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Planning & Environment Decisions Wales

EIA Scoping Direction

DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4

Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

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This Scoping Direction is provided on the basis of the information submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales on 22 November 2024, in addition to consultation responses received. The advice does not prejudice any recommendation made by an Inspector or any decision made by the Welsh Ministers in relation to the development, and does not preclude the Inspector from subsequently requiring further information to be submitted with the submitted DNS application under Regulation 24 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) ("The 2017 Regulations").

1. Introduction

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) received a request under Regulation 33 of the 2017 Regulations for a Scoping Direction in relation to a proposed development for the Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection by Pennant Walters Ltd.

The request was accompanied by a Scoping Report (SR) dated November 2024 that outlines the proposed scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the proposed development:

'2024-11-22 - EIA Scoping Request - Scoping Report_P02 Final' and '2024-11-22 - EIA Scoping Request - Site Plan - Grid Connection Route' available via the Planning Casework Portal - https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/ and search **CAS-02505-N3T6M4.**

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) is authorised to issue this Scoping Direction on behalf of the Welsh Ministers.

This Direction has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 2017 Regulations as well as current best practice towards preparation of an ES. In accordance with the 2017 Regulations PEDW has consulted on the SR and the responses received from the consultation bodies have been duly considered in adopting this Direction.

2. Scope of the Project

The applicant sought Pre-Application Services advice from PEDW in August 2024, which included advice on defining the project for the purposes of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The applicant has submitted the SR which appears to treat the grid connection as a separate project for the purposes of EIA. The SR states that the ES will consider in each chapter the in-combination effects between the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the proposed development. PEDW is content with this approach and the Scoping Direction is drafted on that basis.

3. Site Description

The proposed development comprises a grid connection between the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the wider national grid. The Project is mainly located within Bridgend County Borough Council, but the start and end of the connection fall within Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

Further information is available in section 1.1 of the SR.

4. Proposed Development

The proposal as described in the SR is for the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm electricity network infrastructure connection, comprising of both 66 kilovolt overhead lines (OHL) and underground cables (UGC) which will provide a connection between the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the wider national grid.

Further information is available in section 1.1 of the SR.

The scope of the EIA should include all elements of the development as identified in the SR, both permanent and temporary, and this Scoping Direction is written on that basis.

In the ES, any maps, drawing and illustrations that are proposed to describe the project should be designed in such a way that they can be overlaid with drawings and illustrations produced for other sections.

In line with the requirements of Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 to the 2017 Regulations, any reasonable alternatives considered should be presented in the ES. The reasons behind the selection of the chosen option should also be provided in the ES, including where environmental effects have informed the choices made.

5. History

The SR notes that the northern section of the proposed OHL travels predominately through improved grassland and marshy grassland, with the southern elements of the OHL crossing an area of mainly improved and poor semi-improved grassland. The majority of the UGC is contained within the existing built environment, with a small section travelling through poor semi-improved grassland and areas of bracken prior to connecting to existing tracks.

6. Consultation

In line with Regulation 33(7) of the 2017 Regulations, formal consultation was undertaken with the following bodies:

- Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC)
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
- Cadw
- Agricultural Land Use & Soil Policy, Welsh Government (LQAS)
- Health and Safety Executive
- Dŵr Cymru
- Coal Authority
- Mid And West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Responses received are included in **Appendix 1**.

7. Environmental Impact Assessment Approach

The Applicants should satisfy themselves that the ES includes all the information outlined in Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations. In addition, the Applicant should ensure that the Non-Technical Summary includes a summary of all the information included in Schedule 4. Consider a structure that allows the author of the ES and the appointed Inspector and Decision Maker to readily satisfy themselves that the ES contains all the information specified Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations. Cross refer to the requirements in the relevant sections of the ES, and include a summary after the Contents page that lays out all the requirements from the Regulations and what sections of the ES they are fulfilled by.

As the assessments are made, consideration should be given to whether standalone topic chapters would be necessary for topics that are currently proposed to be considered as part of other chapters, particularly if it is apparent that there are significant effects and a large amount of information for a particular topic.

There may also be topic areas scoped out of the ES where the developer may wish to include application documents that sit outside of the ES and provide information that will support their consultation(s) and the decision-making process. The developer is encouraged to liaise with key consultees regarding non-ES application documents which are not a legislative requirement of the DNS regime. If agreement cannot be reached over non-ES application documentation, then the developer may wish to explore whether PEDW can help provide clarity via its statutory pre-application advice service.

The ES should focus on describing and quantifying significant environmental effects. Policy considerations / arguments relating to those impacts should be addressed in other documentation supporting the application (e.g. a Planning Statement), which cross references the ES where necessary. This does not imply that ES chapters should not be prepared in accordance with relevant advice in policy documents (e.g. Technical Advice Notes), rather that the ES should concentrate on identifying significant effects on the environment rather than dealing with policy arguments or exhaustively listing policies.

7.1 Baseline

Schedule 4 of the 2017 Regulations states that the ‘baseline scenario’ is “A description of the relevant aspects of the **current** state of the environment” (emphasis added). The baseline of the ES should reflect actual current conditions at that time.

7.2 Reasonable Alternatives

In line with the requirements of Regulation 17 and Schedule 4 to the 2017 Regulations, any reasonable alternatives studied by the Applicant should be presented in the ES. The reasons behind the selection of the chosen option should also be provided in the ES, including where environmental effects have informed the choices made.

It is worth bearing in mind that under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (“the Habitats Regulations”) unless it can be clearly shown to the Welsh Ministers that the project would have no adverse effect on the integrity of any designated sites, it would have to be shown that there is no feasible alternative solution. Further advice regarding the Habitats Regulations is provided in the final chapter of this Scoping Direction.

7.3 Currency of Environmental Information

For all environmental aspects, the applicant should ensure that any survey data is as up to date as possible and clearly set out in the ES the timing and nature of the data on which the assessment has been based. Any study area applied to the assessments should be clearly defined. The impacts of construction, operation and decommissioning activities should be considered as part of the assessment where these could give rise to significant environmental effects. Consideration should be given to relevant legislation, planning policies, and applicable best practice guidance documents throughout the ES.

The ES should include a chapter setting out the overarching methodology for the assessment, which clearly distinguishes effects that are 'significant' from 'non-significant' effects. Any departure from that methodology should be described in individual aspect assessment chapters. Where professional judgement has been applied this should be clearly stated.

The ES topic chapters should report on any data limitations, key assumptions and difficulties encountered in establishing the baseline environment and undertaking the assessment of environmental effects.

7.4 Cumulative Effects

The Planning Inspectorate's guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment sets out a staged process for assessing cumulative impacts which the Applicant should follow when preparing the list of projects for inclusion in the ES: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment

The Applicant should ensure that relevant schemes identified are addressed in the ES using the tiered approach set out in the Advice.

There may be other types of development that could have cumulative impacts with the proposal, and it should not be assumed that the consideration of cumulative impacts can be restricted to overhead lines or renewable energy proposals.

Effects deemed individually not significant from the assessment, could cumulatively be significant, so inclusion criteria based on the most likely significant effects from this type of development may prove helpful when identifying what other developments should be accounted for. The criteria may vary from topic to topic.

Best practice is to include proportionate information relating to projects that are not yet consented, dependent on the level of certainty of them coming forward.

All of the other developments considered should be documented and the reasons for inclusion or exclusion should be clearly stated. Professional judgement should be used to avoid excluding other development that is close to threshold limits but has characteristics likely to give rise to a significant effect; or could give rise to a cumulative effect by virtue of its proximity to the proposed development. Similarly, professional judgement should be applied to other development that exceeds thresholds but may not give rise to discernible effects. The process of refinement should be undertaken in consultation with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs), NRW, Cadw and other consultees, where appropriate.

The scope of the cumulative assessment should be fully explained and justified in the ES.

7.5 Mitigation

Any mitigation relied upon for the purposes of the assessment should be explained in detail within the ES. The likely efficacy of the mitigation proposed should be explained with reference to residual effects. The ES should provide reference to how the delivery of measures proposed to prevent / minimise adverse effects is secured (through legal requirements or other suitably robust methods) and whether relevant consultees agree on the adequacy of the measures proposed.

7.6 Population and Human Health

The Applicant should ensure that the ES addresses any significant effects on population and human health, in light of the EIA Regulations 2017. This could be addressed under the separate topic chapters or within its own specific chapter.

7.7 Transboundary Effects

Schedule 4 Part 5 of the EIA Regulations requires a description of the likely significant transboundary effects to be provided in an ES. The ES should address this matter as appropriate.

7.8 Topics Scoped In but not subject to a standalone chapter

For such topics it may be helpful to users of the ES if it includes a summary table that signposts the chapters where these matters are addressed.

8. Environmental Impact Assessment Aspects

This section contains PEDW's specific comments on the scope and level of detail of information to be provided in the Applicant's ES. Environmental topics or features are not scoped out unless specifically addressed and justified by the Applicant, and confirmed as being scoped out by PEDW. In accordance with Regulation 17(4)(c) the ES should be based on this Scoping Direction in so far as the Proposed Development remains materially the same as the Proposed Development described in the Applicant's Scoping Report.

PEDW has set out in this Direction where it has / has not agreed to scope out matters on the basis of the information available at this time. PEDW is content that the receipt of a Scoping Direction should not prevent the Applicant from subsequently agreeing with the relevant consultees to scope such matters out of the ES, where further evidence has been provided to justify this approach. However, in order to demonstrate that the matters have been appropriately addressed, the ES should explain the reasoning for scoping them out and justify the approach taken.

8.1 Aspects Scoped In

Subject to the comments provided at Table 1, the following aspects are scoped into the ES:

Decommissioning
Climate Change (not necessarily as standalone chapter)
Major Accidents and Disasters (not necessarily as a standalone chapter)
Landscape and Visual
Traffic and Transport
Ecology
Historic Environment
Water Resources and Flood Risk
Electromagnetic Fields
Material Assets and Waste (not necessarily as a standalone chapter)
Population and Human Health (not necessarily as a standalone chapter)

9. Table 1: Planning and Environment Decisions Wales Comments

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
	General		
ID.1	1.1.4 – 1.1.5	Description of development	The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments outlining expectations of what the description of development should include. This includes consideration in the ES if the cabling needs to be replaced because its performance efficacy has reduced over the operating time.
ID.2	1.3	Reasonable alternatives	PEDW welcomes that the SR states that the ES will include consideration of the options considered prior to the final route being chosen. PEDW advises that the ES includes a robust rationale for the selection of overhead and underground cabling, with appropriate assessment of alternatives. The applicant's attention is drawn to section 7.2 above. The applicant's attention is also drawn to comments from NRW, highlighting consideration of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and advising the applicant considers the environmental implications of all options for the works and provides reasons for not opting for the least environmentally damaging solution.
ID.3		Approach to mitigation	PEDW notes the SR includes references in each chapter to mitigation measures which can be embedded into the design of the proposed development. PEDW's position is that 'embedded mitigation' is better addressed under the 'Reasonable alternatives considered' in the ES.
ID.4	1.5.5 – 1.5.6	Cumulative effects	PEDW notes the SR states that other developments which are operational, subject to planning approval or subject to a full and validated planning application will be included in the consideration of potential cumulative effects.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			To ensure a comprehensive assessment in the final ES, the applicant is advised to liaise with the LPAs on development proposals that should be included in the cumulative assessment, as they will be aware of developments in their area which will need to be considered. Further to the statement in the SR as outlined above that the ES will consider in each chapter the in-combination effects between the consented Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the proposed development, PEDW advises that cumulative effects are clearly addressed in each chapter of the ES.
ID.5	1.1.29 / 6.5.7	Decommissioning	PEDW notes that the SR at paragraph 1.1.29 states that following the operational phase, the connection (underground and overground) will be left in situ as it has the potential to become integrated into the wider distribution network. The SR adds this would also avoid further disruption to the surrounding environment. However, at paragraph 6.5.7 the SR states that 'some' infrastructure will be left in-situ. PEDW advises that the ES should provide clarity on the decommissioning stage. The ES should be based on a worst-case scenario and decommissioning should be explored in a proportionate manner in the ES. At a minimum, the ES should clearly indicate how decommissioning of the site will take place, clearly indicate what will be left on site and what will be removed. PEDW also notes that decommissioning is scoped in for several topics as outlined in summary table 1-1. **Therefore, decommissioning is scoped into the ES in a proportionate manner.**
ID.6	1.2.2	Climate Change	PEDW agrees that Climate Change does not require a standalone chapter as related impacts will be considered in other chapters, as indicated in ES. This should include the impact of the project on climate and the vulnerability of the project to climate change. **Climate Change is therefore scoped into the ES, but not as a standalone chapter.**

