Glyn Taff Solar Farm

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Welcome

Welcome to Nadara's statutory consultation on the proposals for Glyn Taff Solar Farm in Pontypridd, South Wales.

Feedback received during this consultation will be reviewed and used to inform the final proposals, which will be submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) in Spring 2025.

About Nadara

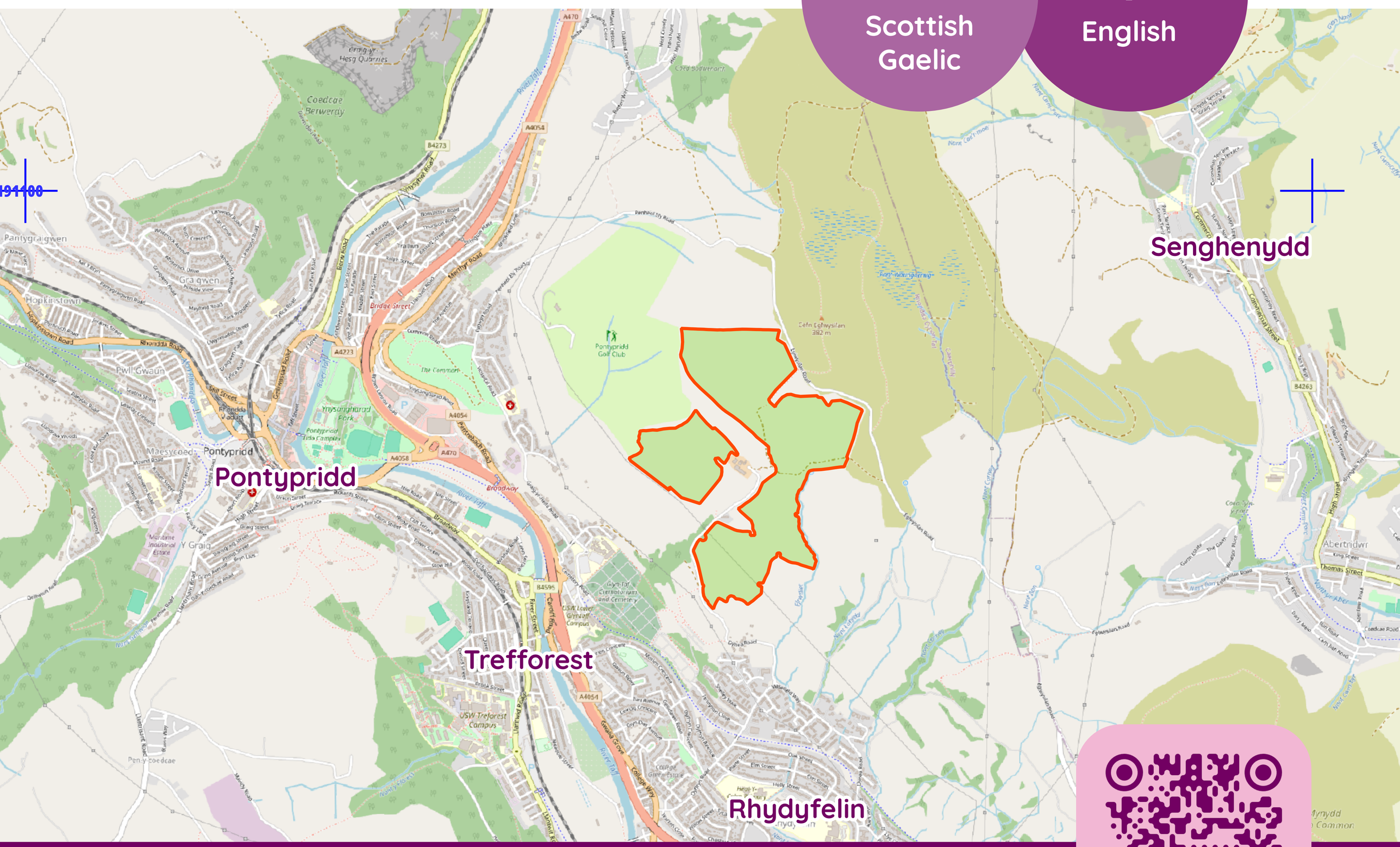
You might have spotted... we've got a new name!

