



# Nantycaws HWRC

## Landscape and Visual Statement

R01

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by the Cwm Environmental to prepare this Landscape and Visual Statement (LVS) which relates to the proposed installation of ground mounted solar arrays on a former landfill site at Nantycaws Recycling Centre, Nantycaws, Carmarthenshire. The site location and extent are as shown on **Figure LA.04**.
- 1.1.2 A wider 2km study area has also been considered for this LVS as the area where landscape and visual effects may arise from the proposed solar arrays at the site.
- 1.1.3 The LVS is illustrated by plans and photographs in **Appendix 1**, as follows:
- |                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Figures <b>LA.01</b> | Site location          |
| Figure <b>LA.02</b>  | Designations           |
| Figures <b>LA.03</b> | Public access          |
| Figure <b>LA.04</b>  | Site context appraisal |
| Figures <b>LA.05</b> | LANDMAP                |
| Figures <b>LA.06</b> | Appraisal Photographs  |

### 1.2 Statement methodology

- 1.2.1 The methodology used for reviewing the landscape character and visual amenity of the study site and surrounding area is broadly based on the recommendations in **Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition**, published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (GLVIA3).
- 1.2.2 The Landscape and Visual Statement process comprises high-level desk studies and field surveys. A Chartered Landscape Architect from Tir Collective visited the site and surrounding area on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024 during dry weather with good visibility.

#### Guidance

- 1.2.3 In addition to GLVIA3, the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note, **Visual Representation of Development Proposals**, September 2019<sup>1</sup> was referred to.
- 1.2.4 Relevant policy, landscape character assessments, and other contextual information sources were also referred to, including:
- NRW LANDMAP assessment information and Guidance Note 46

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<sup>1</sup> The Landscape Institute Guidance Note, Visualisation of development, September 2019, on LI website: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/>

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- Policies relevant to the landscape and visual amenity in national and local policy including the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2021.

## 2.0 Landscape Policies and Designations

### 2.1 National planning policy

#### Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

2.1.1 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, published 24 February 2021, sets out the development plan for Wales, influencing “all levels of the planning system in Wales and will help shape Strategic and Local Development Plans.”<sup>2</sup> The plan promotes development that enhances our wellbeing and our quality of life<sup>3</sup> and embeds the principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The plan sets out development policies for Wales, dividing it into 4 regions: The North, Mid Wales, The Southwest, and The Southeast, the site is located in the southeast region.

2.1.2 The key policies that are of relevance to the proposed development include:

- **Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure** aims “To ensure the... provision of green infrastructure, the Welsh Government will work with key partners to:
  - [...]
  - 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.
  - ... In all cases, action towards securing the maintenance and enhancement of... green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals.
- **Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure** states “The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs...
  - New strategic grid infrastructure for the transmission and distribution of energy should be designed to minimise visual impact on nearby communities.”

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<sup>2</sup> <https://gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040-0>

<sup>3</sup> Page 4, Future Wales The National Plan 2040



- **Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance** states “Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to policy 17 and the following criteria:
  1. ...the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty);
  2. there are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings;
  11. 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.The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.”

### Planning policy Wales

- 2.1.3 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 published February 2024 sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. Its primary objective is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other key legislation and resultant duties such as the Socio-economic Duty.
- 2.1.4 PPW translates The Welsh Government’s commitment to sustainable development into the planning system, to be taken into account when preparing development plans, so that it can play an appropriate role in moving towards sustainability. The key policies that are of relevance to the development include:
  - **Chapter 2 People and Places, paragraph 2.1** states that “Everyone engaged with or operating within the planning system in Wales must embrace the concept of placemaking... in order to achieve the creation of sustainable places and improve the well-being of communities.”
  - Paragraph 2.17** states ... the creation of sustainable places and in recognition of the need to contribute to the well-being of future generations in Wales through placemaking, development plans and development proposals must seek to deliver developments that address the national sustainable placemaking outcomes.”

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**Paragraph 2.27** states “Planning authorities should ensure that social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits are considered in the decision-making process... to implement the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Sustainable Development Principle.” A key factor is environmental considerations, which are listed as:

- “will important features of the natural and built environment be protected and enhanced;
- are the environmental impacts of development on... amenity limited to acceptable levels...;
- is environmental protection for people and natural resources, property and infrastructure maximised and environmental risks prevented or appropriately managed;
- [...]
- will the causes and impacts of climate change be fully taken into account through location, design, build, operation...
- [...]”

- **Chapter 3 Strategic and Spatial Choices** paragraph 3.9 states “The special characteristics of an area should be central to the design of a development. The layout, form, scale and visual appearance of a proposed development and its relationship to its surroundings are important planning considerations.”

**Paragraph 3.10** goes on to state “In areas recognised for their particular landscape 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... will be particularly important.”

- **Chapter 5 Productive and Enterprising** Places paragraph 5.7.1 states “Low carbon electricity must become the main source of energy in Wales.”

**Paragraph 5.9.1** states “Local authorities should facilitate all forms of renewable and low carbon energy development...”

**Paragraph 5.9.20** states “Planning authorities should also identify and require suitable ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts of renewable and low carbon energy development. The construction, operation, decommissioning, remediation and aftercare of proposals should take into account:

- the need to minimise impacts on local communities, such as from noise and air pollution, to safeguard quality of life for existing and future generations;
- the impact on the natural and historic environment;



- cumulative impact;  
[...]
- grid connection issues where renewable (electricity) energy developments are proposed; and
- the impacts of climate change on the location, design, build and operation of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, consider whether measures to adapt climate change impacts give rise to additional impacts.

**Paragraph 5.9.21** goes on to state that “Prior to an application being submitted, developers for renewable and low carbon energy development should, wherever possible, consider how to avoid, or otherwise minimise, adverse impacts through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures”

- **Chapter 6 Distinctive & Natural Places, paragraph 6.0.2** states “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.”

**Section 6.3 Landscape, paragraph 6.3.3** states “All the landscapes of Wales are valued for their intrinsic contribution to a sense of place, and local authorities should protect and enhance their special characteristics, whilst paying due regard to the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide, and to their role in creating valued places.”

## Local planning policy

- 2.1.5 The site lies within Carmarthenshire County Council. Planning policy for the area is provided by the Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2016-2021, adopted December 2010. The Council are currently in the process of producing the Replacement LDP up to 2033. Policies relevant to the site and the potential solar energy development and include:

### Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2021, February 2014

- Policy **SP1 Sustainable Places and Spaces** states that “Proposals for development will be supported where they reflect sustainable development and design principles by:
  - Distributing development to sustainable locations in accordance with the settlement framework, supporting the roles and functions of the identified settlements;
  - Promoting, where appropriate, the efficient use of land including previously developed sites;

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[...]

- Respecting, reflecting and, wherever possible, enhancing local character and distinctiveness;
- Protect and enhance the area's biodiversity value and where appropriate, seek to integrate nature conservation into new development."
- Policy **SP2 Climate Change** states that "Development proposals which respond to, are resilient to, adapt to and minimise for the causes and impacts of climate change will be supported. In particular proposals will be supported where they:

[...]

- e) Promote the energy hierarchy by reducing energy demand, promoting energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy"
- Policy **SP11 Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency** states that "Development proposals which incorporate energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production technologies will be supported in areas where the environmental and cumulative impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. Such developments will not cause demonstrable harm to residential amenity and will be acceptable within the landscape. Each proposal will be assessed on a case by case basis."
- Policy **SP13 Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment** states that "Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets (outlined below), and, where appropriate, their setting. Proposals relating to the following will be considered in accordance with national guidance and legislation.
  - a) Sites and features of recognised Historical and Cultural Importance;
  - b) Listed buildings and their setting;
  - c) Conservation Areas and their setting;
  - d) Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of recognised archaeological importance.
- Policy **SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment** states that "Development should reflect the need to protect, and wherever possible enhance the County's natural environment.

All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national guidance/legislation and the policies and proposals of this Plan, with due consideration



given to areas of nature conservation value, the countryside, landscapes and coastal areas, including those outlined below:

- a) Statutory designated sites including Ramsar sites, SPAs, SACs, SSSIs and National Nature Reserves;
  - b) Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Value, including protected species and habitats of acknowledged importance as well as key connectivity corridors and pathways; (Policy EQ4 and EQ5)
  - c) Regional and Locally important sites (and their features) including Local Nature Reserves and RIGS; (see Policy EQ3)
  - d) Areas of identified Landscape and Seascape quality; (including SLAs)
  - e) Features which contribute to local distinctiveness, nature conservation value or the landscape; (see Policy EQ5)
  - f) The Open Countryside; (see Policy GP2)
  - g) The best and most versatile agricultural land; (Grade 2 and 3a)
  - h) Natural assets: including air, soil (including high carbon soils) controlled waters and water resources. (See Policies EP1 and EP2)
- Policy **GP1**
  - **Sustainability and High-Quality Design** states that “Development proposals will be permitted where they accord with the following:
    - a) It conforms with and enhances the character and appearance of the site, building or area in terms of siting, appearance, scale, height, massing, elevation treatment, and detailing;
    - b) It incorporates existing landscape or other features, takes account of site contours and changes in levels and prominent skylines or ridges;  
[...]
    - c) It would not have a significant impact on the amenity of adjacent land uses, properties, residents or the community;  
[...]
    - d) It retains, and where appropriate incorporates important local features (including buildings, amenity areas, spaces, trees, woodlands and hedgerows) and ensures the use of good quality hard and soft landscaping and embraces opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity;

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- e) It achieves and creates attractive, safe places and public spaces, which ensures security through the 'designing-out-crime' principles of Secured by Design (including providing natural surveillance, visibility, well lit environments and areas of public movement);
- f) An appropriate access exists or can be provided which does not give rise to any parking or highway safety concerns on the site or within the locality;
- g) It protects and enhances the landscape, townscape, historic and cultural heritage of the County and there are no adverse effects on the setting or integrity of the historic environment;
- h) It ensures or provides for, the satisfactory generation, treatment and disposal of both surface and foul water;  
  
[...]
- i) It includes, where applicable, provision for the appropriate management and eradication of invasive species.

Proposals will also be considered in light of the policies and provisions of this Plan and National Policy (PPW: Edition 7 and TAN12: Design (2014))."

- Policy **EQ1 Protection of Buildings, Landscapes and Features of Historic Importances** states that "Proposals for development affecting landscapes, townscapes buildings and sites or features of historic or archaeological interest which by virtue of their historic importance, character or significance within a group of features make an important contribution to the local character and the interests of the area will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the built and historic environment."
- **Policy EQ3 Regional and Local Designations** states that "Proposals for development that are likely to cause unacceptable harm to a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) will only be permitted where the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation value of the site or feature is clearly outweighed by the reasons for the development or land use change.  
  
The designation of such sites will, where appropriate, be supported."
- Policy **EQ4 Biodiversity** states that Proposals for development which have an adverse impact on priority species, habitats and features of recognised principal importance to the conservation of biodiversity and nature conservation, (namely those protected by Section 42 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and UK and Local BAP habitats and species and other than sites and species protected under European or UK legislation) will not be permitted, except where it can be demonstrated that:

- a) The impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated, acceptably minimised or appropriately managed to include net enhancements;
  - b) There are exceptional circumstances where the reasons for the development or land use change clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the site and where alternative habitat provision can be made in order to maintain and enhance local biodiversity.”
- **Policy EQ5 Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness** states that “Proposals for development which would not adversely affect those features which contribute local distinctiveness/qualities of the County, and to the management and/or development of ecological networks (wildlife corridor networks), accessible green corridors and their continuity and integrity will be permitted.

Proposals which include provision for the retention and appropriate management of such features will be supported (provided they conform to the policies and proposals of this Plan).”

- **Policy EQ6 Special Landscape Areas** states that “Special Landscape Areas are designated in the following locations and as identified on the Proposals Map:

[...]

Tywi Valley

[...]

Proposals for development which enhance or improve the Special Landscape Areas through their design, appearance and landscape schemes will be permitted (subject to the policies and proposals of this Plan)”

- **Policy RE3 Non-wind Renewable Energy Installations** states that “Proposals for small scale non-wind renewable energy installations outside defined Development Limits are required to satisfactorily justify the need to be sited in such a location. Such proposals should be sited in close proximity to existing buildings and structures and will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.

Large scale schemes located outside defined Development Limits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where there is an overriding need for the scheme which can be satisfactorily justified, and the development will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.

Proposals that would cause demonstrable harm to the landscape, visual impact, noise, ecology, or ground and surface water as a result of the cumulative effect of renewable energy installations will not be permitted.”

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### 2.2 Designations

2.2.1 Designations provide an indication of landscape value. They are areas that have been recognised for the scenic beauty and recreational potential of the landscape. Designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**.

#### National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

2.2.2 The site and study area are not located within or close to a National Park or AONB, statutory designated landscapes are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVS.

#### Special Landscape Area

2.2.3 The Tywi Valley Special Landscape Area lies approximately 1.89km northeast of the site at its closest boundary point. As a result of distance and visual separation provided by landform, the SLA is scoped out from further consideration in this LVS.

