



Y BRYN WIND FARM

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION REPORT

PINS REF NO: **DNS/3264571**

**ON BEHALF OF Y BRYN WIND FARM
LIMITED**



December 2023

Y Bryn Wind Farm

Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report

Prepared on behalf of Coriolis Energy.

Project Ref:	Draft 1	Draft 2	Final
Status:	Draft	Draft for Formal Client/NRW Review	Final for publication
Issue/Rev:	01	02	03
Date:	October 2023	November 2023	December 2023
Prepared by	SPD/GH	GH	GH/WM
Checked by:	WM	WM	TH

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of this document

1.1.1. This Pre-Application Consultation Report (PAC Report) has been developed on behalf of Y Bryn Wind Farm Limited ('The Applicant') in relation to its proposals for a new onshore wind farm (Y Bryn Wind Farm – herein 'the proposed development'), located in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) area and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) area.

1.2. Overview

1.2.1. The Proposed Development is a wind farm consisting of a maximum of 18 turbines, each with a three-bladed rotor with a range of tip heights up to 206 m, 230 m and of 250 m. The Site is split into two blocks of Welsh Government Woodland Estate managed by Natural Resources Wales, which fall largely within NPTCBC area, and stretch in parts, into BCBC area. The Afan Valley and Neath lie to the west, with the Llynfi Valley and Maesteg to the east.

The application also comprises associated infrastructure including:

- External transformer housings.
- Crane hardstandings and erection area.
- Turbine foundations.
- Control building and compound.
- Temporary construction and storage compounds, and laydown areas.
- Upgraded and new access tracks and highway junctions.
- Underground cable runs and cable crossing points.
- A site sub-station, control building and compound.
- An energy storage facility.

- Site signage.
- Borrow pits.
- Two permanent wind monitoring locations.

1.2.2. This application is estimated to deliver up to 130 MW of wind energy, which is equivalent to providing enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 68% of households in NPTCBC area and BCBC area combined¹. As the proposed wind farm is estimated to produce more than 10MW it constitutes as a Development of National Significance (DNS) under the Planning (Wales) Act 2015.

1.2.3. The wind farm has been designed with an operational life of 50 years.

1.3. Site location

1.3.1. The Site lies mainly within NPTCBC area, and stretches in parts, into BCBC area. The Afan Valley and Neath lie to the west, with the Llynfi Valley and Maesteg to the east. The proposed Site is split into two blocks. The Bryn block is located to the south of the B4282, with the Penhydd block located to the north of the B4282. The Llynfi and Afan valleys lie to the east and west of the Site respectively. The M4 motorway, the main arterial route running east to west through South Wales, lies to the south of the Site.

1.3.2. The development potential of the site has been appreciated by the UK wind industry and Welsh Government since at least the early 2000s, with the whole of the site lying within Strategic Search Area (SSA) 'F' as designated in Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 8.

1.3.3. The site has been chosen due to its technical suitability for a wind farm development, with suitable wind speeds, good site access and access to a suitable grid connection. The northern part of the site (Penhydd block) lies within a Pre-Assessed Area (PAA) for wind energy (PAA 9), as zoned in Future Wales: The National Development Framework. The southern block is outside any PAA.

¹ Sources: *Renewable UK Wind Energy Database (2021)*: <https://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEexplained> and Stats Wales: *Households by Local Authority and Year (2019)*

1.4. Overview of consultation process

1.4.1. A non-statutory early engagement period took place prior to a Phase 1 non statutory consultation between 7 June 2021 and 16 July 2021. This was followed by a second phase of non-statutory consultation which took place between 25 October 2021 and 19 November 2021. The public, community and statutory consultees were invited at both phases to provide feedback. Five public exhibitions took place for each consultation phase in nearby communities. The feedback from the two phases of consultation then helped shape the proposals for the statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) process.

The PAC took place between 1 June 2023 and 17 July 2023 lasting 47 days. Information of the proposed development was made available via the project website, as well as the five public exhibitions held in the nearby communities. Feedback was collated and has been included in this report.

Figure 1: Overview of engagement and consultation



1.5. Legislative context

1.5.1. This document meets the requirements set out under sections 7, 8, 9 and 11 of the Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 (as amended) ("the DNSPWO") and provides an account of the statutory consultation, publicity, deadlines set, and activities required under Section 61Z of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 ("the 1990 Act"). The document includes copies of all relevant notices,

declarations of compliance and relevant details of required consultees (see Appendix A).

In line with article 11(1) of the DNSPWO, this report sets out how the Applicant complied with Section 61Z of the 1990 Act and how responses received from those consulted under Section 61Z(3) or (4) of the 1990 Act were accounted for by the Applicant. The report includes the following as required by article 11(2) of the DNSPWO 2016:

Table 1: Overview of requirements

Requirement:	Location in Report
a) a copy of the notice referred to in article 8(1)(a)(i);	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 7. A copy of the notice is included in Appendix A.
b) a declaration that the notice referred to in article 8(1)(a)(i) was displayed in accordance with the requirements of that article;	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 7. A declaration that the notice was displayed in accordance with the requirements of article 8(1)(a)(i) is included in Appendix A.
c) a list of the addresses of the persons who were given notice of the proposed application in accordance with article 8(1)(a)(ii) and a copy of the notice given to such persons;	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6. A list of all addresses notified in accordance with article 8(1)(a)(ii) is included in Appendix A.
d) a copy of the publication referred to in article 8(1)(a)(iii);	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 7. A copy of the newspaper notice in situ is included in Appendix A.
e) a declaration that the Applicant has complied with the publication requirements in article 8(1)(b);	A description of this activity and declaration that the applicant has complied with the publication requirements is contained in Chapter 7.

f) copies of all notices given to community consultees, relevant persons and specialist consultees in accordance with articles 9(2) and 9(3);	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 . Copies of the notices to community consultees, relevant persons and specialist consultees are included in Appendix A .
g) a summary of all issues raised by any person notified of the proposed application in accordance with section 61Z(3) of the 1990 Act and articles 8 and 9(2), including confirmation of whether the issues raised have been addressed and, if so, how; and	A 'main issues and developer response' table is contained in Chapter 9 .
h) copies of all responses received from specialist consultees with an explanation of the account taken of each response.	Copies of all responses from specialist consultees, with an explanation of the account taken is included in Chapter 9 . Copies of each original specialist consultee response is included in Appendix A .

1.5.2. Information relating to all engagement and consultation undertaken (whether statutory or non-statutory) is set out within this report.

1.5.3. Details of how to access the full planning application and associated documents were made available to view on the project website <https://www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru/> from the point of submission.

2. Early engagement and Phase 1 Consultation

2.1. Early engagement and evolution of plans (Winter 2020/Spring 2021)

2.1.1. To coincide with the submission of the Met Mast application to NPTCBC, a letter was issued (23.07.20) to key stakeholders to introduce the project, explain the likely timescales, and seek an initial meeting to discuss the principle of the proposed development.

2.1.2. The following stakeholders received a letter requesting a meeting:

- NPTCBC
- BCBC
- Members of Parliament (MP's) and Members of the Senedd (MS's) for the site (Ogmore Constituency and Aberavon Constituency)

2.1.3. At this point, additional letters were also sent to stakeholders (24.07.20) in relation to the proposed access point from the M4 motorway, to introduce the project and discuss the principle of access from the proposed slip road location near Port Talbot.

2.1.4. These letters were issued to:

- MP's and MS's for the site and neighbouring areas (including Bridgend Constituency and Neath Constituency)
- South Wales West Regional MS's
- South Wales Trunk Road Authority (SWTRA) and Welsh Government Transport

2.1.5. A copy of these letters can be found in **Appendix D**.

2.1.6. Early details were then made available to the local community in 2021 when the formal request for a Scoping Opinion under the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations was submitted to Planning & Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) (then known as the Planning Inspectorate Wales). At this point the project was proposed to deliver over 170MW of renewable electricity from up to 26 turbines.

2.1.7. During the early engagement period and informal phase 1 consultation, several

meetings were held with stakeholders to introduce the project and discuss the forthcoming consultation process. These meetings included:

Table 2: Summary of meetings

Meeting	Date	Notes
Bridgend County Borough Council	10.08.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Huw Irranca-Davies MS and Chris Elmore MP (Ogmore Constituency)	12.08.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Suzy Davies MS (South West Wales Regional MS)	13.08.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	02.09.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Welsh Government Energy Service	10.09.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development with specific focus on Community Benefit and shared ownership proposals (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach)
Welsh Government Transport and SWTRA	14.09.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development, with specific focus on the access proposals (including site location and project parameters)

Huw Irranca-Davies MS and Chris Elmore MP (Ogmore Constituency)	01.10.20	To provide an update on the proposals and discuss feedback on consultation approach.
David Rees MS (Aberavon Constituency)	02.10.20	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)

2.1.8. Following introductory discussions with stakeholders, an initial phase of informal consultation of the proposed development ran from 7 June 2021 to 16 July 2021. All communications included the deadline for responding as 16 July 2021.

2.2. Community launch of Phase 1 consultation (June 2021)

2.2.1. The early engagement began with an announcement to the media via a press statement on 7 June 2021. This was issued to several local news outlets including the South Wales Evening Post and the South Wales Echo. The statement publicised the public consultation events and the project website.

A copy of the media release is available in **Appendix D**.

