

## Appendix 5.1 Consultation Letters

Phil Thomas  
Principal Planning Officer  
Bridgend County Borough Council

By email to phil.thomas2@bridgend.gov.uk

Our reference 6822 Upper Ogmre Windfarm

Date 29/09/2017

Dear Mr Thomas,

### **Upper Ogmre Wind Farm: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**

LUC is providing landscape and visual advice to RES UK & Ireland Ltd in relation to the proposed Upper Ogmre Wind Farm. We are writing to confirm our approach to the assessment of effects on landscape character and visual amenity. The methodology used will be closely modelled on the recommendations made in the third edition of *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* ('GLVIA3').<sup>i</sup>

The proposed site is within Bridgend County Borough, and is located to the north-west of Nant-y-moel on land adjacent to the operational Llynfi Afan Wind Farm. The site is close to the boundaries of Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot, and we are therefore consulting all three Councils. The wind farm will comprise eight turbines, up to 150m to tip height. Guidance published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) suggests that a zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) map be generated for a 40km radius around turbines of up to 150m,<sup>ii</sup> and this is provided on the enclosed Figure 1.

A selection of representative viewpoints will be used to inform the assessment of impacts. We have listed these viewpoints in Table 1 below, and they are shown on the enclosed Figure 1. This list has been informed by the viewpoints used for the adjacent Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, but all viewpoints have been carefully chosen to illustrate likely views of the Upper Ogmre proposal.

The existing and predicted views from each of these locations will be illustrated with photography and photomontages, prepared to technical standards as set out in good practice publications.<sup>iii</sup>

Visualisations for each viewpoint will be produced in accordance with current SNH guidance.<sup>iv</sup> We propose the following set of visualisations for each viewpoint:

- A3 viewpoint location plan on 1:50k OS base mapping;
- Large format 90 degree baseline context view with aligned wirelines showing colour coded and labelled cumulative schemes (up to 4 No. 90 degree sections, depending on visibility of cumulative schemes);
- Large format 53.5 degree wireline showing proposed development;
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- A3 single frame photomontage showing proposed development.

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We propose to exclude turbines below 50m to blade tip height from the assessment, as cumulative effects with smaller turbines are less likely to result in significant interactions.

The approach will involve the identification of broad groups of wind farms, based on those of a similar development status and geographical location, and undertaking an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects together with each group. We typically assess two scenarios, i.e. the identification of additional effects with other schemes which are consented, and the identification of effects with other schemes which are still in planning. We assess the effects of the proposal together with operational projects as part of the landscape and visual impact assessment process, as they are already part of the baseline (and as such will be seen in baseline photography). We also intend to use the enclosed selection of viewpoints for the cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment.

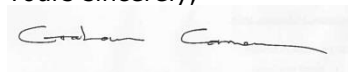
We would be grateful if you could respond in writing with any comments on the selected assessment viewpoints and the scope of works for visualisation material. This will enable us to progress with detailed field survey work and viewpoint photography.

In addition to help further assessment can you please supply GIS datasets for local landscape designations within the Bridgend County Borough Council area, including:

- Bridgend Strategic Coalfield Plateau Conservation Area;
- Bridgend Special Landscape Areas; and
- Bridgend Green Wedges.

If you have any comments on the approach, require more information or would like to discuss any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Cameron  
Landscape Planner  
LUC  
Graham.Cameron@landuse.co.uk

