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7 Historic Environment

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1. This chapter of the Draft Environmental Statement (ES) presents the preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development with respect to the Historic Environment. The preliminary assessment is based on information obtained to date. It should be read in conjunction with the Proposed Development description provided in **Chapter 4: Development Description** and with respect to relevant parts of the following chapters:

- Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual;
- Chapter 11: Ground Conditions; and
- Chapter 13: Noise.

7.1.2. This chapter describes:

- the legislation, policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment (**Section 7.2**);
- consultation and engagement that has been undertaken and how comments from consultees relating to Historic Environment have been addressed (**Section 7.3**);
- the methods used for baseline data gathering (**Section 7.4**);
- overall baseline (**Section 7.5**);
- embedded measures relevant to Historic Environment (**Section 7.6**);
- the scope of the assessment for Historic Environment (**Section 7.7**);
- the methods used for the assessment (**Section 7.8**);
- the preliminary assessment of Historic Environment effects (**Section 7.9**);
- preliminary assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects (**Section 7.10**);
- a summary of the preliminary significance conclusions (**Section 7.11**);
- additional measures proposed (**Section 7.12**);
- Historic Environment residual effects assessment (**Section 7.13**); and
- an outline of further EIA work to be undertaken and reported in the Final ES (**Section 7.14**).

Limitations and assumptions

7.1.3. The information provided in this Draft ES is preliminary, the final assessment of likely significant Historic Environment effects will be reported in the Final ES. This Draft ES has been produced to fulfil the Applicants Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) responsibilities and enable consultees to develop an informed view of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development based on latest current information.

7.1.4. The following overall limitations have been identified:

- A desk-based assessment has been carried out to collect baseline data. With respect to archaeological remains, this is in part a predictive exercise and relies on a series of assumptions and extrapolations to develop an understanding of the potential extent and character of sub-surface remains within the Proposed Development Site (the 'Site'); and
- The desk-based assessment has involved the collection of data from the Historic Environment Record (HER). The HER is continually updated as further data regarding the Historic Environment becomes available; for example, when the results of recent archaeological investigations are made available. As the HER is a record only of known features, it is not a reliable predictive tool but can provide useful information that can be used with other information to develop an understanding of the potential presence, nature and significance of archaeological remains.
- A preliminary assessment of effects associated with the offline access track between Pantside and the unclassified road (see inset A on Figure 1-2) has not been undertaken as part of the Draft ES as the design is yet to be determined. The Final ES will be updated to consider any effects associated with this segment of track.

7.1.5. These limitations relating to Historic Environment do not affect the robustness of the preliminary assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the Proposed Development.

7.2 Relevant legislation, planning policy and technical guidance

7.2.1. This section identifies the legislation, planning policy and technical guidance that has informed the assessment of effects with respect to Historic Environment. Further information on policies relevant to the Proposed Development is provided in **Chapter 5: Legislation and policy overview**.

Legislation

7.2.2. A summary of the relevant legislation is given in Error! Reference source not found.

Table 7.1 Legislation relevant to the Historic Environment assessment.

Legislation	Context
The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023	Provides for the protection of monuments, buildings and conservation areas.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Covers the registration of listed buildings and designation of conservation areas.

Planning Policy

7.2.3. A summary of the relevant national and local planning policy is given in **Table 7.2**.

Table 7.2 Planning policy relevant to the Historic Environment assessment.

Policy	Context
<p>National planning policy Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (February 2021)¹</p>	<p>Policy 18 – states that DNS scale renewable energy developments will be permitted provided there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on statutorily protected built heritage assets.</p> <p>Policy 35 – ‘Valleys Regional Park’ is relevant to southeast Wales. <i>“The Welsh Government supports the establishment of the Valleys Regional Park. Strategic and Local Development Plans should embed its principles into their planning frameworks. The Welsh Government will work with local authorities, the third sector and key partners to support the Valleys Regional Park and maximise opportunities for new development.”</i></p> <p><i>“The Welsh Government, communities and partners have developed a positive framework through ‘Our Valleys, Our Future’ to drive change and regeneration. The Valleys Regional Park seeks to maximise the social, economic and environmental potential of the Valleys’ natural and cultural historic assets and it is important the planning system supports its delivery.”</i></p>
<p>Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12²</p>	<p>National planning policy for Wales is set out in Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12, 2024) (PPW). Chapter 6, ‘Distinctive and Natural Places’, explains how planning system must take into account the Welsh Government’s objectives to protect, conserve, promote and enhance the Historic Environment as a resource for the general well-being of present and future generations. It also sets out the planning policies for the sustainable management of specific categories of historic assets.</p>
<p>Local planning policy Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan³</p>	<p>The Historic Environment is considered in Strategy Policy 6 of the Local Development Plan: Placemaking, which states that development proposals should contribute to creating sustainable places by having full regard to the context of the local, natural, historic and built environment and its special features.</p>

¹ Welsh Government (2025). *Future Wales: the national plan 2040*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

² Welsh Government (2024) *Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-07/planning-policy-wales-edition-12.pdf> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

³ Caerphilly County Borough Council (2010) *Local Development Plan*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/business/planning-and-building-control-for-business/local-development-plan> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

Technical Guidance

7.2.4. A summary of the technical guidance for Historic Environment is given in **Table 7.3**

Table 7.3 Technical guidance relevant to the Historic Environment assessment.

Technical guidance document	Context
Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment⁴	Guidance on how to consider the Historic Environment in development plans and planning decisions.
Cadw Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales⁵	Sets out the general principles to consider when planning changes to historic assets and applying for listed building, conservation area and scheduled monument consent.
Cadw Setting of Historic Assets in Wales⁶	Explains what setting is, how it contributes to the significance of a historic asset and why it is important. Outlines the principles used to assess the potential impact of development or land management proposals within the settings of historic assets.
Cadw Managing Historic Character in Wales⁷	Explains why it is important to recognise historic character and use it as an evidence base for conservation, regeneration and planning work. It shows how policies and programmes to manage change can take inspiration from the past to help create and sustain distinctive places for the future.
Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for Historic Desk Based Assessment⁸	Defines good practice for the execution and reporting of desk-based assessment in line with the regulations of CIfA, in particular the Code of conduct.
CIfA Standard and Guidance for Stewardship for the Historic Environment⁹	Defines the outcome of work that satisfies aspirations for good stewardship, and more detailed guidance describes best practices for achieving it.

⁴ Welsh Government (2017). *Technical advice note (TAN) 24: the Historic Environment*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

⁵ Cadw (2017). *Cadw Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales*. [online]. Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/heritage-impact-assessment> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

⁶ Cadw (2017). *Cadw Setting of Historic Assets in Wales*. [online]. Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/setting-historic-assets> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

⁷ Cadw (2017). *Cadw Managing Historic Character in Wales*. [online]. Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/sites/default/files/2019-05/Managing%20Historic%20Character%20in%20Wales%20EN.pdf> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

⁸ CIfA (2017) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Desk Based Assessment*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

⁹ CIfA (2020) *Standard and Guidance for Stewardship for the Historic Environment*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-Historic-Environment-Stewardship-2020.pdf> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

7.3 Consultation and Engagement

Overview

- 7.3.1. The assessment has been informed by consultation responses and ongoing stakeholder engagement. An overview of the approach to consultation is provided in **Section 2.4 of Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**.

