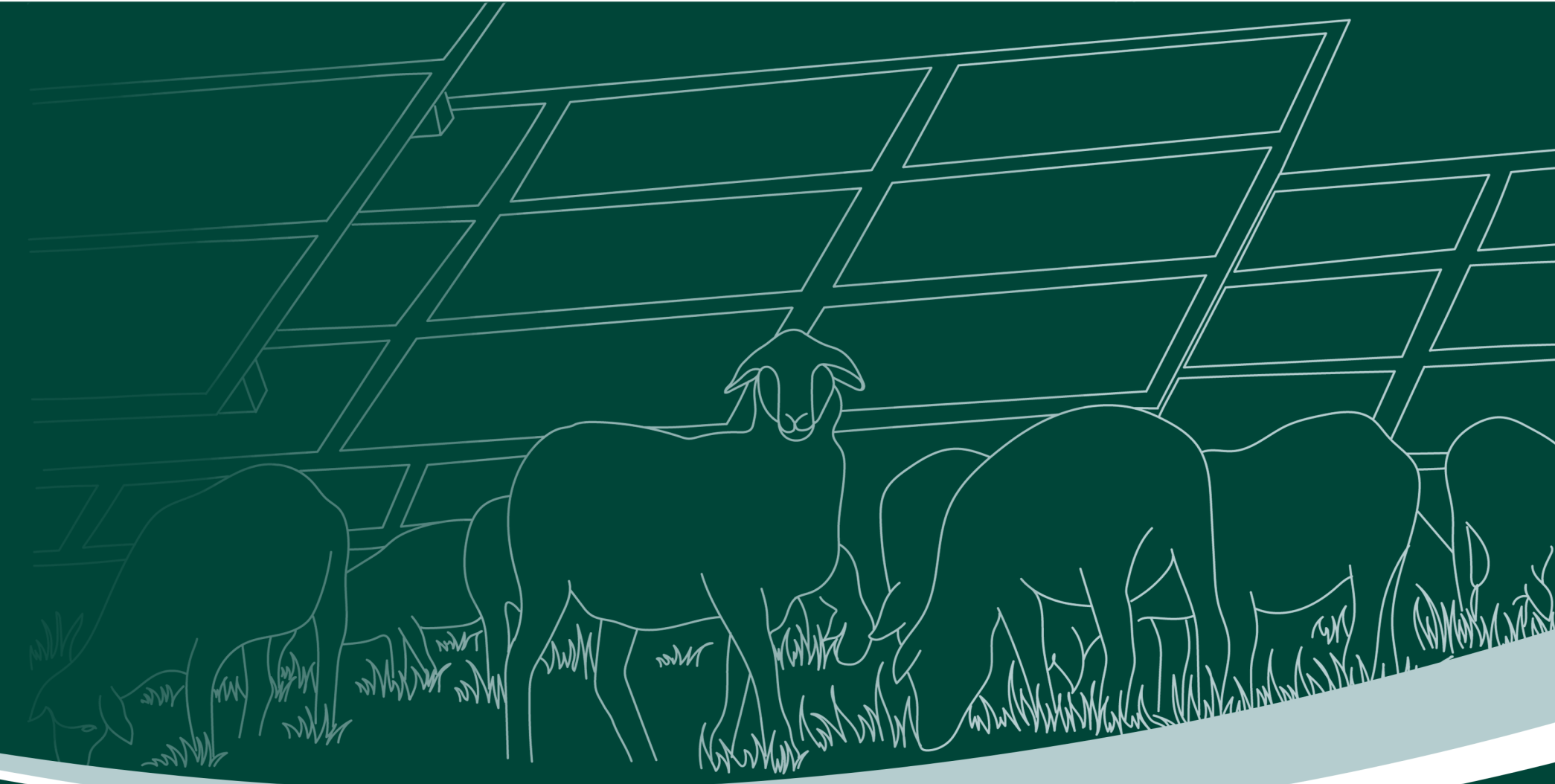


Landscape and visual impact



Landscape & Visual

The Proposed Development site and the study area are also located within National Landscape Character Area 37 – South Wales Valleys. Key Characteristics of the LCA are summarised below:

- Extensive Upland plateaux – typically wild and windswept, often with unenclosed tracts, running roughly north-south as ‘fingers’ parallel between intervening deep valleys.
- Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys – in places extending up valley sides and to valley heads. The area is sometimes regarded as being part of a ‘city region’. Middle and eastern valleys tend to be the most heavily and continuously developed, e.g. Rhondda Valley.
- The contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands – e.g. busy roads, new developments, traffic noise, night lighting, versus the adjacent wilder, remoter, quieter uplands.
- Large blocks of coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland fringes – covering many steep hillsides and hilltops, most notably in the middle to western portion of the area, providing a softer contemporary landscape where there was once industry.
- Settlements developed either directly associated with particular industrial enterprises or as service towns for a wider hinterland (Pontypridd).