



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 5N: Habitats Regulations Assessment
Screening Report





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WSP

Kings Orchard
1 Queen Street
Bristol
BS2 0HQ

Phone: +44 117 930 6200

WSP.com



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wind2 Ltd commissioned WSP UK Ltd to provide ecological support to inform the Developments of National Significance (DNS) process for the Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'.

This report provides information to enable the screening of the Proposed Development; in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('The Regulations').

The Proposed Development is not located within any designated sites of international importance (International Sites) but five lie within the initial Ecological Zone of Influence (EZOI) of the Proposed Development. These International Sites are:

- Coedydd Llawr-y-glyn SAC
- Berwyn SPA;
- Elenydd-Mallaen SPA;
- Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites/Safleoedd Ystumod Tanat ac Ffyrnwy SAC; and
- Coedydd Derw a Adleoedd Ystlumod Meirion/Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC.

In the absence of targeted mitigation but considering embedded standard mitigation that would be implemented regardless of the presence of International Sites, no potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on International Sites have been identified. There will be no effects to Qualifying Features (QF) which are functionally linked to the International Sites.

As a result, the Proposed Development will not need to proceed to Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 WSP UK Ltd ('WSP') has been commissioned by Wind2 Ltd to provide ecological support to inform the Developments of National Significance (DNS) process for the Parc Ynni Calon Y Gwynt, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'¹. The footprint of Parc Ynni Calon Y Gwynt is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.
- 1.1.2 Parc Ynni Calon Y Gwynt is located on the hills to the north of the A470 trunk road, approximately 3.5 km east of the village of Carno, 3.5 km north of the village of Pontdolgoch and 12 km north-west of Newtown. It is centred on British National Grid reference SO 001 983.
- 1.1.3 The Proposed Development comprises 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.

1.2 THE HABITATS REGULATIONS

- 1.2.1 This report sets out information to support the Competent Authority in undertaking their Stage 1: Screening Assessment of the Proposed Development. Stage 1 identifies the Likely Significant Effects (LSE) resulting from the Proposed Development, upon the qualifying features of International Sites.
- 1.2.2 This report has been produced with due regard to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)².
- 1.2.3 The definition of 'International Site' for the purpose of this report is set out in Section 3, and includes any of the following:
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or candidate SAC (cSAC);
 - Special Protection Area (SPA) or potential SPA (pSPA); and
 - Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar site) – as a matter of Welsh government policy.
- 1.2.4 The methodology for Stage 1: Screening Assessment is set out in Section 3. The identified International Sites are described in Section 4 whilst consideration of potential effects of the Proposed Development upon the International Sites (including in-combination effects) and whether these are likely to be significant is provided in Section 5.

¹ WSP have provided this report solely for the use of the recipient and accepts no liability to any third parties or any other party using or reviewing the report or any part thereof. WSP makes no warranties or guarantees, actual or implied, in relation to this report, or the ultimate commercial, technical, economic, or financial effect on the project to which it relates, and bears no responsibility or liability related to its use other than as set out within the scope of the contract under which it was supplied.

² The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, SI 2017/1012. [Online]. London: The Stationery Office. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents> (Accessed: June 2026)

1.3 REPORT PURPOSE

1.3.1 The aims of this report are to:

- Introduce the Proposed Development and provide ecological context within the existing landscape;
- Identify the potential environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Development during both its construction and operation;
- Identify International Sites which lie within the Ecological Zone of Influence (EZol^{3,4}) of the Proposed Development; and
- Identify whether any of the impacts associated with the Proposed Development, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could result in LSEs on any of the International Sites identified, and hence indicate whether further assessment of those impacts is required or not (i.e., through a Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment).

³ The CIEEM EcIA Guidelines define the EZol as the area over which important ecological features may be subject to significant effects resulting from a proposed development; this may extend beyond the footprint of the Proposed Development. The EZol may vary for each ecological feature due to the varying mobility range of the feature being assessed. For example, the EZol for otter (which are mobile) will be greater than the EZol for habitats (which are sedentary).

⁴ CIEEM (2022) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. September 2018. Version 1.2 – Updated April 2022. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management

2 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

2.1 OVERVIEW

2.1.1 The Proposed Development comprises the following main components:

- 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).

