



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 7E: LANDMAP LHAA Assessment of Effects





Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 7E: LANDMAP LHAA Assessment of Effects

TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) PUBLIC

PROJECT NO. 62282400

OUR REF. NO. 62282400_APP7E_001

DATE: JULY 2026

WSP

1 Capital Quarter

Tyndall Street

Cardiff

CF10 4BZ

Phone: +44 2920 769 200

WSP.com

QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks				
Date				
Prepared by	KMW			
Signature				
Checked by	Dani Reeves			
Signature				
Authorised by				
Signature				
Project number	62282400			
Report number	001			
File reference				

CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	OVERVIEW	1
2	ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS	2
2.1	LHAA RECEPTORS	2

TABLES

Table 7E-1 - Assessment of effects: LHAA's	2
--	---

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1.1. The filtering process described in **Appendix 7B** identified three Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas (LHAAs) that should be carried through to the assessment of effects as follows:
- MNTGMLH028 (unnamed);
 - MNTGMLH052 (unnamed); and
 - MNTGMLH094 (unnamed).
- 1.1.2. The landscape sensitivity of the LHAAs to the Proposed Development is presented in **Appendix 7C** in accordance with the methodology set out in **Appendix 7A. Table 7E-1** in **Section 2** of this Appendix assesses the magnitude of change which is likely to arise as a consequence of the Proposed Development before determining the level and type of effect and its significance.
- 1.1.3. The geographical extent and location of the LHAAs scoped into the LVIA in relation to the Proposed Development is illustrated in **Figure 7.8b LANDMAP Landscape Habitats Aspect Areas with Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to blade tip**.

2 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS

2.1 LHAA RECEPTORS

Table 7E-1 - Assessment of effects: LHAAs

LHAA	Assessment
MNTGMLH028 (unnamed)	As set out in Table 7C-7 of Appendix 7C, this LHAA is assessed as being of High value and of Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be Medium. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> The Proposed Development would be located within this LHAA which comprises an extensive (5,052 ha) area of predominantly grassland habitat, with the LANDMAP Survey recording dominant habitats as being Improved Grassland (60%), Marshy Grassland (11%), Unimproved Acid Grassland (8%) and Semi-improved Acid Grassland (5%). Other habitats include Bracken (4%), scrub, hedgerows and the oligotrophic Llyn Mawr lake which is a SSSI. The blade tip ZTV in Figure 7.8b demonstrates that the Proposed Development would potentially be visible from across the majority of the LHAA, where up to 10-11 turbines may be visible, with small areas of landscape across Mynydd Hendre, Mynydd y Gribin and within the northern tip of the LHAA, lying outside of the ZTV. Reference to Figure 7.12 Cumulative Context indicates that all 17 of the operational Mynydd Clogau Wind Farm are located within this LHAA, along with nine turbines within the existing Tirgwn Wind Farm. The presence of the Proposed Development would have new direct effects within the LHAA which has high ecological value, as recorded on the LANDMAP Survey. The ecological designation (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC)) at Llyn Du would not be affected. The SSSI and Wildlife Trust Reserve at Llyn Mawr lies within the Site boundary and to the west of the northern extent of the upgraded section of access road. Whilst the Access Road Site boundary indicated on Figure 4.1, coincides with the western edge of the SSSI, the oversail/overrun requires only the clearance of landscape habitats and features which exceed 3m in height, with the boundary wall and grassland habitat within this area of SSSI being lower than 3m in height, and would therefore be retained. The direct loss of habitat within this LHAA would be associated with the footprint of the 11 proposed turbines, turbine hardstanding areas, new internal access track (totalling a length of 6.79km), upgraded (widened) existing access tracks (a total length of 3.88km) and associated ancillary development (temporary construction compound and substation, control building and BESS compounds). This would require the long-term removal of 3.19ha of habitat and temporary removal of 3.59ha of habitat (during the construction phase) from within the Main Site, excluding the sections of access road and internal access tracks within the LHAA. The long-term and temporary habitat removal combined represents approximately 0.13% of the habitat within the LHAA, with the Phase 1 Habitat Survey indicating that those habitats which coincide with the above infrastructure are primarily semi-improved acid grassland, bracken, marshy grassland and semi-improved neutral grassland, all of which are listed as prevalent habitats on the LANDMAP Survey. In summary, the loss of habitat required to accommodate the Proposed Development represents a small proportion of the landscape habitat within the LHAA and the remainder would continue to fulfil its present landscape function. Based on these considerations the magnitude of change would be Medium-Low within the southern part of LHAA MNTGMLH028, with Zero effects occurring within the remaining, extensive area to the north. Landscape effects would therefore be locally Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be

