

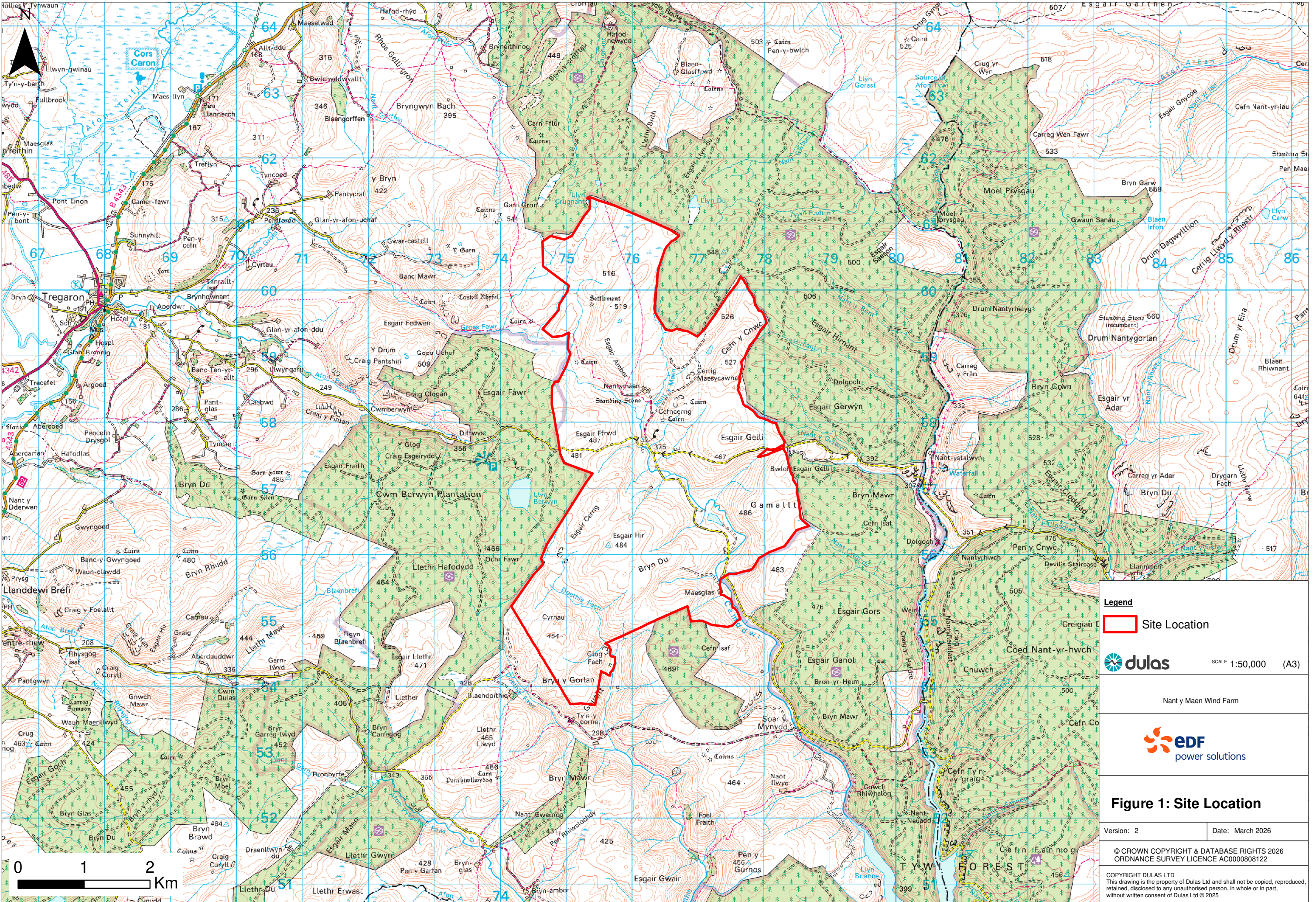
2. Site Location and Description

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This chapter describes the location, extent and existing characteristics of the site for the proposed Fferm Wynt Nant y Maen Wind Farm (the 'Proposed Development'). It provides a descriptive overview of the site and its surroundings in order to inform the identification of potential environmental receptors and sensitivities at scoping stage.
- 2.1.2 The chapter does not undertake a full assessment of effects or define detailed mitigation. However, this Scoping Report will identify the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, outline mitigation measures proposed at this stage, and indicate the extent to which these are anticipated to avoid or reduce potential impacts. Detailed assessment of effects and confirmation of mitigation will be provided within the relevant topic chapters of the Environmental Statement, as identified in the topic-specific scoping sections of this Scoping Report.

