



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 8A: Baseline Appendix





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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. WSP has been commissioned by Wind2 Ltd to produce a Baseline Appendix to support an Environmental Statement (ES) for a proposed wind farm development (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development' in Powys, Wales, centred on SO 00308 98059 (**Figure 8.1 – Designated Historic Assets and Theoretical Zone of Visibility** and **Figure 8.2 – Non-designated historic assets**).
- 1.1.2. The overview of the Proposed Development has been summarised here and is available in full detail in **Chapter 4** of the **Draft Environmental Statement (ES)**. The Proposed Development comprises the construction and operation of a wind farm of up to eleven Wind Turbine Generators (WTGs), along with substation and transformer housing; temporary construction compound; temporary site offices; crane pads and cabling; and access track construction.

1.2 SCOPE

- 1.2.1. This Baseline Appendix is a technical appendix to the Draft ES and provides a baseline of known or potential buried heritage assets (archaeological remains) and above ground heritage assets (structures and landscapes of historic interest) within the Proposed Development site (hereafter the 'Site') and study areas (defined below). These are identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions and includes designated historic assets, and non-designated historic assets.
- 1.2.2. The Baseline Appendix has been informed by the relevant professional standards and guidance which are provided in detail in **Chapter 8** of the **ES**. In particular, the Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020), which sets out good practice for the collation, analysis and presentation of baseline data has been followed.
- 1.2.3. In order to determine the full Cultural Heritage potential of the Site, a broad range of standard documentary and cartographic sources, including results from any archaeological investigations in the Site, an inner study area extending to a 2 km radius from the Site study area boundary has been examined in order to determine the likely nature, extent, preservation and significance of any known or possible historic assets that may be present within or adjacent to the Site (**Figure 8.2**). A study area extending to a 5km radius from the Site boundary has also been examined to determine the likely impact of the proposed development on the setting of designated historic assets (**Figure 8.1**). These study areas have been defined through consultation with stakeholders. All designated historic assets within 5km of the Site are presented in **Figure 8.1**. All non-designated historic assets and newly identified features of possible archaeological origin are shown on **Figure 8.2**.
- 1.2.4. Assessments of archaeological potential and significance based on the findings of this Baseline Appendix can be found in **Chapter 8** of the **ES**.
- 1.2.5. The potential impact of the Proposed Development on the historic character and setting of significant historic assets within and beyond the Site (e.g. views to and from listed buildings and conservation areas) are assessed in **Chapter 8** of the **ES**. **Chapter 8** of the **ES** also includes recommendations to mitigate any adverse effects (e.g. site-based investigation and/or design changes), where appropriate.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1.1. The Site is situated within the administrative area of Powys, in mid Wales. The Site is located on hills to the north of the A470 trunk road, approximately 2.7 km north of the village of Clatter, 3.5 km northeast of the village of Carno, 3.5 km north of the village of Pontdolgoch and 12 km north-west of Newtown. The Site is located within the local authority area of Powys County Council (PCC).

2.2 TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.2.1. Topography can provide an indication of suitability for settlement, and ground levels can indicate whether the ground has been built up or truncated, which can have implications for archaeological survival.
- 2.2.2. The highest point in the Site is the summit of Y Glon at 461 m Above Ordnance Datum AOD, although the vast majority of the Site occupies high moorland above 370 m OD. The lowest area of the Site that would be occupied by the Turbines and the associated infrastructure is in the east in the valley of the Nant y Llyn Mawr. The topographical low point of the Site sits at 135 m AOD in the south of the Site at the start of the access road portion of the Site (hereafter referred to as 'Access Road') near the B4568. The Access Road slopes up from the B4568 to the Turbine locations.
- 2.2.3. The Afon Carno is designated as a main river, and meanders through the western extent of the Site. There are several smaller natural watercourses within the Site, including Nant y Llyn Mawr which flows through the east and Nant yr Arion, which flow through the west. Tributaries of the Afon Rhiw, which flow through the north of the Site. The lakes Llyn Mawr, Llyn Du, and Llyn Tarw are within the 2 km study area.