#### Ancient Woodland

2.2.4 There are several areas of **Ancient Woodland** within the 2km study area, as shown on **Figure LA.02**. The nearest one is located approximately 935m southeast of the site at its nearest point, at Afon y Bantwen, where there are linked areas of **Ancient Semi Natural Woodland** and **Restored Ancient Woodland**, extending to approximately 2.2km from the site.

2.2.5 There is a clustered grouping of small Ancient Semi Natural Woodland blocks in the north of the study area around Allt Pen-cerig (approximately 1km northeast of the site) and Gorsfach Farm (approximately 1.45km northeast).

2.2.6 A further area of Semi Natural Ancient Woodland is located at a disused quarry near Allt y Cocyn, approximately 1.1km northwest of the site.

2.2.7 On the southeast periphery of the study area, approximately 1.7km southeast of the site lies an area of Ancient Semi Natural and Restored Ancient Woodland along a watercourse at Blaen-y-wern.

2.2.8 Adjacent to the settlement of Nantycaws, on the northwest edge of the study area, there is a further area of Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, approximately 1.8km from the site.

#### Historic and cultural landscape designations

2.2.9 The setting of historic and cultural designations is a consideration during the preparation of this LVS as these features inform the overall landscape character, quality and value of the area. This LVS does not address the effects on heritage assets however it considers the contribution these features make to landscape value and scenic quality.

2.2.10 Relevant historic and cultural designations are shown on **Figure LA.02**.

## Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest

- 2.2.11 The **Tywi Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest** is located circa 1.9km to the northeast at its nearest point, extending north beyond the study area over a large area. As a result of distance and visual separation, the Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest is scoped out from further consideration in this LVS.

## Conservation areas and listed buildings

- 2.2.12 There are no Conservation Areas within the 2km study area, and they are therefore scoped out of further consideration within this LVS.

## Listed buildings

- 2.2.13 There are no listed buildings within the site. The nearest listed building to the site lies approximately 1km northwest at **Brigwallt y Coed Farm**, where there is a grouping of three listed buildings.

## Scheduled Monuments

- 2.2.14 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the 2km study area, Scheduled Monuments are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVS.

## Ecological designations

- 2.2.15 Ecological designations, although not specifically related to landscape amenity and not assessed within this report, are an indication of landscape value. There are no SINCs within the site and within the 1km study area and are therefore scoped out from further consideration in this LVS.

## Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 2.2.16 There are no SSSIs within the site. The nearest SSSI to the site is at **Pen-Ty Pastures and Wood**, which is located circa 968m to the southeast at its nearest point. The site "consists of two areas of unimproved herb-rich grassland linked by a wet semi-natural wood. This habitat complex is of outstanding botanical and entomological interest, supporting a number of uncommon species"<sup>4</sup>

## Public access

- 2.2.17 Public rights of way and access land are shown on **Figure LA.03**.

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<sup>4</sup> [DYFED \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://naturalresources.wales) (Accessed July 2024)



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### Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

- 2.2.18 There are no public footpaths within the site. The wider study area contains a number of public footpaths, generally concentrated beyond 800m of the site, connecting farmsteads. There are two bridleways to the east of the settlement of Nantycaws.

### National Cycle Route (NCR)

- 2.2.19 There are no National Cycle Routes within the 2km study area, NCRs are therefore scoped out of further consideration within this LVS.

### Long Distance Footpaths (LDFP)

- 2.2.20 There are no Long-Distance Footpaths (LDFP) within the 2km study area, LDFPs are therefore scoped out of further consideration within this LVS.

### Open access land

- 2.2.21 There is no open access land within the 2km study area, open access land is therefore scoped out of further consideration within this LVS.

## 3.0 Landscape baseline

### 3.1 LANDMAP

- 3.1.1 The landscape baseline is a description and analysis of the existing landscape. The landscape is described, first, by reference to landscape character assessments for the area in which the site is located, at national and local levels, and then, from site-specific surveys and analysis carried out for the purposes of this study.
- 3.1.2 Landscape Assessment, following the LANDMAP methodology, has been undertaken for Monmouthshire. The assessment uses the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) / Wales Landscape Partnership Group approach which separates the defining aspects of the landscape into five categories, or aspect layers: Geological Landscape, Landscape Habitats, Historic Landscape, Cultural Landscape Services, and Visual & Sensory. It considers the relationship that exist between people and places; how people have given meaning to places through time and how the physical landscape has shaped their actions, or how their actions have shaped the landscape.
- 3.1.3 Summarised descriptions for the most relevant aspect areas to the study site and its context are outlined below for all five aspect layers. The findings of the LANDMAP studies have formed the basis of the landscape and visual baseline within this LVS. **Table 1** below defines the criteria that LANDMAP uses for evaluating each aspect area.

**Table 1 Criteria for evaluating LANDMAP Aspect Areas<sup>5</sup>**

LANDMAP Evaluation	Definition
Outstanding	of international or national importance
High	of regional or county importance
Moderate	of local importance
Low	of little or no importance
Unassessed	insufficient information exists to evaluate

- 3.1.4 Characteristics of particular relevance to the site and its context are highlighted in bold. LANDMAP aspect areas for Historic Landscape and Visual and Sensory aspect layers are illustrated on **Figure LA.05**.

#### Geological Landscape

- 3.1.5 **The site and the greater part of the study area** is located within aspect area **Capel Dewi** (CMRTGL200)<sup>6</sup>, which is classified as **Other** (Level 3) and **Lowland glacial and fluvioglacial depositional terrain** (Level 2). The geographical and topographical character of the area is described as (question GL4) "**Extensive raised area** with glacial clay (Quaternary: Pleistocene) filling depressions in an **undulating surface** of mainly Ordovician slaty mudrocks. Areas of **marsh and peat** present. Northern part of area forms part of southern margin of **Towy river system**." The rarity/uniqueness (question GL31) of the area is evaluated as **outstanding** and the overall evaluation (question GL33) for the area is **outstanding**, as the aspect area "including GCR / SSSI features of national / international significance".

#### Landscape Habitats

- 3.1.6 **The site and the greater part of the study area** is located within aspect area **Nantycaws** (CRMRTLH041)<sup>7</sup>, which is classified as **Improved Grassland** (Level 3). The key features that define the area's biodiversity character (question LH24) are described as "**Poorly draining agricultural land** within a **gently rolling landscape**, characterised by a higher proportion of **marshy grassland** than within the surrounding matrix of generally improved grasslands."
- 3.1.7 The overall evaluation (question LH45) for the area is **high**, for the "**high proportion of semi-improved habitat of value to a range of wildlife**".

<sup>5</sup> LANDMAP Methodology Overview, June 2017 <https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/681752/landmap-methodology-overview-2017-eng.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=131547814890000000>

<sup>6</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=11799](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=11799) (accessed July 2024)

<sup>7</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=5121](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=5121) (accessed July 2024)

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- 3.1.8 **The site** is located within aspect area **Mynydd Cyfor, Pant-y-Parchell** (CRMRTL39607<sup>8</sup>), which is classified as **Irregular Fields** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question HL4) "Mynydd Cyfor, Pant-y-Parchell, **enclosed by medium sized irregular field enclosures** to the NE and SW with a **central core of regularly laid out fields**. A settlement pattern of **dispersed farmsteads and cottages** and includes the **nucleated settlement of Idole**. Most significant archaeological element(s): **Iron Age and Roman, Medieval settlement**"
- 3.1.9 The overall evaluation (question HL40) for the area is **high**, as "this area scores high in most categories but its potential and rarity scores are moderate. It is a **typical example of a Carmarthenshire agricultural landscape**".

### Cultural Landscape Services

- 3.1.10 Cultural Landscape Services (CLS) now supersedes the Cultural Landscape aspect layer, which was updated in 2020. CLS responds to "Recent environment and well-being legislation and developments in current thinking relating to culture suggest the dataset would benefit from a different approach to mapping if revisited..."<sup>9</sup> The data for CLS uses data from the other four aspect layers and provide no overall evaluations for each aspect area.
- 3.1.11 Refer to the Visual and Sensory aspect areas below for further detail.

### Visual & Sensory

- 3.1.12 **The study area** is located in aspect area **Middleton Hills** (CRMRTVS960)<sup>10</sup>, which is classified as **Open Rolling Lowland** (Level 3). The aspect area is described as (question VS3) "The area consists of **rolling hills** between the Tywi valley and the Gwendraeth Fach. Of **varying agricultural quality**, the majority of the area is improved especially towards the west of the area on the red sandstone. There are **areas of woodland and fairly strong field boundaries** on **medium sized fields**, with some **hedgerow trees**. The area is **well settled** with mainly **scattered settlement** and appears **fairly prosperous**. The National Botanic Garden and its dome are visible but are identified in a separate aspect area. The area also contains **the A48 [T] and its associated transport corridor**. Within a mile or so of the road this **bring noise**, but the bulk of the area remains **unaffected** by this road and is **tranquil**. In many places the **road provides views** over the surrounding area and beyond. Essentially it is an **attractive rolling agricultural landscape** and **relatively undeveloped**. Change detection 2014: Housing on edge of Carmarthen has expanded into this area".

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<sup>8</sup> [Landmap Portal \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales) (accessed July 2024)

<sup>9</sup> LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services, Report No 336, prepared by E.K Naumann, Dr K Metcalf, Environmental Systems, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

<sup>10</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=11584](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=11584) (accessed July 2024)

3.1.13 The scenic quality (question VS46) of the area is evaluated as **moderate**, character (question VS48) is evaluated as **moderate**, and the overall evaluation (question VS50) for the area is also **moderate**, as “Overall this is **not considered to be an area of high scenic quality**. However, within the area there are some **areas worthy of note** such as the landscape that forms the **setting for the National Botanic Garden. Views from the area are of high scenic quality**, particularly those towards the **Tywi valley**. The area is **disrupted by the A48 [T] corridor**, but otherwise little disrupts this landscape. There is **visual unity** in this area, with a **repeated pattern of visual features** across the area. There are **few distinguishing features**, but **extensive views** from the area north towards the Tywi valley. There are several areas of **rolling lowland** in the county, all slightly different.”

### LANDMAP Summary

3.1.14 Table 2 below summarises the evaluations for each aspect area that the site is located in (overall evaluations are not provided for the Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Layer):

**Table 2 Summary of LANDMAP**

Aspect Layer	Aspect Area name and Unique ID	Classification (Level 3)	Overall Evaluations
Geological Landscape	<b>Capel Dewi</b> UID: <b>CRMRTGL200</b>	Other	Outstanding
Landscape Habitats	<b>Nantycaws</b> UID: <b>CRMRTLH041</b>	Improved Grassland	High
Historic Landscape	<b>Mynydd Cyfor, Pant-y-Parchell</b> UID: <b>CRMRLH39607</b>	Irregular Fieldscapes	High
Cultural Landscape Services	<b>Middleton Hills</b> UID: <b>CRMRTCLS235</b>	Open Rolling Lowland	N/A
Visual and Sensory	<b>Middleton Hills</b> UID: <b>CRMRTVS960</b>	Open Rolling Lowland	Moderate

## 3.2 Site-specific review

3.2.1 The following paragraphs provide descriptions of the site and should be read alongside Site Context **Figure LA.04** and Appraisal Photographs **Figures LA.06**.

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### The landscape, features, character, and aesthetics of the site

- 3.2.2 The site is located to the south of Nantycaws approximately 6km southeast of Carmarthen, in the County of Carmarthenshire. The site comprises a single, triangular field enclosure of rough pasture, as shown by the redline boundary of **Figure LA.01**. The site is associated with Nantycaws waste management centre and was previously a landfill site which was fully restored over 20 years ago.
- 3.2.3 Landform within the site slopes broadly northwest to southeast, from a high point of approximately 139m AOD to a low point of approximately 127m AOD. Landform in the site and study area is shaped by rolling hills between the Tywi River north of the study area boundary and Gwendraeth Fach to the south of the study area. Afon y bantwen lies approximately 300m south of the site and shapes the rolling landscape, along with other small tributaries within the study area. Topography within the vicinity of the site is also influenced by the restoration at the landfill site, which includes a prominent hill landform to the west of the site.
- 3.2.4 The boundaries of the site are defined on the east and west side by access tracks to the waste management centre to the north. The southern boundary of the site takes a line through the field enclosure that is not marked on the ground by a boundary feature. A wind turbine lies at close distance to the site to the north, associated with the waste management centre, which includes a number of large buildings, parking and other infrastructure. Scrubby woodland vegetation close to the site creates a relatively well-treed landscape. There is a mature oak hedge on the east side of the access track to the east of the site. Based on a review of historic mapping, the hedge to the east of the site is a remnant of the agricultural field pattern that pre-dates the landfilling at the site<sup>11</sup>. There was a rectilinear field pattern to the west of this hedgeline which was removed as part of the landfilling at the site and land to the northwest.
- 3.2.5 The site field is typical of the LANDMAP visual and sensory Aspect Area Middleton Hills (CRMRTVS960)<sup>12</sup>, with perceptual and other sensory qualities described as “attractive”, and “settled”, with “attractive views” both in and out, and detractive views within as a result of “inappropriate development in village edges”. There is moderate sense of place/ local distinctiveness and “visual unity...with a repeated pattern of visual features”.

