

Adeilad y Goron,  
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd,  
CF10 3NQ

Crown Buildings,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Eich Cyf / Your Ref: P20-2377  
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: CAS-03147-D7S9P8

Ffôn / tel: 0300 123 1590  
Ebost / email: [PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales](mailto:PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales)

Dyddiad / Date: 13/02/2024

Dear James Sutton,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990  
The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016  
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations  
2017**

**Potential DNS Application**

**Site Address:** Glyntaff Solar Farm, Bryntail Road, Rhydfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5LT

**Proposed Development:** Photovoltaic Solar Farm, including associated electrical infrastructure, extending to approximately 101 ha of land.

On the 04/01/2024 Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) received a request made under regulation 31(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (“the Regulations”), for the Welsh Ministers to make a screening direction as to whether or not the development proposed is “EIA Development” within the meaning of the Regulations.

PEDW is authorised by the Welsh Ministers to provide that screening direction.

The project, as described above, falls within the description at paragraph 3(a) in column 1 of the table in Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

As the proposal is a potential Development of National Significance (DNS) application, the attached screening assessment identifies the key areas which have been considered. Having taken into account the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the Regulations and the advice in Welsh Office Circular 11/99: Environmental Impact Assessment on establishing whether EIA is required, the assessment concludes that:

The development proposes the change of use of a 101.4 hectare site from agricultural fields to a solar farm consisting of ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays with a capacity of up to 36.6 MW. The development includes inverters, perimeter fencing, CCTV access tracks with the main access from Bryn Tail Road. The development would also include underground cabling under **Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.**

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

the existing urban area in order to connect to Upper Boat substation, therefore this area has been included in the red line boundary.

The site borders a proposed wind farm. Significant effects on the historic landscape are considered unlikely. The implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) secured by condition could mitigate against the potential risk of pollution, noise and disturbance. Any potential impacts in relation to the site falling within a Coal Mining Reporting Area could be mitigated via a pre-commencement condition for a survey to identify any mine workings. Significant effects in these respects are therefore considered unlikely.

However, concerns have been raised by the LPA and NRW about the potential effects of the proposed development in relation to landscape and visual impacts, ecology (including European Protected Species and birds protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) including cumulative effects. The site is situated in an elevated position, on a prominent mountainside within an SLA. Given the nature and location of the proposed development and based on the information currently available, it is not possible to rule out the potential for significant (including cumulative) ecological, and landscape and visual effects. As such, I consider that due to the potential for these significant effects, the proposal is EIA development and that consequently EIA is required.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Regulations and the authority referred to above, the Welsh Ministers hereby direct that the development subject of this application **is EIA development** within the meaning of the Regulations.

Consequently, this application must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. Under regulation 17(1) of the Regulations an Environmental Statement must contain, for the purpose of assessing the likely impact on the environment, the information specified in that regulation. It is recommended that you refer to the Regulations and the accompanying Circular, Welsh Office Circular 11/99, before and during the preparation of the Environmental Statement. In the meantime, you may wish to have regard to the particular environmental topics identified in the attached screening assessment.

This letter will be copied to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council so that this screening direction is placed on Part 1 of the Planning Register in relation to the application in question, in accordance with the Regulations.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

*T Leck*

Tanya Leck  
Swyddog Cynllunio | Planning Officer  
Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylchedd Cymru | Planning and Environment Decisions Wales  
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

## STAGE 1 – INITIAL EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

1 Case Details	
A	Case reference CAS-03147-D7S9P8 - Glyntaff Solar Farm
B	Brief description of development Photovoltaic Solar Farm, including associated electrical infrastructure, extending to approximately 101 ha of land.
2 EIA Screening Details	
2A Schedule 1	
	Is the project Schedule 1 development as described in Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations? <span style="float: right;">No</span>
	<i>If Yes, under which description of development? If No, consider whether project is 'Schedule 2' development below in part 2(B).</i>
2B Schedule 2	
(i)	Is the project listed as a description of development under Column 1 of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations? <span style="float: right;">Yes</span> <i>If Yes, under which description of development? If No, EIA is not required.</i> 3(a) - Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water.
(ii)	Does the project change or extend development described in paragraphs 1 to 12 of Column 1 of schedule 2, where the change or extension may have SIGNIFICANT* adverse effects on the environment? <span style="float: right;">No</span> <i>If Yes, provide reasons for your answer below.</i> N/A - not a change or extension
(iii)	Is the project located wholly or partly within a ' <a href="#">Sensitive Area</a> ' as defined by Regulation 2 of the EIA Regulations? <span style="float: right;">No</span> <i>If Yes, state which area and more to Question 3. If No, proceed to point (iv) below.</i>
(iv)	Are the applicable thresholds/criteria in Column 2 exceeded / met? <span style="float: right;">Yes</span> <i>If Yes, note which applicable threshold/criteria. If No, EIA is not required.</i> Threshold: The area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare. The site covers a total area of approximately 101.4 hectares, therefore the proposed development exceeds the threshold.
3 LPA / Welsh Ministers' Screening	
(i)	Has the LPA issued a Screening Opinion (SO)? <span style="float: right;">No</span>
(ii)	Have the Welsh Ministers issued a Screening Direction (SD)? <span style="float: right;">No</span>
4 Environmental Statement (ES)	

	Has the applicant/appellant supplied an ES for the current or previous (if reserved matters or conditions) application?	No
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**Is a detailed screening assessment (Section 5) required?**  
If Yes has been answered in response to either 2B(iii) or 2B(iv), send to relevant team to undertake detailed screening assessment.  
If No has been answered for both questions, or the questions are not applicable, start appeal.

<b>Sign-off</b>	
<b>Signature</b>	Tanya Leck
<b>Date</b>	17/01/2024

## **STAGE 2 – DETAILED EIA SCREENING ASSESSMENT**

As per Schedule 3, Para 3: When considering the potential impact, take into account; (a) magnitude / spatial extent / population likely to be affected; (b) nature of impact; (c) transboundary nature; (d) intensity & complexity; (e) probability; (f) expected onset / duration / frequency & reversibility; (g) cumulation with existing and / or approved development; (h) the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For ‘Yes/Unknown’, are effects <b>likely to be significant</b> ? <i>Include consideration of features or measures to avoid or prevent what might otherwise be significant effects</i>
<b>CRITERION 1. CHARACTERISTICS OF DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Question 1(a) Size and design of the Development</b>		
Will construction, operation or decommissioning of the Project involve actions which will cause physical changes in the locality (topography, land use, changes in waterbodies, etc.)?	<p>Yes. The development proposes the change of use of a 101.4 hectare site from agricultural fields to a solar farm consisting of ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays with a capacity of up to 36.6 MW. The development would also include underground cabling under the existing urban area in order to connect to Upper Boat substation.</p> <p>The site is currently agricultural land. The lifespan of the proposed development is 40 years, after which the land will be restored and suitable for arable uses.</p> <p>There would be considerable physical change to the site itself during the lifespan of the development. However, as the proposal is temporary in nature the effects on land use are unlikely to be significant in EIA terms.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
<b>Question 1(b) Cumulation with Existing and/or Approved Development</b>		
Are there any other factors which should be considered such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consequential development which could lead to environmental effects?</li> </ul>	Yes. The land immediately adjacent to the site is a proposed wind farm (DNS/3272053 - Twyn Hywel Wind Farm).	Significant effects <b>likely</b> .

