



**Denbighshire County Council**

# **Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Substation Review**

**Draft report**

Prepared by LUC

March 2022

# Denbighshire County Council

## Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm Onshore Substation Review

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** LUC has been appointed by Denbighshire County Council (The Council) to undertake a review of the proposed onshore substation (OnSS) associated with Awel y Môr Offshore Wind Farm (AyM OWF). AyM OWF is a proposed by RWE (the Developer).

**1.2** This appointment follows our previous work, on behalf of the seven North Wales Planning Authorities, to undertake a review of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) for onshore and offshore elements of AyM OWF. This review includes consideration of the assessment of potential effects identified in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and proposed mitigation measures. The LVIA and mitigation measures have been prepared by the Developer's consultants, Optimised Environments (OPEN).

### Purpose of the Review

**1.3** The PEIR was prepared in August 2021 and the consultation period ended on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The Developer intends to submit applications for necessary development consents (Development Consent Order and Marine Licence) later in 2022.

**1.4** This review considers design developments since the consultation period ended. It is intended to help The Council consider the potential landscape and visual effects which would arise from the OnSS, and to consider how comments and concerns raised in response to the PEIR have been addressed.

### Structure of the Review

**1.5** Our approach to undertaking the review has been informed by the guidance contained within the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 1/20<sup>1</sup>. The review is structured as follows:

- Chapter 2 presents a review of the principles and process, covering methodology, scope, baseline, mitigation, and visualisations;
- Chapter 3 reviews the impact assessments;
- Chapter 4 provides a summary and conclusions.

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<sup>1</sup> Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 1/20: Reviewing Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIAs) and Landscape and Visual Appraisals (LVAs) (10 Jan 2020)

- Appendix A presents a tabulated summary of impacts; and
- Appendix B presents selected figures for ease of reference.

## Approach to the Review

**1.6** An online meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, with attendees from LUC, The Council, OPEN, SLR<sup>2</sup> and RWE. During this meeting, representatives from OPEN, SLR and RWE presented an update to the proposals for the OnSS, a description of key landscape and visual receptors and an overview of proposed mitigation measures. The presentation was later forwarded to LUC to assist with this review.

**1.7** LUC has also been able to review The Council's 'Response to the Pre-Application Consultation under Section 42 of the Planning Act 2008'.

**1.8** A desk-based review was carried out by landscape architects (CMLI) at LUC. No field work was undertaken. The review refers to:

- PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 1 – Onshore Project Description;
- PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 2 – Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;
- PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 13 – Onshore Conclusions; and
- PEIR Volume 6, Figures 2.1 to 2.25.

## The Proposed Development

**1.9** The OnSS is proposed to be sited on agricultural land, between Bodelwyddan Castle Registered Historic Park & Garden (HPG) and St Asaph Business Park. A bridlepath passes to the north of the site and the B5381 (Glascoed Road) is south of the site. The site location is shown on PEIR **Figure 2.1** (appended).

**1.10** The OnSS will be connected to AyM OWF, via the proposed landfall at Rhyl, and to an electricity distribution site south of St Asaph Business Park by underground cable. This review relates to the OnSS and associated mitigation measures only. Works and potential effects associated with the proposed landfall and underground cable are not considered here.

**1.11** The design of the OnSS is not fixed. RWE indicate that this is because of flexibility required. The design presented and assessed is therefore a 'design envelope approach',

based on the maximum design scenario. Outline proposals are shown on PEIR **Figure 2.16** (appended)<sup>3</sup>. The final design is to be approved by The Council (including layout, materials and mitigation).

**1.12** The OnSS will include either air-insulated switchgear (AIS) or gas-insulated switchgear (GIS). An AIS solution is likely require a larger footprint, with infrastructure placed outside. A GIS solution would require a large building, up to 15m in height, with some infrastructure inside. Indicative layouts for AIS and GIS substations, prepared by RWE consultants, are shown in PEIR, Chapter 1, **Figure 29** and **Figure 30** (both appended).

**1.13** In terms of timing of decision, the PEIR states that the "choice of AIS or GIS will be part of the detailed design process and a decision will be made post-consent prior to construction commencing" (PEIR, Chapter 2, Para. 173).

**1.14** Further components required as part of the OnSS identified by RWE include equipment up to 8m height, lightning rods up to 18m height and lighting to be employed only during operation and maintenance activities.

