



NGED

UPPER OGMORE GRID CONNECTION

EIA Report Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary





NGED

UPPER OGMORE GRID CONNECTION

Environmental Statement

PUBLIC

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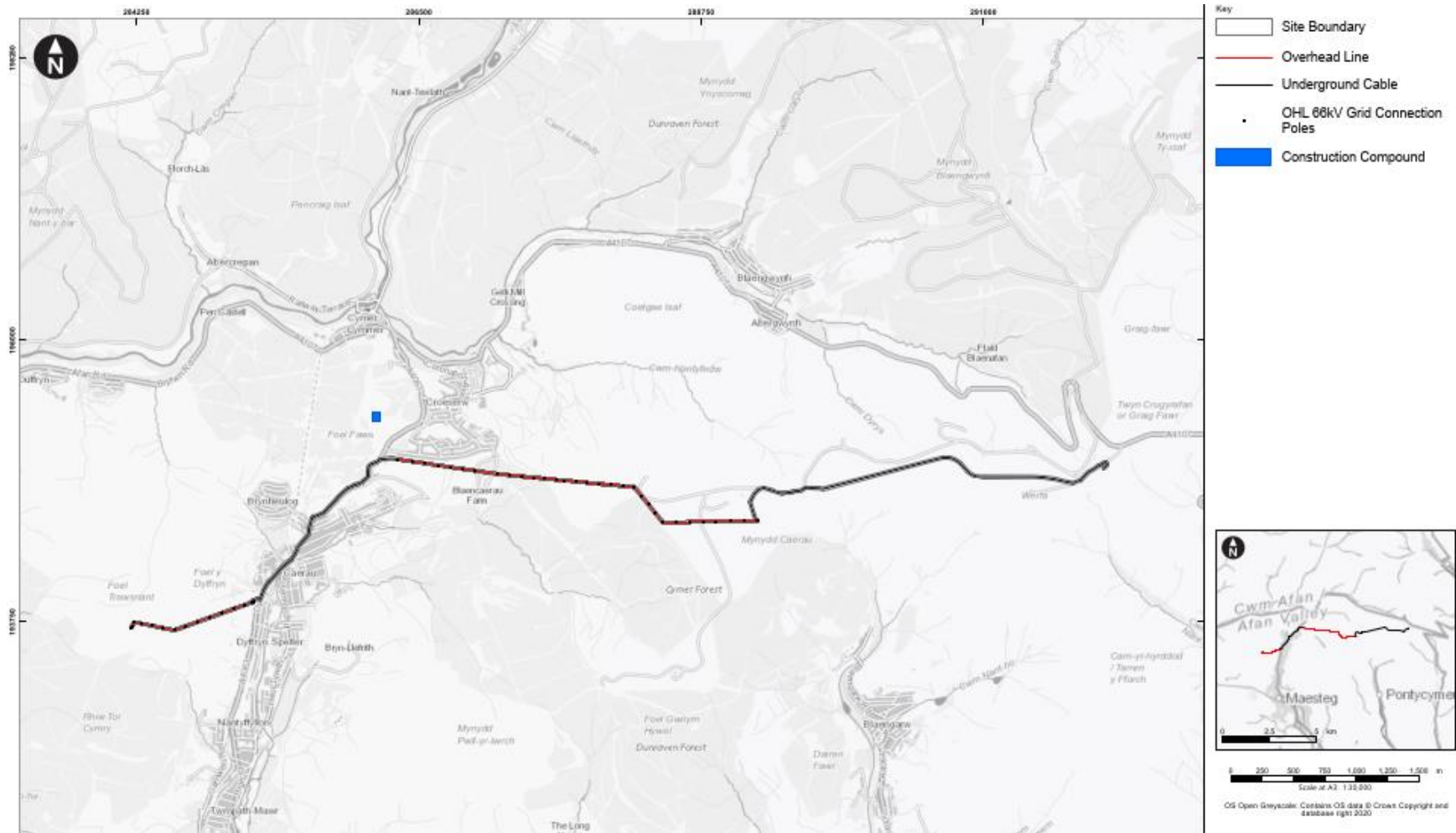
Figure 1-1 - Site Location

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) ('the Applicant') is submitting an application to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) seeking consent for the proposed Upper Ogmere Wind Farm electricity network infrastructure connection ('the Project'), consisting of 66 kilovolts (kV) overhead line (OHL) and underground cables (UGC). The Project is associated with the Upper Ogmere Wind Farm and will provide a connection between the wind farm and the wider national grid. To enable this, the Project will connect into the Foel Trawsnant Grid Connection (DNS reference: DNS CAS-02505-N3T6M4). The application for consent for the Project is accompanied by the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report ("EIA Report"), which has been prepared by WSP UK Ltd ("WSP") on behalf of the Applicant.
- 1.1.2. The Project is located in the south Wales, to the northwest of Llangnwyd, and travels partially through the towns of Caerau and Gwynfi and Croeserw (see **Figure 4.1**). The proposed grid connection is centred at coordinates easting (E) 288448, northing (N)194566 and falls majorly within Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and partially traverses through Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC).