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
	Applicant's aspects proposed to be scoped out		
ID.7	8.2	Noise and Vibration	NPTCBC and BCBC concur that noise can be scoped out. The applicant's attention is drawn to NPTCBC's comments regarding construction working hours. PEDW notes the SR states the noise and vibration will be controlled through a Noise and Vibration Management Plan within a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). This will determine the mitigation required as well as providing general good practice measures to be adopted. PEDW welcomes the SR states any mitigation measures will be agreed with the local authority Environmental Health Officers. PEDW is content for noise and vibration to be scoped out and recommends the CEMP is included a technical appendix to the ES.
ID.8	8.3	Socio-Economics	PEDW agrees that this topic can be scoped out.
ID.9	8.4	Major Accidents and Disasters	PEDW notes that table 8-2 of the SR outlines which major accidents and disasters have been scoped in and that the relevant ES chapter(s) identified will consider the matter in more detail. The SR states that this may show that no further assessment is needed, or that further assessment or mitigation is required. As such, **Major Accidents and Disasters is scoped into the ES, but not necessarily as standalone chapter**. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from the Coal Authority regarding coal mining features which may pose potential risk to surface stability and public safety. This is further addressed under the Coal Mining section below. The applicant's attention is also drawn to advice from the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service regarding adequate water supplies and vehicle access for firefighting purposes.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.10	8.5	Land Quality	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from BCBC regarding the site falling within a number of Category 1 and 2 Mineral Safeguarding Zones and the requirements that proposals would need to demonstrate. NPTCBC agrees with the proposal to undertake a Phase 1 Desk Study and the production of an unexpected contamination plan. They add that given the low-risk end use, they do not consider this to be a significant effect. PEDW notes the SR states that the findings of the Phase 1 Desk Study will be used to develop the CEMP, which will include a protocol for responding to any unexpected contamination encountered during ground works. In relation to agricultural land quality, soil and peat, LQAS agrees with the assessment, considerations and proposals as set out in paragraphs 8.5.25 – 8.5.33 of the SR. LQAS agrees agricultural land quality and soils (including peat soils) can be scoped out. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NRW stating that the early establishment of buffer strips during surface restoration work can filter runoff and reduce soil erosion, which is particularly important on steep slopes and bare soil vulnerable to runoff. PEDW notes the SR states a Soils Management Plan forming part of the CEMP will include measures to protect soils and that if peat is found that meets the criteria and cannot be avoided, a Peat Management Plan will be produced to support the CEMP. Given these considerations, PEDW is content for land quality to be scoped out. PEDW recommends the CEMP, and Peat Management Plan if produced, is included a technical appendix to the ES.
ID.11	8.6	Air Quality	BCBC and NPTCBC concur this topic can be scoped out. NPTCBC adds that construction dust should be addressed through the CEMP.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			PEDW notes that the SR states that following best practice construction methods, there are likely to be no impacts from dust. PEDW agrees these should be set out in the CEMP, which should be included as a technical appendix to the ES. PEDW is therefore content for Air Quality to be scoped out.
	Landscape and Visual		
ID.12	2.2.2 – 2.2.4	Study area	PEDW notes the SR states that a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) will be produced to inform the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). PEDW welcomes the SR states that the proposed initial study area will be refined further in agreement with local authorities and other relevant consultees following future design development stages. PEDW recommends this includes NRW and Cadw.
ID.13	2.5.2	Baseline Environment	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from BCBC regarding the location of the site within the Western Uplands and Foel y Dyffryn Special Landscape Areas (SLAs). The LPA highlights the protection of the settings of SLAs, with consideration of the views from those areas to settlements and for development within settlements to provide an attractive transition between the urban areas and the countryside. PEDW welcomes that BCBC confirms they have discussed suggested viewpoints with the applicant.
ID.14	2.6.4	Viewpoints	PEDW notes the SR does not include detail on viewpoints. A brief reference to a detailed viewpoint analysis is included in relation to construction activities, although this is not included under operational activities. PEDW recommends the applicant agrees required viewpoints, in relation to both construction and operational phases, with the LPAs, NRW and Cadw, ensuring this is clearly addressed in the ES.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.15	2.6.3	Photomontages	PEDW notes the SR states that it is not deemed necessary to include photomontages at the ES stage, due to the relatively small scale of the works, the extent of the wooden poles and the minimal receptors affected. PEDW recommends this approach is agreed with the LPAs, NRW and Cadw following agreement of the study area and viewpoints.
ID.16	2.6.4	Receptors	PEDW notes the SR refers to receptors within the scoping boundary / study area. These will need to be reviewed following agreement of the study area as outlined above. The ES should clearly outline receptors affected and any mitigation required. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises with the LPAs, NRW and Cadw on relevant receptors to be considered in the baseline characterisation and subsequent assessment and advises the agreed approach is clearly outlined in the ES.
ID.17		Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)	PEDW notes the SR includes potential significant landscape and visual effects on residential receptors. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with both LPAs to discuss whether a RVAA is required, ensuring this is appropriately addressed in the ES.
	Traffic and Transport		
ID.18	3.2.4	Highways	PEDW notes the SR states that the construction traffic route is currently unknown. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with both Highways Authorities once further detail is available, to ensure Traffic and Transport is adequately assessed and proportionately addressed in the ES.
ID.19	3.2.4	Site access	PEDW notes it is not clear whether site access will include any vegetation clearance (including hedgerow or trees) or track widening. Should this be the case, the ecological assessment and appropriate studies should include the whole site and should be included within the ES where appropriate. The material to be used as well and the impact

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			that these materials will have on the surrounding area (e.g. hydrology, geology) should also be considered.
ID.20	3.2.5 / 3.5.3 / 3.6	Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) / Public Rights of Way Management Plan (PRoWMP)	BCBC confirms they agree with the methodology proposed under Recommendations and Mitigations in the SR, detailing the CTMP and PRoWMP. PEDW notes the SR states these documents will set out mitigation measures and as such PEDW recommends both documents are included as technical appendices to the ES.
ID.21	3.5.6	Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NPTCBC highlighting Table 3-5 in the SR does not reference that the developer has agreed to install a Permissive Bridleway and Footpath for the lifetime of the Foel Trawsnant Windfarm, which the proposed development crosses. NPTCBC adds the proposed development should not interfere with any user type, particularly equestrians on horseback. The applicant's attention is also drawn to NPTCBC's comments in relation to footpath 73.PT, included in the SR, highlighting this PRoW should be protected and the Countryside Team should be consulted prior to any alteration or change of condition. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with the NPTCBC's Countryside Team on these matters. As a side note, the consenting strategy for any stopping up or diversion of existing PROWs is a matter for the applicant. Please note that only permanent stopping up or diversion orders can be included as Secondary Consents alongside the main DNS application. Should the applicant wish to pursue this option, please contact PEDW and the Orders Branch of the Transport Directorate of the Welsh Government (TransportOrdersBranch@gov.wales) to ensure that appropriate materials (including draft Order[s]) are included in the statutory DNS

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			pre-application consultation and publicity phase. The applicant is encouraged to liaise with the LPAs and seek their own legal advice when considering their consenting strategy.
	Ecology		
ID.22	4.6.5	Important Ecological Features	PEDW notes the SR states that the scoping in of Important Ecological Features may change following further assessment and that this will be addressed in detail in the ES. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW and the LPAs when further detail is known on the features to be scoped into the ES. Any departure from the advice provided by NRW and the LPA should be supported by a robust rationale in the ES.
ID.23	4.2 / 4.4.6	Habitat surveys	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NRW regarding previous ecological surveys undertaken. NRW advises that the scope, detail and results of the Phase 1 habitat survey are included in the ES. NRW also notes the SR states Phase 2 surveys for water vole and great crested newt (GCN) were undertaken, but the survey methodology has not been provided for NRW to advise on. NRW also notes a further Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken, including a site walkover, with a survey area of the development area plus a 50 m buffer. NRW advises that to fully assess the possible impact of the development on some protected species, including GCN, the 50 m buffer is insufficient. NRW also advises that Phase 1 surveys are undertaken and completed during the summer to ensure the best chance of identifying the habitats present. PEDW highlights that although the 1990 guidelines are quoted in NRW's response as guidelines which habitat surveys should accord with, NRW have previously confirmed they endorse the Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey – a technique for environmental audit (2010, JNCC Resource Hub) as an appropriate standard: https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/9578d07b-e018-4c66-9c1b-47110f14df2a

