



Asesiad o Ddatganiad Amgylcheddol

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Arolygydd a benodir gan Weinidogion Cymru

Dyddiad: 14.05.2026

Assessment of Environmental Statement

by Richard James Bsc (Hons) Msc MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Welsh Ministers

Date: 14.05.2026

Ref: CAS-03018-G7G6H7

Site address: Mynydd Ty-talwyn Energy Park, situated approximately 5km north west of Bridgend, 4.5km north east of Pyle and 2km west of Tondur.

- The Environmental Statement which is the subject of this assessment has been submitted in relation to the above case in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended).
 - The application is made by Galileo 03 Limited.
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Introduction

1. An Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared to support an application for a Development of National Significance (DNS) which has been submitted to the Welsh Ministers for determination. The proposed development is EIA development within the meaning of the regulations. As originally submitted the ES was found to be incomplete for the reasons set out in my report dated 26 February 2026 (the previous report).
2. The ES was found to be unsatisfactory with regard to its description of the development, the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected and the likely significant effects of the development on the environment. To satisfactorily complete the ES, the applicant was informed it should address a number of requirements as listed within Annex 1 of the previous report.
3. The applicant has submitted further information on 24 April 2026 in response to the Annex 1 requirements.

Proposed Development

4. The proposed development remains largely as described within the previous report, however a reduction in the area designated for the creation or enhancement of habitat, from 94.43ha to 93.1ha, is now proposed. This is described further in the 'Description of the Development' section of this report.

Completeness of Environmental Statements

5. The aim of an Environmental Statement (ES) is to provide a systematic and objective account of the significant environmental effects likely to arise from the proposed development, including sufficient information to verify the conclusions and identify the source of the information provided. Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations specifies the information to be included in an ES. My assessment of completeness is based on these requirements. This report should be read in conjunction with the previous report.

Description of the Development

6. The proposal now has a reduced amount of grassland areas within the site to be enhanced and managed for the benefit of ground nesting birds from 13.55ha to 12.22ha. This has comprised the removal of a central parcel of land adjacent to the Ffordd-y-Gyfraith road. Replacement land is included within a parcel also allocated for fungi mitigation and enhancement. This change is reflected within updated documents where appropriate.
7. ES Chapter 2 '*Proposed Development Description*', Figures 2.12 a-b, and Appendix 2.1 '*Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan*' have been updated to confirm that the three construction compounds would have a compacted stone surface. Additional details are provided for their surface water drainage arrangements and management.
8. The number of toilets and associated septic tanks would be determined by the Principal Contractor. However, Appendix 2.1 has been updated to confirm that toilet effluent would be secured within above ground septic tanks, to be located within the 'Welfare Facilities' area for each construction compound. These would be emptied with effluent exported off site, rather than discharging within the site.
9. The location and extent of gas and electric line crossings are now provided on a new Figure 2.18 '*Utilities and Watercourse Crossings*'. Other options for the protection of overhead line infrastructure are also included within an updated ES Chapter 2, including raising poles and temporarily dropping circuit outage, in addition to diversion. However, no further information is provided on the locations or numbers of anticipated small watercourse crossings less than 2m wide, which are referred to within ES Chapter 2 paragraph 2.5.67. Having regard to the proximity of some elements of the proposed development to identified watercourses within Figures 6.1-6.5 (inclusive) and the presence of environmental designations such as the Sites of Special Scientific Interest identified within the area, the estimated number and location of smaller watercourse crossings and a full assessment of the significance of environmental effects of these works should be provided. Alternatively, an explanation of why the current level of information is considered to provide a robust evidence base for the consideration of environmental effects is required.
10. As such, the description of the development is not satisfactory.

Description of the reasonable alternatives

11. The relocation of the ecological mitigation area for birds is due to landowner discussion and is reflected in the latest design described in ES Chapter 3 '*Environmental Context and Reasonable Alternatives Considered*' and shown in Figure 3.2 '*Design Iterations*'. The new site has been selected due to its similar terrain, suitable habitat type and proximity to existing nesting lapwing sites.
12. The consideration of the main alternatives remains satisfactory.

Description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected

13. ES Chapter 10 '*Terrestrial Ecology*' has been updated to confirm when Preliminary Roost Assessments and Bat Activity Surveys were carried out. The applicant explains in ES Chapters 10 and 11 '*Ornithology*' why, in its view, the surveys are considered to provide a robust evidence for the baseline conditions of the site, noting amongst other things, no material change to the habitat type and condition within the Site.
14. The aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly affected are now sufficiently described.

Assessment Methodology

15. The EIA methodology remains clearly described in the ES.

Description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment

16. A high-level assessment of the effects of glint and glare upon public rights of way is provided within an updated Appendix 4.6 '*Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study*', in response to the requirements of Scoping Direction ID.9 dated 11 April 2024. It concludes there would be no significant impacts in this respect, due to an assigned low sensitivity of receptors and low magnitude of impacts caused.
17. However, due to the identified uncertainty concerning small watercourse crossings, the significant effects of the development on the environment remain inadequately assessed and described.

Prevention and / or mitigation measures

18. The mitigation measures described in the ES remain satisfactory.

Indication of any difficulties in compiling the required information

19. Limitations and difficulties encountered remain adequately described.

Provision of a Non-Technical Summary

20. An updated non-technical summary has been provided and the information contained therein is sufficient for the ES as produced.

Reference List

21. The sources used to inform the ES are properly referenced in the ES Chapters and appendices where appropriate.

Overall Conclusions

22. I conclude that further information (set out at Annex 1) must be sought in order to address the shortcomings identified above in the Environmental Statement, submitted by Galileo 03 Limited on 27 November 2025 and amended on 24 April 2026.

Richard James

Inspector

Annex 1

I hereby formally request further information under Regulation 24 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) in order for the Environmental Statement to provide the decision maker with a reasoned conclusion on the likely significant effects of the development described in the application.

The information required to address the identified shortcomings of the Environmental Statement is:

- The estimated number and location of smaller watercourse crossings and a full assessment of the significance of environmental effects of these works. Alternatively, an explanation of why the current level of information is considered to provide a robust evidence base for the consideration of environmental effects is required.