5		Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For ‘Yes/Unknown’, are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the potential for cumulative impacts with other existing or planned activities in the locality?</li> <li>any plans for future land uses on or around the location which could be affected by the project?</li> <li>transfrontier impacts?</li> </ul>	<p>The Screening Report acknowledges there are several renewable energy schemes in the locality. The report states that a cumulative impact assessment will be undertaken to include existing or approved applications within the vicinity of the site, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twyn Hywel wind farm DNS/3272053</li> <li>Berthllwyd solar farm 15/0777/10</li> <li>Two wind turbines at Bryn Tail Farm 13/1057/10</li> <li>Single wind turbine at Land at Graig-yr-hufen Road 21/1016/NCC</li> </ul> <p>I note that there are other DNS proposals in the vicinity, e.g. Maes Mawr solar farm (DNS/3282038), and Mynydd Y Glyn Wind Farm (DNS/3280378). It is noted that these schemes are mostly distanced from the proposed site and therefore would not be viewed together. However, Twyn Hywel Wind Farm would form the visual backdrop to this development and therefore there is potential for cumulative visual impacts.</p> <p>The Local Authority’s Ecologist has also raised concerns with the cumulative impact on ecology.</p> <p>Given the location of proposed Twyn Hywel Wind Farm, coupled with the scale of this proposed development, I consider there is the potential for cumulative effects to be significant, including but not limited to ecology, landscape and visual effects, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases. The information currently available with regards to cumulative effects is insufficient to rule out significant effects in this respect.</p>		

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be <u>significant</u> ?
<b>Question 1(c) Use of Natural Resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity</b>		
Will construction or operation of the Project use natural resources such as land, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	<p>Yes, the development will use some resources during construction and decommissioning, but nothing which is likely in short supply. Furthermore, mapping indicates the land is of poor and very poor agricultural quality (grades 4 and 5), with a small section of moderate agricultural land (grade 3b).</p> <p>The applicant should note the consultation response from LQAS.</p> <p>Given the low degree of impact and the nature of the proposed development, I am content that significant effects on natural resources are unlikely.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
<b>Question 1(d) Production of Waste</b>		
Will the Project produce solid wastes during construction or operation or decommissioning?	Yes, waste would be produced during construction and eventual decommissioning. This could be addressed by implementing a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), to accompany the application, to be secured by condition. Given this and the scale and nature of the proposed development, I do not consider that significant effects are likely in terms of waste generation.	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
<b>Question 1(e) Pollution and Nuisances</b>		
Will the Project involve use, storage, transport, handling or production of substances or materials which could be harmful to human health or the environment or raise concerns about actual or perceived risks to human health?	No	N/A
Will the Project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Yes, some noise and vibration are likely during construction and decommissioning phases.	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
	<p>However, this which would be localised, time-limited and could be controlled via a CEMP.</p> <p>During the operational phase, there would be a minimal amount of noise as well as potential for redirection of light in terms of glint and glare via the reflective surface of the panels. No information is given in the Screening Report regarding glint and glare.</p> <p>Whilst this will be a consideration for the decision maker, given the location of the site and the nature of the impacts, I am content that any effects in terms of noise and glint and glare would be localised and unlikely to be of a magnitude that would be significant, such that it would warrant EIA.</p>	
<p>Will the Project release pollutants or any hazardous, toxic or noxious substances to <b>air</b>, or lead to risks of contamination of <b>land</b> or <b>water</b> (including surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea)?</p>	<p>The Screening Report does not include information relating to the type of solar panels proposed. It is known that some solar panels have the potential to act as sources of leachable quantities of PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) that may enter the environment over time through general wear and tear interaction as PFAS may be used in the manufacture of solar panels. The potential impact could be mitigated against, such as regular monitoring of the site, which could be secured via condition.</p> <p>The LPA have noted that there is potential for minor pollution during the construction phase, particularly in respect of noise and disturbance. However, these issues would be of a temporary nature and could be controlled via a CEMP, to be secured by condition.</p>	<p>Significant effects <b>unlikely</b>.</p>



5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
	Given the scale of the proposal, coupled with the ability for conditions to be attached to a decision that will appropriately mitigate any potential impacts, the effect of these element of the scheme are not deemed significant in EIA terms.	
<b>Question 1(f) Risk of major accidents and/or disasters relevant to the development concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge</b>		
Will there be any risk of accidents during construction or operation of the Project which could affect human health or the environment?	<p>Yes, there are some risks in terms of accidents during construction, operation and decommissioning, but given the scale and type of the development, this is unlikely to be significant.</p> <p>The site is partially located in a Development High Risk Area in respect of historic coal mining however, given that the development could be implemented with minimal ground works, it is not considered that the development would have significant effects in terms of risks of major accidents or impacts upon human health. The LPA have advised that any future planning application would be required to be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment which would fully address these issues and prevent any issues. I therefore do not consider this to be significant in EIA terms.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
<b>Question 1(g) Risks to Human Health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)</b>		
Will there be any risk to human health during the construction and/or operation of the development	Some small risk in terms of health and safety during the construction phase and routine maintenance. The Screening Report states that appropriate health and safety signage will be displayed at the site. Given the scale and nature of the proposed development this is unlikely to be significant.	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
<b>CRITERION 2. LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>Question 2(a) Existing and Approved Land Use</b>		
Will the Project result in social changes, for example, in demography, traditional lifestyles, employment?	No.	N/A
Are there any routes or facilities on or around the location, which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes. The Screening Report states there are numerous Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) routed through the site as well as an extensive network in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Whilst there are footpaths within the site and wider area, the Screening Report does not indicate that these would be stopped up or otherwise significantly impacted by the development. Visual impact is considered below. I therefore consider that the impact of the proposed development is unlikely to be significant in this matter.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
Are there any transport routes which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes. A number of roads could be impacted by the proposed development. The Screening Report states that access to both parcels of land is proposed from Bryn Tail Road with a further access point proposed along the eastern Site boundary from an unnamed road via Tir Cae-Mawr Farm. It is anticipated that vehicles will generally arrive from the southeast via Masefield Way, A4054 (Cardiff Road) and A470. The Screening Report states the access points and their visibility splays will be designed and agreed in accordance with the requirements of the local highway authority.</p> <p>The LPA have advised that whilst no comments were received from the Authority's Transport Section, it is not envisaged that a scheme of this scale would result in a highway impact of more than local significance.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
	The main impact would be during the construction phase, which could be readily controlled by a Construction Traffic Management Plan in order to limit effects on the road network. Traffic during the operational phase would be minimal. Given these factors, I do not consider that significant effects in this respect are likely.	
Is the project located in a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of greenfield land?	Yes. The site is currently greenfield land in agricultural use. However, it is of poor agricultural quality and the applicant contends that due to the nature of the development, the land could be largely restored at the end of the scheme's lifespan. The applicant's attention is drawn to comments from LQAS in this regard. It is noted that livestock grazing could continue during operation. As such, significant effects are considered to be unlikely.	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
Are there any areas on or around the location occupied by land uses which could be affected by the project, particularly sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities?	Yes. The site is located within proximity to a number of communities and their facilities. Due to the nature of the development, significant effects are considered to be unlikely.	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
<b>Question 2(b) Relative Abundance, Availability Quality and Regenerative Capacity of Natural Resources in the Area and its Underground</b>		
Are there any areas on or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, which could be affected by the project?	No.	N/A
<b>Question 2(c) Absorption Capacity of the Natural Environment</b>		
Are there any other areas on or around the location which are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology, or are used by protected, important or	Yes. The Screening Report states that ecological surveys undertaken suggest the site currently supports breeding birds, bats, reptiles and brown hare. NRW also highlight that their records show	Significant effects <b>likely</b> .

5		Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?	
<p>sensitive species of fauna or flora, which could be affected by the project?</p>	<p>European Protected Species (EPS) may be present on or near the site.</p> <p>NRW note that insufficient information on the extent of the proposed development and the site itself has been provided to determine whether there would be a significant effect on EPA or on birds protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, particularly Barn Owl.</p> <p>The Screening Report states the site, which predominantly comprises pastoral agricultural land, is considered to be of low ecological value. The Council's Ecologist states that despite being agricultural land, the land may still be ecologically valuable. The Ecologist also notes that the site is adjacent to, and appears to include parts of, SINC 81, closely abuts SINC 79 and is close in parts to SINC 163. They note that the Screening Report incorrectly identifies Clydach Vale SINC as the closest receptor.</p> <p>In addition, limited ecological assessment has been provided for the access points and the underground cabling.</p> <p>Although the Screening Report states an Ecological Surveys have been/will be undertaken, it does not include sufficient information regarding the site's ecology or mitigation required to limit any impact. Given the minimal information provided in the Screening Report, coupled with comments from consultees, there is insufficient information provided for me to conclude that there would be no significant effects in regards to ecology.</p>		

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
<p>Are there any inland, coastal, marine or underground waters on or around the location which could be affected by the project?</p>	<p>Yes. Nant Corrwg is approximately 670 m east of the site and the River Taff is circa 0.9 km south-west of the site. A number of drainage ditches are located within the site which merge into the River Taff. The River Taff is currently moderate under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>NRW note that it is unclear from the Screening Report as to whether there would be any alterations to the watercourses or need for crossings during construction. NRW recommends a CEMP is produced, which should outline how pollution prevention measures will protect the watercourses.</p> <p>The potential impact of pollution during construction can be mitigated via pollution prevention measures within a CEMP which would be secured by condition. Therefore, I am content that significant effects on local watercourses are unlikely.</p>	<p>Significant effects <b>unlikely</b>.</p>
<p>Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic value on or around the location which could be affected by the project?</p>	<p>Yes. The site is within the National Landscape Character Area (NCLA): 37 South Wales Valleys and a Special Landscape Area (SLA) (Taff Vale Eastern Slopes). Whilst the extent of solar panel cover within the site is not clear, given the size of the site (101.4 ha) it is likely that the development would cover a large area. The LPA have concerns that the development would result in a significant alteration to the current character and appearance of the landscape, which is described as a rural area being almost entirely agricultural in nature. The LPA note that the site is situated in an upland position on the mountainside above the settlements of Pontypridd and Rhydyfelin.</p>	<p>Significant effects <b>likely</b>.</p>