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW regarding habitat survey methodology and requirements, to ensure this is appropriately assessed and addressed in the ES.
ID.24	4.6.1 – 4.6.5	Species surveys	BCBC welcomes the SR states further surveys are proposed. BCBC adds that following completion, the scheme should be amended as necessary to ensure there are no negative impacts to designated sites, their qualifying features, or any irreplaceable habitats, priority habitats or protected or notable species. The applicant's attention is also drawn to comments from NRW highlighting requirements for undertaking targeted species surveys, including the validity of survey data. NRW notes that bats, otter, dormice and water voles are scoped in for further survey, but states that as the nature and / or scope of survey for these species has not been provided, they are unable to provide detailed comments. NRW's high level comments are provided below. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW on the methodology and requirements for bat, otter, dormice and water vole survey and assessment, including on any required mitigation measures, ensuring this is appropriately addressed in the ES.
ID.25	4.6.11	Bat roosts	NRW welcomes the SR states that where possible features such bat roosts will be retained and protected. They note that Appendix A, Phase 1 Habitat Results, identifies the location of three trees with bat roosting suitability along the OHL, but the impact to these trees either through required felling or maintenance, is not yet clear. The applicant's attention is drawn to their advice on required inspection and detailed survey in accordance with published best practice survey guidelines 'Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines' (4th edition), published by the Bat Conservation Trust, 2023. NRW advises this is submitted with the application.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.26	Table 4-9	Bat activity	NRW notes that the OHL route has the potential to negatively affect bat activity and advises that the removal of trees, woodland, and hedgerows are limited as far as possible to avoid impacts to existing bat flight lines. NRW states that if bat habitat is to be removed, walked transect surveys of the site should be undertaken, supported by static monitoring throughout the active season to demonstrate patterns of movement across the site. They add that the ES should set out the presence of, and potential impact on, all bat species, paying specific attention to Annex II species (such as Barbastelle, Lesser Horseshoe and Greater Horseshoe bat). NRW states that all surveys should be undertaken in accordance with the Bat Conservation Trust best practice guidance detailed above.
ID.27	Table 4-9	Otter	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NRW regarding records of otter to the east of the development boundary and along the Llynfi River. NRW advises it should be considered whether there will be any loss of riparian habitat through the development works and therefore whether survey for otter is required. NRW states that surveys should be carried out to assess the potential impacts of all stages of the proposed development on otters, and include the potential for otter holts, evidence of slides, couches, sprainting and commuting routes. NRW highlights that potential breeding sites may be away from river corridors and that trail / activity cameras may be required to confirm the significance of any evidence.
ID.28	Table 4-8	Dormice	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NRW regarding dormouse records within 1.1 km of the site boundary. They add that there appears to be potential dormouse habitat within and at the boundaries of the development site, but that this is difficult to determine without further information. NRW notes the SR states dormouse tubes have been installed, but as neither the survey methodology nor the results have been included, they are unable to comment on survey adequacy.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			NRW advises that should presence of dormice be confirmed within the site boundary or wider scoped-in area, an assessment of the impacts on dormice and proposals for mitigation or compensation should be included in the ES. NRW advises that this includes an assessment of the quality of the habitat for dormice. NRW states that where possible, it expects that important features for dormice would be retained and their function for dormice protected.
ID.29	4.2.1 – 4.2.2	Water vole	NRW notes the SR confirms water vole survey was undertaken, but the survey scope methodology has not been provided. They note that evidence of water vole was found and that it is considered likely that water vole is present in the surrounding area due to the suitability of habitat. NRW advises surveys are undertaken along the length of OHL route, including a walkover of all watercourses within the site to search for signs of the species. NRW advises that surveys consider the water courses and the surrounding suitable habitat extending beyond the immediate water environment, considering that water voles may exhibit a fossorial lifestyle. NWR advises that survey results should further inform the proposed mitigation measures and that where possible, habitat suitable for supporting water vole should be retained and protected.
ID.30	4.2.3	GCN	NRW notes GCN appear to have been scoped out of further assessment based on negative eDNA results from four water bodies surveyed in 2024. NRW highlights that the SR provides limited information on the surveys completed or the rationale for scoping GCN out. NRW advises that all waterbodies within 250 m of the application boundary are identified and a GCN eDNA survey of all appropriate waterbodies is undertaken, regardless of the Habitat Suitability Index score awarded. The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's advice on taking of and use of eDNA samples.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			NRW also advises further surveys are undertaken if the proposed development is within 250 m of a pond confirmed to be used by GCN, as per the following guidance by English Nature (2001), available via the CIEEM website: https://cieem.net/resource/great-crested-newt-mitigation-guidelines/ NRW advises that GCN should therefore be scoped in or a full justification is provided as to why they have been scoped out. Given these concerns and the lack of detail on GCN in the SR, **GCN are scoped into the ES.** PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW on survey requirements and outcomes. Should, following these discussions, it be decided that GCN can be scoped out, a robust rationale for this should be provided in the ES.
ID.31	Table 4.9	Ornithology	NRW notes the SR identifies breeding birds within the survey area, which may be impacted by the project. NRW advises that previous ecological surveys undertaken are included in the ES. NRW also advises consideration is given to the likely significant effects on these species and that appropriate avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and / or compensation is proposed following the stepwise approach within Planning Policy Wales. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW on the assessment of effects on breeding birds, including on any required mitigation measures, ensuring this is appropriately addressed in the ES.
ID.32	4.5	Protected species - impact assessment	NRW highlights that, should protected species be found during the surveys, information must be provided identifying the species-specific impacts together with any mitigation and compensation measures proposed. Where this concerns protected species which are also notified features of designated sites, the impacts from both perspectives should be considered.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.33	4.4.3	Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from BCBC highlighting the site overlaps with a number of SINCs and that development within a SINC should be compatible with the nature conservation or scientific interest of the area, whilst promoting their educational role. Attention is also drawn to comments from NRW on this matter, advising the applicant liaises with the relevant LPA and their ecologist to understand the impacts and mitigation requirements for these SINC sites. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises with both LPAs on this matter, ensuring the impacts on SINC are appropriately addressed in the ES.
ID.34	Table 1.1 / Table 4.9	Trees, woodland and hedgerows	PEDW notes that summary Table 1.1, under ecology, scopes in the removal of trees within the project area and this is also listed in table 4-9 as a potential significant effect to be assessed. However, no further detail has been provided on the likely impact to trees, woodland (including ancient woodland) or hedgerows as a result of the development. PEDW advises that once the design is finalised, if there are any impacts on trees, woodland and hedgerows, an assessment should be undertaken, including impact on protected species and ecological connectivity. The visual impact of the loss of trees would also need to be considered in the Landscape and Visual chapter. The assessment should be included as a technical appendix to the ES.
ID.35	4.5.10 – 4.5.13	Cumulative effects	PEDW welcomes the SR states a detailed assessment of cumulative effects will be provided in the ES and that consultation with the LPA will be required for this. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises with both LPAs on development proposals that should be included in the cumulative assessment, as they will be aware of developments in their area which will need to be considered.
ID.36	4.6.6 / 4.6.11	Mitigation and compensation	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from BCBC stating that it appears that without appropriate mitigation, the works have the potential to negatively impact various

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			designated sites, priority habitats and protected species. They add that detailed mitigation to minimise disturbance etc. will also be required. The applicant's attention is also drawn to comments from BCBC regarding the requirements for demonstrating Net Benefit to Biodiversity, which they state should go beyond proposals required as mitigation and compensation. The applicant's attention is further drawn to comments from NRW advising that the ES sets out how the long-term site security of any mitigation or compensation will be assured, advocating that where the potential for significant impacts on protected species is identified, a Conservation Plan is prepared for the relevant species and included as an annex to the ES. PEDW notes that SR includes a commitment to a CEMP which would include measures to minimise effects on protected species and impacts resulting from (for example) disturbance. PEDW recommends the CEMP is included as a technical appendix to the ES.
	Historic Environment		
ID.37	5.2.1 / 5.5.8	Study area	Cadw notes that the study area used for the SR is 300 m. They state that whilst this may be appropriate for non-designated historic assets, a study area of 3 km should be used to determine the impact on the settings of designated historic assets. The applicant's attention is drawn to those assets listed in Cadw's response. They state that the impact should be determined in accordance with the guidance in the document "The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales". Cadw would expect a stage 1 assessment to be carried out for all the designated historic assets inside 3 km, which will determine the need for stages 2 to 4 to be carried out for specific historic assets. The results of the stage 1 should be included as an appendix in the ES.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.38	5.3 / 5.6	Methodology	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NPTCBC noting the historic environment assessment and recommending it is 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 the LPA, in accordance with PPW and TAN 24. NPTCBC also highlights 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. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with the LPAs and Heneb on a WSI and welcomes the SR states that where necessary engagement with Cadw and LPAs will be undertaken when refining the scope of the historic environment assessment for the ES.
	5.3.4	Legislation	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from Cadw highlighting the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 has been enacted, consolidating a number of Acts and leading to revisions to Technical Advice Note 24 and other guidance notes.
ID.39	5.5.9	Margam Mountain Registered Historic Landscape	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from BCBC regarding the site being partially located with the Historic Landscape of Margam Mountain. BCBC states they are generally satisfied that the proposed development will not be detrimental to the Historic Landscape in line with the proposed methodology in the SR. CADW concurs with the SR that the scale of the proposals is such that an ASIDOHL assessment would not be an appropriate methodology to assess the impact of the connection on the registered historic landscape, although the localised impacts will still need to be considered in the EIA.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
	Water Resources and Flood Risk		
ID.40	6.3.16	Flood Risk	NRW notes that a high level assessment of flood risk and flood consequences will be undertaken and is content that a stand-alone Flood Consequences Assessment is not required. NRW advises the applicant consults the relevant lead local authority on surface water flooding.
ID.41	6.1.4	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	NRW notes the SR identifies watercourses that could potentially be impacted by the project, but that it is proposed not to undertake a WFD assessment. NRW highlights that due to the number of watercourses that the project crosses, the risk of potential impact to the aquatic environment could be high. NRW therefore recommends a WFD assessment is carried out and states that any works should not lead to a deterioration in that waterbody or prevent that waterbody from meeting a good status / potential.
ID.42	6.4	Pollution sensitive receptors	The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments advising the ES identifies pollution sensitive receptors and their risks. NRW draws the applicant's attention to 'Guidance for Pollution Prevention 1 - Understanding your environmental responsibilities – good environmental practices', available via the National Archives: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20140328090931/http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/pollution/39083.aspx
ID.43	6.5.1 – 6.5.2 / 6.6	Pollution control	BCBC agrees with the proposed methodology as set out in section 6.6 for controlling pollution. The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments regarding required pollution prevention measures, including in relation to any water coming into contact with wet concrete; the storage of all fuel, oil and chemicals used on site; intercepting and diverting clean or uncontaminated water; and action to take should any discolouration / sedimentation

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			or pollution of the watercourse occur. NRW outlines the principles of the pollution control hierarchy, which should be followed. The applicant's attention is further drawn to NRW's comments regarding the monitoring of water quality leaving the working area to avoid a pollution incident. NRW adds that pollution mitigation measures will need to be reviewed regularly. NRW draws the applicant's attention to of 'Guidance for Pollution Prevention 5 PP 5 - Works and maintenance in or near water', also available via the National Archives, link above.
ID.44		Silt	NRW highlights that due to the nature of the site being a hillside valley it is vital that silt mitigation, management and measures are in place during the construction phase. They add this should include details of impacts during heavy rainfall. The applicant's attention is drawn to NRW's comments highlighting that all efforts should be made to prevent any silt being produced by the works and outlining silt mitigation measures should be implemented throughout the site where appropriate.
ID.45	6.5.1 / 1.1.14	Cabling	PEDW notes the SR states the exact construction method for the underground cabling is yet to be confirmed. NRW states that all avenues and methods of laying cable should be explored and that they note and encourage the use of a Cable Plough due to its low impact on the environment. NRW states that the agreed method of working and installation of cabling must be complied with at all times to avoid discolouration / sedimentation or pollution of the watercourse. NRW states that it is important that no large sections of trenches are left open when dug for cabling. They add that these trenches connect to watercourses, and during rainfall events, can cause a pollution.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
ID.46	6.3.19 / 6.5.2	CEMP	NRW advises that due to the risk of harm to the aquatic environment an overarching CEMP is submitted alongside site specific CEMPs where river crossings are used and / or underground cabling is to be installed. NRW advises that as the risk of silt mobilisation and runoff is high, the CEMPs should include detailed information regarding robust mitigation measures to be deployed at each relevant location, to be controlled by condition. PEDW notes the SR states that the recommended approach for managing surface water runoff during the construction phase will be summarised in the CEMP. The SR also states risks in relation to contaminated land that could affect environment receptors will be managed through compliance with standard best practice guidance and in accordance with measures that will be summarised in the CEMP. PEDW recommends the applicant liaises directly with NRW on the approach to the CEMP and / or site specific CEMPs and advises the documents are included as technical appendices to the ES.
ID.47	6.5.8	Decommissioning	NRW notes that the SR states underground cables will be left in-site once the scheme is decommissioned. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from NRW highlighting these could degrade over time and release chemicals, polluting groundwater. NRW advises this is considered within the ES. PEDW notes table 6.5 confirms pollution risk to groundwater resources is scoped in at decommissioning stage and recommends NRW's concerns are appropriately addressed in the ES. The ES should be clear about the proposed approach and likely effects in relation to the decommissioning of underground cabling.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
	Coal Mining		
ID.48	Chapter 7	Coal Mining Risk Assessment	The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from the Coal Authority regarding coal mining features being present along the grid connection route, which may pose potential risk to surface stability and public safety. The Coal Authority concurs with the recommendation that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment should be prepared, with the findings used to inform any further investigatory and remedial works. They add that where possible features such as mine entries and their zone of influence should be avoided. As the Coal Mining Risk Assessment will address mitigation measures, PEDW recommends it is included as a technical appendix to the ES.
	Other Considerations		
ID.49		Electromagnetic fields (EMF)	The SR does not consider potential impacts from EMF on for example human health, ecology, communication and utilities. This should be addressed and further information is required on the applicant's proposed approach to this matter. **EMF during operation is therefore scoped into the ES in a proportionate manner.** If impacts from EMF are to be scoped out, the ES should provide a robust rationale for this.
ID.50		Material Assets and Waste	PEDW notes the SR includes limited detail on potential impacts in relation to material assets and waste. It will be necessary to address this in a proportionate manner in relevant chapters. **Material Assets and Waste is therefore scoped into the ES, although not necessarily as a standalone chapter**. The CEMP should also be included as a technical appendix to the ES.
ID.51		Population and Human Health	PEDW reminds the applicant that, as outlined in section 7.6 above, the ES should address any significant effects on population and human health, in light of the EIA Regulations 2017.