Renantis UK Ltd., recently rebranded as Nadara following the combination with Ventient Energy, bringing together 30 years of combined industry experience to become one of Europe's largest renewable energy IPPs.

Nadara has a portfolio of around 200 onshore wind, solar, biomass, and energy storage plants, including nine wind farms with an installed capacity of 163MW in Wales. For more information on Nadara visit nadara.com or LinkedIn.

Nàdarra - Scottish Gaelic

Nadara - English



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The proposal

The proposal for the 39.9 Megawatt peak (MWp) solar farm includes the construction of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farm, associated access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, temporary construction compounds and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated landscaping works.

The solar panels will be fixed tilt, bi-facial, ground mounted arrays. They will not exceed 3m in height and will be affixed to a frame which is drilled into the ground to a maximum depth of 1-2 metres which will cause minimal ground disturbance and reduce potential impacts on unknown sub-surface archaeology

The panels will have a non-reflective surface, which will increase the proportion of solar radiation absorbed, removing the risk of unwanted reflection and glare.

The design includes the provision of secure deer fencing running around the perimeter of the Proposed Solar Farm and set back 5m from existing field boundaries. The fence will be 2m in height with a 0.1m gap at the bottom allowing access for smaller mammals. All on-site cabling will be located underground.

Key facts

39.9 MWp (estimated 33.25 MWac)

Approximately 12,000 homes powered per year (equivalent)

Approximately 18,000 tonnes of carbon emissions saved

£581,000 community benefit fund over the life of the project

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Site plan

Key

- Developed Boundary
- Solar PV Array
- Fencing
- Transformer
- Temporary Construction Compound

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Proposal updates

We are grateful for all the feedback received during our informal consultation during the summer 2024. This feedback has played a crucial role in shaping the evolution of the project.

Based on that feedback, further site investigations and surveys have been undertaken, and we have made changes to the project, as follows:

- **Significantly reduced the overall site area from 101 hectares to 71 hectares.**
- **Removed specific land parcels where constraints such as biodiversity, flood risk, or landscape sensitivity were identified.**
- **Refined the position of infrastructure to minimise potential visual and environmental impacts.**
- **Proposed additional landscape and ecological enhancements to integrate the development more effectively within the surroundings.**

These design changes reflect our commitment to delivering a well-balanced and sustainable renewable energy scheme that maximises clean energy generation while respecting the site's environmental and community context.

