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MYNYDD Y GAER WIND FARM DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Design and Access Statement (DAS) is prepared on behalf of Cenin Renewables Limited (Cenin) in respect of a planning application for the construction and operation of up to 11 wind turbines and associated infrastructure at Mynydd Y Gaer Common on land to the north of Heol y Cyw, Bridgend. As the export capacity of the Proposed Development exceeds 10 megawatts (MW) it constitutes a Development of National Significance (DNS) as set out in the Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents (Wales) Regulations 2016.
- 1.2 The purpose of this DAS is to allow the Applicant to demonstrate that the development proposals are based on a considered design process and a sustainable approach to access. The DAS will also demonstrate how the development proposals have evolved during the design process.
- 1.3 The DAS has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of:
- The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended);
 - The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 (Section 14);
 - Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, published February 2024 (PPW);
 - Technical Advice Note 12: Design, published July 2016 ('TAN 12');
 - Design and Access Statements in Wales: Why, What and How, published April 2017; and
 - Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales, published November 2023

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- 1.4 Consideration has also been given to the relevant policies within the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Local Development Plan (LDP), adopted March 2024.
- 1.5 The remainder of the DAS is organised as follows. Section 2 provides a summary of the development. Section 3 describes the Site and Context analysis. Section 4 covers planning policy context and Section 5 explains the iterative design process. Section 6 details the proposals in terms of:
- Character;
 - Access;
 - Movement;
 - Environmental Sustainability; and
 - Community Safety.
- 1.6 Section 7 provides the summary and conclusion.
- 1.7 The application is also accompanied by a Planning Statement and Environmental Statement (including a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and associated technical appendices). The Planning Statement provides an appraisal of the Proposed Development against the Development Plan and relevant national planning policy. While the DAS is a standalone document, further detail can be found in these additional documents, and the DAS should be read in conjunction with them accordingly.

2 SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSAL

- 2.1 The application proposes the construction and operation of up to 11 wind turbines and associated infrastructure including substation switches, access tracks and turning heads, borrow pits, temporary construction compounds (including holding bays), crane pads, underground cabling, drainage works and biodiversity proposals including creation, enhancement and restoration.
- 2.2 The Proposed Development at Mynydd y Gaer is part of the applicant's wider plans to develop a Bridgend Energy Hub, a scheme that will combine the production of renewable energy for use in the local area, the development of employment space and sustainable transport hub near junction 36 of the M4. As well as generating electricity, Mynydd y Gaer will create improved access for walkers and cyclists to utilise the common.

Key Components

- Turbines;
- Substation switches;
- Access tracks and turning heads;
- Borrow pits;
- Temporary construction compounds and holding areas; and
- Crane pads.

Turbines

- 2.3 The Proposed Development consists of 11 turbines. The turbines consist of two specification types (V150 and V162). There will be three V150 turbines and eight V162 turbines. Details of the turbine specifications are provided in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Turbine Specifications

	V150	V162
Max turbine tip height	180m	198m
Max turbine hub height	105m	119m*
Rotor diameter	150m	162m
Turbine radius (m)	75m	81m

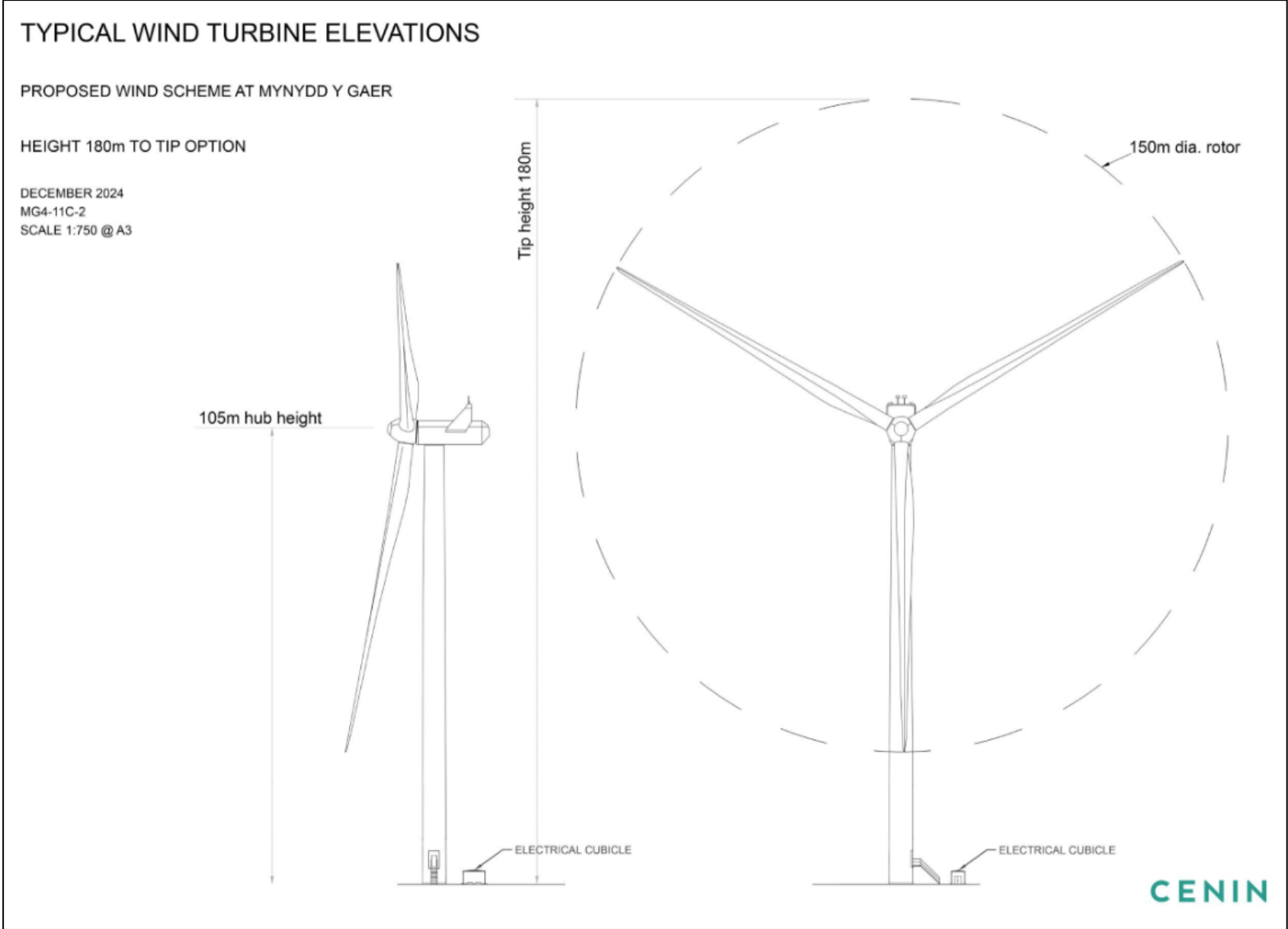
**Please note: T11 is a V162 model with a larger hub height of 149m and tip height of 230m.*

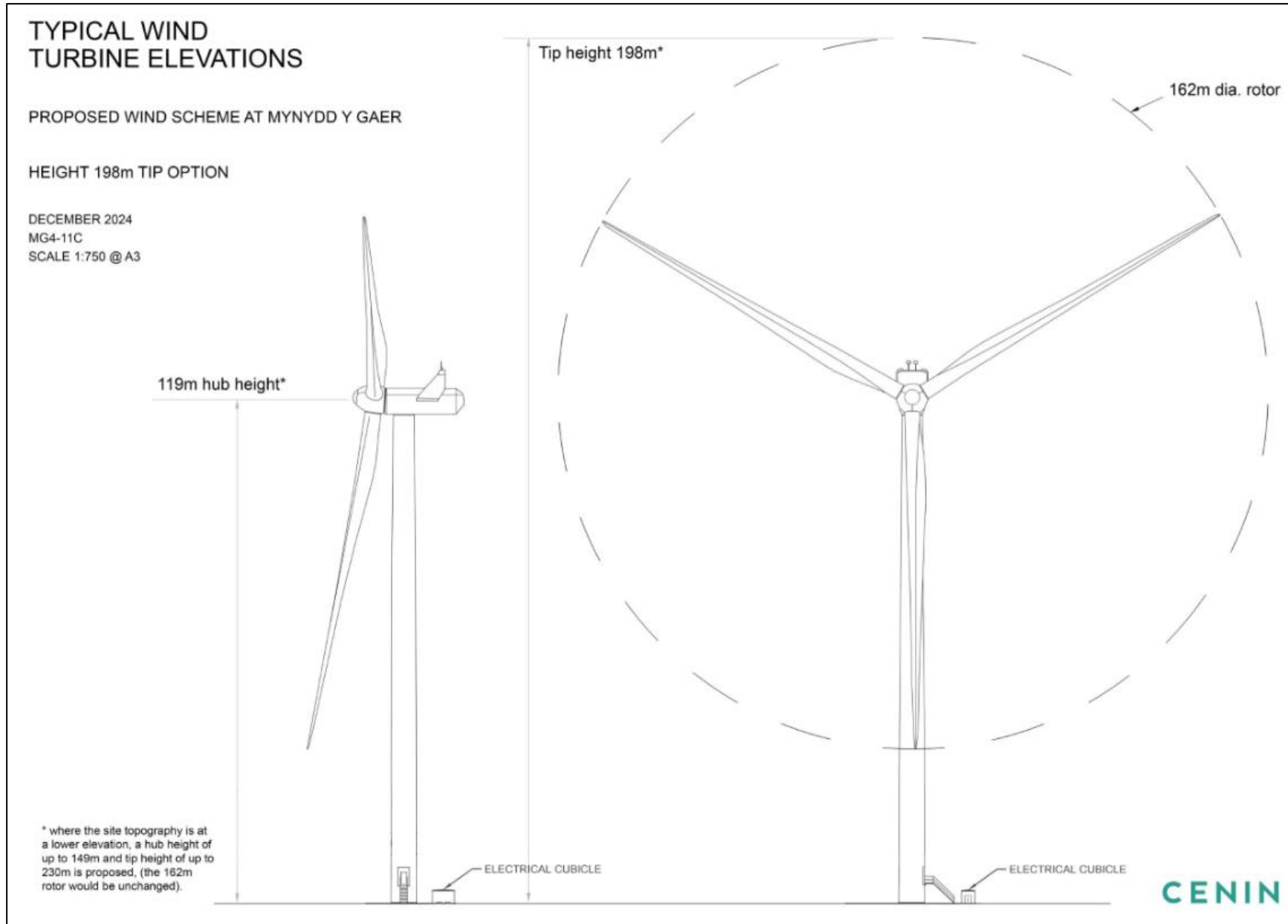
2.4 An outline of the individual turbine sizes is provided in Table 2.2 below:

Table 2.2: Individual Turbine Specifications and Grid References

Name	Hub Height (m)	Rotor Diameter (m)	Tip Height (m)	Easting	Northing
T1	119	162	198	294166	185792
T2	105	150	180	294511	185550
T3	119	162	198	295032	185829
T4	105	150	180	294692	186296
T5	105	150	180	295344	186325
T6	119	162	198	295519	185931
T7	119	162	198	295848	186235
T8	119	162	198	295967	185862
T9	119	162	198	296521	186082
T10	119	162	198	296501	185599
T11	149	162	230	297052	185435

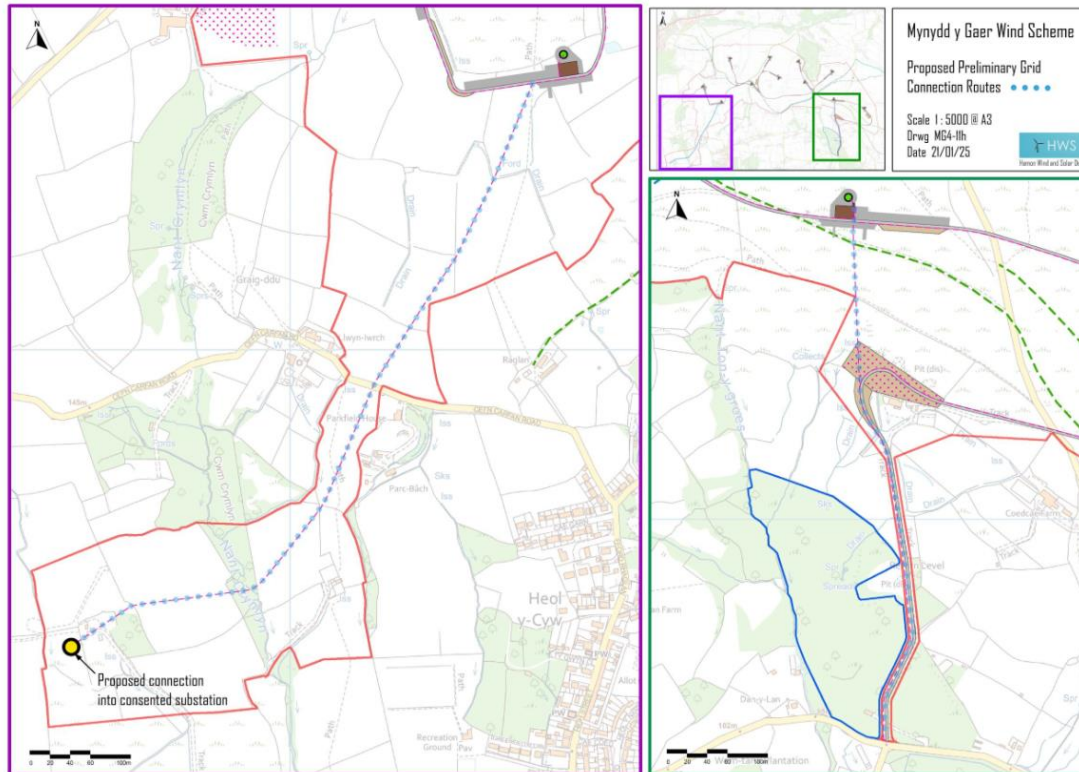
2.5 Indicative turbine elevations of the 180m and 198m tips are overleaf.





Grid Connection

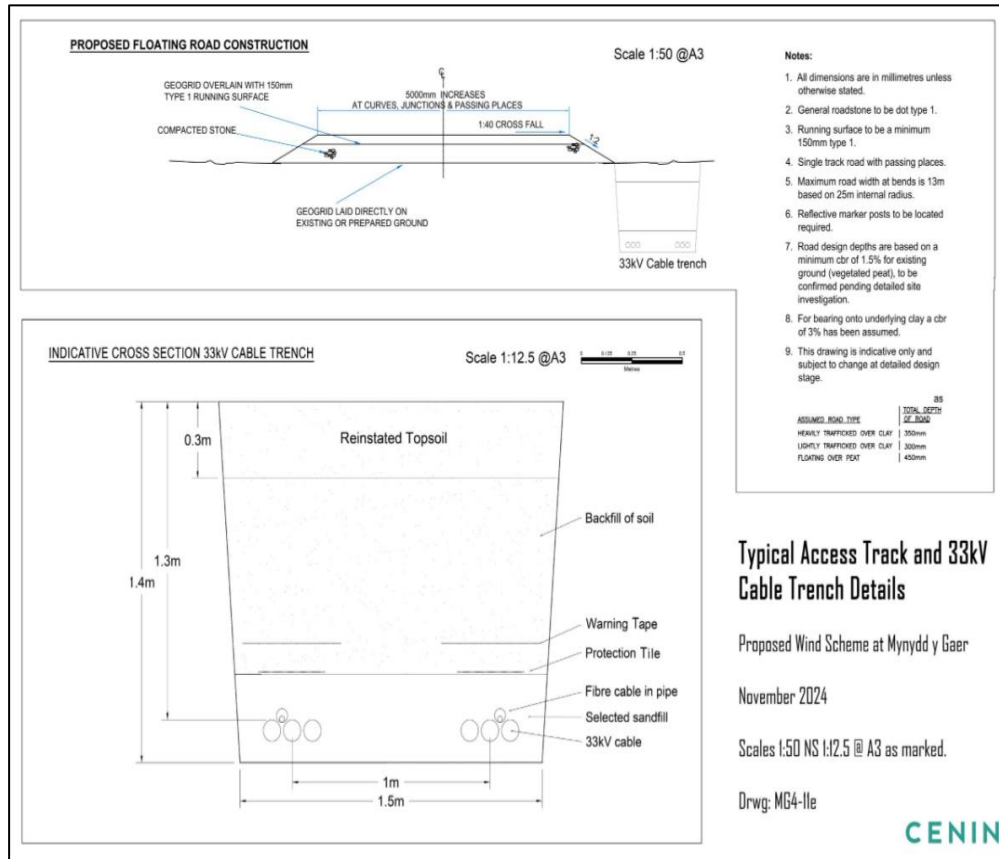
2.6 The grid connection is proposed south of the development, west of Heol y Cyw. The exact location of the grid connection is illustrated in Figure MyG4-11b) Site Layout Plan. The grid connection is shared with the approved Ty'n y Waun Solar Farm (DNS/3279521), as part of the Bridgend Energy Hub.



