

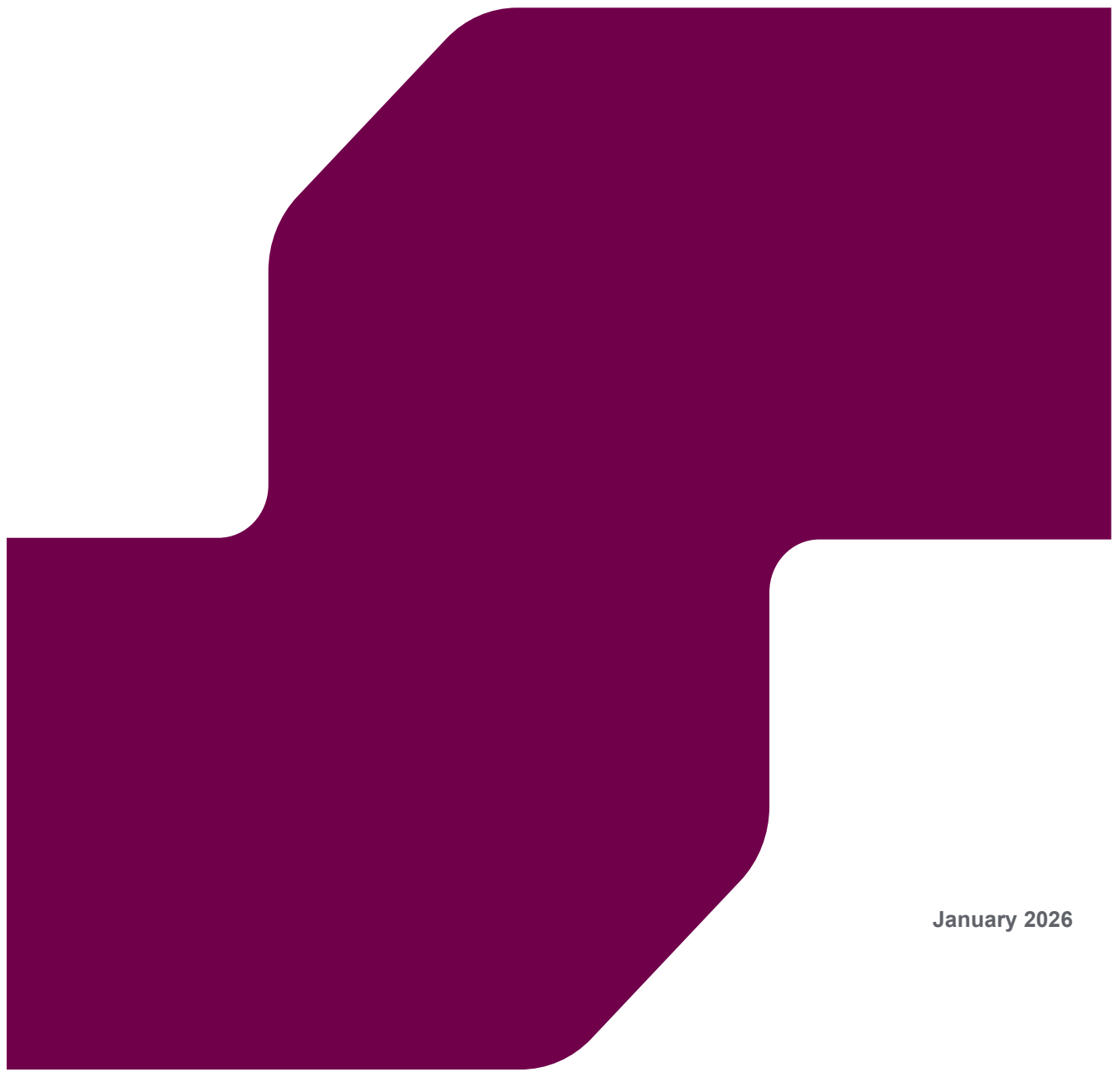
Environmental Statement – Volume 1,  
Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact  
**Heolddu solar farm**

On behalf of Qualitas Energy

# HEOLDDU SOLAR FARM

## ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

### Chapter 5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment



January 2026

<b>Document status</b>					
<b>Version</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Authored</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Date</b>
01	Draft	RPS	RPS	Heolddu Solar Park Ltd	Sept 2025
02	Final	RPS	RPS	Heolddu Solar Park Ltd	Jan 2026

<b>Approval for issue</b>	
RPS	January 2026

© Copyright RPS Group Limited. All rights reserved.

The report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client and unless otherwise agreed in writing by RPS Group Limited no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of this report.

The report has been compiled using the resources agreed with the client and in accordance with the scope of work agreed with the client. No liability is accepted by RPS Group Limited for any use of this report, other than the purpose for which it was prepared. RPS Group Limited accepts no responsibility for any documents or information supplied to RPS Group Limited by others and no legal liability arising from the use by others of opinions or data contained in this report. It is expressly stated that no independent verification of any documents or information supplied by others has been made.

RPS Group Limited has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the written permission of RPS Group Limited.

RPS has used reasonable skill, care and diligence in compiling this report and no warranty is provided as to the report's accuracy. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, by any means, without the prior written consent of RPS.

---

**Prepared by:**

**RPS**

**Prepared for:**

**Heolddu Solar Park Ltd.**

---

## Contents

<b>5</b>	<b>LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)</b> .....	<b>1</b>
5.1	Introduction .....	1
5.2	Legislation and Policy .....	3
5.3	Consultation and Engagement .....	9
5.5	Assessment Methodology.....	18
5.6	Baseline Environment Conditions .....	21
5.7	Representative Viewpoints .....	32
5.8	Photomontages.....	33
5.9	Mitigation and Enhancement Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development .....	39
5.10	Assessment of landscape and visual effects .....	42
	Introduction .....	42
5.11	Representative Viewpoints Assessment.....	45
5.12	Cumulative Effects Assessment .....	58
5.13	Inter-related effects.....	61
5.14	Summary of environmental effects, mitigation measures and monitoring.....	63
5.15	References .....	72

### Figures (See Volume 2: Figures)

Figure number	Figure title
5.1	Site Location and Designations
5.2	Zone of Theoretical Visibility ZTV - (building and woodland screening) incl. Representative Viewpoints
5.3	Zone of Theoretical Visibility ZTV – PV frames and Communications Tower
5.4 – 5.19	Representative Viewpoints 1 – 15 Panoramas up to 90 degrees HFoV
5.20 – 5.25	Photomontages
5.26	Topography and Drainage
5.27	PRoW and National Trails
5.28	National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)
5.29	LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas
5.30	LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (incl. ZTV)
5.31	LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation
5.32	LANDMAP: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation
5.33	LANDMAP: Habitat Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation
5.34	LANDMAP: Cultural Aspect Areas
5.35	Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Areas

Figure number	Figure title
5.36	Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Areas (incl. ZTV)
5.37	Cumulative schemes
5.38	Cumulative schemes ZTV

### Appendices (See Volume 3: Appendices)

Appendix number	Appendix title
5.1	Internal Site Photography
5.2	Tree Survey & AIA
5.3	Glint and Glare Assessment
5.4	Residential and Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)
5.5	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

### Glossary

Term	Meaning
Characteristics	Elements, or combinations of elements, which contribute to distinctive landscape character.
Designated landscapes	Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents.
Feature	Prominent elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines.
Green infrastructure	Networks of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities.
Heritage	The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities, such as historic buildings and cultural traditions.
Key characteristics	Elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place.
Landform	The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes.
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type.
Landscape Character Assessment	The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment.
Landscape effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right.
Landscape quality (condition)	A measure of physical state of the landscape. It may include the extent to which typical character is represented in individual areas, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of individual elements.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposal.
Landscape value	The relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society. A landscape may be valued by different stakeholders for a whole variety of reasons.
Photomontage	A visualisation which superimposes an image of the Proposed Development upon a photograph or series of photographs of the existing landscape.
Representative Viewpoint	A viewpoint location that is chosen to represent a number of publicly accessible views.
Special Qualities	A term usually used in relation to National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is given to those qualities for which the area is designated.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy in their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on general visual amenity experienced by people.
Visual receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a proposed development.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Zone of Theoretical Visibility	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.

### Abbreviations/ Acronyms

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
DNS	Development of National Significance
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environmental Statement
PV	Photovoltaic
AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASNW	Ancient and Semi Natural Woodland
EGL	Existing Ground Level
ES	Environmental Statement
EU	European Union
CA	Conservation Area
CRoW	Countryside Rights of Way Act
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GLVIA	Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
IEMA	Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LDP	Local Development Plan
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LI	Landscape Institute
LPA	Local Planning Authority
NCA	National Character Area
NP	National Park
OS	Ordnance Survey
PRoW	Public Right of Way

Abbreviation	Meaning
SLA	Special Landscape Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SPA	Special Protection Area
UK	United Kingdom
TGN	Technical Guidance Note (Landscape Institute)
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

## Units

Unit	Description
%	Percentage
km <sup>2</sup>	Square kilometres
kWh	Kilowatt hour
MW	Megawatt
MWe	Megawatt electrical
MWh	Megawatt hour
km	kilometres
m	metres
km <sup>2</sup>	square kilometres
m <sup>2</sup>	square metres
°	degrees

# 5 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (LVIA)

## 5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) considers the likely impacts and effects of the proposed Heolddu Solar Farm (referred to as the “Proposed Development”) on landscape and visual resources during the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases.
- 5.1.2 This chapter describes and addresses the existing landscape and visual resources within the Proposed Development Site and the surrounding Study Area (the Baseline). This includes identification of the character and features of the landscape and consideration of changes that would result as a consequence of the Proposed Development. In addition, it considers the potential visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development. This ES chapter reports on studies (including a combination of field surveys and desktop research) to describe, classify and evaluate the existing resources to form the basis for the assessment of the likely effects of the Proposed Development.
- 5.1.3 Landscape and visual effects are two separate, but related topics and they do not always coincide. Effects on the landscape alter the physical fabric, character and quality of the landscape itself. A visual effects assessment is the interrelated, but separate, assessment of the visual experience of people who live nearby or who are visiting / passing through the area, and for people who experience the countryside for recreational purposes.
- 5.1.4 The principal objectives of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) are:
- to describe, classify and evaluate the existing landscape likely to be affected by the Proposed Development during its construction, operational and decommissioning phases;
  - to identify visual receptors and views of the Proposed Development; and,
  - to identify effects on landscape and views and assess their significance, considering measures proposed to minimise or avoid any effects identified where possible and / or appropriate.
- 5.1.5 This chapter of the ES has been prepared in accordance with the approach set out in the Heolddu Solar Farm Scoping Report and subsequent EIA Scoping Direction. In addition, this chapter of the ES has been informed by the following documents submitted with the application for the DNS:

### Chapters

- Volume 1, Chapter 2: Project Description

- Volume 1, Chapter 4: Environmental Assessment Methodology

## Figures

- Volume 2, Figure 5.1: Site Location and Designations
- Volume 2, Figure 5.2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility ZTV - (building and woodland screening) incl. Representative Viewpoints;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.3: Zone of Theoretical Visibility ZTV – PV frames and Communications Tower;
- Volume 2, Figures 5.4 to 5.19: Representative Viewpoints 1 -15 Panoramas up to 90 degrees HfoV;
- Volume 2, Figures 5.20 to 5.25: Representative Viewpoints 8, 9 and 16 Photomontages up to 90 degrees HfoV;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.26: Topography and Drainage;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.27: PRow and National Trails;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.28: National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA);
- Volume 2, Figure 5.29: LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.30: LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas (incl. ZTV);
- Volume 2, Figure 5.31: LANDMAP: Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.32: LANDMAP: Historic Landscape Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.33: LANDMAP: Habitat Aspect Areas – Overall Evaluation;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.34: LANDMAP: Cultural Aspect Areas
- Volume 2, Figure 5.35: Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Areas;
- Volume 2, Figure 5.36: Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Areas (incl. ZTV);
- Volume 2, Figure 5.37: Cumulative schemes.
- Volume 2: Figure 5.38: Cumulative Schemes ZTV

## ES Appendices

- Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Internal Site Photography;

- Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Tree Survey & AIA;
- Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Glint and Glare Assessment;
- Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA).
- Volume 3, Appendix 5.5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology

## 5.2 Legislation and Policy

5.2.1 The legislation and planning policy relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual impact for the Proposed Development are summarised in **Table 5.1** below.

**Table 5.1: Summary of legislation and policy relevant to this chapter of the ES**

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<b>Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)</b>	
<p><i>Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure</i></p> <p>Planning Policy Wales has set out a range of policies which aim to maintain and enhance biodiversity and to maximise the provision of green infrastructure, in collaboration with NRW and local authorities. The key aims of this policy are set out below:</p> <p><i>To ensure the enhancement of biodiversity, the resilience of ecosystems and the provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>identify areas which should be safeguarded and created as ecological networks for their importance for adaptation to climate change, for habitat protection, restoration or creation, to protect species, or which provide key ecosystems services, to ensure they are not unduly compromised by future development; and</i></li> <li>• <i>identify opportunities where existing and potential green infrastructure could be maximised as part of placemaking, requiring the use of nature-based solutions as a key mechanism for securing sustainable growth, ecological connectivity, social equality and well-being.</i></li> </ul>	<p>The mitigation measures as part of the Proposed Development have been detailed in Volume 3, <b>Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme.</b></p> <p>The Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS) includes grassland enhancement measures and the management of existing field hedgerows to strengthen links to the surrounding green infrastructure network.</p> <p>The inclusion of native tree planting to the northwest of Solar Area East and pockets of woodland meadow planting and trees provides functional links and ecological connectivity to the wider landscape ecosystem and increasing biodiversity.</p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>Planning authorities should include these areas and/or opportunities in their development plan strategies and policies in order to promote and safeguard the functions and opportunities they provide. In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity (to provide a net benefit) the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals through innovative, nature-based approaches to site planning and the design of the built environment</i></p>	<p>The management of the embedded and proposed mitigation measures are also detailed in <b>Section 5.9</b>.</p>
<p><i>Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure</i></p> <p>The key aspects of this policy lie with the enabling and support of the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy in order to meet future needs. The summary below outlines the specific applicable factors for decision makers when considering the Proposed Development in respect to this policy, and subject to specific criteria as outlined in Policy 18.</p> <p><i>In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales’ international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency.</i></p> <p><i>Applications for large-scale wind and solar will not be permitted in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and all proposals should demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the environment.</i></p> <p><i>Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities.</i></p> <p><i>New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities. The Welsh Government will work with stakeholders, including National</i></p>	<p>As a large-scale solar scheme, the Proposed Development addresses this policy in order to meet Wales’s energy needs and commitments of generating 100% of energy from renewable means by 2035.</p> <p>The Proposed Development is not located within an AONB or a National Park.</p> <p>In response to this an assessment on local settlement receptors has been carried out as part of this LVIA.</p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Residential and Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)</b> has been undertaken following Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (TGN 2/19) March 2019 to address any potential visual impacts on nearby residential receptors.</p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>Grid and Distribution Network Operators, to transition to a multi-vector grid network and reduce the barriers to the implementation of new grid infrastructure.</i></p>	
<p>Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance</p> <p>This policy details how proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualify as Developments of National Significance and would be permitted subject to Policy 17 and detailed criteria outlined within it. In relation to landscape and visual matters, the applicable factors are as follows:</p> <p><i>”The proposal is designed to minimise its visual impact on nearby communities and individual dwellings, and the cumulative impact of the proposal, with other existing or proposed development, is acceptable;</i></p> <p><i>There are no adverse impacts on international and national statutory designated sites for nature conservation (and the features for which they have been designated), protected habitats and species;</i></p> <p><i>The proposal includes biodiversity enhancement measures to provide a net benefit for biodiversity;</i></p> <p><i>There are acceptable provisions relating to the decommissioning of the development at the end of its lifetime, including the removal of infrastructure and effective restoration.”</i></p>	<p>The Proposed Development is a renewable energy project which is an essential contribution to the Future Wales National Plan. It has been included as planning policy background to the assessment of effects on landscape and visual resources.</p> <p>Landscape and visual effects from public locations are assessed as part of this LVIA and a separate RVAA has been carried out, <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.4.</b> A cumulative assessment has been carried out in accordance with best practice including advice in NRW’s GN46 and Nature Scot guidance; Assessing the Cumulative Impacts of Onshore Wind Energy Developments;(2012), which outlines the processes in categorising and assessment of different types of cumulative development.</p> <p>The mitigation measures secured as part of the Proposed Development that contribute to biodiversity enhancement are outlined in <b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1:</b></p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
	Landscape and Ecology Design Scheme.
<b>Planning Policy Wales Edition 12</b>	
<b>Distinctiveness and Natural Places</b>	
<p>PPW Edition 12 sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The conservation and improvement of the natural heritage of Wales is one of its objectives noting the following (paragraph 6.02 and 6.03):</p> <p><i>“The special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities of the natural and built environment must be protected in their own right, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons. These features give places their unique identity and distinctiveness and provide for cultural experiences and healthy lifestyles.</i></p> <p><i>As well as those characteristics regarded as special or unique there are other, environmental qualities of places which are ubiquitous. Environmental components of places, such as clean air, access to open spaces and water quality, are linked to the quality of the built and natural environment. The environmental components of places influence and shape health and wellbeing as well as playing a role in sustaining and creating places which are adaptable and resilient to change. Distinctive and Natural places must maintain or incorporate green infrastructure, recognising the wide-ranging role it can play, as key components of their natural and built fabric. Doing so will maximise health and well-being of communities and the environment.”</i></p>	<p>The inherent characteristics, qualities and components and land-use and environmental aspects are addressed in <b>Section 5.6.</b></p>
<p>PPW also attaches considerable importance to the benefits of good design stating (paragraph 3.10) that:</p> <p><i>“In areas recognised for their particular landscape, townscape, cultural or historic character and value it can be appropriate to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness. In those areas, the impact of development on the existing character, the scale and siting of new development, and the use of appropriate building materials (including where possible sustainably produced materials</i></p>	<p>Opportunities have been taken to both mitigate and enhance the existing landscape, through a combination of enhanced existing embedded mitigation and proposed mitigation measures where feasible, which includes areas of habitat creation. Additionally, the LEDES has been designed to also</p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>from local sources), will be particularly important.”</i></p>	<p>retain the intrinsic landscape character of the surrounding area, such as enhancing and managing native boundary hedgerows and vegetation, as described in Volume 3, <b>Appendix 2.1 : Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme.</b></p>
<p>PPW attaches considerable importance to the benefits of renewable energy stating (at paragraph 5.7.7 and 5.9.1) that:</p> <p><i>“...benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance... ...The planning system should: ...optimise energy storage... and ...maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation...”</i></p> <p><i>“Local authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development...”</i></p>	<p>The design evolution of the Proposed Development has sought to maximise the renewable energy resource within the Site – whilst balancing this with landscape constraints, which is detailed in <b>Volume 1, Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives.</b></p>
<b>Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)</b>	
<p>BHE2: Landscape Character</p> <p><i>“Development proposals should relate to the specific landscape and visual characteristics of the local area, ensuring that the overall integrity of landscape character is maintained by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. identifying, protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the distinctive landscape and historical, cultural, ecological, and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;</i></li> <li><i>b. protecting international and national landscape designations including National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and their settings;</i></li> </ul>	<p>The assessment of landscape effects is contained in <b>Section 5.10.</b></p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<p>c. <i>preserving local distinctiveness, sense of place and setting;</i></p> <p>d. <i>respecting and conserving specific landscape features, and integrating the principles of placemaking and Green and Blue Infrastructure;</i></p> <p><i>protecting key landscape views and vistas.”</i></p>	
<p>PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</p> <p><i>“Proposals for development shall:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Maximise retention, protection, and integration of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows and prioritise those of highest value, quality, and condition within and on the development site boundaries through iterative site layout design which avoids potential impacts;</i></li> <li><i>2. Minimise potential impacts to retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows through site specific design, method statements and protection measures.</i></li> <li><i>3. Provide appropriate compensation planting for unavoidable loss of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover. Opportunities for translocation of existing hedgerows should be considered where feasible;</i></li> <li><i>4. Provide sufficient space and rooting volume within site layout and in relation to adjacent land uses to enable effective growth of existing and newly planted trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to maturity and to avoid potential challenges to retention for the lifetime of the development;</i></li> <li><i>5. Identify and deliver management works to improve the value, quality and condition of existing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within and on the development site boundaries; and</i></li> </ol> <p><i>Deliver additional planting of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows appropriate to the site and development type that will deliver both long</i></p>	<p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1 : Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme</b> details how the iterative design process has addressed the delivery of proposed mitigation measures and enhancement of embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development.</p>

