



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

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# ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## Chapter 1 Introduction





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WSP

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

Phone: +44 2920 769 200

WSP.com



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| Signature      |                  |                  |                  |            |
| Checked by     | Jacob Ellis-Hall | Jacob Ellis-Hall | Jacob Ellis-Hall |            |
| Signature      |                  |                  |                  |            |
| Authorised by  | Chris Prydderch  | Chris Prydderch  | Chris Prydderch  |            |
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# 1 INTRODUCTION

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## 1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1.1.1. Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt Cyf (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant') is seeking planning permission for the construction and operation of Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt, comprising up to 11 wind turbines each with an anticipated capacity of up to 7.2 megawatts (MW), battery energy storage system (BESS), and associated infrastructure (hereafter the 'Proposed Development'). The Proposed Development is located in the administrative area of Powys County Council (the Site').
- 1.1.2. The Proposed Development consists of the following elements:
- Up to 11 three bladed horizontal axis wind turbines, with an anticipated rotor diameter of 163m and height to blade tip of 180 – 200m (approximate generating capacity of up to 80 MW);
  - BESS infrastructure and compound;
  - Crane pads (hardstandings) and laydown areas adjacent to each wind turbine;
  - Power cables linking the wind turbines to the onsite substation, laid in trenches underground, including cable markers, health and safety and other signage;
  - New and upgrading of existing access tracks, passing places and turning heads;
  - Construction of a new access road from an existing junction of the A470 with the B4568 to facilitate access onto the Site;
  - Grid connection infrastructure, including an onsite substation compound, consisting of a 33kV/132kV switching station, transformer area and control building.
  - The creation of temporary borrow pits for the extraction of stone (the potential locations within the Site are currently being reviewed); and
  - Temporary construction compound(s).
- 1.1.3. At the time of writing, July 2026, discussions are ongoing with the Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and National Grid (NG) regarding the Proposed Development's grid connection, which will be subject to a separate consent and will not form part of the DNS application. The on-site substation will connect the Proposed Development into the electricity network, at a voltage yet to be determined. However, a high-level appraisal of the potential impacts and mitigation measures associated with a typical grid connection route, comprising of a combination of wooden pole overhead line (OHL) conductors and underground cable (UGC) has been included in **Appendix 4A**.
- 1.1.4. The Site location is shown on **Figure 1.1** and an overall site layout plan in **Figure 1.2**.

## 1.2 THE APPLICANT AND THE PROJECT TEAM

- 1.2.1. Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt is being developed by Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt Cyf, which is part of a joint venture between Wind2 Limited (Wind2') and companies managed by Octopus Energy Generation (Octopus').
- 1.2.2. Wind2 is a specialist renewable energy developer, which is working on the development of a range of renewable energy projects across the UK. The company's head office is located in Mold, North Wales, and they also have personnel in Edinburgh, Cromarty and Wells. Further information on Wind2 can be found on its company website at <https://wind2.co.uk/>.

- 1.2.3. Octopus Energy Generation is driving the green agenda as one of Europe's largest specialist renewables investors. It manages £7 billion green energy generation across 21 countries producing 4.9GW of renewable energy. Octopus Energy Generation operates wind, solar and battery projects across the UK. Further information on Octopus Energy Generation can be found on its company website at <https://www.octopusenergygeneration.com/>
- 1.2.4. This Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant by WSP UK Ltd ('WSP'). WSP is registered with the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals<sup>1</sup> (ISEP)'s EIA Quality Mark scheme. The scheme allows organisations that lead the co-ordination of EIAs in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in its EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.
- 1.2.5. Regulation 17(4)(a) of *The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended)*<sup>2</sup> ('the EIA Regulations') requires that an ES must "*be prepared by persons who in the opinion of the relevant planning authority or the Welsh Ministers, as appropriate, have sufficient expertise to ensure the completeness and quality of the statement*".
- 1.2.6. The relevant experience and qualifications of the competent experts who have prepared this ES, as required by Regulation 174(b) of the EIA Regulations, are provided in **Table 1-1**.