Figure 1-1 - Site Location



1.2 PURPOSE OF THE NTS

- 1.2.1. This document constitutes the NTS and forms part of the EIA Report.
- 1.2.2. The EIA Report provides information relating to the Development Site and its surroundings, reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Development, a description of its key features, and a description of any likely significant effects resulting from its construction, operation and decommissioning. Potential cumulative effects as a result of changes due to the Proposed Development and other identified developments in the area are also considered along with measures to reduce potential significant effects.
- 1.2.3. The EIA comprises the following volumes:
- Volume 1: Main Report;
 - Volume 2: Figures;
 - Volume 3: Technical Appendices;
 - Volume 4: Non-Technical Summary (NTS); and
 - Volume 5: Confidential Appendix
- 1.2.4. The aim of the NTS is to provide an overview of the content and main findings of the EIA Report in non-technical language that is easily understandable by individuals who do not have a technical background in the aspects assessed.
- 1.2.5. Those interested in obtaining more detail about the environmental aspects of the Proposed Development and resulting environmental effects should consult the Main Report in Volume 1.
- 1.2.6. The EIA Report (including summary of significant effects), NTS, Planning Statement, Green Infrastructure Strategy and Design and Access Statement are available to download from the project website: [xxxx](#)
- 1.2.7. There will also be there public exhibitions events at the following locations, where the draft EIA Report will be available to view:
- St David's Church, Church Place, Maesteg, Bridgend CF34 9PA;
 - Nantyllyllon Rugby Football Club, Nant Y Ffyrlling, Maesteg CF34 0BU; and
 - Llangynwyd Village Hall; Bridgend Rd, Llangynwyd, Maesteg CF34 9SW.
- 1.2.8. Following submission of the application and accompanying final EIA Report to PEDW, notice will be given in accordance with Regulations 19 of the EIA Regulations (Wales). This will include details of the Project, state that this is subject to EIA and provide details of how the EIA Report can be inspected and copies obtained, including any associated cost for hard copies. The notice under Regulation 19 will also provide details of how representations can be made and detail arrangements for public participation in the decision-making process. The notice will be advertised in the Western Mail local newspaper.

1.3 PLANNING POLICY WALES (EDITION 12)

- 1.3.1. Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12)¹ was published in July 2024 and sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. The PPW is also supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars, and policy clarification letters.
- 1.3.2. It is stated that the primary objective of PPW is to *‘ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improved the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales, as required by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, and other key legislation’*.
- 1.3.3. In paragraph 3.30, PPW states that *“in 2019, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in order to coordinate action nationally and locally to help combat the threats of climate change. The planning system plays a key role in tackling the climate emergency through the decarbonisation of the energy system and the sustainable management of natural resources.”*
- 1.3.4. Paragraph 5.7.7 goes on to state that *“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”*.
- 1.3.5. There are many references to the electricity grid and energy storage, which is considered of relevance to the Proposed Development. These are:
- The need for appropriate energy infrastructure is contextualised within paragraph 5.7.2, which states *“overall power demand is expected to increase as a result of growing electrification of transport and heat.”* This is further solidified by the PPW stating that *“in order to ensure future demand can be met, significant investment will be needed in energy generation, transmission and distribution infrastructure”*.
 - Paragraph 5.7.8 states that *“an effective grid network is required to fulfil the Welsh Government’s renewable and low carbon ambitions”*.
 - Paragraph 5.7.9 states that the *“Welsh Government’s preferred position on new power lines is that, where possible, they should be laid underground. However, it is recognised that a balanced view must be taken against costs which could render otherwise acceptable projects unviable”* (bolding is our emphasis).

¹ The Welsh Government (2024). Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12). (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales> (accessed 06 February 2025)

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

2.1 EIA PROCESS

- 2.1.1. The preparation of the EIA Report is one of the key stages in the EIA process, as it presents the assessment of likely significant environmental effects, which PEDW will use to inform their decision about whether consent should be granted for the Project.
- 2.1.2. The EIA process culminates in the provision of an Environmental Statement (ES) which provides environmental information in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (EIA) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The ES provides an assessment of the likely significant effects associated with the Project during its construction, operation, and decommissioning.
- 2.1.3. This EIA Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Regulations. The environmental aspect assessments have been carried out using the general approach and processes set out in this chapter. In each topic chapter, specific methodologies for those assessments are explained.
- 2.1.4. In general, the EIA process is aligned with the following key steps:
- Screening
 - Screening refers to the decision which determines if an EIA is required. This decision is taken by the determining authority, based on the nature and scale of the development as well as its setting, in relation to sensitive environmental features. However, developers can equally voluntarily undertake an EIA. For most projects, the determining authority is likely to be asked for a screening option by the developer. The determining authorities' decision as to whether an EIA is required is based on criteria set out in Annex 3 of the EIA Directive, and detailed guidance from the European Union, Government and other relevant authorities.
 - Scoping
 - If an EIA is required, the developer may request a scoping opinion from the determining authority. The aim of scoping is to identify the effects which are most likely to be significant and therefore determine the effects which will be assessed within the EIA Report. Once the request is received, the determining authority will consult relevant agencies and provide their scoping opinion to the developer. Though EIA Scoping is not a mandatory requirement, it helps provide the developer with confidence that the significant effects determined in the EIA are also considered important by the determining authority.
 - Environmental Statement
 - Following the scoping report, an EIA Report is prepared and submitted. An EIA Report presents and assesses the relevant information to determine likely significant environmental effects of a development.
- 2.1.5. The EIA Report has identified the likely effects of the Project on the environment (including people) and a determination has been made as to whether any of these could be significant. Mitigation



measures to reduce or avoid adverse effects were incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development and the assessment of residual effects presented in the EIA Report takes these into account.

2.2 CONSULTATION

- 2.2.1. PEDW formally issued the Scoping Opinion in response to the Scoping Report on 19th June 2025. The EIA Scoping Opinion has been used to inform and shape the scope of the assessments in the EIA Report, based on responses from the local councils and consultees. At the time of writing the draft EIA Report, further consultations have been held with Cadw, with the last one held on 19th September 2025 – this was to agree a more suitable route through Clawdd Mawr Dyke. Any additional consultation undertaken with stakeholders will be captured as appropriate within the final EIA report.

3 SCHEME NEED AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations states that an EIA Report should include:
- In paragraph 17(3)(d) of Part 5: *"a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment"*;
 - Paragraph 2 of Schedule 4: *"A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects."*

3.2 ALTERNATIVES

- 3.2.1. **Chapter 3: Design Evolution and Alternatives** of the EIA Report provides detail on the consideration of alternative options for the Development Site, which include no development, and technology as summarised in the following sections.

No Development

- 3.2.2. Without the grid connection, climate change may be negatively impacted, as the wind farm would be unusable and other forms of energy would need to be sought. However, at the very least without the Project, the status quo would be expected to remain.