5	Detailed Screening Questions	
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
	<p>The height of the proposed solar panels and the proposed mitigation planting have been noted by the LPA. However, they consider that the effectiveness of screening would be limited and that the proposed mitigation is unlikely to minimise concerns over longer-reaching views.</p> <p>The site is situated in an elevated position, on a prominent mountain side within an SLA. I consider there is the potential for a significant affect, including the potential for effects on areas of high landscape or scenic value. The information currently available regarding landscape and visual impact effects is insufficient to rule out significant effects.</p>	
Is the project in a location where it is likely to be highly visible to many people?	<p>Yes. The scheme would be visible to many people in the surrounding area. The LPA have stated that the prominent location would be visible for immediate and wider communities. There are two footpaths that pass through the site, and other Public Rights of Way in the surrounding area. There may also be distance views from the A470 and country lanes serving Eglwysilian Mountain. The LPA have raised concerns that a solar farm in this elevated position would be visually prominent in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Given these considerations, the information currently available with regards to visual impacts is insufficient to rule out significant effects in this respect.</p>	Significant effects <b>likely</b> .
Are there any areas on or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, which could be affected by the project?	Yes. The LPA have stated that the site is visible from the nearby settlements. Visual impact has	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .

5 Detailed Screening Questions		
Questions to be considered	Yes/No/Unknown – provide description	For 'Yes/Unknown', are effects <u>likely</u> to be significant?
	been considered above, and no further significant impacts are considered likely.	
Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location which could be affected by the project?	<p>Yes. Cadw have considered that the proposed solar farm is unlikely to have a significant impact on the setting of the nearest scheduled monuments Pen-y-Coedcae Roman Camp (GM267) and Cross Ridge Dyke and Earthwork on Cefn Eglwysilan (GM452). Other designated historic assets are also unlikely to be impacted due to the surrounding topography and vegetations which will screen views of the development. The applicant's attention is drawn to Cadw's consultation response.</p> <p>Given these considerations, I do not consider significant effects on the historic environment to be likely.</p>	Significant effects <b>unlikely</b> .
Are there any areas on or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage e.g. where existing legal environmental standards are exceeded, which could be affected by the project?	No.	N/A
Is the project location susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme or adverse climatic conditions, which could cause the project to present environmental problems?	No.	N/A
Has there already been a failure to meet environmental quality standards that is relevant to the project?	No.	N/A

### Statement of reasons

The development proposes the change of use of a 101.4 hectare site from agricultural fields to a solar farm consisting of ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays with a capacity of up to 36.6 MW. The development includes inverters, perimeter fencing, CCTV access tracks with the main access from Bryn Tail Road. The development would also include underground cabling under the existing urban area in order to connect to Upper Boat substation, therefore this area has been included in the red line boundary.

The site borders a proposed wind farm. Significant effects on the historic landscape are considered unlikely. The implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) secured by condition could mitigate against the potential risk of pollution, noise and disturbance. Any potential impacts in relation to the site falling within a Coal Mining Reporting Area could be mitigated via a pre-commencement condition for a survey to identify any mine workings. Significant effects in these respects are therefore considered unlikely.

However, concerns have been raised by the LPA and NRW about the potential effects of the proposed development in relation to landscape and visual impacts, ecology (including European Protected Species and birds protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act) including cumulative effects. The site is situated in an elevated position, on a prominent mountainside within an SLA. Given the nature and location of the proposed development and based on the information currently available, it is not possible to rule out the potential for significant (including cumulative) ecological, and landscape and visual effects. As such, I consider that due to the potential for these significant effects, the proposal is EIA development and that consequently EIA is required.

6		Outcome of assessment	
(ii)	If a SO/SD has been provided do you agree with it?		N/A
(iii)	Is EIA required?		Yes
<b>Outcome</b>		<b>Action</b>	✓
Schedule 2 development – threshold exceeded/ criterion met or Sensitive Area <b>and likely</b> to have significant effects		Issue direction stating EIA Required ( <b>Letter 2</b> )	✓
<b>Name and Job Title of Assessor</b>	Tanya Leck BA MSc Planning Officer		
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	13/02/2024		



PEDW

Eich cyfeirnod  
Your reference

DNS CAS-03147-D7S9P8

Sent by email:

[PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales](mailto:PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales)

Ein cyfeirnod  
Our reference

Dyddiad  
Date

8 January 2024

Llinell uniongyrchol  
Direct line

[REDACTED]

Ebost  
Email:

[Cadwplanning@gov.wales](mailto:Cadwplanning@gov.wales)

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **DNS CAS-03147-D7S9P8 - Glyntaff Solar Farm. Screening Opinion**

Thank you for your letter of 19 December 2023 asking for Cadw's view on the above.

Cadw, as the Welsh Government's historic environment service, has assessed the characteristics of this proposed development and its location within the historic environment. In particular, the likely impact on designated or registered historic assets of national importance. In assessing if the likely impact of the development is significant Cadw has considered the extent to which the proposals affect those nationally important historic assets that form the historic environment, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered historic parks, gardens and landscapes.

These views are provided without prejudice to the Welsh Government's consideration of the matter, should it come before it formally for determination.

### Advice

This advice is given in response to a request for a screening opinion as to the need or not for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be prepared for the Glyntaff Solar Farm.

The designated historic assets listed on Annex A are located inside 5km of the proposed development, but, in most cases, intervening topography, buildings and vegetation block or significantly screen all views between them. Consequently, the proposed development will have no significant impact on the settings of most of these designated historic assets: However, in the cases of scheduled monuments GM267 Pen-y-Coedcae Roman Camp and GM452 Cross Ridge Dyke & Earthwork on Cefn Eglwysilan, views of the proposed solar farm will be much clearer.

Scheduled monument GM267 Pen-y-Coedcae Roman Camp is located some 2.4km to the east of the application area. It consists of the remains of a Roman marching camp. Its' identified significant views include one, west across the Taff Valley, and the proposed solar farm will be in this view: However, a solar farm has been constructed in the foreground of this view and therefore the addition of another solar farm in the distant part of this view is unlikely to have a significant effect on the setting of scheduled monument GM267.

Scheduled monument GM452 Cross Ridge Dyke & Earthwork on Cefn Eglwysilan is located immediately to the east of Eglwysilan which forms the northeastern boundary of the proposed solar farm. It comprises a linear bank and ditch running across an upland ridge and may have been a territorial boundary, defining an area of political influence (including internal territorial boundaries and land allotment within communities) and perhaps could have ritual associations: However, this dyke clearly faces towards the northwest and therefore the proposed solar farm is unlikely to have an impact on the significant views from the Dyke. Consequently, it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on the setting of scheduled monument GM452.

The results of the appraisal given above is sufficient for Cadw to conclude that it is unlikely that the proposed development will have an impact on the historic environment of sufficient significance to require an EIA to be prepared: However, we note, from the screening report submitted with the screening request, that the applicant is proposing to prepare a stand-alone heritage statement to fully consider the potential impacts of the proposed solar farm on the scheduled monuments on Eglwysilan Common. We concur that this report should be submitted with the application for the solar farm, as it should confirm the results of the appraisal given above. It will need to be carried out in accordance with the Welsh Government guidance given in the document "The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales" and include and assessment of the impact on the setting of scheduled monument GM452.

Yours sincerely

Nichola Smith  
Historic Environment Branch

Designated Assets

Our records show that the following historic assets are potentially affected by the proposal.