ID	Reference in Scoping Report	Issue	Comment
			This could be addressed under a separate topic chapters or within its own specific chapter. **Population and Human Health is therefore scoped into the ES, but not necessarily as a standalone chapter.**
ID.52		Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	The applicant's attention is drawn the IEMA guidance on Effective Non-Technical Summaries for Environmental Impact Assessment: https://www.iema.net/media/vksermak/2023_iema_advicenoteguide_nts.pdf The guidance indicates that large linear projects may impact too many receptors to report in one document and it may be appropriate to split the NTS into smaller documents covering smaller spatial extents.

10. Other Matters

This section does not constitute part of the Scoping Direction, but addresses other issues related to the proposal.

10.1 Changes to PPW

On 11 October 2023 the Welsh Government introduced changes to Chapter 6 of PPW relating to:

- Green Infrastructure,
- Net Benefit for Biodiversity and the Step-wise Approach,
- Protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and
- Trees and Woodlands.

Details are available in the relevant 'Dear Chief Planning Officer' letter: https://www.gov.wales/addressing-nature-emergency-through-planning-system-update-chapter-6-planning-policy-wales

These changes have now been consolidated into a new edition of PPW (ed. 12), published on 07 February 2024: https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales

10.2 Habitats Regulation Assessment

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 require competent authorities, before granting consent for a plan or project, to carry out an appropriate assessment (AA) in circumstances where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects). The competent authority in respect of a DNS application is the relevant Welsh Minister who makes the final decision. It is the Applicant's responsibility to provide sufficient information to the competent authority to enable them to carry out an AA or determine whether an AA is required.

When considering whether or not significant effects are likely, applicants should ensure that their rationale is consistent with the CJEU finding (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62017CN0323) that mitigation measures (referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects) should be assessed within the framework of an AA and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site when determining whether an AA is required ('screening'). The screening stage must be undertaken on a precautionary basis without regard to any proposed integrated or additional avoidance or reduction measures. Where the likelihood of significant effects cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information the competent authority must proceed to carry out an AA to establish whether the plan or project will affect the integrity of the European site, which can include at that stage consideration of the effectiveness of the proposed avoidance or reduction measures.

Where it is effective to cross refer to sections of the ES in the HRA, a clear and consistent approach should be adopted.

The Planning Inspectorate's guidance for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects – Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments may prove useful when considering what information to

provide to allow the Welsh Ministers to undertake AA: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-habitats-regulations-assessments

10.3 SuDS Consent

Whilst a separate legislative requirement from planning permission, the Applicant's attention is drawn to the statutory SuDS regime that came into force in Wales in January 2019. The requirement to obtain SuDS consent prior to construction may require iterative design changes that influence the scheme that is to be assessed within the ES and taken through to application. As such, it is recommended that the applicant contact the local SuDS Approval Body early on.

Appendix 1: Consultation Responses

Date Dyddiad 19/02/2025
Direct line Rhif ffôn [redacted]

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 Wales
Welsh Government

BY EMAIL ONLY
PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales

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.

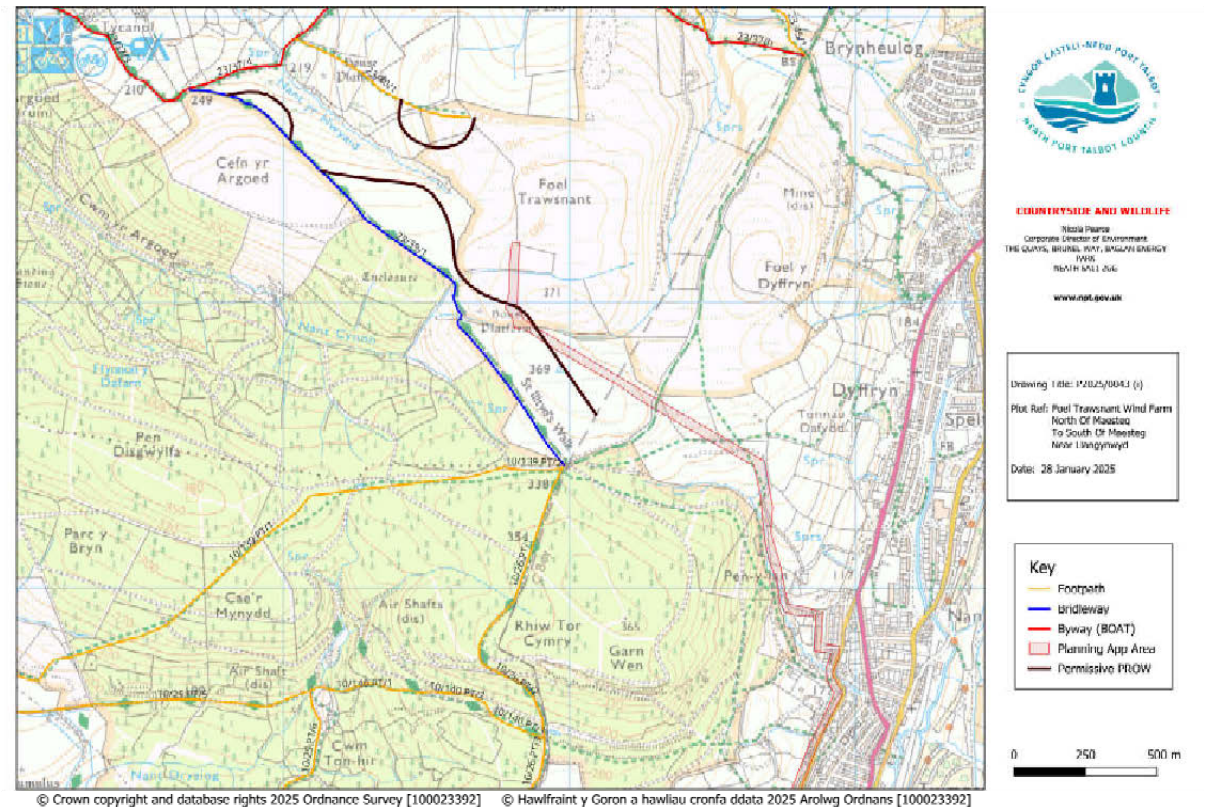

Figure 1 - P2025/0043(i)

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.

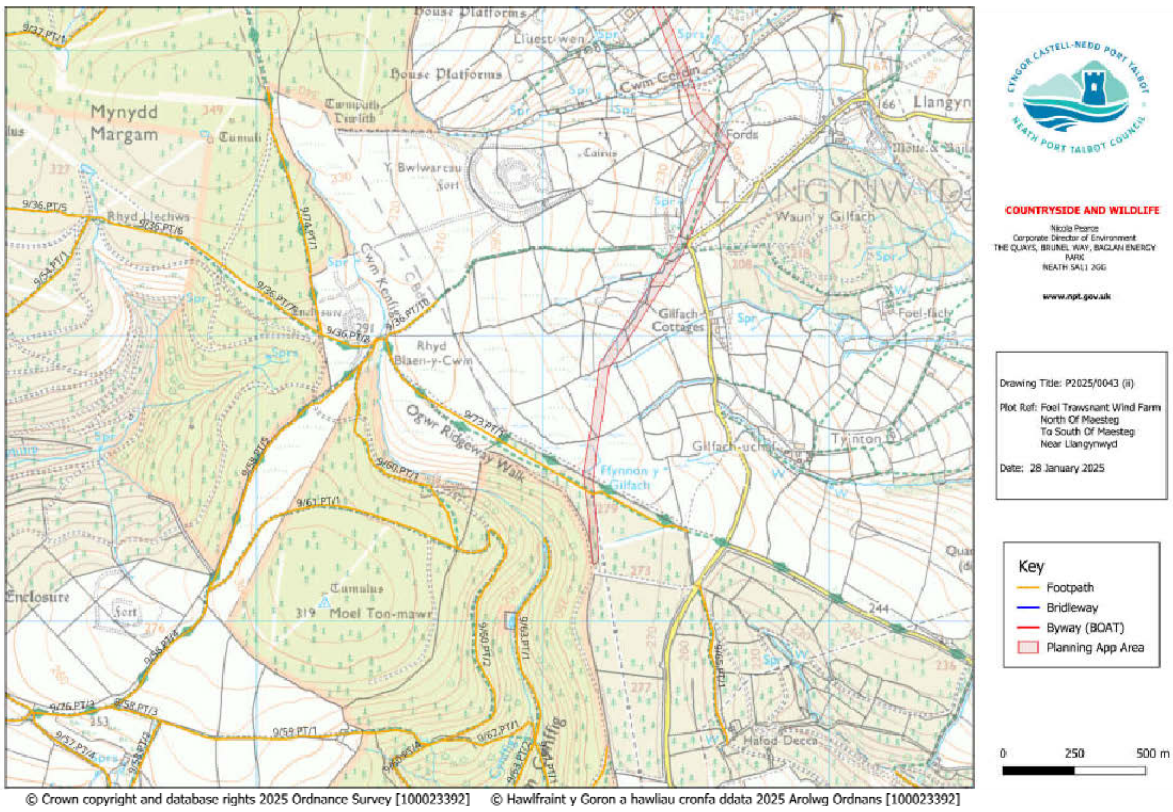

Figure 2 - P2025/0043(ii)

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

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Bridgend County Borough Council

Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

PEDW Infrastructure,
Crown Buildings,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,

fao Marloes Holtkamp
PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales
[redacted]

Grwp Datblygu / Development Group
Ebost / Email: planning@bridgend.gov.uk
Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct Line: [redacted]
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: **Rhodri Davies**
Ein cyf / Our ref: **P/24/608/DNS**
Eich cyf / Your ref:
Dyddiad / Date: 20 February 2025

Dear Marloes,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 (As Amended)

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 - Regulation 33(7)

Project Name: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

I refer to your request for advice on the scope of the EIA and the proposed methodologies outlined in the Scoping Report, in relation to the authority's functions in order to inform your Scoping Direction.