Summary of provision	How and where considered in the ES
<i>term landscape benefits and net benefits for biodiversity.”</i>	
<p>CCH2: Renewable Energy Outside Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas</p> <p><i>“Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure, will be permitted provided they accord with the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;</i></li> <li><i>b. The development will not have an unacceptable impact upon areas designated for their landscape value;</i></li> <li><i>c. Wind turbine developments should not have unacceptable cumulative impacts in relation to existing wind turbines components, those which have permission or are proposed;</i></li> <li><i>d. The development will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail, or aviation safety; electromagnetic interference to communications installations, radar or air traffic control systems, emergency services communications or other telecommunications systems;</i></li> <li><i>e. Proposals will not cause an unreasonable risk or nuisance to, and impact upon the amenities of, nearby residents or other members of the public, and will not result in unacceptable loss of public accessibility to the area;</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Proposals should be accompanied with appropriate mitigation measures where required, including satisfactory restoration of land following decommissioning.”</i></p>	<p>The assessment of operational effects on landscape and visual resources is contained in <b>Section 5.10.</b></p>

## 5.3 Consultation and Engagement

### Scoping

- 5.3.1 In February 2025, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Report to PEDW, which described the scope and methodology for the technical studies being

undertaken to provide an assessment of any likely significant effects for the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.

- 5.3.2 Following consultation with the appropriate statutory bodies, PEDW provided an EIA Scoping Direction on 29 April 2025. Key issues raised by statutory bodies specific to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment are listed in **Table 5.2**, including how and where these have been considered in the ES.
- 5.3.3 In addition, consultation and engagement with interested parties specific to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has continued. This included on site discussions with CCC regarding the Proposed Development layout and other landscape and visual related topics.

**Table 5.2: Summary of key scoping responses relevant to the LVIA**

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<b>PEDW</b>	
<i>[Natural Resources Wales]NRW agrees that glint and glare can be scoped out of the ES as a standalone chapter and be provided within the Landscape and Visual chapter. CCC concurs and advises that identified glint and glare impacts and any mitigation should be fully considered as part of iterative scheme design, alongside wider landscape and visual effects. PEDW notes the SR states that impacts on Pembrey West Wales Airport will be included as part of the Glint and Glare Assessment and recommends the applicant liaises directly with Pembrey West Wales Airport on this matter. Glint and Glare is therefore scoped into the ES, but necessarily not as a standalone chapter. PEDW welcomes the SR states a standalone glint and glare assessment will be undertaken and included as a technical appendix to the Landscape and Visual chapter of the ES. (ID.23)</i>	A standalone Glint and Glare Assessment has been completed as part of the ES and is referred to as appropriate in the LVIA and appended at <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.3.</b>
<i>The applicant’s attention is drawn to comments from CCC regarding Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA). CCC notes that the SR states significant RVA impacts are not expected and that residual impacts could be reduced to an acceptable level subject to effective iterative layout design and on-site planting. However, they advise that to enable effective design phase mitigation, the nature of visual effects to RVA will need to be identified and they recommend a supporting RVA technical appendix be submitted as part of the ES to demonstrate the identified effects and iterative</i>	A standalone Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been completed as part of the ES process. It is referred to as appropriate within the LVIA and is appended at <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.4.</b>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>design measures adopted to minimise impacts. They further advise that the mitigation effects of long-term management (particularly in terms of hedgerow management height) should be considered as part of mitigation for impacts to RVA. The applicant's attention is also drawn to CCC's comments about the 1 km RVAA study area, considering it acceptable, but requesting two additional properties within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), but outside the 1 km study area, be included within the RVA review. Given these considerations it is not possible to scope out Residential Visual Amenity and this is scoped into the ES, although not necessarily as a standalone chapter, if consideration within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment chapter is preferred. PEDW recommends the RVAA is included as a technical appendix to the ES. (ID.24)</i></p>	
<p><i>"CCC considers the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) methodology broadly acceptable, but requests the following is included as part of the Relevant Guidance:</i></p> <p><i>NRW Guidance Note GN46 - Using LANDMAP in LVIA (January 2021)...</i></p> <p><i>NRW states the search and study area are identified in compliance with Guidance Note 46 and inform the 5 km study area shown on the initial ZTV. NRW confirms that the LVIA methodology and proposals as set out in Chapter 5.5 and Appendix 5.2 are in line with 'The Landscape Institute, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)' (Third Edition, 2013). They add that this should be used together with 'Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment GLVIA3 Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01' (August 2024)..." (ID.26)</i></p>	<p>Relevant guidance referred to, informing the LVIA, is detailed at <b>Section 5.6</b> of the LVIA. Including both publications referred to in the PEDW Scoping response ID.26.</p>
<p><i>"The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from CCC, highlighting the LPA has commissioned a Landscape Character Assessment for the authority area to form supplementary planning guidance to inform the revised LDP. This is currently under preparation and it is advised this document is addressed as a base reference document pending the status at the time of landscape character</i></p>	<p>LANDMAP has been used as the overarching baseline for the landscape character, with reference to the CCC Landscape Character</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>assessment for the EIA. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with the LPA on this matter, ensuring it is appropriately addressed in the ES.” (ID.27)</i></p>	<p>Assessment as appropriate.</p>
<p><i>”NRW notes the ZTV does not indicate visibility as far as the Gower National Landscape and effects on the National Landscape are therefore not expected. NRW adds that as the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park is situated approximately 25 km away, they also do not expect any effects on the National Park.” (ID.28)</i></p>	<p>In line with the NRW advice, the Gower National Landscape and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park have not been taken further in the assessment due to their distance from the proposed low-lying development.</p>
<p><i>”CCC considers the proposed representative viewpoints acceptable, but requests a viewpoint is included from Public Right of Way (PRoW) 29/28 to provide representation of landscape and visual effects to areas to the east.” (ID.29)</i></p>	<p>At the time of site work no access was available to PRoW 29/28. This footpath was restricted due to overgrowth of vegetation. Representative Viewpoints 6 and 7 have been included as representative of areas to the west of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p><i>” CCC states the LVIA should include assessment of impacts and appropriate mitigation proposals to users of PRoW 62/12 which passes through the western site. CCC adds that within the study area the road network is often used as a recreational resource, for equestrian, cycling and walking routes, providing links between sections of the formal PRoW network. It is requested that these users be considered as highly sensitive receptors within the visual baseline.” (ID.30)</i></p>	<p>Mitigation measures embedded as part of the Proposed Development to minimise landscape and visual effects, are detailed at <b>Section 5.9</b> and illustrated on <b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme</b>. Embedded mitigation measures have been confirmed as part of an iterative design process.</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
	Recreational users of local roads and rural lanes of CCC would be deemed to be of high sensitivity as part of this LVIA., as noted above in the Scoping response from CCC, ID 30).
<p><i>" The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from CCC regarding unavoidable impacts to landscape character and associated mitigation through enhancement of existing landscape elements. CCC recommends enhancement to existing landscape character should be a fundamental objective of the proposed landscape strategy referred to in paragraph 4.2.133 of the SR. The applicant's attention is drawn to CCC's recommendations regarding the landscape strategy, including in relation to the management and improvement of hedgelines, further to the Arboricultural Survey Report. The LPA draws the applicant's attention to further advice from their Landscape Officer on the proposed landscape strategy and the details required to accompany the application, as provided in the appended LPA's pre-application response to the applicant. As the SR states the landscape strategy plan will include intended mitigation measures, PEDW recommends it is included as a technical appendix to the ES.</i></p> <p><i>" (ID.31)</i></p>	<p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme</b> draws upon the advice and inherent characteristics of the surrounding landscape within CCC. It responds to the findings and reporting with <b>Volume 1, Chapter 6: Biodiversity</b> to secure connectivity with the wider green infrastructure network.</p>
<b>CCC – Scoping Responses and Site Walkover</b>	
<p><i>" 'The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology set out in Appendix 5.2 is broadly acceptable, however, it is requested that the 'Relevant Guidance' (para 1.1) include the following: -</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• NRW Guidance Note GN046 Using LANDMAP in LVIA (January 2021)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>" (Paragraph 29)</i></p>	<p>Relevant guidance referred to, informing the LVIA, is detailed at <b>Section 5.9.</b>, including <i>NRW Guidance Note GN046 Using LANDMAP in LVIA (January 2021).</i></p>
<p><i>" Table 5.2 sets out proposed Representative Viewpoints, these viewpoints are all</i></p>	<p>At the time of site work no access was available to PRow 29/28.</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>acceptable, however it is considered that the following additional viewpoint be considered for inclusion :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Viewpoint from PRow 29/28 (indicative grid ref. 241098;211199) to provide representation of landscape and visual effects to areas to the east.” (Paragraph 31)</i></li> </ul> <p>Comments made in person during the site walkover by the landscape officer, Steve Welchman, also alluded to the inclusion of appropriate photomontages from select viewpoint locations to best illustrate the visual impact of the Proposed Development on those views.</p>	<p>Representative Viewpoints 6 and 7 have been included as representative of areas to the west of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Two additional viewpoints were requested during the site walkover, carried out on 5 February 2025 with CCC. These include Representative Viewpoint 16 and 17. Additionally, Representative Viewpoints 8 and 9 have been taken forward and illustrated as Photomontages following the initial discussions during the site walkover. The production of winter Year 1 Photomontages of the Proposed Development are considered, where applicable, as part of the LVIA.</p>
<p><i>” The LVIA should include assessment of impacts (and appropriate mitigation proposals) to users of PRow 62/12 which passes through the western site Within the study area the road network is often used as a recreational resource, for equestrian, cycling and walking routes providing links between sections of the formal public right of way network. It is requested that these users be considered as highly sensitive receptors within the visual baseline.</i></p> <p><i>It is expected that the proposed development would result in unavoidable impacts to landscape</i></p>	<p>Mitigation measures embedded as part of the Proposed Development to minimise landscape and visual effects, are detailed at <b>Section 5.9</b> and illustrated on <b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme</b>. Embedded mitigation measures</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<p><i>character against which enhancement of existing landscape elements could provide material mitigation for, and it is recommended that a fundamental objective of the proposed landscape strategy referred to in para 4.2.133 should include enhancement to existing landscape character. The following recommendations are provided.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• It is noted that the submitted Arboricultural Survey Report identifies ‘aged’ and ‘historic’ hedgelines (G20-G29) it is recommended that the landscape strategy include an appraisal to propose whether to supplement or manage these hedgelines as important elements of existing landscape character.</i></li> <li><i>• The strategy should explore all opportunities to improve the structural condition of hedgelines (All H references in the Arboricultural Survey Report) and to improve all hedgelines assessed as of ‘Fair’ structural condition to ‘Good’.</i></li> <li><i>• Introduce additional hedgeline trees to reinforce landscape character and to act against the expected long term impacts of the loss of ash to Ash Die Back within the landscape (predominantly oak, but with with holly, hawthorn, and occasional beech, with alder in wetter areas).’ (Paragraph 32-37).</i></li> </ul>	<p>have been confirmed as part of an iterative design process. Users of the local roads and PRowS are considered to have high sensitivity, as noted above within the scoping direction (I.D 30) above and the initial consultation with CCC.</p> <p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme</b> includes measures to enhance existing hedgerows by managing to a height of 3 to 4 m. Areas of landscape such as trees and shrubs are also proposed with native mixes of species to the northwest within Field 13 as a means of connection to the wider character and green infrastructure network.</p>
<p><i>”Based upon the information provided in the SR, it is agreed that glint and glare can be scoped out of the ES. However, the ‘Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Assessment’ to be undertaken should accompany the ES and the applicant is advised that identified glint and glare impacts and any mitigation should be fully considered as part of iterative scheme design, alongside wider landscape and visual effects.” (Paragraph 25)</i></p>	<p>A standalone Glint and Glare Assessment has been completed as part of the ES and is referred to as appropriate in the LVIA and appended at <b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.3.</b></p>
<p>A request for additional viewpoint photography was made verbally during the pre-application advice site visit on 5 February 2025, for viewpoint photography within the Site.</p>	<p><b>Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Internal Viewpoint Photography</b> addresses this request as a</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
	supplementary document to the LVIA Chapter and noted within section 5.93 of this report.
<b>Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – Scoping Responses</b>	
<p><i>” Our detailed information on ornithology and landscape is provided below, however we agree that glint and glare can be scoped out of the ES as a standalone chapter and be provided within the Landscape and Visual chapter (see section 4.2.103).” (Paragraph 25)</i></p>	As above (paragraph 25)
<p><i>” Along with the SR, we have reviewed the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (DR-L-9001) (Appendix 5.1) and LVIA methodology (Appendix 5.2). We confirm that the LVIA methodology and proposals for the LVIA as set out in Chapter 5.2 and Appendix 5.2 are in line with ‘The Landscape Institute, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)’ (Third Edition, 2013). This should be used together with ‘Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment GLVIA3 Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01’ (August 2024). We concur with the approach to include a separate Glint and Glare Assessment within the LVIA.</i></p> <p><i>The site’s 12 km distance from the GNL boundary and separation by the Loughor river and estuary, intervening townscapes including Kidwelly and Llanelli, and intermediate topography and vegetation means that there are also no views likely towards the development from the GNL. The search and study area are identified in compliance with Using LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, (NRW Guidance Note 46/GN46) and informs the 5km study area shown on the initial ZTV at 5.1. Visibility is not indicated as far as the GNL.</i></p> <p><i>We therefore welcome the inclusion of landscape within the ES and advise that there are no effects expected on the National Landscape. As the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP) is</i></p>	<p>Relevant guidance referred to, informing the LVIA, is detailed at <b>Section 5.5</b>. Including both publications referred to in the NRW Scoping response (Paragraph 28-30).</p> <p>In line with the NRW advice, the Gower National Landscape and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park have not been taken further in the assessment due to their distance from the proposed low-lying development.</p>

Comment	How and where considered in the ES
<i>situated further away (~25km away), we also do not expect any effects on the NP.” (Paragraph 28-30)</i>	

## Scope of the Assessment

- 5.3.4 The scope of this ES has been developed in consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees as detailed in **Table 5.2**.
- 5.3.5 Taking into account the scoping process and other consultation, **Table 5.3** summarises the issues considered as part of this assessment.

