

9. Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Executive Summary

This chapter assesses the effects of the proposed development on landscape and seascape character, and on visual amenity. The approach to the assessment is based on Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3) and the criteria used has been informed by the scoping stage consultation response from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA). A study area extending to a 15 km radius around the proposed development was adopted following further consultation with the PCNPA.

The assessment of effects on character considers the effects on various landscape and seascape character areas identified by Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and PCNPA in published studies. Relevant areas (those potentially subject to significant effects) were identified at scoping stage and through consultation with the two authorities. The assessment of visual effects has principally drawn on detailed consideration of 33 representative viewpoints which were agreed with PCC, PCNPA and Natural Resources Wales (NRW). These representative viewpoints include a number along the route of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail (PCPNT) and several at sea in St Brides Bay.

The significance of effects has been established by combining an assessment of landscape and visual sensitivity with an assessment of the magnitude of change that would occur. Landscape and visual sensitivity across parts of the study area is high due to the presence of the National Park designation; the presence of the coastal National Trail; and the simple and open character of the landscape including its generally uninterrupted skylines.

The principal landscape and visual effects would arise as a result of the proposed antennas which would be up to approximately 21.5 m in height. The elevated and open site means that these would potentially be visible over a wide area and sometimes over long distances. The magnitude of landscape and visual change would however diminish considerably over greater distances due to their limited height.

Careful consideration has been given to how the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development could be reduced and mitigated. Tree planting has been proposed in a number of locations to soften the visual effects of the proposed development and to deliver improved integration of the site with the surrounding landscape. The extent of this planting has however been constrained by operational requirements and the ecological value of grassland at the site.

The greater part of the study area and areas of the PCNP within it would not be subject to effects due to falling outside of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) of the proposed development or due to distance from the site. The assessment has not identified any landscape, seascape or visual effects which would be categorised as Very Substantial. Some landscape and visual effects have, however, been identified as significant - either categorised as Substantial or Moderate. In general, these significant landscape and visual effects principally reflect the high sensitivity of the receiving environment rather than a high magnitude of landscape and visual change upon it. In those limited areas from which it would be visible the effects of the proposed development would diminish considerably with distance. The significant landscape and visual effects of the proposed development would principally be limited to occasional elevated areas and transient views within the PCNP to the south of the site at distances of less than 8 km.



9.1. Introduction

- 9.1.1. This chapter presents information required by the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017¹⁶⁵. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, this Environmental Statement (ES) chapter reports the potential significant effects of the proposed development on landscape character (including seascape) and on visual amenity.
- 9.1.2. In doing so it includes an assessment of the landscape effects of the proposed development on the relevant Special Qualities of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (PCNP) and an assessment of the sequential visual effect (over time) on the visual amenity of users of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail (PCPNT). The chapter provides a description of existing baseline conditions, consideration of potential impacts, and identification of proportionate mitigation for likely significant adverse effects resulting from the proposed development.
- 9.1.3. The approach to the assessments builds upon the EIA Scoping Report (March 2023) submitted to Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) and consultation outlined in Table 9.3 and has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Scoping Opinion (May 2023) for the proposed development from PCC. Following receipt of the Scoping Opinion, further consultation was undertaken with PCC, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to refine the approach, and the assessment reflects both the Scoping Opinion, and the subsequent consultation and agreements reached. The methodology is based upon the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3)¹⁶⁶ as outlined in the EIA Scoping Report. Comments received from PCNPA as part of the Scoping Opinion, as well as input from follow-up consultation, have also been considered in the approach taken.
- 9.1.4. This chapter is based on the proposed development as described in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development)¹⁶⁷, and is supported by the following appendices and figures, and includes cross-references to other chapters and figures where appropriate:
- Appendix 9.1 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria);
 - Appendix 9.2 (Visualisation Methodology);
 - Appendix 9.3 (Representative Viewpoint Assessment);
 - Figure 9.1 (Landscape Planning Policy Context);
 - Figure 9.2 (Topographical Context);
 - Figure 9.3 (Landscape Character Context);
 - Figure 9.4 (Seascape Character Context);
 - Figure 9.5 (Visual Context (including ZTV) and Representative Viewpoints); and

¹⁶⁵ Welsh Government (2017) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. Available at: The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017

¹⁶⁶ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical/glvia3-panel/>

¹⁶⁷ It should be noted that whilst the proposed antennas would reach a maximum height of up to approximately 21.5 m, the assessment presented in this ES Chapter (ES Chapter 9) is based upon a previous design of up to 22.5 m total height. The impacts presented in this chapter are therefore considered to present a precautionary worst-case basis.



- Figures 9.6.1 to 9.6.33 (Visualisations).

9.1.5. Although linked, landscape and visual effects are considered separately. Landscape effects derive from changes in the landscape fabric, which may result in changes to the character, whereas visual effects are the effect of these changes as experienced by people (visual receptors). Effects on the setting of any heritage assets including Listed Buildings are assessed in Chapter 10 (Archaeology and Built Heritage). The Transport and Access assessment, which includes public rights of way, is presented in Chapter 5 (Transport and Access). The lighting assessment is presented in Chapter 16 (Lighting).

9.2. Legislation and Policy

9.2.1. The national legislation and regulatory frameworks applicable to this assessment of landscape character (including seascape) and visual amenity effects are summarised in this section.

9.2.2. This section identifies the relevant policies and focuses on current adopted policy and does not consider the potential for change arising from draft or, as yet, un-adopted policy.

Legislation

9.2.3. The United Kingdom is a signatory to the European Landscape Convention, adopted in October 2000, which promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscape and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. The Convention recognises the importance of all landscapes (not just those that are formally designated as of particular value) and encourages the protection and management of their character.

National Policy

9.2.4. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 2024¹⁶⁸ sets out the Welsh Government's planning policy framework for the whole of Wales, including the Welsh Government's expectation for content and quality of planning applications and local plan policy. PPW sets out the policy which the proposed development should comply with. It is also the basis for informing a judgement on the impacts of a development, for example whether the proposed development is consistent with the requirements of PPW.

9.2.5. National planning policy for Wales also comprises of Future Wales – the National Plan 2040¹⁶⁹. This and PPW are supported by Technical Advice Notes (TANs).

9.2.6. Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 has been prepared by the Welsh Government. This is a spatial plan and is the National Development Framework for Wales to the year 2040. This is the overarching plan upon which Welsh Strategic and Local Development plans have been based.

9.2.7. The above policies are supplemented by TAN 12 - Design¹⁷⁰, adopted March 2016, which provides advice on promoting sustainability through good design and planning for sustainable building.

¹⁶⁸ Welsh Government, 2024. Planning Policy Wales. Available at: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-12_1.pdf

¹⁶⁹ Welsh Government (2025) Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040>

¹⁷⁰ Welsh Government (2016) Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan12-design.pdf>



- 9.2.8. In addition, the Welsh National Marine Plan¹⁷¹, adopted November 2019, sets out the policies of the Welsh Government for the sustainable development of the Welsh marine area for the next 20 years.
- 9.2.9. The policies that have been identified from the above documents as being relevant to the proposed development have been summarised in the table below.

Table 9.1: Summary of National Planning Policies

Policy Name	Relevant Policies
	<p><u>Good Design Principles - Character</u></p> <p>This document states that the special characteristics of an area should be central to a development's design and that both its visual appearance and relationship to its surroundings are important planning considerations. It can also be appropriate to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness in areas recognised for their particular landscape character and value.</p> <p><u>Recognising the Special Characteristics of Places:</u></p> <p><i>Landscape</i></p> <p>This document recognises the importance of Welsh landscapes for their contribution to a sense of place and that local authorities should protect and enhance their special characteristics. Given this, landscape should be considered at the outset when formulating development plans and when proposing development to ensure that Special Qualities are retained and enhanced. Where adverse effects on landscape character cannot be avoided, planning permission should be refused.</p> <p><i>National Parks</i></p> <p>This states that National Parks should be given the highest status of protection from inappropriate development. As such, the Special Qualities of National Parks should be given weight in the development planning process and special considerations apply to major development proposals which are more national than local in character.</p>
Planning Policy Wales	<p>Major development should only take place in National Parks in exceptional circumstances, such as an overriding public need where refusal would be severely detrimental to the local economy and there is no potential for locating the development elsewhere or meeting the need in another way.</p>
Future Wales – The National Plan 2040	<p><u>Policy 19 – Strategic Policies for Regional Planning</u></p> <p>This policy acknowledges the importance of National Parks as unique planning entities with a specific remit to reflect the distinctive characteristics of their areas.</p>
	<p><u>Character</u></p> <p>Character is cited as a key objective for delivering good design. This includes sustaining or enhancing local character by responding to landscapes/ townscape, locally distinctive patterns, features and landmarks. Landscape design is stated as a key design solution to achieve this character objective.</p> <p><u>Landscape and Townscape</u></p> <p>This document recognises that how development relates to its rural landscape or seascape context is essential to its design success.</p> <p><u>Rural Areas</u></p>
TAN 12 - Design	<p>The Special Qualities of the rural landscape and Welsh coastline should be recognised and enhanced through conserving rural character and by achieving quality in new development.</p>

¹⁷¹ Welsh Government (2019) Available at: gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-11/welsh-national-marine-plan-document_0.pdf

Policy Name	Relevant Policies
Welsh National Marine Plan	<u>Policy SOC_06 - Designated Landscapes</u> This policy sets out the requirement that proposals demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and Special Qualities of National Parks have been considered. Where significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding.

Local Planning Policy

- 9.2.10. The site is located within the jurisdiction of PCC. In addition, the site is located immediately to the north and east of the PCNPA. Local Planning Policy therefore comprises two key documents; the Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan (2013)¹⁷² and the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Local Development Plan 2 (2020)¹⁷³. Each of these is supported by various adopted supplementary planning guidance documents issued by each authority.
- 9.2.11. The Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan (LDP), adopted February 2013, is the current adopted LDP for that part of Pembrokeshire that lies outside of the National Park. This chapter makes reference to the current LDP and the planning statement for the proposed development considers emerging policies and therefore considers the LDP Review which is currently being developed.
- 9.2.12. The PCNPA LDP 2, adopted September 2020, sets out the long-term vision for the National Park until 2031 as well as the objectives and land use policies needed to deliver that vision. It also sets out the twelve Special Qualities of the National Park. The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan (MP) 2020-2024¹⁷⁴, adopted in December 2019, sets out action in pursuit of the National Park's purposes of conservation, enjoyment and understanding. In addition, the Special Qualities of the National Park Background Paper¹⁷⁵, adopted March 2018, provides further details on the characteristics of each Special Quality.
- 9.2.13. PCNPA's Supplementary Planning Guidance: Sustainable Design and Development¹⁷⁶, adopted May 2021, sets out design principles and considerations for development within the National Park.
- 9.2.14. Policies that have been identified in the above documents as being relevant to the assessment of the landscape, seascape and visual effects of the proposed development have been summarised in the table below.

¹⁷² Pembrokeshire County Council (2013). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-development-plan>

¹⁷³ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (2020). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2/>

¹⁷⁴ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (2019). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/National-Park-Management-Plan-2020-2024-Eng-1.pdf>

¹⁷⁵ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (2018). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Special-Qualities-Background-Paper-Updated-March-2018.pdf>

¹⁷⁶ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (2021). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/FINAL-Sus-Design-SPG-Eng-1.pdf>

Table 9.2: Summary of Local Planning Policies

Policy Name	Relevant Policies
Pembrokeshire County Council LDP	<p><u>Policy GN.1 – General Development Policy</u></p> <p>Development will be permitted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature, location, siting and scale of the proposed development is compatible with the site’s character and the area where it is located. • There would be no significant detrimental impact on visual amenity. <p><u>Policy GN.2 – Sustainable Design</u></p> <p><u>Development will be permitted where the design:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects local distinctiveness and contributes positively to the local context. • Is appropriate to the local character and landscape/townscape context.
	<p><u>Policy 1 – National Park Purposes and Duty</u></p> <p>Development in the National Park must be compatible with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the National Park. • The public understanding and enjoyment of its Special Qualities. <p><u>Policy 8 – Special Qualities</u></p> <p>The Special Qualities of the National Park should be conserved and enhanced, where possible, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its sense of remoteness and tranquillity. • The identity and character of towns and villages. • The pattern and diversity of the landscape. <p>Development of the undeveloped coast should be avoided and sites within the developed coast should only be for uses that need a coastal location.</p> <p><u>Policy 14 – Conservation and enhancement of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park</u></p> <p>Development which would have an unacceptable adverse effect on the qualities and special landscape/seascape character of the National Park, including locally distinctive characteristics, will not be permitted including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causing visual intrusion. • Introducing/intensifying a use which is incompatible with its location. • No harmonisation with or enhancement of the landform, landscape and seascape character of the National Park. • A loss of or failure to incorporate important traditional features. <p>Cumulative impact and matters of detail will be given special consideration when assessing the impact upon the Special Qualities of the National Park in respect of both Policies 8 and 14 above.</p> <p><u>Priority A – Special Qualities of the National Park</u></p> <p>The Special Qualities of the National Park are those characteristics and features of the National Park which individually or in combination contribute to making it unique. The twelve Special Qualities are listed as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coastal splendour 2. Diverse geology 3. Diversity of landscape 4. Distinctive settlement character

The Pembrokeshire Coast
National Park Authority LDP
2

Policy Name	Relevant Policies
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Rich historic environment 6. Cultural heritage 7. Richness of habitats and biodiversity 8. Islands 9. Accessibility 10. Space to breathe 11. Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness 12. The diversity of experiences and combination of individual qualities.
<p>The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority SPG:</p> <p>Sustainable Design and Development</p>	<p><u>Landscape and Biodiversity</u></p> <p>This document recognises that buildings and settlements within the National Park contribute significantly to its landscape character and Special Qualities. Thus, building design must be sensitive to the character of its landscape setting and enhance rather than detract from its Special Qualities.</p>
<p>Other Guidance:</p> <p><i>The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority MP</i></p>	<p><u>Policy L1: Conserve and enhance National Park landscapes and seascapes</u></p> <p>This policy states that development should be managed in accordance with the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park LDP 2. Field boundaries and trees in the landscape should be restored and new woodland strips and hedgerows created, considering landscape character.</p>

9.3. Methodology

9.3.1. The following section describes the methodology used to determine the likely significant effects on landscape, seascape and visual amenity as a result of the proposed development.

9.3.2. Throughout the environmental assessment process consideration has been given to the potential landscape and visual effects that could arise at nighttime due to any lighting proposed as part of the development. In earlier stages it was anticipated that new security perimeter fencing may need to be lit. Through the iterative design development process, the lighting requirements associated with the proposed development have been reduced and are now very limited. A detailed assessment of nighttime landscape and visual effects has therefore not been considered necessary, particularly given the highly illuminated baseline associated with the current military base. Further details and an assessment of lighting are provided in Chapter 16 (Lighting).

Study Area

9.3.3. Consideration has been given to the extent over which potentially significant landscape, seascape and visual effects could occur as a result of the proposed development. The proposed antennas would reach a maximum height of up to approximately 21.5 m when tilted to approximately 45 degrees. They are to be located on the open plateau of the disused airfield at Cawdor which generally lies at an elevation of between approximately 100 m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) and 110 m AOD. The surrounding landscape is generally very open in character. In this context, the (computer-generated) Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) for the proposed development (see Figure 9.5 which uses surface data to take account of the screening effect of landcover within 5 km of the proposed development) identifies the potential for visibility over long distances, particularly from coastal locations around St Brides Bay.

9.3.4. Furthermore, the presence of the PCNP and PCPNT indicates the presence of landscape, seascape and visual receptors of high sensitivity with the potential to experience significant effects as a consequence of relatively limited visual change over long distances. This was underlined during post-scoping consultations with the PCNPA during which they requested the assessment of representative viewpoints on the PCPNT at distances exceeding 10 km.



- 9.3.5. Consequently, a study area covering a 15 km radius around the proposed development has been adopted for the assessment of landscape, seascape and visual effects. This ensures that the visual amenity of the greater part of the PCNPT around St Brides Bay between St Brides to the south and Porthlysgi to the west has been considered, including the potential for sequential visual effects along this well used and promoted long distance route (designation and promotion of the PCNPT means that a proportion of users would seek to walk the whole or significant lengths of the route over several days).
- 9.3.6. Although a large study area has been adopted, the proportionate assessment within that extensive study area is principally concerned with effects upon the sensitive PCNP and PCNPT to the south and west of the proposed development. Less focus has been attributed to potential long-distance effects on landscape and visual receptors outside of the PCNP to the east of the site where the assessment has principally focused on visual receptors within local communities within approximately 5 km of the site. The assessment has focused on areas within approximately 5 km to the north of the site due to the limited potential for long distance visibility from this direction. The assessment of seascape effects has been limited to the waters within St Brides Bay and around Ramsey Island which lie approximately 15 km to the south-west of the site (this also reflects the outcome of post scoping consultations with the PCNPA).

Baseline

- 9.3.7. Baseline landscape and visual information has been collated from the following sources:
- OS mapping (with particular reference to 1:25,000 OS mapping showing topography, landcover and the extent of built development);
 - Terrain data (including surface data which takes account of landcover) to understand the topography and levels of potential visibility;
 - Aerial photography;
 - A review of the current adopted development plans for both PCC and the PCNPA;
 - A review of the landscape and seascape character assessments published by the two authorities;
 - Daytime site assessment including a visit to the disused airfield (to look out over the surrounding landscape) and the photography and assessment of the representative viewpoints;
 - A brief nighttime site visit to observe baseline levels of lighting on and around the immediate site (the necessity of this was reduced once the iterative design development process confirmed that only very minimal, dark-sky compliant, lighting was to be required as per Chapter 3: Proposed Development); and
 - Feedback recorded at public consultation events held in Solva and St Davids in September 2024.

Consultation

- 9.3.8. An EIA Scoping Report was submitted to PCC in March 2023. A Scoping Opinion was received in response to the EIA Scoping Report (May 2023). The applicant's responses to the Scoping Opinion are contained in the Scoping Opinion Response, Appendix 2.1 (Scoping Opinion Response).
- 9.3.9. The principal consultees for the landscape, seascape and visual impact assessment have been PCC and the PCNPA. NRW also nominated one specific viewpoint in their scoping response but further consultation with them was not deemed necessary. Responses from these consultees on landscape and visual matters were initially contained within PCC's EIA

Scoping Opinion letter dated 15th May 2023. Table 9.3 below summarises further consultation undertaken since receipt of the Scoping Opinion. Consultations have focused on:

- Agreement to the final schedule of 33 representative viewpoints (both terrestrial and seascape) to be used as the basis for the visual assessment. Eleven viewpoints were proposed in the original EIA Scoping Report. A large number of additional viewpoints were then requested within the EIA Scoping Opinion with a small degree of duplication. Later, re-confirmation of the agreed viewpoints in light of changes to the likely layout of the proposed development was undertaken.
- Agreement on the required approach to seascape assessment (involving going out to sea) and the viewpoints to be used.
- By implication of the agreed representative viewpoints, agreement to a 15 km radius study area.
- The need to consider the sequential visual effect on users of the PCNPT as significant lengths of the overall route are often walked over several days.
- Agreement to viewpoint photography in one season only (the open nature of the landscape meant that either summer or winter photography was deemed by the PCNPA to be appropriate).

Table 9.3: Summary of Consultation

Consultee	Form of Consultation	Topics Discussed and Actions Agreed
PCC	Email correspondence – various dates February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original consultation with PCC to agree the eleven viewpoints proposed in the EIA Scoping Report.
PCNPA	Teams meeting – 25 May 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewpoint agreement – the PCNPA indicated a preference that all viewpoints scheduled by them in their EIA Scoping Opinion response letter be included in the assessment, including several positions along the coast path in relatively close proximity to one another. • Approach to seascape assessment – the PCNPA confirmed their expectation that seascape viewpoint photography would be secured using a boat and rejected assessment of seascape from viewpoint positions along the coast path. • Wider study area – the PCNPA confirmed an expectation that effects over distances of up to 15 km should be included. • Seasonality – due to the open nature of the landscape the PCNPA agreed that viewpoint photography would be appropriate in either winter or summer and that photography in both seasons was not considered necessary.
PCC	Email correspondence – 2nd August 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCC agreed to the omission of a requested viewpoint at Carn Llidi following adoption of that requested by the PCNPA at nearby Penberry.

PCNPA	Email correspondence (supported by issue of revised ZTV information) – 25 August 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewpoint agreement – following receipt of more detailed ZTVs, the PCNPA confirmed a preference that all viewpoints scheduled by them in their EIA Scoping Opinion response letter be included in the assessment, including several positions along the coast path in relatively close proximity to one another.
PCNPA	Email correspondence (supported by issue of revised ZTV information) – 1st February 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-confirmation of agreed viewpoints following change to the layout of the proposed development (relocation of the transmit array from the north to the south of Cawdor Barracks).
Public and Community Council Members	Public consultation events in Solva and St Davids – 13th and 14th September 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LVIA lead attended public event. General input including highlighting of those viewpoints that are considered of greatest importance to the local community including Brawdy Road (C3010) along the eastern boundary of Cawdor Barracks and the descent of the A487 towards Newgale from Roch.

9.3.10. In PCNPA's EIA Scoping Opinion consultation response letter, dated 04 May 2023, PCNPA also set out specific requests relating to the landscape, seascape and visual assessment methodology. These requests are summarised below. Whether and how they have been accommodated is then set out in the Methodology and Assessment Criteria section of this chapter.

9.3.11. The PCNPA suggested that five levels of effect should be used to describe landscape, seascape, visual and cumulative effects in order to duly reflect the complexity and range of effects:

- 'Very substantial;
- Substantial;
- Moderate;
- Slight; and
- Not significant.'

9.3.12. This request is further considered in the Methodology and Assessment Criteria section of this chapter which explains that it has been accommodated in a slightly amended form to ensure clarity regarding which levels of effect are categorised as significant.

9.3.13. The PCNPA also advised that an assessment should be carried out for each of the Special Qualities, which are defined as those characteristics and features which individually or in combination contribute to making the National Park unique.

9.3.14. The PCNPA advised that an assessment for each Special Quality should include the following:

- 'Likely changes caused by the proposed development;
- Whether effects are beneficial, neutral, or adverse and reasoned justification;
- Duration of effect; and
- Whether the changes are important, including whether they conserve, enhance, or harm the special quality.'



