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2. Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment

2.1 The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

- 2.1.1 EIA is a process for identifying the likely significant environmental effects (positive and negative) of a project to inform the decision-making process when considering an application for development consent.
- 2.1.2 The preparation of an ES is one of the key stages in the EIA process, as it brings together information about any significant environmental effects, which the decision makers will use to inform their decision about whether the Proposed Development should be allowed to proceed.
- 2.1.3 The EIA process culminates in the provision of an ES written in accordance with the EIA Regulations¹. It will help inform the determination of the application for a DNS for the Proposed Development. In particular, the ES provides an assessment of the likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development.

Overview of EIA

- 2.1.4 This chapter sets out the EIA process, the relevant regulations, guidance, terminology, methodology, scoping process and the requirement for the consideration of alternatives (also see **Chapter 3: Scheme need, alternatives and iterative design process**). The chapter then explains in more detail the particular scope of this EIA.
- 2.1.5 EIA is a systematic procedure that must be followed for certain categories of project, which aims to identify a project's likely significant environmental effects, identify (where necessary) environmental (mitigation) measures to reduce or offset the level of adverse effects and finally to assess residual effects with these measures incorporated or applied. This process helps to ensure that the predicted likely significant effects and the scope for any mitigation of these effects are properly understood by the public, and by the determining authority (in this instance, PEDW and ultimately the Welsh Ministers) before it decides on whether consent should be granted.
- 2.1.6 A robust EIA is defined by a number of characteristics:
- It is systematic, comprising a sequence of tasks defined both by regulation and by good practice;
 - It is analytical, requiring the application of specialist skills from the environmental sciences;
 - It is impartial, its objective being to inform decision-making rather than to promote the project;
 - It is consultative, with provision being made for obtaining information and feedback from interested parties including local authorities, members of the public and statutory and non-statutory agencies; and

¹ UK Government (2017). The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/introduction> (Accessed July 2024).

- It is iterative, allowing opportunities for environmental concerns to be addressed during the planning and design of a project.

2.1.7 The EIA process identifies the potential for effects to arise and identifies environmental measures (mitigation) to be incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development, or the method of construction and operation that may reduce or eliminate negative effects or enhance positive effects. Typically, numerous design iterations take place in response to environmental constraints identified during the EIA process (in effect, incorporating environmental mitigation measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for identified adverse effects). Further details of such measures identified for the Proposed Development are presented in **Chapter 3**, and the corresponding environmental topic chapters.

Need for EIA

2.1.8 Under Regulation 4A of *The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016*², and paragraph 1.10 of the *Developments of National Significance: Procedural Guidance*^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} consent is required from the Welsh Ministers for the construction and operation of all energy generation projects between 10MW and 350MW³.

2.1.9 The EIA Regulations apply to DNS applications and the Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2, paragraph 3(i) ("*Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)*"). As noted in **Chapter 1: Introduction** of this ES, Schedule 2 development constitutes EIA development if the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location. Wind farms of the scale proposed generally give rise to some significant environmental effects. However, it should be noted that a significant effect is not necessarily an unacceptable one when weighed against the benefits in the overall balance of acceptability of a scheme. This balance is set out in the **Planning Statement** which accompanies this submission..

EIA Regulations

2.1.10 Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations¹ specifies that the ES should describe those factors likely to be significantly affected by the Proposed Development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example flora and fauna), land (for example land take), soil (e.g. organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.

2.1.11 Establishing which aspects of the environment and associated issues are relevant for a particular project can be captured in the EIA scoping process. The proposed scope of the assessment is provided to the determining authority by the Applicant, and the determining authority provides its opinion on the scope, taking account of feedback it obtains from key consultees. The scoping exercise undertaken for the Proposed Development is described in **Section 2.3** and a copy of the Scoping Report and Scoping Direction are set out in **Appendix 1A** and **1B** respectively.

² UK Government (2016). The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016. (online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/53/contents/made> (Accessed June 2023).

EIA Guidance

2.1.12 A range of reference material and guidance has been drawn upon in developing the EIA methodology adopted for the Proposed Development. Principal sources of reference material and guidance over and above the EIA Regulations¹ are noted in each environmental topic chapter.

2.2 EIA Terminology

Impacts and Effects

- 2.2.1 In some ESs, the terms 'impacts' and 'effects' are used interchangeably, whilst in others the terms are given different meanings. Some use 'impact' to mean the cause of an 'effect', whilst others use the converse meaning. This variety of definitions has led to a great deal of confusion over the terms, both among the authors and the readers of ES.
- 2.2.2 The convention used in this ES is to use 'impacts' only within the context of the term EIA, which describes the process from scoping through ES preparation to subsequent monitoring and other work. Otherwise, this document uses the word 'effects' when describing the environmental consequences of the Proposed Development. For example, such effects may come about as a result of the following:
- Physical activities that would take place if the development were to proceed (e.g., vehicle movements during construction operations); and
 - Environmental changes that are predicted to occur as a result of these activities (e.g., loss of vegetation prior to the start of construction work or an increase in noise levels). In some cases, one change causes another change, which in turn results in an environmental effect.
- 2.2.3 The predicted environmental effects are the consequences of the environmental changes for specific environmental receptors. For example, with respect to bats, the loss of roosting sites or foraging areas could affect the bats' population size; with regard to people, an increase in noise levels could affect people's amenity.
- 2.2.4 This ES is concerned with assessing the significance of the environmental effects of the Proposed Development, rather than the activities or changes that cause them. However, this requires these activities to be understood and the resultant changes identified and quantified, often based on predictive assessment work.

Spatial and Temporal Scope

- 2.2.5 Spatial scope is the area over which changes to the environment are predicted to occur as a consequence of the Proposed Development. In practice, an EIA should focus on those areas where these effects are likely to be significant.
- 2.2.6 In this ES, the spatial scope varies between environmental topics and is therefore described in each of the topic chapters. For example, the effects of a development with respect to landscape and visual amenity would generally be expected to cover a much greater area than biodiversity related effects which are often more localised.
- 2.2.7 The temporal scope covers the time period over which changes to the environment and the resultant effects are predicted to occur and are typically defined as either being temporary or permanent and related to the construction and/or operational phases of development.