**Table 1: Preliminary Viewpoint Locations**

No.	Name	X	Y	Distance (km)	Reason for Selection
1	A4107, Hairpin Bend	291705	195705	0.6km	Represents sequential views gained from the A4107.
2	Mynydd Llangeinwyr	291915	193301	1.1km	Representative of views from the highest hill in the Bridgend County Borough area.
3	Craig Ogwr, footpath	293647	194686	1.1km	Representative of views experienced by recreational receptors on the Craig Ogwr footpath.
4	Blaengarw, cycle path	290095	192750	1.4km	Representative of views from cycle route 884 and similar views experienced from settlement Blaengarw.
5	Caroline Street, Blaengwynfi	289287	196535	1.4km	Represents views from settlement Blaengwynfi
6	A4061, Nant-y-Moel	293512	192946	1.7km	Represents sequential views from the A4061 and similar views experienced by residents of Nant-y-Moel.
7	Football field - Pontycymer	290525	191516	2.6km	Representative of views experienced by residents of Pontycymer.
8	Cwmparc	295544	196194	3.4km	Represents views from settlement Cwmparc
9	Pen y Fole, trig point	291900	189555	4.8km	Representative of views gained by walkers to this location.
10	Coed Morgannwg Way and St Illyd's Walk	283538	191246	4.9km	Represents views gained by recreational receptors on these popular walking routes.
11	A4061, above Treorchy	292284	202024	7km	Represents sequential views experienced by road users on this route.
12	Western edge of Penrhys	300054	194691	7.5km	Representative of views gained from the settlement of Penrhys and similar views experienced by walkers.
13	Coed Morgannwg Way & St Illyd's Walk	283578	191209	7.7km	Representative of views experienced from walking routes west of Maesteg.
14	Ogwr Ridgeway south west of Llangewyd	284625	187278	9.4km	Representative of views gained by road users and walkers on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk.
15	Ergyd Isaf	279505	188660	12.5km	Represents views gained from local hill summit.
16	B4287 east of Neath	277724	195863	12.7km	Represents sequential views experienced by road users and similar views gained by walkers and those on horseback.

**Table 2: Cumulative Wind Farms**

Wind Farm	X	Y	Distance (km)	Status
Llynfi Afan	290057	195043	1.6	Operational
Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest	296123	190975	5.8	Operational
Pant y Wal Extension	As above	As above	As above	Consented
Abergorki	295989	199006	6.1	Consented
Pen y Cymoedd	289656	200850	6.5	Operational
Maerdy	295548	200072	6.7	Operational
Ferndale	298901	196403	7.5	Operational
Ffynnon Oer	284567	198831	8.2	Operational
Mynydd Bwllfa	295411	201989	8.2	Operational
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Taff Ely	298157	186308	10.6	Operational
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Mynydd Pencarreg	256944	241153	58.0	Consented
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<sup>iv</sup> Visual Representation of Wind Farms - Version 2.2 (2017) SNH

Helen Bowen  
Planning Officer  
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

By email to [h.bowen@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk](mailto:h.bowen@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk)

Our reference 6822 Upper Ogmere Windfarm  
Your reference  
Date 29/09/2017

Dear Ms Bowen,

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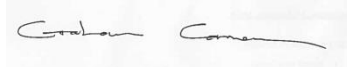
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Sarah Feist  
Planning Officer  
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

By email to [planningservices@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:planningservices@rctcbc.gov.uk)

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In addition to help further assessment can you please supply GIS datasets for local landscape designations within the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area, including:

- Rhondda Strategic Landscape Area; and
- Rhondda Special Landscape Areas.

Furthermore we are aware of a consultation process in relation to the "Heads of the Valleys Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study" (2014). Can you confirm if this document has been finalised, and if so can you please supply a copy?

If you have any comments on the approach, require more information or would like to discuss any of the above then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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12	Western edge of Penrhys	300054	194691	7.5km	Representative of views gained from the settlement of Penrhys and similar views experienced by walkers.
13	Coed Morgannwg Way & St Illyd's Walk	283578	191209	7.7km	Representative of views experienced from walking routes west of Maesteg.
14	Ogwr Ridgeway south west of Llangewyd	284625	187278	9.4km	Representative of views gained by road users and walkers on the Ogwr Ridgeway Walk.
15	Ergyd Isaf	279505	188660	12.5km	Represents views gained from local hill summit.
16	B4287 east of Neath	277724	195863	12.7km	Represents sequential views experienced by road users and similar views gained by walkers and those on horseback.