Scoping Opinion

- 7.3.2. A Scoping Direction was issued by the Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW, formerly Planning Inspectorate Wales), on behalf of the Welsh Ministers, on 04 December 2024 (reference DNS CAS-03701-H3V4Y3: Rhyswg Wind Farm).
- 7.3.3. **Table 7.4** outlines the comments made in the Scoping Direction in relation to historic environment and how these have been addressed within this Draft ES, noting that the information provided in the Draft ES is preliminary and not all of the Scoping Direction comments have been addressed at this stage. However, all comments relevant to the assessment will be addressed within the Final ES.

Table 7.4 Summary of EIA Scoping Direction Responses for Historic Environment

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
Cadw	The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 will be enacted before the EIA is produced (now due to be enacted on 04 November 2024). This will replace The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979; The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and therefore these Acts will not need to be considered in the EIA.	This is reflected in Section 7.2 .
	The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023 is a Consolidation Act and should not alter legislation, but it should be noted that section 66 (1) of the Listed Building and Conservation Act 1990 will become section 314A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.	Noted.
	Heneb advise that the archaeology assessment should be informed by a full desk-based assessment carried out to the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance. The scope and methodology for the assessment should be detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and agreed with Heneb.	A desk-based assessment can be found in Appendix 7A . A WSI will be produced in support of the Final ES, and following consultation with relevant stakeholders (Heneb, Caerphilly County Borough Council).
	The SR identifies the potential for previously unrecorded historic assets to	A full analysis of National Wales 1m LiDAR DSM and DTM datasets has

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
	<p>be directly affected by the proposed development. However, Cadw note that the method for identifying such assets has not been provided in the SR. Cadw recommend that the desk-based assessment includes a review of the National Wales 1 metre DTM and DSM Lidar datasets, which may help to target unrecorded assets within the site and inform the walkover survey. Cadw advise that any new assets identified, either by Lidar or walkover, must be verified by the archaeological team. The assets should be mapped, described, photographed and interpreted with images and an accompanying gazetteer of sites included in the report. All sites should be categorized for their importance and the significance of impact assessed in the ES. The survey data should be included as a technical appendix to the ES.</p> <p>The applicant is advised that following the desk-based assessment and walkover survey, they may need to undertake further survey work to obtain information on the sub-surface archaeological potential of the application site. The applicant should refer to detailed comments from Cadw on the potential triggers for further survey work. Cadw highlight that a realistic time period should be allowed to undertake the archaeological assessment and undertake consultation with Heneb and Cadw on the requirement for further surveys.</p> <p>Cadw highlight the potential for intact peat deposits to contain important paleoenvironmental evidence or artefacts of prehistoric date. If peat deposits cannot be avoided, a suitable scheme of sampling, analysis, dating and reporting should be completed using appropriate sampling techniques advised by a paleoenvironmental/ geoarchaeological specialist. The survey work should inform the impact assessment and should be set out in the ES.</p> <p>The applicant's attention is drawn to the heritage assets listed at annex A of Cadw's comments. Cadw advise that a stage 1 assessment should be undertaken for the designated historic assets, which will determine the need for stages 2 to 4 to be carried out for specific historic assets. The assessment should be undertaken in accordance</p>	<p>been undertaken as part of this Preliminary EIA. The results of this are described in Appendix 7A and summarised in Section 7.4 of this Chapter.</p> <p>A site walkover was undertaken on 10 September 2025 which is detailed in Section 7.4.</p> <p>Appendix 7A includes recommendations for further survey work based on the results of the desk-based assessment. This is subject to consultation with Heneb and Caerphilly County Borough Council, with the aim of any surveys being undertaken prior to submission of the Final EIA.</p> <p>The results of a peat survey undertaken for the Scoping Report are included in Chapter 11: Ground Conditions. These results are considered in Section 7.9 and Appendix 7A.</p> <p>A Stage 1 assessment of designated historic assets is presented in Appendix 7C. Section 7.9 contains the results of Stages 2 to 4 in terms of assessments of effects.</p>

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
Caerphilly County Borough Council (comments from Heneb)	with Welsh Government guidance 'The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' and should be included as an appendix to the ES.	
	Cadw advise that the impact on the Gelli-Gaer Common Registered Historic Landscape should be scoped in but this should be considered using the methodology in 'The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales' guidance and does not require a separate ASODOHL assessment.	This asset has been scoped in and is assessed in Section 7.9 .
	The grade II listed Rhyswg Fawr Farmhouse and walled forecourt, and a separate grade II listed barn (Barn at Rhyswg Fawr) sit approximately 150 from the site.	These assets have been assessed in Section 7.9 .
	There are a number of Historic Environment Records in the vicinity of the Site. No comments have been received from Caerphilly Council's archaeology officer, and should any comments be received on this matter, they will be forwarded to PEDW separately.	Direct physical effects on non-designated historic assets are included in Section 7.9 . Noted, we will address any comments of this nature in the Final ES if and when they are received.

Technical Engagement

- 7.3.4. Technical engagement with consultees in relation to Historic Environment is ongoing. A summary of the technical engagement undertaken to date is outlined in **Table 7.5**.

Table 7.5 Technical engagement on the Historic Environment assessment.

Consultee	Consideration	How addressed in this Draft ES
Cadw	Effects on designated historic assets located within 5km of the Proposed Development. Effects on registered historic landscapes of outstanding historic interest and the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site located within 10km of the Proposed Development.	Consultation is underway. Effects on designated assets within 5km of the Proposed Development are considered in the assessment. Effects through change to setting of Gelli-Gaer Common Registered Historic Landscape has been considered in the Stage 1 Settings Assessment and included in this chapter (Section 7.9).

- 7.3.5. Further technical engagement will follow on from stakeholder consultation of the Draft ES.

7.4 Data gathering methodology

Study Areas

7.4.1. In order to inform an assessment of effects on archaeological remains within the Site and the surrounding area, the following Study Areas have been defined:

- A 1km Study Area from the Site has been used to identify historic assets which may be subject to potentially significant effects arising from direct ground disturbance (shown in **Volume 3, Figure 7.2**); and
- A 5km Study Area from the Site has been defined to identify historic assets which may be subject to potentially significant effects arising from changes to their settings (shown in **Volume 3, Figure 7.1**). This was defined at Scoping and has since been agreed through consultation. The Scoping Report stated that a distance of 10km from the Site would be used to scope in the most sensitive and significant historic assets which fall within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). This has been taken forward in this chapter as presented in **Section 7.7** and **7.9**.

7.4.2. The 5km Study Area extending from the turbines of the Proposed Development was deemed appropriate as it is these elements of infrastructure which have the potential for significant effects through change to setting. The access related elements of the Proposed Development will be primarily used in the construction phase where no significant effects through change to setting are anticipated.

Desk Study

7.4.3. An Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) has been completed as part of this Draft ES (**Appendix 7A**). This sets out the sources consulted to establish the baseline for the Site and determines archaeological potential.

7.4.4. A summary of the organisations that have supplied data, together with the nature of that data is outlined in **Table 7.6**.

Table 7.6 Data sources used to inform the Historic Environment assessment

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales (CADW)	Cadw record with information on statutorily designated historic assets. ¹⁰	Statutory designations (scheduled monuments; statutorily listed buildings; registered parks and gardens; historic battlefields).
Historic Environment Record Glamorgan Gwent (Heneb)	HER. ¹¹	Primary repository of archaeological information. Includes information from past investigations, local knowledge, find spots, and documentary and cartographic sources.