2.3 EIA Scoping

- 2.3.1 Regulation 17(4)(c) of the EIA Regulations¹ requires that, where a Scoping Opinion (or Direction) has been adopted, an ES must “...*be based on the most recent scoping opinion or direction issued (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was the subject of that opinion or direction)*”. This effectively allows the determining authority to control the scope of the assessment. As such, it is important to set out as much information as possible about the development and the proposed work scope when preparing a Scoping Report with the objective of achieving a Scoping Opinion or Direction that ideally does not require amendment.
- 2.3.2 Scoping involves identifying the following:
- The people and environmental resources (collectively known as 'receptors') that could be significantly affected by the Proposed Development; and
 - The work required to take forward the assessment of these potentially significant effects.
- 2.3.3 Scoping starts at the outset of the EIA process, with the initial identification of potentially significant effects as a result of the Proposed Development being set out in a Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A**). The preparation of the Scoping Report is informed by the legislative and policy context to the scheme. It is also informed by the simple rule that, to be significant, an effect must be of sufficient importance that it should influence the process of decision-making about whether or not consent should be granted for the Proposed Development or an element of it. In this ES, this is referred to as the 'significance threshold'.
- 2.3.4 At the scoping stage, the conclusion that is made using the significance threshold is based upon professional judgement, with reference to the Proposed Development description at that stage, and available information about:
- The magnitude and other characteristics of the potential changes that are expected to be caused by the Proposed Development;
 - The sensitivity of receptors to these changes;
 - The effects of these changes on relevant receptors; and
 - The value of receptors.
- 2.3.5 As a precautionary approach if the information that is available at the scoping stage does not enable a robust conclusion to be reached that a potential effect is not likely to be significant, the effect is taken forward for further assessment.

Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment

- 2.3.6 The environmental topic chapters (**6-16**) of this ES detail the scope of the assessment, with effects that are not referred to being unlikely to be significant.
- 2.3.7 The Scoping Report for the Proposed Development (**Appendix 1A**) was submitted for comment to PEDW⁴ on 28 May 2021. The Scoping Report sets out that the following environmental topics were proposed to be scoped into the EIA:

⁴ On 1 October 2021 PINS Wales became the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) (or Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylchedd Cymru)

- Landscape and Visual;
- Historic Environment;
- Biodiversity;
- Ornithology;
- Water Environment;
- Ground Conditions;
- Traffic and Transport;
- Noise;
- Aviation and Telecommunications;
- Shadow Flicker;
- Socio-economics; and
- Cumulative effects.

Population and Human Health

2.3.8 As set out in the Scoping Report, and set out in **Table 1.2** of **Chapter 1**, population and human health effects are considered within relevant technical chapters including:

- **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual;**
- **Chapter 12: Traffic and Transport;**
- **Chapter 13: Noise;** and
- **Chapter 15: Shadow Flicker.**

Major Accidents and Disasters

2.3.9 The scope for the EIA to consider the vulnerability of the Proposed Development to major accidents and disasters has been considered in Table 13.1 of the Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A**). Major accidents or disasters have been scoped in where they represent a risk to, or because of, the Proposed Development, either from the proposed location or from the project itself and where there is reasonable likelihood of the accident or disaster occurring, or where the effect of the accident or disaster would lead to mitigation which is beyond the usual scope of construction or operational activities. Where an accident or disaster has been scoped in, the ES chapter(s) identified consider the matter in more detail, and therefore no specific chapter on major accidents and disasters is included. Following further data collection, design and assessment work since the Scoping Report, the following topic areas are scoped into the assessment in the relevant chapters as set out below:

- **Chapter 4: Severe weather: extreme temperatures** – There is the potential for damage to turbines or infrastructure from severe weather. Severe cold weather could lead to ice build-up on blades. Ice build-up could lead to ice throw, or to blade damage;
- **Chapter 10: Floods** – There is potential for damage to turbines or infrastructure from flooding or increase in flood risk elsewhere;

- **Chapter 4** and **Chapter 12**: Transport accidents - Abnormal loads and increase in traffic from construction works could lead to an increased risk of accidents. Highway network may be unsuitable for such traffic, further increasing accident risk;
- **Chapter 4**: Industrial accidents – There is potential for accidents to occur during construction and maintenance activities; for example, manual labour, working at height and use of specialist plant all bring risk of industrial accidents; and
- **Chapter 11**: Landslide / subsidence - The site of the Proposed Development is located in an area of previous coal mining. A Coal Mining Risk Assessment has been completed and is appended to this ES as **Appendix B of Appendix 11A**.

Climate Change

- 2.3.10 The vulnerability of the Proposed Development to climate change and extreme climate events is considered as part of the scope of other relevant environmental topics, namely **Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual**; **Chapter 8: Biodiversity**; and **Chapter 10: Water Environment**. Where relevant the Proposed Development has been designed so that it is not vulnerable to the effects of Climate Change.
- 2.3.11 As set out in Section 13.5 of the Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A**) and accepted in the Scoping Direction (**Appendix 1B**), a carbon balance assessment including a full lifecycle assessment to determine carbon benefit, considering greenhouse gas emissions in the production, transportation, erection, operation and decommissioning phases has been undertaken, and is provided as **Appendix 2A**.

Sustainable Resource Use and Waste Management

- 2.3.12 This ES does not present a stand-alone assessment of sustainable resource use.
- 2.3.13 The tracks, turbine foundations, hardstanding and other site infrastructure have been designed to minimise the amount of soil disturbance. Where soils would be excavated, they would be stored on the Site in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which would be produced prior to construction and then used in the restoration of the development site post construction to minimise the loss of soil resource. An Outline CEMP has been prepared and is provided alongside this ES⁵. The potential effects on soil resources are considered in **Chapter 11: Ground Conditions**.
- 2.3.14 The potential environmental effects on water resources would be the use of water during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases and the potential increase in flood risk and the disturbance of surface and groundwater as a result of construction activities. Any effects are considered in **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of this ES. During the construction phase, water resource would be managed in accordance with procedures set out in the Outline CEMP.