2.2 Site identification and Administrative Context

- 2.2.1 The Proposed Development is known as Fferm Wynt Nant y Maen Wind Farm and is located within Ceredigion, mid-Wales. The Site is centred approximately at OS Grid Reference SN 76628 57375 and extends to an area of approximately 1,956 hectares. The Proposed Development is located within Ceredigion, mid-Wales (Figure 2.1).
- 2.2.2 The Proposed Development lies wholly within the administrative area of Ceredigion County Council. The relevant community council areas within which the site is located, or with which it directly interfaces, are:
- Ysbyty Ystwyth Community Council
 - Pontarfynach Community Council
 - Ystrad Fflur Community Council
 - Lledrod Community Council
 - Tregaron Town Council
- 2.2.3 Additional community council areas within the wider surrounding include Llanddewi Brefi, Llangwryfon, Llanilar and Trefeurig, with further community councils located within a wider 20–30 km envelope relevant to cumulative and visibility considerations.
- 2.2.4 The site comprises land within the control of four landowners, all of whom have entered into landowner agreements with the Applicant.



Legend

 Site Location



SCALE 1:50,000 (A3)

Nant y Maen Wind Farm



Figure 1: Site Location

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2.3 Site Location and Context

Local Context

- 2.3.1 The Proposed Development is located within a rural upland area of mid Wales, characterised by open moorland, rough grassland and areas of peatland. The landform is elevated and gently undulating, forming part of a sparsely populated landscape where land use is dominated by agricultural grazing and upland management.
- 2.3.2 Built development in the immediate vicinity is limited and dispersed, comprising isolated farmsteads and small groups of rural dwellings connected by minor roads and existing tracks. The surrounding landscape is typified by broad upland ridges and shallow valleys, with generally limited tree cover and the potential for long-distance views across surrounding hills.
- 2.3.3 Access to the site is provided via the local highway network, using minor rural roads and existing tracks consistent with the upland and agricultural character of the area.

Regional Context

- 2.3.4 At a regional scale, the site lies within mid Wales, forming part of the wider Cambrian uplands which extend across large areas of Ceredigion and Powys. This region is characterised by extensive upland landscapes, low population density and a long history of land use associated with agriculture, forestry and water management.
- 2.3.5 Onshore wind energy development is an established land use within the wider region, with existing and consented wind farms present across mid Wales. The regional context also includes nationally important upland landscapes, large areas of open countryside, and strategic infrastructure such as reservoirs and water supply assets located to the east and north-east.
- 2.3.6 The site is not located within a major settlement or growth corridor and is functionally rural in character. Regional connectivity is provided by a network of A- and B-class roads linking the area to larger towns, including Aberystwyth to the west and other service centres within mid Wales.

National Context

- 2.3.7 In a national context, the site is located within Wales, forming part of the central upland spine of the country. This area is recognised for its extensive upland landscapes, ecological value and capacity to accommodate large-scale land uses, including renewable energy development, due to its low settlement density and separation from major urban centres.
- 2.3.8 The site lies broadly between the west coast of Wales and the England–Wales border and forms part of a wider national pattern whereby upland areas of mid Wales contribute to Wales's renewable energy resource alongside traditional rural land uses.