**Table 2: Cumulative Wind Farms**

Wind Farm	X	Y	Distance (km)	Status
Llynfi Afan	290057	195043	1.6	Operational
Pant y Wal/Fforch Nest	296123	190975	5.8	Operational
Pant y Wal Extension	As above	As above	As above	Consented
Abergorki	295989	199006	6.1	Consented
Pen y Cymoedd	289656	200850	6.5	Operational
Maerdy	295548	200072	6.7	Operational
Ferndale	298901	196403	7.5	Operational
Ffynnon Oer	284567	198831	8.2	Operational
Mynydd Bwllfa	295411	201989	8.2	Operational
Melin Court	284952	200550	8.9	Application Submitted
Taff Ely	298157	186308	10.6	Operational
Mynydd Portref	298981	185775	11.6	Operational
Mynydd Brombil	279030	188646	14.0	Operational
Maesgwyn	286389	208211	14.5	Operational
Maesgwyn Extension	As above	As above	As above	Operational
Mynydd y Gwrhyd	272936	210786	24.7	Operational
Swansea Docks	267000	191800	24.8	Operational
Pen Bryn Oer	312090	209160	25.1	Operational
Oakdale Business Park	319193	200008	28.1	Operational
Mynydd y Bettws	267377	210448	28.9	Operational
Mynydd y Gwair	265867	207891	29.0	Operational
Brechfa Forest East	257941	236490	53.7	Consented
Great House Farm	345074	186932	54.0	Consented
Brechfa Forest West	248471	232503	57.4	Operational
Mynydd Pencarreg	256944	241153	58.0	Consented
Alltwalis	247002	233169	58.9	Operational

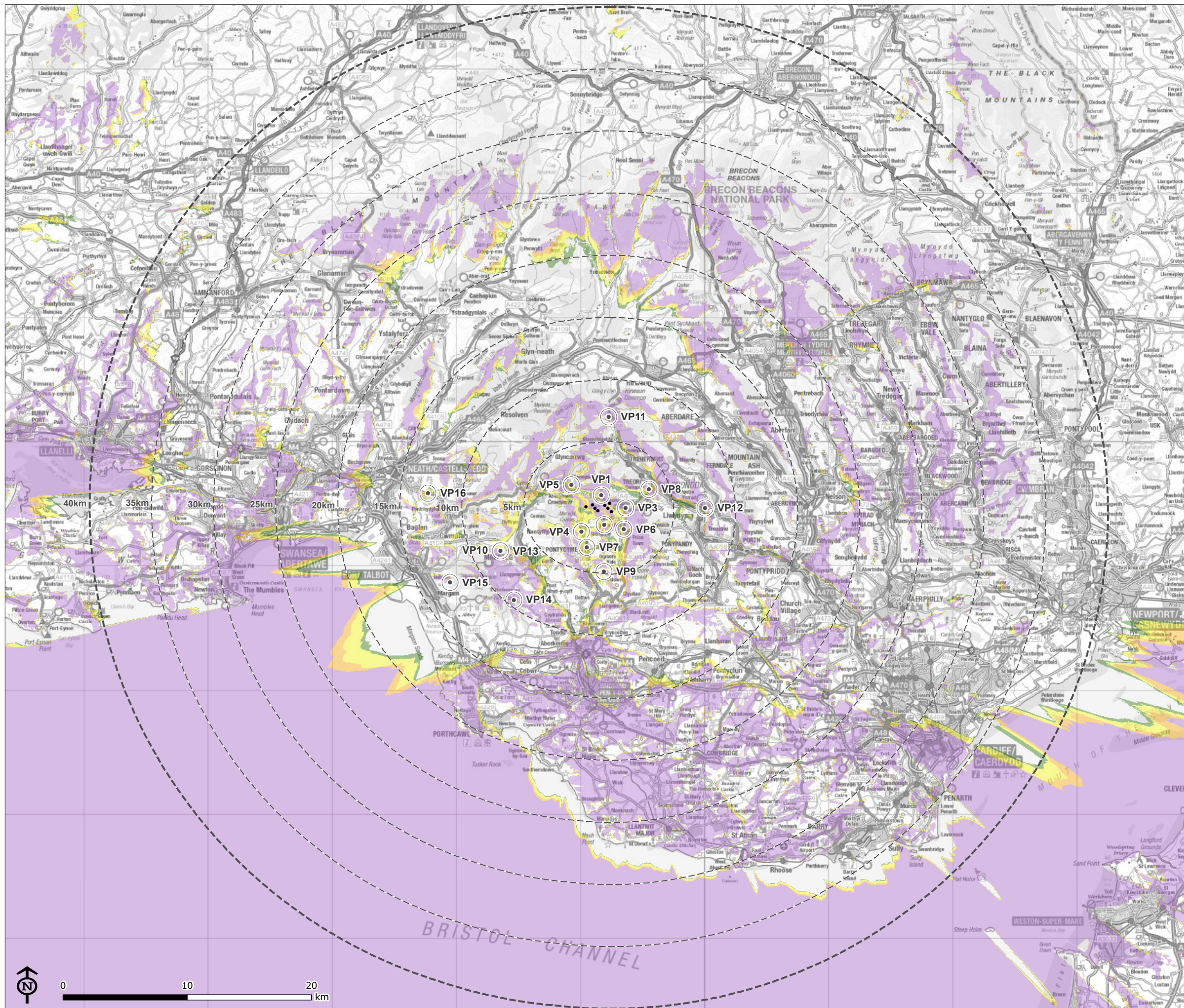
<sup>i</sup> Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment*. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.