**1.15** Because of the flexibility required for the OnSS, including the location of import and export cables, the landscape and visual mitigation proposals have not been finalised. The design presented by OPEN, as part of an outline landscape and ecology management plan (OLEMP), therefore represents a series of design principles.

**1.16** The basis of the effects during construction assessed in the LVIA are (from PEIR, Chapter 2, Table 7):

- Indicative OnSS construction compound dimensions 250 x 150, with an area of 37,500m<sup>2</sup>.
- 2 construction compound options are included at PEIR. Including construction activities associated with OnSS access options to the north and south of the OnSS zone.
- 12 hour working day (7am-7pm Monday to Saturday), 27 months for OnSS.

**1.17** The basis of the effects during operation assessed in the LVIA are (from PEIR, Chapter 2, Table 7):

- Maximum area of AIS OnSS – 50,000m<sup>2</sup>, maximum GIS OnSS – 30,000m<sup>2</sup>. OnSS zone – 297,000m<sup>2</sup>, OnSS zone platform – 273000m<sup>2</sup> (the area in which the OnSS can be located allowing 20m buffer for earthworks). Including OnSS access options to the north and south of the OnSS zone.

<sup>2</sup> SLR is the AyM OWF lead environmental and planning consultants.

<sup>3</sup> Note that the version of Figure 2.16 appended was shared by RWE/OPEN on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This supersedes the version presented as part of the PEIR.

- OnSS infrastructure maximum height 15m located on the OnSS zone platform at 33m AOD indicative platform level for PEIR.

## Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan

**1.18** The outline landscape mitigation proposals are shown on **Figure 2.16** (appended).

**1.19** The OLEMP includes elements which are intended to mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts. The main components of this which are relevant to the LVIA are areas of native woodland and hedgerow species around the OnSS. The stated aims of these are:

- *“To provide visual screening to residential properties, road users, and visitors to the Crematorium on Glascoed Rd to the south;*
- *To provide visual screening to users of the Bridleway immediately north (of the) substation;*
- *To provide a woodland context to the substation site that compliments the long-established woodland of the area, including woods found within Bodelwyddan Park and Garden; and,*
- *To provide greater connectivity between the existing woodlands, retained hedgerows, field boundary trees and nearby Nature Reserve<sup>4</sup>.*

**1.20** It is intended that woodland would contain a mix of faster growing nurse species and slower growing core species. It is also suggested that planting could be spaced to maximise growth rate and ultimate screening potential.

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<sup>4</sup> This information is taken from the RWE presentation from 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## Chapter 2

# Review of the PEIR LVIA and Recommendations

**2.1** This section presents a brief summary of the relevant sections of the onshore LVIA, in terms of the overall scope, approach and potential impacts.

### Methodology, Scope and Process

**2.2** The LVIA was carried out by experienced practitioners using a robust methodology based on established good practice. The methodology for the onshore LVIA is set out in Volume 3, Chapter 2 of the PEIR, in Sections 2.4 and 2.5. The methodology is clearly set out and based on GLVIA3 principles, with detailed explanations of the components of each judgement.

**2.3** Several figures have been prepared which are relevant to the LVIA scope. The following selection is appended to this report:

- **Figure 2.3b:** Landscape Character (Regional);
- **Figure 2.4:** Landscape Designations; and
- **Figure 2.5:** Principal Visual Receptors.

**2.4** Elements scoped out with reference to the Scoping Opinion include:

- Operational effects of the landfall and onshore cable route;
- Effects resulting from operational lighting of the OnSS; and,
- Effects on the Clwydian Range and Dee Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

**2.5** Receptors scoped out following 'Preliminary Assessment' (Sections 2.11, 2.12 and 2.14) include:

- Regional landscape character areas A3, A4, A6, B2 and D1 (see PEIR **Figure 2.3b**);
- Betws yn Rhos and Elwy & Aled Valley Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) (see PEIR **Figure 2.4**);
- Kinmel Park, Bodrhyddan, Llannerch Hall, Plas Heaton and Plas Uchaf, Llanefydd Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (RHPGs) (see PEIR **Figure 2.4**);

- All conservation areas (CAs) in the Study Area (see PEIR **Figure 2.4**);
- People in settlements of Rhyl, Rhuddlan, Prestatyn, St Asaph and Bodelwyddan (see PEIR **Figure 2.5**);
- People using the A55, A525 and A547 roads (see PEIR **Figure 2.5**); and
- People using various PRow including along the River Clwyd (including NCR 84), between the A547 and Sarn Lane and to the north of the A55 (see PEIR **Figure 2.5**); and,
- Cumulative effects (see PEIR, **Section 2.14.2**).