2.7 The grid connection also forms part of a DNS secondary consent under Section 57 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for planning permission to authorise the grid connection, comprising the installation of underground electricity cables.

Access tracks and turning heads

2.8 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of on-Site surfaced tracks providing access to the wind turbines, on-site substation compound and temporary construction compounds from the local highway network.



2.9 Most of the on-site access tracks would be required to facilitate the construction of the proposed development.

2.10 Additionally, a number of access tracks will be retained after construction in order to facilitate maintenance activities during the operational phase.

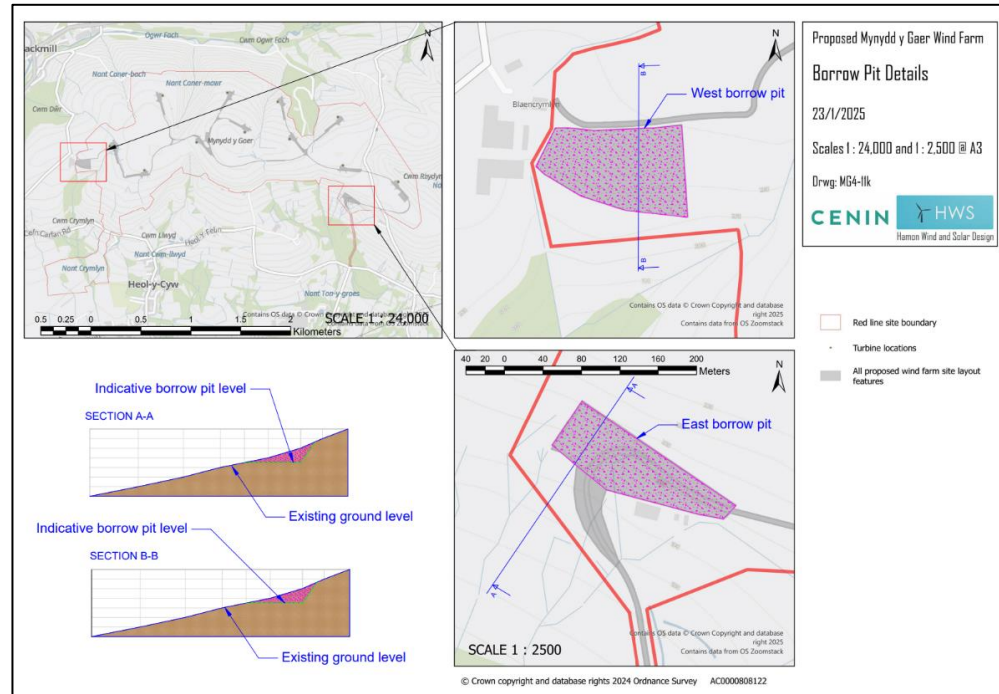
Borrow pits

2.11 Borrow pits will be excavated to provide fill materials required for construction of the proposed development, such as the on-site access tracks, wind turbine foundations and landscaping areas.

Temporary construction compounds and holding areas

2.12 The compound would be used, where necessary, for temporary storage of the various components and materials which are required for construction.

2.13 The temporary construction compounds will be reinstated at the end of the construction phase. The stored subsoil and the stored topsoil would be laid over the underlying stone surface and then reseeded using a seed mix selected or, where possible, turfs would be reinstated.



Crane pads

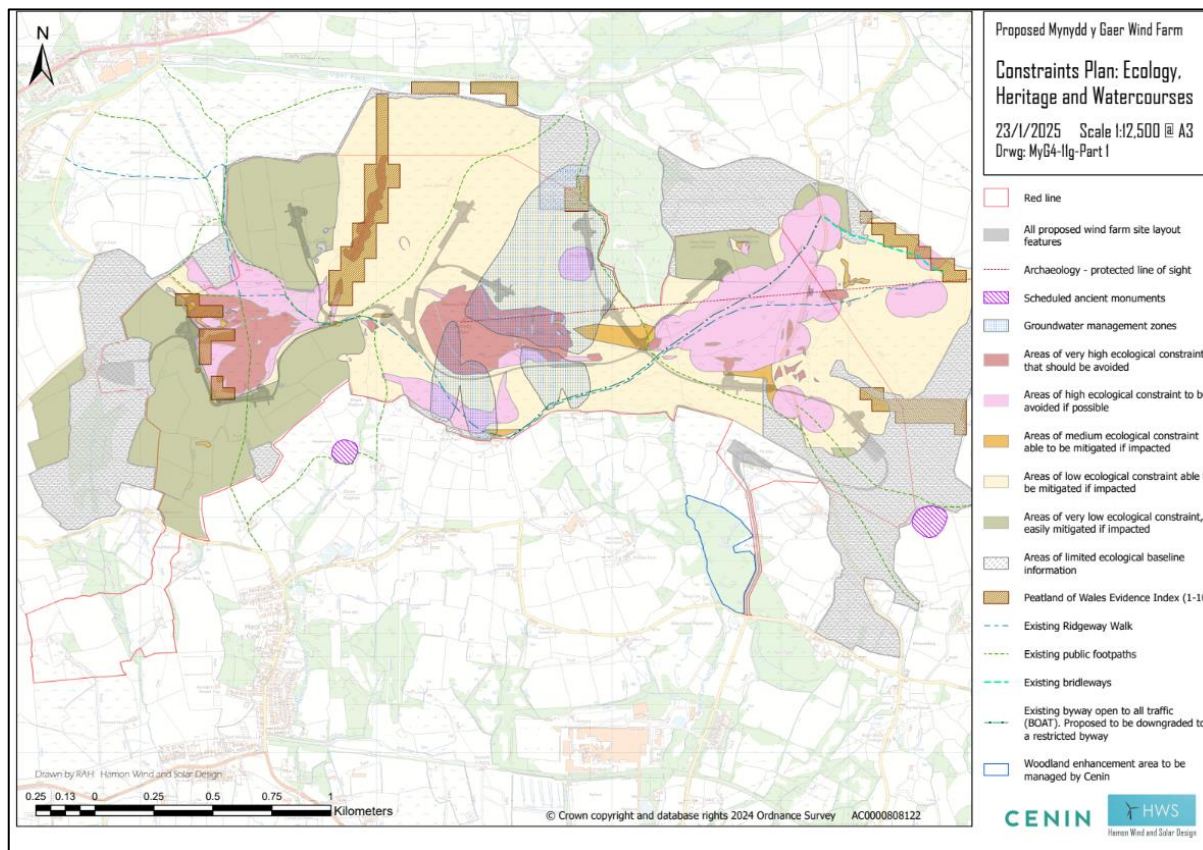
2.14 Permanent crane hardstandings (pads) as well as temporary lay down areas will be constructed to facilitate the cranes required for the erection of turbine components. To provide stable, firm ground for safe operation of the cranes, areas of hardstanding would be laid down on one side of each turbine foundation.

The Applicant and Key Benefits of the Scheme

- 2.15 Through their innovative approach to renewable energy provision, Cenin Renewables Ltd unlock hidden green energy potential and utilise the earth's natural resources.
- 2.16 Cenin respect the people they work with and the places they live, helping develop quality energy systems for local communities that increase wellbeing and add value for future generations by creating a sustainable world. In 2021, Cenin were awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise due to their work in sustainable development. As part of the commitment Cenin make to the communities in which they work, all of their projects aim to:
- Provide local energy generation creating economic benefit for the foreseeable future;
 - Provide annual educational visits for local schools and community groups to visit project Sites, to explain how Cenin help deliver the electric economy;
 - Offer all Year 6s from schools in the local area to visit the Parc Stormy HQ each year, for the life of the project at no cost;
 - Maintain access to the countryside for wellbeing, exercise and active travel;
 - Support local clubs and associations in the area; and
 - Help create the 'Wales we want' for our future generations.
- 2.17 The Mynydd y Gaer Wind Farm proposal will result in locally produced energy that will feed directly into the local energy network, providing a stable, cost-effective source of power for Bridgend and the surrounding area.
- 2.18 The proposal will result in several key benefits, including:
- Contributing to sustainable development and government carbon reduction targets;
 - Increased revenue from the energy sector to be spent in the local economy;
 - The construction phase will result in jobs and increased expenditure in local shops, eating and drinking establishments and overnight accommodation; and
 - The maintenance of the Site will generate further opportunities for employment.

3 SITE AND CONTEXT ANALYSIS

3.1 The Site is located broadly north of the M4 motorway and the village of Heol y Cyw, which lies approximately 5 miles from Bridgend on Mynydd y Gaer Common. The highest point of Mynydd y Gaer is 295m. From the junction on the B4280 at Pencoed, the road north to the A4093 near Glynogwr passes through the Site. The location of the Site and surrounding is illustrated in the attached Site Location Plan (MyG4-11a). The Site consists of fields predominantly used for upland sheep grazing comprised of common land and plantation forestry. Sheep grazing will continue, and the land would be managed to also benefit existing habitat enhancement as well as retaining open access and public rights of way (ProW). The existing features and constraints of the Site are illustrated in the image below.



4 PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 National and development plan design and access policies relevant to the proposal are summarised below.

National Planning Policy

4.2 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 12th Edition published February 2024, and the accompanying Technical Advice Notes (TANs) set out the national planning policies of the Welsh Government and are material considerations in the determination of individual planning applications.

4.3 PPW paragraph 1.18 states that the planning system provides for a presumption in favour of sustainable development to ensure that social, economic and environmental issues are balanced and integrated, at the same time, by the decision-taker in taking decisions on individual planning applications.

4.4 PPW recognises that good design means the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment. It should go beyond aesthetics and consider social, environmental and economic aspects of the development. PPW objectives of good design are as follows:

- Access;
- Character;
- Community Safety;
- Environmental Sustainability; and
- Movement.

4.5 PPW paragraph 3.4 states: *'Meeting the objectives of good design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process and applied to all development proposals, at all scales'*.

4.6 PPW paragraph 3.6 states that developments should incorporate inclusive design principles to support a diverse range of people and provide design solutions that offer choice and flexibility.

4.7 PPW paragraph 3.17 states DAS' should state *'the design principles and concepts adopted and include illustrative material in diagrams, plans, elevations and sections where relevant'*.

4.8 Paragraph 5.2.20 recognises the significance and potential interference of wind turbines on electronic communications and requires that *'Consultation with telecommunications or broadcast authorities may be appropriate in certain cases'*.

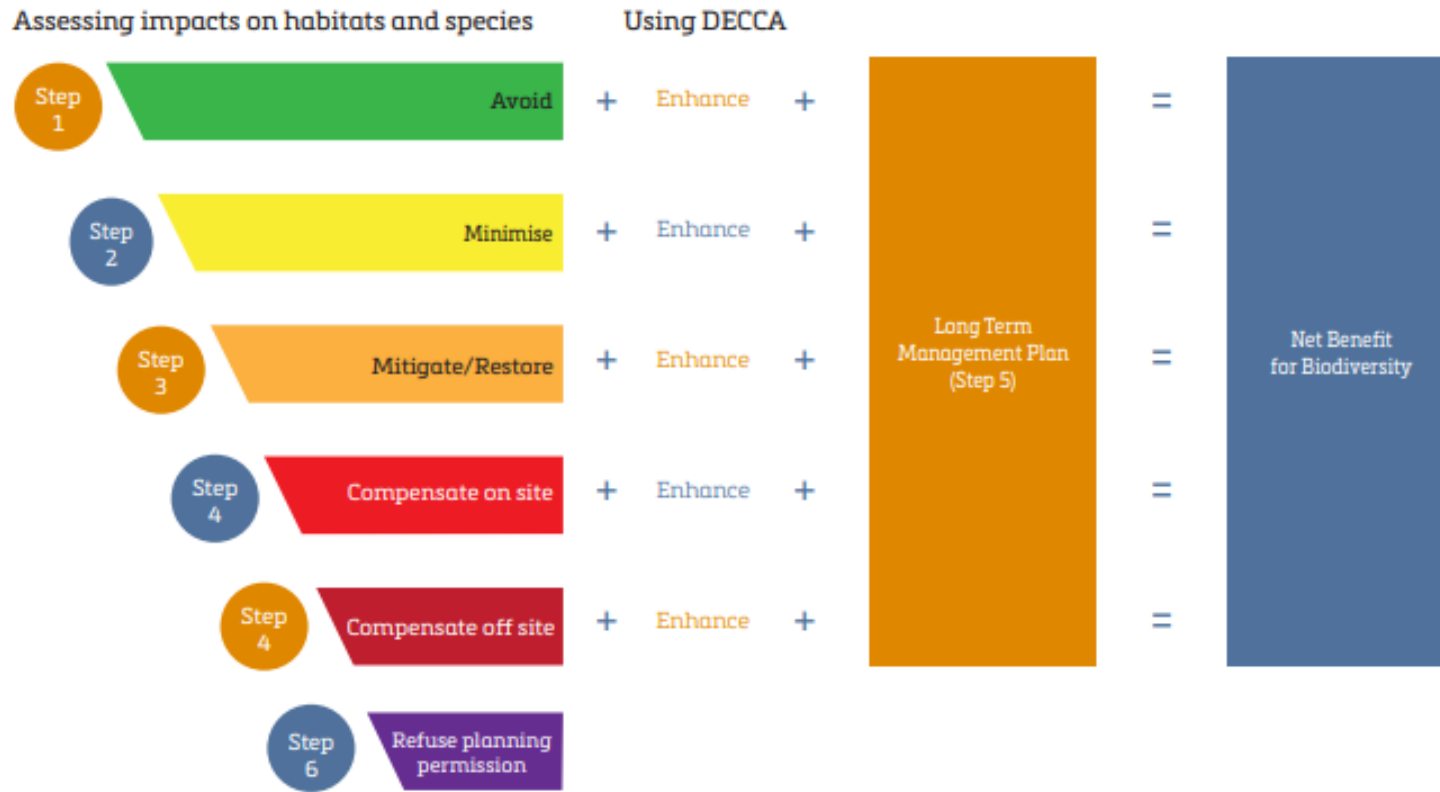
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- 4.9 Section 5.7 of PPW on ‘Energy’ outlines the context to and the requirements of energy projects. Paragraph 5.7.1 states low carbon electricity must become the main source of energy in Wales.
- 4.10 Paragraph 5.7.2 acknowledges that overall power demand is expected to increase as a result of growing electrification of transport and heat. PPW highlights that in order to ensure future demand can be met, significant investment will be needed in energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure. The system will need to integrate renewable generation with storage and other flexibility services, in order to minimise the need for new generation and grid system reinforcement.
- 4.11 Paragraph 5.7.5 requires that ‘*Planning applications for onshore generating projects in Wales which have an installed generation capacity of between 10MW and 350MW (there is no upper limit for onshore wind generating stations) are made directly to the Welsh Ministers under the Developments of National Significance (DNS) process and considered under policies in Future Wales*’.
- 4.12 Paragraph 5.7.6 stresses that the planning system should secure an appropriate mix of energy provision, which maximises benefits to our economy and communities whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts. This forms part of the Welsh Government’s aim to secure the strongest economic development policies, to underpin growth and prosperity in Wales, recognising the importance of decarbonisation and the sustainable use of natural resources, both as an economic driver and a commitment to sustainable development.
- 4.13 Paragraph 5.7.7 states:
- “The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance.” (our emphasis)*

