

APPENDIX E: LIA for CARNEDD WEN

CARNEDD WEN LIA: TABLE 1 – LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Areas

NOTE: Where no significant effects would be likely to aspect areas these have not been considered

<i>Aspect Areas</i>	<i>Distance</i>	<i>Overall LANDMAP evaluation</i>	<i>Description of Key Characteristics and Main Effects</i>	<i>Nature of the Effect</i>	<i>Magnitude of Effect</i>
MNTGMV320 Banwy Forest (host)	0km	Low	<p><i>A large and extensive area of blanket forestry dominating the upland area between the Banwy and Tafolog/Rhiwaeson valley systems. Visually dominant and in extreme contrast to the open upland grazing and rolling farmland that forms the wider landscape context.</i></p> <p><i>Large scale coniferous afforestation blankets the subtleties of the underlying landform and produces intrusive conifer fringes and harsh plantation edges into an otherwise open expanse of upland moorland and grazing, little/no public access.</i></p> <p>The substantial scale, relative simplicity and low scenic value of this landscape is able to accept the turbines. Whilst the nature of the change would be substantial and significant, because a very large proportion of the VSAA would become a wind farm landscape, this would be partly mitigated by the landscape benefit of partial deforestation and reinstatement to moorland.</p>	Direct	Substantial and significant

<p>MNTGMVS571 Pen Coed Upland (host to 4 turbines)</p>	<p>0km</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p><i>A relatively narrow band of higher level upland grazing that forms a break between the Banwy and Dovey Valley catchment areas. Its form is more apparent due to the course that the A458 (T) takes over the highest level before dropping down into the Dovey Valley and joining the A470(T). Rough grazing semi improved with damp marshy grazing in places and isolated blocks of forestry on upper slopes, extensive livestock grazing weakly enclosed with an upland backdrop of forestry and moorland.</i></p> <p><i>A subsidiary area of larger upland grazing complex associated with the extensive upland moorland regions on the western borders of Montgomeryshire and Gwynedd – this area is the east west watershed between the main watercourses that make up the study area but is dominated by the extensive upland ranges north and south and contains the busy A458 (T) transport corridor.</i></p> <p>Scale = Vast</p> <p>The wind farm would become an equally prominent characteristic of the area of the VSAA at the western and more central parts of the Banwy Valley, as would the whole of the western fringe against the Banwy Forest VSAA. The impact would range from moderate-substantial up to 3km from the Banwy Forest boundary and significant to the VSAA as a whole.</p>	<p>Direct and indirect</p>	<p>Moderate-Substantial and significant</p>
<p>MNTGMVS264 Banwy Upland</p>	<p>0.2km to nearest turbine</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p><i>The continuation of the upland plateau and ridge that carries the extensive forestry of the Banwy Forest – upland grazing with a mosaic of heather/bilberry scrub and marginal rough grazing with intermittent small forestry blocks. Open and extensive views to the surrounding successive</i></p>	<p>Indirect</p>	<p>Moderate and not significant</p>

			<p><i>upland ridges and into the Dyfi Valley catchment. Marginal, remote with wide open skies and relative lack of human traffic/intervention.</i></p> <p><i>Mosaic upland that would benefit greatly from diversification of existing forestry blocks and introduction of broadleaf/deciduous species to plateau edges.</i></p> <p><i>Scale = Large</i></p> <p>There would be an area of equally prominent characterisation effect at the northern end of the VSAA but the extent of this moderate-substantial effect would be relatively restricted. Much like the adjoin Banwy Forest VSAA the scale and simplicity of the landscape is relative well suited to wind farm development. The impact would be moderate overall not significant.</p>		
<p>MNTGMVS422 Llanerfyl Mosaic Farmlands</p>	<p>1km to the nearest turbine</p>	<p>High</p>	<p><i>Distinct area typical of the mid regions of Montgomeryshire of small scale irregular field patterns with very strongly defined field boundaries typified by overgrown and managed hedgerows with a significant proportion of mature hedgerow trees.....A succession of low rolling hills with gently sloping sides and rounded tops underlying a very traditional farming landscape – high aesthetic qualities, settled, domestic setting.</i></p> <p><i>Well defined example of a traditionally farmed landscape, small scale field patters with a diverse vegetation cover of hedgerow trees, mixed broadleaf woodland parcels. High aesthetic qualities and limited intrusion by modern development.</i></p> <p><i>Scale = Intimate</i></p>	<p>Indirect</p>	<p>Moderate-Substantial and significant</p>

