



Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

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14.0 Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

14.1 Introduction

14.1.1 This Chapter reports the outcome of the preliminary assessment of likely significant effects arising from the Proposed Development upon socio-economics, tourism and recreation receptors.

14.1.2 This Chapter (and its associated figures and appendices) is intended to be read as part of the wider Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). The preliminary assessment is based on information obtained to date. It should be read in conjunction **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development** and with respect to relevant parts of the following chapters:

- **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology;**
- **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity;**
- **Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration;**
- **Chapter 15: Transport and Access;** and
- **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics.**

14.1.3 This Chapter describes:

- The legislation, policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment (**Section 14.2**);
- Limitations and assumptions (**Section 0**);
- Stakeholder Engagement (**Section 14.4**);
- Description of the methodology underpinning the socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment (**Section 14.5**);
- Description of the Study Area (**Section 14.5**);
- Description of the EIA Significance Criteria (**Section 14.5**);
- Description of the baseline conditions (**Section 14.6**);

- Identification of the potential sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the Site (**Section 14.6**);
- Embedded Design Mitigation (**Section 14.7**);
- Preliminary assessment of likely impacts and effects (**Section 14.8**);
- Consideration for the potential mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce the impact of the Proposed Development (**Section 14.9**);
- A summary of significant residual effects (**Section 14.10**);
- An assessment of cumulative effects (**Section 14.11**);
- A summary of significant cumulative effects (**Section 14.12**); and
- References (**Section 14.13**).

14.1.4 The figures in **Table 14-1** below also accompany this assessment.

Table 14-1 Figures which has informed the Socio-economic, Tourism and Recreation assessment

Drawing number / Document reference	Drawing description
Figure 14-1	Study Area for Recreation
Figure 14-2	Study Area for Tourism

14.2 Legislation and Planning Policy

14.2.1 A summary of the relevant national and local planning policies on this topic is given in **Table 14-2**. The Policies summarised include overarching national policies and policies from Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and other relevant Technical Advice Notes (TANs), which form material considerations.

Table 14-2: Policy, legislation and guidance relevant to Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation

Policy	Context
Overarching National Policy	Section 5.13 sets out an overall approach to energy infrastructure from a socio-economic perspective.

Policy	Context
<p>Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 14-1)</p>	<p>Section 5.13.4 details some of the likely economic impacts that should be considered as part of any assessment. Presentation of the likely significant effects, including potential economic impacts, is presented in Sections 14.6 and 14.8 of this Chapter.</p> <p>Section 5.13.10 states that it may be concluded <i>“that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in the NPS)”</i>.</p> <p>Baseline evidence is provided in Section 14.6 of this Chapter.</p>
<p>Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Ref 14-2)</p>	<p>Policy 17 sets out national policies that accord with the relevant NPS and legislation, particularly Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Socio-Economic Duty Equality Act. Policy 17 of the National Plan states that proposals are to describe <i>“the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities”</i>.</p> <p>Policy 17 of the National Plan is considered within relevant sections of this Chapter: baseline reporting, proposed assessment methodology, description of likely significant effects, opportunities for enhancing the environment and mitigation.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) (Ref 14-3)</p>	<p>Paragraphs 2.27 to 2.28 describe how to assess the sustainable benefits of development, of which key social and economic factors are highlighted in paragraph 2.28</p> <p>In considering the delivery of good design holistically, paragraph 3.14 discusses the need for an appropriate Site and context analysis. The process seeks to ensure that the potential relationship between the impacts of construction and operation of a proposed development upon a surrounding area is known, including socio-economic impacts.</p>

Policy	Context
	<p>Paragraph 4.5.3 to 4.5 seeks to protect recreational spaces, including formal and informal open green spaces as well as playing fields, from being lost by development.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.0.2 recognises that the development of land will be necessary for economic activity, including for the powering and heating of home, business and communities by low carbon energy sources.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.1.1 recognises that good infrastructure <i>“plays a pivotal role in maintaining the economic well-being in Wales.”</i> Where areas are served by poor infrastructure, these can be evidenced by negative impacts upon quality of life, prosperity, and the well-being of communities.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.5.1 recognises tourism as a potential catalyst for regeneration.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.7.6 to 5.7.7 recognises the <i>“importance of decarbonisation and the sustainable use of natural resources, both as an economic driver and a commitment to sustainable development”</i>. Paragraph 5.7.7. lists possible benefits of renewable and low carbon energy.</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.8 requires authorities to <i>“take into account the cumulative impact of renewable and low carbon energy development and their associated infrastructure, for example grid connections.”</i></p> <p>All PPW policy matters are considered within relevant sections of this Chapter: baseline reporting, proposed assessment methodology, description of likely significant effects, opportunities for enhancing the environment and mitigation.</p>
<p>Technical Advice Note 23 – Economic Development (Ref 14-4)</p>	<p>Although the TAN primarily considers “B” class uses, paragraph 1.1.2 of the TAN provides further definition to the term ‘economic development’, clarifying that it comprises development which generates an economic activity which “directly generates wealth</p>

Policy	Context
	<p>(output), jobs and income” as well as providing or sustaining existing jobs or creating new jobs.</p> <p>Paragraph 1.2.1 recognises that the “<i>economic benefits associated with development may be geographically spread out beyond the area where the development is located</i>”.</p> <p>Section 2 discusses the appropriate weighing to be attributed to economic benefits in development management. The Section provides guidance to decision makers on the tests to understand the economic impacts of the proposal. This includes: considering the availability of alternative land (locational flexibility; job accommodated at the Site providing an approximate measure of the development’s contribution to the wider economy; and special merit, i.e. will the proposed development make any contribution to policy objectives.</p> <p>All TAN 23 policy matters are considered within relevant sections of this Chapter: baseline reporting, proposed assessment methodology, description of likely significant effects, opportunities for enhancing the environment and mitigation.</p>
<p>Newport Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 (Ref 14-5)</p>	<p>Policy GP7 General Development Principles – Environmental Protection and Public Health restricts development which will cause or result in unacceptable harms to health, the environmental, local amenity or public health and safety.</p> <p>Policy CF1 Protection of Playing Fields, Land and Buildings Uses for Leisure, Sport, Recreation and Play resists proposals resulting in the loss or redevelopment of playing fields, land and buildings, used for sport, recreation, areas of play and community uses unless those uses are surplus to requirements or alternative provision will be made.</p> <p>CF12 Protection of Existing Community Facilities resists the loss or change of use of buildings currently used for community</p>

Policy	Context
	<p>facilities unless those uses are surplus to requirements or alternative provision will be made.</p> <p>All local policy matters with the Newport City Council LDP are considered within relevant sections of this Chapter: baseline reporting, proposed assessment methodology, description of likely significant effects, opportunities for enhancing the environment and mitigation.</p>
<p>Monmouthshire County Council Adopted Local Development Plan 2011-2021 (Ref 14-6)</p>	<p>Policy S8 – Enterprise and Economy supports development proposals that seek to deliver the Council’s vision for sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>Policy S10 – Rural Enterprise supports the diversification of the rural economy outside of settlement boundaries subject to causing no unacceptable harms to the surrounding landscape, historic, cultural, heritage, biodiversity or local amenity value.</p> <p>Policy S11 – Visitor Economy provides or enhances sustainable forms of tourism that are proposed and to resist development proposals that will have an <i>“unacceptable adverse impact on features and areas of tourism interest and their settings, or that will result in the unjustified loss of tourism facilities.”</i></p> <p>Policy S13 – Landscape, Green Infrastructure, and the Natural Environment provides a decision-making framework to determine impacts to landscape and green infrastructure assets, in addition to supporting ecological connectivity. Clause 4) seeks to integrate these features to create <i>“multi-functional, interconnected spaces that offer opportunities for recreation and healthy activities such as walking and cycling.”</i></p> <p>Policy S17 – Place Making and Design requires all development to contribute to creating <i>“high quality, attractive and sustainable places.”</i></p>