### Landscape Value

- 3.2.6 The characteristics, sensitivities and guidelines in the existing character assessments at national and local level and the site-specific analyses carried out for the purposes of this LVApp were taken into account as indicators of the aspects of the landscape important to the

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<sup>11</sup> [Historic OS mapping of the site and context as accessed at the National Library of Scotland website 18 July 2024](#)

<sup>12</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=11584](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=11584)



character and evaluated according to the criteria in **Appendix 2, Table A2-1** in order to determine the value of the landscape receptors.

3.2.7 The features/elements/characteristics identified as important or “key” to the landscape character of the site are:

- Southward sloping topography and nearby man-made landforms.
- Triangular field shape within restored landscape.
- Rough grassland landcover with well-vegetated setting.
- Rolling agricultural wider landscape

## 4.0 Effects on the landscape

4.1.1 This section examines the nature and significance of the landscape effects arising as a result of the proposed development with reference to:

- effects on landscape fabric within the site, its features and qualities;
- effects on landscape character, including consideration of effects on designated landscapes; and
- effects on the landscape setting of settlements, public rights of way and roads.

4.1.2 Landscape character is derived from the combination and pattern of landscape elements. The effects of proposed development on landscape character would arise from its relationship to these combinations and patterns, and thus the character of the landscape. Effects on the landscape features, qualities and character may occur where there are either direct or indirect physical changes to the landscape. Direct changes to landscape fabric would only occur within the application boundary.

4.1.3 The effect of the proposed development on landscape character will depend on key characteristics of the receiving landscape; the degree to which the proposed development is considered consistent with or at odds with them; and how the proposed development would be perceived within the setting, with perception being influenced by:

- the distance to the site;
- weather conditions; and
- the ‘fit’ of the proposed development within the landscape pattern and characteristics.

### Sensitivity

4.1.4 Landscape sensitivity is a product of consideration of the value associated with the landscape receptor and its susceptibility to the changes likely to arise from the proposed development.

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Criteria for determining the landscape value and landscape susceptibility are set out in **Appendix 2**. For this appraisal the assessment of sensitivity is based on bringing value and susceptibility considerations together in one combined step, in accordance with the criteria set out in **Appendix 2**.

- 4.1.5 The receptors, their value and susceptibility are set out in the following table, with the resultant judgement of their sensitivity to the proposed development:

**Table 1 Susceptibility and Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors**

Receptor	Value	Susceptibility	Sensitivity
<b>Southward sloping topography and nearby man-made landforms</b>	<b>High-medium</b> – reflective of the Geological Landscape Aspect Layer evaluation combined with localised human influences on topography which are less typical of the aspect area	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change as solar arrays are to be accommodated within existing topography	<b>Moderate sensitivity</b>
<b>Triangular field shape within restored landscape</b>	<b>Low</b> – the triangular shape of the ‘field’ within the site is not defined by hedgerows and is not consistent with the wider field pattern of the Historic Landscape Aspect Layer evaluation combined with localised human influences on field pattern which are less typical of the aspect area	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change as solar arrays are to be accommodated within existing field shape	<b>Lesser sensitivity</b>
<b>Rough grassland landcover and well-vegetated setting</b>	<b>Medium</b> – reflective of the Landscape Habitats and Visual and Sensory Aspect Layers and non-designated landscape	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change as features are to be retained and protected with appropriate buffers between the proposals and hedgerows	<b>Moderate-lesser sensitivity</b>
<b>Rolling agricultural wider landscape</b>	<b>High-medium</b> – reflective of the combined LANDMAP Aspect Layer evaluations within a non-designated landscape.	<b>Low susceptibility</b> to change of overall character by the addition of solar arrays within the rolling productive landscape	<b>Moderate sensitivity</b>

### Magnitude of change

- 4.1.6 The magnitude of change considers the key features of the proposed development, as described in **section 3.0**, and the degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered by these changes or by the structures associated with the development. The magnitude of change is described and set out in **Table 4**:

**Table 2 Landscape receptors and magnitude of change summary**

Landscape Receptor	Magnitude of Change
<p><b>Southward sloping topography and nearby man-made landforms</b></p>	<p><b>Small</b> Southward sloping landscape would remain unchanged. There may be some increased perception of enclosure as a result of the solar arrays; however, this would not be incongruous with the large-scale man-made landforms nearby.</p>
<p><b>Triangular field shape within restored landscape</b></p>	<p><b>Small</b> The triangular pattern of the site would be retained and continue to form a characteristic of the restored landscape. Proposed hedgerow planting would help to restore field pattern across the site.</p>
<p><b>Rough grassland landcover and well-vegetated setting</b></p>	<p><b>Medium</b> The vegetated setting would remain intact and characteristic, with some enhancement through hedgerow planting. The grassland, including priority habitat would be retained. All grassland at the site would be enhanced through targeted management. The proposal would avoid development on the main area mapped as marshy grassland, as this is referable to the 'Purple moor-grass and Rush-pastures' Priority Habitat. The adjoining semi-improved neutral grassland where the arrays are proposed would be managed towards a more species-rich grassland through late summer mowing with associated removal of arisings.</p>
<p><b>Rolling agricultural wider landscape</b></p>	<p><b>Medium-small</b> The proposed development would add infrastructure to the site; however, it would sit within the landscape with other key characteristics retained.</p>

### Assessment of effects on the landscape

- 4.1.7 Consideration of the magnitude of the changes due to the proposals is combined with consideration of the sensitivity of landscape receptors affected by the proposals to assess the degree and nature of the effect at each stage of the proposed development.
- 4.1.8 Final conclusions about the degree of landscape effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. A summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 5** below:

**Table 5 Effects on Landscape Receptors**

Landscape receptors and sensitivity	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
Southward sloping topography and nearby man-made landforms: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Moderate-minor, neutral</b> due to the small-scale change for moderate sensitivity receptors
Triangular field shape within restored landscape: <b>Lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>Small</b>	<b>Minor, neutral</b> due to the small-scale change for Lesser sensitivity receptors
Rough grassland landcover and well-vegetated setting: <b>moderate-lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Moderate-minor, beneficial</b> due to the medium scale change for moderate-lesser sensitivity receptors and proposed hedgerow planting to reintroduce field pattern.
Rolling agricultural wider landscape: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>Medium-small</b>	<b>Moderate-minor, neutral</b> due to the medium-small scale change for a moderate sensitivity receptor.

## 5.0 Effects on Visual Amenity

### 5.1 Scope and Assessment Criteria

- 5.1.1 This section deals with the effects on visual amenity, arising from changes in the views available to people in the surrounding area.
- 5.1.2 The methodology for assessing the effects in this report is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 5.1.3 The degree of the likely visual effects of the proposed development is determined by relating the sensitivity of the receptors to the changes arising from the development proposals, and the degree and nature of the changes in the views available to people and in their visual amenity arising from the proposals.

## 6.0 Visual baseline

- 6.1.1 The visual amenity review has involved desk study and field survey analysis work to identify and record views of the site from publicly accessible locations within the surrounding landscape. These are to illustrate the nature of the views available for several types of receptors, see Appraisal Photographs **Figures LA.06** and **Figure LA.04** for the photo locations. Photographs were also taken from a location within the site to show features of the site such as boundary vegetation, topography, and its context within the wider landscape.

- 6.1.2 The topographic pattern of the area combines with surface screening features to create a relatively contained visual envelope. In broad terms, the visual envelop is shaped by the undulating agricultural landscape, the mounded restored landfill site to the west and southeast sloping topography of the site. The undulating, sloping land and mature vegetation local to the site limit views within approximately 500m of the site. Beyond the immediate setting, the visual envelop opens to the south, where the rolling landform rises and longer-range views of agricultural fields on northward sloping land are available from the site. Views from the site to the north are limited to a small, elevated area immediately north of the A48.
- 6.1.3 A total of six views were photographed to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly accessible locations. Of the six views that were taken, three were carried forward as representative viewpoints for the visual amenity assessment. These assessment views are shown in **Figure LA.06-1 – LA.06-3** and the locations are shown on **Figure LA.04**.
- 6.1.4 Context views are shown on **Figures LA.06-4 – LA.06-6** and the location also shown on **Figure LA.04**. Context views illustrate views where the site and/or the proposed development would be entirely or mostly screened from view, is difficult to perceive or is viewed at distance. A photograph from within the site was also taken to illustrate its features and context, see **Figures LA.06-7**.
- 6.1.5 The six views (assessment views and context views) represent three broad areas of the 2km study area:
- Short-medium range views for footpath and minor road users to the south (assessment view 01 – 03, **Figure LA.06-1 – LA.06-3**)
  - Short-medium range locations in the rural landscape to the west and north (context view 04 and 05, **Figures LA.06-4 – LA.06-5**)
  - Long distance views from elevated land to the south (context view 06, **Figures LA.06-6**)

### Visual receptors

- 6.1.6 The following is a review of the viewers (the visual receptors) and the views towards the site that are available to them at the selected representative locations.

### Short-medium range views for footpath and minor road users to the south

- 6.1.7 Circa 1km south of the site there is an undulating ridge, crossed by a minor road which connects the three farmsteads Ysticlau, Ty-llwyd and Brynnyd. There are several footpaths which run from the minor road through fields on the ridge and to other farmsteads nearby. Northward-facing views are available from places on the ridge, including from the minor road and footpath connections where there are hedgerow gaps, looking across shallow undulating land toward the site. Receptors in this area include users of the minor road and access track, who are considered **lesser sensitivity** due to passing, transient views whist travelling, where



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glimpses are available through hedge gaps; footpath users with oblique, filtered or partial views of the site, who are also considered to be **lesser sensitivity**; and people in farmsteads and residential properties who are more highly susceptible to change due to daily, prolonged views, albeit filtered, oblique or partial and are considered of **moderate sensitivity**.

- 6.1.8 **Assessment View 01 (Figure LA.06-1)** illustrates the view from a field gate at the access Ysticlau. The view toward the site is framed by hedge vegetation, which obscures views elsewhere along the route. The site is marked by the wind turbine immediately to the north, along with the containers and access track to the west of the site boundary. Trees at Afon y Bantwen span the view, partially obscuring lower parts of the site. The prominent reclaimed landfill site mound close by to the west sweeps east, toward the site. The shallow, undulating landform in between the site and the view location creates a partial, oblique view into the site. The addition of solar arrays on the site would occupy a small, oblique part of the view, on sloping land adjacent to the existing turbine. Panels would be seen below the existing largescale industrial units at the waste management centre. The scale of the change to the view would be minor – affecting a small proportion of the view and with some degree of integration with manmade forms and energy infrastructure within the view. The geographical extent of area effected would also be minor as hedge cover obscures views elsewhere. **Magnitude of visual change** is therefore assessed as **small**.
- 6.1.9 Similarly, **Assessment View 02 (Figure LA.06-2)** illustrates the view from the public footpath to the south of the site, northeast of Ty-Ilwyd. The view is characterised by the rolling agricultural landscape surrounding the site, with an oblique view into the site field, located immediately next to the existing wind turbine. The solar development on the site would be visible in part, occupying a small part of the view alongside existing energy infrastructure and partially screened by intervening vegetation. The scale of the change would be minor. Similar views may be available from elsewhere along the footpath as it travels south – the geographical area affected is therefore moderate-minor. A small proportion of the view would be affected, and the arrays would not alter the composition of the view. **Magnitude of visual change** is therefore assessed as **small**.
- 6.1.10 **Assessment View 03 (Figure LA.06.-3)** shows the view toward the site from further west along the ridge near Brynnyd. The site is visible within the context of the existing wind turbine and largescale units at the waste recycling centre, along with the reclaimed landfill site mound. The scale of change to the view would be small due to the partial, oblique nature of views into the site, partially obscured by trees at Afon y bantwen. There would be some degree of integration with existing manmade elements within the view including man-made landforms, energy infrastructure and largescale buildings. The scale of the change would therefore be minor. Views of a similar nature may be available from elsewhere along this stretch of the ridge, subject to hedgerow cover. The geographical area affected is therefore moderate-minor. **Magnitude of visual change** is assessed as **small**.

- 6.1.11 Analysis of **short-medium range views for footpath and minor road users** on the ridge to the south of the site indicates the **partial and oblique nature of views** due to the containing framework of trees and hedgerow within the agricultural landscape and the shallow rolling landforms. The magnitude of effect on this part of the study area is further limited by potential **integration with existing manmade elements** within the view, including energy infrastructure, landforms and largescale buildings. **Small-scale addition** of solar arrays on the site **would not conflict with the existing characteristics of the rolling agricultural view composition.**

#### Short-medium range locations in the rural landscape to the west and north

- 6.1.12 To the west and north of the site, there are several footpaths, a minor road and access lanes, including around Llwynmelin. To the north lies the A48 regional route, with several access junctions. Receptors in this area include users of the minor road and access tracks, who are considered **lesser sensitivity** due to transient views and footpath users with screened views of the site, who are also considered to be **lesser sensitivity.**
- 6.1.13 **Context View 04 (Figure LA.06-4)** is located near to Llwynmelin, at the junction of the access route to the property. Due to the shallow nature of the topography and the intervening landform of the landfill site mound, the solar site is not visible from this location.
- 6.1.14 Similarly, **Context View 05 (Figure LA.06-5)** is located at the site entrance to the waste recycling centre and confirms that the shallow landform, intervening hedgerows and the landfill site mound also screen the site from view from this location and the section of the A48 passing the site.
- 6.1.15 The two context views taken to illustrate short-medium range locations in the rural landscape to the west and north confirm that there would be **no change to views** due to the development being out of view.