**Table 5.3: Issues considered within this assessment**

Activity	Impacts scoped into the assessment
<b>Construction</b>	
Movement of vehicles and installation of infrastructure using small-scale machinery.	Summary assessments of the effects during the construction phase of the Proposed Development have been provided in <b>Section 5.10</b> .
<b>Operation and maintenance</b>	
Change to the appearance of the Site during the Operation and maintenance phases.	The operational phase of the Proposed Development and its effects on the landscape and visual resources within the Study Area are assessed in <b>Section 5.10</b> .
<b>Decommissioning</b>	
Movement of vehicles and removal of infrastructure using small-scale machinery.	Summary assessments of the effects during the decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development have been provided in <b>Section 5.10</b> .

- 5.3.6 Effects which are not considered likely to be significant have been scoped out of the assessment. A summary of the effects scoped out is presented in **Table 5.4**.

## 5.4 Residential and Visual Amenity Assessment

- 5.4.1 After the initial Scoping Report had been submitted in February 2025 and following a consultation process with the relevant bodies being conducted, a standalone Residential and Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) was

requested and subsequently conducted and provided as a technical appendix to the LVIA as **Volume 3, Appendix 5.4**.

- 5.4.2 17 individual residential properties within 1 km of the Proposed Development had been identified and taken forward as part of the RVAA. An RVAA assessment was conducted in accordance with the Landscape Institutes Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment to provide a detailed assessment of the most affected residential properties by the Proposed Development.
- 5.4.3 Through this process, four individual properties were identified as requiring further detailed assessment to take to Step 4 in order to ascertain whether the Residential and Visual Amenity threshold would be engaged. It has been assessed that no property identified in Step 4 would have breached the RVAA threshold (**Volume 3, Appendix 5.4**). A summary of these findings and properties is detailed in the Step 1 to 3 assessment process and associated methodology as detailed in **Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Residential and Visual Amenity Assessment**.

**Table 5.4: Issues scoped out of the assessment**

Issue	Justification
Glint and Glare	<p>In accordance with the Scoping Direction (ID.23) a standalone Glint and Glare Assessment has been completed and is referred to as appropriate in the LVIA.</p> <p>The assessment concludes that no significant impacts are anticipated on surrounding road safety and aviation activity. Moderate impacts were predicted on two dwellings due to solar reflections, with views of the reflecting panels expected, although this is mitigated by the implementation of the Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme.</p>

## 5.5 Assessment Methodology

### Relevant Guidance

- 5.5.1 The assessment of Landscape and Visual Impact has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out in **Volume 1, Chapter 4: Approach to Environmental Assessment** of the EU. In the absence of any specific Welsh guidance, other relevant guidance is applied, where appropriate, and is noted as follows:
- Landscape Character Assessment: Guidance for England and Scotland (The Countryside Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage, 2002);
  - Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013);
  - An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014);

- Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, May 2021);
- Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (LITGN) 2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on aspects of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Guidelines on GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute, August 2024); and
- NRW Guidance Note GN046 Using LANDMAP in LVIA (January 2021).

5.5.2 In addition, the LVIA has considered the relevant legislative and policy framework as identified in Table 5.1. It should also be noted that the methodology compiled for this LVIA assessment is based upon the GLVIA3 guidance, which includes a variation on the specific terms provided within the methodology outlined within Volume 1, Chapter 4: Environmental Assessment Methodology. Within the special report *The State of Environmental Impact Assessment Practice in the UK* (IEMA, now ISEP, 2011), it explains that there is no legal requirement to follow a set approach to EIA methodology (page 60). The report also explains that the EIA regulations do not set out methodologies, thresholds or state what effects should be considered significant or not.

5.5.3 A detailed LVIA methodology based on GLVIA3 which is provided in **Volume 3, Appendix 5.5: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**.

### Study Area

5.5.4 The LVIA study area for the Proposed Development was set at a 5km radius from the Site, as shown in **Volume 2, Figure 5.1**.

5.5.5 It is a common LVIA practice that the extent of the study area for a development proposal is broadly defined by the visual envelope of the site and the anticipated extent of visibility arising from the development itself, based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) study and through field survey verifications of the ZTV, as the latter does not take account of the effects of distance.

5.5.6 The Study Area for the assessment of landscape and visual effects in the ES chapter ('the Landscape and Visual Study Area') has been informed by the design and parameters of the Proposed Development, as outlined within **Volume 1: Chapter 2, Project Description**. The Study Area has also been agreed upon through consultation with relevant stakeholders (see the consultation response I.D 26) which is drawn upon relevant guidance, *The Landscape Institute, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)* (Third Edition, 2013), together with 'Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment GLVIA3 Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01' (August 2024).

## Desk studies

- 5.5.7 A comprehensive desk-based review was undertaken to inform the baseline assessment for the LVIA. The existing studies and datasets referred to as part of the desk-based review for the LVIA are summarised in **Table 5.12** below.

**Table 5.12: Summary of desk study sources**

Title	Data Source	Year	Author / Organisation
National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) Profiles	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en</a> (accessed June 2025)	2014	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
LANDMAP (the Welsh Landscape Baseline)	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en</a> (accessed June 2025)	2011	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Carmarthenshire Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPG	<a href="https://planning-carmarthenshire.msapproxy.net/PublicAccess_LIVE/SearchResult/RunThirdPartySearch?FileSystemId=PS&amp;FOLDER1_REF=CLCA-SPG#">https://planning-carmarthenshire.msapproxy.net/PublicAccess_LIVE/SearchResult/RunThirdPartySearch?FileSystemId=PS&amp;FOLDER1_REF=CLCA-SPG#</a> (accessed June 2025)	January 2025	LUC (on behalf of Carmarthenshire CC)

## Field Survey

- 5.5.8 The field survey was conducted in March 2025 to verify baseline conditions and to retake some of the viewpoint photography.
- 5.5.9 Winter photographs were taken in January 2025 when visibility was good. Optimum visibility was afforded as deciduous vegetation was without leaf. Further photographs were taken in April 2025 to capture views requested by CCC, when the weather and visibility was similarly good.
- 5.5.10 The LVIA study area was extensively traversed during the field survey for a more detailed understanding of the actual visibility of the Proposed Development, and to verify the ZTV of the Proposed Development, as shown in **Volume 2, Figure 5.2** and **Volume 2, Figure 5.3**.
- 5.5.11 The field survey allowed the assessors to judge the likely scale, distance, extent and prominence of the Proposed Development within its baseline

context. The landscape of the LVIA Study Area was assessed for particular features which contribute to the landscape character within the site or are important to the wider landscape setting of the Proposed Development.

## 5.6 Baseline Environment Conditions

- 5.6.1 This section sets out the current landscape and visual conditions within the LVIA study area. The baseline study assists in identifying the key landscape characteristics and identifies those visual receptors which merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects and filters out those which have not been taken forward for further assessment as effects “*have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further*” (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).
- 5.6.2 The baseline study establishes the scope of the assessment and the key landscape and visual receptors, which would be potentially affected by the Proposed Development. In order to be concise and proportionate, the LVIA focuses on the effects upon the most affected sensitive receptors.

### The Site

- 5.6.3 The Site measures approximately 81.78 hectares and occupies a rural farmed landscape, located within the administrative boundary of CCC, approximately 1km to the east of Ferryside, 4km north of Kidwelly and 8.8km south of Carmarthen.
- 5.6.4 A previous application for a 19MW solar photovoltaic park, complete with all necessary inverters, switchgear, transformer, security fence, infra-red cctv, and all necessary ancillary works, which was approved on 8th September 2015 (Ref: W/32171). This application was located partly within the Site, occupying approximately 57% of the current area.
- 5.6.5 Fieldwork indicates that the landscape of the Site is a series of small to medium size, predominantly arable, fields with several mature scattered trees bounded by largely intact hedgerows with trees. The landscape is one of generally good quality and has some landscape attributes in common to that of the Carmarthenshire Bay and Estuary Special Landscape Area (SLA) , to the west, which would confer a higher value for much of the Site.
- 5.6.6 The Site is gently undulating with a maximum elevation of approximately 126 m AOD to Solar Area West, and the lowest elevation of approximately 79 m AOD within the southeasterly corner of Solar Area East. Generally, the landfall within the Site rises within Solar Area West toward the minor road of C2074 near Nyth Y Wennol. Within Solar Area East, the landform peaks at an elevation of approximately 117 m AOD in the most north-westerly corner and gradually descends toward the northeast to approximately 86 m AOD.
- 5.6.7 Overall, it is considered that the Site is of good quality and typical of the rural landscape within the wider CCC area. It is considered that the Site is of medium to high landscape value.

## Zone of Theoretical Visibility

- 5.6.8 Areas from which views of the Site would theoretically be possible were determined by means of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis. Selected visual receptors located within the ZTV and likely to experience visual/ perceptual change were identified through desk study and field work, with their sensitivity established in accordance with best practice guidance.
- 5.6.9 The ZTV (**Volume 2, Figure 5.2**) is based on the Proposed Development of solar panel heights up to 3m high and DNO and Customer Substation Compound at no greater than 10 m in height for the various infrastructure features housed within it. The ZTV is based on a viewer height of 1.7 m.
- 5.6.10 The ZTV that includes the theoretical visibility of the communications tower (**Volume 2, Figure 5.3**) is based on the Proposed Development of the solar panel heights being no greater than 3 m, and the communication tower at approximately 15.2 m. The communication tower would be co-located with the existing pylon and electrical infrastructure within the Solar Area East and be of a structure that would be of a lattice framework or similar.
- 5.6.11 The ZTV shown on **Volume 2, Figure 5.2** has been developed based on visual barriers for significant blocks of woodland, at a height of 11 m, and existing settlement, at an indicative height of 9 m. However, the ZTV does not account for visual barriers such as garden vegetation, hedgerows or individual trees. Therefore, the potential intervisibility with the Proposed Development would be less in places. This has been assessed through fieldwork.
- 5.6.12 The ZTV (**Volume 2, Figure 5.2**), due to the nature of the undulating local topography, indicates that the ZTV for all fields within Solar Area East and Solar Area West is visible to a degree in all directions. With areas of greater intervisibility particularly available from higher ground to the south of Solar Area East, such as Public Right of Way (62/54/2, Cilffordd Byway), with potential highest visibility confined to within 3 km of the Site boundary.
- 5.6.13 The ZTV extends to small areas in all directions from the Site, views to the south of the Site are constrained by topography and views to the north and east are constrained by topography and woodland blocks such as Is-Coed Wood and Glan-Morlais-uchaf that prevent the ZTV spreading further east and north. With land falling gently away to the west towards the River Towy, this allows long distance views from parts of the landscape to the west of the river. The ZTV covers largely open agricultural land, with scattered individual properties and small settlements such as Llansaint to the south. There are no large settlements that fall within the ZTV.
- 5.6.14 It should be noted that the ZTV represents a theoretical model of the potential visibility of the Proposed Development. In reality, landscape features such as individual trees, tree belts, hedgerows, embankments and topography are not accounted for within the surface mapping dataset and are likely to combine to screen the Proposed Development to a greater degree, than that being presented by the ZTV. Additionally, the proposed communications tower would also be aligned to the existing electrical infrastructure and larger feature of the electricity pylon that is present within the Site. As a result, the extent of

actual visibility experienced on the ground will be less than suggested by the ZTV study.

## Landscape Baseline

### Landscape Designations

- 5.6.15 A screening of landscape designations has been undertaken and has identified that the reregistered landscapes are not designated landscapes within the LVIA Study Area, as shown on Volume 2, Figure 5.1: Site Location and Designations.

### Non-statutory Landscape Designations

#### Historic Landscape

- 5.6.16 Two areas of Registered Historic Landscape (RHL) lie within the 1km study area (**Volume 2, Figure 5.1**):
- 5.6.17 Tywi Valley RHL, which partially encompasses the southwestern part of Solar Area West.
- 5.6.18 Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL which is located c. 740m to the south-west of the Site.
- 5.6.19 References to the full details of the Historic Landscape designations can be found in **Volume 1, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage**, and **Volume 3, Appendix 8.2: ASIDOHL2**.
- 5.6.20 The Site falls outside any of the mapped character areas of the Tywi Valley RHL, with the nearest recorded area, Croesyceilog – Cwmffrwd, located approximately 290m to the south of Solar Area West. This is characterised by enclosed medium-sized fields of improved pasture, with scattered farmsteads, and linear settlements along main roads, outside Carmarthen to the north.
- 5.6.21 Although the Site is over 700m north of the defined Taf and Tywi Estuary RHL, the historic landscape characterisation includes the southwestern part of Solar Area West within the Allt Hilltop character area. This character area is defined by enclosed fairly large fields, bounded by banks and hedges, perhaps originating in the 16th century, with a settlement pattern of dispersed farms, but with evidence for archaeological features in the form of round barrows and possible standing stones.
- 5.6.22 As the Proposed Development is contained wholly within the existing field pattern and boundaries of the Site, it is anticipated that there would be no impacts on the inherent historic landscape fabric and intrinsic characteristics of the field patterns that currently exist. The full details and assessment of the Historic Landscape and features within the Study Area is contained within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.2:ASIDOHL2**.

## Registered Parks and Gardens

- 5.6.23 At approximately 2.36 km east-southeast of the Site, is the registered park and garden of Llechdwnni. However, the location of the designation is outside of the influence of the ZTV.

## Special Landscape Areas

- 5.6.24 The Special Landscape Area (SLA) of Tywi Valley (**Volume 2, Figure 5.1**) is also a feature within the Study Area and is located approximately 0.5 km from the Solar Area West at its closest point. The inherent features of the SLA are such that the applicable landscape elements and descriptors align with the characteristics of the County Landscape Character Areas as described within the Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (LUC, January 2025). Therefore, the forthcoming assessment of the landscape character in which the Site inhibits would be considered at the county level, which itself includes and considers the LANDMAP landscape evaluations and assessments.

## Landscape Character

### National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA)

- 5.6.25 **Volume 2, Figure 5.28** presents National Landscape Character Areas (NLCA) within the LVIA Study Area. These are broad scale landscape character areas, published by NRW.
- 5.6.26 At a national level, the Site is located within the Dyffrynnoedd Gwendraeth/ Gwendraeth Vales NLCA 33 as identified in the National Character Area Profiles (2014).
- 5.6.27 The key characteristics of the Dyffrynnoedd Gwendraeth/ Gwendraeth Vales NLCA 33 NCA, which are relevant to the LVIA Study Area, are described with the following:
- *"This is an area of rolling hills, ridges and minor valleys, comprising the area between the coastal and valley parts of the Tywi, the South Wales Valleys and the Black Mountain part of the Brecon Beacons."*;
  - *"The countryside setting contrasts entirely, being a complex network of small geometric fields surrounded by lush, high hedgerows and small copses. Seasonally waterlogged soils in the valleys support rushy grazing of poor agricultural quality while well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils across much of the character area are used for sheep and dairy pasture."*; and
  - *"Significant areas have now been reclaimed from former quarries and mines and the somewhat simpler and less mature restoration field layouts can be picked out, despite the inclusion of new woodland planting belts."*

5.6.28 The National Character Areas provide context to the assessment but given the scale of the NCAs, and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this NCA are not assessed in further detail.

### **LANDMAP – the Welsh Landscape Baseline**

5.6.29 LANDMAP is an “*all-Wales Geographical Information System (GIS) based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent dataset*” (CCW (now NRW), 2011). It is administered by NRW and comprises five spatially related datasets or aspect layers. These layers are Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Visual & Sensory, Historic Landscape and Cultural Landscape.

5.6.30 The information in LANDMAP informs the LVIA process, but does not, on its own, provide the conclusions. Aspect areas with a high or outstanding visual and sensory evaluation may be more sensitive to change from development.

5.6.31 For each LANDMAP dataset, the geological landscape, landscape habitats, visual and sensory receptors, the historic landscape as well as cultural services should be considered as follows:

- Geological Landscape - Consider how existing landform may shape the visually experienced landscape.
- Landscape Habitats - Consider how the contribution of habitats and land-use provides landscape diversity, connectivity, contrast and seasonal change and how these may be affected by the proposal
- Visual & Sensory - Consider how likely sensitive receptors may be affected, including landscape characteristics, features, sense of place and qualities and sensitive visual receptors relating to key views and visual amenity.
- Historic Landscape - Consider key vistas and setting (where it is important to the significance of historic assets) that is most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development.
- Cultural Landscape - Consider how the Proposed Development affects the perceptions and values of these cultural associations.