- 4.14 It continues that the Welsh Government is committed to using the planning system to (inter alia):
- integrate development with the provision of additional electricity grid network infrastructure;
 - optimise energy storage;
 - optimise the location of new developments to allow for efficient use of resources;
 - maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation.
- 4.15 Section 5.9.16 sets out the criteria for and importance of large scale wind energy development in Wales. The section states that *‘Wales has an abundant wind resource and, as a result, wind energy forms a key part of meeting the Welsh Government’s vision for future renewable energy production’*
- 4.16 Paragraph 5.9.17 states that *‘Future Wales sets out the Welsh Government’s policies for the determination of renewable energy schemes of 10MW and more under the Developments of National Significance procedure. For large scale wind developments, it identifies Pre-Assessed Areas where the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. There is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind energy development (including repowering) in these areas, subject to other criteria contained within the policy’.*
- 4.17 Paragraph 5.9.18 reaffirms the value of Welsh Government’s pre-assessed areas and the significance of these areas in the role of the local planning authorities by stating *‘ Local planning authorities should not seek to amend the Pre-Assessed Areas within their boundaries as they form part of the development plan. LDPs may seek to define areas within the Pre-Assessed Areas for other land uses (including renewable development Sites of below 10MW), although any local policy and planning decisions should not prejudice the ability for large scale wind developments to come forward in the Pre-Assessed Areas’.*
- 4.18 Paragraph 5.9.19 sets out the key issues in development management and determining applications for renewable and low carbon energy technologies. It states planning authorities should consider:
- The contribution a proposal will make to meeting identified Welsh, UK and European targets;
 - The contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - The wider environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities from renewable and low carbon energy development.

- 4.19 PPW paragraph 5.9.20 states planning authorities should also identify and require suitable ways to avoid, mitigate or compensate adverse impacts of renewable and low carbon energy development. The construction, operation, decommissioning, remediation and aftercare of proposals should take into account:
- the need to minimise impacts on local communities, such as from noise and air pollution, to safeguard quality of life for existing and future generations;
 - the impact on the natural and historic environment;
 - cumulative impact;
 - the capacity of, and effects on the transportation network;
 - grid connection issues where renewable (electricity) energy developments are proposed; and
 - the impacts of climate change on the location, design, build and operation of renewable and low carbon energy development. In doing so, consider whether measures to adapt to climate change impacts give rise to additional impacts.
- 4.20 Paragraph 6.0.3 outlines that *'distinctive and natural places must maintain or incorporate green infrastructure, recognising the wide-ranging role it can play, as key components of their natural and built fabric. Doing so will maximise health and wellbeing of communities and the environment'*.
- 4.21 Paragraph 6.2.11 states that *'The quality of the built environment should be enhanced by integrating green infrastructure into development through appropriate Site selection and use of creative design'*.
- 4.22 Paragraph 6.2.12 stipulates that a Green Infrastructure Statement should be submitted with all planning applications which will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposed scheme utilising the 'Step- Wise Approach', as outlined within paragraph 6.4.15 and demonstrated graphically below.

Figure 12: Summary of the Step-Wise Approach



- 4.23 Prior to an application being submitted, developers for renewable and low carbon energy developments are encouraged, wherever possible, to consider how to avoid, or otherwise minimise, adverse impacts through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.
- 4.24 TAN12: Design states that a DAS is a statutory requirement for certain applications for planning permission in order to outline how the design of the proposal has been considered in relation to its context.

Design Guidance

Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales (November 2023)

- 4.25 This document, prepared by the Design Commission for Wales, sets out the key design objectives and considerations for the sensitive development of large-scale onshore wind and solar installations in Wales.
- 4.26 Chapter 5 sets out guidance and best practise regarding the design of Wind Farms. The following are some of the principal issues that the design approach will need to address and demonstrate an appropriate response to:

Location

- 4.27 On-shore wind turbine installations are, by necessity, located in exposed windy landscapes. These are most frequently found on high ground, or on exposed plains, where the turbine array forms a new skyline silhouette that is often visible across long distances. Accepting that these impacts are inevitable, the design approach must find a way to integrate the new elements into the existing landscape as discussed above. This may, for example, be organic or rigid in form; it may be bold, such as a grid located along ridgelines, or may take some other form. Whatever approach is adopted and tested; it should have a positive design intent that is clearly explained.
- 4.28 Amongst the main factors that influence the siting of wind farms are:
- exposed places that are open, high and relatively prominent;
 - land ownership;
 - access;
 - grid connection;
 - site topography;
 - location in relation to other natural or cultural heritage interests and/or statutory designations;
 - aviation constraints;
 - proximity to settlement; and

- to avoid excessive turbulence.

Scale

- 4.29 Wind turbine installations comprise groups of the tallest structures ever constructed in Wales and the drive to create turbines of greater generating capacity and efficiency is generally resulting in turbines of greater height. In the Pre-assessed Areas and other locations for wind turbine development, it is recognised that the scale of these interventions will change the appearance of the landscape. The design challenge associated with these large-scale turbine installations is to create landscapes which accommodate new renewable energy generation, and which contribute to decarbonisation, reduced climate impact, and energy security for Wales and the UK.
- 4.30 Structural and technological innovation over coming years will lead to the development of wind turbines of greater size and energy generating capacity. The impact of these much larger turbines on the landscapes will require exemplary design skill to create successful layouts. As size increases, there will need to be a change of emphasis from turbines considered as features in a landscape to turbines much more defining the landscape character.
- 4.31 The perception of scale will vary depending on the landscape context and proximity to other features, including individual buildings and settlements. It is necessary to note that the relationship between visual impact and turbine size is not directionally proportional due to two reasons:
- a wind farm is viewed within a surrounding context which varies; and
 - the actual size of a wind turbine is usually difficult to perceive.

Turbine layout

- 4.32 The layout of a wind farm should relate to the specific characteristics of the landscape and it is here that the design process can be used to influence installations so that they respond well to their context. Once the Site(s) is chosen, aside from turbine height and blade lengths, the horizontal and vertical geometric alignment of turbines is perhaps the primary landscape and visual design consideration.
- 4.33 The layout of large-scale wind farms generally comprises a grid of wind turbines often taken as the starting point with the turbines spaced at minimum separation to avoid turbulence, often equating to 4-5 rotor diameters. Throughout the design process, layout should be tested and wind turbines may be moved or removed from the design due to a range of physical and environmental constraints and/or opportunities. Determining the appropriate turbine layout should be based on rigorous analysis, testing and response to the landscape setting.
- 4.34 It is worth acknowledging that as turbine size increases, the number of turbines needed in a given area to achieve the same or better energy yield decreases. Practically, this means wind farms are much more likely to comprise a smaller number of larger turbines. Layout designs should acknowledge and respond to this. Traditionally an odd number of turbines has been seen as more pleasing in the landscape, especially when grouped, but this is largely subjective, and all layouts should arise from the design processes of analysis and testing noted above.

Colour and design

- 4.35 The landscape and visual impacts of wind turbines vary, and some turbines of the same height may have subtle variations. However, modern turbines have generally evolved to broadly the same visual appearance with largely similar proportions, nacelle shape, colour and foundation fixings.
- 4.36 Colour selection forms a key part of the landscape design approach. Conventionally, a light grey or off-white colour is considered to achieve the best balance between minimising visibility and visual impacts when seen against the sky. For multiple wind farm groups or wind farm extensions, the colour of turbines should be considered for the combined visual effect. Light grey can relate positively to a range of backdrops seen within different views of, and in different, weather conditions.

Turbine lighting

- 4.37 In some locations it may be necessary to light wind turbines for reasons of civil or military aviation safety. Lighting on top of the turbine may be inappropriate in predominately unlit rural areas. Therefore, it is necessary to design lighting to minimise landscape and visual impacts, whilst satisfying health and safety or navigation requirements.

Local environmental impacts

- 4.38 Wind turbine design layouts should demonstrate that care has been taken to screen local communities from unacceptable environmental impacts, including noise from turbines and generators, light/shadow flicker, and from traffic and other impacts arising during installation, maintenance and decommissioning. This includes consideration of the impact of night-time aircraft safety navigation lighting in darker skies areas (see Telecommunications, television and aviation systems below).
- 4.39 The large land areas within turbine developments, which are additional to that required for the turbine operations, should be carefully assessed for the potential to provide nature conservation and biodiversity enhancement or continued agricultural use. Local scale landscape screening and enhancements should also form part of the Site design scope, including off-site. Wider benefits are particularly important when associated with the use of commercial forestry plantations, where the opportunity exists for a full re-evaluation of the use of the forests for recreation, particularly mountain walking, biking and forest accommodation

Movement

- 4.40 Wind turbine structures attract attention in the landscape by their size and the rotation of their blades. Two design considerations arise from this dynamic characteristic of turbines. Firstly, the movement reinforces the visual prominence of the installations caused by their scale discussed above. Secondly, shadow flicker may occur under certain circumstances with potentially negative impacts. Careful consideration must therefore be given to turbine locations to avoid and reduce these impacts on neighbouring communities.

Shadow Flicker

- 4.41 Shadow flicker may occur under certain circumstances of geographical position and time of day, when the sun passes behind the rotors of a wind turbine and casts a shadow over neighbouring properties. As the blade rotates, the shadow flicks on and off, an effect known as shadow flicker.
- 4.42 Shadow flicker and its effects, especially on properties, can be reduced and should be minimised through the layout and siting of the wind farm, and/or operational controls. Generally, the larger the turbine, the slower the rotation of the blades.

Noise

- 4.43 Irrespective of location or scale, the design and micro-siting of wind turbines must seek to minimise their noise impact, particularly where turbines would be near homes and tourism receptors.
- 4.44 The current UK wind turbine noise assessment guidance for residential receptors is set out in ETSU-R-97, a Good Practice Guide on the application of ETSU-R-97, and Supplementary Guidance Notes. The Welsh Government has endorsed the use of this guidance in Wales.
- 4.45 A review of noise guidance for on-shore wind turbines has been undertaken and any changes to UK guidance arising from this review will be considered by the Welsh Government.

Cumulative Impacts

- 4.46 Proposals for new wind farms may be set in the context of existing or consented farms. It is necessary to consider the cumulative visual effects from local communities, main transport and recreational routes. Of particular importance are: how these developments relate to each other in design and relationship to their settings; their frequency as one moves through the landscape; and their visual separation to allow experience of the character of the landscape in between.

Telecommunications, Television and Aviation Systems

- 4.47 Large structures such as wind turbines have the potential to interfere with telecommunication links, television reception, radio communication and flight paths, through physical obstruction or reflection of signals. The correct siting and layout of wind turbines can reduce these interferences. Early engagement should take place with the appropriate authorities, including NATS, the Ministry of Defence, and Operators of Officially Safeguarded Civil Aerodromes to ensure these matters have been properly considered in the design process. Further information can be found here on the [NATS website](#).

Ornithology

- 4.48 Poor design of wind farms could result in loss of bird habitat and feeding grounds, collision and interruption to flight paths and migratory routes. The EIA should inform the design process, so that Site layouts are modified to accommodate bird movements prior to the planning

application. Early consultation with Natural Resources Wales as well as the Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB Cymru) will assist the iterative design process. Further information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-surveys-and-monitoring-for-onshore-wind-farms>.

Archaeology

- 4.49 Construction of wind farms could affect visible or buried archaeological remains, such as non-designated features and designated features (Listed Buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments). Careful consideration of the siting and layout of a wind farm can reduce the adverse impacts on archaeology.

Local physical impacts

- 4.50 Once installed, turbine towers cover very small areas of the land on which they are constructed, leaving most of the turbine Site available for other nature conservation or agricultural uses. However, the construction process, and in particular the access and haul roads, drainage structures, borrow pits/quarries, temporary and permanent signage, substation(s), grid infrastructure, and access for regular maintenance and eventual decommissioning, will cause greater local impact over the short or medium term, which must be considered in the design process.
- 4.51 The sensitive design and siting of the access roads and associated substation(s) is likely to be a significant consideration for the largest of wind farms, where extensive lengths of associated infrastructure will be necessary. Every opportunity should be sought to integrate such infrastructure into the existing landscape fabric, with existing large-scale forestry plantations in particular having the existing tracks, borrow pits/ quarries and drainage which can be utilised in full or in part by the wind farm.

Ancillary infrastructure

- 4.52 The siting and design of ancillary infrastructure needs to relate to the key characteristics of the landscape. Careful siting of the substations, transmission lines, access tracks and control buildings will help to enhance a wind farm design. In addition, landscape and visual impacts, as well as ecological connectivity associated with widening of roads, access tracks and corners to enable the delivery of large turbine components, should be taken into account when designing and siting a wind farm.

Development Plan

The Bridgend County Borough Council Local Development Plan (2024)

- 4.53 The Site lies within the administrative boundary of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) which is the LPA. Consequently, the Development Plan for the purposes of Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 comprises of:
- Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, published February 2021; and
- 4.54 The LDP Proposals Map indicate the following designations are on Site or in close proximity:
- Policy DNP4: Special Landscape Area – Mynydd y Gaer
 - Policy SP17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment
 - SP17(1) National Site Network Sites (including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
 - SP17(2) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 - DNP5: Local And Regional Nature Conservation Sites
 - DNP5(2) Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)
 - Policy ENT12: Development in Mineral Safeguarding Zones - Sandstone and Igneous Rock
- 4.55 Other relevant LDP policies are as follows:

- 4.56 **Policy SP3: Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking** states that all development should contribute to creating high quality, attractive, sustainable places which enhance the community in which they are located, whilst having full 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.
- 4.57 **Policy SP4: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change** states that all development proposals must make a positive contribution towards tackling the causes of and adapting to the impacts of Climate Change. Means of achieving this may include:
- 1) Having a location and layout which reflects sustainable transport and access principles, thereby reducing the overall need to travel (active travel);
 - 2) Having low / zero carbon energy requirements by reducing energy demand, and promoting energy efficiency;
 - 3) Utilising low carbon, local materials and supplies (adopting circular economy principles);
 - 4) Encouraging the development of renewable and low/zero carbon energy generation;
 - 5) Having a design, layout and landscaping which:
 - (i) helps wildlife and habitats to adapt to the changing climate;
 - (ii) assists cooling of the urban environment, including the use of passive building techniques where appropriate;
 - 6) Using resources more efficiently, including averting waste generated from demolition and minimising waste water use and pollution;
 - 7) Directing development away from flood risk areas and avoiding development that increases the risk of flood and coastal erosion, including through the deployment of sustainable urban drainage systems where relevant.
- 4.58 All applications for development proposals must clearly demonstrate how they contribute to climate change mitigation and adaption.
- 4.59 **Policy SP10: Infrastructure** states that all development proposals must be supported by sufficient existing or new infrastructure. In order to mitigate likely adverse impacts and/or to integrate a development proposal with its surroundings, reasonable infrastructure provision or financial contributions to such infrastructure must be provided by developers where necessary. This will be secured by means of planning agreements/obligations where appropriate.