Scheduled Monuments

GM002 Caerphilly Castle  
 GM015 Pontypridd Bridge  
 GM051 Bryn Owen Farm Cairns, Llanfabon  
 GM064 Tomen y Clawdd  
 GM065 Rhiw Saeson Caerau  
 GM107 Five Round Barrows on Garth Hill  
 GM206 Castell Coch  
 GM219 Lle'r Gaer  
 GM267 Pen-y-Coedcae Roman Camp  
 GM302 Carneddi Llwydion  
 GM335 The Pottery, Nantgarw  
 GM352 Cairnfield on Mynydd Eglwysilan  
 GM406 Tarren Deusant Sculptured Rock & Spring  
 GM437 Ventilation Furnace, Trehafod  
 GM452 Cross Ridge Dyke & Earthwork on Cefn Eglwysilan  
 GM454 Caerffili Mountain Shaft Mounds  
 GM456 Cross Ridge Dyke & Cairn on Twyn Hywel  
 GM457 Newbridge Beam Engine  
 GM459 Hetty Pit  
 GM462 Garnedd Lwyd  
 GM463 Two Round Cairns on the Bryn  
 GM503 Caerphilly Iron Furnace  
 GM507 Y Garreg Siglo Bardic Complex  
 GM510 Ring Cairn and Two Standing Stones on Coedpenmaen Common  
 GM628 Prehistoric Rock Art on Mynydd Eglwysilan Common  
 GM637 Prehistoric Rock Art at Tai'r Waun Isaf

Registered Parks and Gardens:

PGW(Gm)3(RCT) Ynysangharad Park

Registered Historic Landscapes

HLW (MGI) 5 The Rhondda

Listed Buildings/ Conservation Areas:

13119	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery lamproom and fan house	II*
13120	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery Bertie pithead, headframe, tram circuit and tippler	II*
13121	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery Trefor pithead and headframe	II*
13122	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery Trefor winding engine house	II*
13123	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery fanhouse	II
13124	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery Bertie winding engine house	II*
13490	,29 Graig-yr-Helfa Road,Glyntaff,,MID GLAMORGAN	II
13491	,30 Graig-yr-Helfa Road,Glyntaff,,MID GLAMORGAN	II
13492	Glyntaff Round House	II
13493	,32 Graig-yr-Helfa Road,Glyntaff,,MID GLAMORGAN	II

13497	Pontypridd Bridge	I
13498	Church of St Ilan	II
13500	Former Salem Chapel	II
13503	Castellau House	II*
	,161-2,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,MID	
13504	GLAMORGAN,CF37 1BH	II
	Former Casting House and Workshop at Treforest Tinplate	
13506	Works	II*
	Workshop NW of Tinning House at Treforest Tinplate	
13507	Works	II*
13508	Former Tinning House at Treforest Tinplate Works	II*
13509	Former Smithy at Treforest Tinplate Works	II*
13510	Former Rolling Mill at Treforest Tinplate Works	II*
13515	Hetty Engine House	I
13516	Troedrhiwtrwyn Farm	II
	The Pontypridd Museum (formerly Tabernacle Baptist	
13520	Chapel)	II
13521	Telephone Call-box	II
	4-8,Church Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,MID	
13522	GLAMORGAN,CF37 2TH	II
13523	Old Market Hall	II
13524	The Criterion Public House	II
	Pontypridd Railway Station Main Platform including	
13525	buildings and canopy	II
13526	Railway Bridge beneath Pontypridd Railway Station	II
13527	Rhondda Branch Junction Signal Box	II
13528	Market Chambers	II
13529	Eglwys Gymraeg Sardis (Sardis Chapel)	II
13530	Merlin Hotel	II
13532	Municipal Buildings	II*
13534	Telephone Call-box	II
13535	Former Mission Hall	II
13537	Cwm Coke Works Northern Cooling Tower	II*
13538	Cwm Coke Works Southern Cooling Tower	II*
13539	Caerphilly Castle	I
13541	Llanbradach Fawr	II
13557	Hendredenny Hall	II
13558	Watford Fach Farmhouse with adjoining former barn	II
13560	The Coach House, Pwll-y-Pant	II
13568	The Court House	II
13573	Groeswen Chapel	II*
13577	Telephone Call-Box	II
16527	Caerphilly Workmen's Hall and Institute	II
17126	Former Lewis Merthyr Colliery chimney	II
17127	Lower Eirw bridge	II
17128	Bridge over Cwm Hafod	II
18805	St David's Presbyterian Church and Hall	II
18806	Eglwysbach Surgery (formerly Capel Goffa)	II
18960	Van Road United Reformed Church	II
20819	Duffryn Ffrwd Manor	II
21376	Wesley Methodist Church	II
21377	Memorial to David Williams	II
21378	War Memorial	II
21379	Farm Range with Bee-boles at Beddau Farmhouse	II
21380	Watford Chapel	II
21382	Plas Watford	II
21383	Church of St Martin	II

21384	St Ilan Comprehensive School	II
21734	Monument to William Williams ('Caledfryn')	II
21735	Monument to Evan Jones ('Ieuan Gwynedd')	II
21736	Monument to Thomas James Thomas and others	II
21737	Thomas family monument	II
21956	Lych Gate at the church of St Ilan, Eglwysilan	II
21957	Tomb of William Edwards in the churchyard of St Ilan, Eglwysilan	II*
21958	Memorial to Annie Lawrence in the churchyard of St Ilan, Eglwysilan	II
21959	Senghenydd War Memorial	II
21960	Parc Mawr, with attached stable and barn	II
22095	Former Llanbradach Colliery brick reservoir	II
22096	Former Llanbradach Colliery winding engine house	II
22097	Former Llanbradach Colliery upper revetment wall	II
22099	Former Llanbradach Colliery middle revetment wall	II
22100	Former Llandbradach Colliery workshops range	II
22102	Llanbradach War Memorial	II
22103	Former Llanbradach Colliery fan house	II
22821	Horeb Presbyterian Church including attached hall to right	II
22822	Bethlehem Capel yr Annibynwyr	II
22823	Ynys Bridge	II
22825	Gwaelod-y-garth School	II
23233	Railway Viaduct over River Taff (partly in Llantwit Fardre community)	II
23234	Nantgarw House	II
23235	Ardwell Cottage	II
23236	2, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23237	3, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23238	4, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23239	5, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23240	6, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23241	7, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23242	8, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23243	9, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23244	10, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23245	11, Alfred's Terrace, Taffs Well, Pontypridd,,	II
23246	The Well House	II
23247	Bwlch y Maen	II
23523	Parish Hall	II
23944	Church of St Michael and All Angels	II*
23948	Castellau Congregational Chapel	II
23949	Gates, piers, boundary walls and bridge at Castellau Congregational Chapel	II
23953	Ysgol Gyfun Bryn Celynnog	II
24276	Treferig Isha	II
24279	Castellau Ganol	II
24398	Ynys Bridge (partly in Pentyrch community)	II
24824	Pen-y-waun	II
24825	Church of St Mabon	II
24841	Memorial to Evan and James James at Ynysangharad Park	II*
24842	Drinking Fountain	II
24843	National Westminster Bank	II
24844	Pontypridd United Church including attached second hall Taff Vale Railway Viaduct over Mill Street including	II
24845	masonry weir	II*
24846	Muni Arts Centre	II

24847	10,Market Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,,CF37 2ST	II
24848	White Bridge (also known as Berw Bridge)	II*
24849	Taff Vale Railway Viaduct over River Taff	II
24850	Railway Viaduct over River Rhondda	II
24851	Market Tavern Hotel	II
24852	Pontypridd Register Office	II
	Railway Viaduct over Nant Clydach (partly in Abercynon	
24853	Community)	II
24854	Cilfynydd War Memorial	II
	Newbridge Chainworks Canal Basin on the Glamorganshire	
24855	Canal	II
	Bridge over Glamorganshire Canal W of Newbridge	
24856	Chainworks basin	II
	Lock Chambers 31 & 32 with attached walls,	
24857	Glamorganshire Canal	II
24858	Welch Regimental War Memorial	II
24859	St Catherine's Church Parish Rooms	II
24860	Church of St Catherine	II*
	Memorial to Richard Crawshay in churchyard of Church of	
24861	St Mary	II
24862	Gates and gate piers to Church of St Mary	II
24863	Church of St Mary	II
24864	Glamorgan Centre for Art & Design	II
24869	Castle Bridge	II
24870	Crawshay Obelisk SW of Castle Bridge	II
24871	Fan House at Hetty Shaft	II*
24872	Headframe at Hetty Shaft	I
24873	Trehafod Memorial Hall and Institute	II
	Coed y Lan Comprehensive Lower School, including rear	
24874	science block and gymnasium	II
24875	Capel Rhondda, including attached Sunday school	II
24876	Bethany Baptist Church	II
24877	Libanus Welsh Baptist Church	II
24878	Church of St Dyfrig	II
24879	St Dyfrig's Church Hall	II
24880	St Dyfrig's Presbytery	II
24881	Forest House, University of Glamorgan	II
24882	Leat Retaining Wall at Treforest Tinplate Works	II*
24883	Rhydyfelin War Memorial	II
24884	Honeywell Power Tools Testing Division	II
24885	Treforest Textile Printers	II
24886	Pig Sty at Berthlwyd Farm	II
24887	48,Pentrebach Road,Pentrebach,Pontypridd,,CF37 4BW	II
24888	Railway Bridge over Sardis Road	II
	Railway Bridge over Graig-yr-Hesg Road, including integral	
24889	stone drainage channel	II
	Memorial to John Thomas (Ieuan Ddu) in churchyard of	
24890	Church of St Mary	II
24891	Lido at Ynysangharad Park	II
24892	7,Church Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,,CF37 2TH	II
24893	8,Church Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,,CF37 2TH	II
24894	9,Church Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,,CF37 2TH	II
24895	10,Church Street,Pontypridd,Pontypridd,,CF37 2TH	II
24896	The Arcade	II
24897	Le Crazy Croissant	II
24898	La Chop	II
24899	Pets Corner	II

