



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

**Appendix 7J: Assessment of Landscape Effects:
Proposed Glyndŵr National Park Special Qualities**





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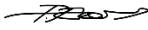
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THIS APPENDIX

- 1.1.1. This appendix provides an assessment of effects on the Draft Special Qualities (SQs) which have been identified for the proposed Glyndŵr National Park in north east Wales.
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development is not located within the proposed designated area, being approximately 11.5 km from the nearest proposed boundary and as a consequence, there can be no direct impact on the areas of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park within the LVIA Study Area.
- 1.1.3. Nonetheless, the Proposed Development may indirectly affect the emerging SQs, including views and perceptual qualities. This assessment therefore considers the effects of the Proposed Development on the draft SQs.
- 1.1.4. It is important to note that wind farm development is not necessarily incompatible with the valued qualities of a landscape, this will depend on the nature and / or effects of the development and the nature of the SQs. A visual effect on a view from within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park for example, may or may not affect the SQ and the integrity of the designation. In particular, paragraph 5.46 of GLVIA3¹ further advises:
 - *"An internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have high susceptibility to all types of change.*
 - *It is possible for an internationally, nationally or locally important landscape to have relatively low susceptibility to change resulting from the particular type of development in question, by virtue of both the characteristics of the landscape and the nature of the proposal.*
 - *The particular type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape."*

1.2 STATUS OF THE PROPOSED GLYNDŴR NATIONAL PARK BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. In its Programme for Government (2021-2026)², the Welsh Government set out its intention to designate a new National Park in Wales based on the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)³.
- 1.2.2. As a result, the Welsh Government commissioned Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to evaluate the case for this designation under the statutory process. NRW began evaluating the case for a new National Park in Wales in 2023, undertaking data and evidence gathering, consultation and engagement with local communities and other stakeholders, in line with NRW's Procedural guidance GN 010⁴.

¹ Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. 3rd edition*. London. Routledge

² Welsh Government (2016). Programme for government 2021 to 2026. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/programme-government>.

It should be noted that this was published under the published under the 2021 to 2026 administration of the Welsh Government which changed in May 2026.

³ Since 2024, AONBs have been branded as 'National Landscapes' but retain the AONB title under legislation.

⁴ Natural Resources Wales (2022). Statutory landscape designation: procedural guidance. Guidance Note (GN) 010. (Online). Available at: https://ymgyngori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/new-national-park-proposal-information-page-wales/user_uploads/a-gn010-statutory-landscape-designation-procedural-guidance.pdf

CURRENT STATUS

- 1.2.3. Following a review of the evidence and the findings from statutory consultation, the NRW Board agreed that sufficient evidence demonstrating that the statutory criteria relating to Natural Beauty and opportunities for open air recreation had been met, and that the area is of such national significance that National Park purposes should apply. The Glyndŵr National Park Designation Order was therefore submitted to the Welsh Government in January 2026. It was subsequently announced⁵ in March 2026 that the Welsh Government, in line with the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, plans to hold a public local inquiry to consider the representations and objections made in connection with the creation of the new Glyndŵr National Park. The timescales associated with a public inquiry are not yet known.

PLANNING STATUS OF THE PROPOSED GLYNDŴR NATIONAL PARK

- 1.2.4. The final proposed boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park includes the current extent of the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape, an area of additional land adjoining the National Landscape to the west (the Pwll-glas area) and a broad swath of landscape to the south which includes the Berwyns and parts of Montgomeryshire, Powys. Together, these areas form the proposed National Park, the boundary of which is illustrated on **Figure 7.7**.
- 1.2.5. With regard to the existing Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape and its setting (located beyond the LVIA Study Area for the Proposed Development), the statutory duty to have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the designated area of the National Landscape is made in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act) (as amended). Where land is proposed to be designated as a National Park but is not currently within the existing National Landscape, no statutory duty arises at the present time. However, the National Park proposal is now in the final stages of the statutory process, thereby increasing the prospects of its designation.