Technology

- 3.2.3. The proposed grid connection will be used to connect the consented Upper Ogmore Wind Farm to the wider national grid; without which, the wind farm would not be able to serve its purpose in providing renewable energy. The requirement for renewable energy is accepted at national policy level with wind energy widely recognised as the most mature renewable energy technology currently available. The Site was identified as being appropriately located to transfer electricity from the wind farm to the national grid.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

4.1 DEVELOPMENT SITE

4.1.1. The Project is situated in south Wales, to the southwest of Llangynwyd, and centred at Grid Reference (E) 287980, (N) 194848. The application Site boundary covers an area of 22.5 hectares (ha). The proposed grid connection is approximately 9km in length, split into the following sections:

- 1.1 km western OHL;
- 1.7 km western UGC;
- 3.0 km eastern OHL; and
- 3.2 km eastern UGC.

4.1.1. The Project is located mainly within Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC), though partially traverses through Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC).

4.2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS

4.2.1. The Project comprises of the infrastructure listed in **Table 4-1**.

Table 4-1 - Key Features of the Project

Component	Description
Cable	Length: 12km Dimensions: 630mm diameter Description: Cu Cable (not oil filled)
Overhead Line Poles	Quantity: 104 wooden poles (at 52 locations) Height: up to 15m
Cable Trenches	Length: 4.2km Dimensions: ~1.5m depth, and between 600mm to 1.5m wide.
Joint Bay Boxes	Quantity: 18 Dimensions: ~2m depth, and 5m x 3m
Temporary Construction Compound	Approximately centred on (E) 286129 (N) 195331 Dimensions: ~30m by 30m Maximum Compound Footprint: ~0.06 ha

4.3 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

OVERHEAD LINE POLES

4.3.1. An OHL would be carried on wooden H-poles, consisting of two single wooden poles (most likely Scots Pine) joined by a crossarm with bracing. At the termination points only, two sets of H-poles will be located side-by-side. Terminal ends may be located at the start and end of the underground section of the connection.

4.3.2. Whilst the intention is for the route to be as straight as possible, there will be some deviation to avoid environmental features, such as trees. At points of deviation, angle poles will be used; these are likely to be H-pole structures. In all locations where the line deviates, there will be the requirement to provide cable stays to the poles. The poles are not typically stayed, and do not

require concrete foundations. However, pre-cast kicking blocks will be installed below ground, to provide the poles with adequate structural support.

- 4.3.3. The height of the wooden poles will mostly be 12m above ground level, with a maximum height not exceeding 15m above ground. An assumed minimum clearance to trees from the conductors is 4m from the nearest part of the tree.
- 4.3.4. The poles are designed to carry the conductor wires. It is currently proposed to install a single circuit made up of one conductor per phase. Telemetry and monitoring capabilities, such as fault detection, will be provided by a microwave link. The poles will carry the cross arms onto which the insulators are attached. Poplar conductor wire will be used for all the OHL sections. Span length between poles will be between 90m to 130m. The actual span between poles will be influenced by topography and the surrounding environment.
- 4.3.5. The construction and maintenance of OHL will be in accordance with NGED (2024) Policy Document: OH6/4².

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)

- 4.3.6. Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) arise from generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity and will occur around power lines. All overhead power lines produce EMFs. These tend to be highest directly under a line and decrease to the sides at increasing distance. Although putting cables underground eliminates the electric field, they still produce magnetic fields, which are highest directly above the cable.
- 4.3.7. The Project has a relatively low voltage of 66kV, and has been designed and phased so that there will be no significant effects related to EMFs

CABLE TRENCHES

- 4.3.8. Underground cabling work will involve placing cables within ducts; the ducts themselves will be within a trench. An open cut method will be used, where the duct is laid directly into a trench of up to 1.5m depth. The ducts are placed at the bottom of the trench, and the excavation around the cables is then filled with sand before the remaining excavation is backfilled with the excavated material. Cables are jointed at approximately 500m intervals. The joint boxes are generally 1-2m deep and 5m x 3m. Once the cable ducts are laid, the cable will then be pulled through.
- 4.3.9. The creation of trenches, laying of cable ducts and pulling of cable will be in accordance with NGED (2021) Standard Technique: CA6A/73.

² NGED (2024) Policy Document: OH6/4, Construction, Maintenance and Replacement of Low Voltage Overhead Services. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/documents/tech-info/overhead-construction>

³ NGED (2021) Standard Technique: CA6A/7, Relating to the Installation of Underground Cables. Available at: <https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/documents/tech-info/underground-cable-construction/66000-volt>

TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND

- 4.3.10. One temporary construction compound is proposed to be located within the northern section of the Site and will comprise an area measuring 30m x 30m. It will be enclosed by appropriate security fencing and contain a single storey welfare unit powered by an on-site generator. The ground surface will mostly be covered by geogrid matting (or similar). The location of the temporary construction compound is shown on **Figure 1-1**.
- 4.3.11. Poles and cables will be stored at the temporary construction compound. Poles will be transported to the works area, and laydown within the Site boundary on the day of installation.
- 4.3.12. A portable welfare facility will temporarily be located along the route as appropriate (i.e. where works are being completed, and when the temporary construction compound is not within a practical distance).

WATERCOURSE CROSSINGS

- 4.3.13. The Nant Sychbant crossing will be undertaken through installing a temporary dam and laying the cable through an open cut method. Standard best-practice measures will be proposed in the CEMP to manage spillages and the generation of additional sediment being generated along the riverbed.

MICRO-SITING

- 4.3.14. Micro-siting refers to the precise locating of infrastructure, in this instance OHL poles. The Project has a micro siting allowance of 10m.
- 4.3.15. Any such repositioning will be limited so as not to involve encroachment into any environmentally or technically constrained areas. In addition, micro-siting provides scope to mitigate potential geo-environmental and geotechnical constraints.

SITE ACCESS

- 4.3.16. Access to the Site will be primarily provided via the existing access track for the consented Upper Ogmere Wind Farm, which branches off from the A4107.
- 4.3.17. No new access tracks will be constructed currently, though this may change depending on topographical constraints. The minimal number of vehicles required for erection of the poles – including an excavator, MEWP, two engineering vans and an ATV (quad bike) - will travel within the Site boundary, and use geo-grid matting or similar where appropriate. The underground section of the Project will be accessed via the existing road network.