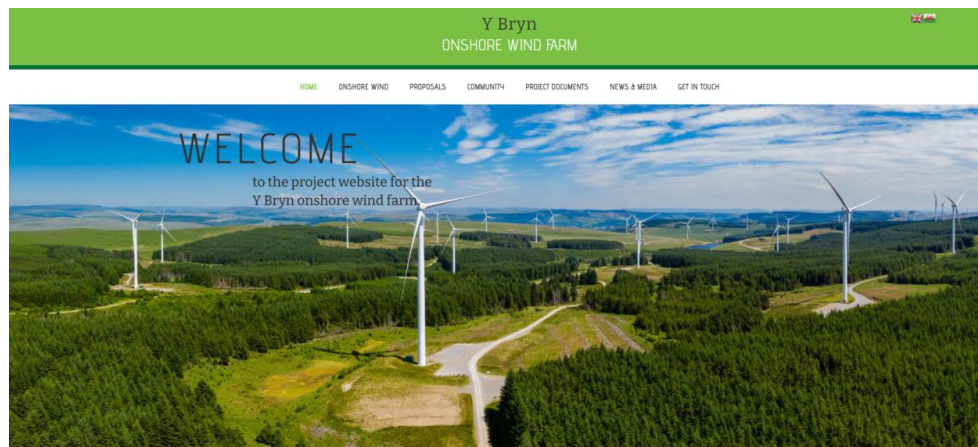
2.3. Project website

2.3.1. The project website (www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru) was launched in November 2020 with preliminary information about the proposals and the planning process. The website was published on the launch of the early engagement period providing full details of the consultation including:

- All mechanisms for responding:
 - Public consultation events
 - Virtual consultation via the website
 - Email
 - Feedback forms
 - Freepost address
 - Freephone telephone number

- Available project documents
 - Newsletter (Welsh and English)
 - Scoping document
 - Feedback form
 - Exhibition boards
 - Site location map
 - Contact details

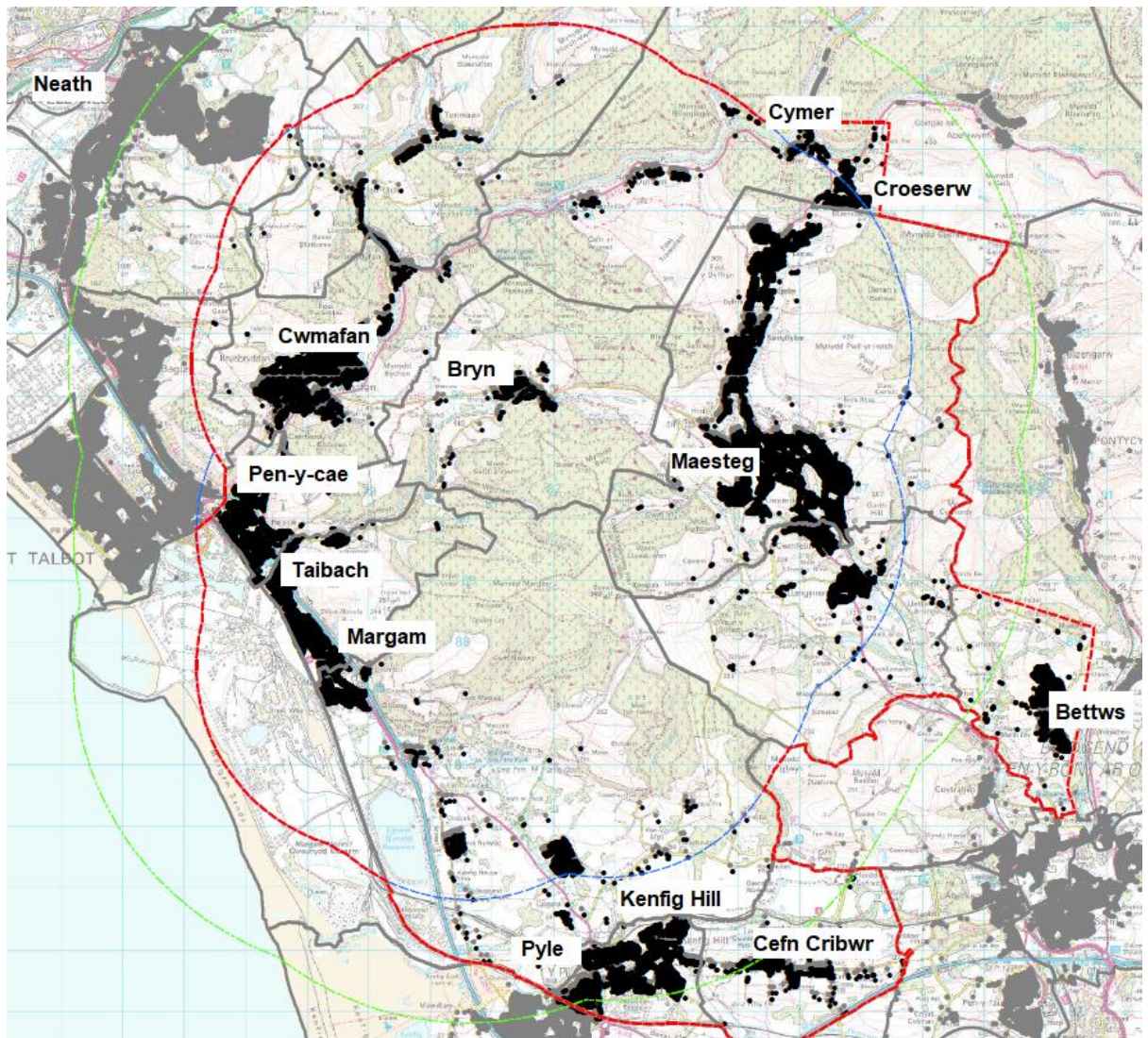
2.3.2. During the early engagement period the website received 1,778 unique visitors.



Screenshot of the Y Bryn project website in 2021.

2.4. Introductory newsletter to residents and wider stakeholders

2.4.1. To introduce the project to the local community and advertise the consultation process underway, a four-page, bilingual project newsletter announcing the consultation was also delivered to 26,950 surrounding addresses on or before 7 June 2021 (distribution was undertaken by a reputable company with the ability to track data on each delivery). All homes within a base 3km radius from the site, with extensions to 5km in certain areas deemed to have potential to see the wind farm, received the project newsletter inviting them to have their say on the proposals. A map of the distribution area can be seen below (red line outline shows extent of mailing radius). Copies of the newsletter are available in **Appendix D**.



Overview of mailing radius (houses receiving newsletter identified within the red line). For reference: The blue line shows a 3km radius of the site. The green line shows a 5km radius of the site.

2.5. Social media

2.5.1. The project social media page was launched on 7 June 2021 on Facebook and Twitter. Information was shared on the launch of the Phase 1 Consultation period to include all mechanisms for responding as well as the dates for the public consultation events. Posts continues throughout the consultation period to keep followers informed and to continue to advertise the consultation.

2.5.2. The social media posts for Phase 1 Consultation are available in Appendix D.



Screenshot of the Y Bryn Facebook page during early engagement phase 1.

2.6. Phase 1 exhibitions and Stakeholder Project Forum #1

- 2.6.1. Five public exhibitions were held during the first consultation phase. These exhibitions were aimed to introduce the project, the plans and to gain feedback from relevant stakeholders and the local community.
- 2.6.2. The venues for the public exhibitions were carefully considered taking into account proximity to the proposed development and factors such as direct visual impact and the size of the communities.
- 2.6.3. As the consultation was conducted whilst Covid-19 restrictions were still in place face-coverings were required for the Project team and consultees and social distancing was encouraged. To allow those working during normal office hours to attend, venues had to be available into the evenings and at a weekend.
- 2.6.4. The venues also needed to be near public transport and be suitable for disabled visitors.
- 2.6.5. The exhibitions included:
- Maesteg RFC, Llynfi Road, Maesteg, CF34 9DS - Monday 21st June 2021, 1pm

- 7pm

- Bryn Community Centre, Maesteg Road, Bryn, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2RY - Tuesday 22nd June 2021, 1pm - 7pm
- Cwmafan Community Engagement Centre, Depot Road, Cwmafan, Port Talbot, SA12 9DF - Wednesday 23rd June, 1pm - 7pm
- Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club, Cae Gof, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend CF32 0BA - Thursday 24th June, 1pm - 7pm
- Taibach Community Centre, Duke Street, Taibach, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 1NA - Saturday 26th June, 12pm - 4pm

2.6.6. Total attendance across all days of exhibitions was 356.

2.6.7. The exhibitions were promoted through the project website, via the press statements, social media, project newsletter and via letters issued to stakeholders. These can all be found in **Appendix D**.

2.6.8. Consultees were able to view and read all the consultation materials including the exhibition boards, project documentation, virtual 3D model of the wind farm, and complete the feedback form. The first hour each day was also designated as a “meet the buyer” session for potential suppliers.

2.6.9. In attendance at the public consultation events were representatives from Coriolis, Natural Power, and Thirty4/7 Communications.

2.6.10. Local community stakeholders were invited to attend a Stakeholder Project Forum in advance of the launch of the early engagement, which took place online on 8 June 2021, between 9:30am and 12:15pm. The event provided an overview of the proposals, key planning and environmental considerations, discussion on the approach to community benefit and community ownership opportunities, as well as an explanation on the approach to consultation and the project timeline.

2.6.11. Letters via email as well as hard copies were sent to stakeholders on 21 May 2021 advising them of the project, upcoming public consultation, and the offer of the Stakeholder Project Forum. An example of the letter can be found in **Appendix D**.

2.6.12. Invites were issued to local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Senedd, Welsh Government, BCBC, NPTCBC and all surrounding local town and community councils, local business representatives, educational establishments, environmental groups, seldom heard groups and community groups. A full list of invitees can be found in **Appendix D**.

2.6.13. In total, 27 stakeholders attended the stakeholder forum, including representatives from:

- David Rees MS
- Huw Irranca Davies MS
- Sioned Williams MS
- Stephen Kinnock MP
- Chris Elmore MP
- NPTCBC Planning
- NPTCBC Elected Members (surrounding ward members)
- BCBC Planning
- BCBC Elected Members
- Maesteg Town Council
- Awel Amen Tawe
- Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service (NPTCVS)
- Bridgend Association of Voluntary Service (BAVO)
- SWTRA
- RSPB

2.7. Virtual exhibition

2.7.1. As the consultation was undertaken at a time where some social distancing measures were being advised, provision was made for all those wishing to engage in the consultation to participate, even if they were unable or unwilling to attend face to face events. The project therefore undertook to provide all information that was available at public meetings to be available for viewing or downloaded online. A fully virtual public consultation room was produced, which mirrored the consultation materials set out at the consultation events.

2.7.2. The virtual exhibition was available via the project website (<https://www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru/>) throughout the early engagement consultation ensuring the consultation materials exhibited at the face-to-face public consultation events were also

available to those unable to attend in person.

2.7.3. Visitors were able to view and read all the consultation materials including, exhibition boards, project documentation, site plan, contact details for the project team and an invitation to complete the feedback form.