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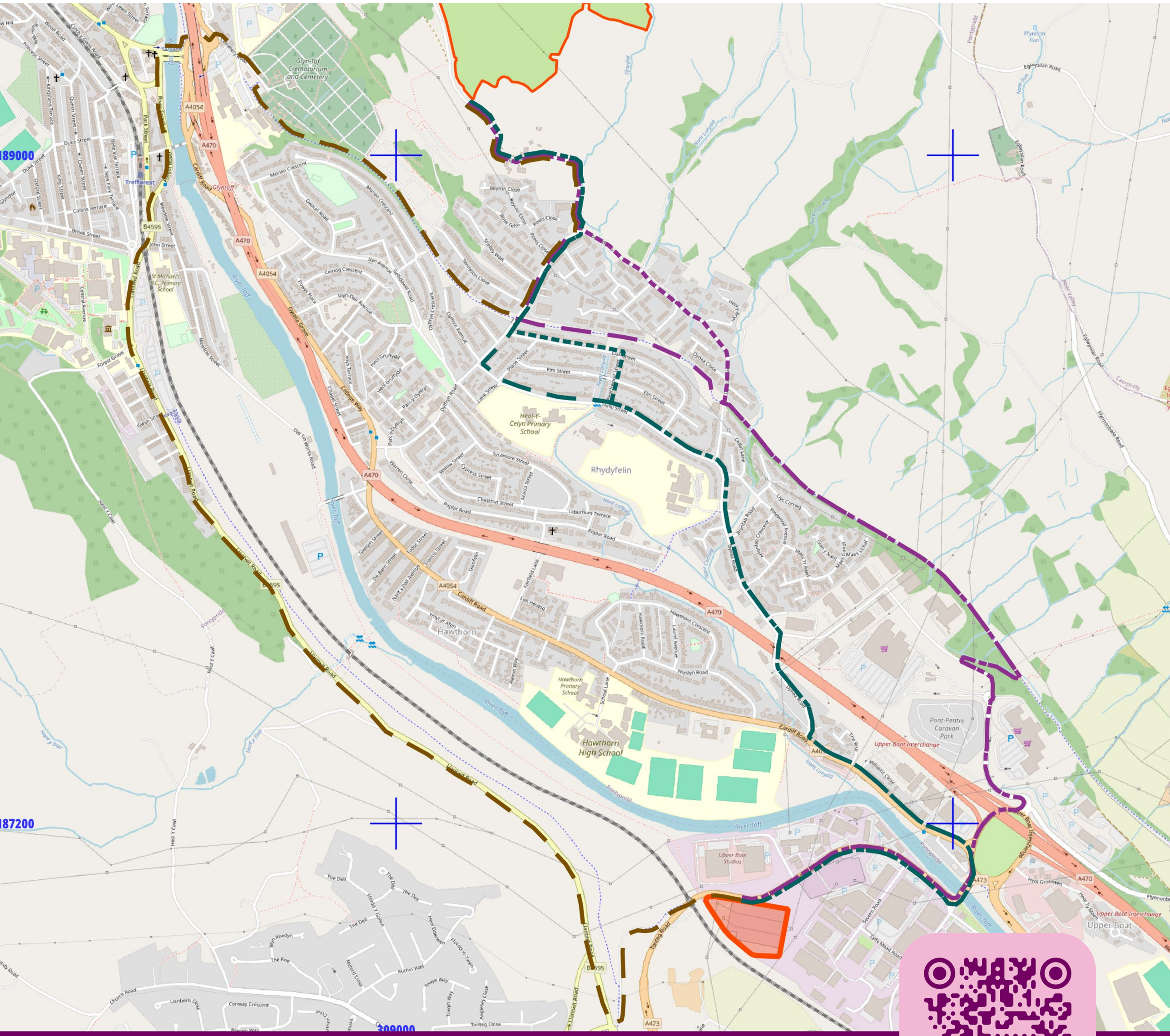
Grid connection

The site is ideally located for access to the local electricity grid network, being approximately 4.8 km from the nearest substation at Upper Boat, Treforest.

Electricity generated will enter the National Grid transmission network and be transported across Wales.

Indicative Connection Routes

- — OPTION 1
- - - 1A
- — OPTION 2
- - - 2B
- — OPTION 3
- 🟥 GRID SUBSTATION
- 🟩 DESIGN AREA



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Environmental considerations

Landscape and visual impact

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) supporting the draft planning application has undertaken a detailed assessment of key viewpoints around the site.