HELICOPTER USAGE

- 4.3.18. Given the topography and terrain of certain sections of the Project, there is potential for a helicopter to be used to deliver some of the poles. If this scenario, an Airbus Helicopter H125 will be utilised for up to two days to deliver up to 50 poles.
- 4.3.19. Given the very short period the helicopter would be used (up to two days), the proposed use of helicopter transport for material delivery across the Site is not expected to result in any significant impacts. When compared to ground-based delivery methods, the helicopter approach offers a more efficient and less disruptive alternative. As such, the proposed helicopter delivery is scoped out of further assessment.

4.3.20.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DURING CONSTRUCTION

4.3.21. The contract between NGED and the civil engineers involved in construction of the Project will specify the measures to be taken to avoid or reduce the potential environmental effects arising from the construction process. These measures will consist of three main types:

- Firstly, conditions to be adhered to under development consent;
- Secondly, the requirements of Natural Resources Wales (NRW); and
- Thirdly, any other relevant environmental measures identified in this ES.

CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

4.3.22. A CEMP provides an overview of the standard construction management measures that would be implemented as part of the Project (see **Appendix 4A**). As such it aims to ensure that construction activities for the Project are carried out in accordance with legislation and best practice for minimising the effects of construction on the environment and local communities.

DUST AND AIR QUALITY

4.3.23. Given the adoption of the environmental measures which are outlined below, it is not expected that the change in air quality will be significant. Air quality affects arising from exhaust emissions from construction plant would be so low as to be not significant. Neither dust nuisance nor air quality be assessed as part of the EIA. This was confirmed in the scoping process. Standard mitigation measures will be captured in a CEMP.

4.4 OPERATION

4.4.1. The Project will integrate the consented Upper Ogmores Wind Farm with the current DNO via a 66kV connection. It will remain active for the duration of the wind farm's operation, assumed to be up to 30 years. However, it is noted the duration of the proposed overhead line and underground cable could extend beyond 30 years, dependant on potential future uses.

4.5 DECOMMISSIONING

4.5.1. Following the operational phase, the connection (underground and overground) will be left in situ as it has the potential to become integrated into the DNOs wider distribution network. This would also avoid further disruption to the surrounding environment.

5 POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

- 5.1.1. The emphasis of the EIA Regulations is on the assessment of the likely 'significant' environmental effects which a Project is likely to give rise to.
- 5.1.2. The environmental topics considered for the Project and reported in the EIA Report are:
- Chapter 6 – Landscape and Visual Impact;
 - Chapter 7 - Traffic and Transport;
 - Chapter 8 – Terrestrial Ecology;
 - Chapter 9 – Ornithology;
 - Chapter 10 - Historic Environment (including archaeology and cultural heritage); and
 - Chapter 11 - Water resource and Flood risk.
- 5.1.3. The potential significant effects identified for the topics listed above have been assessed by a team of qualified experts, using appropriate methodologies. As part of the assessment, mitigation measures have been identified in order to reduce the residual effects.
- 5.1.4. The key outcomes of the assessment undertaken for each individual environmental topic considered within the EIA has been summarised in the sections below.

5.2 LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.2.1. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) which considers the potential landscape and visual effects associated with the construction and operation of the project.
- 5.2.2. The objective of this LVIA has been to determine the landscape and visual effects of the Project on the existing landscape resource and visual amenity. The LVIA has been prepared by Chartered landscape architects at WSP and should be read in conjunction with the Project Description in **Chapter 4: Description of the Project**.
- 5.2.3. The LVIA assessment considers landscape effects and visual effects within the assessment, as detailed below.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

Embedded Mitigation through Design

- 5.2.4. The Project has been developed through an iterative design process which considered balanced environmental, technical and economic factors. Minimising the number of potential visual receptors and reducing landscape effects by avoiding the requirement to create corridors through forested areas where possible, ensuring the Project is generally backdropped by existing forestry and/ or elevated topography and following the existing topography reflecting the guidance provided in the Holford Rules.

Landscape Effects

- 5.2.5. Landscape Effects are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 5.1 and 5.2 as follows:

- *“An assessment of landscape effects deals with the effects of change and development on landscape as a resource. The concern ... is with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. ... The area of landscape that should be covered in assessing landscape effects should include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the Project may influence in a significant manner.”*

- 5.2.6. These effects are assessed by considering the landscape sensitivity (value and susceptibility) against the magnitude of change. The type of effect can also be described as temporary or permanent, direct or indirect, cumulative and positive, neutral, or negative.
- 5.2.7. The residual landscape effects, assessed here, are those effects remaining after all of the proposed design mitigation has been taken into account. An assessment of the cumulative landscape effects, taking account of other relevant operational and consented development and any relevant current applications has been undertaken.
- 5.2.8. In considering the effects of the Project (magnitude of change) on landscape character and visual receptors, the following scenarios will be assessed:
- Construction Phase – during the construction period, assuming a maximum perceived change situation (i.e., when construction activity is at its peak), noting how long that period is likely to last; and
 - Operational Phase (Winter Year 1)
- 5.2.9. Decommissioning effects would reflect those arising as a result of construction but may happen at different times or not at all in the case of the UGC. An assessment of the decommissioning effects has been scoped out.
- 5.2.10. At construction phases, the western OHL section of the Project is assessed as having a **Major and significant** level of effect on **LCA 1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands** and **LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area CYNONVS473 Mynydd Baedan** (which cover the same geographic area). The increased frequency of movement brought about by construction vehicles to these areas will also greatly reduce their tranquillity. Construction of the western UGC section of the Project will also have the same level of effect on **LCA 6: Mynydd Llangeinwyr Upland** and **VSAA CYNONVS622 Mynydd Llangeinwyr** (which also cover the same geographic area) due to trenching activities and the increased frequency of movement from construction vehicles.
- 5.2.11. **LCA 15: Mynydd y Gelli** and **VSAA NPTVS547 Mynydd y Gelli**, and **CA 13 Foel Trawsnant** and **VSAA NPTVS358 Foel Trawsnant** (which also cover the same geographic area) will experience a **Major to Moderate and significant** level of effect due to the construction of the eastern UGC section of the Project.
- 5.2.12. At operation, the Project is considered to have a **Major to Moderate and significant** level of effect on **LCA 1: Llangynwyd Rolling Uplands** and on **LANDMAP VSAA CYNONVS473 Mynydd Baedan** (which cover the same geographic area) as a result of the western OHL section of the Project. The effect is influenced by its High sensitivity, brought about by its location within the Foel Dyffryn SLA. The qualities of the SLA include a strongly rural and tranquil landscape with some panoramic views to more distant hillsides. The operational phase would result in the western OHL section of the Project being noticeable in the landscape as the upland areas of Foel Dyffryn, where

