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LANDSCAPE & VISUAL APPRAISAL

Client

CBRE Limited

Project

Land at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters, Llangunnor, Carmarthen

Date

June 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been carried out for a proposed development of Photovoltaic Panels (PVP) and Battery Storage at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters (DPP HQ), Llangunnor, Carmarthen by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR). The purpose of this LVA study is to provide an assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposed development. The landscape and visual effects have been considered in relation to the proposals detailed in the planning application.
- 1.2 FPCR is a multi-disciplinary environmental and design consultancy established over 65 years, with expertise in architecture, landscape, ecology, arboriculture, urban design, masterplanning and environmental impact assessment. The practice is a member of the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment and is frequently called upon to provide expert evidence on landscape and visual issues at Public and Local Plan Inquiries.

Site Location

- 1.3 Figures 1 and 2 show the location and context of the site. The site is located off Heol Llangynnwr Road in Llangunnor, to the east of Carmarthen, SA31 2PF.

Proposed Development

- 1.4 The proposed development is the installation of 1420 no. ground mounted PV panels, associated battery storage system, and other ancillary work including circa 2m high security fence to the northern perimeter of the panels at DPP HQ, Llangunnor, Carmarthen.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 This LVA has been prepared based upon the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, in 2013. The assessment of Landscape Value also takes account of guidance in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02-21 "Assessing landscape value outside national designations".

2.2 In summary, the GLVIA3 states:

"Landscape and Visual impact assessment (LVIA), is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and on people's views and visual amenity." (GLVIA3 paragraph 1.1.)

2.3 There are two components of LVIA:

- "Assessment of landscape effects; assessing effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right;
- Assessment of visual effects: assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people." (GLVIA3 paragraph 2.21.)

2.4 The GLVIA3 states:

"LVIA can be carried out either as part of a broader EIA, or as a standalone 'appraisal' of the likely landscape and visual effects of a proposed development..."

- As a standalone 'appraisal' the process is informal and there is more flexibility, but the essence of the approach – specifying the nature of the proposed change or development; describing the existing landscape and the views and visual amenity of the area that may be affected; predicting the effects, although not their likely significance; and considering how those effects might be mitigated – still applies". (GLVIA paragraph 3.2)

2.5 The components of this report include: baseline studies; description and details of the landscape proposals and mitigation measures to be adopted as part of the scheme; and identification and description of likely effects arising from the proposed development.

2.6 In terms of baseline studies, the assessment provides an understanding of the landscape that may be affected, its constituent elements, character, condition and value. For the visual baseline, this includes an understanding of the area in which the development may be visible, the people who may experience views, and the nature of views.

Assessment of Landscape Effects

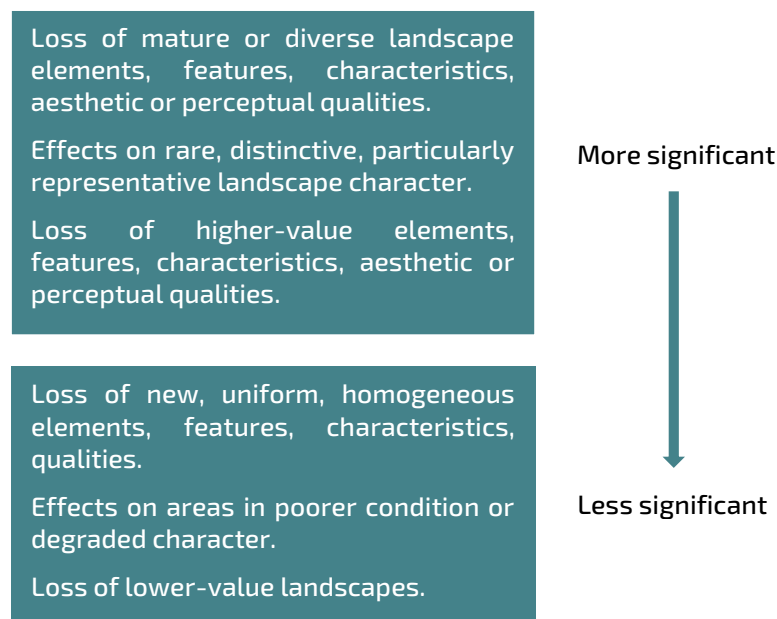
2.7 GLVIA3 states that *"An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource"* (GLVIA3 paragraph 5.1).

2.8 The baseline landscape is described by reference to existing published Landscape Character Assessments and by a description of the site and its context.

2.9 A range of landscape effects can arise through development. These can include:

- Change or loss of elements, features, aesthetic or perceptual aspects that contribute to the character and distinctiveness of the landscape;

- Addition of new elements that influence character and distinctiveness of the landscape;
 - Combined effects of these changes.
- 2.10 The characteristics of the existing landscape resource are considered in respect of the susceptibility of the landscape resource to the change arising from this development. The value of the existing landscape is also considered.
- 2.11 Each effect on landscape receptors is assessed in terms of size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. In terms of size or scale of change, the judgement takes account of the extent of the existing landscape elements that will be lost or changed, and the degree to which the aesthetic or perceptual aspects or key characteristics of the landscape will be altered by removal or addition of new elements. Geographical extent is considered by reference to the extent of the area over which there will be a change. Duration is considered for the landscape effects, with short term effects being defined as those lasting less than 5 years, medium term effects lasting between 5 and 10 years and long-term effects being defined as anything over 10 years in duration.
- 2.12 The level of effect is determined by considering the sensitivity of the landscape receptors and the magnitude of effect on the landscape. Final conclusions on the overall landscape effects are drawn from the assessment components described. This appraisal describes the nature of the landscape effects, and whether these are adverse or beneficial, at the following stages of development; construction, completion (year 1) and longer term (year 15).
- 2.13 GLVIA3 sets out some guidance on the underlying principles, which are used in this appraisal. This includes Figure 5.10, Scale of significance. Whilst this scheme is not EIA development, and judgements on significance are not therefore required, the Figure does provide useful guidance on reaching an overall judgement on the level of effects. This is repeated below (note this includes the correction of a typo, from the published document).



- 2.14 The criteria used in the appraisal are set out in Appendix A.

Assessment of Visual Effects

- 2.15 An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. This appraisal describes the nature of the visual effects and, whether these are adverse or beneficial, at the following stages of development; construction, completion (year 1 Winter) and longer term (year 15 Summer).
- 2.16 The first stage in the assessment is to identify approximate visibility/ visibility mapping. This is done by either a computerised Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)¹, or by manual methods using map study and field evaluation. A series of viewpoints are included within the assessment that are representative of views towards the site from surrounding visual receptors. Other views of the site are included where it supports the description and understanding of the site's landscape and visual characteristics.
- 2.17 The views also typically represent what can be seen from a variety of distances from the development and different viewing experiences.
- 2.18 It is important to remember that visual receptors are all people. For each affected viewpoint, the assessment considers both the susceptibility to change in views and the value attached to views.

"The visual receptors most susceptible to change are generally likely to include:

- Residents at home;
- People, whether residents or visitors, who are engaged in outdoor recreation, including use of public rights of way, whose attention or interest is likely to be focused on the landscape and on particular views;
- Visitors to heritage assets, or to other attractions, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to the experience;
- Communities where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents in the area;
- Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes tend to fall into an intermediate category of moderate susceptibility to change. Where travel involves recognised scenic routes awareness of views is likely to be particularly high." (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.33.)

"Visual receptors likely to be less sensitive to change include:

- People engaged in outdoor sport or recreation which does not involve or depend upon appreciation of views of the landscape;
- People at their place of work whose attention may be focused on their work or activity, not on their surroundings, and where the setting is not important to the quality of working life (although there may on occasion be cases where views are an important contributor to the setting and to the quality of working life)." (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.34.)

- 2.19 Each of the visual effects is evaluated in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration or reversibility.

¹ Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV): A map usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible. [GLVIA3]

- 2.20 In terms of size or scale, the magnitude of visual effects takes account of:
- “The scale of the change in the view with respect to the loss or addition of features in the view and changes in its composition, including proportion of the view occupied by the proposed development;
 - The degree of contrast or integration of any new features or changes in the landscape with the existing or remaining landscape elements and characteristics in terms of form, scale and mass, line height, colour and texture;
 - The nature of the view of the proposed development, in terms of the relative amount of time over which it will be experienced and whether views will be full, partial or glimpses” (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.39).
- 2.21 The geographical extent of the visual effect in each viewpoint is likely to reflect:
- The angle of view in relation to the main activity of the receptor;
 - The distance of the viewpoint from the proposed development;
 - The extent of the area over which the changes would be visible.
- 2.22 As with landscape effects, the duration of the effect could be short to long term or permanent and the same definitions apply.
- 2.23 GLVIA3 states that there are no hard and fast rules about what makes a significant effect, and there cannot be a standard approach since circumstances vary with the location and context and with the type of proposal, but the following points should be noted;
- Effects on people who are particularly sensitive to changes in views and visual amenity are more likely to be significant
 - Effects on people at recognised and important viewpoints or from recognised scenic routes are more likely to be significant
 - Large-scale changes which introduce new, non-characteristic or discordant or intrusive elements into the view are more likely to be significant than small changes or changes involving features already present within the view. (GLVIA3 paragraph 6.44)
- 2.24 The criteria used in this appraisal are set out in Appendix A.

Overall Landscape and Visual Effects

- 2.25 The final conclusions on effects, whether adverse or beneficial, are drawn from the separate judgements on the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the effects. This overall judgement is formed from a reasoned professional overview of the individual judgements against the assessment criteria.
- 2.26 GLVIA3 notes, at paragraphs 5.56 and 6.44, that there are no hard and fast rules with regard to the level of effects, therefore the following terms have been used for this appraisal:
- Major
 - Moderate
 - Minor
 - Negligible

- 2.27 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as, for example, Major/ Moderate or Moderate/ Minor. This indicates that the effect is assessed to lie between the respective definitions or to encompass aspects of both.

3.0 PLANNING POLICY

- 3.1 The planning statement accompanying the planning application provides a comprehensive analysis of planning policy. A brief overview of policy and guidance relating to landscape and visual matters is set out within this chapter for the purposes of informing the scope of the appraisal and mitigation proposed.

National Planning Policy

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

- 3.2 Future Wales is the national development framework for Wales up to 2040. It has development plan status and is the highest tier of plan.
- 3.3 Policy 17 covers Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and notes that the Welsh Government supports the principle of renewable and low carbon energy generation as part of meeting renewable energy targets. The policy notes specifically:

“Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities”.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12 (February 2024)

- 3.4 PPW sets out the Welsh Government's economic, social and environmental planning policy and is supported by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TAN). Those of relevance to landscape are briefly outlined below. The primary objective of the PPW is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- 3.5 PPW sets out key planning principles for achieving the right development in the right place:
- *“Growing our economy in a sustainable manner*
 - *Making best use of resources*
 - *Facilitating accessible and healthy environments*
 - *Creating and sustaining communities*
 - *Maximising environmental protection and limiting environmental impact.*

- 3.6 In respect of landscape, the PPW states at para 6.3.3 that:

“All the landscapes of Wales are valued for their intrinsic contribution to a sense of place, and local authorities should protect and enhance their special characteristics, whilst paying due regard to the social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits they provide, and to their role in creating valued places. Considering landscape at the outset of formulating strategies and policies in development plans and when proposing development is key to sustaining and enhancing their special qualities, and delivering the maximum well-being benefits for present and future generations as well as helping to deliver an effective and integrated approach to natural resource management over the long term. Collaboration and engagement with adjacent planning authorities, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw and the third sector will be necessary to draw on a wide range of expertise and evidence. This means:

- *ensuring Wales contributes to meeting international responsibilities and obligations for landscapes;*

- *ensuring statutorily designated sites are properly protected and managed;*
- *ensuring that the value of all landscapes for their distinctive character and special qualities is protected; and*
- *ensuring the opportunities landscapes provide for tourism, outdoor recreation, local employment, renewable energy and physical and mental health and well-being are taken into account and multiple well-being benefits for people and communities secured.*

Where adverse effects on landscape character cannot be avoided, it will be necessary to refuse planning permission".