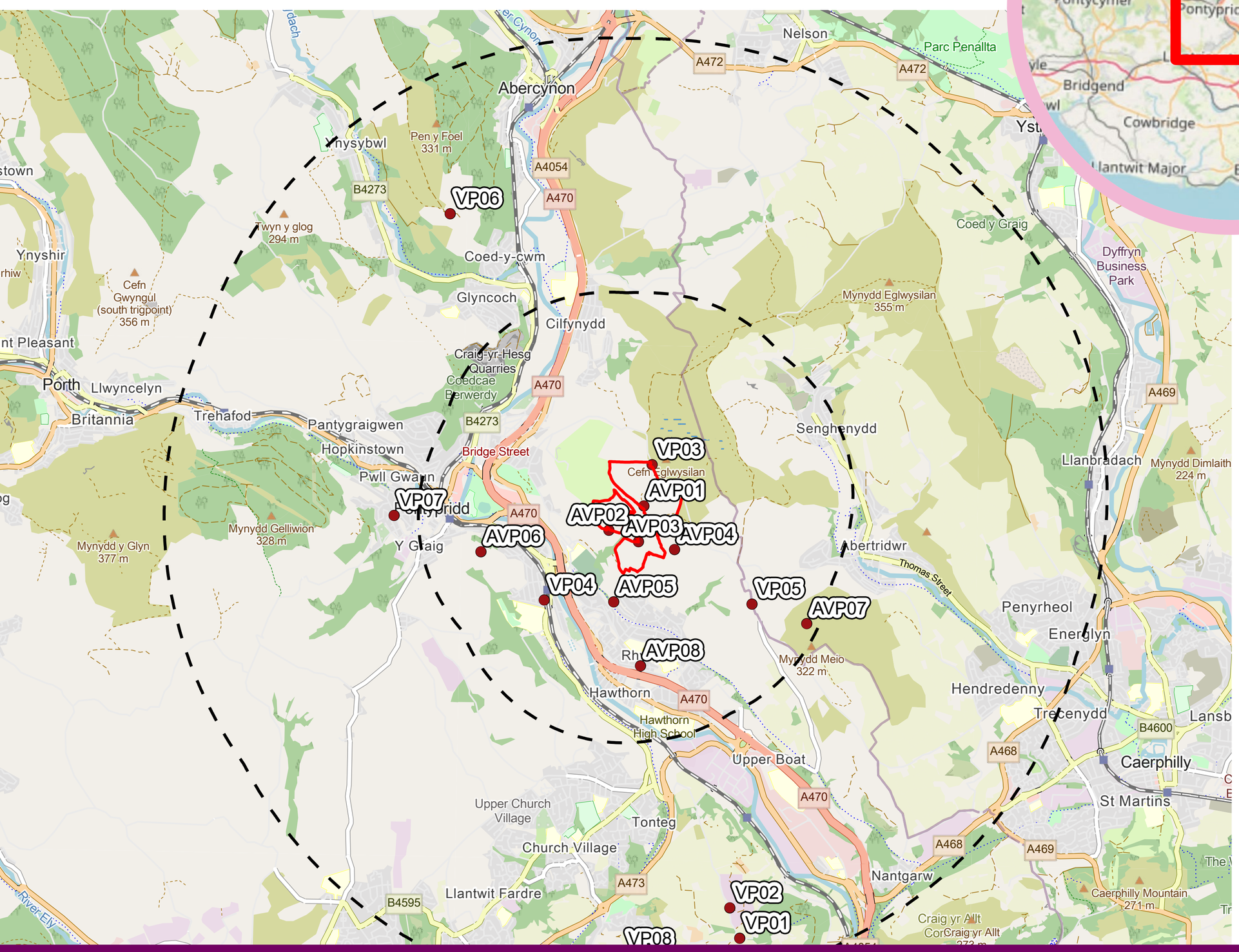
During our informal consultation stakeholders identified specific areas with more exposed views of the development site. We have undertaken additional landscape photography and photomontages to inform the necessary visual studies allowing the design to be refined to ensure that the solar farm sits more harmoniously within the surrounding environment.

The Proposed Development has been sensitively designed to integrate with the landscape and existing vegetation and field patterns. The solar panels have been located away from residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows, Public Rights of Way, and watercourses.

Glint and Glare

A Glint and Glare Assessment supporting the draft planning application has undertaken a thorough analysis of any potential reflective effects from the proposed solar panels.

The modern solar panel technology has been specifically designed to minimise glint and glare. It is therefore considered the level of reflected light from solar panels is considerably lower than from common surfaces such as water, glass windows, or car windscreens.