⁵ WSP 2023. Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.

- 2.3.15 The potential effects of the Proposed Development on biodiversity resources are considered in **Chapter 8: Biodiversity** and **Chapter 9: Ornithology** of this ES, within which appropriate environmental measures are set out in order to minimise the potential damage to habitats and species during the construction, operation and decommissioning. Environmental measures will also be detailed in a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) which will be delivered via a condition.

Consideration of Alternatives

- 2.3.16 The EIA Regulations¹ require an ES to include “A *description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the applicant or appellant which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.*”
- 2.3.17 **Chapter 3: Project Need, Alternatives and Iterative Design Process** describes the identification process and design criteria for the site of the Proposed Development. In EIA terms, the requirement is only to report on reasonable alternatives that have been considered. The examination of alternatives in this ES is therefore restricted as appropriate to alternative designs that were considered for the Development Site, including the removal of Turbine 5.

Scoping Direction

- 2.3.18 The Scoping Direction from PEDW is included as **Appendix 1B**. Details on how the scoping responses are addressed in the EIA are summarised in each individual topic chapter.

2.4 Consultation

- 2.4.1 Consultation is an essential element of the EIA process. The Applicant has undertaken consultation and engaged with a range of statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, organisations and individuals to refine the Proposed Development, the EIA and assist in the development of any required mitigation. This included significant consultation throughout the DNS Process for the withdrawn application which remains relevant and the specific information on any feedback received is presented in the individual environmental topic chapters (**Chapters 6 to 16**) which include a ‘Consultation and stakeholder engagement’ section.
- 2.4.2 A website was set up at the start of the project to provide information about the proposals and feedback mechanisms to enable local communities and stakeholders to comment on the emerging proposals: [Home \(mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk\)](http://mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk).
- 2.4.3 All consultation undertaken in relation to the development proposals – whether it be the withdrawn or this current application – is relevant to the determining the proposals. For the withdrawn application, early engagement with the local planning authorities, local community and interested parties took place from 1 July to 6 August 2021 through a series of meetings. Public exhibitions were held Llanhilleth Miners Institute on 15 July 2021, and Garndiffaith Community Centre (Millennium Centre) on 17 July 2021. A virtual exhibition was hosted on the project website with all the information that was available to those who attended in person from 01 July 2021.

- 2.4.4 In addition, consultation workshop events were undertaken at Hafodyrynys Rugby Club on 06 July and 08 July with members of the Llanhilleth Commoners Association or those with an interest in Common Land.
- 2.4.5 In accordance with Article 9 of the DNS Order, statutory pre-application consultation took place between 28th November 2022 and 19 January 2023, information about the Proposed Development was made publicly available on the project website (www.mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk) and public consultation events were held on 08 and 09 December 2022 in Llanhilleth and Abersychan respectively. The Draft ES was submitted to the relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees for comment and further discussions were undertaken where required.
- 2.4.6 As part of the resubmission process a second pre-application consultation will be undertaken on the basis of the information set out within this ES. However, relevant consultation comments from the withdrawn ES are included within applicable chapters.
- 2.4.7 A Consultation Report⁶ was submitted as part of the withdrawn DNS application and summarised how pre-application consultation was undertaken and set out how feedback received was considered. A new consultation report will be produced following completion of Pre-Application Consultation, taking place between 4 September and 16 October 2024.

2.5 Overview of Assessment Methodology

Introduction

- 2.5.1 All the topic assessments presented in this ES have been undertaken on the basis of a common understanding of the nature of the Proposed Development as it currently stands, as described in **Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development**.
- 2.5.2 For each technical chapter (**Chapter 6-16**), the assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken by competent experts with relevant specialist skills (see **Table 1.1**), drawing on their experience of working on other development projects, good practice in EIA and on relevant published information in line with Regulation 17(4)(e)⁷. For some topics, use has been made of modelling or other methodologies, as appropriate.
- 2.5.3 With a few exceptions, each topic chapter follows a common format, as outlined below:
- Introduction;
 - Relevant legislation, planning policy and technical guidance;
 - Consultation and engagement;
 - Data gathering methodology;
 - Overall baseline (where appropriate), with the detailed baseline being set out within 'Assessment of effects';
 - Embedded measures;
 - Scope of the assessment;
 - Assessment methodology;

⁶ Thirty four seven (2023) – Mynydd Llanhilleth – Consultation Report

⁷ Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (online). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567/contents> (Accessed July 2024).

- Assessment of effects;
- Assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects;
- Significance conclusions;
- Additional measures (if required);
- Residual effects assessment (if required); and
- Further work to be undertaken (if required).

General EIA Methodology

2.5.4 Following the confirmation of the scope of the EIA, individual environmental topics are subject to survey, investigation and assessment, and individual topic chapters are prepared for the ES. The assessment methodologies are based on recognised good practice and guidelines specific to each topic area, details of which are provided in the appropriate chapter.

2.5.5 In general terms, the technical studies undertaken for each topic area and chapter include:

- Collection and collation of existing baseline information about the receiving environment and original surveys to fill any gaps in knowledge or to update any historic information, together with identification of any relevant trends in, or evolution of, the baseline;
- Consultation with experts and relevant consultees to define the scope of the assessment and study area and subsequent consultation in response to emerging study findings;
- Consideration of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the baseline, followed by identification of design changes to seek to avoid or reduce any predicted adverse effects;
- Engagement with other technical topic specialists and engineers / designers in a design iteration process seeking to optimise the scheme for the differing environmental effects and to identify any appropriate environmental (mitigation) measures;
- Assessment of the final scheme design and evaluation of significant effects, together with an evaluation of any residual significant effects that remain after mitigation measures have been implemented; and
- Compilation of the ES chapters (see **Chapter 1** for details of the environmental topic chapters).