24900	163,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24901	164,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24902	165,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24903	166,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24904	167,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24905	168,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24906	169,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24907	170,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24908	171,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24909	172-3,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24910	174-5,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24911	176,Broadway,Treforest,Pontypridd,,CF37 1BH	II
24912	Machine Bridge (also known as Pont y Doctor)	II*
24913	Lloyds TSB Bank, Market Square branch	II
24914	Mr Snooker's Club (formerly Cecil Cinema)	II
25539	Barn and stable range at Llanbradach Fawr	II
25541	Church of St Illtyd	II
80670	Treforest Tinplate Works Feeder Sluice and Weir	II
80761	Memorial Clock	II
80762	Road bridge over Nant Clydach	II
80763	Taff Vale Railway Bridge at Abercynon	II
80764	Taff Vale Railway bridge over Cwm Clydach	II
80873	War Memorial	II
	Taff Vale Railway bridge over Cwm Clydach (partly in	
81031	Abercynon Community)	II
82672	Albion Colliery Disaster Memorial	II
87707	Footbridge at Llanbradach Station	II
87810	Columbarium at Glyntaff Cemetery	II

**From:** Williams, Arwel (CCRA - ERA - Landscapes, Nature and Forestry) [REDACTED]  
**On Behalf Of** LQAS  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 2:30 PM  
**To:** PEDW – Seilwaith / Infrastructure <PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales>; LQAS <LQAS@gov.wales>  
**Subject:** RE: DNS CAS-03147-D7S9P8 - Glyntaff Solar Farm - EIA Screening Consultation

Dear Georgia Peters,

**RE: DNS CAS-03147-D7S9P8 - Glyntaff Solar Farm - EIA Screening Consultation.**

Thank you for the request for an EIA scoping consultation response, concerning soils, agricultural land quality and the application of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land policy ([PPW paragraph 3.58 and 3.59](#)). This advice relates to technical information only, not the merits or otherwise of the proposal on which it is for the determining authority to take a view ([TAN6; Annex B6](#)).

**1. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) - Information.**

The Department does not hold any information on detailed ALC field surveys for the site. According to the [Predictive ALC Map for Wales](#), the site is considered at best **Grade 4**.

**2. Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) – Advice.**

The Department does not consider BMV land to be present at this site, therefore an ALC survey is not recommended as per [published guidance](#). PPW paragraph 3.58 and 3.59 will not apply in this case.

**3. Soils – Advice.**

Mineral, organo-mineral and peat soils are finite and provide crucial ecosystem services to Wales. These services include food, fibre, water and important contributions to climate regulation, biodiversity and protection from natural disasters.

**Soils Management Scheme** - A soil management scheme (SMS) should be prepared by the applicant, informed by a soil resources and physical characteristics survey, and be considered as part of the ES process. The SMS should be a clear scheme and programme setting out how all soils and their function will be conserved and reinstated and that can be confidently conditioned against.

The SMS should be presented in sufficient detail for the determining authority and statutory consultees to form a judgement as to its feasibility, and should include:

-



- Soil stripping programme - volumes and types of soils affected.
- Soil handling techniques and procedure.
- Size, location, construction, management, and period of soil storage dumps.
- Proposed after use and restoration programme, including techniques and aftercare programme.

The type, location and level of infrastructure proposed as part of the development should be fully detailed for the assessment. No information is provided on the total number, depth and spacing of piles installed; the extent of cable trenching and if any imported fill materials used (e.g., cement bound sand), track extent type and location, inverter pads number and locations and areas for construction compounds, etc. The assessment should provide detailed information on the methodology for the installation and decommissioning of the infrastructure and, considering the soils on site, how any likely impacts have been assessed and avoided. This is to ensure there are no adverse impacts from the development and effective restoration post decommissioning.

**Peat Soils** – the [Peatlands of Wales Map](#) and [Evidence Score Map](#) do not hold records of noted peat deposits within the redline boundary. However, according to the [National Soils Map](#) the site is likely to contain [Wilcocks Series](#) soils which can have a peaty topsoil. This is mainly centred on Grid Ref: ST09704,89959 (approx. 250m radius). This presence of peat soils should be confirmed by the applicant – if present they should be scoped in the assessment.

**Scoping Report** (Land And Soil sections) – The Department considers the following statements regarding soils and previous agricultural use on site as unsubstantiated. No evidence is provided of issues with soil health on site that need addressing.

Whilst in operation as a solar farm, the land can naturally recover from previous agricultural practices. Through this strategy, it is considered the overall health of the land will generally improve over the lifetime of the solar farm.

Once renewable electricity generation has ceased, the land will be returned to agricultural use as the development is fully reversible. With the land having a period of time to rest following intensive agricultural activity, it is generally accepted that the health of the soil profile within the Application Site will improve over the lifetime of the solar farm.

The advice expressed does not bind any other part of Welsh Government commenting on the proposal. I trust the above comments are clear and unambiguous.

Regards

Arwel Williams

Arwel Wyn Williams

Cynghorydd Polisi Pridd a Defnydd Tir Amaethyddol / Agricultural Land Use & Soil Policy Advisor

Is-adran Tirweddau, Natur a Choedwigaeth / Landscapes, Nature and Forestry Division

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Ffôn / Tel: [REDACTED]

E-bost: [REDACTED] / E-mail: [REDACTED]

Ar y We / Internet: [www.llyw.cymru](http://www.llyw.cymru) / [www.gov.wales](http://www.gov.wales)

The logo for CYMRAEG, the Welsh language, is displayed in a stylized, bold, black font. The letters are slightly slanted and have a textured, hand-drawn appearance.

<b>My Ref/Fy Nghyf:</b>	<b>Your Ref/EichCyf:</b>	<b>Date/Dyddiad:</b>	<b>Please ask for/ Gofynnwch am:</b>
23/1429/35		12/01/24	Mrs. K. Northam

Dear Ms. G. Peters,

**Town & Country Planning Act 1990**

**Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations  
2017 – Request for Screening Opinion on Behalf of Renantis**

**Glyntaff Solar Farm Proposals at Bryntail Road, Glyntaff, Pontypridd**

I write in response to your submission received 19 December 2023 relating to the above-mentioned matter and would offer the following comments.

**Proposed Development**

The development project relates to the construction of a solar farm (generating 36.6MW of electricity) and associated infrastructure on land at Bryntail Road, to the east of Pontypridd. Details included with the submission indicate that the development would consist of the following elements:

- Photovoltaic (PV) panels mounted on a metal framework to form an array which would be pile driven into the ground. The arrays would have a maximum height of 3.5m above original ground level and will be spaced between 2-8m.
- Inverters /transformers which would be situated at various locations around the arrays.
- Boundary fencing around the perimeter of the solar farm which would measure a maximum of 2.5 metres in height.
- A CCTV system which would be either pole or fence mounted at strategic points around the site perimeter.
- Access tracks to connect inverter/transformer units.
- Storage containers for spare parts/emergency equipment.
- Relevant communications and monitoring equipment.
- Temporary access and storage compound.

**Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen  
Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services**  
Tŷ Sardis, Heol Sardis, Pontypridd CF37 1DU  
Sardis House, Sardis Road, Pontypridd CF37 1DU

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**Nigel Wheeler B.Sc(Hons)**

Cyfarwyddwr Cyfadran – Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen | Group Director – Prosperity, Development & Frontline Services

**Dewiswch iaith a diwyg eich dogfen | Available in alternative formats and languages**

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Gymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding with us in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.



It is indicated that the site would be accessed via Bryntail Road and it is anticipated that vehicles will arrive from the southeast via Masefield Way, A4054 (Cardiff Road) and A470. A further access point is proposed along the eastern side of the site, from an unnamed road via Tir Cae-Mawr Farm to ensure a suitable access into the eastern areas of the site.

The Site Location Plan submitted also includes land within urbanised areas to the south of the site in order to provide an underground cable connection to the Upper Boat substation, which is situated approximately 2.3km to the southeast of the site.

The details indicate that the proposed development would include biodiversity enhancements through new mitigation planting and landscaping where possible, in order to reduce views into the site from the north and east and to fill in any significant gaps within the existing hedgerows and vegetation, and also to support a diverse range of critical invertebrate species and to encourage new species to colonise the margins of the site.