1.3 CUMULATIVE ASSESSMENT

- 1.3.1. The cumulative landscape assessment has been informed by a review of **Figure 7.7.1 National and local landscape designations with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Blade Tip**, the cumulative ZTVs in **Figures 7.13.1 to 7.13.6**, wirelines and photomontage for Viewpoint 13 (**Figure 7.28a-i Viewpoint 13 B4395, North of Llangadfan**) and has been undertaken in relation to the following scenarios:
- Cumulative Scenario 1: Baseline wind turbines (Operational + Consented); and
 - Cumulative Scenario 2: Other proposed wind turbines (Cumulative Scenario 1 + Planning Application).

⁵ Welsh Government (2026). Written Statement: Inquiry to consider Designation Order for Glyndŵr National Park. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/written-statement-inquiry-consider-designation-order-glyndwr-national-park>

- 1.3.2. As set out in the Scoping Report, the inclusion of Scoping Application schemes in cumulative assessment has been scoped out of the cumulative assessment. Whilst the Llyn Lort Wind Energy Park application has not yet been verified⁶ and published on the Planning & Environment Decision Wales (PEDW) Planning Casework website, the proximity of this Scheme to the Proposed Development and the estimated date of submission for the application being May 2026 (latest Notification under DNS CAS-02362-P3S4H4⁷), this scheme has been included in the Cumulative 2 Scenario.

⁶ The Llyn Lort Wind Energy Park ES was submitted to PEDW on 11 July 2025, with revisions to Volume III submitted on 17 February 2026. The Assessment of Environmental Statement, dated 23/03/2026, requested further information under Regulation 24 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (Online). Available at: <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case/CAS-02362-P3S4H4>

⁷ DNS Notification of Proposed Development Llyn Lort Energy Park (05 December 2025). (Online). Available at: <https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case/CAS-02362-P3S4H4>

2 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS: SPECIAL QUALITIES

2.1 OVERVIEW

- 2.1.1. The effects of the Proposed Development on the draft SQs have been assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 7A: LVIA Methodology** and with the NatureScot Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects⁸.
- 2.1.2. The proposed Glyndŵr National Park draft SQ assessment comprises four stages:
- Stage 1: The Proposed Development;
 - Stage 2: Scope of the Assessment and Baseline Conditions. The assessment is supported by ZTV, viewpoint analysis and site survey;
 - Stage 3: Assessment of effects on the draft SQs, noting any relevant landscape characteristics that underpin the SQs, how the area is experienced by people and opportunities for further mitigation; and
 - Stage 4: Summary of significant effects on the draft SQs - providing a summary of the assessment, noting the effects on the draft SQs and the implications for the integrity of the designation.

2.2 STAGE 1: THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 2.2.1. The Proposed Development is not located within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, being approximately 11.5 km from the nearest proposed boundary. A full description of the Proposed Development is contained in **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development**, whilst the design evolution is reported in **Chapter 3: Scheme Need, Alternatives and Iterative Design Process**.
- 2.2.2. The Proposed Development includes embedded mitigation that has been developed through the design process with reference to *Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales*⁹. The proposed turbines have been cohesively located to limit the visibility of the proposed turbines, where possible, as well as reducing the horizontal and vertical extent of the Proposed Development from key views and particularly when perceived from nearby settlements, residential properties, the Eryri National Park (ENP) and proposed Glyndŵr National Park. Further detail with regard the wind farm design considerations is set out in **Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual**.
- 2.2.3. The focus of this assessment is the proposed wind turbines, including their composition, height and rotation relative to other operational wind farms visible from within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park. Ground-based or other associated infrastructure, forming part of the Proposed Development would be barely perceptible at distances in excess of 2 km and would have no characterising influence at distances in excess of 11.5 km. The upper part of a crane may be temporarily visible in clear conditions during the construction and decommissioning phases, and the aviation warning lights would also potentially be visible from those parts of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park which

⁸ NatureScot (2025) *Special Landscape Qualities - Guidance on assessing effects*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.nature.scot/doc/special-landscape-qualities-guidance-assessing-effects>

⁹ Design Commission for Wales (2023) *Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales*. (Online). Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-12/designing-for-renewable-energy-in-wales.pdf>

are indicated in the ZTVs in **Figures 7M.4 Nacelle Lights Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) with Night-time Viewpoints** and **7M.6a Lighting Intensity Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) within 27km**, contained within **Annex 7M.1 of Appendix 7M: Night-time Assessment**.