4.60 The requirements for such agreements will include consideration of and appropriate provision for:

- 1) Affordable housing;
- 2) Economic Infrastructure – Telecommunications / broadband infrastructure;
- 3) Utilities;
- 4) Educational facilities and/or their upgrades;
- 5) Green infrastructure and outdoor recreation;
- 6) Renewable energy and low carbon technologies;
- 7) Transportation Infrastructure - Improvements to the highway network, including walking and cycling routes (Active Travel) and public transport;
- 8) Protection, enhancement and management of the natural, historic and built environment;
- 9) Community facilities, health facilities and/ or their upgrades;
- 10) Waste management and recycling facilities;
- 11) Initiatives to manage and mitigate the impact of climate change;
- 12) Improvements to the public realm; and
- 13) Welsh Language.

Infrastructure providers will be consulted on relevant planning applications.

4.61 **Policy SP13: Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Development** states that

- 1) Renewable and low carbon development proposals which contribute to meeting national and local renewable and low carbon energy and energy efficiency targets will be permitted where:
 - a) It can be demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable impacts on the natural and historic environment or local communities (such as noise and air pollution) and that no other unacceptable cumulative impacts will arise;
 - b) The proposal (inclusive of its associated infrastructure) has sought to minimise the landscape and visual impact through its design and micro-siting, particularly where in close proximity to homes and tourism receptors;
 - c) Proposals make provision for the appropriate restoration and after-care of the land for its beneficial future re-use;

- d) The proposal can facilitate a connection to the grid network;
- e) There would not be an unacceptable impact on access and highway safety; and
- f) There would not be unacceptable impact on the amenity of residential properties or tourist accommodation.

2) The following Local Search Areas (LSAs) are identified as areas considered suitable for wind and solar energy development:

- a) LCA1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands & Forestry (Suitable for Wind Energy);
- b) LCA8: Ogmere Forest and Surrounding Uplands (Suitable for Wind Energy); and
- c) LCA 12: Newton Down Limestone Plateau (Suitable for Solar Energy).

4.62 **Policy SP17 - Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment** states that “Development which will conserve and, wherever possible, enhance the natural environment of the County Borough will be favoured. Development proposals will not be permitted where they will have an adverse impact upon:

- The integrity of the County Borough's countryside;
- The character of its landscape;
- Its biodiversity and habitats; and
- The quality of its natural resources including water, air and soil.”

4.63 Areas having a high and/or unique environmental quality will be protected and the following strategically important areas within the County Borough will specifically be protected from inappropriate development which directly or indirectly impacts upon them.

SP17(1) Natura 2000 Network Sites (including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);

SP17(2) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs);

SP17(3) Kenfig and Merthyr Mawr National Nature Reserves (NNRs);

SP17(4) The Glamorgan Heritage Coast

4.64 **Policy SP18: Conservation of the Historic Environment** states that BCBC has a rich and diverse built heritage and historic environment. Development proposals must protect, conserve, and, where appropriate, preserve and enhance the significance of historic assets, including their settings. In particular, there is a general presumption in favour of the preservation or enhancement of the significance of historic assets and their settings including:

- 1) World Heritage Sites

- 2) Scheduled Monuments
 - 3) Archaeologically Sensitive Areas and Archaeological Remains
 - 4) Listed Buildings
 - 5) Conservation Areas
 - 6) Historic Parks and Gardens
 - 7) Historic Landscapes
- 4.65 Any application for listed building or conservation area consent will need to be accompanied by a Heritage Impact Statement in accordance with the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- 4.66 **Policy DNP1** controls development in the countryside except for specific identified purposes.
- 4.67 **Policy DNP4: Special Landscape Areas (SLAs)** seeks to retain or enhance the character and distinctiveness of such areas, requiring appropriate design and materials.
- 4.68 **Policy DNP8: Green Infrastructure** states development proposals will be required to integrate, protect and maintain existing green infrastructure assets and to enhance the extent, quality, connectivity and multi-functionality of the green infrastructure network. Where the loss or damage of existing green infrastructure is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation and compensation will be required.
- 4.69 All developments must seek to maximise, as far as practicable, the amount of green infrastructure on the Site, as well as the interconnectedness of green infrastructure within and around the Site to the wider green infrastructure network. Development must also maximise opportunities to achieve multi-functionality by bringing green infrastructure functions together.
- 4.70 All major developments will be required to submit a Green Infrastructure Assessment.

Other Material Considerations

- 4.71 The Welsh Government's 'Design and Access Statement in Wales: Why, What and How, published April 2017,' guidance (DAS guidance) prepared by the Welsh Government suggests a structure as follows for DASs:
- a. Summary of the proposal
 - b. The Brief and Vision
 - c. Site and Context Analysis
 - d. Interpretation
 - e. Design Development
 - i. The Proposal
 - ii. Character
 - iii. Access
 - iv. Movement
 - v. Environmental Sustainability
 - vi. Community Safety

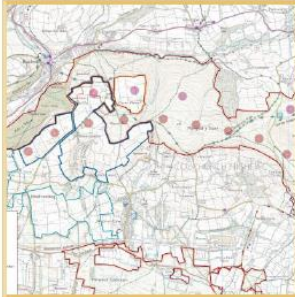
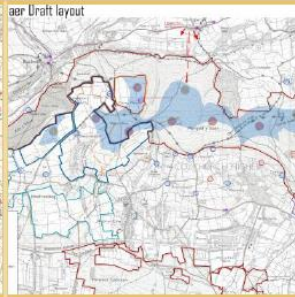
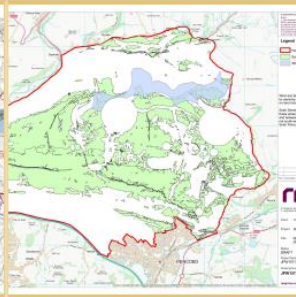
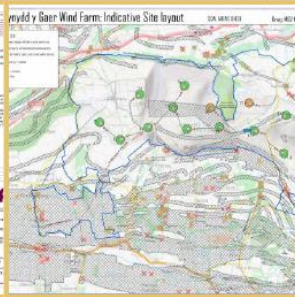
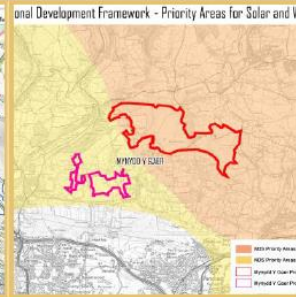
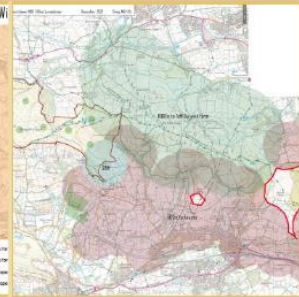
Response to planning policy

- 4.72 The DAS guidance states this broadly follows the stages of the design process so, as each stage of the process is undertaken, the content of the document can be developed.




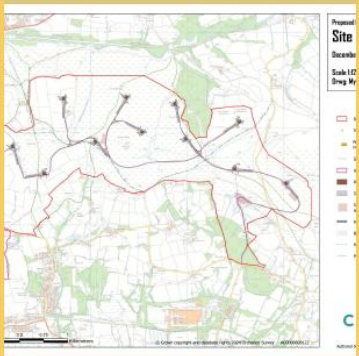
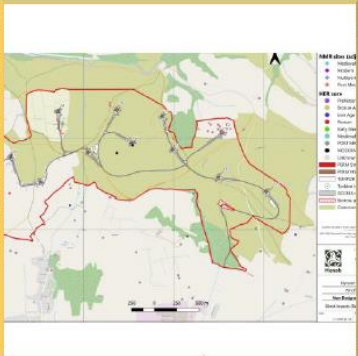
5 DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

5.1 This section explains the iterative design process and why design decisions have been made. This DAS is a pre-application consultation document and will, post the formal consultation reflect any feedback from the local community, statutory and non-statutory consultees and stakeholders that leads to design change. It has evolved to date based on the informal community consultation as well as pre-application feedback from the LPA among other regulatory bodies.

5.2 Please see below for details of the iterative design process.

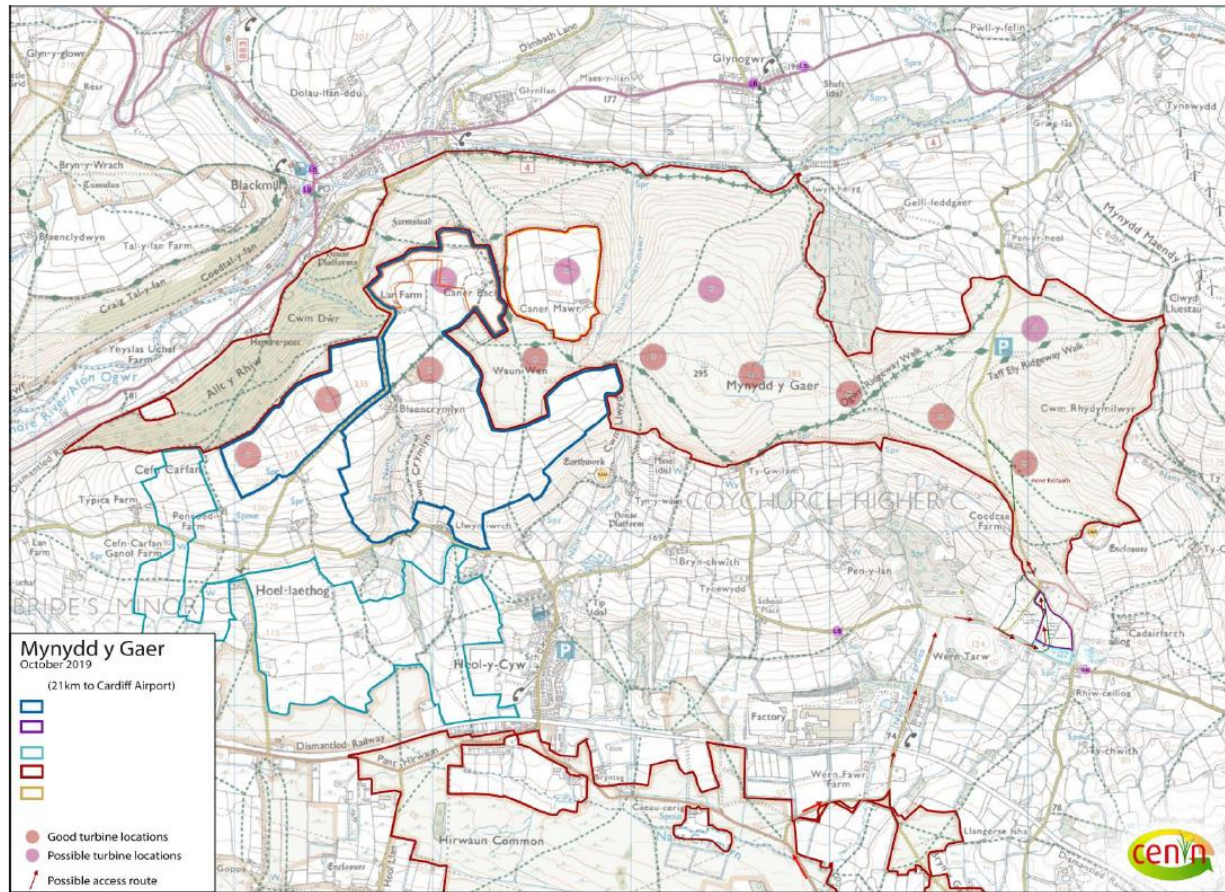
					
<p>2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial site investigations and site constraints analyses were undertaken with a focus on providing turbines on the landowners who had expressed interest in collaborating in the scheme. V136 machines were used. Access was not confirmed at this time. 	<p>2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbines were moved away from houses, and away from the SSSI to the west and from archaeology to the east. Progress commercial terms with landowners. Ecological surveys were commissioned. 	<p>2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RPS commissioned to undertake constraints analysis and refine the renewable energy development area. 	<p>2021</p> <p>Further constraints analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coal high risk areas. Distance to airport. Peat Linesearch Archaeology Telecoms 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site's relationship to NDF checked. Site lies within the Future Wales 2040 Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind. 	<p>2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigated any scope to expand to the east. With a 1 km buffer to Taff Ely Wind Farm and a 500m buffer to houses, there were no viable locations that connected with the existing scheme.

<p>2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site layout was pushed to maximum possible turbine capacity using new V150 machines. Visuals and wakes were checked using WindPro software. 	<p>2022</p> <p>Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive work was done investigating the most suitable access route. An ownership masterplan with several route options were drawn up. 	<p>2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate owned land identified as likely exchange land and mitigation land adjoining common. • Access route was finalised from the east past Rockwool. • Incline studies were undertaken with transport company and turbine manufacturers to ascertain 14% max incline. 	<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings from ecological studies completed over the previous years dictated no-go areas such as areas on the common with protected species or peat. T2 was moved to avoid sensitive ecology. 50m buffer added to woodland to protect Goshawks. • Layout reduced to 11 x V162 turbines. 	<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telecoms operators informed Cenin of exact lines of site for microwaves and UHF beams. Layout was adjusted accordingly to microsite T1, T2, T3, T10 and T11. 	<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High pressure gas line required microsite of T2 closer to common. • Windplanner software was used to assess visual impact. Several turbines were reduced from 200m to 180m tip to lessen visual impact from Glynogwr and Heol y Cyw.