¹⁰ Cof Cymru - National Historic Assets of Wales (CADW) (2025). *National Historic Assets of Wales*. [online]. Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/cof-cymru> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

¹¹ Historic Environment Record Team Glamorgan Gwent (Heneb) (2025). *Historic Environment Record*. [online]. Available at: <https://heneb.org.uk/historic-environment-records-her/> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
Coflein	Online database for the National Monument Record of Wales (NMRW) ¹²	Details of many thousands of archaeological sites, monuments, buildings and maritime sites in Wales, together with an index to the drawings, manuscripts and photographs held in the NMRW archive collections.
British Geological Survey (BGS)	Solid and drift geology digital map; online BGS geological borehole record data. ¹³	Subsurface deposition, including buried geology and topography, can provide an indication of potential for early human settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains.
Soilscapes	Details of soil types in England and Wales. ¹⁴	Subsurface deposition, including soil type, can provide an indication of potential for early human settlement, and potential depth of archaeological remains, as well as influence the suitability of other techniques, such as aerial photographic analysis and geophysical survey.
Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS)	Database of archaeological finds found by chance. ¹⁵	Government funded project to encourage the voluntary recording of archaeological objects found by members of the public. Database is online at finds.org.uk. This was consulted for the Site and its immediate vicinity only.
National Library Scotland	Ordnance Survey maps from the 1st edition onwards. ¹⁶	Provides a good indication of past land use and impacts which may have compromised archaeological survival. Provides an indication of the possible date of any buildings within the Site.
Welsh Government	Lidar data obtained from DataMapsWales. ¹⁷	Helps to map and measure surface archaeological remains, surviving earthworks, historic field boundaries, and other features of archaeological interest in the

¹² Coflein (2025) *Online database for the National Monuments Record of Wales*. [online]. Available at: <https://rcahmw.gov.uk/discover/coflein/> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

¹³ British Geological Survey (2025). *Maps and Resources*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discovering-geology/maps-and-resources/maps/> [Accessed 9 September 2025].

¹⁴ Soilscapes (2025). *Soilscape Viewer* [online]. Available at: <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> [Accessed 9 September 2025].

¹⁵ Portable Antiquities Scheme (2025). *PAS Database*. [online]. Available at: <https://finds.org.uk/database> [Accessed 9 September 2025].

¹⁶ National Library of Scotland (2025). *Georeferenced Maps*. [online]. Available at: <https://maps.nls.uk/> [Accessed 9 September 2025].

¹⁷ Welsh Government (2025). *Datamap Wales: LiDAR Data download*. [online]. Available at: <https://datamap.gov.wales/maps/lidar-data-download/> [Accessed 1 September 2025].

Organisation	Data source	Data provided
		landscape, within and around the Site.

Site Visit

- 7.4.5. The HEDBA has been supported by a Site visit carried out on the 10th and 11th of September 2025. The purpose of this was to determine the topography of the Site and Study Area, the existing land use, the nature of any existing structures, the identification of any visible heritage assets (e.g. structures and earthworks), and assess factors which may have affected the survival or condition of any known or potential assets. The portion of the Site containing the proposed turbines was subjected to detailed walkover; however walkover of the entirety of the proposed access route portion of the Site was limited due to unsafe ground conditions. No earthwork features of possible archaeological origin were identified through LiDAR survey, detailed in **Appendix 7A**, so ground truthing during the Site visit was not required.
- 7.4.6. The visit also extended beyond the Site for the purposes of scoping heritage assets and their intervisibility with the Proposed Development, as required by Cadw guidance,⁵ and for the settings assessments.
- 7.4.7. The visit confirmed the Site to be comprised of enclosed fields used for pasture. The enclosures were bounded by hedges and earthen banks. No previously unknown earthworks were identified, though the location and condition of the remains of a barn (05031g) and a former farmstead (02205g) were confirmed.
- 7.4.8. Selected photographs and notes from the Site visit can be found in **Volume 4, Appendix 7A** and in **Section 7.5**.

7.5 Overall baseline

Current baseline

- 7.5.1. The archaeological and historical background of the Site and 1km Study Area is described in the HEDBA (**Appendix 7A**), which also details its topographic and geological context.

Designated historic assets

- 7.5.2. There are no designated historic assets within the Site. The closest designated heritage assets to the Site are the Grade II listed buildings associated with Rhyswg Farm (1900; 20998), approximately 150 metres (m) to the west. No scheduled monuments, registered park and gardens, conservation areas or World Heritage Sites are located within the 1km Study Area.
- 7.5.3. A Stage 1 Settings Assessment has been carried out for all the designated historic assets within the 5km Study Area, in accordance with The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales¹⁸ (**Volume 4, Appendix 7C**). The selection of historic assets included in the Draft ES has been completed with

¹⁸ Cadw (2017). Setting of Historic Assets in Wales. [Online] Available at: <https://cadw.gov.wales/advice-support/placemaking/heritage-impact-assessment/setting-historic-assets> [Accessed 5 September 2025].

reference to the ZTV that have been generated to show the area of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines based on a three-turbine layout of 180m to blade tip as shown on **Figure 7.1**.

- 7.5.4. From the results of the Stage 1 Settings Assessment, eight scheduled monuments, seven listed buildings (including groups) and one conservation area have been assessed further, along with one Registered Historic Landscape within 10km of the Site. Scoped in designated assets are listed in **Table 7.7** and within **Appendix 7C**.

Table 7.7 Scoped in Designated Assets within 5km of the Site

Cadw Reference	Name	Rationale
589	Begwns Round Barrow, Mynydd Machen	Within ZTV. Situated 4.6 km from Site. Potential effect due to prominent hilltop location and proximity to Proposed Development.
1096	House Platforms to W of Mynydd Machen	Within ZTV. Situated 4.6 km from Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
2349	Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle	Within ZTV. Situated 1.8 km from Site. Potential effect due to prominent hilltop location and proximity to Proposed Development.
2968	Cairns West of Craig y Dyffryn	Within ZTV. Situated 2.1 km from Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
2350	Round Cairn 315m S of Upper Wenallt	Within ZTV. Situated 4.3 km from Site. Potential effect due to prominent location in the landscape and proximity to Proposed Development.
1882	Church of St Tudor Mynyddislwyn	Within ZTV. Situated 3 km from Site. Potential effect due to prominent location in the landscape and proximity to Proposed Development.
1900 20998	Rhyswg Fawr Farmhouse and walled forecourt Barn at Rhyswg Fawr	Within ZTV. Situated 150m from Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
1903	Church of St Luke	Within ZTV. Situated 3.2 km from Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
1908	Garden Suburbs group and conservation area.	Within ZTV. Situated 1.8 km from Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
CYNONHL831	Gelli-gaer Historic Landscape	Within ZTV. Situated 9.2 km from Site. Potential effect due to elevated position in the landscape which offers long views.

Non-Designated historic assets

- 7.5.5. Two non-designated historic assets within the Site are recorded in HER data. A further heritage asset from the Coflein database is also located within the Site. These are shown in **Table 7.8**. A further four HER entries are located within the 1km Study Area. These are described in **Appendix 7A**, listed in **Appendix 7B** and shown on **Figure 7.2**.