**2.6** The scope generally appears sufficient to capture all potentially significant effects. There is a clear record of consultation that indicates agreement with stakeholders on key points of the scope and approach.

**2.7** Operational lighting has potential to result in landscape and visual effects. While it is agreed that, in this context, these are unlikely to be significant, it would be appropriate to request details of lighting proposals as design of the OnSS progresses and to agree the final design.

**2.8** There has been communication with consultees regarding whether effects on the Clwydian Range and Dee AONB should be considered, or whether a viewpoint should be included to illustrate potential effects (PEIR Table 2). Reasons provided as justification for scoping this out are considered appropriate.

**2.9** Residents in the settlement of St Asaph have been scoped out of the LVIA, and reference is made to Viewpoint 7 (see PEIR Figure 2.24) to support this. There would be no view of the proposed OnSS from Viewpoint 7, but this is because of the screening effect of intervening properties. There is potential for visibility of the OnSS from properties and open areas north and west of the viewpoint. Visibility may or may not result in significant effects upon residents, but an alternative viewpoint should be presented with the Environmental Statement to illustrate this.

## Baseline information

**2.10** The baseline for the LVIA is set out in Volume 3, Chapter 2 of the PEIR, in Section 2.7. The relevant national and local landscape character assessments are referenced. A detailed review of LANDMAP aspect areas is included in Annex 2.1 to the LVIA. Relevant designations noted include Registered Historic Parks and Gardens (RHPG).

**2.11** Table 4 lists eight representative viewpoints for assessment of the OnSS, and these represent a range of receptors across the study area.

**2.12** The detailed baseline of the physical landscape, including sensitivity judgements, is provided within the assessment of landscape effects (Section 2.10.2).

**2.13** The LVIA includes a review of relevant documentation on landscape and visual baseline. Relevant receptors appear to have been identified. The majority of baseline detail, including sensitivity judgements, is presented within the impact assessments, and this approach is reasonable.

## Mitigation and design

**2.14** The approach to mitigation for the onshore works is set out in Volume 3, Chapter 2 of the PEIR, in Section 2.9 of the LVIA. This discusses primary mitigation, construction phase mitigation, and operational mitigation.

**2.15** Primary mitigation relates to site selection and embedded design, through the avoidance of sensitive landscapes and features. The location of the OnSS site in proximity to existing electrical infrastructure is stated to be part of the embedded mitigation of the proposal.

**2.16** There is little information as to how design and layout of the OnSS has been developed to reduce impacts on the landscape through, for example, building design or finished ground levels. It was recommended in our previous review that this should be explored further but, during our meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, it was explained that this has not been done.

**2.17** We continue to recommend that the design of the OnSS should be developed with the purpose of minimising potential landscape and visual effects. This should include consideration of appropriate colours and materials for elements such as cladding and fencing.

**2.18** Construction phase mitigation refers to management plans and codes of practice that will regulate construction works. These documents have yet to be developed, though a Landscape and Ecology Design Principles Plan (LEDPP) is provided in Annex 5.4 of the LVIA, which presents principles that will be developed further. This appears to present limited additional information to that included in the LVIA itself, in relation to construction phase mitigation. It does however usefully present both landscape and ecology measures together, which should help facilitate a coordinated response at ES stage.

**2.19** Operational mitigation refers to proposed woodland and other planting around the OnSS. Indicative mitigation measures are shown on **Figure 2.16** (appended). Although subject to change as the design of the OnSS progresses, the measures shown appear reasonable. The final mitigation proposals should be provided and agreed with The Council.



## Conclusion

**2.20** The PEIR LVIA presented some information on mitigation, and this has been developed further since PEIR submission.

**2.21** It is recognised that the design of the OnSS is at a relatively early stage and that this limits the extent to which mitigation proposals can be developed. Some clarification of this section will be required for the ES, but the planting principles set out are sound and appear capable of being developed into an effective mitigation scheme.

**2.22** The Developer should provide detail on the appearance of non-technical elements of the OnSS, such as lighting, cladding and fencing and these should be agreed with the Council.