2.4 Order Limits and Extent

- 2.4.1 The Order Limits define the maximum extent of the Proposed Development for the purposes of EIA scoping. The Order Limits encompass all permanent and temporary components of the onshore wind farm that are currently defined, including turbine locations, crane hardstandings, on-site tracks, construction compounds, temporary working areas and associated infrastructure required for construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning.
- 2.4.2 The Order Limits also include areas required for temporary construction activities, such as laydown areas, peat storage, drainage works, temporary watercourse crossings and environmental mitigation measures, where these are reasonably foreseeable at the scoping stage.
- 2.4.3 The electrical grid connection route is explicitly excluded from the Order Limits. This reflects the fact that the point of connection has not yet been confirmed and the alignment of any cable route is therefore unknown at this stage. The grid connection will be subject to separate consideration once sufficient information is available to define its location and extent.
- 2.4.4 The Order Limits have been defined to provide a robust worst-case envelope for the Proposed Development as currently understood, including appropriate provision for micro-siting of on-site elements, ensuring that the scoping exercise captures all likely significant environmental effects associated with on-site elements of the Proposed Development, while avoiding unnecessary assessment of infrastructure that cannot yet be accurately defined.

2.5 Administrative, Landscape and Catchment Context

- 2.5.1 The Order Limits lie entirely within the administrative area of Ceredigion County Council. While the site is located close to the administrative boundaries with Powys and Carmarthenshire, no part of the Order Limits extends into those authorities. Potential effects may nevertheless extend beyond the Order Limits and be experienced within neighbouring areas, particularly in relation to landscape, visual and cumulative considerations.
- 2.5.2 The Proposed Development lies within a single broad upland landscape character area, characterised by open moorland and upland grazing land with limited built development. The landscape within the Order Limits is relatively consistent in terms of landform, land cover and overall character, comprising gently undulating to rolling upland terrain with areas of rough grassland and peatland.
- 2.5.3 The Site is located within a single hydrological catchment within Ceredigion, although it lies close to the wider catchment boundaries associated with neighbouring local authority areas.

2.6 Existing Land Use and Site Characteristics

- 2.6.1 The predominant land use within the Order Limits is agricultural grazing, reflecting its upland rural character. There are no forestry blocks located within the Order Limits, although areas of open grazing land include moorland habitats.
- 2.6.2 One farmstead, Nant y Maen Farm, is located within the Order Limits and forms part of the landholding associated with the Proposed Development.
- 2.6.3 The Order Limits contains a limited network of existing tracks, including several minor agricultural tracks and one more substantial track running past Nant y Maen Farm. A single carriageway rural road passes through part of the site, with limited formal passing provision and occasional lay-bys.
- 2.6.4 Numerous watercourses traverse the site, including Groes Fawr, Camddwr, Nant y Maen, Nant Wen, Nant y Maes, Nant y Ffrwd, Nant y Cwr, Nant Tyhelyg, Nant yr Arian, Nant y Cwar, Nant Bryn Glas, Nant y Gelli, Nant Gruffydd and Nant y Gronwen. These features form part of the wider upland drainage network and contribute to the Proposed Developments hydrological character.

2.7 Landscape and Townscape Context

- 2.7.1 While the Order Limits lie within a single upland landscape character area, a number of adjacent and nearby landscape character areas occur beyond the Order Limits.
- 2.7.2 Immediately surrounding the Order Limits, the upland moorland character transitions into more incised upland valleys and slopes, where landform becomes more enclosed and land use shifts towards improved grassland, farmsteads and small clusters of rural settlement associated with watercourses.
- 2.7.3 Further afield, additional landscape character areas include lower-lying pastoral valleys, wooded and forested landscapes, and reservoir and upland water body landscapes. These surrounding landscapes form part of the wider visual and landscape context within which the Proposed Development would be experienced.

2.8 Landscape and Heritage Designations

- 2.8.1 The Proposed Development is not located within a National Landscape, and no National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty overlap with the Order Limits. The nearest nationally designated landscapes include Eryri National Park which lies approximately 75km to the north and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park which lies approximately 43km to the south.
- 2.8.2 The Proposed Development is not located within a Special Landscape Area, and no locally designated landscape boundaries coincide with the Order Limits.
- 2.8.3 The site is also not located within a Registered Historic Landscape. The Elan Valley Registered Historic Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest lies to the east within Powys.