2.5.6 Many of the changes as a result of the Proposed Development are relevant to more than one environmental topic area and the resulting effects in one topic area may affect receptors considered under another topic (for example change to water quality may affect aquatic biodiversity receptors). Careful attention has therefore been paid to interrelationships to avoid overlap or duplication between topic chapters. For example, the assessment of effects on cultural heritage features has been aided by the assessment in the landscape and visual chapter. Similarly, secondary effects on ecological resources arising from hydrological change have been considered in the ecology chapter with a cross-reference to the relevant direct effect in the hydrology chapter.

2.5.7 In some cases, technical data and analysis is presented in a technical appendix (these are included in **Volume 3** of this ES). It is also necessary to recognise that information on some topics, such as the nesting location of certain bird species, is highly sensitive and may create a risk of persecution if published. In those cases, all relevant information to inform the assessment process has been provided to relevant statutory consultees only. The Applicant will consider requests for this information from other parties, but may, at its or relevant statutory consultees' discretion, withhold such information.

2.6 Identification of Baseline Conditions

2.6.1 In order to assess the effects of construction, operation and decommissioning, it is necessary to determine the periods in the project programme when these 'stages' or 'phases' would occur, and when a reasonable 'worst case' of these stages/phases can be defined for use in the assessment.

2.6.2 As the various elements of the Proposed Development are expected to be built over a period of approximately 22 months (currently estimated to start in 2026 and then operated for 30 years), it cannot be assumed that the baseline conditions in the absence of the project would be the same as the current baseline throughout this period.

2.6.3 As required by Schedule 4 (3)⁸ "*A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge*", it is necessary to define the current baseline conditions and then to decide whether these conditions are likely to change by the 'assessment years' that are selected for the construction and operation of the Proposed Development. If this predicted future baseline is more likely to occur than the current baseline, it is used for the assessment. However, in many cases it will be concluded that the current baseline is just as likely, or even more likely, to occur in the assessment years than would be the case with any predicted future baseline conditions. In the case of this EIA, the current baseline is used for the assessment as, in the absence of the Proposed Development, it is anticipated that current land use and management would continue and it is therefore reasonable to assume that the future baseline would be similar to the current baseline.

2.6.4 Each technical chapter explains the basis for defining the current and future baseline conditions, where this is appropriate, based on the following:

- Information gathered about the existing environmental conditions;
- Changes that can be predicted based on reasonable assumptions and modelling calculations, e.g., the application of traffic growth factors based on relevant guidance;
- Information relating to other likely and predictable changes, e.g., climate change, which could affect current prevailing environmental conditions; and
- Information about other relevant developments, including the nature of the development proposals, their likely timing and their location relative to the Proposed Development.

2.6.5 The baseline is determined for the 'Study Area' for each environmental topic by a combination of desk-based research, including consultation with the relevant statutory and non-statutory authorities, together with field survey work (where required).

⁸ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017.

- 2.6.6 As a minimum, the Study Area could comprise the Site⁹. However, for many topics, the Study Area is also likely to include land outside the Site boundary, especially where the effects of the Proposed Development are likely to extend beyond such geographical limits. Where the Proposed Development could affect off-site areas, the Study Area reflects the 'zone of influence' (Zol) where effects may occur.
- 2.6.7 Details of the relevant Zols are discussed in the baseline section of each environmental topic chapter.

2.7 Overview of Approach to Significance Evaluation Methodology

Introduction

- 2.7.1 One of the requirements of an ES is to set out the conclusions that have been reached about the likely significant environmental effects that it is predicted would result from a proposed development. Reaching a conclusion about which effects, if any, are likely to be significant is the culmination of an iterative process that involves the following stages:
- Identifying those effects that are likely to be significant (see **Section 2.3** on scoping);
 - Assessing the effects of the Proposed Development against the baseline (current or future, as appropriate); and
 - Concluding whether these resultant effects are likely to be significant.
- 2.7.2 **Chapters 6 to 16** describe the approaches that have been used in relation to the stages outlined in the bullet points above for each of the environmental topics that are considered in this ES.

Identification of Likely Significant Effects

- 2.7.3 To inform the identification of likely significant effects, technical specialists involved in the preparation of the ES were supplied with information about the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development at an early stage of the assessment process.
- 2.7.4 As the proposals evolved, more detail became available about construction and operational activities. This enabled a progressively more refined understanding to be developed about the environmental changes that could be caused by the Proposed Development, including information about their spatial extent and other characteristics (e.g., their magnitude, frequency etc.).
- 2.7.5 The identification of receptors that need to be considered draws on available information about environmental changes, which in some cases can be translated into Zols outside of which the environmental changes are predicted to be sufficiently small that receptors are not likely to be significantly affected. In addition, for some environmental topics (e.g., Biodiversity and Historic Environment), a valuation is undertaken to define those receptors that are of sufficient importance or value that they could be significantly affected. Only those receptors that are of sufficient importance or value and that are located within the defined Zols, where effects could be significant, are taken forward for further assessment.

⁹ As defined in para 1.1.1 and illustrated on **Figure 1.1**

2.7.6 The technical assessments, undertaken in **Chapters 6 to 17** of this ES, describe how environmental changes and resulting effects for different environmental topics are assessed, together with the topic specific approaches that have been used to identify the receptors that could be significantly affected by the Proposed Development, based on information available at this stage of the project. If necessary, conclusions about significance will be updated for the final ES based on responses from statutory consultation and further survey work.

Types of effects

2.7.7 Paragraph 5 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations states that *“The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.”* Where appropriate, this ES considers all these types of effects where they are relevant to different environmental topic chapters.

Direct effects

2.7.8 Direct effects are those that result directly from a Proposed Development. For example, where a machine disturbs an area of habitat, the associated physical activity would result in a change to that habitat.

Indirect and Secondary effects

2.7.9 Indirect and secondary effects are those that result from consequential change caused by the development. As such they would normally occur on a different receptor, later in time or at locations farther away than direct effects. An example would be where an area of habitat disturbed by machinery results in loss of vegetation and soil compaction which increases silted run-off rates into nearby watercourses, smothering gravel beds downstream used by spawning salmon.