Policy	Context
	<p>Policy CRF1 – Retention of Existing Community Facilities resists the change of use of loss of community facilities unless in permitted circumstances.</p>
	<p>Policy CRF3 – Safeguarding Existing Recreational Facilities and Public Open Space resists the loss of land or facilities with open space, recreation and allotment garden uses unless: there is a surplus of such land or sufficient alternative provision is made.</p>
	<p>Policy RE3 – Agricultural Diversification supports proposals contributing to agriculture or its diversification, including where the proposed benefits of the Proposed Development will sustain employment or the rural economy. The Policy is also supportive of renewable energy developments where they meet the requirements of Policy SD1.</p>
	<p>Policy SD1 – Renewable Energy supports renewable energy developments, including solar, subject to consideration of amenities of nearby residents, in terms of noise, dust, odour or increases in traffic, and the wider environmental, economic, social and community benefits.</p>
	<p>Policy EP1 – Amenity and Environmental Protection requires development proposals that will <i>“cause or result in unacceptable risk/harm to local amenity, health, the character/quality of the countryside or interests of nature conservation, landscape or built heritage importance”</i> to be resisted unless measures can be taken to overcome any significant risk.</p>
	<p>All local policy matters with the Monmouthshire County Council LDP are considered within relevant sections of this Chapter: baseline reporting, proposed assessment methodology, description of likely significant effects, opportunities for enhancing the environment and mitigation.</p>

14.3 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

14.3.1 This Chapter has relied, in part, on data provided by third parties (e.g., OS Mapping, National Online Manpower Information System (NOMIS)), which are the most up-to-date, available at the time of writing. Where possible, the latest data has been sourced to inform the baseline reporting and analysis.

14.4 Stakeholder Engagement

14.4.1 An EIA Scoping Report for the Proposed Development (**Appendix 1C**) and a request for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate was submitted in December 2024. **Table 14-3** presents a summary of comments provided by the Planning Inspectorate and consultees (**Appendix 1D**) as part of the scoping process and the Applicant's response, highlighting where relevant how these comments have been addressed within this Chapter. Following the consultation response by the Planning Inspectorate regarding the inclusion of tourism within the assessment scope, tourist attractions within the Study Area of 5km have been scoped into the assessment to assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development on such businesses. Tourist accommodation, captured under the umbrella term of hospitality and retail, remains scoped out as set out in the EIA Scoping Report (**Appendix 1C**) and in line with the Planning Inspectorate response below. No relevant responses were received from Newport City Council or Monmouthshire County Council with regard to this Chapter.

Table 14-3: Main matters raised during consultation

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate	Providing the ES states the number employees required for the operation of the Proposed Development, the Inspectorate agrees that	Number of operational employees is outlined in Chapter 2: Description of	Employment generation during operation has been scoped out of the

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
	the operation of the Proposed Development will be unlikely to have significant effects on labour markets and can be scoped out of the ES.	the Proposed Development	Environmental Statement (ES).
Planning Inspectorate	<p>Effects on tourism businesses during all phases should be fully assessed in the ES, as there is insufficient justification to scope the matter out and paragraph 16.6.4 states that indirect impacts to tourism businesses are to be scoped into the assessment. The approach to this matter is unclear, and as such, the Inspectorate is not in a position to scope it out entirely.</p> <p>The Inspectorate agrees that effects on hospitality and retail services during all phases can be scoped out of the ES.</p>	Effects on tourism attractions during all the phases of the Proposed Development are assessed as part of this PEIR.	Tourism attractions are considered in the baseline and preliminary assessment of this PEIR (Section 14.6 and 14.8).

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate	The ES should assess direct and indirect impacts on agricultural resource as potential impacts to agricultural businesses has not been considered. The Inspectorate is not in a position to scope this matter out. See comment I.D. 3.7.1 for the Inspectorates opinion on BMV.	Direct and indirect effects on agricultural resources have been scoped into the assessment, and an agricultural viability assessment will be conducted and presented at ES.	A baseline review and preliminary assessment of effects on agricultural resources are presented in Section 14.6 and Section 14.8 .
Planning Inspectorate	The Inspectorate advises that the number and types of jobs created should be estimated in the ES and considered in the context of the available workforce in the area during each relevant phase of the proposed development.	The generation of employment during the Construction and Decommissioning of the Proposed Development has been scoped into the assessment. Effects on the employment generation during the operational stage have been scoped out as outlined in the first row of this table.	Effects of the Proposed Development on employment generation during Construction and Decommissioning are preliminarily assessed in Section 14.8 .

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate	The ES should outline any embedded measures that are envisioned to avoid significant effects on socio-economic receptors.	Embedded and additional mitigation measures are presented as part of this PEIR and will be updated as the design and assessment evolve. An updated and final version of the measures will be presented at the ES.	Proposed embedded mitigation is presented in Section 14.7 and Section 14.9 .

14.5 Assessment Methodology

Scope of the Assessment

14.5.1 The scope of this assessment has been established through an ongoing scoping process. Further information can be found in **Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Methodology**. **Table 14-4** refines the scope of the assessment, following consultation with the Planning Inspectorate, and provides the evidence base for scoping in and out elements of the assessment.

Table 14-4: Elements scoped in or out of the Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation assessment

Element	Phase	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Justification
Direct, indirect, and induced	Construction and Decommissioning	✓		There is the potential for significant benefits from the generation of

Element	Phase	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Justification
employment/labour market effects.				employment opportunities at the local level during the construction and decommissioning phases.
Direct effects from business rates	Operation		✓	The Proposed Development could generate significant business rates, on an annual basis, during operation.
Direct effects from inward investment	Operation		✓	The operational phase may result in significant beneficial effects from inward investment directly resulting from the Proposed Development consent.
Indirect effects upon recreational users	Construction, Operation and Decommissioning		✓	There is the potential for significant indirect effects on recreational users including Walkers, Cyclists and Horse Riders (WCH) due to a loss of amenity.
Direct and indirect effects on tourist attractions	Construction, Operation and Decommissioning		✓	There is the potential for significant direct and indirect effects upon tourism attractions /

Element	Phase	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Justification
				related businesses due to the potential disruption of access and a loss of amenity.
Direct and indirect effects on land-use (agricultural resource)	Construction, Operation and Decommissioning	✓		There is the potential for significant direct and indirect effects upon local agricultural land due to land take, which comprises the majority of the Site.
Direct, indirect, and induced employment/labour market effects.	Operation		✓	The number of employees and operational spend is not anticipated to result in any potential significant effects during the operational phase.
Direct, indirect and induced effects on local services (i.e. hospitality and retail)	Construction, Operation and Decommissioning		✓	It is expected that with three major urban centres within an hour's drive of the Proposed Development, effects on hospitality or retail services would not be of a level to be considered significant.

Element	Phase	Scoped In	Scoped Out	Justification
Direct effects upon recreational users	Construction, Operation and Decommissioning		✓	Direct effects (i.e. potential for closures/diversions) on the public rights of way (PRoW) network have been covered within Chapter 13: Transport and Access for all phases of the development. Therefore, they have not been considered within this chapter.

Study Area

14.5.2 Socio-economic, tourism and recreation impacts are likely to be experienced at a range of spatial levels. There are no legislative or applicable best practice guidance to inform the production of socio-economic, tourism and recreation assessments or to stipulate how a Study Area for the purposes of environmental assessment is to be defined.