- 3.7 The site is within an undesignated landscape with no special protected status and is not in the setting of a nationally designated landscape. The character of the site and its immediate context is assessed within this report to help inform decisions regarding "*value and intrinsic contribution to a sense of place*". The potential to enhance green infrastructure networks is also considered.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Technical Advice Notes (TAN)

- 3.8 PPW Technical advice notes were first published in 1996 and are an updated online planning resource. TAN 5 - Nature Conservation and Planning (September 2009), notes "*encourage the management of features of the landscape that are of major importance for wild flora and fauna*", in-line with Habitats Regulations and the Habitats Directive. TAN 12 - Design (March 2016), provides advice on the promotion of sustainability through good design and sets out key objectives to achieve this.

Practice Guidance – Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (adopted Feb 2011)

- 3.9 Chapter 8 provides guidance on solar energy schemes. In relation to landscape and visual matters it notes that PV schemes can result in impacts on the landscape and loss of landscape features such as trees, hedges and levelling of steep landform. It suggests mitigation may include using existing landscape features or new planting to screen development (without shading and conflicting with the light requirements of the panels). Existing hedges can be allowed to grow out to a greater height, although care must be taken not to change the sense of enclosure and character of the landscape.

Local Planning Policy

- 3.10 Local planning matters are covered by Carmarthenshire County Council. On the 10th June 2024, the Council submitted its 2nd Deposit Revised LDP and associated documents for examination. Until the Revised LDP is adopted, the existing 2006-2021 LDP will remain in place for all planning decisions, in line with advice issued by the Welsh Government. Both LDPs are considered below.

Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) 2006-2021 (Adopted 2014)

- 3.11 The following policies are of relevance to landscape and visual matters and the proposed development and have been considered through the LVA process:
- 3.12 Strategic LDP Policy SP14 Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment notes:

“Development should reflect the need to protect, and wherever possible enhance the County's natural environment.

All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national guidance/legislation and the policies and proposals of this Plan, with due consideration given to areas of nature conservation value, the countryside, landscapes and coastal areas, including those outlined below:

- a. Statutory designated sites including Ramsar sites, SPAs, SACs, SSSIs and National Nature Reserves;*
- b. Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Value, including protected species and habitats of acknowledged importance as well as key connectivity corridors and pathways; (Policy EQ4 and EQ5)*
- c. Regional and Locally important sites (and their features) including Local Nature Reserves and RIGS; (see Policy EQ3)*
- d. Areas of identified Landscape and Seascape quality; (including SLAs)*
- e. Features which contribute to local distinctiveness, nature conservation value or the landscape; (see Policy EQ5)*
- f. The Open Countryside; (see Policy GP2)*
- g. The best and most versatile agricultural land; (Grade 2 and 3a)*
- h. Natural assets: including air, soil (including high carbon soils) controlled waters and water resources. (See Policies EP1 and EP2)”.*

3.13 Specific LDP Policies include:

Policy EQ5 Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness

“Proposals for development which would not adversely affect those features which contribute local distinctiveness/qualities of the County, and to the management and/or development of ecological networks (wildlife corridor networks), accessible green corridors and their continuity and integrity will be permitted.

Proposals which include provision for the retention and appropriate management of such features will be supported (provided they conform to the policies and proposals of this Plan)”.

3.14 Text supporting this Policy notes:

“Features which contribute include: hedgerows, ditches and banks, stone walls, streams, tree belts, woodlands, veteran trees, parklands, green lanes, river corridors, lakes, ponds, road verges, or habitat mosaics or networks of other locally important habitats including peat bogs, heath-land, wetlands, saltmarshes, sand dunes and species rich grass lands”.

3.15 The local plan identifies Special Landscape Areas, these are covered by:

Policy EQ6 Special Landscape Areas

“Special Landscape Areas are designated in the following locations and as identified on the Proposals Map [for brevity the list of areas aren't reproduced below].

Proposals for development which enhance or improve the Special Landscape Areas through their design, appearance and landscape schemes will be permitted (subject to the policies and proposals of this Plan)”.

3.16 Text supporting Policy EQ6 notes:

“Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) represents a non-statutory designation which were identified following a formal assessment of the landscape qualities of the County”.

Policy RE3 Non-wind Renewable Energy Installations

“Proposals outside Development Limits

Proposals for small scale non-wind renewable energy installations outside defined Development Limits are required to satisfactorily justify the need to be sited in such a location. Such proposals should be sited in close proximity to existing buildings and structures and will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.

Large scale schemes located outside defined Development Limits may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where there is an overriding need for the scheme which can be satisfactorily justified, and the development will not cause demonstrable harm to the landscape.

Proposals that would cause demonstrable harm to the landscape, visual impact, noise, ecology, or ground and surface water as a result of the cumulative effect of renewable energy installations will not be permitted”.

3.17 The proposals fall outside (but adjacent to) Development Limits and are closely associated with The DPP HQ and Wesh Ambulance Services NHS Trust administrative buildings.

Second Deposit Local Development Plan (LDP) (February 2023)

3.18 Whilst not adopted at the point of writing, the following emerging policies are of relevance to landscape and visual matters and the proposed development and have been considered through the LVA process:

- PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network
- PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows
- BHE2: Landscape Character

3.19 PSD3 and PSD4 are concerned, amongst other matters, with protecting, retaining and integrating existing Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) assets, existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows. These policies link with NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness which focuses on ecological corridors.

3.20 Policy BHE2 covers Landscape Character, it notes:

- a) *“Development proposals should relate to the specific landscape and visual characteristics of the local area, ensuring that the overall integrity of landscape character is maintained by:*
- b) *identifying, protecting and, where appropriate, enhancing the distinctive landscape and historical, cultural, ecological, and geological heritage, including natural and man-made elements associated with existing landscape character;*

- c) *protecting international and national landscape designations including National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and their settings;*
 - d) *preserving local distinctiveness, sense of place and setting;*
 - e) *respecting and conserving specific landscape features, and integrating the principles of placemaking and Green and Blue Infrastructure;*
 - f) *protecting key landscape views and vistas."*
- 3.21 The Second Deposit LDP does not carry forward the use of Special Landscape Area designation, as per policy EQ6 of the 2014 LDP. In this regard, policy BHE2 notes that:
- "The Policy seeks to protect, maintain, and (where appropriate) enhance the character and quality of Carmarthenshire's landscape with those features which contribute to the County's distinctive character afforded appropriate levels of protection with their significance highlighted using the NRW LANDMAP resource...*
- The policy will be supported by a Landscape Character Assessment and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)."*
- 3.22 At the time of writing the Landscape Character Assessment and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) referenced in policy supporting text had not been published.
- 3.23 The site does not fall within a Local Search Area (Solar) as identified on the policy map, therefore CCH2: Renewable Energy Outside Pre-Assessed Areas and Local Search Areas has relevance. In relation to landscape and visual matters it notes:
- "Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure, will be permitted provided they accord with the following:*
- a) *The development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;*
 - b) *The development will not have an unacceptable impact upon areas designated for their landscape value;*
 - f) *Proposals should be accompanied with appropriate mitigation measures where required, including satisfactory restoration of land following decommissioning".*

Other Relevant Strategies, Guidelines or Documents

Revised 2018-2033 Local Development Plan Green and Blue Infrastructure Assessment Technical Report (December 2023)

- 3.24 The assessment forms part of the environmental baseline and provides a mechanism to support the implementation of GBI within land-use planning, and helps ensure that GBI forms an integral part of future development.
- Carmarthenshire Solar PV Development, Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study
- 3.25 The purpose of this study is to provide guidance to inform the appropriate design and siting of solar PV development through setting out a baseline assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity and capacity. At the time of writing, figures and landscape sensitivity and capacity assessment sheets were not available online and only viewable on request. This has made

discerning landscape areas of relevance to the site difficult, however, the written guidance is clear.

3.26 This study notes at para 2.21 that:

"A landscape that is highly valued by society may still be able to accommodate some field-scale solar PV development in the right location, provided that it fits with the characteristics of the receiving landscape. In nationally designated landscapes (national parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), field-scale solar PV development is acceptable, as long as it does not compromise the purpose of the designation. In landscapes which are not statutorily protected by such designations, field-scale solar PV development is acceptable, provided that it does not compromise the qualities and values attributed to the landscape. Conversely, a landscape that has no formal designation may actually be highly sensitive to field-scale solar PV development, if it has particular landscape or visual characteristics that are very susceptible to field-scale solar PV development."

3.27 Under a section headed, Solar PV Layout, the study notes at paras 5.3 and 5.4:

"For sites which are overlooked by higher ground from where it is close enough to clearly discern the detailed characteristics of the proposed development, the design of the site layout and how it relates to - or is assimilated into - the landscape will be particularly important. Where field scale solar PV is proposed which does not occupy the entire area of one or more fields, then the potential for introducing new boundary features, such as hedgerows or linear belts of woodland, must be carefully examined in relation to the prevailing pattern and texture of the receiving landscape."

The designed height of the solar PV panels should be such that they will be as unobtrusive as possible in the landscape. In areas where mature hedgerows form the field boundaries, the aim should be to site the arrays below the height of the field boundary hedgerows, which should be managed to a top height of around 3 metres above existing ground level on the field side."

Policy Summary

3.28 The site is not constrained by Statutory designations. Carmarthenshire planning policies promote the protection, retention and integration of existing GBI assets, including trees, woodlands and hedgerows and habitats/ features of distinctiveness, both in themselves, and as part of wider landscape and ecological corridors. The creation of new habitats and features will be considered in order to avoid any 'demonstrable harm to the landscape'.

4.0 BASELINE CONDITIONS

Landscape Character

National Character

- 4.1 At a national level, Wales has been divided into 48 broad scale National Landscape Character Areas (NLCAs) by Nation Resource Wales (NRW). These are broad areas with regionally distinct natural, cultural and perceptual characteristics. The NCLA profiles describe the key characteristics, the landscape today and how it has changed over time, key facts and data, natural capital and key ecosystem services and landscape change, and they set out statements of environmental opportunity, landscape attributes and opportunities for each NCLA. Figure 3 illustrates the NCLAs and other defined character areas within the context of the site.
- 4.2 At this very broad landscape scale, the site lies within the Natural Resources Wales National Landscape Character Area (NCLA) 41 'Tywi Valley. This lowland valley NCLA stretches from Llandovery to Carmarthen and therefore covers a large landscape area. The Key Characteristics for the NCLA are:
- *"Meandering River Tywi and it's active flood plain – westward flowing and joined by many tributaries from nearby upland areas.*
 - *Exposed glacial deposits – Mounds of boulder clay and glacial till, exposed in small cliffs alongside the meandering river channel. Important for a wide range of plant and animal species, including shingle grasses, fish and otter populations.*
 - *Fertile grazing pastures – helped by alluvium-rich soils. Dairy cattle and sheep with occasional cereal cropping.*
 - *Wooded slopes to valley sides – Broadleaved woodlands cover some slopes but cover is not continuous. The wood pasture habitats are important for lichens and invertebrates.*
 - *Regular pattern of medium to large rectilinear fields enclosed by hedgerows and hedgerow trees – including species rich hedgerows with frequent hedgerow oaks. Higher ground to the east is enclosed by hedgebanks.*
 - *Historic designed parks and gardens – across the valley including Dinefwr Castle*
 - *Historic Defensive sites – the valley is overlooked by strategically located defensive sites including Iron Age hillforts and medieval stone castles.*
 - *Historic towns – The main town of Carmarthen lies to the west of the area, with the smaller settlements of Llandeilo, Llangadog and Llandovery located at river crossing points. Elsewhere, settlements are dispersed with individual whitewashed farmsteads being key features. Modern urban developments spread from Carmarthen.*
 - *Road and rail corridor – Strategic road and rail routes follow the course of the river, adding urban infrastructure to an otherwise rural landscape".*
- 4.3 The description also states:

"From Llandovery to Carmarthen, this lowland river meanders on a wide but contained, active flood plain. The River Tywi is both scenically and ecologically outstanding. The alluvial soils have produced a good living for generations of farmers. There is a regular pattern of fields, enclosed by hedgerows with many hedgerow trees. The valley has been used as a transport

corridor since prehistoric times. There are a number of historic towns at bridging points and a larger county town, Carmarthen, with associated busy roads and modern expansions.