2.1.2 Further information on the main components of the Proposed Development are detailed below.

TURBINE FOUNDATIONS

2.1.3 Turbine foundations will usually comprise a reinforced concrete base slab of approximately 25m diameter x 3m depth. This will include a circular support plinth to suit the base profile of the wind turbine steel tower and will then be overlaid by stone and previously excavated overburden and topped with a 5m – 7m crushed stone access area, beyond which the ground will be dressed back with topsoil to allow re-vegetation. The final choice of foundation design will be based on the most efficient use of materials and local ground conditions.

CRANE PADS

2.1.4 Each wind turbine requires an area of hardstanding to be built adjacent to the turbine foundation. This provides a stable base on which to lay down turbine components ready for assembly and erection, and to site the cranes necessary to lift the three-tower section, nacelle, and rotor into place. The crane hardstanding would be left in place following construction to allow for the use of similar plant should major components need replacing during the operation of the wind turbine. These could also be utilised during decommissioning at the end of the wind turbines life. Subject to design evolutions, there is potential for areas to be dressed back with topsoil and landscaped into the surrounding area upon completion of turbine erection.

CABLING

- 2.1.5 Underground cables would link the turbines to each other and to the on-site substation. Detailed construction and trenching specifications would depend on the ground conditions encountered at the time, but typically cables would be laid in a trench 750 mm deep and 450 mm wide. To minimise ground disturbance, cables would be routed along the side of the access tracks wherever practicable.

ACCESS ROAD

- 2.1.6 The proposed principal point of access into the Site would begin at an existing road junction of the A470 with the B4568, and head north via a new access road to be constructed as part of the Proposed Development.
- 2.1.7 The new access road will be approximately 3.1km in length, 5.5m wide and 0.5m deep, where it joins an existing road via an offline track junction to the east of Wtrawen. Approximately 1.5km length of this existing road will be upgraded and reprofiled to a width of 4.5m where it reaches the entry point to the wind farm Site. Where upgrades to the existing access road are required, the oversail clearance of up to 3m on the trailers used to deliver turbines to Site will ensure no direct impacts to hedgerows and old stone walls occur. Any features above 3m in height, such as trees and utility poles, will require removal (trees) or re-location.

2.2 CONSTRUCTION

- 2.2.1 It is expected that the construction period of the Proposed Development will be approximately 24 months. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will be operational from 2031-2035. Site restoration will be programmed and carried out to allow restoration of disturbed areas progressively and as early as possible during the construction period.
- 2.2.2 The construction stages of the Proposed Development will include the following:
- Formation of site borrow pits (if feasible, the potential locations of which are currently being reviewed) to provide on-site track material;
 - Development of internal access routes by improving existing access tracks and constructing additional tracks to the necessary standard;
 - Installation of temporary construction facilities including site offices, welfare facilities, component lay-down and storage areas;
 - Construction of buildings to house the electrical substation and control equipment;
 - Excavation and construction of turbine foundations and the creation of crane pads and laydown areas adjacent to each turbine;
 - Installation of internal underground cabling network between wind turbine locations and electrical facilities, typically following access track routes;
 - Delivery of all wind turbine components to site and the erection of turbines;
 - Testing and commissioning of wind turbines and electrical equipment; and
 - Removal of all temporary facilities and reinstatement of temporary construction areas and borrow pits.

2.3 OPERATION AND DECOMMISSIONING

- 2.3.1 The Proposed Development will be designed with an operational life of 40 years. For the purposes of this assessment, it is assumed that the energy park would be decommissioned and the Site reinstated. When dismantling and removing the turbines at decommissioning, the bases would be broken out to below ground levels and the buried distribution cables within the Site would be de-energised and would be pulled through ducts and removed from the ground to avoid any potential leeching of chemicals. Any disturbed areas would be reinstated and re-vegetated.
- 2.3.2 Some wind farm tracks may remain in perpetuity for future use by landowners. It is also considered that the disturbance associated with their removal and disposal of the material would have a much greater environmental effect than leaving them in situ.
- 2.3.3 The decommissioning works are estimated to take up to 12 months. This approach is considered to be less environmentally damaging than seeking to remove foundations and cables entirely.
- 2.3.4 The site will be decommissioned in the most sustainable way possible and turbine components themselves will be taken to an appropriate recycling facility where applicable.