- 9.3.15. The PCNPA also advised that the above assessments should be combined to determine the overall landscape and visual effects on the National Park and that this should contribute to wider consideration of the effect of the development on the main National Park purpose.

Methodology and Assessment Criteria

- 9.3.16. The assessment considers the landscape and the visual effects of the proposed development. Landscape and visual effects are closely related but different. Landscape effects relate to effects of the proposed development on the landscape resource including landscape character areas, seascape character areas, and landscape designations (the overall effect of the proposed development on the PCNP). Visual effects relate to the specific views experienced by people in different locations. The following sets out the methodology for assessing both landscape and visual effects. This is supported by Appendix 9.1 which sets out in detail the specific criteria used.
- 9.3.17. The methodology used to assess the landscape effects (including on seascape and the overall effect on the PCNP) and visual effects of the proposed development is based on the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment GLVIA Third Edition (GLVIA3), published in April 2013¹⁷⁷. GLVIA3 states that any assessment should be tailored to the specific nature and likely potential effects of the development proposed. The methodology and criteria used by this assessment has also been informed by consultee comments received during scoping including specific requests made by the PCNPA.
- 9.3.18. The approach to the assessment of effects is based on the following process:
- Identification of the landscape, seascape and visual receptors that might experience change as a result of the proposed development;
 - Assessment of the sensitivity of the landscape, seascape and visual receptors (combining judgements about their value and susceptibility);
 - Identification of mitigation requirements and enhancement opportunities;
 - Assessment of the magnitude of likely change to landscape, seascape and visual receptors during construction and operation (the latter also considering whether the magnitude of change would differ between year 1 and year 15 as a consequence of any proposed planting); and
 - Assessment of the level and significance of likely residual effects during construction and operation (following mitigation with the latter also considering whether the magnitude of change would differ between year 1 and year 15 as a consequence of any proposed planting) by combining sensitivity and magnitude of change.
- 9.3.19. The assessment of the landscape effects of the proposed development adopts the spatial framework provided by existing local landscape and seascape character studies undertaken for and published by both PCC and the PCNPA. Landscape and seascape character areas (LCAs and SCAs) identified within these published studies have been adopted in this assessment unamended with no additional project specific landscape or seascape characterisation or sub-division of landscape character areas considered necessary to provide a full and proper understanding of landscape and seascape effects.
- 9.3.20. It is noted that there is a degree of spatial overlap between the PCNPA's separately identified landscape and seascape character areas (with the identified seascape character areas also incorporating terrestrial areas along the coastline). The assessment in this chapter of the

¹⁷⁷ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013). Available at: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/technical/glvia3-panel/>

effects of the proposed development on landscape character areas and then on seascape character areas is not, however, considered to duplicate (or double count) matters as the focus of each assessment differs in emphasis.

- 9.3.21. The assessment of the visual effects of the proposed development draws on detailed consideration of 33 agreed representative viewpoints. These representative viewpoints are used as a proxy to consider the likely visual effects across the wider study area and on different categories of visual receptor. The selected representative viewpoints encompass views from residential locations, footpath routes and roads but an assessment of every individual receptor within each category has not been deemed necessary nor proportionate. Drawing on several of the representative viewpoints, the assessment does, however, also consider the sequential visual effects (over time) on users of key recreational routes such as the PCNPT and Sustrans National Cycle Route 4 (NCR4).
- 9.3.22. The sensitivity of landscape and seascape character areas and the principal visual receptors at the representative viewpoints is categorised as follows in line with requests made during scoping by the PCNPA:
- High sensitivity;
 - Medium sensitivity;
 - Low sensitivity; and
 - Negligible sensitivity.
- 9.3.23. This is consistent with GLVIA3 and the suggestion made by the PCNPA in their consultation response appended to PCC's EIA Scoping Opinion. The detailed criteria used for each level of sensitivity are given in Appendix 9.1 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria). Separate criteria are provided for landscape and visual receptors. Criteria for determining landscape sensitivity combine judgements on landscape value (principally reflected through formal designation) and the susceptibility of the existing landscape character to change (the degree to which the landscape is robust to the type of change proposed as a result of key characteristics such as scale, pattern, simplicity, the presence of existing vertical features and the types of built structures already present). Criteria for determining visual sensitivity also combine judgements on the value of existing views and receptor susceptibility. For visual receptors this principally reflects the category of receptor (the activity they are involved in) and the importance likely to be attributed by them to their visual amenity whilst there. People at residential locations or using valued and scenic recreational routes are regarded as displaying higher visual sensitivity whilst people at commercial locations or places of work are regarded as displaying lower visual sensitivity.
- 9.3.24. The magnitude of change to landscape and seascape character areas and at representative viewpoints as a result of the proposed development is categorised as follows:
- High;
 - Medium;
 - Low; and
 - Negligible or no change.
- 9.3.25. This is consistent with the suggestion made by the PCNPA in their consultation response appended to PCC's EIA Scoping Opinion. The criteria for each level of magnitude of change are given in Appendix 9.1 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria). Separate criteria are provided for landscape and visual changes. Criteria for determining landscape change consider the degree, extent, duration and potential reversibility of the landscape changes likely to arise as a result of the proposed development. This is undertaken

in the context of existing character to consider whether the proposed development would be consistent with or at odds with existing features, patterns and key characteristics. Criteria for determining visual change similarly consider the degree, extent, duration and potential reversibility of changes to views, but with a focus on whether the proposed development would be visually prominent within the view or broadly consistent with, and accommodated by, what is already present.

9.3.26. The level of effect on each landscape and seascape character area or at each representative viewpoint (combining judgements on both the sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of change) is categorised as follows:

- Very substantial;
- Substantial;
- Moderate;
- Slight; and
- Negligible.

9.3.27. The level of effect is determined by combining the sensitivity of the receptor with the magnitude of change it is likely to experience. Combining these is a matter of professional judgement supported by narrative and clear reasoning. Table 2 of Appendix 9.1 (Landscape, Seascape and Visual Impact Assessment Criteria) provides an illustrative matrix to describe the general approach to combining sensitivity and magnitude of change. However, the matrix provides a guide only and, in accordance with the principles set out GLVIA3, is subject to moderation (with clearly stated reasoning) through the application of the assessor's professional judgement. Other than for negligible effects, levels of effect are categorised as either adverse, neutral or beneficial. Very substantial, substantial and moderate levels of effect are considered to be significant.

9.3.28. The adoption of five levels of effect in this assessment reflects a request to do so in the PCNPA's consultation response appended to PCC's EIA Scoping Opinion. A change to PCNPA's request has been made in that the lowest level of effect is referred to in this assessment as 'negligible' rather than 'not significant'. Slight levels of effect are considered by this assessment to be not significant.

Assumptions and Limitations

9.3.29. The construction and operational phase assessments have been based on the proposed development description presented in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development) and the design presented in Figure 3.1 (Proposed Development Overview) and Figure 3.2 (Proposed Construction Overview), to establish a realistic worst-case assessment scenario.

9.3.30. There are no material assumptions within, or identified limitations to, the assessments of landscape (including seascape) and visual effects.

9.4. Baseline Conditions

9.4.1. Cawdor Barracks is located within a rural area on the St David's peninsula in Pembrokeshire (see Figure 1.1). It lies within the jurisdiction of PCC but the boundary of the PCNPA extends to within approximately 200 m of its southern boundary in the vicinity of the A487 at Penycwm village. The surrounding area is predominantly characterised by agricultural land with the Pembrokeshire coastline and Newgale Beach located approximately 1 km to the south.

9.4.2. In broad terms, higher ground is located 'inland' to the north and east with the greater part of the PCNP and coastline at slightly lower elevations to the south and west. The PCNP extends



to within approximately 0.6 km of some of the proposed antennas (the southern transmit array) with the closest section of the PCPNT at a distance of approximately 1 km to the south-west.

Site Description

- 9.4.3. The application site is located at Cawdor Barracks (see Figure 1.1.). Cawdor Barracks is currently used as a working military base though the application site itself is largely on the disused airfield. It is centred at OS Grid Reference SM 85206 25339, with the nearest on-site post code being SA62 6AT.

Topography

- 9.4.4. The disused airfield at Cawdor Barracks occupies a plateau landform and largely sits above the surrounding landscape of the study area to the south and west but with some more elevated areas to the east. There is a slight fall from the highest part of Cawdor Barracks, at the point where the runways converge, out towards its boundaries.
- 9.4.5. Figure 9.2 provides a topographical analysis of the 15 km radius study area. The midpoint of the Cawdor Barracks plateau (where the receive array of 21 antennas is proposed) peaks at around 110 m above ordinance datum (AOD) with the edges of the plateau areas grading out to approximately 105 m AOD. The built-up areas largely associated with the barracks accommodation to the south-west are situated on slightly lower ground at between approximately 80 m and 100 m AOD. To put this in context:

- The landscape to the north-east and east of the site (outside of the PCNP) rises within approximately 5 km to an elevation of approximately 160 m AOD (near Tre-Howell) and 175 m AOD (at Dudwell Mountain);
- There are elevated areas above site levels also associated with the hills around Rhyndaston and Haycastle located approximately 3 to 4 km to the east (this provides opportunities for views down across the site from more elevated ground outside of the PCNP);
- Coastal areas of the PCNP to the south and west of Cawdor Barracks generally lie at a slightly lower elevation than the site (with the notable exception of the hills of Carn Llidi, Carn Perfedd and Penberry located approximately 8 to 10 km to the west); and
- The greater part of the route of the PCPNT lies at elevations below 100 m AOD meaning that views from the path are generally looking upward towards the higher plateau at Cawdor Barracks. For example, even the more elevated sections of the trail at Lochvane (approximately 2 km to the west), Ricketts Head (approximately 5 km to the south), Haroldston Chins (approximately 8 km to the south) and Borough Head (approximately 11 km to the south) lie at approximately 80 m AOD or below.

Site Areas

- 9.4.6. The site of Cawdor Barracks (see Figure 1.1) is split into two main areas: the disused airfield to the north and east and the barracks to the south-west, as summarised below:

Disused Airfield

- The disused airfield lies outside of the secure and lit perimeter fence around the barracks buildings to its south-west;
- The airfield to the north and east of the secure and lit perimeter fence comprises three redundant runways, associated infrastructure and a redundant Explosives Storage Area (ESA). There is a sports field and assault course in the south-western area of the airfield and a cross-country running course in the northern area (these lie outside of the secure and lit perimeter fence); and



- The elevated plateau is very open with very limited areas of tree cover.

The Barracks

- The lower lying barracks to the south-west are surrounded by a secure and lit perimeter fence;
- The 'technical area' defined by the secure perimeter fence features ancillary buildings and structures; and
- The barracks consist of a series of accommodation blocks, mess halls and married quarters, located in the lower area of the site.

Vegetation

- 9.4.7. The greater part of Cawdor Barracks is very open with little vegetation or trees, particularly in the disused airfield area. Most of Cawdor Barracks comprises grassed areas which are generally larger and more geometric in shape within the airfield than in the rest of Cawdor Barracks. There are also some areas of dense scrub, particularly in the north-east corner of the barracks area.
- 9.4.8. There are some small, scattered areas of woodland and hedgerow as well as a few individual trees in the barracks area to the south-west of Cawdor Barracks providing some screening for the buildings. These include visually prominent pines in a few locations. There are also a small number of irregular shaped agricultural fields in the south and south-west corner of Cawdor Barracks, which are enclosed by hedgerow field boundaries.
- 9.4.9. Where the boundary of Cawdor Barracks borders open agricultural land, primarily to the north and south, it is partially enclosed by gappy hedgerow field boundaries comprising hedges/hedgebanks or dense scrub. Where Cawdor Barracks borders roads, primarily to the east and west, it is partially enclosed by hedges/hedgebanks, with large gaps in some places. These gaps have been filled by a wire perimeter fence for security reasons.

Lighting

- 9.4.10. The rural area surrounding Cawdor Barracks is generally relatively dark at night, with only small clusters of lights associated with small settlements and individual farms being visible across the landscape. A caravan park directly next to Cawdor Barracks to the west does not have any street lighting but does have some low-level lighting at its entrance. Street lighting is generally absent from the A487 with the exception of occasional limited lighting where it passes through settlements (for example, there is low level street lighting through the settlement at Newgale but lighting is absent within the closest settlement of Penycwm).
- 9.4.11. In contrast, the existing military site at Cawdor Barracks is currently subject at night to very high levels of visually prominent lighting. It features tall lighting columns along the entire length of its secure perimeter fence around the barracks buildings (also known as the technical area) which extend onto elevated areas of the plateau to the west of the disused runways. The lighting columns are estimated to be approximately 6 to 8 m in height and given the plateau location and open setting, this lighting along the perimeter fence line is widely visible and visually prominent in many views at night from the surrounding countryside. This visually prominent lighting source is further consolidated by high levels of lighting within the barracks buildings area, and within adjacent business areas.
- 9.4.12. The perimeter lighting can be seen intermittently to the north of Cawdor Barracks. There are also more occasional intermittent views of the lighting columns from the east between gaps in hedges. Clusters of brighter lights associated with the site buildings can also be seen, in addition to the perimeter fence lighting columns, at various points along the A487 to the south between gaps in vegetation/hedges.

Landscape Character Context

- 9.4.13. Published landscape character assessments are available at the national and local level. Although reference to relevant national landscape character areas (NLCAs) has been included below to introduce the study area and to give context, the assessment of the effects of the proposed development subsequently focuses on the finer grained local landscape and seascape character areas identified within the 15 km radius study area by PCC and the PCNPA.

National Landscape Character Context

Natural Resources Wales National Landscape Character Areas¹⁷⁸

- 9.4.14. NRW's NLCAs provide the key characteristics for each national landscape character area within the 15 km radius study area. A summary of those relevant to this assessment is provided in Table 9.4 below. This is provided as an introduction to landscape character within the study area. The effects of the proposed development are not assessed at this national scale.

Table 9.4: NRW National Landscape Character Areas

NLCA	Key Characteristics
NLCA 44: Taf and Cleddau Vales	<p>The application site is located within NLCA 44: Taf and Cleddau Vales, which is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A predominately rural landscape with broad, undulating, agricultural lowland. • Dissected by numerous small, deeply cut minor river valleys, often with wooded sides, as well as by main roads and rail routes. • Predominantly enclosed with well-kept mature hedgerows and hedgebanks and narrow lanes. • Small blocks of broadleaved woodland and mixed or coniferous plantations located on slopes.
NLCA 43: West and North Pembrokeshire Coast	<p>The area immediately south of the application site associates with NLCA 43: West and North Pembrokeshire Coast, which is summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissected plateau landscape with gently undulating productive, agricultural landscape. • Exposed and highly indented coastline with rocky coastal cliffs, punctuated by sandy bays and sheltered inlets with a number of remote islands and islets. • A greater feeling of remoteness compared with many other nearby inland areas. • Tors and hill ridges on the St David's and Strumble Peninsulas creating distinctive visual features and vantage points.
NLCA 46: Preseli Hills	<p>The character area NLCA 46: Preseli Hills is located approximately 12 km to the north-east of the closest antenna, which is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of upland hills with craggy outcrops and glacial meltwater valleys, including the Gwaun valley.

¹⁷⁸ Natural Resources Wales (2013). Available at: <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/nlca/?lang=en>

NLCA	Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open upland moorland grazing resulting in a windswept, exposed landscape. • Contrast between the remote character of the open hills with the enclosed woodland valleys and small fields and hedgerows of the lower slopes.
	<p>The character area NLCA 46: Milford Haven is located approximately 12 km to the south-east of the closest antenna, which is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A drowned river valley with estuaries extending many miles inland, including the Eastern and Western Cleddau tidal rivers with extensive salt marsh and mud banks.
<i>NLCA 48: Milford Haven</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic port defences including Iron Age forts to 19th century naval fortifications, notably the Royal Dockyard at Pembroke. • Oil refineries and their jetties and a power station dominate the coastal landscape at the mouth of the Haven.

Local Landscape and Seascape Character Areas

9.4.15. PCC and the PCNPA have both published local landscape and seascape character studies. These comprise:

- Pembrokeshire County Council Landscape Character Assessment (Final Report for Consultation) (May 2022)¹⁷⁹;
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Landscape Character Assessment (adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance in June 2011)¹⁸⁰; and
- Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Assessment (adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the National Park Authority in September 2023 but also as Supplementary Planning Guidance by the County Council in October 2023)¹⁸¹.

The location and extent of the character areas identified by these published studies within the 15 km study area are illustrated on Figure 9.3 for landscape character areas and Figure 9.4 for seascape character areas. It is noted that there is some overlap between the seascape (coastal) character areas and terrestrial landscape character areas identified by the PCNPA.

9.4.16. A ZTV of the proposed development is provided as Figure 9.5. Within 5 km this ZTV uses surface data which factors in the screening effect of landcover such as trees and buildings (this enhanced detail within 5 km helped to identify those areas close to the site where visibility was most likely to occur such that appropriate viewpoints could be selected – it is nevertheless acknowledged that whilst the ZTV assists in identifying areas where visibility is most likely to occur it is not solely relied upon to assess the effects of the proposed development which also

¹⁷⁹ Pembrokeshire County Council (2022). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/adopted-local-development-plan/ldp-supplementary-planning-guidance>. This is referred to as the second draft Landscape Character Assessment consulted on during 2023 and it forms part of the evidence base for the Local Development Plan adopted in 2013.

¹⁸⁰ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (dated 2011 but updated in 2015). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2/supplementary-planning-guidance/landscape-supplementary-planning-guidance-interim/>

¹⁸¹ Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (2023). Available at: <https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2/supplementary-planning-guidance/seascape-character-supplementary-planning-guidance/>

require observation in the field). Only LCA1 (the host landscape character area at Treffynnon) would be subject to direct landscape effects. Reference to the ZTV of the proposed development has helped to identify those additional local landscape and seascape character areas within the 15 km radius study area that are most likely to be subject to potentially significant indirect effects. Those most likely to be indirectly affected were agreed with consultees. The assessment therefore considers direct effects on LCA1 (the host landscape character area) and indirect effects on:

- PCC Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):
 - LCA 5: Scleddau Lowlands;
 - LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains;
 - LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross; and
 - LCA 12: Landsker Lowlands.
- PCNP Landscape Character Areas (LCAs):
 - LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula;
 - LCA 12: St Brides Bay;
 - LCA 13: Brandy Brook;
 - LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons;
 - LCA 16: Carn Llidi; and
 - LCA 18: St David’s Headland.
- PCNP Seascape Character Areas (SCAs):
 - SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters;
 - SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North;
 - SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East; and
 - SCA 24: St Brides Bay.

Pembrokeshire County Council Landscape Character Areas

9.4.17. The PCC landscape character assessment identifies key characteristics, landscape change and landscape guidelines for each landscape character area (LCA). A summary of these focusing on the key characteristics relevant to the assessment of the proposed development is provided in Table 9.5 for each character area identified by PCC as potentially subject to effects and requiring assessment. Table 9.5 includes consideration of landscape change and landscape guidelines only for the host landscape character area (Treffynnon) which would be subject to direct effects and where any mitigation of the proposed development would be located.

Table 9.5: PCC Landscape Character Areas (in order of relevance/proximity)

LCA	Relevant Key Characteristics
LCA 1 : Treffynnon	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Relevant Key Characteristics</i></p> <p>The PCC LCA identifies the proposed development as being located within Landscape Character Area 1: Treffynnon, which is summarised as (relevant key characteristics only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘Open rolling farmland of medium sized fields traversed by a network of lanes bordered by hedges/hedgebanks.</i> • <i>Occasional small clumps of woodland and scrub belt.</i> • <i>Hilltop villages of Mathry, Croesgoch and Hayscastle Cross and Cawdor Barracks at Brawdy (and the site of the former RAF Brawdy Airfield), as well as farmsteads and occasional hamlets.</i>

LCA	Relevant Key Characteristics
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- Northern fringes and higher ground provide views to the coast.
- Long boundary with the National Park with similar landform and landcover and forming part of its setting.
- On the higher ground, which act as local skylines, the relatively low hedges allow long views across the area towards the coast and sea within the National Park to the north, west and south. The area is also intervisible with these areas and landforms such as such as Garn Fawr to the north and Carn Penberry to the west.
- The area feels exposed and tree cover is windswept in places indicating the close relationship with the coast.
- Tranquillity increases away from the A487 and Brawdy’.

Landscape Change

- ‘Increase in incremental residential development in rural settlements and potentially more intense redevelopment at former RAF Brawdy/Cawdor Barracks.’

Landscape Guidelines

- ‘...avoid over-intensification of existing developments such as at Cawdor Barracks, especially within the setting of the National Park.’
- Avoid intrusive skyline or upper slope developments such as wind turbines, caravan parks and semi-urban developments, especially in the National Park’s setting.’

The character area LCA 6: Plumstone Mountains is located approximately 5 km to the south-east of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

LCA 6:
Treffgarne
and
Plumstone
Mountains

- ‘An open narrow east-west undulating ridge rising above the surrounding plateau with a rocky outcrop to the west.
- Largely pastoral to the east and on the lower western fringes with regular and semi-regular field patterns and scattered farmsteads on the lower slopes.
- There is no settlement or vertical structures on the ridge top resulting in an unspoilt skyline and the simple uncluttered landcover and slopes provide a simple backdrop to the lower landscapes to the north and south.
- Key views are to the west towards Roch Castle and the coast, to the east to the Preseli’s, distant views across rolling farmland to Garn Fawr to the north and to Carn Llidi and occasionally Ramsey Island to the north-west.
- Away from the road and car parks there is a degree of tranquillity and the whole area feels exposed at most of the year.
- The area borders the PCNP to the west.’

The character area LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross is located approximately 3.2 km to the south-east of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

LCA 7:
Pelcomb and
Simpson
Cross

- ‘Series of east/west ridges and rounded hill slopes with intervening valleys, some narrow and steep sided with narrow floors.
- Deeply cut stream valleys with linear ancient woodland and scrub along the steep sides and narrow floors with occasional copses and small conifer plantations.
- Rolling pastoral land with a mix of small irregular and larger regular field patterns and relict strip fields.