Table 7.8 Non-Designated historic assets within the Site (GGAT HER)

HER Ref	Name	Period
05031g	Ruined Barn, Abercarn	Post-medieval
02205g	Blaen Gotappy; Rhyswg Ganol	Post-medieval
421323 (NPRN)	Rhyswg Grange	Medieval

Archaeological Potential within the Site

Prehistoric, Roman, early medieval and medieval buried archaeological remains

- 7.5.6. As described in detail within the HEDBA (**Appendix 7A**), there are no recorded historic assets dating to the prehistoric periods within the 1km Study Area which would indicate the presence of remains dating to these periods within the Site. Therefore, the potential for prehistoric remains is considered to be low.
- 7.5.7. There is no recorded evidence for Roman activity within the 1km Study Area to indicate the presence of previously unknown archaeological remains dating to this period within the Site. Therefore, the potential for archaeological remains relating to Roman activity within the Site is considered to be low.
- 7.5.8. There is one non-designated heritage asset dated to the medieval period within the Site which comprises the site of the former Rhyswg Grange (421323 (NPRN)). This asset is related to a documentary record, and no remains survive above ground, as evidenced through the lack of possible earthwork remains identified on the LiDAR survey (**Appendix 7A**) and Site walkover. It is possible that potential remains related to this asset are located beneath upstanding remains of Blaen Gotappy (02205g) or Rhyswg Farm (1900). The southern portion of the Site comprises an enclosed field system, of which parts may be related to the medieval Rhyswg Grange. The overall potential for archaeological remains relating to medieval activity within the Site is considered to be low.

Post-medieval buried archaeological remains

- 7.5.9. The remains of former farm buildings dating to the post-medieval period are located within the Site (Ref: 05031g; Ref: 02205g); see Appendix 7C Plate 1. These, along with the nearby existing Rhyswg Farm (Cadw 1900), are the foci for activity within the southern portion of the Site. The field system which comprises the southern portion of the Site is likely to be largely a product of post-medieval agricultural development. No discernible earthwork features of archaeological origin have been identified on LiDAR imagery. Therefore, the Site has low potential for archaeological remains relating to post-medieval agricultural activity.



Plate 1 Remains of former barn (05031g) looking east

Summary

- 7.5.10. The Site has a history of pastoral use, with open moorland to the north along the access route. An assessment of the available data has concluded that the general archaeological potential of the Site from all periods is low.
- 7.5.11. **Appendix 7A** also includes a discussion on the palaeoenvironmental potential within the Site. Drawing on a peat survey undertaken in 2021 which includes the Site, it was found that potential peat depths extended to between 0.00m and 0.10m. Peat is defined by the Welsh Government as >40cm thickness organic 'O' horizon material within the upper 80cm, or, >30cm organic 'O' horizon material resting directly on bedrock¹⁹; and therefore, the Site cannot generally be considered to be underlain by peat.
- 7.5.12. Beyond the known post-medieval farmstead and barn recorded within the HER, there are post-medieval agricultural land divisions in localised areas of the Site, along with the remains of mineral extraction in the immediate vicinity. These remains are of low (local) significance. As such the Site has a low potential for as-yet unknown post-medieval and modern remains.

¹⁹ Welsh Government (2022) Production of the Peatlands of Wales map: Soil Policy Evidence Programme, March 2022, Report code: SPEP2020-21/03. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/production-peatlands-wales-map> [Accessed 22 October 2025].

Historic Assets subject to potential effects arising from changes to setting

Scheduled monument: Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle (Cadw 2349)

- 7.5.13. The monument comprises the remains of a motte and bailey castle, a military stronghold built during the medieval period, possibly built on the site of an earlier Iron Age hillfort. The motte and bailey occupies a prominent position on a conical shaped hill at the west end of Mynydd Henllys. The hill slopes steeply on all sides and there are panoramic views in all directions. The motte is located at the eastern end of the hilltop. It is steep-sided, 7m high with a flat summit 17m in diameter, and a bank and ditch run around the long oval hilltop enclosing an area of approximately nine acres. The interior of the enclosed area is gently sloping and featureless (with the exception of a trig point). A track runs through the middle of the enclosed area, with newly-built steps leading over the ramparts at the western end.
- 7.5.14. The monument is of significance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval defensive organisation and later prehistoric defensive organisation and settlement. The well-preserved monument forms an important element within the wider later prehistoric and medieval context and the structure itself may be expected to contain archaeological information relating to chronology, building techniques and functional detail. The setting is defined through long panoramic views from the monument (see example in Plate 2), and also from views of the monument from various points in the landscape. These enable the monument's historic and aesthetic value to be understood and appreciated. The monument is located within the ZTV, with three turbines being theoretically visible.



Plate 2 Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle (Cadw 2349) looking north towards the Site
Scheduled monument: Begwns Round Barrow, Mynydd Machen
(Cadw 589)

- 7.5.15. The scheduled monument comprises the remains of an earth and stone-built round barrow, which probably dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). The monument is situated on the summit of Mynydd Machen and has a Trig Point on top of it (see Plate 3). It is circular in plan, 17m in diameter and 2.5m high with a flat top.
- 7.5.16. The monument carries historic, evidential and aesthetic value as an asset of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The monument represents an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential. There is a strong probability of the presence of both intact ritual and burial deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. The setting is defined through long panoramic views from the monument, and from views of the monument from various points in the landscape. These enable the monument's historical and archaeological importance to be understood and appreciated. The monument is located within the ZTV, with three turbines being theoretically visible. Views in the direction of the Site would include the presence of a communications tower which is shown in Plate 3.



Plate 3 Begwns Round Barrow, Mynydd Machen (Cadw 589) looking northeast towards the Site

Scheduled Monument: House Platforms to W of Mynydd Machen (Cadw 1096)

- 7.5.17. This scheduled monument comprises the remains of two house platforms, probably dating to the medieval or post-medieval periods and situated immediately adjacent to each other in open moorland on the sheltered west facing upper slopes of Mynydd Machen. Both platforms are sub-rectangular in plan and are terraced into the west facing slope. The remains are likely to be representative of seasonal settlement activity and would have been associated with buildings relating to summer grazing.
- 7.5.18. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval and post-medieval land use, settlement and economy. The historic and evidential value of the asset is derived from it being a relatively well-preserved example of an upland settlement and retains archaeological potential to enhance our knowledge of medieval and post-medieval stock rearing practices in the upland zone, whether as permanent settlement, regular transhumance (such as the hafod system of summer pasture), or intermittent opportunistic expansion. The setting is defined through the monument's relationship to the local upland landscape, which enables its historic and aesthetic value to be understood and appreciated. The monument is located within the ZTV, with three turbines being theoretically visible. Views in the direction of the Proposed Development are not considered to be key in understanding and appreciating the monument as long views are not considered to be key to understanding the significance of the monument.

Scheduled monument: Cairns West of Craig y Dyffryn (Cadw: 2968)

- 7.5.19. This scheduled monument comprises the remains of four burial cairns, probably dating to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC), located on an area of level ground on the south facing slopes of Mynydd Henllys in an area of commercial forestry (see Plate 4). The cairns are sub-circular in plan and survive as upstanding archaeological features. It is unclear how much damage has been caused to archaeological remains associated with this monument through commercial forestry practices.
- 7.5.20. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance our knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual practices. The monument carries historic, evidential and aesthetic value as an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both intact burial or ritual deposits, together with environmental and structural evidence. The cairns may be part of a larger cluster of monuments, and their importance can be further enhanced by their group value. The setting is defined through views from the monument to the south, and from views of the monument from the south. These enable the monument's historic and aesthetic value to be understood and appreciated. The monument is located within the ZTV, with two turbines being theoretically visible.



