

Appendix 12.9: Landscape Impact Assessment Table

Landscape Character Area/ CCW Landmap Visual Aspect Area	Sensitivity/ CCW Landmap Overall Evaluation	Potential Impacts During Construction	Potential Operational Impacts (Year 1)	Residual Operational Impacts (Year 15)	Comments regarding landscape character
Urbanized Valley	Low	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Beneficial	Little can be done to temper the effects of the necessary elements of construction, for example the presence of cranes in the view. The initial change from undeveloped site to developed land would have a direct effect on landscape character of the valley. However, as the landscape planting around the site matures, so an additional area of structure planting would be added to the low areas of the valley, benefiting the character of the area as a whole, and providing an extension to the character of the adjacent wooded countryside. In addition, valued landscape features such as native planting and waterbodies that may provide habitat for wildlife could provide replacement features to any lost from the site due to the development. It would not be possible for mitigation planting to screen the upper part of the proposed 40m stack, and this would be seen above the ridgeline of adjacent buildings. In comparison, nearby electricity pylons are around 49m tall, and the stack would be finished in a colour to reduce its visibility.
Cynon VS522 Aberdare	Low	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Beneficial	
Lower Valley Slopes with Urban and Industrial Influences	Low/ Medium	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible/ None	The experience of much of this landscape area is of one with a significant number of urban influences including industrial uses and activities. The development would to a large extent benefit from the visual screen provided by existing vegetation around the Industrial Estate. New planting around the development, as it matures, would make a positive contribution to the overall appearance and character of the urbanized valley, and increase the extent to which the development
Cynon VS368 Opencast	Low	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible/ None to Minor Beneficial	

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Cynon VS890 Craing Nantmelyn	Moderate	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	Negligible/ None	is screened in views from these landscape areas. The proposed 40m stack on the site would only be partially screened by vegetation surrounding the site, but would be seen in context of other vertical and large structures within the 'urbanized valley'. Overall, the development would not appear out of character with its setting, and would have no significant effect on the perception of the wider landscape from this area.
Wooded countryside with scattered settlement	High	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	The significant amount of woodland and undulating topography create a high level of enclosure to this area, and sense of separation from the site. The occasional glimpsed views through the vegetation towards the Industrial Estate from these areas however, are a reminder of the nearby urban elements that are perceived from the rural landscape. The development would be perceived in these views as an additional area of structures on the Industrial Estate. Planting proposed around the development would increase the extent to which it appeared integrated into the landscape.
Cynon VS833 - Penderyn	Moderate	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	
Open Countryside	High	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	The perception of the development from the valley slopes to the south of it would differ from that to the north. From the landscapes to the south, although the view from the upper valley slopes is across the Industrial Estate, the significant areas of landscape planting including
Cynon VS430 Hirwaun Common	High	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	

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Cynon VS833 – Penderyn	Moderate	Major Adverse	Moderate Adverse	Minor Adverse	<p>conifers along the roads and around the Industrial Estate immediately to the south of the site create a substantial visual screen. In addition, the view towards the site looks across a number of urban features located in the rural fringe areas. From the landscapes to the north, the view looks down upon the Industrial Estate, and would include the new development. The proportion of the development perceived from this landscape may be slightly greater than from the southern slopes. The landscapes in the foreground of this view are almost entirely rural in nature, with the main urban influence located within the valley or on the opposite southern valley slopes.</p> <p>Overall, the development would be consistent with its immediate environs, and would be one of a number of elements in the panoramic views of the landscape, reducing the significance of its effect on adjacent landscape character areas, and their visual or recreational amenity.</p>
Plantation and Mixed Forest	Medium	Minor Adverse	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	From within the dense forests, there is likely to be little or no visual perception of the development.
Cynon VS580 St Gwynno	Moderate	Minor Adverse	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	