5.6.32 It is advised that, as LANDMAP evaluations are specific to each aspect area, a LVIA Study Area is likely to have a mix of evaluations, which should not be added together to create a single landscape value. It is more helpful to recognise what is distinctively important about a landscape (key characteristics, qualities and values) and assess how this would be affected by the proposed development, to what degree, and therefore what the significant effects would be.

### **Geological Landscape Aspect Area**

5.6.33 The Site is located entirely within the Llanddarog - Banycoed (CRMRTGL201) aspect area. The overall evaluation (Question 33) published for this aspect

area, which would experience a direct effect as a result of the Proposed Development, is **Moderate**.

- 5.6.34 The aspect area is described as a *“Broad massif of 'Old Red sandstone' mudrocks (latest Silurian-Devonian) with general E-W orientation, expanding to the W. Steep sided adjacent to the Towy valley to the W and the Gwendraeth Fach to the S. Surface undulates up to around 130-140m and is dissected by stream valleys but levels of on top”*.
- 5.6.35 Due to the nature of the proposed development, it would not affect the shape of the underlying landform, which is therefore not assessed further

#### **Landscape Habitat Aspect Area**

- 5.6.36 The Site is located entirely within the Llansaint North (CRMRTLH042) aspect area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.33**). The overall evaluation (Question 45) published for this aspect area, which would experience a direct effect as a result of the Proposed Development, is moderate.
- 5.6.37 The aspect area is described as a *“Rolling landscape of improved agricultural land between Carmarthen and Kidwelly. Steep slopes bordering the Twyi and Gwendraeth Estuaries, riparian habitat, occasional woodlands and field boundaries form the focus of biodiversity interest”*.
- 5.6.38 Due to the Proposed Development, the agricultural land would be temporarily out of use, which would allow the land to "rest" and potentially improve its condition. The potential for grazing sheep within the Proposed Development would also allow for continual benefits for soil fertility and enhance biodiversity. Habitat protection and enhancement are part of the Proposed Development embedded mitigation as described in Section 5.10. A Soil Resource Management Plan (**Volume 3; Appendix 7.2**) provides further detail on this aspect, where it is anticipated that the quality of the soil will be maintained.

#### **Visual and Sensory Landscape Aspect Area**

- 5.6.39 The Site is located entirely within the Llansaint Coastal Hills (CRMRTVS936) aspect area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.29** and **Volume 2, Figure 5.31**).
- 5.6.40 The overall evaluation (Question 50) published for this aspect area, which would experience a direct effect as a result of the Proposed Development, is judged to be high.
- 5.6.41 The aspect area is described as *“Rolling hills overlooking the coast and the Tywi estuary. Dominated by improved agricultural land, some arable (maize). Strong field boundaries, relatively few trees compared to other parts of the county creating a feeling of exposure, some trees are wind sculpted. Scattered rural farms and fairly busy country roads. The red soils are another feature that make this area distinct. Pylons cross a section of the area.”*
- 5.6.42 The relevant visual and sensory aspect areas from LANDMAP have been incorporated into the Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Assessment

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (LUC, January 2025). This landscape character assessment considers the LANDMAP aspect areas in relation to the landscape character areas (LCAs). The assessment informs the landscape baseline for this LVIA, and therefore, the potentially affected visual sensory areas have not been assessed separately.

#### **Historic Landscape Aspect Area**

- 5.6.43 Solar Area East and the (approximately) northern half of Solar Area West are located within the Morlais Valley (CRMRTHL39490) historic landscape aspect area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.32**). The overall evaluation (Question 40) of this small aspect area is judged to be high. The (approximately) southern half of Solar Area West is located within the Allt Hilltop (CRMRTHL40207) historic landscape aspect area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.32**). The overall evaluation (Question 40) of this small aspect area is judged to be high.
- 5.6.44 Within the evaluation of the Morlais Valley historic landscape aspect area, it is described as a *"..good example of a Carmarthenshire agricultural landscape with little modern intrusion. It is not a rare landscape type, and contains no elements of national importance, hence the high, rather than outstanding, score."*
- 5.6.45 Similarly, the Allt Hilltop historic landscape aspect area describes the overall evaluation as being *"..scores highly in most categories but its potential and rarity scores are moderate. It is a typical example of a Carmarthenshire agricultural landscape."*
- 5.6.46 Due to the contained and lower lying nature of the Proposed Development, which would be wholly situated within the existing landscape pattern and surrounding landscape features, it is unlikely that any effects would impact the historic landscape aspect areas noted above, and, as such, have not been taken forward as part of this chapter. The assessment of the historic landscape elements noted above is detailed within **Volume 3, Appendix 8.2:ASIDOHL2**.

#### **Cultural Landscape Aspect Area**

- 5.6.47 The Site is located entirely within the Rural Carmarthenshire (CRMRTCL061) aspect area. (**Volume 2, Figure 5.34: LANDMAP Cultural Aspect Areas**).
- 5.6.48 The aspect area is described as a *"Multi-faceted appearance but largely homogenous cultural use in the form of farming. ....historically, and currently, the principal cultural activity is farming and recognising that the landscape changes from coastal flats to rugged and inaccessible high points riven by mountain river and stream valleys with undulating landscapes of soothing attractiveness, this catch-all designation appears to be appropriate"*.
- 5.6.49 Due to the Proposed Development, the agricultural land would be temporarily out of use (potentially available for grazing sheep) however due to the low-lying nature of the Proposed Development (including the approach to be taken in the Landscape Strategy in **Volume 3, Appendix 2.1 : Landscape and**

**Ecological Design Scheme**) this would not affect perceptions and values of the area's cultural assets.

### Conclusions

- 5.6.50 In addition to LANDMAP, there are other contextual baseline sources to inform the LVIA, alongside the field survey.
- 5.6.51 For this assessment, LANDMAP evaluations have been considered for landscape sensitivity assessment.

### County Landscape Character Areas

- 5.6.52 CCC have produced a Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (LUC, January 2025), which considers the LANDMAP aspect areas evaluation.
- 5.6.53 The following Landscape Character Areas (LCA) are located within the 5 km radius LVIA Study Area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.35**):
- LCA 19: Tywi southern slopes, Gwendraeth Fach, and Crwbin-Carmel ridge;
  - LCA 20: Tywi Coastal Hills;
  - LCA 21: Taf-Tywi-Gwendraeth Estuary;
  - LCA 23: Taf-Tywi-Gwendraeth Estuary Levels; and,
  - LCA 25: Gwendraeth Fawr.
- 5.6.54 It is noted that, at the time of writing, the Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Assessment SPG (January 2025) was still in draft and had not been formerly adopted. However, having been through formal consultation, prior to formal adoption, it has been used as the landscape character baseline at the local level.

### Tywi Coastal Hills

- 5.6.55 The Site is entirely located within the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA, the key characteristics of which have relevance to the LVIA Study Area, are identified below:
- Coastal hills carved by steep valleys, rising to 192m AOD with steep slopes bordering the Taf, Tywi and Gwendraeth estuaries. The hills rise and fall gently, creating a varied topography with a generally smooth-textured and sloping landform.
  - There is a dynamic interplay of openness and enclosure within the largely exposed, tranquil, and undeveloped setting. The landscape's undulations limit close-range visibility. There are localised areas of greater visual enclosure, particularly around the woodlands, that line the spring stream.

- Watercourses draining into the Tywi Estuary which bisects the LCA.
- Historic human occupation of the landscape is evidenced by features spanning different time periods, including Neolithic burial sites, Bronze Age stones, and medieval ruins. Later human occupation is evidenced by the villages of Llanybri, Llangain, Llangynog and Llansaint (Conservation Area).
- Settlement is limited and confined to valley villages, and scattered manors, farms, and cottages.
- A relatively open landscape offers long-range views across low-lying valleys, the estuary and distant coastal hills, occasionally interrupted by woodlands and valley slopes.
- An undeveloped and rural landscape provides an opportunity to experience dark night skies, somewhat diminished in the north-east due to the proximity of Carmarthen.
- Land use is predominantly improved pasture, characterised by small to medium-scale regular fields. Fields are typically bound by low-cut hedgerows with occasional mature hedgerow trees. Small-scale fields, especially near spring streams and fords, are enclosed with frequent mature hedgerow trees.
- This is a landscape of moderate recreational value. The landscape is crossed by numerous PRoWs that traverse the narrow valley and hilltops.
- Two prominent pylons lines traverse the north of the LCA, running broadly from east to west.

## Conclusions

- 5.6.56 Landscape effects attributable to the Proposed Development upon the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA is assessed further in section 5.12
- 5.6.57 Solar Area East abuts the boundary of the Tywi southern slopes Gwendraeth Fach, and Crwbin-Carmel ridge LCA. Due to the low-lying nature of the Proposed Development and the fall of the ground towards the Gwendraeth Fach valley, potential effects upon its perceptual qualities would be minimal and therefore this LCA is not considered further in the assessment.
- 5.6.58 The other LCAs are excluded from the assessment due to the low-lying nature of the proposed development and the distance from it which restricting potential effects upon the perceptual qualities of these LCAs.

## Visual Baseline

- 5.6.59 Visual receptors are *'the different groups of people who may experience views of the development'* (GLVIA3, para 6.3). Whilst it is the people living, working, passing through or enjoying recreational activities in the area who actually see the view and enjoy the visual amenity, it is the places they may occupy that

are mapped and described as the 'receptors' of the views. In order to identify those receptors which may be significantly affected, ZTV studies, a baseline desk study, and field-based observations have been carried out.

5.6.60 It should be noted that the ZTV produced in **Volume 2, Figure 5.3** takes into account the potential visibility of the proposed communications tower in isolation, with the solar panels and with the development as a whole. The relative height of the communications tower in conjunction with the far larger and more prominent existing high voltage pylon within Solar Area East would likely render any visibility of the communications tower nominal and almost indistinguishable from the adjacent electrical infrastructure. Therefore, it is anticipated that the tower would not result in any additional landscape or visual effects above the baseline due to its location within the site. As a result, the ZTV produced in **Volume 2, Figure 5.2** has been taken forward and used as a basis for the following visual baseline and subsequent assessment.

5.6.61 The key visual receptors of the Proposed Development are assessed under the following categories:

- Residential Receptors: residents within settlements and scattered individual properties, including farmsteads;
- Recreational Routes: people using the countryside for outdoor recreation; and
- Road Users: people travelling through the area on major and minor roads.

#### **Residential receptors**

5.6.62 There are several scattered farms/residential properties around the area, which fall within the ZTV.

5.2 Maesmawr (Borders and is surrounded by parts of Solar Area West);

- Brybcoch (approximately 78m to the north);
- Panteg (approximately 0.8km to the north);
- Cilfeithy-uchaf (approximately 300m to the southwest of Solar Area East);
- Cilfeithy (approximately 460m to the south of Solar Area East); and
- Mynydd-uchaf (approximately 300m south of Solar Area East).

5.6.1 As part of the consultation and engagement for the Proposed Development, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been requested. 17 individual residential properties, within 1km of the Proposed Development, have been identified and taken forward to the RVAA. The assessment is contained in **Volume 3, Appendix 5.4**.

## Views from Public Rights of Way

- 5.6.2 Reference to Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 mapping and web based definitive interactive map for Carmarthenshire County<sup>1</sup> has confirmed the extent and status of public rights of way (PRoW) in the immediate vicinity of the Site and within the wider 5 km radius study area. These are illustrated on **Volume 2, Figure 5.27**.
- 5.6.3 The following PRoW located mainly within about 2 km of the Site, have potential to be affected by the Proposed Development.
- 5.6.4 Footpath 62/12/3, joining 62/12/4, that has generally an east to west route, passes through Solar Area West to the south of Maesmawr Farm following the line of an existing water course / ditch. There would be open views to parts of the Proposed Development from a length of these footpaths, screened by intermittent field boundary hedgerows and vegetation along the water course / ditch. A section of the PRoW is to be stopped up and diverted pursuant to a secondary consent linked to the DNS application, sought under s.247 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The proposed re-alignment is shown in **Volume 2, Figure 2.15: PRoW Diversion Plan**.
- 5.6.5 The nearest PRoW to Solar Area East includes 62/13/1, which has a north to south route from the road to the immediate south of Solar Area East. Hedgerow field boundaries near to this PRoW limit some views. However, with ground rising up to the south, there are generally open views, primarily to parts of Solar Area East, from this PRoW (Representative Viewpoints 2 and 14).
- 5.6.6 Joining PRoW 62/13/1 are several other PRoW which traverse the slopes of a distinctive ridgeline east to west and run along the ridgetop running southwest to northwest at Pen Hill to Cil-feithy-isaf. This includes PRoW 62/15/2 (Representative Viewpoint 10); PRoW (byway) 62/54/1 (Representative Viewpoints 8 and 9); PRoW (footpath) 29/20/1; PRoW (footpath) 62/14/1 and PRoW (footpath) 62/40/1.
- 5.6.7 Further to the east PRoW (footpath) 29/31/1 traversing undulating land north to south, crossing the local road network, has glimpsed views to a small part of the Site (Representative Viewpoint 7).
- 5.6.8 Further to the south, near to the settlement of Llansaint PRoW (footpath) 62/38/1 traverses east to west (Representative Viewpoint 15) joining PRoW further to the west near Broadway.
- 5.6.9 Beyond the River Towy, to the west, the Wales Coast Path traverses generally north to south towards Llansteffan. The ZTV (**Volume 2, Figure 5.2**) indicates there would be intervisibility to parts of the Proposed Development from a length of this PRoW (Representative Viewpoint 12).

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://prow-carms.esdm.co.uk/standardmap.aspx>

## Local Road Network

- 5.6.10 There are several local roads which pass immediately adjacent to the Site, or in proximity to it. The ZTV (**Volume 2, Figure 5.2**), has indicated there would be potential intervisibility from small sections of many of these roads towards the Proposed Development.
- 5.6.11 The nearest road passes north to south immediately adjacent to Solar Area West. The C2074 (Representative Viewpoint 3) is crossed east to west by the C2075 / U2216 which pass immediately to the south of the Solar Area East (Representative Viewpoint 1) and along the northern edge of the Solar Area West (Representative Viewpoint 4).
- 5.6.12 To the north there is an area of intervisibility from another small section of the C2074 on higher ground (Representative Viewpoint 5) and similarly, with the C2057, near Ffynnon-Wen.

## Future baseline conditions

- 5.6.13 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 require that ‘an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge’ is included within the ES.
- 5.6.14 Having established the existing baseline character of the area it should be noted that landscapes are dynamic and subject to change.
- 5.6.15 There are additional proposals within the LVIA Study Area and other proposed developments, consented or in planning, within 5 km of the Site. These have been reviewed as part of the cumulative assessment of this chapter (see **Section 5.12** of this LVIA).
- 5.6.16 Considering the information identified in the baseline sections above, any future climatic changes are unlikely to change the landscape and visual assessment for the Proposed Development. If appropriate landscape treatment in the form of additional or alternative planting that is not part of the Proposed Development, including further management of the areas within the immediate local context of the Site, any landscape and visual effects are likely to be marginally less than the levels reported in this chapter.

## 5.7 Representative Viewpoints

- 5.7.1 In line with LVIA guidance (GLVIA3), representative viewpoints have been identified to inform the assessment. The representative viewpoints are used as illustrative ‘samples’ on which to base judgments of landscape and visual baseline conditions and the magnitude of change attributable to the Proposed Development.
- 5.7.2 In general, the representative viewpoints have been selected in locations where significant effects would be anticipated; though some may be selected outside of that zone – either to demonstrate the reduction of effects with

distance/ landscape context; or to specifically ensure the representation of a particularly sensitive receptor. Most of the viewpoints represent multiple receptors.

- 5.7.3 Additionally, through informal engagement with the CCC Landscape Officer in April 2025 it was agreed that the assessment would include provision of supplementary Site views within the field parcels of the Site, and have been appended for reference as part of this Chapter (Volume 1, Chapter 5, LVIA: Appendix 5.1)
- 5.7.4 It should be clarified that although the assessment of landscape and visual effects is supported by the representative viewpoints, the assessment is not based on these viewpoints alone.
- 5.7.5 **Table 5.13** provides the list of the representative viewpoints. These viewpoints have been agreed with CCC.
- 5.7.6 The viewpoint locations are shown in **Volume 2, Figure 5.2**, on the ZTV overlay within the LVIA Study Area.

## 5.8 Photomontages

As part of the visual assessment, photomontages were produced for two viewpoints, Representative Viewpoints 8 and 9. These viewpoints were selected due to their elevated nature situated on the ridgeline to the south, as well as potentially offering open and panoramic views of the surrounding landscape for receptors along the PRoW. The photomontages for these Representative Viewpoints have been illustrated within figures 5.20 – 5.25. Where applicable, these visualisations have been used to inform the following Representative Viewpoint Assessment in Section 5.11. These visuals have been produced as a winter Year 1 photomontage to illustrate a worst-case scenario when the mitigation measures have not matured.