#### Long distance views from elevated land to the south

- 6.1.16 Approximately 3.5km south of the site, beyond Gwendraeth Fach, the landform rises to Mynydd Llangyndeirn where elevation allows for longer distance views toward the site. There is a large quarry in this area and receptors typically include minor road users, users of the footpath network and residents at farmsteads and small hamlets. Due to the open nature of views, local road users are considered to be **lesser sensitivity**; footpath users' **moderate sensitivity** and people in residential properties **moderate sensitivity.**
- 6.1.17 **Context View 06 (Figure LA.06-6)** shows a view from this elevated land, characterised by the rolling agricultural fieldscape to the north, containing irregular fields enclosed by a framework of mature hedgerows and trees. The site is visible at distance, marked by the adjacent wind turbine. Solar development on the site field would result in the addition of minor elements within the view, partially visible and accommodated within the existing landscape fabric. The

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scale of the change to the view is therefore considered minor. Views of a similar nature may be available from other elevated locations nearby; however, views are long distance and the geographical area over which the changes would be experienced is therefore moderate-minor. A minor proportion of the view would be affected and the distant addition of solar arrays within a single small field within the landscape fabric would not alter the characteristic composition of the view. **Magnitude of change is therefore small.**

### Magnitude of Change

6.1.18 A summary of the magnitude of change is provided in Table 7 below.

**Table 7 Viewpoint and magnitude of change summary**

Reference viewpoints	Magnitude of change
<b>01-</b> Access to Ysticlaau	<b>Small</b>
<b>02-</b> Public footpath to south of the site	<b>Small</b>
<b>03 -</b> Brynynydd	<b>Small</b>
<b>04 -</b> Llwynmelin	<b>No change</b>
<b>05 –</b> Site entrance	<b>No change</b>
<b>06 –</b> Minor road, Torcoed Quarry	<b>Small</b>

### Assessment of effects on visual amenity

6.1.19 Consideration of the magnitude of the changes due to the proposals is combined with consideration of the sensitivity of visual receptors affected by the proposals to assess the degree and nature of the effect.

6.1.20 Final conclusions about the degree of visual effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in **Table A2-11**. A summary of the effects is provided below in **Table 5** below:

**Table 5 Effects on Visual Receptors**

Landscape receptors and sensitivity	Reference Views	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
Local road users within 1.5km of the site with oblique, partial or filtered views toward the site: <b>lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>01-</b> Access to Ysticlaau <b>02-</b> Public footpath to south of the site <b>03 -</b> Brynynydd	<b>Small</b>	<b>Minor, neutral</b> due to the small-scale change for lesser sensitivity receptors

Landscape receptors and sensitivity	Reference Views	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect
Footpath users within 1.5km of the site with oblique, partial or filtered views toward the site: <b>lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>01</b> - Access to Ysticlau <b>02</b> - Public footpath to south of the site	<b>Small</b>	<b>Minor, neutral</b> due to the small-scale change for lesser sensitivity receptors
Residents at farmsteads and scattered dwellings with oblique, partial or filtered views toward the site: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>01</b> - Access to Ysticlau <b>03</b> - Brynnydd	<b>Small</b>	<b>Moderate-minor, neutral,</b> neutral due to small scale change for moderate sensitivity receptors
Local road users and footpath users to the west and north within 1.5km of the site with partial or screened views toward the site: <b>lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>04</b> – Llwynmelin <b>05</b> – Site entrance	<b>No change</b>	<b>No change</b>
Local road users within 3.8km of the site with open views toward the site: <b>lesser sensitivity</b>	<b>06</b> – Minor road, Torcoed Quarry	<b>Small</b>	<b>Minor, neutral</b> due to the small-scale change for lesser sensitivity receptors
Footpath users and people in residential properties with distant, open views toward the site: <b>moderate sensitivity</b>	<b>06</b> – Minor road, Torcoed Quarry	<b>Small</b>	<b>Moderate-minor, neutral</b> due to small scale change for moderate sensitivity receptors

## 7.0 Summary and Conclusions

### 7.1 Scope

- 7.1.1 Tir Collective is instructed by the Cwm Environmental to prepare this Landscape and Visual Statement (LVS) which relates to the proposed installation of ground mounted solar arrays on a former landfill site at Nantycaws Recycling Centre, Nantycaws, Carmarthenshire.
- 7.1.2 The methodology used for reviewing the landscape character and visual amenity of the site and surrounding area is broadly based on the recommendations in **Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition**, published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in 2013 (GLVIA3).

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### 7.2 Summary of findings

#### Landscape review

- 7.2.1 Desk studies reviewed landscape designations, public access, and referred to LANDMAP assessments and relevant national and local policy information. The studies confirmed that the site is not located within a designated landscape. There are several areas of Ancient Woodland within the 2km study area, comprising mostly Ancient Semi Natural Woodland, the closest 935m southeast of the site. There is a grouping of three listed buildings approximately 1km northwest at Brigwallt y Coed Farm. A SSSI also lies within the study area, approximately 968m southeast at its nearest point. There are no public rights of way within the site however the wider study area contains a number of public footpaths, generally concentrated beyond 800m of the site, connecting farmsteads.
- 7.2.2 In relation to LANDMAP, the site lies within the Visual and Sensory aspect area Middleton Hills, which has moderate overall value as it is “not considered to be an area of high scenic quality. However, within the area there are some areas worthy of note”. The area is classified as Open Rolling Lowland and is described as “rolling hills between the Tywi valley and the Gwendraeth Fach. Of varying agricultural quality...There are areas of woodland and fairly strong field boundaries on medium sized fields, with some hedgerow trees. The area is well settled with mainly scattered settlement and appears fairly prosperous... The area also contains the A48 [T] and its associated transport corridor. Within a mile or so of the road this bring noise, but the bulk of the area remains unaffected by this road and is tranquil. In many places the road provides views over the surrounding area and beyond. Essentially it is an attractive rolling agricultural landscape and relatively undeveloped...”.
- 7.2.3 The site-specific landscape review confirmed the location of the site to the south of Nantycaws, approximately 6km southeast of Carmarthen. The site comprises a single, triangular field enclosure of rough pasture. The site is associated with Nantycaws waste management centre and is part of a former landfill site which has now been restored. Landform within the site slopes broadly northwest to southeast, from a high point of approximately 139m AOD to a low point of approximately 127m AOD. Landform in the site and study area is shaped by rolling hills. Topography within the vicinity of the site is also influenced by the restored landfill site, which includes a prominent mound to the west of the site. The field boundaries of the site are defined on the east and west side by access tracks within the waste management centre to the north. The southern boundary of the site takes a line through the field, which contains rough grassland and shrubby vegetation. The site field is typical of the LANDMAP visual and sensory Aspect Area Middleton Hills (CRMRTVS960)<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> [https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view\\_survey.php?survey\\_id=11584](https://landmap-portal.naturalresources.wales/view_survey.php?survey_id=11584)



- 7.2.4 The features/elements/characteristics identified as important or “key” to the landscape character of the site are southward sloping topography and nearby man-made landforms; triangular field shape within restored landscape; rough grassland landcover with well-vegetated setting; and the rolling agricultural wider landscape.
- 7.2.5 The landscape assessment assessed the potential impacts of the proposed development on landscape features, qualities and characteristics within the site and wider surrounding landscape context. The finding of the assessment concluded that effects would be **neutral**, ranging from **minor** to **moderate-minor**. The solar arrays may result in some increased perception of enclosure; however, this would not be incongruous with the large-scale man-made landforms nearby. The field pattern would be retained, and the vegetated setting would remain intact and characteristic with some enhancement through hedgerow planting. The proposed development would add infrastructure to the site however it would site within the landscape with other key characteristics retained.
- 7.2.6 The proposal would avoid development on the main area mapped as marshy grassland, as this is referable to the ‘Purple moor-grass and Rush-pastures’ Priority Habitat. The adjoining semi-improved neutral grassland where the arrays are proposed would be managed towards a more species-rich grassland through late summer mowing with associated removal of arisings.

### Visual review

- 7.2.7 The visual amenity review has involved desk study and field survey analysis work to identify and record views of the site from publicly accessible locations within the surrounding landscape. A total of six views were photographed to illustrate the site and its appearance in publicly accessible locations. Of the six views that were taken, three were carried forward as representative viewpoints for the visual amenity assessment. The remaining three were included as context views, which illustrate views where the site and/or the proposed development would be entirely or mostly screened from view, is difficult to perceive or is viewed at distance. The visual envelop is shaped by the undulating agricultural landscape, the mounded restored landfill site to the west and southeast sloping topography of the site.
- 7.2.8 Short-medium range views for footpath and minor road users to the south were considered and indicated that the partial and oblique nature of views due to the containing framework of trees and hedgerow within the agricultural landscape and the shallow rolling landforms. The magnitude of effect on this part of the study area is further limited by potential integration with existing manmade elements within the view, including energy infrastructure, landforms and largescale buildings. Small-scale addition of solar arrays on the site would not conflict with the existing characteristics of the rolling agricultural view composition. Visual effects from **Assessment View 01 – Assessment View 03** were assessed as **minor, neutral or moderate-minor neutral**.

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- 7.2.9 Longer-distance views toward the site are available from elevated topography at Mynydd Llangyndeyrn. A minor proportion of the view would be affected and the distant addition of solar arrays within a single small field within the landscape fabric would not alter the characteristic composition of the view. Effects were assessed as **minor, neutral**.

### Conclusions

- 7.2.10 This Landscape and Visual Statement concludes that the site represents an opportunity to accommodate the proposed solar development. The solar development would retain and incorporate existing key landscape features such as topography and proposed hedgerow planting would help to restore field pattern. The landscape strategy for the site includes avoiding development on the main area mapped as marshy grassland, as this is referable to the 'Purple moor-grass and Rush-pastures' Priority Habitat. The adjoining semi-improved neutral grassland where the arrays are proposed would be managed towards a more species-rich grassland through late summer mowing with associated removal of arisings.
- 7.2.11 The landscape strategy would help to integrate the proposed solar farm and ancillary structures into the landscape whilst minimising any potential impacts on landscape character. Whilst the site would change from rough pasture, the characteristic rolling agricultural landscape would appropriately accommodate the development and changes would be fully restored following decommissioning, incorporating landscape enhancement through planting and management. Visual effects of the site would also be contained due to the restricted nature of views, which are often screened, oblique or partial. The landscape setting of the site includes man-made forms and energy infrastructure alongside which solar arrays would not be incongruous and may positively contribute to the restored landscape.