2.4 ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 2.4.1 Ecological surveys have been undertaken to inform the Proposed Development.
- 2.4.2 In May 2024, a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was produced for the Site, to report habitat types present within the Site and assess their potential to support protected and/or notable species. This was updated in Spring 2026.
- 2.4.3 The PEA comprised the following elements:
- An ecological desk study, undertaken in February 2024;
 - An extended habitat survey, undertaken in June 2023 and updated in March and April 2026;
 - A Daytime Bat Walkover (DBW), undertaken in June 2023 and updated in March and April 2026;
 - A Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) assessment, undertaken in June 2023; and
 - A protected/notable species assessment, undertaken in May 2024 and updated in March and April 2026.
- 2.4.4 The PEA identified that the Llyn Mawr Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) was present within the Site, as well as B-Lines, a non-statutory designated Site. Four further non-statutory designated sites were identified within 2 km of the Site.
- 2.4.5 Thirteen Phase 1 habitat types were identified within the Site, of which, five qualify or may qualify as Priority Habitats: G2 - Running water (Rivers); D1.1 - Acidic dry dwarf shrub heath (Upland heathland); B5 - Marsh/marshy grassland (Purple moor-grass and rush pastures); G1 - Standing water (Ponds); and I1.1 - Inland cliff (Inland rock outcrops and scree habitats).
- 2.4.6 Four ponds were identified within the Site or within 250 m of the Site boundary. One of these ponds was inaccessible as it was in an area of private land. The HSI of the remaining ponds (P1, P2 and P4) indicated that P1 and P2 had a below average suitability to support great crested newt *Triturus cristatus*, whilst P4 had poor suitability. eDNA surveys of the ponds returned a positive result for P4, and population size assessments of this pond are ongoing.

- 2.4.7 The Site was identified as being suitable to support bats, otter *Lutra*, water vole *Arvicola amphibius*, brown hare *Lepus europaeus*, birds, amphibians including great crested newt, reptiles, and invasive non-native plant species (INNS).
- 2.4.8 A National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey was undertaken within the Site in May 2024 and updated in May 2026. The habitats at prospective turbine locations (at the time of survey) were classified and approximated to an NVC community, and, where applicable, the sub-community.
- 2.4.9 An assessment of the trees within 20 m of the access road identified features suitable to support roosting bats, and surveys of these trees to establish the likely presence/absence of bats are ongoing.
- 2.4.10 There are no features suitable to support roosting bats within 150m of any turbine locations.
- 2.4.11 Bat activity surveys carried out in 2024 and 2025 identified eleven species/genera of bats, with noctule *Nyctalus noctula* recorded most frequently, followed by common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and soprano pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*.
- 2.4.12 A badger survey was carried out concurrently with the protected/notable species assessment and updated in 2026. The habitats within the Site were considered suitable for commuting and foraging badger *Meles* but not sett-building, and therefore badgers were not considered further.
- 2.4.13 Dormice surveys carried out between June and November 2024 confirmed the presence of dormice using woodland and hedgerow habitats, and dormice are considered likely present across all suitable habitats within the Site.
- 2.4.14 Targeted riparian mammals surveys in 2026 identified that the habitats within the Site are suitable to support both water vole and otter. There was no evidence of water vole within the Site, and therefore water vole are considered likely absent from the Site. There are no potential otter holts within 100m of any turbine locations. The Site was considered suitable to support mainly commuting otter.
- 2.4.15 Reptile surveys within the Site identified a number of hibernacula potentially suitable to support hibernating reptiles, although no reptiles have been identified within the Site. Owing to the suitability of the habitats within the Site, reptiles are considered to be likely present within the Site on a precautionary basis.
- 2.4.16 Ornithology surveys in support of the Proposed Development have included the following:
- Non-breeding VP surveys (2022-2023 and 2023-2024);
 - Breeding season VP surveys (2022 and 2023);
 - Breeding raptor surveys (2022 and 2023);
 - Breeding wader surveys (2022 and 2023);
 - Llyn Mawr waterbody counts (2023);
 - Non-breeding season wader/waterfowl walkover surveys (2022-2023 and 2023-2024); and
 - Nightjar assessments (2022).