<sup>ii</sup> Scottish Natural Heritage (2017). *Visual Representation of Wind Farms*. Version 2.2 [http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A2203860.pdf]

<sup>iii</sup> Including Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) *Visual Representation of Wind Farms*, and Landscape Institute Advice Note 01/11 *Photography and photomontage in landscape and visual impact assessment*. [https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/PDF/Contribute/LIPhotographyAdviceNote01-11.pdf]

<sup>iv</sup> Visual Representation of Wind Farms - Version 2.2 (2017) SNH





## UPPER OGMORE Scoping Report

**Figure 1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Turbine Tip Height (150m)**

- Turbine location
  - 5km intervals from outermost turbines
  - 40km from outermost turbines
  - Viewpoint location
- 1:A4107, Hairpin Bend
  - 2:Mynydd Llangeinwyr
  - 3:Craig Ogwr, footpath
  - 4:Blaengarw, cycle path
  - 5:Caroline Street, Blaengwynfi
  - 6:A4061, Nant-y-Moel
  - 7:Football field - Pontycymer
  - 8:Cwmparc
  - 9:Pen y Fole, trig point
  - 10:Coed Morgannwg Way and St Ilyd's Walk
  - 11:A4061, above Treorchy
  - 12:Western edge of Penrhys
  - 13:Coed Morgannwg Way and St Ilyd's Walk
  - 14:Ogwr Ridgeway south west of Llangewyd
  - 15:Ergyd Isaf
  - 16:B4287 east of Neath

### Theoretical turbine visibility

- 1-2 Turbines are visible
- 3-4 Turbines are visible
- 5-6 Turbines are visible
- 7-8 Turbines are visible

### Notes

The ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height (150m), based on the RES 02959D0001-05 8TL layout, from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from OS Terrain 50 height data (obtained from Ordnance Survey in Spring 2017). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcMap 10.4.1 software.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:300,000