**Table 1-1 - Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the ES and Details of the Expertise of Staff who have Undertaken Each Assessment**

| Topic                          | Staff                    | Relevant Expertise/Qualifications                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chapter 5 Ecology              | Aaron Davies             | MSc Environmental Conservation and Management<br>BSc (Hons) Environmental Conservation                                 |
|                                | Megan Brenchley          | MRes Marine Science<br>BSc Marine Geography                                                                            |
| Chapter 6 Ornithology          | Dan Watson (BSG Ecology) | BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation (Biological Surveying), ACIEEM                                                     |
| Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual | Steve Holford            | BA (Hons) Animation<br>PgDip Landscape Architecture<br>Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI)              |
|                                | Laura Fretwell           | BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture<br>PgDip Landscape Architecture<br>Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute (CMLI) |

<sup>1</sup> Formerly the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)

<sup>2</sup> UK Government (2017). Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 [online]. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567/contents> [Accessed April 2026].

| Topic                                                                   | Staff                          | Relevant Expertise/Qualifications                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage</b>                                      | Simon Atkinson                 | BA (Hons), Archaeology and Prehistory<br>Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Member                            |
|                                                                         | David Astbury                  | PhD, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists- Associate                                                             |
| <b>Chapter 9 Hydrology</b>                                              | Richard Breakspear             | BSc Geography<br>PhD Geography (geological indicators of large scale floods)<br>C.WEM, C.Sci                       |
| <b>Chapter 10 Geology and Soils</b>                                     | Taco Regensburg                | BSc & MSc International Land and Water Management, PhD in Geography. Member of British Society of Soils Science    |
| <b>Chapter 11 Noise</b>                                                 | Tom Levet (Hayes McKenzie Ltd) | MSc by Research<br>BSc Audio Technology                                                                            |
| <b>Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport</b>                                 | Bev Coupe                      | BA (Hons), Planning Studies Diploma in Planning<br>MSc, Transport Engineering and Operations<br>Member of RTPi     |
|                                                                         | Samantha Gardner               | BSc (Hons), Geography MSc, Transport Planning and Engineering (Behaviour)                                          |
| <b>Chapter 13 Shadow Flicker</b>                                        | Steven Fitzpatrick             | MEng, Product Design Engineering<br>PgDip, Energy Systems and the Environment                                      |
|                                                                         | Peter Munro                    | MSc (Dist) Renewable Energy                                                                                        |
| <b>Chapter 14 Other Issues (Aviation and Radar, Telecommunications)</b> | Steven Fitzpatrick             | MEng, Product Design Engineering<br>PgDip, Energy Systems and the Environment                                      |
|                                                                         | Peter Munro                    | MSc (Dist) Renewable Energy                                                                                        |
| <b>Chapter 15 Cumulative Effects</b>                                    | Chris Prydderch                | BSc (Hons) Environmental Science, MSc (Dist) Environmental Monitoring and Analysis<br>ISEP Practitioner            |
|                                                                         | Jacob Ellis-Hall               | BSc (Hons) Ecology and Conservation<br>MSc (Dist) Environmental Impact Assessment and Management<br>Member of ISEP |

## 1.3 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

- 1.3.1. The Proposed Development requires EIA (i.e. it is ‘EIA development’) because it falls under paragraph 3(i) (“*Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)*”) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, exceeds the thresholds for both number of turbines and height of structures listed in Schedule 2, and as such the Applicant has produced an EIA for the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.2. As the installed generating capacity of the Proposed Development would exceed 10 megawatts (MW), it qualifies as a Development of National Significance (DNS) according to the criteria set out in Regulation 4A of *The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) Regulations 2016*<sup>3</sup>.
- 1.3.3. An EIA has been prepared to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations and provides part of the information that will be used by the Welsh Ministers, and other key stakeholders, to inform the process of determining the application for consent of the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.4. In accordance with good practice, a Scoping Report<sup>4</sup> (**Appendix 1A**) was prepared to identify the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. Those effects that were assessed as being likely to be significant or where likely significant effects could not be discounted at the scoping stage were proposed for further assessment in the ES. This reflects the requirement of the EIA Regulations for the ES to focus on those effects that are likely to be significant.
- 1.3.5. A request for a Scoping Direction was made to Planning and Environment Decision Wales (PEDW) in February 2025, under Regulation 33 of the EIA Regulations in respect of applications for planning permission to Welsh Ministers as a DNS project. A Scoping Direction<sup>5</sup> was received on 14 May 2025 (**Appendix 1B**).

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<sup>3</sup> Welsh Government (2016). Town and Country Planning, Wales: The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 [online]. Available at: [https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/358/pdfs/wsi\\_20160358\\_mi.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/358/pdfs/wsi_20160358_mi.pdf) [Accessed April 2026].

<sup>4</sup> WSP (2025). Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt – Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.