the OHL section would be located, are generally devoid of modern development. At the lower slopes of Foel y Dyffryn towards the valley settlement of Maesteg, the OHL would be situated in a context where built development is present, slightly decreasing the landscape effects of the Project in these areas.

Visual Effects

5.2.13. Visual effects are assessed by considering the sensitivity of the receptor (people in the landscape) and the magnitude of change that would affect the view or overall visual amenity. They are defined by the Landscape Institute in GLVIA 3, paragraphs 6.2 as follows:

- *"An assessment of visual effects deals with the effects of change and development on the views available to people and their visual amenity. The concern here is with assessing how the surroundings of individuals or groups of people may be specifically affected by changes in the content and character of views as a result of the change or loss of existing elements of the landscape and/or introduction of new elements."*

5.2.14. In determining the level of effect, the sensitivity to change and magnitude of effect are combined and assessed to give a final judgement on the overall level of the effects on visual receptors. The results of this assessment are set out in **Table 5-1** below:

Table 5-1 - Sensitivity of Viewpoint/ Visual Receptors Summary Table

Viewpoint	Sensitivity of receptors
Viewpoint 1 – Junction of Footpaths MAE/13/4 and MAE/15/2	High (Footpath users)
Viewpoint 2 – Foel y Dyffryn (summit)	High (Visitors to the Summit and Open Access Land area)
Viewpoint 3 – A4063	High (Residents) Medium (Road users)
Viewpoint 4 – Junction of Footpath MAE/1/2 and Byway MAE/12/1 / 23/37/5	High (Footpath and Byway users)
Viewpoint 5 – Rathbone Terrace / Protheroe Street	Medium (Residents) Low (Road users)
Viewpoint 6 – Footpath MAE/9/1	Medium (Footpath users)
Viewpoint 7 – Croeserw Social Club carpark	Medium (Residents and road users) Low (Recreational users)
Viewpoint 8 – Footpath MAE/3/2	High (Footpath users)
Viewpoint 9 – Bridleway 23/19/1 (Tarren Rhiw-Llech)	High (Bridleway users)
Viewpoint 10 – Footpath GWV/63/1 (Werfa)	High (Footpath users and visitors to Open Access Land area)
Viewpoint 11 – Footpath GWV/103/4 (Mynydd Llangeinwyr / Werfa)	High (Footpath users and visitors to Open Access Land area)

Viewpoint	Sensitivity of receptors
Viewpoint 12 – Footpath MAE/4/3	High (Footpath users)
Viewpoint 13 – Footpath MAE/3A/2 (Darren Y Bannau)	High (Footpath users)
Viewpoint 14 – Mynydd Pwll-yr-lwrch (off Footpath MAE/59/1)	High (Footpath users and visitors to Open Access Land area)

- 5.2.15. At construction phases, the western OHL section of the Project is assessed to have a **Major and Significant** level of effect on views for users of **Footpaths MAE/13/4** and **MAE/15/2** (represented by **Viewpoint 1**) and on visitors to the area of **Open Access Land** on Foel y Dyffryn (represented by **Viewpoint 2**). These viewpoints are situated within the Foel y Dyffryn SLA, and within an area of low grass cover where there will be high visibility of the construction works, resulting in significant temporary adverse effects to receptors. There would be visibility of construction machinery, vehicle movements and lay down areas during the construction phase, resulting in a temporary adverse effect on the views experienced.
- 5.2.16. Construction on the western UGC section of the Project is assessed as having a **Major and Significant** level of effect on views experienced by **residential receptors** along the A4063 (represented by **Viewpoint 3**). Meanwhile, a **Major to Moderate and Significant** level of effect will be experienced by road users at **Viewpoint 3** due to the construction of the western UGC and for **recreational receptors** at **Viewpoint 10** due to construction works on the eastern UGC section of the Project. Construction works on the underground sections of the Project are considered to be highly disruptive due to the trenching and ground movement activities that will be a very noticeable element for views experienced by receptors.
- 5.2.17. At Operation, the Project is considered to have a **Major to Moderate and Significant** level of effect on views experienced by users of **Footpaths MAE/13/4** and **MAE/15/2** (represented by **Viewpoint 1**) and visitors to the area of **Open Access Land** on Foel y Dyffryn (represented by **Viewpoint 2**) as a result of the proposed western OHL. In these locations, this significant level of effect has resulted from a combination of the high sensitivity of receptors and a moderate magnitude of change resulting from the western OHL section of the Project. This is mostly due to the Project occupying a significant portion of views experienced by receptors because of the close proximity of the Project to receptors at these viewpoint locations.