2.4.17 Owing to their activity levels and type of activity recorded within the Site, the following species were scoped in for further assessment within **Chapter 6: Ornithology** of the Environmental Statement:

- Red kite *Milvus milvus*;
- Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*;
- Golden plover *Pluvialis apricaria*;
- Curlew *Numenius arquata*; and
- Skylark *Alauda arvensis*.

3 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT APPROACH

3.1 OVERVIEW

- 3.1.1 This section sets out the applicable methodologies and assumptions for the assessment of the Proposed Development with regards to the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) ('The Regulations').
- 3.1.2 The Regulations place a duty upon 'Competent Authorities' to consider all plans or projects to determine if there is likely to be a significant effect on International Sites before permission can be granted. Should LSEs be identified by the initial screening process, it is necessary to further consider the effects by way of an 'Appropriate Assessment'. Overall, this process of assessment is known as the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and further details of the applicable legislative context are summarised within **Section 3.2** below.

3.2 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 Regulation 63 (1) of the Habitats Regulations² states that 'A Competent Authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which—
- (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site⁵ or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and*
- (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site,*
- *must make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives.'*
- 3.2.2 The Habitats Regulations make allowance for projects or plans to be completed if they satisfy 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)⁶. Regulations 64 relate to such situations.
- 3.2.3 The Competent Authority is required to consult Natural Resources Wales (the statutory nature conservation body in Wales) in all cases where an Appropriate Assessment is required.

POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.2.4 It is a matter of Welsh Government policy (Planning Policy Wales (PPW⁷) paragraph 6.4.29 and 6.4.30) that sites designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands (commonly known as Ramsar sites) and potential SPAs (pSPA) are also considered in the same way as SACs, SPAs and cSACs. As a matter of good practice, potential SACs (pSACs) should also be considered in the same way.

⁵ European Sites are included within our definition of International Sites.

⁶ (a) reasons relating to human health, public safety or beneficial consequences of primary importance to the environment; and

(b) any other reasons which the competent authority, having due regard to the opinion of the Welsh Ministers, consider to be imperative reasons of overriding public interest.'

⁷ WG (2024) Planning Policy Wales. Edition 12. February 2024. Welsh Government

3.3 STAGES OF HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

3.3.1 The HRA includes distinct stages of assessment, including the following elements, as set out within the PPW Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation, Planning (TAN 5), Annex 3⁸, and Welsh Government advice on HRA⁹. The text here is directly quoted from TAN 5, Annex 3, although it should be noted that the TAN 5, Annex 3 is intended to provide advice to decision-takers, rather than applicants:

- If the proposed development is not directly connected with or necessary to site management the decision-taker must determine whether the proposal is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or European offshore marine site;
- The planning authority must consider whether the proposed development would be likely to have a significant effect on any European site or European offshore marine site. In doing so, it must adopt a precautionary approach;
- Taking account of advice from Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)¹⁰, local planning authorities should consider whether the effect of the proposal on the site, either individually or in combination with other proposals, is likely to be significant in terms of the ecological objectives for which the site was designated;
- In considering the combined effects of other plans and projects it will normally be appropriate to take account of outstanding consents that are not started or fully implemented, ongoing activities or operations that are subject to continuing regulation (such as discharge consents or abstraction licences) and other proposals that are subject to a current application for any kind of authorisation, permission, licence or other consent. The effects of projects which have already been implemented and policies and proposals in adopted and published draft plans should also be included in the in-combination test;
- In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the project's effects on the site's conservation objectives, the decision-taker must determine whether it can ascertain that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the site(s); and
- If there is no alternative solution, the decision-taker may consider whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest to justify the grant of permission despite a potentially negative effect on site integrity.

3.3.2 The integrity of an International Site is defined as the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across the whole of its area, which enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or populations of species for which the site has been designated (TAN 5 Annex 13). An adverse effect on integrity is likely to be one which prevents the site from making the same contribution to favourable conservation status as it did at the time of designation.

⁸ Welsh Assembly Government (2009). Planning Policy Wales. Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning.

⁹ Welsh Government (2025) Habitats regulations assessment (HRA) guidance. Cardiff: Welsh Government. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/habitats-regulations-assessment-hra-guidance> (Accessed: 24 July 2026).

¹⁰ CCW has been replaced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

- 3.3.3 The precautionary principle is applied at all stages of the HRA process. In relation to Stage 1 this means that projects or plans where effects are considered likely and those where uncertainty exists as to whether effects are likely to be significant must be subject to Stage 2 of the HRA process: Appropriate Assessment.

