

Date Dyddiad 19/02/2025
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Contact Cyswllt Gavin Sterio
Your ref Eich cyf N3T6M4
Our ref Ein cyf P2022/0350

FAO Robert Sparey
Planning & Environment Manager
Planning and Environment Decisions
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Welsh Government

BY EMAIL ONLY
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Dear Madam,

Project Name: Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Grid Connection

Site Address: From Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm north of Maesteg to south of Maesteg, nr. Llangynwyd

Proposed Development: 66kV electricity network infrastructure comprising overhead lines and underground cables which will start at Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm (grid ref: 283941, 194161) in the north, heading south through the western edge of Maesteg (grid ref: 284482, 191458) to a connection point with the existing overhead line approximately 2km south west of the settlement of Llangynwyd (grid ref: 284175, 187428).

I write in regards to your letter dated 27th November 2024, which seeks advice on the scope of the EIA for the above mentioned proposed windfarm development. Consideration has been given to the information provided in the EIA Scoping Report and the questions raised therein, together with the relevant regulations and information that the Authority holds. Our advice is set out below in response to the respective chapters, the questions raised by the applicant and with reference to Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations 2017:

Chapter 1: Introduction

No observations to make.

Chapter 2: Landscape and Visual

No observations to make.

Chapter 3: Traffic and Transport

3.5.6 – Table 3-5 does not reference that the Developer has agreed to install a Permissive Bridleway and Footpath for the lifetime of the Windfarm as illustrated on plan P2025/0043(i) below. The proposed infrastructure crosses this Bridleway in

quick succession at SS 838939 & SS 839 938 and must not interfere with any user type, particularly equestrians on horseback.

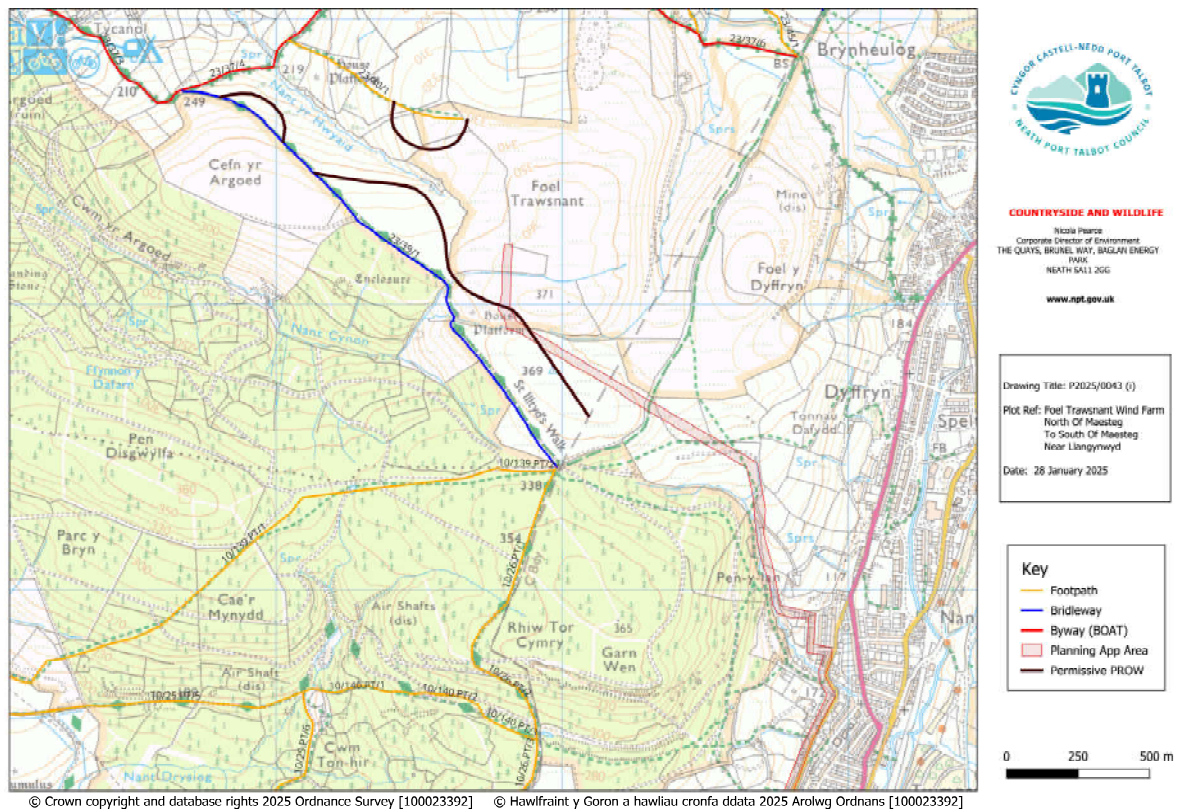


Figure 1 - P2025/0043(i)

I can confirm that Footpath 73.PT enters the site as indicated on plan P2025/0043(ii). This Public Right of Way shall be protected at all times and any damage caused to the Right of Way shall be rectified to the satisfaction of this authority. No alteration or change of condition to the PROW is to be undertaken without further consultation with the Countryside Team.