2.3 STAGE 2: SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT AND BASELINE CONDITIONS

BASELINE DESCRIPTION

- 2.3.1. The proposed Glyndŵr National Park boundary is illustrated in **Figure 7.7.1** which is overlapped by the blade tip ZTV, indicating the maximum extent of theoretical visibility across the proposed National Park as follows:
- At distances of between approximately 11.5 km and 15 km, theoretical visibility occurs across the upper slopes of rising land to the north of the A458 and west of the B4395, including Waun Oer.
 - At distances of between 15 km and 20 km, theoretical visibility is indicated across Carreg y Frân, Moel y Llyn, Moel y Tryfel, Mynydd Dyfnant and Mynydd y Gadfa. A large proportion of this area coincides with the Dyfnant Forest, and in reality, outward views would be restricted by the forestry.
 - At distances of between 20 km and 25 km, theoretical visibility extends across the summit and upper slopes of Mynydd St John, Mynydd Coch, Cefn Glas, Bryn Mawr and Allt yr Eryr to the south and west of Lake Vyrnwy and across the upper slopes of rising land to the north of Lake Vyrnwy.
 - Beyond 25 km, the ZTV continues to the north of Lake Vyrnwy, extending across the summits and upper slopes of Moel y Cerrig Duon, Moel Eunant, Garreg Wen, Trum y Fawnog and Cynriau.
- 2.3.2. The draft SQ headlines of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park and corresponding characteristics, as set out in the *Identification of the special qualities of the area of search for a potential new National Park in North East Wales*¹⁰ (the Craggatak report) are as follows:

Table 7J-1 – Draft SQs of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park

Draft Special Qualities	
Headline	Characteristics
<i>“An inspiring space that promotes mental, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing</i>	■ <i>The foundation of modern Welsh literature;</i> ■ <i>The home of poets;</i> ■ <i>Dramatic and spectacular;</i> ■ <i>Iconic views;</i> ■ <i>Inspirational;</i> ■ <i>Legends, myths and story-telling;</i> ■ <i>Natural wonders;</i>

¹⁰ Craggatak Consulting (2024) *Identification of the special qualities of the area of search for a potential new National Park in North East Wales* (Online). Available at: https://ymgynggori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/new-national-park-proposal-information-page-wales/user_uploads/nrw-special-qualities-report.pdf

Draft Special Qualities	
Headline	Characteristics
	- Open country; - Opportunities for recreation; - Peace and tranquillity; - Quietness and solitude; - Remoteness and wildness; - Sense of adventure; - Sense of deep-time; - Space and freedom; - Uninterrupted views; and - Warm and prosperous feel.
<i>A place with cohesive communities and distinctive settlement patterns</i>	- Vibrancy of Welsh culture; 'Border' cultures drawing on distinctive traditions and networks; 'Bro' – sense of community, belonging, attachment and sense of place; - Communities of interest; - Distinctive valley cultures; - Language links to land use and agriculture; - Pride in Welshness; - Recognition and pride in place including the past; and - Sense of welcome.
<i>A story of human interaction with the landscape over the millennia</i>	- Stories revealed; - Reflections of the past; - A destination; - An ancient feel with links to the Mabinogi; - Defensive sites; - Feeling of smallness; - Industrial Sites; - People and place shaped by the past; - Settlements; - The past explained; and - Traditional communications.