3.4 STAGE 1: SCREENING METHODOLOGY

- 3.4.1 The Proposed Development has been subject to Stage 1: HRA Screening to assess the potential for LSEs. This involved considering whether there are any potential cause-effect pathways between the Proposed Development and International Sites. Each development impact is considered, and its pathway assessed to understand the likelihood of an impact resulting in a significant effect on International Sites.
- 3.4.2 When screening in/out International Sites and their qualifying features, it needs to be established whether there is a pathway between the likely development impacts (causes) and the possible effect they may have on qualifying features of International Sites. Where there are no pathways to affect International Sites from the Proposed Development, they are not considered further. Where a pathway is identified, consideration is then given to whether there is a 'mechanism' for LSEs to occur. The screening methodology considers the sensitivity of the qualifying features in question to the identified impact pathways.
- 3.4.3 If the Competent Authority considers there will be no LSEs upon the qualifying features from the identified impact pathways alone and in combination with other plans and projects, the Proposed Development may proceed without further assessment.

A NOTE ON MITIGATION

It should be noted that this report has taken account of the 2017 European Court of Justice (CJEU) ruling (C-323/17 - People Over Wind and Peter Sweetman v Coillte): *"Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an Appropriate Assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site."*

4 HRA SCREENING (STAGE 1)

4.1 IDENTIFICATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL SITES

4.1.1 The selection of International Sites for consideration by this HRA Screening Assessment was based on an initial desktop search of all SACs, SPAs, cSACs, pSPAs and Ramsar sites within the EZoI. As a starting point, the initial EZoI was 10 km from the Proposed Development. This was then extended to 20 km for International Sites with ornithological qualifying features and 30 km for International Sites with bat qualifying features.

4.1.2 The overall aim of conservation objectives is to maintain the sites in 'favourable conservation status'. The Habitats Directive provides further interpretation of the meaning of 'favourable conservation status' within Article 1 parts a, i e and, as below:

'(a) conservation means a series of measures required to maintain or restore the natural habitats and the populations of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable status as defined in (e) and (i);

(e) conservation status of a natural habitat means the sum of the influences acting on a natural habitat and its typical species that may affect its long-term natural distribution, structure and functions as well as the long-term survival of its typical species within the territory referred to in Article 2. The conservative status of a natural habitat will be taken as "favourable" when:

- *Its natural range and areas it cover within that range are stable or increasing, and*
- *The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and*
- *The conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined in (i);*

(i) conservation status of a species means the sum of the influences acting on the species concerned that may affect the long-term distribution and abundance of its populations within the territory referred to in Article 2; The conservation status will be taken as "favourable" when:

Population dynamics data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats, and

The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and there is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis'.

4.1.3 The Proposed Development has not been conceived to further the conservation of the International Sites, nor is its development essential to the management of any International site. Therefore, further consideration of the Proposed Development within the HRA process is required.

4.2 ECOLOGICAL ZONES OF INFLUENCE

4.2.1 The EZoI refers to the area where impacts resulting from the Proposed Development, and the potential pathways for those impacts, may reach and affect the qualifying features of International Sites.

4.2.2 **Table5N 1** details the EZoI for potential effects (in the absence of mitigation) of the Proposed Development on International Sites. These EZoI take into account the nature of the Proposed Development and the potential pathways.

Table5N 1 – Impact Pathways and Ecological Zones of Influence

Effect	Cause	Likely Zone of Influence
Disturbance of key species	Excessive noise and vibration resulting from Proposed Development	300 m of construction zone (precautionary basis) ^{11,12}
Injury/killing of key species	Collision with wind turbines	6 km for red kites; red kites have a core foraging range of 4 km with a maximum range of 6 km¹³ during the breeding season. 2 km for hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> and peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i>; the maximum recorded range for hen harrier and peregrine is 10 km and 18 km respectively but they both have a core foraging range of 2 km, and so the likely Zol is 2 km. 5 km for merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i>; the core foraging range for merlin is 5 km. 5 km for lesser horseshoe <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>; the Core Sustenance Zone for lesser horseshoe bats is 2 km¹⁴, but 5 km is selected on a precautionary basis to account for longer distance travel.
Habitat degradation – dust deposition	Pollution and contamination incidents associated with the Proposed Development, such as construction dust deposition onto habitats	50 m of construction zone ¹⁵
Habitat degradation – hydrological pollution and spread of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)	Pollution (e.g. oils or silt), contamination incidents associated with run off from excavation, piling, vehicle movement, wheel wash and stockpiling	Within 10 km downstream (functionally linked habitat) ¹⁶

4.3 APPROACH

4.3.1 This section identifies whether the impacts associated with the Proposed Development are likely to give rise to significant effects upon the International Sites in **Table5N 2** and shown in **Figure 5N 1**.