Transboundary effects

2.7.10 Transboundary effects are those that would affect the environment in another state within the European Economic Area (EEA). No such effects are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.

Temporal effects

2.7.11 As discussed in **Section 2.2**, temporal effects are typically defined as being permanent or temporary as follows:

- Permanent - these are effects that will remain even when the Proposed Development is complete, although these effects may be caused by environmental changes that are permanent or temporary. For example, an excavator that is temporarily driven over an area of valuable habitat could cause so much damage that the effect on this vegetation would be permanent; and
- Temporary – these are effects that are related to environmental changes associated with a particular activity and that will cease when that activity finishes. For example, an increase in noise levels during construction may affect nearby residential receptors, but any effects would cease on completion of this phase of a proposed development. Where effects are temporary, they may be defined as short-, medium- and long-term,

the duration of which may depend on the receptor in question and would therefore be defined in technical chapters as appropriate.

Positive / Negative effects

2.7.12 Most predicted effects will be obviously positive or negative and will be described as such (or alternatively 'beneficial' or 'adverse'). However, in some cases it is appropriate to identify that the interpretation of a change is a matter of professional opinion, and such effects will be described as 'subjective'.

Stages of Development

2.7.13 Effects from wind farm development are generally considered in relation to the following key stages of the Proposed Development and it is unlikely that there would be an interaction and therefore cumulative effect between the phases (i.e., construction phase must complete before operation phase would take place):

- Construction – Effects may arise from the construction activities themselves, or from the temporary occupation of land. Effects are often of limited duration although there is potential for permanent effects. Where construction activities create permanent change, the effects will continue into the operational period;
- Operation – Effects may be permanent, or they may be temporary, intermittent, or limited to the life of the Proposed Development until decommissioning (as in the case of wind power developments which gain planning permission for a defined and finite number of years); and
- Decommissioning – Effects may arise from the decommissioning activities themselves, or from the temporary occupation of land. The effects would generally be temporary and of limited duration. Additional permanent change would normally be unlikely unless associated with restoration.

Significance evaluation

Overview

2.7.14 The receptors that could be significantly affected are identified within each topic chapter. The approach that is adopted to determine whether the effects on these receptors are significant is to apply a combination of professional judgement and a topic-specific significance evaluation methodology that draws on the results of the assessment work that has been carried out.

2.7.15 In applying this approach to significance evaluation, it is necessary to ensure that there is consistency between each environmental topic in the level at which effects are considered to be significant. Therefore, it is inappropriate for the assessment of one topic to conclude that minor effects are significant, when, for another topic, only comparatively major effects are significant.

2.7.16 In order to achieve the desired level of consistency, each environmental topic lead has been guided in their decision-making about likely significance by the '*significance threshold*' that informed the preparation of the Scoping Report (see **Section 2.3**), as well as the relevant topic-specific significance evaluation methodology.

2.7.17 The conclusion about significance is arrived at using professional judgement, with reference to the project description, and available information. This information includes

the magnitude and other characteristics of the potential changes that are expected to be caused by the Proposed Development, receptors' sensitivity to these changes and the effects of these changes on relevant receptors.

- 2.7.18 In some cases, use of the 'significance threshold' alone will enable a conclusion to be reached in the 'Scope of the assessment' section of the topic chapter (bullet point 7 in paragraph 2.5.3), without the need for more detailed assessment, that a potential effect is not likely to be significant. However, in other cases, effects identified in the 'Scope of the assessment' section are taken forward for further assessment in the subsequent section(s) of each topic chapter.
- 2.7.19 For some of these effects, relatively little assessment work may be required to reach a conclusion that an effect is not significant. But, in other cases, more extensive assessment work is required. Sometimes the application of the 'significance threshold' is sufficient to support this conclusion but, in other cases, the relevant topic-specific significance evaluation methodology is used to inform the evaluation of significance (to determine whether an effect is or is not significant).
- 2.7.20 Having applied the relevant topic-specific significance evaluation methodology, the topic specialists check the conclusions against the significance threshold. If this threshold results in a different conclusion to that reached using the significance evaluation methodology, a detailed justification is provided as to why this different conclusion is valid.
- 2.7.21 For some of the topics that are assessed in this ES, there is published guidance available about significance evaluation. Where such guidance exists, it has been used to inform the development of the significance evaluation methodologies that are used in the ES. For other topics, it has been necessary to develop methodologies without the benefit of guidance. This has involved technical specialists drawing on their previous experience of significance evaluation in EIA.
- 2.7.22 While there may be variation depending on the technical topic being considered, significance evaluation involves combining information about the sensitivity, importance or value of a receptor, and the magnitude and other characteristics of the changes that affect the receptor. The approach to using this information for significance evaluation is outlined below.

Receptor Sensitivity, Importance, or Value

- 2.7.23 The sensitivity or value of a receptor is largely a product of the importance of an asset, as informed by legislation and policy, and as qualified by professional judgement. For example, receptors for landscape, biodiversity or the historic environment may be defined as being of international or national importance. Lower value resources may be defined as being sensitive or important at a county or district level. For each environmental topic, it is necessary to provide a detailed rationale that explains how the categories of sensitivity / importance / value have been used.
- 2.7.24 The use of a location or physical element that may be representative of receptors, e.g., people, would also play a part in its classification in terms of sensitivity, importance, or value. For example, when considering effects on the amenity of people, a location used for recreational purposes may be valued more than a place of work.

Magnitude of Change

- 2.7.25 The magnitude of change affecting a receptor as a result of the Proposed Development would be identified on a scale from very low to very high. As with receptor sensitivity and value, a rationale is provided in each topic chapter that explains how the categories of

environmental change are defined. For certain topics, the magnitude of change would be related to guidance on what levels of change are acceptable (e.g., for air quality or noise), and be based on numerical parameters. For other changes, it will be a matter of professional judgement to determine the magnitude of change, using descriptive terms.