2.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- 2.3.1. Geology can provide an indication of suitability for early settlement, and potential depth of remains.
- 2.3.2. British Geological Survey (BGS) indicates that the Site is largely underlain by Penstrowed Grits Formation-Sandstone and mudstone. The Access Road is underlain by the following:
- Penstrowed Grits Formation-Sandstone and mudstone
 - Dolgau Mudstones Formation-Mudstone
 - Nant-Ysgollon Mudstone Formation-Mudstone
 - Glanrafon Formation (Upper Tongue)-Interbedded mudstone and sandstone
 - Caerau Mudstones Formation-Mudstone
- 2.3.3. Superficial geological mapping indicates that superficial deposits are largely absent across the Site. There are some pockets of the following across the Site and Access Road:
- Till, Devensian-Diamicton
 - Peat-Peat
 - Head-Diamicton, gravel, sand and silt
 - Alluvial fan deposits-Sand and gravel

2.3.4. Soil mapping shows that there are four soil characterisations present within the Site and across the Access Road (Soilscapes, 2026):

- Slowly permeable wet very acid upland soils with a peaty surface
- Very acid loamy upland soils with a wet peaty surface
- Freely draining acid loamy soils over rock
- Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils

2.4 PREHISTORIC (800,000 BC TO AD 43)

- 2.4.1. While humans and their ancestors have occupied Wales since the Middle Palaeolithic (c. 250000-40,000 BC) there are no known finds dating to the Palaeolithic (800,000 to 10,000 BC) or Mesolithic (10,000 to 4000 BC) within the 2 km study area. The climate in the area occupied by the Site and 2 km study area improved in about 9600-9500BC (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). Most of the evidence from this period is found within caves or as isolated lithic remains as the movement of the ice sheets would have thawed or eroded any remains.
- 2.4.2. There are no known historic assets with a definite Mesolithic date within the Site. Although it does not have a definite date there is a fragment of a flint flake (PRN 1574, 1 km south of the Access Road) that was found on the raised bed of a now drained post glacial lake; however, no further information has been given by the Historic Environment Record (HER) and the journal article that they have referenced is not publicly available. This flake may date as early as the Mesolithic period. The presence of this lake during this time shows that the Site and 2 km study area would have looked very different in the prehistoric period with many natural features such as lakes which have since dried up. The presence of lithic material indicates episodic use of the Site and 2 km study area as there was a prehistoric lake, Llyn Mawr (PRN 86429), that would have facilitated fishing and seasonal hunting. Llyn Mawr is still present today and is located beyond the Site, 770m south-east of Turbine 3. Other flint flakes (PRN 23497, 840 m south of Turbine 3 and 240 m south of the Site) have been found in the 2 km study area which have a broad prehistoric date.
- 2.4.3. The climate became wetter in about 6000-5800BC which resulted in the spread of blankets of peat across the hillsides (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). This caused the gradual disappearance of the mixed forest cover that was present across the Site and 2 km study area throughout the Mesolithic period (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006).
- 2.4.4. There are no historic assets of Neolithic date within the Site but there are eleven recorded finds or features of Bronze Age date. The Neolithic (4000–2200 BC) and Bronze Age (2200–800 BC) are traditionally seen as times of technological change, settled communities and the construction of communal monuments. There was a further decline of woodland cover in the Site and 2 km study area in 3800 BC which indicates a deteriorating climate and increased waterlogged soils (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). Whilst there is no evidence of Neolithic activity within the Site that is recorded in the HER; human presence could be inferred from the woodland decline. The topography of the Site would have been less attractive to Neolithic settlement and land use due to the hilly terrain and high elevations of on average over 400m aOD than the lowland topography in the south of the 2 km study area. Instead, Neolithic activity, in the form of pottery (PRN 35862, 300m south-east of the Access Road), a mace (PRN 776, 360 m west of the Access Road), and two axes (PRN 974, 560 m west of the Access Road; PRN 5457, 1.5 km south-west of the Access Road) is present in the south of the Site where the elevation is approximately 130 m aOD. The location of

these historic assets indicate that Neolithic activity was focused in lowland areas that would allow much easier access to the River Carno which would have provided resources for fishing and hunting.