LCA	Relevant Key Characteristics
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The radial routes from Haverfordwest generally follow higher ground with the A487 running west, providing open views into surrounding valleys. NCR 4 passes east to west through the area. • Generally open hills and ridge tops to the west, some forming the skyline, overlooking the coast and St Brides Bay, with views of Ramsey Island. • The western edge lies within the setting of the PCNP.'
<p>LCA 5: Sleddau Lowlands</p>	<p>The character area LCA 5: Sleddau Lowlands is located approximately 8 km to the north-east of the closest antenna and is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Undulating landform and incised valleys falling from the north and Preselis fringes to the east, with minor ridges and rounded hills down to the Western Cleddau valley to the west.</i> • <i>A largely pastoral landscape with limited tree cover other than in the valleys, comprising improved grassland in small to medium scale fields with hedgebanks.</i> • <i>Generally open, including hills and ridge tops with their open skylines providing views to the Preselis.</i> • <i>Transport corridors such as the A40 and railway cut through the landscape, but elsewhere there is a network of narrow lanes and single-track roads with relatively few public footpaths. NCR 47 runs to the east.</i> • <i>The eastern part of the area forms part of the setting of the National Park.'</i>
<p>LCA 12: Landsker Lowlands</p>	<p>The character area LCA 12: Landsker Lowland is located approximately 11 km to the east of the closest antenna and is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Hills and ridges with gently rounded profiles dissected with valleys in the north and falling to the Western Cleddau and Eastern Cleddau valley floors.</i> • <i>Largely pastoral with regular medium and large fields on open upper slopes and ridge tops with more enclosed small-medium irregular fields lower down.</i> • <i>Field boundaries are a mix of hedges, hedgebanks and post and wire featuring on local ridge skylines, framing views and contributing to the area's character.</i> • <i>Despite development around Haverfordwest and the A40, tranquillity increases significantly away from these areas with a network of narrow rural lanes and public footpaths, including the Landsker Borderlands trail, and unspoilt open ridgelines and associated skylines and enclosed, intimate valleys.</i> • <i>Views north to the Preselis and Roch castle to the west from ridges and upper slopes and the area is highly intervisible with the National Park and in its setting.</i> • <i>The southern part of the area is in the setting of the National Park associated with the Cleddau rivers and Daugleddau.'</i>

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Landscape Character Areas

9.4.18. The PCNPA landscape character assessment sets out the special qualities (key landscape characteristics), discernible landscape trends and management guidance for each landscape character area (LCA). A summary of these is provided in Table 9.6 for each character area identified by the PCNPA as required within the assessment.

Table 9.6: PCNP Landscape Character Areas (in order of relevance/proximity)

LCA	Special Qualities (Key Landscape Characteristics), Discernible Landscape Trends and Management Guidance
<p>LCA 12: St Brides Bay</p>	<p>The PCNP Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Guidance (LCSPG) identifies the application site as being located in close proximity to the northern boundary of LCA 12 St Bride's Bay, which is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'A very large tract of landscape with a strong visual relationship to the coast from the broad views across St. Brides Bay and along the mostly undeveloped coastline.</i> • <i>There is a high degree of exposure, especially along the higher ground and along Newgale Sands; there is more shelter within the lower areas of the rolling farmed landscape.</i> • <i>The sight and sound of this expanse of sea is a constant presence and apparent in short, medium and long-distance views.</i> • <i>There are some landscapes of high ecological value with habitats of international importance.</i> • <i>The historical and archaeological features present result in a historical landscape with mostly high value and some outstanding value.</i> • <i>Its outstanding cultural value is supported by the open access National Trust land along the northern stretch of coast running eastwards from Solva almost to the northern tip of Newgale Sands.'</i>
<p>LCA 13: Brandy Brook</p>	<p>The PCNP Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Guidance (LCSPG) identifies the application site as being located to the north-west of LCA 13: Brandy Brook, at a distance of between approximately 1 km and 5 km. key characteristics are summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'Secluded area of low-lying wooded valleys cutting through rolling lowland; very settled sheltered, tranquil and inward-looking, with an intimate atmosphere in places.</i> • <i>Scattered settlement pattern consisting entirely of isolated farmsteads.</i> • <i>No link to the sea and views of the sea, although not far away, are only possible from the higher ground of the upper valley slopes. Views within the valley are generally short distance.</i> • <i>A strong visual relationship with the prominent local landmark of Roch Castle which forms a skyline feature in many views from within the LCA.</i> • <i>Several historical and archaeological sites result in a landscape of high historical value and outstanding cultural value.'</i>
<p>LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula</p>	<p>The character area LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula is located approximately 11 km to the south of the closest antenna and is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>'A large broad promontory comprising open rolling farmland with associated coastal fringe and sea cliffs.</i> • <i>Multiple coastal views contribute to the sense of place and the often outstanding visual and sensory landscape value.</i> • <i>Disused airfields including at Talbenny detract from the landscape.</i> • <i>Historical and archaeological features of national importance and much of this area is of outstanding historical landscape value including St Brides Castle Registered Park and Garden.'</i>

LCA

Special Qualities (Key Landscape Characteristics), Discernible Landscape Trends and Management Guidance

The character area LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons is located approximately 4.4 km to the north-west of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

- *'An exposed slightly undulating lowland area with a largely open character comprised of a mosaic of farmland, marshy grassland and scrub.*
- *Its character is enhanced by views north-westward to the distinctive Carn Llidi hills and south-westwards towards the city of St. David's.*
- *The wealth of historical and archaeological features recorded here is of national significance and result in a landscape of outstanding value.*
- *Former St David's airfield to the south of the area has a significant impact on the landscape.*

LCA 15:
Dowrog and
Tretio
Commons

- *The St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales are partially located within the LCA.*
- *Large areas of open access land on the Dowrog and Tretio Commons, owned by the national Trust.'*

The character area LCA 18: St Davids Headland is located approximately 4 km to the west of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

- *'Rolling lowland with a coastal area of cliffs and beaches occupying much of the headland.*
- *A largely peaceful open rural environment with attractive views to the coast, Ramsey Island, Carn Llidi hills and St Davids cathedral, adding to the sense of place.*
- *A series of tall, indented cliffs and steep slopes with small rocky headlands and inlets with sandy beaches along the coastline.*
- *A wealth of historical and archaeological features of national importance including the pilgrims' chapel of St Patrick in Whitesands Bay and Clegyr Boia, a Neolithic domestic settlement to the west of St Davids.*
- *A large continuous tract of National Trust land along the Pen Dal-aderyn promontory and running eastwards to Porth Clais and beyond to Solva, which is part of the St David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest.'*

LCA 18: St
Davids
Headland

The character area LCA 16: Carn Llidi is located approximately 9 km to the north-west of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

- *'A pervading sense of exposure created by the bare rocky outcrops on the hill tops and lack of tall vegetation and a feeling of remoteness.*
- *Panoramic views of coastal cliffs and beaches reinforce the sense of place.*
- *A naturalistic and largely undisturbed upland landscape.*
- *A wealth of archaeological and historical features which are nationally significant and of outstanding value.*
- *The St. David's Headland and Ramsey Island Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historical Interest in Wales is partially located within the LCA.*
- *A large continuous tract of open access land along the northern coast of the area, including the hill summits, is owned by the National Trust.'*

LCA 16: Carn
Llidi

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Areas

- 9.4.19. The PCNPA seascape character assessment (adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) by both the PCNPA and PCC) sets out the key characteristics, forces for change and key sensitivities for each seascape character area (SCA). A summary of these is provided in Table 9.7 for each seascape character area identified by the PCNPA as required for inclusion within the assessment. It is noted that there is some overlap between landscape and seascape character areas within the PCNP along the coastline (see Figures 9.3 and 9.4).

Table 9.7: PCNPA Seascape Character Areas (in order of relevance/proximity)

SCA	Key Characteristics, Forces for Change and Key Sensitivities
SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North	<p>The character area SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North is located in close proximity to the south of the application site and is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘Indented jagged cliffs, small promontory headlands, bays and islets.</i> • <i>Gently sloping plateau hinterland with incised valleys, farmland and dispersed farmsteads, but with new development on the plateau.</i> • <i>Caravan parks are visible near the coast and the A487 runs close to and parallel with the coast, thereby reducing tranquillity.</i> • <i>The sea is relatively exposed to southerly winds, but there is shelter in several locations.</i> • <i>Solva village is a popular tourist destination for sailing and other recreation.</i> • <i>The Coast path is well used, especially near St Davids and Solva, allowing access all along the sea edge and around the indented inlets.</i> • <i>Panoramic views from several high viewpoints and narrowly channelled in inlets. The view from around Newgale is one of Pembrokeshire’s iconic views.’</i> <p>The Key Sensitivities section lists the wide views across St Bride’s Bay and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path as a sensitive receptor, which are both relevant to this assessment.</p>
SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East	<p>The character area SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East is located immediately to the south of the application site and is summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>‘Long sandy beaches interspersed with cliffs, notably Ricketts Head, and rocky foreshores.</i> • <i>Some lowland valleys, notably Brandy Brook, and low rolling pastoral hills in the hinterland.</i> • <i>The sea is relatively exposed to westerly winds, with strong surf over long shallow beaches.</i> • <i>Small coastal settlements with associated visitor facilities, including caravan/camping parks, are popular tourist destinations for marine activities and other recreation in the summer.</i> • <i>Access along the sea edge on the Coast Path or shared with minor road and A487 in places.</i> • <i>Views are long across St Bride’s Bay and contained by the distant high ground of the north and south coasts.</i> • <i>Large, anchored ships, including tankers, are visible from the shore, which detracts from the feeling of remoteness in the bay.’</i>

SCA Key Characteristics, Forces for Change and Key Sensitivities

The Key Sensitivities section states that the Pembrokeshire Coast Path is a sensitive receptor, which is relevant to this assessment.

The character area SCA 24: St Brides Bay is located approximately 3.9 km to the south-west of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

- *'A large area of sea at the centre of St Bride's Bay with a seabed of muddy sand and low wave stress.*
- *Part of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and is popular for marine recreation.*
- *There are anchored ships near Milford Haven and numerous wrecks in the area including military planes.*
- *Land is apparent in good visibility with enclosure dependent on distance with Carn Llundain on Ramsey, Skomer and various settlements being key landmarks.*
- *Open, very wide bay with virtually unspoilt, simple, consistent and unified marine character and a significant sense of openness, remoteness and exposure.*
- *Its qualities are determined significantly by the natural forces of water, through swell and waves, and wind.*
- *Area forms an important part of superb vistas from Ramsey and Skomer islands, and the Coast Path.'*

The Key Sensitivities section lists the Pembrokeshire and Wales Coast Path as a sensitive receptor overlooking the area at a distance.

SCA 24: St
Brides Bay

It also states that the area forms part of the open setting for the western coast and islands overlooked by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park contributing to the sense of remoteness and wilderness in these areas.

The character area SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters is located approximately 14 km to the west of the closest antenna and is summarised as:

- *'Ramsey Island is dominated by two outcrops and has mainly rocky coasts with jagged cliffs and islets with one beach on its western side.*
- *The island is highly exposed to winds and separated from the mainland by a tidal sound creating a strong sense of isolation and wildness.*
- *The southern outcrops and rugged coastal edge are covered in heath, coastal grassland and bracken.*
- *There are limited irregular fields enclosed with stone walls.*
- *Panoramic views to the open sea, the Bishops and Clerks and to Carn Llidi on the mainland.'*

SCA 18:
Ramsey
Island
Coastal
Waters

Landscape Designations

9.4.20. Relevant landscape and other associated designations have been considered to help build up an understanding of the character of, and the values attributed to, the landscape and seascape character areas identified above. The location and extent of relevant landscape designations for the 15 km study area are shown on Figure 9.1.

9.4.21. There is one nationally designated landscape within the 15 km radius study area; the PCNP. The closest section of the boundary of the National Park lies approximately 125 m to the south of the application site and approximately 0.6 km to the south and south-east of the closest

proposed antenna, in the vicinity of Penycwm. The National Park also extends, at a greater distance, approximately 2.7 km to the west of the application site in the vicinity of Middle Mill and approximately 4.5 km to the north of the application site in the vicinity of Square and Compass. This assessment of the landscape effects of the proposed development treats the National Park as a landscape receptor and includes an assessment of the overall effect of the proposed development on the landscape of the National Park as a whole.

- 9.4.22. There are also three Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales identified by the CCW and CADW within the 15 km landscape and visual study area (see Figure 9.1). This designation is principally focused on historic aspects of the landscape. As these are historic assets, they are principally assessed in Chapter 10 (Archaeology and Built Heritage). The areas identified have not been treated as landscape receptors within this assessment but have been considered to help build up a picture of the value and sensitivity of landscape character areas identified by the PCNPA and PCC. The three areas within 15 km of the site are identified and briefly described in Table 9.8.

Table 9.8: Landscapes of Historic Interest in Wales

Name of designated area	Description and preliminary comments
St David's Peninsula and Ramsey Island	Lies approximately 4 km to the west of the closest antenna. This area falls within the National Park and includes areas that fall within the ZTV of the proposed development. It extends across several landscape character areas identified by the PCNPA and assessed in this chapter.
Milford Haven Waterway	Lies approximately 12 km to the south-west of the closest antenna and extends to the south-east of the application site. This area is on the south-eastern fringes of the landscape and visual study area and largely falls outside of the ZTV of the proposed development. There is therefore no potential for significant effects on landscape character here and this designation has not been considered further.
Pen Gaer: Garn Fawr and Strumble Head	Lies approximately 13 km to the north-east of the closest antenna. This area is on the northern fringes of the landscape and visual study area and largely falls outside of the ZTV of the proposed development. There is therefore no potential for significant effects on landscape character here and this designation has not been considered further.

- 9.4.23. There are areas of designated Heritage Coast within the study area, as listed in Table 9.9.

Table 9.9: Areas of Heritage Coast within the study area

Name of designated area	Description and preliminary comments
St David's Peninsula	Lies approximately 1.2 km to the south of the closest antennas and extends to the west and north of the application site.
St Brides Bay	Lies approximately 3.3 km to the south of the closest antennas.
Marloes and Dale	Lies approximately 11 km to the south of the closest antennas and extends to the south-west of the application site.

- 9.4.24. There is one Registered Park and Garden within the 15 km study area, the gardens of Warpool Court Hotel (Grade II), located just to the south of St Davids, approximately 10 km to the west of the application site at its closest point. This falls within the ZTV of the proposed development but tree cover, high boundary walls and a principally south facing aspects means that there is no potential for a significant effect in this location. As this is a heritage asset, this is considered in Chapter 10 (Archaeology and Built Heritage).

- 9.4.25. There are ten Conservation Areas within the 15 km radius study area (see Figure 9.1), but the ZTV (see Figure 9.5) shows that only four have potential visibility of the proposed development. These four are listed in Table 9.10. As conservation areas are heritage assets, these are considered in Chapter 10 (Archaeology and Built Heritage). They are acknowledged here to help build a picture of landscape character and value in the surrounding area.

Table 9.10: Conservation Areas within the ZTV and 15 km radius study area

Name	Preliminary comments
Little Haven	Lies approximately 11 km to the south of the closest antenna.
Solva	Lies approximately 3.9 km to the west of the closest antenna.
Caerfarchell	Lies approximately 6 km to the north-west of the closest antenna.
Haverfordwest	Lies approximately 13 km to the south-east of the closest antenna.

Visual Context

Topographical context

- 9.4.26. Figure 9.2 provides an analysis of the topography within the 15 km radius study area. The application site occupies a plateau landform which largely sits above the surrounding landscape of the study area to the south and west but with higher ground to the north and east. From the application site, the landform falls away to the east and west into a series of incised valleys ranging between 70 to 80 m AOD comprising the channels and tributaries of the River Solva to the west and Brandy Brook to the east.
- 9.4.27. With regards to occasional higher ground within the study area: a localised hill at 117 m AOD is located approximately 1.8 km to the east of the closest antenna near to Trefgarn Owen. Approximately 6 km east of the closest antenna, a ridgeline comprising Dudwell Mountain and Plumstone Mountain reaches 178 m AOD.

General Visual Context and Landcover

- 9.4.28. Figure 9.5 provides a ZTV of the proposed development for both landscape and seascape areas. The ZTV is based on surface data (within 5 km) which includes the screening effect of trees, buildings and other landcover.
- 9.4.29. The plateau setting of the application site above a generally slightly lower surrounding landscape limits the potential for views across or down into the application site but increases the potential for skylining (where the proposed development would be seen against a backdrop of sky not land) of proposed antennas and buildings when viewed from various lower lying positions within the surrounding study area. There are views of existing site buildings from surrounding roads passing close to the application site, from nearby isolated residential properties, and from the elevated ground around Rhyndaston Mountain (where an existing building on the plateau is visually prominent, silhouetted against the distant backdrop of Carn Llidi and Penberry).
- 9.4.30. Tree cover in wider study area is limited but includes trees grouped in plantations located around farmsteads and along river valleys, which contribute to the partial filtering of views across an otherwise more typically open landscape. Hedgerow field boundaries, often combined with raised hedge banks, notably limit views from roads and collectively break up views across the wider agricultural landscape.
- 9.4.31. In general, the landscape has a very open character with a strong horizontal emphasis. This explains the visual prominence and importance of the tower at Roch Castle which is a

noticeable landmark from much of the study area. There is a general absence of large-scale electricity transmission infrastructure with few visual intrusions and detractors against the very open skyscape. Nevertheless, the surrounding area does contain some vertical features including a number of individual domestic scale wind turbines (understood to be between approximately 20 m and 40 m in height to turbine tip) which are visually prominent, particularly to the west and north of the site. From more elevated and coastal areas there is also very long-distance visibility of the refinery towers at Pembroke to the south.

9.4.32. The landscape to the south of the application site generally maintains its elevation through to the coastline before falling steeply down to sea level at Newgale Sands, therefore limiting intervisibility between the application site and sea-level areas along the closest sections of the coastline.

9.4.33. There are also views of the application site at various points along the A487 (the main tourist route through the area) passing directly to the south.

Visual Receptors

9.4.34. The following sections provide a summary of the key visual receptors that are located within the 15 km study area and potentially subject to visual effects. This review of the key visual receptors with the greatest potential to be affected has informed the subsequent selection of representative viewpoints.

Residential Locations

9.4.35. Residential locations that are considered most likely to be visually affected by the proposed development include:

- Residents of properties in (or on the edge of) the key settlement groups closest to the application site at Treffynnon, Llandeloy, Trefgarn Owen and Penycwm, and at a greater distance from the application site at Caerfarchell (4.7 km north-west) and Roch (3 km south-east); and
- Residents of individual properties scattered throughout the study area, sometimes in small clusters or hamlets.

9.4.36. The principal larger settlements of St Davids, Haverfordwest, Solva, Newgale, Broad Haven and Little Haven tend to be low lying and enclosed by topography, buildings and tree cover with limited potential for views towards the site.

Public Rights of Way

9.4.37. There are a very large number of Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) across the 15 km study area. Notable areas of PRoWs within the study area with the potential to be affected by the proposed development are summarised in Table 9.11. These identified key locations have informed the selection of representative viewpoints.

Table 9.11: Principal areas of Public Rights of Way likely to be affected by the proposed development

National Park Context	General vicinity	Approximate distance from proposed development
	Rhyndaston Mountain	Approximately 3.8 km to the south-east of the closest antenna.
PRoWs within the National Park are mainly clustered around four areas:	Caerfarchell	Approximately 6 km to the north-west of the closest antenna.

National Park Context	General vicinity	Approximate distance from proposed development
PRoWs in close proximity to the application site are mainly clustered around the following two areas:	Treleddyd-fawr	Approximately 10 km to the north-west of the closest antenna.
	Summit Penberry	Approximately 9 km to the north-west of the closest antenna.
	Llandeloy	Approximately 1.2 km to the north of the application site.
	Trefgarn Owen	Approximately 1.4 km to the east of the closest antenna.

Recreational Routes

9.4.38. Users of the following key recreational routes listed in Table 9.12 have the potential to be visually affected.

Table 9.12: Recreational Routes

Route	Description and preliminary comments
The PCPNT	This 186 mile long PCPNT starts just south of Cardigan on the northern coast and runs parallel to the coast taking in St Brides Bay before finishing just south of Amroth on the southern coast. It passes approximately 1 km south-west of the closest antenna. The section of the PCPNT with the greatest potential to be affected by the proposed development runs approximately 25 miles around St Brides Bay to the west and south of the site and would take approximately two days to complete. This is a nationally important recreational route and is given detailed consideration in the assessment including an assessment of sequential visual effects over time for users over longer distances.
Sustrans National Cycle Route 4 (NCR4)	This long-distance route starts from London and ends in Fishguard, passing through Haverfordwest and St Davids and running along the Pembrokeshire coast, including St Brides Bay, for part of the route. A section of this route terminates directly at the western application site boundary before resuming close to the southern application site boundary just to the north of Penycwm. This is a regionally important recreational route and is given detailed consideration in the assessment including an assessment of sequential visual effects over time for users over longer distances.
The Dewisland cycle trail (cycle route locally promoted by PCC)	This long-distance circular route, which starts and ends in Goodwick, explores the north-west Pembrokeshire coastal area including Lower Solva and Porthstinian and also passes through St Davids. It passes approximately 1.4 km north of the closest antenna.
City West Trail (cycle route locally promoted by PCC)	This circular route starts and finishes in St Davids and explores the Pembrokeshire countryside and coast to the west, including Porth Clais, Porthstinian and Whitesands Bay. It passes approximately 9 km west of the closest antenna.
Havens Trail (cycle route locally promoted by PCC)	This circular trail starts and finishes at Haverfordwest, passing Roch Castle and travelling along St Brides Bay on its route. It passes approximately 3.7 km south of the closest antenna.
St Davids Airfield Trail (cycle route locally promoted by PCC)	This trail starts near Fachelich or, alternatively, south of Caerfarchell and explores the disused airfields within the National Park. It passes approximately 6 km west of the closest antenna.

Roads

9.4.39. Motorists are generally regarded as having lower visual sensitivity due to the short period of exposure and general focus on travel not visual amenity. However, motorists using the following key roads, including those likely to be most used by tourists, have the greatest potential to be visually affected by the proposed development;

- Roads within the PCNP, particularly those along the coast to the south of the application site, notably Welsh Road, Settlands Hill and Strawberry Hill;
- The A487 both to the south and west of the application site (including its approach from the west between St Davids and the site and its approach from the south-east, including the noted 'gateway to the coast' view experienced when dropping down from Roch towards Newgale sands (noting that the lower part of this section of road towards Newgale drops out of the potential ZTV of the proposed development) (the value of this view from the A487 just west of Roch was mentioned by attendees of the public consultation events held in September 2024 and is captured by the selection of representative Viewpoint 6); and
- Minor unnamed roads close to the application site boundary to the west, east and north.