### Appendix 1 - Figures

Figures <b>LA.01</b>	Site location
Figure <b>LA.02</b>	Designations
Figures <b>LA.03</b>	Public access
Figure <b>LA.04</b>	Site context appraisal
Figures <b>LA.05</b>	LANDMAP
Figures <b>LA.06</b>	Appraisal Views





### Nantycaws Solar

Site location

LA.01

### Key

— Site boundary

- - - 1km buffers from the site boundary

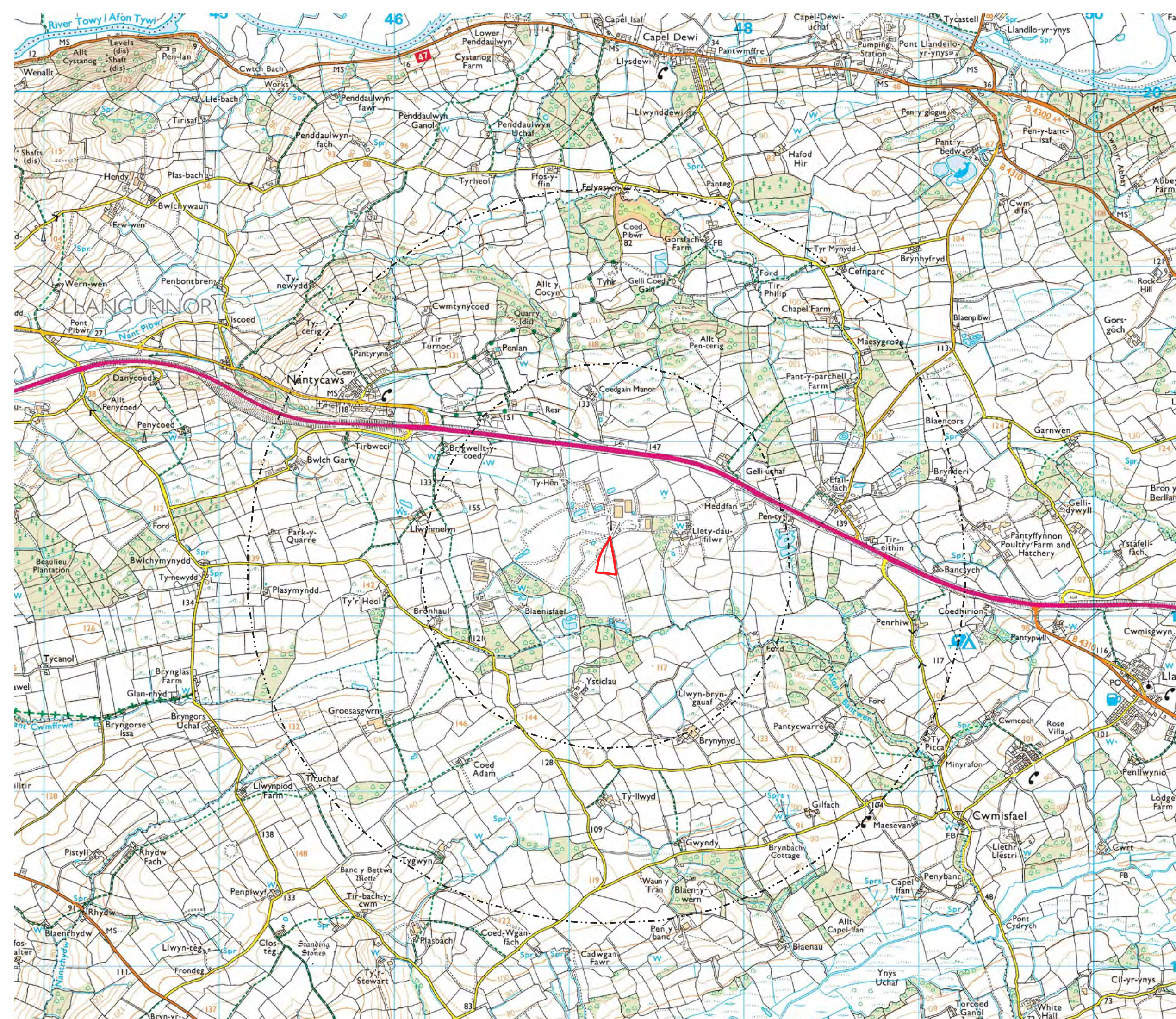


Scale 1:20,000 @ A3

TC24248 Nantycaws.ggz



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### Nantycaws Solar

Designations

LA.02

### Key

— Site boundary

⋯ 1km buffers from the site boundary

Special Landscape Area

Ancient Woodland sites:

■ Ancient Semi Natural Woodland

■ Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site

■ Restored Ancient Woodland Site

### Historic and cultural designations:

Listed Buildings:

+ Grade I

+ Grade II

+ Grade II\*

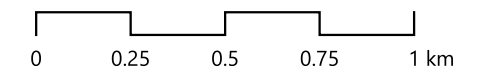
▨ Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest

\* Scheduled Ancient Monuments (beyond study area)

□ Conservation Areas (beyond study area)

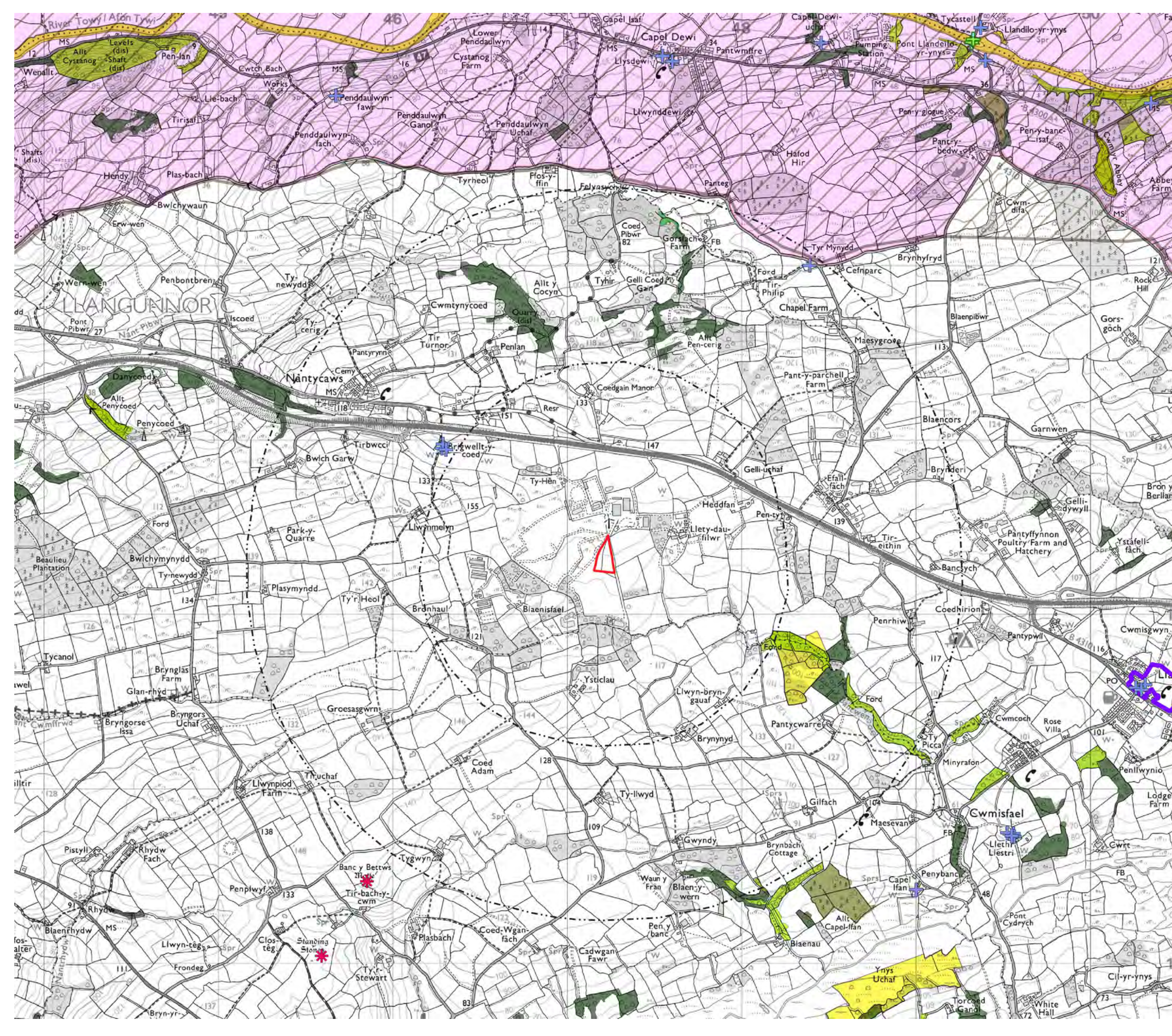
### Ecology designations:

■ SSSI



Scale 1:20,000 @ A3

TC24248 Nantycaws.ggz







### Nantycaws Solar

Public access

LA.03

#### Key

— Site boundary

⋯ 1km buffer

Public Rights of Way:

— Footpath

⋯ Other



Scale 1:20,000 @ A3

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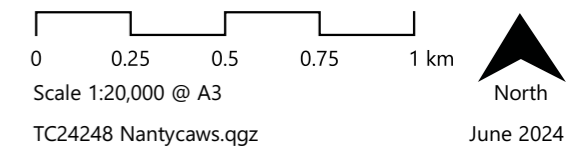
### Nantycaws Solar

### Visual Appraisal

LA.04

### Key

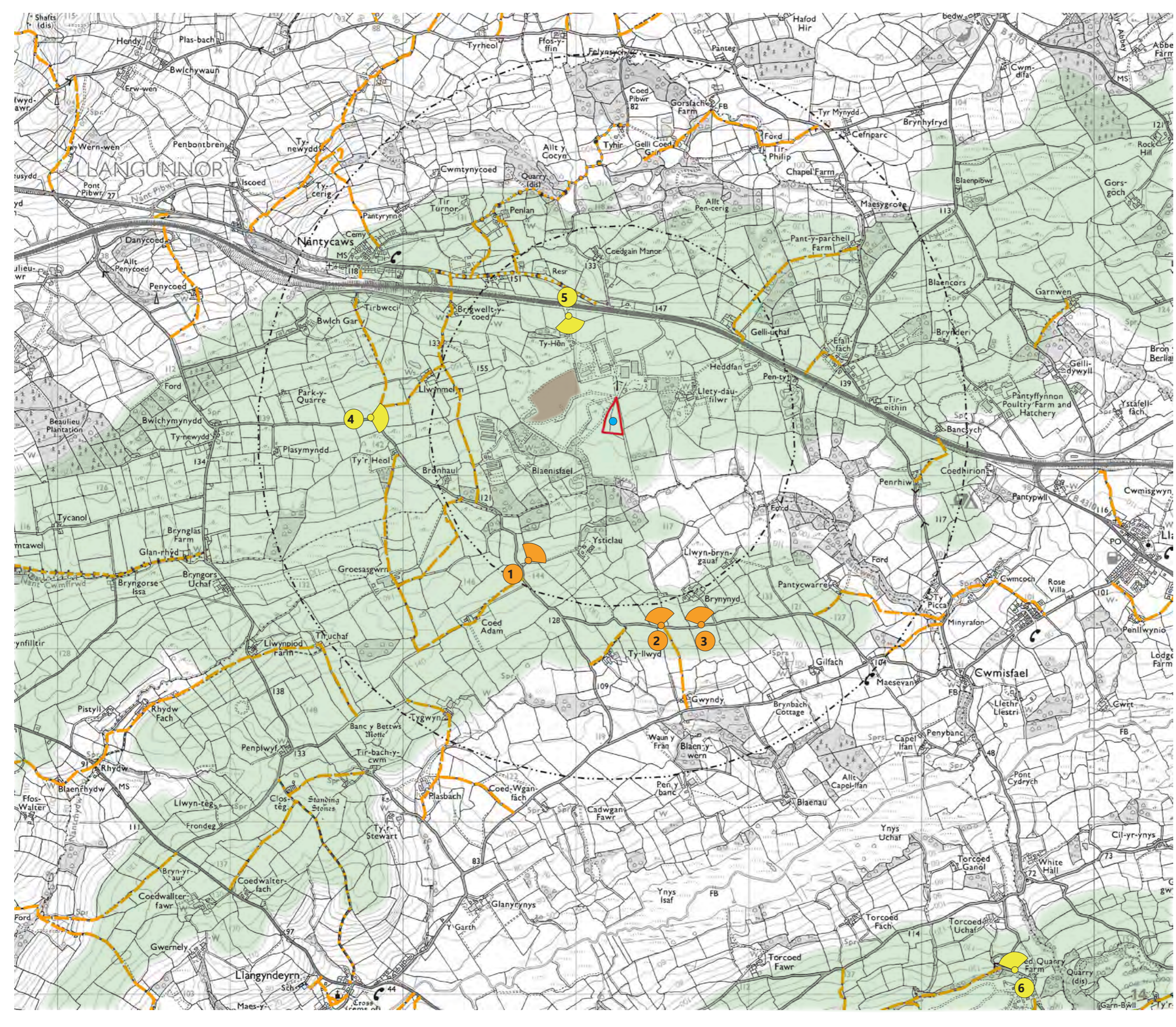
-  Site boundary
-  1km buffer
- Public Rights of Way:
  -  Footpath
  -  Other
-  Land over 110m AOD
-  Landfill site undergoing resoration
-  1 Assessment Views (1-3)
-  4 Context Views (4-6)
-  Site Photograph