14.5.3 Based on industry best practice, three Study Areas are defined based on the geographical area where socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects are likely to occur, with the potential to be significant in the context of the EIA Regulations that have been adopted:

- **Socio-economic and Labour Market Study Area** – Potential labour market and associated socio-economic effects have been assessed within the relevant Local Authority areas within which the Site lies: Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council. Beyond this, any likely

effects will be limited by the size of the regional and Welsh/UK economies, so will not be of significance in the context of the EIA Regulations.

- **Recreation Study Area** – Those Public Rights of Ways (PRoW) located within the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Figure 1.1) and a 500m Study Area (or those which have a direct means of access within the PEIR Assessment Boundary or Study Area) will be used for the assessment of change in accessibility and amenity value of recreational routes used by WCH (walkers, cyclists and horse riders), in line with guidance in Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 112 (Ref 14-7). The Study Area for recreation is presented in **Figure 14-1**.
- **Tourism Study Area** – Potentially significant effects on the regional and local tourism industry have been assessed within the regional and local context, utilising data from South-East Wales, and the local authorities, Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council. For tourist attractions, a 5km Study Area from the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Figure 1.1) will be used in order to capture those attraction providers most likely to be affected by the Proposed Development. There is no specific legislation or guidance on catchments relating to tourism assessments; as such, this Study Area is based on prior experience and professional judgement, capturing those receptors most likely to experience effects. The Study Area for tourist accommodation is presented in **Figure 14-2**.

Approach to the Assessment

14.5.4 To ensure consistency with other topics, the assessment methodology outlined in the forthcoming sections follows the general significance evaluation methodology outlined in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology**. However, the consideration of sensitivity and magnitude of effect has been amended to be suitable for the socio-economics, tourism and recreation receptors and effects that will be relevant to this topic assessment.

14.5.5 The assessment has considered the potentially significant effects on socio-economics, tourism and recreation (including amenity) that may arise from the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. As outlined in

Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development, decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not separately assessed in this chapter, as the impacts of decommissioning are likely to be the same as, or less than, those effects identified during the construction phase. In line with standard EIA practice, the sensitivity of receptors is considered against the magnitude of change to determine the significance of the effect. Significance determination is drawn from references to information about the nature of the development, the receptors that could be significantly affected and their sensitivity, importance, or value, together with the magnitude of change likely to occur.

14.5.6 The method adopted for this assessment draws upon publicly available information and is based upon:

- Establishing the baseline conditions to determine the existing socio-economic, tourism and recreation characteristics, in accordance with the defined Study Areas;
- defining receptor sensitivity to the Proposed Development, where possible. The sensitivity of a receptor is derived from the importance or value of the asset, which may be determined by legislation, policy or otherwise, as qualified by professional judgement;
- identifying the potential change that a receptor will experience as a result of a Proposed Development, with consideration given to its magnitude, temporal scope (e.g. short/long term, temporary/permanent) and valency (for example, if the change is adverse or beneficial);
- identifying the significance of potential socio-economic, tourism and recreation effects;
- identifying mitigation measures; and
- identifying any residual effects after mitigation.

14.5.7 The sections below outline how significance and magnitude were determined for socio-economic and labour market, tourism and recreation. Some of these have followed available industry guidance, while others have been based on professional judgement and draw on experience of similar projects where applicable.

Socio-economics and Labour Market Effects

Sensitivity

- 14.5.8 The availability of labour and skills is critical in accommodating the demands, needs and requirements of the Proposed Development. Adequate labour and skills capacity results in low sensitivity, while limited labour and skills capacity will result in high sensitivity.
- 14.5.9 Sensitivity criteria used for the labour market and socio-economic effects are shown in **Table 14-5**.

Table 14-5: Determining receptor sensitivity (socio-economic and labour market)

Receptor Group	Criteria
High	<p>Where there is some requirement for technical specialist input, which is difficult to source at a national level and / or where there are limited labour or skills available at the local level.</p> <p>Where the economy has little capacity to manage adverse changes to its operations.</p>
Medium	<p>Where there is limited requirement for very technical specialist input, which is difficult to source at a national level, and/or where there are some constraints to the availability of labour or skills at the local level.</p> <p>Where the economy has the capacity to manage adverse changes to its operations.</p>
Low	<p>Where there is no requirement for technical specialist input, and / or where there is a readily available labour force and skills.</p> <p>Where the economy or land uses have substantial capacity to manage adverse changes to their operations.</p>

Magnitude

14.5.10 The magnitude of change on identified labour market and socio-economic receptors has been determined using the criteria outlined in **Table 14-6** below.

Table 14-6: Magnitude of effects (socio-economic and labour market)

Magnitude of effects	Criteria
High	An impact that will be very adverse/beneficial and is very likely to affect the operations of businesses.
Medium	An impact that will be adverse/beneficial and is likely to affect the operations of businesses.
Low	An impact that will be adverse/beneficial and that may have some effect on the operations of businesses.
Negligible	An impact that is anticipated to have a slight effect (either adversely or beneficially) and is unlikely to have any effect on the operations of businesses.
No change	-

Recreation effects

Sensitivity

14.5.11 The sensitivity of identified recreation receptors has been determined using the criteria outlined in the LA112 Population and Human Health Guidance, which forms part of the DMRB (Ref 14-7). Despite the DMRB being the standard for the assessment of road developments, this guidance provides an appropriate methodology for assessing the effects on WCH in the context of the Proposed Development. The criteria are outlined in **Table 14-7**.

Table 14-7: Recreation receptor sensitivity

Receptor sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	National trails and routes likely to be used for both commuting and recreation that record frequent (daily) use. Such routes connect communities with employment, land uses, and other services with a direct and convenient WCH route. Little / no potential for substitution.
High	PRoW frequently used by WCH for commuting, recreational and leisure purposes (e.g. National Trails). Also, for use by vulnerable travellers (e.g. elderly, school children and people with disabilities).
Medium	PRoW moderately used by WCH for commuting, recreational and leisure purposes (e.g. regional trails).
Low	Locally designated PRoW and other routes close to communities, which are used by WCH mainly for recreational purposes (for example dog walking), but for which alternative routes can be taken.
Negligible	PRoW not / infrequently used by WCH for recreational purposes.

Magnitude

14.5.12 The magnitude of change on identified recreation receptors will be determined using the LA112 criteria outlined in **Table 14-8** (Ref 14-7). The assessment will draw upon the technical assessments undertaken in the following Chapters: **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity; Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration; Chapter 15: Transport and Access;** and **Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics**, where relevant.

Table 14-8: Magnitude of effects (recreation)

Magnitude of effects	Criteria
High	An impact that could be expected to have a considerable effect (either beneficial or adverse) on receptors. This could be the closure of a recreational facility, an existing recreational or commuting route/resource used by WCH.
Medium	An impact that could be expected to notably impact the amenity of a receptor. This could include excessive diversion to routes or a meaningful visual impact on the setting of a receptor.
Low	An impact that could be expected to impact the amenity of a receptor to some extent. This could include a minor diversion to routes or a minor visual impact on the setting of a receptor.
Negligible	An impact that could be expected to have a slight impact upon the setting or amenity of a receptor, but which does not meaningfully affect the use, enjoyment or operation of that receptor.
No change	-

Tourism effects

14.5.13 There is no accepted methodology for the assessment of effects on tourist attractions, with studies generally relying on anecdotal evidence or bespoke criteria. For the purposes of establishing a methodology for the assessment of likely significance, this assessment has defined broad categories for receptor sensitivity, magnitude of change, and overall significance, based on prior experience and professional judgement and considering factors such as type and size of attraction, uniqueness, and anticipated customer base. This is an appropriate approach to assign an overall level of significance when assessing the effects on visitors and tourists accessing tourist attractions in the context of the Proposed Development.