Plate 4 Cairns West of Craig y Dyffryn (Cadw 2968) looking north towards the Site

Scheduled Monument: Round Cairn 315m S of Upper Wenallt (Cadw 2350)

- 7.5.21. This scheduled monument comprises the remains of a round barrow which most likely dates to the Bronze Age (c.2300 BC - 800 BC). It is situated in enclosed improved meadow on the southwest facing slopes above Risca and immediately to the north of a modern housing estate. The vegetation-covered barrow (see Plate 5) is circular in plan and measures approximately 12m in diameter and up to 0.4m in height.
- 7.5.22. The monument is of national importance for its potential to enhance knowledge of prehistoric burial and ritual. The well-preserved monument carries historic, evidential and aesthetic value as an important relic of a prehistoric funerary and ritual landscape and retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of both further burial or ritual deposits and environmental and structural evidence, including a buried prehistoric land surface. The setting is defined through long panoramic views from the monument to the southeast, and also from views of the monument from the southeast. These enable the monument's historic and aesthetic value to be understood and appreciated. The monument is located within the ZTV at a distance of approximately 4.3 km from the Site, with two turbines theoretically visible.



Plate 5 Round Cairn 315m S of Upper Wenallt (Cadw 2350) Looking northwest towards the Site

Grade II* and II listed buildings: Church of St Tudor Mynyddislwyn group (Cadw 1882; 22315)

- 7.5.23. St Tudor's Church, a late medieval building with documented earlier origins, was severely damaged by fire in 1800 and was restored and re-opened in 1820. It served a large community of rural farmsteads and early industrial development in the valleys.
- 7.5.24. St Tudor's Church is Grade II* listed, and carries historic, aesthetic and communal values as an important parish church of south-east Wales, including a medieval nave arcade and a rare set of early 19th century iron-framed windows with contemporary glazing. It is located in a commanding position on a west facing slope, with group value with the lychgate that is likely contemporary with the early 19th century works. The lychgate is a rectangular building of tooled stone and coursed rubble with a pyramidal tiled roof, of historic significance as an unusually well-designed lychgate. The associated lychgate and churchyard form the immediate setting of the assets (see Plate 6), enabling the assets' historic, aesthetic and communal value to be appreciated and understood. The asset group is located within the ZTV, with two turbines theoretically visible. Long views towards the Proposed Development are not considered key to understanding and appreciating the historic, aesthetic and communal values of these assets.



Plate 6 Church of St Tudor Mynyddislwyn (Cadw 1882) looking east towards the Site

Grade II listed buildings: Rhyswg Fawr Farm group (1900; 20998)

- 7.5.25. The farmhouse dates to the early C17, with later alterations. The left unit is the original house; the right unit was formerly a byre and later incorporated into the dwelling, with an inserted floor probably in place of an earlier hayloft. This land before the Reformation was part of Llantarnam Abbey estate and the former house name, Rhyswg Grange, may refer to a medieval outlier of the monastic settlement here. The current house (see Plate 7) may therefore be located upon a former structure relating to the medieval grange.
- 7.5.26. These listed buildings carry historic and aesthetic value as good examples of a Welsh upland farm complex, with historic value drawn from associations with the former medieval Rhyswg Grange. The farmstead forms the immediate setting of these assets which enable them to be understood, appreciated and experienced. The buildings are located within 300m of the Site and are situated within the ZTV, with three turbines theoretically visible.



Plate 7 Rhyswg Fawr Farmhouse and walled forecourt (Cadw 1900) looking east towards the Site

Grade II* listed building: Church of St Luke (Cadw 1903)

- 7.5.27. The Church of St Luke was built 1923-6, by architect J Coates Carter, of Cardiff and Penarth. It is a large church in simplified Early Gothic style, constructed of roughly dressed freestone and concrete with some ashlar dressings. Its plan is an aisled nave with parish rooms, a tall southern tower, chancel with overlapping aisles, northern porch, and a two-storey western front with tall, crenelated and buttressed centre bay. It became redundant in the 1980s and is now a ruin (see Plate 8).
- 7.5.28. This historic asset carries historic, aesthetic and communal value as one of the most strikingly original churches built in Britain between the World Wars. The church has a localised setting within the town of Abercarn, set into the wooded hillside above the Ebbw Vale just above the centre of the town, with the church frontage accessed from the north. The asset's localised setting allows its historic and aesthetic and communal value to be understood, appreciated and experienced. It is located within the ZTV with three turbines theoretically visible. Long views of and towards the Proposed Development are not considered key to understanding and appreciating the historic, aesthetic and communal values of this asset.



Plate 8 Church of St Luke (Cadw 1903) looking southeast

Conservation area and Grade II listed buildings: Garden Suburbs group (Inspire ID: WAL/CAER/HE 4.11)

- 7.5.29. This conservation area has been designated for the special interest of its Arts and Crafts design at the heart of this well-preserved garden village. Part of the Garden City Movement, Garden Suburbs Pont-y-Waun was begun in 1918, built by Ebbw Vale Steel, Iron and Coal Company for the officials of the Abercarn, Cwm Carn and Prince of Wales Collieries and was completed in three or four phases. The linear plan is composed of a single road with a circus (open area) near the mid-point. The houses on the east side are set above the road while those to the west are below it (see Plate 9).
- 7.5.30. This conservation area and listed buildings carry historic and aesthetic value as good examples of the Arts and Crafts architecture and carry historical and architectural interest. Taken together, these assets draw significance through inward views of the conservation area, which enables them to be experienced and understood. The conservation area forms the setting of these assets, with inward views enabling them to be understood, experienced and appreciated. The assets are located within the ZTV, with three turbines being theoretically visible. Longer views of and towards the Proposed Development are not considered to be key to understanding the historic and aesthetic value of these assets.



Plate 9 Garden Suburbs Conservation Area looking north east towards the Site

Historic Landscape: Gelli-gaer Common (CYNONHL831)

- 7.5.31. The landscape area of Gelligaer Common an increasingly rare survival in southeast Wales of an area of high upland moor rich in a diverse archaeological resource. The Common and the area lying immediately to the southeast, which is included in the registered landscape, is approximately 8km long and 1km wide and extends from the pivotal ancient settlement of Gelligaer in the southeast to the summits of Pen Garnbugail and Mynydd Fochriw in the northwest. The landscape is diverse both in its form and in its archaeological and historical content, which displays a remarkable continuity of occupation. The landscape of the wider Common contains a rich diversity of archaeological sites, demonstrating a long continuity of human occupation and activity.
- 7.5.32. Gelligaer Common carries historic, evidential and aesthetic value as a landscape of national importance, representing an extensive area of high upland moor with an exceptionally rich and diverse archaeological heritage, with significant evidence of prehistoric and medieval occupation. It is located within the ZTV, with three turbines theoretically visible. Its elevated position in the landscape offers long views in all directions (see example in Plate 10); however, the setting of the landscape is focused on the many historic assets contained within. This allows the historic and aesthetic value of the historic landscape to be understood, appreciated and experienced. While situated 9.2 km northwest of the Proposed Development, and therefore considerably beyond the 5km setting Study Area, it is scoped into the assessment as a result of consultation with Cadw.



