

Y Bryn Ecology Walkover Survey Form – Temporary anemometer mast

Introduction

An application for planning permission to install a temporary 90 m anemometer mast comprised of a latticed tower with three lanes of guy wires (no foundations). The mast shall be in situ for a time period of five years at the proposed Y Bryn Wind Farm. This statement is prepared by Natural Power Consultants on behalf of Coriolis Energy Limited.

The erection of an anemometer mast is not itself a Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 development that requires screening for EIA. This anemometer mast application is for the deployment of measuring equipment to collect data relating to wind resource and other parameters relating to Y Bryn Wind Farm. However, the application for the anemometer mast is for the deployment of measuring equipment alone and should be considered on its individual planning merits.

The mast is required only for a temporary period of time, after which it will be dismantled and will leave no legacy.

This walkover survey report details the results of an ecological walkover survey to inform the above process.

Aim

1. Provide baseline habitat information for the mast location and;
2. Provide baseline protected species information.
3. Provide Habitat Loss Calculations for any sensitive habitats

Methods

Ecological walkover survey – Walkover survey of proposed works area and surrounding 100 m by a suitably qualified ecologist, including a search for signs of relevant protected species (e.g. water vole, otter) and an assessment of the potential for other species of note.

Works location –

**Proposed Mast
Easting 281896
Northing 188882**

Survey Date:

10/08/2020

Photographs

Photo 1 – Looking north from the proposed mast location.



Photo 2 – Looking south from the proposed mast location.



Photo 3: Looking west from the proposed mast location.



Photo 5: Looking northeast from the proposed met mast location along one of three proposed met mast supports.



Photo 4: Looking east from the proposed mast location.



Photo 6: Looking south southeast from the proposed met mast location along one of three proposed met mast supports.



Photo 7: Looking west northwest from the proposed mast location along one of three proposed met mast supports where some forest felling will be required.



Photo 9: Looking northwest along forestry ride towards access point from forestry track from location E281897 N188942



Photo 8: Looking south along access to proposed mast location from forestry ride at location E281897 N188942



Photo 10: Looking southeast along forestry ride the access from forestry track at location E281863 N188975