**Table 5.13: Representative Viewpoints**

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
Viewpoint 1: Local road (C2075)	<5 m	Close distance view from the local road to the immediate south of Solar Area East. View is through existing field access gate at the northern edge of the C2075. Mature hedgerows to the north and south of the road generally prevent views to the wider landscape from this low-lying road. A small part of the Site can be glimpsed above the field gate on rising ground to the north, with mature field boundary hedgerows subdividing the fields within the Site. Further to the west of the Site outlook is generally one of a rural backdrop with a treed horizon. Limited built

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
		elements are visible, with overhead powerlines crossing the view north to south through part of the Site.
Viewpoint 2: PRow 62/13/1	395 m	Close distance view from PRow (62/13/1) to the south and east of the Site. Open panoramic view looking to the north from the PRow above the field boundary which consists of a post and wire fence at this location. Further to the north along the PRow mature field boundary hedgerows are evident adjacent to the PRow and within the fields either side which subdivides the rural landscape. Scattered white rendered farmsteads and other agricultural buildings, including Cilfeithy and Cilfeithy-uschaf, are visible within parts of the view, typical of the settlement pattern within the local landscape. A small part of Solar Area East and Solar Area West are visible within the view. Limited to the northernmost parts on higher ground. Other built elements within the view includes the overhead powerlines and other telephone / powerlines across much of the view.
Viewpoint 3: Local road (C2074)	<5 m	Close distance view from the local road at the southeast corner of Solar Area West. Framed view, through existing field access. Open view to a large part of Solar Area West, adjacent to the C2074 adjacent to the eastern boundary. Field boundary hedgerows within the Site and the land falling away to the west screens views to much of the Site. With the view looking west, there are no views of Solar Area East from this location. Similarly, to other views, scattered white rendered farmsteads and other agricultural buildings can be seen across much of the view, including Nantygoitre to the north a white rendered two storey property on higher ground to the north. With a generally treed backdrop and distant views towards Ferryside. Other built elements within the view are limited to overhead power lines and other telecommunication lines.
Viewpoint 4: Local road (U2216) near	< 5 m	Close distance view from the local road to the immediate north of Solar Area West, near to Maesmawr Farm. Enclosed view from sunken road, U2216, at the northwest corner of Solar

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
Maesmawr Farm		Area West. Mature hedge banks to either side of the view prevents open views to the surrounding landscape from this location. In winter months, at the time of the site visit, there are glimpsed heavily filtered views to the northernmost fields (Field 24) within the Site. With the road falling away to the east, there is a view available to a very small part of Solar Area West near to the crossroads with the C2074. A telegraph pole and a field access gate are the only built elements visible with the view, with the exception of the road itself.
Viewpoint 5: Local road (C2074)	1.64 km	Medium distance view from the local road to the north of the Proposed Development, near Nantyoitre Isaf. Generally open elevated view from the C2074, at a field access gate near to Nantyoitre to the north of the Site. View is typical of elevated views of the local landscape, with the distinctive undulating topography and field patterns, subdivided by mature field boundary hedgerows and hedge banks at the edges of the roads. Within the view, built elements are limited to telegraph poles and connected wires generally following the roads with only glimpsed views to some agricultural buildings (Panteg) to the south of the view. At the southern horizon of the view the distinctive ridge line, one of the highest points in the area, is visible with a distinctive avenue of mature trees following the route of the PRow along the top of the ridge (62/54/2, Cilffordd Byway). The majority of the Site is not discernible from this location, although from an elevated location, with land falling away to the south of the ridgeline within the centre of the view.
Viewpoint 6: Local road (C2057)	816 m	Medium distance view from the local road to the northeast of the Solar Area East, near Ffynnon-Wen. Partially enclosed view from roadside. Hedgerow to the southwestern side of the C2057 filters/screens available views to the surrounding landscape from this low-lying road. Above the hedgerow undulating higher ground and a patchwork of agricultural fields, defined by hedgerow boundaries can be seen, including the distinctive ridgeline to the south

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
		of the Site where the Cilffordd Byway passes over. Built elements within the view are limited to the overhead powerlines, north to south across the view. Intervening vegetation and topography largely prevent views to the majority of the Site from this location. With only a small part of Solar Area East glimpsed over the hedge line.
Viewpoint 7: PRow (29/31/1 – 29/32/1)	1.1 km	Medium distance view from PRow (29/31/1 – 29/32/1) to Solar Area East. Open elevated view from higher ground to the south of the Site. A number of overhead powerlines form a distinctive feature through the landscape as they pass through it and into Solar Area East. Parts of which can be seen on rising ground to the north. Other built elements within the view include a number of scattered farmsteads and agricultural building, with Coed-y-Brain clearly visible adjacent to woodland at the eastern edge of the Site. Due to intervening vegetation and topographical variation, Solar Area West is entirely obscured from view from this location.
Viewpoint 8: PRow (62/54/2)	1.7 km	Medium distance view from PRow (62/54/2, Cilffordd Byway) to the south of the Site. Open elevated view at one of the highest points within the 5km LVIA Study Area. View is typical of those available from much of the PRow with intermittent trees partially obstructing views. Views of the characteristic patchwork of subdivided fields can be clearly seen. From this elevated location there are generally open views to much of Solar Area East and Solar Area West. Scattered farmsteads, mostly white rendered, and other agricultural building dot this parsley settled landscape with distant views to rolling hills beyond to the north. Other built elements within the landscape include the distinctive overhead powerlines across much of the view, though not immediately obvious.
Viewpoint 9: PRow (62/54/2)	1.5 km	Medium distance view from PRow (62/54/2, Cilffordd Byway) to the south of the Site. Views available from this elevated location, on the same PRow as Representative Viewpoint 8, are like those views available from

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
		Representative Viewpoint 8. Existing vegetation to the edge of the PRow screens / filters available views to Solar Area East, with more open views available to Solar Area West.
Viewpoint 10: PRow (62/15/2)	877 m	Medium distance view from PRow (62/15/2) to the south of the Site. Open and expansive panoramic view from elevated position to the south of the Site. With the undulating topography and rolling agricultural fields in the foreground of the views largely preventing views to much of the Site from this location. There are views to small parts of Solar Area East and Solar Area West, limited to those parts of it on higher ground to the north. Similarly, to other views within the landscape, there are views to scattered farmsteads and agricultural building across the views. With the distinctive white rendered house of Nantyoitre visible to the northern distance, seen above Cilfiethy-uchaf / Nyth Y Wennol, located at the crossroads of the C2074 and C2075 near to Solar Area West.
Viewpoint 11: Local road (Port Way)	934 m	Medium distance view from the local road to the southwest of the Site, near Manor Farm. Open view across large arable field to the north of Port Way, towards the Site. Undulating topography and field boundary hedgerows are such that only a small section of Solar Area West is discernible from this location. Those fields nearest the crossroads opposite Nyth Y Wennol, which can be seen above the hedge line on the horizon of the view. There are no views available to the majority of the Site, including Solar Area West. Other built elements partially visible within the view include Manor, nearest the view, and the distinctive white rendered Nantyoitre on higher ground to the north of the Site. Power lines and wind turbines are discernible in the distance of this predominantly rural and generally open view.
Viewpoint 12: PRow (Wales Coast Path)	3.1 km	Long distance view from PRow (part of the Wales Coast Path) to Solar Area West, near Llansteffan. Distant view looking east over the River Towy, towards the Site. Built up areas of

Viewpoint Number and Location	Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)	Existing (baseline) View Description
		<p>Ferryside to the eastern banks of the river form a characteristic view, with rising ground to the east beyond it. Views to a small part of Solar Area West, do not form an obvious part of this generally open view from the Wales Coast Path. There are glimpsed views to the northernmost parts, such as Fields 17 and 18, seen on higher ground at the crossroads near to Nyth Y Wennol. With the easternmost parts of Solar Area West, nearest the road, forming a small slither of the available views. There are no discernible views to the eastern section of the Site from this location.</p>
Viewpoint 13: Local road near Llechdwnni	2.1 km	<p>Medium distant view from local road to Solar Area East. View is from a field access gate at the edge of the road. Land falls away to the west from the view, allowing open panoramic views towards the Site. Scattered farmsteads interspersed with small scale fields and woodland blocks form a characteristic view, typical of the local landscape, with the treed ridge line visible to the southwest of the view. The overhead power lines crossing the view give a good marker and orientation point for Solar Area East which can be seen on rising ground in the middle distance. Due to the intervening topography, there are no discernible views available of Solar Area West from this location.</p>
Viewpoint 14: PRow 62/13/1	918 m	<p>Close view from same PRow (62/13/1) to the south of Representative Viewpoint 2, near to Parcgwyn. A hedgerow to the eastern edge of the PRow partially blocks views to much of the landscape. With the undulating topography further foreshortening views to the north. There are views to a small part of Solar Area East seen above the hedgerow and to the northeast of Cilfiethy-uchaf. There are no discernible views available from this location to Solar Area West. Built elements visible within the view includes Cilfiethy-uchaf farmstead and the overhead power lines visible in all views within the landscape, with only glimpsed views to other agricultural buildings.</p>

<b>Viewpoint Number and Location</b>	<b>Distance to the Proposed Development (nearest point)</b>	<b>Existing (baseline) View Description</b>
Viewpoint 15: PRow (62/32/1)	1.4 km	Open panoramic distant view to the southwest of the Site. Seen over a larger arable field, the patchwork of small fields interspersed with linear woodland blocks is typical of the character of the local landscape. At this distance there are no obvious views of the Site with only a small part of Solar Area East discernible on the skyline.
Viewpoint 16: View from proposed PRow 62/12/4 re-alignment near the boundary of Fields 4 and 7	Within Solar Area West	Internal view within eastern area of Solar Area West near Maesmawr. This view is seen from Field 4, with the adjacent Field 7 rearward, along the proposed re-alignment of PRow 62/12/4. The view is composed of a large-scale gently undulating pasture fields in the foreground and mid ground. A field gate and post and wire agricultural fence is partially seen in the foreground. To the left of the view (along the northeastern edges of Fields 4 and 7 of Solar Area East) a field boundary hedgerow, scrub grassland and a mature linear woodland block are visible. The background of the view is also partially composed of the southeastern field boundary hedgerow of Field 7.

## 5.9 Mitigation and Enhancement Measures Adopted as Part of the Proposed Development

### Design approach in respect of landscape and visual matters

- 5.9.1 Consideration of potential long-term landscape character and visual effects has formed an integral role in the design of the Proposed Development.
- 5.9.2 While the Proposed Development will inevitably result in a change to the character of the Site and its immediate surroundings, the design of the Proposed Development has been informed by its local landscape and visual context.
- 5.9.3 In order to ensure the Proposed Development is successfully integrated into the landscape, the site design approach aimed to develop the layout with mitigation being built into the design itself, as set out in the main design principles as follows:
- achieving an appropriate development footprint with maximum landscape buffers;

- minimising impact on landform and integrating the Proposed Development into the landscape whilst providing spoil cut and fill balance;
- achieving appropriate offsets from residential properties to ensure that residential visual amenity is not impacted;
- minimising the potential impact on landscape fabric by avoiding and buffering existing landscape features such as trees, hedgerows and woodland;
- enhancing existing hedgerows, tree belts and woodland both within and around the periphery of the Site to aid screening, improve the landscape structure and enhance habitat connectivity;
- maintaining recreational amenity of existing footpaths, which are used by people for access through the Site;
- identifying additional landscape and habitat creation to strengthen visual screening, enhance landscape character and increase biodiversity/green infrastructure, including new hedgerows and linking of existing habitats within the site;
- locating any required buildings or ancillary structures in order to minimise their landscape and visual impact;
- utilising a sensitive colour palette for built structures to aid assimilation into the landscape.

5.9.4 The design objectives of the proposed mitigation planting as shown on Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme, are intended to help better integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape and visual character and provide a means of connection to the surrounding green infrastructure network. There would also be net benefit to biodiversity, as well as an enhancement of the existing key landscape character features of the Carmarthenshire Landscape Character Assessment Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), and the identified character area of Tywi Coastal Hills LCA in which the Site sits in.

5.9.5 Key character elements such as native hedgerows and hedgebanks, hedgerow trees and occasional woodland planting has been integrated and enhanced where possible, as part of the overall landscape strategy (see **Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme**).

5.9.6 In landscape and visual terms, several inherent or industry practice measures reduce the effects attributable to the type of development proposed. The following measures are considered to minimise the landscape and visual impact of the Proposed Development.

- Minimised ground excavation: The panels would be mounted upon a prefabricated alloy metal frame. The module frames will be anchored to the ground via steel piles, which will be driven approximately 2 m- 2.5 m

below ground. The framed mounting system would be pile-driven. Therefore, no foundations would be required.

- Temporary construction compounds will be located in the Solar Area East and one in the Solar Area West. The compound area will be reinstated and reseeded following the completion of construction works and the removal of all temporary structures.
- Areas of new hardstanding would be limited to the substation, DNO and Customer Control Room, transformers and inverter foundations.
- Existing structure vegetation helps to screen and break up the proposed Development in views into and integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape;
- Existing vegetation along the Site's perimeters has been identified as being important landscape elements in the existing landscape character and will be retained and enhanced with new and appropriate planting where vegetation is presently sparse. This will avoid direct landscape effects and reduce visibility of the Proposed Development.
- Vegetation removal will be kept to a minimum as far as practicable.
- A short length of approximately 410 m of the PRoW 62/12/4 will be permanently diverted along a different alignment, with **Volume 2, Figure 2.15** showing the length and extent of this diversion together with its proposed realignment.
- CCTV facilities will be located carefully considered in order to minimise visual / landscape impact. Where possible, cameras pointing in two directions will be placed on the same post. Slim, galvanised metal posts will be utilised, in order to reduce their visibility.

5.9.7 Both embedded and additional mitigation measures relevant to the LVIA are summarised in **Table 5.7** below. Where relevant, measures have been identified that may result in enhancement of existing environmental conditions.

5.9.8 The Landscape and Ecology Design Scheme, (**Volume 3, Appendix 2.1**) illustrates the landscape and ecological strategy for the Proposed Development.

5.9.9 Retained vegetation would be supplemented with new planting, including the gapping up of existing hedgerows, new hedgerow and tree planting and ecological enhancement focused on the species diversity of grassland. This would result in a long term beneficial effect at a site based level.

5.9.10 These measures would be secured as a planning condition, committed via the Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (**Volume 3, Appendix 2.1**).

## 5.10 Assessment of landscape and visual effects

### Introduction

- 5.10.1 This section sets out the effects that the Proposed Development would have on both landscape and visual receptors. The principal landscape and visual effects would occur during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, which would be for 40 years. At the end of its lifespan, the solar farm can be decommissioned, and the site restored to its existing condition (with proposed planting retained).

### Construction Phase Effects

- 5.10.2 The only receptor likely to experience construction and decommissioning effects that are markedly different to the operational effects is the Site itself, which would temporarily (in the short term) take on the character of a construction site. These effects would be very different in nature to those experienced once the Proposed Development is complete, but similar in terms of their magnitude and significance. Typical temporary activities would include the movement of vehicles, heavy plant, machinery and materials within the Site.
- 5.10.3 The construction (and eventual decommissioning) of the Proposed Development would be short-term, involving the movement of vehicles, localised excavations and the installation of the panels using small-scale construction machinery. The sensitivity of the Site is considered to be Medium to Low (noted below in 5.10.14) with construction and conversely the decommissioning phase being of a **Medium** Magnitude upon the character of the Site. Neither construction nor decommissioning activities would give rise to notable landscape character or visual effects over and above those of the operational site, and therefore not exceeding **Moderate adverse**, which is not significant.
- 5.10.4 Trees and hedges should be protected during construction. The impact of the Proposed Development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey (to BS 5837) and/or a hedge assessment as appropriate, and are detailed within Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Tree Survey & AIA report.
- 5.10.5 The primary effects arising would be from the Proposed Development, and the assessment therefore only focuses on the operational effects.
- 5.10.6 Effects are assessed during the period following completion, when construction is complete but before mitigation planting is fully established. During this period, the effects will gradually reduce as planting along site boundaries and within the development matures. During the early part of this period, effects are likely to be at their greatest.
- 5.10.7 As additional planting is proposed as part of the Proposed Development, effects are also assessed once the vegetation has matured and established. Up to this point, effects are described as medium-term; thereafter, they are considered to be Long-term.

## Operation and Maintenance Phase Landscape Effects

### The Site

- 5.10.8 The landscape features, elements and physical characteristics within the Site comprises arable, semi-improved and improved grassland (bounded by hedgerows, trees, woodland, field ditches and watercourses).
- 5.10.9 The boundaries of the site are generally well-vegetated, comprising a variety of native species. The perimeters of the site are delineated by a combination of established hedgerows and woodland vegetation to the immediate northeast of the Solar Area East.
- 5.10.10 The presence of intensively managed agricultural fields makes the landscape less susceptible to the type of development proposed. The panels can be removed entirely at the end of their productive life, and the land can be returned to agricultural use, should this be considered appropriate at that time.
- 5.10.11 The surrounding wooded environment and the Site's perimeter vegetation indicate inherent scope in the landscape to mitigate the type of development proposed, therefore reducing its susceptibility to change.
- 5.10.12 The Proposed Development would retain the majority of existing tree and hedgerow field boundaries (**Volume 3, Appendix 2.1**) within and around the site, with the solar farm development confined to individual field parcels to ensure its integration into the landscape and to provide screening.
- 5.10.13 Short lengths of hedgerow and small areas of grassland would be removed as a result of the Proposed Development (**Volume 1, Chapter 6: Biodiversity**). The majority of hedgerows, trees and areas of grassland would have been retained and protected during the construction phase. Hedgerow improvements, including the gapping up of sparse areas of hedgerows, the planting of new lengths of hedgerows and additional trees, to be managed long term, would over time have a beneficial impact upon the inherent landscape character of the Application Site, and secured by the LEDS (**Volume 3, Appendix 2.1**).
- 5.10.14 Taking account of the inherent mitigation factors (the existing landscape structure) and the previously approved application on the site, its sensitivity to the type of the development proposed is considered Medium to low. Therefore, with a **Medium** magnitude of change on the Site, the resulting residual effects would be judged as **Minor adverse**, and **not significant**.