Historically the valley was protected by a string of fortifications, from stone castles to simple mottes and ancient prehistoric hill forts and Roman encampments. In more peaceful times its beauties lured the wealthy gentry who established parklands and mansions overlooking the landscape. The Tywi Valley has attracted artists and poets such as John Dyer.

The lower reaches of the river were formerly navigable, and were thus associated with trade, communications and transport. Today the river is celebrated for sports-fishing and is associated with coracle fishing".

- 4.4 Given the narrow and linear nature of NCLA 41, the following NCLAs also fall within the study area shown at figure 3:
- NLCA33 Gwendraeth Vales (circa 3Km to transitional boundary);
 - NLCA42 Pembroke & Carmarthen Foothills (circa 2.3Km to transitional boundary);
 - NLCA44 Taf and Cleddau Vales (circa 2.3Km to transitional boundary), and;
 - NLCA45 Taf, Tywi & Gwendraeth Estuaries (circa 2Km to transitional boundary).
- 4.5 Topographical ridgelines to the south and south-east of the site and intervening urban form of Carmarthen itself on land rising to a series of ridgelines, all act to contain intervisibility between the Site and these wider NCLAs. Given the distances described, lack of intervisibility, the indirect nature of any effects and scale of proposals in relation to the NCLAs, they are not considered further within this study.

Local Landscape Character

- 4.6 There is no standalone landscape character assessment covering Carmarthenshire beyond the NRW study defining National Landscape Character Areas.
- 4.7 A finer grain of detail is available through the Wales Environmental Information Portal LANDMAP service, which displays the Welsh Landscape Collection and includes five map-based datasets:
- Visual & Sensory,
 - Geological Landscape,
 - Landscape Habitats,
 - Historic Landscape and
 - Cultural Landscape Services.
- 4.8 An overview of the detail available from this dataset is outlined below.

Middleton Hills

- 4.9 Within the Visual Sensory section, the site falls within the Middleton Hills, which is classified as Open Rolling Lowland. An area description notes:

"The area consists of rolling hills between the Tywi valley and the Gwendraeth Fach. Of varying agricultural quality, the majority of the area is improved especially towards the west of the

area on the red sandstone. There are areas of woodland and fairly strong field boundaries on medium sized fields, with some hedgerow trees. The area is well settled with mainly scattered settlement and appears fairly prosperous. The National Botanic Garden and its dome are visible, but are identified in a s [sic]".

4.10 The landscape recommendations are:

"Manage to conserve the semi-natural habitats associated with this landscape - woodlands, hedgerows and semi-improved grasslands. Resist inappropriate development of the rural settlements, and any further development alongside the A48 [T], to retain the rural feel to this area".

4.11 Under Key Elements Conserve LANDMAP notes:

"Conserve the semi-natural habitats associated with this landscape -hedgerows trees, woodlands that contribute visually to it".

4.12 The Middleton Hills 'Evaluation' data set, the Scenic Quality, Integrity, Character, Rarity and Overall evaluation are all identified as Moderate. Value is identified as Moderate. The character area covers approximately 7,429ha of land and extends for many kilometres to the south beyond intervening topography.

Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south

4.13 This landscape area falls to the north of the site, sloping away from the site itself and forming part of the Tywi Valley side, it is identified as a Mosaic Lowland Valleys and covers approximately 4,309ha of land. A description for the area notes:

"S[sic]outhern slopes of Dyffryn Tywi reaching to the valley floor, and forming part of the lowland valley landscape. The slopes tend to be steep and more wooded than the northern slopes. Agricultural grazing dominates with a strong medium sized field pattern, and there are more hedgerow and field trees than on the northern side of the flood plain. There is also a significant amount of woodland on these steeper slopes, often fairly large blocks of conifers or mixed woodlands, covering almost all [sic]"

4.14 The Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south 'Evaluation' data set identifies the Scenic Quality as Outstanding. Integrity and Character are High, Rarity is Outstanding and Overall evaluation is deemed to be Outstanding. Value is Outstanding.

Dyffryn Tywi flood plain

4.15 This landscape area falls to the north of the site, and north of the Middleton Hills and Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south areas. It covers approximately 4,874ha. A description for the area notes:

Wide level agricultural valley floor and flood plain, part of classic u-shaped valley. River now meanders across the flood plain, and floods dramatically most years. The valley is interrupted by occasional small hills such as at Dryslwyn. Imposing, but now ruined castles of Dryslwyn and Dinefwr, overlook the valley floor. Roads run along the sides of the valley and there are few bridging points. Settlements area scattered farms and small villages, the farms tend to be larger than on the surrou[sic]".

- 4.16 The 'Evaluation' data set for Dyffryn Tywi flood plain identifies the Scenic Quality as Outstanding, Integrity as High, Character Outstanding, Rarity Outstanding and Overall evaluation is deemed to be Outstanding. Value is Outstanding.

Designations

- 4.17 Figure 4 illustrates the location of designations. The site is not located within or close to National Parks or areas of National Landscape (formerly AONB). A Registered Park and Garden (RPG) at Bishop's Palace (east of Abergwili) sits to the north of the River Tywi, approximately 1.75Km from the site at its closest point. The RPG sits within the Tywi valley at approximately 5m AOD compared to the sites location at 50 to 58m AOD.
- 4.18 The site falls outside of a Special Landscape Area (SLA), with the proposed development falling approximately 350m from the SLA boundary. The site falls within, and 50m from the edge of, an area of landscape identified by Cadw as Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape ref: HLW(D)5. This non-statutory designation washes over the DPP HQ buildings and wider site. For much of its length, this historic landscape area broadly aligns with the SLA, however, there are differences in boundaries, including around the site.
- 4.19 There are no Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings or Scheduled Monuments within the immediate context of the Site. Those closest to the site are approximately 1Km or more away and typically associated with areas of settlement, such as the historic core of Carmarthen or isolated buildings, such as those around the Vicarage at Llangunnor.

Topography

- 4.20 The following should be read in conjunction with Figure 5.

Context – Landform

- 4.21 The topography of the site's context is rolling and undulating, forming a series of ridgelines either side of the River Tywi valley. Ridgeline and hill summits rise to to 150m AOD to the north of the valley and 80m , 100m and 115m AOD to the south. In the wider context, landform to the south reaches 140, south of Nantycaws.

Site - Landform

- 4.22 The site has a gently sloping characteristic falling broadly north to north-west, towards the buildings which the site is associated with. The site falls between 50 and 55m AOD and landform has been modified as part of the landscaping of surrounding buildings and to allow them to be 'cut-in' to the ground and achieve flat development platforms.

Site and Immediate Context

- 4.23 An assessment of landscape character of the site and its immediate context has been carried out, providing a finer level of assessment than the published studies.
- 4.24 The site is an area of rough grassland closely associated with large-footprint, two/ three storey buildings and offices of the Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters (DPP HQ). A well-maintained hedgerow contains the site on its south-western edge from Heol Llangynnwr Road and features scattered trees of varying species and stages of maturity. To the north-west an access to car

parks is partly cut-in to the landscape with gappy amenity planting and occasional trees. The northern corner of the site and north-eastern edge is contained by an almost continuous built edge rising to two commercial storeys with pitched roof. To the east the site is adjoined by a small scrub and woodland block with further linear vegetation networks to the east following a watercourse. The immediate context of the site is a combination of pastoral fields across an undulating landscape with ribbon development, scattered farmsteads and the edges of settlement at Tregynwr.

Site Features

- 4.25 The site itself comprises grassland within the curtilage of the DPP HQ. It is closely associated with existing buildings. The site features hedgerows and scattered trees to its southern edge.

Landscape Value

- 4.26 In terms of "landscape value" it is appropriate to examine the role of the site and its immediate context in terms of the range of local factors set out in Landscape Institute (LI) Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 02-21 and summarised in the methodology. This considers the landscape in terms of a range of factors as set out below. As a starting point, landscape designations have been considered.
- 4.27 **Landscape Designations:** The site and its wider landscape context (including its Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (Figure 6) are not subject to any national landscape designations such as National Park or National Landscape. The site does not fall within the Tywi Valley Special Landscape Area (SLA) and is approximately 500m from the boundary. A historic designation identified by Cadw places the site on the edge of 'Area 7 - Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape' (ref: HLW(D)5). Intervisibility between the site and the wider Tywi Valley landscape is contained by adjacent built form and the rolling landscape or ridgelines and hills.
- 4.28 **Natural Heritage:** The site comprises grassland managed in varying degrees to create mown paths, edges and longer central sections. The site features young scattered trees and tree planting. The site forms part of a wider site providing the setting to office buildings and extensive areas of car parking.
- 4.29 **Cultural Heritage:** There are no statutory protected features of cultural heritage value on the Site itself. As noted above, the site falls within, and close to the edge of, an area of landscape identified by Cadw as Area 7 - Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape (ref: HLW(D)5), but experiences limited intervisibility with the wider, low-lying extent of this landscape area due to containment from adjacent commercial buildings and vegetation.
- 4.30 **Landscape Condition:** The grassland and hedgerow margins of the Site appears to be well maintained as other neutral grassland, albeit in a manner that is in-keeping with intensively managed setting of DPP HQ buildings, with features such as close mown rides and edges.
- 4.31 **Associations:** The DPP HQ buildings adjacent to the site form much of its setting and strongest association. The wider area has historic associations due to the Tywi Valley landscape of which the site forms a peripheral part. Beyond this, the site and its immediate context are not known to have any associations with well-known literature, poetry, art, TV/film and music; associations with science or other technical achievements; links to a notable historical event; or associations with a famous person or people that contribute to perceptions of the landscape.

- 4.32 **Distinctiveness:** The Site does not contain any rare or unusual features. The grassland of the site is maintained differently (i.e. mown not grazed) but is not dissimilar to the pastoral context around the DPP HQ buildings.
- 4.33 **Recreational Value:** The site is private and not accessible to the public. It offers no recreational value to the public.
- 4.34 **Perceptual (Scenic):** Intervisibility from the wider context is relatively contained due to boundary vegetation against road infrastructure and buildings that closely abut and contain the site to the north. Where the site is visible it is glimpsed in the foreground or to the side of buildings and is perceived as part of their setting and curtilage.
- 4.35 **Perceptual (Wildness and tranquillity):** The site features managed grassland, which is left to grow longer in places but features neater mown edges. It is a visible arrival space for visitors and employees and it sits in the foreground of a complex of commercial buildings and the primary access with Heol Llangynnwr Road. This presentable appearance and commercial backdrop is dominant, rather than any sense of wilderness. The site experiences passing traffic on these routes which minimises any sense of tranquillity.
- 4.36 **Functional aspects:** The land contributes modestly to the functionality of the landscape. Hedgerows and a small block of scrub/woodland to the south of the site present some ecological and habitat benefits and function as part of a wider network that links with vegetation along a nearby watercourse.
- 4.37 In conclusion and having appraised the above factors it is judged that the site and the immediate landscape is of medium landscape value.

Visual Baseline

- 4.38 A visual appraisal has been undertaken for the site. This has explored the nature of the existing visual amenity of the area and sought to establish the approximate visibility of the site from surrounding locations and receptors. A series of photo viewpoints have been selected which support this analysis.
- 4.39 Photographs have been taken to illustrate a view from a specific vantage point, or to demonstrate a representative view for those receptors that are moving through the landscape, e.g. rights of way users. The photographs may demonstrate varying degrees of visibility and include both short and long range views. The photographs were taken on the 25th March 2025 and seasonal differences have been taken into account when determining the visual effects on these receptors.
- 4.40 'Photo Viewpoints', as referred to in this report are 'Type 1 Visualisations' or 'Annotated Viewpoint Photographs', as referred to in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note on 'Visual Representation of Development Proposals' (TGN 06/19).

Photo Viewpoints

- 4.41 An assessment of the likely visual effects of the proposed development upon surrounding receptors is detailed in the subsequent section. Figure 6 details the location of the Photo Viewpoints and Figure 7-20 illustrates the photo viewpoints. They are briefly described below.

