

Relevant Representations outlining the key areas of concern that the Authority has in relation to the Hirwaun Power Project

Whilst outside of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNPA), the project site, at its nearest, lies approximately 250m from the southern boundary of the National Park.

The BBNPA raises significant concerns over the impact of the proposal on the special qualities of the National Park, in particular, but not limited to, the landscape and visual impact of the proposal and its impact upon ecological receptors within the National Park itself.

Any development that has an affect on a National Park must have regard to the statutory purposes of its designation as set out in the Environment Act, and where there is a conflict between those two purposes, greater weight must be attached to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area comprised in the National Park

Landscape and Visual Impacts

The submitted information demonstrates that the proposal would be visible from the identified viewpoints within the National Park and hence wider areas within this southern fringe area, including heritage assets, with vertical features breaking the existing built height line thus interrupting views out of and into the National Park. Concerns are also raised in relation to the cumulative impact of this development in conjunction with both existing and planned development, and the development's impact upon night-time views both individually and cumulatively and the impact this will have on the National Park's International Dark Sky Status.

The BBNPA will provide further written representations following a through assessment of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment contained within the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment.

Ecological Impacts

The BBNPA has particular concerns over the impact of the development, mainly in terms of emissions, on ecological receptors within its boundary. It is understood that many designated and thus non-designated areas are already exceeding critical load levels and as such any additional impacts will only exacerbate the situation. This is of particular concern to the BBNPA given that the prevailing south-westerly winds will have the effect of the largest concentration of deposition occurring on sites to the north-east of the project site, which is predominantly within the National Park area as illustrated by Figures 6.5 – 6.8 of the ES.

The BBNPA will provide written representations following a through assessment of the Ecological and Air Quality Assessments contained within the submitted Environmental Impact Assessment.