- 2.4.5. The historic assets within the 2 km study area represent the long-distance trade networks that would have been present during the Neolithic period. The pottery (PRN 35862) found 300 m south-east of the Access Road (**Figure 8.2**) is likely a rim sherd of a shouldered bowl that was sculpted in the Grimston-Lyles Hill tradition which represents the earliest pottery style in Neolithic Britain and originated in the East Riding of Yorkshire (Darvill, 2008).
- 2.4.6. Farming was established and forest cleared for cultivation and grazing during the Neolithic and Bronze Age, with a major phase of clearance in the region in which the Site is located between 1400 to 1300 BC which resulted in open woodland and heathland and virtually no tree woodland cover in upland areas (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006).
- 2.4.7. The Site is located within a known Bronze Age landscape predominantly dominated by clusters of hilltop and hill-edge burial and funerary structures, as well as some isolated monuments, and settlement patterns that indicate a number of distinct communities (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). Y Glon, a hill within the Site, has a peak of 461 m and would have been a prominent feature within the landscape. The landscape would have looked dramatically different in the Bronze Age period compared to the Neolithic due to the focus on constructing monumental structures. There are 121 Bronze Age historic assets within the 2 km study area, including cairns, standing stones, and stone circles which are predominantly concentrated on ridgelines and hill edges to form a monumental landscape. Historic assets in the Bronze Age are interconnected and form part of a wider landscape rather than existing as stand-alone monuments.
- 2.4.8. All five of the Scheduled Monuments within the Site date to the Bronze Age and there are a further 14 other non-designated Bronze Age historic assets which are located within the Site. Of those in the 2 km study area, 19 are designated and 102 are non-designated. The non-designated Y Glonc chambered cairn (PRN 112115) is the closest Bronze Age historic asset to a Turbine as it is 45 m north of Turbine 10 (See **Figure 8.2**). There are three scheduled, and nine non-designated other cairns within the Site which were located to take advantage of the long-range views that were afforded by being in upland areas. The Nant Cwm Gerwyn Cairns (MG278, **Plate 8A-1** and **Plate 8A-2**) comprises the remains of three burial cairns (PRN 912, PRN 913, PRN 4885) that sit within 1 km of each other and are located the closest to the peak of Y Glon. The location of PRN 4885 was not obvious during the Site Visit. It may survive as a patch of dirt visible in the central left of the photograph between the sheep and the field boundary. Turbine 8 is proposed to be sited just beyond the crest of the hill in the centre of the photograph (**Plate 8A-2**). It is typical for Bronze Age burial monuments to be located in areas that are visually prominent but are not the highest point in the landscape, suggesting their role as a marker of territory (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). The Nant Cwm Gerwyn Cairns (MG278) have not been subject to any archaeological investigation to date. The central stone scatter of the non-designated Glonc Kerb Cairn (PRN 4798, intersects Turbine 8) was cleared during excavations in the 1980s (PRN 38266). The detailed report of this excavation is not publicly available but the HER notes that there was a stone scatter surrounded by a circular setting of ten stones, two of which had fallen by the time of the excavation.

Plate 8A-1 - View South-West from PRN 912 towards PRN 913 and the Proposed Location of Turbine 7.



Plate 8A-2 - View East Towards the Recorded Location of PRN 4885.



- 2.4.9. Additional evidence of funerary or ritual activity within the Site includes the remains of a stone row (MG276, **Plate 8A-3**), comprised of 15 upright stones that sit 215 m north-west of Turbine 4. The stones are all aligned north to south except for the central stone which has been deliberately aligned east to west, which is the same orientation as the sun rises and sets. The stone row (MG276) indicates that this was a formal and ceremonial marker in the landscape rather than simply commemorative as the stone row would have directed movement between two cairns (PRN 4890 and 4891, 250 m north-west of Turbine 4). These three historic assets have been scheduled as one monument which consolidates the interconnected Bronze Age funerary landscape in the Site and 2 km study area.

Plate 8A-3 - View from the Centre of the Stone Row (MG276) Facing North. Tirgwynt Wind Farm is Visible in the Distance.



