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LANDSCAPE & VISUAL IMPACT APPRAISAL

Pant Wilkin Stables, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, Wales

Report Reference: BG22.136

August 2022

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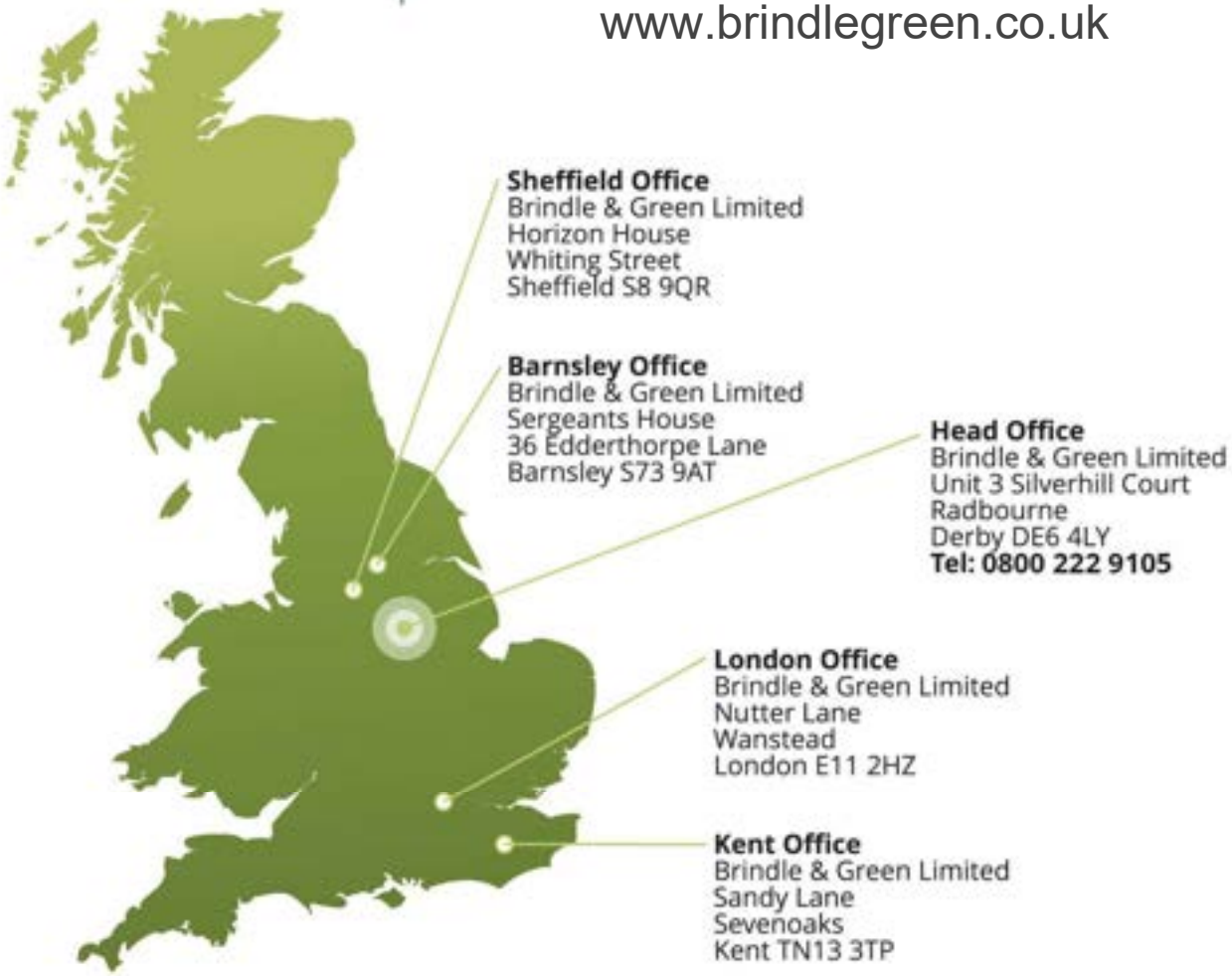

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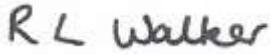
1st Check by	Rosemary Walker CMLI		26/05/2022
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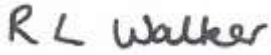
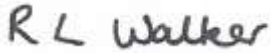
Issued by (PDF)	Rosemary Walker CMLI		31/05/2022
Rev1	Rosemary Walker CMLI		01/08/2022

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Contents

1. Summary

1.1 Brindle and Green Environmental Consultants Ltd were commissioned by Tim Vaughan Racing Ltd to undertake a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal on an area of land at Pant Wilkin Stables, Cowbridge. The purpose of this appraisal is to assess the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development on the surrounding landscape and visual receptors. It is understood that the proposal involves the construction of 3 fishing lakes on the site, and associated landscape planting. Design proposals can be found in the planning application for this development, with the proposed landscape design shown on drawing 'BG22.136.2 Pant Wilkin Stables, Cowbridge - Detailed Hard and Soft Landscape Design' (Brindle & Green Ltd, 2022).

1.2 The baseline character of the site has been assessed alongside:

- The landscape character of the site
- The landscape character of the published Vale of Glamorgan NLCA from the Welsh Government
- The landscape character of the published Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and the Upper Thaw Valley LCA – all from the Vale of Glamorgan Borough Council Landscape Character Assessment.

1.3 The effect of the proposed development has been appraised for the landscape character of the site and the landscape character areas of the published Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and the Upper Thaw Valley LCA as recorded in the Designation of Landscape Character Areas (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008).

1.4 Direct effects are recorded for the landscape character of the site. These are appraised as being of substantial adverse importance at construction, changing to substantial neutral at year 1 of operation. This is due to the introduction of incongruous elements to the site in the form of construction activity and the proposed fishing lakes. The effect changes to substantial at year 15 of operation as a result of landscape mitigation

planting maturing and enhancing the available habitat within the site and its local context.

1.5 For the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, direct and indirect effects are recorded as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of minor adverse importance at construction, reducing to minor neutral at year 1 of operation and negligible neutral at year 15 of operation. Whilst construction activity and fishing lakes are incongruous within the LCA, a very limited extent of this character area would be affected by them.

1.6 For the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA, indirect effects are recorded as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of minor adverse at construction, reducing to negligible neutral at year 1 and neutral at year 15 of operation. The LCA would be only indirectly affected by the proposed development as the views across from higher ground in the LCA would be limited.

1.7 For the Upper Thaw Valley LCA, indirect effects are also recorded as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of negligible adverse at construction phase, reducing to neutral at year 1 and year 15 of operation, the effects are appraised owing to the presence of marshy grassland and river systems in the baseline LCA description.

1.8 Representative viewpoint photographs were recorded at eight locations throughout the study area and the effects on visual amenity were appraised at six of these locations in Table 13, with two of the viewpoints scoped out due to intervening vegetation or distance.

1.9 Viewpoint 2 experiences the largest importance of effect as a result of the proposed development. It is located to the south of the site and represents the views obtained from users of the A48. At construction, the change within the view is substantial adverse, reducing to moderate neutral in year 1 of operation due to the filtering effect of landscape mitigation planting and the slightly more visually recessive nature of the fishing lakes in comparison to construction activity. In year 15, the importance of these effects would change to moderate beneficial with the maturation of the landscape

mitigation planting on the site and the fishing lakes adding positive elements to the overall panorama.

1.10 Viewpoint 1 is situated to the north of the site boundary and represents the partially filtered views afforded to users of the Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 31/2. During the construction stage of development, the changes within these views are moderate adverse, changing to moderate neutral in year 1 of operation due to the slightly more visually recessive nature of the fishing lakes compared to the construction activity. By year 15 of operation, the maturation of the landscape mitigation planting on the site filtering the proposed development would reduce the importance of these effects to minor beneficial.

1.11 Viewpoint 3 represents the views experienced by recreational users of the Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 around 500m east of the site. This view is partially filtered by intervening vegetation, with the proposed development occupying a small section of middle ground halfway up the hill. The changes as a result of the proposed development during construction would be minor adverse during construction, changing to negligible neutral at year 1 of operation and reducing further to neutral at year 15 of operation. By year 15, the combination of intervening vegetation and maturing landscape mitigation will be screening views of the proposed development.

1.12 Viewpoints 4 and 5 are located west of the site on Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1 and the north of the site from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1 respectively. They offer more distant views towards the site than Viewpoints 1 and 2 at around 500m-1km away. These views are both experienced by recreational receptors. The effects for these receptors are minor adverse during construction, reducing to negligible adverse in Year 1 of operation, and changing to negligible neutral in year 15 of operation. These effects would remain as adverse in year 1 of operation rather than changing to neutral because the key elements within the view would be the parked cars, which would form more of a detractor than the fishing lakes. This is softened slightly in year 15, hence the reduction in effect to negligible neutral.

1.13 Viewpoint 6 is taken from the Vale of Glamorgan footpath W1 57/1 which is located to the north-east of the site. It has medium distance views across the landscape, with the site visible in a limited section of the middle ground. The development would affect the views from this location; however, they would be negligible adverse at construction phase, changing to negligible neutral at year 1 of operation, and changing again to negligible beneficial at year 15.

1.14 Overall, the proposed development would have limited effects on both landscape character and visual amenity within the study area. The greatest effects on both landscape character and visual amenity would be felt within and immediately adjacent to the site, as LCAs further from the proposed development either have indirect landscape effects only and are felt across a limited area of the LCA due to a lack of intervisibility with the site; or viewpoints have a greater level of screening from intervening vegetation and landform. The key views which would experience the larger effects from the proposed development would be within 150m of its boundary and predominantly those passing the site on the A48. The landscape mitigation planting within the site has been designed such that it helps to screen and soften the proposed development, whilst also respecting the local landscape character and increasing the biodiversity within the site.

2. Introduction

2.1. Scope and aims of the appraisal

2.1.1. This report is a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal (LVIA), which considers the likely effects of the construction of 3 fishing lakes, as well as associated landscape planting on the site (the 'proposed development') situated on a piece of land ('the site') at Pant Wilkin Stables, Cowbridge. It will be used to accompany a planning application for the proposed development.

2.1.2. The appraisal looks at two different but interrelated aspects, the effect of the proposed development on the landscape character within the study area, as well as its effect on visual amenity, as experienced by visual receptors. The methodology specific to this appraisal is covered in more detail in Section 3 and Appendix A, but is based on the industry standard publication Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd edition (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) (hereafter referred to as GLVIA3), which was produced jointly by the Landscape Institute and IEMA in 2013.

2.1.3. GLVIA3 distinguishes between the effects felt on landscape character and those felt on visual amenity:

- Effects on landscape character are those which are exerted on the landscape as a resource in its own right. These would include aspects such as changes to land cover, the pattern in the landscape and the topography.
- Effects on visual amenity relate to changes within specific views or as part of the visual amenity experienced by people within the study area. People whose visual amenity is affected can include (amongst others) local residents, people using public rights of way and those using transport infrastructure.

2.1.4. This report has three broad aims: to establish both the landscape and visual baselines (through a combination of desk study and on-site survey), appraise the effects of the proposed development on these baseline situations, and establish the landscape mitigation required to avoid, reduce or offset these effects.

2.2. The site

2.2.1. The site is located in a field at Pant Wilkin Stables, situated off an unnamed private road next to the A48 and approximately 1.5km away from the nearby settlement of Aberthin. It consists of an arable field into which the fishing lakes and associated landscape treatments would be situated.

2.2.2. The boundaries of the site aren't defined by any definitive features; however, the wider field is bounded by hedgerows and open gaps. Immediately north of the site is a small track along the field edge, bordering onto the location of two scheduled monuments, namely Llanquian Castle (CADW, 1953) and Llanquian Wood Camp (CADW, n/a). To the east of the site is a new access road which is under construction, a mature hedgerow and an arable field. The field in which the site is situated is bounded by a retaining wall and the A48 on its southern boundary. To the west of the site is a combination of small, arable fields, including open access land and small areas of woodland.

2.2.3. The current land use of the site is agricultural, comprising an undulating arable field with a small dividing hedgerow in the centre. The site has an overall rural appearance due to the agricultural land use.

2.3. The proposed development

2.3.1. The proposed development on the site involves the construction and operation of 3 fishing lakes, which will incorporate the importation of clay into the undulating landform to build the lakes, but also ensuring that they are set within the landscape. It will also include a landscaped setting which will comprise a combination of landscape mitigation planting and other elements to add to the visual amenity of the site.

2.4. Report structure

2.4.1. This appraisal report is structured as follows:

- Summary – a non-technical summary of the report and its findings;
- Introduction – an overview of the report, the site and the proposed development;

- Methodology – a brief summary of the methodology used to undertake the appraisal, with the full methodology outlined in Appendix A;
- Policy – an overview of the planning policy relevant to landscape and visual issues at both the national and local level;
- Landscape baseline – identification of the baseline conditions with regards to landscape character, including an overview of published landscape character assessments;
- Visual baseline – identification of the people with potential for their visual amenity to be affected, as well as an overview of the baseline view at identified viewpoint locations;
- Potential landscape effects – appraisal of the sensitivity of the landscape receptors to change, the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development on the site and the importance of this effect on landscape character;
- Potential visual effects – appraisal of the sensitivity of the visual receptors to change, the magnitude of change arising from the proposed development on the site and the importance of this effect on visual amenity;
- Proposed landscape mitigation and enhancements – an overview of the proposed measures for mitigating the effects on landscape character and visual amenity as identified in the appraisal;
- Summary of effects; and
- Conclusion.

2.5. Figures

2.5.1. It is recommended that this appraisal report is read in conjunction with the following accompanying figures:

- Figure 1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility and Viewpoint Locations;
- Figure 2: Topography and Hydrology;
- Figure 3: Landscape Character;
- Figure 4: Landscape Designations;

- Figures 5 to 12: Viewpoint Photographs; and
- Figure 13: Hard and Soft Landscape Plan.

2.6. Assumptions and limitations

2.6.1. No technical difficulties or issues were encountered when undertaking this appraisal and its related site visit. During the site visit, access to private land was limited to the applicant's ownership boundary. Therefore, all appraisals and conclusions are based on information obtained solely from publicly accessible locations and private land under the applicant's control. Every representative viewpoint photograph was taken from a publicly accessible location.

2.6.2. A site visit was undertaken on the 1st of March by a Chartered Landscape Architect. The visit was conducted in generally overcast but good weather, with clear visibility across the study area.