Plate 10 Gelli-gaer Registered Historic Landscape (CYNONHL831) from SO117000 looking southeast towards the Site

Future baseline

7.5.33. There are no known committed development(s) or forecasted changes that would materially alter the baseline conditions during the construction, and operation phases of the Proposed Development. It is likely that continuing pastoral use of the Site would result in no change to any archaeological remains that may be present.

7.6 Embedded measures

7.6.1. A range of environmental measures have been embedded into the Proposed Development as outlined in **Section 3.4. Table 7.9** outlines how these embedded measures will influence the Historic Environment assessment.

Table 7.9 Summary of the embedded environmental measures

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
Construction			

Receptor	Potential changes and effects	Embedded measures	Compliance mechanism
Known archaeological remains	Direct disturbance to known assets.	The assets are of local significance and would be avoided by the design of the Proposed Development (as described in Chapter 4.0).	Development design
Sub-surface archaeology	Direct disturbance to sub-surface archaeology.	Impacts to previously unknown archaeology within the Site would be mitigated through archaeological recording such as excavation or watching brief in any areas of impact, if appropriate. The exact method of archaeological recording would need to be agreed and would subsequently be secured through a DNS planning condition.	DNS Planning Condition
Ruined Barn (05031g) Rhyswg-Ganol farmstead (02205g)	Direct disturbance to upstanding archaeology	To assurance the avoidance of known archaeological constraints and to ensure construction works do not encroach into the area of the assets they will be temporarily fenced off, with signage instructing avoidance, throughout construction works.	DNS planning condition
Operation Designated assets within 5km with potential effects	Effects to the significance of the historic asset through change to its setting.	Designs have kept effects to a minimum (as described in Chapter 4.0).	Development design

7.7 Scope of the assessment

Spatial Scope

7.7.1. The spatial scope of the Historic Environment assessment covers the area of the Proposed Development contained within the Site, together with Study Areas described in **Section 7.5**; effects to the historic assets arising from changes to their settings have been assessed within the 5km Study Area (**Figure 7.1**), while a 1km Study Area has been used to assess archaeological potential within the Site and to identify likely direct physical effects within the footprint of the Proposed Development (**Figure 7.2**).

Temporal Scope

7.7.2. The temporal scope of the assessment of Historic Environment is consistent with the period over which the Proposed Development would be carried out and therefore covers the construction and operational periods.

7.7.3. Decommissioning activities would not be expected to result in notable additional ground disturbance, though this would depend on the location of any on-site temporary compound. The

removal of turbines and grid connection infrastructure would end any operational period effects through change to setting of historic assets and would not give rise to any additional effect. Therefore, decommissioning period effects are not assessed.

Potential Receptors

- 7.7.4. The receptors taken forward for assessment have been identified through desk-based assessment and consultation with Cadw.
- 7.7.5. The receptors that will potentially be affected by the Proposed Development comprise:
- Sub-surface archaeological remains surviving within the Site;
 - Identified scheduled monuments, listed buildings, registered historic landscapes and conservation areas within the 5km Study Area; and
 - Gelligaer Common (CYNONHL831).
- 7.7.6. A Stage 1 Settings Assessment in accordance with The Setting of Historic Assets in Wales has been undertaken for all designated historic assets within 5km of the Site and is presented in **Appendix 7C**. The selection of historic assets to be included in the Draft ES has been completed with reference to the ZTV which have been calculated to show the area of theoretical visibility of the proposed turbines based on a three- turbine layout of 180m turbine height (to blade tips).
- 7.7.7. Including the historic assets identified through the Stage 1 Settings Assessment (**Appendix 7C**), the principal Historic Environment receptors that have been identified as being potentially subject to significant effects are summarised in Error! Reference source not found. **Table 7.10**.

Table 7.10 Historic Environment receptors subject to potential effects

Receptor	Reason for consideration
On-site sub-surface archaeological remains	There is the potential for effects as a result of groundworks and other construction activities that are likely to completely or partially remove identified and as yet unknown historic assets.
Off-site designated assets identified by the Stage 1 Settings Assessment in Appendix 7C).	Within ZTV. Within 5km of the Site. Potential effect due to proximity to Proposed Development.
Gelligaer Common	Within ZTV. Potential effect through change to setting in terms of long views (9.2km) towards Proposed Development.

Potentially significant effects

- 7.7.8. The effects on Historic Environment receptors which have the potential to be significant and have been taken forward for detailed assessment are summarised in Error! Reference source not found. **7.11**. A summary of the reasons for consideration of these assets is provided, with further information on setting assessment rationale given in **Appendix 7C**.

Table 7.11 Historic Environment receptors scoped in for further assessment

Receptors	Reason for consideration
Sub-surface archaeological remains	There is potential for loss of or disturbance to sub-surface archaeological remains as a result of groundworks and other

Receptors	Reason for consideration
	construction activities that are likely to completely or partially remove as yet unknown historic assets.
Scheduled monuments	
Scheduled monument: Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle (Cadw 2349)	Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle is situated in a prominent position on a conical shaped hill at the west end of Mynydd Henllys.
Begwns Round Barrow, Mynydd Machen (Cadw 589)	Begwns Round Barrow is situated in a prominent position in the landscape with long panoramic views, including towards the Proposed Development.
House Platforms to W of Mynydd Machen (Cadw 1096)	The archaeological remains associated with these former upland seasonal dwellings are located on a west facing slope. Long views are available to the west. Views in the direction of the Proposed Development are restricted by local topography.
Cairns West of Craig y Dyffryn (Cadw: 2968)	This monument is located on a south facing slope with long views available in this direction. Long views of and from the monument in the direction of the Proposed Development are restricted by topography.
Round Cairn 315m S of Upper Wenallt	This monument is located on a south facing slope with long views available in this direction. Long views of and from the monument in the direction of the Proposed Development are restricted by topography.
Listed Buildings	
Church of St Tudor Mynyddislwyn group (Cadw 1882; 22315)	The church is located in a prominent position in the landscape on a west facing slope.
Rhyswg Fawr Farm group (1900; 20998)	Rhyswg farm group is located on a prominent spur in the landscape on a slight west facing slope.
Church of St Luke (Cadw 1903)	The church of St Luke is located within the town of Abercarn and is set into a wooded hillside.
Garden Suburbs group (also a conservation area)	The Garden Suburbs Conservation Area and listed buildings are set within a well-preserved garden village adjacent to a steep hillside.
Registered Historic Landscape	
Gelligaer Common	The landscape of Gelligaer Common has an upland location with long views available from multiple locations.

Effects scoped out of the Historic Environment assessment

- 7.7.9. Effects scoped out of the Historic Environment assessment are included in **Table 7.12**, with details of those historic assets scoped out from further consideration provided in **Appendix 7C**.

Table 7.12 Summary of effects scoped out of the Historic Environment assessment

Receptors/potential effects	Justification
Construction effects through change to setting	Construction impacts on the setting of heritage assets have been scoped out of the assessment as these would be of a temporary nature, would cease during operation and would not result in significant adverse effects.

Effects through decommissioning

Decommissioning activities would not be expected to result in notable additional ground disturbance, though this would depend on the location of any on-site temporary compound. The removal of turbines and grid connection infrastructure would end any operational period effects through change to setting of historic assets and would not give rise to any additional effect.

7.8 Assessment methodology

7.8.1. The generic project-wide approach to the assessment methodology is set out in **Chapter 2: Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment**, and specifically in Section 2.5 to 2.8. However, whilst this has informed the approach that has been used in this Historic Environment assessment, it is necessary to set out how this methodology has been applied, and adapted as appropriate, to address the specific needs of this assessment.