- 2.4.10. Evidence of Bronze Age settlement has been identified within the Site and 2 km study area and is considered to be relatively uncommon within the Welsh uplands. Within the Site, there are four known hut circles which all sit with 300 m of each other. The closest known evidence of settlement to the proposed development is Graig y Llyn Mawr Hut III (PRN 917) which is 15 m west of the Access Road between Turbines 4 and 6 (**Figure 8.2**). Craig y Llyn Mawr Hut II (PRN 916) sits on the other side of this track, 50 m east of the Graig y Llyn Mawr Hut III (PRN 917). The scattered settlement suggests that there were distinct communities that occupied the landscape and the upland location indicates that they were in use when the climate was warmer and dryer (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006).
- 2.4.11. The use of the landscape in which the Site is located changed between the Bronze Age and Iron Age (800 BC–AD 43) from funerary and ritual to domestic and defensive. The population moved from a more communal land use suggested by the ubiquitousness of open monumental architecture to a more exclusive private land use model seen in the hillforts and enclosures of the late Bronze Age and throughout the Iron Age (Karl, 2017). The Site was located in the territory of the Ordovices, their group covered most of the mountains and valleys across modern mid-Wales (BBC, 2014). The tribe members lived in small, defended farms (BBC, 2014).
- 2.4.12. There are no known historic assets dating to the Iron Age in the Site. Within the 2 km study area there are no designated historic assets but 11 non-designated historic assets that date to the Iron Age. Four designated historic assets dating to the Iron Age are located within the 5 km study area. The closest evidence of Iron Age activity to the Site is the non-designated Ty-Gwyn hillfort (PRN

166840), located 1.6 km south-east of Turbine 5 (**Figure 8.2**). It is one of seven hillforts in the Study area. The hillfort sits on a prominent ridge end that overlooks the stream Nant Cwmgerwyn to the east. The stream is located between the Site and the hillfort. The hillfort evidences the instability of the period as it has a complex gateway arrangement that would have provided defensive reassurance to the tribe inhabiting it.

- 2.4.13. Additional evidence of Iron Age settlement within the 2 km study area consists of ditched enclosures. The closest is Caesamson enclosure (PRN 7523), which is 1.2 km west of the Access Road and 4.4 km south of Turbine 4 (**Figure 8.2**). The enclosure has a double ditch which indicates a change to 'private property' (Karl, 2017). This and the other enclosures are all in the south of the 2 km study area, in the lowlands which was characteristic of settlement in the Welsh Iron Age. Further evidence of Iron Age activity is possible within the Site but is likely to be limited to pastoral or arable farming as is characteristic of upland areas in the Iron Age (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006).
- 2.4.14. Undated evidence of prehistoric settlement and activity has been identified within the Site. Prehistoric pollen (PRN 58783) has been identified 330 m south-west of Turbine 2; however, the HER did not provide any further information.

2.5 ROMAN (AD 43 – 410)

- 2.5.1. The Roman emperor Claudius invaded south-east Britain between AD 43 to 47 and then began the conquest of Wales in AD 48 through a series of attacks from allied territories (Burnham and Davies 2010). Initially the focus of the invasion was on tribes, groups and leaders who were antagonistic to Rome and its agenda rather than concentrating on subduing the region as a whole. Wales was not a united front and some of the native groups were allied with Rome preventing a uniformity in response in the early interactions (Burnham and Davies 2010). The early northern campaigns are thought to be spearheaded by troops based at an early iteration of Castra Deva in modern day Chester.
- 2.5.2. Military operations to subdue the region began in earnest in the 60s and 70s AD. The conquest of Wales was facilitated by utilising the rivers as jumping off points to conquer the interior regions. Wales was subject to intensive militarisation after the successful attack on Anglesey in AD 78 as seen by the network of forts, temporary marching camps and fortlets connected by a series of roads (Burnham and Davies 2010).
- 2.5.3. There are no known Roman historic assets within the Site. The closest Roman military installation to the Site is the scheduled Caersws Roman site (MG001), 1.8 km to south-west of the Access Road and 5.7 km south-west of the Turbine 1. This was a large fort that was constructed in the early Flavian (c 70 AD). It had two further phases of construction in the Trajanic/Hadrianic period (c 12 AD) and the Hadrianic/Antonine period (140 AD). Its location gave the Roman administration strategic control of the River Severn valley and its confluence with the Afon Carno and so control of modern Mid-Wales.
- 2.5.4. The fort's vicus (MG242; MG243) sits to the south, 2.3 km south-east of the Access Road. Two military camps (MG161) related to the fort are located to its east, 2.6 km south-east of the Access Road. By the 2nd century, the majority of the military installations within Wales had been gradually reduced and/or abandoned and the forces were deployed to the north along the frontier with Scotland (Burnham and Davies, 2010). Despite this, an annexe (PRN119909, 1.9 km south-east of the Access Road) was added in the early to mid-2nd century and the fort remained in military use

until the 3rd century. This may be due to its strategic positioning that allowed for control of modern Mid-Wales.