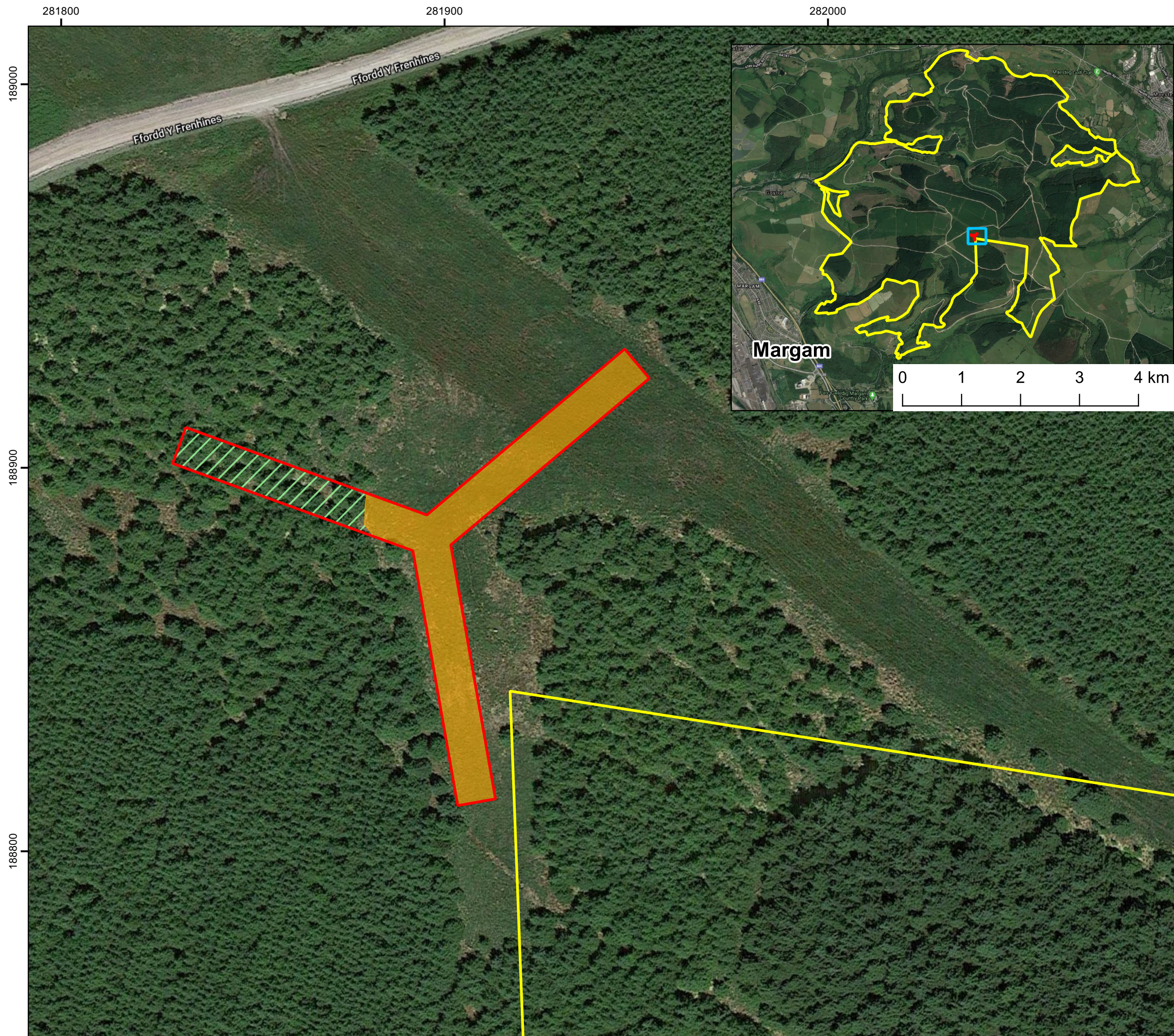


Results Habitat descriptions and key features:

Field survey – The proposed temporary met mast is located within a forestry ride to the south of an existing forestry access track. The habitat within the forestry ride consists of tall, rank sward of marshy grassland dominated by purple moor-grass with frequent soft rush. Access to the proposed met mast will be along the forestry ride from the existing forestry track. The forestry ride is surrounded by conifer woodland plantation dominated by young Sitka spruce between five to ten metres in height.

Protected species/feature	Field Survey Results	Potential (none/low/medium/high)	Justification and mitigation requirements
Breeding Birds	No records of breeding birds recorded during site visit	High	Localised habitats suitable for nesting birds (e.g. passerine species within conifers). Low potential for breeding by Schedule 1/Annex 1 species present in wider forest area (e.g. nightjar or goshawk) as habitat unsuitable. Mitigation - Pre works walkover to confirm absence of nest sites <u>required</u> during breeding season only (April – August inclusive).
Otter	No evidence or suitable habitat noted.	Low	No watercourses within 100 m of site Mitigation - None required.
Fish	No habitat available.	None	No permanent watercourse present within walkover survey area. No mitigation required.
White Clawed Crayfish (Aquatic Invertebrates)	No habitat available.	None	No permanent watercourse present within walkover survey area. No mitigation required.
Water vole	No evidence or suitable habitat noted.	Low	No permanent watercourse present within walkover survey area. No mitigation required.
Bat roost	No evidence or suitable habitat noted.	Low	No suitable habitat. Mitigation – none required
Dormouse	No evidence or suitable habitat noted.	Low	No suitable habitat. Mitigation – none required
Red Squirrel	No evidence or suitable habitat noted.	Low	Sub-optimal habitat. Mitigation – none required
Badger	No evidence of activity or suitable sett building habitat within 100 m.	Low	Sub-optimal habitat Mitigation – none required
Reptiles	Some potential for reptiles in long grassland sward but no suitable hibernacula noted.	Low	Sub-optimal habitat Mitigation – none required
Amphibians	Common frog recorded during survey, but no ponds present within survey area and so no suitable habitat for great crested newt.	Low	No suitable habitat for protected species. Mitigation – none required
Invasive plants	No evidence noted	None	No invasive plant species noted.

			Mitigation – none required
Peat	Marshy Grassland – M25 <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Potentilla erecta</i> mire Peat Depths taken at the centre point of the proposed met mast location and then at 25 m intervals in the direction of the three proposed met mast supports. Centre point (E281896 N188882) - 0.4 m South southeast support - 25 m: 0.15 m 50 m: 0.20 m West northwest support - 25 m: 0.40 m 50 m: 0.45 m Northeast support - 25 m: 0.25 m 50 m: 0.35 m Peat Depths were also taken at regular 25 m intervals along the access route within the forestry ride from the proposed met mast location to the existing forestry track. Proposed met mast location (E281896 N188882) - 0.4 m 25 m (E281902 N188902): 0.25 m 50 m (E281909 N188923): 0.35 m 75 m (E281897 N188942): 0.35 m 100 m (E281880 N188958): 0.40 m 125 m (E281863 N188976): 0.20 m	Low/Medium	No deep peat recorded. Mitigation – Infrastructure shall only consist of mast and guys. No access road shall be built. Low impact vehicles shall be used to cross ground. Track matting shall be in place during construction works. Any peat disturbed during excavation works shall be reinstated.
Habitat Loss Calculations	Area of habitat lost: A1.2.2 (conifer plantation forestry) = 0.052ha B5 (marshy grassland) = 0.154ha		Both habitats are considered to be of low ecological priority. Mitigation- none required



Project:
**Y Bryn Wind Farm, Neath
Port Talbot & Bridgend**

Title:
**Meteorological Mast Habitat
Survey (August 2020)**

- Key**
- Site boundary
 - Anemometry mast - application boundary
 - Anemometry mast - site location
- Phase 1 habitat survey results**
- Coniferous woodland - plantation (A1.2.2)
 - Marshy grassland (B5)

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0100031673.

Scale @ A3: 1:1,000
Coordinate System: British National Grid

0 10 20 30 40 m

N

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