2.6.3. GLVIA3 recommends that landscape and visual impact appraisals take into account variation between seasons – for example a view containing deciduous trees can look very different between summer and winter due to leaf cover, as well as other factors. Therefore, photos taken in winter, when the branches are bare, represent the worst-case scenario for views of the site from the representative viewpoints. As the site visit was conducted in March when the leaves were not on the trees, winter views were possible. Any seasonal differences are summarised within the visual appraisal in Section 8 of this report.

2.6.4. In an ideal situation, baseline viewpoint photography would be captured at multiple points during the year to enable seasonal variation to be recorded. Due to the timescales of this project, the recording of photographs during different seasons was not possible.

3. Methodology

3.1. Introduction

3.1.1. This appraisal has been carried out using methodology based on the industry standard: GLVIA3. This guidance encourages that the appraisal of effects on landscape character and visual amenity is undertaken using clear professional judgment, the criteria for which is set out transparently within the appraisal itself. This section summarises the appraisal process and how the author has applied professional judgment throughout. The methodology for undertaking this appraisal report is then explained in full in Appendix A.

3.1.2. GLVIA3 sets out a distinction between a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal. The former (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) covers those reports which are part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and there is specific language used on the nature of the effects identified – i.e., their significance. Due to the scale and nature of the proposed development on the site, an EIA is not considered to be necessary. Therefore, this report is a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, rather than Assessment. This means that the nature of effects are described in terms of their importance, rather than their significance.

3.1.3. The Landscape Institute have also produced guidance related to the visualisation of development proposals, namely TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019), which was published in 2019. On-site viewpoint photography has been undertaken in line with these guidelines, using a Canon 6D full frame digital SLR camera with a fixed 50mm lens. These photographs are recorded in Figures 5 to 12 and are displayed as Type 1 Visualisations as per the Landscape Institute guidance. This means that they comprise annotated photographs which are produced with the intention of illustrating the view from a range of representative viewpoints and accompany a non-EIA landscape and visual impact appraisal (Type B within TGN 06/19).

3.2. The process of landscape and visual impact appraisal

3.2.1. As referenced previously, the methodology for this appraisal follows that set out in GLVIA3, as produced by the Landscape Institute and IEMA. For the full methodology and process, please refer to Appendix A. However, selected key elements from this methodology are covered below.

3.3. Sensitivity

3.3.1. The **sensitivity** of a landscape or visual receptor is determined by a combination of two factors: their **value**, and their **susceptibility** to change.

3.3.2. The **value** of a landscape receptor considers a number of factors which are set out in Box 5.1 of GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013). These include elements such as scenic quality, rarity, recreational value and perceptual value. On the visual side of the appraisal, value relates to the value placed on a view by the people experiencing it (for example views which are recorded in guidebooks and on tourist maps tend to be of high value).

3.3.3. **Susceptibility** to change for both landscape and visual receptors means the ability of that specific receptor to accommodate the change of the same type as the proposed development without adverse effect. So, for landscape receptors, a landscape character area with lots of housing already in it would typically be of lower susceptibility than a very rural landscape. Visually, the susceptibility of the viewer to change is related to factors such as the amount of time they would spend in that location and the attention that they would focus on their surroundings.

3.3.4. From combining judgments on **value** and **susceptibility**, a professional judgment can then be made on how **sensitive** the receptor is to change arising from the proposed development.

3.4. Magnitude

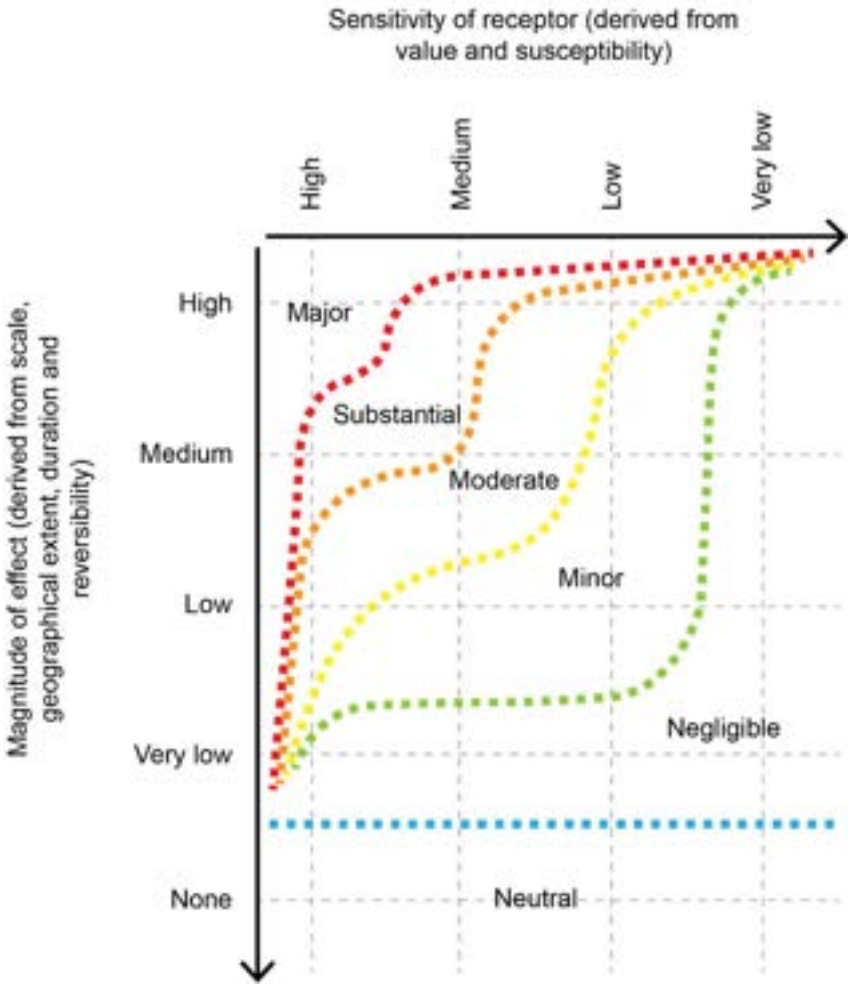
3.4.1. The **magnitude** of change affecting a particular landscape or visual receptor is determined by the consideration of several factors. These include the scale of impact when compared with either the wider landscape character area or wider view; the size

of the proposed development; the duration during which the impact will be affecting the receptors; and whether the effect is permanent and irreversible.

3.5. Importance

3.5.1. Once the landscape or visual receptors' **sensitivity** has been established, along with the **magnitude** of change, a judgment can then be made on the overall **importance** of the effect. This involves combining the judgments on sensitivity and magnitude to arrive at a conclusion on the effect's importance. Figure 1 shows an indicative linkage between these three factors; however, it is important to note that a different conclusion may be reached through the appraisal process. This will be supported by an explanation of the thought process behind that particular judgment.

Figure 1: Diagram showing indicative linkages between sensitivity, magnitude and importance



3.6. Defining the study area

3.6.1. GLVIA3 suggests that the study area for an LVIA covers the geographic area from which the development being assessed would potentially be visible. As per page 116 of the guidance, this study area also needs to be proportionate to the development in question.

3.6.2. The study area for this report was therefore defined by using a combination of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility analysis (ZTV analysis), professional judgement and on-site survey.

3.6.3. The ZTV was established by analysis of 3D terrain data using GIS software, derived from points located in a 5m grid within the site boundary and represents the maximum theoretical visibility of the proposed development within the site. The ZTV undertaken takes into account visibility as a result of topography and woodland over 0.5ha, but not the screening or filtering effects of intervening-built form and trees and woodland less than 0.5ha. For full details of the ZTV analysis undertaken, please see section 6.1 and Figure 1. Due to the limitations of the ZTV, the study area was further refined following a site visit, based on a combination of desk-based study, on-site conditions and professional judgement.

3.6.4. Any locations beyond the study area could still potentially be affected by the proposed development, but it is considered unlikely that any important effects will be experienced beyond the study area limits.

3.7. Choosing the appraisal stages

3.7.1. For any LVIA, it is necessary to assess effects across a range of appraisal stages, as the sensitivity and magnitude of effects varies in relation to the activity being undertaken on the site. For this report, the following appraisal stages are considered:

- Construction;
- Year 1 of operation; and
- Year 15 of operation.

3.7.2. The decommissioning appraisal stage has been excluded, as the proposed development is permanent.

3.8. Data and resources used

3.8.1. A series of datasets and resources have been used to inform and accompany this appraisal. Some of these are presented within Figures 1 to 12.

Desk-based

3.8.2. Baseline data has been gathered through a process of desk study. This has included looking at OS mapping (1:50k, 1:25k and OS Terrain 5), aerial mapping and Google StreetView to ascertain information about the landscape character and potential views within both the site and the study area. The Forestry Commission's National Forestry Inventory has been used to establish where the main woodland blocks are located, and these have been analysed alongside the ZTV to ascertain potential viewpoint locations.

3.8.3. The Welsh national landscape character assessment by Natural Resources Wales (Natural Resources Wales, 2014) and landscape character assessment from the Vale of Glamorgan Council (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008) has been used to establish the landscape baseline within the study area, in addition to information from Natural Resources Wales on landscape designations in the study area (Natural Resources Wales, 2014).

Site-based

3.8.4. A site visit was undertaken on the 1st of March 2022 in overcast but clear weather conditions. During the site visit, the general landscape character of both the site and the study area was appraised and viewpoints were taken from 10 locations within the study area. Photographs were captured in accordance with the Landscape Institute's TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute, 2019).

4. Planning policy

4.1. National Planning Policy

Welsh Planning Policy

4.1.1. On a national scale, a key piece of planning policy of relevance to landscape and visual issues on sites is the Welsh Planning Policy (The Welsh Government, 2021), the current edition of which was produced by the Welsh Government in December 2018. This was updated in February 2021 (The Welsh Government, 2021). Of note with regards to landscape character and visual amenity are the clauses outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Clauses from the Welsh Planning Policy which are relevant to landscape and visual issues

Clause (Emphasis is the author's)	
Strategic and Spatial Choices – Environmental Sustainability	'3.8 Good design can help to ensure high environmental quality**. Landscape and green infrastructure considerations are an integral part of the design process**. Integrating green infrastructure is not limited to focusing on landscape and ecology, rather, consideration should be given to **all features of the natural environment and how these function together** to contribute toward the quality of places. This embraces the principles of 'ecosystems services' and sustainable management of natural resources where multiple benefits solution become an integral part of good design. In a similar manner, addressing environmental risks can make a positive contribution to environmental protection and improvement, addressing land contamination, instability and flood risk and providing for biodiversity, climate protection, improved air quality, soundscape and water resources benefits.'
Strategic and Spatial Choices - Character	'3.9 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. A clear rationale behind the design decisions made, based on **site and context analysis**, a strong vision, performance requirements and design principles, should be sought throughout the development process and expressed, when appropriate, in a design and access statement. 3.10 In areas recognised for their particular landscape, townscape, cultural or historic character and value it can be appropriate to seek to **promote or reinforce local distinctiveness**. In those areas, the impact of development on **the existing character, the scale and siting of new development, and the use of appropriate building materials** (including where possible sustainably produced materials from local sources), will be particularly important.'
Strategic and Spatial Choices – Appraising context	'3.14 Site and context analysis should be used to **determine the appropriateness of a development proposal in responding to its surroundings**. This process will ensure that a development is **well integrated into the fabric of the existing built environment**. The analysis process will highlight **constraints and opportunities** presented by existing settlement structure and uses, **landscape**, biodiversity,

Clause (Emphasis is the author's)	
	water environment, movement, infrastructure, materials and resources, soundscape and built form which will need to be considered when formulating proposals.'
Strategic and Spatial Choices - Green Infrastructure	'3.23 Green infrastructure can be an effective means of enhancing health and well-being, through linking dwellings, workplaces and community facilities and **providing high quality, accessible green spaces**. In all development and in public spaces especially, there should be sensitive management of light, and exposure to airborne pollution should be kept as low as reasonably practicable…'
Strategic and Spatial Choices - Development in the Countryside	'3.60 Development in the countryside should be located within and adjoining those settlements where it can best be accommodated in terms of infrastructure, access, habitat and landscape conservation. Infilling or minor extensions to existing settlements may be acceptable, in particular where they meet a local need for affordable housing, or it can be demonstrated that the proposal will increase local economic activity. However, new building in the open countryside away from existing settlements or areas allocated for development in development plans must continue to be strictly controlled. **All new development should be of a scale and design that respects the character of the surrounding area.'**
Productive and Enterprising Places - Tourism	'In rural areas, tourism-related development is an essential element in providing for a healthy and diverse economy. In addition to more traditional forms of rural tourism, planning authorities should plan positively for active, green and cultural tourism where they are appropriate. **Development should be sympathetic in nature and scale to the local environment.'**
Distinctive and Natural Places	'6.0.2 The **special and unique characteristics and intrinsic qualities** of the natural and built environment must be **protected in their own right**, for historic, scenic, aesthetic and nature conservation reasons. These features give places their unique identity and distinctiveness and provide for cultural experiences and healthy lifestyles.'
Distinctive and Natural Places - Green Infrastructure	'6.2.5 The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by **integrating green infrastructure into development** through **appropriate site selection** and **use of creative design.** With careful planning and design, green infrastructure can embed the benefits of biodiversity and ecosystem services into new development and places, helping to overcome the potential for conflicting objectives, and contributing towards health and well-being outcomes. There are multiple ways of incorporating green infrastructure, dependent on the needs and opportunities a site presents. Landscaping, green roofs, grass verges, sustainable urban drainage and gardens are examples of individual measures that can have wider cumulative benefits, particularly in relation to biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystems as well as in securing the other desired environmental qualities of places.'
Distinctive and Natural Places - Landscape	'6.3.3 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. Considering landscape at the outset of formulating strategies and polices in development plans and when proposing development is key to sustaining and enhancing their special qualities and delivering the maximum well-being benefits for present and future generations as well as helping to **deliver an effective and integrated approach to natural resource management over the long term**. Collaboration and engagement with adjacent

Clause (Emphasis is the author's)	
	planning authorities, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw and the third sector will be necessary to draw on a wide range of expertise and evidence. This means: • ensuring Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for landscapes; • ensuring statutorily designated sites are properly protected and managed; • **ensuring that the value of all landscapes for their distinctive character and special qualities is protected; and** • **ensuring the opportunities landscapes provide for tourism, outdoor recreation**, local employment, renewable energy and physical and mental health and well-being are taken into account and multiple well-being benefits for people and communities secured.'
Distinctive and Natural Places – Characteristics of Local Landscapes	'6.3.12 Planning authorities should provide for the conservation and, where appropriate, enhancement of local landscapes. This may include policies for landscape features, characteristics and qualities of local significance, and the **designation of Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)**. Planning authorities should state which features, characteristics or qualities require extra protection, and explain how the policy or designation will achieve this protection. LANDMAP and any associated landscape character assessments (including the register of historic landscapes in Wales) should be used to inform local landscape policies and SPG, and to help identify or revise SLAs. 6.3.13 SLAs are non-statutory designations that **define local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area**. Planning authorities should apply these designations where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection.'
Distinctive and Natural Places – Landscape Information	'6.3.20 LANDMAP is an important information resource, methodology, and monitoring baseline for the landscapes of Wales, which can help inform planning for the sustainable management of natural resources in an area. LANDMAP describes and evaluates the **physical, ecological, visual, cultural and historic aspects of the landscapes of Wales**, and provides the basis of a consistent, quality assured **national approach to landscape assessment**. LANDMAP assessments can help to inform green infrastructure assessments, SPG on landscape, development management decisions, landscape character assessment, special landscape areas (SLAs), local distinctiveness, design, and landscape sensitivity studies. 6.3.21 Planning authorities should draw upon LANDMAP in the preparation of landscape plans and assessments needed to inform development plans, SPGs and the development management process. LANDMAP assessments should be published.'