## Visualisations

**2.23** The methodology for photography and production of visualisations is included in the Section 2.5.8 of the LVIA, referencing good practice guidance as appropriate.

**2.24** With reference to Landscape Institute (LI) guidance<sup>5</sup>, visualisations can be one of four types:

- Type 1 – annotated viewpoint photographs;
- Type 2 – 3D wireline / model;
- Type 3 – photomontage / photowire;
- Type 4 – photomontage / photowire (survey / scale verifiable).

**2.25** All visualisations included in the LVIA (see Figures 2.18 to 2.25) are labelled as Type 3. Where there is no view of the proposed OnSS, notes have been added to photographs. Technically, these are closer to Type 1 visualisations; however, this error does not affect the findings of the LVIA.

**2.26** Baseline photography has been captured in good weather conditions. There are examples (e.g. Viewpoint 8) of atmospheric haze, but this is representative of the area and does not limit understanding of the baseline context or the proposed development.

**2.27** Type 3 visualisations can offer an appropriate level of detail and accuracy for a range of projects, but there are different levels of graphical approach which can be used (see Appendix 6.4 of LI guidance). The visualisations prepared for PEIR show an outline block indicating the maximum design parameters, with further annotation identifying the potential extent of mitigation planting. This approach equates to

Accurate Visual Representation (AVR) Level 1, which is appropriate to the current design stage.

**2.28** For viewpoints representing most sensitive receptors subject to significant effects, we recommend that AVR Level 3 visualisations are produced (once the design has been progressed to a suitable stage). These would be fully rendered photomontages, showing architectural form with texture, shading and reflections as appropriate.

## Conclusion

**2.29** The LVIA is supported by good quality visualisations, produced and presented in line with the relevant good practice guidance. These provide an appropriate level of detail at this stage. However, these should be developed further as designs for the OnSS and mitigation progress.

## Recommendations

**2.30** The Developer should develop design of the OnSS and mitigation further, and agree this with the Council. It is acknowledged that a maximum design envelope or worst-case approach has been taken, and this is appropriate for PEIR stage. However, we suggest that further detail is required to allow consideration and illustration of potential effects on most sensitive landscape and visual receptors.

**2.31** It is acknowledged that assessment of effects resulting from operational lighting have been scoped out of the LVIA, but the Developer should develop details of the operational lighting for the OnSS with a view to minimising effects, and agree these with the Council.

**2.32** Using more detailed design information, the Developer should provide visualisations from viewpoints which represent the most sensitive receptors (e.g. VP1, VP3 and VP5) to AVR Level 3.

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<sup>5</sup> Landscape Institute (2019) Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals

## Chapter 3

# Review of LVIA Assessments

**3.1** This section presents a review of the LVIA findings (PEIR Volume 3, Chapter 2 and its supporting appendices and figures).

### Effects on Physical Landscape

**3.2** The detailed assessment of physical effects is presented in PEIR, Chapter 2, Table 9 (during construction). The table appears only to consider those effects on physical landscape which would result from the landfall and underground cable.

**3.3** There does not appear to be consideration of effects on physical landscape elements (e.g. loss of farmland and hedgerow) as a result of the OnSS.

### Effects on Landscape Character

**3.4** The detailed assessment of landscape character effects resulting from the OnSS is set out in Table 11 of the PEIR LVIA (Volume 3, Chapter 2, Page 108) and summarised in Table 1.1 appended to this review. Character areas scoped in are shown on PEIR **Figure 2.3b** (appended):

- LCA A1 – Eastern Lowlands.
- LCA C4 – Limestone Farmlands.

**3.5** It is agreed that there would be significant effects on LCA A1 (the host landscape) during construction and operation at Year 1. It is also agreed that effects would reduce to not significant at Year 15.

**3.6** The LVIA finds that there would be no significant effects on LCA C4 during construction or operation, and this is agreed.

### Effects on Landscape Designation

**3.7** The detailed assessment of effects on landscape designation as a result of the OnSS is set out in Table 11 of the PEIR LVIA and summarised in Table 1.1. All designated areas other than Bodelwyddan Park RHPG are scoped out. The location of Bodelwyddan Park RHPG relative to the OnSS is shown on PEIR **Figure 2.4** (appended).