5.3 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.3.1. This sets out the assessment of likely significant traffic and transport effects of the Project. The chapter sets out a summary of relevant policy and baseline information for the traffic and transport study area, identifies highways receptors and presents an assessment of effects and identifies mitigation measures to minimise the impact of the Project on highways receptors.
- 5.3.2. Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (EATM) outlines that the greatest environmental change will generally be when the project traffic is at the largest proportion of the total

flow. Therefore, the assessment of traffic and transport effects, within this ES, will be undertaken for the construction phase of the Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

- 5.3.3. The potential likely significant traffic and transport effects of the Project that are identified within EATM are summarised below:
- Severance: the separation of people from places and other people and places or impede pedestrian access to essential facilities;
 - Driver delay: traffic delays to non-development traffic
 - Non-motorised user amenity: the effect on the relative pleasantness of a pedestrian journey resulting from changes in traffic flow, traffic composition and pavement width/separation from traffic;
 - Non-motorised user delay: the ability of people to crossroads as a result of changes in traffic volume, composition and speed, the level of pedestrian activity, visibility and general physical conditions of the Project;
 - Fear and intimidation: the change in fear and intimidation levels experienced by people as a result of an increase in traffic volume and its proximity or the lack of protection caused by such factors as narrow pavement widths; and
 - Road safety: the risk of accidents occurring where the Project is expected to produce a change in the character of traffic.
- 5.3.4. These effects will be assessed within this traffic and transport chapter for highway sections that are identified as requiring detailed assessment.
- 5.3.5. Two supporting documents have been prepared which include the key management and mitigation measures which related to traffic and transport:
- An Outline CTMP (**Appendix 7A**) - A CTMP sets out details of the impacts of the Project construction traffic on the road network and the mitigation measures and management strategy for the effects. The Outline CTMP will be developed into a full CTMP in consultation and agreement with the relevant local authority officers.
 - An Outline PRoWMP (**Appendix 7B**) – A PRoWMP sets out details of the impacts of the Project on the PRoW network and the mitigation measures and management strategy for the effects. The Outline PRoWMP will be developed into a full PRoWMP in consultation and agreement with the relevant local authority officers
- 5.3.6. In addition, a Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed as part of the EIA (Appendix 4A).
- 5.3.7. The following roads will require specific mitigation to address potential significant effects:
- A465;
 - A4061; and
 - A4063.
- 5.3.8. The additional mitigation measures for this road link will be incorporated within the full CTMP. The Contractor will consult / agree with the LHA for suitable mitigation measures for the roads listed above, such as information provision for drivers alerting them to the route accident context, and for

the highway works, the client will agree appropriate traffic management measures in agreement with the LHA. The agreed mitigation will be detailed within the final CTMP; it is not anticipated that any full road closures will be required. This will allow location specific mitigation to be put in place. This will minimise traffic and transport impacts on these road links and therefore result in this effect being reduced to **Not Significant**.

5.4 TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.4.1. The ecological baseline conditions were defined during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (CSA, 2024) and the various ecological surveys that have been carried out to inform the Project. As part of the PEA, an ecological desk study was carried out.
- 5.4.2. Two international statutory designations were identified within 10km of the survey area, the Blackmill Woodlands SAC (approx. 8.7km south of the survey area) and the Cefn Cribwr Grasslands SAC (approx. 10km south of the survey area). One national statutory designation was identified within 3km of the survey area, the Mynydd-Ty-isaf SSSI (approx.. 0.5km north-east of the survey area).
- 5.4.3. One local statutory designation was identified within 3km of the survey area, the Bryn Tip LNR (c. 2.4km south-west of the survey area).
- 5.4.4. A total of 21 non-statutory nature conservation sites were located within 3km of the Site. Only one of these - Caerau West – lies directly within the Site.
- 5.4.5. The PEA also identified:
 - A total of 117 parcels of Priority Habitats were identified within 1 km of the Site. A total of 39 parcels of Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) were identified within 1km of the Site as part of the desk study.
 - A total of 557 records of notable plant species were returned during the desk study within 2 km of the Project
 - A total of 12 Phase 1 habitat types were identified within the Survey Area during the Phase 1 habitat survey.
 -
 - A total of 63 records of at least eight different bat species were returned during the desk study.
 -
 - Four trees were identified with the potential to support roosting bats.
 - Norecords of badger *Meles meles* within 2km of the Site were returned by the desk study in the last 10 years.
 - No records of dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* within 2km of the Site was returned by the desk study in the last 10 years.
 - There were no records of water vole *Arvicola amphibius* within 2km of the Site returned by the desk study in the last 10 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

- 5.4.6. A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Project. Embedded measures are measures that will be implemented as part of the Project regardless of the requirement for ecological mitigation/assessment outcomes, for example as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard best practice and, as such, the subsequent Ecological Impact Assessment assumes they are in place.
- 5.4.7. Environmental measures required to avoid or reduce ecology impacts will be incorporated into a outline Habitat Management Plan (oHMP). The oHMP will be prepared in consultation with the LPAs (BCBC, NPTC, RCTCBC) which will include details of habitat creation, enhancement and monitoring requirements across the Site. The plan will prescribe mitigation and management measures of the habitats impacted and associated species, to safeguard a net gain in nature conservation across the Site.
- 5.4.8. With the implementation of the embedded measures and ecological mitigation measures, captured and implemented within a CEMP and oHMP, it is concluded likely that residual effects will be **Not Significant** in the long-term for those Important Ecological Features (IEFs) which have been fully assessed. On the receipt of the recommended further surveys, the assessments will be revised for these IEFs.
- 5.4.9. The combination of embedded mitigation and additional measures will minimise effects upon IEFs. Short term effects upon SINC, Priority Habitats and those species occupying these habitats including bats, water vole and reptiles cannot be avoided, as permanent and temporary habitat loss is necessary within the construction footprint. Permanent habitat loss, if any, will be kept to the absolute minimum required and will only occur within the footprint of the OHL poles. Temporary habitat loss will be confined to the ground clearance requirements around each OHL pole to facilitate their installation and the areas will be allowed to naturally regenerate following construction. In the longer term, habitat enhancement will improve the condition and provision of habitats within the Caerau West SINC and Priority Habitat across the Site. The benefits will be realised during the operational phase and offset the short-term adverse effects.
- 5.4.10. No adverse effects are expected to result from the Project, following the application of embedded measures and secondary mitigation.

5.5 ORNITHOLOGY

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.5.1. The ecological baseline conditions were defined during the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (CSA, 2024) and the various ornithological surveys that have been carried out to inform the Project, as well as desk studies undertaken.
- 5.5.2. There are no internationally designated sites within 20km which include birds as designated features.
- 5.5.3. There are two national designated sites within 10km with ornithological interest features (i.e. specified bird species listed as qualifying features or supporting habitats for target bird species as designated features). This includes Mynydd-Ty-isaf SSSI, and Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI.