2.7.4. The virtual exhibition was accessed 1,251 times during this phase of engagement.



Screenshot of virtual consultation room for the phase 1 consultation.

2.8. Feedback from early engagement and Phase 1 Consultation

2.8.1. In total, there were 354 feedback forms received during the first phase of consultation. Feedback forms were received via several channels – at events, via FREEPOST and online. A Freephone number was also publicised should anyone have wished to contact the team via telephone. The feedback forms were designed to gather thoughts, opinions, and local insight on the early proposals.

2.8.2. There were an array of opinions expressing both support, and concern (in principle) to the proposals.

2.8.3. All feedback received was useful in identifying key areas of interest for local communities around the site and were considered closely in developing the proposals as they were further refined in advance of the second phase of informal consultation and then the statutory consultation.

2.8.4. A full overview of feedback received can be seen in the feedback analysis, prepared following the close of the first phase of early engagement. This can be viewed in **Appendix D**.

2.9. Summary of key issues raised during Phase 1 Consultation

2.9.1. An overview of the recurring key themes and issues raised from feedback are set out below. It is worth noting that a high proportion of feedback provided generic statements on issues, support or opposition.

- Height of the turbines
- Visual and landscape impacts
- Impact due to construction
- Environmental impacts
- Support for renewable energy in principle

2.9.2. Further detail can be found in the specific questions tables in the feedback analysis in **Appendix D**.

2.10. Project refinement before second round of consultation

2.10.1. Following the closure of the Phase 1 Consultation period, the project team closely considered the feedback received alongside the results of further environmental survey work and technical assessments, including landscape and visual amenity, ornithological surveys, cultural heritage assessment, biodiversity and ground conditions, amongst others.

2.10.2. As a result of the technical assessments and consideration of feedback, a number of refinements were made to the proposed development at this point. These included:

- Reduction in the number of turbines from 26 to 21.
- Removal of turbines with the greatest potential impact on the village of Bryn, and heritage assets and views from Margam Park.
- Reducing the height of all turbines in the northern Penhydd block to minimise

potential impacts on Bryn, Cwmafan, Maesteg and surrounding nearby communities.

- Relocating some turbines to reduce specific localised impacts around their siting.
- Clarifying points related to access, maintenance, wildlife and habitat management, as well as clearer information about community benefit.

2.10.3. In addition, further work was undertaken to clarify details relating to the Community Benefit offering and approach to managing community and shared ownership opportunities. Further details about this work are set out in the Collaborative Benefits Report, which will accompany this document when submitted as part of the application.

3. Phase 2 Consultation – Autumn 2021

3.1. Overview

3.1.1. Following the closure of the initial engagement phase on the proposed development, and whilst further survey work, assessment and consideration of feedback from the local community was being considered, several additional meetings were held with stakeholders and key consultees.

Meetings were held with several stakeholders during this phase of consultation.

Table 3: Meetings during Phase 2 consultation period

Cefn Cribwr Community Council Meeting	14.07.21	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Chris Williams – Head of Industrial Decarbonisation Industry Wales (Seconded from Tata Steel)	26.07.21	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)

Luke Fletcher MS and Sioned Williams MS (South Wales West Regional MS's)	04.08.21	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering)
Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	25.08.21	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering). Discussion of feedback following consultation.
British Horse Society	01.10.21	Introduction to the developer team and overview of initial proposed development with a specific focus on public access, rights of way and bridleways within and surrounding the site (including site location, project parameters, access proposals, consultation approach and Community Benefit offering). Discussion of feedback following consultation.
Bryn Residents Action Group (BRAG)	19.10.21	Discussion of feedback following consultation events.

3.1.2. Following these meetings, the second phase of consultation ran from 22 October to 19 November 2021. All communications issued during this period included the deadline for responding as the 19 November 2021.

3.1.3. As set out above in **Chapter 2**, the proposed development was subject to a period of early engagement, consultation and project refinement in early 2021. Following this, the proposed development was amended in response to comments received and ongoing technical and environmental assessment work.

3.1.4. The scope of consultation for the second phase of consultation therefore was to introduce the further developed proposals and seek feedback on the updated plans.

3.2. Stakeholder Project Forum #2

- 3.2.1. In advance of the broader engagement for Phase 2, the Y Bryn Project Team invited an established group of key stakeholders as well as new stakeholders who expressed an interest in being part of the Phase 2 Stakeholder Project Forum.
- 3.2.2. In total, 206 stakeholders were invited to attend the Phase 2 Stakeholder Project Forum, which took place virtually (via Teams) between 9.30am and 11.30am on Tuesday 19 October 2021, of which 18 stakeholders attended and participated in discussions.
- 3.2.3. Letters via email as well as hard copies were sent to stakeholders on 5 October 2021, advising them of the Project, upcoming public consultation, forum invite and in some cases an offer of a one-to-one meeting. Follow up emails and telephone calls were issued on 12 October 2021 to follow up on the original invites.
- 3.2.4. Invites were issued to local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Senedd, Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, NPTCBC, BCBC, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, all surrounding local town and community councils, local business representatives, educational establishments, environmental groups, seldom heard / hard to reach groups and community groups.
- 3.2.5. Speakers at the Stakeholder Project Forum included, Trevor Hunter, Project Manager, Coriolis Energy (Developer), Ffion Edwards, Senior Project Manager, Natural Power (Environmental Consultants), Dan McCallum from Awel Amen Tawe (AAT), and Will Morgan, Director, Thirty 4/7 Communications (Communications Consultants).
- 3.2.6. You can find the invitation letter, recipient list and presentation for Stakeholder Project Forum #2 in **Appendix E**.
- 3.2.7. Feedback received at the Project Forum related to the following key points and was considered by the project team:
- Traffic management and transport during construction.
 - Access to the site from the M4.
 - Ornithology and bird survey methodology.
 - Visual impact and viewpoints showing changes from Phase 1 to Phase 2.

- Bridal paths and effects on horse riding.
- Electro-magnetic fields, radio frequency and other signals.
- Community benefit opportunities.
- Heritage considerations.
- Awel y Bryn Co-Op and community ownership opportunities.
- Impacts on local agriculture.
- The consultation process and next steps.

3.3. Community launch of Phase 2

3.3.1. Phase 2 of the pre-application consultation began with an announcement to the media via a press statement on 22 October 2021. Coverage of the consultation appeared in a number of outlets, including Wales Online, and reNews.

3.3.2. A copy of the press statement is available in Appendix E.

3.4. Project website

3.4.1. The Project website was updated upon the launch of Phase 2 of the informal consultation on 21 October 2021 providing details of the consultation including:

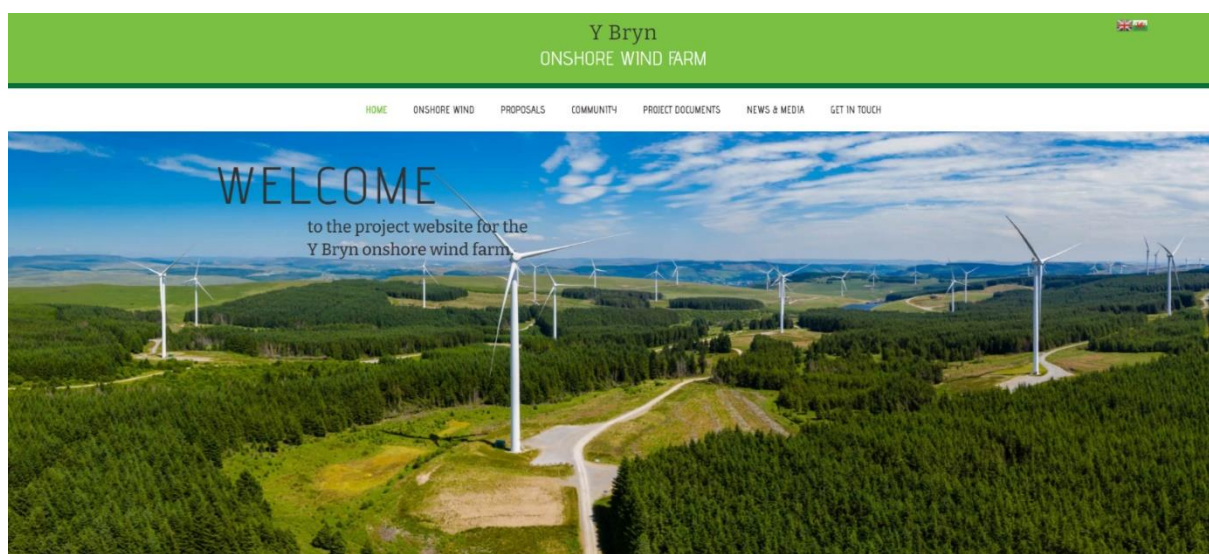
3.4.2. All mechanisms for responding:

- Public consultation events.
- Virtual consultation via the website.
- Email.
- Feedback forms.
- Freepost address.
- Freephone telephone number.

3.4.3. Project documents:

- Newsletter (Welsh and English).
- Phase 2 Feedback Form.
- Consultation Exhibition Boards.
- Indicative site location plan with annotations.
- Contact details.

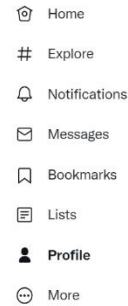
3.4.4. During the consultation period the website received 199 unique visitors.



3.5. Social Media

3.5.1. Project social media pages were updated on 22 October 2021 across Facebook, and Twitter. Information was shared on the launch of Phase 2 of the pre-application public consultation, all mechanisms for responding, the dates for the public consultation events and COP26. Posts continued throughout the consultation period to keep followers informed and to continue to advertise the consultation.

3.5.2. You can find the social media updates in **Appendix E**.



3.6. Posters

3.6.1. In the week prior to the launch of the Phase 2 consultation, posters advertising the public consultation events and means of finding out or providing feedback on the plans were distributed to 55 venues within the immediate vicinity, but also at venues further afield in NPTCBC area and BCBC area where residents may not have received a leaflet directly.

3.6.2. A copy of the poster, which matched the newspaper advert is below:

Please come along to one of our consultation events and give us your feedback

Dewch draw i un o'n digwyddiadau ymgynghori a rhoi eich adborth i ni

We are exploring the potential for a new wind farm, north east of Port Talbot. The project is classed as a Development of National Significance and could have a generating capacity of up to 138MW.