 **tir collective**  
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Key

— Site boundary

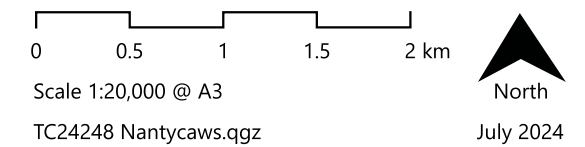
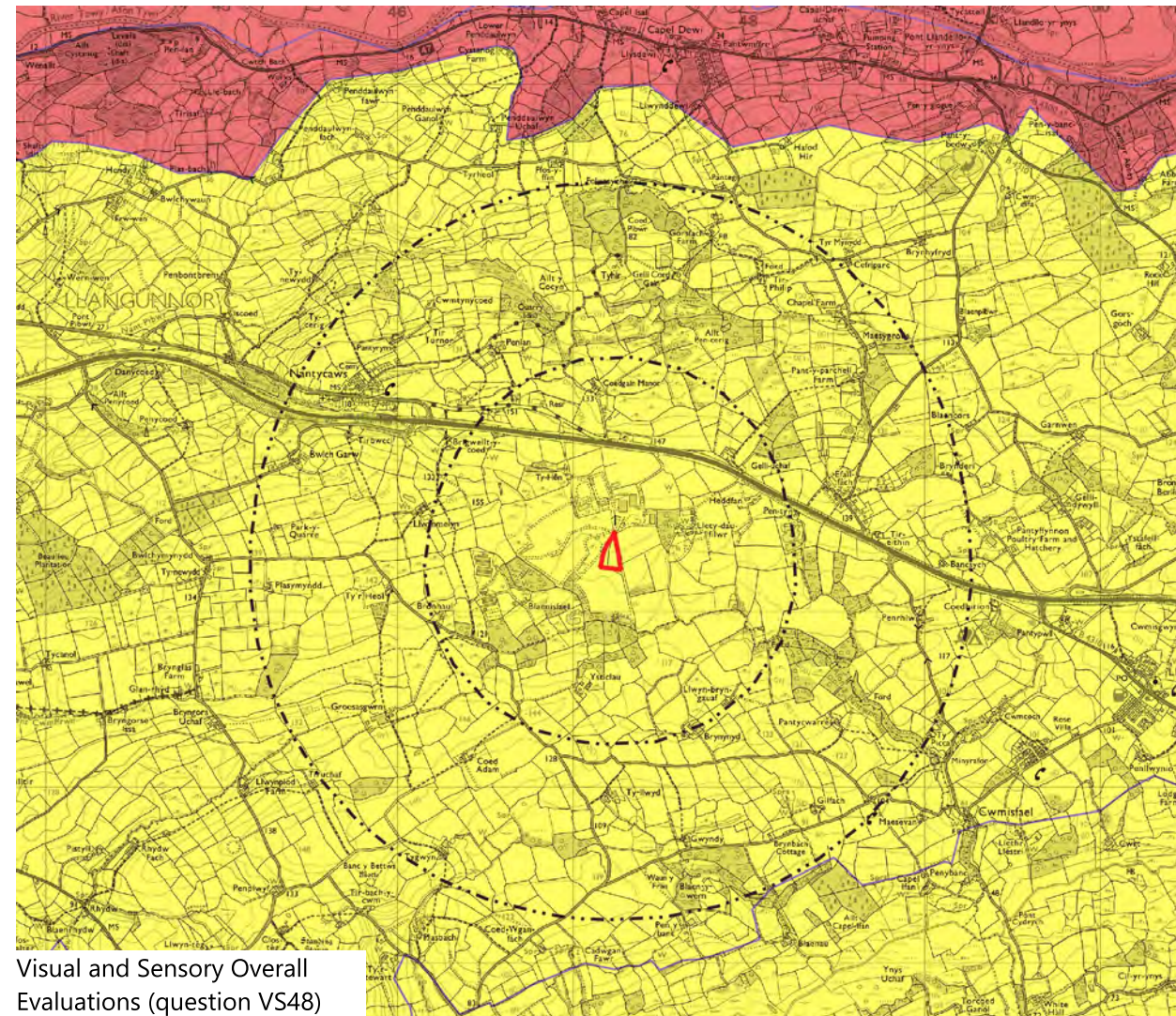
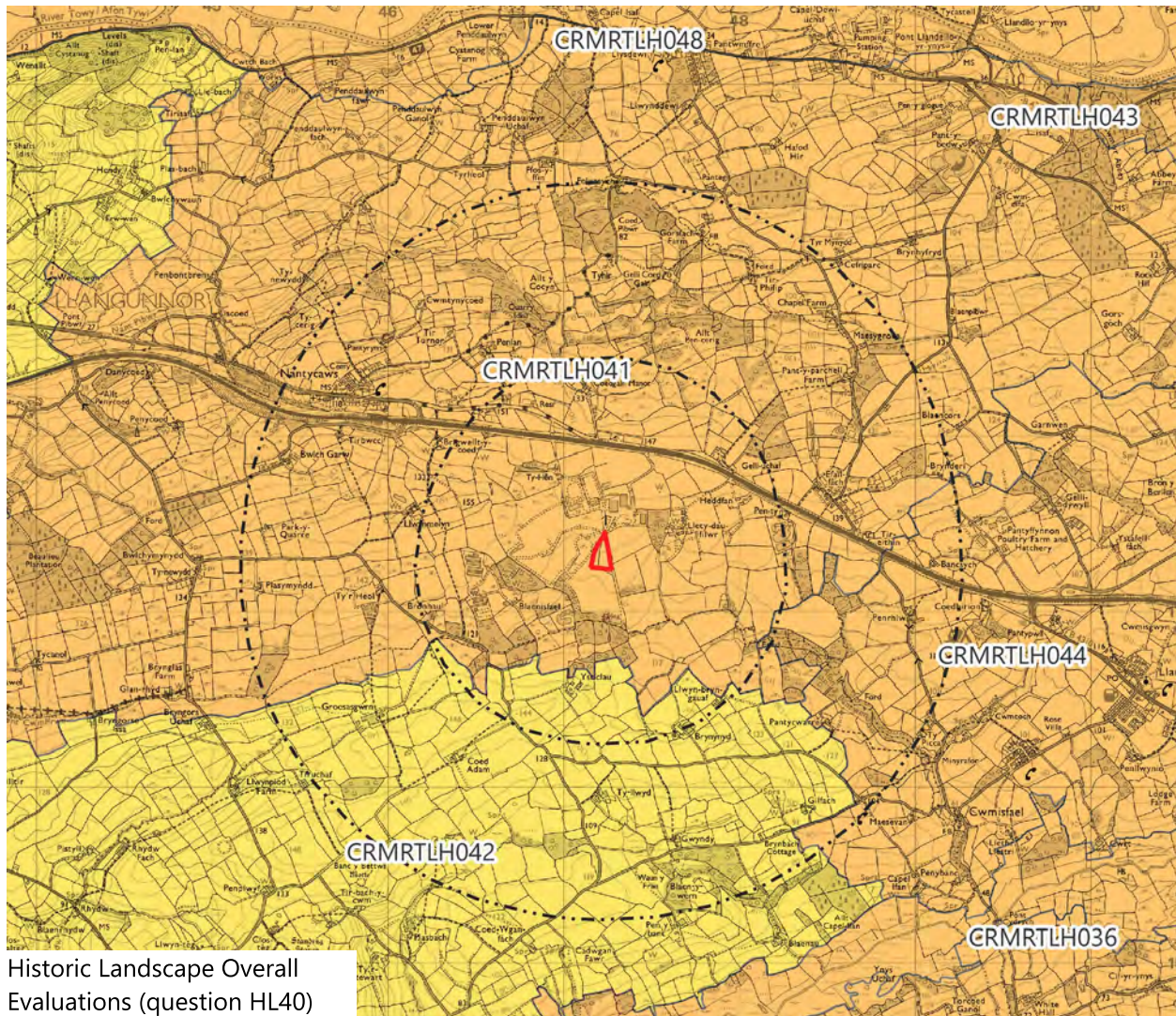
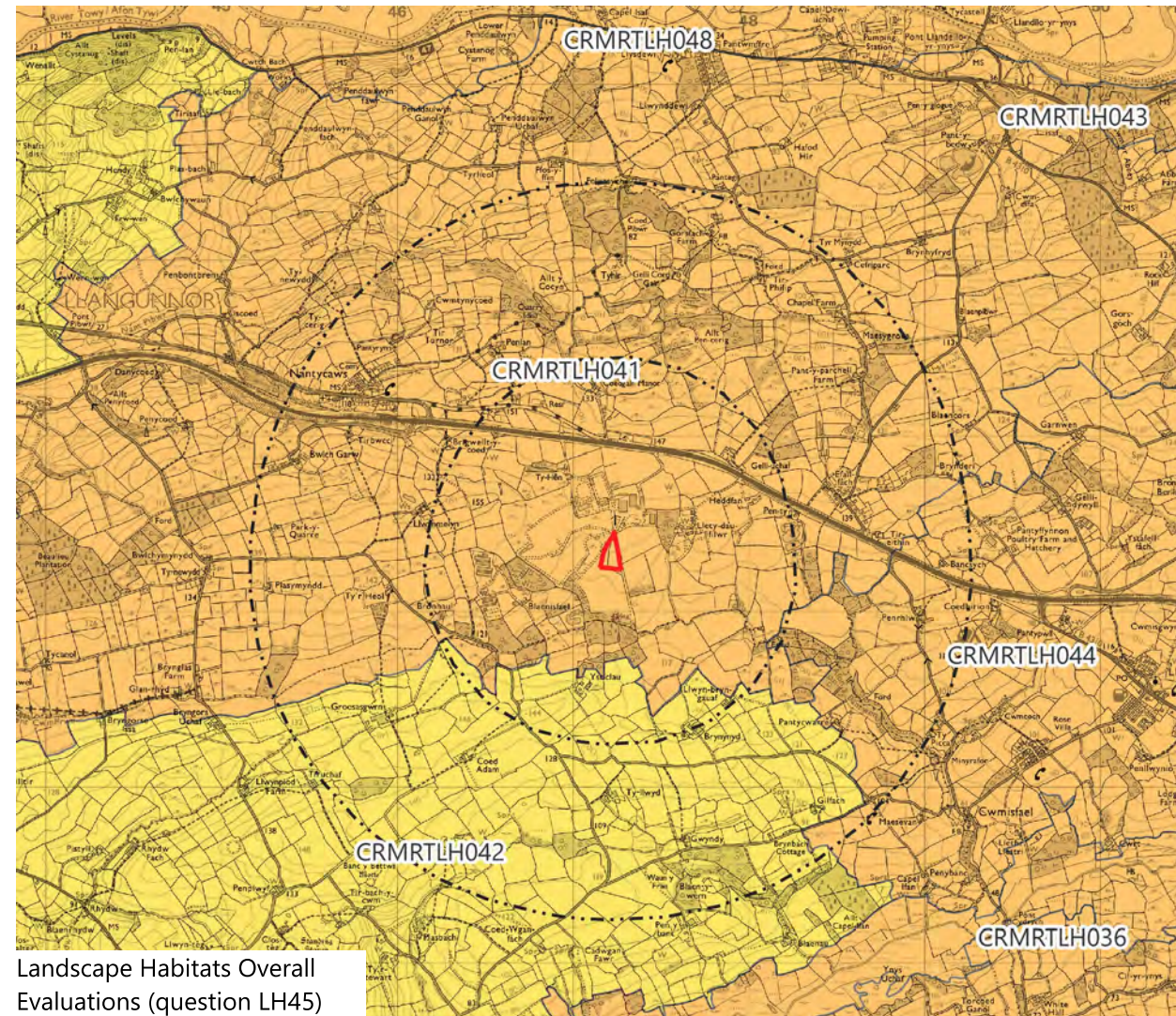
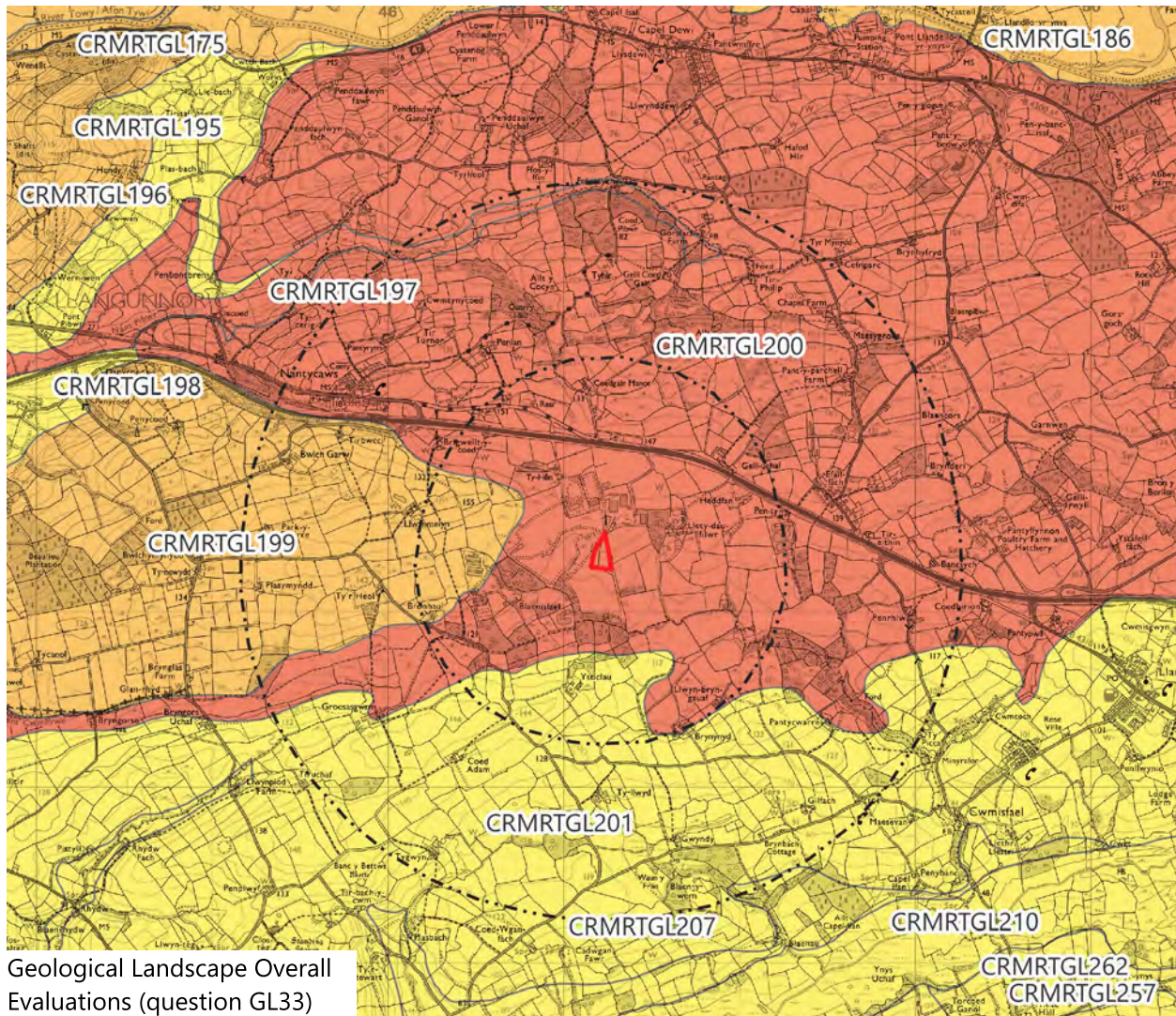
- - - 1km buffers from the site boundary