I apologise for the delay in responding to the request. As an aside, in terms of the host LPA for this site, it would appear that the connection is predominantly within BCBC not NPTC but we accept that the grid connection starts and finishes in NPTC.

The purpose of the scoping report is to define the environmental effects which will need to be assessed as part of the EIA, to establish the availability of baseline data, to define a survey and assessment framework for the EIA and to allow the relevant parties to comment on the proposed methodology for each topic to be considered and provide any relevant environmental information relating to the project and the surrounding area.

The submitted Scoping Report has been reviewed.

RELEVANT HISTORY

P/22/790/OBS - Request for comment: Amendment to plans referred to in condition 3 of NPT consent P2014/0825 to allow for approval of revised plans (increase in rotor diameter for 5 turbines up to 133m and increase in rotor diameter of 3 turbines up to 117m - with no increase in overall turbine height. Number of turbines will reduce from 11 to 8 [NPT ref P2022/0517].

P/22/549/OBS - Request for comment: Amendment to condition 3 of reference P2014/0825 to allow for approval of revised plans for the development. The revised plans include increases in rotor diameter of five turbines (T5, T6, T9, T10 and T11) up to 133m and increase in rotor diameter up to 117m of three turbines (T1, T2 and T8) with no increase in overall turbine height. The number of turbines to be constructed will be reduced from 11 to 8 (turbines T3, T4, and T7 removed). (NPT ref P2022/0517).

P/18/130/OBS - Request for scoping opinion for amendment to NPT application P2014/0825 - reduce number of turbines from 13 to 11 and increase height of each turbine from 120m to 145m, with ancillary development.

P/14/731/OBS – 13 Wind Turbines With Max. Tip Height Of 120M To Generate 39Mw With Assoc. Works.

P/14/436/OBS – Erect 80.2M High Meteorological Mast For Temp Period Of Two Years.

P/12/922/OBS - Request For Scoping Opinion For Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm.

PUBLICITY

No publicity is undertaken in connection with requests for a ‘Scoping Opinion’. Internal consultations have however been undertaken.

APPRAISAL AND CONCLUSION

The submitted scoping report provides a general overview of the project and its location but it is noted that the scheme is likely to evolve through the EIA process.

The majority of the proposal is located outside of any settlement boundary as defined by Policy SF1 Settlement Hierarchy and Urban Management of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) adopted in 2024 and, therefore, located in the countryside where Policy DNP1 Development in the Countryside of the RLDP sets a presumption against development in the countryside, except where it is for:

1) Agriculture and/or forestry purposes;
2) The winning and working of minerals;
3) Appropriate rural enterprises where a countryside location is necessary for the development;
4) The implementation of an appropriate rural enterprise/farm diversification project;
5) The expansion of an existing business (subject to other relevant policies in the plan);
6) Land reclamation purposes;
7) Transportation and/or utilities infrastructure to enable implementation of LDP allocations;
8) Renewable energy projects;
9) Affordable housing to meet locally identified need in accordance with COM5;

10) The suitable conversion of, and limited extension to, existing structurally sound rural buildings where the development is modest in scale and clearly subordinate to the original structure;
11) The direct replacement of an existing dwelling;
12) Outdoor recreational and sporting activities;
13) The provision of Gypsy, Traveller and Showperson sites in accordance with COM8; or
14) Education provision where a need has been identified by the Local Education Authority.

Countryside development must be of a sustainable form with prudent management of natural resources and respect for the cultural heritage of the area.

Where development is acceptable in principle in the countryside it must, in the first instance and where possible, utilise existing buildings and previously developed land.

Policy DNP1 of the RLDP seeks to protect the integrity and openness of the countryside and prevent inappropriate forms of development. The proposed development comprises of both 66 kilovolt (kV) overhead lines (OHL) and underground cables (UGC) which will provide a connection between the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the wider national grid.

Criterion 7 identifies utilities infrastructure as an appropriate exception.

The proposal is located within a Local Search Area (LCA 1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands & Forestry Local Search Area (Suitable for Wind Energy)) as defined by Policy SP13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development (2) of the RLDP. This policy states that proposals for development other than for wind energy within these areas will only be permitted where they can demonstrate that they would not unacceptably prejudice the renewable energy generation potential of the LSA and the Future Wales Pre-assessed Areas for Wind Energy.

Policy SP3 Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking of the RLDP states that all development must contribute to creating high quality, attractive, sustainable places that support active and healthy lives and enhance the community in which they are located, whilst having regard to the natural, historic and built environment, by:

1) Demonstrating alignment with the principles of Good Design; and
2) Demonstrating a Sustainable Placemaking approach to their siting, design, construction and operation.

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL requests that the following observations in respect of the key topic areas be considered in PEDW's review of the Scoping Report: -

The submitted scoping report includes details of what the developers consider should be included within an Environment Statement (ES) and this includes:

- Introduction;
- Landscape and Visual Impact;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Ecology;
- Historic Environment;
- Water Resources and Flood Risk;
- Coal Mining;

- Environmental Aspects Scoped Out – Noise and Vibration, Socio-Economics and Major Accidents and Disasters; Land Quality and Air Quality

The responses to consultations from the statutory consultees have highlighted the topics, which should be included within an ES, and in general, they follow the topics suggested in the developer's report.

However, the statutory consultee's responses have been included in full under each topic heading.

Landscape and Visual Impact - Policy DNP1 of the RLDP seeks to protect the integrity and openness of the countryside and prevent inappropriate forms of development. The proposed development comprises of both 66 kilovolt (kV) overhead lines (OHL) and underground cables (UGC) which will provide a connection between the Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm and the wider national grid. Criterion 7 identifies utilities infrastructure as an appropriate exception.

The site is located within the Special Landscape Area (SLAs) of Western Uplands and Foel y Dyffryn as defined by Policy DNP4(3) of the RLDP. Development in SLAs will only be permitted where:

1) It retains or enhances the character and distinctiveness of the SLA;

2) The design of the development reflects the building traditions of the locality in its form, materials and details, and/or assimilates itself in the wider landscape; and

3) The proposed development is accompanied by a Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA), which takes into account the impact of the development and sets out proposals to mitigate any adverse effects.

The settings of SLAs will be protected with consideration of the views from those areas to the settlements of the County Borough. New development within settlements must be designed to provide an attractive transition between the urban areas and the countryside.

The LPA has been in negotiations with WSP regarding the suggested viewpoints.

Traffic and Transport - The Council's Principal Highways Development Control Officer has assessed the submitted Scoping Report and agrees with the methodology as proposed in section 3.6 (Recommendations and Mitigations) which details the Construction Traffic Management Plan and the PRoW Management Plan.

Ecology

The site overlaps with a number of SINC's and therefore is subject to Policy DNP5(2) Local and Regional Nature Conservation Sites which states that development within a SINC should be compatible with the nature conservation or scientific interest of the area, whilst promoting their educational role.

It appears that works, without appropriate mitigation, have the potential to negatively impact various designated sites, Priority Habitats and Protected Species such as bats, badger, dormouse, otter, water vole, brown hare, harvest mouse, hedgehog, breeding birds, reptiles and amphibians.

Planning Policy Wales states that Planning decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural environment by protecting and enhancing sites of biodiversity value. There are a number of high level mitigation proposals included in the report, and a number of further surveys are also proposed. I welcome these further surveys as it is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species and the extent at which they may be affected by the proposed development is established. Once these are carried out and the full extent of potential impacts as a result of the scheme are understood, the scheme should be amended as necessary to ensure there are no negative impacts to designated sites, their qualifying features, or any irreplaceable habitats, priority habitats or protected or notable species. Detailed mitigation to minimise disturbance etc. will also be required.

The report also mentions providing a net benefit to biodiversity which is a requirement of Planning Policy Wales and Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. Biodiversity enhancement proposals will need to be appropriate for the site, habitats and species present and should consider connectivity to and from the site and should be proportionate to the development. These proposals should be above and beyond those required as mitigation and compensation.

Historic Environment

The site is partially located within an Historic Landscape of Margam Mountain as defined by Policy SP18(7) Conservation of the Historic Environment of the RLDP.

Policy SP18 states that development proposals must protect, conserve, and, where appropriate, preserve and enhance the significance of historic assets, including their settings.

Development proposals will only be permitted if it preserves or enhances the character the character of the area. The LPA is generally satisfied that the scheme as highlighted in section 5.3 of the report will not be detrimental to the Historic Landscape in line with the proposed methodology.

Water Resources and Flood Risk

The LPA agree with the proposed methodology as set out in section 6.6 for controlling pollution etc.

Coal Mining

The site is also located within a number of Category 1 and 2 Mineral Safeguarding Zones as defined by Policy ENT12 of the RLDP. Development proposals within mineral safeguarding zones, either permanent or temporary, will need to demonstrate that:

1) If permanent development, the mineral can be extracted prior to the development, and/or the mineral is present in such limited quantity or quality to make extraction of no or little value as a finite resource; and

2) In the case of residential development, the scale and location of the development e.g. limited infill/house extensions, would have no significant impact on the possible working of the resource; and

3) In the case of temporary development, it can be implemented, and the site restored within the timescale the mineral is likely to be required.

Matters Scoped Out

Due to the nature of the proposed development, the LPA agree with the list of matters to be scoped out of the ES.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Mr. Rhodri Davies BA, BTP, MRTPI
DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER

Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-269426-M5X2
Eich cyf/Your ref: CAS-02505-N3T6M4

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dyddiad/Date: 10 January 2025

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2016

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 POTENTIAL DNS APPLICATION

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: 66 KV 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 2 KM SOUTH WEST OF THE SETTLEMENT OF LLANGYNWYD (GRID REF: 284175, 187428)

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: FROM FOEL TRAWSNANT WIND FARM NORTH OF MAESTEG TO SOUTH OF MAESTEG, NR. LLANGYNWYD PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you for consulting Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC)/Natural Resources Wales (NRW) about the above Scoping Opinion, which we received on 27 November 2024.

We have reviewed the following submitted information:

- Foel Trawsnant Grid Connection Site Location Plan (Figure 1) dated 18/09/2024.
- Foel Trawsnant Scoping Report dated November 2024 prepared by WSP.

We are commenting because we consider the proposals are likely to give rise to significant effects. We advise the following likely significant effects are assessed by the applicant and consider they should be ‘scoped in’ to any future Environmental Statement (ES).

1.0 General

The Scoping has not considered the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. 'A Resilient Wales', one of the seven well-being goals outlined in the Act, is defined as "A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change." For this reason, we advise the applicant consider the environmental implications of all options for the works to determine the least environmentally damaging solution. Reasons for not opting for the least environmentally damaging solution would need to be provided.

In addition, this act requires a greater emphasis than what is provided in this Scoping report, on the cradle-to-grave aspects of an infrastructure scheme including this one, including from initial design to the decommissioning phase and appropriate disposal of the infrastructure at end-of-life (or, if the cabling needs to be replaced because it's performance efficacy has reduced over the operating time (decades)).

In general, the ES for this development should include sufficient information to determine the extent of any environmental impacts arising from the proposed scheme on legally protected species, including those which may also comprise notified features of designated sites affected by the proposals.

Evaluation of the impacts of the scheme should include: direct and indirect; cumulative; short, medium and long term; permanent and temporary; positive and negative, construction, operation and decommissioning / post operational phases and impacts on the long-term site security impacts of the nature conservation resource.

