



Candwr Solar Farm

Pre Application Consultation

Environmental Statement

Appendix 5.4 Landscape Effects Summary Table

2 July 2026



Appendix 5.4: Landscape Effects Summary Table

All effects are adverse unless otherwise stated

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
National Landscape Character Area					
NLCA 31 – Central Monmouthshire	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce new features into a predominantly agricultural, working landscape which features other beyond settlement uses such as the waterworks, reservoir, pylons. The Proposed Development would only impact a very small area of the overall NLCA, and its character would therefore not be fundamentally altered. By Year 15, any proposed planting would have matured and would contribute positively to the overall vegetation resource across the Site. There would be biodiversity benefits associated with the land being in fallow use, as opposed to managed agriculture.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
NLCA 35: Cardiff, Barry and Newport	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	The Site and Proposed Development do not lie in NLCA 35, but rather adjacent to it. Whilst the Proposed Development could be seen to have an influence on the setting of NLCA 35, the character area is noted for its ‘busy, heavily urbanised areas’ which includes other detracting features including the M4 motorway and rural-urban fringe character. Therefore, the Proposed Development will have a negligible impact on the character and setting of NLCA 35.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
LANDMAP Aspect Areas					
Geological Aspects MNMTHGLO91 – Common Cefn-Ilewn	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Whilst the geological aspect areas relevant to the site are, in some cases, noted for their high value and condition (and therefore sensitivity), solar farms are characterised by their light touch on the landscape. The Proposed Development – aside from some localised groundworks for substation and access track construction – will not have any appreciable impact on the geological features of the Site. Its impact on all Geological Aspect Areas would be negligible at all development stages
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Geological Aspects TRFNGL033 – Creigydd	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Geological Aspects TRFNGLO10 – Llanfrechfa	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Geological Aspects TRFNGLO09 – Afon Llwyd	Low	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Landscape Habitats MNMTHLHO70 – West Rural Monmouthshire	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Low	Minor (not significant)	At Year 1, the effects of construction within MNMTHLHO70 and TFGNLHO24 will bring about a low magnitude of change and an adverse effect on the landscape habitats on Site. This is due to onsite disturbance and limited vegetation removal. It should be noted that the existing ground cover (where it comprises grass/pasture) will not be removed to facilitate the Proposed Development.
		Year 1	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Year 15	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)	At Year 15, the ecological benefits of removing the land from active agricultural use and production will have had a positive impact on the habitat provided by the grassland across the Site, producing some benefits from a habitat perspective. Due to the small area within the Site boundary, effects on NWPORTLHO15 would be negligible at all stages.
Landscape Habitats TRGNLHO24 – Torfaen	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Year 1	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Year 15	Low	Minor beneficial (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Low	Minor (not significant)	
Landscape Habitats NWPORTLHO15 – Newport	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Historic Landscape TRFNHLOO2 Edlogan and Tregrug	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	The Proposed Development will not necessitate the removal of field boundary vegetation, altering the field structure and as such the historic field pattern will prevail. The temporary removal of the land from active agricultural production will help protect the field pattern from changes and pressures associated with continued agricultural use. Effects at all stages would be negligible.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Historic Landscape MNMTHHLO53 – Tregrug and Llanhunog	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Historic Landscape: NWPRTL008 – Llanhennock Hills	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Cultural Landscape Services: MNMTHCLS040 – Sor Brook Valley	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	The Proposed Development will not cause a change to the sense of place, such as the historic field pattern and hedgerow pattern. The temporary removal of the land from active agricultural production will retain the field pattern and prevent pressures associated with continued agricultural use. Effects at all stages would be negligible.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Cultural Landscape Services: TRFNCLS006	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Cultural Landscape Services: NWPRTCLS039 – Penrhos	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
Cultural Landscape Services: TRFNCLSO05	Low	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Visual and Sensory TRFNVS011 – Torfaen - Quiet, secluded rolling landscape - Mosaic of hedges and broadleaf woodland	High	Construction (temporary)	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	Parcels 6, 7, 9, 13 and 14 lie within this Aspect Area, which occupies an area generally west and northwest of the Site. Whilst the Proposed Development would introduce new features into the landscape – which would be visible from some locations, the key characteristics of the Aspect Area would prevail: the pattern of hedgerows, fields and woodlands would remain, and the Proposed Development would not introduce noise or impact on the sense of tranquillity experienced in this area.
		Year 1	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
		Year 15	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
Visual and Sensory NWPRTVS028 – Penrhos - Open pastoral character, small-medium field scale. - Small block of deciduous woodland/scrub associated with the stream valley in the north. - Boundary trees in places	High	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Aspect Area NWPRTS028 occupies a small geographic area generally southeast of the Site. Only a very small portion of the Site – the southeastern corner of Parcel 12 – lies within this Aspect Area. Whilst this area is contained within the Site redline, no solar panels or other infrastructure are proposed to be sited here, meaning the overall effect on the Aspect Area would be indirect and negligible.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	The majority of the site (parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 and 11) lies within this Aspect Area, which itself is the largest Visual and