5.5.4. Mynydd-Ty-isaf SSSI is the nearest to the Project (0.5km northeast). Mynydd-Ty-isaf SSSI is characterised by the cliffs and crags of glacial corries which support a mosaic of vegetation types. The high crags provide nesting sites for Schedule 1 raptors. Eglwys Nunydd Reservoir SSSI is the largest freshwater body in the county. The reservoir attracts large numbers of wintering waterfowl and passage migrants. Notable species including great crested grebe *Podiceps cristatus*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, gadwall *Mareca strepera* and coot *Fulica atra*.

5.5.5. There are no non-statutory sites which include ornithological interest features (i.e. specified bird species listed as qualifying features or supporting habitats for target bird species within 2km of the Project).

Desk Study

5.5.6. Using a search radius of 2km, the desk study¹⁸ returned 2873 records of 123 bird species, dating from 1974 to 2023. These records are summarised highlighting species which are likely to occur as breeding or overwintering species within the ornithological baseline survey report.

Breeding Bird Surveys

5.5.7. Two target species were recorded during the VP surveys in 2025: red kite and kestrel.

5.5.8. The following target species were recorded and confirmed or assumed to be breeding within the Study Area through the breeding raptor surveys:

- One species listed on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981) were recorded as breeding or holding territory: peregrine;
- Other breeding non-Schedule 1 raptor species: kestrel.

5.5.9. Two nightjar males were recorded churring in the Study area during the nightjar surveys. Nightjar are listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016).

5.5.10. The following secondary species were recorded during the viewpoint surveys:

- Six species are listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016): common cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*, common linnet *Linaria cannabina*, common starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, skylark *Alauda arvensis*, herring gull *Larus argentatus*, and song thrush *Turdus philomelos*.
- Eight species are listed on the BoCC Wales 4¹⁷ Red list: common cuckoo, common linnet, starling, swift *Apus apus*, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull *Larus fuscus*, meadow pipit *Anthus pratensis*, and willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*; and
- Six species are listed on the BoCC 5 UK¹⁶ Red list: common cuckoo, common linnet, swift, herring gull, house sparrow *Passer domesticus*, and mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*.

5.5.11. The following protected or notable species were recorded during the MBS:

- Nine species are listed on Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016): common cuckoo, common linnet, common starling, skylark, herring gull, house sparrow, reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*, tree pipit *Anthus trivialis* and song thrush.
- Nine species are listed on the BoCC Wales 4¹⁷ Red list: common cuckoo, common linnet, common starling, swift, herring gull, lesser black-backed gull, meadow pipit, tree pipit and willow warbler; and

- Eight species are listed on the BoCC 5 UK¹⁶ Red list: common linnet, common starling, swift, skylark, herring gull, house sparrow, tree pipit, and mistle thrush.

Target Species – Non-breeding Bird Surveys

- 5.5.12. Non-breeding bird surveys have not been completed yet, but will be included for the final DNS application.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

- 5.5.13. A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Project. Embedded measures are measures that will be implemented as part of the Project regardless of the requirement for ecological mitigation/assessment outcomes, for example as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard best practice and, as such, the subsequent Ornithological Impact Assessment assumes they are in place.
- 5.5.14. A range of mitigation measures are outlined below:
- Use of bird flight diverters on the OHL to improve visibility for birds and reduce collision events.
 - Habitat management under OHL route to discourage prey species for kestrel and nesting habitat for nightjar.
 - Timing of works would be prioritised to avoid works in suitable habitat during the nightjar breeding season. If any is required, pre-works surveys would be completed to confirm the presence/absence of nightjar up to 500m of construction areas to inform requirements for measures to avoid impacts on nightjar during the construction phase.
 - 5m stand-off exclusion buffers from sensitive habitats (e.g. woodlands and trees lines) to reduce collision risk.
- 5.5.15. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, as well as embedded mitigation measures, it is concluded likely that residual effects will be **Not Significant** in the long-term for those ornithological features which have been assessed. Survey data collected up to July 2025 has been used to inform the assessment, conclusions and recommendations in this draft ES Chapter. It is acknowledged that survey effort is ongoing, however a precautionary approach has been applied to this assessment and existing survey data collected taken into consideration. It is not expected that further survey data including winter/non-breeding surveys will significantly change the assessment and conclusions however the results of the further survey effort will be analysed and used to inform the final ES Chapter.
- 5.5.16. The combination of embedded mitigation and additional measures will minimise effects upon ornithological features. Short term effects to species occupying these habitats including nightjar cannot be avoided, as permanent and temporary habitat loss is necessary within the construction footprint. Permanent habitat loss, if any, will be kept to the absolute minimum required and will only occur within the footprint of the OHL poles. Temporary habitat loss will be confined to the ground clearance requirements around each OHL pole to facilitate their installation and the areas will be allowed to naturally regenerate following construction. In the longer term, habitat enhancement will improve the condition and provision of habitats for multiple bird species across the Site. The benefits will be realised during the operational phase and offset the short-term adverse effects.

- 5.5.17. No significant, long-term adverse effects are expected to result from the Project, following the application of embedded measures and secondary mitigation.