4.2. Relevant local planning policy

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

4.2.1. The Vale of Glamorgan Council adopted their Local Development Plan in June 2017 (Vale Of Glamorgan Council, 2017). The Local Development Plan contains several policies of relevance to landscape and visual issues associated with the proposed development on the site. These are set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Policies from the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan which are relevant to landscape and visual issues

Policy (emphasis is the author's)	
SP1: Implementing the Strategy	'The strategy will seek to improve the living and working environment, promote enjoyment of the countryside and coast and manage important environmental assets. This will be achieved by … 6. Protecting and enhancing the built, natural and coastal environment…'
SP10: Built and Natural Environment	'c) Landscape Development proposals must **preserve and where appropriate enhance the rich and diverse built and natural environment and heritage** of the Vale of Glamorgan. Policy SP10 emphasises the need to protect the Vale of Glamorgan's natural and built environmental assets and reinforces that sensitive design and choice of location of new development can have a positive effect on the Vale of Glamorgan's built and natural heritage. Similarly, **new development will be required to minimise its impact on** natural systems, **landscapes**, species and habitats and, where appropriate, **provide opportunities** for the creation of **new habitats** or the sensitive enhancement of existing habitats.'
MG17: Special Landscape Areas (SLA)	**'Upper and Lower Thaw Valley'** Special Landscape Areas (SLA) have been designated to **protect areas of the Vale of Glamorgan** that are considered to be important for their geological, natural, visual, historic or cultural significance.' *Author's note - Although the site doesn't sit within the Special Landscape Area itself, it sits within the context of it and appropriate development on the edge of the SLA is still important.*
MD1: Location of New Development	New development on unallocated sites should: 1. Have no unacceptable impact on the countryside; 2. Reinforce the role and function of the key settlement of Barry, the service centre settlements, primary settlements or minor rural settlements as key providers of commercial, community and healthcare facilities; 3. **Where appropriate promote new enterprises, tourism, leisure and community facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan;** 4. In the case of residential development, support the delivery of affordable housing in areas of identified need; 5. Have access to or promote the use of sustainable modes of transport; 6. Benefit from existing infrastructure provision or where necessary make provision for new infrastructure without any unacceptable effect on the natural or built environment; 7. Where possible promote sustainable construction and make beneficial use of previously developed land and buildings; 8. Provide a positive context for the management of the water environment by avoiding areas of flood risk in accordance with the sequential approach set out in national policy and safeguard water resources; and 9. **Have no unacceptable impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land.**

Policy (emphasis is the author's)

MD2: Design of New Development	In order to create high quality, healthy, sustainable and locally distinct places development proposals should: 1. Be of a **high standard of design that positively contributes to the context and character of the surrounding natural and built environment** and protects existing features of townscape or landscape interest; 2. **Respond appropriately to the local context and character of neighbouring buildings** and uses in terms of use, type, form, scale, mix, and density; 3. Provide a safe and accessible environment for all users, giving priority to pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users; 4. Have no unacceptable impact on highway safety nor cause or exacerbate existing traffic congestion to an unacceptable degree; 5. **Safeguard existing public and residential amenity**, particularly with regard to privacy, overlooking, security, noise and disturbance; 6. **Incorporate sensitive landscaping, including the retention and enhancement** where appropriate of existing landscape features **and biodiversity interests**;

5. Landscape baseline

5.1. The landscape context of the site

5.1.1. The site is set within a rural context, comprising an arable field at present with nearby stables and a business park. It is situated just off the A48, adjacent to a new private access road which is under construction, approximately 1.5km away from the nearby village of Aberthin. The site itself has an agricultural appearance, with no definitive boundaries other than the wider field boundaries which consist of hedgerows and the A48 to the south.

5.1.2. The landscape baseline has been established through a combination of desk-based study and site survey.

Topography, geology and hydrology

5.1.3. As illustrated in Figure 2, the site sits to the north of the A48 on the top of a hill which runs down to the north-west, leading into the Aberthin Valley and into Nant Aberthin. Nant Aberthin runs east to west, leading into the River Thaw and subsequently into the Bristol Channel.

5.1.4. As the site sits to the top of the valley, the topography rises to the east and south-west of the site. The site is approximately 80 – 100m AOD above sea level with the Nant Aberthin starting approximately 1.7km up the hill and through the valley below. The site is surrounded on two sides by undulating slopes from the east and south-west, going around to the south of the site and running through the middle of the proposed site. This leaves a view down the valley, towards Aberthin.

5.1.5. Within the wider study area, the topography lies between 70m-140m AOD. There is an area of higher ground in the east and north-east of the study area (including that on which the site sits), but the valley of the River Thaw is an area of wide and low ground which occupies much of the remainder of the study area.

5.1.6. There are no river channels present through the site, however the site itself plays a role in directing the flow of water into the watercourse, flowing to the north-west towards the River Thaw and into the Bristol Channel. The watercourses in this area sweep down the valley and straighten out as they reach the immediate surroundings

of the site. They then meander down the valley before reaching the River Thaw. These river corridors are predominantly lined with trees and hedgerow corridors which follow the bottom of the valleys and slopes.

Land cover and pattern

5.1.7. In the study area, the land cover is primarily agricultural land. Farming is mixed, although arable is typically more common than pastoral. It takes place in medium-sized fields which are sub-regular and irregular in size and shape – there are some smaller fields directly adjacent to settlement such as Aberthin and Welsh St Donats. Boundary treatments in these fields are predominantly native hedgerow, with some post and rail fencing.

5.1.8. Throughout the study area, tree cover is typically confined to small blocks of woodland and linear features such as hedgerow and riparian trees, particularly to the north-west of the study area. However, to the north-east of the study area is Hensol Forest and the Coed Mynydd-coch area of woodland which sits approximately 1km to the east of the site. These woodland areas tend to consist of deciduous trees, whilst the smaller woodland blocks tend to comprise mixed broadleaved and coniferous trees clustered in medium sized groups. These tend to wrap around the water courses and typically follow the field boundaries.

Settlement

5.1.9. The study area has a limited amount of settlement, typically confined to villages, hamlets and scattered individual properties. Cowbridge and Aberthin are the two main villages; the former located to the west of the site in the Lower Thaw Valley, approximately 2km west of the site, and the latter forming a smaller settlement to the north-west of the site, approximately 1.5km away from the site boundary.

5.1.10. The village of Aberthin is the closest settlement to the site (aside from a few scattered individual properties and farmsteads). The main road through the village being the A4222 Aberthin Road - forming the spine from which the three main routes run through Aberthin. As shown on old OS mapping (Ordnance Survey, 1900), the village originated as a linear settlement along Llanquian Road, with Aberthin Village Hall, built in 1749 lying to the south on Aberthin Lane. Mid to late 20th century development has infilled between the High Street and the Village Hall. Properties in

Aberthin typically comprise rendered walls, with slate roofs on older properties, and tiled roofs on some of the newer properties.

5.1.11. **Infrastructure** The main piece of highway infrastructure in the study area is the A48 road, which runs east to west, connecting Cardiff to Cowbridge and onto Bridgend. To the east, the A48 connects the Vale of Glamorgan to the M4 and wider connections beyond, as well as connecting the site to Barry and other towns beyond. The A48 sits on the boundary of the site, separated by a large wall to the south of the field where the site is situated. There is a bus stop directly next to the site which runs along the A48.

5.1.12. The A4222 sits within 1.5km of the site boundary. This road is located to the north-west of the site, linking Aberthin and Ystradowen to the A48. Otherwise, roads within the study area are more minor, typically comprising single-track or private roads which link to farmsteads and other small settlement. There is no rail infrastructure in the study area.

5.1.13. There are elements of power or telecommunications infrastructure in the study area, including a large radio mast to the north of the A48 which sits approximately 0.5km away from the site boundary. There are also large pylons and power lines which run from the north to the south on the western side of the study area. To the south-east of the site, a solar farm sits to the south of the A48.

Recreational routes and facilities

5.1.14. The study area contains a strong network of public rights of way (PRoW). This network tends to be less dense in the south of the study area. The majority of these are local PRoW, connecting villages in the area to woodland blocks and the wider countryside. The National Cycle Route 88 runs through the south of the study area. Vale of Glamorgan bridleway L4 31/2 runs around the scheduled monument to the north between the Llanquian Castle and the site, whilst Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 33/3 and Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 runs to the west of the site.

5.1.15. There are no recreational facilities in the immediate vicinity of the site, mainly due to sparse population, however in Aberthin, there are amenity open spaces. In Cowbridge, there are a greater number of open spaces and sports pitches including Bear Field and

Police Field. Closer to the site, there is common land at St Hilary Down and Stalling Down which offer long elevated views across the valley.

Industry and Commerce

5.1.16. Today, the land within the study area is primarily associated with agriculture, although there is a small business park to the north of the site. To the south-east of the site lies a disused quarry that has since been restored and is now used for solar energy generation.

5.2. Assessed landscape character in the study area

5.2.1. The process of landscape character assessment is hierarchical and can be carried at a variety of different scales, from a national scale, through to a regional scale and ultimately to a local scale. Landscape Character Assessment seeks to 'highlight what distinguishes one landscape from another, with reference to their … distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics' (Natural Resources Wales, 2019).

5.2.2. Several published landscape character assessments cover the study area, from a national to a local scale. These are set out below and are illustrated on Figure 3.

Welsh Landscape Character Assessment

5.2.3. The study area is covered by the Welsh Landscape Character Assessment, updated in 2019 (Natural Resources Wales, 2014; Natural Resources Wales, 2019). This document sets out the National Landscape Character Area (NLCAs) present within Wales. These are on a national scale and have assessed landscapes and their character on a large scale in comparison to other parts of the country. Within the study area, the following NLCAs are of relevance:

- NLCA 36: Vale of Glamorgan (Natural Resources Wales, 2014)

5.2.4. Given the size of the proposed development, it is unlikely that it will have any important effects on the landscape character of the NLCA. This is because the scale at which the NLCAs are assessed is regional and therefore any localised development is unlikely to affect the wider character area. Therefore, this LVIA provides a high-level overview of the NLCA but does not assess effects on it as a result of the proposed development.

5.2.5. The key characteristics of the Vale of Glamorgan NLCA are as per Table 3.

Table 3: Key characteristics of the Vale of Glamorgan NLCA

Key characteristics of the Vale of Glamorgan NLCA (Natural Resources Wales, 2014)	
Vale of Glamorgan NLCA	• Lowland, rolling limestone plateau with glacial till • Coastal cliffs mark a sudden edge to the landscape. • Wide views across the Bristol Channel • Mixed agricultural land uses with predominantly rural character • Small woodlands (mainly to the east). Few large woodlands • Mixed field patterns and sizes with hedgerows and hedgebanks, frequent hedgerow tree. Limestone walls define land above cliffs in the west • Norman castles and medieval villages centred on churches • Predominantly still rural with strong sense of enclosure by historic field boundaries • Number of large built developments including Cardiff International Airport an Aberthaw Power Station. Some areas with traffic noise e.g., in the M4 corridor • Commuter settlement with modern suburban housing extending but contrasting with historic settlement character

Local landscape assessments – Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Areas

5.2.6. On a local level, the area is covered by the Vale of Glamorgan Council Designation of Landscape Character Areas, published in 2008 (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008). This document sets out the Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) present within the Vale of Glamorgan, Within the study area, the following LCAs are of relevance:

- Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA;
- Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA;
- Upper Thaw Valley LCA;
- Hensol Forest LCA;
- Lower Thaw Valley LCA;
- Lias Plateau LCA;
- Ely Valley LCA;
- Lower Waycock Valley LCA; and

- Northern Vale Lias Slopes LCA.

5.2.7. The site sits within the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA; which would experience direct effects as a result of the proposed development. The ZTV indicates that parts of the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and Upper Thaw Valley LCA have potential to experience indirect effects as a result of intervisibility with the proposed development.

5.2.8. The Hensol Forest LCA, Lower Thaw Valley LCA, Lias Plateau LCA, Ely Valley LCA, Lower Waycock Valley LCA and the Northern Vale Lias Slopes LCA, whilst present within the study area, would not experience any indirect effects as a result of a lack of intervisibility with the site. Therefore, these areas are not considered further within this appraisal.

5.2.9. The key characteristics of Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and Upper Thaw Valley LCA are as per Table 4.

Table 4: Key characteristics of Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and Upper Thaw Valley LCA

Key characteristics of the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA
Lowland plateau with a series of enclosed valleys
Arable and pastoral farming
Prominent woodland blocks
Key characteristics of the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA
Scattered woodland
Lowland valleys and hills
Pastoral fields
Strong hedgerows
Scattered farms and houses
Few settlements showing increased signs of suburbanisation

Key characteristics of the Upper Thaw Valley LCA
Active lowland river valley
Steep valley sides
Scattered farmsteads and a few small settlements
Largely wooded slopes

5.2.10. Several of the key characteristics are displayed throughout the study area and the key characteristics of these LCAs is an appropriate description of the character within it.

5.3. The value of the landscape

5.3.1. GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) discusses the concept of landscape value as a function of eight different factors (shown in Box 5.1 of GLVIA3), which combine to give an overall value of the landscape. Whilst some landscapes have value indicated through their inclusion in a landscape designation (for example, a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), these eight factors ensure that landscape value of undesignated landscapes is also properly recognised and recorded.