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
Visual and Sensory MNMTHVSO36 – Sor Brook Valley - Views restricted in deep valley bottoms but far-reaching from high ground. - Bound to the north by wooded hills and to the west by the dense settlement of Cwmbran. - Domesticated landscape		Year 1	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	Sensory Aspect Area relevant to the Site. Consequently, the Site occupies a relatively small portion of the Aspect Area, and views of the Proposed Development would vary based on topography – as outlined in the key characteristics in the LANDMAP assessment (see Appendix 5.3) The landscape is noted to be of a medium scale and domesticated. The Proposed Development would temporarily introduce new features which would lie within the overall grain of the landscape, which would prevail with the Proposed Development in place.
		Year 15	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
Visual and Sensory TRFNVS009 – Torfaen - Generally rural context	Low	Construction (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	The Proposed Development lies generally to the north of this Aspect Area, which covers the village of Ponthir, which itself has a rural settlement character. A small part of the Site boundary lies within this Aspect Area, but this is proposed to house a Site access, which will have the appearance of an agricultural track and will thus be reflective of the rural context. Effects on this Aspect Area would therefore largely be indirect.
		Year 1	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Year 15	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	
Torfaen Special Landscape Area					
Torfaen Special Landscape Area 5 - Extensive rolling open lowland agricultural landscape which is	High	Construction (temporary)	Low	Moderate (not significant)	Parcels 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13 and 14 lie either partially or wholly within Torfaen Special Landscape Area 5, South Eastern Lowlands, as designated by Torfaen County Borough Council. It is an area which covers lower-lying land around Ponthir and wraps northward along the valley toward Llanfrechfa and Cwmbran. The Proposed Development would introduce new features into
		Year 1	Low	Moderate (not significant)	
		Year 15	Low	Moderate (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity	Development Phase	Magnitude of Change	Significance of Effect	Comments
undervalued due to its prevalence. - Patchwork of small to medium sized fields bounded by hedgerows with hedgerow trees and interspersed with some larger woodland blocks.		Decommissioning (temporary)	Low	Moderate (not significant)	this landscape, but the pattern of fields and overall agricultural character would prevail. The retention of hedgerows and agricultural pattern is noted as a key management issue for the SLA, and the Proposed Development would secure this for the duration of the temporary 40-year permission sought. A higher magnitude of change and thus major effect would be experienced during short-term construction activities due to their impact on perceptual and sensory associations of the Torfaen Special Landscape Area, namely on the sense of tranquillity and rurality.
Landscape Features and Elements					
Land Use and Land Cover	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	The proposed development would change the perception of the primary land use from arable and pastoral grassland to a solar farm. The grassland would not be removed, and arable fields would be replaced with grassland, so an agricultural land use would be retained through sheep grazing beneath the solar arrays.
		Year 1	Medium	Moderate (not significant)	
		Year 15	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Negligible	Negligible (not significant)	Solar farms are light-touch on the land by nature, and as such limited disturbance to the ground itself will be necessary. The overall ground cover of the site will remain inherently agricultural, and there will therefore be limited change in this regard at Years 1 and 15. There are also large areas outside of the solar enclosures which will be retained and managed. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium due to the perceived change in land use albeit with sheep grazing retained beneath the solar panels. It is assumed that over time the scheme would be accepted as part of the many features which make up the tapestry of an agricultural landscape, reducing the perceived change to low.
Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows	High	Construction (temporary)	Low	Moderate (not significant)	The Proposed Development would result in the retention of most of the onsite vegetation. For various practical reasons

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		Year 1	Low	Moderate (not significant)	including access, the proposed development would require the loss of 17 trees and 138.5m of hedgerow. Aside from this, all other field boundary vegetation and trees across the site would be retained. The current field pattern would therefore prevail. Additional planting, comprising 51 trees and 1962 linear metres of hedgerow would, by Year 15, have a beneficial overall effect on the vegetation resource when the Proposed Development is taken as a whole. Post decommissioning the landscape proposals would remain, enhancing the overall tree and hedgerow resource of the Site.
		Year 15	Low	Moderate beneficial (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)Post decommissioning the	Low	Moderate beneficial (not significant)	
Topography and Watercourses	Medium	Construction (temporary)	Low	Minor (not significant)	The contours within Site reflect the sloping, undulating topography. The prevailing contours of the Site would remain largely unchanged by the proposed development except at the local level required for the provision of access tracks, sub stations and grid connection trenching. The access tracks would mostly follow the prevailing contours of the Site to avoid any unnecessary ground engineering or 'cut and fill'. Localised trenching would be required for the grid connections and cabling routes. The underground cabling routes will generally follow the edges of existing and proposed access tracks and pass through farm gate openings although a small number of hedgerow breaches would be required. The trenches would be backfilled to ground level and any hedgerow loss would be made good at the limited number of crossing points. All changes would be constrained to the site boundaries. There may need to be crossing made to breach watercourses, however there would be no physical direct effect on the watercourse itself such as tree removal or change of course. On balance, the magnitude of change is low during construction.
		Year 1	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Year 15	Low	Minor (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (temporary)	Low	Minor (not significant)	