Draft Special Qualities	
Headline	Characteristics
<i>A home to internationally and locally important species and habitats</i>	▪ <i>Living wonders;</i> ▪ <i>Farmed diversity;</i> ▪ <i>Nature at risk;</i> ▪ <i>Iconic habitats and species;</i> ▪ <i>Seasons on show; and</i> ▪ <i>Sounds of nature.</i>
<i>A distinctive, complementary and contrasting landscape</i>	▪ <i>Dramatic and spectacular;</i> ▪ <i>Colours and shades;</i> ▪ <i>Exposure and enclosure;</i> ▪ <i>Extensive uplands and interlacing valleys;</i> ▪ <i>Flowing topography;</i> ▪ <i>Full of surprises;</i> ▪ <i>Geology and geomorphology embracing a cohesive area;</i> ▪ <i>Land cover – commons and uplands, enclosed farmed landscape;</i> ▪ <i>Panoramic views;</i> ▪ <i>Rural and undeveloped;</i> ▪ <i>Scenic and secluded;</i> ▪ <i>Unbroken skyline;</i> ▪ <i>Visual delight; and</i> ▪ <i>Windswept and sheltered</i>
<i>A landscape providing benefits beyond its borders</i>	▪ <i>Nurturing life;</i> ▪ <i>Biodiversity;</i> ▪ <i>Breathing spaces for urban communities;</i> ▪ <i>Carbon sinks;</i> ▪ <i>Clean air;</i> ▪ <i>Clean water;</i> ▪ <i>Delivering services;</i> ▪ <i>Food;</i> ▪ <i>Tourism; and</i> ▪ <i>Water modulation.”</i>

2.3.3. These SQs are draft only at this time and have not yet been adopted.

SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

- 2.3.4. All of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park overlapped by the ZTV within the LVIA Study Area is included in this assessment, which is aided by a review of the visualisation for Viewpoint 13 (**Figure 7.28**), located on the eastern boundary of the proposed National Park.
- 2.3.5. A review of the draft SQs listed above concluded that the following headlines should be included in the assessment as one or more of the emerging characteristics relate to visual and perceptual aspects of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park:
- **An inspiring space that promotes mental, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing; and**
 - **A distinctive, complementary and contrasting landscape.**
- 2.3.6. There would be no effect on the draft SQs related to physical characteristics and features or on those relating to culture and the community. For these reasons, the characteristics and features under the remaining four headlines of have been excluded from the assessment.

2.4 STAGE 3: ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS ON THE PROPOSED GLYNDŴR NATIONAL PARK DRAFT SQS

- 2.4.1. Two draft SQ headlines and their constituent characteristics are considered relevant to this assessment and have been assessed in **Table 3-1** below, with a summary of the assessment provided in **Section 4** of this appendix. The characteristics have been grouped where appropriate, which is considered to be proportionate to the status of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.

Table 7J-2 – Assessment of effects on the draft SQs

Relevant characteristics	Effect on the characteristics
Headline: An inspiring space that promotes mental, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing <u>Sensitivity:</u> The sensitivity of this draft SQ Headline is assessed as High. This has been derived from the High value of the proposed National Park designation and the High to Medium susceptibility of this draft SQ to the type of change proposed. The high levels of intervisibility and corresponding strong visual relationships with surrounding landscapes together with the strong sense of time depth, tranquillity and remoteness are visual and perceptual characteristics which indicate a higher susceptibility to change, tempered slightly by the visual presence of existing vertical infrastructure (wind turbines) and the visual and audible influence of the A458 corridor, just beyond the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.	
<i>Dramatic and spectacular</i> <i>Iconic views</i> <i>Inspirational</i> <i>Natural wonders</i> <i>Open country</i> <i>Uninterrupted views</i>	Assessment of effects: Proposed Development The introduction of modern man-made structures in views from the proposed Glyndŵr National Park has the potential to affect the relevant visual characteristics of this draft SQ. Where visible, the Proposed Development would appear as up to 11 turbines or turbine blades from within the areas of intervisibility indicated in the ZTV in Figure 7.7 (Sheets 1-4). There would be no intervisibility from within the majority of the area of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park which coincides with the Study Area, with large parts of the ZTV coinciding with the Dyfnant Forest and other smaller areas of forestry, whose screening effects are not accounted for in the ZTV. As recorded in Appendix 7K: Viewpoint Assessment , some Moderate to Minor levels of visual effect (Low-Very Low magnitude) are likely to be experienced by receptors traversing the upland areas close to Viewpoint 13 on the eastern boundary of the proposed National Park, where the visible scale and extent of the