LHAA	Assessment
	long-term (reversible) (or permanent where access tracks are to be retained), direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> A small proportion of the habitats removed during the construction phase would be reinstated post construction within the construction compound and access road/track verges. The loss of habitat required to accommodate the Proposed Development would continue to represent a small proportion of the landscape habitat within the LHAA and the remainder would continue to fulfil its present landscape function. The habitats across the Main Site are simple and present a broadly consistent groundcover against which the operational turbines would be perceived. The magnitude of change would continue to be Medium-Low within the southern part of the LHAA, with Zero effects occurring within the remaining, extensive area to the north. Landscape effects would be locally Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) (or permanent where access tracks are to be retained), direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> The operational Mynydd Clogau and Tirgwnt Wind Farms are located within the LLHA, where the corresponding loss of habitat from the turbine hardstanding areas, internal access tracks and close to ancillary infrastructure can be observed on aerial photography. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be Medium-Low within these existing wind farms, with Zero effects occurring within the majority of the LHAA. Landscape effects would therefore be locally Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) (or permanent where access tracks are to be retained), cumulative, direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> The Esgair Cwmowen planning application scheme along with nine turbines, associated access tracks and ancillary infrastructure within the Llyn Lort scoping scheme would also be sited within this LHAA (Medium-Low to Zero magnitude). The additional and combined effect would remain Moderate to Minor and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (reversible) (or permanent where access tracks are to be retained), cumulative, direct and adverse.
MNTGMLH052 (unnamed)	As set out in Table 7C-7 of Appendix 7C, this LHAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>Medium</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> This LHAA comprises a single unit of land, which covers “<i>An area of smaller improved grass fields.....on the rolling lands of the valley sides.....Ribbon woodlands follow gullies down the hillsides of variable thickness. The fields are bounded mainly by hedges or wire fences with remnant mature trees. Grasslands vary from permanent pasture to temporary leys</i>”. The mosaic of dominant habitat comprises “<i>15% Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland, 80% Improved Grassland, 1% Running Water and 2% Buildings</i>”. The blade tip ZTV in Figure 7.8b demonstrates that the Proposed Development would potentially be visible from within the majority of the LHAA, where up to nine turbines may be visible, with only very small, fragmentary areas lying outside of the ZTV. Reference to Figure 7.12 indicates that there are no other wind turbines within LHAA MNTGMLH052. The proposed access road from the A470 would pass through two sections of the LHAA, as indicated on Figure 7.8b, giving rise to the direct loss of habitat. At a worst-case, this would be limited to the footprint of the access road, associated earthworks (cut and fill) and habitat clearance from within a 10 m buffer either side of the earthworks to ensure sufficient overrun and blade clearance (oversail). Reference to

LHAA	Assessment
	the Phase 1 Habitat Mapping indicates this would require the removal of sections of field boundary hedgerow and arable land at the A470/B4568 junction at Henblas, a small number of individual trees at Henblas and further north along the route, improved grassland and further sections of field boundary hedgerow. The access road would also pass through Coed yr Henblas, which is designated as Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland, requiring limited tree removal from within the eastern fringes of the woodland. A further small area of Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland would also be removed from along the western edge of Coed Neuadd-newydd, where the earthworks and 10m buffer from the areas of cut and fill coincide with the woodland. Minor watercourses within this LHAA would be crossed via new bridge structures. Further to the north, where the existing access road would be upgraded, trees, scrub and hedgerow which exceeds 3m in height would also be removed to provide sufficient oversail/overrun. The loss of peripheral areas of Ancient Woodland together with areas of grassland, sections of hedgerow and a small number of individual trees which would disrupt the pattern of '<i>smaller improved grass fields</i>', and the introduction of the Access Road which contrasts with the retained habitats, would give rise to a localised Medium magnitude of change and landscape effects would be Moderate and locally Significant. From within the small proportion of the LHAA which falls outside of the ZTV, the magnitude of change would be Zero and effects would be None. The nature of these effects would be short-term (long-term or permanent where the 5.5m-6.5m wide access road would be retained), direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> A proportion of the habitats removed during the construction phase would be reinstated post construction, predominantly within the 10 m buffer to the earthworks and where trees have been removed to accommodate the oversail/overrun. All trees would be surveyed post consent in accordance with BS5837:2012 to inform the detailed design of Access Road and an appropriate tree replacement strategy would be prepared to confirm the location of replacement tree and woodland planting¹. The loss of habitat required to accommodate the 5.5 m to 6.5 m access road would continue to represent a small proportion of the landscape habitat within the LHAA and the remainder would continue to fulfil its present landscape function. Reference to Figure 7.5 Detailed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to Hub Height with Viewpoint Locations demonstrates that up to six hubs only would be visible from within the LHAA, which reduces the potential for the scale of the proposed turbines to contrast with or detract from the complexity of habitats or to dominate the pattern of '<i>smaller improved grass fields</i>' which exists within this LHAA. The magnitude of change would continue to be Medium to Zero and landscape effects would be Moderate and Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (permanent where the 5.5m-6.5m wide access road would be retained), direct and adverse <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u>