				
<p>2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of peat damage identified on common. 	<p>2024</p> <p>Grid cable routes confirmed and added to site layout.</p> <p>Site visits to confirm locations of borrow pits and temporary set down areas.</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>Site layout updated with new turbine manufacturers' indicative crane pads and temporary hard standings.</p> <p>Tracks updated and cable lengths measured.</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>Archaeological survey findings noted sensitive archaeology near or under proposed tracks and hard standings.</p> <p>To remediate this, turbines 1, 4 and 6 crane pads were adjusted. Turbine 9 was moved approx. 70m west to avoid archaeology and potential bat roosting areas in the hedgerows.</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>Updated site layout finalised ready for PAC.</p> <p>Highway engineer checks cut and fill areas for tracks and foundations.</p>

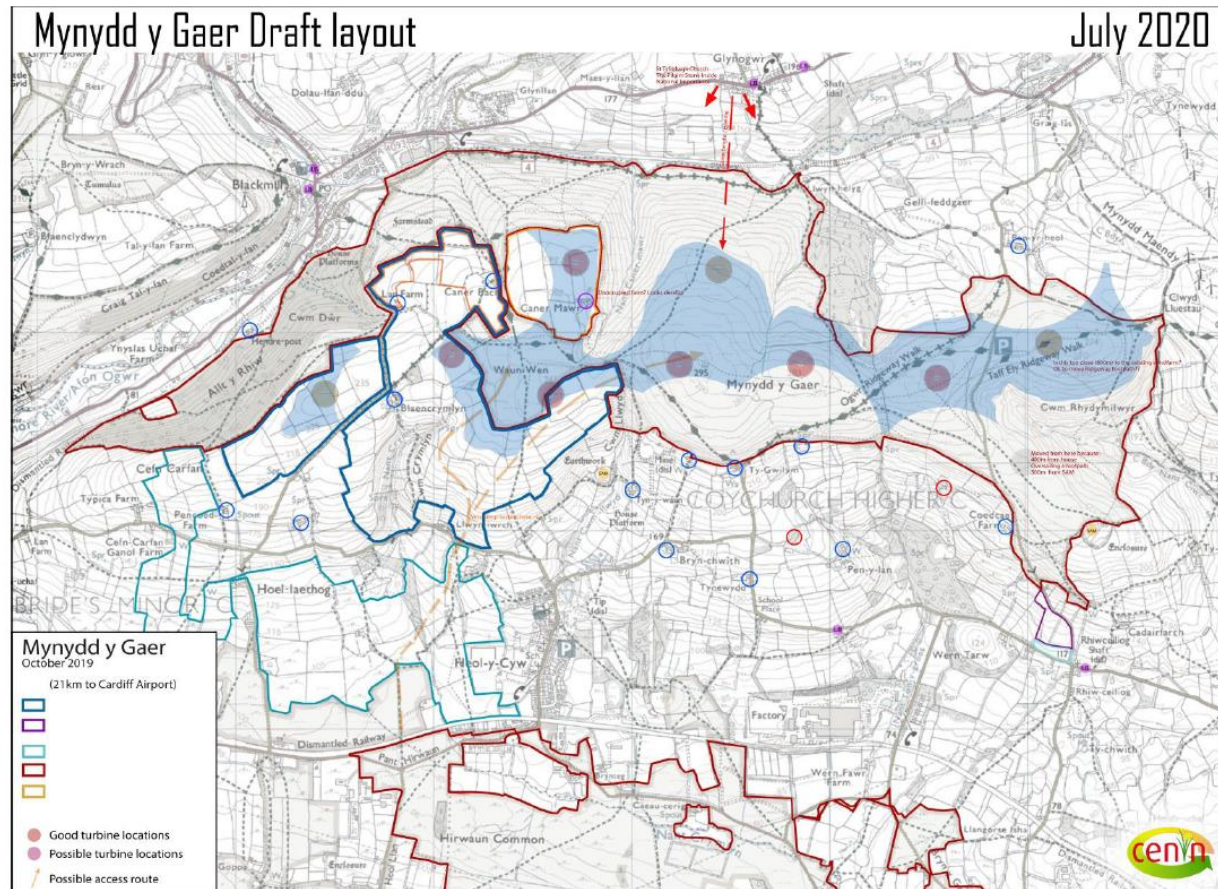
2019

- Initial site investigations and site constraints analyses were undertaken with a focus on providing turbines for landowners who were keen to collaborate in the scheme.
- Initial layout specification was for candidate VI 36 4MW wind turbines, as access was not confirmed at this stage and longer blades may not have been deliverable to site.



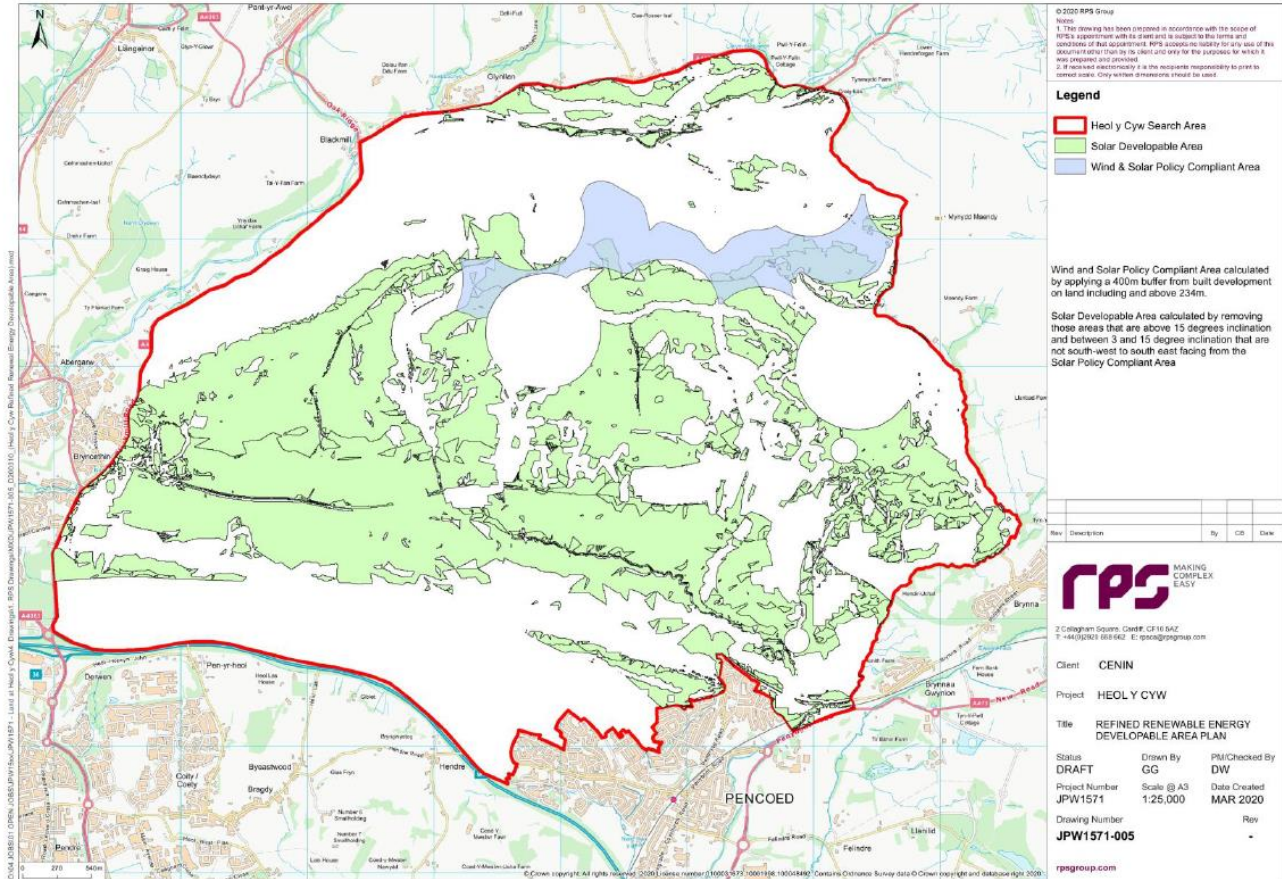
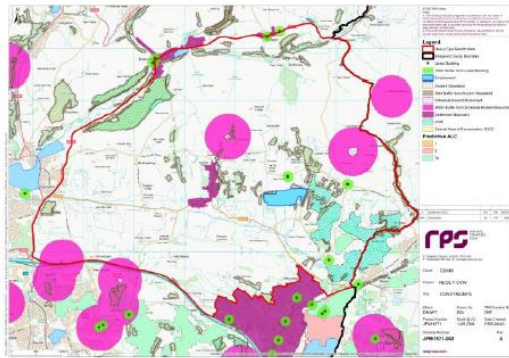
EARLY 2020

- Turbines were moved at least 400m away from houses, and away from the SSSI to the west and from archaeology to the east.
- Time was spent on making contact with all surrounding landowners.
- Ecological surveys were commissioned.



LATE 2020

RPS were commissioned to undertake constraints analysis and refine the renewable energy development area.

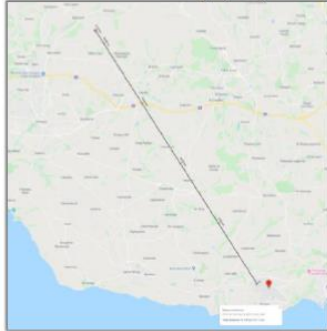


EARLY 2021

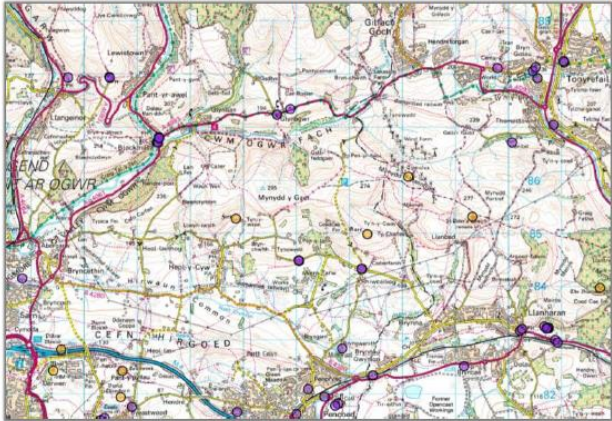
Checks undertaken:

- Coal high risk areas.
- Distance to airport.
- Peat
- Line-search
- Archaeology
- Telecoms

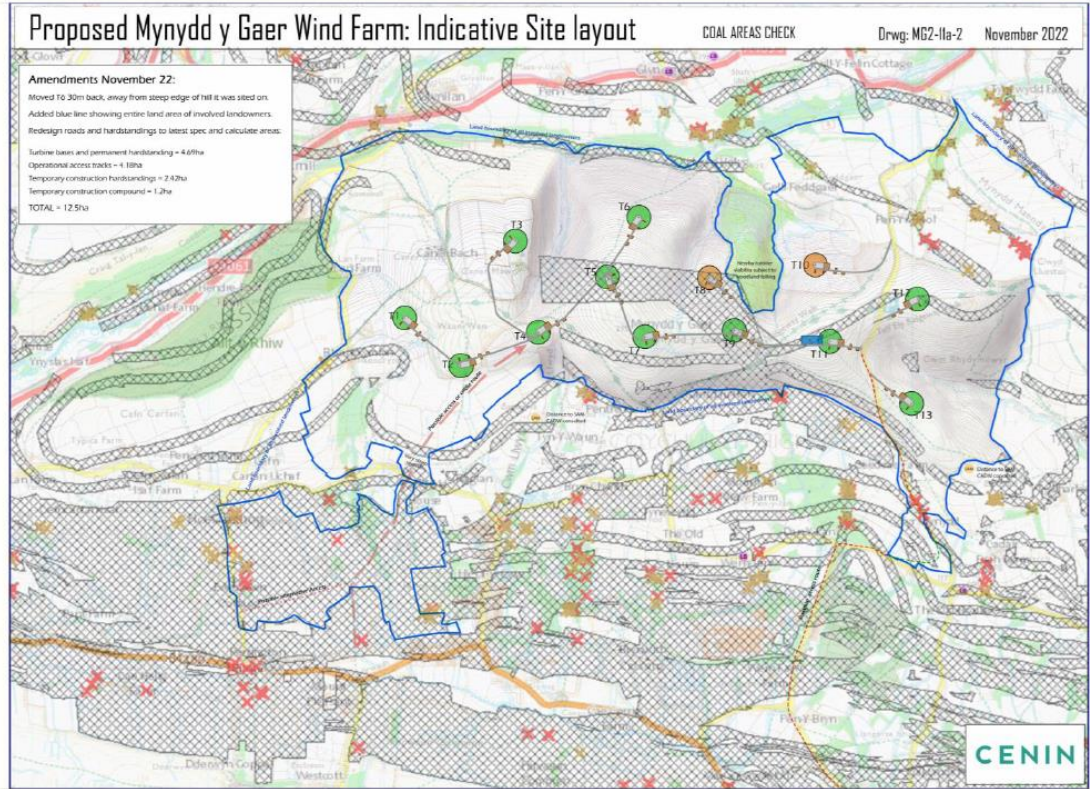
Measurement from Mynydd y Gaer to Cardiff Airport radar (21.1km).



CADW map showing scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings



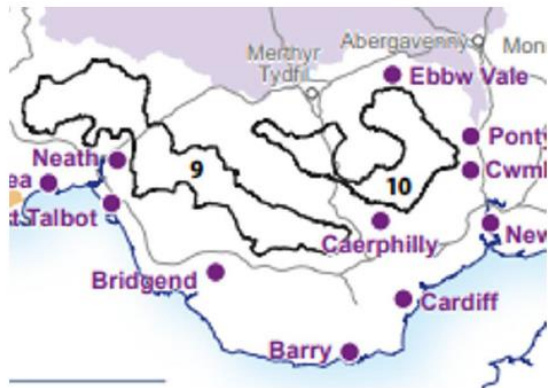
Source: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru/search-cadw-records>



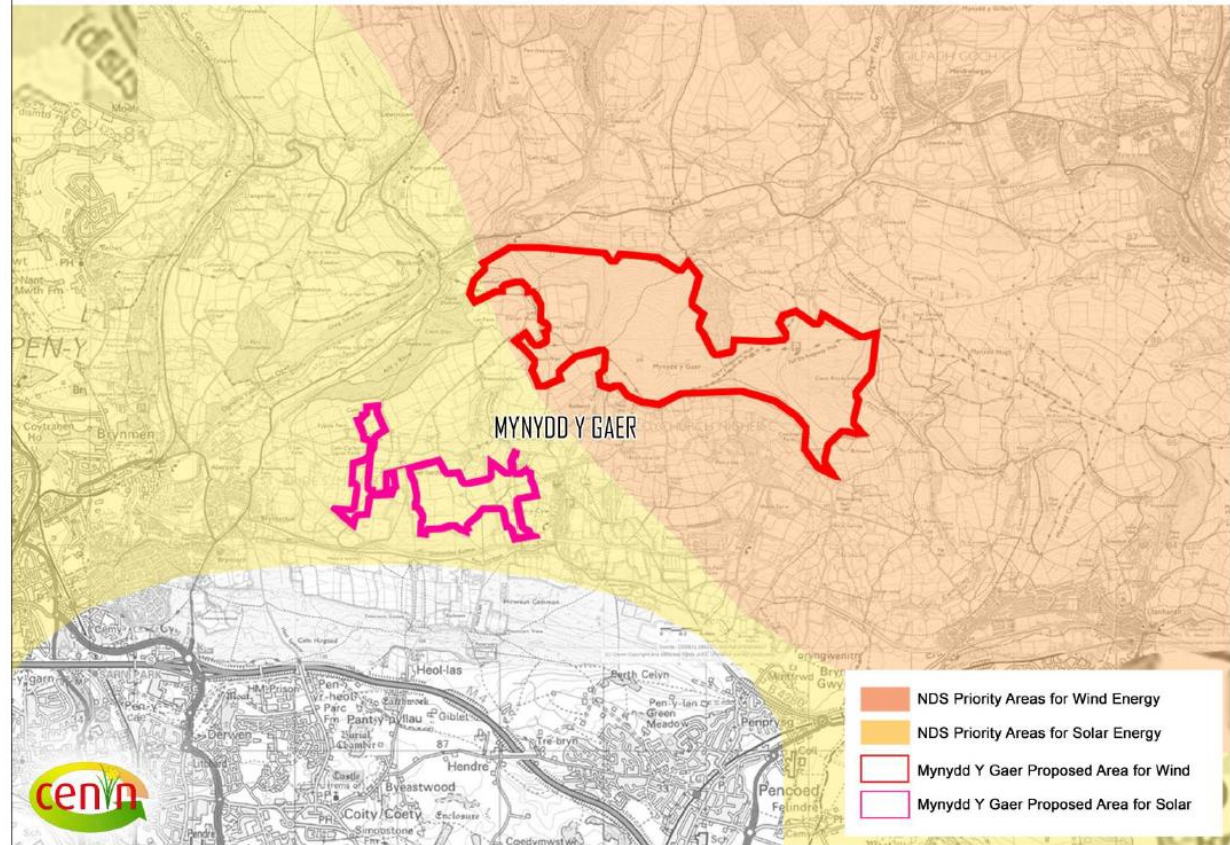
Coal layer source: The Coal Authority map viewer - <https://datamine-cauk.hub.arcgis.com/>

