

## 9. Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

### 9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 An assessment will be undertaken of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment with respect to the archaeological and heritage resource (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage) within the Order Limits and surrounding area.

### 9.2 Study Area

- 9.2.1 The Proposed Development lies in an area of undulating upland within the Cambrian Mountains known as Nant y Maen, within Ceredigion. Much of the area comprises enclosed pasture surrounded by large tracts of semi-enclosed and open upland grazing and moorland. The area rises to several high points with Bryn y Gorlan (454mOD) to the south, Esgair Cerrig (479mOD) to the west, Gamallt (486mOD) and Esgair Gelli (505mOD) to the east and Esgair Ambor (519mOD) to the north. The landscape is cut by a number of small stream valleys, which generally feed down into the Camddwr which runs roughly north – south through the area. The area is crossed by a local road running east – west from Tregaron to the west to the Tywi Valley and beyond to the east, with an offshoot down the Camddwr valley to Llyn Brienne to the south. The farmstead of Nant-y-Maen lies in the northern half of the study area, which is otherwise unsettled. The area is surround by extensive plantation woodland to the west, north and east, with the otherwise open upland landscape extending to the northwest and south.
- 9.2.2 The Archaeology and Cultural Heritage study area comprises two spatial levels. The first is the immediate study area comprising the site as defined by the POrder Limits. Data has been gathered for both designated and non-designated historic assets within this study area to assess the potential for direct physical impacts on assets from the Proposed Development. This will contribute to early constraint mapping to help inform the design process to avoid or minimise any potential physical harm to historic assets.
- 9.2.3 At the second spatial level, data has been gathered only of the designated and high value historic assets. The extent of this wider study area varies. It extends 2km out from the Order Limits for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, and 5km out for Scheduled Monuments, registered Historic Parks and Gardens, registered Historic Landscapes and World Heritage Sites. This second spatial area comprises a larger zone in which indirect visual impacts from the turbines might affect these designated historic assets. For those historic assets which show a potential significant change to their setting in both immediate and wider study areas by proximity or through intervisibility, further analysis will be undertaken to assess the level of impact (Cadw, 2017).
- 9.2.4 The approach to establishing the extent of the study area is based on the following guidance, where appropriate.

- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, LA106: Cultural Heritage Assessment (Highways England, Transport Scotland, Welsh Government and Department for Infrastructure (Northern Ireland), 2020).
- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2014, revised 2020)
- Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (Cadw, 2017);
- Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (Cadw, 2017);
- The Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment in Wales (Conservation Principles) (Cadw, 2011);
- Guide to Good Practice on Using the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interest in the Planning and Development Process (2nd Edition, Cadw and NRW, 2007)
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Assessment (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC), 2021)

9.2.5 The extent of the study with regards to assessing potential effect on designated historic assets will be agreed with Cadw and the extent to which the study will assess potential effects on non-designated assets will be discussed and agreed with the appropriate regional archaeological advisors at Heneb – The Trust for Welsh Archaeology (Dyfed Region) (The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017, (reg. 15) (Welsh Government, 2017).

### 9.3 Baseline Context

9.3.1 The following sources of information will be reviewed and used to inform the assessment of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage as part of the ES

- Designated historic asset data (Scheduled Monuments, registered Historic Parks and Gardens, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, registered Historic Landscapes, World Heritage Sites) from DataMapWales (Welsh Government, 2026)
- Non-designated historic asset data from the Historic Environment Record (Heneb – Dyfed region))
- Non-designated historic asset data from National Monuments Record (RCAHMW)
- Previous archaeological studies (Historic Environment Record – Heneb)
- LiDAR data from DataMap Wales (Welsh Government)
- Historic mapping (various sources)
- Aerial photographs and satellite images (various sources)