Rydym yn archwilio'r potensial ar gyfer fferm wynt newydd, i'r gogledd-ddwyrain o Bort Talbot. Daw'r project o fewn dosbarth Datblygiad o Arwyddocaidd Cenedlaethol ac fe allai fod ganddo'r gallu i gynhyrchu hyd at 138MW.

MONDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2PM - 7PM DYDD LLUN, 1AF O DACHWEDD, 2YP - 7YN Bryn Community Centre Canolfan Cymunedol Bryn Maesteg Road, Bryn, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2RY	TUESDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 2PM - 7PM DYDD MAWRTH, 2AIL O DACHWEDD, 2YP - 7YN Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club Clwb Athletau Cefn Cribwr Cae Gof, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend CF32 0BA	WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER, 2PM - 7PM DYDD MERCHER, SYDD O DACHWEDD, 2YP - 7YN Cwmafan Community Centre Canolfan Gymunedol Cwmafan Depot Road, Cwmafan, Port Talbot SA12 9BA (for Sat Nav, please use SA12 9DF)
FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2PM TO 7PM DYDD GWENER, SED O DACHWEDD, 2YP - 7YN Maesteg Sports Centre Canolfan Hamdden Maesteg Old Forge Site Nant-y-Crynwylld Maesteg, CF34 9DS	SATURDAY 6TH NOVEMBER, 12PM TO 4PM DYDD SADWRN 6ED TACHWEDD, 12PM - 4PM Talbach Community Centre Canolfan Gymunedol Talbach Duke Street, Talbach, Port Talbot, SA13 1NA	

If you intend to visit us at one of the events, please check the project website immediately prior to your visit for the latest arrangements.
Please bring a mask to wear.

Os ydych yn bwriadu ymweld ag un o'r digwyddiadau uchod, byddwch crystal i gwirio gweftan y project cyn i chi ymweld er mwyn gwybod beth yw'r trefniadau.
Dewch â masgud i'w wisgo.

You can also find out more and view our virtual consultation using the link below
Gwylwch ein hymgyngoriad rhithwir a dewch o hyd i fwy o wybodaeth

www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru [f](https://www.facebook.com/ybrynwindfarm) [@ybrynwindfarm](https://twitter.com/ybrynwindfarm)

3.7. Newspaper advert

- 3.7.1. A newspaper advert was published in the South Wales Echo and the South Wales Evening Post on 27 October 2021. These two newspapers are the local papers with the highest daily circulation.
- 3.7.2. The advert was also promoted by Wales Online's digital portal, extending the advert's reach online, as well as in hard copy.
- 3.7.3. The advert contained information about the public consultation events and where to find further information on the project website.
- 3.7.4. A copy of the advert in situ can be found in **Appendix E**.

3.8. Project newsletter

- 3.8.1. A project newsletter announcing the consultation was delivered to 27,027 surrounding homes and businesses on or before 11 October 2021 (distribution was undertaken by a reputable company with the ability to track data on each delivery). The increase in the number of homes reached for Phase 2 was due to the update of the mailing database by Royal Mail between Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the proposals.
- 3.8.2. As with the initial phase of consultation, all homes within a base 3km radius, with extensions to 5km in certain areas deemed to have a greater potential to see the wind farm, such as Cefn Cribwr, received the two-page bilingual project newsletter inviting them to have their say on the proposals. A map of the distribution area can be seen in **Chapter 2.4**. Copies of the newsletter are available to download from the documents page of the Project Website www.ybryn-windfarm.cymru.
- 3.8.3. Copies of the newsletter were also sent to community centres and to all venues hosting the public consultation events. The project newsletter included detail on:
- A project overview.
 - Information about the developer.
 - Project update.
 - The revised proposals following the Phase 1 pre-application consultation.
 - Details of the Project website.
 - How to get involved with the pre-

- application public consultation.
- Detail of the public consultation events.
- Community benefit.
- Project timeline.
- Online virtual exhibition.
- How to keep in touch.

3.9. Public consultation events

3.9.1. As this phase of consultation was also conducted whilst Covid-19 restrictions were still in place face-coverings were required for the Project team and consultees and social distancing was encouraged. As with the initial phase of consultation, to allow those working during normal office hours to attend, venues had to be available into the evenings and at a weekend. The venues also needed to be near public transport and be suitable for disabled visitors.

3.9.2. Events took place on the following dates and times:

- Bryn Community Centre, Maesteg Road, Bryn, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2RY - Monday 1 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club, Cae Gof, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend CF32 0BA - Tuesday 2 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Cwmafan Community Engagement Centre, Depot Road, Cwmafan, Port Talbot, SA12 9DF - Wednesday 3 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Maesteg Sports Centre, Old Forge Site, Nant-y-Crynwydd, Maesteg, CF34 9DS - Friday 5 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Taibach Community Centre, Duke Street, Taibach, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 1NA - Saturday 6 November 2021, 12pm - 4pm

3.9.3. The exhibitions were promoted through the project website, via the press statements, social media, project newsletter and via letters issued directly to stakeholders.

3.9.4. Consultees were able to view and read all of the consultation materials in advance via the project website, which included access to the exhibition boards, project documentation, virtual 3D model of the wind farm and online feedback form.

3.9.5. In attendance at the public consultation events were representatives from Coriolis Energy, Natural Power, Awel Aman Tawe (Community Energy & Ownership partners) and Thirty4/7 Communications.

3.9.6. The total attendance for Phase 2 across the five days of the exhibitions was 184 visitors.

3.9.7. On 15 October 2021, a stakeholder letter was sent out with the Project Newsletter to 316 key stakeholders inviting them to a 'Stakeholder Preview' of the Phase 2 proposals, providing stakeholders with an ample opportunity to meet with the developer and pose any questions on the refined proposals. The letter can be found in **Appendix E**.

3.9.8. Several local politicians, councillors, representatives of environmental groups and community stakeholders attended the public consultation events including David Rees MS, Huw Irranca Davies MS, Chairman of the Bryn Residents Action Group (BRAG), representatives of the 'Stop Y Bryn' Campaign Group, a representative from Neath Port Talbot Friends of The Earth and Cllr David Whitelock (Bryn and Cwmavon Ward).

3.9.9. You can view all the exhibition materials available in **Appendix E**.

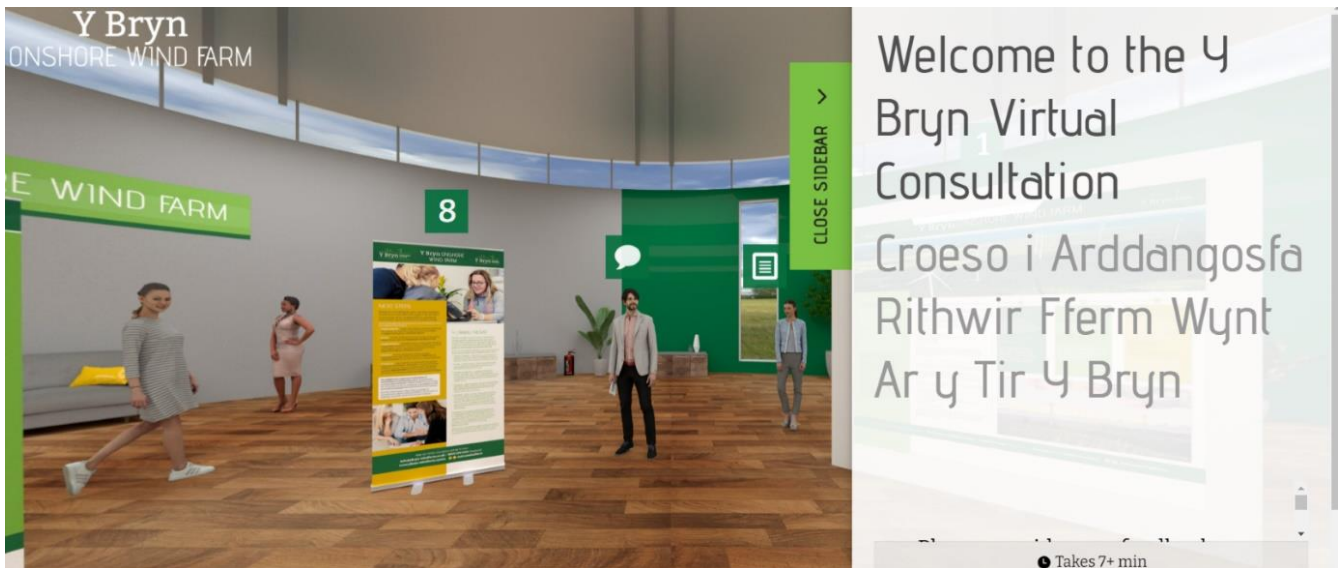
3.10. Virtual exhibition

3.10.1. The virtual exhibition was available via the Project web site throughout the public consultation ensuring the materials exhibited at the face-to-face public consultation events were also available to those unable to attend in person.

3.10.2. Visitors were able to view and read all of the consultation materials to include the exhibition boards, project documentation, project video, 3D flythrough video and complete the online feedback form.

3.10.3. There was also a 'contact us' option providing details of how to get in touch with the project team.

3.10.4. The virtual exhibition was accessed 87 times.



3.11. Feedback from Phase 2

- 3.11.1. As with the initial phase of consultation, standard bilingual feedback form was used to collate information and views of consultees who engaged in the consultation. The feedback forms were designed to gather both quantitative and qualitative feedback on the refined proposals.
- 3.11.2. In total, 197 feedback forms were returned online, or in hard copy. There was an array of opinions expressing both support and concern for the amended proposals.
- 3.11.3. Positive feedback noted that the climate emergency as a global concern and the need for such developments to protect future generations.
- 3.11.4. Concerns and issues related to the number of turbines, the proximity to residential dwellings, the welfare of local residents and the environmental impact were raised amongst other points.
- 3.11.5. All feedback received was useful in identifying key areas of concern for local communities around the site and assisted the developer in refining the preferred proposals ahead of the statutory consultation phase in 2023.
- 3.11.6. A full feedback analysis for this phase of consultation has been included in **Appendix E.**

3.12. Project refinement and development of preferred option prior to statutory consultation

3.12.1. Following the closure of the second phase of consultation, the project team closely considered the feedback received alongside further results of any additional environmental survey work and technical assessments.