¹ Where individual or groups of trees or hedgerows are removed as part of the Proposed Development, compensatory tree planting would be implemented in accordance with Planning Policy Wales, Edition 12, which sets a minimum ratio of "*at least 3 trees of a similar type and compensatory size planted for every 1 lost*" (paragraph 6.4.42). Compensatory planting in relation to tree groups requiring removal would also be implemented and would be equivalent to a minimum of 1,600 trees per hectare for broadleaves and 2,500 tree per hectare for conifers.

LHAA	Assessment
	There are no operational or consented schemes are sited within this LHAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be <i>Zero</i> and there would be no cumulative effects. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no planning application schemes are sited within this LHAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be <i>Zero</i> and there would continue to be no cumulative effects.
MNTGMLH094 (unnamed)	As set out in Table 7C-7 of Appendix 7C, this LHAA is assessed as being of Medium value and of Medium-Low susceptibility. The overall sensitivity is therefore considered to be <i>Medium-Low</i>. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Construction Phase</u> This LHAA comprises a single large unit which extends to an area of 3,167 ha and covers an area of mainly small pasture fields, surrounded by hedges although <i>“in places the hedges are now a series of single trees along a post and wire fence line. A few blocks of ribbon woodland occur in the area”</i>. The blade tip ZTV in Figure 7.8b indicates that the Proposed Development would potentially be visible from within a moderate proportion of the LHAA, where up to 10-11 turbines may occasionally be visible. Reference to Figure 7.12 indicates that there are no other wind turbines within LHAA MNTGMLH094. A section of the proposed access road from the A470 would pass through the south-western edge of MNTGMLH094, giving rise to the direct loss of habitat. This would be limited to the footprint of the access road, associated earthworks (cut and fill) and within the 10 m buffer to the earthworks to ensure sufficient overrun/oversail. Reference to the Phase 1 Habitat Mapping indicates that those habitats which would be removed include improved grassland, individual field boundary trees and a small area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland within the mosaic of habitat which comprises <i>“8% Semi-natural Broadleaved Woodland, 1% Planted Coniferous Woodland, 82% Improved Grassland, 1% Wet Heath/Acid Grassland Mosaic and 2% Arable”</i>. Two minor watercourses within and on the boundary of this LHAA would be crossed via new bridge structures. The loss of a very small proportion of the habitats within the LHAA would give rise to a Low to Zero magnitude of change and landscape effects would therefore be Minor to Negligible and Not Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be short-term (long-term or permanent where the 5.5m-6.5m wide access road would be retained), direct and adverse. <u>Assessment: Proposed Development Operational Phase</u> A proportion of the habitats removed during the construction phase would be reinstated post construction, predominantly within the 10 m buffer to the earthworks. All trees would be surveyed post consent in accordance with BS5837:2012 to inform the detailed design of Access Road and an appropriate tree replacement strategy would be prepared to confirm the location of replacement tree and woodland planting. The loss of habitat required to accommodate the 5.5m to 6.5m access road would continue to represent a small proportion of the landscape habitat within the LHAA and the remainder would continue to fulfil its present landscape function. Reference to Figure 7.5 indicates that up to six hubs only would commonly be visible from areas of landscape which coincide with the hub height ZTV, which reduces the potential for the scale of the proposed turbines to contrast with, detract from or overwhelm the <i>“Small field size, hedges and some ribbon woodlands together with the mosaic of land usage”</i> which <i>“give a local significance to this area”</i>. The magnitude of change would continue to be Low to Zero and landscape effects would be Minor to Negligible and Not

LHAA	Assessment
	Significant to None. The nature of these effects would be long-term (permanent where the 5.5m-6.5m wide access road would be retained), direct and adverse. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Proposed Development</u> There are no operational or consented schemes are sited within this LHAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be <i>Zero</i> and there would be no cumulative effects. <u>Cumulative Assessment: Operational + Consented Sites + Applications + Proposed Development</u> There are no planning application schemes are sited within this LHAA. As a consequence, the magnitude of change would be <i>Zero</i> and there would continue to be no cumulative effects.



1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ

wsp.com

WSP UK Limited 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 in the contract under which it was supplied.