The Order Limits do not extend into this designation, and its relevance relates to setting rather than direct effects.

2.9 Settlement and Receptor Context

2.9.1 The Proposed Development is located within a sparsely populated upland area. The nearest settlements are small rural villages and dispersed communities, with larger service centres located further away.

2.9.2 The closest settlements include:

- Tregaron (approximately 7 km to the west);
- Llanddewi Brefi (approximately 7.5 km to the south-west);
- Ystrad Fflur (approximately 4.3 km to the north);
- Pontrhydfendigaid (approximately 5.7 km to the north-west); and
- Abergwesyn (approximately 7.7km to the east, within Powys).

2.9.3 More distant towns providing a wider range of services include Aberystwyth approximately 25 km to the west and Lampeter approximately 17 km to the south.

2.9.4 There are approximately 220 residential properties within 5.5 km of the Order Limits. Isolated dwellings and farmsteads are present within the surrounding area, reflecting the dispersed settlement pattern typical of upland mid Wales.

2.9.5 Recreational receptors, including public rights of way and areas of open access land, are present within the wider area and form part of the baseline recreational context of the Order Limits.

2.10 Access and Surrounding Infrastructure

2.10.1 The site is served by a rural highway network comprising A-class, B-class and minor unclassified roads. A-class roads provide strategic connectivity across mid Wales, linking the area to larger settlements such as Aberystwyth.

2.10.2 From the A-class network, B-class roads connect rural villages and dispersed communities, while final access to the site is via narrow, lightly trafficked unclassified roads serving agricultural land and individual properties. These roads are rural in character, with variable alignment and limited formal passing provision.

2.10.3 No part of the local highway network in the vicinity of the site forms part of the motorway or trunk road network.

2.10.4 Public rights of way are present within the wider surrounding area. Based on available mapping at scoping stage, no definitive public right of way is recorded as crossing the Order Limits, although routes occur in proximity to the site. The presence and alignment of rights of way will be confirmed through baseline surveys and consultation.

- 2.10.5 Areas of open access land are present within and/or adjacent to the site, consistent with its upland setting.
- 2.10.6 No major utilities corridors are apparent within the Order Limits based on available information at scoping stage.

2.11 Environmental Designations and Constraints

- 2.11.1 Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Protection (SPA) and a designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which interjects the site to the southeast. There are two annex I habitats identified with the primary habitat being old sessile oak woods (*Quercus petraea*). The site is also notable for its upland heathland and grassland communities as well as for its breeding bird assemblages which includes red kite (*Milvus milvus*).
- 2.11.2 There are no other international, national or locally designated ecological sites located within the Order Limits. Designated sites are present within the wider surrounding area and form part of the broader ecological context.
- 2.11.3 No designated water environment sites or cultural heritage designations are located within the Order Limits. Water bodies within the Proposed Development form part of wider river systems subject to classification under the Water Framework Directive (Water Framework Directive, 2000).
- 2.11.4 Designated and non-designated ecological, hydrological and cultural heritage assets within the surrounding area will be identified within this Scoping Report and considered and assessed through the ecology, hydrology and cultural heritage topic chapters of the Environmental Statement, as applicable.

2.12 Relationship to National and Regional Energy Policy

- 2.12.1 The Proposed Development lies within an upland rural area of mid Wales that reflects the national spatial context within which renewable energy development is promoted through *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* (Welsh Government, 2021). The location and characteristics of the site are consistent with areas of Wales that contribute to the delivery of renewable energy generation as part of a low-carbon, resilient energy system.
- 2.12.2 The Proposed Development will be progressed through the Welsh infrastructure consenting regime Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024, administered via PEDW (Senedd Cymru, 2024), with potential effects considered through the EIA process in line with national policy objectives relating to decarbonisation, energy security and sustainable development.

2.13 References

Senedd Cymru, 2024. *Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 (asc 3)*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2024/3/contents>

[Accessed 28 April 2026].

Water Framework Directive, 2000. *Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy*. [Online]

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[Accessed 29 April 2026].

Welsh Government, 2021. *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040*, Cardiff: Welsh Government .