¹¹ Conservative distance based on information detailed in 'An overview of fish bioacoustics and the impacts of anthropogenic sounds on fishes' (Popper and Hawkins, 2019).

¹² <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/natural-information-otters-and-development-2011.pdf>

¹³ All information pertaining to core ranges have been obtained from the following guidance: SNH (2016) Assessing Connectivity with Special Protection Areas (SPAs) Guidance – Version 3 – June 2016. Scottish Natural Heritage.

¹⁴ Bat Conservation Trust (2016). Core Sustenance Zones: Determining zone size.

¹⁵ In line with guidance in Holman et al (2014) Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction. Institute of Air Quality Management, London.

¹⁶ Conservative distance based on information documented in Sediment Transport and Deposition. Retrieved from Fondriest Environmental Learning Centre: <https://www.fondriest.com/environmental-measurements/parameters/hydrology/sediment-transport-deposition/>.

Details of the Proposed Development used to inform the assessment of LSEs are provided in **Section 2.1**. Mitigation measures designed to address effects can only be considered at the HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment. Any measures intended to avoid or reduce adverse effects of the Proposed Development on International Sites (i.e. “mitigation measures”) or best practice measures have therefore not been considered during this Screening stage.

4.3.2 The following mitigation measures have not been included during the HRA Stage 1: Screening Assessment:

- The Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP);
- Ecological Management Plans (EcMPs);
- Specific / targeted mitigation measures to avoid or minimise impacts of construction disturbance on designatory features; and
- Pollution prevention controls.

Table5N 2 – International Sites within the Initial EZol of the Proposed Development

Site Names and Code	Distance and direction from Site at its nearest point	Qualifying Features
Coedydd Llawr-y-glyn SAC SAC Code: UK0030119	7.6 km south-west (direct) No hydrological connectivity – upstream of the Proposed Development	The Coedydd Llawr-y-glyn SAC is designated for the following Annex I habitat: old sessile oak with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles.
Berwyn SPA SPA Code: 9013111	15 km north-west (direct)	The site qualifies under Article 4.1 of the Directive by supporting nationally important breeding populations of four Annex I species: 2-3 pairs of red kite <i>Milvus</i> (over 1% of the British population ¹⁷); 14 pairs of hen harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i> (over 2% of the British population); 14 pairs of merlin <i>Falco columbarius</i> (over 2% of the British population); and 18 pairs of peregrine <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (1.5% of the British population).
Elenydd-Mallaen SPA	19 km south (direct)	The site qualifies under Article 4.1 by supporting internationally or nationally important breeding populations of 2 Annex 1 species: 34 pairs of red kite, (34% of the British population and 0.3% of the world population) and about 7 pairs of merlin (over 1% of the British population) .
Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites/Safleoedd Ystumod Tanat ac Efyrrwy SAC SAC code: UK0014783	23 km north-east (direct)	The Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites/Safleoedd Ystumod Tanat ac Efyrrwy SAC is designated for the following species: lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> .

¹⁷ The figures from this table are from the 1996 citation (https://naturalresources.wales/media/632307/SPA_UK9013111_Register_Entry_EN001.pdf) and is now considered out of date. For example, current estimates from Wales solely for breeding pairs of red kite range from 1350 breeding pairs to 2500 breeding pairs. This would result in three breeding pairs being a percentage of 0.22% and 0.12% of the Welsh population alone. This represents the growth of the population in Wales since 1996. Data obtained from WOS (2022) Welsh Bird Report 2021. *Milvus* - The Journal of the Welsh Ornithological Society. Volume 1 Issue 3. 2022 and Pritchard, R. Hughes, J. Spence, M, I. Haycock, B. Brenchley, A. (2021) The Birds of Wales. Adar Cymru. Welsh Ornithological Society. Liverpool University Press