Viewpoints 1 & 2

- 4.42 The viewpoints take in the site looking in an easterly and northern direction respectively. They are captured from Heol Llangynnwr Road and representative of road users views. A hedgerow and vegetation along the road typically curtail views of the site, with some longer distance glimpses of distant hills and higher ground possible around the DPP HQ buildings possible. Existing built form is evident within views.

Viewpoint 3, 4 & 5

- 4.43 The views are captured from lanes and public rights of way to the east and north-east of the site. They are representative of users following these routes. Views from the lane are contained by hedgerows and vegetation with glimpses west possible from field access openings. Public rights of way traverse rising land to the east with some sections elevated above the site and surrounding landscape to the west and north-west. The views are typically rural in nature with some urban influences evident.

Viewpoint 6

- 4.44 This view is captured from rising land to the north of the site, it takes in a valley in the middle ground with rising land on the opposite side featuring the site. Land rises further to a horizon that sits above Heol Login Road. The landscape is subdivided by networks of vegetation with settlement influences evident along roads and lanes. The view is representative of those achievable by public right of way users around this locality.

Viewpoints 7, 8 & 9

- 4.45 The three viewpoints are from publicly accessible locations to the south and west of the site and are representative of residents and road users of Heol Login Road, users of public right of way 28/4, and to a lesser extent residents of Elder Grove. Views from Heol Login Road are elevated above the site, which forms a minor component of open, panoramic views. The site sits low in views, up against the south facing elevations of the DPP HQ buildings. To the west, despite being elevated above the site, views are more filtered and lines of trees and vegetation combine with topography to limit visibility.

Viewpoint 10 & 11

- 4.46 Views 10 and 11 are representative of more distant elevated viewing opportunities a tourist/visitor attractions and from rising valley sides beyond the Tywi River. The views represent those achievable from this general location for receptors including residents of upper slopes north of Abergwili and visitors to Bishop's Palace Registered Historic Park and Gardens in Abergwili. Views in the direction of the site, from lower lying valley land, around Bishop's Palace, are well contained by vegetation in the fore and mid ground, along with intervening distant hills. Views from higher land are more open and panoramic, but the site is also screened by topography, vegetation and built form.

Viewpoint 12, 13, 14 & 15

- 4.47 This set of four views indicates the nature of distant, elevated views available from higher ground to the north and north-west of the site, beyond the River Tywi and valley floor. The views are representative of those achievable for residents and road users within Carmarthen (and surrounds) and users of minor lanes and public rights of way that traverse land above the town. Views from the town are typically glimpsed and framed by intervening built form. From higher land views are more open and panoramic in nature. Viewpoints 12 & 13 have visibility of

the site obscured by intervening built form. Viewpoints 14 & 15 align in a way that allows minor glimpses of the site.

Summary of Receptors and Visual Baseline

- 4.48 The baseline analysis results in a number of reasoned conclusions which are summarised below:
- Views are most open and achievable to the south of the site, including from sections of Heol Llangynno Road and more distant, but elevated views from Heol Logyn Road.
 - Short distance views from the east are strongly filtered by riparian vegetation east of the site boundary and whilst more distant, filtered glimpses are possible for rising landform, these are quickly screened by ridgelines. Receptors are limited to a few scattered dwellings and short sections of public footpath.
 - Both short and long distance views from the north are screened by the existing DPP HQ buildings that closely contain the site.
 - Short distance views from the west are limited by combination of vegetation and landform. A corridor of visibility extends to the north-west through the upper portions of Carmarthen, but only where roads and gaps in buildings align (as the crow flies) with Heol Llangynno Road as it passes the site. It is anticipated that residents on steeper, east-facing slopes of Carmarthen will achieve distant views across the valley in the direction of the site from upper floor and attic windows of their dwellings.

5.0 LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS

Introduction

- 5.1 The development proposals are described in drawings accompanying the planning application. The ground mounted solar panels would be installed adjacent to a complex of buildings within a wider site that features associated access and areas of car parking. The wider site is contained by hedgerows and vegetation such that the panels would be viewed within the curtilage and context of a developed site, rather than on their own within a countryside setting. Despite this association, it is appropriate to consider landscape and GI mitigation to further assist assimilation.
- 5.2 The existing landscape resource and the visual receptors and amenity of the site have been considered by the planning and design process and have informed the resultant scheme. This approach has entailed collaboration between landscape, urban design, ecological and other professionals. The landscape components of the scheme are an important integral part of the proposals.

Landscape Design and GI Objectives

- 5.3 The key objectives of the landscape and GI proposals for the scheme are to:
- Improve vegetation networks surrounding the panels (in-line with Policy EQ5), through planting and changes to management regimes, to strengthen features. Allowing the hedgerows to become taller and more robust will reinforce a key characteristic of NCLA 41 and the Middleton Hills. This action will also help vegetation to assimilate the solar panels and accompanying battery infrastructure within the landscape and views, making them as unobtrusive as possible (in-line with para 5.4 of the Carmarthenshire Solar PV Development, Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study);
 - Provide effective screening for receptors within the SLA and for receptors looking across the site towards the SLA being selective reinforcement of boundaries.

Landscape and Green Infrastructure (GI) Proposals

- 5.4 The landscape proposals for the scheme are detailed in drawings accompanying the planning application. In summary these proposals include:
- The improvement of existing grassland habitats within the site (but not directly underneath the proposed PV panels) through scarification, overseeding with a general purpose meadow mix and modified management regime;
 - Addition of plug planting in marshy areas of grassland within the wider DPP HQ site;
 - Except for a minor section of recent hedgerow planting close to buildings, retain existing trees and hedgerows around the site margins and mitigate for any losses robustly;
 - Creation of new hedgerows to the south and west of the solar panels to filter fleeting views from west where the vehicular access meets Heol Llangynnwr Road and from the south generally;
 - Inclusion of native trees within the new hedgerow;

- Planting areas of native woodland with scrub margins;
 - Reinforcing areas of planting and existing habitats with ground based hibernacula, bird and bat boxes;
 - Allowing existing low flailed hedgerows between the site and Heol Llangynnwr Road to establish to a height of approximately 3m, to give them more visual prominence in the landscape and to filter views from the south more effectively. Allow the existing and proposed new hedges to combine to form a more robust feature and habitat corridor.
- 5.5 The landscape and GI proposals will establish a grassland of greater diversity and to the south, west and north-east of the site new vegetation will reinforce existing networks.

Landscape Management

- 5.6 All of the landscape areas and public open space features will be managed and maintained. This would be achieved through the implementation of a Landscape Management Plan (LMP), to ensure the successful establishment and continued thriving of the landscape proposals.

6.0 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL EFFECTS

- 6.1 The following section outlines the likely landscape and visual effects that would arise from proposed development on the site. Schedules detailing the likely landscape and visual effects for the receptors are included at Appendices B and C respectively. Please refer to these detailed tables in conjunction with the following summary descriptions.

Landscape Effects

Construction

- 6.2 Throughout the course of the construction process, best practice approaches and methodologies will be adopted that seek to avoid or minimise any unnecessary effects upon the landscape receptors. Managed and controlled site activities and the application of good practices throughout the construction process will seek to minimise the potential adverse effects arising from construction. This will include the protection of retained trees and vegetation in accordance with BS5837:2012 (Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction- Recommendations).
- 6.3 The construction of the solar panel scheme will give rise to short term direct and indirect landscape effects resulting from alterations to the landscape. Operations will be short in duration and the resulting landscape construction effects will be short term, transitional and temporary. It is anticipated that construction of the panel array will occur from ground level using machinery no bigger than the agricultural scale vehicles used during the management of the grassland and hedgerows within the site. The battery storage component is expected to be delivered by lorry using the existing site access and road/car park areas to position it close to its final position. Installation may be by a mobile crane, but this will occur over a short timeframe, no more than a day.
- 6.4 Construction effects are considered with reference to the published landscape character assessments, local landscape character and site-specific landscape features as set out in more detail within Appendix B.
- 6.5 The Site lies within or in close proximity to the following published landscape character areas:
- Nation Resource Wales 'NLCA 41: Tywi Valley'
 - LANDMAP (Welsh Landscape Collection Visual & Sensory Landscape Classification) 'Middleton Hills'
 - This report also summarises and appraises the Site and its immediate context as a finer grain of landscape.
- 6.6 In general, assessed landscape construction effects increase from a national scale, down to smaller county/district scale and then the site and its immediate context, due to relative to the scale of each character/study area relative to the site itself. Furthermore, effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any effects greater than those occurring during the completion phases of development, nor will it lead to long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and occurs over a short time frame.
- 6.7 The proposals fall within the extensive National Character Area NLCA 41: 'Tywi Valley'. The degree of landscape change on this NLCA is anticipated to be negligible due to the limited scale of change, the urbanising context of the site, and limited intervisibility with the wider character

area. Resultant effects at construction will be Negligible. Due to distance and containment of any intervisibility, there will be no indirect effects on wider NLCA's within the study area (including 33, 42, 44 & 45).

- 6.8 The proposals sit within the 'Middleton Hills' character area, which covers approximately 7,429ha of land compared to the site area of 0.9ha. The proposals feature new hedgerow, scrub and tree planting and changes to existing management regimes that will help to make existing vegetation more prominent within the landscape. This is inline with the 'Conserve' semi-natural habitat aims set out in the LANDMAP dataset. Due to the small-scale nature of the construction phase process, the scale of effect on this character area will be limited. Association of construction with the existing DPP HQ site and containment by vegetation around the wider curtilage limits the scale of effect and overall effects will be Negligible.
- 6.9 The site and proposed development fall 370m from Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south and 560m from Dyffryn Tywi flood plain (both at closest points). Both areas cover more than 4,000ha of land and due to distance and limited to no intervisibility, indirect effects will be Negligible to none.
- 6.10 The site falls on the southern edge of the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape Cadw Ref HLW(D)5 as it follows the River Tywi. The valley is 90Km in length and rarely more than 1Km wide. Around the site and Carmarthen generally the area extends to 2+Km in width. The special interest of this area is the river, valley and unique group of planned parks and gardens, historic assets and artistic associations. The proposals are approximately 900m from the River Tywi itself and it is considered that the site plays a limited role in this landscape, instead being closely associated with, maintained by, and recognisable as part of the curtilage of, the DPP HQ. The proposed development will be partly enclosed by the buildings the PV panels serve. Existing hedgerows and trees to the wider edges of the site will help to contain short-term construction effects, leading to Negligible landscape construction effects overall.
- 6.11 The site and its immediate context fall outside of the statutory landscape designations and SLA designation, but partly within the Registered Historic Landscape as discussed above. The site is most closely associated with large-footprint, two/ three storey buildings and offices of the DPP HQ and the wider curtilage is contained by hedgerows and vegetation. The immediate context of the site is a combination of pastoral fields across an undulating landscape with ribbon development, scattered farmsteads and the edges of settlement at Tregynwr. Urbanising influences are more notable on the site and its immediate context and provide some separation from the more sensitive Tywi valley landscape. For these reasons, landscape value and overall sensitivity are considered to be Medium. Whilst mitigation planting would not be evident during the construction phase, changes in the management of the hedgerow to the southern boundary of the site would be actioned prior to construction, allowing it to reach a greater height would enable planting to provide stronger containment and greater prominence in the landscape during the construction phase. The PV panels would be constructed on an elevated steel structure with grassland areas retained beneath. The battery storage plant would be located on existing hard surfaced areas directly adjacent to buildings. As such there would be no loss of landscape features, only the introduction of new temporary features alongside the emerging PV infrastructure. Landscape effects are considered to be short-term and Minor adverse/ Negligible during construction.