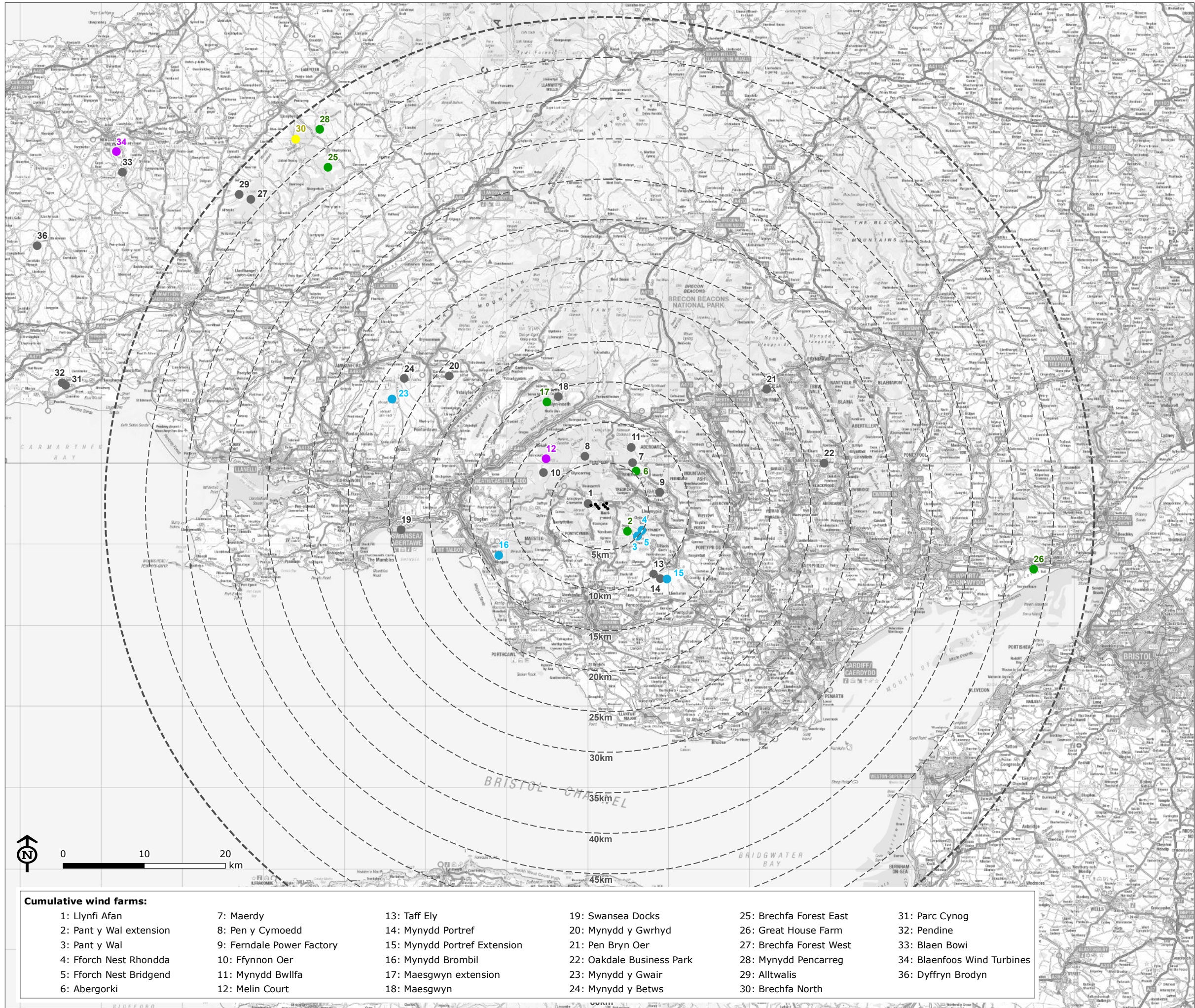
UPPER OGMORE  
Scoping Report

Figure 2: Cumulative Wind  
Farms within 60km

- Turbine location
- 5km intervals from outermost turbines
- 60km from outermost turbines
- Cumulative wind farms (by status)
- Operational
- Under Construction
- Consented
- Application Submitted
- Design/Scoping

Note  
Based on data available to LUC on 29/09/2017.

Map Scale @ A3: 1:460,000



Cumulative wind farms:

- |                         |                           |                              |                           |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1: Llynfi Afan          | 7: Maerdy                 | 13: Taff Ely                 | 19: Swansea Docks         | 25: Brechfa Forest East | 31: Parc Cynog              |
| 2: Pant y Wal extension | 8: Pen y Cymoedd          | 14: Mynydd Portref           | 20: Mynydd y Gwrhyd       | 26: Great House Farm    | 32: Pendine                 |
| 3: Pant y Wal           | 9: Ferndale Power Factory | 15: Mynydd Portref Extension | 21: Pen Bryn Oer          | 27: Brechfa Forest West | 33: Blaen Bowi              |
| 4: Fforch Nest Rhondda  | 10: Ffynnon Oer           | 16: Mynydd Brombil           | 22: Oakdale Business Park | 28: Mynydd Pencarreg    | 34: Blaenfoos Wind Turbines |
| 5: Fforch Nest Bridgend | 11: Mynydd Bwlfa          | 17: Maesgwyn extension       | 23: Mynydd y Gwair        | 29: Alltwalis           | 36: Dyffryn Brodyn          |
| 6: Abergorki            | 12: Melin Court           | 18: Maesgwyn                 | 24: Mynydd y Betws        | 30: Brechfa North       |                             |