5.3.2. These eight factors are:

- Landscape quality (the quality and condition of the landscape and its elements);
- Scenic quality (the aesthetic quality or 'beauty' within a landscape);
- Rarity (whether the landscape contains any elements which are considered to be rare);
- Representativeness (whether the landscape is representative of the wider LCA or LCT in which it sits);
- Conservation interest (the presence of landscape, ecological or cultural heritage designations which add conservation interest to the landscape);
- Recreational value (whether the landscape contains features such as public rights of way (PRoW) or recreational facilities);

- Perceptual aspects (aspects such as tranquillity and a sense of remoteness which add a positive perceptual experience for people within the landscape); and
- Associations (whether the landscape has associations with literary or artistic works, as well as notable events and / or people).

5.3.3. The landscape value of the site is considered in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Factors which influence the landscape value of the site

Factor	Description	Value
Landscape condition	The site is generally in a managed and fair landscape condition, consistent with an intensively managed agricultural field.	Medium
Scenic quality	Aside from the construction work to implement the access road on the north-eastern site boundary, the site does not contain any detractors; it has some scenic quality. However, it is influenced by adjacent detractors such as the A48 and the St Hilary radio transmitter.	Medium
Rarity	None	NA
Representativeness	The site is representative of the surrounding context and of the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA recorded in the Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Assessment (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008).	High
Conservation interest	N/A	N/A
Recreational value	There is a bridleway to the north of the site and common land to the west of the site, but the site itself doesn't have any recreational value.	Low
Perceptual aspects	The site does not feel remote, given its distance from the A48. However, away from the road, there is an element of rurality and tranquillity to the site and its immediate surroundings.	Medium
Associations	No cultural or literary associations.	None.

5.3.4. Overall, the site is considered to be of medium landscape value, owing to its good landscape condition, the presence of scenic quality and positive perceptual aspects and its representativeness of recorded landscape character.

5.3.5. The landscape value of the study area as a whole is considered in Table 6 below.

Table 6: Factors which influence the landscape value of the study area

Factor	Description	Value
Landscape condition	The landscape is generally in a managed condition throughout with minimal changes to the historic landscape and field boundaries (Ordnance Survey, 1900) (Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, 2022).	Medium
Scenic quality	There are several elements of scenic quality, particularly close to the site in the form of views across the landscape, as recognised in the Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Area report (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008). There are also detractors within the study area including pylons and telecommunication lines which run from north to south along the western side of the study area.	Medium
Rarity	The Special Landscape Area designations are fairly rare elements on a regional level.	Medium
Representativeness	The landscapes within the study area correlate with the descriptions of the various landscape character areas from the published Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Assessment (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008).	High
Conservation interest	The study area contains some elements of conservation interest. These include two Special Landscape Areas, several scheduled monuments, several conservation areas and numerous listed buildings, particularly within Cowbridge. There are also several SSSIs throughout and a registered Historic Landscape to the south-east of the study area. Many of the designations are of regional or local interest rather than international or national interest.	Medium
Recreational value	There is a dense network of public rights of way within the study area, including the National Cycle Route 88. St Hilary's Down and Stalling Down form an area of common land to the south-west of the site. There are also a handful of recreational facilities particularly within settlements such as Aberthin and Cowbridge.	Medium
Perceptual aspects	The study area has relatively few settlements and main roads within it and feels relatively remote in places, despite the fact that it contains major roads such as the A48. The study area does, however, contain some detractors such as the pylons and existing built development.	Medium
Associations	The study area doesn't have any literary or cultural associations.	Low

5.3.6. Overall, the study area is considered to be of medium landscape value, owing to the medium level of perceptual aspects, scenic quality and landscape condition, as well as the presence of several conservation interests and recreational routes and facilities.

5.4. Landscape designations

5.4.1. An overview of landscape designations to be found within the study area is given below. The presence of landscape designations such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty or local landscape designations are often indicators of landscape value and quality within a given area.

International and national

5.4.2. There is a Registered Park and Garden to the far north-eastern extent of the study area as recorded by CADW in the Register of Parks and Gardens. Hensol Castle is an 'mid 18th century landscape park associated with a major house…features include a large lake and serpentine pond, ornamental bridges, entrance lodge, island folly and a walled garden.' (CADW, 2022); it provides the setting for the Grade 2 listed Hensol Castle.

5.4.3. Another Registered Park and Garden is present in the east to the study area at Llantrithyd Place, around 2.5km from the site. It comprises 'the structure of an important sixteenth-century garden and of a mid seventeenth-century deer park' (CADW, 2022). The earthworks of the garden are also a Scheduled Monument (CADW, 2004).

5.4.4. The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens is compiled by The Welsh Government as a list of parks and gardens which:

- 'Contribute to the Wales' national identity;
- Enrich the texture and pattern of our landscapes;
- Form a valuable record of social, cultural and economic change
- Offer outstanding conservation value for wildlife;
- Provide opportunities for public recreation;
- Act as a source of enjoyment and learning;
- Play an important role in building a healthier and greener Wales. (CADW, 2022).

5.4.5. Inclusion in the Inventory does not mean that the garden or landscape is accessible by the public, although some publicly accessible gardens or landscapes are designated.

Local

5.4.6. Both the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Welsh government have designated Local Landscape Areas as shown on Figure 4 (N.B. these are referred to as Special Landscape Areas by CADW). Within the study area, the designated area covers the majority of the Vale with direct views across the landscape. Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) are a non-statutory protection which form part of a wider framework and provide a designation for their intrinsic physical, environmental, visual, cultural and historical value in the contemporary landscape. The designations are supported by a range of policies, strategies and guidelines for the wider landscape, such as Policy ENV4 from the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan (Vale Of Glamorgan Council, 2017).

Other designations which indicate potential landscape value

5.4.7. Within the study area, there are some designations which, whilst not specifically related to landscape value or quality, indicate potential landscape value and/or quality.

5.4.8. The study area contains several Conservation Areas covering parts of the local towns and villages. Whilst Conservation Areas are cultural heritage designations, they often encompass landscape elements which contribute to the value in terms of cultural heritage. Therefore, these designations can be taken as in indicator of potential landscape value quality.

6. Visual baseline

6.1. ZTV analysis

6.1.1. A Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis has been undertaken in GIS, which uses a combination of terrain data and 3D points spaced along a grid at 5m intervals throughout the site boundary. For this report, a ZTV has been run, where the points within the site boundary are 3.5m high (i.e., the maximum height of the ridge of the lodges). Within the ZTV, observers are set at 1.6m tall, which is an approximation of their eye level.

6.1.2. The ZTV takes into account the presence of intervening vegetation (woodland blocks over 0.5ha in area which are present in the National Forestry Inventory (Forestry Commission, 2020)), but not the presence of trees or woodland smaller than 0.5ha or intervening built form. Therefore, the study area has been refined following on-site verification.

6.2. People and places potentially affected

6.2.1. There are a range of people and places whose visual amenity has the potential to be affected by the proposed development. These are known as visual receptors and include residents, users of recreational routes and facilities, users of highways, workers, and people visiting the area for leisure. An overview of the potential views for each of these receptor groups is outlined below.

Residents

6.2.2. Within the study area, the ZTV indicates that residents of isolated properties near to the site, such as those to the south of the A48 and farmsteads to the north-west of Ystradowen, are likely to experience views of the proposed development.

Users of recreational routes and facilities

6.2.3. Some of the key recreational routes from which views of the site would be experienced are the public right of way on the northern site boundary (Vale of Glamorgan bridleway L4 31/2), as well as the public right of way to the south-west of the site (Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1) – both of which look across the site. The PRoWs which

lie to the west of the site (Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 33/3 and Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1) also have the potential for views of the site as well. In addition, there is the potential for views from PRoWs on the northern slope of the Nant Aberthin valley and those near Ash Hall in the far north of the study area.

Users of highways

6.2.4. One of the key highways from which views of the site would be apparent is the A48 immediately south of the site, however on-site survey confirmed that these views are only available from a small section of the road due to intervening vegetation and topography. The ZTV indicates that other key highways such as the A4222 have a lack of views of the site.

6.3. Representative viewpoints

6.3.1. Representative viewpoints have been captured from 8 locations within the study area (see Figures 1 and 5-12). These have been selected to take into account a range of receptor types, viewing distances and compass points. As per the Landscape Institute Guidance TGN 06/19 (Landscape Institute, 2019), the resulting photographs have been stitched into panoramas and are displayed at a viewing distance of 300mm in Figures 5 to 12.

6.3.2. The baseline view from each of these representative viewpoints is described in Table 7.

Table 7: Baseline view from each of the representative viewpoints

Viewpoint 1 – View south towards the site from Vale of Glamorgan bridleway L4 31/2 (W3W location: blossom.stump.scoping)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 01927 74294, 90m AOD	0m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 5

This view looks south directly towards the site from Vale of Glamorgan Bridleway L4 31/2 which sits to the north-east of the site boundary. It represents the views afforded to recreational users of the footpath.

The foreground of the view contains the undulating slopes of the pastoral farmland bordering the southern site boundary. This is divided from the undulating arable land of the site by a hedgerow and tree boundary with direct views through to the site beyond. The site sits on the hillside in the middle ground whilst a secondary mature

Viewpoint 1 – View south towards the site from Vale of Glamorgan bridleway L4 31/2 (W3W location: blossom.stump.scoping)

tree boundary sits in the distance along the A48 corridor. Construction activity associated with the new access road situated to the east of the site boundary can be partially glimpsed in the centre of the background of the view.

The panorama is not likely to be visited in order to experience the view from it; it is considered to be of low visual value.

Viewpoint 2 – View north from the bus stop next to the site on the A48 (W3W location: cuts.invents.producers)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 01992 73915, 110m AOD	0m	01/03/2022	Residential, Highway	Figure 6

This view is located on the edge of the A48, at the bus stop near the Bryn Owain Pub; it also represents the view afforded to adjacent residential receptors.

Open arable fields lie in the foreground which slope down to the north-west. This is the site location, comprising much of the arable field and a small hedgerow with an individual tree within it. To the right of the image, there is an access road currently under construction alongside gapped hedgerows. Pant Wilkin Stables can be seen on a ridgeline in the central middle ground of the view whilst there are linear tree belts and arable farmland surrounding the stables. In the long distance of this view, Hensol Forest is visible past the undulating hillside on the right-hand side. The detractors within the view include the pylons which run from the centre to the left of the background of the panorama and the Pant Wilkin Stables themselves, acting as a notable feature in the landscape.

With the pylons and the existing buildings within the view, and the location of the viewpoint on the edge of the A48, whilst the view from this location is long and has some scenic qualities, it is unlikely to be visited for its visual qualities and is of low visual value.

Viewpoint 3 – View west from Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 (W3W location: astounded.classes.fairy)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 01455 74310, 110m AOD	500m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 7

The panorama captured at this location represents the views afforded to recreational users of the Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1, which links into Vale of Glamorgan bridleway L4 31/1 and Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 33/3. The panorama looks south-east towards the site from the PRoW. It also represents the view from users of the common land at Stalling Down.

Viewpoint 3 – View west from Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 (W3W location: astounded.classes.fairy)

To the left-hand side of the foreground of the view, the panorama comprises the route of the Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1, leading down to the footpaths beyond. The remainder of the foreground is occupied by a pastoral field edged with scrub. Hollybush Farm is visible to the left of the panorama, with a belt of trees across the remainder of the view. This filters onwards views of the rising arable farmland in the middle ground. The site itself sits centrally to the image, however, has limited visibility due to the intervening vegetation. Detractors within the landscape include the radio antenna in the background of the view, the construction activity in the right-hand side of the far middle ground of the panorama and the pylons in the foreground and middle ground to the right. The Coed Mynydd-coch woodland to the north-east of the site can be seen to the left of the background of the panorama adjacent to the undulating farmland.

Taking the detractors in the view into consideration, the panorama is not likely to be visited in order to experience the view from it and it is considered to be of low visual value.

Viewpoint 4 – View east from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1 (W3W location: cheerful.newer.promising)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 01923 74690 57m AOD	150m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 8

Representing the views afforded to recreational users of the Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1, this panorama looks north-east towards the site.

The foreground of the view is occupied by common land which is covered in bracken and a linear strip of trees which follows the A48 road from west to east. The land slopes down in the fore and middle ground with the site visible through a linear strip of trees in the middle ground. Detractors in the middle ground include the Pant Wilkin Stables on the hilltop. The background of the view is formed by the undulating slopes of the arable land across Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and is divided by boundary hedgerows and Hensol Forest in the far distance. Detractors in the background also include the pylons to the left-hand side of the panorama.

The panorama offers long views across the valley with detractors such as the pylons and the Pant Wilkin Stables on the hillside. It is unlikely to be visited by people in order to experience the view and is of low visual value.

Viewpoint 5 – View south from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1 (W3W location: intervals.feeds.crumbles)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 01747 75392, 95m AOD	1100m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 9

This open view looks south-east from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1 towards the site.

Viewpoint 5 – View south from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1 (W3W location: intervals.feeds.crumbles)

In the foreground of the image, the undulating pastoral farmland rolls down into the Aberthin valley to the right of the image. There is a strong tree line separating the foreground from the middle ground. To the right of the middle ground, the heathland and grassland of the common land at Stalling Down and St Hilary Down is visible with rolling hills comprising a mixture of mixed farmland and woodland present in the centre of the middle ground, including the field in which the site is located. In the background of the panorama, the landscape behind cutting off on the horizon. The St Hilary radio transmitter acts as a detractor in the background of the panorama, with the A48 visible in the centre of the view and the Bryn Owain public house visible to the right of the centre of the view in front of a tree line.

The view value of this panorama is of low visual value and is unlikely to be visited by people in order to experience the view.

Viewpoint 6 – View south-west from Vale of Glamorgan footpath W1 57/1 (W3W location: cucumber.estimated.debt)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 03306 75102, 120m AOD	1200m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 10

This open view looks from Vale of Glamorgan footpath W1 57/1 and represents the views of recreational users of the path looking west towards the site.

In the foreground, the view comprises an arable field with hedgerows to the right of the image and along the left of the field. In the middle ground of the view is the Coed Mynydd-coch woodland to the left of the panorama, with the A48 running along the top of the hill to the west of the site. There are detractors in this image such as the radio antenna to the left of the panorama in the middle ground too. In the background, beyond the Coed Mynydd-coch woodland, the land continues to undulate and comprises a mixture of arable fields and small woodland blocks which are separated by hedgerow field boundaries. In the distance, the hill undulates towards the centre of the image and comprises a wooded area and heathland, as well as detractors such as the pylons on the hill in the distance.