Sensitivity

14.5.14 The sensitivity of identified tourism receptors has been determined using the criteria outlined in **Table 14-9**. These are informed by professional judgement.

Table 14-9: Receptor sensitivity (tourism)

Receptor sensitivity	Criteria
Very High	Attraction or facility that has a regional, national and / or international visitor base, attracting visitors who are likely to make a planned trip to visit the attraction. Activities are likely to be whole day trips, and have associated facilities such as car parking, cafés, toilets, and other assets. Or an attraction that has national or international renown (e.g. the Houses of Parliament) and attracts daily, very frequent visitors.
High	Attraction or facility that serves a local, regional and national visitor base, likely attracting visitors who have specifically planned to visit the attraction or facility for a day trip or part of a visit to the area. Offers the opportunity to undertake more than one activity (e.g. a historic property with a park or garden, and / or children's play area) and offers associated car parking, café, and toilet facilities.
Medium	Attraction or facility that serves a local and wider regional visitor base. Offers the opportunity to undertake activities during the visit, with associated facilities such as car parking and / or a café.
Low	Attraction or facility that serves a predominantly local visitor base, with few people likely to travel from the wider region. May have some associated facilities such as car parking, but unlikely to offer facilities or activities which will enable visitors to spend a full day there.

Magnitude

14.5.15 The magnitude of change on identified tourism receptors has been determined using the criteria outlined in **Table 14-10**. The assessment draws upon the technical assessments undertaken in the following Chapters: **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage**

and Archaeology; Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity; Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration; Chapter 15: Transport and Access; and Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics, where relevant.

Table 14-10: Magnitude of effects (tourism)

Magnitude of effects	Criteria
High	An impact that will be very adverse/beneficial and is very likely to affect the operations of tourist attractions (including amenity).
Medium	An impact that will be adverse/beneficial and is likely to affect the operations of tourist attractions (including amenity).
Low	An impact that will be adverse/beneficial and that may have some effect on the operations of tourist attractions (including amenity).
Negligible	An impact that is anticipated to have a slight effect (either adversely or beneficially) and is unlikely to have an effect on the operations of tourist attractions (including amenity).
No change	-

Determination of Significance

14.5.16 The overall approach to determining the significance of effects aligns with the “significance test” as described in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology**. The significance evaluation matrix is shown in **Table 14-11**.

Table 14-11: Significant Evaluation Matrix

		Magnitude of change			
		High	Medium	Low	Negligible
Sensitivity/importance/value	Very high	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Minor (Not significant)
	High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)
	Medium	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)
	Low	Moderate (Probably significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)

14.6 Baseline Conditions

14.6.1 Relevant baseline conditions are presented for the Socio-economic and Labour Market, Tourism and Recreation Study Areas where information is available. Data at the Welsh and Great Britain level has been used as comparators for the Study Areas, as appropriate.

14.6.2 The following sources have been used in order to identify the baseline conditions:

- Mapping information;
- Local, regional and national economic and social indices databases, policy documents and strategies (Ref 14-8 – Ref 14-10);
- Local tourist information websites including Visit Wales, Visit Newport and Visit Monmouthshire (Several references below);
- Publicly available information on receptors;
- Nomis (Ref 14-11 – Ref 14-14) / data obtained from the Office for National Statistics (ONS);
- Newport City Council website (Ref 14-6 and Ref 14-18); and

- Monmouthshire County Council website (Ref 14-5 and Ref 14-19).

Socio-economics and Labour Market

Population

14.6.3 The 2021 ONS population estimates for Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council were 93,163 (Ref 14-11) and 159,687 (Ref 14-12), respectively. In 2021, there were 54,300 (58.3% of the population) (Ref 14-11) people of working age (aged between 16 and 64) in Monmouthshire and 100,400 (62.9% of the population) (Ref 14-12) in Newport. These working-age numbers are largely the same as numbers in Wales and Great Britain, with 61.0% and 62.9% of the population being of working age, respectively (Ref 14-13).

Economic Activity

14.6.4 Economic activity rate is a measure of the labour market opportunities available in the area¹. The economic activity rates of the working age population of Monmouthshire and Newport between April 2024 and March 2025 are 80.4% (Ref 14-11) and 76.8% (Ref 14-12), respectively. For Monmouthshire, this was a higher percentage than the Wales average (75.1% (Ref 14-13)) and Great Britain average (78.5% (Ref 14-13)), while for Newport, these were very similar to Wales and slightly below the Great Britain average.

14.6.5 The NOMIS Job Densities Report indicates the availability of employment and labour demand (Ref 14-14). As of 2023, the job density levels (i.e. the ratio of total jobs to the population aged 16-64) in Monmouthshire and Newport were 0.78 and 0.80, respectively (Ref 14-11 and 14-12), indicating similar levels of opportunity. This is higher than the Wales level (0.77) for both counties; however, both are below the Great Britain level (0.86), indicating slightly fewer employment opportunities within Monmouthshire and Newport when compared with Great Britain as a whole (Ref 14-11 – 14-13).

¹ The economic activity rate measures the percentage of the population, both in employment and unemployed that represents the labour supply regardless of their labour status. The figure represents the degree of success of the area in engaging people in productive activity.

Employment Structure

14.6.6 **Table 14-12** shows the proportion of total employees working in each industry sector in 2023 for Monmouthshire County Council (Ref 14-11) and Newport City Council (Ref 14-12). The largest employment sectors in Monmouthshire were Sector G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles); Sector Q (Human Health and Social Work Activities); as well as Sector C (Manufacturing) and Sector I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities). In Newport, the largest employment sectors were Sector Q (Human Health and Social Work Activities); Sector G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles); as well as Sector C (Manufacturing). In particular, several sectors in Monmouthshire and Newport are significantly higher or lower than Great Britain and Wales, as well as in comparison to the other respective council. The proportion of workers in Sector F (Construction), Sector G (Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles) and Sector I (Accommodation and Food Service Activities) in Monmouthshire are significantly higher than in Newport City Council, Wales and Great Britain. In comparison, in Newport, the N (Administrative and Support Service Activities) and O Sector (Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security) employs a significantly higher proportion of workers than Monmouthshire, Wales and Great Britain (Ref 14-11 and Ref 14-12).

Table 14-12: Proportion of total employees in each industry sector

Industry Sector	Monmouthshire County Council	Newport City Council	Wales	Great Britain
B: Mining and Quarrying	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
C: Manufacturing	9.5	10.4	10.8	7.5
D: Electricity, Gas, Steam and Air Conditioning Supply	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.4

Industry Sector	Monmouthshire County Council	Newport City Council	Wales	Great Britain
E: Water Supply; Sewerage, Waste Management and Remediation Activities	0.5	0.9	0.9	0.7
F: Construction	8.1	3.2	5.1	4.9
G: Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	16.2	13.0	12.8	13.7
H: Transportation and Storage	4.1	5.8	3.3	5.0
I: Accommodation and Food Service Activities	9.5	6.5	8.8	8.0
J: Information and Communication	2.2	3.9	2.3	4.6
K: Financial and Insurance Activities	0.8	3.2	2.5	3.4
L: Real Estate Activities	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.9
M: Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities	6.1	7.8	5.0	9.3

Industry Sector	Monmouthshire County Council	Newport City Council	Wales	Great Britain
N: Administrative and Support Service Activities	5.4	9.1	7.4	8.7
O: Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	6.8	9.1	8.7	4.7
P: Education	6.8	5.2	8.9	8.6
Q: Human Health and Social Work Activities	16.2	15.6	17.2	13.9
R: Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	3.4	1.9	2.6	2.6
S: Other Service Activities	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.9

14.6.7 In 2023, some 3,000 people in Monmouthshire (Ref 14-11) and 2,500 people in Newport (Ref 14-12) were employed in the Construction Sector (Sector F), representing 8.1% and 3.2% of the total jobs across the Study Areas, respectively. For Monmouthshire, this significantly exceeds the 2024 Welsh level of 6.3% (93,000) (Ref 14-11), while Newport construction employment lies below this figure.