- 9.3.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER), National Monuments Record (NMR) and DataMapWales data have been interrogated for baseline information presented within this Scoping Report (Welsh Government, 2026).
- 9.3.3 The HER holds records of 100 individual historic assets within the Order Limits. The NMR holds records of 32 individual historic assets within the Proposed Development although only 6 of these are additional to the sites recorded on the HER. These sites cover a broad date range. The earliest recorded sites relate to a potential Neolithic burial chamber and stone circle. The Bronze Age is well represented by a large number of cairn and barrow sites, along with standing stones, all indicative of a large funerary and ritual landscape throughout this area. There then appears to be a gap in the archaeological record until the medieval period where a large number of rural settlement sites are recorded, largely comprising individual building sites and collections of deserted rural settlements with their associated field enclosures and other boundaries, but also includes a possible castle motte. Many of these sites may also date to post-medieval period along with small quarries and the visible remains of former and current farmsteads. A small number of modern features are also recorded. Due to the large number of these assets they are not individually listed at this stage, but the potential effects on these assets will be included within the assessment of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.
- 9.3.4 There are 38 scheduled monuments within the 5km Study Area. Of these sites 7 lie within the Order Limits itself. Of the 38 sites six lie at some distance to the north and likely away from the viewshed without other tangible connections to the site (deserted rural settlements (CD154, CD179), house platform (CD184), holy well (CD183), cross (CD060) and hillfort (CD269)). It is possible these sites could be excluded from full assessment at an early stage, however any such exclusion would be confirmed through an initial proportionate assessment. The remaining sites appear to have better views or form part of a potentially interconnected Bronze Age landscape requiring further assessment.
- 9.3.5 There is one listed building within the 2km Study Area, a grade II listed 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse (87826).
- 9.3.6 The northern half of the Order Limits and wider Study Area lies within the Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 2). A small part of the Tywi Valley Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest lies within the southern limits of the 5km Study Area to the south, however given the likely lack of visible impacts upon this small segment of that landscape it is likely that the Tywi Valley Historic Landscape can be scoped out of the assessment (Cadw, 2026).
- 9.3.7 No World Heritage Sites, no registered Historic Parks and Gardens and no Conservation Areas lie within the Study Area.
- 9.3.8 Designated historic assets included within the assessment are listed in Table 9-1 (Welsh Government, 2026) (Cadw, 2026)

Table 9-1: Designated historic assets to be assessed

| Asset | Name                                                    | Designation        | Period               | Type                      |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| BR370 | Castell Llygoden platform cairn                         | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Platform Cairn            |
| CD001 | Strata Florida Abbey                                    | Scheduled monument | Medieval             | Abbey                     |
| CD066 | Castell Rhyfel                                          | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Hillfort                  |
| CD135 | Cairn Cemetery on Esgair Gerwyn                         | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Cairn Cemetery            |
| CD136 | Stone Circle and Associated Structures on Bryn y Gorlan | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Stone Circle              |
| CD137 | Cairns and Ring Works S of Bryn Rhudd                   | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Round Cairn               |
| CD138 | Blaen Glasffrwd cairn cemetery                          | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Cairn Cemetery            |
| CD177 | Fagwyr Las Deserted Rural Settlement                    | Scheduled monument | Post Medieval/Modern | Deserted Rural Settlement |
| CD185 | Blaen Brefi Longhouses                                  | Scheduled monument | Medieval             | Longhouse                 |
| CD186 | Carn Fflur Round Cairn Cemetery                         | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Cairn Cemetery            |
| CD189 | Bryn-y-Crofftau Ring Cairn                              | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Ring Cairn                |
| CD190 | Bryn Eithnog Standing Stone                             | Scheduled monument | Prehistoric          | Standing Stone            |
| CD196 | Llethr Bryn y Gorlan Platform                           | Scheduled monument | Medieval             | House Platform            |

| Asset | Name                                            | Designation           | Period                  | Type                         |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| CD197 | Nant Gwyddel<br>Deserted Rural<br>Settlement    | Scheduled<br>monument | Post<br>Medieval/Modern | Deserted Rural<br>Settlement |
| CD199 | Cyrnau Long<br>Hut                              | Scheduled<br>monument | Medieval                | Rectangular hut              |
| CD206 | Blaen Glasffrwd<br>longhouse                    | Scheduled<br>monument | Post<br>Medieval/Modern | Longhouse                    |
| CD215 | Gwar-castell,<br>Round Cairn<br>Pair 375m SE of | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD216 | Y Garn Round<br>Cairn                           | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD219 | Garn Gron<br>Round Cairn<br>Cemetery            | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD227 | Bryngwyn Bach<br>Round Cairn<br>Cemetery        | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Cairn Cemetery               |
| CD240 | Penrhiwllwydog<br>Round Cairn                   | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD241 | Cefn<br>Cnwcheithinog<br>Standing Stone         | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Standing Stone               |
| CD242 | Cefncerrig<br>Round Cairn                       | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD243 | Nantymaen<br>Standing Stone                     | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Standing Stone               |
| CD244 | Blaen Camddwr<br>Round Cairn                    | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD245 | Bryn Cosyn<br>Cairn Cemetery                    | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Cairn                  |
| CD253 | Pen y Gurnos<br>Round Barrow                    | Scheduled<br>monument | Prehistoric             | Round Barrow                 |