Recreational Facilities

9.4.40. Users of recreational accommodation (e.g. hotels, holiday/caravan parks) and visitor facilities with potential views of the application site are likely to be visually affected, particularly those that are:

- In close proximity to the application site, notably Ty Dewi holiday park (campsite) (approximately 0.5 km west of the application site), Mount Farm Park (campsite) (approximately 1.5 km west of the application site), and Park Hall Village (static caravan site) (approximately 0.2 km west of the application site) which are all to the west, and Brawdy Farm Retreats (glamping) approximately 0.5 km to the east of the application site;
- Accommodation and education centre at Newgale Lodge (annotated on some mapping as 'White House'). This is a property within 100 m of the east of the application site with holiday accommodation and housing a YMCA outdoor education centre; and
- In and around the tourist destinations of Little Haven (approximately 10 km to the south), Upper Solva (approximately 5 km to the west), Caerfai (approximately 8 km to the west) and Porthclais (approximately 10 km to the west).

Selected Representative Viewpoints

9.4.41. The 33 representative viewpoints set out in Table 9.13 below have been identified as the basis for the detailed visual assessment. These viewpoints proportionately and representatively capture the principal visual receptors across the surrounding study area and have been agreed with PCC and PCNPA. The locations of the agreed representative viewpoints are shown on Figure 9.5. Baseline descriptions of each viewpoint are included in Appendix 9.3 (Representative Viewpoint Assessment).

Table 9.13: Selected Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Approximate distance to application site	Approximate distance to closest proposed antenna	Location and Reason for Selection
1	Treffynnon	1.9 km	2.9 km	Mid-range view to the north of the application site. Chosen to represent views experienced by residents and road users.
2	Llandeloy	0.5 km	1.1 km	Close range view to the north-east of the application site. Chosen to represent views of residents and road users.
3	Trefgarn Owen	0.8 km	1.2 km	Close range view to the east of the application site. Chosen to represent views of road users and residents.
4	North of Llandeloy	0.8 km	1.5 km	Mid-range view to the north of the application site. Chosen to represent views of road users.
5	Rhyndaston Mountain	5.1 km	5.2 km	Mid-range view to the north-east of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of road and footpath users.
6	Roch	3.7 km	3.9 km	Mid-range view to the south-east of the application site. Chosen to represent views of residents in Roch.
7	Nab Head	14.2 km	14.8 km	Long-range view to the south-west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
8	West of St Brides	14.1 km	14.7 km	Long-range view to the south-east of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
9	Brandy Bay	11.6 km	12.2 km	Long-range view to the south-west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
10	Borough Head	11.4 km	11.9 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
11	Car Park South of Little Haven	11.9 km	12.3 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of car park users and footpath users from the PCPNT.
12	Haroldston Chins	8.0 km	8.4 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Approximate distance to application site	Approximate distance to closest proposed antenna	Location and Reason for Selection
13	Rickets Head	4.9 km	5.3 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
14	Maidenhall Point Car Park	3.8 km	4.2 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site. Chosen to represent views of footpath users from the PCPNT and of car park users.
15	Maidenhall Point	3.4 km	3.8 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
16	Penycwm	0.4 km	0.8 km	Close-range view to the south of the application site. Chosen to represent views of residents in Penycwm, road users and NCR 4 users.
17	Local Road to Brawdy	Adjacent	0.1 km	Very close-range view to the east of the application site from the C3010. Chosen to represent views of road users.
18	A487 at Mount Farm	2.0 km	2.7 km	Close-range view to the west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of tourists using the A487 and residents/recreational users of Mount Farm camp site.
19	Porthmynawyd	1.8 km	2.4 km	Mid-range view to the south-west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
20	South of Lochvane	2.6 km	3.2 km	Mid-range view to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
21	Solva	4.8 km	5.5 km	Mid-range view to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
22	Porthlysgi East	11.7 km	12.4 km	Long-range view to the west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users from the PCPNT.
23	Summit Penberry	8.5 km	9.5 km	Long-range 360-degree view to the north-west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of footpath users on the permissible footpath.
24	The Green Caerfarchell	5.0 km	5.9 km	Mid-range view to the west of the application site requested by the PCNPA. Representative of views of residents and road users.
25	Waun Caerfarchell	4.9 km	5.7 km	Mid-range view to the west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of footpath users and Dewisland Cycle Trail users.

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint Name	Approximate distance to application site	Approximate distance to closest proposed antenna	Location and Reason for Selection
26	Ty Dewi	2.1 km	2.7 km	Close-range view to the west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of road users, NCR 4 users and residents/recreational users of Ty Dewi holiday park.
27	Country Lane Curlew's Rise	0.1 km	0.9 km	Very close-range view to the west of the application site. Chosen to represent views of road users.
28	St Brides Coastal Waters East	8.7 km	9.3 km	Long-range view from the sea to the south of the application site. Chosen to represent views from people working on the sea or those using the sea for recreational purposes.
29	St Brides Bay 8 km from coastline	8.5 km	9.2 km	Long-range view from the sea to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views from people working on the sea or those using the sea for recreational purposes.
30	St Brides Bay 5 km from coastline	5.1 km	5.8 km	Mid-range view from the sea to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views from people working on the sea or those using the sea for recreational purposes.
31	St Brides Bay Coastal Waters North	11.0 km	11.7 km	Long-range view from the sea to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views from people working on the sea or those using the sea for recreational purposes.
32	Ramsey Island Coastal Waters	15.0 km	15.6 km	Long-range view from the sea to the south-west of the application site. Chosen to represent views from people working on the sea or those using the sea for recreational purposes.
33	The Point at Little Haven	11.2 km	11.6 km	Long-range view to the south of the application site. Chosen to represent views of footpath users from the PCPNT.

9.5. Design Interventions and Controls

Design Interventions

- 9.5.1. Determining the layout of the proposed development design has been an iterative process. The environment team has worked in collaboration with the design team to seek, where possible, to avoid or reduce environmental impacts through refinements to the development layout. This is referred to as design interventions. This approach follows EIA best practice and principles set out in the mitigation hierarchy; the first principle being to avoid potential adverse effects, where feasible, before seeking to minimise or mitigate for impacts. Compensation for effects (for example offsite enhancement and/or remediation of effects) are considered if it is not reasonably possible to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- 9.5.2. Chapter 3 (Proposed Development) details the proposed design elements. This section of this chapter provides more detail and background on relevant iterations made during the design process in response to input from landscape and visual and other environmental topics.



- 9.5.3. Chapter 4 (Alternatives and Design Evolution) details the design alternatives that have been considered, including all environmental factors which have influenced the decision-making.

Design Interventions Considered

- 9.5.4. Identification of the potential landscape and visual effects of the proposed development resulted in careful consideration of the following aspects of its layout and design:

- Position of the transmit array antennas – the six proposed transmit array antennas were initially planned for a more northerly location within Cawdor Barracks. However, for essential operational reasons, they were relocated to the southern part of the site. While this southern location is closer to the PCNP, PCPNT and settlement of Penycwm, and therefore less favourable from a landscape and visual perspective, the overall significance of landscape and visual effects, particularly on the National Park, was not considered to be materially different. Within the new southern location, the transmit array antennas have been positioned as far north as operational requirements allow.
- Position of the receive array antennas – the 21 receive antennas are proposed to be located towards the centre of the site just north of where the existing decommissioned runways intersect. This relatively isolated central position away from site boundaries and publicly accessible areas is considered optimal from both the operational and landscape and visual perspectives.
- Elevation of the antennas – operational necessity dictated that the antennas must be sited in an open, elevated position on the plateau associated with the former airfield. For operational reasons each antenna must be built at existing grade (i.e. not set down into the ground to any degree) and elevations across the array must generally remain within approximately 2-3 m of each other. The final design has therefore minimised the vertical height of the proposed development as far as is practicable.
- Colour and surface treatment of antennas – the antennas would be light grey in colour with a smooth non-gloss finish. In the majority of views the antennas would be seen against a backdrop of sky, in which context the light grey colour would be recessive and would minimise their prominence and visual effect.
- Position of support buildings – consideration was given to whether permanent buildings associated with the proposed development (up to 9.7 m in height to ridgeline) could be sited away from the former runways on the plateau-top to lower ground associated with the extent of the existing barracks to the south-west of Cawdor Barracks. A number of options were investigated including sites that were lower lying or positioned closer to existing large scale buildings towards the western flank of Cawdor Barracks. However, relocating these buildings to a less elevated and visually open position is not considered feasible from an operational perspective.
- Position of the two accesses (main and emergency) from Brawdy Road (the C3010) – access has been proposed at optimal positions along Brawdy Road (C3010) to minimise adverse landscape and visual effects including minimising hedgerow removal (the hedgerow along the eastern boundary of the site where the new emergency access is proposed is in any case sparse and gappy). Vegetation removal as a consequence of the two proposed access points would be minimal.

Landscape design

- 9.5.5. The assessment has identified the potential for significant landscape and visual effects during the operational phase, including on parts of the PCNP and sections of the PCPNT. The proposed antennas require an open and elevated position to meet operational requirements,



which presents challenges in screening them. A range of measures has nevertheless been explored to reduce effects or introduce compensatory landscape enhancements.

- 9.5.6. Areas of proposed tree and hedgerow planting (to strengthen existing gappy hedgerows) have been identified across Cawdor Barracks (refer to Figure 3.4: Landscape and Ecology Proposals Plan). These targeted areas seek to limit loss of fungi grassland and principally coincide with areas of amenity grassland. The purpose of this planting is to provide partial visual screening and softening of the visual effects of the proposed development in local views from the surrounding area. Careful consideration has been given to the precise siting of this proposed planting to introduce it into more elevated positions and around the periphery of the site. Views towards the site and the proposed development are generally from slightly lower surrounding elevations (for example, the PCPNT is generally lower lying than the plateau at Cawdor) meaning that planting in elevated locations around the periphery of the site would have a disproportionate effect in terms of partial screening and visual softening.
- 9.5.7. For operational reasons, there is a limit to tree height close to the proposed antennas to avoid impacting the 'zone of regard'. This limits trees to 6.4 m at the closest point to the antennas (50 m) rising to 10 m when 115 m from the antennas. This tree height constraint of 6.4 m to 10 m in height is however limited to a short section (approx. 100 m) of the proposed planting on the eastern edge of the application site near the transmit array.
- 9.5.8. It is acknowledged that due to the exposed growing conditions in this part of Pembrokeshire, tree planting would likely be slow to establish and would achieve a limited height even over the long term. The assessment has therefore assumed that the targeted areas of proposed tree planting (away from the 'zone of regard') would likely achieve a height of approximately 8 m over the longer term. Appropriate tree species will be selected and defined in the Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP).

Controls

- 9.5.9. Controls are included in the Register of Environmental Management Measures Table contained within Appendix A of the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). The Framework CEMP has been produced in support of the planning application to present the controls and mitigation identified in this assessment. The controls include best practice measures to protect landscape and visual amenity such as keeping a tidy and organised site, and controls to achieve compliance with all relevant legislation. The Framework CEMP will be developed into the Detailed CEMP for implementation during construction and is secured by an appropriately worded planning condition. Further information on the Framework CEMP is provided in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development).

9.6. Potential Significant Effects

- 9.6.1. This section considers the potential impacts on receptors with design interventions and controls considered but without additional mitigation identified by the EIA process. Where the impact of the proposed development on a receptor will result in a significant effect, this has been assessed below. This assessment is based on the design elements provided in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development). This section identifies the impacts during construction and operation of the proposed development. Levels of effect are categorised as Very Substantial, Substantial, Moderate, Slight or Negligible. Very Substantial, Substantial, and Moderate levels of effect are regarded as significant.

Construction phase impacts

- 9.6.2. The construction of the proposed development is anticipated to take place over approximately 21 months. No structural vegetation (tree cover) would need to be removed from the application site to create space for the proposed development. Short lengths of poor quality, intermittent hedgerow would likely be removed along the eastern boundary to allow access (main and emergency) from Brawdy Road (C3010). Over the construction period, the

proposed antennas would be gradually introduced onto the site. The sources of potentially adverse landscape and visual impacts during construction would include:

- Temporary presence of cranes and other equipment to facilitate the construction of the antennas and buildings;
- Temporary construction traffic movements to and across the site;
- Presence of the temporary 12.5 m high Antenna Integration Shelter (AIS) to facilitate the construction of the antennas in position within the receive array to the north. The fabric of the AIS will be of a dark colour with doors at either end to prevent the ingress of rain, make it more comfortable to work in without heating and reduce potential light spill. The lighting assessment is provided in Chapter 16 (Lighting);
- Temporary construction lighting (limited); and
- The progressive construction of the above grade antenna structures, buildings, access roads and perimeter fencing.

Operational phase impacts

9.6.3. The sources of potential landscape and visual impacts during operation would include:

9.6.4. Visual Impacts

- The introduction of up to 21.5 m high engineered features into an open and elevated part of the landscape would introduce noticeable new landscape elements which would be inconsistent with existing views. The appearance of these features would change as their direction and angle of tilt changes;
- The proposed permanent support buildings and structures, up to 9.7 m in height, would be located on the disused runway on the open plateau. Details of the building dimensions are provided in Chapter 3 (Proposed Development). This elevated position would make the buildings visible in certain nearby views and from higher ground to the east. Due to their location on the plateau, the buildings could appear on the skyline in both short- and long-range views, potentially silhouetted against the horizon or distant hills;
- The introduction of additional perimeter fencing could increase visual complexity in existing views in close proximity to the application site;
- The introduction of a network of new internal access roads would introduce occasional vehicular movement across the site; and
- The introduction of a small amount of additional dark-sky compliant lighting as further described in Chapter 16 (Lighting).

Landscape Impacts

- The introduction of new engineered features that would appear inconsistent with the wider existing landscape character context;
- The introduction of antennas up to 21.5 m high that would be visible from the surrounding landscape, including areas within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park; and
- The introduction of permanent support buildings, ancillary infrastructure and internal roads that would increase the footprint of the developed area within the site.

Assessment of effects

- 9.6.5. The following section of this chapter assesses the level and significance of the likely residual landscape and visual effects of the proposed development following the proposed design interventions (design, layout and landscape design) presented in Section 9.5. In doing so it draws extensively on Appendix 9.3 which provides the detailed assessment of the operational phase visual effects of the proposed development at each of the thirty-three agreed representative viewpoints in year 1. Proposed tree planting is limited to specific areas of the site to balance operational requirements, the landscape character context, the importance of existing grassland for fungi, and challenging conditions for tree establishment. As a result, year 15 effects are considered in general terms as there are only limited locations where the overall level of visual effects would be materially reduced between year 1 and year 15. Nevertheless, for the assessment of year fifteen effects it has been assumed that the limited proposed tree planting would likely achieve a nominal height of approximately 8 m over the longer term.

Visual effects

Construction phase residual visual effects

- 9.6.6. Table 9.14 below draws on the detailed baseline observations contained in Appendix 9.3 (Representative Viewpoint Assessment) and provides the assessment of the likely visual effects at each of the 33 representative viewpoints during the 21-month construction phase. Construction phase visual effects have not been considered in detail in Appendix 9.3 because the significance of visual effects would in all cases be greater during the operational phase than would be the case during the temporary construction phase. The potential for a high magnitude of visual change during the construction phase is limited by:

- There would be no substantial and noticeable areas of vegetation removal or demolition of structures that would introduce sudden visual change at the beginning of the construction phase;
- Change on site during construction would be accumulative over time with the most notable visual effects being associated with the completion of different elements of the final operational scheme over the course of the construction programme;
- The temporary presence of the AIS would be in a position close to the proposed siting of the receive array antennas which would accumulate in their final proposed positions over the construction programme (the AIS would not be introducing temporary visual effects in a different location);
- Proximity to the operational military base would help to absorb the visual effects of construction activity such as vehicle, equipment and component movements;
- The very large scale and remote nature of the plateau site means that temporary construction activities including the presence of construction equipment would generally be taking place some distance away from surrounding visual receptors (despite their large scale the equipment being used and the components being assembled would appear small and distant within the plateau context); and
- The temporary 21 month period of construction.

- 9.6.7. In acknowledgement of the above, Table 9.14 provides the assessment of construction phase visual effects with the recoded magnitude of change being generally negligible or low other than for elevated residential locations to the north and north-east of the site at Treffynnon, Llandeloy and Trefgarn Owen.

Table 9.14: Construction Phase Residual Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint name	Overall sensitivity (see Appendix 9.3)	Magnitude of change during construction	Residual Significance (level) of effect
1	Treffynnon	High	Medium	Moderate (Adverse)
2	Llandeloy	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
3	Trefgarn Owen	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Adverse)
4	North of Llandeloy	Low	Medium	Slight (Adverse)
5	Rhyndaston Mountain	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
6	Roch	High	Negligible	Negligible
7	Nab Head	High	Negligible	Negligible
8	West of St Brides	High	Negligible	Negligible
9	Brandy Bay	High	Negligible	Negligible
10	Borough Head	High	Negligible	Negligible
11	Car Park South of Little Haven	High	Negligible	Negligible
12	Haroldston Chins	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
13	Rickets Head	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
14	Maidenhall Point Car Park	High	Negligible	Negligible
15	Maidenhall Point	High	Negligible	Negligible
16	Penycwm	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
17	Local Road to Brawdy	Low	Medium	Slight (Adverse)
18	A487 at Mount Farm	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
19	Porthmynawyd	High	Negligible	Negligible
20	South of Lochvane	High	Negligible	Negligible
21	Solva	High	Negligible	Negligible
22	Porthlysgi East	High	Negligible	Negligible
23	Summit Penberry	High	Negligible	Negligible
24	The Green Caerfarchell	High	Negligible	Negligible
25	Waun Caerfarchell	High	Negligible	Negligible
26	Ty Dewi	Low	Low	Negligible
27	Country Lane Curlew's Rise	Low	Low	Negligible

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint name	Overall sensitivity (see Appendix 9.3)	Magnitude of change during construction	Residual Significance (level) of effect
28	St Brides Coastal Waters East	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
29	St Brides Bay 8 km	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
30	St Brides Bay 5 km	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
31	St Brides Bay Coastal Waters North	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
32	Ramsey Island Coastal Waters	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
33	The Point at Little Haven	High	Negligible	Negligible

- 9.6.8. Table 9.14 shows that significant visual effects during construction (albeit only **Moderate** and temporary) would be limited to the vicinity of nearby villages (for example Treffynnon, Llandeloy and Trefgarn Owen). There would be no significant visual effects during construction on any of the more distant representative viewpoints or from any location along the PCNPT. This is for the reasons set out in paragraph 9.6.6 above.
- 9.6.9. Generally, the overall level of visual effect of the proposed development during the construction phase would be lower than for the operational phase. The overall sensitivity of each viewpoint would be the same for the two phases, but the magnitude of change would be slightly lower for the construction phase for the reasons set out in paragraph 9.6.6. Construction activities would largely be taking place in reasonably remote areas within the central plateau and there are relatively few locations where visual receptors would be located in close proximity to the construction works. Passing traffic along Brady Road (Representative Viewpoint 17) is one notable exception but users of this route are not considered to be highly sensitive due to users' short term exposure whilst concentrating on driving.
- 9.6.10. Lower levels of visual effects during construction takes account of the fact that any visual effects would be temporary given the construction phase is expected to last 21 months. Some localised visual effects during construction would be associated with the temporary presence of the 12.5 m high AIS, though it is noted that this would be sited well within the site boundaries at a distance from the nearest surrounding visual receptors (excluding White House Farm) generally exceeding 1 km.
- 9.6.11. As the proposed development is located on an existing military base, there will already be a certain level of activity associated with its operations (e.g. vehicles, equipment, people etc.). Given this, any additional visual effects associated with similar activities during the construction phase will be viewed in the context of these existing activities. This is more relevant for locations closer to the application site (such as Representative Viewpoint 17 at Local Road to Brawdy from the C3010) where such activities are more likely to be prominent. The presence of existing infrastructure and built form on the site will also help to reduce the prominence of construction activities in views.
- 9.6.12. Structural vegetation around the application site is not being removed as part of the proposed development. Given this, existing vegetation would provide a level of screening for any construction activities that would be visible on the horizon, thereby softening visual effects at lower levels.

Operational phase residual visual effects

Representative viewpoints

9.6.13. The detailed assessment of operational phase visual effects at the agreed 33 representative viewpoints in year 1 is set out in Appendix 9.3 (Representative Viewpoint Assessment). This appendix is supported by Figures 9.6.1 to 9.6.33 which provide year 1 visualisations for each representative viewpoint. The following table summarises the conclusions of that assessment. These are the predicted levels of visual effect in the first year following construction.