Operation (following Completion)

- 6.12 At completion and year 15, landscape effects on NLCA 41: 'Tywi Valley' would continue to be Negligible, and there would continue to be No indirect effects on NCLA's 33, 42, 44 & 45.
- 6.13 Operational effects on the 'Middleton Hills' character area would continue to be Negligible at completion and year 15. Indirect effects on Dyffryn Tywi Valley and Dyffryn Tywi flood plain would continue to be Negligible/ None.
- 6.14 As with the construction phase, it is considered that the site plays a limited role in the landscape of the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape Cadw Ref HLW(D)5. Instead, it is closely associated with and recognisable as part of the curtilage of the DPP HQ. The proposed development will be enclosed by buildings it serves and hedgerow and tree planting to the edges of the site. A summary description for the area notes that historically, valley sides would have been heavily wooded. Proposed mitigation proposals seek to increase the presence of vegetation in the context of both the PV panels and, by association, the south facing elevations of the DPP HQ buildings. Although there is no intervisibility between the valley floor/ floodplain areas and the proposed development, the increase in canopy/ vegetation networks will help to reinforce the green setting of the valley and minimise infrastructure influences. The overall landscape effect is deemed to be Negligible at both the completion and year 15 stages of operation.
- 6.15 For the site and its immediate context, landscape changes as a result of mitigation planting would be more notable over time. Changes in the management of the hedgerow to the southern boundary of the site would be evident at completion. Mitigation planting, including additional hedgerow species, to reinforce the existing hedgerow, will combine to form a more robust habitat corridor. Additional trees and areas of scrub and tree planting will further reinforce this edge. Proposed hibernacula and bird/bat boxes provide features of benefit for local fauna. Landscape effects will reduce from Minor adverse/ Negligible at completion to Negligible by year 15 as planting reinforces local vegetation networks and softens the presence of the PV panels in the landscape.
- 6.16 Overall, through considered mitigation and the retention and reinforcement of landscape features and habitats within and around the site, the resultant landscape effects demonstrate that the proposals do not compromise the qualities and values attributed to the landscape and will not impose notable landscape harm.

Visual Effects**Visual Envelope (VE)**

- 6.17 The VE (Figure 6) of the proposed development identifies the surrounding land from within which views towards any part of the proposed development are likely to be possible. The VE is not however, an indicator of the effect of the proposed development on the view but simply, its visible extent in the surrounding landscape and townscape.
- 6.18 A VE for the proposed development was initially prepared based upon the local topography context and considered proposed development heights in relation to surrounding built form.

This has then been reviewed on site and refined to take account of the winter visual 'screening' provided by buildings, trees and other features.

- 6.19 The immediate VE of the proposed development is tightly contained to the north and north-east by existing DPP HQ buildings. To the east it extends approximately 80m up to a watercourse featuring riparian vegetation and tree cover which provides a good degree of visual containment, even in winter. To the south the VE extends across Heol Llangynnwr Road and across rising land and a section of Heol Login Road up to a ridgeline approximately 430m to the south. To the west, a ridgeline (east of Tregynwr) is reinforced by field boundary vegetation and mature trees which act to contain views.
- 6.20 Small pockets of visibility sit on high ground to the east of the site. They fall within open pastoral fields at a distance of between 500m and 1Km from the site where field hedgerows and trees don't intervene. Only filtered glimpses of part of the proposed development are visible due to the DPP HQ buildings.
- 6.21 Between 1.9Km and 3Km an area, or corridor, of potential visibility extends across parts of Carmarthen that align with the route of Heol Llangynnwr Road as it passes along the site. The distance this VE extends to the west and its spread are limited by landform, woodland and screening features either side of the site itself.
- 6.22 There could be some limited locations (beyond the extent of the VE shown) that could have a potential distant or very limited view to a part of the development. Equally, there could be some locations shown within the VE that would not experience any views to the resultant development. This is particularly true of the visual envelope shown to faintly extend across upper elevations of Carmarthen. Glimpses of the site and proposed development were observed from a small number of publicly accessible locations.

Construction

- 6.23 Throughout the course of the construction process, best practice approaches and methodologies will be adopted that seek to avoid or minimise any unnecessary effects upon visual receptors. Managed and controlled site activities and the application of good practices throughout the construction process will seek to minimise the potential adverse effects arising from construction. This will include the protection of retained trees and vegetation in accordance with BS5837:2012 (Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations).
- 6.24 The construction of the solar panel scheme will give rise to short term visual effects resulting from alterations to the landscape. Operations will be short in duration and the resulting landscape construction effects will be short term, transitional and temporary. It is anticipated that construction of the panel array will occur from ground level using machinery no bigger than the agricultural scale vehicles used during the management of the grassland and hedgerows within the site. The battery storage component is expected to be delivered by lorry using the existing site access and road/car park areas to position it close to its final position. Installation may be by a mobile crane, but this will occur over a very short timeframe.
- 6.25 Construction visual effects are set out and shown in more detail within Appendix C.

- 6.26 In overall terms, the effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any visual effects greater than those occurring during the completion phases of development nor will it lead to long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and occurs over a short time frame.

Residential Properties and Settlement

- 6.27 Residents in close proximity (upto 250m) of the site include those along Heol Llangynnwr Road and Heol Login Road. The site falls at a tangent to primary elevations for closest residents along Heol Llangynnwr Road (c.3 dwellings). Receptors will experience Negligible construction effects due to screening of views by vegetation and built form across all seasons. Residents along Heol Login Road (c.19 dwellings) sit elevated above the site, with primary frontages facing the site. Partial to full views of the construction phase will be observed in the immediate foreground of large office buildings and wide areas of car parking. Visual effects will be Minor adverse due to the increased urbanisation of the DPP HQ site. Wider, long-distance, panoramic views will be unaffected.
- 6.28 Residents in the wider context (up to 1Km) include residents to the east of Tregynwr and residents of scattered dwellings/farmsteads to the north and east of the site (c.6-8 dwellings). Residents along the eastern edge of Tregynwr will experience Negligible/No construction visual effects. Residents of scattered dwellings/farmsteads fall on landform elevated above the site, but the DPP HQ offices intervene in views typically. Receptors (furthest to the east) may observe glimpsed and filtered views of construction activities within the southern-most portion of the development. These will be temporary in nature and lead to effects no greater than Minor adverse/ Negligible.
- 6.29 More distant receptors include residents on south facing slopes of Abergwili and south facing slopes of Carmarthen. Residents on upper slopes of Abergwili will experience no visual change and no construction visual effects due to screening from topography, vegetation and built form. From select locations within Carmarthen, there is potential for glimpsed views of construction activities on the site. It is considered these are most likely from second storey windows and above. The development falls at a range of between 1.8km to 3.6km from receptors across the Tywi Valley and so will be distant and occupy a very minor component of views. Glimpses will not effect wider views of pastoral grassland and horizon lines evident across wider rolling hills and slopes. Visual effects will be Negligible.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Other Footpaths etc

- 6.30 Construction activities will not be visible for users of lower sections of PROW to the east of the site (ref: footpath 28/19, byway 28/20), due to screening from intervening riparian vegetation. From more elevated locations views are typically restricted by hedges and mature lines of hedgerow trees, but, from limited section of the routes, glimpses of a minor portion of the scheme may be discernible at an oblique angle and tangent to the direction of travel. Glimpses would be seen in the context of adjacent buildings that screen most of the construction activities. Effects would be no greater than Minor adverse/ Negligible.
- 6.31 Users of PROW (ref: footpath 28/16) to the north of Tregynwr and west of Llangunnor and users of PROW east of Tregynwr (ref: footpath 28/4) fall at a similar distance from the site, between 500 and 700m. Users of route 28/16 would experience screening of views of construction due to existing buildings around the site. Construction activities would also be

screened from elevated locations along the footpath. Construction activities would not be evident or discernible for receptors using footpath 28/4, leading to no visual effects for users of either route.

- 6.32 Users of elevated PRow in the wider context to the north of Carmarthen and Llangunnor (ref: footpath 61/16, 2/2 and 2/3) fall at distances of between 2.3 and 2.8Km from the site. Construction of the solar development would be screened by intervening buildings around the site margins and there would be no construction visual effects upon receptors.

Roads & Transport Users

- 6.33 Road users of Heol Llangynnwr pass to the south of the site. A hedge would sit between receptors and construction activities except where receptors are heading south-east and pass the access to the wider DPP HQ site. At this point a more open but fleeting glimpse across the site is afforded. Views would be transient and glimpsed. Attention will be primarily focused on the direction of travel and other road users, not peripheral features that fall within an urbanised curtilage of large office buildings. It is considered that effects would be Minor adverse/ Negligible.
- 6.34 Road users of Heol Login Road will have partial to full views of construction activities, observed below the horizon in the middle distance. Construction activities will sit in the immediate foreground of large office buildings and wide areas of car parking and will not look incongruous within views given this context. As road users are travelling at speed it is anticipated that awareness will be limited and effects Minor adverse/ Negligible. Wider, long-distance, panoramic views will be unaffected and more likely to capture road users fleeting glances.
- 6.35 Road users of unnamed Lane to the east of the site may achieve occasional, fleeting glimpses through field access gates, however intervening riparian vegetation will screen views of activities. Views from wider lengths along the lane are otherwise obscured by hedgerows. There will be No visual effects on receptors.
- 6.36 Users of roads in the wider context of Carmarthen that align broadly with the site e.g. Heol Penlanffos Road, Prosser Close, and Brewery Road may experience glimpsed views of construction activities. Due to distance and intervening or tightly framing features, the solar scheme will appear as a minor, oblique component of much wider and visually 'busy' views. Overall, given the limited opportunities for views and negligible likelihood of the scheme being discernible for transient road users, visual change is considered to be Negligible and more typically No visual effect due to screening by built form within Carmarthen.

Other Visual Receptors

- 6.37 Site survey confirmed that there would be no visual effects for the following receptors: employees or visitors to the Cymru Pet Supplies store and parking areas due to screening from vegetation; and due to their lower lying, flatter valley/riverside locations no effects on visitors to low-lying Bishops Palace grounds, receptors within Carmarthen Town Centre and visitors to Carmarthen Castle.

Operation (following Completion)

- 6.38 Due to the scale of construction activities and immaturity of mitigation proposals, visual effects at construction and completion are considered to be the same for all visual receptors. For

brevity, descriptions of views set out at construction phase are not reproduced again, changes that occur up to year 15 are noted where relevant. The following summaries should be read along with the detailed assessment tables included at Appendix C.

Residential Properties and Settlement

- 6.39 Planting around the access will mature in time to further screen glimpses for residents along Heol Llangynnwr Road. Residents will continue to experience Negligible visual effects at completion and Year 15.
- 6.40 Hedgerows along the site frontage with Heol Llangynnwr Road would be reinforced to create a more robust habitat corridor/ planted buffer. Hedgerow species would be allowed to grow taller than they are currently and would be reinforced with tree planting to complement trees currently present. Visual effects for residents along Heol Login Road will be Minor Adverse at completion. Mitigation would mature in time to further soften and punctuate views, but would not screen them completely given the elevated vantage point receptors have. Effects would reduce slightly by year 15 to Minor Adverse/ Negligible.
- 6.41 Residents to the east of Tregynwr (Elder Grove) would experience similar visibility as outlined at construction and effects would continue to be Negligible/ None at completion and year 15.
- 6.42 Residents of scattered dwellings and farmsteads to the north and east of the site would experience Minor adverse/ Negligible at completion. Mitigation planting to the east of the scheme will form a block of scrub with trees that will mature to soften the minor component of the development that may be discernible initially. This will reduce visual effects by year 15 to Negligible.
- 6.43 Residents on south facing slopes of Abergwili will continue to experience No visual effects at completion and year 15. Residents on south facing slopes of Carmarthen may will experience Negligible effects at completion and year 15. Mitigation planting around the access will mature in time to soften glimpses of PV infrastructure, further reinforcing the negligible scale of effect.

Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Other Footpaths etc

- 6.44 Users of PROW to the east of the site (ref: footpath 28/19, byway 28/20) will experience Minor adverse/ Negligible effects at completion along short sections of elevated routes. Mitigation planting to the east of the scheme will form a block of scrub with trees that will mature to soften the minor component of the development that may be discernible initially. This will combine with existing riparian vegetation to further reinforce the negligible scale of effect, leading to Negligible overall visual effect at year 15.
- 6.45 Users of PROW (ref: footpath 28/16) to the north of Tregynwr and west of Llangunnor, PROW east of Tregynwr (ref: footpath 28/4), and elevated PROW in the wider context to the north of Carmarthen and Llangunnor (ref: footpath 61/16, 2/2 and 2/3) will all continue to experience No visual effect at completion and year 15.