LANDMAP overall evaluations

Outstanding

High

Moderate







Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E246718 N216500  
 Ground level: 134m AOD  
 Direction of view: 28°  
 Distance to site: 826m

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:03

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

Assessment View 01: Access to Ysticlau

LA.06-1





Reclaimed landfill site mound

Containers to west of site boundary

Site extents

Wind turbine immediately north of the site

Trees at Afon y bantwen

Llety-dau-filwr farm

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E247507 N216130  
 Ground level: 128m AOD  
 Direction of view: 348°  
 Distance to site: 1.1km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

**Assessment View 02:** Public footpath to south of the site

LA.06-2





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E247719 N216131  
 Ground level: 125m AOD  
 Direction of view: 335°  
 Distance to site: 1.3km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

Assessment View 02: Brynnnyd





Wind turbine  
immediately north of the  
site

Reclaimed landfill  
site mound

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E245778 N217325  
 Ground level: 146m AOD  
 Direction of view: 92°  
 Distance to site: 1.3km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:03

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

Context View 04: Llwynmelin

LA.06-4





Wind turbine  
immediately north of the  
site

Reclaimed landfill  
site mound

Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E249535 N214135  
 Ground level: 148m AOD  
 Direction of view: 150°  
 Distance to site: 575m

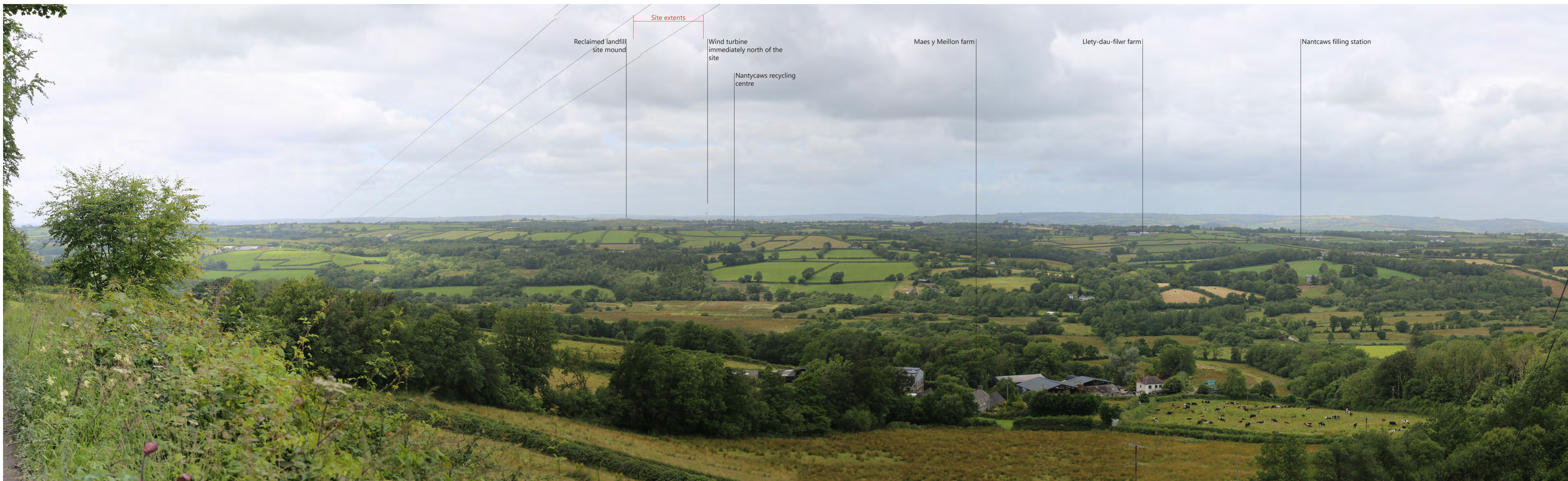
Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

Context View 05: Site entrance





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
 OS reference: E330404 N210564  
 Ground level: 157m AOD  
 Direction of view: 323°  
 Distance to site: 3.8km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01

Project no. TC24248 July 2024

**Context View 06:** Minor road, Torcoed Quarry

LA.06-6





Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**

OS reference: E330404 N210564  
 Ground level: 157m AOD  
 Direction of view: 323°  
 Distance to site: 3.8km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
 Vertical field of view: 27°  
 Enlargement factor: 96%  
 Principal distance: 812.5mm  
 Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
 Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
 Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
 Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
 Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01



Project no. TC24248 July 2024

**Site photograph (part 1):** View from within the site looking south

LA.06-7

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Baseline Photograph

View flat at a comfortable arm's length

**Viewpoint information:**  
OS reference: E330404 N210564  
Ground level: 157m AOD  
Direction of view: 323°  
Distance to site: 3.8km

Horizontal field of view: 90° (cylindrical projection)  
Vertical field of view: 27°  
Enlargement factor: 96%  
Principal distance: 812.5mm  
Paper size: 840 x 297mm (extended A3)

Correct printed image size: 820 x 250mm  
Camera: EOS 5D Mk III  
Lens: 50mm (Canon EF 50mm f/1.8)  
Camera height: 1.5m AGL  
Date and time: 23/11/2023 16:01



Project no. TC24248 July 2024

**Site photograph (part 2):** View from within the site looking south

LA.06-8





### Appendix 2 – Assessment Methodology

The methodology used in this assessment has been based upon the recommendations in Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition published by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment in April 2013 (GLVIA3).

#### Landscape Effects Assessment

Establishing the landscape baseline

Baseline studies for assessing the landscape effects included a mix of desk study and field work to identify and record the character of the landscape and the elements, features and aesthetic and perceptual factors which contribute to it.

The elements that make up the landscape in the study area were recorded, including:

- physical influences - geology, soils, landform, drainage and water bodies;
- land cover, including different types of vegetation and patterns and types of tree cover;
- the influence of human activity, such as, land use and management, the character of settlements and buildings, the pattern and type of fields and enclosure; and
- the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, e.g.: its scale, complexity, openness, tranquillity, wildness.

The overall character of the landscape in the study area was considered, including the particular combinations of elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects that make each distinctive, usually by identification as key characteristics of the landscape. Evidence about change in the landscape was considered, including the condition of the different landscape types and/or areas, and their constituent parts and evidence of current pressures causing change in the landscape.

#### Landscape value

The European Landscape Convention promotes taking account of all landscapes, including ordinary or undesignated landscapes. The relative value attached to the landscape was considered at the baseline stage to inform the judgments about the effects likely to occur, whether to areas of landscape as a whole or to individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions, at the community, local, national or international levels.

Landscape designation is a starting point in understanding landscape value, but value may also be attached to undesignated landscapes. Special Qualities, reasons for designation, relevant policies in management plans or designation-specific policies in development plans, were consulted in assessing the relative value of the landscape within designated areas.

Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition, and where scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape, or where there are important associations, are likely to be highly valued. For “ordinary, everyday landscapes”, the judgement was based upon the degree to which they are representative of typical character, the intactness of the landscape and the condition of its elements, scenic quality, sense of place, aesthetic and perceptual qualities.

In Wales, the evaluation of the five aspects of the landscape described in LANDMAP was used, in conjunction with the criteria in Table A2-1 below, where appropriate.

When determining the landscape value, the following elements were considered, in addition to consideration of values associated with designations:

- The importance of the landscape, or the perceived value of the landscape to users or consultees, as indicated by, for example, international, national or local designations;
- The importance of elements or components of the landscape in the landscape character of the area or in their contribution to the landscape setting of other areas;
- Intrinsic aesthetic characteristics, scenic quality or sense of place, including providing landscape setting to other places;
- Cultural associations in the arts or in guides to the area, or popular use of the area for recreation, where experience of the landscape is important;
- The presence and scale of detractors in the landscape and the degree to which they are susceptible to improvement or upgrading; and
- Conservation interests: The presence of features of wildlife, earth science or archaeological or historical and cultural interest can add to the value of the landscape as well as having value in their own right.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the Landscape value:

**Table A2-1 Criteria to determine landscape value**

Value	Criteria
High Value	Landscapes subject to international or national designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply: Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact and in good condition; Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a particular contribution to the landscape; There are important cultural and artistic associations;

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## Landscape and Visual Statement

Value	Criteria
	<p>They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are valued for their rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as important contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>The landscape is valued for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.</p>
Medium Value	<p>Landscapes subject to local designations, and non-designated landscapes where the following considerations apply:</p> <p>Areas of landscape whose character is judged to be intact with few detractors;</p> <p>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features make a contribution to the landscape;</p> <p>There are cultural and artistic associations;</p> <p>They are representative of typical character of the area or have a character or elements that are identified for their rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>The landscape is a setting for recreational activities where experience of the landscape forms part of the experience.</p>
Low Value	<p>Areas of non-designated landscapes whose character is in poor condition;</p> <p>Scenic quality, wildness or tranquillity, and/or natural or cultural heritage features are not key characteristics of the landscape;</p> <p>Cultural and artistic associations are absent;</p> <p>They are not representative of typical character of the area, but are also not valued for rarity;</p> <p>Particular components may be identified as contributors to the landscape character;</p> <p>There is little scope for recreational activities where experience of the landscape is important.</p>

The landscape baseline report aims to:

- describe, map and illustrate the character of the landscape of both the wider study area and the site and its immediate surroundings;
- identify and describe the individual elements and aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape, particularly those that are key characteristics contributing to its distinctive character;



- indicate the condition of the landscape, including the condition of landscape elements or features;
- project forward drivers and trends in change and how they may affect the landscape over time, in the absence of the proposal; and
- evaluate the landscape and, where appropriate, its components, aesthetic and perceptual aspects, particularly the key characteristics.

### Assessing the Landscape Effects

The baseline information about the landscape was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the landscape effects. The landscape receptors were identified, that is, the components or aspects of the landscape likely to be affected, such as, overall character or key characteristics, individual elements or features, or specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects.

Interactions between the landscape receptors and the components or characteristics of the development at its different stages were considered: construction and operation, and the different types of effect: direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, adverse and beneficial.

Landscape effects considered included:

- change in and/or partial or complete loss of elements, features or aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
- addition of new elements or features that will influence the character and distinctiveness of the landscape; and
- combined effects of these changes on overall character.

The landscape effects were categorised as adverse, beneficial, or negligible in their consequences for the landscape, judged from the degree to which the proposal fits with existing character and the contribution the development makes to the landscape in its own right, even if in contrast to existing character.

The assessment of the landscape effects was based on assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of the change in the landscape arising from the proposal.

### Sensitivity of the landscape receptors

The sensitivity of landscape receptors combines judgments of their susceptibility to the type of change arising from the development proposal and the value attached to the landscape.

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## Landscape and Visual Statement

Susceptibility to change means the ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.

The value attached to the landscape receptors was established in the baseline study.

The sensitivity of landscape receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below to determine the susceptibility and value of the landscape receptor.

When determining the landscape susceptibility, the following elements were considered:

- The ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the landscape character and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area;
- The degree to which the changes arising from the development would alter individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character; and
- Existing landscape studies may identify the sensitivity of the landscape type or area or its characteristics to the general type of development that is proposed.