3.12.2. As a result of the technical assessments and consideration of feedback from the early engagement period, a number of further project refinements were made to the proposed development, prior to the presentation of a preferred design, which was subject to statutory consultation in Summer 2023. These included:

- Reducing the number of proposed turbines from 21 to 18.
- Reducing the height of three further turbines to reduce visual impact from Bryn village and surrounding communities.
- Relocating two turbines to reduce visual impact from Bryn village.
- Changes to forestry management and habitat enhancement plans following further assessments and agreements.

3.12.3. In addition, further work was undertaken to clarify details relating to the Community Benefit offering and approach to managing community and shared ownership opportunities. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) were signed between the Applicant, NPTCVS, BAVO and Awel Amen Tawe. The MOUs confirmed a commitment to the development of Awel Y Bryn Co-Op, and agreed responsibilities and mechanisms for the management and distribution of a community benefit fund, and shared ownership investment opportunities. Further details about this work are set out in the Collaborative Benefits Report, which will accompany this document when submitted as part of the application.

4. Engagement with the Supply Chain

4.1. Overview

4.1.1. On Thursday 11th May 2023, Coriolis and ESB held a Supply Chain Event, where local suppliers were invited to find out more regarding the project and potential opportunities

that could involve local suppliers. The event was held in the morning at Blanco's Hotel, Green Park Street, Port Talbot, SA12 6NT.

- 4.1.2. The event was held in conjunction with South Wales Chamber of Commerce, which assisted in identifying and informing relevant local and regional potential supply chain partners about the event and the opportunities in general. Potential local organisations and relevant stakeholders were invited and it was attended by 27 representatives.
- 4.1.3. The presentation included an overview of the proposals, information about Coriolis and ESB, information on the planning process and timeframes for construction. Details of the supply chain process, supplier opportunities and examples of recent projects were also provided before opening the room to questions.
- 4.1.4. Further details about this work are set out in the Collaborative Benefits Report, which will accompany this document when submitted as part of the application.
- 4.1.5. You can find the invitation email and presentation in **Appendix F**.

5. Approach to community benefit and shared ownership

5.1. Overview

- 5.1.1. On Thursday 11th May 2023, Coriolis, ESB, NPTCVS, BAVO and AAT held a community benefit fund and community ownership scheme event, where local organisations and stakeholders were invited to find out more about the community benefit fund and community ownership scheme available.
- 5.1.2. As with the local supply chain workshop, potential local community stakeholders and interest groups were identified and invited to attend the event. It was attended by 28 community representatives.
- 5.1.3. The presentation contained details of the project and proposals, including the timeframes for delivery and an overview of the community benefit commitments made. Information relating to the Community Shared Ownership potential, as well as the Community Benefit Fund were shared before opening up the room to questions.
- 5.1.4. Further details about this work are set out in the Collaborative Benefits Report, which will accompany this document when submitted as part of the application.

5.1.5. You can find the community benefit fund and community ownership scheme event invitation email, presentation and invitee list in **Appendix G**.

6. Statutory consultation – Summer 2023

6.1. Overview

6.1.1. As set out above, the proposed development was subject to two phases of early engagement and project refinement in 2021. During this time the proposed development was amended and refined in response to comments received and ongoing technical and environmental assessment work

6.1.2. Statutory PAC, as required by Section 61Z of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 was undertaken for 47 days from 1 June 2023 to 17 July 2023. Details of the statutory notices and consultation undertaken can be found in Chapters 7 and 8 of this document and **Appendix A**.

6.1.3. The baseline statutory consultation requirements for notification and provision of information were supplemented by broader public engagement and consultation. Therefore, in addition to the statutory notifications with required specialist and community consultees via letter, site notice and newspaper notice, the local community was notified of the consultation and invited to participate in the consultation via a number of communications channels, set out below.

6.2. Consultees overview

6.2.1. Article 9(1) of the DNSPWO sets out that relevant statutory consultees are separated into three categories for the purposes of Section 61Z(4) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 ("the 1990 Act"): community consultees, specialist consultees and relevant persons.

6.2.2. The following statutory consultees were identified and subsequently engaged through the statutory consultation period.

6.3. Specialist consultees

6.3.1. In line with Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO, the below specialist consultees were identified.

6.3.2. Letters notifying of the start of the statutory consultation period, including a copy of the Schedule 2 Notice was issued to the following specialist consultees on 1 June 2023. A copy is included in **Appendix A**.

Table 4: Specialist consultees

Consultee	Reason for inclusion
The Health & Safety Executive	Paragraph (a) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Development more than 750 square metres and which is likely to result in a material increase in the number of persons working within or visiting the notified area.
SWTRA, Highways Authority for Trunk Roads	Paragraph (c) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Highways authority consulted due to construction traffic entering/leaving a trunk road.
Bridgend County Borough Council (Highways)	Paragraph (d) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Local highway authority consulted due to construction traffic entering/leaving a classified road or proposed highway (Comments were also invited from the Council as a whole).
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (Highways)	Paragraph (d) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Local highway authority consulted due to construction traffic entering/leaving a classified road or proposed highway (Comments were also invited from the Council as a whole).
The Coal Authority	Paragraph (f) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Development which involves the provision of a building or pipeline in an area of coal working notified by the Coal Authority to the Welsh Ministers
CADW	Paragraph (h)(ii) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Development likely to be visible from one or

	more Scheduled Monuments and has an area of more than 1 hectare.
Natural Resources Wales	Paragraph (n) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Potential to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest.
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Paragraph (v) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO The water and sewerage undertaker.
The Fire and Rescue Authority - Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Paragraph (w) of Schedule 5 of the DNSPWO Development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more.
Network Rail	Invited to respond in case of relevance.
Transport Directorate – Welsh Government	Invited to respond alongside SWTRA.
Transport for Wales	Invited to respond in case of relevance.

6.3.3. As the project did not meet the statutory thresholds, LQAS were not included in the statutory consultation. However, they were later consulted 4 July 2023, and given the full statutory period to respond.

6.4. Community consultees

6.4.1. The DNSPWO states that community consultees are:

- Each Councillor representing each electoral ward in the County or County Borough Council in which the site is situated; and
- The Community Council(s) in which the site is situated.

6.4.2. Letters notifying of the start of the statutory consultation period, including a copy of the Schedule 1 Notice was issued to the following identified community consultees on 1 June 2023. A copy is included in **Appendix A**.

Table 5: Community consultees

Name	Role	Reason for inclusion

Cllr Charlotte Galsworthy	Bryn & Cwmavon Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Dave Whitelock	Bryn & Cwmavon Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Rhidian Mizen	Bryn & Cwmavon Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Dennis Keough	Margam & Taibach Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Laura Williams	Margam & Taibach Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Rob G Jones	Margam & Taibach Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Jeff Jones	Cymer & Glyncorrwg Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Site ward member
Cllr Chris Davies	Caerau Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Site ward member
Cllr Paul Davies	Caerau Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Site ward member
Cllr Richard Collins	Maesteg West Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Site ward member
Cllr Ross Penhale-Thomas	Maesteg West Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Site ward member
Mrs Sian Teisar	Maesteg Town Council	Town Council
Ms Cheryl John	Llangynwyd Middle Community Council	Site Community Council
Mr David Mackerras	Pelena Community Council	Site Community Council
Cllr Jeremy Hurley	Cimla & Pelenna Ward Member – Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member

Cllr Saifur Rahaman	Port Talbot Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Sharon Freeguard	Port Talbot Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Tim Bowen	Cimla & Pelenna Ward Member – Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Carol Clement-Williams	Baglan Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Peter D Richards	Baglan Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Susanne Renkes	Baglan Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Chris James	Briton Ferry East Ward Member - Neath Port Talbot Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Martin Hughes	Maesteg East Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Philip Jenkins	Maesteg East Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Neighbouring site ward member
Cllr Malcolm James	Llangynwyd Ward Member – Bridgend County Borough Council	Neighbouring site ward member

6.4.3. Letters were also sent to a broader range of community representatives to inform them of the start of statutory consultation on 1 June 2023. These stakeholders are listed in **Appendix H**. A copy of the letter issued is included in **Appendix H**.

6.5. Landowners

6.5.1. As required, letters and a copy of the Schedule 1 Notice were also sent to all relevant adjacent landowners to inform them of the start of statutory consultation on 1 June 2023. The landowners identified are listed in **Appendix A**. A copy of the letter and notice can be found in **Appendix A**.

6.6. Other consultees

6.6.1. In addition to the identified statutory consultees, several additional consultees were notified of the consultation period and sent details about the draft application documents to review and comment on if they wished. These consultees are set out in **Appendix H**. A copy of the letter they received is included in **Appendix H**.

7. Statutory publicity

7.1. Overview

7.1.1. In line with the DNSPWO the Applicant is required to carry out PAC. Articles 8 and 9 of the Order stipulate the requirement in terms of scope, engagement, and length of the consultation period.

7.1.2. The consultation period began on 1 June 2023 and ran for 47 days until 17 July 2023 – exceeding the 42-day minimum requirement set out in the DNSPWO. Where requested, additional time was provided for specialist consultees who were unable to meet the deadline due to resourcing issues.

7.1.3. In addition to statutory publicity, several non-statutory consultation and engagement methods were employed to ensure that the local community and interested parties had the opportunity to find out about and contribute to the consultation. A full summary of this additional outreach and consultation can be found below.