The viewpoint is considered to be of low visual value and is unlikely to be visited by people in order to experience the view.

Viewpoint 7 – View south from Vale of Glamorgan footpath Y1 13/2 (W3W location: huddle.dwarves.node)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 02138 77094, 110m AOD	2800m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 11

Viewpoint 7 – View south from Vale of Glamorgan footpath Y1 13/2 (W3W location: huddle.dwarves.node)

This view is located from Vale of Glamorgan footpath Y1 13/2, looking south towards the site; it represents the view afforded to recreational users of the footpath.

Open pastoral fields lie in the foreground which slope down into the middle ground of the panorama. To the right of the image, long views across the landscape are uninterrupted by existing vegetation, however there are pylons across the extent of the middle and background of the view, which notably detract from overall the panorama. In the middle ground and background of the view, there are pockets of vegetation which break up the mixed farmland on the hillside. The fields are broken up with hedgerow boundaries in the middle ground and distance of the views.

Taking the amount of pylons into consideration, the value of the view is low and would be unlikely to be visited to experience the view.

Viewpoint 8 – View south-east from Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail (W3W location: beamed.merge.consoles)

Grid reference / elevation	Approximate distance to site boundary	Date taken	Receptors	Figure number
ST 00574 78204, 110m AOD	4000m	01/03/2022	Recreational	Figure 12

This view is located on the Valeways Millennium Heritage Trail, representing the views of recreational users looking south-east towards the site.

The foreground of the view is dominated by a small pastoral field with a dense hedgerow boundary. A line of trees is present along much of the extent of the foreground and filtering and obscuring views of the middle ground. In the background of the view, the land rises; comprising a mixture of mixed farmland, heathland and small woodland blocks.

The value of this view is low as receptors would be unlikely to visit the location in order to experience the view.

7. Potential landscape effects

7.1. Interactions between the proposed development and landscape receptors

7.1.1. There are two ways in which interactions can occur between the proposed development and landscape receptors. The first is through the loss of landscape elements or characteristics (so changes which result in an alteration to the landscape character through the loss of elements or characteristics). Secondly, there can be an addition which subsequently changes the landscape character. These changes can either be direct or indirect (occurring as a result of a direct effect but separated from the source of the effect by distance or time).

7.1.2. In the case of the proposed development on the site, there would be the introduction of three fishing lakes and associated landscape planting to the site. Indirect effects on landscape character outside of the site boundary would be dependent on intervisibility with the site within the wider study area.

7.2. Landscape receptors

7.2.1. For the purposes of this report, the effects of the proposed development will be assessed on the LCAs within the Vale of Glamorgan Landscape Character Assessment (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008). Using this assessment, direct changes to landscape character would be confined to the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA with indirect changes experienced in Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and Upper Thaw Valley LCA.

7.2.2. There will be no intervisibility between the site and the other LCAs within the study area so these LCAs have not been considered further in this appraisal.

7.3. Landscape appraisal

7.3.1. The potential likely effects of the proposed development on the landscape character of the site, the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, the Ystradowen Lowland Valley

LCA and the Upper Thaw Valley LCA are appraised in Table 8, Table 10, Table 9 and Table 11 respectively.

7.3.2. As per Section 3.7, this appraisal is based on the effects of the proposed development during construction, year 1 of operation and year 15 of operation. The reasons for excluding the other possible appraisal stages are set out in Section 3.7.

Table 8: Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of the site

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of the site

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of landscape to change**
Construction: Construction activity would be incongruous within the rural site, although the presence of large machinery would not be wholly incongruous given the agricultural context and the likely presence of large agricultural machinery. The susceptibility to change is high. The medium landscape value of the site is combined with the high susceptibility to change to give a medium sensitivity to change for construction.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: The presence of the fishing lakes would be incongruous with the existing landscape character of the site due to a lack of similar features and would result in a high susceptibility to change. The landscape of the site is of medium value, and this is combined with the high susceptibility to change to give an overall medium sensitivity to change at this stage of development.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on landscape character	**Magnitude of landscape effect**
Construction: During construction, change would occur across the full extent of the site and would involve the introduction of large construction machinery ; the placement of the fishing lakes; and operations such as soil stripping and planting of landscape mitigation planting. The changes would occupy a large extent of the site and be of a relatively large scale, but would also be short-term, temporary and reversible. The overall magnitude of change would be high.	***High***

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of the site	
Year 1 of Operation: At year 1 of operation, the fishing lakes and associated landscape treatments would be in place. The extent of change would occupy the whole site, with the changes still being large in scale given the lack of similar development for the baseline site. They would be long-term, as well as being permanent and irreversible. The magnitude of change during year 1 would be high.	***High***
Year 15 of Operation: The landscape mitigation planting would have matured at year 15 of operation, helping the proposed development to assimilate better into the site and its immediate surroundings. However, the lack of planting within the baseline site means that the extent and scale of the perceived change would remain. The effect would be irreversible, long-term and permanent. The magnitude of change would remain as high.	***High***
Importance of landscape effect	**Importance of landscape effect**
Construction: Combining the medium sensitivity at this stage of development with the high magnitude of change, the importance of effect on the landscape character of the site is substantial adverse.	***Substantial adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: At year 1 of operation, the high magnitude of change is combined with the medium sensitivity, giving a substantial neutral effect. Whilst the addition of the parked cars would be adverse given the rural character of the site, the addition of the fishing lakes and the associated landscape mitigation planting would be beneficial to the site, adding elements which would enhance its character.	***Substantial neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The medium sensitivity and high magnitude of change would remain in year 15, but the importance of effect would change to substantial beneficial. The addition of the fishing lakes and the maturing landscape mitigation planting would be a beneficial addition to the character of the site.	***Substantial beneficial***

Table 9: Appraisal of the effects on the landscape character of the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of landscape to change**
Construction: The Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA is a large area of undulating hilly terrain that runs east to west from Cowbridge. Construction activity is incongruous within this landscape area, particularly given the lack of settlements. The LCA is therefore of high susceptibility to change during construction. Combining this high susceptibility with the medium landscape value, the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA is of medium sensitivity to change during construction.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: Fishing lakes and other waterbodies are not a recognised characteristic of the published LCA so the introduction of fishing lakes would result in a high susceptibility to change. The medium landscape value is combined with the high susceptibility to result in an overall medium sensitivity to change.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on landscape character	**Magnitude of landscape effect**
Construction: During construction, the operations on the site would directly influence the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA – however only a limited extent of the wider LCA would be indirectly affected due to the ridgeline to the south of the site limiting the intervisibility. Construction is a large change to the key characteristics of the LCA, but would occur over a short duration, as well as being both temporary and reversible. Considering all of this, the magnitude of change during construction would be low.	***Low***
Year 1 of Operation: As at construction, the extent of change within the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA as a result of the proposed development would be very limited due to the small scale of the site and the general lack of intervisibility with the remainder of the LCA. The scale of the change would be large in comparison to the existing baseline. The changes would be long-term and permanent, as well as irreversible. Considering the above and the limited extent of indirect changes in this LCA, the magnitude of change would continue to be low.	***Low***

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA	
Year 15 of Operation: As the landscape mitigation planting within the site matures, it would help to assimilate the site into the surrounding LCA, with the extent and scale of the change within the LCA becoming more limited. There would also be a reduction in intervisibility as a result of the landscape mitigation**. T**he effect remains of long duration, permanent and irreversible; it would be of overall very low magnitude at year 15 of operation.	***Very low***
Importance of landscape effect	**Importance of landscape effect**
Construction: Combining the low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, there is a minor adverse effect.	***Minor adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: The medium sensitivity to change is considered alongside the low magnitude to change to result in a minor neutral effect. The effect is neutral considering the introduction of landscape mitigation adding further habitat and biodiversity to the LCA (whose published description recognises it contains a range of terrestrial habitats). This is balanced with the localised loss of characteristic agricultural land from the LCA.	***Minor neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The very low magnitude combines with the medium sensitivity to result in a negligible neutral effect. The changes are neutral given the maturing landscape mitigation planting enhancing the biodiversity and range of habitats in the LCA, balanced with the localised loss of characteristic agricultural land from the LCA.	***Negligible neutral***

Table 10: Appraisal of the effects on the landscape character of the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA	
Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of landscape to change**
Construction: The Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA is typically rural, comprising mostly agricultural land. Construction activity is incongruous within this rural landscape, particularly given the lack of settlement within it. The LCA is therefore of high susceptibility to change during construction. Combining the high susceptibility with the medium landscape value, the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA is of medium sensitivity to change during construction.	***Medium***

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA	
Year 1 of Operation: The baseline description of the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA notes that the area has pastoral farmland present. There are fishing lakes within the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA, however, these aren't picked up on within the published assessment itself. The existence of these fishing lakes in the character area decreases the susceptibility. The LCA is of medium susceptibility to the presence of the proposed changes**,** and this is combined with the medium landscape value to give an overall medium sensitivity to change.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on landscape character	**Magnitude of landscape effect**
Construction: During construction, the operations on the site will indirectly influence a relatively small extent of the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA, primarily on its southern border, but also an area in the far north. Construction is a large-scale change to the key characteristics of the LCA, but would occur over a short duration, as well as being both temporary and reversible. Considering all of this alongside the relatively limited extent of the change within the LCA, the magnitude of change during construction would be low.	***Low***
Year 1 of Operation: Similar to the construction, the extent of change within the LCA as a result of the proposed development would be small due to the small scale of the site and the general lack of intervisibility with the site and the LCA. The scale of the change as a result of the proposed development would be relatively small in comparison to the existing baseline due to the presence of existing fishing lakes in the LCA. The changes would be long-term and permanent, as well as irreversible. Considering the above and the indirect nature of the effect, the magnitude of change would be very low.	***Very low***
Year 15 of Operation: As the landscape mitigation planting within the site matures, the extent of the change within the LCA would remain very limited, with the scale of change reducing further due to the reinforcement of the characteristic tree cover in the published LCA baseline. The effect remains of long duration, permanent and irreversible; it overall reduces to no magnitude.	***None***

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA

Importance of landscape effect	Importance of landscape effect
Construction: Combining the low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, there is a minor adverse effect.	***Minor adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: The medium sensitivity to change is considered alongside the very low magnitude to change to result in a negligible neutral effect. The effect is neutral as the proposed landscape mitigation planting would help to reinforce the tree cover pattern in the published LCA.	***Negligible neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The lack of magnitude of change combines with the medium sensitivity to result in a neutral effect.	***Neutral***

Table 11: Appraisal of the effects on the landscape character of the Upper Thaw Valley LCA

Appraisal of effects on the landscape character of Upper Thaw Valley LCA

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	Sensitivity of landscape to change
Construction: The Upper Thaw Valley LCA is typically rural, with undulating landform, arable farmland and mixed woodland cloaked hillsides. Construction activity is incongruous within this rural landscape, particularly given the lack of settlements and presence of smaller farmsteads. The LCA of Upper Thaw Valley is therefore of high susceptibility to change during construction. Combining the high susceptibility with the medium landscape value, Upper Thaw Valley LCA is of medium sensitivity to change during construction.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: The Upper Thaw Valley LCA records smaller settlements with scattered and isolated farmsteads. Fishing lakes are not a key characteristic within this LCA, nor are there similar developments in the LCA area. However, marshy grasslands and a lowland river system are a feature of the published LCA, and the fishing lakes therefore wouldn't be wholly incongruous. Considering this, the susceptibility of change at this stage is medium. The medium landscape value is combined with the high susceptibility to result in an overall medium sensitivity to change.	***Medium***

Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on landscape character	**Magnitude of landscape effect**
Construction: During construction, the operations on the site would only indirectly influence a very small extent of the Upper Thaw Valley LCA – the slope of the landform means that indirect effects are limited to the higher areas of the LCA. Whilst the scale of the change would be large, the effects would be reversible, temporary and short-term. Considering all of this, the magnitude of change during construction would be very low.	***Very low***
Year 1 of Operation: The extent of change remains indirect and very limited due to lack of intervisibility. The scale of the change would be very small owing to the presence of marshy grasslands and lowland river systems in the published LCA. The duration of the changes would be long-term, permanent and irreversible. Taking into account the very limited extent and reduced scale of effects, the magnitude of change would reduce at year 1 of operation to give a lack of magnitude.	***None***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***None***
Importance of landscape effect	**Importance of landscape effect**
Construction: Combining the very low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, there is a negligible adverse effect.	***Negligible adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: The medium sensitivity to change is considered alongside the lack of magnitude of change to result in a neutral effect.	***Neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The lack of magnitude combines with the medium sensitivity to result in a neutral effect.	***Neutral***

8. Potential visual effects

8.1. Interactions between the proposed development and visual receptors

8.1.1. Changes to views can be adverse or beneficial and may be brought about in various ways. These include changes to the components within the view, obstructing views through the addition of elements within it and opening up of views through the removal of elements within it.

8.1.2. The proposed development would entail the construction and operation of camping pods, fishing lakes and associated landscape planting. These additions and changes within views are what will be appraised in Section 8.3. Within the study area, the availability of views towards the site are limited by intervening topography to the north. Intervening vegetation also limits these views, particularly to the east and west of the site.

8.2. Visual receptors

8.2.1. Of the 8 baseline views recorded in section 6.3, Figure 1 and Figures 5-12, several of these views either experience no views of the site, or the change anticipated in the view would be negligible owing to factors such as distance, intervening topography, vegetation, built form or infrastructure. These views have therefore not been taken forward into the detailed visual appraisal in section 8.3, and the reasons for scoping out each is included in Table 12.

Table 12: Viewpoints not taken forward into the detailed visual appraisal

	Reason why the viewpoint is not taken forward				
Viewpoint	**Distance**	**Intervening topography**	**Intervening vegetation**	**Intervening built form**	**Intervening infrastructure**
Viewpoint 7			✓		
Viewpoint 8	✓				

8.3. Visual appraisal

8.3.1. The potential likely effects of the proposed development on the visual amenity of viewpoints 1 to 6 are appraised in Table 13. As per Section 3.7, this appraisal is based on the effects of the proposed development during construction, year 1 of operation and year 15 of operation. The reasons for excluding the other possible appraisal stages are set out in Section 3.7.

8.3.2. Appropriately scaled panoramas – in accordance with TGN06/19 from the Landscape Institute (Landscape Institute, 2019) – illustrate the views available at these locations in Figures 5 to 12. The viewpoint photography was undertaken to the end of winter, before the leaves started growing on the trees, thus is a good indicator of the worst-case scenario. However, the timescale of the appraisal meant that a comparison of views across seasons was not possible, therefore any potentially important seasonal differences within the view are noted in the appraisal where appropriate.