Relevant characteristics	Effect on the characteristics
	wind farm would affect approximately 9° of the wide panoramas viewed from these areas. Consequently, the Proposed Development would appear as a new feature affecting a small part of the overall visual experience gained from these landscapes and as evidenced in the baseline photography and wirelines for Viewpoint 13 (Figure 7.28), would often be experienced as part of much wider landscape panoramas, a proportion of which feature existing wind turbines present beyond the proposed National Park boundary. The Proposed Development would therefore become an incremental or occasionally new, man-made vertical element within the “<i>Iconic views</i>” and “<i>Uninterrupted views</i>” which are available from within this landscape. From other areas which coincide with the ZTV, the magnitude of change anticipated to reduce to Very Low with increasing separation distance, with a corresponding Minor level of visual effect for High sensitivity visual receptors. The Proposed Development would not affect the landscape within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park itself, and the “<i>Dramatic and Spectacular</i>”, “<i>Natural wonders</i>” and “<i>Open country characteristics</i>” would not be affected. The landscape would remain “<i>Inspirational</i>”. The magnitude of change upon this component of the draft SQ is assessed as being up to Low-Very Low from the closest areas of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park which coincide with the ZTV, giving rise to a level of landscape effect which would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be long term (reversible), indirect, and adverse. From the majority of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, there would be no change to this component of the draft SQ. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Operational and consented wind farms, in particular, the operational Tirgwynt Wind Farm (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude) and consented Llanbrynmair Wind Farm (Low to Zero magnitude) would have a Moderate (Llanbrynmair) to Moderate to Minor (Tirgwynt) effect on the “<i>Iconic views</i>” and “<i>Uninterrupted views</i>” characteristics of this draft SQ due to their scale and proximity (126.5m to blade tip and a minimum distance of approximately 3.5km for the consented Llanbrynmair), and would broadly appear in the same Field of View (FoV) as the Proposed Development. The smaller scale or more distant operational and consented schemes including Mynydd Clogau, Cemmaes, and Carno I, II and III would have a very limited role (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The level of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Moderate and Not Significant (due to the consented Llanbrynmair turbines). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes within the LVIA Study Area would have very limited influence on this draft SQ as a consequence of their scale (Esgair Cwmowen) or separation distance (Banc Du and Rhiwlas) (Very Low to Zero). The Llyn Lort Wind Farm (Scoping) would however have an influence on this draft SQ as a consequence of the scale of the turbines (220m to blade tip) and proximity (a minimum of approximately 4km) (Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The level

Relevant characteristics	Effect on the characteristics
	of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Major and Significant (due to Llyn Lort and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development due to the proximity and scale (220 m to blade tip) of the Llyn Lort scheme). The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse.
<i>Peace and tranquillity</i> <i>Quietness and solitude</i> <i>Remoteness and wildness</i> <i>Sense of deep-time</i>	Assessment of effects: Proposed Development With reference to the rationale set out in Section 2.4 of Appendix 7I: Assessment of effects – Eryri National Park Special Qualities, in relation to similar tranquillity led SQs within the ENP, the Proposed Development would affect only one of the 16 visual indicators of tranquillity set out in NRW's Tranquillity and Place Report No: 569¹¹, relating to “<i>seeing large non-natural infrastructure</i>”, as well as the potential effects on dark skies, which is also a contributor to tranquillity. As recorded in the Viewpoint Assessment in Appendix 7K, a Moderate to Minor visual effect would be experienced from Viewpoint 13 (Figure 7.28) on the eastern boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park. The draft SQ assessment is focused on how seeing large non-natural infrastructure affects perceptions of tranquillity. The closest southern edge of the proposed National Park is aligned along the A458 corridor, which is already subject to high levels of movement and visual disturbance with corresponding reduced levels of tranquillity (level 7 or 8) indicated in the webmap¹² and Figure 7.9 Tranquillity and Place Visually Tranquil Areas which illustrates the results of NRW's Tranquillity and Place Mapping tranquil places study. Levels of tranquillity from areas of landscape further to the north increases to level 8 or 9, with level 9 or 10 (the highest level) occurring across the slopes to the north of Lake Vyrnwy, as evidenced in Figure 7.9. However, with increasing separation distance the visual role of the Proposed Development diminishes and would not of a scale that would make it a prominent non-natural feature thereby reducing the potential for notable changes to baseline levels of tranquillity, remoteness, wildness and “<i>sense of deep-time</i>” to occur. The aviation warning lights on T1, T5, T7 and T10 (as described in Appendix 7M: Night-time Assessment of Volume 4) would appear in the distant landscape from areas which coincide with the ZTVs for the aviation lights in Figures 7M.4 and 7M.6a, which are contained within Annex 7M.1 of Appendix 7M: Night-time Assessment. Angle intensity mitigation as illustrated in Figure 7M.6a would reduce the effects further by frequently reducing the light intensity to between 204-99cd, and to between 100 to 38cd from the closest areas of landscape to the west of the B4395. The magnitude of change upon the perceptual characteristics which contribute to the Draft SQ is assessed as Very Low from areas which coincide with the ZTV, giving rise to a level of landscape effect which would be Minor and Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be long term (reversible), indirect, and adverse. From the majority of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, there would be no change to this draft SQ. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1)