The proposed development would remain at the site on a temporary basis of around 40 years, after which, the solar farm and associated infrastructure would be dismantled and removed from the site.

#### Application Site

The application site amounts to an area of approximately 101.4 hectares of predominantly agricultural land which lies to the east of Pontypridd.

As indicated in the details provided, the site is situated within a predominantly rural setting, being characterised by a series of agricultural fields that are divided into two separate but neighbouring parcels of land. Both parcels are accessible via Bryntail Road with Bryntail Farm (with a further access point off an unnamed road via Tir Cae-Mawr Farm, a residential dwelling (including its associated outbuilding and barns), and an area of woodland lying between the two parcels.

The southwestern smaller parcel and the most southern part of the wider site is predominantly bound by hedgerows and trees with some areas of dense woodland being situated adjacent to the main settlement of Glyntaff. Further woodland lies to the west of the site however, it is understood that this forms part of Pontypridd Golf Club. It is noted that parts of this woodland are designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland.

The larger land parcel, which is situated to the eastern side of the site, is bordered by Eglwysilan Road to the north with further agricultural fields to the to the northwest, east, south and southeast. Other field boundaries are demarcated by dry stone walls and ditches with some post and wire fencing.

The site occupies an upland position above the main valley floor and side. Ground levels typically fall from north to south with cross-valley views being obtained from the settlement of Graig and Treforest to the south and south-east. Further views would be obtained from the north, east and west.

As mentioned above, the site and immediate surrounding area is rural in character, being largely characterised by agricultural fields and areas of woodland. Although there are a small number of residential properties interspersed within the rural setting, residential areas are typically confined to the main valley to the south and south-east of the site with the settlement of Glyntaff being situated around 200-300 metres away from the south and south-eastern boundaries.

It is noted that there are numerous Public Rights of Way routed through the site as well as an extensive network of footpaths within the wider area. Footpaths PON/11/1 and PON/11B/1 pass through the southern and northern sections of the larger parcel of land respectively.

### Screening Opinion

The proposal has been considered in accordance with the guidance set out in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The proposed development falls within Category 3(a) (Energy Industry) of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 as it is considered to be an 'industrial installation for the production of electricity' that exceeds the 0.5 hectares specified in column 2.

Having assessed the details submitted with the application against the criteria set out in Schedule 3 to the Regulations, it is the view of the Local Planning Authority that the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its size, nature and location and the development is therefore considered to constitute EIA development within the meaning of the 2017 regulations. Any future application would therefore need to be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES). The reasons for this are set out as follows:

The proposal would involve the installation of solar photovoltaic panels on a site amounting to a considerable area of 101.4 hectares. It is not currently clear whether the entire site would be taken over by solar panels however, given the size of the site, it is likely that the development will cover a vast area. Furthermore, the site is situated within a rural area which is almost entirely agricultural in nature and it is considered that the development would result in a significant alteration to the current character and appearance of the landscape, particularly given that the entire site falls within a Special Landscape Area (Taff Vale Eastern Slopes).

The site is also situated in an upland position, on the mountainside above the settlements of Pontypridd and Rhydyfelin. As a result of this position, the site and its surrounding area is visible from the wider area with cross valley views obtainable from the settlements of Treforest, Tonteg, and Hawthorn to the west, south and south-west and to perhaps a lesser extent, Graig, Maesycoed and Graigwen to the north-west. Further views may also be achieved from the highly trafficked A470, particularly from the northbound carriageway, and also from the country lanes serving Eglwysilian Mountain to the north and north-east.

Areas of woodland to the south and southeast of the site, and the additional planting and mitigation proposed, is likely to screen the site from more localised views in some areas of Rhydyfelin and an area of Pontypridd known as The Common.

Consequently, there is concern that a solar farm in this elevated position would be highly prominent in the wider, higher landscape where there is little or no development at that elevation. As mentioned above, the Special Landscape Area designation requires development proposals to demonstrate a high standard of design quality and whilst the height of the proposed solar panels and the suggestion of mitigation in the form of additional planting are indeed noted, the site is situated in an elevated position, on a prominent mountain side and it is considered that the effectiveness of any screening would be limited, and any proposed mitigation is unlikely to minimise concerns regarding longer-reaching views.

As such, the Council consider the visual impact of the proposed development would result in more than a local significance and warrants assessment at EIA level.

The development, once complete, would be unlikely to result in any risk of major accidents or in any risk to human health however, it is noted that there will be some potential for minor pollution, particularly in respect of noise and disturbance, during the construction phase. These issues would be of a temporary nature and could be controlled via a Construction Environmental Management Plan. It is not considered that the development, once complete, would have an adverse impact upon amenity.

It is also noted that the development would utilise a renewable resource to generate power and the materials used in the manufacture of equipment are an abundant resource which can be recycled at the end of the operational period. Further, the development would not produce any waste during operation, nor would it result in any significant levels of noise or air pollution; and the development would not contain any materials that are combustible and the risk of accidents in these regards would be negligible and largely restricted to construction and maintenance activities that would be covered by health and safety plans.

As such it is not considered the works will have more than a local impact in respect of amenity issues.

It is noted that the site is partially located in a Development High Risk Area in respect of historic coal mining however, given that the development could be implemented with minimal ground works, it is not considered that the development would have significant effects in terms of risks of major accidents or impacts upon human health. Furthermore, any future planning application would be required to be supported by a Coal Mining Risk Assessment which would fully address these issues.

With regards to issues of ecology, the site lies immediately adjacent to two Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation with SINC No. 81 (Pontypridd Golf Course) essentially surrounding the boundary for the smaller land parcel and SINC No. 79 Mynydd Eglwysilan following the eastern boundary of the larger land parcel. Whilst consultation has been undertaken with the Council's Ecologist, no comments had been received at the time of writing this response however, any comments received will be forwarded upon receipt.

It is noted that some small areas of the site extend into the SINC at the smaller parcel however, the development could be designed around this to ensure little to no impact upon the SINC. In any case, any future application would need to be supported by appropriate ecological surveys which consider the potential impact of the proposal upon the SINC.

The development would result in the loss of agricultural land, although it is noted that livestock grazing could still continue between the arrays. Furthermore, it is indicated that the agricultural use could be reinstated upon the decommissioning of the developments. Details included in the submission indicate that an Agricultural Land Classification is yet to be undertaken however, it is recommended that an assessment of the land be undertaken and a survey submitted as part of any future application.

Whilst the site is not a site of historical, cultural or archaeological significance, it must be noted that there are a number of important designations in the immediate and wider vicinity which must be fully considered in the proposals to ensure no adverse impact:

- Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Ynysangharad War Memorial Park, Coedpenmaen Common, Y Garreg Siglo Bardic Complex.
- Historic Parks and Gardens: Ynysangharad War Memorial Park
- Listed Buildings: Nearest being Glamorgan Centre for Art and Design, St. Mary's Church and The Round Houses on Graig yr Helfa Road. Further Listed Buildings can be found in the surrounding area.

No comments have been received from the Council's Transportation Section at the time of writing, but it is not envisaged that a scheme of this scale would result in a highway impact of more than local significance. However, any future planning application would have to be supported by relevant highway information such as a Transport Statement. The highway comments will be forwarded once received.

With respect to drainage, the site is not located within a C1/C2 flood zone as set out in the Development Advice Maps but there are areas of low/medium/high surface water flood risk throughout various parts of the site. It is not however expected a scheme of this nature would result in significant drainage issues and this element of any future development can be adequately controlled via the separate SuDS approval process.

Finally, there are no other major development schemes within the immediate area which may have the potential for cumulative interaction.

Therefore, in conclusion, due to the overall scale of the proposed development and its elevated position above the valley, it is the opinion of the Council that the proposed scheme will likely result in significant impacts upon the environment that would last the lifetime of the development. It is therefore considered the above issues can only be effectively delivered through the submission of a full ES, which properly addresses any visual, landscape and ecological issues that the development may generate.

Please note that most consultees had not responded to the consultation at the time of writing this response. Where a response has been received, it is attached to this response, and any responses subsequently received will be forwarded separately.

I trust you will find the above helpful in progressing your deliberations on the proposed development and should you have any further concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Kaylea Northam  
Senior Planning Officer



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PEDW – Seilwaith / Infrastructure](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 23/1429 Glyntaff Solar Farm  
**Date:** 15 January 2024 12:30:30  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[SINC 79.doc](#)  
[SINC 81.doc](#)  
[SINC 163.doc](#)

---

Hi,

Please see below a copy of the comments received from the Council's Ecologist in respect of the above application for a screening opinion request.

