

**Caerphilly County Borough**  
**Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development:**  
**Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study**  
**NRW Consultation Response**

NRW input to the *Heads of the Valleys Wind Turbine Development Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study* including the methodology and relationship to Landmap. NRW support the work undertaken for the Heads of the Valleys study and the principles and methodology for this Caerphilly study is similarly supported.

Detailed Comments:

1. We understand the title of the Heads of the Valleys study to be 'Wind Turbine Development' rather than 'Smaller Scale Wind Turbine Development' and suggest the titles reflect each other, for consistency.
2. **Section 6 Fig. 03.** It is not very easy to distinguish between the colours of Historic Parks & Gardens Essential Setting and Special Landscape Areas.
3. **Fig. 04.** Is there a definition of Open Country?
4. **Fig. 05.** It would be useful to have a plan showing related units to ones adjacent in the Heads of the Valleys study.
5. **Fig. 06 & 07.** The picture with regards to operational, consented, in planning has changed since Nov 14. The study may need to refer to the base line of Nov 14 in its findings, but should acknowledge the changing baseline in the publication, with perhaps a map at a fixed date or link to the Blaenau Gwent cumulative mapping website.
6. **Fig. 11.** shows a high sensitivity to large turbines for Unit 9 and **Fig.12** shows a medium-high sensitivity to very large turbines for Unit 9, whereas the text indicates no capacity for very large and some capacity for large and medium turbines. Is this correct?
7. Is there a case for dividing Unit 1? It includes part of the Gelligaer Common Registered Historic Landscape, an area significant historically and different to other parts of the unit, which is quite large.
8. Is there an LDP relevant policy regarding cultural heritage (including Registered Landscapes) that would be worth referring to?
9. Unit 1. There are views across Gelligaer Common and from Gelligaer Common across the area. Question whether this should be high susceptibility, due to the Registered Landscape and presence of SAMs. The adjoining Unit 13 in the Heads of the Valleys study has this as high susceptibility. Should the sensitivity to large scale turbines be high, the text comment says they would be out of scale with the unit and visually prominent?

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