The scoping report contains a limited description of the project at present. Within the ES, the proposed scheme should be described in detail and in its entirety. This description should cover construction, operation and decommissioning phases as appropriate and include detailed, scaled maps and drawings.

We would expect the description to include:

- The purpose and physical characteristics of the proposal;
- Location, development size and configuration of the development including flexibility of the site layout;
- Procedures for good working practices;
- Timing of all works and contingency plans should slippage in the programme occur;
- Maintenance requirements of structures;
- Arrangements for the clearance, maintenance and management during operation, of any habitats within the site

<u>Illustrations within the ES</u>
Any maps, drawings and illustrations that are produced to describe the project should be designed in such a way that they can be overlaid with drawings and illustrations produced for other sections of the ES such as biodiversity.

<u>Description of Biodiversity</u>
The ES must include a description of all the existing natural resources and wildlife interests within and in the vicinity of the proposed development, together with a detailed assessment of the likely impacts and significance of those impacts.

<u>Key Habitats</u>

Any habitat surveys should accord with the NCC Phase 1 survey guidelines (NCC (1990) Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey. NCC, Peterborough). We advise that Phase 1 surveys are undertaken and completed during the summer to ensure the best chance of identifying the habitats present.

Further detailed advice in relation to topics associated within our remit is provided below.

2.0 Ecology

2.1 Protected Species

Previous Ecological Surveys
We note that a Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out by CSA Environmental in May 2024. We advise that the scope, detail and results of the survey are included within the ES. Habitats have been identified as suitable for the following protected species; bats, badger, dormouse, otter, water vole, breeding birds, reptiles and amphibians.

The scoping report confirms that CSA Environmental also undertook an element of extended Phase 2 survey, surveying for water vole and great crested newt (GCN). No information has been provided on survey methodology upon which to advise.

We note that in addition to previous ecological surveys undertaken by CSA Environmental, WSP UK Ltd have carried out a Phase 1 Habitat survey, including a site walkover in September 2024.

The survey area included the specific development area as well as a 50m buffer. We advise that the ES should consider in detail the potential presence of protected species alongside methods and results of all surveys undertaken. We advise that in order to fully assess the potential impact of development on some protected species, including great crested newt, a 50m buffer is insufficient.

Targeted species surveys should be undertaken for all species scoped in, which:

i. are undertaken by qualified, experienced and where necessary, licensed ecologist(s) and,
ii. comply with current best practice guidelines. In the event that the surveys deviate from published guidance, or there are good reasons for deviation, full justification for this should be included within the ES.

These survey results remain valid for two years from the date of survey, and we advise that surveys would need to be updated for applications that are submitted after this time period.

We note that bats, otter, dormice and water voles are scoped in for further survey as part of the ES. However, the nature and / or scope of survey for these species has not been provided. We are unable to provide detailed comments as a result. We provide high level comment on some of these species below.

Species Scoped out

Great Crested Newts
We hold records of GCN within 4km of the development boundary. However, GCN appear to have been scoped out of further assessment based on negative eDNA results from four water bodies surveyed by CSA Environmental in 2024. Unfortunately the scoping report

provides limited information in respect of the survey including the location of the four waterbodies that were subject to eDNA analysis, or the rationale for scoping out this species.

We advise that all water bodies within 250m of the application boundary are identified and a GCN eDNA survey of all appropriate waterbodies undertaken, regardless of the Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) score awarded. We advise against the use of HSI to determine whether to survey a waterbody for GCN. Our advice on the use of eDNA can be found on our website. Please note that we would advise that eDNA samples are taken prior to the end of May.

Furthermore, if the proposed development is within 250m of a pond confirmed to be used by GCN, and the development cannot be designed to avoid the area, we advise that the eDNA survey is supplemented by a suite of traditional surveys (bottle trapping, torching, and egg counts) to determine the population size concerned as per the guidance set out in *'Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines'* by English Nature dated 2001.

We therefore advise that further consideration is given to GCN as set out above and they are scoped in, or a full justification as to why they have been scoped out of these works is provided.

Species Scoped In

Bats

Bat roosts
Section 4.6.11 of the scoping report states that where possible, features such as bat roosts (if present) will be retained and protected within the development, which we welcome. Appendix A, Phase 1 Habitat Results, identifies the location of 3 trees with bat roosting suitability along the route of the overhead power line. However, the impact to these trees from the development, either through required felling or maintenance, is not yet clear.

We therefore advise that a ground level inspection, detailing bat roosting potential (low, medium or high), is undertaken of all trees to be felled or pruned to accommodate the development. Results are to inform the requirement for more detailed survey (climbing / emergence survey) in accordance with published best practice survey guidelines '*Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists – Good Practice Guidelines'* (4th edition), published by the Bat Conservation Trust, 2023. We advise that these are undertaken and submitted with the formal application.

Bat Activity
We note that the route of the overhead line (OHL) has the potential to negatively affect bat activity. We advise that the removal of trees, woodland, and hedgerows are limited as far as possible in order to avoid impacts to existing bat flight lines from the development.

If bat habitat is to be removed, walked transect surveys of the site should be undertaken, supported by static monitoring throughout the active season to demonstrate patterns of movement across the site. The ES should set out the presence of, and potential impact of the development on all bat species, paying specific attention to Annex II species (such as Barbastelle, Lesser Horseshoe and Greater Horseshoe bat.).

Where possible, it would be expected that important features for bats would be retained and their function for bats protected All surveys should be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidance detailed above.

Otter

We hold several records of otter to the east of the development boundary and along the along the Llynfi River. It appears from maps of the area that the development boundary crosses / lies adjacent to various rivers and drains within the detailed river network.

Table 4.9. 'Potential significant effects to be assessed' of the scoping report details that works may temporarily disturb otter, and changes in light levels may directly impact otter. We advise that the ES considers whether there will be any loss of riparian habitat through the development works and therefore whether survey for otter is required.

Surveys should be carried out to assess the potential impacts of all stages of the proposed development on otters, and include the potential for otter holts, evidence of slides, couches, sprainting and commuting routes. Note that potential breeding sites may be away from river corridors and that trail/activity cameras may be required to confirm the significance of any evidence.

Dormice

We hold Dormouse records within 1.1km of the development boundary, to the south east within woodland at Mynydd Ty-talwyn. There appears to be potential dormouse habitat within and at the boundaries of the development site, however without further information this is difficult to determine.

We note that '*Table 4-8 – Target notes'*, confirms that dormouse tubes have been installed within a single woodland parcel inside the development boundary (Target Note 3). Neither the methodology for survey nor the results have been submitted. Without further information we are unable to provide detailed comments on the adequacy of any surveys undertaken.

Should presence of dormice be confirmed either within the site boundary, or off-site within the scoped-in area, we advise that an assessment of the impacts of the scheme on this species, and proposals to mitigate or compensate for them, is included in the ES. We advise that this includes an assessment of the quality of the habitat for dormice. Where possible, it would be expected that important features for dormice would be retained and their function for dormice protected.

Water Vole

The scoping report confirms that survey for water vole was undertaken by CSA Environmental in 2024. The scope of survey and methodology has not been provided, however, we note that evidence of water vole was found in the northern-most section of the project. The scoping report considers it likely that water vole are present in the surrounding area due to the suitability of habitat.

Without the detail of the survey methodology used, we advise that surveys are undertaken along the length of the overhead line route including a walkover of all watercourses within the site to search for signs of the species. We advise that surveys consider the water courses and the surrounding suitable habitat extending beyond the immediate water environment, considering that water voles may exhibit a fossorial lifestyle. We advise that results of survey further inform the proposed mitigation measures. Where possible, habitat suitable for supporting water vole should be retained and protected.

Impact Assessment
Should protected species be found during the above surveys, we advise that the ES includes information identifying the species specific impacts in the short, medium and long term together with any details of retention, mitigation and / or compensation measures proposed to offset the impacts identified.

Where proposals concern protected species which are also notified features of designated sites (Eg. SAC, SSSI), we advise that the ES considers the impacts on those species from both perspectives.

We advise that the ES sets out how the long term site security of any mitigation or compensation will be assured, including management and monitoring information and long term financial and management responsibility. Where the potential for significant impacts on protected species is identified, we advocate that a Conservation Plan is prepared for the relevant species and included as an Annex to the EA.

EPS Licence
Where a European Protected Species is identified and the development proposal will contravene the legal protection they are afforded, a licence should be sought from NRW. The ES must include consideration of the requirements for a licence and set out how the works will satisfy the three requirements as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). One of these requires that the development authorised will 'not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status (FCS) in their natural range'. These requirements are also translated into planning policy through Planning Policy Wales (PPW) December 2018, section 6.4.22 and 6.4.23 and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5, Nature Conservation and Planning (September 2009). The local planning authority will take them into account when considering the ES where a European Protected Species is present.

2.2 Terrestrial Ornithology

The scoping report has identified that breeding birds are within the survey area and may be impacted by the project. We note that previous ecological survey have been undertaken. We advise these are include within the ES and consideration be given to the likely significant effects on these species and propose appropriate avoidance, minimisation, mitigation and/or compensation following the stepwise approach within Planning Policy Wales (PPW) February 2024.

2.3 Designated Sites

We note that there are no protected sites likely to be directly impacted by these proposals. However, we note that the scheme could pose impacts on important habitats including the potential loss and degradation of nationally important section 7 habitats, particularly within the Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) sites. The scoping study has highlighted numerous SINC sites that the powerline works will directly impact, run close to, or indirectly impact via silt pollution entering local watercourses. We advise further the applicant liaise with the relevant Authority and their ecologist to understanding the impacts and mitigation requirements for these SINC sites.

3.0 Water Resources and Flood Risk

3.1 Water Resources

The report appears to identify watercourses that could potentially be impacted by the project yet proposes that no Water Framework Directive (WFD) assessment is required. Due to the number of watercourses that the project crosses, the risk of potential impact to the aquatic environment could be high. We would recommend that a WFD assessment is carried out. Any works should not lead to a deterioration in that waterbody or prevent that waterbody from meeting a good status/potential.

We advise the ES identify pollution sensitive receptors and their risks, for example ditches and small tributaries that lead to rivers such as Nant y Ffyllon, Nant Crynwydd, Nant Sychbant, Nant Lluest-Wen and other receiving watercourses. The following GPP 1 provides an understanding to your environmental responsibilities: guidance-for-pollution-prevention-1-2022-update.pdf

When undertaking works near water reference should be made to GPP 5 guidance for pollution prevention, which can be found here https://www.netregs.org.uk/media/1418/gpp-5-works-and-maintenance-in-or-near-water.pdf

Any water that comes into contact with wet concrete must be treated as contaminated and must not be allowed to discharge into any watercourse. Specific attention should be paid to section 3 of the above guidance.

The agreed method of working and installation of cabling must be compiled with at all times to avoid discolouration/sedimentation or pollution of the watercourse. It is important that no large sections of trenches are left open when dug for cabling. These trenches connect to watercourses, and during rainfall events, can cause a pollution. All avenues and methods of laying cable should be explored. We note and encourage the use of a Cable Plough. The most significant advantage of the Cable Plough is its low impact on the environment. Whilst traditional methods of pipe and cable installation require a sizable trench to be dug and then refilled, the Cable Plough's efficient way of cutting a narrow slit into the soil causes only minimum disturbance to the land.