**3.8** The LVIA states that changes *“to this RHPG would potentially be experienced as indirect visual effects from areas of theoretical visibility shown on the ZTV. These areas are limited in number and extent due the woodlands along the eastern boundary of Bodelwyddan Park and small woodlands*

and parkland trees providing existing visual screening from much of the parkland landscape” (PEIR, Chapter 2, Table 11).

**3.9** The Draft Order Limits (see PEIR **Figure 2.4**) extend into the RHPG, indicating potential for direct effects upon the designated area. The LVIA does not explain the potential implications of this.

**3.10** Without explanation of the full potential for direct effects upon the RHPG, it is not possible to fully consider the potential for significant effects upon this designated landscape.

### Effects on Visual Receptors

**3.11** A preliminary assessment was made as to which visual receptors to consider in the PEIR LVIA (Chapter 2, Table 13). The detailed assessment of visual effects resulting from the OnSS is set out in Table 15 of the PEIR LVIA (Volume 3, Chapter 2, Page 139).

**3.12** Eight viewpoints (VPs) were established within the onshore study area and, as part of the preliminary assessment, it was determined that six of these would be used to inform the assessment of visual effects.

**3.13** There is no view from VP6 (Bodelwyddan Park) or VP7 (St Asaph) and so receptors at these locations have not been included in the detailed assessment. It is acknowledged that there is no view from these locations, but it is likely that there would be visibility of the OnSS from other locations. The ES should use alternative VP locations to inform of potential visual effects upon receptors at Bodelwyddan Park and St Asaph.

**3.14** VP2 (St Asaph Business Park) is used to illustrate potential change and inform assessment of effects on users of the business park and visitors to Glascoed Nature Reserve (Chapter 2, Table 13). It is agreed that foreground screening and differences in elevation would result in the visual effect within the business park being not significant. However, visitors to the nature reserve would be at lower elevation and would not have views screened by the boundary treatments shown at this VP. It is considered likely that visual effect on visitors to the nature reserve could be significant.

**3.15** The sensitivity, magnitude of change and resulting visual effect at the other 5 VPs is agreed, and it is considered that these have identified the receptors most likely to experience significant effects as a result on the OnSS.

**3.16** Significant effects have been assessed, and are agreed, during construction of the OnSS on people using the bridlepath near Faenol-Bropor (VP1), on residents and road users at Glascoed Road (VP3) and on people near the minor road at Groessfordd (VP5). Significant effects would result for the same receptors during Year 1 of operation of the OnSS.

**3.17** Although mitigation measures have not been finalised, it is considered that the outline proposals have potential to successfully reduce visual effects over time. However, the LVIA has identified that potential significant effects would continue for users of the bridlepath near Faenol-Bropor (VP1) and residents on Glascoed Road (VP3). This is agreed.

### Cumulative Effects

**3.18** A list of projects which may contribute to cumulative effects with the onshore elements of AyM OWF is provided in Table 5 (PEIR, Volume 3, Chapter 2, Page 76). The PEIR LVIA “has determined that there are no future cumulative development scenarios that require detailed assessment in a Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment (CLVIA)” (PEIR, Volume 3, Chapter 2, Page 155).

**3.19** Based on the reasoning provided in Table 16 (PEIR, Volume 3, Chapter 2, Page 153), the decision not to include detailed assessment in a CLVIA appears reasonable. However, the Council should inform the Developer of any planning applications which are submitted, prior to submission of the ES, which would require consideration.

### Recommendations

**3.20** The Developer should identify an alternative VP location, from which there would be visibility of the OnSS, within the Bodelwyddan Park RHPG. The Developer should also explain the implications of the Draft Order Limits extending into the RHPG and clarify the potential for direct effects, in addition to indirect visual effects, upon this designated landscape.

**3.21** The Developer should identify an alternative VP location, from which there would be visibility of the OnSS, within St Asaph. The Developer should also describe the potential for visual effects upon residents of, and visitors to, the settlement.

**3.22** With reference to VP1, the Developer should provide an assessment of potential visual effects on the residents of the Faenol-Bropor farmstead.

**3.23** With reference to VP2 (but acknowledging the difference in elevation and foreground screening), the Developer should provide an assessment of potential visual effects on visitors to the Glascoed Nature Reserve.

**3.24** The Council should inform the Developer of planning applications which would require consideration as part of a CLVIA prior to submission of the ES.