Determining the significance of effects

- 7.8.2. The EIA Regulations recognise that developments will affect different environmental elements to differing degrees, and that not all of these are of sufficient concern to warrant detailed investigation or assessment through the EIA process. The EIA Regulations identify those environmental resources that warrant investigation as those that are “*likely to be significantly affected by the development*”.
- 7.8.3. The EIA Regulations do not define significance, and it will be necessary to state how this will be defined for the EIA. The significance of an effect is most commonly assessed by reference to the sensitivity, importance or value of a receptor and the magnitude of change resulting from a proposed development. This approach provides a mechanism for identifying areas where mitigation measures may be required and to identify the most appropriate measures to alleviate the risk presented by a proposed development.
- 7.8.4. For the purposes of assessing the significance of effects, heritage assets have been assigned to one of four categories of value, with reference to the heritage interests described in Conservation Principles and relying on professional judgement as informed by policy and guidance. The hierarchy of heritage value categories given in **Table 7.13** reflects the technical advice note (TAN)24²⁰ distinction between designated and non-designated historic assets. TAN24 further distinguishes between designated assets of the highest heritage significance (i.e., scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, Registered Battlefields, Grade I and II* listed buildings, Grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites) and other designated historic assets.

Table 7.13 Establishing the value of historic assets

Heritage value	Summary rationale	Examples
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²⁰ Welsh Government (2017) *Technical Advice Note 24: the historic environment*. [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/technical-advice-note-tan-24-historic-environment> [Accessed 15 September 2025].

High	Asset has significance for an outstanding level of archaeological, architectural, historic and/or artistic interest.	All designated heritage assets or non-designated assets of demonstrably schedulable quality.
Medium	Asset has significance for a high level of archaeological, architectural, historic and/or artistic interest.	Locally listed buildings and buildings of merit. Regionally significant non-designated historic assets of archaeological interest.
Low	Asset has significance for elements of archaeological architectural, historic or artistic interest.	Locally significant historic assets of archaeological interest and important hedgerows.
Negligible	Due to its nature of form/condition/survival, cannot be considered as an asset in its own right.	Non-extant HER references.

7.8.5. **Table 7-14** details the basis for establishing magnitude of change as a result of the Proposed Development.

Table 7.14 Establishing the magnitude of change

Magnitude	Criteria
High	Loss of significance of an order of magnitude that would result from total or substantial demolition/disturbance of a heritage asset or from the disassociation of an asset from its setting.
Medium	Loss of significance arising from partial disturbance or inappropriate alteration of asset which will adversely affect its importance. Change to the key characteristics of an asset's setting, which gives rise to harm to the significance of the asset but which still allows its archaeological, architectural or historic interest to be appreciated.
Low	Minor loss to or alteration of an asset which leaves its current significance largely intact. Minor and short-term changes to setting which do not affect the key characteristics and in which the historical context remains substantially intact.
Negligible	Minor alteration of an asset which does not affect its significance in any discernible way. Minor and short term or reversible change to setting which does not affect the significance of the asset.

7.8.6. The matrix in **Table 7-15** has been prepared to guide the assessment of whether effects on the Historic Environment for the purposes of EIA are considered to be significant or not. The classification of the effect is judged on the relationship of the value of the heritage asset and the magnitude of change to the assessed heritage significance of the resource as a result of the Proposed Development. Professional judgement is also applied in determining the significance of effect.

7.8.7. As a general rule, major and moderate effects (shaded in **Table 7-15**) are considered to be significant and minor and negligible effects are considered to be not significant.

Table 7.15 Significance of evaluation matrix

		Heritage value			
		Negligible	Low	Medium	High
Magnitude of change	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Minor	Minor
	Low	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Moderate
	Medium	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Major
	High	Minor	Moderate	Major	Major

7.9 Preliminary assessment of Historic Environment effects

Construction Phase Direct Disturbance

Archaeological Remains

- 7.9.1. Intrusive groundworks would take place in specific areas across the Site, including:
- upgrading of existing tracks and construction of new access tracks and passing places inter-linking the turbine locations and substation;
 - temporary site compounds;
 - wind turbine foundations;
 - wind turbine crane hard standing, with adjacent blade storage areas;
 - cable trenches; and
 - switchroom and substation compound.
- 7.9.2. To reduce the likelihood of potential archaeological impacts, the design of the Proposed Development has avoided the locations of known post-medieval historic assets, field boundary walls and all known non-designated historic assets within the Site. Therefore, no direct impacts are predicted to known archaeological remains.
- 7.9.3. The Site has a history of pastoral use, particularly in the area where turbines and associated infrastructure are located, with a large expanse of open moorland between the Site and southern most hardstanding of the proposed Mynydd Maen development through which the access track will traverse. An assessment of all available data on historic assets, presented in **Appendix 7A**, identified a very low density of post medieval recorded archaeological remains, in the form of former farm structures and field boundaries, and areas of former mineral extraction.
- 7.9.4. It is anticipated on current evidence that any as yet unknown archaeological remains would be of likely low heritage significance. Invasive works could adversely affect any surviving sub-surface archaeological remains, reducing or removing their ability to be further interpreted (high magnitude). This would result in, at worst, a loss of archaeological interest in specific areas of the Site. In the absence of mitigation measures, this could result in a **moderate effect** that would be **significant** in EIA terms.

Operational Phase Impacts

Archaeological remains

- 7.9.5. The construction phase of the Proposed Development would have completely or partially removed any archaeological remains as a result of ground works or other construction activities. As a result, there would be no additional effects in the operational phase.

Change to setting of historic assets

- 7.9.6. The significance of effects on the setting of the historic assets is summarised in **Table 7.16** with a rationale provided in each case. There would be no change or a negligible magnitude of change for most of the assessed historic assets.

- 7.9.7. The significance of effects through change to setting as a result of the Proposed Development have been assessed as **minor (not significant)**.

7.10 Preliminary assessment of cumulative (inter-project) effects

- 7.10.1. A preliminary cumulative effects assessment (CEA) will be undertaken for the Proposed Development which considers the combined impacts with other developments on the same single receptor or resource (inter-project effects). The detailed method followed in identifying and assessing potential cumulative effects is set out in **Section 2.9 of Chapter 2**.
- 7.10.2. The potential effects of the Proposed Development cannot be considered in isolation. There are a number of operational, consented or proposed wind energy developments within the general vicinity of the Site (**Figure 16.9**). A review of potential cumulative effects has been undertaken using the list of other projects presented in **Chapter 2**. From this the following developments have been considered as part of the cumulative effects assessment:
- Mynydd Maen Wind Farm (DNS/3276725); and
 - Trecelyn Wind Farm (DNS CAS-02114-J9X4S6)
- 7.10.3. Those Historic Environment assets where it was determined that there was no change, or that the effects as a result of the Proposed Development would be negligible or minor, have not been considered within the cumulative assessment, as significant cumulative effects are unlikely to occur.

In addition to the Proposed Development, the proposed Trecelyn Wind Farm and Mynydd Maen Wind Farm ES chapters confirmed the developments would likely have a low to medium magnitude of change to non-designated historic assets of low significance, which would result in minor (not significant) effects.