Roads & Transport Users

- 6.46 Road users of Heol Llangynnwr and Heol Login Road would experience visual effects reducing from Minor Adverse/ Negligible at completion to Negligible at year 15 as the mitigation proposed around the access and along the wider frontage matures to soften and, in places, screen views.

- 6.47 Road users of unnamed Lane to the east of the site will continue to experience No visual effects at completion and year 15.
- 6.48 Users of roads in the wider context of Carmarthen that align broadly with the site e.g. Heol Penlanffos Road, Prosser Close, and Brewery Road will continue to experience Negligible and more typically No visual effect due to screening by built form within Carmarthen.

Other Visual Receptors

- 6.49 As with the construction phase, there would be no visual effects at completion of year 15 on employees or visitors to the Cymru Pet Supplies store, Bishops Palace grounds, receptors within Carmarthen Town Centre and visitors to Carmarthen Castle.

Night-time Visual Effects

- 6.50 The proposals are not illuminated and so will not contribute to night time visual effects.

7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 This Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been carried out for a proposed development of Photovoltaic Panels (PVP) and Battery Storage at Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters (DPP HQ), Llangunnor, Carmarthen by FPCR Environment and Design Ltd (FPCR). The purpose of this LVA study is to provide an assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the proposed development.

7.2 This LVA has been prepared based upon the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3), published by the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, in 2013, and takes account of Technical Guidance published by Landscape Institute.

Policy

7.3 Carmarthenshire planning policies promote the protection, retention and integration of existing Green and Blue Infrastructure assets, including trees, woodlands and hedgerows and habitats/features of distinctiveness, both in themselves, and as part of wider landscape and ecological corridors. The creation of new habitats and features will be considered in order to avoid any '*demonstrable harm to the landscape*'.

Landscape

7.4 Detailed analysis is provided within the landscape assessment table at Appendix B. The site is not constrained by Statutory landscape designations. In overall landscape terms, the effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any effects greater than those occurring during the completion phases of development nor will it lead to long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and occurs over a short time frame.

7.5 In general, assessed landscape construction effects increase from a national scale, down to smaller county/district scale and then the site and its immediate context, due to relative to the scale of each character/study area relative to the site itself. Furthermore, effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any effects greater than those occurring during the completion phases of development, nor will it lead to long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and occurs over a short time frame.

7.6 At a national scale development will lead to Negligible landscape effects across all development phases for NLCA 41: 'Tywi Valley'. There would be no indirect effects on NCLA's 33, 42, 44 & 45. Overall effects on the 'Middleton Hills' (identified within LANDMAP datasets) will be Negligible across all phases. Indirect effects on the 'Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south' and 'Dyffryn Tywi flood plain' will be Negligible. Effects on the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape Cadw Ref HLW(D)5 will be Negligible overall across all phases.

7.7 Effects on the site and its immediate context would be Minor adverse/ Negligible during construction and at completion, these will reduce to Negligible by year 15 as planting reinforces local vegetation networks and softens the presence of the PV panels in the landscape.

7.8 Overall, through considered mitigation and the retention and reinforcement of landscape features and habitats within and around the site, the resultant landscape effects demonstrate that the proposals do not compromise the qualities and values attributed to the landscape and will not impose notable landscape harm.

Visual

- 7.9 Detailed analysis and commentary is provided within the visual assessment table at Appendix C. In overall terms, the effects arising during the construction phase will not lead to any visual effects greater than those occurring during the completion phases of development nor will it lead to long-term harm as the construction phase is transitory in nature and occurs over a short time frame.
- 7.10 Effects at construction and completion were found to be no greater than Minor adverse for receptors identified in this appraisal. Minor adverse effects will be experienced by residents along Heol Login Road. Minor adverse/ Negligible effects were identified at construction and completion for residents of scattered dwellings and farmsteads to the north and east of the site, users of PRow to the east of the site, users of Heol Llangynnwyr Road and Heol Login Road. All other identified receptors would experience Negligible to No visual effects at construction and completion.
- 7.11 At year 15 only one identified receptor would experience effect greater than Negligible. Mitigation planting would mature in time to soften and punctuate views for residents along Heol Login Road, but would not screen the proposals completely, particularly given the elevated vantage point receptors have. Effects for these receptors would be Minor Adverse/ Negligible at year 15.

Conclusions

- 7.12 Given its location within the curtilage of commercial buildings, urbanised context, and surrounding vegetation, the proposed development experiences a good degree of existing visual containment locally and no notable landscape features would be lost as a result of development. The proposals can deliver enhanced green infrastructure, providing opportunities for biodiversity and landscape enhancement.
- 7.13 It is assessed that the site's landscape character has the ability in which to absorb change through the introduction of the proposed development. The proposals will be appropriate within the landscape and visual context and it is judged that effects, as a result of the proposed development, will not give rise to any unacceptable landscape and visual harm.

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Appendix A

Landscape and Visual Appraisal – Methodology and Assessment Criteria

Introduction

- 1.1 The methodology for the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) undertaken for the proposed development is detailed in the LVA report. The following information should be read in conjunction with this methodology.
- 1.2 As advised in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition) (GLVIA3), the judgements made in respect of both landscape and visual effects are a combination of an assessment of the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the landscape or visual effect. The following details the definitions and criteria used in assessing sensitivity and magnitude for landscape and visual receptors.
- 1.3 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as High/ Medium or Moderate/ Minor etc. This indicates that the assessment lies between the respective definitions or encompasses aspects of both.

Landscape

Landscape Sensitivity

- 1.4 Landscape receptors are assessed in terms of their 'Landscape Sensitivity'. This combines judgements on the value to be attached to the landscape and the susceptibility to change of the landscape from the type of change or development proposed. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.
- 1.5 There can be complex relationships between the value attached to landscape receptors and their susceptibility to change which can be especially important when considering change within or close to designated landscapes. For example, an internationally, nationally or locally valued landscape does not automatically or by definition have a high susceptibility to all types of change. The type of change or development proposed may not compromise the specific basis for the value attached to the landscape.

Landscape Value

- 1.6 Value can apply to a landscape area as a whole, or to the individual elements, features and aesthetic or perceptual dimensions which contribute to the character of the landscape. The following criteria have been used to categorise landscape value. Where there is no clear existing evidence on landscape value, an assessment is made based on the criteria/ factors identified below (based on the guidance in the Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21 "Assessing landscape value outside national designations", (which provides more up to date guidance than Box 5.1 of GLVIA3).

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--|
| • Natural Heritage | • Associations | • Perceptual (scenic) |
| • Cultural Heritage | • Distinctiveness | • Perceptual (wildness and tranquillity) |
| • Landscape Condition | • Recreational Value | • Functional |

Landscape Value	Definition
High	Landscape receptors of high importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, associations, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities and functional aspects.
Medium	Landscape receptors of medium importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, associations, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities and functional aspects.
Low	Landscape receptors of low importance based upon factors of natural and cultural heritage, condition, associations, distinctiveness, recreational value, perceptual qualities and functional aspects.

Landscape Susceptibility to Change

- 1.7 This means the ability of the landscape receptor (overall character type/ area or individual element/ feature) to accommodate the change (i.e. the proposed development) without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline position and/ or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies. The definition and criteria for the assessment of Landscape Susceptibility to Change is as follows:

Landscape Susceptibility to Change	Definition
High	A highly distinctive and cohesive landscape receptor, with positive characteristics and features with no or very few detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features intact and in very good condition and/ or rare. Limited capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.
Medium	Distinctive and more commonplace landscape receptor, with some positive characteristics/ features and some detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features in moderate condition. Capacity to accept well planned and designed change/ development of the type proposed.
Low	Landscape receptor of mixed character with a lack of coherence and including detracting or intrusive elements. Landscape features that may be in poor or improving condition and few that could not be replaced. Greater capacity to accept the type of change/ development proposed.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

- 1.8 The magnitude of landscape effects is the degree of change to the landscape receptor in terms of its size or scale of change, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The table below sets out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the separate considerations of Scale or Size of the Degree of Change, Reversibility the geographical extent and duration of change are described where relevant in the appraisal.

Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change

Scale or Size of the Degree of Landscape Change	Definition
High	Total loss of or substantial alteration to key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements totally uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial loss of or alteration to one or more key characteristics / features and the introduction of new elements that would be evident but not necessarily uncharacteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be obviously changed.
Low	Limited loss of, or alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements evident and/ or characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be perceptibly changed.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to one or more key characteristics/ features and the introduction of new elements characteristic to the receiving landscape. Overall landscape receptor will be minimally changed.
None	No loss or alteration to the key characteristics/ features, representing 'no change'.

Geographical Extent

Geographical extent	Definition
Extensive	Notable change to an extensive proportion of the geographic area.
Moderate	Notable change to part of the geographic area.
Minimal	Change over a limited part of the geographic area.
Negligible	Change over a very limited part of the geographical area.

Duration

Duration	Definition
Short term	The change will occur for up to 5 years.
Medium Term	The change will occur for between 5 and 10 years.
Long term	The change will occur for over 10 years

Reversibility

Reversibility	Definition
Irreversible	The development would be permanent and the assessment site could not be returned to its current/ former use.
Reversible	The development could be deconstructed/ demolished and the assessment site could be returned to broadly its current/ historic use (although that may be subject to qualification depending on the nature of the development).

Visual

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

- 1.9 Visual sensitivity assesses each visual receptor in terms of their susceptibility to change in views and visual amenity and also the value attached to particular views. The definition and criteria adopted for these contributory factors is detailed below.

Visual Susceptibility to Change

- 1.10 The susceptibility of different visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of; firstly, the occupation or activity of people experiencing the view at particular locations; and secondly, the extent to which their attention or interest may therefore be focussed on the views and visual amenity they experience.

Visual Susceptibility to Change	Definition
High	Residents at home with primary views from ground floor/garden and upper floors. Public rights of way/ footways where attention is primarily focussed on the landscape and on particular views. Visitors to heritage assets or other attractions whose attention or interest is likely to be focussed on the landscape and/ or on particular views. Communities where views make an important contribution to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. Travellers on recognised scenic routes.
Medium	Residents at home with secondary views (primarily from first floor level). Public rights of way/ footways where attention is not primarily focussed on the landscape and/ or particular views. Travellers on road, rail or other transport routes.
Low	Users of outdoor recreational facilities where the view is less important to the activities (e.g. sports pitches). Travellers on road, rail or other transport where views are primarily focussed on the transport route. People at their place of work where views of the landscape are not important to the quality of the working life.

Value of Views

- 1.11 The value attached to a view takes account of any recognition attached to a particular view and/ or any indicators of the value attached to views, for example through guidebooks or defined viewpoints or references in literature or art.

Value of Views	Definition
High	A unique or identified view (e.g. shown as such on Ordnance Survey map, guidebook or tourist map) or one noted in literature or art. A view where a heritage asset makes an important contribution to the view.
Medium	A typical and/ or representative view from a particular receptor.
Low	An undistinguished or unremarkable view from a particular receptor.

Magnitude of Visual Effects

- 1.12 Magnitude of Visual Effects evaluates each of the visual effects in terms of its size or scale, the geographical extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. The table below sets out the categories and criteria adopted in respect of the Scale or Size (including the degree of contrast) of Visual Change. The distance and nature of the view and whether the receptor's view will be stationary or moving are also detailed in the Visual Effects Table.

Scale or Size of the Degree of Visual Change	Definition
High	The proposal will result in a large and immediately apparent change in the view, being a dominant and new and/ or incongruous feature in the landscape.
Medium	The proposal will result in an obvious and recognisable change in the view and will be readily noticed by the viewer.
Low	The proposal will constitute a minor component of the wider view or a more recognisable component that reflects those apparent in the existing view. Awareness of the proposals will not have a marked effect on the overall nature of the view.
Negligible/ None	Only a very small part of the proposal will be discernible and it will have very little or no effect on the nature of the view.