			<p>The equally prominent characteristics of the wind farm would extend across the western and central parts of the Banwy Valley part of the VSAA and across much of the Nant yr Eira Valley. The scale and appearance of wind turbines on the horizon line above this VSAA would be out of keeping with the small scale, traditional farmed and highly sensitive character. The moderate-substantial impact would be significant to the VSAA as a whole.</p>		
<p>MNTGMVS264 Banwy Floodplain</p>	1.25km	Moderate	<p><i>Relatively narrow and steep-sided valley system with an open valley floor of well defined small to medium scale field pattern associated with the Afon Banwy. Predominantly semi-improved grassland with a proportion of damp pasture land associated with the river course....Transport corridor A458 (T) principal east west route between Welshpool and SNP linking with A470 (T).</i></p> <p><i>....The open flat valley bottoms and proximity to arterial transport routes make the area vulnerable to larger scale development that may be out of keeping with the landform and existing field pattern.</i></p> <p><i>Scale = Large</i></p> <p>The equally prominent characteristics of the wind farm would extend across the western end of the Banwy Valley part of the VSAA to east of Foel. The scale and appearance of turbines on the horizon line, with which this VSAA has strong visual links, would have a moderate-substantial impact on this part of the VSAA but as this is a long narrow VSAA and this effect would be at one end, the impact would be moderate overall and not significant.</p>	Indirect	Moderate and not significant
MNTGMVS278	4km	High	<p><i>An extensive area that in conjunction with the hill and scarp mosaic of</i></p>	Indirect	Slight and not significant

<p>Pont Llogel Farmlands</p>			<p><i>Llanfyllin and Guilsfield is typical of the rolling traditional farmland of Mid Montgomeryshire. Strongly defined field pattern that follows the underlying topography, small scale, irregular field parcels spreading over a succession of rolling ridges.....Domestic, settled character with traditional land management techniques such as hedge laying and coppiced woodland areas.</i></p> <p><i>.....is under economic pressure to modernise farming practices that may degrade the existing character.</i></p> <p><i>Scale = small</i></p> <p>The area would lie beyond the extent of the equally prominent characterisation area. Apparent adverse visual impacts would be experienced across wide areas up to around 9km where the scheme would be seen as an object in the landscape but this would not constitute a significant landscape change.</p>		
<p>MNTGMVS147 Mynydd Lluest Fach</p>	<p>4.0km</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p><i>A distinct plateau landform bounded by the narrow valleys of the Afon Rhiwsaeson and Clegyrnant. The plateau is steep sided and displays a number of waterfalls falling from the watercourses draining it. Extensive area of marginal upland grazing and moorland. Open exposed with dramatic clear views to the surrounding upland and into the adjacent wooded valleys.</i></p> <p><i>Some degradation to the aesthetic qualities of the aspect through proximity of Banwy Forest and the adjacent wind farm - although the wind farm provides a dramatic focal point in its own right.</i></p> <p><i>Scale = Large</i></p>	<p>Indirect</p>	<p>Moderate and not significant</p>

			The equally prominent characteristics of the wind farm would extend across the eastern and central plateau areas of this VSAA. The scale and appearance of turbines on the horizon line, with which this VSAA has strong visual links, would have a moderate-substantial impact on this part of the VSAA but as this is already de-sensitised to a moderate degree by Cemmaes Wind Farm to the west the impact would be moderate and not significant.		
--	--	--	---	--	--

CARNEDD WEN LIA: TABLE 2 – POWYS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

NOTE: Where no significant effects would be likely to aspect areas these have not been considered

Landscape Character Area	Distance	Description of Key Characteristics and Main Effects	Nature of the Effect	Magnitude of Effect
M5 Dyfnant Forest /Llanbrynmair Moors (host)	0km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Although there are many parts of this area which have very large blocks of coniferous woodland, the semi-natural vegetation and the small fields which intersperse the forests enhance the local biodiversity</i> • <i>There is a wide range of BAP species and other significant species recorded within this large area, with a good range of important upland communities</i> <p>The substantial scale, relative simplicity and low scenic value of this landscape is able to accept the turbines. Whilst the nature of the change would be moderate-substantial and significant, because about half of the LCA (south of the Banwy Valley) would become a wind farm landscape, although this would be partly mitigated by the landscape benefit of partial deforestation and reinstatement to moorland.</p>	Direct	Moderate-Substantial and significant
M13	0.1km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Overall this large area is a well-defined example of a traditionally farmed landscape - generally settled,</i> 	Indirect	Moderate and not