Should any discolouration/sedimentation or pollution of the watercourse occur, work must stop immediately, and Natural resources Wales notified on 0300 065 3000 to review work practices before work commences. All fuel, oil and chemicals used on Site must be stored away in a locked store which is bunded to 110% capacity of the total volume stored.

Silt mitigation measures should be implemented throughout the work site where appropriate. A variety of measures should be employed in conjunction as they work more effectively in combination. However, the placement of silt nets downstream is not a license for increased silt production. All efforts should still be made to prevent any silt being produced by the works.

Metal pins/rods should not be used to support silt fencing or sedi-mats as they do not provide sufficient support, resulting in the products sagging or collapsing. Wooden stakes should be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s installation recommendations.

The early establishment of buffer strips during surface restoration work can filter runoff and reduce soil erosion – such measures are particularly important on steep slopes and bare soil vulnerable to runoff.

Due to the nature of the site being a hillside valley it is vital that silt mitigation, management and measures are in place during the construction phase. This should include details of impacts during heavy rainfall.

Wherever possible clean or uncontaminated water should be intercepted and diverted around the working area. This should help minimise the volume of dirty water generated and therefore requiring treatment (if reasonably practicable).

Water quality leaving the working area will need to be regularly monitored to avoid a pollution incident. It may be necessary to: adjust, replace, or augment the pollution control products deployed and/or adapt the work method further, as work recommences and progresses. As with all pollution mitigation measures, these will need to be reviewed by yourselves regularly through the works and if found not to be sufficient, other options should be considered.

The installation of pollution control products within a watercourse should be the last stage of mitigation measures; the principles of the pollution control hierarchy should always be followed:

1. Contain at source
2. Contain close to source.
3. Contain on the surface.
4. Contain in the drainage system.
5. Contain on the watercourse.

Based on the risk of potential harm to the aquatic environment we would advise an overarching CEMP alongside site specific CEMPS is submitted where river crossings are used and/or underground cabling is to be installed. The risk of silt mobilisation and run off is high therefore the CEMPs should include detailed information regarding robust mitigation measures to be deployed at each relevant location. This can be controlled by condition.

3.2 Groundwater

<u>Decommissioning</u>
Section 6.5.8 states that its likely underground cables will be left in-situ once the scheme is decommissioned. We note that buried cables over the decades of operating time, and then left in-situ could degrade and release hazardous chemicals into the environment and pollute groundwater. This risk is a function of the type of chemicals that are used to manufacture the cabling, the quality assurance/quality control of that manufacturing process and the environment within which the cabling will function. The groundwater quality may vary over time such as changes in pH, and this may affect the integrity of cabling that is buried within shallow groundwater.

It is possible that the insulating properties of sections of the buried cabling reduce, and this may require the cabling to be removed and replaced. We advise this is considered within the ES. If it cannot be evidenced that cabling left in perpetuity in the ground will not release harmful chemicals into the environment then remnant cabling should be removed.

3.3 Flood Risk
We note that the proposed development, including cable run above and below ground is within an area of flood plain or needs to cross a main river. We note that a high level assessment of flood risk and flood consequences will be undertaken and not a stand alone

Flood Consequences Assessment which we note is responsible. We advise further consultation with the relevant lead local authority on surface water flooding.

Other Matters

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters included on our checklist, *Development Planning Advisory Service: Consultation Topics* (September 2018), which is published on our website. We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

We advise the applicant that, in addition to planning permission, it is their responsibility to ensure they secure all other permits/consents/licences relevant to their development. Please refer to our website for further details.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

Lindy Marshall
Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu/Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

E-bost/E-mail: southeastplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Ffôn/Phone: [redacted]

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

Cadw

Llywodraeth Cymru
Parc Busnes Rhydycar
Merthyr Tudful
CF48 1UZ
cadw.llyw.cymru

Welsh Government
Rhydycar Business Park
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Planning and Environment Decisions Wales

Sent by email

Eich cyfeirnod Your reference	DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4
Ein cyfeirnod Our reference	
Dyddiad Date	17 January 2025
Llinell uniongyrchol Direct line	[redacted]
Ebost Email:	Cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir / Madam,

EIA Scoping - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

Ref: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4

Thank you for your letter asking for Cadw's view on the above.

Cadw, as the Welsh Government's historic environment service, has assessed the characteristics of this proposed development and its location within the historic environment. In particular, the likely impact on designated or registered historic assets of national importance. In assessing if the likely impact of the development is significant Cadw has considered the extent to which the proposals affect those nationally important historic assets that form the historic environment, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes.

These views are provided without prejudice to the Welsh Government's consideration of the matter, should it come before it formally for determination.

Advice

Inside boundary

Registered Historic Landscape:
HLW (WGl/MGl) Margam Mountain

Inside 3km of application area

Scheduled Monuments
GM056 Danish Camp
GM057 Camp N of Tonmawr
GM058 Roman Camp
GM059 Y Bwlwarcau

GM085 Llangynwyd Castle
GM086 British Fortified Residence
GM090 Camp 530m E of Tonmawr
GM092 Mynydd Ty Talwyn Ancient Farms
GM093 Mynydd Ty Talwyn Ancient Farms
GM244 Nant Herbert Camp
GM245 Cefn yr Argoed Camp
GM340 Earthwork & Platform Houses N of Nant Fadog
GM418 Maesteg blast furnaces
GM443 Site of Bodvoc Stone
GM547 Cae'r Mynydd Ventilation Furnace and Mine
GM552 Garth Hill Platform House
GM557 Twmpath Diwlith Round Barrow

Registered Parks and Gardens
PGW(Gm)52(NEP) Margam Park

Listed Buildings:

11243	Church of St Cynwyd	II*
11256	Llwydarth farmhouse	II*
11257	Maesteg Sports Centre, The Cornstores	II*
11331	Iron bridge over River Llynfi	II*
11352	The Old House Inn PH	II
11353	Telephone call box in front of the Old House PH	II
11356	Siloh Independent Chapel	II
11367	Tabor Eglwys Presbyteriadd Cymru	II
11373	Pentre Farmhouse, with attached farm range.	II
11375	Gilfach-ganol farmhouse	II
18492	Blast Furnace at Maesteg Sports Centre	II
18493	Bethania Capel y Bedyddwyr Neillduol	II*
18494	Neuadd y Dref (Town Hall)	II
18495	Salem Welsh Baptist Chapel	II*
18496	Capel Saron	II
18497	Cenotaph	II
18498	North Company Offices	II
18499	Maesteg Council Offices, with flanking walls and piers.	II*
18500	Church of St Michael and All Angels, Llangynwyd with Maesteg, including enclosing graveyard wall.	II
18501	Zoar Chapel	II
18502	Church of St David, and surrounding churchyard railed wall.	II
18503	Colonel North Memorial Hall	II
18504	Post Office	II
18505	William Hopkin Thomas memorial Lamp and fountain.	II
18506	The Star Public House	II
18507	Nantyffyllon Workmen's Institute	II
20429	The Hopcyn Cross	II
20430	Two chest tombs on S side of the Church of St Cynwyd	II
20431	Group of five tombs S of the tower of the Church of St Cynwyd	II

20432	Bee boles and stile in garden wall at Gilfach-uchaf farm	II
20433	Ty'n-y-waun farmhouse	II
20434	Group of 4 Hopkin and Jenkins tombs within iron railings on the W side of the path to the S porch	II
20435	Group of nine memorials on the W side of the path to the S porch, Church of St Cynwyd	II
20436	Jenkins Monument in the churchyard, Church of St Cynwyd	II
20437	Churchyard walls around the graveyard, Church of St Cynwyd	II
22166	Jerusalem Baptist Chapel	II
22167	Kiln block at former Bryn Brickworks	II
23843	Cymmer Viaduct	II
87889	Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick	II

The request for a scoping opinion is accompanied by a scoping report prepared by WSP. Chapter 5 of this report considers the Historic Environment and the methodologies that will be used to determine the impact of the proposed connection on it.

In general, we concur with the contents of Chapter 5: However, we have identified the following issues that will need further consideration: -

Section 5.2.1 The study area used for the scoping report is only 300m. Whilst this may be appropriate for non-designated historic assets, a study area of 3km should be used to determine the possible impact on the settings of designated historic assets. In order to assist the applicant these are listed above.

Section 5.3.4 The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 was enacted on the 4 November 2024. This replaces The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. The enactment of the Act will also lead to revisions to Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment 2017 and other guidance notes.

The Act is a Consolidation Act and should not alter legislation. The most important change is that section 66 (1) of the Listed Building and Conservation Act 1990 will become section 314A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Section 5.5.8 As noted above the study area to determine the possible impact on the settings of designated historic assets should be 3km. These possible impacts should carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government guidance given in the document “The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales”. We would expect a stage 1 assessment to be carried out for all of the designated historic assets inside 3km, which will determine the need, if necessary, for stages 2 to 4 to be carried out for specific historic assets. It is recommended that the results of the stage 1 assessment should be included in the EIA, possibly as an appendix.

Section 5.5.9 As noted in this section, the proposed connection crosses part of the registered Margam Mountain landscape of special historic interest: However, we concur with the scoping report that the scale of the proposals are such that an

ASIDOHL assessment would not be an appropriate methodology to assess the impact of the connection on the registered historic landscape, although the localised impacts will still need to be considered in the EIA.

Yours sincerely

Nichola Smith
Historic Environment Branch

[redacted]

From: Williams, Arwel (LGHCCRA - Climate Change and Env Sustainability - Landscapes, Nature & Forestry)[redacted] **On Behalf Of** LQAS
Sent: 16 January 2025 15:55
To: PEDW – Seilwaith / Infrastructure <PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales>
Cc: LQAS <LQAS@gov.wales>
Subject: RE: EIA Scoping Consultation - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

Good afternoon Rob,

RE: EIA Scoping Consultation - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection.

Thank you for consulting the Department on the above Scoping Direction request. The Department offers the following response for your consideration regarding agricultural land quality, the use of soil and peat resources.

1. **Agricultural Land Quality, Soils and Peat:**

The Department agrees with the assessment, considerations and proposals as set out in Section 8.5.28 to 8.5.33 of the Scoping Report (November 2024).

2. **Advice:**

The Department agrees with the scoping report. Agricultural land quality, soils (including peat soils) can be scoped out of the assessment.

Regards

Arwel

Arwel Wyn Williams
Uwch Arbenigwr, Dosbarthiad Tir Amaethyddol a Phridd / Senior Specialist, Agricultural Land Classification & Soil
Is-adran Tirweddau, Natur a Choedwigaeth / Landscapes, Nature and Forestry Division
Adran dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig / Department for Climate Change & Rural Affairs
Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government
Ffôn / Tel: [redacted]
E-bost: [redacted]
Ar y We / Internet: www.llyw.cymru/priddoedd / www.gov.wales/soils

From: Paul Bell
Sent: 28 November 2024 09:27
To: ORC <ORC@dwrcymru.com>
Cc: Sparey, Robert (CSI - Planning & Environment Decisions Wales - Planning & Environment Decisions Wales)
Subject: RE: EIA Scoping Consultation - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

Hi All,

I have reviewed the information and don't believe this application will have any impact on our Telemetry services in the area.

Regards,
Paul

Paul Bell | Regional O&M Manager
Operational Technology Operations

Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

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BE YOURSELF

From: NSIP Applications <NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 December 2024 14:05

To: PEDW – Seilwaith / Infrastructure <PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales>; [redacted]

Cc: NSIP Applications <NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: NSIP - FOEL TRAWSNANT WINDFARM CONNECTION - EIA DNS SCOPING CONSULTATION - CM 4.2.1.7303. - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - HSE Response

Dear Rob,

Thank you for your email dated the 27th November consulting HSE on the Proposed **FOEL TRAWSNANT WINDFARM CONNECTION** - Development of National Significance (DNS). Please find HSE's advice below.