| Asset     | Name                                         | Designation                   | Period                         | Type               |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| CD254     | Blaen Nant-y-Rhiw Round Cairn                | Scheduled monument            | Prehistoric                    | Round Cairn        |
| CD255     | Carn Saith-Wraig Round Cairns                | Scheduled monument            | Prehistoric                    | Round Cairn        |
| CM218     | Cairns & Stone Circle S of Pen-y-Raglan-Wynt | Scheduled monument            | Prehistoric                    | Ring Cairn         |
| CM298     | Esgair Gaeo Deserted Rural Settlement        | Scheduled monument            | Post Medieval/Modern           | Rectangular hut    |
| CM364     | Carn Nant-yr-ast round cairn                 | Scheduled monument            | Prehistoric                    | Round Cairn        |
| 87826     | Maesglas                                     | Listed building (Grade II)    | Post-medieval (Late Victorian) | Farmhouse          |
| HLW (D) 2 | Upland Ceredigion                            | Registered historic landscape | -                              | Historic Landscape |

#### 9.4 Embedded mitigation and design assumptions

9.4.1 Significant effects upon Archaeology and Cultural Heritage receptors will be avoided or minimised where possible through embedded primary mitigation as part of the design process. The following design considerations will inform the existing design (Cadw, 2011), (Cadw, 2017).

- Avoid physical interactions between the construction footprint, including micro-siting allowances, and historic assets
- Avoid and reduce infrastructure in locations that could adversely affect the contribution setting makes to the heritage significance of historic assets

9.4.2 Design principles will continue to be developed through the assessment process and subsequent evolution of the design.

9.4.3 Where possible, mitigation will be undertaken as part of design evolution to avoid direct impacts, and to minimise indirect impacts. This can be done through alternative siting or micro-siting of turbines, access road, borrow pits, grid connection and related items. There are few measures for effective mitigation of visual impact from the proposed turbines, and

so the design iteration phase of the project is crucial to ensure safeguarding of the historic environment.

REVIEW NOTE (Para 9.4) – Category: Terminology ERROR: “the project” is used to refer to the scheme itself. WHY IT MATTERS: This conflicts with the mandatory project terminology rule and creates inconsistency with “Proposed Development” used elsewhere in the chapter. SUGGESTED EDIT (do not change paragraph text): Replace “the project” with “the Proposed Development”.

9.4.4 In addition to the above, construction phase mitigation will principally be delivered through input to the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP). The CEMP would include the mitigation measures to identify vulnerable receptors and protect them from accidental damage, and ensure archaeological monitoring and recording is implemented.

9.4.5 Additional (secondary) mitigation will be included should the assessment indicate the potential for significant effects following the application of standard mitigation measures. Such measures will be provided in the ES

## 9.5 Potential Effects

### Construction Phase

9.5.1 The construction phase of the Proposed Development has the potential to result in the following effects:

- Damage to or destruction of identified and potential receptors through ground-breaking activity due to topsoil stripping, excavations for new access tracks, substations, BESS compounds, hard standings, borrow pits, turbine bases, cable runs and landscaping works. These would be considered permanent impacts.
- Damage to identified and potential receptors through unintentional ground-breaking activity due to vehicle movement across soft ground, storage of overburden and landscaping works. These would be considered permanent impacts.
- Construction activity has the potential to impact upon the setting of designated and high value receptors, through removing or affecting the condition of elements that contribute to the setting of these receptors, affecting access to and from these receptors and affecting visibility and noise to and from these receptors. These would be considered short term temporary impacts.