Determination of Significance

- 2.7.26 The significance of effects is determined with reference to information about the nature of the development, the receptors that could be significantly affected and their sensitivity, importance or value, together with the magnitudes of environmental change that are likely to occur.
- 2.7.27 Significance evaluation for many environmental topics can be guided by the use of matrices that combine sensitivity / value and the characteristics of environmental changes as shown in the example in **Table 2.1** which is a five by five matrix used to offer granularity (though individual topic chapters may use reduced versions (e.g. four by four, four by three etc.) as appropriate). In addition, professional judgement is applied because, for certain environmental topics, the lines between the sensitivities or magnitudes of change may not be clearly defined and the resulting assessment conclusions may need clarifying.
- 2.7.28 Variations to this approach, which may be applicable to specific environmental topics, will be detailed in the relevant ‘Significance evaluation methodology’ sub-section contained in each environmental topic chapter.
- 2.7.29 Definitions of how the categories that are used in the matrix are derived for each topic are also set out in each environmental topic chapter, along with the relevant explanation and descriptions of receptor sensitivity, magnitude of change and levels of effect that are considered significant under the EIA Regulations.
- 2.7.30 Within the matrix that is used in most significance evaluation exercises, reference is made to:
 - Major effects, which will always be determined as being significant in EIA terms;
 - Moderate effects are likely to be significant, although there may be circumstances where such effects are considered not significant on the basis of professional judgement; and
 - Minor or negligible effects, which will always be determined as not significant.

Table 2.1 Significance Evaluation Matrix

		Magnitude of change				
		Very high	High	Medium	Low	Very low
Sensitivity/importance/value	Very high	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially significant)
	High	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not significant)
	Medium	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible

	(Significant)	(Significant)	(Potentially significant)	(Not significant)	(Not significant)
Low	Major (Significant)	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)
Very Low	Moderate (Potentially significant)	Minor (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)	Negligible (Not significant)

Note: Significant effects are those identified as 'Major'. 'Moderate' effects may be deemed to be significant, depending on the environmental topic and the application of professional judgment.

2.8 Assessment of Cumulative Effects

2.8.1 The EIA process includes consideration as to whether any of the individual effects of the Proposed Development would combine to create a cumulative effect greater than the sum of the individual effects. There are two types of cumulative effects to be considered:

- Inter-project effects: effects that arise as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with other large-scale developments or projects; and
- Intra-project/Inter-related effects: effects that occur as a result of two or more environmental topic effects acting together (i.e., combined), to result in a new or changed effects on a single receptor. These are discussed further in **Chapter 17**.

Inter-project effects

2.8.2 Whilst there is no standard approach to the cumulative effects assessment (CEA), the Planning Inspectorate has published Advice Note Seventeen which provides useful guidance in setting out a process for the identification and assessment of 'other development'. Hence, the EIA will follow the methodology as defined in Advice Note Seventeen¹⁰. This is a four-stage approach shown in **Table 2.2**.

Table 2.2 Summary of PINS Advice Note 17 CEA process summary

Stage	Title	Description
Stage 1	Establish the Zol and identify the long list of 'other development'	Each environmental topic assessment included in the ES will have a Zol within which the potential for cumulative effects will be considered. These have been established through desk studies and modelling. A desk study of planning applications, development plans and frameworks and other available sources will be completed within this Zol to form a long list of 'other developments'. The Zol is measured from the red line boundary for the Proposed Development.
Stage 2	Identify a short list of 'other development' for CEA	Professional judgement from technical specialists will refine the long list of 'other developments' to identify those

¹⁰ Planning Inspectorate (2019). Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects, Version 2 (online). (Accessed October 2022).

that could give rise to a significant effect cumulatively with the Proposed Development.

Stage 3	Information gathering	Information will be gathered on the 'other developments' in the shortlist to inform the assessment.
Stage 4	Assessment	Each of the environmental aspects will complete an assessment of the relevant 'other developments' in the shortlist within their Zol.

2.8.3 Identifying other developments that should be considered in the CEA involves first acknowledging that the availability of information necessary to conduct this will partly depend on the prevailing status of the relevant other developments. Developing this concept further, other developments can be grouped into tiers, which reflect the likely degree of certainty attached to each development, with Tier 1 being the most certain and Tier 3 the least certain, as illustrated in **Table 2.3**.

Table 2.3 Scoping of Other Developments to be Considered in the CEA

Hierarchy of other developments	Certainty of other developments
Tier 1	Under construction*.
	Permitted application(s), whether under the <i>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</i> , DNS or other regimes, but not yet implemented.
	Submitted application(s), whether under the <i>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</i> , DNS or other regimes, but not yet determined.
Tier 2	Projects on the Welsh Government's register of DNS, and/or received by a relevant local planning authority, and where a scoping report has been submitted
Tier 3	Identified in the relevant Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans - with appropriate weight being given as they move closer to adoption) recognising that much information on any relevant proposals will be limited.
	Identified in other plans and programmes (as appropriate) which set the framework for future development consents/approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

Decreasing level of detail likely to be available

* Where other projects (i.e., new permanent development such as new housing estates etc) are expected to be completed before construction of the Proposed Development, and the effects of those projects are fully determined, effects arising from these are considered as part of the baseline and therefore as part of the assessment of both the construction and operational phases.

2.8.4 In the context of the Proposed Development, and in accordance with the EIA Regulations, sufficiently detailed information required to undertake a CEA is available only for Tier 1 and Tier 2 developments as described in **Table 2.3**.

2.8.5 In the course of completing this ES, and through communication with the Planning Department at Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and interrogation of

their wind turbine mapping interactive map and register for South Wales¹¹, a number of other wind farm developments have been identified for consideration in the assessment of inter-project cumulative effects. The register of applications for DNS¹² has also been interrogated, and the following local planning authorities have been contacted for details of other major development proposals within the Zols identified by the technical topics (up to a maximum of 28km from the Site red line boundary for Landscape and Visual); this corresponds to Stage 1 in **Table 2.2**:

- Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council;
- Caerphilly County Borough Council;
- Cardiff City Council;
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council;
- Monmouthshire County Council;
- Powys County Council;
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council; and
- Torfaen County Borough Council.