## Chapter 4

### Summary and Conclusions

**4.1** This review focuses on the potential landscape and visual impacts which may result from the proposed OnSS which would be part of the AyM OWF. The review includes reference to the LVIA findings presented in the PEIR and subsequent design development. It follows our earlier review of the PEIR S/LVIA.

**4.2** Design for the OnSS and associated mitigation measures are not fixed. The proposals shown on **Figure 2.16** represent a worst-case scenario. Final designs will be presented to the Council for approval in due course. As part of the design development process, the Developer should consider the appearance of non-technical elements of the OnSS, such as lighting, cladding and fencing. This information should be used to develop more detailed visualisations, which allow for a more thorough evaluation of landscape and visual effects.

**4.3** The PEIR LVIA accurately identifies significant potential landscape and visual effects for several receptors during construction and operation of the OnSS. However, the assessment of potential effects on Bodelwyddan Park RHPG does not consider the extent of the Draft Order Limits and does not use an appropriate viewpoint location. Similarly, the LVIA uses a viewpoint location within St Asaph from which the OnSS would be screened by residential property and an alternative location should be used.

**4.4** Potential visual effects on residents at the Faenol-Bropar farmstead and visitors to the Glascoed Nature Reserve have not been considered. This should be carried out, with reference to VP1 and VP2 respectively.

**4.5** The PEIR does not include a CLVIA. The reasoning for this appears to be sound, but the Council should make the Developer aware of more recent planning applications which require considerations.

**4.6** Notwithstanding the above, the PEIR LVIA of the OnSS, and the associated mitigation design, have been prepared with reference to appropriate guidance, by suitably qualified consultants using a clear and robust methodology.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Summary of Predicted Operational Effects**

Table 1.1: Predicted operational effects on landscape and visual receptors from the OnSS

Receptor	Sensitivity	Year 1		Year 15		Review Comments (LUC)
		Magnitude of Change	Effect	Magnitude of Change	Effect	
Landscape Character						
A1. Eastern Lowlands (Cefn Meiriadog Vale Slopes)	Medium	Medium – High	Significant	Medium	Not Significant	Agreed. This is the host LCA, but it is likely that mitigation planting will mature over time and that effects will reduce to be not significant by Year 15.
C4. Limestone Farmlands (Abergele to Denbigh Coastal/Vale Hills)	Medium	Medium – Low	Not Significant	Low	Not Significant	Agreed. Given the intervening distance and landscape character context, indirect effects here would be not significant.
Designated Area						
Bodelwyddan Park RHPG	Medium – High	Medium – Low	Not Significant	Low	Not Significant	<b>Not Agreed.</b> The LVIA considers that changes would be experienced as indirect visual effects. However, the Draft Order Limits are shown to extend into the designated area (see <b>Figure 2.4</b> ). The LVIA should describe what direct effects would result here.
Viewpoint Assessment						
Viewpoint 1 – Bridlepath nr Faenol-Bropor	Medium	High	Significant	Medium – High	Significant	Agreed. The OnSS would be visible across a wide extent of the view and at close proximity.
Viewpoint 2 – St Asaph, Business Park	Medium – Low	Medium	Not Significant	Medium	Not Significant	Agreed. The OnSS would be largely screened from view by intervening vegetation within the adjacent nature reserve.
Viewpoint 3 – Glascoed Road	Road Users: Medium – Low	Medium – High	Significant	Medium	Not Significant	Agreed. It is likely that mitigation planting will mature over time and that effects will reduce to be not significant for transient road users.
	Residents: Medium – High	Medium – High	Significant	Medium	Significant	Agreed. Although mitigation planting will mature over time, it is likely that effects will continue to be significant for residential receptors.

Receptor	Sensitivity	Year 1		Year 15		Review Comments (LUC)
		Magnitude of Change	Effect	Magnitude of Change	Effect	
Viewpoint 4 – A55	Medium – Low	Medium	Not Significant	Medium – Low	Not Significant	Agreed. The OnSS would be visible beyond agricultural buildings and intervening vegetation. However, it is likely that effects on these transient receptors would not be significant.
Viewpoint 5 – Minor Road, Groesffordd	Medium – High	Medium	Significant	Medium – Low	Not Significant	Agreed. Given the intervening distance and relative elevation, it is likely that visual effects here would not be significant once mitigation planting has matured.