9.5.2 These key effects will be scoped in to the assessment.

REVIEW NOTE (Para 9.5) – Category: Scoping-out ERROR: “These key effects will be scoped in to the assessment.” is too general given that the immediately preceding list does not define the assessment scope for all receptor/value categories used later in the chapter. WHY IT MATTERS: A reliable scoping statement should align clearly with the receptor categories used in the later scoping

tables and narrative to avoid ambiguity. SUGGESTED EDIT (do not change paragraph text): Replace the sentence with: “These construction-phase effects will be scoped into the assessment for the receptor categories identified in this chapter and summarised in Tables 9-2, 9-3 and 9-7.”

9.5.3 On the basis of the current Order Limits and the land currently identified for construction, no direct physical effects on historic assets outside that area are anticipated. Direct physical effects beyond the land required for construction are therefore proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, subject to confirmation as the design evolves..

9.5.4 Construction activity will also have the potential to have an impact on the setting of non-designated receptors of medium and lower value included within the assessment. However, due to the lower value of these receptors and the potential magnitude of this impact this is unlikely to result in an effect that is considered significant. Therefore, impacts on the setting of non-designated assets of medium and lower value is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, subject to confirmation as the design evolves.

#### Operational Phase

9.5.5 Once operational, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development has the potential to result in the following effects:

- Altering the setting of designated receptors (scheduled monument, listed buildings, registered Historic Landscapes) and high value non-designated receptors, by affecting significant views to and from the receptors, altering the appreciation and experiencing of the receptors, impacting the tranquillity of the receptors and altering the traditional layout and use of the landscape associated with the receptors. These would be considered a temporary, long term impact, or permanent (if the duration of operational life extends a generation or more).
- Altering the setting of designated receptors through the cumulative impact of multiple similar developments in the surrounding landscape.

9.5.6 These effects will be scoped in to the assessment.

9.5.7 Direct physical effects during the operational phase, such as potential damage to identified and potential receptors arising from occasional maintenance-related ground disturbance or vehicle movements, are proposed to be scoped out of the assessment. Such activities are expected to be limited in extent, infrequent in occurrence and substantially less intrusive than construction-phase works, and are not anticipated to give rise to likely significant effects..

9.5.8 Altering the setting of non-designated receptors of medium and lower value included within the assessment is unlikely to result in an effect that is considered significant due to the lower value of these receptors and the potential magnitude of this impact. Therefore, impacts on the setting of non-designated assets of medium and lower value is proposed to be scoped out of the assessment, subject to confirmation as the design evolves.

## Decommissioning Phase

- 9.5.9 Decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be carried out in line with the legislation and guidance current at the time of Decommissioning. Access tracks, hardstandings and foundations are considered likely to remain in situ, as such, there will be no impacts associated with their removal. Deconstruction of turbine blades, nacelles, generators and towers will essentially be a reverse process of construction and will require no additional land-take or ground-breaking. Decommissioning is therefore scoped out of the assessment.

Table 9-2 - Summary of Likely Significant Effects

| Summary of Likely Significant Effects                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Receptor                                                     | Potential Effects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Scoped In |
| <b>Construction Phase</b>                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |
| Designated historic assets                                   | Direct physical impacts arising from construction activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ✓         |
| Non-designated historic assets                               | Direct physical impacts arising from construction activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ✓         |
| Designated and high value historic assets                    | Effects resulting from change in the setting during construction                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | ✓         |
| <b>Operational Phase</b>                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |
| Designated and high value historic assets                    | Impacts on the setting during operation within the larger study area and ZTV                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | ✓         |
| Designated historic assets                                   | Cumulative effects due to changes to the setting of assets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | ✓         |
| Registered Historic Landscapes                               | Assessments of the Significance of the Impact of the Development on the Historic Landscape (ASIDOHL)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | ✓         |
| <b>Decommissioning Phase</b>                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |
| Impacts on historic assets during decommissioning activities | Scoped out – No worse than construction<br><br><div> <b>Impacts on historic assets during decommissioning activities</b><br/><br/>           Elements of the Proposed Development will either remain in situ or require no further land take and therefore unlikely to have any further significant effect on the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.         </div> | X         |

## 9.6 Scoping Assessment

- 9.6.1 Further to the above, Table 9-3 below provides details on the matters to be scoped out of further assessment within the ES.