Level of Effect

- 1.13 The final conclusions on effects, whether adverse or beneficial, are drawn from the separate judgements on the sensitivity of the receptors and the magnitude of the effects. This overall judgement is formed from a reasoned professional overview of the individual judgements against the assessment criteria.
- 1.14 GLVIA3 notes, at paragraphs 5.56 and 6.44, that there are no hard and fast rules with regard to the level of effects, therefore the following descriptive thresholds have been used for this appraisal:
- **Major**
 - **Moderate**
 - **Minor**
 - **Negligible**
- 1.15 Where it is determined that the assessment falls between or encompasses two of the defined criteria terms, then the judgement may be described as, for example, Major/ Moderate or Moderate/ Minor. This indicates that the effect is assessed to lie between the respective definitions or to encompass aspects of both.

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
National Landscape Character									
Natural Resources Wales National Landscape Character Area (NCLA) 41: Tywi Valley	Medium/ High	Medium/ High	Medium/ High	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	No	NCLA 41 'Tywi Valley' stretches from Llandovery to Carmarthen and therefore covers a large landscape area. The site falls towards the western edge of this character area and covers a very small parcel of land in comparison to the NCLA. Although not subject to national statutory designation, the NCLA locally to the site features landscape areas identified as SLA and the Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape. The site forms part of the wider hinterland and context but has limited to no intervisibility with the floodplain and floor of the Tywi valley. NCLA characterised by historic defensive sites, towns and parks and gardens. None of which feature in the immediate context of the site. The site relates more to nearby grazing pastures and enclosed fields. The NCLA is noted as being a well-settled area generally. Built form and road infrastructure combine with vegetation networks to largely contain the site. Overall scale of effect negligible due to the urbanising context of the site as part of the curtilage of the DPP HQ and limited intervisibility with the wider character area.	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
NLCA 33 Gwendraeth Vales (circa 3Km to transitional boundary); NLCA 42 Pembroke & Carmarthen Foothills (circa 2.3Km to transitional boundary); NLCA 44 Taf and Cleddau Vales (circa 2.3Km to transitional boundary), and; NLCA 45 Taf, Tywi & Gwendraeth Estuaries (circa 2Km to transitional boundary).	Varies but typically Medium	Varies but typically Medium	Varies but typically Medium	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	No	Topographical ridgelines to the south and south-east of the site and intervening urban form of Carmarthen itself (on land rising to a series of ridgelines), all act to contain intervisibility between the Site and these wider NCLAs. Due to distance there will be no indirect landscape effects on these NLCAs.	None	None	None

Appendix B: Landscape Effects Table (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
							Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
Local Landscape Character									
LANDMAP (Welsh Landscape Collection Visual & Sensory Landscape Classification 'Middleton Hills'	'Evaluation' data set identifies the overasll evaluation of the area as Moderate	'Evaluation' data set identifies value as Moderate	Moderate	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	No	The Middleton Hills character area covers approximately 7,429ha of land. The site covers approximately 0.9ha of land. Under key elements to conserve the LANDMAP dataset notes 'Conserve the semi-natural habitats associated with this landscape -hedgerows trees, woodlands that contribute visually to it'. The proposals feature new hedgerow, scrub and tree planting and changes to existing management regimes that will help to make existing vegetation more prominent within the landscape. Whilst development will introduce additional urbanising features, they will be located within the curtilage of an urban site featuring commercial scale buildings and car parking areas and contained by existing built form and vegetation. The scale of effect on this character area will be limited by association with the existing DPP HQ site and containment that limits wider intervisibility. The PV panels will assimilate within the setting of the existing buildings, features such as the battery storage system will be located adjacent to buildings, such that they will be read as part of the existing buildings and associated ground level plant areas. Due to the nature of the construction phase and associated activities and ultimate scale of the proposals in operation, the scale of effect across all phase will be negligible.	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
LANDMAP (Welsh Landscape Collection Visual & Sensory Landscape Classification 'Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south' 'Dyffryn Tywi flood plain'	'Evaluation' data set identifies both area as Outstanding overall, which equates to High under GLVIA3	'Evaluation' data set identifies value for both areas as Outstanding, which equates to High under GLVIA3	High	Construction: Negligible/ None Completion: Negligible/ None Year 15: Negligible/ None	No	The site and proposed development fall outside of these character areas and are 370m from Dyffryn Tywi Valley sides south (at closest point) and 560m from Dyffryn Tywi flood plain. They cover large tracts of land and are approximately 4,309ha in size and 4,874ha respectively. The closest peripheral edges of these areas have limited intervisibility due to the DPP HQ, intervening vegetation networks and topographic changes. The wider extents of these areas has no intervisibility. The site itself shares few characteristics in common with these character areas as it does not have a south facing valley side character or valley floor/ floodplain character. Due to distance and limited to no intervisibility, indirect effects will be negligible to none.	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None
Registered Historic Landscape									

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
Tywi Valley Registered Historic Landscape Cadw Ref HLW(D)5	High	High	High	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	No	<p>The Tywi Valley is 90Km in length and rarely more than 1Km wide. Around the site and Carmarthen generally the area extends to 2+Km in width, with the site falling on the edge of the area approximately 900m from the River Tywi.</p> <p>The special interest of this area is the river and unique group of planned parks and gardens, historic and artistic associations.</p> <p>Beyond a small block of ancient woodland to the north-west of the site, there are no historic designations in the context of the site, including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments of registered parks and gardens. None of these historic assets feature notable intervisibility with the proposed development, including sites in and around Carmarthen.</p> <p>It is considered that the site plays a limited role in this landscape, instead being closely associated with and recognisable as part of the curtilage of the DPP HQ. The proposed development will be enclosed by buildings it serves and hedgerow and tree planting to the edges of the site.</p> <p>A summary description for the area notes that historically valley sides would have been heavily wooded, proposed mitigation proposals seek to increase the presence of vegetation in the context of both the PV panels and by association the south facing elevations of the DPP HQ buildings. Although there is no intervisibility between the valley floor/ floodplain areas and the proposed development, the increase in canopy/ vegetation networks will help to reinforce the green setting of the valley and minimise infrastructure influences.</p> <p>The overall scale of effect is deemed to be negligible across all phases.</p>	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
Landscape Character: Site and Immediate Context									
Site and Immediate Context	Medium	Medium	Medium	Construction: Low/ Negligible Completion: Low/ Negligible Year 15: Negligible	No	<p>The site itself comprises grassland within the curtilage of the DPP HQ. It is closely associated with existing buildings. The site features hedgerows and scattered trees to its southern edge.</p> <p>The immediate context of the site is a combination of pastoral fields across an undulating landscape with ribbon development, scattered farmsteads and the edges of settlement at Tregynwr.</p> <p>The site and immediate context are considered to fall outside of the SLA designation, but partly within the Registered Historic Landscape. The site and immediate context are most closely associated with large-footprint, two/ three storey buildings and offices of the Dyfed Powys Police Headquarters and the wider curtilage contained by hedgerows and vegetation. Immediate context is considered to extend to the south across Heol Llangynnnwr Road due to intervisibility. This area is characterised by open pasture with hedgerows.</p>	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Negligible

APPENDIX B: LANDSCAPE EFFECTS TABLE (LET)									
Landscape Receptor and Reference	Judged Sensitivity of Landscape			Judged Magnitude of Landscape Effect		Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
	Susceptibility to Change	Landscape Value	Overall Sensitivity	Scale or Size of the Degree of Change including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project	Where applicable, are the Effects Reversible?		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low Negligible None	Yes No N/A		Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial	Adverse Beneficial
						Urbanising influences are more notable on the immediate context and provide some separation from the more sensitive Tywi valley landscape. Whilst this area forms part of the hinterland of the Tywi Valley, overall susceptibility to change and landscape sensitivity is considered to be medium at this scale. Using Guidance Note (TGN) 02-21 as worked through in the appraisal report, the site and immediate context is deemed to be of medium landscape value. Changes in the management of the hedgerow to the southern boundary of the site would be evident within the first year from completion and could even be actioned ahead of construction to enable planting to provide stronger containment during the construction phase. Mitigation planting includes additional hedgerow species to reinforce the existing hedgerow to form a more robust habitat corridor. Additional trees and areas of scrub and tree planting further reinforce this edge. Proposed hibernacula and bird/bat boxed provide features of benefit for local fauna. Landscape effects will reduce in time as planting reinforces local vegetation networks and softens the presence of the PV panels in the landscape.			

APPENDIX C: VISUAL EFFECTS TABLE (VET)												
Ref	Receptor Type, Location and photographs (including approx no. of dwellings where applicable)	Judged Sensitivity of Visual Receptor			Judged Magnitude of Visual Effects				Description/ Notes	Overall Effect at Construction Phase	Overall Effect Upon Completion	Overall Effect at 15 Years Post Completion
		Susceptibility to Change	Value	Overall Sensitivity	Distance from Site Boundary (or Built Development where stated) (approx. m/km)	Nature of View	Is the View Temporary or permanent?	Size/Scale of Visual Effect (including degree of contrast/ integration) at Stages of Project		Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None	Major Moderate Minor Negligible None
		High Medium Low	High Medium Low	High Medium Low		Full Partial Glimpse None		High Medium Low Negligible/ None		Adverse or Beneficial	Adverse or Beneficial	Adverse or Beneficial
A	Residents along Heol Llangynnwr Road north-west of the site c. 3 dwellings	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	200m at closest point	Glimpse to None	Permanent	Construction: Negligible/ None Completion: Negligible/ None Year 15: Negligible/ None	Receptors fall on lower lying land. Intervening hedgerows, vegetation and built form (Carmarthen Polic Station) between receptors and site. Two dwellings to the north of Heol Llangynnwr Road are bungalows with primary elevations facing away from the site. Closest dwelling to the south is 2 storey but doesn't presents a side gable elevation in the direction of the site with one second floor window. Graden curtilage features trees and planting. Views unlikely and negligible scale of effect at worse. Likely to be no views, particularly for receptors further to the north-west along Heol Llangynnwr, due to screening, even in winter. Mitigation planting around the access will mature in time to further screen glimpses.	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
B	Residents along Heol Login Road c.19 dwellings	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	230m at closest point	Partial to Full	Permanent	Construction: Low Completion: Low Year 15: Low/ Negligible	Receptors elevated above the site and frontage with Heol Llangynnwr. Representative views 7 & 8 taken from the road. Receptors dwellings are predominantly single storey bungalows but some two storey dwellings. Land drops away from residents with wide panoramic views to the north. Views possible from front elevation windows and front gardens. Views take in the Tywi Valley, although the valley is not visible and only surrounding hills/ upper slopes. Development filtered in places by layers of intervening vegetation (VP7) but clearer to the west (VP8). Partial to full views of the development will be observed in the immediate foreground of large office buildings and wide areas of car parking. The wider context is largely rural but this immediate urbanising context will lessen the visual prominence of solar panels compared to a green field with no urbanising backdrop. The solar panels will assimilate with this context and not look incongruous in views. Visual effects relate to the increased urbanisation of the Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Office site locally. Wider, long-distance, panoramic views will be unaffected.	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse	Minor Adverse/ Negligible

