltop HLCA and the Site within it, was assessed to be a form of historic landscape regularly encountered. The overall average of scores was calculated at **24** (out of 100), and thus the value of Allt Hilltop HLCA was assessed as **moderate**.

7.18. At Stage 5, the overall significance of the impact of development on Taf and Tywi Estuary was calculated to be **5** (out of a total of 30), with impacts prescriptively described as **slight**.

8. REFERENCES

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