5.6 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.6.1. An assessment of the direct effects on historic heritage assets such as physical disturbance and damage, as well as effects through change of setting of off-site heritage features and the wider historic landscape, have been considered in the historic environment assessment.
- 5.6.2. This is represented by features, or assets, including buildings, archaeological remains and artefact scatters. Some historic assets have been designated as Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings or Conservation Areas, Registered Park and Gardens, and Registered Historic Landscapes. These and non-designated assets are managed in the planning process in accordance with national and local planning policies and guidance.
- 5.6.3. A 300m Study Area was applied in the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (ADBA) for establishing a historic environment baseline to support an assessment of potential and significance of historic assets which may be impacted by the Project.
- 5.6.4. A Stage 1 Assessment has been carried out for all the designated historic assets within the 2km Extended Study Area.
- 5.6.5. Additional baseline in the form of a Stage 2 and 3 Settings Assessment was undertaken by WSP on 05-06/06/2025. This comprised both a visual inspection of designated assets scoped-in during Stage 1 (see Appendix C of the Scoping Report, WSP, 2025;), as well as analysis of significance and an evaluation of the impact of the Project on the overall setting of the designated assets scoping in within the 2km extended study area and the impact on all scoped-in non-designated assets. The site visit confirmed the outcome of the Stage 1 Settings Assessment, verifying the locations of designated assets and assessing their rationale for inclusion or exclusion in the following ES.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

Clawdd Mawr, Mynydd Caerau (GM231)

- 5.6.6. Following consultation with Cadw, and in line with embedded environmental measures, the project design includes installation of the UGC cable below an existing trackway which crosses the Clawdd Mawr, Mynydd Caerau scheduled monument, a designated asset of **high** heritage significance. Construction activities will be entirely contained within the footprint of the existing track, which was widened and reinforced with aggregate as part of the construction of the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm, and has an existing series of utilities installed beneath it. Embedded measures also make provision for protective fencing during construction to avoid accidental damage to extant remains, as well as a toolbox talk for ground teams. All construction activities controlled through avoidance strategies will be secured within the CEMP. Whilst ground disturbance will occur within the boundary of the scheduled monument, this will be contained within the track and is not considered to impact any archaeological remains which contribute to evidential value of the asset. As such, there would be **no significant effect**.

Conclusions

- 5.6.7. Subject to the implementation of the embedded environmental measures set out in **Section 5.6** which includes archaeological monitoring and recording of potential non-designated archaeological remains situated within the footprint of the OHL poles and UGC, the micro-siting of OHL H-pole foundations to avoid impacting upon known designated and non-designated assets, and the protection measures implemented for Clawdd Mawr, Mynydd Caerau (GM231), the scheme will avoid significant effects to the historic environment.
- 5.6.8. An assessment of the effects arising through change to the settings of designated historic assets within a 2km study area has been undertaken. The assessment identified that the Project would not introduce any new or significantly visually intrusive built forms which do not already exist within the landscape, nor would it significantly impact or infringe upon the outwards views which are a character of the scoped in designated assets settings. Since the installation works would only take place over 9 months, any impacts to their setting during the construction phase would be temporary and therefore **negligible**. During the operation phase, the new OHL site would be visible within a landscape in which existing wind farms and settlements are already prominent and visible, and therefore the impact is also considered **negligible**.
- 5.6.9. All effects within this landscape have been decided through assessment of the surrounding potential non-designated assets and the character of the historic landscape.

5.7 WATER RESOURCE AND FLOOD RISK

BASELINE AND METHODOLOGY

- 5.7.5. To determine the baseline condition of receptors, a discipline specific study area the 'Study Area' was defined. The Study Area consists of a 1 km buffer beyond the Project redline boundary; and up to 5 km downstream in respect of water supplies, where pathways may exist for potential effects.

Designated and Protected Sites

- 5.7.6. The only designated site within the Study Area is the Mynydd Ty-isaf Rhondda SSSI⁴ which is within the east of the Study Area and adjacent to the A4107; however, it is designated based on its biological importance and is not considered as being hydrologically important. Furthermore, a review of the NRW Data Map Wales indicates that no other designated or protected sites including, SAC⁵, SPA⁶, Ramsar⁷, GCR⁸ sites, are present within the Study Area.

⁴ DataMapWales (2025). Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales>

⁵ DataMapWales (2022). Special Areas of Conservation: Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales>

⁶ DataMapWales (2022). Special Protection Areas: Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales>

⁷ DataMapWales (2022). Ramsar sites. Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales>

⁸ DataMapWales (2021). Geological Conservation Review Site Boundaries. Available: <https://datamap.gov.wales>

Surface Waterbodies

- 5.7.7. Surface waterbodies including ordinary watercourses and main rivers were identified from NRW mapping and Ordnance Survey (OS) mapping (1:25K and 1:50K scale) within the Study Area.

Flood Risk

- 5.7.8. The Site briefly travels through a River Flood Zone 2 whilst undergrounded within Caerau. A Flood Zone 2 is categorised as the following:
- **Flood Zone 2:** areas with between 0.1% and 1% (1 in 1000 and 1 in 100) chance of flooding from rivers each year, including the effects of climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MITIGATION

- 5.7.9. No hydrological receptors related to surface water were deemed to have a potentially significant effects following embedded mitigation measures.
- 5.7.10. Suggested additional mitigation measures through the construction phase of the Project are listed below:
- Pre-construction (baseline) and construction water quality monitoring (inc. routine sampling) cognisant of established environmental quality standards (EQS);
 - Pre-construction identification of GWDTE by the contractor; followed by detailed risk assessment of confirmed GWDTE and pre-construction groundwater level and quality monitoring – cognisant of EQS and source-pathway-receptor linkages - between the Project and identified GWDTE; and
 - Use of ground investigation data to locations where shallow groundwater is likely to be encountered; to inform construction monitoring and mitigation plan including e.g. locations where dewatering of excavations may be required.
- 5.7.11. No additional mitigation measures have been identified for the operational phase of the Project.

Following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures along with the additional mitigation measures outlined above, the potential for residual impacts is deemed to be **Neutral – Minor** and therefore are not deemed to be significant.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1. The Project and EIA process has resulted in the elimination or mitigation of potentially significant environmental effects in respect of all environmental topic areas considered in the EIA report.
- 6.1.2. The predicted residual adverse significant effects are limited to Landscape and Visual Amenity. The landscape effects identified are not unusual for an overhead line grid connection development, and are limited by the existing Upper Ogmores Wind Farm.
- 6.1.3. The Project will provide a crucial connection for the Upper Ogmores Wind Farm to the wider national grid, therefore contributing to the production and distribution of renewable energy.

APPENDIX XX

TITLE

APPENDIX XX

TITLE

APPENDIX XX

TITLE

WSP UK Ltd makes no warranties or guarantees, actual or implied, in relation to this report, or the ultimate commercial, technical, economic, or financial effect on the project to which it relates, and bears no responsibility or liability related to its



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