¹¹ Green C, Manson D, Chamberlain K 2022. Tranquillity and Place. NRW Report No: 569. (Online). Available at: https://www.lucmaps.co.uk/NRW_TranquillityPlace/Tranquillity%20and%20Place%20Final%20Report.pdf

¹² Available to view at: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/865c1876d9f64280a3dfc6e2769a46a5>

Relevant characteristics	Effect on the characteristics
	Operational and consented wind farms, in particular, the operational Tirgwynt Wind Farm (Very Low to Zero magnitude) and consented Llanbrynmair Wind Farm (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude) would have a Moderate to Minor to Minor effect on the tranquillity of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park. The smaller scale or more distant operational and consented schemes including Mynydd Clogau, Cemmaes, and Carno I, II and III would have a very limited role (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The level of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant (due to the consented Llanbrynmair turbines). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at within the LVIA Study Area would have very limited influence on this draft SQ as a consequence of their scale (Esgair Cwmowen) or separation distance (Banc Du and Rhiwlas) (Very Low to Zero). The scoping scheme at Llyn Lort would be located a minimum of 4km to the south of the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park and may be of sufficient scale (220m to blade tip) and proximity to alter perceptions of “<i>Peace and tranquillity</i>” and “<i>Remoteness</i>” within the closest areas of the proposed designated landscape (Medium-Low magnitude). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Minor and Not Significant. The level of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Major to Moderate and Significant and (from areas closest to the Llyn Lort scheme). The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse.
Headline: A distinctive, complementary and contrasting landscape <u>Sensitivity:</u> The sensitivity of this Draft SQ Headline is assessed as High. This has been derived from the High value of the proposed National Park designation and the High to Medium susceptibility of this Draft SQ to the type of change proposed. The high levels of intervisibility and corresponding strong visual relationships with surrounding landscapes is a visual characteristic which indicates a higher susceptibility to change, tempered slightly by the visual presence of existing vertical infrastructure (wind turbines) beyond the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.	
<i>Dramatic and spectacular</i> <i>Colours and shades</i> <i>Exposure and enclosure</i> <i>Full of surprises</i> <i>Panoramic views</i> <i>Rural and undeveloped</i> <i>Scenic and secluded</i> <i>Unbroken skyline</i> <i>Visual delight</i> <i>Windswept and sheltered</i>	Assessment of effects: Proposed Development As set out previously under the draft SQ headline “<i>An inspiring space</i>”, and as evidenced in the figures for Viewpoint 13 (Figure 7.28), the 11 turbines within the Proposed Development would become additional modern man-made structures within the “<i>panoramic views</i>” and would, to a small degree, indirectly and incrementally detract from the “<i>scenic</i>” nature of a small proportion of views which are experienced from within the proposed National Park. The proposed turbines would not affect the skylines of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park itself although they would, from a small number of viewpoints breach visible skylines outside of the area to the south and to a similar or slightly greater height than the existing visible turbines. However, the permeable nature of the turbines means that they would not obscure the skyline itself, nor would the Proposed Development limit the extent to which “<i>Panoramic views</i>” would be experienced. The Proposed Development would not directly affect the landscape within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, and the “<i>Dramatic and Spectacular</i>”