Table 9.15: Summary of Operational Phase Residual Visual Effects at Representative Viewpoints in Year 1

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change (year 1)	Residual Significance (level) of effect (year 1)
1	Treffynnon	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
2	Llandeloy	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
3	Trefgam Owen	Medium	High	Substantial (Adverse)
4	North of Llandeloy	Low	High	Moderate (Adverse)
5	Rhyndaston Mountain	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
6	Roch	High	Medium	Moderate (Adverse)
7	Nab Head	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
8	West of St Brides	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
9	Brandy Bay	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
10	Borough Head	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
11	Car Park South of Little Haven	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
12	Haroldston Chins	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
13	Ricketts Head	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
14	Maidenhall Point Car Park	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
15	Maidenhall Point	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
16	Penycwm	High	Medium	Substantial (Adverse)
17	Local Road to Brawdy	Low	High	Moderate (Adverse)
18	A487 at Mount Farm	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
19	Porthmynawyd	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
20	South of Lochvane	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
21	Solva	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)

Viewpoint No.	Viewpoint name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change (year 1)	Residual Significance (level) of effect (year 1)
22	Porthlysgi East	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
23	Summit Penberry	High	Negligible	Negligible
24	The Green Caerfarchell	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
25	Waun Caerfarchell	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
26	Ty Dewi	Low	Medium	Slight (Adverse)
27	Country Lane Curlew's Rise	Low	Low	Negligible
28	St Brides Coastal Waters East	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
29	St Brides Bay 8 km	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
30	St Brides Bay 5 km	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
31	St Brides Bay Coastal Waters North	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
32	Ramsey Island Coastal Waters	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
33	The Point at Little Haven	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)

- 9.6.14. None of the representative viewpoints would be subject to a Very Substantial (Significant) level of visual effect. This reflects the reduced magnitude of visual change for the most visually sensitive locations along the PCNPT which tend to be at a slightly lower elevation than the site.
- 9.6.15. Viewpoints that would be subject to a **Substantial (Significant)** level of visual effect include residential locations in close proximity to the site (for example from Treffynnon (Representative Viewpoint 1), Llandeloy (Representative Viewpoint 2), Trefgarn Owen (Representative Viewpoint 3) and Penycwm (Representative Viewpoint 16). A **Substantial (Significant)** level of visual effect would also occur at some elevated locations along the PCPNT to the south where prominent views of the proposed development would occur along the coastline to the north (for example from Haroldston Chins (Representative Viewpoint 12)). It is important to note, however, that this level of visual effect is transitional and limited to the more elevated sections of the route and much of the PCPNT runs at lower elevation with no views of the proposed development. A **Substantial (Significant)** level of visual effect has also been found at Rhyndaston Mountain (Viewpoint 5) due to its elevated position looking down into the site across areas of the National Park and from which the proposed support buildings would be prominent and seen against a distant scenic backdrop.
- 9.6.16. Other viewpoints inland and along more distant sections of the PCPNT would also be subject to a **Moderate (Significant)** level of visual effect. Where the viewpoint is in close proximity (less than 2 km), this is generally due to the viewpoint having a **Low** overall sensitivity (i.e. outside the PCNP/PCPNT with road users as a receptor) combined with a **High** magnitude of change (for example Representative Viewpoint 17 – Local Road to Brawdy from the C3010). Here the effect would reduce to **Slight (Not Significant)** in year 15 due to proposed tree planting in the foreground of the view.
- 9.6.17. It is worth noting that the highly sensitive panoramic viewpoint at Representative Viewpoint 23 – Summit Penberry would have a **Slight (Not Significant)** adverse level of effect. Even though

the viewpoint has **High** overall sensitivity due to its location within the National Park and the nature of the available view, it would have a **Low** magnitude of change due firstly to it being a panoramic 360-degree view without a singular focal point and secondly that much of the proposed development would not be seen on the skyline (the larger transmit array would be seen against a backdrop of distant hills).

- 9.6.18. There are two coastal viewpoints along St Brides Bay to the south of the application site which would experience a **Substantial (Significant)** adverse level of effect (Representative Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins and Representative Viewpoint 13 – Ricketts Head). These viewpoints have **High** overall sensitivity as they are both located on the PCPNT within the National Park. Although they would experience only a **Medium** magnitude of change (largely due to distance) the development is situated within the focal point of the view north along the St Brides coastline towards Newgale settlement and beach. These are dramatic panoramic views focused north along the coastline at a close enough distance that the proposed development would be noticeable against the open and relatively undisturbed skyline.
- 9.6.19. The majority of the remaining coastal viewpoints along St Brides Bay would only experience a **Slight (Not Significant)** adverse level of effect. Even though these viewpoints are of **High** overall sensitivity due to being situated on the PCPNT within the National Park, they would have a **Low** magnitude of change. This is generally because these viewpoints are either located so far away from the application site (over 10 km) that the proposed development would appear very small in the view (notably Representative Viewpoint 7 – Nab Head, Representative Viewpoint 8 – West of St Brides, Representative Viewpoint 10 – Borough Head, Representative Viewpoint 11 – Car Park South of Little Haven and Representative Viewpoint 22 – Porthlysgi East), or are closer, but the development would be located slightly away from the focal direction of the view (for example, Representative Viewpoint 14 – Maidenhall Point Car Park, Representative Viewpoint 19 – Porthlysgi East and Representative Viewpoint 20 – South of Lochvane). In most cases, the proposed development would also be seen amongst other features on the skyline such as woodland and buildings.
- 9.6.20. None of the seascape viewpoints would have a significant visual effect mainly given their distance from the proposed development. These viewpoints have a **Slight (Not Significant)** adverse level of effect. All of the viewpoints have a **Medium** overall sensitivity as they are not located within a national designation. Also, they do not have particularly sensitive receptors, as users of the sea tend to be infrequent, seasonal and/or engaged in other activities such as recreation or working. Most of the viewpoints would have a **Low** magnitude of change because the proposed development would appear very small in the view due to the distance and, in most of the viewpoints, the development is visible slightly away from the focal point of the view. However, Representative Viewpoint 32 – Ramsey Island Coastal Waters, has a **Negligible** magnitude of change because it is so far away from the development (15 km) that the overall view would be regarded as unaltered.
- 9.6.21. It is worth noting the ZTV (see Figure 9.5) shows that the greatest potential visibility from the sea would be closer to the proposed development, approximately 450 m to the west of Newgale Sands, where the antennas would appear as skyline features above Newgale. The height of the proposed antennas would, however, appear relatively small in comparison to the height of the cliff formations along the coastline.
- 9.6.22. However, closer to the coastline, it becomes less likely that the proposed development would be visible due to the height of the cliffs and as the development is located inland. This can be seen on the ZTV (see Figure 9.5).
- 9.6.23. The visual assessments have confirmed that against a highly illuminated baseline position at the current military site the nighttime effects of the minimal additional and dark-sky compliant lighting would be **Negligible** for all viewpoints and visual receptors.

Year 15 visual effects

9.6.24. Consideration has been given to the longer-term effectiveness of the targeted proposed tree planting in selected areas around the edges of the site. The extent of proposed tree planting has been constrained by operational requirements and the ecological value of the existing grassland. While the height of the proposed antennas and the challenging climatic conditions in this coastal location will limit the feasibility of screening the proposed development with trees, the proposed planting would provide partial visual softening and integration of the development into the surrounding landscape over time. Full screening of the development is not feasible but the planting will nevertheless contribute positively to the character and appearance of the site and its surroundings. In general terms therefore, although of benefit, the limited proposed tree planting would not likely materially reduce the overall level of visual effects from the year 1 position (with the potential exception from Representative Viewpoint 17 at Brawdy Road, the proposed development would remain visible in most views even when planting had established) Appendix 9.3 (Representative Viewpoint Assessment) does not include separate and individual consideration of year 15 effects for each viewpoint, as, with the exception of Representative Viewpoint 17, the level of visual effect is not anticipated to change over time. It is nevertheless highlighted that any proposed tree planting would achieve the following valuable landscape and visual benefits and help to minimise adverse effects:

- Provide a landscape buffer and provide some visual screening along the eastern boundary of the site with the local road to Brawdy (C3010) (i.e. increase the enclosing function of the boundary vegetation in representative Viewpoint 17). This local road passes very close to some of the proposed antennas in the transmit array and was highlighted during public consultation as being an important route for local people.
- Soften the visual effects of the proposed development in views from nearby villages such as Trefgarn Owen (representative Viewpoint 3).
- Introduce some additional skyline vegetation that would generally contribute to landscape integration, soften the appearance of the proposed development in some views and partially absorb the massing of both buildings and antennas. The locations of proposed planting have been carefully targeted to take advantage of the most elevated parts of the site and would include evergreen pine species consistent with the surrounding character.

Sequential visual effects on users of the PCPNT

Northern coastline (people walking south around the bay)

9.6.25. Walkers travelling east along the PCPNT from the north-western tip of St Brides Bay (near Ramsey Island) would experience transient views of the proposed development (principally the antennas) at various more elevated points along the coastline (see ZTV at Figure 9.5). In particular, there would be distant views of the proposed development along the coastline from Representative Viewpoint 22 – Porthlysg East. These transient views would be interrupted by lower sections of trail where no visibility would occur such as along the eastern side of Porthclais, St Non's Retreat and the coastal valleys around Trelerw and Llandruidion.

9.6.26. However, as walkers get closer to the proposed development, it would be visible slightly further inland (Representative Viewpoint 21 – Solva) and from more elevated inland positions (Representative Viewpoint 20 – South of Lochvane and Representative Viewpoint 19 – Porthmynawyd). In some of these views the proposed development would not coincide with the principal views along the coastline and across the bay and would therefore be less prominently positioned within the available view from the trail.

9.6.27. The proposed development would fall out of view beyond Porthmynawyd (as shown on the ZTV at Figure 9.5) and then, as walkers head southwards along the PCPNT on Newgale



beach, their main focal direction of view would be along the beach and coastline and therefore away from the proposed development behind them.

- 9.6.28. Once the walkers reach Little Haven, they would then head westwards along the southern coastline so their main focal direction would be away from the direction of the proposed development. However, they may briefly stop at Borough Head (Representative Viewpoint 10) and/or Brandy Bay (Representative Viewpoint 9) to take in the panoramic views across St Brides Bay, in which case they would experience distant views of the proposed development.

Southern coastline (people walking north around the bay)

- 9.6.29. Walkers travelling in a north-easterly direction along the PCPNT from the south-western tip of St Brides Bay would initially experience distant views of the proposed development from Nab Head (Representative Viewpoint 7) and West of St Brides (Representative Viewpoint 8)

- 9.6.30. Beyond this, the ZTV shows that potential views of the proposed development would be almost continuous along the southern coastline with distant views available from Representative Viewpoint 9 – Brandy Bay and Representative Viewpoint 10 – Borough Head.

- 9.6.31. Just before Little Haven, walkers turn north with potential views of the proposed development from elevated ground north and south of Little Haven but no visibility from lower lying Broad Haven (see ZTV at Figure 9.5). Views would then become transient and limited to elevated sections along the coast. For example, distant views of the proposed development would be seen from above Newgale beach from Representative Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins and Representative Viewpoint 13 – Rickets Head. Some of the more elevated positions along the PCPNT to the south, such as at Representative Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins, would also feature visibility of the rooftops of the proposed support buildings on the skyline which would increase the occurrence of built development and add further visual complexity along the skyline in the context of some of the existing buildings on the site. Despite these transient views of the proposed development from elevated sections of the trail, there would be long sections where no visibility would occur such as from Broad Haven, the coastline between Druidstone and Nolton Haven and both the beach and settlement at Newgale.

- 9.6.32. Once walkers get closer to the application site at Maidenhall Point, the proposed development is no longer within the main focal point of the view (for example, Representative Viewpoint 14 – Maidenhall Point Car Park and Representative Viewpoint 15 – Maidenhall Point). In addition, the ZTV shows that the proposed development would not be visible from almost the entire PCPNT along Newgale beach due to its lower elevation.

- 9.6.33. After walkers have past Newgale beach, they would turn west along the northern coastline of St Brides Bay so their main focal direction would be further along the coastline away from the proposed development behind them.

Conclusions on Effects on the PCPNT

- 9.6.34. Views from the PCPNT have **High** value due to it being a National Trail and its position within the National Park, and long-distance walkers would be regarded as **High** susceptibility receptors as they take a great interest in the views around them (visual amenity is the principal purpose of their being present). Criteria to determine high visual sensitivity are set out in paragraph 1.19 of Appendix 9.1. These criteria refer to recognised viewpoints such as from National Trails and the likelihood of tourist use. Given this, users of the PCPNT are regarded to have **High** overall visual sensitivity.

- 9.6.35. There are minimal opportunities for views of the proposed development from the PCPNT within less than 1 km of the site. The proposed development would be a transient but nevertheless recurring feature for people walking along elevated sections of the PCPNT around St Brides Bay in both directions of travel (including from Representative Viewpoints 7 to 15 and 19 to 22) and it is considered that the sequential magnitude of visual change for users in year 1 would be **Medium**. The proposed development would be visually prominent from some

elevated sections of the route due to the often otherwise simple and open skylines (for example Representative Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins and Representative Viewpoint 13 – Ricketts Head) and be a noticeable change to views from elevated sections of the trail more generally. Despite the distances involved, the assessment has also found a Slight level of effect on representative viewpoints to the south of St Brides Bay between Nab Head and Borough Head. Where visible, the appearance of the proposed development would be inconsistent with existing features within the views which often feature simple and open skylines with few vertical interruptions. Given this and users' **High** visual sensitivity, it is considered that there would be a **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** level of sequential visual effect on users of the PCPNT.

Sequential visual effects on users of NCR4

Route from Fishguard

- 9.6.36. The ZTV (see Figure 9.5) shows that cyclists travelling from Fishguard in a south-westerly direction along NCR4 would experience no potential visibility of the proposed development for a long section of the route until Treferyn. The ZTV then shows intermittent potential visibility from elevated sections but, as the application site would mostly be behind them, it is unlikely that there would be any actual visibility.
- 9.6.37. Near Lleithyr, cyclists would turn south continuing through St Davids before turning east towards the application site, experiencing intermittent visibility of the proposed development en-route.
- 9.6.38. As cyclists get closer to the application site, the ZTV shows that there would be potential visibility from the route, though local landcover would ensure that this was intermittent. As Representative Viewpoint 26 – Ty Dewi (close to NCR4) demonstrates, actual visibility would be reduced by intervening vegetation and buildings associated with the application site.
- 9.6.39. Once NCR4 reaches the application site boundary, it terminates and then restarts to the south, close to Penycwm. The route continues southwards on the coast path along Newgale beach, but there would be no views of the proposed development along this section as this would be behind the cyclists.
- 9.6.40. At Broad Haven, cyclists would turn east towards Haverfordwest. Although the ZTV shows a small area of potential visibility along this section, as the application site would mostly be behind the cyclists, it is unlikely that there would be any actual visibility.

Route from Haverfordwest

- 9.6.41. The ZTV (see Figure 9.5) shows that cyclists travelling from Haverfordwest in a westerly direction along NCR4 would initially experience only one small section of potential visibility before turning north at Broad Haven.
- 9.6.42. After the cyclists turn northwards, the cycle route becomes more elevated and they would likely experience more frequent views of the proposed development (for example, Representative Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins, which is close to the route).
- 9.6.43. Once cyclists get closer to the application site, the proposed development is no longer within the main focal point of the view as its position would not coincide with the more important coastal views.
- 9.6.44. The ZTV shows some potential visibility just before the cycle route terminates south of the application site. Representative Viewpoint 16 – Penycwm, which is on the route, shows that cyclists would experience prominent views of the proposed development in their direction of travel.
- 9.6.45. Once NCR4 resumes to the west of the application site, there would be no potential views of the proposed development until cyclists have passed through St Davids and turned north-east,

as it would be behind the cyclists. The ZTV shows that cyclists would initially experience frequent potential visibility from elevated sections until Treferyn, but there would be no visibility thereafter.

Conclusions on effects on users of NCR4

- 9.6.46. Criteria for visual sensitivity are provided in Appendix 9.1. Views for users of NCR4 have **High** visual value due to it being a national cycle route and being partly located within the National Park. Cyclists on this route would be regarded as **Medium** susceptibility receptors as they take an interest in the views around them, but not as much as pedestrians would. Given this, users of the route would be regarded as having Medium visual sensitivity.
- 9.6.47. While there are long inland sections of NCR4 where the proposed development would not be visible in both directions of travel, it would be an intermittent but occasionally recurring feature while cycling around St Brides Bay in both directions, which is the most important area for this assessment. Given this, the sequential magnitude of visual change in year 1 would be **Medium**. Given this, there would be a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** level of sequential visual effect on users of NCR4.

Landscape effects

Construction phase residual landscape character effects

- 9.6.48. The following table provides the assessment of the residual effect on each landscape character area during the construction phase. The magnitude of landscape change would be limited by the isolated and large scale of the site and the temporary nature of the 21-month construction phase which would limit the potential for indirect landscape character effects in areas other than the host landscape character area.

Table 9.16: Construction Phase Residual Effects on Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance (level) of effect
PCC LCA 1: Trefynnon	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Adverse)
PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCC LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCC LCA 5: Sceddau Lowlands	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
PCC LCA 12: Landsker Lowlands	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula	High	Negligible	Negligible
PCNPA LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland	High	Negligible	Negligible
PCNPA LCA 16: Carn Llidi	High	Negligible	Negligible

9.6.49. PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon would experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** direct effects on landscape character due to the introduction of large scale machinery required to install the antennas and their associated support buildings and access tracks, and the incremental introduction of the antennas and their associated support buildings and infrastructure into the LCA. Installation would be carried out gradually across the site over the 21-month period resulting in the effects on landscape character increasing over time as the number of constructed antennas increase. There would be no loss of structural vegetation during the construction phase. Vegetation loss would be limited to a small area of grassland within the former airfield site to enable the construction of the antennas, their associated support buildings and access roads. Construction would be taking place across elevated and visually open areas of the site which currently comprise a disused runway. The nature of the disused runway and its elevated position means that this part of Cawdor Barracks currently has the appearance of undeveloped open countryside. Despite construction activity being limited to a localised area at the southern edge of the landscape character area, intervisibility with the construction work in this very open landscape would occur within some elevated adjacent areas of the LCA to the west, north and east.

9.6.50. The remaining LCAs are not considered likely to experience significant effects on landscape character. This is as a result of either the distance from the proposed development reducing intervisibility and / or due to a lower sensitivity resulting from the lower susceptibility of the landscape to the proposed development and locations outside of landscape designations.

9.6.51. Construction activity would take place within the context of an operational RAF base with existing retained large-scale buildings, in a pocket of development within a largely rural surrounding landscape. All surrounding structural vegetation would be retained. Construction activity would incrementally introduce new, engineered features into the landscape as the antennas are gradually added to the application site over the 21-month period. These large-scale features would be intervisible from a wide area contrasting with the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape character. Construction phase effects on landscape character would be short term, temporary and reversible.

Construction phase residual seascape character effects

9.6.52. The following table provides the assessment of the residual effect on each seascape character area during the construction phase.

Table 9.17: Construction Phase Residual Effects on Seascape Character Areas

Seascape Character Area name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance (level) of effect
PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East	High	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 24: St Brides Bay	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters	High	Negligible	Negligible

9.6.53. PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North, PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East and PCNPA SCA 24: St Brides Bay would all experience a **Low** magnitude of temporary change in landscape character due to the construction work being visible. Construction activity would be in general intervisible as a small-scale feature within the overall setting of the SCAs. Construction phase effects on landscape character would be short term, temporary and reversible.

Operational phase residual landscape and seascape character effects

9.6.54. This section of the report considers the operational phase effects of the proposed development on landscape character. It focuses on five PCC landscape character areas (including Treffynnon, the host landscape character area upon which direct physical landscape effects would occur), six surrounding PCNPA landscape character areas (those specifically highlighted in the PCNPA’s scoping opinion consultation response plus PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland) and four PCNPA seascape character areas (those specifically highlighted in the PCNPA’s scoping opinion consultation response). Following the individual assessments of each constituent landscape and seascape character area, an overall aggregate assessment is provided of the landscape effect on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (a nationally designated landscape) with particular reference to relevant special qualities identified by the PCNPA.

Pembrokeshire County Council Landscape Character Areas (PCC LCAs)

9.6.55. The following tables assess the operational phase residual landscape effect on PCC LCAs in year 1. They begin with the host character area (Treffynnon).

Table 9.18: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCC LCA 1 Treffynnon

PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon	
Baseline summary	<p>The PCC LCA identifies the proposed development as being located within Landscape Character Area 1: Treffynnon,</p> <p>The LCA is characterised by rounded low rolling ridges and hills, as well as small-scale steep-sided valleys. It consists mainly of pastoral farmland with medium-sized fields of improved grassland and some arable land. Trimmed hedges and hedgebanks contribute to the open character of the area. There are occasional clumps of wind-sculpted woodland and small-scale wooded and scrub valleys. Several small-scale wooded valleys are visually contained.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is dispersed and predominantly rural, with notable settlements including Mathry, Llangloffan, Square and Compass, Hayscastle Cross, and Croesgoch. There are also occasional hamlets and scattered traditional farmsteads connected by quiet lanes. The area features a rich variety of historic features and scheduled monuments.</p> <p>The road pattern consists of quiet rural lanes and B roads, with the A487 (the main tourist route) traversing the north of the area. NCR4 crosses the area.</p> <p>There is a disused Cawdor, with visible buildings, runways, and roadways. Static and touring caravan parks are scattered across the area, primarily close to the A487 or Brawdy. There are a few small wind turbines on the higher ground, mainly focused within the south.</p> <p>The area has a long boundary with the National Park and shares similar landform and landcover. On the higher ground, relatively low hedges allow for long views across the area towards both the coast within the National Park and the sea.</p> <p>The area feels exposed, with windswept tree cover in some places, indicating its close relationship with the coast. Tranquillity increases away from the A487 and Brawdy. Valleys provide enclosure through landform, trees, and hedge cover, creating a secluded feel.</p> <p>The published landscape character assessment notes guidelines for landscape change which include encouraging careful location and design of agricultural buildings and structures; maintaining the essential rural settlement character; avoiding intrusive developments on skylines or upper slopes; and controlling lighting to minimise impact in rural areas, especially those visible from the National Park.</p>

PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon

Medium value open rural landscape with some scenic qualities, but outside of the National Park.

The LCA is considered to be of **Medium** susceptibility due to the open rural landscape character with limited tree cover on high ground which reduces the landscape's capacity to absorb the proposed development. However, the landscape is moderately complex in the vicinity of the proposed development where farmland meets the Cawdor RAF base, the villages of Penycwm and Brawdy, several campsites, Brawdy Business Park and a sewage works. In addition, existing large scale military buildings and infrastructure at the former Brawdy RAF base reduce the susceptibility of the landscape to the proposed development in this location. Isolated wind turbines form vertical features within the landscape.

Sensitivity

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the proposed development.

The extents of the proposed development are small in relation to the wider LCA and are located on the existing Cawdor RAF base which exerts a military influence on the landscape character within a localised area and contains large scale buildings.

A relatively small area of ecologically valuable, acid, lowland, grassland in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development would be lost due to the introduction of the antennas and their associated access roads and buildings. A proposed 2.8 m high fence would be introduced surrounding the antennas. Lighting would be introduced as part of the proposed development. However, existing lighting levels would be reduced along the current fence line as part of the development, resulting in a negligible reduction in lighting overall.

Intervisibility between the proposed development (both the antennas and support buildings) and the wider LCA would potentially be experienced at more elevated and open locations in closer parts of the LCA with the greatest effects experienced in close range to the site within a distance of approximately 5 km. The openness of the landscape with its limited tree cover combined with topography would result in the proposed development forming a distinctive feature along the skyline within the expansive surrounding landscape over a large area of the LCA.

The proposed development would introduce new communication infrastructure into the predominantly rural landscape, creating a contrast with the surrounding farmland, small-scale rural settlements, and scattered farmsteads. Due to their size and distinctive design, the antennas are likely to become a prominent feature within the area. The proposed support buildings to be sited along the disused runway between the TX and RX arrays would increase the presence of large scale built features within the character area in an elevated and visually exposed position.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the south-western side of the plateau and the southern and eastern site boundaries. This would soften the appearance of the antennas, partially absorbing the lower sections.