14.6.8 In relation to tourism, some 3,500 people in Monmouthshire and 5,000 people in Newport were employed in the Accommodation and Food and Beverage Sector (Ref 14-11) in 2023, representing 9.5% and 6.5% of total employee jobs, respectively. For Monmouthshire, this exceeds the 2024 Welsh level of 8.2% (122,000) (Ref 14-12), while Newport tourism employment lies below this figure.

Deprivation

14.6.9 The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) ranks small areas in Wales from 1 (most deprived) to 1,909 (least deprived). These small areas of Wales are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). The WIMD considers income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment, and housing. The Site is located within the Llanwern 1 (W01001649) LSOA, which is overall ranked 913 of 1,909 LSOAs in Wales and the Mill 2 (W01001573), which is overall ranked 1,614 of 1,909 LSOAs in Wales. This places the Llanwern 1 (W01001649) LSOA among the 30-50% most deprived LSOAs and the Mill 2 (W01001573) among the 50% least deprived LSOAs in Wales (Ref 14-8).

Skills and Qualifications

14.6.10 Overall, Monmouthshire had a higher level of educational attainment than Wales and Great Britain as a whole between January 2024 and December 2024. The percentage of people in Monmouthshire with a “Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQFt)1+” (92.3%) was higher than in Wales (87.8%) and Great Britain (88.9%), with a difference of 4.5% and 3.4% respectively. Notably, the percentage of people with an “RQF4+” within Monmouthshire (54.9%) was much higher than for Wales (44.0% - 10.9% difference) and slightly above Great Britain with 47.2% (Ref 14-11 and Ref 14-12).

14.6.11 Comparatively, the levels of educational attainment in Newport between January 2024 and December 2024 were reasonably proportional to Wales, although marginally lower in most cases than national figures. The percentage of people in Newport with an “RQF1+” (87.9%) was marginally the same as Wales (87.8%), and lower than Great Britain (88.9%). Conversely, the percentage of people with an “RQF4+” (42.3%) was lower than in Wales (44.0%) (Ref 14-8).

Current Economic Value of the Land in the PEIR Assessment Boundary

14.6.12 Desktop and onsite observations during the assessment indicated that the land within the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Figure 1.1) and immediate surroundings is predominantly open field farm and grazing land. Reviewing the Welsh Government Predictive Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Map 2, the majority of the land within the PEIR Assessment Boundary is shown as Subgrade 3B, with a small area

of Grade 4 land classification. Furthermore, the desktop review identified that no best or most versatile (BMV) land is anticipated to be present within the PEIR Assessment Boundary (see **Chapter 16: Ground Conditions** for further information) (Ref 14-15). As such, this indicates that the land within the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Figure 1.1) is of moderate to poor agricultural value. Further engagement with landowners is required to understand the current economic value of the fields within the PEIR Assessment Boundary.

Socio-economic Receptors

14.6.13 Based on the above baseline of socio-economics and the labour market, and the Scope of Assessment (see **paragraph 14.5.1**), **Table 14-13** outlines the receptors identified and assessed as part of this assessment. The assigned sensitivity follows the methodology set out in **Table 14-5**.

Table 14-13 - Socio-economics and Labour Market Receptors Baseline

Receptor	Sensitivity of receptor
Full-time equivalent (FTE) Farming Jobs	Medium
FTE Professional, scientific and technical Jobs	Medium
FTE Construction Jobs	Medium
Business rates	-
Agricultural output / revenue	-

Recreation

14.6.14 The Study Area for recreational users was defined to be up to 500 metres from the PEIR Assessment Boundary (see **Figure 14-1**). The Study Area contains numerous PRoW and designated routes, some of which fall within the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Figure 1.1) and others within the 500m Study Area. These PRoW are typical local routes, many of which provide essential, daily connections for WCH, undertaking recreation within their local area or accessing local services and facilities without using a vehicle. Some of these PRoW also connect to other PRoW

to form a wider network, allowing WCH access across a local authority district or county. One notable local walking route within the PEIR Assessment Boundary is the Redwick Circular Route, which is considered further below.

14.6.15 Whilst the majority of PRow within the PEIR Assessment Boundary and Study Area are 'local', there are also several routes of national importance – one section of the Wales Coast Path (continuous coastal footpath stretching Wales's entire length coastline) (Ref 14-16) and one National Cycle Network (NCN) route (Ref 14-17). The identified section of the Wales Coast Path that runs adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary is the South Wales Coast and Seven Estuary (Ref 14.16). The National Cycle Network (NCN) route identified is the NCN Route 4, which runs between Pembrokeshire, Wales and London, England and is connected to the wider NCN routes within England and Wales and to local cycle routes. The PEIR Assessment Boundary crosses the NCN Route in several locations; in parts, the NCN Route aligns with the boundary of the PEIR Assessment Boundary (Ref 14-17). The local PRow network, NCN Route 4, Redwick Circular Route and the Wales Coast Path are shown in **Figure 11.7** of **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity**.

14.6.16 In the case of both the Wales Coast Path, and the NCN Route 4, our assessment will look only at how the Proposed Development affects the sections of these long, linear routes, which fall within the Study Area.

14.6.17 For the purpose of undertaking a preliminary assessment with this PEIR, an initial list of potentially affected PRow and national routes is outlined in **Table 14-14** (Ref 14-18 and Ref 14-19). Information on the usage levels of these routes will also be obtained (where possible) through consultation with the district and county councils and incorporated as part of the ES baseline. A preliminary assessment of the indirect effect of the Proposed Development on recreational users utilising the information available at this Stage is presented in **Section 14.8**.

Table 14-14: Public Rights of Way Receptor Baseline

Receptor	Description	Approximate distance from the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Sensitivity
National			
Welsh Coast Path	National walking route	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	High
National Cycle Network Route Network 4	National cycling route	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	High
Monmouthshire			
372/58/1	Local PRow	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/58/2		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/58/7		Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/59A/1		Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium

Receptor	Description	Approximate distance from the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Sensitivity
372/58/3		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/58/5		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/59/1		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/59/2		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/56/1		Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
372/54/1		Within Study Area	Medium
372/54/2		Within Study Area	Medium
372/54/3		Within Study Area	Medium
372/52/2		Within Study Area	Medium
372/58/5		Within Study Area	Low
372/60/1		Within Study Area	Low

Receptor	Description	Approximate distance from the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Sensitivity
372/60/2		Within Study Area	Low
372/53/1		Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
Newport			
392/15A/1	Footpath	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
404/7/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
404/6/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/26/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/25/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/30/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium

Receptor	Description	Approximate distance from the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Sensitivity
392/13/1	Footpath	Within Study Area	Low
392/14/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/3/1	Restricted Byway	Within Study Area	Low
392/17/1	Footpath	Within Study Area	Medium
392/27/1	Footpath	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Low
404/GL2/1	Green Lane	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Low
392/21/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Low
392/22/1	Footpath	Adjacent to the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Low
392/23/1	Footpath	Within Study Area	Low
392/GL3/1	Green Lane	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium

Receptor	Description	Approximate distance from the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Sensitivity
392/GL4/1	Green Lane	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/GL5/1	Green Lane	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
392/15A/1	Footpath	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
404/3/1	Footpath	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium
404/2/1	Footpath	Within Study Area	Low
404/1/1	Footpath	Within Study Area	Low
404/5/1	Footpath	Intersects the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Medium

Tourism

14.6.18 To identify potentially significant effects on the local and regional tourist industry, national and regional information sources and data have been utilised. As outlined in the **Section 14.5**, two Study Areas have been utilised to identify potential receptors and the effects of the Proposed Development on the tourism industry and tourist attractions. The Study Area for the tourist industry is defined as Newport City Council and Monmouthshire County Council. The Study Area for tourist attractions

is defined to be up to 5km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary (see **Figure 14-2**).