MID 2021

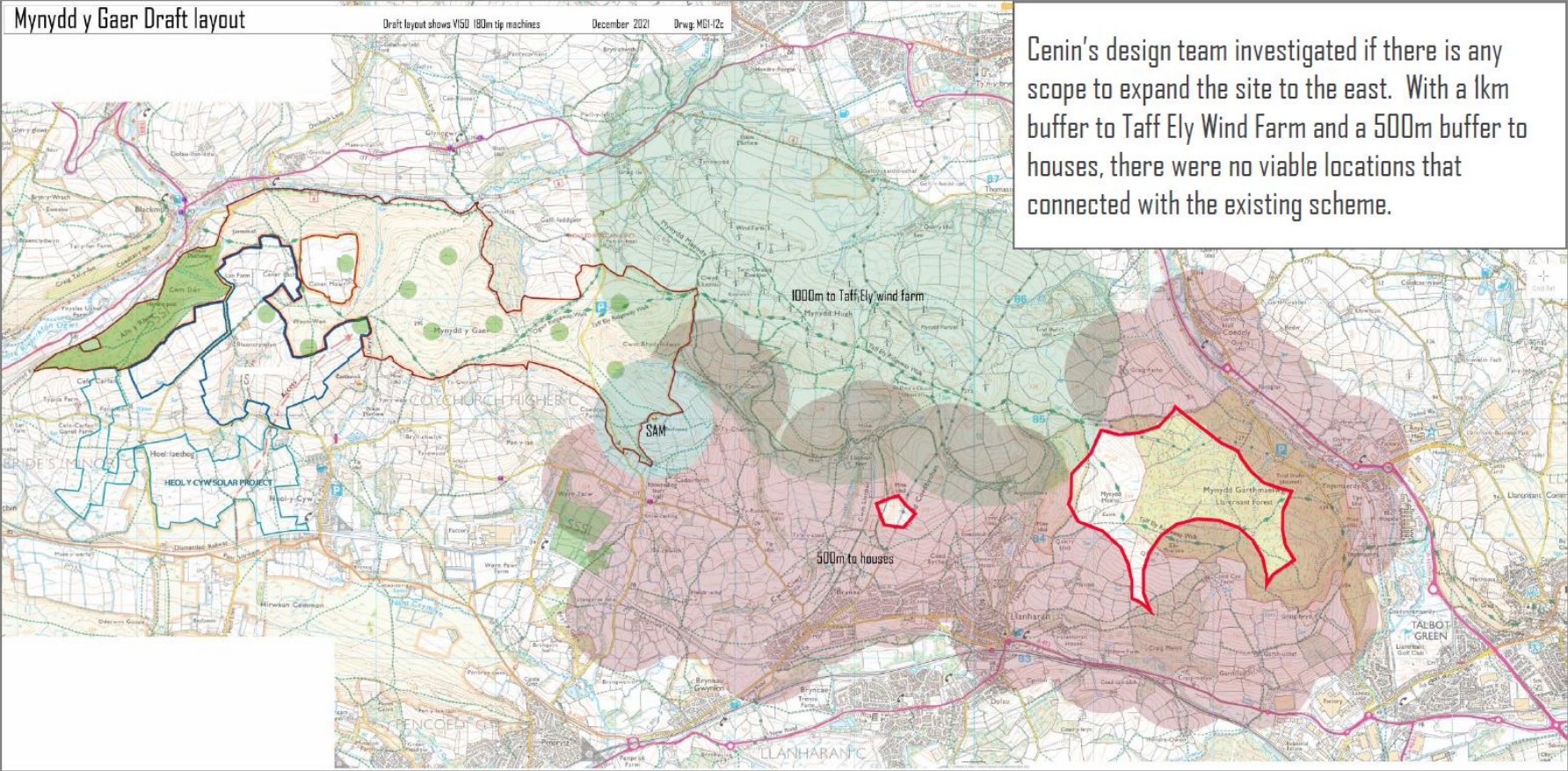
- Demonstrating the site's relationship to National Development Framework.
- The site lies within the Future Wales 2040 Pre-Assessed Area for Wind.



Draft National Development Framework - Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy



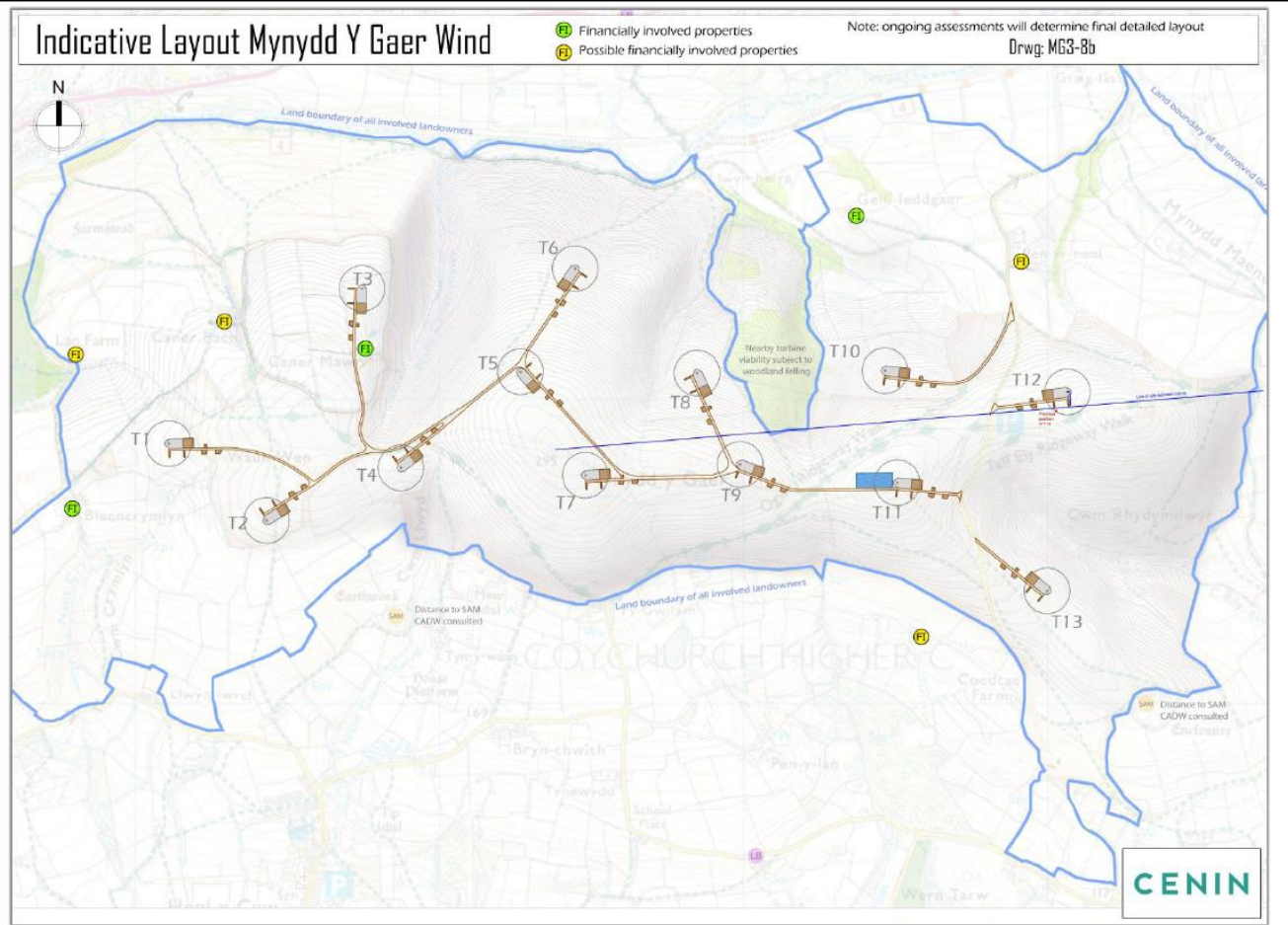
LATE 2021



Cenin's design team investigated if there is any scope to expand the site to the east. With a 1km buffer to Taff Ely Wind Farm and a 500m buffer to houses, there were no viable locations that connected with the existing scheme.

EARLY 2022

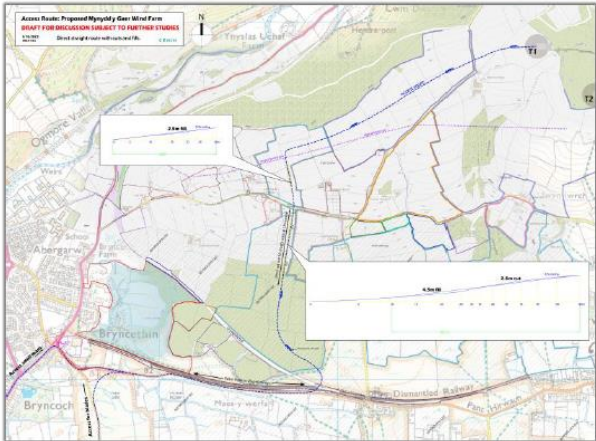
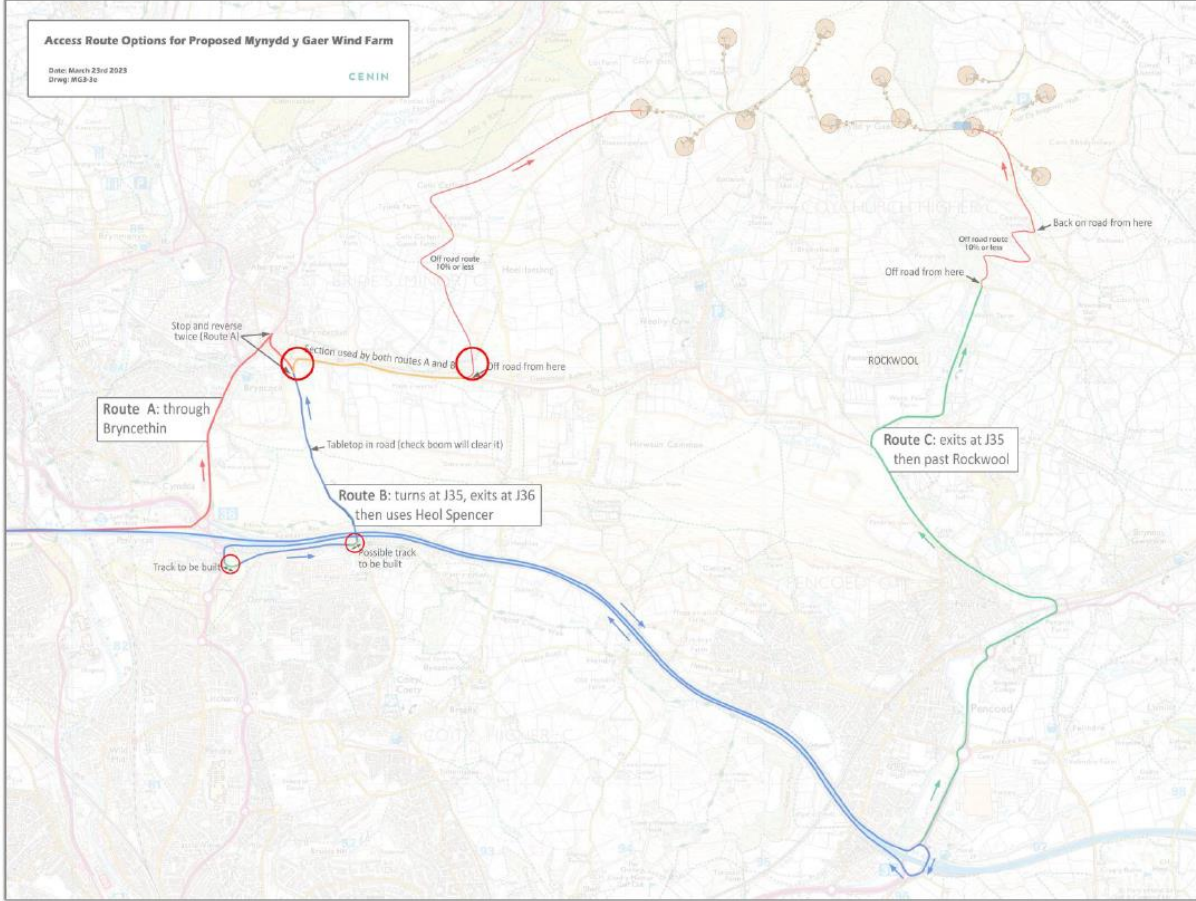
- Site layout was pushed to maximum possible generation capacity using new candidate V150 180m tip wind turbines.
- Visuals and wakes were checked using WindPro software.
- The importance of a line of site between two archaeological positions was flagged by archaeologists. This was kept clear by micro-siting turbines (blue line on adjacent plan).



LATE 2022

Access

- Most suitable access route assessed with ownership masterplan: several route options proposed.
- Track gradients calculated.

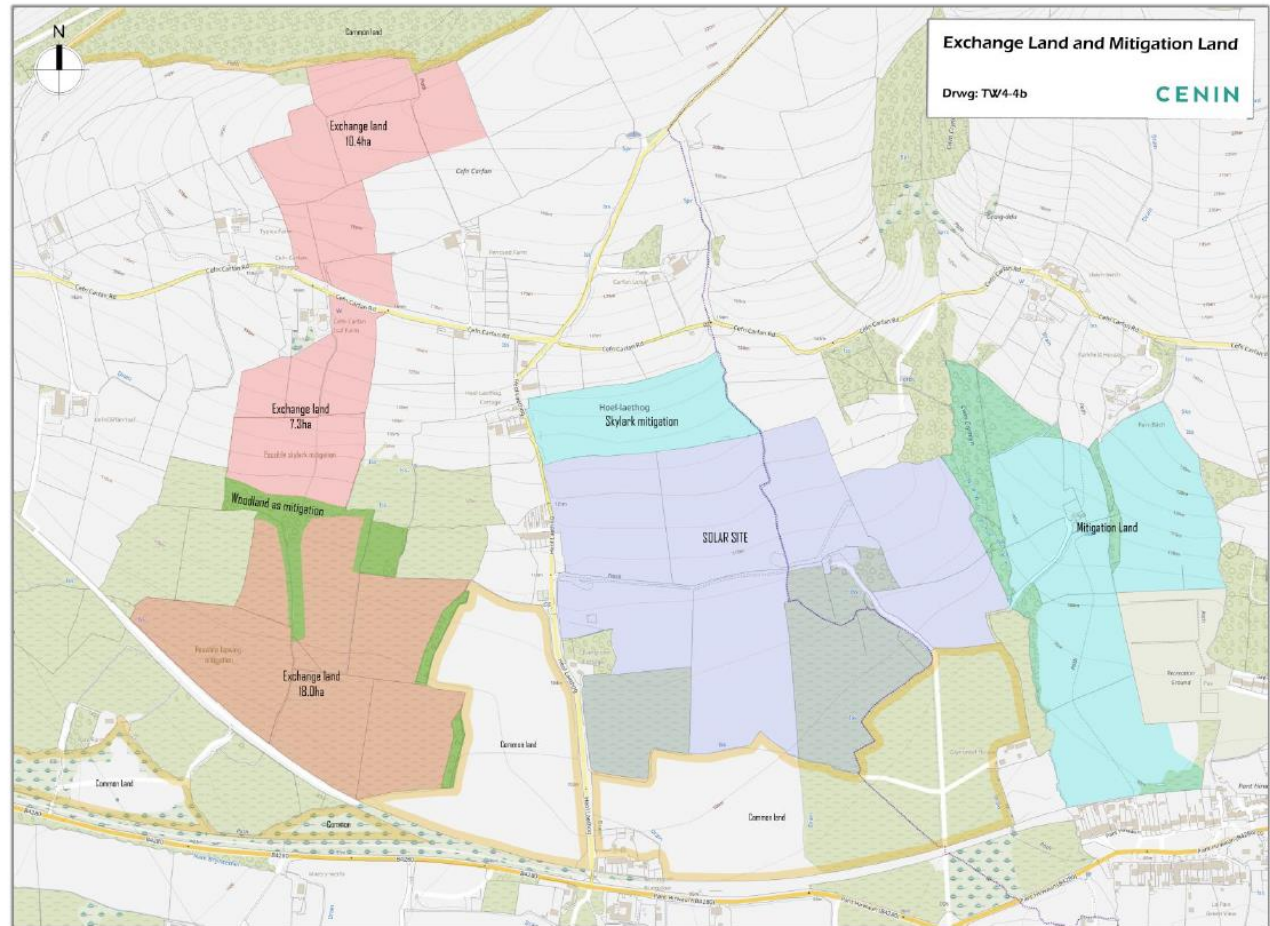


2023

- Exchange land and mitigation land was identified and formalised.
- Access route was finalised from the east past Rockwool.
- Incline studies were undertaken with transport company and turbine manufacturers to ascertain 14% max incline.