									Hedgerows along the site frontage would be reinforced to create a more robust habitat corridor/ planted buffer. Hedgerow species would be allowed to grow taller than they are currently and would be reinforced with tree planting to complement trees currently present. Mitigation would mature in time to further soften and punctuate views, but would not screen them completely given the elevated vantage point receptors have. Effects would reduce slightly by year 15.			
C	Residents to the east of Tregynwr (Elder Grove) c.5 dwellings	Medium	Medium	Medium	575m	Glimpse to None	Permanent	Construction: Negligible/ None Completion: Negligible/ None Year 15: Negligible/ None	Views from second floor rear windows across rear gardens and vegetation. View east across the edge of the Cadw Registered Landscape of Special Interest. Residential edge character with mature tree line beyond pastoral field filtering (Winter)/ screening (Summer) views to the east (see viewpoint 9). Site falls on lower lying land and topography intervenes in views. Site is not visible for publicly accessible locations on the ground. Development likely to be hard to discern for receptors leading to negligible visual change.	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None
D	Residents of scattered dwellings to the north and east of the site c. 6-8 dwellings/ farmsteads	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	Up to 1Km	Glimpse to None	Permanent	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	Receptors elevated above the site but Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices are large buildings that screen the site for receptors to the north. Receptors to the east have glimpses of the southern edge of the site through field boundary and riparian vegetation. Representative views 3, 4 & 5 taken from ground level lanes and public rights of way. Dwellings and farmsteads likely to have upper floor windows. Curtilage of dwellings includes farm buildings and/or gardens with vegetation, hedges & trees. Receptors fall within the SLA and Cadw Registered Landscape of Special Interest but views towards the site look to the wider landscape outside of these areas and include residential areas, including Carmarthen. Receptors (furthest to the east) will observe glimpsed and filtered views of the southern-most portion of the solar development. Views of the wider solar development will be contained by office buildings. Vegetation (filtering views in Winter) likely to screen views of the development in Summer. Visual change will be barely discernible and negligible in scale overall. Mitigation planting to the east of the scheme will form a block of scrub with trees that will mature to soften the minor component of the development that may be discernible initially. This will reduce effects by year 15.	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Negligible
E	Residents on south facing slopes of Abergwili (accessed from Wellfield Road)	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	2.3Km+	None	Permanent	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	Representative view 11 taken from Wellfield Road serving dwellings. View in the direction of the site looks across the Tywi Valley. Site not discernible, but ridge and roofline of the Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices glimpsed through vegetation and identified by tall communications mast. Site and proposed solar development will be screened from receptors by existing office buildings. No visual change or visual effects across all phases.	None	None	None
F	Residents on south facing	Medium	Medium	Medium	Range 1.8Km to 3.6Km	Glimpse to None	Permanent	Construction: Negligible	Views towards the site likely to be screened from ground floor level for most receptors by wider areas of housing/ development/ vegetation in Carmarthen.	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

	slopes of Carmarthen							Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	<p>Representative views 14 & 15 taken from ground level roads. Viewpoint 14 is from an elevated edge of the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Ground level views towards the site possible on seldom occasions where roads align with the direction of the site creating an open corridor/ visual break in buildings.</p> <p>It is assumed that views across the Tywi Valley in the direction of the site will be possible for receptors from second storey windows and above.</p> <p>Due to distance the site will be no more than glimpsed. Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices assimilate well in the landscape due to muted building material colour. Wider peri-urban context more prominent due to white rendered housing around Tregynwr.</p> <p>Solar scheme, where glimpsed and discerned, will replace a minor glimpse of grassland that sits in the context and curtilage of the offices. The extent of pastoral grassland evident across wider rolling hills and slopes will be unchanged and therefore the visual change will be negligible across all phases.</p> <p>Mitigation planting around the access will mature in time to soften glimpses of PV infrastructure, further reinforcing the negligible scale of effect.</p>			
G	Users of PRow to the east (ref: footpath 28/19, byway 28/20)	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	400m to 1Km	Glimpse to None	Temporary	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	<p>Representative views 4 & 5 taken from public byway and footpath respectively. View 4 shows lower elevation views closest to the solar development and 5 shows elevated views from higher ground.</p> <p>Receptors to the north using the byway passing through Towy View Park will experience no visual change due to screening from topography.</p> <p>The solar development will not be visible from locations close to viewpoint 4 due to screening from intervening riparian vegetation. From more elevated locations along the byway views are restricted by hedges and mature lines of hedgerow trees.</p> <p>Visibility from elevated locations close to viewpoint 5 are oblique and limited to a minor portion of the scheme. Glimpses would be seen in the context of adjacent buildings that screen most of the proposals. Although partly discernible, it is considered that the visual change would be negligible given only a minor portion of the wide panoramic views would change.</p> <p>Mitigation planting to the east of the scheme will form a block of scrub with trees that will mature to soften the minor component of the development that may be discernible initially. This will combine with existing riparian vegetation to further reinforce the negligible scale of effect at year 15.</p>	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Negligible
H	Users of PRow (ref: footpath 28/16) to the north of Tregynwr and west of Llangunnor	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	660m	None	Temporary	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	<p>Representative view 6 taken from PRow 28/16 close to unnamed lane at around 50m AOD. Footpath passes through the Cadw Registered Landscape of Special Interest and SLA.</p> <p>Views in the direction of the site look across a short valley featuring the B4300. The site is not discernible, but north-eastern and north-wester elevations and rooflines of the Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices are evident. These buildings screen views of the site and the proposed solar development from elevated locations along the footpath.</p> <p>To the west the footpath drops to 15m AOD. Housing and vegetation around the forked junction of the B4300 and Heol Llangynnwr Road intervene in views.</p>	None	None	None

									Receptors will experience no visual change or visual effects across all phases.			
I	Users of PRow east of Tregynwr (ref: footpath 28/4)	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	565m	None	Temporary	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	<p>Receptors attention is focused north or south in the direction of travel. Views east into the edge of the Cadw Registered Landscape of Special Interest are contained by a mature tree line. There is limited awareness of much of the wider landscape beyond the pastoral fields the footpath passes along the western edge (see viewpoint 9).</p> <p>Site falls on lower lying land and topography intervenes in views.</p> <p>Tightly framed glimpses of the roofing of Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices can be seen through tree stems. It is anticipated that these would not be discernible in Summer.</p> <p>The solar development sits at a lower elevation compared to the glimpses of roofing and would not be evident or discernible for receptors leading to no visual change.</p>	None	None	None
J	Users of elevated PRow in the wider context to the north of Carmarthen and Llangunnor (ref: footpath 61/16, 2/2 and 2/3)	High	High/ Medium	High/ Medium	Ranges 2.3Km to 2.8Km	None	Temporary	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	<p>Representative view 12 taken from a gap in field boundary hedgerow along public footpath 61/16. No representative view from footpath 2/2 and 2/3 although view 11 indicates the nature of view generally available from the locality.</p> <p>Although glimpses of the Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices can be identified from some locations, primarily due to the mass of the buildings and presence of a tall communications mast. The site itself falls beyond the buildings when viewed from the north and north east and is therefore screened from view for receptors. Similarly, the proposed solar development would be screened by these intervening buildings.</p> <p>It is considered that other public right of way routes, beyond those already mentioned and assessed, including routes 28/6, 28/18, 28/7, 28/21 and low lying routes in the Tywi Valley – including Wales Coast Path (LDF) would have no intervisibility with the proposed solar development. This is due to a combination of topography, distance, built form and/ or vegetation.</p>	None	None	None
K	Road users of Heol Llangynnnwr	Medium	Medium	Medium	10m at closest point	Glimpse	Temporary	Construction: Low/ Negligible Completion: Low/ Negligible Year 15: Negligible	<p>Receptors pass to the south of the site along Heol Llangynnnwr. Receptors dwellings are road users passing the site with transient views. Attention will be primarily focused on the direction of travel and other road users, not peripheral features that fall at a tangent. Representative views 1 & 2 are taken from the road.</p> <p>Around the site boundary Heol Llangynnnwr Roadusers enter/leave an area recognised by Cadw as a Registered Landscape of Special Interest. The road itself is not recognised as a scenic route. The site forms part of the context of the road as it arrive/leave an area with residential influences, the site is also part of the curtilage of the office buildings rather than being read as part of the wider landscape.</p> <p>As receptors heading south-east pass the site access of the Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices a fleeting glimpse across the site if afforded (viewpoint 1). From elsewhere along the road, and for users travelling north-west awareness will be limited by roadside hedgerows and tree planting (viewpoint 2).</p> <p>Mitigation planting around the access will mature in time to screen glimpses that would be more open at construction and completion. The reinforced hedgerow and planting along the wider frontage would prevent awareness from wider lengths of the road at year 15.</p>	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Minor adverse/ Negligible	Negligible

L	Road users of Heol Login Road	Medium	Medium	Medium	Ranges but 215m at closest point	Partial to Full	Permanent	Construction: Low/ Negligible Completion: Low/ Negligible Year 15: Negligible	<p>Receptors elevated above the site. Representative views 7 & 8 are taken from the road.</p> <p>Views towards the site fall at a tangent from the direction of travel and are beyond a roadside hedge maintained at varying heights (but typically low relative to the carriageway). Land to the north drops away affording road users with opportunities for wide panoramic views northward towards a horizon of rolling hills.</p> <p>The proposed solar scheme would be filtered in places by layers of intervening vegetation (VP7) but clearer from sections of the road to the west (VP8).</p> <p>Partial to full views of the development will be observed below the horizon in the middle distance. The solar development will sit in the immediate foreground of large office buildings and wide areas of car parking. The wider context is largely rural but this immediate urbanising context will lessen the visual prominence of solar panels compared to a green field with no urbanising backdrop. The solar panels will assimilate with this built context and not look incongruous in views.</p> <p>As road users are travelling at speed it is anticipated that awareness will be limited and effects Minor adverse to Negligible at worse initially. Wider, long-distance, panoramic views will be unaffected.</p> <p>Hedgerows along the site frontage would be reinforced to create a more robust habitat corridor/ planted buffer. Hedgerow species would be allowed to grow taller than they are currently and would be reinforced with tree planting to complement trees currently present. Mitigation would mature in time to further soften and punctuate views. It is considered that the PV infrastructure would be largely unnoticeable to road users and the scale of change would be negligible by year 15.</p>	Minor Adverse/ Negligible	Minor Adverse/ Negligible	Negligible
M	Road users of unnamed Lane to the east of the site	Medium/ High	Medium	Medium/ High	Ranges but 370m at closest point	None	Temporary	Construction: None Completion: None Year 15: None	<p>Representative views 3 & 4 are taken from the unnamed lane. The lane meanders and is quiet (use by through traffic not evident during site visit), it has a largely rural character and is a characteristic of the Registered Landscape of Special Interest identified by recognised by Cadw. A section of the lane (in closest proximity to the site) defines the edge of the SLA (see figure 4).</p> <p>View 3 shows an at grade view through a field access (views towards the site from along the lane are otherwise obscured by hedgerows).</p> <p>Viewpoint 4 look towards the site from another field access, however intervening riparian vegetation screens Winter views, screening would be more complete in Summer. All views towards the site fall at a tangent to the direction of travel for road users passing along this single track lane.</p> <p>Due to screening from vegetation, which falls at a range of distances, the solar development will not be visible for receptors.</p>	None	None	None
N	Users of roads in the wider context of Carmarthen that align broadly with the site e.g. Heol Penlanffos Road, Prosser Close, and Brewery Road.	Medium/ Low	Medium	Medium	Ranges but typically from south facing slopes across the Tywi Valley so 1.9Km to 2.4Km	Glimpse to None	Permanent	Construction: Negligible Completion: Negligible Year 15: Negligible	<p>Views towards the site and proposed solar scheme within Carmarthen are limited to a handful of opportunities where roads happen to align broadly south-east in the direction of the site.</p> <p>The urban context of the roads creates an open corridor/ visual break in buildings, that often tightly frame views.</p> <p>View opportunities for road users also only occur where road elevations are equivalent or higher than the elevation of the site and receptors are travelling in the direction of the site (not away from the site). Two example representative viewpoints are 14 & 15 taken from Brewery Road and Prosser Close respectively. Both locations are roads with parked cars, traffic and side roads,</p>	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None	Negligible/ None

									<p>driveways, business access that will likely occupy road users full attention. Viewpoint 14 is taken from the edge of the conservation area but this is not considered to change receptors sensitivity overall.</p> <p>Due to distance and intervening or tightly framing features, the solar scheme will be no more than glimpsed and will appear as a minor, oblique component of much wider and visually 'busy' views. From the representative locations, Dyfed Powys Police and Welsh Ambulance Service Offices assimilate well in the landscape due to muted building material colours. It is anticipated that the solar scheme, which falls close to ground level would similarly assimilate within views such that it wouldn't be readily discernible.</p> <p>Overall, given the limited opportunities for views and negligible likelihood of the scheme being discernible for transient road users, visual change is considered to be negligible.</p> <p>Mitigation planting around the access will mature in time to further soften glimpses of PV infrastructure, reinforcing the negligible scale of effect.</p>			
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