Economic Importance of Tourism

- 14.6.19 Visit Wales has previously studied the extent of the level of employment in the tourism industry (Ref 14-9) through the utilisation of the UK Standard Industrial Classification, identifying sub-classes, which fall into the following sub-sectors: accommodation for visitors; food and beverage services, sporting and recreational activities; cultural activities; passenger transport; travel agencies and other reservation activities; and country-specific tourism activities (Ref 14-9). The key findings of the Visit Wales 2024 (Ref 14-10) report were that tourism, as a proportion of all employment in Wales, remains relatively stable since 2020. The 2022 figures show an increase in the number of employees from 151,000 (11.30%) in 2020 to 159,000 (11.8%) in 2022. This increase was driven by the increase within the hospitality sector (Ref 14-9). Overall, the study found that the largest proportion of tourism employment exists in South-East Wales, with Mid Wales showing the lowest proportion of employment in the sector. This is, however, likely skewed due to tourism employment numbers in Cardiff, which is located 20 kilometres from the Proposed Development (located outside the tourism Study Area).
- 14.6.20 Similarly, with respect to the Study Area, a slight increase in the level of employment in the tourism industry has been experienced between 2020 to 2022, with a rise in the working age population in tourism-related industries from 8.8% (Monmouthshire) and 12.2% (Newport) in 2020 to 9.1% and 13.2% of all employment in the Study Area in 2022, respectively (Ref 14-9).
- 14.6.21 Welcome to Wales: Priorities for the Visitor Economy 2020 – 2025 (Ref 14-10) outlines the Welsh Government’s vision for the future of tourism and provides clarity on the priorities for Visit Wales. The report indicates that the tourism industry in Wales is in a strong position and over the last five years Wales has received record numbers of UK visitors. The report states that more than 9% of the workforce in Wales is employed in tourism. The report sets out Wales’ core offerings in relation to tourism, with ‘epic adventures and activities for everyone’ and ‘outstanding landscapes’ being of relevance to the tourism assessment.

Tourist Attractions

14.6.22 Tourist attractions typically comprise facilities such as museums, zoos and farm parks, heritage assets, country parks, theme parks, and points of interest. For the purposes of this assessment, coastal features and nature reserves (which offer areas for bird watching, education, and outdoor activities) have also been included within the scope for tourist attractions, given the nature of the local area around the Proposed Development, and the likelihood of these types of assets being frequented by tourist visitors from the region, as well as residents. Tourist attractions located within the PEIR Assessment Boundary and Study Area (5km) are presented in **Table 14-15**.

Table 14-15: Tourism Facilities Receptor Baseline

Recreation receptor	Description	Location	Sensitivity
Welsh Coast Path	Part of a national network of coastal paths, which are “ <i>major contributors to the local tourism economy, providing opportunities for health, wellbeing and recreation</i> ” (Ref 14-16).	Adjacent to PEIR Assessment Boundary	High
Redwick Circular Route	Locally promoted 5km circular walk – consists of local PRow that have been identified as part of the baseline in Table 14-14 (Ref 14-20).	Within the PEIR Assessment Boundary	Low
Magor Marsh–Gwent Wildlife Trust	“ <i>Magor Marsh is the last relatively natural area of fenland on the Gwent Levels.</i> ” This is mentioned as an inspirational and recreational	Within Study Area	Low

Recreation receptor	Description	Location	Sensitivity
	place to visit. There are bird hides and walking trails at the reserve (Ref 14-21).		
Procurator's House	A listed building that was " <i>built in the early 16 century</i> ". This is considered an important historical Site that is advertised as an outdoor destination (Ref 14-22)	Within Study Area	Low
Rogiet Countryside Park	A local countryside park that regularly hosts recreational activities, including guided walking tours (Ref 14-23) and parkruns (Ref 14-24).	Within Study Area	Medium
Rogiet Poorland – Gwent Wildlife Trust	Local nature reserve that " <i>hosts areas of woodland, scrub and limestone grassland</i> " (Ref 14-25).	Within Study Area	Low
Geraint Thomas National Velodrome of Wales	National velodrome with a 250-metre Siberian pine track and other cycling and gym facilities (Ref 14-26).	Within Study Area	Very high
Newport Stadium	Part of the Newport International Sports Villages and is home to several local sports teams, including Gwalia United FC, Newport City FC,	Within Study Area	Very high

Recreation receptor	Description	Location	Sensitivity
	Newport RFC and Newport Harriers Athletic Clubs, as well as youth teams. It also hosts other regular recreational events (Ref 14-27).		
Newport International Sports Village	International recreational sports village.	Within Study Area	Very high
RSPB Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve	<p><i>“Newport Wetlands is a blend of wetlands, reedbeds and estuary habitats, including the thick, squelchy mud that waders and wildfowl love to forage in”</i> (Ref 14-28) as well as wet grassland, saltmarsh and saline lagoons (Ref 14-29).</p> <p>This national nature reserve acts as an important recreational resource with a visitor centre, promoted walking routes, as well as regular events including guided walks and bird watching (ref 14-28). There are also several tourist attractions associated with this nature reserve, including the East Usk Lighthouse (Ref 14-30), the</p>	Within Study Area	High

Recreation receptor	Description	Location	Sensitivity
	Goldcliff Lagoons (Ref 14-31) and a Bird Hide.		
International Convention Centre Wales	International convention centre that regularly hosts events such as performances and conferences (Ref 14-32).	Within Study Area	Very high
Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve	<i>“Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve is made up of three ancient woodlands which date from before 1600.”</i> The nature reserve has designated walking and hiking paths throughout (Ref 14-33).	Within Study Area	High
Brockwells Meadows – Gwent Wildlife Trust	One of the most significant occurrences of limestone grassland. The meadow is accessible to members of the public for informal recreational activities (Ref 14-34).	Within Study Area	Low

14.7 Embedded Mitigation

14.7.1 As outlined in **Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**, embedded environmental measures have been considered as part of the Proposed Development’s design evolution. Where possible, these measures have been developed with input from key stakeholders together with appropriate technical standards, policies and guidance. **Table 14-16** outlines those embedded environmental measures relevant to socio-economic, tourism and recreational

receptors. Discussions relating to additional mitigation and enhancement are ongoing. Should any additional environmental measures be required, these will also be determined and detailed as part of the embedded mitigation for the Proposed Development, or as additional mitigation as required.