## Landscape Character Areas

### Tywi Coastal Hills

- 5.10.15 The site lies entirely within the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA.
- 5.10.16 The LCA is not subject to any landscape designations within the LVIA Study Area. This is a landscape that is actively used, where arable cultivation is prevalent. It is not a landscape that can be considered particularly susceptible to the type of development proposed. Due to the scope for mitigation inherent in this landscape, with a gently undulating topography and enclosure provided by both high hedgerows, and the pattern of intermittent woodlands associated

with the farmland, the landscape is considered to have Medium-low susceptibility to accommodate the type of development proposed.

- 5.10.17 The physical landscape characteristics which are attributed to the host LCA (LCA 20: Tywi Coastal Hills) would largely have been retained and protected during construction and enhanced as part of the Proposed Development. There would be the loss of small areas of grassland habitat and hedgerows as the access tracks are completed and where the invertors, substation and other solar farm infrastructure is installed.
- 5.10.18 When considering the sensitivity / susceptibility of the immediate landscape, account of the previously consented solar farm development, to the north of the Proposed Development, has been taken. Although not completed, this consented scheme partially reduces the overall susceptibility / sensitivity of the host LCA.
- 5.10.19 The Tywi Coastal Hills LCA is valued at a local level as an agricultural landscape with the incorporated amenity value of the PRowS.
- 5.10.20 The Tywi Coastal Hills LCA is evaluated as having a Medium-Low sensitivity to the type of development proposed.
- 5.10.21 A Large magnitude of change would occur within the extent of the Site, given that there would be a fundamental change to the existing landscape character from an agricultural landscape to a solar farm development. There would be a Large magnitude of effects of the Proposed Development on landscape character, where the land use would be notable different from the current agricultural uses. However, these effects would be contained to within the Site and its immediate proximity, occurring only in a localised extent of the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA in the Medium-term, until such time as the proposed mitigation/ enhancement planting develops and matures.
- 5.10.22 The landscape of the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA would retain its wooded nature. Direct perceivable effects on the landscape character would be predominantly contained within the site and its local context up to approximately 0.5 km. Beyond this distance, effects on landscape character would rapidly decrease to a Negligible scale. It is judged that the intrinsic and prevailing characteristics of the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA would not be discernibly affected through the introduction of the Proposed Development.
- 5.10.23 The effects upon completion would be of a **Small** magnitude, resulting in **Minor** and **not significant** effects. It is judged that the effects would be adverse due to the noticeable change from an agricultural landscape to a solar farm development, where visibility would be available.
- 5.10.24 Long-term effects, as proposed mitigation planting matures, further enhancing the existing landscape structure, would reduce to a Small-Negligible magnitude, resulting in Minor/Negligible and not significant and neutral effects, with effects reducing in accordance with distance from the site's boundaries, as the proposed planting establishes and filters/screens the Proposed Development to a greater degree.
- 5.10.25 It is considered that the Proposed Development would not affect how the landscape character of the Tywi Coastal Hills LCA as a whole would be perceived within the LVIA Study Area. The visible portions of the Proposed

Development appear as small, unobtrusive elements within the wide landscape context.

## Operational Phase Visual Effects

- 5.10.26 The assessment of operational phase visual effects considers both winter (Year 1) and summer (Year 15) scenarios, whereby the summer Year 15 assessment is judged alongside the maturation of the proposed mitigation measures employed within the Site.

## 5.11 Representative Viewpoints Assessment

- 5.11.1 Panorama photographs for each Representative Viewpoint are illustrated in **Volume 2, Figures 5.4 to 5.19**, from various publicly accessible receptor locations within the LVIA Study Area, which represent viewpoints at various elevations, distances and orientation from the Proposed Development. Where possible, the areas and field parcels that would likely be visible and identifiable as areas that would contain elements of the Proposed Development have been shaded in red in the relevant Representative Viewpoints.
- 5.11.2 The following viewpoint assessments are judged at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15 scenarios, whereby the Year 15 is judged with the proposed mitigation planting measures having reached maturity.

### Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking northeast from local road (C2075)

- 5.11.3 At winter Year 1 (on completion), there would potentially be glimpsed and occasional views of the Proposed Development through gaps in the hedge banks that flank the road corridor and through field gates. Views are likely to be glimpsed and towards the Solar Area East. Much of the roadside views are screened by mature hedge banks and along lower lying areas of the road corridor, with views of the surrounding landscape are limited. Where available, views of the completed development within Solar Area East would be brief, transient and only in short sections of the road. Where the road elevation changes distant views of the solar farm may be available in the background of the view, albeit for only a short duration.
- 5.11.4 At winter Year 1, there would be a **Small** magnitude of impact as a result of those parts of the Proposed Development which would be visible within a small part of the view. This would result in a **Negligible to Moderate** adverse significance of effect upon road users in vehicles of **Low** sensitivity with recreational users of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.5 By Year 15, the mitigation planting and intervening vegetation would be in full leaf. The designed in mitigation measures would work in conjunction with the existing vegetation to break up the massing and scale of the Proposed Development, and as such the Proposed Development would be largely indiscernible in the view. Any views available on approach to Solar Area East are likely to be oblique to the direction of travel and transient. The magnitude of impact for road and recreation users would be **Negligible**, long term and reversible. The resulting effect would be **Negligible to Minor** adverse for people in vehicles and recreation users, which is **not significant**.

### **Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking north from PRow 62/13/1**

- 5.11.6 At winter Year 1 (on completion) following the construction phase, views of Solar Area East would encompass a medium extent of the available views and would be in the background. Due to the lower lying nature of the solar arrays and the associated infrastructure, the Proposed Development would not break the skyline. Though noticeable, layers of field boundary vegetation and changes in intervening topography would help to diffuse much of the Proposed Development in the available views for users of the PRow., who are of High sensitivity. Views of Solar Area West would be limited and largely screened by changes in topography and intervening vegetation. As a result, any views of Solar Area East would be long term, reversible, and of a **Negligible** magnitude of impact. The resulting effect would be judged as **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.
- 5.11.7 By summer Year 15, the intervening vegetation would be in full leaf which would render the Proposed Development almost indiscernible in views from this location. The enhanced mitigation measures would also work in conjunction with the surrounding existing vegetation to further diffuse any potential views of the solar arrays. Therefore, any views for recreational users along the PRow would be of a continued **Negligible** magnitude, long term and reversible. The residual effect at summer Year 15 for the High sensitivity receptors would then be **Negligible** adverse, which is **not significant**.

### **Representative Viewpoint 3: View looking northwest from local road (C2074)**

- 5.11.8 At winter Year 1, Following the completion of the development from the construction phase, views of Solar Area West for road users are likely to be glimpsed and through gaps in the hedge banks, such as through field gates and accessways. Views would be transient and oblique in nature, with a large proportion of Solar Area West obscured from views due to the strong hedge banks that flank the road corridor. With only glimpsed and occasional views of the Solar Area West, people in cars and recreational users such as cyclists and walkers are likely to experience brief views for a small part of the journey along the road. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible to Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low to High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.9 By summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation measures would have matured, providing a screening effect and helping to break up the massing and scale of the Proposed Development. Views of Solar Area West and elements of the Proposed Development such as the boundary fence may still be available in areas close to the road corridor and through gaps in the hedge banks that flank it to the northwest. However, any such views would be fleeting, intermittent and oblique to the direction of travel for the passing road users, with the majority of the road corridor framed by the mature vegetation that flanks it to the north and south. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would remain **Negligible**, long term and reversible. The overall residual effect at Year 15 would be judged as **Negligible to Minor** adverse for receptors of **Low to High** sensitivity. The effect would also be **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 4: View looking generally south from local road (U2216) near Maesmawr Farm**

- 5.11.10 At winter Year 1 (on completion), there would be limited views at this location for cyclists, walkers and people in vehicles moving along the road. Glimpses of the surrounding landscape and as such the Proposed Development may be available, however this would be through the existing vegetation and gaps in the hedge banks to the south of the road corridor. Further east of the view, there may be some views of the solar arrays within the northeastern portion of Solar Area West in segments of the road corridor situated on raised topography. Views would likely be available for receptors travelling in a southeasterly direction; however, any such views would be brief, and in the background. Although discernible within a very small part of the view, the Proposed Development would not be immediately apparent and so not considerably alter the overall composition of the view. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible** to **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low** to **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**. Solar Area East would not be visible for receptors at this location.
- 5.11.11 By Year 15, the existing boundary hedgerows within Solar Area West would be managed and maintained to grow between 3 to 5 m. Through much of the views along the road, due to its partially sunken nature and the mature hedge banks that flank it to the north and south, the Proposed Development is likely be completely screened from views. Occasional glimpsed views of the solar arrays within Solar Area West may still be available from gaps in the vegetation and toward distant portions of the development upon raised sections of the road. However, views would be oblique, glimpsed and only for a short duration of travel along the road.
- 5.11.12 The magnitude of impact would remain **Negligible**, long term and reversible. The overall effect for the **High** to **Low** sensitivity road receptors at Year 15 would remain **Negligible** to **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 5: View looking south from local road (C2074)**

- 5.11.13 On completion of the Proposed Development at winter Year 1, there would be limited views of the Proposed Development due to Intervening landform and topography. Much of the Proposed Development would be situated beyond the ridgeline in the background of the available view. The lower lying features such as the solar arrays and associated infrastructure would therefore not break the skyline and so not be presented as notable features within the viewpoint. Small parts of Solar Area East may be partially visible above the intervening landform, however, would be of a small fraction of the overall scheme and at a long distance from the receptors, and as such do not affect the wider panoramic vistas available. There would be a long term, reversible **Small** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible** to **Moderate** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low** to **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.14 At summer Year 15, the intervening existing layers of field boundary vegetation would be in leaf, working in conjunction with the proposed mitigation measures, would help to conceal and screen the Proposed Development where visible. Parts of Solar Area East that would potentially be

visible would be almost entirely screened from views, in the distance and only across a very small proportion of the field of view. There would be a long term, reversible and **Negligible** magnitude of impact. The overall effect for the **Low to High** sensitivity road and recreational receptors would be judged as being **Negligible to Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking southwest from local road (C2057)**

5.11.15 At winter Year 1 (on completion) there would be distant views of Solar Area East upon areas of raised topography in the background. The proposed mitigation measures will not have matured and therefore no screening effect would be offered. Views of the solar arrays however would not break the skyline due to their lower lying nature and encompass a small portion and extent of the view. A mature roadside hedgerow along the length of the C2057, within the foreground of the view and to the east and west at either side, limits potential views of the Proposed Development. An intervening mosaic pattern of interconnecting agricultural fields and associated field boundaries is present in the view upon rising topography in the background, toward the ridgeline, which would serve as the main aspect of the wider views available, and as such the composition of the view would remain unaltered through the introduction of the Proposed Development. A large proportion of the Proposed Development would be situated behind the ridgeline, or at such a distance that the solar arrays and features of the scheme would be almost imperceptible. Views of the Proposed Development would be largely oblique to the direction of travel for passing receptors. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible to Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low to High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.

5.11.16 By summer Year 15, the intervening existing layers of field boundary vegetation would be in leaf, working in conjunction with the proposed mitigation measures, would help to conceal and screen the proposed development where visible. The overall character and composition of the view would remain, as Solar Area West would be entirely obscured from views with only small areas of Solar Area East likely visible on rising topography in the background of the view. The small parts of Solar Area East that would potentially be visible would be almost entirely screened from views, in the distance and only across a very small proportion of the field of view. There would be a long term, reversible and continued **Negligible** magnitude of impact. The overall effect for the **Low to High** sensitivity road and recreational receptors would be judged as being **Negligible to Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking northwest from PRoW (29/31/1 – 29/32/1)**

5.11.17 For winter Year 1 (on completion) there would likely be limited views of the Proposed Development within the background of the available view from this location, and across a small to medium extent of the view. Small areas of the solar arrays of the scheme, would be partly visible within this panoramic view. However, the visible portions would not break the skyline and be viewed at a distance for receptors at this location. Intervening vegetation and

topographical variation would limit full views to Solar Area West, with only a very small part of the north easternmost corner potentially visible. The overall character and composition of the view would remain. The presence of overhead power lines and a pylon in the immediate focus of the view are detracting features within the panoramic views available to footpath users along the PRoW. The substation within Solar Area East, would be visible within the view, however, would be viewed in context with the wider grid infrastructure present. There would be a long term and reversible **Small** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.

- 5.11.18 By Year 15, the proposed mitigation measures around the Site will have reached maturity and along with the existing boundary vegetation would help to integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape. Some small parts of Solar Area East may still be partially visible on raised landform in the background of the view, however, would not break the skyline or be prominent in the view. The scale of change and extent would be small, and across a narrow field of view. There would be a long term and reversible **Small** magnitude of impact for receptors of **High** sensitivity, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect, which is also **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 8 and 9: View looking north from PRoW (62/54/2)**

- 5.11.19 At winter Year 1 (during operation) following construction, the proposed mitigation measures within the Proposed Development will not have matured, and therefore not offer any screening effect. Solar Area East and Solar Area West would be present in the background from the open and elevated views available along the PRoW from these Representative Viewpoints. Views of the Proposed Development in other portions of the PRoW would remain screened by intervening vegetation and trees along the footpath, notably the west. Some portions of the solar arrays would be visible – those being within the elevated parts of Solar Area East on rising topography in the background of the Representative Viewpoints 8 and 9. Although visible, the solar arrays would be at a distance from the people using the footpath and would not break the skyline, nor be a prominent feature of the view. The composition of the character of the view would remain intact. There would be a long term, reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.20 By Year 15, the mitigation measures employed around the Proposed Development, such as the management of the existing field boundary hedgerows being allowed to grow up to 3 to 4 m, as well as the integration of the enhanced mitigation, would help to diffuse any scale or massing of the Proposed Development. From this elevated vista for receptors moving along the PRoW, the change in views would be almost imperceptible and in the background of the view and at a reasonable distance. Therefore, the scale of change and extent in the view would be small. The magnitude of impact would therefore remain **Negligible**, long term and reversible. The overall effect would be judged as **Minor** adverse significance of effect for the receptors of **High** sensitivity. The effect would therefore be **not significant**.

### **Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking north from PRow (62/15/2)**

- 5.11.21 Following the construction phase, during winter Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting measures would not have reached maturity and therefore not offer any screening effects. Within the open and panoramic views available, a very small part of the eastern portion of the Solar Area West and a small area of Solar Area East are likely to be visible elements in the background of the view. The intervening ridgeline that rises toward the skyline would largely block any views toward to the wider Proposed Development. Any visible portions of the Proposed Development in views would be at a distance, encompass a very small field of the available view and would not be present in the skyline. The foreground of the view and the distinctive field pattern would remain the prominent feature of this panoramic view, and thus the overall composition and character of the view would remain unaltered. There would be a long term reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.22 By Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting measures will have reached maturity, further integrating the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape. Views of those portions of the solar arrays that would have been partially noticeable in the view would be almost indistinguishable from the surrounding landscape features and character of the view. Any views of the Proposed Development available from the elevated locations along the PRow would be framed with the notable numerous pylons and overhead powerlines that appear in the skyline, and therefore not be a prominent feature. There would be a long term, reversible and continued **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** Sensitivity, which is **not significant**.