<sup>5</sup> PEDW (2025). DNS: EIA Scoping Direction DNS CAS-02905-P2F6M6: Calon y Gwynt Energy Park.



- 1.3.6. As the Proposed Development is a DNS, in accordance with *Developments of National Significance: Procedural Guidance*<sup>6</sup> this ES has been prepared to allow consultees an opportunity to comment on its contents, and for the Applicant to consider and respond to any comments received. Prior to submission of the DNS application, the ES will be updated if required to address comments received during statutory consultation. Any amendments to the ES prior to submission will be identified within the application documents (either in the submitted ES or in the Pre-application Consultation Report). The ES presents an assessment of effects based on information available at the time of writing, with respect to project design and baseline environmental information.
- 1.3.7. This ES has been based on the Scoping Direction (**Appendix 1B**), as well as subsequent consultation and assessment work. It includes an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development based on the proposals, leading to a conclusion about which effects were assessed as likely to be significant and identifying potential environmental mitigation measures<sup>7</sup> in respect of likely significant adverse effects.
- 1.3.8. The overall approach that has been taken to defining significance, as well as further information about the approach to preparing the ES, are outlined in **Chapter 2**.
- 1.3.9. Regulation 4 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations require that the environmental topics listed in column 1 of **Table 1-2** need to be considered when preparing an ES. Column 2 then lists where these topics are included in this ES, with reference to the relevant chapter numbers.

**Table 1-2 - Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the ES and Chapter References**

| Topics <sup>8</sup> to be Assessed Under the EIA Regulations | Chapter Titles where Addressed in this ES                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Population                                                   | Landscape and visual impact ( <b>Chapter 7</b> ); Traffic and transport ( <b>Chapter 12</b> ); Noise ( <b>Chapter 11</b> ); and Other Issues ( <b>Chapter 14</b> ).                                                        |
| Human health                                                 | Traffic and transport ( <b>Chapter 12</b> ); Noise ( <b>Chapter 11</b> ); Other Issues ( <b>Chapter 14</b> ); and Shadow flicker ( <b>Chapter 13</b> ).                                                                    |
| Biodiversity                                                 | Ecology ( <b>Chapter 5</b> ); Ornithology ( <b>Chapter 6</b> ).                                                                                                                                                            |
| Land                                                         | Hydrology ( <b>Chapter 9</b> ) and Geology and Soils ( <b>Chapter 10</b> ).                                                                                                                                                |
| Soil                                                         | Hydrology ( <b>Chapter 9</b> ) and Geology and Soils ( <b>Chapter 10</b> ).                                                                                                                                                |
| Water                                                        | Hydrology ( <b>Chapter 9</b> ) and Geology and Soils ( <b>Chapter 10</b> ).                                                                                                                                                |
| Air                                                          | Scoped out (See <b>Appendix 1A</b> and <b>1B</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Climate                                                      | Description of the Proposed Development ( <b>Chapter 4</b> ), Ecology ( <b>Chapter 5</b> ), Hydrology ( <b>Chapter 9</b> ), Geology and Soils ( <b>Chapter 10</b> ), and Carbon Balance Assessment ( <b>Appendix 2A</b> ). |

<sup>6</sup> Welsh Government (2025) *Developments of national significance (DNS): procedural guidance*. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-procedural-guidance-html> [Accessed: April 2026].

<sup>7</sup> Discussed further in Chapter 2.

<sup>8</sup> In this ES, the word 'topic' is used when referring to the environment that could be affected by the proposed development. Other words with the same general meaning are used in the EIA Regulations, notably 'factor' and 'aspect', but these are not used in the same context within this ES.

| Topics <sup>8</sup> to be Assessed Under the EIA Regulations | Chapter Titles where Addressed in this ES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cultural heritage                                            | Cultural Heritage ( <b>Chapter 8</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Landscape                                                    | Landscape and visual impact ( <b>Chapter 7</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The inter-relationship between the above factors             | Considered within each Chapter as relevant, and Cumulative Effects ( <b>Chapter 15</b> ).                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Vulnerability to major accidents or disasters                | Approach to Environmental Impact Assessment ( <b>Chapter 2</b> ), Description of the Proposed Development ( <b>Chapter 4</b> ), Hydrology ( <b>Chapter 9</b> ), Geology and Soils ( <b>Chapter 10</b> ), Traffic and transport ( <b>Chapter 12</b> ), and Other Issues ( <b>Chapter 14</b> ). |



1 Capital Quarter  
Tyndall Street  
Cardiff  
CF10 4BZ

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