- 2.5.5. As part of this control, there are two roads that were built to facilitate movement across the landscape. The Caersws to Pennal road (RR643) broadly follows the route of the modern A470 past the Site, connecting Caersws fort (MG001) to Cefn-Caer fort (ME009) 28.8 km west of the Site near the Welsh coast. The southern end of the Access Road overlaps part of the Caersws to Pennal road (RR643) at the junction between the A470 and the B4568. The Caersws to Trefeglwys road (RR64) broadly follows the route of the modern B4569 near the Site and continues north-eastward to Wroxeter (NHLE 1003705, 56.2 km north-east of the Site), which was the fourth largest city in Roman Britain (English Heritage, 2026). At its closest point, the road is 2.2 km south of Turbine 5. Alongside the Caersws to Trefeglwys road (RR64), there are a number of undated kilns (PRN 774, 1.7 km south-west of the Access Road) that may be contemporary to the road, but it is also possible that they are of medieval or post-medieval date.
- 2.5.6. There is no further known evidence of Roman activity within the Site or 2 km study area; however, it likely continued to be used for arable and pastoral farming (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). There are four Roman coins that have been found in the south of the 2 km study area, the two closest (PRN 773 and 6380) were found 695 m south-east of the Access Road. The exact emperors that they are associated with are not clear as one (PRN 6380) was illegible, and the other (PRN 773) was defaced and is either associated with Vespasian (69 AD to 79 AD) or Titus (79 AD to 81 AD). The two other coins date to the reigns of Constantine (PRN 119412, 2 km south-east of the Access Road, 307 AD to 337 AD) and Licinius (PRN 119395, 1.7 km south-east of the Access Road, 308 AD to 324 AD). There is no evidence to suggest Roman settlement within the Site; however, it would have been part of the agricultural hinterland of the Caersws fort (MG001), and any activity would have largely been overseen by intensive Roman military presence until the 3rd century.

2.6 EARLY MEDIEVAL (AD 410 – 1100)

- 2.6.1. The nature and dispersal of settlement in Wales during the early medieval period is not well understood in part because it is likely that building traditions and domestic life were not significantly changed from those seen in earlier periods (Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust, 2018). It is considered likely that Chester continued to form a focus for activity within the region during this period. Chester is thought to have been part of the territory of the Kingdom of Powys as the seat of a branch of Cadelling, a native British royal family, particularly given its centrality to the road network established in the Roman period (Victoria County History, 2003).
- 2.6.2. The continued migration and settlement of the Angles and Saxon tribes into Britain, as well as their growing population, pushed the Celtic tribes of Britain into the west into the areas of Cornwall, Wales and Scotland (Hume, 2021). The Welsh kingdoms became increasingly unified throughout the period into three major blocks of power: Gwynedd in the north-west, Powys in the centre and east, and Deheubarth in the south. The area containing the Site was located in the region of Powys. The kingdom of Powys was the easternmost major Kingdom in Wales and so faced the most pressure from Mercia (Irvine, 2022). Powys fought successful campaigns against Mercia across the 7th and 8th century, and these successes led to the construction of Offa's Dyke (Irvine, 2022).

- 2.6.3. The Welsh kingdoms were united under Rhodri ap Merfyn Frych, also known as Rhodri Mawr, in the mid to late 9th century but this unification was short lived as internal conflict and rivalry following Rhodri's death divided the kingdoms until rise of Gruffudd ap Llywelyn in the mid-11th century (Hume, 2021).
- 2.6.4. There are no known early medieval historic assets in the Site or 2 km study area. Early medieval activity in upland areas of Wales typically related to transhumance, the seasonal exploitation of the pastureland in the spring and summer then limited use in the autumn and winter (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). Early medieval settlements were located in lowland areas (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006).