Relevant characteristics	Effect on the characteristics
	characteristic, levels of “<i>Exposure and enclosure</i>” and “<i>Windswept and sheltered</i>” qualities as well as the characteristics relating to this landscape being “<i>Rural and undeveloped</i>” would not be affected. The landscape would remain “<i>Full of surprises</i>” and the proposed turbines would not introduce new colours into the views experienced from the proposed Glyndŵr National Park. The magnitude of change upon the draft SQ is assessed as Low-Very Low to Very Low (with increasing separation distance) from areas of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park which coincide with the ZTV giving rise to a level of landscape effect which would be Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be long term (reversible), indirect, and adverse. From the majority of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, there would be no change to this draft SQ. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites (Scenario 1) Operational and consented wind farms, in particular, the operational Tirgwynt Wind Farm (Low-Very Low to Zero magnitude) and consented Llanbrynmair Wind Farm (Low magnitude) would have a Moderate (Llanbrynmair) to Moderate to Minor (Tirgwynt) effect on the “<i>Panoramic views</i>”, “<i>Unbroken skyline</i>” and “<i>Scenic</i>” characteristics of this draft SQ due to their scale and proximity (126.5m to blade tip and a minimum distance of approximately 3.5km for the consented Llanbrynmair), and would broadly appear in the same FoV as the Proposed Development. The smaller scale or more distant operational and consented schemes including Mynydd Clogau, Cemmaes, and Carno I, II and III would have a very limited role (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The level of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Moderate and Not Significant (due to the consented Llanbrynmair turbines). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse. Cumulative Assessment: Proposed Development + Operational + Consented Sites + Applications (Scenario 2) The planning application schemes at within the LVIA Study Area would have very limited influence on this draft SQ as a consequence of their scale (Esgair Cwmowen) or separation distance (Banc Du and Rhiwlas) (Very Low to Zero magnitude). The Llyn Lort Wind Farm (Scoping) would however have an influence on this draft SQ as a consequence of the scale of the turbines (220m to blade tip) and proximity (a minimum of approximately 4km) (Medium to Zero magnitude). The additional cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would remain Moderate to Minor and Not Significant. The level of combined cumulative landscape effect on this draft SQ would be Major and Significant (due to Llyn Lort and <u>not</u> the Proposed Development as a consequence of the proximity and scale (220 m to blade tip) of the Llyn Lort scheme). The nature of this effect would be cumulative, indirect, long term (reversible) and adverse.

2.5 STAGE 4: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ON THE DRAFT SQS

- 2.5.1. The assessment has been undertaken using information which is currently available including the proposed Glyndŵr National Park map (published in 2025) and the emerging SQs as set out in the Craggatak report¹⁰, noting that these are in draft form, and refer to the previous 'area of search' rather than the proposed boundary which accompanies the Designation Order¹³.
- 2.5.2. The Proposed Development is not located within the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, being a minimum distance of 11.5 km from its boundary. In assessing the indirect effects of the Proposed Development on the visual and perceptual SQs of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park, the assessment has concluded that there would be no significant effects on the draft SQs or the integrity of the proposed nationally designated landscape as a consequence of the Proposed Development.
- 2.5.3. A summary of the SQ assessment for the proposed Glyndŵr National Park is set out in **Table 7J-3**.

Table 7J-3 – Summary of the draft SQ Assessment for the proposed Glyndŵr National Park

Special Quality Headline	Sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Level of effect
An inspiring space that promotes mental, physical and spiritual health and wellbeing	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None
A place with cohesive communities and distinctive settlement patterns	Not assessed – cultural and physical qualities that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the proposed Glyndŵr National Park boundary.		
A story of human interaction with the landscape over the millennia	Not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.		
A home to internationally and locally important species and habitats	Not assessed – physical characteristics that could not be affected by the Proposed Development which is well beyond the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.		
A distinctive, complementary and contrasting landscape	High	Low-Very Low to Zero	Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None
A landscape providing benefits beyond its borders	Not assessed – the Proposed Development is located well beyond the boundary of the proposed Glyndŵr National Park.		

¹³ Available to view at: <https://ymgyngghori.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/north-east-gogledd-ddwyrain/notification-period-2026/>



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