Kind Regards,

Kaylea Northam

**Uwch Swyddog Cynllunio (Rheoli Datblygu) – Senior Planning Officer  
(Development Management)**

**Ffyniant, Datblygu, a Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen / Prosperity, Development  
and Frontline Services**

**Ffôn/Telephone:** [REDACTED]

**Ebost/Email:** [Kaylea.Northam@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Kaylea.Northam@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**Gwefan/Website:** <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/cynllunio>  
[/http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/planning](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/planning)

**Mae swyddogion ar gael drwy e-bost a dros y ffôn (01443) 281130 neu e-bostiwch**

**[gwasanaethaucynllunio@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:gwasanaethaucynllunio@rctcbc.gov.uk)**

**Gellir talu ffioedd cynllunio drwy ffonio (01443) 281135**

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**Officers are available by email and by phone (01443) 281130 or please email**

**[planningservices@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:planningservices@rctcbc.gov.uk)**

**Planning fees can be paid by phoning (01443) 281135**

**[Oes angen caniatâd rheoliadau adeiladu arna i? / Do I need building regulation  
approval?](#)**

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**Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhowch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog**

**Os byddwch yn mynychu cyfarfod, rhowch wybod i'r trefnydd os yr hoffech gyfrannu i'r cyfarfod yn Gymraeg ac/neu os yr hoffech dderbyn gwasanaeth derbynfa Cymraeg yn ystod eich ymweliad.**

**We welcome correspondence in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay. Let us know your language choice if Welsh or bilingual.**

**If you are attending a meeting, please let the organiser know if you would like to contribute to the meeting in Welsh and/or if you'd like to receive a Welsh language reception service during your visit.**

A picture containing text [redacted] Description automatically generated

**From:** Wistow, Richard [redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 January 2024 17:12  
**To:** Northam, Kaylea [redacted]  
**Cc:** Stock, Kate [redacted]  
**Subject:** 23/1429 Glyntaff Solar Farm

Hi Kaylea,

This PEDW application is a very large area of land (101 hectares), that is closely adjacent to SINC 81 (and appears to include parts of that SINC), closely abuts SINC 79, and is close to parts of SINC 163. The EIA scoping letter wrong identifies the Clydach Vale SINC as being the nearest SINC. The supporting information states that ecology work has been undertaken and refers to an EDP (whatever that stands for) in Appendix 2, which I assume is an ecology report. That information isn't available on the planning web site. The letter refers to adjacent ancient woodland and other woodlands, and their avoidance by the proposal. It identifies that much of the site is 'agricultural pastoral land' which is regularly grazed by livestock, and the letter concludes that such use confers a low ecology value on those fields. However, pasture land and livestock can in-fact both be very important for nature conservation, and it is very important that this application does not dismiss or underestimate the potential ecology value of old managed permanent pasture, including their value and potential for grassland flora and fungi. These upland edge pastures are very easy to misidentify and undervalue as habitat. I am not aware of any recent detailed ecological assessment of this particular landscape area. It will therefore be important that a future planning application includes appropriate grassland vegetation and grassland fungi surveying/assessment.

The planning application will need to be supported by a full, appropriate suite of habitat and species surveys. The scoping letter refers to some existing evidence of nesting birds and brown hare. Again we have not got access to the ecology information referred to, but the brown hare is a rare species in RCT. They a species of open grassland landscapes, and the implications of change of use of such a large landscape area to solar panel use on brown hare, will need to be fully assessed, with appropriate mitigation. The use of the pasture fields by wintering golden plover needs to be addressed. At the recent Mynydd Y Glyn Windfarm PEDW enquiry the importance of upland edge pasture for wintering golden plover was a key ecological consideration. Golden plover are also a key issue of consideration for Twyn y Hywel windfarm that PEDW is also determining. That windfarm is immediately adjacent to this site. The importance of ensuring the retention of sufficient areas of open upland edge pasture for the species large wintering flocks that occur within the southern RCT area, was the subject of discussion at the Mynydd Y Glyn enquiry. This application would therefore need to include an appropriate assessment of golden plover use, and the potential in-combination impacts of land use change with both the Mynydd Y Glyn and Twyn Y Hywel proposals. Given the significant land use change involved in this proposed scheme, assessment of the current ground nesting bird use of the site, and the use of the large landscape area as hunting habitat by raptors would be additional bird concerns.

The impacts of access road improvement, and energy connection routes on hedgerows, walls, adjacent woodland and grassland habitat should form part of the ecological assessment. Those impacts are often not fully assessed as part of green energy proposals, but they can have significant ecological impacts, and they should form part of the ecological assessment process.

The scoping letter refers to ecological enhancement in the form of planting and bird and bat box provision. That is a concern, because the wording in the scoping letter raises concerns that the ecological significance of pasture habitat may have been under-estimated. Old permanent pasture habitat is significant in its own right. It is habitat that can react well to positive conservation management. A key consideration for this application will be whether grassland mitigation and enhancement, at a scale where effective conservation management and grazing can be delivered, should be the priority biodiversity mitigation and enhancement requirement. Experience has shown that the provision of grassland mitigation under and within the solar arrays, or narrow buffers between hedgerows and solar arrays, managed through sheep grazing (which is the management of operational solar farms) will not provide effective grassland mitigation or enhancement. If consented, then within a 100 hectare development proposal, it should be possible to set aside an effective area of permanent pasture dedicated to conservation management as a key compensatory habitat provision. As part of that approach proposals for wildflower seeding will not be supported by the RCT Nature Plan, and if proposed would lead to an ecological objection. Similarly large scale tree planting would not be viewed as ecologically appropriate. Any tree or hedgerow planting also needs to be limited to species that naturally occur in the immediate area.

In terms of whether EIA will be triggered, I think given the very large size of this site, and the potentially wholesale land use change proposed, plus concerns that the ecological context may not have been fully recognised, there may be a strong case (in combination with landscape impacts) that ecology may trigger EIA. However regardless of that, a planning application will need to be advised by appropriately detailed habitat and species survey and assessment, and the ecological mitigation and enhancement proposals need to be sensitive and appropriate to local biodiversity context, objectives and priorities, and not based on the type of generic approach outlined in the scoping letter. The opportunity to meet with the applicant to discuss these concerns will be important.

Hope this makes sense?

Thanks

Richard

Croesawn ohebu yn Gymraeg a fydd gohebu yn y Gymraeg ddim yn arwain at oedi. Rhwch wybod inni beth yw'ch dewis iaith e.e. Cymraeg neu'n ddwyieithog

Mae'r neges ar gyfer y person / pobl enwedig yn unig. Gall gynnwys gwybodaeth bersonol, sensitif neu gyfrinachol. Os nad chi yw'r person a enwyd (neu os nad oes gyda chi'r awdurdod i'w derbyn ar ran y person a enwyd) chewch chi ddim ei chopio neu'i defnyddio, neu'i datgelu i berson arall. Os ydych chi wedi derbyn y neges ar gam, rhwch wybod i'r sawl sy wedi anfon y neges ar unwaith. Mae'n bosibl y bydd holl negeseuon yn cael eu cofnodi a/neu fonitro unol â'r ddeddfwriaeth berthnasol. I ddarllen yr ymwadiad llawn, ewch i <http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/ymwadiad>

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## SINC 79

Number	79	Name	<b>Mynydd Eglwysilian</b>
Description	<p>An extensive upland SINC. The predominant vegetation is a bilberry heath (National Vegetation Classification H18). There are significant areas of acid grassland and bracken. The acid grassland has a characteristic composition of sheep's fescue, common bent, wavy hair-grass, tormentil and heath bedstraw, it occurs in complex mosaics with the bilberry. At and around the head of the Nant Corrwg there is a small blanket bog with cross-leaved heath, heather, bilberry and some deer grass. There are old records of Cornish moneywort.</p> <p>The SINC includes the important, semi-natural ancient woodland of Coed Bodwenarth. This mixed oak, ash, and birch woodland lies on the slopes immediately above Cilfynydd. Open areas are dominated by bracken. The woodland has associated areas of marshy grassland (NGR ST090915) this supports purple moor-grass (National Vegetation Classification of M25) with sharp flowered rush, devil's-bit scabious, with sphagnum bog moss and <i>Polytichum commune</i> in the small acid flushes.</p>		

Grid Ref	(NGR ST 092917)	Ward(s)	Trallwn, Cilfynydd, Rhydyfelin	
CCW TN	CCW TN015 ST09SE	Area (ha)	134.6	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), H (12), H (20), and H (21)</p> <p>Contributory Features – S (2), S (3), and S (6)</p>			
Earth science sites	No RIGs, others still to be added: 561			
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional), NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Biological Survey of Common Land – Mid Glamorgan</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>			
Original Number	79	Original Name	Coed Bodwenarth	