Tregynon / Llanefyl		<p><i>safe and relatively intimate, except for the broader sweep of the exposed valley of Cwm Nant-yr-Eira, south west of Llanerfyl running up towards the Llanbrynmair Moors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>General landscape character is defined strongly by the rolling farmed landscape, with traditional farming techniques common, such as hedge laying. Blocks of 20th-century conifer plantation in the northern part of the area, with some residual ancient broadleaved woodland in steep-sided stream valleys and on steeper ridge slopes.</i> • <i>Views across the area are generally from a succession of rolling ridges and, due to the size of the area, long distance views are limited to far distant ridgelines of upland areas.</i> • <i>Part of this area contains key geological sites of regional importance</i> • <i>Topographically and scenically varied and distinctive, comprising bare upland and fertile valleys, the latter containing a variety of field patterns.....</i> <p>There would be an extension of the dominant and equally prominent areas into the western parts of this LCA, including the Nant yr Eira Valley, where the effect would be substantial to moderate-substantial but the extent of this change would be moderate relative to the large scale of the LCA as a whole.</p>		<p>significant</p>
M12 Banwy Valley	<p>1km</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is a strong sense of place, partly contributed by the Llanfair Light Railway in the easternmost section</i> • <i>Major river system, broad in its lower part with a wide well developed floodplain and meanders, with some minor development of terraces.</i> • <i>River habitats and associated ribbon woodlands and ancient/species-rich hedgerows provide important elements of biodiversity in an otherwise rather intensively managed productive agricultural landscape.</i> • <i>The eastward-trending river valleys such as that of the Afon Banwy dominate the landscape of Montgomeryshire. Their streams mostly flow from Pumlumon, Berwyn and lesser ranges. They are variously broad or steep-sided (or both) and contain most of the historic settlements in the middle and north of Montgomeryshire. They have evidence of long-term settlement and exploitation of the adjacent terrain caused by topography. Without exception, each displays more than average aesthetic qualities. These form the background canvas on which the county's vivid culture is painted.</i> 	<p>Indirect</p>	<p>Moderate and not significant</p>

		<p>The equally prominent characteristics of the wind farm would extend across the western end of the Banwy Valley part of the LCA to the east of Foel. The scale and appearance of turbines on the horizon line, with which this LCA has strong visual links, would have a moderate-substantial impact on this part of the LCA but as this is a long narrow LCA and this effect would be at one end, the impact would be moderate overall and not significant.</p>		
M14 Esgair Cwmowen	3km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Exposure and wind are dominant features, with isolated more intimate areas with small, irregular, hedged fields in sheltered areas to the edges of the LCA</i> • <i>Important upland massif with unique steeped topography, unusual periglacial features (NE of the hill of Y Foel) and at least one pRIG site (Tan y Foel Quarry)</i> • <i>There is an important oligotrophic lake, Llyn Mawr SSSI, with some interesting plant and bird species</i> • <i>Topographically and scenically varied and distinctive, comprising bare upland and fertile valleys, the latter containing a variety of field patterns</i> • <i>There is a recently-constructed wind farm along the Mynydd Clogau ridge in the south east of the LCA. This LCA would fall outside the equally prominent area, which would be truncated by intervening forestry.</i> <p>Only the western fringe of the LCA in the Nant yr Eira Valley would be affected by the equally prominent characterisation effect of the wind farm. The impact on the LCA as a whole would only be slight.</p>	Indirect	Slight and not significant
M7 Pont Llogel	4km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>High biodiversity value resulting from the mosaic of different habitats present, especially for birds</i> • <i>A number of small streams run through this area which supports several small but significant Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and roadside nature reserves which carry a very diverse range of grassland species. The local biodiversity is greatly increased by this range of unimproved grasslands, carr woodlands and valley mires.....</i> <p>The area would lie beyond the extent of the equally prominent characterisation area. Apparent adverse visual impacts would be experienced across wide areas up to around 9km where the scheme would be</p>	Indirect	Slight and not significant

		seen as an object in the landscape but this would not constitute a significant change to the LCA as a whole.		
M11 Mynydd y Cemmaes	0.2km	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dramatic and extensive clear views are available over the surrounding rolling lowland farmland of the Dyfi Valley and towards the rising upland and mountains of Snowdonia. The Snowdonia National Park abuts this LCA along the northern boundary</i> • <i>Major landscape features, some with characteristic surface features controlled by bedrock geology and extensive Quaternary drift</i> • <i>Topographically and scenically varied and distinctive, comprising bare upland moorland and fertile valleys, the latter containing a variety of field patterns</i> • <i>The Cemmaes windfarm visually dominates both the adjacent and distant landscapes within the LCA. The windfarm has been built on landscapes bearing evidence of (largely) prehistoric occupation, and which have historically been used for grazing. The Cultural Aspect specialist ascribed a high cultural value to this area as a response to the perceived need for 'sustainable' energy. However, much of the valley which separates Mynydd y Cemmaes from the eastern section of the LCA around Mynydd Lluest fach and Mynydd Rhiw-Saeson remains substantially unspoilt and attractive, and there are only certain sections of the valley where the wind turbines are visible.....</i> <p>The equally prominent characterisation are would extend west to include the upland plateau of the eastern area of this LCA. However, the presence of Cemmaes wind farm has a desensitising effect and the impacts would be reduced accordingly.</p>	Indirect	Moderate and not significant