8.3.3. Where multiple receptor types experience the view, the most sensitive receptor type takes precedence in the appraisal.

Table 13: Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at representative viewpoints

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 1

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: This view is experienced by recreational users of the bridleway on which it is situated. The value of the viewpoint is considered to be low however these receptors are typically of high susceptibility to changes within their view. Additionally, construction would typically be incongruous within the rural view (despite some glimpsed views of construction activity of the new access road in the baseline view) and this high susceptibility remains. Considering the high susceptibility of the receptors alongside the low view value would give a medium sensitivity.	***Medium***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 1

Year 1 of Operation: During year 1 of operation, the presence of the fishing lakes within the view would be incongruous given the lack of similar features in the baseline view. The inherent high susceptibility of the receptors to change would remain. Combining the high susceptibility to change with the low value of the view, the resulting sensitivity for receptors experiencing the view at this stage of development would be medium.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: During construction, construction activity and vehicles would be visible from the public bridleway from which this panorama was taken. It would be present within the middle ground, covering much of the extent of the panorama. Views of the construction of the fishing lakes in the centre of the view would be partially screened by the intervening trees and hedgerows. The scale of the change would be large due to the incongruous nature of the construction activity within the rural view. The effects would be short-term, temporary and reversible; the overall magnitude of change would be medium at this stage of development.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: The parked cars associated with the proposed development would be clearly visible in the left-hand side of the middle ground of the view, although partially softened by new landscape mitigation planting, particularly during the summer. The fishing lakes themselves would be present centrally in the middle ground of the view but would be partially filtered by the intervening vegetation on the northern site boundary. The scale of change within the view would continue to be large given the lack of similar elements within the baseline view. The effects would be long-term, permanent and irreversible. The magnitude of change would be medium.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: The extent of change within the view would be as per year 1 of operation additionally, the long-term duration and permanence of effect would remain. However, the landscape mitigation planting within the view would help to screen the proposed development from view, as well as helping it to assimilate into the wider panorama. The magnitude would reduce to low.	***Low***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: Combining the medium magnitude of change and medium sensitivity, there would be an overall moderate adverse importance of effect.	***Moderate adverse***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 1

Year 1 of Operation: A moderate neutral effect would be felt at this stage of development as a result of the medium sensitivity combined with the medium magnitude of change. The effect would be neutral given that the proposed fishing lakes would be a visually beneficial addition to the view, balanced with parked cars being a detractor in the view.	***Moderate neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The medium sensitivity and low magnitude of change would combine to result in a minor beneficial effect. The combination of the presence of the fishing lakes and proposed landscape planting within the view would reduce the detracting effect of the parked cars.	***Minor beneficial***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 2

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: The highways users experiencing this view are at the lower end of the susceptibility scale. Given that construction activity would normally be incongruous within this rural view and balanced with the presence of construction activity in the far right of the baseline view associated with the new access road, the susceptibility would be medium. The medium susceptibility combines with the low view value to result in a medium sensitivity to change during construction.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: At year 1 of operation, the susceptibility to change reduces to low as the inherent low susceptibility of the highway receptors is considered alongside the semi-incongruous nature of the proposed development within the view. This is combined with the low visual value to give a low sensitivity to change for these recreational receptors during year 1 of operation.	***Low***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Low***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 2

Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: During construction, the majority of construction activity would be visible in the foreground and middle ground of the view; the extent of the change would be large given the lack of intervening vegetation, with construction across the whole site being visible from the viewpoint. The scale of the change would also be large since construction activity would be incongruous in the view. The effect would be reversible and temporary, occupying a short duration. Overall, the magnitude of change during construction would be high.	***High***
Year 1 of Operation: The development would still be visible in year 1 of operation given the open views across the landscape. This means that the extent of the changes within the view would remain as large. The scale of the change would be large despite the mitigation planting due to the addition of elements which are not part of the baseline view. The long-term changes to the view would be permanent and irreversible. Overall, the magnitude of change during year 1 of operation would be high.	***High***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation, the extent of change within the view would still be high. The scale of change would be reduced slightly in year 15 of operation due the presence of the maturing landscape mitigation, but the extent, duration and permanence of the effect would remain, particularly given that the viewpoint is looking down onto the proposed development. The magnitude of change would still be high.	***High***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: Taking into account the high magnitude of change and the medium sensitivity of receptors experiencing this view, the overall importance of effect during construction would be substantial adverse.	***Substantial adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: The high magnitude and low sensitivity to change would result in an effect of moderate neutral importance. The effect would be neutral given that the proposed fishing lakes would be a visually beneficial addition to the view, balanced with the parked cars being a detractor in the view.	***Moderate neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The high magnitude would combine with the low sensitivity to result in a moderate beneficial effect. The combination of the positive presence of the fishing lakes and proposed landscape planting within the view would reduce the detracting effect of the parked cars. It would be a pleasant addition to the wider panorama.	***Moderate beneficial***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 3

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: The receptors experiencing this rural view are recreational users of Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 and are high on the susceptibility scale. Construction activity is a feature of the baseline view, in the far left of the panorama, where the new access road is currently under construction. Taking all of this into account, the high susceptibility to change would reduce to medium for this stage of development. The medium susceptibility to change is combined with the low visual value to result in a medium sensitivity to construction.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: The fishing lakes and associated parked cars which are proposed for this site are not a feature of the baseline view and would be incongruous within the panorama. Therefore, the inherent high susceptibility of recreational receptors would remain. The high susceptibility and the low visual value combine to result in a medium sensitivity to change.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: Construction within the site would occupy around a third of the horizontal view extent of the middle ground; they would incorporate the movement of construction vehicles, which would make them more noticeable than more static elements in the view. The views of the construction activity would be noticeably filtered by the intervening vegetation, particularly during the summer months. The scale of the change would be large given that construction activity is incongruous within the rural panorama. The changes would be short term; being also temporary and reversible. Taking all of this into account, the magnitude of change within the view at this stage of development is considered to be low.	***Low***
Year 1 of Operation: During year 1 of operation, the fishing lakes and parked cars would be present on site and would be partially filtered by both the intervening vegetation and the landscape mitigation planting. The extent of changes within the view would be small, occurring across a limited extent of the middle ground and heavily filtered by intervening vegetation, although the scale of change would be notable given the lack of similar development in the baseline view. Taking this into account alongside the long-term duration, the permanence and the irreversibility of the proposed development, the magnitude at this stage of development would reduce to very low.	***Very low***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 3

Year 15 of Operation: As the landscape mitigation planting matures, the proposed development would be further filtered from view at this location, with the scrub and trees proposed as part of the mitigation planting blending into the existing hedgerows. The magnitude of change would be further reduced to none.	***None***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: The medium sensitivity is combined with the low magnitude of change to result in an effect of minor adverse importance.	***Minor adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: Considering the medium sensitivity alongside the very low magnitude of change, there is a negligible neutral effect at year 1 of operation. The effect would be neutral given that the proposed fishing lakes would be a visually beneficial addition to the view, balanced with the parked cars being a detractor in the view.	***Negligible neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: During year 15 of operation, the lack of magnitude combines with the medium sensitivity to change. This results in an overall neutral effect.	***Neutral***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 4

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: The view would be experienced by recreational users of Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1 on the common land of St Hilary Down, from which this panorama is captured. These receptors are typically of high susceptibility to change within their views. The lack of any construction or industrial activity within the baseline view means that this high susceptibility remains. Combining the high susceptibility with the low view value, there is an overall medium sensitivity to change within the view.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: As per during construction, fishing lakes and presence of parked cars as proposed as part of the proposed development are not part of the wider baseline panorama, thus the inherent high susceptibility of the receptors experiencing it remains. The high susceptibility is combined with the low view value, giving a medium sensitivity at this stage of development.	***Medium***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 4

Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: During construction, the changes as a result of construction activity within the site would occupy a limited section of the middle ground of the view, filtered by some intervening topography and vegetation. Given that construction activity is not part of the baseline, the scale of the change will be large. However, the effects will be short-term, reversible and temporary. Considering all of these factors, the magnitude of change within the view during construction would be low.	***Low***
Year 1 of Operation: The presence of fishing lakes and associated parked cars is not part of the baseline panorama and would therefore be a relatively incongruous change, although the landscape mitigation planting means that the perceived scale of the change will be medium. It would be of long duration, permanent and would be irreversible. However, the extent of the change within the view would be limited to the central middle ground of the panorama and be partially filtered by intervening vegetation. Given these factors, the magnitude of change would reduce to very low.	***Very low***
Year 15 of Operation: At year 15 of operation, the landscape mitigation planting would mature and help to soften the proposed development in the view, particularly the parked cars. However, the angle at which the site is viewed means that they would still be noticeable, as would the fishing lakes although to a lesser extent. Whilst these views would be filtered, the magnitude of change would remain as very low.	***Very low***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: The medium sensitivity combines with the low magnitude of change to give a minor adverse effect.	***Minor adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: Combining the very low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, the effect during year 1 of operation would be negligible adverse. This would remain as adverse rather than changing to neutral because the key elements within the view would be the parked cars, which would form more of a detractor than the fishing lakes.	***Negligible adverse***
Year 15 of Operation:	***Negligible neutral***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 4

The medium sensitivity to change is combined with the very low magnitude to result in an overall negligible neutral effect. By year 15 of operation, the maturing landscape mitigation planting would have softened the presence of the detracting parked cars, given a neutral effect rather than an adverse one.

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 5

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: The view would be experienced by recreational users of Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1, from which this panorama is captured. The recreational receptors are highly susceptible to change within their views. The lack of any construction or industrial activity within the existing baseline view means that this high susceptibility would remain. Combining this high susceptibility with the low view value, there is an overall medium sensitivity to change within the view.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: Similar to the construction phase, fishing lakes such as those which are proposed as part of the proposed development are not part of the wider baseline panorama, thus the inherent high susceptibility of the receptors experiencing it remains. The high susceptibility is combined with the low view value, giving a medium sensitivity at this stage of development.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: During construction, the changes from the construction activity across the site would take up a limited section of the background in this panorama, with its lower slopes partially filtered by intervening topography and vegetation. Given that construction activity is not part of the baseline, the scale of change will be large. However, the effects will be short-term, reversible and temporary. Considering all of these factors, the magnitude of change within the view during construction would be low.	***Low***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 5

Year 1 of Operation: The presence of fishing lakes and parked cars is not part of the baseline panorama and would therefore be a relatively incongruous change, although the landscape mitigation planting would reduce the scale of change to medium. It would be of long duration, permanent and irreversible. The extent of the change within the view would be limited to the central middle ground by the intervening vegetation and low height of the development. Given these factors, the magnitude of change would reduce to very low.	***Very low***
Year 15 of Operation: At year 15 of operation, the landscape mitigation planting would mature and help to soften the proposed development and incorporate it further into the landscape. However, the angles from which the site is viewed from, across the valley, means that the proposed fishing lakes and associated car parking would still be noticeable. The magnitude of change would remain as very low.	***Very low***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: The medium sensitivity combines with the low magnitude of change to give a minor adverse effect.	***Minor adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: Combining the very low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, the effect during year 1 of operation would be negligible adverse. This would remain as adverse rather than changing to neutral because the key elements within the view would be the parked cars, which would form more of a detractor than the fishing lakes.	***Negligible adverse***
Year 15 of Operation: The medium sensitivity to change is combined with the very low magnitude to result in an overall negligible neutral effect. By year 15 of operation, the maturing landscape mitigation planting would have softened the presence of the detracting parked cars, given a neutral effect rather than an adverse one.	***Negligible neutral***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 6

Susceptibility of receptor to the specific change	**Sensitivity of visual amenity to change**
Construction: The view would be experienced by recreational users of Vale of Glamorgan footpath W1 57/1, from which this view has been taken. This footpath is therefore of high susceptibility to change. The lack of any construction or industrial activity within the baseline view means that this high susceptibility remains. Combining the high susceptibility with the low view value, there is an overall medium sensitivity to change within the view.	***Medium***
Year 1 of Operation: As per during construction, fishing lakes such as those which are proposed as part of the proposed development are not part of the wider baseline panorama, thus the inherent high susceptibility of the receptors experiencing it remains. The high susceptibility is combined with the low view value, giving a medium sensitivity at this stage of development.	***Medium***
Year 15 of Operation: As per year 1 of operation.	***Medium***
Size, scale, extent, duration, reversibility and permanence of the effect on visual amenity	**Magnitude of visual effect**
Construction: During construction, the changes as a result of construction activity within the site would occupy a very limited section of the middle ground of the view, partly screened by a combination of intervening topography and some intervening vegetation. Given that construction activity is not part of the baseline, the scale of the change will be large. However, the effects will be short-term, reversible and temporary. Considering all of these factors – in particular the very limited extent of change within the view – the magnitude of change within the view during construction would be very low.	***Very low***
Year 1 of Operation: The extent of the change within the view would be very limited due to the existing landform partially obscuring the proposed development, along with intervening vegetation. The presence of fishing lakes and associated car parking is not part of the baseline view and would therefore be a relatively incongruous change. It would be permanent and irreversible, and of long duration. Given these factors, the magnitude of change would remain as very low.	***Very low***

Appraisal of effects on the visual amenity at Viewpoint 6

Year 15 of Operation: At year 15 of operation, the landscape mitigation planting would mature and help to soften the proposed development in the view and help to integrate the site into the existing landscape. These views would still only be partially filtered and would remain as a very low magnitude of change.	***Very low***
Importance of visual effect	**Importance of visual effect**
Construction: The medium sensitivity combines with the very low magnitude of change to give a negligible adverse effect.	***Negligible adverse***
Year 1 of Operation: Combining the very low magnitude of change with the medium sensitivity, the effect during year 1 of operation would be negligible neutral. The effect would be neutral given that the proposed fishing lakes would be a visually beneficial addition to the view, balanced with the associated parked cars being a detractor in the view.	***Negligible neutral***
Year 15 of Operation: The medium sensitivity to change is combined with the very low magnitude to result in an overall negligible beneficial effect. The combination of the positive presence of the fishing lakes and proposed landscape planting within the view would reduce the detracting effect of the associated parked cars.	***Negligible beneficial***

9. Proposed mitigation and enhancement measures

9.1. Landscape mitigation measures

9.1.1. Mitigation measures for the proposed development include new shrub planting scattered within the site. The species chosen for this planting includes *Acer campestre* (Field Maple), *Corylus avellana* (Hazel), *Crataegus monogyna* (Hawthorn), *Prunus spinosa* (Blackthorn) and *Rosa canina* (Dog Rose) which are found locally. The placement of the shrub planting has been designed to provide optimum screening of the fishing lakes, whilst also respecting the open and rolling nature of the baseline site. Particular attention would be paid to screening the hardstanding (which would be used for car parking).