Table 14-16: Embedded design mitigation (socio-economics, tourism and recreation)

Receptors	Potential impact	Embedded mitigation
Socio-economics	Employment	Wherever feasible, the Proposed Development will utilise local workforce.
Socio-economics	Agricultural viability	Financial agreements have been drafted to compensate local landowners for the use of their land. These agreements will reflect and counteract any loss of income from the land associated with agriculture.
Socio-economics	Agricultural viability	Options are being explored to enable farm owners to continue to utilise the land under and around the Solar Panels for grazing – this will be described and assessed in the ES.
Tourism / Recreation	Recreational amenity of PRoW and recreation / tourism receptors (construction phase)	Signage and/or temporary PRoW / footpath diversions would be provided during construction. Core working hours for construction will be 0700 to 1900 Monday to Friday, and 0800 to 1300 on Saturdays, apart from specific circumstances to be set out and agreed in the oCEMP.
Tourism / Recreation	Recreational amenity of PRoW and recreation / tourism	Screening: Implementing physical barriers or vegetation to obstruct the line of sight

Receptors	Potential impact	Embedded mitigation
	receptors (operation phase)	<p>between the solar farm and sensitive receptors where possible.</p> <p>The proximity of the Proposed Development to the Wales Coast Path has been reduced through design development, by way of the provision of a buffer of land. This would serve to reduce visual impact for users of the coastal path.</p>
Tourism / Recreation	Construction effects (dust, noise, traffic etc.)	All works will be carried out in accordance with an outline Construction Environment Management Plan (oCEMP), outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) and the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

14.8 Preliminary Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects

14.8.1 The preliminary assessment will focus on the three subject areas of socio-economics and labour market, tourism and recreation.

Socio-economics and Labour Market

14.8.2 Farming activity in the area will be impacted by the loss of available land within the PEIR Assessment Boundary. Sufficient data is not available at this stage for an Agricultural Viability Assessment. An assessment of agricultural viability will be provided within the ES. For the PEIR, a high-level assumption of likely impacts has been used to inform the assessment.

14.8.3 The job and labour market within the Study Area will be affected by the Proposed Development. In all cases, though, this is unlikely to have a meaningful impact on a regional level (across Newport County Council and Monmouthshire County Council areas).

- It is anticipated that there will be a locally meaningful, but regionally negligible, temporary requirement for FTE construction jobs and professional, scientific and technical jobs for construction of the Proposed Development;
- there is potential that during the operation of the Proposed Development, there will be a small reduction in the requirement for FTE farming jobs, due to farming land being required for the Site of the Proposed Development; and
- it is anticipated that during operation of the Proposed Development, there will be a small increase in FTE professional, scientific and technical jobs, associated with maintenance of the Proposed Development.

14.8.4 Business rates will be paid for the Proposed Development upon operation. An approximate value per annum has been estimated at c£425k / annum. This has been reached by comparison with other operational developments, and by applying an aggregated ratio based on the acreage and Megawatt peak (MWp). At this stage of assessment, insufficient data is available for comparison between this figure and the potential for reduced business rates paid by landowners who use the land for farming activity. Should this aspect of the assessment be deemed appropriate to be developed, a greater extent of information will be gathered, presented and assessed in the ES.

14.8.5 Sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of effects are described in **Table 14-5** and **Table 14-6**.

Table 14-17 Preliminary assessment of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of change for socio-economics and the labour market

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
SE01 a	FTE Farming Jobs	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Medium	Low	Minor (Not significant)
SE01 b	FTE Farming Jobs	Operation	Adverse	Medium	Low	Minor (Not significant)
SE02 a	FTE Professional, scientific and technical Jobs	Construction / decommissioning	Beneficial	Medium	Low	Minor (Not significant)
SE02 b	FTE Professional, scientific and technical Jobs	Operation	Beneficial	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
SE03	FTE Construction Jobs	Construction / decommissioning	Beneficial	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Probably significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
SE04	Business rates	Operation	TBC	-	See below	-
SE05	Agricultural output / revenue and change of land use	Operation	Adverse	-	Medium See below	-

14.8.6 Data for SE03, SE04 and SE05 were unavailable at this stage of the assessment, but the following assumptions on the impact of these have been made:

- SE03: assumptions made based on professional judgement and the anticipated quantum of FTE jobs to report preliminary potential effects in **Table 14-17**;
- SE04: approximate value per annum of the Proposed Development presented above. A detailed assessment of effects will be presented in the ES; and
- SE05: assumptions on impact have been made based on professional judgement and the anticipated quantum of land identified for change of use. It should be noted, however, that lease agreements are proposed to offset impacts upon agricultural viability.

Socio-economic and Labour Market Significant Effects

14.8.7 The Proposed Development may lead to a moderate, probably significant, beneficial effect upon FTE Construction jobs during construction.

Recreation

14.8.8 Being a rural area, opportunities for recreational activities typically cover enjoyment

of the local countryside through outdoor activities such as walking, cycling and horse riding. In some instances, this incorporates man-made or natural features with regional, national or international draw, such as the Magor Marsh wildlife reserve (an internationally recognised SSSI), the NCN cycle route from London to west Wales, and the Wales Coast Path. In the case of both the Wales Coast Path, and the NCN Route 4, the assessment will look only at how the Proposed Development affects the sections of these long, linear routes, which fall within the Study Area.

- 14.8.9 Within the PEIR assessment at this stage, all local PRow have been grouped together. This is largely due to the unavailability of sufficient data on the specific impacts on local PRow, creating **Table 14-17** below. Impacts upon PRow will be described and assessed in greater detail within the Transport Assessment, as part of the ES, which will enable further assessment of amenity impact upon recreation. By exception to this grouping of local PRow, the Redwick Circular Route is highlighted and differentiated to reflect that this is a promoted local route.
- 14.8.10 Many of the findings and conclusions within **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity**, **Chapter 13: Noise & Vibration** and **Chapter 15: Transport and Access**, reflect the adverse impacts which the Proposed Development may have upon local recreation receptors. The overall effects of the Proposed Development upon recreational receptors will be adverse, affecting the recreational amenity and enjoyment for users to varying degrees. In lieu of detailed assessment data, professional judgement has been used at this stage to describe potential impacts.
- 14.8.11 Sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of effects are described in **Table 14-7** and **Table 14-8**.
- 14.8.12 The Wales Coast Path (within the Study Area) will be primarily impacted by temporary and permanent visual changes (for the lifetime of the Proposed Development), and temporary construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development. This will be to a lesser extent during construction, by virtue of the construction phasing being likely to impact intermittent sections of the route. The Wales Coast Path is particularly susceptible to this impact as it is elevated above the surrounding landscape to the north. Efforts have been made during design development to mitigate this impact by providing a corridor of land between the

Proposed Development and the Wales Coast Path.

14.8.13 The NCN Route 4 (within the Study Area) will be impacted by both temporary and permanent visual changes, and by construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development. Construction traffic is proposed to utilise a section of the NCN Route 4, with several access tracks feeding onto the NCN Route. While it will only impact intermittent sections of this linear route, these sections will nevertheless experience potential visual, noise and other indirect effects.

14.8.14 The Redwick Circular Route will be impacted by both temporary and permanent visual changes, and by construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development.

14.8.15 The Local PRoW Network will be impacted by both temporary and permanent visual changes, and by construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development. There will be two footpath diversions and some diversions, which are to be assessed as part of the Transport Impact Assessment within the ES. The variation of receptor sensitivity for these receptors (as described within the Recreation Baseline section), plus the variation between PRoW falling within either the Study Area or the PEIR Assessment Boundary, leads to the variation of determined significance of effect.

Table 14-18: Preliminary assessment of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of change for recreation

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
Re01 a	Wales Coast Path (within Study Area)	Construction / Decommissioning	Adverse	High	Low	Moderate (Probably significant)
Re01 b	Wales Coast	Operation	Adverse	High	Medium	Major (Significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
	Path (within Study Area)					
Re02 a	NCN Route 4 (within Study Area)	Construction / Decommissioning	Adverse	High	Medium	Major (Significant)
Re02 b	NCN Route 4 (within Study Area)	Operation	Adverse	High	Medium	Major (Significant)
Re03 a	Redwick Circular Route (promoted walk)	Construction / Decommissioning	Adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Probably significant)
Re03 b	Redwick Circular Route (promoted walk)	Operation	Adverse	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Probably significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
Re04 a	Local PRow network	Construction / Decommissioning	Adverse	Medium / Low	Medium	Moderate (Probably significant) / Minor (Not significant)
Re04 b	Local PRow network	Operation	Adverse	Medium / Low	Medium	Moderate (Probably significant) / Minor (Not significant)
Re05 a	Magor Marsh Nature Reserve	Construction / Decommissioning	Adverse	High	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
Re05 b	Magor Marsh Nature Reserve	Operation	No change	High	No change	No change

Recreation Significant Effects

14.8.16 As outlined in the **Scope of the Assessment** section, this assessment focuses on indirect effects on recreational users. Direct effects on recreational users are described and assessed in **Chapter 15: Transport and Access**.