Key

- Developed Boundary
- 2km, 5km Study Area
- Viewpoint Locations

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Environmental considerations

Access, traffic and transport

The main site access point being considered during construction and operational is currently through Bryntail Farm via Bryntail Lane.

Access route plan

We are committed to carefully managing traffic and minimising disruption during the construction and operation of the solar farm.

Construction phase

During construction, traffic will be managed through:

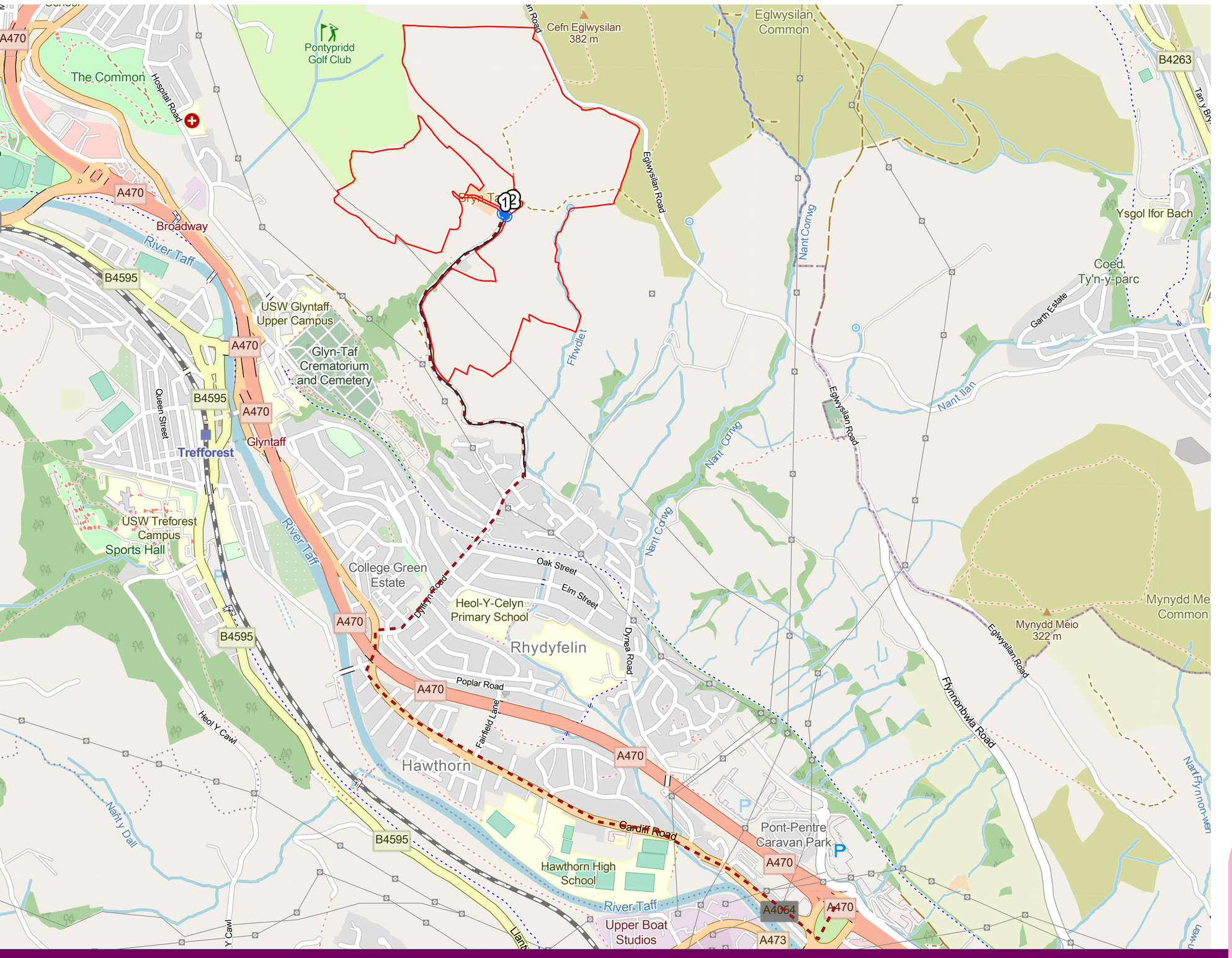
Agreed Access Routes
Working with local authorities to avoid sensitive areas and reduce the impact on local roads.