Table 9-3 - Matters to be scoped out of the assessment

| Matters to be scoped out of the assessment                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Matter                                                                                                  | Rationale                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Direct physical impacts to historic assets beyond the land required for construction                    | It is anticipated that direct physical impacts will be contained within the Order Limits.                                                                                                                           |
| Impacts on the setting of designated historic assets during operation beyond the larger study area      | At this distance it is assumed that any potential visual impacts from the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on designated receptors.                                                          |
| Impacts on the settings of non-designated historic assets of medium and lower value during construction | Due to the lower value of these receptors and the potential magnitude of this impact this is unlikely to result in an effect that is considered significant.                                                        |
| Impacts on the settings of non-designated historic assets of medium and lower value during operation    | Due to the lower value of these receptors and the potential magnitude of this impact this is unlikely to result in an effect that is considered significant.                                                        |
| Direct physical impacts on historic assets during operation                                             | Such activities are expected to be limited in extent, infrequent in occurrence and substantially less intrusive than construction-phase works, and are not anticipated to give rise to likely significant effects.. |
| Impacts on historic assets during decommissioning activities                                            | Elements of the Proposed Development will either remain in situ or require no further land take and therefore unlikely to have any further significant effect on the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.             |

## 9.7 Proposed Assessment Methodology

- 9.7.1 The following methodology will be followed to assesses the potential for likely significant effects in relation to the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage for those effects that are proposed to be scoped in.
- 9.7.2 The purpose of the assessment is to identify the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment and cultural significance of the area in which the development is located.

### General Approach

- 9.7.3 Policy and guidance suggest that EIA should be proportionate, concise and focused on potential significant effects. Cadw's Conservation Principles for the sustainable

management of the historic environment in Wales (page 18) states in the section on Managing Change to an Historic Asset [Receptors]: ‘Changes to historic assets are inevitable. To ensure the long-term future of historic assets, change needs to be managed to ensure that their significance is not diminished as a consequence’, and paragraph 47 ‘When considering the severity of potential impacts upon an historic asset, there should always be proportionality and reasonableness’. The heritage assessment will use these key aims of the guidance to ensure the results of the study are focused on a proportionate response to potential impacts on heritage significance (Cadw, 2011) (Welsh Government, 2017).

- 9.7.4 Following best practice guidance published by the Welsh Government and Cadw for conserving the historic environment and managing change within it, this EIA would include a description of the principal elements of heritage significance using purchased data, and web-based sources. Once the baseline has been established, the heritage significance of the designated assets would be determined, including through a targeted site walkover survey, with particular focus on those assets with important visual connections such as hillforts and upland burial monuments. This would be followed by analysis of the settings for designated assets based on their geographic and topographic location, period, function, character, intervisibility with other assets and related matters, to establish what within the setting contributes to heritage significance (Cadw, 2011) (Cadw, 2017).

#### Visual Modelling and Filtering of Assets

- 9.7.5 To assess the degree of potential change to the landscape and the potential impact on assets through development within their setting, a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (based on a bare earth model) would be used to filter out assets which would not experience intervisibility with the turbines, supplemented by a field visit for those designated assets that have the potential to be affected. Principally, a ZTV generated for both hub height and to blade tip would be used for the turbines

#### Detailed Staged Approach

- 9.7.6 Detailed guidance has also been issued by Cadw on the Setting of Historic Assets in Wales (May 2017) and Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales (May 2017). These promote a staged approach to assessing assessment of historic assets, their historic significance and the potential impacts from development, and would be applied as part of the Historic Environment assessment. The assessment would also address issues such as permanence or reversibility, construction and operation, as well as temporary or long-term effects. The guidance helps to identify key aspects of a wind farm and other renewable energy infrastructure that might affect the historic environment, such as visual dominance, scale, intervisibility, vista and sight-lines, movement, sound or light effects, and unaltered setting (Cadw, 2017).
- 9.7.7 The Cadw guidance is sufficiently detailed for a clear distinction to be made between this approach (which is to establish heritage significance, how setting contributes to that

heritage significance, and how this might be altered by a development), as opposed to merely stating that all development would result in change to the surroundings of a heritage asset. (Cadw, 2017)