9.1.2. Species-rich grassland is proposed throughout the site to increase the biodiversity in what is at present a monoculture arable field. Directly adjacent to the fishing lakes, a wet grassland seed mix will be used to reflect the wetter ground conditions. The fishing ponds themselves will incorporate rocks on the water's edge as well as marginal planting as both a habitat and visual interest.

10. Summary of effects

10.1. Summary of effects on landscape character

10.1.1. The effects on landscape character are summarised in Table 14, below.

Table 14: Summary of effects on landscape character

Landscape receptor	Stage of appraisal	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Importance of effect
The site	Construction	Medium	High	Substantial adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	High	Substantial neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	High	Substantial beneficial
Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA	Construction	Medium	Low	Minor adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Low	Minor neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA	Construction	Medium	Low	Minor adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	None	Neutral
Upper Thaw Valley LCA	Construction	Medium	Very Low	Negligible adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	None	Neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	None	Neutral

10.2. Summary of effects on visual amenity

10.2.1. The effects on visual amenity are summarised in Table 15 below:

Table 15: Summary of effects on visual amenity

Viewpoint	Stage of appraisal	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Importance of effect
Viewpoint 1	Construction	Medium	Medium	Moderate adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Medium	Moderate neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	Low	Minor beneficial
Viewpoint 2	Construction	Medium	High	Substantial adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Low	High	Moderate neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Low	High	Moderate beneficial
Viewpoint 3	Construction	Medium	Low	Minor adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	None	Neutral
Viewpoint 4	Construction	Medium	Low	Minor adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
Viewpoint 5	Construction	Medium	Low	Minor adverse

Viewpoint	Stage of appraisal	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Importance of effect
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
Viewpoint 6	Construction	Medium	Very low	Negligible adverse
	Year 1 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible neutral
	Year 15 of operation	Medium	Very low	Negligible beneficial

11. Conclusion

11.1. Landscape appraisal conclusion

11.1.1. The effect of the proposed development has been appraised for the landscape character of the site and the landscape character areas of the published Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA and the Upper Thaw Valley LCA as recorded in the Designation of Landscape Character Areas (Vale of Glamorgan Council, 2008).

11.1.2. Direct effects are recorded for the landscape character of the site in Table 8. These are appraised as being of substantial adverse importance at construction, changing to substantial neutral at year 1 of operation. This is due to the introduction of incongruous elements to the site in the form of construction activity and the proposed fishing lakes. The effect changes to substantial at year 15 of operation as a result of landscape mitigation planting maturing and enhancing the available habitat within the site and its local context.

11.1.3. For the Central Vale Ridges and Slopes LCA, direct and indirect effects are recorded in Table 9 as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of minor adverse importance at construction, reducing to minor neutral at year 1 of operation and negligible neutral at year 15 of operation. Whilst construction activity and fishing lakes are incongruous within the LCA, a very limited extent of this character area would be affected by them.

11.1.4. For the Ystradowen Lowland Valley LCA, indirect effects are recorded in Table 10 as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of minor adverse at construction, reducing to negligible neutral at year 1 and neutral at year 15 of operation. The LCA would be only indirectly affected by the proposed development as the views across from higher ground in the LCA would be limited.

11.1.5. For the Upper Thaw Valley LCA, indirect effects are also recorded in Table 11 as a result of the proposed development. These effects have been appraised as being of negligible adverse at construction phase, reducing to neutral at year 1 and year 15 of operation, the effects are appraised owing to the presence of marshy grassland and river systems in the baseline LCA description.

11.2. Visual appraisal conclusion

11.2.1. Representative viewpoint photographs were recorded at eight locations throughout the study area and the effects on visual amenity were appraised at six of these locations in Table 13, with two of the viewpoints scoped out due to intervening vegetation or distance.

11.2.2. Viewpoint 2 experiences the largest importance of effect as a result of the proposed development. It is located to the south of the site and represents the views obtained from users of the A48. At construction, the change within the view is substantial adverse, reducing to moderate neutral in year 1 of operation due to the filtering effect of landscape mitigation planting and the slightly more visually recessive nature of the fishing lakes in comparison to construction activity. In year 15, the importance of these effects would change to moderate beneficial with the maturation of the landscape mitigation planting on the site and the fishing lakes adding positive elements to the overall panorama.

11.2.3. Viewpoint 1 is situated to the north of the site boundary and represents the partially filtered views afforded to users of the Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 31/2. During the construction stage of development, the changes within these views are moderate adverse, changing to moderate neutral in year 1 of operation due to the slightly more visually recessive nature of the fishing lakes compared to the construction activity. By year 15 of operation, the maturation of the landscape mitigation planting on the site filtering the car parking associated with the proposed development would reduce the importance of these effects to minor beneficial.

11.2.4. Viewpoint 3 represents the views experienced by recreational users of the Vale of Glamorgan restricted byway L4 36/1 around 500m east of the site. This view is partially filtered by intervening vegetation, with the proposed development occupying a small section of middle ground halfway up the hill. The changes as a result of the proposed development during construction would be minor adverse during construction, changing to negligible neutral at year 1 of operation and reducing further to neutral at year 15 of operation. By year 15, the combination of intervening vegetation and maturing landscape mitigation will be screening views of the proposed development.

11.2.5. Viewpoints 4 and 5 are located west of the site on Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 35b/1 and the north of the site from Vale of Glamorgan footpath L4 28/1 respectively. They offer more distant views towards the site than Viewpoints 1 and 2 at around 500m-1km away. These views are both experienced by recreational receptors. The effects for these receptors are minor adverse during construction, reducing to negligible adverse in Year 1 of operation, and changing to negligible neutral in year 15 of operation. These effects would remain as adverse in year 1 of operation rather than changing to neutral because the key elements within the view would be the parked cars, which would form more of a detractor than the fishing lakes. This is softened slightly in year 15, hence the reduction in effect to negligible neutral.

11.2.6. Viewpoint 6 is taken from the Vale of Glamorgan footpath W1 57/1 which is located to the north-east of the site. It has medium distance views across the landscape, with the site visible in a limited section of the middle ground. The development would affect the views from this location; however, they would be negligible adverse at construction phase, changing to negligible neutral at year 1 of operation, and changing again to negligible beneficial at year 15.

11.3. Overall conclusion

11.3.1. Overall, the proposed development would have limited effects on both landscape character and visual amenity within the study area. The greatest effects on both landscape character and visual amenity would be felt within and immediately adjacent to the site, as LCAs further from the proposed development either have indirect landscape effects only and are felt across a limited area of the LCA due to a lack of intervisibility with the site; or viewpoints have a greater level of screening from intervening vegetation and landform. The key views which would experience the larger effects from the proposed development would be within 150m of its boundary and predominantly those passing the site on the A48. The landscape mitigation planting within the site has been designed such that it helps to screen and soften the proposed development, whilst also respecting the local landscape character and increasing the biodiversity within the site.

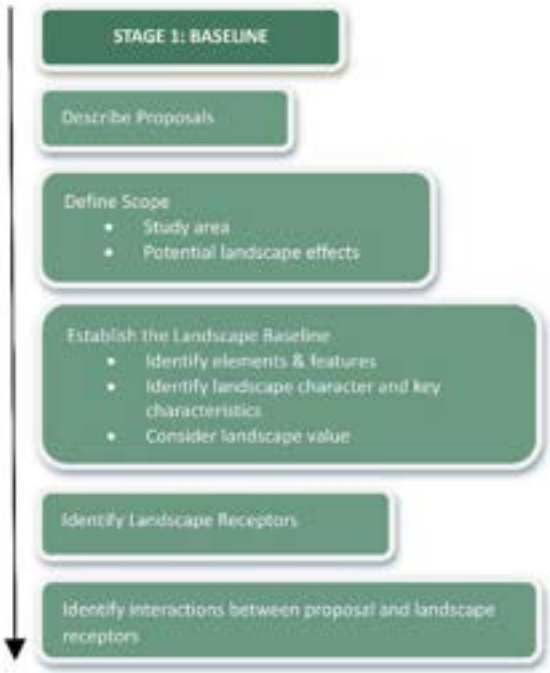
Appendix A: Methodology

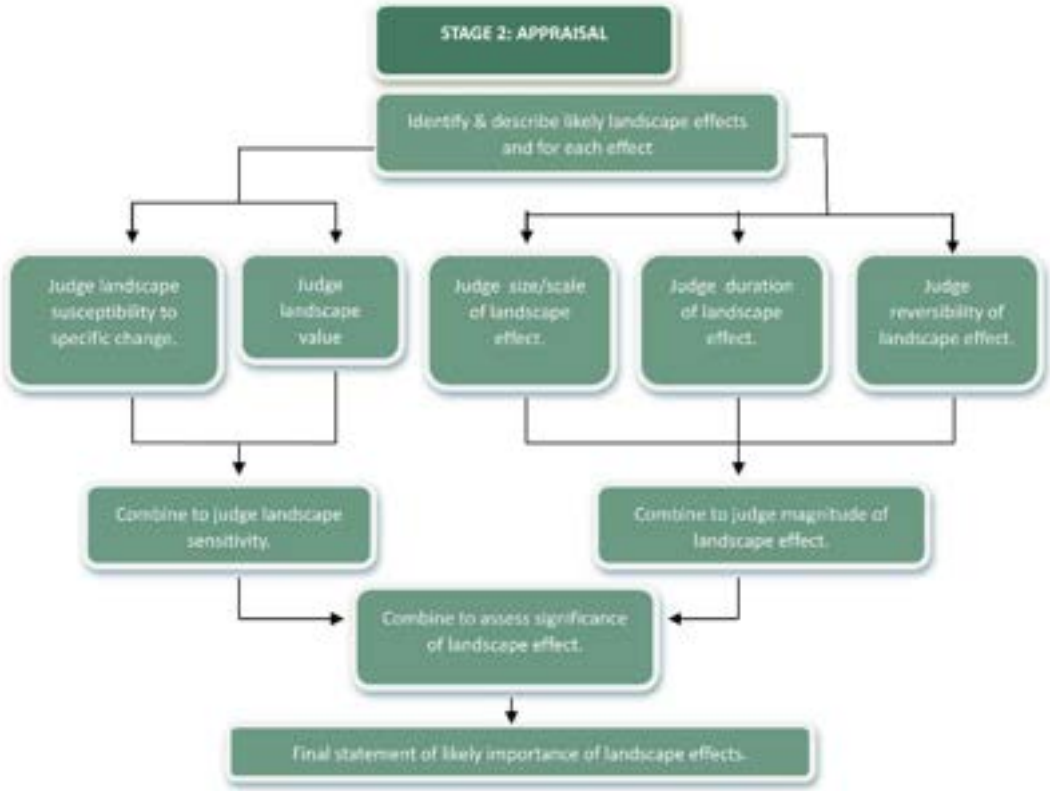
Terminology used in this LVIA is set out in the table below, using definitions provided in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) (pages 155-159 unless stated otherwise).

Table 16: Terminology used

Term	Definition
Landscape	An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.
Townscape	The character and composition of the built environment including the buildings and the relationships between them, the different types of urban open space, including green spaces, and the relationship between buildings and open spaces.
Seascape	Landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.
Impact	The action being taken (defined on GLVIA3 page 9).
Effect	The change resulting from that action (defined on GLVIA3 page 9).
Landscape effects	Effects on landscape as a resource in its own right.
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people.
Landscape receptors	Defined aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by the proposal.
Visual receptors	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal.
Susceptibility	The ability of a defined landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the specific proposed development without undue negative consequences.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgments of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor.
Magnitude (of effect)	A term that combines judgments about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration.
Direct effects	An effect which is directly attributable to the proposed development.
Indirect effects	Effects that result indirectly from the proposed project as a consequence of the direct effects, often occurring away from the site, or as a result of a sequence of interrelationships or a complex pathway. They may be separated by distance or in time from the source of the effects.

Landscape appraisal methodology





In predicting the effects of the proposed development on the landscape within the Study Area, GLVIA3 states that the LVIA should identify the components of the landscape that are likely to affected by the scheme (landscape receptors) and identify the interactions between the landscape receptors and different components of the scheme at its different stages. The nature of the receptor is a combination of susceptibility to the specific development and value (a baseline characteristic independent of the proposed development).

Landscape value

Establishing the landscape value of the site and study area is necessary to determine the landscape sensitivity at both a site and study area scale. GLVIA paragraph 5.19 states that landscape value can include “areas of landscape as a whole or, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetics or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of a landscape”.

Where landscapes have no formal landscape designations such as National Parks and National Scenic Areas, they may still be valued locally. Box 5.1 in GLVIA3 considers factors which determine landscape value:

- Landscape quality / condition;
- Scenic quality;
- Rarity;
- Representativeness;
- Conservation interests;
- Recreational value;
- Perceptual aspects; and
- Associations.

Susceptibility to change

The susceptibility to change is a measure of the ability of a landscape 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” (paragraph 5.40, GLVIA3).

Sensitivity of landscape receptors

Landscape receptors are described within GLVIA3 (paragraph 5.34) as 'components of the landscape that are likely to be affected by the scheme'. These can include overall character and key characteristics, individual elements or features and specific aesthetic or perceptual aspects. The interaction between the proposed development and landscape receptors has potential to result in landscape effects (both adverse and beneficial). The sensitivity of the landscape receptor is a combination of their susceptibility to change of the receptor to the specific type of development being assessed combined with the value of the landscape.

GLVIA3 indicates that combining susceptibility and value relies on professional judgement. However, it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptible and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a very low susceptibility and very low value is likely to resulting in the lowest level of sensitivity. It must be noted in practice there may not be a clear distinction between criteria levels. Landscape and visual sensitivity are defined as high to very low, by combining professional judgements on value and susceptibility to change.

Table 17: Sensitivity of landscape receptors

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	Landscapes with a designated landscape (National Park, AONB, NSA, WHS) or one in very good condition, exceptional scenic quality and high recreational opportunities or a high degree of rarity	Landscapes containing few if any notable elements/features, of poor condition or containing several detracting features and limited aesthetic qualities. Landscapes which are not formally designated.
Susceptibility	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which offer very limited opportunities to accommodate change of the type proposed without fundamentally altering key characteristics.	Attributes that make up the character of the landscape which are tolerant of a large degree of the type of change proposed without fundamentally altering the key characteristics.