Magnitude of change

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a High magnitude of change in landscape character. The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.

The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Substantial Adverse (Significant)**.

Significance (level) of effect

The residual effect on landscape character would be **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** due to the introduction of up to 21.5 m high engineered features and support buildings within a rural landscape.

Table 9.19: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCC LCA 6 Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains

PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains

PCC character area LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains is located at its closest point (at Dudwell Mountain just east of Rhyndaston Mountain) a minimum of approximately 5 km to the south-east of the closest proposed antennas.

The area is characterised by an open, narrow, east-west undulating ridge, with a maximum elevation of 175 m above sea level and a rocky outcrop to the west. The Nant-y-coy Brook winds along the north-eastern edge of the area.

It features semi-natural habitats such as wet heath, dense scrub, areas of bracken, and purple moor grass meadows. The eastern and lower western fringes are largely pastoral, with regular and semi-regular field patterns.

The area has significant historic interest, including the Plumstone Mountain round barrows, Plumstone defensive rath, and post-medieval quarries. These features, along with Maiden Castle and Treffgarne Gorge give the area a distinct sense of place.

There are no settlements or vertical structures on the ridge top, resulting in an unspoilt skyline. Scattered farmsteads and isolated dwellings are found on the lower slopes, with an absence of clustered settlements or agricultural buildings.

The road pattern consists of surfaced and un-surfaced single-track lanes, providing access to individual farmsteads, properties, and Plumstone Mountain. Plumstone Rock is a locally recognised landmark that serves as a recreational focal point, offering parking and access to common land with extensive views towards Milford Haven.

Key views include those towards Roch Castle and the coast to the west, the Preseli Hills beyond Maiden Castle and Wolf Rock to the east, and distant views across rolling farmland to Garn Fawr, Carn Llidi, and occasionally Ramsey Island.

Baseline
summary

Away from the road and car parks, there is a degree of tranquillity, and the whole area feels exposed throughout most of the year. The area borders the National Park to the west.

Medium value elevated rural landscape with some scenic qualities and significant historic interest, but outside of the National Park.

The LCA would be of **High** susceptibility due to its open, simple and distinct rural character. The area has low levels of development and an absence of features similar in nature to the proposed development.

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the proposed development due to its limited extent and position outside of the PCNP.

Sensitivity

The proposed development is located outside of this LCA resulting in no direct effects upon landscape character.

There would be some intervisibility with the LCA resulting in indirect effects on landscape character, albeit that these views are in excess of 5 km from the proposed development. The character area includes elevated areas with views down to the west over the site of the proposed development and towards the coastline and distinct, craggy hills. These views west contribute to its character. Intervisibility would occur from the upper northern slopes of Dudwell, Plumstone and Leweston mountains and the upper western slopes of Great Treffgarne mountain. The proposed development would appear as a noticeable feature within the wider landscape setting of this character area due to its novel appearance. From localised areas, the outline of proposed antennas and support buildings would interrupt the existing intervisibility between the distant high ground at Carn Penberry located to the east of Carn Llidi, increasing the prominence of the proposed development within the landscape.

Magnitude of
change

The proposed antennas would introduce views of engineered features and large buildings into a localised area of the rural landscape setting with few detractors.

PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the eastern site boundary. This would soften the appearance of the antennas, partially absorbing the lower sections. There would be a slight reduction in night-time lighting levels omitted from the application site.

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a Low magnitude of change in landscape character. The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.

Significance (level) of effect	The residual effect on landscape character would be Slight Adverse due to the introduction of new engineered features within views from the LCA against the distant high ground at Carn Llidi.
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Table 9.20: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCC LCA 7 Pelcomb And Simpson Cross

PCC LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross

PCC character area LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross is located at its closest point (at Roch) approximately 4 km to the south-east of the closest proposed antennas.

The area is characterised by of a series of east/west ridges and rounded hill slopes, with intervening valleys. The stream valleys within the area are deeply cut, with steep sides and narrow floors. There are also areas of woodland, scrub, rough grassland, marshy grassland, and heath. Linear ancient woodlands and scrub can be found along valley sides and bottoms, with occasional copses and small conifer plantations.

Development includes scattered small villages (notably Roch), some with 20th-century extensions, and small-scale farmsteads. There is substantial evidence of prehistoric settlement and occasional listed buildings.

The radial routes from Haverfordwest follow higher ground and provide open views into surrounding valleys, which are served by minor roads.

Medium-sized wind turbines are located to the east, with smaller turbines scattered across the area.

The wooded valleys offer sheltered and tranquil environments, especially away from roads. To the west, there are generally open hills and ridge tops that overlook the coast and St Brides Bay, with views of Ramsey Island. This area forms part of the setting of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Baseline
summary

Medium value open rural landscape with some scenic qualities, but outside of the National Park.

The LCA is considered to be of **Medium** susceptibility due the valley topography and areas of tree cover forming moderate levels of visual openness. The area has relatively low levels of development although wind turbines feature within the landscape.

Sensitivity

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the proposed development.

PCC LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross

The proposed development is located outside of this LCA resulting in no direct effects upon landscape character.

There would, however, be some intervisibility between this LCA and the proposed development, located within the LCAs rural setting, where it would appear as a small skyline feature. Intervisibility would occur on areas of higher ground within the west of the LCA including Roch and Simpson Cross; Pelcomb in the centre; and Middle Slade in the south-east of the area. Intervisibility would occur from a small extent of the overall LCA with the greatest effects experienced in the vicinity of the settlements of Roch, Simpson Cross and Keystone which have reduced levels of remoteness. The key focus within the landscape setting of these areas is towards the National Park coastline.

The proposed antennas would introduce new engineered features into a rural landscape with few detractors. The engineered nature of the antennas would interrupt this rural landscape setting. However, due to the small scale of the proposed development in relation to the wider setting of this LCA, it would be a generally unnoticed secondary feature to those existing features in the area that already define its landscape character. Changes would occur across a very localised area of the landscape setting.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the eastern site boundary. This would soften the appearance of the antennas, partially absorbing the lower sections.

Magnitude of change It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Low** magnitude of change in landscape character. The proposed changes would be permanent yet reversible.

Significance (level) of effect The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Slight Adverse (Not Significant)** due to the small extent of intervisibility with this LCA and the small scale of change in relation to the wider landscape setting.

Table 9.21: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCC LCA 5 Sceddau Lowlands

PCC LCA 5: Sceddau Lowlands	
	<p>PCC character area LCA 5: Sceddau Lowlands is located at its closest point (around Letterston Treletert) a minimum of approximately 8 km to the north-east of the closest proposed antennas.</p> <p>This LCA consists of undulating pastoral landscape with low open hills and small wooded valleys. The area is generally open, with hills and ridge tops offering open skylines, low hedge banks, and hedges at lower levels, and limited tree cover. Sinuous, enclosed watercourses with narrow valley floors and some flat-bottomed valleys can be found in the eastern part of the area.</p> <p>The area is home to larger rural settlements like Letterston and Sceddau, located on the busy A40, as well as smaller scattered settlements elsewhere, particularly in the east. The agricultural land predominantly consists of improved grassland with regular and irregular small to medium-scale fields delineated by hedge banks and post and wire boundaries, contributing to the open character. Remnant medieval strip fields can be found in certain areas, along with patches of moorland scrub and commons in the east. Arable use is limited to larger fields in the west. A series of commons are present including Puncheston, Castlebythe Commons, and Wallis Moor, with upland grassland, moorland, and scrub.</p> <p>The distinctive settlements of Letterston and Puncheston are linear in nature, with well-spaced rural farmsteads and scattered listed buildings. Many settlements have medieval origins but have undergone significant extensions in the 20th century and later, particularly near the A40. The majority of agricultural buildings are modern, utilizing steel frame and cladding construction.</p> <p>There is a solar farm at Trecoed, north of Letterston, and small-scale wind turbines are present. Transport corridors like the A40 and railway to Fishguard cut through the landscape, utilizing the Cleddau valley in parts. The area is traversed by a network of narrow lanes and single-track roads, with relatively few public footpaths.</p> <p>The eastern part of the area forms part of the setting of the National Park at Mynydd Castlebythe and the Gwaun valley, as well as the sloping setting to Llys-y-fran in the east.</p>
Baseline summary	<p>Medium value open rural landscape, but outside of the National Park.</p> <p>The LCA is considered to be of Medium susceptibility due the valley topography and areas of tree cover forming moderate levels of visual openness and moderate contribution by existing built development. The area has detractors including solar and wind development and large-scale agricultural buildings.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall Medium sensitivity to the proposed development.</p>
Magnitude of change	<p>The proposed development is located outside of this LCA resulting in no direct effects upon landscape character.</p> <p>There would be some potential distant intervisibility between this LCA and the proposed development, but it would appear as a barely perceptible feature. Intervisibility would occur only from areas of higher ground.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed development would result in a Negligible magnitude of change in landscape character due to the considerable distance at which it is located from the LCA. As a result, the antennas would introduce an almost unnoticeable feature within the distant landscape setting.</p>
Significance (level) of effect	<p>The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be Negligible (Not Significant). This is due to the considerable distance at which it is located from the LCA resulting in the antennas introducing a generally unnoticed distant feature within the landscape setting that would not alter the overall characteristics of the LCA.</p>

Table 9.22: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCC LCA 12 Landsker Lowlands

PCC LCA 12: Landsker Lowlands

PCC character area LCA 12: Landsker Lowland is located at its closest point (around Spittal) a minimum of approximately 11 km to the east of the closest proposed antennas.

This Landscape Character Area (LCA) is a large hills and valley landscape that forms the watershed between the Western and Eastern Cleddau, with numerous wooded tributary valleys and strong ridges. The area is predominantly pastoral, with some arable land. Field boundaries consist of trimmed and overgrown hedges, hedgebanks, and post and wire boundaries, with trees present in certain areas. Ancient woodland can be found within the area, although some locations have been replaced with conifer plantations.

The clustered villages, occasional farmsteads, and dwellings contribute to the rural character of the area. Villages like Llawhaden and Wiston, with their castles on the Landsker line, hold particular historic interest. The overall character of the area is tranquil, although there are modifications to the character in the south-west around Haverfordwest, where there is a small airport and commercial development at Withybush, as well as along part of the A40 corridor.

The A40 road, running along the ridge to the south and near the Western Cleddau to the west, generates noise and movement. Other uses, such as landfill sites, are located nearby. Large solar farms are situated to the south, just east of Haverfordwest, and isolated single/double small wind turbines can be found on hill and ridge tops, mainly in the west.

The area is home to numerous scheduled monuments, including prehistoric forts and camps. Views of the Preselis to the north and Roch Castle to the west are possible from ridges and upper slopes. The area is highly visible and interconnected with the National Park and its setting.

Baseline
summary

The southern part of the area is also within the setting of the National Park, associated with the Cleddau rivers and Daugleddau.

Medium value rural landscape with historical interest, but outside of the National Park.

The LCA is considered to be of **Medium** susceptibility due the valley topography and areas of tree cover forming moderate levels of visual openness. The area has detractors including an airport, landfill sites, solar and wind development.

Sensitivity

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the proposed development due to its location outside of the PCNP.

The proposed development is located outside of this LCA resulting in no direct effects upon landscape character.

There would be potential intervisibility between this LCA and the proposed development but it would appear as a barely perceptible distant feature.

Magnitude of
change

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Negligible** magnitude of change in landscape character due to the considerable distance at which it is located from the LCA. This would result in the antennas introducing an unnoticeable feature within the distant landscape setting.

Significance
(level) of effect

The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Negligible (Not Significant)** due to the considerable distance at which it is located from the LCA. This would result in the antennas introducing an unnoticeable feature within the wider distant landscape setting that would not alter the overall characteristics of the LCA.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Landscape Character Areas (PCNPA LCAs)

- 9.6.56. The following tables provide the assessment of the residual operational phase effects on five landscape character area within the National Park in year 1. The five areas reflect those requested by the PCNPA in their scoping opinion consultation response.

Table 9.23: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 12 St Brides Bay

PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay	
Baseline summary	<p>PCNPA LCA 12: St Bride's Bay is located at its closest point (at Penycwm) a minimum of approximately 1 km to the south of the closest proposed antennas.</p> <p>This an agricultural landscape with a strong coastal character on the west coast of Pembrokeshire, between Solva and Little Haven. It consists of rolling lowland, coastal cliffs, and beaches, which contribute to its strong sense of place. The landscape features small, wooded valleys, overgrown hedges, and areas of scrub. There are also scattered villages, farmsteads, and tourism developments, such as caravan parks. The coastline is characterised by rocky headlands, sandy beaches, and extensive views. Habitats in the area include sea cliff heath and grassland, deciduous woodland, and scrub. There are also significant historical and archaeological sites, including prehistoric ritual sites and Iron Age hill forts.</p> <p>This expansive landscape is intimately connected to the coast, offering wide-ranging visual connections to St. Brides Bay and the mostly undeveloped coastline. From the coastal villages, as well as numerous local roads and footpaths, there are extensive views that encompass both the coastline and across St. Brides Bay. The presence of the sea is a constant experience, heightened by the sound of waves crashing onto the cobble beach. These visual and auditory elements are evident in various perspectives, whether it be short, medium, or long-distance views.</p> <p>Key points about the landscape include its strong visual relationship with the coast, offering broad views and a high degree of exposure. The constant presence of the sea, along with its ecological value and historical features, adds to its cultural significance. The area is mainly managed as low-intensity farmland, although there are some caravan parks on the fringes of coastal settlements. Overall, the landscape remains attractive and unspoilt.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>High landscape value due to the LCA being located within the National Park.</p> <p>The LCA is considered to be of High susceptibility due the visually open landscape with its highly distinctive coastline topography and low levels of development forming a strong sense of place.</p> <p>Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall High sensitivity to the proposed development.</p>
Magnitude of change	<p>The proposed development is situated outside the LCA, which means it would have no direct impact on the landscape character.</p> <p>However, potential intervisibility would occur from elevated and open parts of the LCA, resulting in indirect effects on landscape character, principally confined to northern parts of the character area within approximately 3 km. The greatest concentration of intervisibility occurs in the north-west of the LCA on highly sensitive elevated ground between Newgale Sands and Porth-y-bwch including the coastline. Further intervisibility occurs on elevated ground in the vicinity of Maiden Point and high ground in the vicinity of Druidston. The greatest effects of intervisibility would be experienced in close proximity to the proposed development, where it would form a large-scale focal point in the landscape setting contrasting with the area's natural beauty. Across the majority of the LCA, however, the proposed development would be located at such a distance that it would generally form a largely unnoticed feature.</p> <p>The proposed development would introduce vertical features on the long, open skyline which in certain locations would visually compete with distant views of the Llidi hills drawing the focus away from the coastline. The landscape has a strong sense of horizontality due to the absence of vertical features, minimal tree cover, field pattern and low levels of development. The vertical antennas would interrupt this horizontality, creating visual complexity on the skyline. Further</p>

PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay

visual complexity would result from the support buildings which would be visible on the skyline in some views from within this character area. Although beyond the boundaries of the character area, these smooth, gentle, simple and open skylines positively contribute to the distinct character of the area and contrast with the drama of the rocky coastline. Away from the main areas of settlement, the coastline has a wild remoteness combined with a tranquil historic farming tradition, which would be adversely impacted by the introduction of new engineered features within its landscape setting. In these locations the proposed development would be of an insufficient scale to materially detract from the coastal splendour of this LCA.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the southern and eastern site boundary. This would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

It is considered that the indirect impact of the proposed development on this adjacent landscape character area would result in a Low magnitude of change in landscape character. The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.

Significance
(level) of effect

The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)**. Landscape effects are indirect with the antennas and support buildings introducing new engineered features within the setting of the LCA, which would be intervisible from northern parts of this area.

Table 9.24: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 13 Brandy Brook

PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook

PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook is located at its closest point (at Brawdy Farm) a minimum of approximately 1 km to the east the closest proposed antennas.

This is a distinctive inland branched lowland river valley and associated rolling lowland to the north-east of Roch with no connection to the coast.

The Brandy Brook flows through the region, forming a network of small-scale watercourses with wooded slopes along their valley sides. The valley floor is primarily covered by broadleaved trees with a sheltered and tranquil nature described as 'inward looking' and with an 'intimate atmosphere' in certain locations. Hedgerow field boundaries and boundary trees are found on the upper valley margins.

Isolated farmsteads can be seen scattered throughout the valleys and on the surrounding higher ground. One prominent feature in the area is Roch Castle, which stands out as a defining landmark on the skyline from various viewpoints across and within the landscape.

The river valley supports a diverse range of habitats, including alder woodland, wet heathland, dry heath, and purple moor-grass meadows.

The landscape is also home to significant historical sites, including prehistoric ritual monuments, an Iron Age hill fort, and Medieval earthworks, all of which hold national importance.

Views within the valley are generally short distance. There is no link to the sea and views of the sea, although not far away, are only possible from the higher ground of the upper valley slopes. There is a strong visual relationship with the prominent local landmark of Roch Castle in the south-western corner of the LCA, which forms a skyline feature in many views from within the LCA.

Baseline
summary

Wind turbines are present within the landscape but are not highly visible.

Sensitivity

This LCA is located inland away from the very highly sensitive coastline. It is still considered to be of **High** landscape value due its location within the National Park but nevertheless can be regarded as slightly lower value than coastal character areas.

PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook

The LCA is considered to be of **High** susceptibility. Moderate levels of openness are present however, the most tranquil areas noted as being those inward-looking areas within the valleys. The strong sense of historic time depth and low levels of development increase susceptibility. Nevertheless, its susceptibility is slightly lower than coastal areas of the National Park.

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **High** sensitivity to the proposed development, albeit noted as slightly lower sensitivity than the coastal landscape character areas.

The proposed development is situated outside the LCA, resulting in no direct impact on landscape character. There is, however, intervisibility between the proposed development and approximately half of the LCA, resulting in indirect effects on its landscape character.

The greatest effects from intervisibility would occur closest to the site, on undulating upper slopes in the north of the LCA in the vicinity of Brawdy Farm, where the antennas would appear as large-scale features. Further intervisibility occurs on elevated northern hill slopes within the LCA including Rhyndaston Mountain. In certain locations, the proposed antennas would be intervisible as a small feature in front of Carn Penberry (to the east of Carn Llidi).

The proposed antennas and prominently sited support buildings would form new features within the setting of this LCA at odds with its historic time depth. The engineered nature of the antennas and large scale of the buildings would interrupt the rural landscape setting. The pale grey colour of the antennas would slightly increase intervisibility when seen against a hillside backdrop.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the southern and eastern site boundary. This would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

Magnitude of
change

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a Low magnitude of change in landscape character. This partially reflects that large scale structures are already visible in views west from the character area and also its separation from the contrasting coastline. The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible

Significance
(level) of effect

The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)**. Landscape effects are indirect with the antennas and support buildings introducing novel features within the wider setting of the LCA, which would be intervisible from a wide extent of this area. The landscape effect upon this adjacent area is judged to be moderate rather than substantial due to the slightly lower landscape sensitivity here compared with landscape areas immediately along the coastline.

Table 9.25: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 9 Marloes

PCNPA LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula	
Baseline summary	<p>PCNPA LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula is located at its closest point (at Borough Head) a minimum of approximately 11 km to the south of the closest proposed antennas.</p> <p>This area is a large promontory comprised of rolling lowland and a coastal fringe, with sea cliffs to the north-west and south along St. Ann's Head, as well as estuarine land along the northern shores of Milford Haven. The landscape consists mainly of agricultural land, with scattered villages and farmsteads forming the coastal hinterland. There are occasional small, wooded valleys and woodland belts interspersed throughout the area.</p> <p>Views of the coast and the presence of disused airfields at Talbenny and south of Marloes contribute to the sense of place, although they have a detracting effect on the landscape. The coastal cliffs between Little Haven and Dale are extensive, contrasting with the lower-lying north-western shoreline of the Aberdaugleddau estuary. The area offers extensive coastal views, including sights of Skomer and Skokholm islands to the west which greatly contribute to the sense of place and the outstanding visual and sensory landscape value of the area.</p> <p>Habitats in the area include sea cliffs, sandy and rocky shores, mudflats, saltmarshes, and wet and dry heath. The area has a strong sense of time depth due to the significant historical and archaeological features, such as prehistoric monuments, Iron Age forts, round houses, and standing stones. The area also has historical and archaeological features relating to the area's defensive role, which are of national importance.</p> <p>Former military airfields at Talbenny and south of Marloes village are gradually blending into the landscape through natural processes, although they still stand out as new engineered features. Wind turbines in the Haven are visible from St. Ann's Head on the north shore. While not visible from every vantage point, glimpses of turbines can be seen along various points along the Haven.</p>
Sensitivity	<p>This LCA is located along the highly sensitive coastline within the National Park and is therefore considered to be of High value.</p> <p>The LCA is considered to be of High susceptibility. High levels of openness along the sensitive coastline, the strong sense of historic time depth and low levels of development increase susceptibility.</p> <p>Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall High sensitivity to the proposed development.</p>
Magnitude of change	<p>The proposed development is situated at a considerable distance from the LCA, resulting in no direct impact on the landscape character. However, there would be intervisibility between the proposed development and a small area of the highly sensitive northern coastline resulting in indirect effects on the landscape character.</p> <p>The proposed antennas would introduce distant, barely discernible engineered features intervisible along the long, open skyline within the northern landscape setting of the LCA in an area adjacent to existing development.</p> <p>The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the site boundary would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed development would result in a Negligible magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the landscape in which detractors are present.</p> <p>The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.</p>
Significance (level) of effect	<p>The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be Negligible (Not Significant), due to the barely discernible presence of the proposed development within the landscape setting of the LCA, affecting a very small extent of the overall area of the LCA.</p>

Table 9.26: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 15 Dowrog and Tretio Commons

PCNPA LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons

<p>Baseline summary</p>	<p>PCNPA LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons is located at its closest point (east of Caerfarchell) a minimum of approximately 4 km to the north-west of the closest proposed antennas.</p> <p>This is an inland region of exposed and slightly undulating lowland, featuring two large common lands (Dowrog Common and Tretio Common) and the former St. David's military airfield in the south. The landscape consists of farmland with areas of marshy grassland and scrub, predominantly seen in Dowrog Common contributing to its open character.</p> <p>It is noted that borrowed views north-westwards to the distinctive hills of Carn Llidi and south-westwards towards the city of St. David's enhance the character of this landscape.</p> <p>Settlement in the form of scattered farmsteads have a very strong architectural 'signature' which contributes very strongly to the sense of place.</p> <p>The published landscape character assessment notes that the presence of the former St Davids airfield 'significantly impacts on the landscape character'.</p> <p>Habitats in the area include dry heath, purple moor-grass, and wet heathland.</p> <p>The presence of round barrows, standing stones, and Early Christian monuments of national significance combine with the traditional agricultural management of Dowrog and Tretio Commons to create a strong sense of time depth in the landscape. The landscape has high cultural value evidenced through the acquisition of Dowrog and Tretio Commons by the National Trust.</p>
<p>Sensitivity</p>	<p>This LCA is located within National Park and is therefore considered to be of High value.</p> <p>The LCA is considered to be of Medium susceptibility due the visual openness of the landscape, strong sense of historic time depth and low levels of development albeit with the exception of the former St Davids airfield forming a significant detractor in the landscape. This inland landscape is not connected to the most sensitive coastline areas of the National Park.</p> <p>Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall Medium sensitivity to the proposed development.</p>
<p>Magnitude of change</p>	<p>The proposed development is situated at a distance from the LCA, resulting in no direct impact on landscape character. However, indirect impacts on landscape character would occur due to intervisibility between the proposed development and approximately half of the LCA.</p> <p>The proposed antennas would introduce distant, small scale engineered features intervisible along the skyline within the south-eastern landscape setting of the LCA. They would be located away from the key borrowed views north-westwards to the distinctive hills of Carn Llidi and south-westwards towards the city of St. David's that contribute to the character of this landscape thereby not altering the overall defining characteristics of this inland LCA.</p> <p>The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the site boundary would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.</p> <p>It is considered that the proposed development would result in a Low magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA.</p> <p>The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.</p>
<p>Significance (level) of effect</p>	<p>The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be Slight Adverse (Not Significant) due to the proposed development being located at such a distance as to form generally unnoticed secondary feature to those existing features in the area that already define landscape within a localised area of the landscape setting away from the key borrowed views.</p>

Table 9.27: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 18 St Davids Headland

PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland

PCNPA LCA 18: Saint Davids Headland is located at its closest point (north of Solva) a minimum of approximately 4 km to the west of the closest proposed antennas and support buildings.