7.1.4. A table outlining compliance with DNSPWO Articles 8 and 9 is set out below:

Table 6: DNSPWO Articles 8 and 9 compliance table

Requirement, as set out in referenced section of DNSPWO	Declaration of compliance / reference within this report
(8) Publicity before applying for planning permission	
- 8(1)(a)(i) by site display in at least one place on or near the land to which the	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 7 .

proposed application relates for not less than 42 days	A copy of the notice is included in Appendix A.
- 8(1)(a)(ii) in writing to any owner or occupier of any land adjoining the land to which the proposed application relates: and	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6. A copy of the notice is included in Appendix A.
- 8(1)(a)(iii) by publication of the notice in a newspaper circulating in the locality in which the land to which the proposed application relates is situated; and	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 7. The wording of the notice is included in Appendix A. A copy of the notice in situ is included in Appendix A.
8(1)(b) The Applicant must publicise the proposed application publishing the following information on a website maintained by the Applicant, for not less than 42 days beginning with each day on which each of the notices referred to in subparagraph (a) or article 9(2) are given	A description of this activity and declaration that the applicant has complied with the publication requirements is contained in Chapter 7. A copy of the declaration is included in Appendix A.
- 8(1)(b)(i) the draft application form published by the Welsh Ministers under article 12(1)(a) (or a form substantially to the like effect), including the particulars specified in or referred to in the form; - 8(1)(b)(ii) a plan which identifies the land to which the proposed application relates; - 8(1)(b)(iii) any other plans, drawings and information necessary to describe the	

development which is the subject of the proposed application; - 8(1)(b)(iv) a copy of the notice required by article 6 which has not lapsed under paragraph (3) of that article; - 8(1)(b)(v) the design and access statement required by article 14; - 8(1)(b)(vi) subject to article 12(3), the particulars or evidence required by the Welsh Ministers under section 62(3) of the 1990 Act (applications for planning permission); - 8(1)(b)(vii) where applicable, a statement referred to as the environmental statement for the proposed development; and - 8(1)(b)(viii) a written statement about any secondary consent connected with the proposed application in respect of which the applicant considers a decision on that consent is to be made or should be made by the Welsh Ministers, together with the draft application form and documents associated with such consents.	
8(2) The applicant must have complied with paragraph (1) before an application is submitted.	The activity outlined within this report confirms that this activity has been complied with prior to submission of the application.
8(3) Any plans or drawings required to be provided by paragraph (1)(b)(ii) or (iii)	All plans and drawings provided were drawn to a scale identified by the applicant

must be drawn to a scale identified by the applicant and, in the case of plans, must show the direction of north	and showed the direction of north. A copy of the declaration is included in Appendix A , with screenshots of the website included in Appendix A .
8(4) Where the notice referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i) is, without any fault or intention of the applicant, removed, obscured or defaced before the period of 42 days has elapsed, the applicant will be treated as having complied with the requirements of the relevant paragraph if they have taken reasonable steps to protect the notice and, if need be, replace it.	Site notices were checked on one occasion during the 47-day period, with any missing notices replaced. A description of this activity is included in Chapter 7. A copy of the declaration confirming that reasonable steps were taken to check and replace any missing notices during the 47-day period is included in Appendix A.
8(5) In this article, "requisite notice" (<i>"hysbysiad gofynnol"</i>) means notice in the appropriate form set out in Schedule 1 or in a form substantially to the like effect.	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and 7. A copy of the notice is included in Appendix A.
(9) Consultation before applying for planning permission	
9(1) The following persons or descriptions of persons are specified for the purposes of section 61Z(4) of the 1990 Act— (a) any community consultee; (b) any specialist consultee; and (c) any relevant person(1).	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and 7. A copy of the relevant correspondence is included in Appendix A.
(2) Where an applicant is required to consult a community consultee or a relevant person, the applicant must give the community consultee or the relevant person	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and 7 .

requisite notice in writing of the proposed application.	A copy of the relevant correspondence is included in Appendix A .
(3) Where an applicant is required to consult a specialist consultee, the applicant must give the specialist consultee requisite notice in writing of the proposed application and enclose each of the documents referred to in article 8(1)(b) or provide a link to a website on which those documents can be found.	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and 7. A link to the consultation website, which contained all the required documents was provided in the required format. A copy of the relevant correspondence is included in Appendix A.
(4) The applicant must have complied with paragraphs (2) and (3) and have given the specialist consultee time to respond in accordance with article 10(1) before an application is submitted.	The applicant provided 47 days for the consultation (1 June 2023 to 17 July 2023). A description of this activity is contained in Chapters 6 and 7.
(5) In this article, "requisite notice" (" <i>hysbysiad gofynnol</i> ") means— (a) in relation to a community consultee or a relevant person notice in the appropriate form set out in Schedule 1; and (b) in relation to a specialist consultee notice in the appropriate form set out in Schedule 2, or in a form substantially to the like effect.	A description of this activity is contained in Chapter 6 and 7. A copy of the relevant notices and correspondence is included in Appendix A.

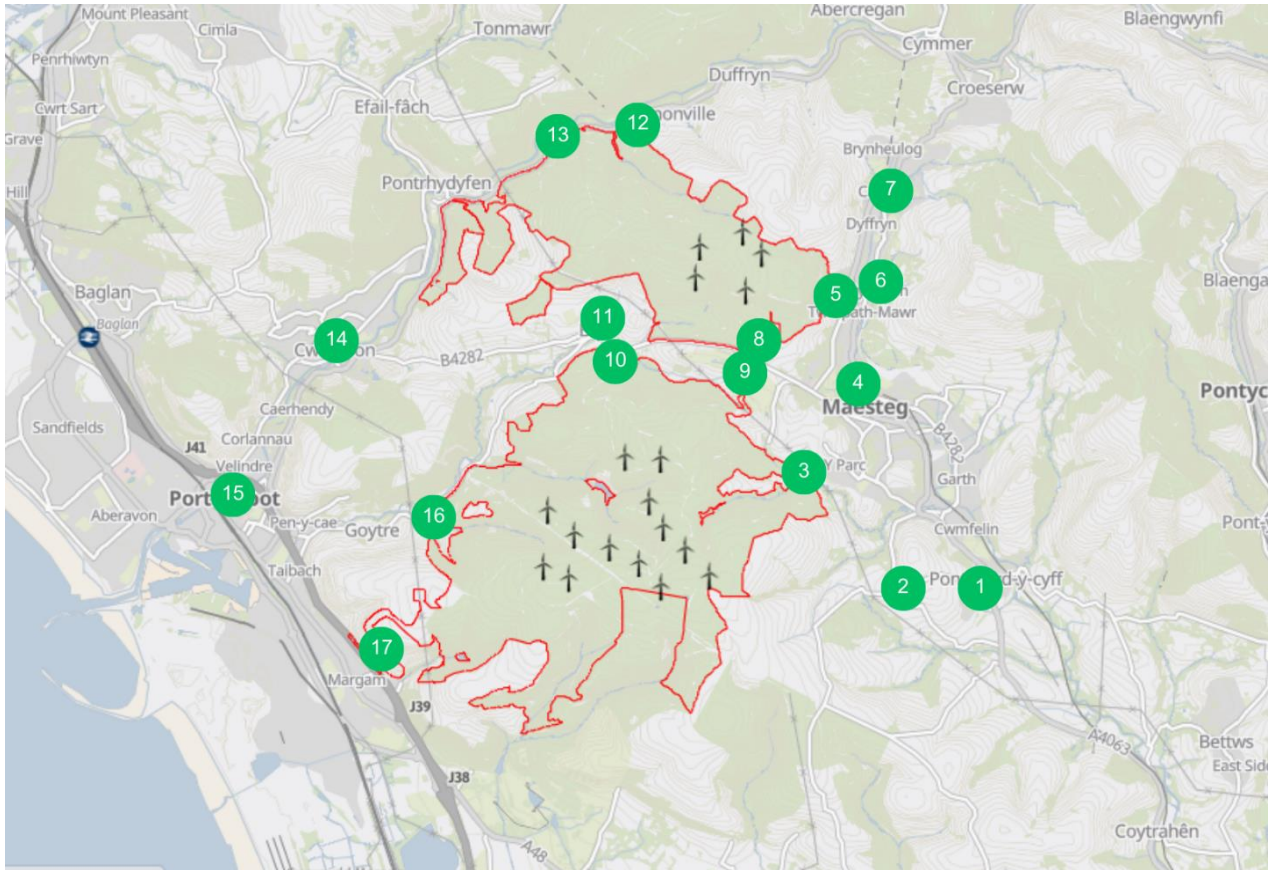
7.2. Site notices

7.2.1. In line with Article 8(i) of the DNSPWO, the Applicant displayed site notices on or near the land to which the proposed application related for over 42 days from 1 June 2023 to 17 July 2023.

7.2.2. The local authorities were consulted regarding the locations of the site notices and were confirmed before placing the notices.

7.2.3. Notices were placed along and inside the site boundary on 31 May 2023. This included

site notices access points in Maesteg, Garn Wen car park, Bryn, Afan MTB, Ty Maen, Goytre and Brombil. Additional notices were placed in Llangynwyd, Pont Rhyd-y-cyff, Maesteg, Nantyffyllon, Caerau, Bryn, Cwmafon and Port Talbot.



Map of the site notices on the proposed development site boundary map

7.2.4. A copy of the notice, locations and photographs in situ are included in **Appendix A**.

7.2.5. The site notices were checked during the period they were in situ. On inspection on 28 June 2023, nine notices were replaced due to the existing ones being missing. You can see further details below:

- Notice 3 (Garn Wen car park) – English notice replaced
- Notice 10 (Llangynwyd Primary School) – English and Welsh notices replaced
- Notice 12 (Maesteg RFC) – English and Welsh notices replaced
- Notice 13 (Nantyffyllon) – English and Welsh notices replaced
- Notice 14 (Caerau) – English and Welsh notices replaced

Schedule 1 Notice in the South Wales Evening Post on 1 June 2023

7.5. Website

7.5.1. The project website was updated for the statutory consultation period with information about the consultation period and updated proposals.

7.5.2. All relevant and required draft application documents were uploaded to the website and available to view or download from the beginning of the statutory consultation period (1 June 2023).

7.5.3. All draft application documents and relevant consultation materials remained available to view via the website for reference purposes throughout the PAC period.

7.5.4. The following documents were available to download through the statutory consultation period:

- Draft application form and acceptance of notification letter
- Schedule 1 and 2 notices
- All plans and drawings
- Planning Statement (PS) and Design and Access Statement (DAS)
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
- Full Draft Environmental Statement (ES) and supporting appendices
- Supporting technical information (such as Transport Statement)
- All consultation materials including pdf copies of the bilingual exhibition display boards, consultation summary document, newsletter and feedback form

7.5.5. A declaration stating that the relevant documents were published on the website can be found in **Appendix A**, with full list of the documents available for download included in **Appendix A**.