- 7.10.4. The Trecelyn Wind Farm EIA considered the effect through change to setting on Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle to be minor and not significant in EIA terms. The Mynydd Maen EIA and HEDBA considered the effect on Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle to be less than substantial (not significant in EIA terms).
- 7.10.5. Although cumulatively the proposed wind farms of Trecelyn and Mynydd Maen would present additional elements seen alongside the Proposed Development, it is considered that due to these developments being located within the same view as the Proposed Development, it will not lead to an increase in the magnitude of impact, and it will therefore remain at low, which to an historic asset of high value, would result in a minor adverse cumulative effect that would be not significant in EIA terms.

7.11 Preliminary significance conclusions

- 7.11.1. A summary of the results of the preliminary Historic Environment assessment (without additional mitigation) is provided in **Table 7.16**.

Table 7.16 Preliminary summary of significance of effects

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Construction Phase Previously unknown sub-surface archaeological remains	Low	High	Minor (not Significant)	There is low potential for the presence of previously unknown archaeology, which would be expected to be of a similar local (low) significance to the known archaeology at the Site. This includes unknown archaeological remains relating to the former Rhyswg Grange (421323 NPRN). This is recorded from documentary evidence, and no associated archaeological remains are currently known nor were any identified through the LiDAR analysis. Embedded measures includes the mitigation of impacts to sub-surface archaeological remains through an agreed programme of archaeological mitigation.
Ruined Barn, Abercarn (05031g)	Low	Medium	Minor (Not Significant)	Potential impacts through vehicle movements or materials storage encroaching on the asset may result in moderate level disturbance. The implementation of embedded measures described in Table 7.9 includes the provision of fencing and signage to avoid these potential impacts.
Blaen Gotappy; Rhyswg Ganol (02205g)	Low	Low	Minor (Not Significant)	Potential impacts through vehicle movements or materials storage encroaching on the asset may result in moderate level disturbance. The implementation of embedded measures described in Table 7.9 includes the provision of fencing and signage to avoid these potential impacts.
Operational Phase				

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Scheduled monument: Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle (Cadw 2349)	High	Low	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 1.8km of the monument and the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of all three turbines to blade tip. Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle is situated in a prominent position on a conical shaped hill at the west end of Mynydd Henllys. The hill slopes steeply on all sides, and there are long views in all directions. The Proposed Development would introduce a new element into views from the monument to the north, as shown in Figure 6.19 . In relation to Table 7-15 this would lead to a low magnitude of change and which would be moderate (significant) in EIA terms. However, through professional judgement, the impact would only be to views in one direction and no impacts would occur to other directions which are also deemed to be key to the understanding and experience of the historic asset. Therefore, the overall setting of the monument would be retained to the degree that it could still be experienced, appreciated and understood. It is therefore considered that the effect would be minor, and not significant in EIA terms.
Begwns Round Barrow, Mynydd Machen (Cadw 589)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 4.6 km of the monument and the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of all three turbines to blade tip. Begwns Round Barrow occupies a hill-top location with long views available in all directions. The Proposed Development would introduce a new distant element to long views to the northeast, shown in Figure 6.23 but all other views would not be affected. In addition, a radio mast is located immediately adjacent to the monument and is an intervening element in views from the monument towards the Proposed Development.
House Platforms to W of Mynydd Machen (Cadw 1096)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 4.6 km of this monument, with all three turbines visible to blade tip. The historical and archaeological importance of this monument is partly

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Cairns West of Craig y Dyffryn (Cadw 2968)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	<p>defined by its relationship with the local landscape, and long views towards the Proposed Development are restricted by topography due to its location on a west-facing slope.</p> <p>The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 2.1 km of this monument, with two turbines visible to blade tip. The historical and archaeological importance of this monument partly derives from its landscape context on a southeast facing slope with long views available in this direction. Views of the monument from the south would include the blade tips of two turbines but these would not detract from the ability to understand and appreciate the archaeological and historic importance of the monument.</p>
Round Cairn 315m S of Upper Wenallt (Cadw 2350)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 4.3 km of this monument, with two turbines visible to blade tip. The historical and archaeological importance of this monument partly derives from its landscape context on a southeast facing slope with long views available in this direction. The monument is currently located immediately east of a modern housing estate which has partially removed the historic landscape context. Views of the monument from the south would include the blade tips of two turbines but these would not detract from the ability to understand and appreciate the archaeological and historic importance of the monument.</p>
Church of St Luke (Cadw 1903)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	<p>The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 3.2km of the asset and the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of one of the turbines to blade tip. The Church of St Luke has a localised setting within the town of Abercarn, set into the wooded hillside (with an eastern aspect) above the Ebbw Vale just above the centre of the town, with the church frontage accessed from the north. The easterly aspect of the</p>

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
Church of St Tudor Mynyddislwyn (Cadw 1882)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	hillside blocks views towards the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 3 km of this asset, with two turbines being visible to tip height. The historical importance of this asset is partially derived from its local context and relationship with the associated Lych Twyn Tudor Motte (Cadw 2972) immediately to the south in views away from the Proposed Development.
Rhyswg Fawr Farm group (Cadw 1900; 20998)	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 300m of the listed buildings and the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of three turbines to blade tip. The upland farmhouse and barn are located on the southeastern side of Abercarn The historical and architectural importance of these assets is partly derived from their relationship to each other as part of an historic upland farm complex. Views between the two buildings would not be affected by the Proposed Development. Although the Proposed Development would be visible in views of the assets from the west, and in views from the assets to the east, this would not depreciate the ability to understand and appreciate their historic and architectural importance.
Garden Suburbs group and conservation area (multiple)	Medium	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 300m of the listed buildings and the ZTV indicates theoretical visibility of three turbines to blade tip. It is not anticipated that the Proposed Development would affect the ability to understand and appreciate these assets, which are best understood through close inward views.
Gelli-Gaer Common Registered Historic Landscape	High	Negligible	Minor (not significant)	The Proposed Development would introduce turbines within approximately 9.2 km of the Registered Historic Landscape at its nearest point to the Site. All three turbines would be theoretically visible to blade tip. Although the Proposed Development would be a distant element in long views from the asset to the southeast,

Receptor and summary of predicted effects	Sensitivity / importance / value of receptor ¹	Magnitude of change ²	Significance ³	Summary rationale
				shown in Figure 6.33 , other long views would be unaffected, and at this distance it is assessed that the historical and archaeological interests would still be able to be sufficiently appreciated and understood.

1. The value of a receptor is defined using the criteria set out in Section 7.11 and is defined as [negligible, low, medium, and high].
2. The magnitude of change on a receptor resulting from activities relating to the development is defined using the criteria set out in Section 1.8 and is defined as [negligible, low, medium and high].
3. The significance of the environmental effects is based on the combination of the sensitivity/importance/value of a receptor and the magnitude of change and is expressed as major (significant), moderate (potentially significant) or minor/negligible (not significant), subject to the evaluation methodology outlined in Section 7.11.

7.12 Further work to be undertaken

- 7.12.1. The information provided in this Draft ES is preliminary, the final assessment of likely significant residual effects will be reported in the Final ES.
- 7.12.2. Further consultation will be undertaken with Cadw relating to the potential effect through change to setting to Twm-Barlwm Mound and Bailey Castle (Cadw 2349) which in this Draft ES assessment has been found to be moderate (not significant).
- 7.12.3. Further consultation with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken to determine the nature of archaeological mitigation measures in relation to direct disturbance to unknown sub-surface archaeological remains during the construction phase.