This is an extensive LCA formed of a large area of rolling lowland and coastal area of cliffs and beaches which occupy much of the headland. It is a typical landscape of the west Pembrokeshire region, defined by gently undulating farmland with an open and tranquil character. The coastline has a sense of remoteness and wildness and is defined by tall cliffs, steep slopes, small rocky headlands, and inlets with sandy beaches. The habitats in the area encompass dry and wet heathland, purple moor-grass and rush pastures, and swamp. Cliffs and rocky shores dominate the coastal scenery, while a relict sand dune system also exists.

Elevated areas offer both views within the LCA and its wider landscape setting including the coast, Ramsey Island, Carn Llidi hills, and the buildings of St. David's, such as the Cathedral.

The area has a strong time depth seen in the wealth of historical and archaeological features which are of national significance and result in a landscape of outstanding historical value. The abundance of early Christian sites is important with Whitesands Bay being of particular historical and cultural significance due to connections with St. David's. The presence of a continuous stretch of National Trust land along the Pen Dal-aderyn promontory, extending eastwards to Porth Clais and beyond to Solva, further supports its cultural importance.

Baseline
summary

Landscape detractors are minimal, however, recent agricultural developments are present that do not align with the traditional vernacular farm buildings, creating an element of visual incongruity.

This LCA is located within National Park and is therefore considered to be of **High** value. Its coastal location, typical of the National Park designation, enhances this value.

The LCA is considered to be of **High** susceptibility due to the visual openness of the landscape with 'borrowed' views of the wider landscape setting, its relationship to the sensitive coastline, strong sense of historic time depth with low levels of development as well as its tranquil and wild character.

Sensitivity

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **High** sensitivity to the proposed development.

The proposed development is situated at a distance from this large LCA, resulting in no direct impact on the landscape character. However, intervisibility would occur in elevated areas across approximately one third of the LCA. In the majority of these areas, the proposed development would be intervisible at such a distance to form a generally unnoticed secondary feature to those existing features in the area that already define landscape. The proposed development would be located within a localised area in an existing pocket of development, which would partly reduce its prominence within the landscape setting.

The proposed development is located at a considerable distance from particularly sensitive locations of the LCA such as Whitesands Bay. It is not considered that the coastal splendour of the area would be substantially affected due to the small scale and extent of the proposals in relation to the landscape setting, which would be dwarfed by cliffs and beaches within views. Nevertheless, the introduction of the proposed development would impact the sense of remoteness and wildness of the location, in contrast to the area's natural beauty. The proposed development would introduce additional large scale buildings and engineered features that would contrast with the landscape's strong sense of time depth intervisible with the small-scale historic settlement of Solva albeit as a small feature within the expansive coastal and rural hinterland setting.

Magnitude of
change

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the site boundary would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Low** magnitude of change in landscape character. Although it would often go unnoticed and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA, there would be some awareness of its presence in the setting of this very open and simple landscape character area meaning that it cannot be concluded that the change upon it would be negligible. The introduction of the large scale antennas and support buildings within the setting of the LCA would consolidate and increase the contextual effect upon it caused by the existing military facility.

The proposed changes would be permanent, yet reversible.

Significance (level) of effect	The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be Moderate Adverse (Significant). Due to the introduction of new engineered landscape features into the setting of a landscape of particularly High sensitivity.
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Table 9.28: Residual Operational Phase Landscape Effect on PCNP LCA 16 Carn Llidi

PCNPA LCA 16: Carn Llidi

PCNPA LCA 16: Carn Llidi is located at its closest point (at Penberry) a minimum of approximately 9 km to the west of the closest proposed antennas.

The upland area of Carn Llidi is highly distinctive, with its northern and western boundaries formed by the immediate coastline and rocky summits, including St David's Head. The landscape features exposed rocky hilltops with rough grazing/moorland and fields bordered by prominent hedgebanks.

The landscape is exposed, with a sense of remoteness and a line of scattered farmsteads along the lower slopes. The distinctive vernacular architecture of north Pembrokeshire is evident in the area.

The panoramic views of coastal cliffs and beaches contribute to the coastal sense of place. The landscape appears naturalistic and largely undisturbed. The area is home to internationally significant habitats. It is also rich in prehistoric features, including field systems, chambered tombs, and an Iron Age fort, all of national significance.

The abundance of archaeological and historical features in the area is nationally significant and of outstanding value. This prehistoric landscape has well-preserved evidence of land use, ritual, and religious activity spanning thousands of years.

Baseline summary	The cultural value is enhanced by the association with the patron saint of Wales, the views towards the city of St. David's and its cathedral, and the presence of National Trust land along the northern coast and hill summits. The LCA exhibits outstanding values across all aspects.
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This LCA is located within National Park and is therefore considered to be of **High** value.

The LCA is considered to be of **High** susceptibility due the visual openness of the landscape, strong sense of historic time depth and strong sense of remoteness.

Sensitivity	Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall High sensitivity to the proposed development.
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PCNPA LCA 16: Carn Llidi

The proposed development is located at a considerable distance from the LCA, resulting in no direct impact on the landscape character. However, intervisibility between the proposed development and approximately half of the landscape character area would result in indirect effects on landscape character.

The proposed development would introduce very barely discernible engineered features intervisible against agricultural land within the distant south-eastern landscape setting of the LCA. The white colour of the vernacular farmsteads would reduce the prominence of the antennas which are pale grey. The proposed development would be located in the opposite direction of the key views of coastal cliffs and beaches limiting their impact on the landscape's sense of remoteness which is experienced in closer proximity to the coastline and hills.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting is proposed along the site boundary that would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

Magnitude of
change

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Negligible** magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA.

Significance
(level) of effect

The residual effect on landscape character at the operational phase would be **Negligible (Not Significant)** due to the considerable distance at which it is located from this LCA limiting intervisibility within the wider landscape setting of the LCA.

Summary of Operational Phase Residual Effect on LCA

- 9.6.57. Table 9.29 provides a summary of the residual operational phase effects on landscape character in year 1.
- 9.6.58. The LCAs with the greatest potential effects on landscape character are PCC LCA1 Treffynnon, within which the application site is located, and PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay in which extends close to the proposed development and is within the PCNP. No Very Substantial landscape effects have been identified.
- 9.6.59. PCC LCA1 Treffynnon would experience **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** effects on landscape character and is the only LCA that would experience direct effects. This is due to the **High** magnitude of change brought about by the introduction of the proposed development, which would form a defining feature within the landscape, visible across a wide area. This is due to intervisibility with the proposed development across a wide extent of the LCA, experienced at relatively close proximity in localised areas, resulting in a **Medium** magnitude of change.
- 9.6.60. PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay is located within the National Park and is considered highly sensitive to changes arising from the proposed development. PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay would experience a medium magnitude of change due to some close range intervisibility with the proposed development, with intervisibility experienced across elevated northern parts of the LCA. The effect would be indirect but **Substantial Adverse (Significant)**.
- 9.6.61. **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** indirect effects on landscape character would occur at PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland and PCNPA LCA 13 Brandy Brook. This is due the **High** sensitivity of the LCA, which is both located within the National Park and is **Highly** susceptible to change rather than the magnitude of change in character which would be **Low**. Northern parts of these two character areas within the PCNP extend close to the site.

Table 9.29: Summary of Operational Phase Residual Effects on Landscape Character Areas

Landscape Character Area name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Residual Significance (level) of effect
PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon (host character area)	Medium	High	Substantial (Adverse)
PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains (minimum of 5 km away)	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCC LCA 7: Pelcomb and Simpson Cross (minimum of 4 km away)	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCC LCA 5: Sceddau Lowlands (minimum of 8 km away)	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
PCC LCA 12: Landsker Lowlands (minimum of 11 km away)	Medium	Negligible	Negligible
PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay (minimum of 1 km away)	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook (minimum of 1 km away)	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 9: Marloes Peninsula (minimum of 11 km away)	High	Negligible	Negligible
PCNPA LCA 15: Dowrog and Tretio Commons (minimum of 4 km away)	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland (minimum of 4 km away)	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
PCNPA LCA 16: Carn Llidi (minimum of 9 km away)	High	Negligible	Negligible

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Areas (PCNP SCAs)

9.6.62. The following provides an assessment of seascape effects on the four seascape character areas highlighted by the PCNPA in their scoping opinion consultation response. It draws on information within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Seascape Character Supplementary Planning Guidance. It also draws upon the assessments of visual effects on five seascape viewpoints included in the visual assessment.

Table 9.30: Residual Operational Phase Seascape Effect on PCNP SCA 20 St Brides Coastal Waters North

PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North	
	<p>Seascape character area SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North is located at its closest point (at Penycwm) approximately 1 km south of the closest proposed antennas.</p> <p>This area, located partially within the National Park, is characterised by rocky headlands with steep cliffs and indented bays, rock boulders, tidally exposed rocks, small rocky promontories, stacks, arches and caves. The Solva and Alun valleys, which meet the coast, provide sheltered harbours. The intertidal areas are dominated by rocky shores, with some minor sandy coves. The seascape is characterised by a harmonious and balanced landscape, where the cliffs bring a sense of exposure and excitement, while the inlets provide a feeling of safety and containment, showcasing a wide range of diversity and vivid colours. There is a sense of tranquillity throughout most of the area and of remoteness and wildness along the coastline.</p> <p>The hinterland consists mainly of pastureland, with some arable areas. The field pattern ranges from medium-sized and rectilinear to smaller organic-shaped fields, with low hedgerows and pockets of deciduous woodland, particularly in the narrow stream valleys. Along the coastal edge, there are several disused quarries.</p> <p>The area provides sweeping views of St Brides Bay, featuring a striking contrast between the rugged, exposed cliff edges and headlands, and the sheltered inlets with their narrow, channelled perspectives. A particularly noteworthy viewpoint is found near Newgale, offering a breathtaking display of dramatic rocks and distinctive features when facing west. The textures along the shoreline are characterised by rough and angular formations, accentuated by prominent vertical elements, transitioning into a rolling and undulating plateau further inland.</p> <p>This area is important for recreation (particularly in and around Solva), including marine activities, galleries, and visitor facilities. It also plays a significant role in preserving the natural heritage, with its unspoilt coast and inlets, and contributes to cultural and spiritual services through its rich history, artistic connections, and the sense of remoteness, tranquillity, and the connection with nature it provides. Additionally, the area holds great historical value, as it contains well-preserved evidence of land use and religious activities dating back to prehistoric times.</p> <p>Key sensitivities in the area include the wide views across St Brides Bay, the unspoilt rural character of the sea edge with its highly indented and rocky features, and the historic character of Solva and St David's Conservation Areas, as well as other historic features. The PCPNT is also considered a sensitive receptor.</p> <p>Factors that detract from sensitivity include housing development, visitor activity, and recreational use in Solva and Caerfai, as well as the presence of caravan parks. Noise and movement along the A487 road (the main tourist route) also impact the area.</p>
Baseline summary	
Sensitivity	<p>High value due to the northern areas of the LCA falling within the National Park boundary.</p> <p>This LCA is considered to have a High level of susceptibility due the presence of an intricate, complex, rugged, indented natural coast with dramatic headlands and islands conveying a strong sense of coastal splendour. The area is visually open with expansive views of the long, concave, and undisturbed horizon reinforcing a sense of escape and space to breathe. The coastline is largely tranquil, remote and wild with a strong sense of time depth albeit with some seasonal marine activity associated with tourism.</p> <p>Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall High sensitivity to the proposed development with the highest levels of sensitivity present along the coastline.</p>
Magnitude of change	<p>The proposed development is situated outside this LCA, which means it would not have any direct impact on the landscape character. However, there would be intervisibility between the proposed development and approximately just less than half of the LCA.</p> <p>The greatest effects of intervisibility would be experienced in areas within close range of the proposed development in the rural coastal hinterland setting of the LCA. Intervisibility between</p>

PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North

the proposed development and the coastline would be barely discernible with the antennas appearing as very small, distant features on the long, open skyline. Intervisibility between the proposed development and the sea would also be barely discernible with the antennas being dwarfed by the cliffs as you get closer to them. In general, the focus of views within the LCA is towards the coastline, beaches and out to sea, away from the rural hinterland within which the proposed development would be located. The proposed development would also be seen amongst other existing development in the immediate area, including large scale buildings associated with the application site.

The proposed development would introduce new engineered features within views from this LCA, within relatively close range of its north-eastern boundary. Across the majority of the LCA, these would appear as relatively small features within the wider setting. Intervisibility from the highly sensitive PCPNT would be limited with the proposed development appearing as a small feature within the expansive landscape setting.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting proposed along the site boundary would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Low** magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed from the key sensitive coastline areas and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA. The change would be localised and reversible.

Significance
(level) of effect

The residual effect on seascape character at the operational phase would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** due to the High sensitivity of this LCA. Although appearing as a largely unnoticeable distant feature from the majority of areas where intervisibility occurs (including the most sensitive coastline), there would be a greater impact on landscape character across a small less sensitive area of rural hinterland close to the proposed development in the vicinity of Penycwm.

Table 9.31: Residual Operational Phase Seascape Effect on PCNP SCA 21 St Brides Coastal Waters East

PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East

Seascape character area SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East is located at its closest point (at Newgale) approximately 1 km south of the closest proposed antennas.

The west-facing coast of St Brides Bay features a series of long beaches interspersed with short sections of cliffs, such as Rickets Head. The bay offers wide and open views, with the cliffs and headlands of the south and north coasts framing the scenery. The area has a mix of sandy beaches, cliffs, and rocky foreshores, along with low rolling hills primarily used for pasture and some arable land. Some lowland valleys, notably Brandy Brook, and low rolling pastoral hills in the hinterland. The sea is relatively exposed to westerly winds, with strong surf over long shallow beaches.

The area has a sense of openness and exposure, but also provides a feeling of safety at the sea edge. The crashing sound and sight of the surf contribute to a powerful sensory experience. Tranquillity may be limited on busy beaches and associated visitor areas, but lesser used stretches of the PCPNT offer more solitude. Large ships anchored in the bay are visible from the shore, impacting the sense of remoteness.

The area significantly contributes to leisure and recreational services (including marine activities), natural heritage, and spiritual services through its beaches, wide bay views, and connection with the sea. It is a popular destination for visitors, with coastal settlements offering cafes, holiday homes, and caravan/camping parks. Access is available along the PCPNT or shared with minor roads and the A487 (the main tourist route) in some areas. Defensive

Baseline
summary

PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East

remains from Iron Age raths to the Second World War can be found in the region and numerous scheduled monuments creating a strong sense of time depth.

Key sensitivities include the balance between open and wide views and smaller-scale visitor facilities, as well as the preservation of the natural rhythm of the surf. The sensitive PCPNT is of particular relevance to this assessment. Factors detracting from sensitivity include housing and visitor activity at Newgale and Broad Haven, caravan parks, and the presence of large ships in the bay. Popular surfing locations like Newgale Beach attract visitors, with associated holiday accommodations and lowland valleys in the hinterland.

High value due to relationship to National Park with eastern areas of the LCA falling within the National Park boundary.

Despite the reduced sense of remoteness stemming from housing, visitor activity at Newgale and Broad Haven, and nearby caravan parks, this LCA is considered to have a **High** level of susceptibility due its visual openness and the presence of distinctive coastland features.

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **High** sensitivity to the proposed development with the highest levels of sensitivity present along the coastline.

Sensitivity

The proposed development is situated outside this LCA, therefore there would be no direct impact on the landscape character. Intervisibility between the proposed development would occur across approximately just over half of the LCA. The most extensive areas of intervisibility would occur from the sea.

The proposed development would introduce new engineered features within the setting of the LCA, in relatively close range of its northern boundary. The greatest effects of intervisibility would be experienced in areas within close range of the proposed development in the less sensitive rural coastal hinterland. The proposed antennas and associated buildings would appear as large-scale features across a small area of the LCA. From the rural hinterland, the proposed development would be intervisible in combination with the surrounding existing development and the settlement of Penycwm which would reduce their prominence within the rural landscape. From the sea, the proposed development would be intervisible with Newgale, overshadowing this low-level, small-scale settlement.

The focus of key views within the LCA is towards the coastline, beaches and out to sea, away from the setting of the rural hinterland within which the proposed development would be located. Within sensitive coastline areas, intervisibility with the proposed development would occur with the antennas appearing as small, distant, but noticeable features on the long, open skyline. Intervisibility between the proposed development and the sea would be limited along the coastline as the antennas would be of limited height compared to the tall cliffs.

Intervisibility from the highly sensitive PCPNT would be limited with the proposed development appearing as a barely discernible feature within the expansive landscape setting.

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting proposed along the site boundary would soften the appearance of the antennas by partially absorbing the lower sections.

It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Low** magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed from the key sensitive coastline areas and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA. The change would be localised and reversible.

Magnitude of
change

The residual effect on seascape character at the operational phase would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** due to the High sensitivity of this LCA. The proposed development would appear as a relatively small but noticeable feature from the majority of areas where intervisibility occurs, including the sea and sensitive sections of coastline. There would be a greater impact on landscape character across a small area of the less sensitive rural hinterland close to the proposed development, in the vicinity of Penycwm.

Significance
(level) of effect

Table 9.32: Residual Operational Phase Seascape Effect on PCNP SCA 24: St Brides Bay

PCNPA SCA 24: St Brides Bay

Seascape character area SCA 24: St Brides Bay is located at its closest point (within the waters of the bay) approximately 5 km south-west of the closest proposed antennas.

The LCA is situated in the centre of St Brides Bay, away from the coast. The bay consists of muddy sand and experiences low wave stress and limited tidal flow. It has a simple, consistent, and unified character on a large scale, providing a sense of openness, isolation, and exposure. The natural forces of water, including swell, waves, and wind, significantly contribute to the bay's qualities. The area offers stunning views from Ramsey and Skomer islands and the PCPNT.

The south-westerly winds expose the area, and during poor weather conditions, the sea can feel threatening. However, it also offers a sense of tranquillity, wildness, and remoteness. The presence of wildlife enhances the overall experience of the seascape.

The bay is used as an anchorage for tankers near Milford Haven and has numerous wrecks, including military planes, indicating past military use. Commercial ships anchor here while waiting to access Milford Haven, and the area is also popular for fishing and various water-based recreational activities.

From a distance, the landform appears as a single line on the horizon with simple colours. At closer range the details and separation of land masses become apparent. Views of commercial vessels and leisure craft are common throughout the year, which reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity in the area. Nevertheless, the bay contributes to leisure and recreational services, natural heritage, and spiritual services due to its relatively unspoilt marine environment and its sense of wildness and connection with nature.

Key sensitivities of the LCA include its simple, open, wild, and remote character, offering views of the western coast and islands. It forms part of the open setting for the western coast and islands, which is overseen by the National Park and contributes to the sense of remoteness and wildness in these areas. The bay also holds marine nature conservation value and is observed from a distance by the PCPNT, which is a sensitive receptor. One factor that detracts from sensitivity is the presence of ships at anchor in the area.

Baseline
summary

Medium value as the area falls outside of the National Park.

This LCA is considered to have a **Medium** level of susceptibility to the proposed development due its large scale, visual openness, wildness and remoteness in combination with detractors including the continuous presence of large-scale commercial ships and disturbance from recreational marine use.

Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall **Medium** sensitivity to the proposed development with the highest levels of sensitivity present along the coastline.

Sensitivity

The proposed development is situated outside this LCA, which means it would not have any direct impact on the landscape character. However, there would be intervisibility between the proposed development and just less than half of the LCA.

Intervisibility between the proposed development and the LCA would occur across a wide extent of the LCA. The scale of the antennas as a feature within the landscape setting would vary, decreasing with distance from the site. From the majority of the LCA the antennas would form small, distant features on the long, open skyline, dwarfed by the tall cliffs within a vast seascape setting. However, in close proximity to Newgale beach they would appear as noticeable, large-scale features on the skyline, detracting from the natural beauty and coastal splendour of the area.

Magnitude of
change

The potential to fully mitigate the proposed development is limited due to the height of the antennas. Tree planting proposed along the site boundary would partially absorb the lower sections of the antennas, partially obscuring their engineered form.