2.8.6 The 'long list' of other developments was reduced to a 'short list' by considering those with the potential to give rise to significant cumulative effects with the Proposed Development. This was on the basis that the developments omitted from the short list:

- Do not comprise 'major' development as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended)¹³ (i.e. development of 10 or more dwellings, over 1ha in area, buildings of more than 1,000m², waste development, or development involving the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits);
- Are understood to have already undergone construction or will be complete and operational before construction of the Proposed Development and therefore form part of the current baseline or will form part of the future baseline conditions and have been considered on that basis;
- Are unlikely to have commenced prior to the completion of the Proposed Development and/or insufficient information is available to complete an assessment at this time. Therefore, any cumulative effects assessment would need to be completed by the developer/applicant for that particular proposal; or
- Are of sufficient distance from the Proposed Development, or of a size and nature that significant cumulative effects are considered unlikely to occur.

2.8.7 Major developments which have been taken forward in relation to cumulative effects that have been assessed in the ES are summarised in **Table 2.4** and are discussed within the individual topic chapters as appropriate (**Chapters 6-16**), based on currently available information. This corresponds to Stages 3 and 4 in **Table 2.2**.

¹¹ Interactive map showing wind turbines that are operational, consented and in planning. The maps are updated quarterly and are based on information provided by each Local Planning Authority in South East Wales. (Accessed July 2024)

¹² Developments of National Significance (DNS) Applications. (Accessed July 2024)

¹³ UK Government (2016). Town and Country Planning, Wales (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016 (online). (Accessed July 2024).

Table 2.4 Cumulative effects assessment: developments scoped in

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
<i>Committed developments</i>			
Land west of Cwmbrian Drive (Torfaen 19/P/0750/RES)	Application for Reserved Matters Approval (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) in respect of 170 dwellings including associated roads and infrastructure.	Planning Permission granted on 15 October 2021.	Timescales are currently not available however construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development as pre-construction conditions are being discharged.
Unit 19, Rassau Ind Est, Rassau, Ebbw Vale (Blaenau Gwent C/2020/0301)	Erection of 1 Wind Turbine and Associated Infrastructure	Planning permission granted on 29 July 2021.	Timescales are currently not available however due to the nature of the development it is proposed to scope in to the cumulative effects assessment.
New Primary School and Childcare Facility (Blaenau Gwent C/2021/0274)	New 360 place primary school and 52 place 'day nursery' childcare facility	Planning permission granted on 03 February 2022.	It is envisaged that the school would open in 2023, with construction taking place in 2022/2023.
Land at Northgate, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale (Blaenau Gwent C/2020/0201)	Proposed residential development and associated works.	Planning permission granted on 23 September 2019.	Timescales are currently not available however is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Land at Ty Coch Hollybush Way	Construction of a solar farm and associated works	Planning Permission granted on 21 October 2019	Timescales are currently not available however is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
(Torfaen 19/P/0464/Ful)			
Upper Ogmere Wind Farm (DNS/3213662)	Wind farm of up to seven wind turbines (four with a maximum tip height of 149.9m and three with a maximum tip height of 130m) and associated infrastructure.	DNS Consent granted in July 2023.	It is assumed that construction would commence in late 2024 and anticipated that construction of the Wind Farm would take 24 months.
Mynydd Carn y Cefn Wind Farm (DNS/3273368)	Wind Farm of up to eight wind turbines of up to 180m maximum tip height and associated infrastructure (48MW)	DNS Consent granted in March 2024.	It is assumed that construction will commence in late 2024 / early 2025 and last for approximately 24 months.
Cwm Ifor Solar Farm (DNS/3266623)	A ground mounted solar PV array.	DNS Consent granted in May 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025 and last for approximately 12 months.
Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm (DNS/3280378)	Wind farm of up to seven wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height to 180m and associated infrastructure.	DNS Consent granted in June 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 12 to 18 months.
Penpergwm Solar Farm (DNS/3252305)	Construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a ground mounted solar park with a maximum export capacity of 37MW.	DNS Consent granted in January 2024	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2024/2025 and last for approximately 12 months.
Maes Mawr Solar (DNS/3282038)	Proposed development for a solar photovoltaic electricity generating station with a generation capacity of 3. MW and associated ancillary development.	DNS Consent granted in May 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2024/2025 and last for approximately 12 months.

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
Pre-application/pre-approval stage projects			
Developments of National Significance			
Manmoel Wind Farm (DNS/3239181)	Wind farm of up to five wind turbines of up to 180 m maximum tip height, and ancillary development.	A planning application was submitted in June 2023 and hearings undertaken in March 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 1 year.
Abertillery Wind Farm (DNS/3278009)	Wind farm of up to six wind turbines of up to 200m maximum tip height and associated infrastructure including transformers, foundations, crane pads and laydown/storage areas.	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Scoping Report has been submitted to PEDW and a Scoping Direction provided. It is understood that technical studies in support of a planning application are currently underway, with PAC being undertaken between October – December 2023 and an application is likely to be submitted by the end of 2024/2025.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2026/2027 and last for approximately 1 year.
Mynydd Maen Wind Farm (DNS/3276725)	Wind farm of up to 13 turbines with a maximum tip height of 149.9m.	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Scoping Report has been submitted to PEDW and a Scoping Direction provided. It is understood that technical studies in support of a planning application are currently underway and an application is likely to be submitted in late 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2026 and last for approximately 24 to 36 months.
Pentre Bach Solar Farm (DNS/3239190)	Proposed ground-mounted photo-voltaic solar farm with an electrical generating of circa 30 MW together with associated equipment, infrastructure and ancillary works	No planning application has been submitted to date, although a Screening Opinion Request was submitted and a non-EIA decision provided in January 2021. Pre-application advice request was submitted in October 2021.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
Trecelyn Wind Farm (DNS CAS-02114-J9X4S6)	Proposed development for a Wind Farm of up to 4 wind turbines, generating up to 20MW.	A DNS application was submitted in June 2024.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Mynydd Bedwellte Wind Farm (DNS CAS-02504-M9J3F4)	Wind farm of up to 9 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height to 180m and associated infrastructure.	Scoping report was submitted in November 2023 and Scoping Direction issued in March 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 12 to 18 months.
Convatec Green Manufacturing Hub Rhymney (DNS CAS-02977-Y9F1W7)	Development including three wind turbines (of approximately 150 m tip height) and approximately 5 MW of ground mounted solar PV, plus associated infrastructure.	Scoping report was submitted in November 2023 and Scoping Direction issued in March 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 12 to 18 months.
Cil-Lonydd Solar Farm (DNS/CAS-02446-R8X8W2)	A solar photovoltaic electricity generating station (or 'solar farm') with an installed generation capacity of approximately 35MW and associated ancillary development, including battery storage.	A Notification Form was submitted and accepted in April 2024.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Atlantic Eco Park Solar Farm (DNS CAS-02923-L7H4Q3)	Installation of a solar park and ancillary development	Scoping direction issued in January 2024	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 6-12 months.
Glyntaff Solar Farm (DNS CAS-03147-D7S9P8)	Photovoltaic Solar Farm, including associated electrical infrastructure, extending to approximately 101 ha of land.	Scoping Opinion was submitted in December 2023 and a Direction issued in February 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025/2026 and last for approximately 6-12 months.