8. Non-statutory publicity

8.1. Overview

8.1.1. In addition to the above noted statutory publicity with prescribed bodies, the Applicant undertook extensive additional publicity to ensure as broad a cross section of the local community and interested parties could find out about and participate in the consultation.

8.1.2. Therefore, in addition to the statutory notices and letters issued, the following consultation activity was undertaken.

8.2. Bilingual newsletter

8.2.1. Bilingual newsletters were posted to residents and businesses within the same base 3 kilometre radius, with extensions to 5km in certain areas deemed to have a greater potential to see the wind farm, such as Cefn Cribwr. This resulted in 27,704 bilingual newsletters being issued in hard copy.

8.2.2. The newsletter invited interested parties to have their say on the proposals during the statutory consultation on 1 June 2023. The bilingual newsletters were also sent to those consultees identified in s8(1)(a)(ii) of the DNSPWO.

8.2.3. These newsletters were issued to ensure that all those living close to the site were informed of the updated proposals, details of the consultation events and how they could provide feedback. The newsletter included a freepost slip at the bottom to provide quick feedback. A copy of the newsletter can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.3. Stakeholder letters

8.3.1. Letters were issued to all identified stakeholders on 1 June 2023, at the same time that the statutory notices were issued to prescribed community and specialist consultees. The bilingual stakeholder letters contained information about the consultation, the updated plans and an invitation to the consultation events. A copy of the stakeholder letters can be found in **Appendix H**, with a full list of recipients included in **Appendix H**.

8.4. Newspaper adverts

8.4.1. Two newspaper adverts were placed. One was placed in the South Wales Evening Post that appeared on page five on Wednesday 7 June 2023. The second advert was placed in the Western Mail and appeared on page 13 on Wednesday 7 June 2023. The adverts

invited nearby communities to take part in the consultation as well as the details of the two exhibition events. A copy of the adverts in situ can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.5. Posters

8.5.1. Posters were emailed out to the venues, as well as local community venues in Maesteg, Bryn, Cwmafan, Cefn Cribwr, Taibach, Margam, Neath, Bridgend and surrounding areas in order to help promote the two consultation events. A copy of the poster can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.6. Press release

8.6.1. To help promote the consultation, a press release was issued to local news outlets announcing its launch and inviting people to the exhibition events where they could provide feedback. The press release gained coverage in several outlets, including **Wales Online**, **RENews**, **Insider Wales**, **Nation.Cymru** and Business News Wales. The press release and examples of coverage can be found at **Appendix H**.

8.7. Social media

8.7.1. Project social media pages were updated during the statutory consultation period. Information was shared on the launch of the statutory pre-application public consultation, alongside all mechanisms for responding and the dates for the public consultation events. Posts continued throughout the consultation period to keep followers informed and to continue to advertise the consultation. Examples of social media updates shared can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.8. Stakeholder forum #3

8.8.1. During the statutory consultation pre-application consultation, the project's aim was to continue to engage key stakeholders to further shape the proposals and discuss key issues.

8.8.2. The project's third stakeholder forum took place online on 13 July 2023. The focus of this Forum was to introduce the final preferred proposals that had been published for statutory consultation. A presentation provided an overview of the changes made since the previous consultation phase, the final commitments with regard to community benefit, sitewide improvements and the approach to shared ownership opportunity. A

copy of the presentation given can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.8.3. As with the previous two Forum meetings, invites were issued to local Members of Parliament, local Members of the Senedd, Welsh Government, BCBC, NPTCBC and all surrounding local town and community councils, local business representatives, educational establishments, environmental groups, seldom heard groups and community groups. A full list of invitees can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.8.4. Nine attendees participated in the meeting including representatives from BCBC, NPTCBC, British Horse Society and local politicians.

8.9. Public exhibitions

8.9.1. As with both informal phases of consultation, to allow those working during normal office hours to attend, venues had to be available into the evenings and at a weekend. The venues also needed to be near public transport and be suitable for disabled visitors.

8.9.2. Events took place in the same venues as the phase 2 consultation events on the following dates and times:

- Bryn Community Centre, Maesteg Road, Bryn, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 2RY - Monday 1 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Cefn Cribwr Athletic Club, Cae Gof, Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend CF32 0BA - Tuesday 2 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Cwmafan Community Engagement Centre, Depot Road, Cwmafan, Port Talbot, SA12 9DF - Wednesday 3 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Maesteg Sports Centre, Old Forge Site, Nant-y-Crynwydd, Maesteg, CF34 9DS - Friday 5 November 2021, 2pm - 7pm
- Taibach Community Centre, Duke Street, Taibach, Neath Port Talbot, SA13 1NA - Saturday 6 November 2021, 12pm - 4pm

8.9.3. In attendance at the public consultation events were representatives from Coriolis Energy, Natural Power, Awel Aman Tawe (Community Energy & Ownership partners) and Thirty4/7 Communications.

8.9.4. The exhibitions were advertised on all consultation materials, including the newsletter, stakeholder letters, press release, posters in local communities and on the website.

8.9.5. The following materials were made available at the events:

- Pull up banners explaining the proposed development, including site location, environmental considerations, refinement of the proposals since inception, viewpoints and visual impact, construction process and traffic, local community benefits, planning timeline and an overview of the consultation process.
- Technical documents, including Environmental Statements and viewpoints.
- Feedback Forms, which could be completed and submitted directly at the event, via supplied Freepost envelopes or by contact details including email and phone to provide feedback.
- Virtual 3D model of the wind farm.

8.9.6. Copies of all engagement materials available at the consultation events and online are available to view in **Appendix H**.

8.9.7. The total attendance across the five days of the exhibitions was 240 visitors.

8.9.8. A stakeholder covering letter was sent out with the third Project Newsletter to key stakeholders inviting them to a 'Stakeholder Preview' of the preferred proposals, providing stakeholders with an ample opportunity to meet with the developer and pose any questions on the refined proposals. The cover letter can be found in **Appendix H**.

8.9.9. Several local politicians, councillors, representatives of environmental groups and community stakeholders attended the public consultation events including David Rees MS, Huw Irranca Davies MS, Chairman of the Bryn Residents Action Group (BRAG), representatives of the 'Stop Y Bryn' Campaign Group, representatives from Neath port Talbot County Borough Council and Bridgend County Borough Council.

8.10. Feedback response mechanisms

8.10.1. Throughout the statutory consultation period, the following mechanisms were in place for interested parties to provide feedback and contact the project team:

- Email
- Website form
- Freepost
- Freephone
- Direct feedback
- Freepost newsletter slip
- Feedback form

8.10.2. During the statutory consultation period, 274 respondents returned feedback forms back via the Freepost address, online, or at consultation events. The content of these forms has been added to the feedback received via the website and those returned at the public exhibition and is included in the feedback analysis in **Appendix H**. The issues raised have been incorporated in the 'Issues and Responses' section of this Report (**Chapter 9**).

8.10.3. During the statutory consultation period, 84 emails were received from local residents, consultees and stakeholders. These emails included feedback on the proposals, confirmed attendance at one or more of the consultation events, and posed questions to the project team. All feedback received via this channel has been considered carefully and issues raised have been incorporated in the 'Issues and Responses' section, below.

8.10.4. Responses received from statutory consultees have also been dealt with in **Chapter 9**.

8.10.5. During the statutory consultation period, three calls were received via the Freephone number. One of these calls was asking whether the project would be interested in expanding to include this caller's land. Another call was in favour of the project and wanted more information about investing in the community ownership opportunities. The third call was asking to see visual representation of how the project will look from their house, with indicative representations sourced from the 3D model subsequently sent via email.

9. Responses

9.1. Statutory consultees

9.1.1. The following table sets out the responses received from all statutory consultees, along with the Applicant's response to issues raised. All original responses are collated in **Appendix A**.

9.1.2. Whilst the local authorities as a whole are not identified specialist consultees, we have included the full responses from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Bridgend County Borough Council in this table alongside the Highways responses.

Consultee	Type	Overview	Consultee Issues Raised
CADW	Specialist consultee	Concerns raised with suggestion for further mitigation.	Cadw have identified concerns in relation to the proposed development and have proposed mitigation below. The national policy and Cadw's role in the planning process is set out in Annex A. A list of potentially affected historic assets are listed in Annex B. <u>Assessment</u> The application will be accompanied by an environmental statement prepared by Natural Power, with Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage being produced by Headland Archaeology based on information provided in a desk-based assessment and an ASODOHL assessment presented as appendices to the environmental statement. Chapter 9 has considered the impact of the proposed development on the above designated and has concluded that there will be no more than a minor adverse effect on these designated historic assets and their settings. We concur with this conclusion. However, it has concluded that the proposed development will have a moderate effect on the whole of

			the registered Mynydd Margam landscape of special historic interest. When the ASODOHL assessment is consulted, it can be seen that the proposed development will have a Severe impact on Historic Landscape Character Area (HCLA) 005 Llangynwyd and a Fairly Severe impact on HCLA 004 Mynydd Brombil. These results constitute a significant adverse effect. Whilst the overall impact on the registered historic landscape may be moderate, this conclusion includes HCLA areas where there is no effect, which considerably lowers the overall effect. As such, it is our opinion that the current application will have a significant adverse effect on the registered historic landscape and that without mitigation measures being included in the proposed development proposals Cadw will be minded to object to the application when it is submitted. In our opinion suitable mitigation measures could include a conservation management plan being devised for the historic elements that form HCLA004 and HCLA005 and interpretation measures to explain how the registered landscape has formed and the individual elements in it. Finally, there may also be undesignated historic assets that could be affected by the proposed development and, if you have not already done so, we would advise that you consult the Historic Environment Record held by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust www.ggat.org.uk
Applicant response			
The Applicant has accepted Cadw's proposal for a Conservation Management Plan, to be approved via planning condition. Outline details are included within Chapter 9 of the ES. Consultations have been carried out with GGAT, details for this are recorded within the consultation sections of Chapter 9 and Appendix 3.2 of the ES.			

