

# Appendix 8F

## Biodiversity Scoping

Ecological Feature	Importance – legislation and policy	Importance – project level	Environmental change	Scoped in/out
<b>Blackmill Woodlands SAC</b>	International	International	All environmental changes	Out - Designated for its old sessile oak woods. There are no pathways for this site to be affected by the proposed development. The SAC is over 9km from the Site, and so not exposed to the environmental changes associated with the proposals. As a result, it is considered that the Proposed Development would have 'no effect' on this SAC.
<b>Cardiff Beech Woods SAC</b>	International	International	All environmental changes	Out - Designated for its <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forest There are no pathways for this site to be affected by the proposed development. The SAC is over 9km from the Site, and so not exposed to the environmental changes associated with the proposals. As a result, it is considered that the Proposed Development would have 'no effect' on this SAC.
<b>Nant Gelliwion Woodland SSSI</b>	National (UK)	National (UK)	All environmental changes	Out – This SSSI is located over 1.2km from the Site boundary, designated for its mixed deciduous woodland, the site or interest features will not be exposed or sensitive to the likely effects of the Proposed Development due to the distance and absence of reasonable impact pathways (no hydrological linkages; interest features not sensitive).

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<b>Rhos Tonyrefail SSSI</b>	National (UK)	National (UK)	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In - located adjacent to Site boundary.
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	Out – this SSSI is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
			Increased light levels	Out – this SSSI is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
			Physical changes to the spatial environment	Out – this SSSI is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
<b>Mynydd y Glyn SINC</b>	County	County	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In - located adjacent to Site boundary.
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
			Increased light levels	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
			Physical changes to the spatial environment	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
<b>Trebanog Slopes SINC</b>	County	County	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In - Located within the Site boundary.
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration

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			Increased light levels	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via increased light levels
			Physical changes to the spatial environment	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species at risk to killing or injury through direct collision with moving turbine blades or barotrauma during flight.
<b>Nant Gelliwion /Waun Castellau SINC</b>			Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In - Located outside the Site boundary, but within the proposed Grid Connection route
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via aural and visual stimuli and vibration
			Increased light levels	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species sensitive to disturbance via increased light levels
			Physical changes to the spatial environment	Out – this SINC is not designated primarily for species at risk to killing or injury through direct collision with moving turbine blades or barotrauma during flight.
<b>Bronwydd Woods SINC, The Glyn SINC, Tonyrefail East SINC, Coed Castellau SINC</b>	County	County	All environmental changes	Out - Located outside the Site boundary, site or interest features will not be exposed or sensitive to the likely effects of the proposed development due to the distance and absence of reasonable impact pathways (no hydrological linkages; interest features not sensitive).
<b>Blanket bog</b>	National (Wales)	County	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	Out - The blanket bog recorded on Site qualifies as Section 7 habitat, however none of this habitat is within or directly adjacent to the construction, operation or decommissioning areas.

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<b>European Otter</b>	International	Negligible	All environmental changes	Out – No evidence of otters was found within the Site boundary. There are no rivers on or directly adjacent to the Site. The ditches on Site have low potential for foraging, and negligible potential for resting and holt creation as the ditches are shallow with no cover. Otters may periodically cross the Site, although if any such use occurs this would be intermittent and unlikely to be detected without an enhanced level of survey and monitoring effort that is not commensurate with the level of risk to this species. Normal best-practice during construction as detailed in the embedded environmental measures ( <b>Table 8.10</b> ) will be sufficient to safeguard this species.
<b>Peat</b>	International	Negligible	All environmental changes	Detailed in <b>Chapter 11: Ground Conditions</b>
<b>Bats</b>	International	County	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In – bats have been recorded foraging and commuting across the Site
			Increased light levels	In – bats have been recorded foraging and commuting across the Site
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	In – bats have been recorded foraging and commuting across the Site
			Physical changes to the spatial environment	In – bats have been recorded foraging and commuting across the Site
<b>Water vole</b>	National (Wales)	Negligible	All environmental changes	Out – the habitats on Site are not considered suitable to support this species. No records of water vole were returned during the desk study and surveys found no signs of water vole. The watercourses identified on Site had limited suitability for water vole generally with shallow banks, lack of vegetation,

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				depth and lack of burrowing opportunities, a pond and an area of peat bog was also surveyed and was found to have low suitability of this species. Water voles are therefore considered to be absent from the Site.
<b>Hazel dormouse</b>	International	Negligible	All environmental changes	Out – the habitats on and adjacent to the Site are not considered suitable to support dormouse, surveys have not recorded this species on or adjacent to the Site.
<b>Great crested newts</b>	International	Negligible	All environmental changes	Out - eDNA surveys confirmed this species to be absent from ponds on Site and within 500m of the Site.
<b>Reptiles</b>	National (Wales)	Local	Permanent or temporary land-take/changes to habitats	In – due to legislative protection. During the presence/absence reptile surveys grass snake, common lizard and slow worm were recorded in suitable habitat within the Site boundary, with results indicating the presence of a low population of slow worm and grass snake and a good population of common lizard.
			Production of aural and visual stimuli and vibration	Out – reptiles are not considered to be susceptible to significant disturbance by aural and visual stimuli and vibration.
			Increased light levels	Out – reptiles are not considered to be susceptible to significant disturbance by light.
<b>Marsh Fritillary</b>	National (UK)	National (UK)	Negligible	Out – Surveys for marsh fritillary have not recorded this species present on Site, the majority of the Site is heavily grazed with short sward acid grassland unsuitable to support marsh fritillary, a species commonly associated with calcareous grassland. The damper habitats within the Site, including the blanket bog and wet heath could provide sub-optimal habitat for this species, however no devil's bit scabious or field scabious

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				was identified during surveys, which are the main food plants or the species.
<b>Section 7 invertebrate species</b>	National (Wales)	Local	All environmental changes	Out – Notable invertebrates identified within 2km of the Site during the desk study includes small pearl-bordered fritillary and small heath butterflies and cinnabar moth. The areas of continuous bracken habitat identified, particularly in the centre of the Site resembles suitable habitat for these species, with habitat occurring on south facing sunny slopes. The Proposed Development will not substantially reduce the availability or accessibility of suitable habitats within the Site or locally and the Proposed Development is only likely to result in a minor effect on commonly occurring species.
<b>Hedgehog</b>	National (Wales)	Local	All environmental changes	Out - The only potentially suitable habitat for hedgehog is the scrub in the south and northeast of the Site, however the species is scarcely found in uplands and are commonly associated with a mosaic of hedgerows woodland and grassland opposed to the vast open grassland habitat on-Site
<b>Common toad</b>	National (Wales)	Local	All environmental changes	Out - The waterbody on Site holds the potential to support common toad breeding. The majority of Site habitats are not suitable however and the Proposed Development would not substantially reduce the availability or accessibility of suitable habitats within the Site or locally.

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<b>Notable plant communities</b>	County	Local	All environmental changes	Out - Of the notable plant species identified in the desk study, only dog violet was identified during the extended Phase 1 habitat survey, where it was present in the semi-improved acid grassland which is the dominant habitat on site. The Proposed Development would not substantially reduce the availability or accessibility of suitable habitats within the Site or locally and the Proposed Development is only likely to result in a minor effect on notable plant communities.
<b>Invasive non-native flora</b>	National	Negligible	All environmental changes	Out- a patch of Himalayan Balsam was recorded in the west of the Site, This was located outside the proposed area of land take for the Proposed Development.