PCNPA SCA 24: St Brides Bay

It is considered that the proposed development would overall result in a **Low** magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed from the majority of the area including the key sensitive coastline areas and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA. The change would be localised and reversible.

Significance (level) of effect	The residual effect on seascape character at the operational phase would be Slight Adverse (Not Significant) due to the proposed development appearing as a largely unnoticeable secondary feature that would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the seascape.
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Table 9.33: Residual Operational Phase Seascape Effect on PCNP SCA 18 Ramsey Island Coastal Waters

PCNPA SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters

Seascape character area SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters is located at its closest point (at Ramsey Island) approximately 14 km west of the closest proposed antennas.

This LCA includes Ramsey Island, coast, and waters adjacent to the Sound, which separates the island from the peninsula. Ramsey Island is characterised by rocky coasts with jagged cliffs, caves, arches, and islets. It has a single beach on its western side and is predominantly exposed to the open sea and south-westerly winds. The island's isolation and wildness are heightened by its separation from the mainland by a tidal sound.

The Island and its surrounding waters are open and large in scale. They possess a strong remote, tranquil, isolated, and wild character, particularly in the semi-natural vegetated areas and along the coast. The panoramic views from the island encompass the open sea, the Bishops and Clerks, and the mainland, including Carn Llidi. The southern part of the island features outcrops and a rugged coastal edge covered in heath, coastal grassland, and bracken. There are a limited number of irregular fields enclosed by stone walls.

Ramsey Island is home to a rich variety of wildlife, including seabirds, porpoises, and seals, as it serves as a nature reserve. The visual highlights at sea level are the jagged cliffs, islets, and caves with interesting rock formations. The rough textures of the cliffs and rocks are complemented by the dynamic qualities of the water, which can be rough during certain weather conditions.

The area lacks any settlements and maintains a wild and remote character. It offers stunning maritime views and supports thriving wildlife. However, it is used seasonally for wildlife trips and kayaking around the island. The built form in the area is limited to one farmstead managed by the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), primarily to accommodate a strictly controlled number of visitors arriving at one landing phase.

The LCA has a strong time sense of time depth with visible features including cairns. Historic routes and linkages are exemplified in the Prehistoric, Norse and Early Christian associations. Ramsey preserves evidence of human settlement dating back 4,000 years.

Baseline summary	One factor that detracts from sensitivity in the area is the presence of RHIB (rigid-hulled inflatable boat) wildlife boat trips and kayaks, which can reduce tranquillity during the summer tourist/holiday season.
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High value due to its partial location within the National Park.

This area is considered to be of **High** susceptibility to the proposed development due to its coastal splendour and sense of unspoilt, remote, wildness albeit with some seasonal marine activity associated with tourism.

Sensitivity	Through the combination of landscape value and susceptibility, this LCA is considered to be of an overall High sensitivity to the proposed development with the highest levels of sensitivity present along the coastline.
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PCNPA SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters

The proposed development is situated outside this LCA, which means it would not have any direct impact on the landscape character. However, there would be intervisibility between the proposed development and approximately just less than half of the LCA.

Intervisibility between the proposed development and the LCA would be barely discernible due to the considerable distance where they are located, they would blend into the long, open horizon. The visual foci at sea level are the jagged cliffs, islets and caves with rock formations creating interest. The antennas would be intervisible at such a distance as to not impact upon the coastal splendour of the area.

Magnitude of change It is considered that the proposed development would result in a **Negligible** magnitude of change in landscape character as it would generally go unnoticed from the key sensitive coastline areas and would not alter the overall defining characteristics of the LCA. The change would be localised and reversible.

Significance (level) of effect The residual effect on seascape character at the operational phase would be **Negligible (Not Significant)** due to the proposed development being barely perceptible from the area.

Summary of Operational Phase Residual Seascape Effects

9.6.63. Table 9.14 provides a summary of the residual operational phase effects on seascape character. The SCAs with the greatest potential effects on seascape character are PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North and PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East. These SCAs would experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** indirect effects, largely influenced by their **High** sensitivity to change. Although appearing as a relatively small feature from the majority of areas where intervisibility occurs (including the most sensitive coastline), there would be a greater impact on landscape character across a small area of the less sensitive rural hinterland in close proximity to the antennas south of Penycwm.

Table 9.34: Summary of Operational Phase Residual Seascape Effects

Seascape Character Area name	Overall sensitivity	Magnitude of change	Significance (level) of effect
PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East	High	Low	Moderate (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 24: St Brides Bay	Medium	Low	Slight (Adverse)
PCNPA SCA 18: Ramsey Island Coastal Waters	High	Negligible	Negligible

Overall effect on the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

9.6.64. In their landscape and visual scoping opinion consultation response dated 04 May 2023 the PCNPA requested an assessment of the effect of the proposed development on the Special Qualities of the PCNP. These 'Special Qualities' are defined as the characteristics and features of the National Park which individually, or in combination, contribute to making the National Park unique. Some relate to landscape and visual aspects of the National Park (these are considered in detail in the table below). Others relate to other topics not considered relevant to the assessment of landscape and visual effects, but are covered in other chapters of this ES (diverse geology, richness of habitats and biodiversity, rich historic environment, cultural heritage, accessibility).

9.6.65. Drawing on the preceding detailed assessments of the visual and landscape effects within and on the National Park, the following table provides a summary assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development on the seven Special Qualities that relate to landscape and visual effects, and on the National Park as a whole. The seven Special Qualities considered relevant to landscape and visual effects comprise:

- Coastal splendour;
- Diversity of landscape;
- Distinctive settlement character;
- Islands;
- Space to breathe;
- Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness; and
- The diversity of experiences and combination of individual qualities.

Table 9.35: Assessment of Landscape and Visual Effect on Relevant National Park Special Qualities

Special Quality (those relevant to landscape and visual effects)	Likely changes caused by proposed development	Are effects beneficial, neutral, or adverse and reasoned justification	Duration of effect	Are changes important? Do they conserve, enhance, or harm the Special Quality?
Coastal Splendour	There would be some localised adverse effects on coastal splendour due to the presence of the proposed antennas within some coastal views that would impact upon the natural beauty of the area. The greatest impact would be experienced from the sea within St Brides Bay approximately 450 m from Newgale Sands, where the antennas would appear as large-scale skyline features above Newgale detracting from the natural beauty of the beach. The scale of the proposed antennas would, however, appear relatively small in comparison to the height of the cliff formations along the coastline. Views from the coast path would generally be out to sea and along the coastline and sometimes not focused toward the proposed development, particularly for views nearer the application site. Views of the antennas from the sea close to the coastline would be prevented in most areas by the antennas being set some distance back from the coastline and the presence of high intervening cliffs preventing visibility from sea level at close quarters.	Adverse This is due to the introduction of new engineered features within a coastal setting (though just outside of the National Park) characterised by natural beauty with few detractors.	Permanent	Quality harmed to a small degree within a localised area of the overall extent of the National Park. Development would not directly impact important areas of coastal splendour within the National Park but would appear in the backdrop and detract from some valued views along the coastline.

Special Quality (those relevant to landscape and visual effects)	Likely changes caused by proposed development	Are effects beneficial, neutral, or adverse and reasoned justification	Duration of effect	Are changes important? Do they conserve, enhance, or harm the Special Quality?
Diversity of landscape	The National Park contains diverse landscapes of coast, rural farmland and open moorland each possessing a strong sense of place and overlaid by millennia of activity by man. The introduction of the proposed development would not alter the existing diversity of landscape. It would, however, add an additional, manmade feature associated with an and use into a localised area with intervisibility experienced across a large extent of the National Park.	Adverse The proposed development introduces additional diversity at odds with the natural beauty of the existing diverse landscapes within the wider visual setting of a localised area of the National Park.	NA	Quality harmed to a small degree within a localised area of the overall extent of the National Park.
Distinctive settlement character	The proposed development would introduce new engineered features within the wider setting of Newgale, which would form a skyline backdrop to the settlement in some elevated and distant views from St Brides Bay. This would alter the character of the settlement which would be seen in the context of up to 21.5 m high engineered features contrasting with the low-level houses nestled within the hillside and the natural beauty of the village setting. Large scale built structures (both antennas and support buildings) would be introduced in a prominent position in the wider landscape context and in the backdrop of some views of these settlements within the adjacent National Park.	Adverse The proposed development introduces new engineered features within the wider visual setting of Solva settlement and harbour and the setting of Newgale.	Permanent	Quality harmed to a small degree within a localised area of the National Park. Nearby settlements within the National Park at Newgale and Solva comprise traditional small scale buildings with which the proposed development would be at odds.
Islands	No Change	Neutral	NA	Quality conserved (unchanged).
Space to breathe	No Change	Neutral The proposed development is set back from the coastline and would not impact upon the sense of exhilaration and freedom brought about by encountering the sea and the openness of the landscape experienced in combination with the coastal weather.	NA	Quality conserved (unchanged).

Special Quality (those relevant to landscape and visual effects)	Likely changes caused by proposed development	Are effects beneficial, neutral, or adverse and reasoned justification	Duration of effect	Are changes important? Do they conserve, enhance, or harm the Special Quality?
Remoteness, tranquillity and wildness	The greatest areas of remoteness, tranquillity and wildness within the study area are located at a considerable distance from the proposed development in the vicinity of St David's Head and Ramsey Island and would not be affected. There would be some localised loss of perceived visual tranquillity in areas closer to the antennas (approximately within 3 km) due to the introduction of new engineered features. Existing levels of tranquillity at Solva and Newgale are influenced by tourist activity and therefore loss of tranquillity would be less noticeable in the summer months.	Adverse This is due to the introduction of an uncharacteristic, engineered feature within the wider visual setting of a localised area of the National Park. The greatest effects would be experienced close to the application site.	Permanent.	Quality harmed to a moderate degree due to the engineered nature of the proposed structures.
The diversity of experience and combination of individual qualities	Some loss of coastal splendour and tranquillity. Slight loss of distinctiveness of settlement character at Solva, greater loss of settlement character at Newgale. The proposed development would introduce change that would be invisible across a wide area (albeit at varying scales), affecting the views of the sea in combination with the upland plateaus and rolling landscapes.	Adverse The proposed development would introduce new engineered features that would harm the special characteristics, creating a fixed element that is visibly out of place in a naturally diverse landscape. A perceived loss of the permanent protection for these qualities would occur.	Permanent.	Overall moderate landscape and visual harm to the Special Qualities of the National Park.

9.6.66. The assessments above conclude that the proposed development would give rise to some adverse landscape and visual effects on the Special Qualities of the National Park. These adverse effects would be limited to those areas within the National Park from which visibility of the proposed development would occur (see ZTV provided at Figure 9.6). The effects on Special Qualities would diminish considerably with distance and would principally be limited to those areas of the National Park located around St Brides Bay, to the south of the site, and within approximately 8 km. Special Qualities would not be adversely affected over the greater part of the wider National Park which lies outside of the ZTV of the proposed development and at distances in excess of 8 km. Although the proposed development lies outside of the designated area, the indirect effect of visibility from specific and limited areas of the National Park around St Brides Bay, to the south of the site, and within approximately 8 km of the site, would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)**.

Summary of significant residual landscape and visual effects

9.6.67. Potential operational residual visual effects from inland viewpoints close to or within settlements near to the application site (within 5 km) have a **Substantial or Moderate Adverse (Significant)** level of effect. The majority of other viewpoints located further inland would also have a **Moderate** adverse level of effect.



- 9.6.68. The effect on viewpoints on the PCPNT would range from a **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** to **Slight Adverse (Not Significant)** level of effect depending on the distance and the context within which the application site would be seen. Most of the representative viewpoints within the National Park (many of which are also on the PCPNT) would also have a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** level of effect and some would have a **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** level of effect.
- 9.6.69. Those viewpoints that are only associated with road users generally would have lower levels of visual effect than those with other visual receptors with either **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** or **Slight Adverse (Not Significant)** levels of effect.
- 9.6.70. None of the seascape viewpoints would have a significant visual effect mainly given their distance from the proposed development. All of the viewpoints have a **Slight Adverse (Not Significant)** adverse level of effect. Generally, the nearer receptors are to the coastline, the less likely that the proposed development would be visible due to the height of the cliffs and given that the development is located further inland.
- 9.6.71. The sequential visual effects of the proposed development on users of the PCPNT would be **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** due to it being a National Trail within the National Park and the proposed development would be an intermittent feature for pedestrians walking St Brides Bay in both directions. Whereas the sequential visual effects on users of NCR4 would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)**. The proposed development would be an intermittent feature while cycling around St Brides Bay in both directions, but cyclists take slightly less interest in their surroundings than pedestrians.
- 9.6.72. **Substantial Adverse (Significant)** residual landscape effects would be experienced within PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon. This is the host landscape character area, where effects would be direct within the localised area of the application site and indirect as a result of intervisibility across a wide area. Despite being located within an existing military base, in close proximity to associated large scale buildings, the proposed development would contrast with the pastoral farmland that prevails across the wider LCA. The antennas would appear out of scale with the existing small scale rural settlement at Penycwm, introducing engineered features that contrast with the existing built form. The area is characterised by low horizons and horizontal lines, which would be interrupted by the vertical antennas along the skyline. Due to their size and unique form, the antennas would become a defining feature within the area. This would negatively impact upon the rural character across a wide extent of the LCA. The introduction of mitigation planting surrounding the site would slightly increase tree cover within the LCA and assist in absorbing the lower sections of the antennas into the landscape setting, slightly softening their geometric form.
- 9.6.73. Significant indirect effects would also be experienced within the landscape character areas adjoining the host landscape character area and falling within the **High** sensitivity PCNP. Whilst not experiencing direct effects upon landscape character, PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay would experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect and PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook would experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effects brought about by intervisibility with the proposed scheme. Intervisibility with the antennas would occur from localised elevated areas within each LCA. The antennas would potentially form focal points within the landscape setting, detracting from the area's existing character. Within PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay, the antennas would introduce engineered features that would be intervisible on the long open skyline, breaking up the strong horizontal lines that define the existing landscape character. Within both PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay and PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook the antennas would interrupt views of the distant hills east of Carn Llidi, increasing their visual prominence.
- 9.6.74. PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains would experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effects due to intervisibility with the proposed scheme across a large extent of the LCA. Despite being located at a distance from the LCA, and therefore forming only a small

feature within the LCA's setting, the prominence of the antennas would increase against the backdrop of high ground in the vicinity of Carn Llidi.

- 9.6.75. **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** landscape effects would occur within PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland, principally due to this LCA's **High** sensitivity to the proposed development. Due to the considerable distance at which the proposed development is located from the LCA the magnitude of change in character is considered to be **Low**. The proposed development would be intervisible as a small-scale skyline feature within an expansive setting that would impact on the sense of remoteness and wildness of the location. The antennas would introduce engineered structures that would conflict with the landscape's strong sense of time depth intervisible with the small-scale historic settlement of Solva (albeit as a small feature within the expansive coastal landscape).
- 9.6.76. PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North and PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East would also experience **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** landscape effects principally due to their **High** sensitivity to the proposed development. These SCAs are partially located within the PCNP, with a strong sense of coastal splendour and tranquillity. The proposed development would be intervisible with the northern areas of these expansive SCAs. However, the magnitude of change in seascape character is considered to be **Low** as the greatest effects of intervisibility would be experienced in areas within close range of the proposed development in the less sensitive rural coastal hinterland setting of the LCAs. Intervisibility between the proposed development and the coastline would be barely discernible with the antennas appearing as very small, distant features on the long, open skyline. Intervisibility between the proposed development and the sea would also be barely discernible with the antennas being dwarfed by the cliffs. In general, the focus of views within the LCA is towards the coastline, beaches and out to sea, away from the rural hinterland where the proposed development would be located.
- 9.6.77. Despite being located outside of the designated area, the overall landscape effect on the National Park would be moderate adverse and significant.

9.7. Mitigation and Enhancement

- 9.7.1. The assessment identified the likelihood of potentially significant adverse operational phase effects on landscape and visual receptors, including parts of the PCNP and sections of the PCPNT. Although it may not be possible to materially reduce the overall level of effect, a number of options have been carefully considered to identify ways in which landscape and visual effects can be reduced as far as is practicably possible (within operation limitations) and to identify feasible opportunities to deliver landscape and visual enhancements as part of the development. These measures have formed part of the design interventions for the proposed development presented in Section 9.5. No further mitigation has been identified.

9.8. Cumulative Effects

- 9.8.1. As part of the EIA process, the environment teams have undertaken a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to ensure cumulative effects are considered across disciplines and influenced design where appropriate.
- 9.8.2. The assessment on cumulative effects is presented in Chapter 17 (Cumulative Effects Assessment).
- 9.8.3. No significant intra-development or inter-development cumulative effects for this environmental topic are anticipated as a result of the proposed development .

9.9. Residual Significant Effects

9.9.1. Following a review of the potential impacts of the proposed development on landscape character and on visual amenity, and consideration of the feasible design interventions and controls that can be delivered, the proposed development is anticipated to result in some significant adverse residual effects. A Very Substantial level of effect has not been identified on any landscape character area, designated landscape or on receptors at any representative viewpoint. Moderate or Substantial levels of effect have however been identified for the landscape and visual receptors summarised in Table 9.36 below.

Table 9.36: Summary of significant landscape and visual effects

Significant Effects	Level of Effect (Very Substantial, Substantial or Moderate levels of effect are considered significant)
Significant visual effects	
Construction Phase	
Viewpoint 1 – Treffynnon	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 2 – Llandeloy	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 3 – Trefgarn Owen	Moderate (Adverse)
Operational Phase	
Viewpoint 1 – Treffynnon	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 2 – Llandeloy	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 3 – Trefgarn Owen	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 4 – North of Llandeloy	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 5 – Rhyndaston Mountain	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 6 – Roch	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 12 – Haroldston Chins	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 13 – Ricketts Head	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 14 – Maidenhall Point Car Park	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 16 – Penycwm	Substantial (Adverse)
Viewpoint 17 – Local Road to Brawdy	Moderate (Adverse)
Viewpoint 21 – Solva	Moderate (Adverse)
Sequential Visual Effects	
Users of the PCPNT	Substantial (Adverse)

Significant Effects	Level of Effect (Very Substantial, Substantial or Moderate levels of effect are considered significant)
Users of NCR4	Moderate (Adverse)
Significant Landscape Effects	
Construction Phase	
PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon (direct effect on host character area)	Moderate (Adverse and direct)
Operational Phase	
PCC LCA 1: Treffynnon (direct effect on host character area)	Substantial (Adverse and direct)
PCNPA LCA 12: St Brides Bay	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)
PCNPA LCA 13: Brandy Brook	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)
PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)
PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)
PCNPA SCA 21: St Brides Coastal Waters East	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (as a whole)	Moderate (Adverse but indirect)

9.10. Monitoring

9.10.1. No monitoring is required.

9.11. Summary and Conclusions

9.11.1. The assessment has included consideration of construction phase landscape and visual effects. These have generally been assessed as being over a reduced extent and of lower significance than operational phase effects. This reflects the temporary nature of the construction phase and that construction activities would generally take place in reasonably remote areas and not in very close proximity to surrounding visual receptors. Where significant effects on landscape and visual receptors have been identified during the construction phase, these effects continue into the operational phase. No landscape or visual effects have been identified that would be significant during the construction phase but not during the operational phase.

9.11.2. Regarding operation phase effects, the existing Cawdor Barracks base, which includes built infrastructure such as buildings, a disused runway, and associated facilities, has been a long-established feature of the landscape. The proposed development would introduce new built structures (both the antennas and support buildings) in an elevated and visually open position within the existing military base. The proposed development would be sited on an elevated part of the site in close proximity to the highly sensitive PCNP. The PCNP is characterised by its natural beauty, coastal splendour and remote wildness with panoramic coastal views from the PCPNT seen against the backdrop of a long, open and uninterrupted skyline. Much of this landscape is also characterised by a strong historic time depth.

- 9.11.3. The assessment identifies the likelihood of potentially significant adverse operational phase effects on landscape and visual receptors, including parts of the PCNP and sections of the PCPNT. Although mitigation to materially reduce the overall level of effect is not possible (due to the intrinsic nature and required height of the proposed antennas and the operational necessity for them to be sited in an open and elevated position), a number of options have been explored to identify ways in which landscape and visual effects can be reduced as far as is practicably possible and to identify any feasible opportunities to deliver landscape and visual enhancements as part of the development. These opportunities have been constrained by the operational requirements of the proposed development and by the need to preserve areas of open grassland of considerable ecological value.
- 9.11.4. Landscape and visual sensitivity varies across the study area. UK National Parks are widely recognised as highly sensitive landscapes. The PCNP, as the only UK National Park primarily designated for its coastal landscapes, is valued for its coastal scenery. Viewpoints along the PCPNT within the PCNP are therefore considered to exhibit high levels of visual sensitivity and as such even relatively small magnitudes of visual change, including changes visible over long distances, have the potential to result in significant effects.
- 9.11.5. The most significant landscape and visual effects are expected to occur within the PCC LCA in which the proposed development is located, as well as in the nearby National Park LCAs, which are recognised as highly sensitive. While none of these significant effects have been categorised as Very Substantial, they fall within the Substantial or Moderate categories. Carefully considered and targeted mitigation planting has been included where feasible to help soften the visual impact of the antennas and support buildings, however, the proposed development would introduce additional manmade features associated with an atypical land use, resulting in changes to the long, open skylines and the existing settlement pattern. The development is also anticipated to form a visible element in certain coastal views from within the National Park and from nearby inland viewpoints.
- 9.11.6. There would be significant sequential visual effects associated with the proposed development on users of the PCPNT and NCR4, as the proposed development would be a visible and recurring feature while travelling around St Brides Bay in both directions.
- 9.11.7. Despite the proposed development being a distant feature, Moderate Adverse (Significant) landscape effects are likely at the more sensitive locations of PCNPA LCA 18: St Davids Headland; PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters North; and PCNPA SCA 20: St Brides Coastal Waters East.
- 9.11.8. Despite being located at a distance from the proposed development, **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** landscape effects would occur within the more remote PCC LCA 6: Treffgarne and Plumstone Mountains where intervisibility of distant and distinctive Llidi Hills from high ground would be interrupted by the proposed antennas and support buildings. In addition, Representative Viewpoint 5 – Rhyndaston Mountain, an elevated viewpoint located close to the edge of PCC LCA 6, would experience a Substantial Adverse (Significant) visual effect due to the proposed development being located within the focal point of the view towards the Llidi Hills.