2.7 MEDIEVAL (AD 1101 – 1540)

- 2.7.1. Wales at the beginning of the medieval period was fragmented into several kingdoms with its rulers and independent princes bonded by common language and laws. The Site continued to be located in the kingdom of Powys.
- 2.7.2. The Normans introduced the use of castles within the landscape in the 11th century, which were soon copied by Welsh princes. In its earliest form this was a mound of earth (the motte) topped with a timber tower and often supported by an enclosure surrounded by a bank and ditch (the bailey). There are two known motte and bailey castles (MG017, and MG051, both 4 km south-east of the Access Road) within the 2 km study area however Cadw provides no further information regarding the origins of either.
- 2.7.3. The 13th century was characterised by instability and a shifting political landscape as a result of the internal squabbles over the Welsh succession and tensions with the English royalty. Welsh resistance to English conquest continued until 1283 when Wales became England's first colony.
- 2.7.4. There are ten known medieval historic assets within the Site. The Site partly sits within the manor of Llanugan, which belonged to the Cistercian nunnery at Llanllugan (NPRN 400314, 6.1km north-east of Turbine 10) (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006) which was founded by 1188 (Coflein, 2021). It also lies partly within the medieval grange of Tid Abad, which belonged to the Cistercian abbey (MG120, 25 km north-east of the Site) at Strata Marcella (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006) which was founded in 1170 (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2012). The Site itself was predominantly used for animal husbandry and growing crops during this period. LiDAR analysis provides evidence of ridge and furrow (RSply_ID_009, RSply_ID_010, RSply_ID_011, RSply_ID_012) in the Site; there is a particular focus to the west of Turbine 6 (see **Figure 8.2**). The southern end of the Access Road is located 2 km north-west of the medieval town of Caersws (PRN 29038). There is evidence of the Site's pastoral use in the form of huts and shelters (PRN 915, PRN 84728, PRN 4886, PRN 112116, PRN 112118), and sheep folds (PRN 5934, PRN 914). There is probable evidence of domestic activity within the Site in the form of a platform (PRN 149074, within the path of the Access Road) where a house may have once stood and a probable long house (PRN 914), both of which may have been seasonally used (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). The longhouse was later replaced by a sheepfold which demonstrates continued use and adaption of the Site. The lack of evidence for permanent domestic settlement is consistent with transhumance-based activity.
- 2.7.5. There are two religious medieval designated historic assets in the 2 km Study area. The closest to the Site is the Grade II* listed medieval Church of St Gwynog (LB 7580) that is the parish church of Llanwnnog, 650 m east of the Access Road. The building dates to the 15th century and still contains

some medieval fabric, such as a rood screen, and has had later, post-medieval, additions. The squared sandstone blocks of the medieval building may have been taken from the defences of the Roman fort (MG001) (Clywd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2026). Place-name evidence ‘llan’ which means ‘enclosure’, as well as its siting in a curvilinear churchyard indicates that the church may be built in the location of an early medieval church. A scheduled cross-marked stone (MG146) located at Capel Penial (LB 17572, 4 km west of Turbine 5) (**Figure 8.2**), also evidences religious medieval activity. It is not in its original location. It was found in 1960, acting as a gate-post nearby before it was moved to its current location. There is one other potential location of medieval religious activity as local myth has located a chapel on the crannog (PRN 17456) on lake Llyn Mawr, 710 m south of Turbine 2. A mortised (cut) oak timber (PRN 80198) was found in peat in the west of the lake which has not been definitively dated. There is no other evidence that there was a chapel there, but as the lake sits within Cistercian lands it suggests that the building may have had an ecclesiastical use (Heneb, 2026).