Controlled Hours
No construction traffic during peak commuting times or school drop-off/pick-up periods.

Traffic Calming Measures
Including passing bays where needed to ensure safe vehicle movements on narrow rural roads.

Operational Phase

Once operational, the solar farm will generate minimal traffic with only between 15 and 20 vehicle movements a year for maintenance visits.



Key

- Developed Boundary
- Proposed Haul Route
- Route Analysis
- Condition Survey Extent

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Environmental considerations

Heritage and Archaeology

The site has been extensively surveyed by the project team and a geophysical survey has been undertaken to assess any potential archaeological features within the site.

A Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) has been undertaken to evaluate and assess the potential effects of the solar farm on both known and undiscovered heritage assets.

The findings of the assessment have helped guide mitigation measures, such as sensitive site design and screening, to ensure the solar farm integrates respectfully with the historical character of the area while supporting the transition to renewable energy.

During construction, we will work closely with heritage experts and local authorities appoint to closely monitor construction activities and ensure that in the unlikely event that any previously unknown heritage assets are discovered, these are recorded and protected on site during construction.

Noise

Solar panels operate silently, with the only potential noise coming from inverter stations, which are essential for converting electricity.

Modern inverters produce low noise levels during the day and are inactive at night. The proposed development has ensured these are carefully positioned to ensure minimal disturbance to the community.

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Environmental considerations

Ecology

Various ecological surveys have been undertaken including wintering and breeding birds, Great Crested Newts, bats, badgers, otters, water voles, amphibians and reptiles. Our surveys show no significant impacts are anticipated for any species or habitats on the site.

The project will deliver net benefit for biodiversity over its lifetime by creating new habitats offering food and shelter to wildlife, including priority species and breeding birds.

Hydrology

A series of studies have been undertaken of the site in order to provide a detailed understanding of the current water environment and ground conditions. Based on these studies, the Proposed Development incorporates sustainable drainage solutions (SuDS), such as swales, attenuation basins, and vegetated buffer zones, to effectively manage surface water runoff and reduce downstream flood risk.

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Community Benefits

We support the local communities around our solar projects, and we aim to create a positive impact both on society and the environment that goes beyond generating renewable energy.

We welcome your ideas on how we can deliver for the community.

Community Benefit Fund

At our projects we invite the local community to help us shape a community benefit package that best meets local needs and wishes.

If this project receives consent, we will work with local stakeholders to establish a community fund of up to £581,000 over the life of the project.

We look forward to hearing from local people throughout the consultation period about what they would like to see.

Local Suppliers

The relationships we forge with local suppliers help our projects to become successful and provide valuable economic benefits through inward investment. If you are a local supplier and are interest in getting involved with the project, please get in touch.

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Project timeline

2021 - 23

- Site selection
- Site surveys
- Environmental assessments
- Landowners' agreement signed

Spring 24

- Early engagement with stakeholders
- Feasibility studies

Summer 24

- Informal consultation

Spring 25

- Statutory Consultation on detailed proposals

Spring 25

- Application submitted to PEDW
- PEDW Consultation on the DNS Application

Winter 25

- Decision on the DNS Application

Summer 26

- Construction begins – this is expected to take approximately 12 months

October 2027

- Solar farm becomes operational

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Feedback and next steps

We invite you to provide feedback on our draft planning application Glyn Taff Solar Farm.

Due to the amount of clean renewable energy the project will generate it is classified as a Development of National Significance (DNS). We are now consulting on the finalised proposals before submitting to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for determination by Welsh Ministers.