14.8.17 The Proposed Development may lead to:

- a moderate, probably significant, adverse effect upon the Wales Coast Path (within Study Area) during construction;

- a major, significant, adverse effect upon the Wales Coast Path (within Study Area) during operation;
- a major, significant, adverse effect upon NCN Route 4 (within Study Area) during both construction and operation;
- a moderate, significant adverse effect upon some routes in the local PRow network; and
- a moderate, probably significant, adverse effect upon the Redwick Circular Route (promoted walk) during both construction and operation.

Tourism

14.8.18 Numerous tourism assets identified fall within the Study Area but are not adjacent to the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development, upon operation, is not expected to affect the setting or operation of these assets. At this stage of the assessment, sufficient specific data is not available for construction phase impacts, such as construction traffic movements, to assess how each of these assets will be affected. As such, professional judgement has been used to determine that these assets may be affected to a negligible extent by issues common to construction activity, such as additional traffic congestion, air quality and dust effects. It has been assumed that these assets will be unaffected by the operation of the Proposed Development. This is presented in **Table 14-9** below.

14.8.19 Many of the findings and conclusions within **Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity**, **Chapter 13: Noise & Vibration** and **Chapter 15: Transport and Access**, reflect the negative impacts which the Proposed Development may have upon local tourism receptors. The overall effects of the Proposed Development upon tourism receptors will be adverse, affecting the recreational amenity and enjoyment of use for users to varying degrees. In lieu of detailed assessment data, professional judgement has been used at this stage to describe potential impacts.

14.8.20 Sensitivity of receptors and magnitude of effects are described in **Table 14-9** and **Table 14-10**.

14.8.21 In the case of the Wales Coast Path, our assessment will look only at how the Proposed Development affects the section of this long, linear route, which falls within

the Study Area.

14.8.22 The Wales Coast Path (within the Study Area) will be primarily impacted by temporary and permanent visual changes, and temporary construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development. This will be to a lesser extent during construction, by virtue of the construction phasing being likely to impact intermittent sections of the route. The Wales Coast Path is particularly susceptible to this impact as it is elevated above the surrounding landscape to the north. Efforts have been made during design development to mitigate this impact by providing a corridor of land between the Proposed Development and the Wales Coast Path.

14.8.23 The Redwick Circular Route will be impacted by both temporary and permanent visual changes, and by construction activity, brought about by the Proposed Development.

Table 14-19: Preliminary assessment of the sensitivity of receptors and the magnitude of change for tourism

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
To01 a	Wales Coast Path (within Study Area)	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	High	Medium	Major (Significant)
To01 b	Wales Coast Path (within Study Area)	Operation	Adverse	High	Medium	Major (Significant)
To02 a	Redwick Circular Route	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Low	High	Moderate (Probably significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
	(promoted walk)					
To02 b	Redwick Circular Route (promoted walk)	Operation	Adverse	Low	High	Moderate (Probably significant)
To03 a	Magor Marsh Nature Reserve	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	High	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
To03 b	Magor Marsh Nature Reserve	Operation	No change	High	No change	No change
To04 a	Procurator's House	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
To04 b	Procurator's House	Operation	No change	Low	No change	No change
To05 a	Rogiet Countryside Park	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Medium	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
To05 b	Rogiet Countryside Park	Operation	No change	Medium	No change	No change
To06 a	Rogiet Poorland – Gwent Wildlife Trust	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
To06 b	Rogiet Poorland – Gwent Wildlife Trust	Operation	No change	Low	No change	No change
To07 a	Geraint Thomas National Velodrome of Wales	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Very high	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
To07 b	Geraint Thomas National Velodrome of Wales	Operation	No change	Very high	No change	No change
To08 a	Newport Stadium	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Very high	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
To08 b	Newport Stadium	Operation	-	Very high	No change	No change
To09 a	Newport International Sports Village	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	Very high	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
To09 b	Newport International Sports Village	Operation	No change	Very high	No change	No change
To10 a	RSPB Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve	Construction / decommissioning	Adverse	High	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
To10 b	RSPB Newport Wetlands National Nature Reserve	Operation	No change	High	No change	No change
To11 a	International Conventio	Construction	Adverse	Very high	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
	n Centre Wales					
To11 b	International Convention Centre Wales	Operation	No change	Very high	No change	No change
To12 a	Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve	Construction	Adverse	High	Negligible	Minor (Not significant)
To12 b	Penhow Woodlands National Nature Reserve	Operation	No change	High	No change	No change
To13 a	Brockwells Meadows – Gwent Wildlife Trust	Construction	Adverse	Low	Negligible	Negligible (Not significant)
To13 b	Brockwells Meadows – Gwent	Operation	No change	Low	No change	No change

No.	Receptor	Construction / Operation	Anticipated impact	Sensitivity of receptor	Anticipated magnitude of effects	Significance of effect
	Wildlife Trust					

Tourism Significant Effects

14.8.24 The Proposed Development may lead to:

- a major, significant, adverse effect upon the Wales Coast Path (within Study Area) during both construction and operation; and
- a major, significant, adverse effect upon the Redwick Circular Route during both construction and operation.

14.9 Additional Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

14.9.1 As outlined in the **Section 14.7**, discussions relating to additional mitigation and enhancement are ongoing therefore further details will be provided within the ES.

14.10 Residual Effects

14.10.1 Discussions relating to additional mitigation and enhancement are ongoing. It is therefore not feasible to outline and assess residual effects at this stage. Further information and a detailed assessment with residual effects will be presented as part of the ES.

14.11 Cumulative Effects

14.11.1 An initial preliminary review of the short list of developments identified for the PEIR assessment has been undertaken. Rush Wall and Craig Y Perthi Solar Developments fall within the Zone of Influence for socio-economics, tourism and recreation and may result in significant cumulative effects. These applications are currently not determined.

14.11.2 A more detailed cumulative assessment will be undertaken and presented in the ES, taking into account any new developments that may be identified in the lead-up to the ES.

14.12 Summary

14.12.1 The information provided in this PEIR is preliminary; the final assessment of potential significant effects will be reported in the ES. This section concludes the preliminary findings of this PEIR assessment and describes the further work to be undertaken to support the socio-economics, tourism and recreation assessment presented in the ES.

14.12.2 The main conclusion to be drawn at this stage of the assessment is that the Proposed Development may significantly adversely impact local receptors common to both recreation and tourism. The area of greatest impact is the visual impact of the Proposed Development, during both construction and operation, upon the setting, amenity and user enjoyment of these assets – most notably the Wales Coast Path (within Study Area), NCN Route 4 (within Study Area) and the Redwick Circular Route (a locally promoted walk).

14.12.3 The assessments within this PEIR Chapter will be reviewed following further design refinement, taking into account the updated assessments of **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology; Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity; Chapter 13: Noise and Vibration; Chapter 15: Transport and Access; and Chapter 17: Other Environmental Topics**. A final conclusion of significance for all identified receptors will be made in the ES. In addition, the assessment of employment generation and agricultural viability will be undertaken. Further work will be undertaken with regard to design elements, including the proposed Construction Compounds (as described in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development**).

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