Consultee	Type	Overview	Consultee Issues Raised
Transport – Welsh Government	Specialist consultee	Issues raised at PAC and in post-PAC correspondence, but clarified in more detail in Access Scoping Response, so that latest response taken as basis for applicant's response	To ensure a new junction on the M4 motorway can be delivered to an appropriate standard, items which may determine whether a new junction is plausible, will need to be resolved, prior to any determinations. The applicant must provide the following information to support this application or resubmit the application with the following details; 1) Detail needs to be provided to prove access for transporting AILs is achievable from the point of entry to the Welsh trunk road network to the point of egress, which minimises any impact on the safety and free flow of trunk road traffic, please supply the likely traveling weights and dimensions of AILs. Proposals identify the removal of signs to allow clearance for the blades. These signs may be demounted to allow the blades to pass, but must be immediately reinstalled as they are safety critical to the operation of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). 2) Enforcement strategy - to confirm how the junction will be controlled for use by windfarm component transportation only, noting the use of cones for the duration of the construction period will not be acceptable and how the access will be stopped up during the operational phase of the project, once AIL deliveries have ceased. 3) Junction spacing / weaving length details - distances between the proposed and existing junctions may contravene current design standards. Should this be observed, updated proposals / justification for its acceptability will be required, for our full deliberation by means of a Departure from Standard application. 4) Signing strategy – detail should take account of the potential for sign clutter, as well as reduced effectiveness of the existing signs in proximity to Junction 38, particularly the ADS sign and potential to lead to confusion with drivers, as signage may overlap the junction positions.

			5) Preliminary embankment or retaining structure details and junction longitudinal gradients. Topography of the mountain side is steep, please see appended google street view screenshots. Therefore, earthworks as shown on previous iterations of the drawings are either incorrect or the slip road is extremely steep (which would not be acceptable) or retaining structures are intended, but no details provided. Updated drawings should show the true footprint of the works accordingly. Please note environmental clearances will be required as part of any planning granted. Welsh Government need to get an understanding of the footprint, the feasibility of construction in such a steep location and reassurance that the proposal will not impact the SRN. 6) A Road Safety Audit Stage 1, in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges GG 119. A stage 1 RSA will be critical for determining the feasibility and giving opportunity to close out any significant issues feeding into detailed design. The applicant shall agree the required measures with the Welsh Government as Welsh trunk road highway authority or other relevant highway authority (as appropriate) prior to the commencement of works on site. An RSA will be required, with the Welsh Government as Overseeing Organisation (OO), as though the use is temporary in nature the junction will be permanent feature, which will have an impact on road user behaviour and there is the possibility for adverse changes to the outcome of a collision during AIL deliveries. 7) It is understood the access will only be used during the construction and decommissioning phases and will be closed off following AIL deliveries, however, departures will be required as appropriate. All new highway features must confirm to the DMRB or have an approved departure from standard - the temporary nature of the junction may be used as mitigation. At present all design Departures from Standards from the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) shall be identified and justification for their acceptability supplied, for our consideration
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			8) In respect of the Y Bryn ES Chapter 11 - Traffic and Transport document, paragraph 11.3.3, there is no reference to Welsh Government. It would be Welsh Government's decision whether a junction could be created. Furthermore, the relationship between the South Wales Trunk Road Agency and Welsh Government needs to be clarified as well as the fact that the Welsh Ministers are the Highway Authority. In addition to the standard conditions included within the draft version of the Welsh Government pulling together Procedure and Advice Guidance (PAG) document (appended). Large excavation and retaining structures, though not identified on proposals at present are foreseen to be required. These works and structures have the potential to severely impact upon our right of support if not implemented via an appropriate method to the required standard. It is brought to the designers' attention; the Welsh Government would advise the following conditions be added to any permission granted by the authority at the appropriate time. Any failure to comply will likely result in legal action being taken. All conditions and notes apply to both temporary and permanent engineering works: [NB: draft proposed planning conditions included full original response at Appendix 3.6 of the ES]
Applicant response			
Point (1) requests evidence that access for transporting AIL is achievable from the point of entry to the Welsh trunk road network. This is provided by the Abnormal Indivisible Load Route Survey Report at Appendix 11.2. As referred to in the AIL Transport Management Plan also at Appendix 11.2, an initial Electronic Service Delivery for Abnormal Loads (ESDAL) consultation has been undertaken, with results summarised in the Abnormal Indivisible Load Route Survey report. As per ongoing correspondence, WG's proposed 'Structural assessment', 'Condition surveys', 'Liability for incidental damage', 'Transport Management Plan', 'Highways works' and 'Section 278' planning conditions are all agreed in principle by the Applicant, subject to the alterations already issued. Point (2) refers to enforcement strategy during both construction and operation. The proposed access would be temporary in nature and would not be open			

to any other traffic than Police escorted AILs. When not in use, the access would be coned off and would only be opened immediately prior to an AIL convoy approaching. Once the convoy has entered the access, the area would be coned off again, emphasising the temporary and restricted nature of the junction. The use of coning in this way would in effect be similar to a works access used by SWTRA when undertaking verge works. Once deliveries are complete, the measures to ensure the closure of the access would be put in place to erase it, including vehicle restraint systems (e.g. safety barriers) and fencing, to be agreed by Welsh Government. It is worth noting that the access would only be in place to support AIL access and would not be in place for the entirety of the wind farm construction phase.

Point (3) relating to junction spacing weaving lengths is not applicable as (i) this temporary works access will not be a junction, and (ii) AIL deliveries will be only made under Police escort in Lane 1 and as such issues relating to weaving lengths would not apply. The access will not extend the limits of highway adoption and as such the existing boundary fence will be reinstated.

Signage strategy is identified at point (4), it is confirmed that road signage would be compliant with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, where appropriate and subject to the agreement of the WG. No direction or junction signage would be provided to this temporary construction access.

Further details are requested relating to earthworks and geotechnical feasibility of constructing the slip road and wind farm access track onto Mynydd Brombil at point (5). In addition to the indicative details shown on Drawing No. SK01 'M4 General Layout – Slip Road Design' in Appendix 11.2, further information is now provided in Appendix 10.5: Geotechnical Assessment. WG's proposed conditions (on page 3 of their Scoping response), together with the 'General Notes' on the same page, are agreed by the Applicant.

WG document "Pulling Together: Best Practice for Transporting Abnormal Loads in Wales" states that an RSA would be a matter for planning condition (para 5.2.6). Furthermore, NPTCBC's Highways Teams response to PAC stated "No Road Safety Audit required for access road off the M4 (Abnormal Indivisible Loads) because the access road is purely for construction traffic not public use". A Road Safety Audit is prescribed at point (6), with draft condition wording provided. The applicant agrees the proposed condition wording.

Point (7) states that the temporary nature of the access may be used as mitigation for any departure from the DMRB standards. Final detailed design, following pre-construction site investigations, will be approved by Welsh Government, however to clarify the access design as shown at Drawing No. SK01 in Appendix 11.2 is DMRB compliant.

Finally, point (8) requested clarification as to relationship between SWTRA and Welsh Government, so this has now been provided.

The remainder of the Scoping response provides proposed planning conditions, in line with those which the Applicant and Welsh Government highways have discussed through consultation. Subject to clarifications and agreement that will be sought going forward, the Applicant is happy in principle with the aims

and purpose of each of those proposed conditions.

Consultee	Type	Overview	Consultee Issues Raised
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (Highways)	Specialist consultee	Various further info/ clarifications required in respect of traffic and transport. SAB approval required.	1. Whilst Chapter 11 deals with Traffic flow and Transport within the ES there is no Transport Statement provided in accordance with TAN 18. 2. Item 11.4.12, 11.4.13 & 11.4.14– agree with the possible mitigation methods proposed. However further details is required showing how the mitigation measures are implemented. 3. Item 11.4.22 quotes <i>"In the absence of Department for Transport (DfT) data at Goytre Road, NPTCBC results of a speed survey undertaken in 2016, this has been considered in the assessment"</i> Using this data may not provide an accurate baseline of traffic flows due to the data being nearly 7 years old. Even though there may be evidence of a number of traffic vehicles the survey is used for speed survey data collection not traffic trips – can we suggest a real-time traffic survey be undertaken within a neutral month? 4. Item 11.5.8 it is noted that no vehicles are proposed to exit the site via the proposed M4 diverge – we support this proposal. 5. Item "Baseline Traffic Data" refers to 2016 NPTCBC speed survey data, and DfT data from 2019. Whilst this exercise would have been useful to give an in principle idea of flows, I would like to see baseline based figures in real time post pandemic. This will provide a more accurate assessment. 6. It is unclear how many vehicle (HGV's and LGV's) will be used at either junction of access point 2 (B4282) and point 3 Goytre Road. The data show a general combination of deliveries but not specific to each junction. 7. Predicted data of vehicle movements are noted, however as previously stated I think fresh and current data would be required for the baseline figures.

			8. Item 11.6.23 percentage assessment increase show >5% average during the course of construction. Whilst this is only a temporary activity estimated over 24 months, In terms of delay can it be quantified how long traffic is likely to be delayed on adopted highways leading to and from the site – timings of deliveries may assist you with mitigation. 9. Table 11.17 - Within Goytre Road it flags up sensitivity risk "Driver Delay", Pedestrian Fear & intimidation and Safety to be HIGH. Whilst the Construction Phase Effects (Item 11.7.5) highlights High Risk to be "Not Significant" We have concerns that this will result in a serious or significant impact upon highway and pedestrian safety. We need to safeguard the community of Goytre. 10. Access from Goytre to site (if agreed) should be tarmaced for the first 10 metres length and full width, to allow a bound surface and prevent overspill of loose material on to the public highway. 11. References were made within the ES to Volume 3: Appendices - The HGV Traffic Management Plan was accessible and refers to further details awaiting the appointment of principle contractor therefore not much to respond on in terms of detailed information at this point. 12. The AIL TMP refers to mitigation proposals to ensure safe delivery of AIL, however no details of site setup, parking, operational vehicles, whether or not additional support is required for widening of access tracks off the trunk road, together with security of access road and proposed preventative measures required to not allow other vehicles to enter off the slip road or park once development is completed. SWTRA to comment on deliveries/delays and structures of ministerial roads. 13. No details of the proposed access slip road and associated highway tie-in to exiting private land (cut and fill), lighting and additional street furniture/signage etc has been submitted for assessment. This information may very well be available within the four documents listed within item 11 above. However it was not accessible to me when undertaking the assessment.
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