Site Names and Code	Distance and direction from Site at its nearest point	Qualifying Features
Coedydd Derw a Safleoedd Ystlumod Meirion/Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC SAC code: UK0014789	29 km north-west (direct)	The Coedydd Derw a Safleoedd Ystlumod Meirion/Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC is designated for the following habitats: alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (<i>Alno-Padion</i> , <i>Alnion incanae</i> , <i>Salicion albae</i>), bog woodland, old sessile oak with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles, water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation, <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines, European dry heaths, and Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> . The SAC is also designated for lesser horseshoe bat.

4.4 CONSIDERATION OF EFFECTS IN ISOLATION

- 4.4.1 The information included within **Section 2** and **Table5N 2** has been used to identify whether potential effect pathways between the Proposed Development and the International Sites identified exist. An assessment has been made whether these are likely to result in significant effects upon International Sites.

NO LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

- 4.4.2 The International Sites in **Table5N 2** are the only International Sites determined to fall within the initial EZol of the Proposed Development (10 km, extended to 20 km for International Sites with bird qualifying features and 30 km for International Sites with bat qualifying features). Of these, Coedydd Llawr-y-Glyn SAC does not fall within the Likely Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development, owing to it being designated for the presence of habitats, being greater than 50 m from the Site, and not being functionally linked to habitats within the Site. Therefore all sections hereafter refer to the following International Sites only:

- Berwyn SPA;
- Elenydd-Mallaen SPA;
- Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites/Safleoedd Ystumod Tanat ac Ffyrnwy SAC; and
- Coedydd Derw a Adleoedd Ystlumod Meirion/Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC.

- 4.4.3 The Proposed Development will not result in any land loss from the International Sites. Owing to the distance between the International Sites and the Site (equal to or greater than 15 km apart, and therefore greater than the Likely Zones of Influence identified in **Table5N 1**), the following impact pathways are considered to be outside of the EZol and therefore will not result in LSE on the designatory features of the International Sites:

- Disturbance of key species;
- Injury/killing of key species;
- Habitat degradation – dust deposition; and
- Habitat degradation – hydrological pollution.

- 4.4.4 There is no hydrological connectivity to any downstream International Sites within 10 km of the Site. Therefore, no LSE on the designatory features of the International Sites are anticipated as a result of the following impact pathways:

- Habitat degradation – INNS.

- 4.4.5 LSEs can be excluded for all International Sites considered.