Magnitude of landscape effects

The nature of a landscape effect is determined by considering four factors, namely: size/scale; geographical extent; duration; and reversibility.

Table 18: Magnitude of landscape effects

Magnitude	Criteria
High	Large alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact an extensive area or unique characteristics at a local level. May be long term impacts, permanent or reversible
Medium	Partial alteration to the landscape receptor. or may impact a wide area or characteristics at a local level. May be medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Low	Slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a restricted area and few key characteristics. May be short to medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Very Low	Very slight alteration to the landscape receptor or may impact a limited area or no key characteristics. May be very short to short term impacts, permanent or reversible.
None	No change to the landscape receptor.

The duration of an effect and its reversibility are linked but separate consideration of the criteria for defining these are as below.

Table 19: Duration of visual effects

Duration	Criteria
Very short term	Less than 12 months
Short term	1-5 years
Medium term	5-10 years
Long term	10+ years

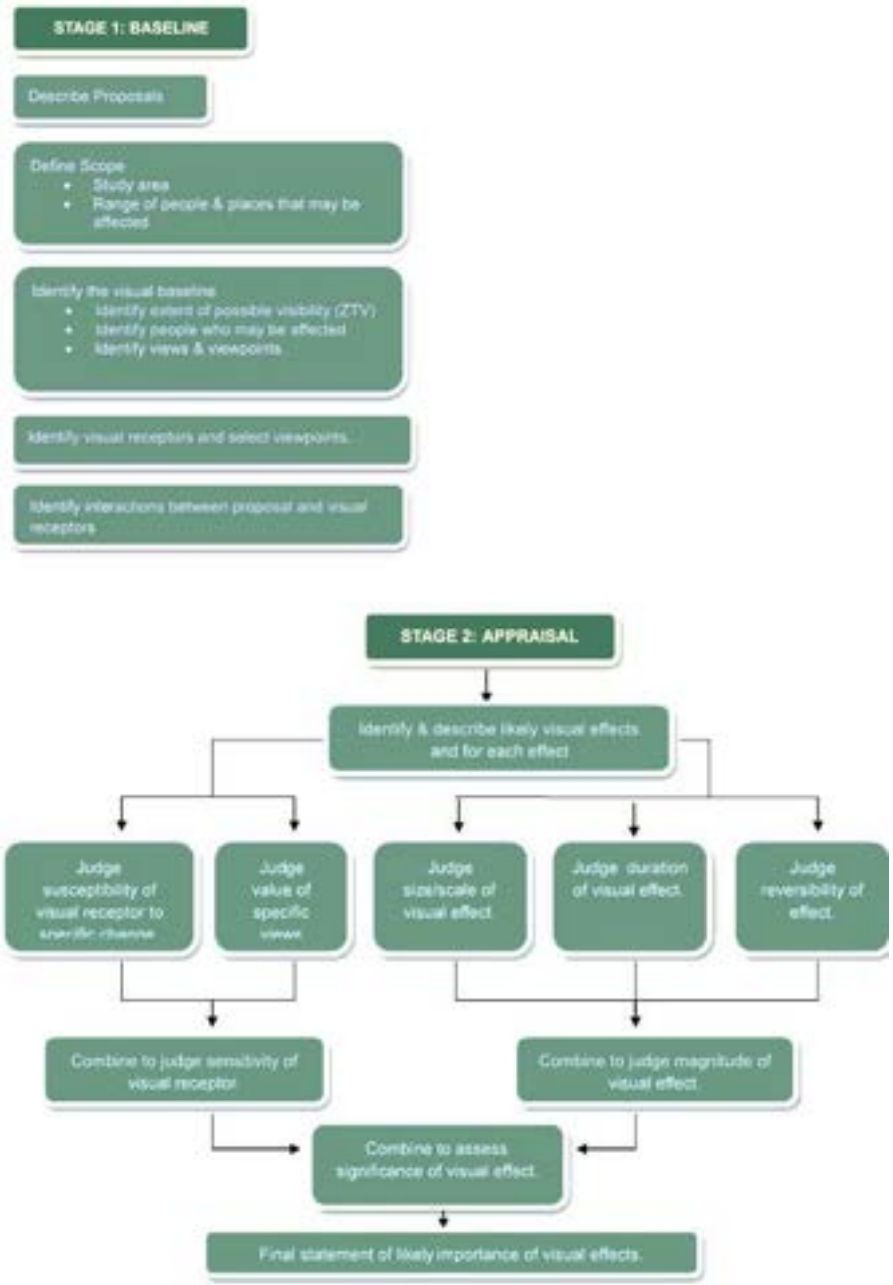
The reversibility of an effect relates to the prospects and practicality of an effect being able to be reversed.

Importance of landscape effects

Table 20: Indicative importance of landscape effects

Importance of effect	Criteria
Major beneficial	Alterations that result in a considerable improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be restored or reintroduced as part of the development or uncharacteristic detractors would be removed.
Major neutral	Alterations that result in a considerable change to the existing landscape resource, which is neither positive nor negative.
Major adverse	Alterations that result in a considerable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be wholly lost or uncharacteristic elements would become dominant.
Substantial beneficial	Alterations that result in a pronounced improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely restored or reintroduced and detractors fully or partially removed.
Substantial neutral	Alterations that result in a pronounced change to the existing landscape resource, which is neither positive nor negative.
Substantial adverse	Alterations that result in a pronounced deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be wholly lost or uncharacteristic elements would become dominant.
Moderate beneficial	Alterations that result in a noticeable improvement of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely restored or reintroduced and detractors fully or partially removed.
Moderate neutral	Alterations that result in a noticeable change to the existing landscape resource, which is neither positive nor negative.
Moderate adverse	Alterations that result in a noticeable deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Valued characteristic features would be largely lost or uncharacteristic elements would become prominent.
Minor beneficial	Alterations that result in a slight improvement of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially restored and/or detractors partially removed.
Minor neutral	Alterations that result in a slight change to the existing landscape resource, which is neither positive nor negative.
Minor adverse	Alterations that result in a slight deterioration of the existing landscape resource. Characteristic features would be partially lost, or uncharacteristic elements partially added.
Negligible beneficial	Alterations that result in a very slight improvement to the existing landscape resource, not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.
Negligible neutral	Alterations that result in a very slight change to the existing landscape resource, which is neither positive nor negative.
Negligible adverse	Alterations that result in a very slight deterioration to the existing landscape resource through loss or addition of landscape elements, typically not uncharacteristic within the receiving landscape.
None	No alteration to any of the components that contribute to the existing landscape resource.

Visual appraisal methodology



'An Appraisal of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity' (GLVIA3, paragraph 6.1). In predicting the effects of the proposed development on the viewpoints being assessed, GLVIA3 states it is helpful to consider (but not restricted to) the following issues: nature of the view (full, partial or glimpsed); proportion of the proposed development visible; distance of the viewpoint from the proposed

development and whether it would be the focus of the view or only a small element; whether the view is stationary, transient or sequential; and the nature of the changes to the view.

Sensitivity of receptors

The susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in the view and visual amenity is related to the activity they are engaged in and the extent to which their attention is focussed on the views and visual amenity at that location. As such those receptors most susceptible to change are likely to include people engaged in outdoor activities where an appreciation of the landscape is the focus or residents in areas where the landscape setting contributes to the setting of the properties. Conversely, those considered least susceptible to change include (but not restricted to) people engaged in outdoor sports/recreation where there is no focus on the surrounding landscape/views and people at their place of work whose focus is on the work activity.

In combining susceptibility to change and value it is generally accepted that a combination of high susceptible and high value is likely to result in the highest sensitivity, whereas a very low susceptibility and very low value is likely to resulting in the lowest level of sensitivity. A summary of the likely characteristics of the different levels of sensitivity is described below in Table 21. It must be noted that these are indicative and in practice do not have a clear distinction between criteria levels.

Table 21: Sensitivity of receptors experiencing a view

	Higher Sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity
Value	Views protected by designation, or nationally recognised, or recorded on maps/guidebooks or with cultural associations.	Views which are not documented or protected with minimal or no cultural associations.
Susceptibility	Viewers whose attention or interest is focussed on their surroundings.	People whose attention or interest is not focussed on their surroundings and where the view is incidental to their enjoyment.

Magnitude of visual effects

The nature of a landscape effect is determined by considering four factors, namely: size/scale; geographical extent; duration; and reversibility.

Table 22: Magnitude of landscape effects

Magnitude	Criteria
High	The development will cause a pronounced change to the composition of the view or may be viewed in the foreground or directly. May be longer term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Medium	The development will cause a noticeable change to the composition of the view or may be viewed in the middle ground or indirectly. May be medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Low	The development will cause an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view or may be viewed in the background or obliquely. May be short to medium term impacts, permanent or reversible.
Very Low	The development will cause a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view or may be viewed in the background and very obliquely. May be very short to short term impacts, permanent or reversible
None	No change to the view

The duration of an effect and its reversibility are linked but separate consideration of the criteria for defining these are as below.

Table 23: Duration of landscape effects

Duration	Criteria
Very short term	Less than 12 months
Short term	1-5 years
Medium term	5-10 years
Long term	10+ years

The reversibility of an effect relates to the prospects and practicality of an effect being able to be reversed.

Importance of visual effects

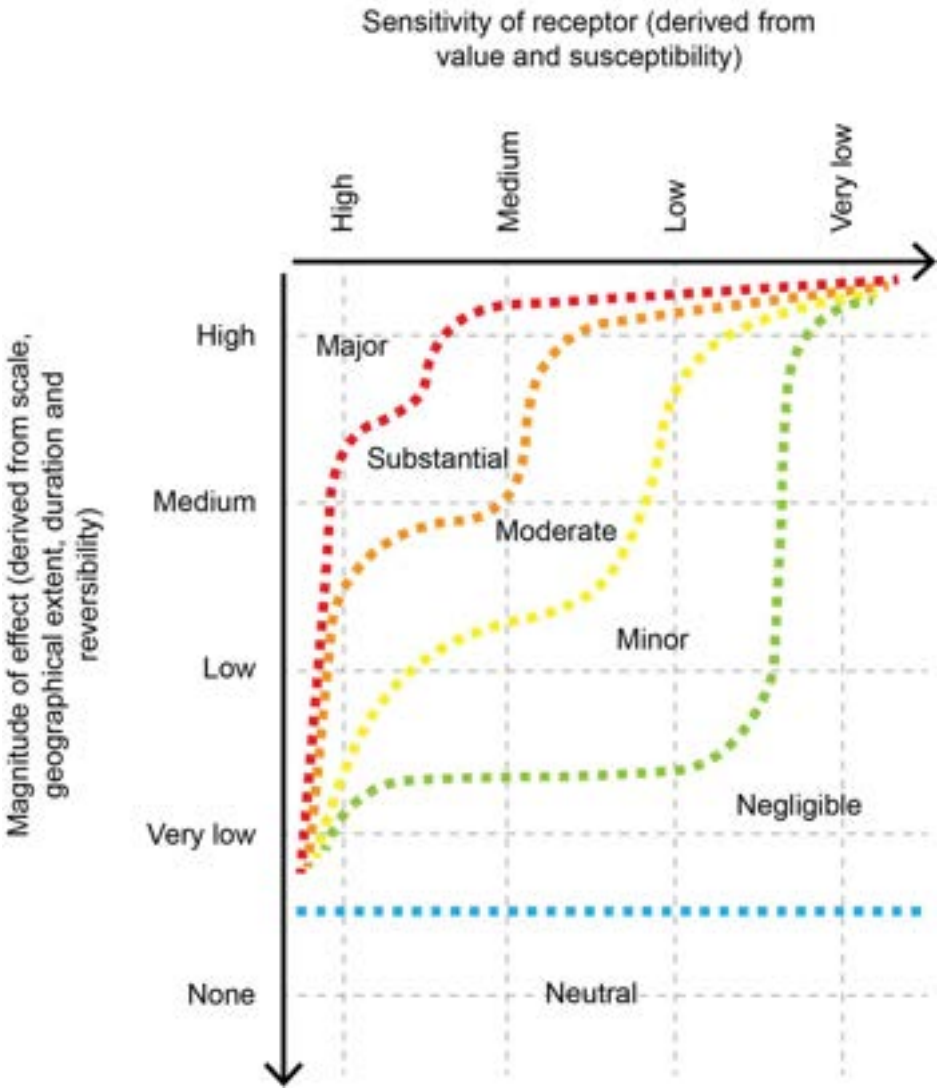
The overall importance of visual effects is a combination of the sensitivity of the visual receptor and the magnitude of the visual effects. GLVIA3 clearly starts that there is no definitive rule regarding what defines an important effect, but in making the judgement the following points should be considered (paragraph 6.44): effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes on views and visual amenity are more likely to be important; effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be important; and large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be important than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view.

Table 24: Indicative importance of visual effects

Importance of effect	Criteria
Major beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a considerable improvement in the existing view.
Major neutral	Alterations that typically result in a considerable change in the existing view which is neither adverse nor beneficial.
Major adverse	Alterations that typically result in a considerable deterioration in the existing view.
Substantial beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced improvement in the existing view.
Substantial neutral	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced change in the existing view which is neither adverse nor beneficial.
Substantial adverse	Alterations that typically result in a pronounced deterioration in the existing view.
Moderate beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable improvement in the existing view.
Moderate neutral	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable change in the existing view which is neither adverse nor beneficial.
Moderate adverse	Alterations that typically result in a noticeable deterioration in the existing view.
Minor beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a limited improvement in the existing view.
Minor neutral	Alterations that typically result in a limited change in the existing view which is neither adverse nor beneficial.
Minor adverse	Alterations that typically result in a limited deterioration in the existing view.
Negligible beneficial	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible improvement in the existing view.
Negligible neutral	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible change in the existing view which is neither adverse nor beneficial.
Negligible adverse	Alterations that typically result in a barely perceptible deterioration in the existing view.

Importance of effect	Criteria
None	No change to the existing view.

Combining sensitivity and magnitude to define indicative importance of effect



The diagram is indicative of a continuum of effects which are assessed by professional judgement and justification and the combination of conclusions may vary. Effects predicted to be minor or negligible are considered to be 'non-important'. Effects considered as moderate may be important with reasoned justification. Substantial or major effects are considered to be important and require weighing in the planning balance.

Appendix B: References

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