## SINC 81

Number	81	Name	<b>Pontypridd Golf Course</b>
Description	<p>A large mosaic woodland and ffridd SINC, which occupies the eastern slopes of the Taff Valley above Pontypridd.</p> <p>Semi-natural woodland is a major component, some of which has been identified as ancient woodland (including ancient woodland above Pentrebach). The woodland character varies. There are significant areas of mixed oak woodland, with ash, beech, sycamore, hazel and holly.</p> <p>There are complex mosaics of bracken and acid grassland, with sheep's fescue, common bent, sweet vernal grass, heath bedstraw, tormentil and sheep's sorrel. On lower slopes there are a few associated small neutral grassland pastures. Although generally heavily grazed semi-improved grassland (In National Vegetation Classification terms MG6) these pastures add to the overall diversity of the SINC.</p> <p>The SINC includes a number of small areas of dry heath. The largest stand is an area of approximately six hectare on steep bank above Penheol Road, which supports heather, bilberry, sheep's fescue, wavy-hair grass, and bracken.</p> <p>Small areas of associated marshy grassland (e.g. ST091909) support purple moor-grass, soft rush, sharp flowered rush, tormentil, ivy-leaved bellflower and mat grass (National Vegetation Classification M25). There is a colony of the small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(NGR ST 087900)</b>	Ward(s)	Trallwn, Treforest	
CCW TN		Area (ha)	71.75	
Air photo dates	2003			
Ownership				
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date		
TPO		Conservation area		
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H 91), H (3), H (6), H (7), H (9), H (10), and H (20)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (17), H (21), S (2), S (3)</p>			

	and S (6)		
Earth science sites	No RIGS, others to be added: 168, 425, 473		
Survey work undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCW Phase I Habitat Survey, 1992-1995</li> <li>• Inventory of Ancient Woodlands in Glamorgan (provisional) NCC (1985)</li> <li>• Site visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	81	Original Name	Pontypridd Golf Course

SINC 163

Number	163	Name	<b>Fforestnewydd</b>
Description	<p>A block of ffridd on the valleyside above the upper boat industrial estate, Rhydyfelin.</p> <p>The SINC includes a network of small woodlands forms runs along the valley side above Rhydyfelin. Much of this woodland is associated with the numerous small stream valleys, which run down the valley side, and includes the larger wooded valley of Nant Corrwg. Some of the woodland is mapped as ancient, and much of it has ancient woodland characteristics. Typical species include alder, oak, ash, sycamore, hazel, willow, hazel and hawthorn, with ancient woodland ground flora, which include bluebell, common dog violets, red campion, wood anemone, lesser celandine, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage, male fern, broad buckler fern and hart's-tongue fern. The SINC includes a wooded section of the Taff Trail.</p> <p>The SINC also supports a large area of unimproved and semi-improved acid grassland/bracken slopes with common bent, red fescue, sweet vernal grass, tormentil, heath bedstraw, and sheep's sorrel. There are associated smaller areas of neutral and marshy grassland</p> <p>The SINC fulfils a habitat connectivity function within an agriculturally improved section of the Taff Valley slopes. The woodland network will support a typical woodland bird assemblage, and bat habitat.</p>		

Grid Ref	<b>(ST 107877)</b>	Ward(s)	Hawthorn, Rhydfelin
CCW TN	CCW TN 001 ST18NW	Area (ha)	42.97
Air photo dates	2003		
Ownership			
Tir Gofal		Tir Gofal date	
TPO		Conservation area	
SINC Qualification Features	<p>Primary Features – H (1), H (3), H (6), H (9), H (15) and H (22)</p> <p>Contributory Features – H (4), H (7), S (1) and S (2)</p>		
Earth science sites	None		
Survey work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCW Phase I Habitat Survey</li> </ul>		

undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glamorgan Ancient Woodland Inventory (provisional) NCC (1986)</li> <li>• Site Visits 1997-2008</li> </ul>		
Original Number	163	Original Name	<b>Fforest Newydd</b>



Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-245494-V6J4  
Eich cyf/Your ref: CAS-03147-D7S9P8

Planning & Environment Decisions Wales  
Crown Buildings  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Dyddiad/Date: 30 January 2024

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANT (PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2016 (AS AMENDED)**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2017 (AS AMENDED) ('THE REGULATIONS')**

**POTENTIAL DNS APPLICATION: GLYNTAFF SOLAR FARM**

**SITE ADDRESS: GLYNTAFF SOLAR FARM, BRYNTAIL ROAD, RHYDFELIN, PONTYPRIDD CF37 5LT**

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: PROPOSED GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC ARRAY WITH A CAPACITY OF UP TO 36.6MW AND ASSOCIATED WORK, EQUIPMENT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Thank you for letter dated 19 December 2023 requesting Natural Resources Wales' views on whether the above proposed development is likely to have a significant environmental effect.

We have considered the document entitled 'Request for EIA Screening Opinion – Glyntaff Solar Farm', prepared by Pegasus Group, document reference P20-2377, dated 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023, submitted in support of the above application.

We consider that the proposed development is likely to have adverse effects on the environment. However, in light of the information available to us we cannot confirm the significance of these effects and therefore cannot rule out that these effects may be significant.

Our views on the likelihood of effects on matters within our remit, which are relevant to this proposal, are explained below:

## **Biodiversity**

### European Protected Species (EPS)

Our records show there may be EPS on or in the vicinity of the site. The Screening Report advises that the habitats on site may also support bats. Until the site is comprehensively assessed for its potential to support EPS, we are unable to confirm the likely effects on EPS.

Due to the scale of the proposal, and the woodland and watercourses within the site, it will be necessary for the applicant to conduct the usual range of ecological surveys for protected/priority species and priority habitats, and to submit them as part of the application.

We advise the applicant to liaise with the LPA ecologist to discuss and agree the scope of any surveys required. We refer you to our [website](#) for further advice.

### Ornithology

We advise that the development site has the potential to support Schedule 1 species, in particular barn owl.

A desktop survey and appropriate field surveys should be undertaken to provide a robust characterisation of the existing bird assemblage found on site. Field surveys should include but not specifically be limited to methods appropriate to barn owls.

Specific mitigation should be brought forward for any impacts identified along with a programme of enhancement measures.

## **Water**

### Local watercourses

We note that there are local watercourses which run through the site which merge into the River Taff, which is currently moderate under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

We note that the Screening Report states that '*There is a further access point proposed along the eastern Site boundary from an unnamed road via Tir Cae-Mawr Farm and this will ensure there is suitable access into the eastern areas of the Site as vegetation and watercourses within the Site boundary currently restricts internal access.*' Therefore, we assume that there will be no alterations/modifications to the existing watercourses, no watercourse crossings or water piping used during construction.

If this is not the case, we would have concerns as all freshwater surface waterbodies (excluding foul) are covered by the WFD, and are therefore protected from pollution, modification and abstraction. We advise that this application should consider measures to protect, and where possible, improve them to the extent needed to achieve the objectives for waterbodies to which they are directly or indirectly connected.

We advise that consideration is given to how these watercourses will be impacted during and after the construction phase. We would recommend that a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) is produced, which outlines pollution prevention measures to ensure protection to the watercourses.

### Flood Risk

The site is located in Zone A, as defined by the Development Advice Map (DAM), referred to under Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15 Development and Flood Risk. We do not consider that the proposal is likely to have a significant effect in respect of flood risk.

However, we strongly advise the Applicant contacts the Lead Local Flood Authority, in this instance Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, to ensure they have no knowledge of localised flooding within or near the site.

### **Landscape**

The site is not located in or near a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We recommend you contact Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Landscape Officer for advice regarding local landscape and visual impacts from the development.

### **Further advice**

If you consider that the development proposed above should be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, we shall provide advice on likely significant environmental effects when consulted to assist you in forming your scoping opinion, and on the Environmental Statement supporting the planning application.

### **Other Matters**

We have considered the likelihood of significant effects from the scheme on environmental interests listed on our consultation topics list: [Development Planning Advisory Service](#).

Our advice does not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests, including environmental interests of local importance, or human health. You may wish to consult other bodies for their expert advice on those effects.

Our advice is made without prejudice to comments we may subsequently wish to make when consulted on any planning application, any environmental permit, the submission of more detailed information, or an Environmental Statement.

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully,

### **Ryan Rees**

Cynllunio Datblygu Cynghorydd / Development Planning Advisor  
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales

E-bost/E-mail: [southeastplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk](mailto:southeastplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk)

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.