4.5 POTENTIAL IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

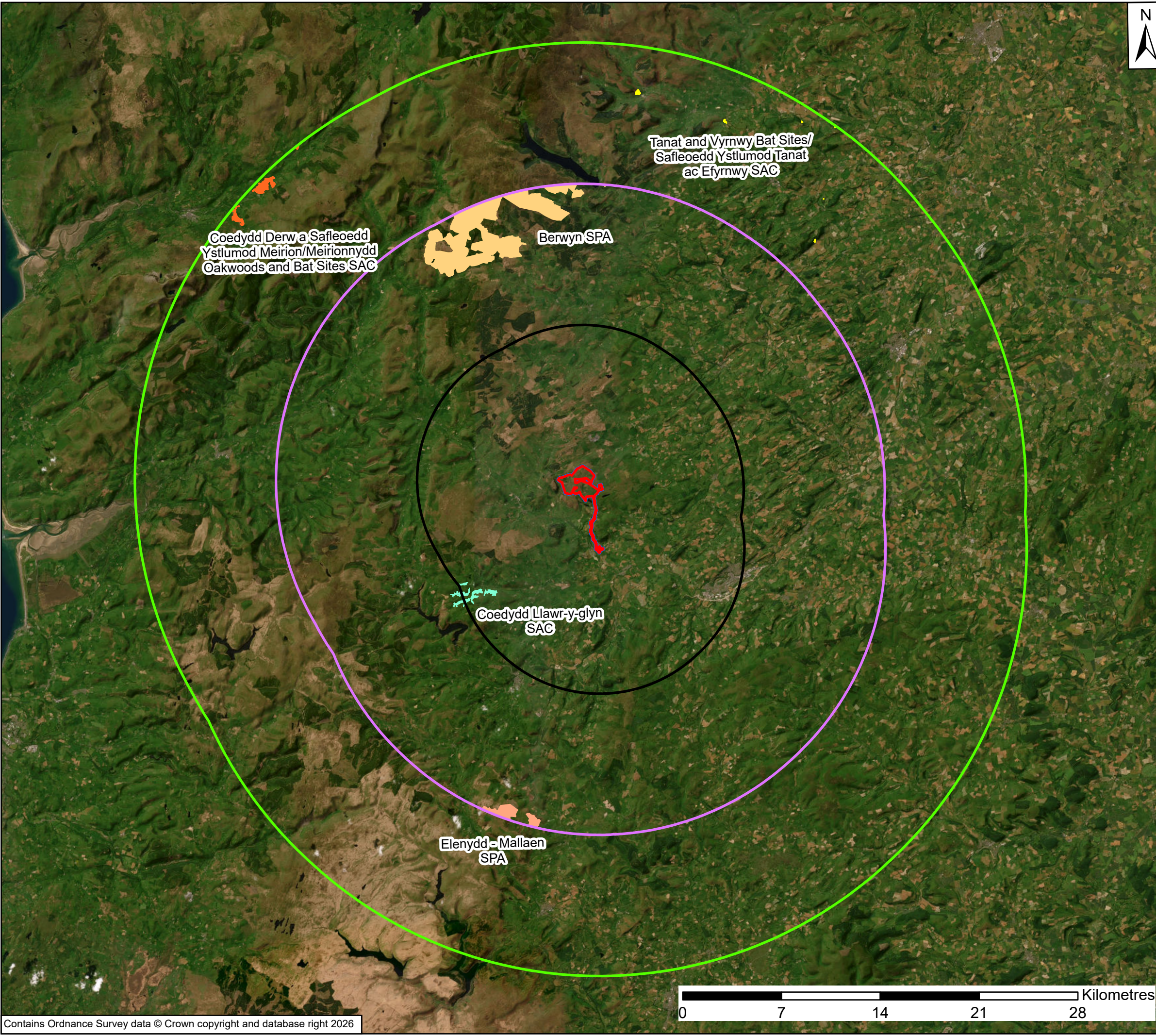
- 4.5.1 LSEs can result from the Proposed Development alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

- 4.5.2 The Powys Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026 (adopted 2018)¹⁸ and the Powys County Council planning portal from the last five years proximal (within 35 km) to the Proposed Development, and developments scoped in to the Cumulative Effects Assessment detailed in **Chapter 2: Approach to EIA** of the Environmental Statement, have been reviewed to obtain information on other projects, plans and developments that could give rise to in-combination effects with the Proposed Development.
- 4.5.3 No projects, plans or developments from the last five years were identified that could give rise to in-combination effects with the Proposed Development on International Sites.

¹⁸ Powys County Council (2018). Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026. [online]. Available at: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/4898/Adopted-LDP-2018>. [Accessed 16 March 2026].

5 SCREENING CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 No potential impact pathways (either from the Proposed Development alone or in-combination with other projects or plans) that could result in LSEs on the identified International Sites within the EZol were identified at the HRA Stage 1: Screening.
- 5.1.2 As no LSE have been predicted to arise, The Proposed Development is not considered to require HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.



Legend

-  Combined Site
-  Combined Survey Area
-  10km search area
-  20km search area
-  30km search area

Special Protection Area (SPA) designated for birds within 20km

-  Berwyn
-  Elenydd - Mallaen

Statutory designated sites within 10km

-  Coedydd Llawr-y-glyn Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

SACs designated for bats within 30km

-  Coedydd Derw a Safleoedd Ystlumod Meirion/Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites
-  Tanat and Vyrnwy Bat Sites/Safleoedd Ystlumod Tanat ac Efyrrwy



Client:
WIND2

Project:
CALON Y GWYNT - HRA Report

Title:
Statutory Designated Sites of International Importance within the relevant EZol of the Site

Drawing No:	Figure 5N.1	Drawn:	AM
Date:	6/13/2026	Checked:	MB
Scale:	1:260,000 @ A3	Approved:	MC

6 FIGURES

Figure 5N 1 – Statutory Designated Sites of International Importance within the relevant EZol of the Site



Kings Orchard
1 Queen Street
Bristol
BS2 0HQ

wsp.com

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