- 2.7.6. The town of Caersws (PRN 29038) continued to be in use through the medieval period and was first referred to as Caersws in the 14th century. There was an attempt to establish a borough with weekly markets by the lords of Arwystli or Powys, however they were unsuccessful as by the end of the medieval period Caersws was no bigger than a small hamlet (Clywd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2026). A potential llys, Pen-prys, (PRN 142444) is located 1.5 km south of the start of the Access Road. A llys is a medieval royal court and centre for a Welsh ruler to run local affairs such as managing land and holding meetings. They were typically sited in low-land locations with good transport links, waterways, and space for supporting farmland. Despite no archaeological evidence being found to support this, reference to Pen-prys was first made in the 13th century and is thought to be part of Arwystli (Silvester, 2015). There is more compelling evidence that following the Roman period, administrative control in the 2 km study area moved from Caersws to Llanwnnog. Llanwnnog is first recorded in the late 12th century and, according to the HER, means ‘Church of Gwynnog’, who is the saint that its church is dedicated to. In the 14th century the bishop of Bangor held lands in the parish. The reuse of the Roman fort (MG001) material in Llanwnnog’s church (LB 7580) may indicate the deliberate attempt of showing that the centre of control was being dismantled and relocated.
- 2.7.7. The medieval historic assets within the Site reflect low-intensity exploitation of upland landscapes, characterised by seasonal occupation, pastoral management, and transhumance, which supported the permanent nucleated settlements in the lowland areas.

2.8 POST-MEDIEVAL (1540 – 1913)

- 2.8.1. The Site during the post-medieval period continued to be used for pastoral activity. There was piecemeal enclosure in the upland area of the Site whereas in comparison the lowland area in the 2 km study area experienced greater intensification. Within the Site there are 17 post-medieval historic assets.
- 2.8.2. The earliest historic map showing the Site is Saxton’s 1579 map of Montgomery (modern Montgomery) not reproduced) (Saxton, 1579). It shows the Site as mountainous land north of the settlement of Llanwenog (modern Llanwnnog). The majority of the Site lies within the upland moors most likely used for pasture. In the 17th century it was common agricultural practice in the area to move livestock from one grazing ground to another in a seasonal cycle, typically to lowlands in winter and uplands in summer.

- 2.8.3. The majority of historic assets related to this period are agricultural, including 15 of the 17 post-medieval historic assets within the Site. These include farmsteads, sheep folds, and shelters. Many footpaths that are still present in the Site are marked on the Ordnance Survey Montgomeryshire (1863) map. The Historic Landscape Characteristic data identified that despite the enclosure of the lowland in the wider landscape during the 19th century, the upland areas of the Site continued to have irregular field boundaries (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). Within the Site there were some new field boundaries established but the fields were considerably larger Common Land in the upland areas compared to the lowland. This is particularly noticeable in the Ordnance Survey Montgomeryshire (1885) and Ordnance Survey Montgomeryshire (1886) maps where lowland areas are enclosed, but the upland area of the Site has large irregular fields reflective of communal grazing.
- 2.8.4. Hafods (sheiling huts) are dwellings constructed within upland pasture usually above 300 m AOD which lay on the extremities of farmland near the summer grazing lands. The hafods were used by farmers to attend to the upkeep of their livestock in the summer months and could develop into sizable farms. The presence of hafods reflect the continuation of transhumance-based pastoral activity from the medieval into the post-medieval period. There is one, Lluest-uchaf (PRN 86428) within the Site located 245m south-east of Turbine 4, 270 m north of Turbine 3, and 500 m north-west of Turbine 2. There is a building in its location marked as 'Lluest-y-Llynmawr' on the 1863 OS map, but it is not labelled as 'Lluest-uchaf' until the Ordnance Survey Montgomeryshire (1885) which may reflect a change of ownership. The building appears to still be present. There are a further three hafods, and 220 other farm related buildings beyond the Site which reflects the rural agricultural landscape that the Site sat within during the post-medieval period. This also reinforces that the area containing the Site continued to be a pastoral landscape rather than an area of permanent settlement.
- 2.8.5. Post-medieval land use within the Site also included small-scale resource extraction, in particular peat cutting and stone extraction. There is a potential area of stone extraction (PRN 5935, 395 m east of Turbine 5) which survives as a small platform on the edge of a rocky out-crop however it is possible that it is instead the remains of a building or shelter. Two quarries (RSply_ID_013 and RSply_ID_035) have been identified during LiDAR analysis in the Site, the closest (RSply_ID_013 **Plate 8A-4**) is 50 m north-east of Turbine 6, but both are intersected by proposed access tracks. Another (RSply_ID_033) has been identified within the Access Road. Extracted stone was likely used to build the nearby sheepfolds and shelters rather than supply the post-medieval settlements in the region. The Site sits within a boggy landscape that was subject to peat cutting during the post-medieval period as a source of fuel (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006). This took place within the Site, as evidenced by a probable drying platform (PRN 112119, 230 m east of Turbine 9 and 435 m west of Turbine 11), situated on the edge of boggy ground. Together these features are consistent with low-intensity post-medieval exploitation of the upland landscape, rather than isolated or anomalous activity. Higher-intensity industry in comparison is located in the lowland 2 km study area, such as near Caersws where there has been a wool factory (PRN 110375) and a corn mill (PRN 20909).