Public drop in Sessions:

Community engagement sessions organised to inform local residents about the scheme. Views heard and comments taken on board.



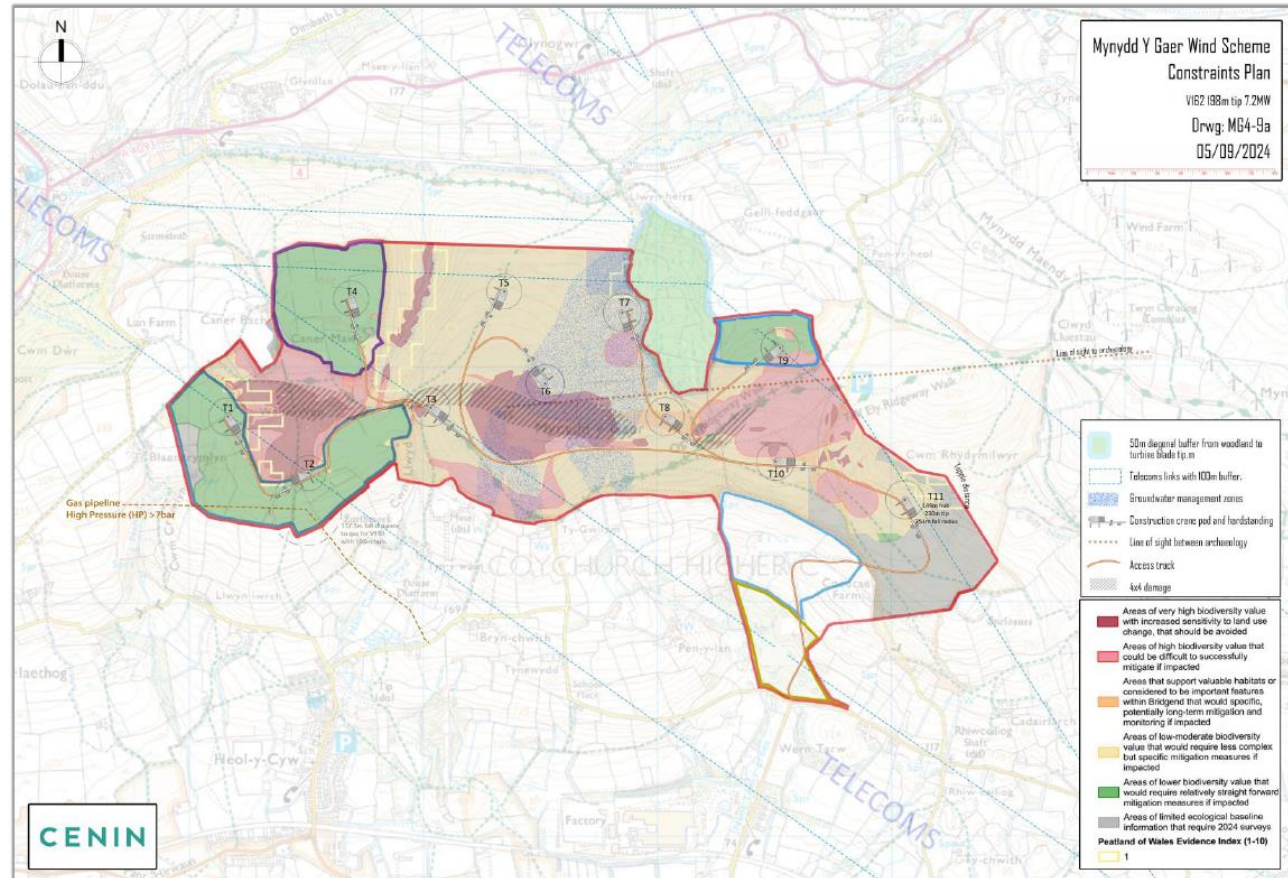
EARLY 2024

- Findings from ecological studies completed over the previous years dictated no-go areas such as areas on the common with protected species or peat.
- T2 was moved to Mr John's land to avoid ecologically sensitive areas.
- A 50m buffer was added to the woodland to protect Goshawks.
- Layout was reduced to 11 x V162 198m tip turbines.



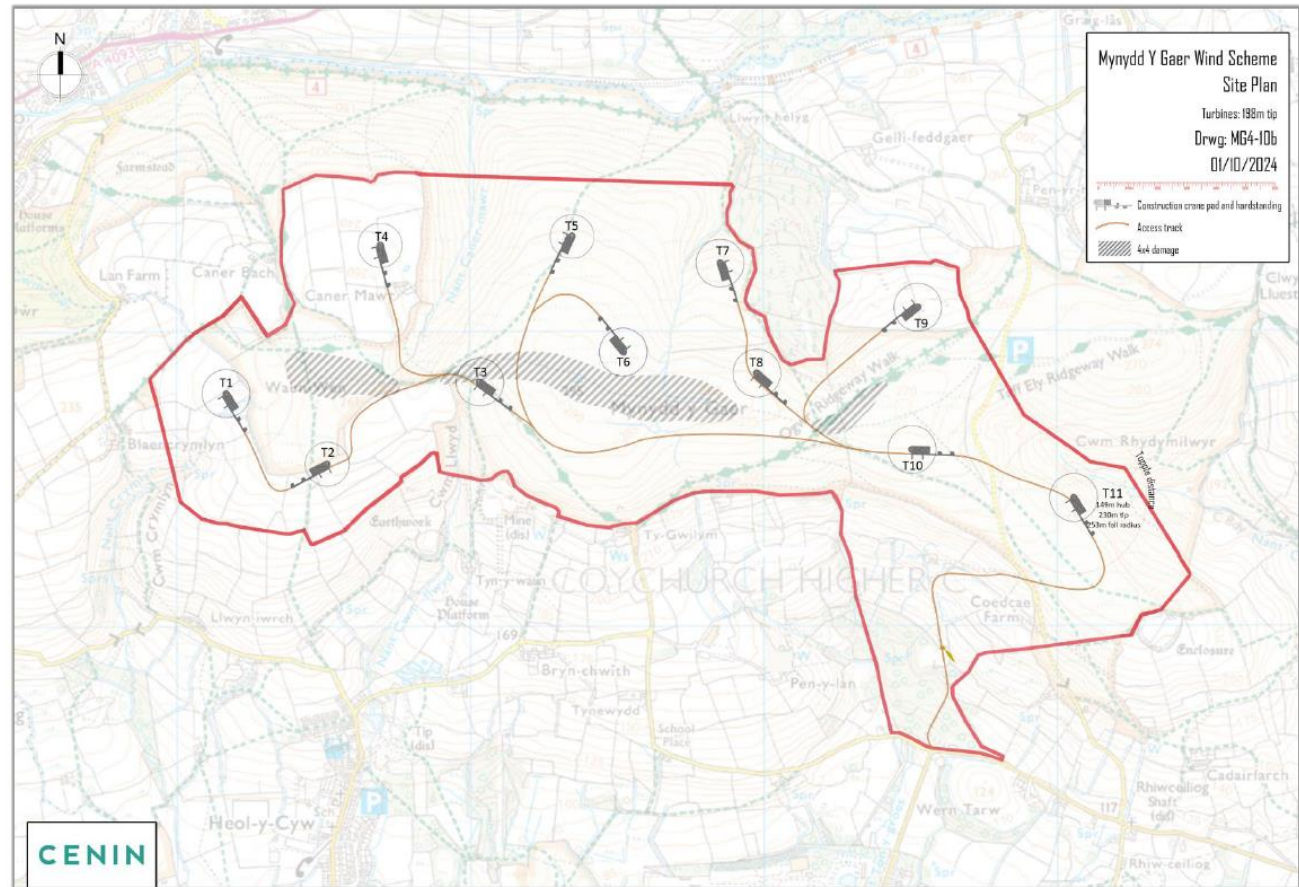
LATE 2024

- Telecoms operators informed Cenin of exact lines of site for microwaves and UHF beams. Layout was adjusted accordingly to microsite T1, T2, T3, T10 and T11.
- Candidate 198m tip VI62 turbines now used to maximise efficiency of scheme.
- High pressure gas line caused micro-siting of T2.
- Windplanner software used to assess visual impact. Several turbines were reduced from 198m to 180m tip to lessen visual impact from Glynogwr.



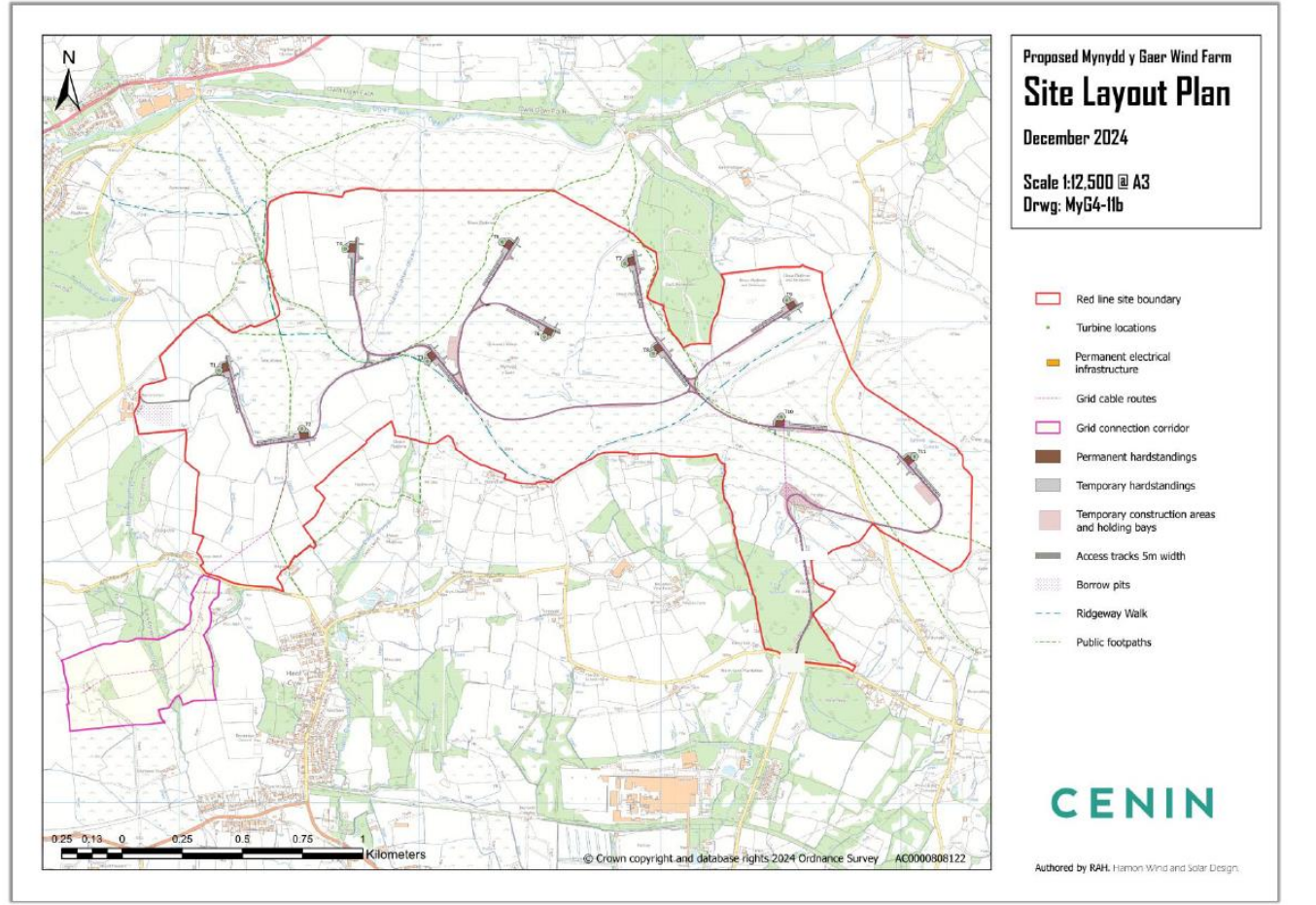
LATE 2024

- Areas of peat damage by 4x4 vehicles identified. Meeting with commoners about this and how the wind farm will improve security on site and stop off roaders destroying the peat habitat.



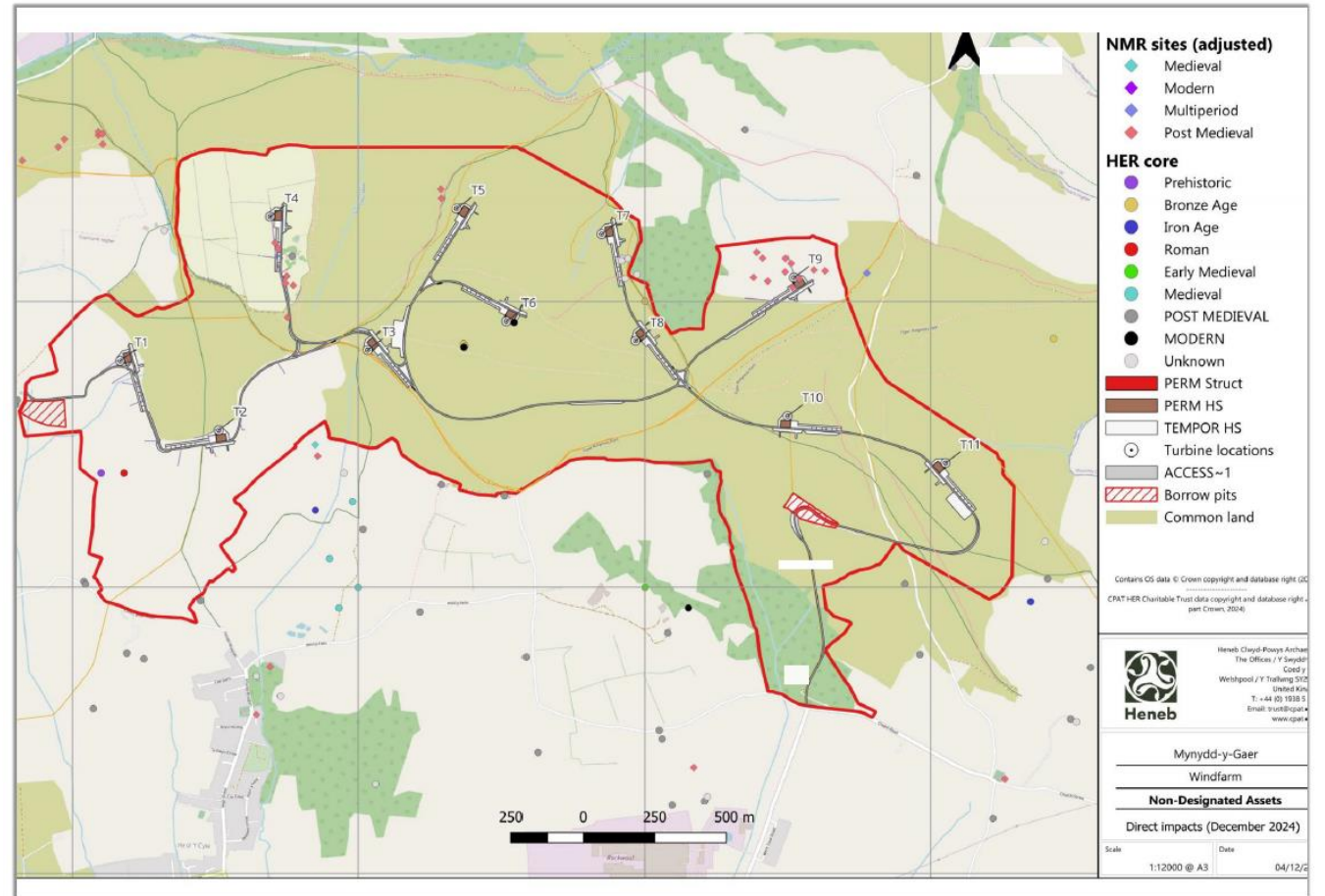
LATE 2024

- Site visit to confirm areas suitable for borrow pits.
- Confirm locations for temporary holding and passing bays.
- Updated current specification crane pads substituted on site layout plan.
- Grid cable routes confirmed and measured. Grid connection corridor added.
- Land owner requested track link to from T1 to his farm to allow future windfarm track use for livestock management over the common.
- Electrical infrastructure cabinets added to site layout.