Feedback received will be reviewed and responded to in the Consultation Report and submitted to PEDW as part of the planning application.

Have your say

Your feedback is important to help inform the final planning application for Glyn Taff Solar Farm.

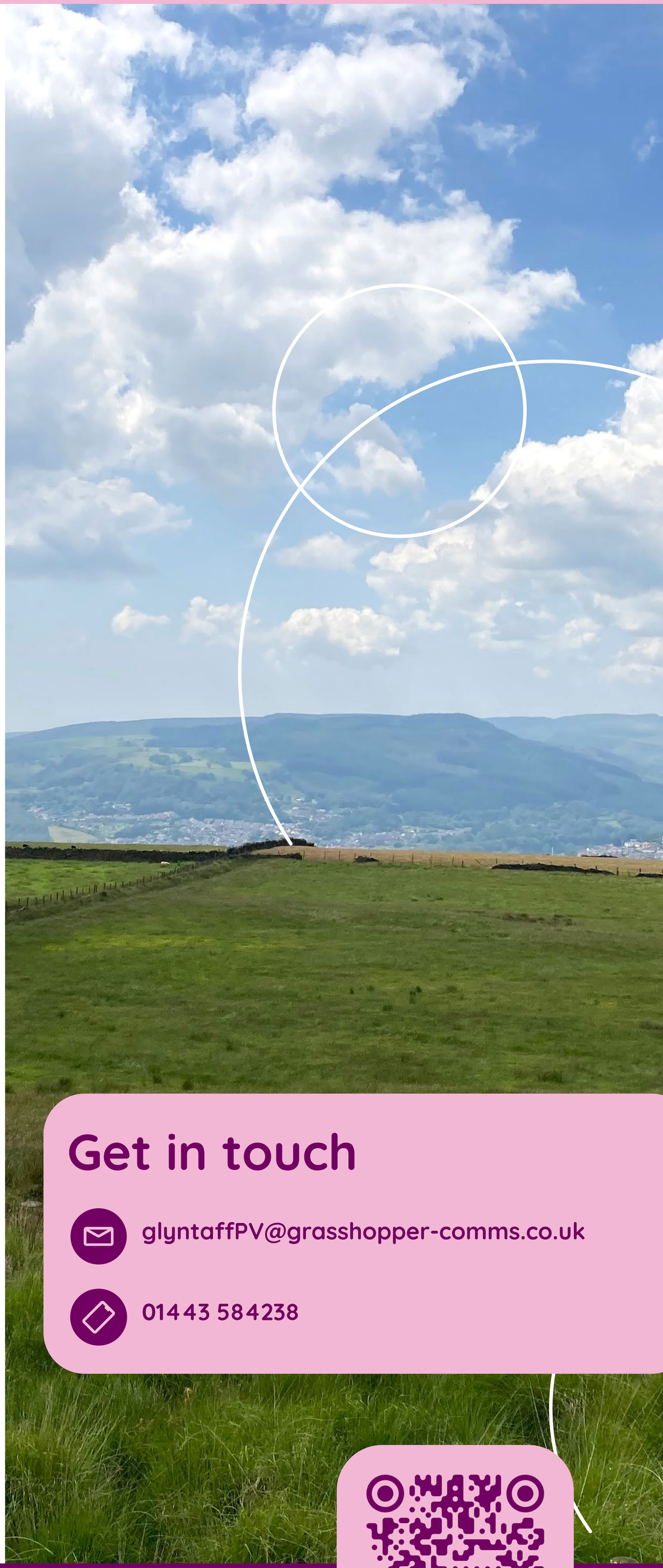
Further information including all planning documents are available to review on the website: **glyntaffsolar.co.uk**

You can give your feedback by **completing the feedback form online.**

Please provide feedback to us by completing your feedback form on the website.
If you would like a paper copy of the feedback form, please give us a call.

Paper copies of the feedback form can be sent to:
Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT (no stamp or further address required).

Please submit your comments by Monday 21 April 2025



Get in touch

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