- 9.7.8 In summary, this approach is required because the simple fact that a new development might be visible from a heritage asset is not in itself an adverse impact. The guidance is designed to manage change and allow for sustainable development which does not substantially harm the historic environment, and the staged assessment process allows a balanced view to be established as to what is of importance for understanding a historic asset in its setting (Cadw, 2011) (Cadw, 2017).
- 9.7.9 Assessment would also be made of the potential for cumulative impact on designated historic assets from the Proposed Development and other schemes in planning, as well as those consented or operational, within the 2km and 5km spatial areas around designated historic assets.
- 9.7.10 Part of the Proposed Development lies within the boundaries of a registered Historic Landscape (Upland Ceredigion Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest (HLW (D) 2)). As such, if any meaningful aspects of infrastructure (e.g., turbines, compounds, access tracks), are proposed for siting within the registered Historic Landscape, an 'ASIDOHL2' assessment may then be required. Given the area of Proposed Development within this registered Historic Landscape it is, at this stage, assumed an 'ASIDOHL2' assessment would be a requirement, but any such requirement would be the subject to further post-scoping consultation with Cadw (Cadw and Countryside Council for Wales, 2007) (Cadw, 2026).
- 9.7.11 Further archaeological surveys may be required to improve the understanding of the potential for Historic Environment receptors to be affected by the Proposed Development. Such surveys could be non-intrusive and intrusive in nature. The need and parameters for such further surveys would be discussed with relevant stakeholders and agreed prior to their implementation.
- 9.7.12 Non-intrusive surveys would likely comprise geophysical surveys of specific sites or areas of interest. Such surveys would be designed to produce a relatively rapid appraisal of potential buried Historic Environment receptors but can be limited in the information they provide and the areas suitable for such surveys.
- 9.7.13 Intrusive survey may also be required in some locations to establish the presence, extent, character, condition and significance of archaeological remains where this cannot be adequately resolved through non-intrusive means. Any such survey requirements and methodologies would be developed following consultation with the relevant stakeholders.
- Determining Significant Effects**
- 9.7.14 The historic environment impact assessment will follow national policy and best practice guidance in order to establish a robust and transparent analysis of the issues. The approach adopted will follow a standard staged process consisting of baseline survey to identify

known and potential historic assets, design iteration to avoid these heritage constraints and minimise potential impacts on the historic environment, comparative analysis to determine which historic assets might be affected by the Proposed Development, field survey and analysis to establish the heritage significance of important affected assets, characterising the nature and magnitude of impacts, design of mitigation measures, and an assessment of the residual effect on the historic environment. This process will be tabulated according to sensitivity (Table 9-4), and magnitude of impact (Table 9-5), and then the significance of effect can be derived from a matrix where these two tables are compared (Table 9-6).

- 9.7.15 For the purpose of this assessment, any effects with a significance level of slight or less are not considered to be significant in terms of the EIA Regulations, whilst those that are scored as moderate might be significant, subject to professional judgement. A score that is not significant does not negate the requirement for further mitigation.

*Table 9-4 - Heritage values/sensitivity*

| Heritage Significance | Explanation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Highest</b>        | World heritage sites<br>Scheduled monuments<br>Grade I and II* listed buildings<br>Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens<br>Registered battlefields<br>Protected wrecks<br>Non-designated assets of equivalent significance                             |
| <b>High</b>           | Grade II listed buildings<br>Grade II registered parks and gardens<br>Conservation areas<br>Non-designated assets of equivalent significance<br>Archaeological sites which are of particular individual importance within the regional archaeological resource |
| <b>Medium</b>         | Archaeological sites of local importance                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Low</b>            | Sites are of minor importance or with little remaining to justify a higher category                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Negligible</b>     | Negligible or no heritage significance                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Unknown</b>        | Further information is required to assess the potential of these sites                                                                                                                                                                                         |