Plate 8A-4 - View South towards a Quarry (RSply_ID_013) that was Identified during LiDAR Analysis of the Site.



- 2.8.6. There are two turnpike roads (PRN 140836, 2.1 km south of Turbine 5 at its closest point; PRN 140783, 4.1 km south of Turbine 1 at its closest point) (**Figure 8.2**) south of the Site that intersect the southern end of the Access Road. One (PRN 140836) is the route of a turnpike road between Newtown and Glantwymyn that follows the route of the modern B4568 between Newtown and the Access Road, then follows the modern A470 west of the Site to Glantwymyn. This road broadly follows the route of the Roman Road (RR643). There is a railway line that follows a similar route past the Site that was opened following the Newtown and Machynlleth Railway Act 1857 by the Newtown and Machynlleth Railway Company in 1863 (History Powys, 2026). It is labelled as the Machynlleth Railway on the 1863 OS map (National Library of Scotland, 2026). The Cambrian Railway Company was created in 1864 when the Cambrian Railways Act 1864 received royal assent (UK Government, 2026) and the new ownership is reflected in the 1886 OS map (National Library of Scotland, 2026).
- 2.8.7. In summary, the post-medieval activity within the Site reflects continued pastoral use of the upland landscape, with limited enclosure, seasonal occupation, and small-scale resource extraction. Surviving historical assets reflect long-term continuity in land-use patterns from the medieval period, with adaptation rather than transformation of the landscape.

2.9 MODERN (1914 – PRESENT)

- 2.9.1. The modern period within the Site is characterised by continuity of pastoral land use. There are two modern historic assets within the Site which reflect that there has been minimal modern development within the boundary. The present-day settlements in the Site are post-medieval farms that have later additions.
- 2.9.2. There was rapid development following the First World War across Britain to produce a more substantial and accurate mapping system (OS Maps, 2023). In April 1936, over 6500 triangulation pillars (trig pillars) were built across Britain based on a design by Brigadier Martin Hotine (OS Maps, 2023). One (PRN 84731) is located 430 m north-west of Turbine 5 and is next to a 20th century cairn (PRN 84730) (**Figure 8.2**). The trig pillar's location was chosen as it is on elevated ground which provides clear lines of sight between itself and other trig pillars. Also, in response to the First World War, there are three war memorials that were erected, two in Clatter (PRN 130967, PRN 145413) and one in Llanwnnog (PRN 145387), which reflect social changes and events rather than a change of land use.
- 2.9.3. Modern development within the wider 2 km study area is largely focused on improvements to infrastructure. The Cambrian Railways were amalgamated into the Great Western Railways in 1922 (Johnson, 2013) and by 1966 passenger services were withdrawn as a result of the Beeching cuts (Cambrian Heritage Railways, 2026). From the late 20th century, there has been an intensification of renewable energy development. The first commercial onshore wind farm in Wales was commissioned in Anglesey in 1992 (RenewableUK Cymru, 2023). There are two operational wind farms within the upland area of the 2 km study area. The earliest built was Mynydd Clogau Wind Farm which was constructed between 2005 and 2006 (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, 2006) to the east of the Site. Its nearest turbine is 720 m north-east of the Site and 1.2 km east of Turbine 11. Tirgwynt Wind Farm was commissioned in 2016 (Belltown Power, 2026) and its nearest turbine is located 1.2 km north of the Site (1.5 km north of Turbine 7).
- 2.9.4. The modern activity within the Site is characterised by limited physical change and a continuation of established pastoral land use. Modern changes to the landscape reflect functional and infrastructural requirements rather than substantial change of the historic use.

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