### **Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking northeast from Local road (Port Way)**

- 5.11.23 At winter Year 1 (on completion) following the construction phase, there would be limited views of the Proposed Development, with Solar Area East entirely screened from views due to changes in topography. Views of Solar Area West would also be largely screened by changes in topography, with intermittent and brief views of the solar arrays on areas of raised landform within the Solar Area West and in the southern field parcels. Due to the lower lying nature of the solar arrays, they are unlikely to break the skyline and so would not be a prominent or distinctive feature in the views, encompassing a small scale and extent and a narrow field of view. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible** to **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low** to **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.24 By summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting within the Proposed Development will have matured and therefore achieved their desired function in screening the Proposed Development. Views of Solar Area West are likely to be limited in scope with only fragmented views of the Proposed Development from areas of higher elevation within the scheme. The scale and extent of the view would remain small and across a narrow field of view. The overall composition and character of the view would remain intact. There

would be a continued long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact. The resulting overall significance of effect for **High** sensitivity footpath users and **Low** sensitivity users in vehicles would be **Negligible** to **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking east from PRow (Wales Coast Path)**

- 5.11.25 At winter Year 1 (on completion) the mitigation planning will not have matured. Views of the Proposed Development are unlikely to be noticeable or prominent due to the distance from the receptors along the promoted path at this location. The relatively small scaled and lower lying features of the Proposed Development are unlikely to break the skyline where visible in the background of the views, as the topography rises into the distance. The change in view would be of a small scale and extent, and across a narrow field of view, and almost indistinguishable from the surroundings. The slightly darker elements of the Proposed Development in the overall composition of the view may become visible within Solar Area East, however, would be difficult to ascertain in combination with the intervening changes in topography and layers of boundary vegetation and linear tree belts on the west facing slopes behind the settlement of Ferryside. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.
- 5.11.26 By Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting measures will have matured, further integrating the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape and green infrastructure network. This would screen much of the Proposed Development from views and parts of the solar arrays that would likely be visible, with limited, heavily filtered views of small portions of Solar Area East potentially visible on rising landform. The scale of change and extent in the views would remain small, and the overall composition of the view would remain intact. There would be a long term, reversible and continued **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a continued **Negligible** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. The effect would also be **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking west from local road near Llechdwnni**

- 5.11.27 On completion of the Proposed Development at winter Year 1, the proposed mitigation measures will not have matured, and therefore not offer any additional screening effects. Any views of the Proposed Development would be in the distance, along the horizon and only partially available, as a majority of the Site would fall behind the rising topography in the view. The features of the solar farm would be lower lying and therefore not skyline in the views. Views of the Proposed Development would be of small to medium scale and extent, and across small field of view. Views of the solar arrays may appear as darker features within the existing field pattern in the landscape, however, would not be prominent, and the overall composition of the panoramic and open views would remain. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible** to **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low** to **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.

5.11.28 By summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation measures will have matured, helping to better integrate the Proposed Development into the existing field pattern and surrounding green infrastructure network. Any views of the Proposed Development for receptors along the promoted route are likely to be intermittent, fleeting and at a reasonable distance, and therefore be almost indistinguishable from the surroundings. There would be a continued long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Negligible to Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **Low to High** sensitivity, which is **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking north from PRow 62/13/1**

5.11.29 At winter Year 1, following completion of the construction Phase of the Proposed Development, views of the Proposed Development are likely to remain predominantly screened by the changes in intervening topography and layers of field boundary vegetation for receptors at this location. The scale of change and extent in the view would be small, as there would likely be limited views of the Proposed Development despite the elevated nature of the PRow. Some portions of the southern field parcels of Solar Area East may be potentially visible on the rising slopes toward the skyline in the east of the view, however, would not be prominent or a focus of the view. However, no part of the Proposed Development would break the skyline and therefore not alter the overall composition of the character of the available view, with an overall majority of the Proposed Development hidden from view by rising topography. There would be a long term and reversible **Small** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.

5.11.30 By summer Year 15, the mitigation measures employed within the Proposed Development would have reached maturity and offer a screening effect. The small portion of the solar arrays within the southern field parcels of Solar Area East would remain a noticeable feature in the view, of a darker colour, however, would not be prominent or the main focus of the view, and of a small scale and extent. The Proposed Development would remain largely hidden from views and therefore the composition of the character of the view would largely remain intact. There would be a long term and reversible **Small** magnitude of impact, resulting in a continued **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. The effects would be **not significant**.

#### **Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from PRow (62/32/1)**

5.11.31 On completion of the Proposed Development at winter Year 1, limited views of Solar Area West may be partially visible in the background of the views. Solar Area East would be obscured from views for receptors at this location as it would be behind the intervening topography and vegetation in the background. Views available would be similar to Representative Viewpoint 11 where views would be dominated by the distinctive field pattern and wider landscape in the foreground. A very small part of the solar panels within Solar Area West would be discernible on higher ground to the northeast. The scale of change and extent in the view would therefore be small, and across a narrow field of view. The overall rural character and composition of the view would remain intact. There would be a long term, reversible **Negligible**

magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is **not significant**.

- 5.11.32 By summer Year 15, the mitigation measures employed within the Proposed Development would have reached maturity and offer a screening effect. The small portion of the solar arrays within the western field parcels of the Solar Area West would remain a noticeable feature in the view upon elevated landform to the south of the view in the PRow and be of a slightly darker colour. However, any such views would not be prominent or the main focus of the view, and of a small scale and extent. The Proposed Development would remain largely hidden from views and therefore the composition of the character of the view would largely remain intact. There would be a long term and reversible **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a continued **Minor** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. The effects would be **not significant**.

**Representative Viewpoint 16: View from Proposed PRow 62/12/4 re-alignment near the boundary of Fields 4 and 7 looking southeast**

- 5.11.33 On completion of the Proposed Development at winter Year 1, view of solar panels within Solar Area West would be available for receptors moving along the new alignment of the PRow. Solar Area East would be obscured from views for receptors at this location as it would be behind the intervening topography and woodland to the northeast. The security fences and CCTV of the Solar Area West would also be visible for passing receptors within the Site. The overall rural character and composition of the view would change from that of a rural aspect to a developed one.
- 5.11.34 It should be noted however, that the realignment of the PRow would allow for improved access and connectivity from the PRow 62/12/3 further southeast, allowing for users to traverse and continue along the PRow in a north-westerly direction in an area that they would not normally be able to. By the nature of the realignment being situated in areas proximal to the development, there would be an expected long term, reversible **Large** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Major** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. This effect is therefore **significant**.
- 5.11.35 By summer Year 15, the mitigation measures in the form of a boundary screening hedgerow along the security fence would have reached maturity. Glimpsed views of the solar panels within Solar Area West would likely be available through and partially above the proposed boundary vegetation. The composition of the character of the view would be altered offering limited views into the background and narrow the field of view for passing receptors on the footpath.
- 5.11.36 As noted above, the user access and experience would be improved, and as such any adverse impacts would be expected given the nature of the PRow passing directly through the Site. There would be a long term and reversible **Medium** magnitude of impact, resulting in a **Moderate or Major** adverse significance of effect for receptors of **High** sensitivity. The effects would be **significant**.

## Visual Receptor Groups

### Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- 5.11.37 Following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Year 1, people using PRoW 62/12/3, which passes through Solar Area West, would experience a change to the available views. The existing retained boundary vegetation would screen any views toward Solar Area East. There would be general open views of the solar arrays within the southernmost and westerly fields of Solar Area West, as the receptors move along the PRoW. Portions of the solar arrays within Solar Area West would come into view for people moving along sections of the PRoW, travelling in a north-westerly direction, which would be prominent and uncharacteristic to the composition of the views. The views of the panels would be at close range, and of a medium to large extent and scale for people using the PRoW. The predicted magnitude of impact for sections of the PRoW during operation would be **Medium** for users of **High** sensitivity. Therefore, the overall significance of effect would be judged as **Major** adverse. Considering the users' **High** sensitivity, reversibility of the solar farm and the proposed mitigation, which in Year 1 will not have matured, the effect would be judged as **significant**.
- 5.11.38 By summer Year 15, the proposed landscape mitigation running adjacent to the PRoW to the west in the form of a species mix native hedgerow would screen views of solar area west of the solar farm. In addition, the existing embedded mitigation to the east of the PRoW would work in conjunction with the proposed mitigation measures employed alongside the footpath to continue to screen views into Solar Area East. Taller elements such as perimeter fencing and the tops of the solar panels nearest to the boundary and the PRoW may still be potentially visible above the hedgerow in places, such as the southernmost field parcels of Solar Area West, due to changes in topography further south of the PRoW. However, views of these elements would be limited in context with the wider character and views available. The magnitude of impact for those parts of the PRoW where views to small parts of the solar arrays would be **Medium**, resulting in a **Moderate to Major** adverse residual significance of effect, which is **significant**.
- 5.11.39 Following the construction phase (on completion), winter Year 1, people using PRoW 62/13/1 (Representative Viewpoint 2), would have limited views of the Proposed Development due to the changes in local topography and intervening boundary vegetation. Further south along the footpath where it reaches higher elevations (Representative Viewpoint 14), the existing mature field boundary vegetation and variances in landform would continue to screen the Proposed Development from views. For receptors at the portion of the PRoW near Representative Viewpoint 2, views towards Solar Area West would be largely obscured by the changes in local landform variations and the immediately adjacent field boundary hedgerow that runs partially along the western side of the PRoW. Views into Solar Area East would be in the background of the available view and also obscured by layers of intervening field boundary vegetation and changes in topography. The scale and extent of the scheme visible in the view would therefore be small, and of a **Negligible** magnitude of impact. At winter Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting will not have matured and therefore not provide a screening effect. For the **High** sensitivity footpath receptors, during operation in Year 1 the long term and

reversible effects would be judged as **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.

- 5.11.40 At summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting measures adopted within the Solar Area East will have reached maturity. The existing boundary hedgerows would be managed and maintained to a height of between 3 to 5 m, diffusing the massing and scale of the solar arrays within Solar Area East and therefore screening the Proposed Development from views available from the PRow. The eastern solar arrays would be almost indiscernible from any views available, with the mitigation planting measures helping to integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding visual character. The scale of change and extent would be small, long term and reversible, resulting in **Negligible** magnitude of impact, resulting in a continued **Minor** adverse residual significance of effect, which is **not significant**.
- 5.11.41 Following the construction phase (on completion) at winter Year 1, views of the Proposed Development for users of the PRow 62/54/2 (Representative Viewpoints 8 and 9) would vary depending on the location along the PRow. At Year 1, the proposed mitigation planting would not have reached maturity and therefore not provide a screening effect. Views along much of the PRow in other areas are predominantly screened by topographical variation and existing mature vegetation that includes hedgerows and hedgerow trees. The views from elevated portions of the PRow are generally open toward the Proposed Development, with potential distant views of Solar Area East and Solar Area West along the ridgeline. The scale and extent would be medium, with the magnitude of impact as **Small**. Though the views would be open for receptors along this portion of the PRow, any views available would be perpendicular to the direction of travel. The solar panels would not break the skyline as they are generally lower lying features and therefore would not be prominent or alter the overall composition of the character of the views. The resulting long term and reversible effects for the **High** sensitivity footpath receptors in winter Year 1 would be judged as being **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**.
- 5.11.42 At summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting will have reached maturity and thus reaching its desired function of screening the Proposed Development. Where hedgerows have been managed and maintained to grow between 3 to 4 m in height, they would largely screen views and aid in breaking up the massing and scale of the solar arrays, and therefore better integrating the solar farm into the surrounding landscape. There would be a **Small** magnitude of impact and a **Minor** adverse residual significance of effect, with impacts reducing from those parts of the PRow at a greater distance to the project. The effects would be **not significant**.
- 5.11.43 Views from other PRow within the 5 km LVIA Study Area surrounding the Proposed Development where open views are available are likely to result in a magnitude of impact no greater than **Small to Medium** depending on the distance from the solar farm. In general terms, all other PRows other than those identified above would not be subject to effects in winter Year 1 through to summer Year 15 greater than **Minor** adverse, which is **not significant**. The variances in topography within the local landscape and the layers of field boundary vegetation and tree cover is such that views of the Proposed

Development as a whole are limited and unlikely from PRowWs within the wider access network.

### **Views from the surrounding Road Network**

- 5.11.44 Users of the minor road of C2074 would potentially have glimpsed views of the completed solar farm, at winter Year 1, from parts of the road adjacent to the eastern boundary of Solar Area West through gaps in vegetation along the road corridor (Representative Viewpoint 3). For much of the length of the road, mature hedge banks would screen any views of the Proposed Development. Where any views are available, they would be glimpsed and oblique to the direction of travel. At winter Year 1, although implemented, the landscape mitigation will not have matured and therefore offer limited screening effects. Any available views of the Proposed Development would be transient for road users (people travelling in vehicles) along the minor road, where the primary attention would be on the road corridor. Occasional cyclists and pedestrians would be travelling at a slower pace than people in vehicles, however views for such users would also be channelled through gaps in vegetation along the road.
- 5.11.45 The **Low to High** sensitivity of the users along the minor road would be subject to a **Small** magnitude of impact. The resulting effect would be **Minor Adverse** for road and recreational users in operation at Year 1, long term and reversible. The effect would be **not significant**.
- 5.11.46 By summer Year 15, the proposed mitigation measures for the Proposed Development will have matured, providing additional screening effects. Along with the existing retained vegetation in full leaf, it is anticipated that the solar farm would be less noticeable in any available views along the road corridor. Small parts of the Proposed Development situated on raised topography may be distinguishable from the surroundings, however any views would be fleeting for passing receptors and at a distance, and therefore largely go unnoticed. As a result, there would be a **Negligible** magnitude of impact on **Low** and **High** sensitivity receptors at Year 15. The resulting long term and reversible effect would be judged as **Negligible adverse** for road users and **Minor adverse** and recreational users, which is **not significant**.
- 5.11.47 Users of the C2075 / U2216 minor road which passes east to west across the C2074 and south of the Solar Area East (Representative Viewpoint 1) and along the northern edge of the Solar Area West (Representative Viewpoint 4) would experience fleeting, transient views of the Proposed Development during operation in winter Year 1. These road corridors are similar to C2074 in that they are flanked by robust and mature hedge banks either side which limit outwardly views for passing receptors for much of their length. Views of the Proposed Development may be available from gaps in the vegetation such as field gates or where the road is at a higher elevation than the solar farm. As the elements of the solar farm are lower lying, views of the Proposed Development for people passing through in cars, cyclists or walkers would be oblique and brief. From elevated sections of the road that passes near the Solar Area West, there may be views of Solar Area East available when travelling in an easterly direction, albeit in the background of the views.
- 5.11.48 The resulting magnitude of impact would be **Small** for the **Low to High** sensitivity road users, long term and reversible, which materialises into a

**Minor adverse** significance of effect for road users and recreational users during Year 1 of the Proposed Development. The effect is **not significant**.

- 5.11.49 By Year 15, the proposed mitigation planting measures will have reached their desired function in screening the solar farm and breaking up the massing and scale of the Proposed Development. The mitigation planting will also help to integrate the solar farm into the surrounding green infrastructure network, making it almost indistinguishable for receptors passing through the road corridors of C2075 / U2216. It is likely that some parts of the solar arrays within Solar Area East may still be visible for receptors travelling along the road in an easterly direction due to the variances in elevation, but again such views would be largely in the background and distance. Any views for road users along much of the road corridor would be transient, oblique and only through gaps in the hedge banks which flank the road. Therefore, the magnitude of impact would likely reduce to **Negligible**.
- 5.11.50 For **Low** to **High** sensitivity receptors, the long term and reversible effect at Year 15 would likely be **Negligible adverse** for road users and **Minor adverse** for recreational users, which is **not significant**.
- 5.11.51 Various other roads within the local area are also likely to experience similar views during the operation phases of the Proposed Development during winter Year 1 and summer Year 15. Much of the road network in the LVIA Study Area is flanked by mature hedge banks, with views of the surrounding landscape only available along elevated sections such as areas of C2074 (Representative Viewpoint 5), and areas of C2057, near Ffynnon-Wen. As noted before, views from such locations would likely be distance and / or in the background of the views, and only for brief sections of the road corridor. Therefore, it is anticipated that the magnitude of impact during operation in Year 1 through to Year 15 would be no greater than **Small** for road users (people in vehicles) of **Low** sensitivity and **High** for recreational users on roads in the wider LVIA Study Area.
- 5.11.52 The resulting significance would be no greater than **Minor** or **Negligible** adverse during operation in Year 1 and Year 15, which is **not significant**.

### **Decommissioning Phase Landscape and Visual Effects**

- 5.11.53 Predicted effects upon the landscape and visual resource of the Proposed Development site and surrounding landscape during the decommissioning phase would be equivalent to those experienced during construction for its duration, with the small exception of the landscape proposals having reached maturity, which would offer some additional screening of low-level works within the localised views. The decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated to cause any significant effects upon the landscape or visual resource.
- 5.11.54 Assuming all above ground infrastructure and equipment has been removed, together with cables beneath the solar arrays, upon returning to a condition suitable for continued agricultural use the proposed mitigation and biodiversity enhancements would have a long-term beneficial effect upon the landscape and visual amenity of the Site and local landscape.

## Future monitoring

- 5.11.55 Landscape management would be required for a period of five years following the Construction phase (completion) of the Proposed Development to ensure that the newly planted and seeded areas (where applicable) become well established and meet their intended landscape / biodiversity purpose. Management would include the replacement of dead, dying, or damaged stock or those that fail to establish satisfactorily. Pruning that would be beneficial for plant growth, form and plant health would be promoted. This would form part of the landscape and ecological management plan secured in, Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme.