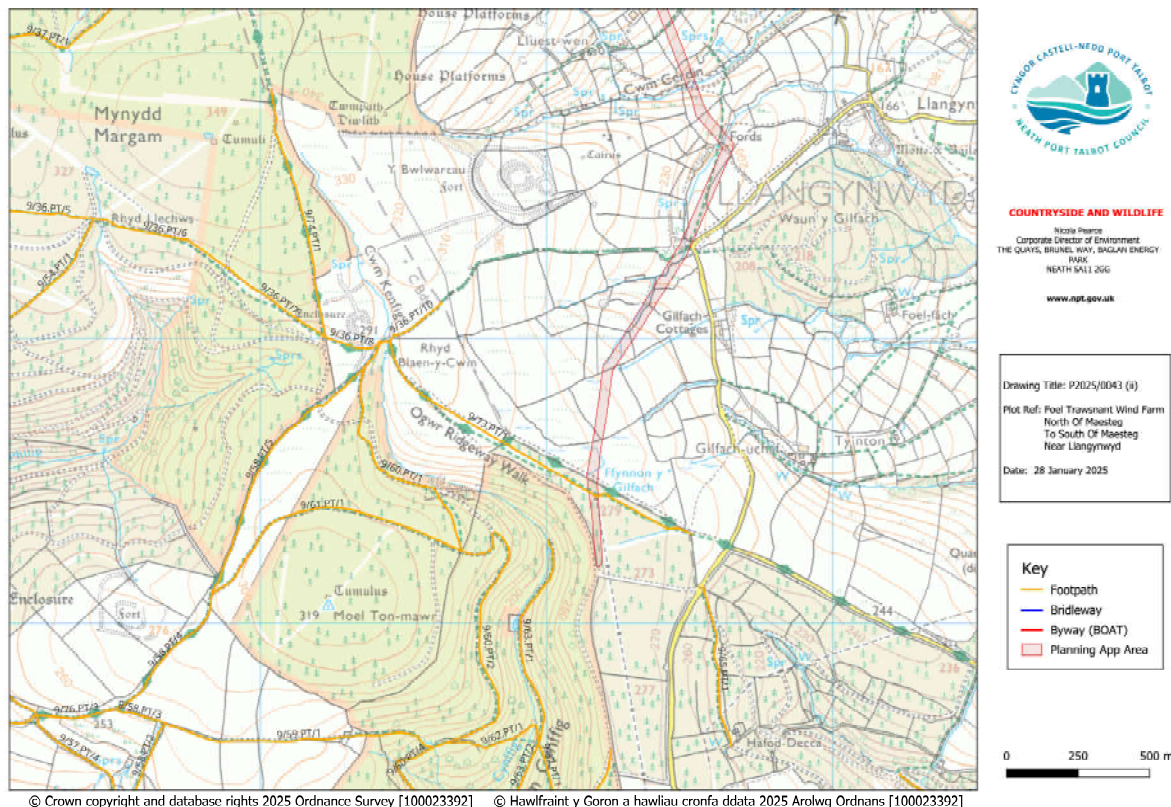


Figure 2 - P2025/0043(ii)

Chapter 4: Ecology

No observations to make subject to the surveys and recommended mitigations being carried out.

Chapter 5 Historic Environment

The information contained within the Historic Environment Record notes that the proposal is located in an area of archaeological potential. It is partially within the Margam Mountain Registered Historic Landscape (HLW (WGI/MGI) 2), specifically the Mynydd Margam Forest Character Area (HLCA010). Whilst we note section 5.5.9, an ASIDOHL2 may be required and Cadw should be consulted over this as they would curate such an element.

It is proposed to include an historic environment assessment in the ES. Such an approach is appropriate and we recommend it be composed of a full desk-based assessment carried out to the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance and to a scope and methodology detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) agreed with ourselves. This is in accordance with both Planning Policy Wales, 12th Edition February 2024, Paragraph 6.1.26 and Technical Advice Note 24 Paragraphs 4.7-4.8.

It should also be noted that the desk-based assessment is the first stage of the archaeological work, and depending on the results it is possible that further mitigation may be required, either pre or post-determination as appropriate.

Chapter 6: Water Resources and Flood Risk

No observations to make.

Chapter 7: Coal Mining

No observations to make.

Chapter 8: Environmental Aspects Scoped Out

8.2 Noise – We agree this can be scoped out and construction noise addressed via the proposed CEMP. Generally we require construction work to take place between 8am and 6pm, if the extended hours are essential for safety or other significant reasons this should be clearly justified within the CEMP.

8.5.7 Land Quality – We agree with the proposal to undertake a Phase 1 Desk Study and the production of an unexpected contamination plan. But given the low risk end use, we do not consider this to be a significant effect.

8.6 Air Quality – We agree that this can be scoped out, with construction dust being addressed through CEMP.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Sterio
Planning Officer
Neath Port Talbot Council