The following table indicates the criteria used to determine the landscape susceptibility:

**Table A2-2 Criteria for landscape susceptibility**

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	<p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</p> <p>The type of development would compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would alter or remove elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to the landscape character or add new elements that would reinforce the key characteristics of the landscape character.</p>

Susceptibility	Criteria
Low Susceptibility	<p>The changes arising from the type of development would not alter the overall character, quality/condition of a particular landscape type or area.</p> <p>The type of development would not compromise the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies for the landscape.</p> <p>The changes arising from the type of development would not alter or remove individual elements or features or aesthetic and perceptual aspects important to, or add new elements incongruous to, the landscape character.</p>

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., “moderate”. The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the landscape receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

**Table A2-3 illustrates indicative criteria for assessing landscape sensitivity combining**

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	<p>A highly valued landscape e.g., of national or international importance, whose character or key characteristics are very susceptible to change;</p> <p>Aspects of the landscape character are highly valued as “key characteristics” and, often identified as susceptible to change in national or local character assessments;</p> <p>The landscape character is highly valued as intact and in good condition and particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</p> <p>A highly valued landscape with no or limited potential for substitution or replacement.</p>
Moderate sensitivity	<p>A landscape of local importance or value, whose character or key characteristics are susceptible to change;</p> <p>Other characteristics of the landscape character also valued in national or local character assessments and susceptible to change;</p> <p>The landscape character is valued for moderate condition and not particularly vulnerable to disturbance;</p> <p>A moderately valued landscape with some potential for substitution or replacement.</p>
Lesser sensitivity	<p>No or little evidence of value or importance attached to the landscape area, its features or characteristics;</p>

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## Landscape and Visual Statement

Category	Indicative criteria
	<p>Few features, characteristics or qualities susceptible to disturbance or particularly susceptible to improvement or upgrading</p> <p>Good potential for substitution or replacement</p>

### Magnitude of Landscape Change

Effects on landscape receptors are assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, and its duration and reversibility.

**Table A2-4 Considerations for assessing magnitude of landscape change**

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	<p>Categorised on a scale of Large, Medium, Small, Negligible or None, based upon:</p> <p>The extent of existing landscape elements that will be lost (or added), the proportion of the total extent that this represents and the contribution of that element to the character of the landscape;</p> <p>The degree to which aesthetic or perceptual aspects of the landscape are altered either by removal of existing components of the landscape or additions of new ones;</p> <p>Whether the effect changes the key characteristics of the landscape, which are critical to its distinctive character.</p>
Geographical area over which the landscape would be changed	<p>Categorised on a scale of:</p> <p>Small: at site level, within the development site itself or at the level of the immediate setting of the site;</p> <p>Medium: at the scale of the landscape type or character area within which the proposal lies;</p> <p>Large: where the development influences several landscape types or character areas.</p>
The duration of the changes	<p>The durations of changes due to the development are categorised as:</p> <p>Short term: zero to five years;</p> <p>Medium term: five to ten years;</p> <p>Long term: ten to twenty-five years;</p> <p>Permanent: more than twenty-five.</p>
Reversibility	<p>The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years.</p>

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

**Table A2-5 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of landscape change**

Magnitude of Change	Landscape Change
Great change	Major size or scale of change, affecting the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies or extending over the wider area; likely to be longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility
Medium change	Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the landscape type or character of the area within which the proposal lies, or larger scale of change at the level of the site or immediate context; likely to continue into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility
Small change	A minor proportion of the extent of the character type or area is affected or smaller scale of change over a larger extent; the changes occur at the level of the site or immediate context, and likely to be short term and reversible.
Negligible/no change	No apparent change to landscape characteristics

While GLVIA3 includes the duration of the change in the consideration of the magnitude of change, in some cases a major size or scale of change of shorter duration may be considered a "great change".

### Assessment of landscape effects

Final conclusions about the degree of effect, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes combined, based upon the following indicative considerations and criteria:

**Table A2-6 Indicative criteria for assessing landscape effects**

Landscape effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Highly sensitive landscape completely degraded or greatly changed, with little or no scope for mitigation; Great improvement, sufficient to upgrade overall landscape character. Irreversible adverse or beneficial effects, over an extensive area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that are key to the character of nationally valued landscapes.
Moderate	Medium change to moderately sensitive landscape or its character; lesser change to higher sensitivity landscape or greater change to less sensitive landscape.
Minor	Small or limited adverse change to the existing landscape or its character; greater change to less sensitive landscape; Considerable scope for mitigation; Small improvement to the existing landscape. Reversible adverse or beneficial effects of short duration, over a restricted area, on elements and/or aesthetic and perceptual aspects that contribute to but are not key characteristics of the character of landscapes of community value.
Negligible	No perceptible change to the existing landscape or its character; The change is difficult to discern.

Intermediate conditions may be described, such as Moderate-Major, where the criteria for Moderate may be exceeded but not qualify as Major. Where magnitude of change is "None", the effect would correspondingly be "None".

Effects may be adverse or beneficial. In some instances, the effect may be offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals, and the resulting effect may be neither beneficial nor adverse.

### Visual Effects Assessment

Establishing the visual baseline

Baseline studies for visual effects establish:

- the area in which the development may be visible;
- the different groups of people who may experience views of the development;

- the location where they will be affected;
- the nature of the views at those points; and
- the different groups of people who may be affected by the changes in views or visual amenity.

The potential areas where the site and development proposal are likely to be visible were mapped. Landscape components affecting visibility, like buildings, walls, fences, trees, hedgerows, woodland and banks, were identified through field surveys and mapped where relevant.

The people within the area who may be affected by the changes in views and visual amenity – the visual receptors – were identified, for example:

- people living in the area;
- people passing through on roads and the local lanes;
- people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions; and
- people engaged in recreation of different types, including users of public rights of way, bridleways and access land.

Where relevant, views that form part of the experience and enjoyment of the landscape were noted, for example, from promoted paths, tourist or scenic routes and associated viewpoints.

The proposed viewpoints selected were discussed with the local authority, and informed by the visual appraisal, field surveys, and by desk-based research on various issues, for example, access and recreation, valued landscapes, tourist attractions and destinations, popular vantage points, and relative distribution of population. Viewpoints were selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptors.

The details of viewpoint locations were mapped and catalogued, sufficient to allow someone else to return to the location and record the same view. Photography was carried out in accordance with the Landscape Institute, Advice Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (2019).

The baseline report aims to describe, map and illustrate:

- the type of people (visual receptors) likely to be affected, making clear the activities they are likely to be involved in when enjoying the view;
- details of the viewpoints and of the visual receptors likely to be affected at each;
- the nature, composition and characteristics of the existing view, noting any particular horizontal or vertical emphasis, and any key foci; existing views have been illustrated in annotated photographs identifying important components of the view.



# Nantycaws HWRC

## Landscape and Visual Statement

- elements, such as landform, buildings or vegetation, which may interrupt, filter or otherwise influence the views;
- whether or how the view may be affected by seasonal or weather variation.

### Assessing the Visual Effects

#### Predicting and describing visual effects

The baseline information about the visual receptors was combined with understanding of the details of the proposal to identify and describe the visual effects, considering:

- changes in views and visual amenity arising from elements of the development;
- the distance of the viewpoint from the development and whether the viewer would focus on the development due to its scale and proximity or whether the development would be only a small or minor element in a panoramic view;
- whether the view is stationary or transient or one of a sequence of views;
- the nature of the changes: changes in the skyline, creation of a new visual focus in the view, introduction of new elements, changes in visual simplicity or complexity, alteration of visual scale or the degree of visual enclosure; and
- seasonal differences in effects, arising from the varying degree of screening and/or filtering of views by vegetation in summer and winter.

Categorising the visual effects as adverse or beneficial (or neutral) in their consequences for views and visual amenity was based on judgments about whether the changes affect the quality of the visual experience, and the nature of the existing views and the nature of the changes to the views.

The visual effects were assessed, based on assessment of the nature of the visual receptors and their sensitivity, and the nature of the effect on views and visual amenity, that is, the magnitude of visual change.

#### Sensitivity of the visual receptors

The people or groups of people likely to be affected at a specific viewpoint – the visual receptors – are assessed in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and the value attached to particular view locations and views.

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is a function of the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations and the extent to which their attention or interest is focused on the views or the visual amenity they experience at particular locations. The context of the location also contributes to susceptibility,

for example, people viewing from residential properties or from a valued landscape are likely to be more susceptible to change than people viewing from an industrial context. Table A2-7 illustrates indicative criteria used to determine visual receptor susceptibility:

**Table A2-7 Indicative criteria to determine visual receptor susceptibility**

Susceptibility	Criteria
High Susceptibility	<p>Residents at home.</p> <p>People engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views.</p> <p>Visitors to designated landscapes, heritage assets, or other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience.</p> <p>Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area.</p>
Low Susceptibility	<p>People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape.</p> <p>People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity not on their surroundings and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life.</p> <p>Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes, except along recognised scenic routes, where awareness of views is likely to be high.</p>

Where the susceptibility identified falls between high and low, an intermediate level of susceptibility is assigned, e.g., "medium". The basis for the scale of susceptibility assigned to the visual receptor is linked back to evidence from the baseline study.

Judgments were made about the value attached to the views identified, taking account of recognition, for example, in relation to heritage assets, or through planning designations, appearance in guidebooks or on tourist maps, promotion of particular locations or provision of facilities provided for their enjoyment, such as parking places, sign boards and interpretive material, or references to them in literature or art.

The sensitivity of visual receptors to change is categorised as high, moderate or lesser, in accordance with the criteria set out below.

**Table A2-8 Indicative criteria for visual sensitivity**

Category	Indicative criteria
High sensitivity	<p>Viewers in residential or community properties.</p> <p>Views experienced by many viewers.</p> <p>Daily, prolonged or sustained views available over a long period, or where the view of the landscape is an important attractant.</p> <p>A view from a landscape, recreation facility or route valued nationally or internationally for its visual amenity.</p>
Moderate sensitivity	<p>Viewers in residential or community properties with partial or largely screened views of the site.</p> <p>Frequent open views available.</p> <p>Viewers are pursuing activities such as sports or outdoor work, where the landscape is not the principal reason for being there or the focus of attention is only partly on the view.</p> <p>A view from other valued landscapes, or a regionally important recreation facility or route.</p>
Lesser sensitivity	<p>A view of low importance or value, or where the viewer's attention is not focused their surroundings.</p> <p>A view from a landscape of moderate or less importance, or a locally important recreation facility.</p> <p>Occasional open views or glimpsed views available; passing views available to travellers in vehicles.</p> <p>A view available to few viewers.</p>

### Magnitude of visual change

The visual effects identified are evaluated in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced, duration and reversibility.

**Table A2-9 Considerations for assessing magnitude of visual change**

Consideration	Indicative criteria
Size or scale of change	<p>Categorised on a scale of major, moderate, minor or none, based upon:</p> <p>The degree of the loss or addition of features in the view;</p> <p>The extent of changes in the composition of the view, including the proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;</p>

Consideration	Indicative criteria
	<p>The degree of contrast or integration of the changes with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics;</p> <p>The nature of the view of the proposed development, whether full, partial or glimpsed, or the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced.</p>
Geographical area over which the changes would be experienced	<p>The geographic extent reflects:</p> <p>The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible;</p> <p>The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;</p> <p>The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development.</p>
The duration of the changes	<p>Categorised as:</p> <p>Short term: zero to five years;</p> <p>Medium term: five to ten years;</p> <p>Long term: ten to twenty-five years</p> <p>Permanent: more than twenty-five.</p>
Reversibility	<p>The prospect and the practicality of the effect being reversed within twenty-five years, or within a generation</p>

Indicative criteria used to determine the magnitude of change is as follows:

**Table A1-10 Indicative criteria for assessing magnitude of visual change**

Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Great change	<p>Major size or scale of change, affecting a large proportion of the angle of the view, or affecting views from a wide area; continuing into the longer term or permanently, with low prospect of reversibility.</p>
Medium change	<p>Intermediate size or scale of change, affecting part of the angle of the view, or affecting some views from the wider area, or larger scale of change in views from within the immediate context of the site; continuing into the medium term, with good prospect of reversibility.</p>
Small change	<p>A minor proportion of the angle of view is affected or the contribution of the changed elements or characteristics to the composition of the view is not important; the changes are viewed from longer distances, are short term and reversible.</p>

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Magnitude of Change	Visual Change
Negligible/no change	Barely perceptible change or the change is difficult to discern; No change in the view or the changes due to the development are out of view.

### Judging the overall visual effects

Final conclusions about the degree of visual effects, whether adverse or beneficial, relate the separate judgements about sensitivity of the receptors and magnitude of the changes, as illustrated in the indicative criteria shown in Table A2-11:

**Table A2-11 Indicative criteria for assessing visual effects**

Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Major	Great change or visual intrusion experienced by highly sensitive viewers or from highly sensitive public viewpoints; The proposal would cause a great deterioration in the existing view available to highly sensitive viewers; Great improvement in the view, sufficient to upgrade overall visual amenity. Large scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view, especially where affecting people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity or people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes.
Moderate	Medium change or visual intrusion experienced by moderately sensitive viewers; Smaller change to higher sensitivity viewers or greater change to less sensitive viewers.
Minor	Small or localised visual intrusion in the existing view, especially for less sensitive viewers. Small or localised reduction in visual intrusion, or improvement in the view. Reversible short-term changes, in views available to people for whom the view of the landscape is not the principle focus of interest.



Visual effect	Indicative criteria
Negligible	Negligible change in the view or the change is difficult to discern even for a highly sensitive viewer.

In addition to these criteria, in some instances the effect may be discernible or greater, but offset by other considerations, for example, through the mitigation or landscape proposals for the development, and the resulting effect is neither beneficial nor adverse.