## 5.12 Cumulative Effects Assessment

### Overview

- 5.12.1 GLVIA3 guidance provides the basis for the methodology for the cumulative assessment appropriate to the LVIA. The approach to the cumulative effects assessment is described in in the LVIA Methodology in section 5.6.
- ‘Cumulative effects are the additional changes caused by a proposed development in conjunction with other similar developments or as the combined effect of a set of developments taken together;
  - Cumulative landscape effects are those effects that *‘can impact on either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it’*; and
  - Cumulative visual effects are those effects that can be caused by combined visibility, which occurs where the observer (visual receptor) is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint and/or sequential effects which occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments.’
- 5.12.2 The cumulative developments in this section have been selected from the information provided in Volume 1, Chapter 2: Proposed Development Description, of the ES. It is acknowledged that 10 cumulative schemes have been identified, forming the cumulative effects assessment long list. The LVIA Study Area has been defined on the basis of where significant effects attributable to the Proposed Development are expected, and therefore the LVIA cumulative effects assessment includes only developments which are located within the LVIA Study Area (see **Volume 2, Figure 5.2**).
- 5.12.3 Three developments are located within the LVIA Study Area, as outlined in **Table 5.14** below.

**Table 5.14: List of Cumulative Schemes**

Cumulative schemes name and description of development	Status	Distance (km)	Description of potential effects
<p><b>Towy-Usk connection route</b></p> <p>New 132kV electricity connection to link Bute Energy's Nant Mithil Energy Park to the national grid near Llandyfaelog, Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>Single-circuit overhead line supported on wood poles between Nant Mithil Energy Park and a new switching substation at the foot of Aberedw Hill.</p>	Pre-Application Stage	Approximately 3km north-east	Due to the distance and low-lying nature of the Proposed Development, there would be no notable cumulative effects. Even the proposed communications tower would be screened by the intervening vegetation.
<p><b>Llandyfaelog Substation</b></p> <p>Proposed 400kV substation at Llandyfaelog.</p> <p>Up to two new additional and one replacement 400kV towers circa 45 – 55m tall to connect into the existing OHL to allow the diversion of existing lines into the new substation. The equipment within the substation will consist of a variety of vertical structures supporting overhead busbars with ancillary equipment. The maximum height of the equipment would be approximately 15m and the proposals include landscape mitigation measures.</p>	Pre-Application Stage	Approximately 3km to the north-east	Due to the distance and low-lying nature of the Proposed Development, there would be no notable cumulative effects. Even the proposed communications tower would be screened by the intervening vegetation.

Cumulative schemes name and description of development	Status	Distance (km)	Description of potential effects
<p><b>DNS CAS-03094-T7D9G0 – Green GEN Towy Teifi Grid Connection</b></p> <p>Overhead Line from the proposed Lan Fawr Energy Park to a proposed new substation near Carmarthen.</p>	EIA Scoping	Approximately 2.82km north	Due to the distance and low-lying nature of the Proposed Development, there would be no notable cumulative effects. Even the proposed communications tower would be screened by the intervening vegetation.

- 5.12.4 **Volume 2, Figure 5.37** illustrates the ZTV for the Proposed Development overlaid with the three cumulative schemes within the LVIA Study Area and LAMDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas.
- 5.12.5 A description of the cumulative effects between the Proposed Development and the three developments identified in Table 5.14, upon Landscape and Visual receptors is provided below.

### **Cumulative Landscape Effects**

- 5.12.6 Of the three cumulative schemes to be considered within this cumulative assessment the Llandyfaelog Substation is located within the same LCA (20: Tywi Coastal Hills) as the Proposed Development. Therefore, additional direct effects/changes to landscape fabric and character are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.
- 5.12.7 Due to the distance from the Proposed Development and the nature of the Towy-Usk connection route and the Green GEN Towy Teifi Grid Connection it is considered there would be low-negligible cumulative magnitude of impact upon LCA within the LVIA Study Area.

### **Cumulative Visual Effects**

- 5.12.8 If consented and approved the Llandyfaelog Substation would be located approximately 3km to the northeast of the Proposed Development and approximately 1.5 km from the closest viewpoint (VP6) and would present the potential for a small amount of combined in succession visibility from VP6. However, due to the distance and nature of the Llandyfaelog Substation it is considered there would be negligible adverse cumulative effects during construction and completion in addition to the those of the Proposed Development.
- 5.12.9 The nature of the Towy-Usk connection route and Green GEN Towy Teifi Grid Connection and distance from the Proposed Development would result in negligible adverse cumulative effects during construction and completion in addition to the those of the Proposed Development.
- 5.12.10 Overall, it is considered that the landscape visual resource has the capacity to absorb both the cumulative schemes and the Proposed Development without any significant cumulative effects on landscape character or visual amenity. The distance between the cumulative schemes and the already present detracting features within the Site and surrounding landscape such as the overhead high voltage powerlines and electricity pylons and infrastructure is unlikely to result in any increase in cumulative effects.

## **5.13 Inter-related effects**

- 5.13.1 Inter-relationships are the impacts and associated effects of different aspects of the Proposed Development on the same receptor. These are as follows.
- Project lifetime effects: Assessment of the scope for effects that occur throughout more than one phase of the Project (construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning), to interact to potentially create a more

significant effect on a receptor than if just assessed in isolation in these three phases (e.g., construction noise effects from piling, operational substation noise, and decommissioning disturbance).

- Receptor led effects: Assessment of the scope for all effects (including inter-relationships between environmental topics) to interact, spatially and temporally, to create inter-related effects on a receptor. As an example, all effects on Landscape and Visual Resources, such as vegetation loss or disturbance, may interact to produce a different, or greater effect on this receptor than when the effects are considered in isolation. Receptor-led effects may be short term, temporary or transient effects, or incorporate longer term effects.

5.13.2 **Table 5.15** below lists the inter-related effects (project lifetime effects) that are predicted to arise during the construction, operational and maintenance and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, and also the inter-related effects (receptor-led effects that are predicted to arise for Landscape and Visual Resources and receptors).

**Table 5.15: Summary of likely significant inter-related effects**

Description of impact	Phase			Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
	C	O	D		
Any removal of sections of hedgerow and any other vegetation to accommodate the Proposed Development. Including maintenance access points.	✓	✓	✓	The removal of hedgerow would result in the loss of habitat throughout the Site, affecting the linkages to other existing habitats, such as woodland blocks. The removal of hedgerows would also have an effect upon the physical landscape character and potential intervisibility with the Proposed Development where removal occurs in the vicinity of PRoW or other receptors. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at <b>Section 5.12</b> above and <b>Volume 1, Chapter 6: Biodiversity</b> .	Minor adverse
Effects upon agricultural land (soils)	✓	✓	✓	The Proposed Development will result in the loss of a large area of agricultural land, for the life of the Proposed Development, anticipated to be 40 years. The temporary use of the land for a solar farm, with agricultural use through sheep grazing, would also have an effect upon the physical landscape character and visual amenity of the area. Following decommissioning,	Negligible beneficial

Description of impact	Phase			Likely significant inter-related effects	Significance
	C	O	D		
				the landscape would be returned to agriculture, where it is anticipated that the lack of intensive farming for a period of 40 years would have beneficial effects upon the quality of the soil. Refer to the assessment of visual effects at <b>Section 5.12</b> above and <b>Volume 1, Chapter 7: Soils</b> .	

## 5.14 Summary of environmental effects, mitigation measures and monitoring

5.14.1 Information on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment within the LVIA Study Area was collected through a desktop review of published information and other available data, site surveys and through consultation.

5.14.2 **Table 5.16** presents a summary of the potential environmental effects, additional mitigation, residual effects and further monitoring identified in this chapter of the ES.

5.14.3 A summary of the LVIA findings is set out below:

- The Proposed Development is located within three identified and relevant LANDMAP Aspect Areas, and one county landscape character area as derived from the available local and national landscape character assessment(s) The LANDMAP Aspect Areas and evaluations reviewed provide further additional elements that feed into landscape sensitivity within the character areas present in the LVIA Study Area.
- During construction and decommissioning, it was judged that the effects would not be significant or give rise to effects greater than operational and maintenance phase of the Proposed Development on the inherent character of the LCA 20: Tywi Coastal Hills, due in part to the relative containment and small scale of the Proposed Development when viewed in context with the wider character of the LCA. Potential construction and decommissioning effects would likely only be attributed to the local Site level, which would not be deemed to be greater than Moderate Adverse in these phases. With the inherent mitigation proposals, both embedded and enhanced as part of the Proposed Development, once maturity has been achieved and the net benefit of the landscape proposals in terms of biodiversity and ecological benefits have been achieved, the residual effects on site would then be judged as Minor Adverse.
- The landscape character area identified at county level which wholly encompasses the Proposed Development would result in a Minor adverse and not significant residual effect on the landscape character of the LCA 20: Tywi Coastal Hills.

5.2 With the principal visual effects judged to occur during the operational lifetime of the Proposed Development, which would be for 40 years, the assessment takes into account the overall effects in Year 1 and Year 15 of the Proposed Development, once the enhanced mitigation measures and embedded mitigation come into maturity and full leaf.

- The assessment has taken account of the landscape baseline situation, with the essential landscape structure in terms of existing vegetation being retained, protected and enhanced as part of the Project.
- No significant effects are predicted during construction, operation and maintenance or decommissioning of the Heolddu Solar Farm on landscape character areas within the 5 km LVIA Study Area.
- The Project Site does not lie within a nationally or locally designated landscape.
- In accordance with the LVIA methodology, landscape and visual effects has been assessed at winter Year 1 and summer Year 15.
- Of the 16 Representative Viewpoints assessed as part of the Environmental Statement, it is concluded that there will be one Representative Viewpoint (along PRoW 62/12/4) that would be subject to **Significant** visual effects at winter Year 1 (following the Construction phase of the Project) through to Year 15 arising from the Project during the operation and maintenance phase. This Representative Viewpoint runs through the Solar Area West in a north-westerly direction and would be based upon a realignment of the existing PRoW to a position further west-southwest (as shown on **Volume 2, Figure 2.15, PRoW Diversion Plan**).
- Invariably, receptors moving along a PRoW within a Site are often subject to a higher level of effects due to the immediate and proximal nature of a development and limited opportunities for screening.
- Once the proposed native boundary hedgerow along the security fence at the northeastern side of Solar Area West matures by Year 15, this may lessen the visibility of the features of the Proposed Development. However, there may still be an impact on the overall composition of the character of the view, and thus the residual effects would remain **Significant**.
- One visual receptor of High sensitivity, PRoW 62/12/3 has been identified as experiencing Major adverse significant visual effects at winter Year 1 following completion of the construction phase of the Proposed Development. Receptors moving along the PRoW are likely to experience this change in effect as they move past the Proposed Development when emerging from the footpath as it starts from the minor road in the southeast.
- I Significant effects have been identified, as detailed above, for users of the PRoW 62/12/3 and 62/12/4 which passes through the Solar Area West.
- However, it is reasonable to assume that these effects would start to diminish by year 5 for users of the ProW 62/12/3 as it emerges from 62/12/4 further

southeast when moving away from the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that new hedgerow planting, planted at a height of 60-90 cm, would achieve a growth rate of approximately 30 cm per year. Therefore, by year 5 of the Project, it is anticipated that newly established hedgerows, if suitably managed, would have achieved a height of approximately 2 to 3 metres and therefore screen views to much of the Project. However, effects would remain significant, due to the proximity of the PRow from the Proposed Development as it passes through Solar Area West, as well as the change of the nature of the views for people moving along the footpath.

- The change in visual amenity for such high sensitivity receptors moving through the Solar Area West is not surprising, given the conversion of an agricultural site to that of a developed one, as well as the proximity of the receptors to the Proposed Development. It should also be noted that the change in effect for receptors moving along the footpath 62/12/4 would largely be brought about through its realignment and repositioning further southwest, closer to the solar panels and away from its original position alignment within the adjacent woodland belt and watercourse.
- The main aim of the realignment of the PRow 62/12/4 is to provide a means for an improved user-experience and wider Site connectivity. The realignment would allow for people to traverse across the Solar Area West from the PRow 62/12/3 further southeast that emerges from the minor road, leading in a south-westerly direction toward PRow 62/12/1. As noted above, the current alignment of the PRow 62/12/4 is located within the dense linear woodland belt and watercourse alongside the property of Maesmawr, and as such is not accessible nor conducive to a positive user experience. The re-alignment of the PRow further southwest would move it into a more usable and functional space within the field parcels 4 and 7 of the Solar Area West, and therefore, despite the predicted adverse effects for users on the PRow, it would not negate the benefits of improved user access.
- The assessed effects for visual receptors moving along the PRow is not a reflection on the quality of the scheme or layout, but the process that requires an assumption to be made that most people would see the change from a green field to development as adverse. As the proposed mitigation matures and become more familiar, the effect on the viewer would potentially decrease.
- The cumulative assessment has considered the addition of the Heolddu Solar Farm to 10 consented and / or planned cumulative schemes, as noted in Table 5.7 above. It is concluded that no developments identified within the longlist would be either located with proximal locations of the Proposed Development within the LVIA Study Area, or within the same landscape character area / type as that of any part of the Project. Through an analysis of the ZTV, and due to the locations of the developments identified, there will be no potential intervisibility with the cumulative schemes and any part of the Project.
- On balance, it is considered that the quality and character of the landscape and visual resources would largely be maintained and would have the capacity to accommodate the Project without significant effects beyond one visual receptor

identified at a very local level or where it would be difficult to entirely mitigate visual effects. In addition, proposed planting would have a longer-term benefit reinforcing the landscape character of the local landscape.

**Table 5.16: Summary of potential environmental effects, mitigation and monitoring.**

Description of impact	Phase <sup>a</sup>			Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)
	C	O	D						
Site	✓	✓	✓	Direct	C: Medium O: to Medium D: to Medium	Medium to Low	C: Moderate adverse O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse D: Minor adverse
LCA 20: Tywi Coastal Hills		✓		Direct	O: Small	Medium to Low	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Public Rights of Way (62/12/3)		✓		Direct	O: Medium	High	O: Major adverse	None	O: Moderate to Major adverse
Public Rights of Way (62/13/1)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Public Rights of Way (62/54/2, Cliffordd Byway)		✓		Direct	O: Small	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Public Rights of Way (wider Study Area, including Wales Coast Path)		✓		Direct	O: Small to Medium	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Road Users (C2074)		✓		Direct	O: Small	Low to Medium	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse

Description of impact	Phase <sup>a</sup>			Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)
	C	O	D						
Road Users (C2075)		✓		Direct	O: Small to Medium	Low to Medium	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse
Road Users (U2216)		✓		Direct	O: Small to Medium	Low to Medium	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse
Road Users (wider study area)		✓		Direct	O: Small	Low to Medium	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 1: View looking northeast from local road (C2075)		✓		Direct	O: Small to Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 2: View looking north from PRoW 62/13/1		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse
Representative Viewpoint 3: View looking northwest from local road (C2074)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible To Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse

Description of impact	Phase <sup>a</sup>			Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)
	C	O	D						
Representative Viewpoint 4: View looking generally south from local road (U2216) near Maesmawr Farm		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 5: View looking south from local road (C2074)		✓		Direct	O: Small to Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Moderate adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 6: View looking southwest from local road (C2057)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 7: View looking northwest from PRow (29/31/1 – 29/32/1)		✓		Direct	O: Small	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 8: View looking north from PRow (62/54/2)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse

Description of impact	Phase <sup>a</sup>			Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)
	C	O	D						
Representative Viewpoint 9: View looking north from PRow (62/54/2)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 10: View looking north from PRow (62/15/2)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 11: View looking northeast from Local road (Port Way)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 12: View looking east from PRow (Wales Coast Path)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Negligible adverse	None	O: Negligible adverse
Representative Viewpoint 13: View looking west from local road near Llechdwnni		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	Low to High	O: Negligible to Minor adverse	None	O: Negligible to Minor adverse

Description of impact	Phase <sup>a</sup>			Description of Impact	Magnitude of impact	Sensitivity of the receptor	Significance of effect (Construction and winter Year 1)	Further mitigation	Residual effect (summer Year 15 and Decommissioning)
	C	O	D						
Representative Viewpoint 14: View looking north from PRow 62/13/1		✓		Direct	O: Small	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 15: View looking northeast from PRow (62/32/1)		✓		Direct	O: Negligible	High	O: Minor adverse	None	O: Minor adverse
Representative Viewpoint 16: View from Proposed PRow 62/12/4 re-alignment near the boundary of Fields 4 and 7 looking southeast		✓		Direct	O: Medium to Large	High	O: Major adverse	None	O: Moderate to Major Adverse

<sup>a</sup> C=construction, O=operational and maintenance, D=decommissioning

---

## 5.15 References

*Council of Europe, European Landscape Convention (2000, ratified 2006)*

*Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (May 2021).*

*Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019)*

*Landscape Institute, 2019, Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals.*

*Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (2013).*

*Natural England (2014); An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*

*Natural Resources Wales (NRW) GN46: Using LANDMAP In Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (Web based Resource)*

*NRW National Landscape Character Areas. Available at <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en>*

*Carmarthenshire Draft Landscape Character Assessment SPG (LUC on behalf of CCC, January 2025)*

*Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (February 2024)*

*Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (adopted December 2014)*

### **Online source:**

*LANDMAP – the Welsh Baseline. Available at <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/business-sectors/planning-and-development/evidence-to-inform-development-planning/landmap-the-welsh-landscape-baseline/?lang=en>*

*Future Wales: the national plan 2040. Available [at https:// www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040](https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040)*