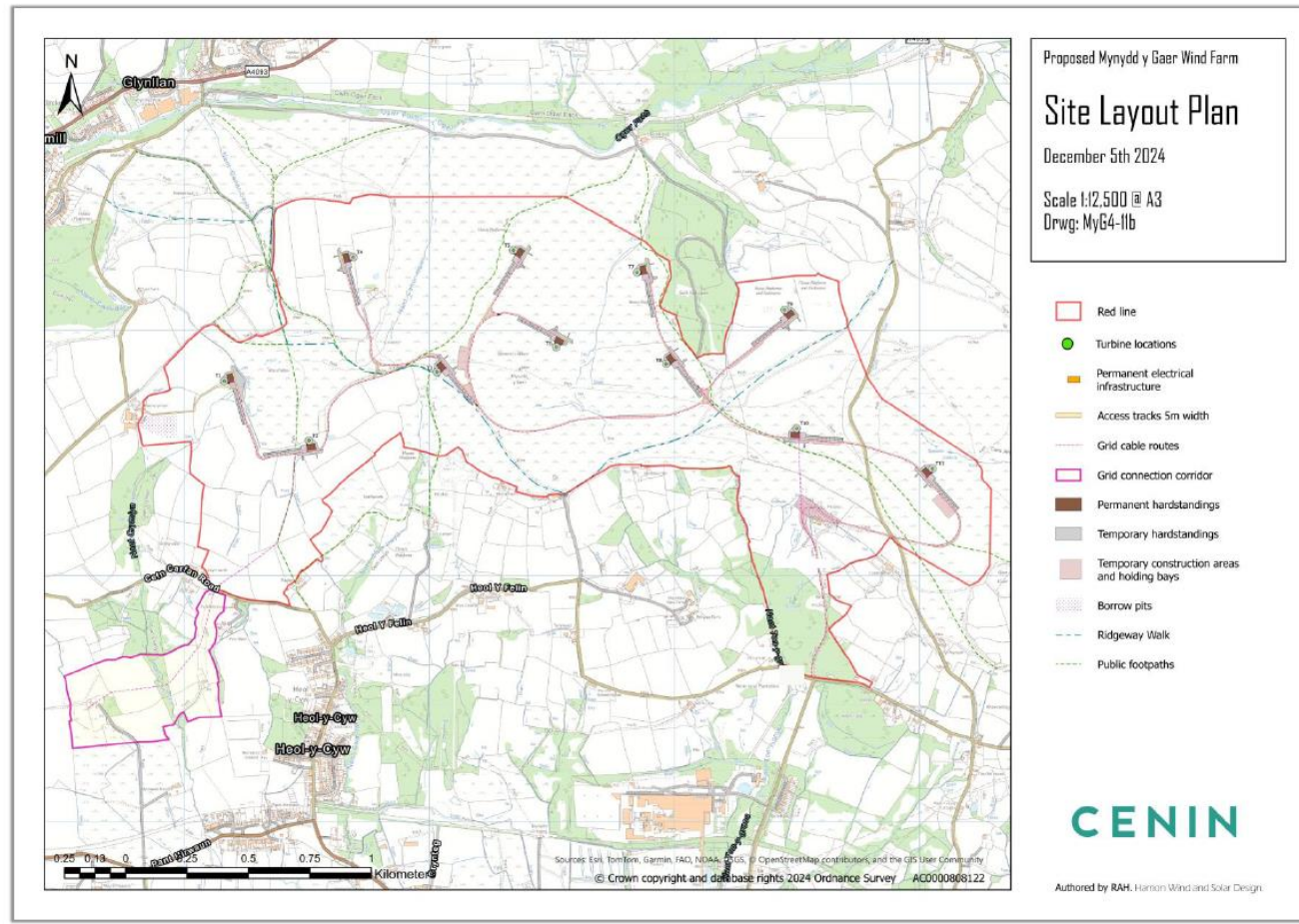
LATE 2024

- Archaeology consultants flagged sensitive areas affected by change to updated crane pads on hard standings or tracks near T1,4,6 and 9.
- T9's location was particularly impactful to archaeology. Design meeting to find solution.



LATE 2024

- Re-design adjusted or flipped cranes pads for T1, T4 and T6, being mindful not to encroach on pre-assessed ecologically sensitive areas.
- T9's location was changed to avoid archaeology moving approx. 70m to the west. This also reduced the ecological impact of T9 on possible hedgerow habitat.



6 THE PROPOSAL – DESIGN AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS

Character

Placemaking

- 6.1 The Site comprises predominantly rural character with mainly grassland agricultural fields including common land (Mynydd y Gaer Common). There are also small woodlands to the east and mixed field patterns and sizes, with hedgerows and hedgebanks and frequent hedgerow trees.
- 6.2 There are field boundaries in the form of dry-stone walls that mark the boundary of common land while fields on lower slopes are bounded by dense hawthorn hedges.

Appearance and Design

- 6.3 The Proposed Development proposes introducing tall modern structures into the ridgeline. The appearance will be a more modern and obvious human influence on the landscape compared to that currently formed by grassland and agriculture.

Amount and density

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

6.4 Regarding amount, as set out in Section 2, the Proposed Development will consist of up to 11 wind turbines and will generate circa 75MW of electricity.

Spaces and Public Realm

6.5 Due to the nature of the development, there can be no public access to the operational part of the Site.

Scale

6.6 The scale of the Proposed Development is determined by the topography of the Site, grid connection and ownership constraints. The scale of the proposal is considered to be acceptable in its context seeking to maximise the amount of renewable energy generated whilst minimising any adverse impacts.

6.7 The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation and decommissioning of 11 wind turbines. Of these, two different types of turbines are proposed, which are the V150 and V162 at a maximum height of 230m. Where the Site topography is at a lower elevation, a hub height of up to 149m and tip height of 230m is proposed (the 162m rotor would be unchanged).

6.8 The cable route length is of approximately 10.43km.

6.9 The blade depths are to be circa 3.5 to .45m, with a rotation period from circa 3m/s cut in to 25m/s cut out and a pitch variable from 0 to circa 89.9 degrees.

Layout

6.10 The layout has been designed in such a way as to retain the existing field boundary features such as trees, hedges and ditches so not to change the nature of the existing field boundaries within the landscape context. The final layout is a result of numerous revisions in response to various technical assessments as outlined in section 5.

Access

6.11 This section of the DAS assesses the accessibility of the Proposed Development, particularly regarding construction traffic.

6.12 Construction access for the project will be via the A473 at Pencoed, continuing onto the B4280 and Bryngarn Road. The construction phase is anticipated to last approximately 24 months.

6.13 It is recognised that there are sensitive receptors in proximity to the Site boundary. However, based on the projected construction traffic flows, and the mitigation provided, these levels are considered low enough to avoid any significant environmental effects.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

- 6.14 Once operational, the wind farm will be managed remotely and will require only occasional Site visits for maintenance, as needed. The associated vehicle movements will have a negligible impact on the surrounding highway network.
- 6.15 The planning application will include a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). This document will provide detailed information on expected construction vehicle movements and vehicle types, journey considerations for construction and maintenance staff, proposed access junction arrangements, the suitability and details of the proposed haulage route, information on the traffic management measures to be implemented, and will detail the construction working hours and duration of works.

Public Transport Accessibility

- 6.16 It is not expected that visitors for maintenance purposes will access the Site via public transport due to the need to transport equipment and tools for example.

Disabled Access

- 6.17 The operational Site will not be open to members of the public and therefore will only be accessed by those authorised to do so (i.e. those tasked with constructing and maintaining the Site).
- 6.18 Whilst it will be ensured that any construction and maintenance staff with disabilities will be able to access the Site, it may not be possible to provide universal access due to the inherent characteristics of the development.

Movement

- 6.19 The majority of traffic associated with the Proposed Development will be experienced during the construction phase.
- 6.20 The construction period is expected to take approximately 24 months. The Site preparation phase will allow the Site to receive delivery of equipment and establish areas for equipment storage plus housing of temporary prefabricated Site offices.
- 6.21 Through the 24-month construction period, the volume of construction traffic will peak in month 13, with 112 two-way vehicle trips forecast during a peak day, comprising 48 light vehicles and 64 heavy vehicles.
- 6.22 The construction working hours for the Site are anticipated to be 07:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and 07:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays. However, certain activities, including – but not limited to - abnormal load deliveries and turbine rotor lifts, may occasionally need to occur outside these hours.

Trip Generation Staff

- 6.23 Staff would arrive in non-HGV vehicles, with efforts made to encourage car sharing wherever possible. The number of workers on-Site would vary depending on the construction activities, but based on prior wind farm projects, a peak workforce of approximately 33 staff members per day is anticipated.
- 6.24 To ensure a robust assessment of traffic movements, it has been assumed that two-thirds of staff would travel in single-occupancy cars or LGVs, while the remaining third would use a minibus with a capacity of up to 16 passengers.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

6.25 Under these assumptions, staff transport is expected to generate up to 44 two-way vehicle trips daily (22 arrivals and 22 departures).

Site Operation

6.26 Following construction, the Site will operate for a period of 50 years. During its lifetime the Site does not require any permanent staff presence. Upkeep of the Site is restricted to infrequent monitoring, cleaning and general maintenance.

Environmental Sustainability

6.27 The proposal will contribute towards UK and Welsh Government renewable energy and carbon reduction targets and provide cost effective and clean electricity. The proposal is compliant with national and local environmental sustainability objectives and policies.

Community Safety and Security

6.28 All vehicles arriving at the Site will be required to report to Site security to receive instructions before proceeding. This will identify the nature of the vehicle arrival, and if required enable an induction will be completed, vehicle permits issued, and Site rules along with emergency procedures explained. Consequently, the proposal raises no community safety or security issues.

Flood Risk

6.29 The New Flood Map for Planning data has been used as the 'best available information' on flood risk to inform the planning application. As indicated by the Flood Map for Planning, the Site falls within Flood Zone 1, which is classified 'as areas with a less than 0.1% (1 in 1000) chance of flooding from rivers each year, including the effects of climate change.'

6.30 The Natural Resource Wales (NRW) Flood Risk from Surface Water and Small Watercourses map indicates most of the Site is not at risk of surface water flooding. Areas of 'low' to 'high' risk have been identified within the extent of the Site boundary. This is attributed to ordinary watercourses at the Site and depressions in the ground surface.

6.31 A Flood Consequences Assessment (FCA) and drainage strategy has been produced in support of the application to ensure flood risk and hydrological impacts are managed appropriately.

Response to Planning Policy

- 6.32 The national and local planning policy context is overwhelmingly supportive of renewable energy development. Increasing renewable energy generation is identified as a national and local planning policy objective.
- 6.33 There is a presumption in favour of windfarm development within Pre-Assessed Areas (PAAs) as set out in Policies 17 and 18 of the Future Wales Plan. Crucially, the proposed scheme falls within PAA 9. Design and landscape matters are considered in the accompanying Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) as Chapter 5 of the Environmental Statement. This assessment has shown that although there are predicted to be some significant landscape and visual effects, these will be relatively local and confined to some receptor locations within 7km of the Proposed Development. There would be no significant effects on national landscape designations which fall within the 45km buffer from the Proposed Development.
- 6.34 Regarding access planning policies, the Site is considered to be accessible to those that will require access to it and complies with relevant highways and transportation requirements, as set out within the accompanying ES Chapter 8 on Transport and the CTMP.

7 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 In summary, the proposed wind farm will generate circa 75MW and as a result constitutes a Development of National Significance (DNS) as its overall output is in excess of 10MW. Consequently, the proposal will contribute directly towards UK and Welsh Government targets for the supply of energy from renewable sources.
- 7.2 The importance of renewable energy generation and its key role in the response to climate change is recognised at all levels of governance in Wales. Renewable energy generation supports the national economic objective to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and decentralise energy supply. The Welsh Government therefore considers that the wider benefits of renewable energy schemes to society and the economy are significant and should be given substantial weight by decision makers when reaching their decisions on individual planning applications. At a local level, BCBC declared a climate emergency in June 2019 with an aim to reduce the Council's carbon emissions to net zero by 2030. This project contributes to these ambitions.
- 7.3 The design and layout of the Proposed Development has gradually evolved throughout the iterative design stage (set out in Section 6 – Design Development) of this DAS to respond to the suite of detailed technical surveys and studies undertaken to support this DNS planning application. In addition, the design evolution has responded to the comments and recommendations from technical experts and those received from the local community as part of inclusive consultation run by the developer.
- 7.4 The design and access considerations of the Proposed Development have been proportionately addressed and the layout has been designed sensitively in keeping with existing topography and the landscape. Landscape and Ecological Assessments have recognised the potential of the scale of the Proposed Development to cause localised change. However, through effective mitigation the Proposed Development will not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the visual or amenity value or character of the local or wider countryside by way of its siting, scale, form, massing or appearance.
- 7.5 The Proposed Development incorporates landscape and biodiversity enhancement which seeks to provide and enhance natural screening, particularly when coupled with the existing natural containment of the Site, limits any available views into the Site. This, together with the measures that have been incorporated into the design to enhance and encourage the ecological diversity of the Site, will ensure that at the end of the projects lifespan the Site can not only be restored to its current use, but will also be likely to have been improved. Regarding design, the DAS demonstrates that the Proposed Development can be accommodated on the Site with acceptable landscape and visual impact.
- 7.6 The development will give rise to a relatively small number of vehicle movements during the construction period. During the operation period a minimal number of additional trips are expected per annum. The dedicated access is sufficient to cater for the expected vehicular movements during the construction period and within the lifetime of the development. There is no reason in access terms why the development cannot proceed.

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

- 7.7 The Proposed Development is compliant with the relevant provisions of the BCBC Local Development Plan Policy SP3 Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking through the promotion of sustainable development and ensuring that the development proposals contribute to creating sustainable places by having full regard to the context of the local, natural environment. The Proposed Development also conforms to the requirements of Policy SP3 Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change and Policy SP10 Infrastructure.
- 7.8 The DAS demonstrates that the proposal is fully in accordance with national and local planning policy objectives relating to renewable energy, climate change, design and accessibility. Overall, as demonstrated within this DAS and the supporting Planning Statement, the Development meets the requirements of PPW 12, Future Wales and the presumption in favour of sustainable development and is compliant with the relevant policies of the adopted BCBC Local Development Plan.