HSE's land use planning advice

-

HSE's Land Use Planning Advice (CE HD5 Contribution)

Will the proposed development fall within any of HSE's consultation distance

1. With reference to the proposed redlined ***Grid Connection Route*** shown on **Figure 1 Draft Grid Connection Route [https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/case, Reference: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection]** the proposed project does not fall within the consultation distances of any Major Hazard Installation(s) or Major Accident Hazard Pipeline(s).

2. Please note if at any time a new Major Accident Hazard Pipeline is introduced or existing Pipeline modified prior to the determination of a future application, then the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.

3. Likewise, if prior to the determination of a future application, a Hazardous Substances Consent is granted for a new Major Hazard Installation or a Hazardous Substances Consent is varied for an existing Major Hazard Installation in the vicinity of the proposed development, again the HSE reserves the right to revise its advice.

Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?

4. The presence of hazardous substances on, over or under land at or above set threshold quantities (Controlled Quantities) may require Hazardous Substances Consent (HSC) under the Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990 as amended. The substances, alone or when aggregated with others, for which HSC is required, and the associated Controlled Quantities, are set out in The Planning (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2015.

5. Hazardous Substances Consent would be required if the proposed development site is intending to store or use any of the Named Hazardous Substances or Categories of Substances and Preparations at or above the controlled quantities set out in schedule 1 of these Regulations.

6. Further information on HSC should be sought from the relevant Hazardous Substances Authority.

Would Hazardous Substances Consent be needed?

-

Explosives sites

-

No comment to make as there are no HSE Licensed explosive sites in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Kind regards

Business Support Team
Health and Safety Executive | CEMHD – DBST
NSIP.Applications@hse.gov.uk

From: [redacted]
PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 2:12 PM
Subject: NSIP - FOEL TRAWSNANT WINDFARM CONNECTION - EIA DNS SCOPING CONSULTATION - CM 4.2.1.7303. - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached regarding a consultation on an EIA Scoping Direction for a DNS planning application for an overhead line.

If you have any queries or are unable to respond by Friday 17 January 2025, please contact us as soon as possible.

Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service

Prif Swyddog Tân | Chief Fire Officer
R.S. Thomas *KFSM BA(Hons) MSc*

Y Pencadlys, Heol Llwyn Pisgwydd,
Caerfyrddin, Sir Gâr, SA31 1SP
post@tancgc.gov.uk | tancgc.gov.uk

Headquarters, Lime Grove Avenue,
Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire, SA31 1SP
mail@mawwfire.gov.uk | mawwfire.gov.uk

[redacted]

Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Gofynner am/ Please ask for:	Station Manager P Phillips
Rhif Est/Extn. No.	
E-bost/E-mail:	bregs@mawwfire.gov.uk
Fy Nghyf/My Ref:	PP/CW/00355078
Dyddiad/Date:	16th December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012

THE DEVELOPMENTS OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2016

DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE (CONSULTEES) (WALES) (MISCELLANEOUS AMANDMENTS) ORDER 2021 – FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITIES

RE: From Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm north of Maesteg to south of Maesteg, nr. Llangynwyd. 66 kV 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 2 km south west of the settlement of Llangynwyd (grid ref: 284175, 187428).

APPLICATION NUMBER: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4

I acknowledge receipt of the notification to the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority in relation to the above application.

The site plan/s of the above proposal has been examined and the Fire and Rescue Authority would wish the following comments to be brought to the attention of the planning committee/applicant. It is important that these matters are dealt with early on in any proposed development:

- The Fire Authority has no comment to make on access for fire appliances or water supplies.
- The Fire Authority has no objection to the proposed development and refers the Local Planning Authority to any current standing advice by the Fire Authority about the consultation.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg - byddwn yn ymateb yn gyfartal fr ddau ac yn ateb yn eich dewis iaith heb oedi.
Rydym yn croesawu galwadau yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English - we will respond equally to both and will reply in your language of choice without delay.
We welcome calls in Welsh and English.

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To deliver the best possible service for the communities of mid and west Wales.
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The developer should consider the need to provide adequate water supplies and vehicle access for firefighting purposes on the site and general guidance on this matter is given in the attached Appendix and the following links: https://www.water.org.uk/guidance/national-guidance-document-on-the-provision-of-water-for-firefighting-3rd-edition-jan-2007/
https://www.ukfrs.com/index.php/promos/16847

Furthermore, the applicant should be advised to contact the appropriate Authority responsible for ensuring safety and compliance for these types of developments i.e., Health & Safety Executive / Local Authority Building Control.

The plan/s has been retained for record purposes.

Yours faithfully

[redacted]

Station Manager P Phillips
Authorised Fire Safety Regulator
On behalf of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Authority

Enc

MID AND WEST WALES FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Advice on Water Supplies

1. WATER SUPPLIES FOR FIREFIGHTING

The existing output of the statutory water supply network may need to be upgraded in certain parts of the local plan area to care for firefighting needs of new developments. It is recommended that this provision be a condition of planning consent.

Reference to the National Guidance Document on the Provision of Water for Fire Fighting 2007.

Access to Open Water Supplies

Where development of water-front sites takes place, the need for permanent and unobstructed access for firefighting appliances to the water should be made a condition of any planning consent.

Consultation must take place with the Fire and Rescue Authority during the earliest planning stages of any development to ensure access for fire pumping appliances is satisfactory.

1.1. HOUSING

Minimum main size 100 millimetres. Housing developments of units of detached or semi-detached houses of not more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of eight litres per second through any hydrant on the development.

The Fire and Rescue Authority should be consulted at the outline planning stage of any proposed projects to ascertain the exact requirements.

1.2. TRANSPORTATION

Lorry/Coach Parks - Multi-Storey Car Parks-Service Stations

Minimum main size 100 millimetres. All of these amenities should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 25 litres per second through any hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 90 metres from the complex.

1.3. INDUSTRY

In order that an adequate supply of water is available for use by the Fire and Rescue Authority in case of fire, it is recommended that the water supply infrastructure to any commercial industrial estate is as follows:

Light Industrial/Commercial

Up to one hectare, 20 litres per second - Minimum Main Size 100 millimetres

Up to two hectares, 35 litres per second - Minimum Main Size 150 millimetres

High Risk Industrial

Up to three hectares 50 litres per second - Minimum Main Size 150 millimetres

Over three hectares, 75 litres per second - Minimum Main Size 150 millimetres

In rural areas it may not be possible to provide sufficient mains water. To overcome this, static or river supplies would be considered on site if they are capable of supplying the above flow rates for at least one hour.

The Fire and Rescue Authority should be consulted at the outline planning stage of any proposed projects to ascertain the exact requirements, as high-risk premises may require a greater flow.

1.4. SHOPPING, OFFICES, RECREATION AND TOURISM

Commercial developments of this type should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 to 75 litres per second to the development site. The Fire and Rescue Authority should be consulted at the outline planning stage of any proposed projects to ascertain the exact requirements.

1.5. EDUCATION, HEALTH AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Village Halls

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 15 litres per second through any hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 100 metres from the complex.

Primary Schools and Single Storey Health Centres

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 litres per second through any hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.

Secondary Schools, Colleges, Large Health and Community Facilities

Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 35 litres per second through any hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.

1.6. DISTANCES BETWEEN FIRE HYDRANTS

The distance between fire hydrants should not exceed the following:

Residential areas	-	200 metres
Industrial Estates	-	150 metres
Town Centre Areas	-	90 metres
Commercial (Offices & Shops)	-	100 metres
Residential Hostels	-	Adjacent to access
Hotels	-	Adjacent to access
Institutional (Hospitals & Old Persons Home)	-	Adjacent to access
Old Persons Home	-	Adjacent to access
Educational (Schools & Colleges)	-	Adjacent to access

1.7. CONCLUSION

Developers should hold joint discussions with the relevant Water Authority or the Environmental Agency and the Fire and Rescue Authority to ensure that adequate water supplies are available in case of fire.

The Fire and Rescue Authority reserve the right to ask for static water supplies for firefighting on site, as a condition of planning consent, if the supply infrastructure is inadequate for any given risk.

From: Saunders, Tyrone
To: Sparey, Robert (CSI - Planning & Environment Decisions Wales)
Subject: RE: EIA Scoping Consultation - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection
Date: 16 December 2024 11:40:55
Attachments: image003.png

Good Morning,

Thank you for notification of the above pre-planning application.

Please accept this email as acknowledgment of receipt of the formal notification. South Wales Fire and Rescue Service have looked at the application and have no comments to make at this stage.

Further comment/s will be made at the full planning application stage.

Kind Regards,

Tyrone Saunders
Rheolwr Gwylfa
Diogelwch Tân i Fusnesau
Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru
Parc Busnes Forest View
Llantrisant
CF72 8LX
Ffôn: [redacted]
Ffôn Symudol: [redacted]
E-Bost: [redacted]

Tyrone Saunders
Watch Manager
Business Fire Safety
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Headquarters
Forest View Business Park
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CF72 8LX
Phone: [redacted]
Mobile: [redacted]
E-mail: [redacted]

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From: [redacted] **On Behalf Of** PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales
Sent: 27 November 2024 14:12
Subject: EIA Scoping Consultation - DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 - Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Connection

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached regarding a consultation on an EIA Scoping Direction for a DNS planning application for an overhead line.

200 Lichfield Lane
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire
NG18 4RG
T: 01623 637 119 (Planning Enquiries)
E: planningconsultation@coal.gov.uk
W: www.gov.uk/coalauthority

For the attention of: Mr R Sparey - Planning & Environment Manager
Planning and Environment Decisions Wales

[By email: PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales]

16th January 2025

Dear Mr Sparey

Re: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4 Foel Trawsnant Windfarm Grid Connection - 66 kV electricity network infrastructure comprising overhead lines and underground cables which will start at Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm; From Foel Trawsnant Wind Farm North of Maesteg to South of Maesteg, Nr.Llangynwyd

Thank you for your notification of the 27th November 2024 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

Our records indicate that along the route of the grid connection coal mining features are present at surface and shallow depth including; mine entries, coal workings and reported surface hazards. These features may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

The submission is supported by a Scoping Report, dated 22nd November 2024 and prepared by WSP. Section 7 of this reports covers coal mining and notes that the Coal Mining Risk Assessment will consider the potentially significant effects on the local environment that may arise from the construction and operation of the Project. The report submitted identifies the coal mining features and the risks they may pose and their recommendations for a Coal Mining Risk Assessment to be prepared to assess all risks

related to historic coal mining in the area of the Project and to provide further recommendations to mitigate any specific risks found within the Site area.

We concur with this recommendation that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment should be prepared for the site and that the findings of this used to inform any further investigatory and remedial works necessary. Where possible the route should also be cognisant of features which may have implications for layout, such as mine entries and their zones of influence, and these features should be avoided where possible when structures etc are being located. We have no preference as to whether or not the Coal Mining Risk Assessment is included in an EIA submitted or as a stand-alone document.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Melanie Lindsley *BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI*
Principal Planning & Development Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by the Coal Authority as a statutory consultee and is based upon the latest available data and the electronic consultation records held by the Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based on the information provided to the Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or information that has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposed in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by the Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the applicant for consultation purposes.