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
Local Authority Planning Applications			
Proposed Solar Farm at Talbot Green (Rhondda Cynon Taff 22/0124/36)	Solar farm covering 21.5ha including associated infrastructure.	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Scoping Report has been submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and a Scoping Opinion provided.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2024/2025 and last for approximately 12 months.
Land at Penlanlas Farm (DM/2019/00112)	Proposed Residential development and associated infrastructure for 147 houses.	No planning application has been submitted to date, although a scoping direction was received in March 2019.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Land South of Hirwaun (Rhondda Cynon Taff 19/1318/35)	Proposed development of residential land (equivalent to approximately 45 dwellings at the policy requirement density of 30 dwellings per hectare), employment land, commercial land.	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Scoping Report has been submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Land South of Hirwaun (Rhondda Cynon Taff 19/5044/35)	Proposed development of approximately 130 dwellings, commercial land with associated open spaces, access, infrastructure and engineering works	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Request for a Screening Opinion has been submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC and it has been confirmed that an EIA is required in relation to the proposals.	
<i>The site is part of the Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) Local Development Plan (LDP) Northern Strategic Area 8 'Land south of Hirwaun' allocation</i>			

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
Uskmouth Power Station (Newport 19/1313)	The proposed conversion of the existing coal-fired power plant at Simec Uskmouth Power Station to a plant that would generate electricity by combusting fuel pellets derived from non-recyclable waste.	No planning application has been submitted to date although a Scoping Report has been submitted to Newport City Council.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Temporary meteorological mast (Blaenau Gwent C/2021/0262)	Temporary erection (for a period of up to 5 years) of an anemometry mast of up to 100m in height, with anchoring points. The anemometry mast will be used to collect wind data to inform design and feasibility of the proposed Abertillery Wind Farm (DNS/3278009). Site area is 0.79 hectares. The site is open access common land used for grazing.	Planning decision pending.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction and operation is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Plas Gwyn Farm Coed Y Paen to Sor Brook Coed Y Paen (DM/2021/01685)	Request for a Screening Opinion for a Solar Installation, Underground Cabling and Associated Infrastructure.	EIA Screening Submitted in October 2021, with a non-EIA decision. No planning application has been submitted to date.	Timescales are currently not available however, if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
LAND AT BRYN GOBAITH FARM (22/0092/35)	Screening Opinion for 3 Wind Turbines.	EIA Screening submitted in January 2022, with a non-EIA decision. No planning application has been submitted to date.	Timescales are currently not available however, if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.
Parkhill (west) and Parkhill (east), Tredegar (Blaenau Gwent)	Outline planning permission (C/2003/0322) was granted in 2005 for 160 dwellings. Full permission was granted on part of the site (C/2009/0329) and outline permission	Planning decision pending.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction and operation is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
<p><i>The site is allocated for housing development (allocation HC1.22 Parkhill East and Parkhill West in the Blaenau Gwent Adopted Local Development Plan 2006-2021</i></p>	<p>was granted on the remainder of the site (C/2009/0328). In total planning permission has been granted for 293 units.</p> <p>Planning permission (C/2015/0236 and c/2015/0237) was granted to remove conditions 34, 35 & 36 (code for sustainable homes) & variation of condition 38 (to extend the life of the planning permission (C/2009/0328).</p> <p>Planning permission has lapsed for both parts of the site and an application to extend the life of the permission has been submitted.</p>		
<p>Secondary Aggregate Extraction at Tirpentwys (Torfaen - 22/P/0762/SCOPE)</p>	<p>Scoping opinion for Secondary Aggregates Extraction</p>	<p>Scoping Opinion issued February 2023.</p>	<p>Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction and operation may overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.</p>
<p>The British – Torfaen CBC Masterplan</p>	<p>Masterplan for proposals which currently include improvements to the drainage system.</p>		<p>Current timescales are unknown; however, construction could overlap with the construction of the Proposed Development.</p>

Development name (reference if applicable)	Brief description	Planning status	Indicative timescales
<i>Examination stage projects</i>			
Twyn Hywel Wind Farm (DNS/3272053)	Erection and operation of 14 wind turbines for a period of 45 years with a maximum blade tip height of 200 m and ancillary infrastructure.	Planning application was submitted in June 2023, with the Inspector's report submitted in May 2024.	It is assumed that construction would commence in 2025 and last for approximately 12 to 18 months.
Pen March Wind Farm (DNS/3253147)	Wind farm of up to seven wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height to 180m and associated infrastructure.	Planning Application was submitted in August 2023, however, examination now suspended until November 2024.	Timescales are currently not available however if approved construction is likely to overlap with construction of the Proposed Development.