*Table 9-5 - Magnitude of Impact*

| Magnitude of Impact    | Definition                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>High beneficial</b> | The development would considerably enhance the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it |

| Magnitude of Impact | Definition                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Medium beneficial   | The development would enhance to a clearly discernible extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                        |
| Low beneficial      | The development would enhance to a minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                                      |
| Very low beneficial | The development would enhance to a very minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                                 |
| Neutral / None      | The development would not affect, or would have harmful and enhancing effects of equal magnitude, on the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it |
| Very low adverse    | The development would erode to a very minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                                   |
| Low adverse         | The development would erode to a minor extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                                        |
| Medium adverse      | The development would erode to a clearly discernible extent the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                          |
| High adverse        | The development would severely erode the heritage significance of the affected asset or the ability to appreciate it                                                                 |

Table 9-6 - Significance of Effect

| Magnitude of Impact | Heritage Significance |               |               |               |            |               |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
|                     | Highest               | High          | Medium        | Low           | Negligible |               |
| High beneficial     | Substantial           | Substantial   | Slight        | Very Slight   | Negligible | Enhancement   |
| Medium beneficial   | Substantial           | Moderate      | Slight        | Very Slight   | Negligible |               |
| Low beneficial      | Moderate              | Slight        | Very Slight   | Very Slight   | Negligible |               |
| Very low beneficial | Slight                | Very Slight   | Negligible    | Negligible    | Negligible |               |
| Neutral / nil       | Neutral / nil         | Neutral / nil | Neutral / nil | Neutral / nil | Negligible | Neutral / nil |
| Very low adverse    | Slight                | Very Slight   | Negligible    | Negligible    | Negligible | Harm          |
| Low adverse         | Moderate              | Slight        | Very Slight   | Very Slight   | Negligible |               |
| Medium adverse      | Substantial           | Moderate      | Slight        | Very Slight   | Negligible |               |
| High adverse        | Substantial           | Substantial   | Slight        | Very Slight   | Negligible |               |

## Assumptions

- 9.7.16 It is assumed that the information held within the consulted datasets will be sufficiently accurate for the purpose of assessing impacts on the historic environment resource. The

Historic Environment Record and National Monuments Record Wales (the primary datasets to be used in the assessment) are records of known archaeological and historical assets. They are not exhaustive and do not preclude the existence of further assets which are unknown at present.

#### Limitations

- 9.7.17 Areas of archaeological potential can be identified from the initial assessment of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, but the full nature of this resource cannot be fully understood at this stage. Further archaeological surveys may be required to improve an understanding of the archaeological resource within the areas of potential development

## 9.8 Summary of Scoping position

- 9.8.1 Table 9-7 summarises the potential for likely significant effects on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage receptors that are proposed to be scoped in and scoped out of the EIA.

Table 9-7 - Summary of scope

| Potential Likely Effect                                                                                                                                | Phase of the Proposed Development (Construction/Operation) | Scoped In | Scoped Out |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Direct physical impacts to designated historic assets (Receptor) arising from construction activities.                                                 | Construction                                               | Yes       | No         |
| Direct physical impacts to non-designated historic assets (Receptor) arising from construction activities                                              | Construction                                               | Yes       | No         |
| Direct physical impacts to historic assets beyond the land required for construction.                                                                  | Construction                                               | No        | Yes        |
| Effects resulting from change in the setting of designated and high value historic assets (Receptor) during construction.                              | Construction                                               | Yes       | No         |
| Effects resulting from change in the setting of non-designated medium and lower value historic assets (Receptor) during construction                   | Construction                                               | No        | Yes        |
| Effects resulting from change in setting of designated and high value historic assets (Receptor) during operation within the larger study area and ZTV | Operational                                                | Yes       | No         |

| Potential Likely Effect                                                                                                                         | Phase of the Proposed Development (Construction/Operation) | Scoped In | Scoped Out |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Effects resulting from change in setting of designated and high value historic assets (Receptor) during operation beyond the larger study area. | Operational                                                | No        | Yes        |
| Effects resulting from change in settings of non-designated historic assets (Receptor) of medium and lower value during operation               | Operational                                                | No        | Yes        |
| Direct physical impacts on historic assets (Receptor) during operation.                                                                         | Operational                                                | No        | Yes        |
| Cumulative effects on historic assets (Receptor) due to changes to the setting of assets.                                                       | Operational                                                | Yes       | No         |
| Effects of decommissioning the Proposed Development at the end of its operational life                                                          | Decommissioning                                            | No        | Yes        |

## 9.9 References

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