# Fferm Solar Larnog

## Environmental Statement

## Volume I, Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

November 2026

# Issue Sheet

Report Prepared for Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

**Document Title**

Volume I, Non-Technical Summary

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Overview

1.1.1. Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru ('the Applicant') is seeking planning permission for the construction, operation and decommissioning of Larnog Solar Farm (the 'Proposed Development') on land approximately 500 m south-west of Penarth and 550 m east of Sully (the 'Site'). The Site is located within the administrative boundary of the Vale of Glamorgan Council (hereafter, the 'Council'). The location of the Site and wider Land Ownership Boundary is shown on **Figure 1.1: Site Location Plan**.

1.1.2. The Proposed Development would comprise approximately 35 megawatts (MW) of ground-mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) generation. It would also include a Project Substation compound, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), electrical equipment and associated infrastructure.

1.1.3. The Proposed Development constitutes 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) development' under the Town and Country Planning (EIA) (Wales) Regulations 2017. A Screening Opinion was issued by the Council on 27 March 2026, which confirmed that an EIA was required. A formal Scoping Opinion was subsequently issued by the Council on 7 October 2026, setting out the matters to be addressed by the EIA.

1.1.4. An EIA has been undertaken to accompany the application for planning permission. EIA is a process that identifies and assesses the likely significant environmental effects of a development. It also identifies opportunities to avoid, prevent, reduce or, where possible, offset adverse environmental effects. The findings of the EIA are reported in an Environmental Statement (ES).

## 1.2. Purpose of this Non-Technical Summary

1.2.1. This Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides a summary of the findings of the ES in non-technical language, to enable local communities and other stakeholders to understand the Proposed Development and its likely environmental effects in a concise and accessible manner.

1.2.2. This NTS provides a description of the Site and the Proposed Development, explains how the design has evolved, summarises the EIA process, details the findings of the environmental assessments and identifies any proposed mitigation to reduce impact.

1.2.3. The ES comprises four volumes:

- Volume I: Non-Technical Summary (this document);
- Volume II: Main Written Statement;
- Volume III: Figures; and
- Volume IV: Appendices.

# 2. The Site

## 2.1. The Site

2.1.1. The Site is situated to the south of the B4267 Lavernock Road and north of the Glamorgan Coast. The surrounding area comprises a mixture of agricultural land, residential development and recreational uses. The Bay Caravan Park is located immediately south of the Site, while Ysgol Llyn Derw and the proposed Upper Cosmeston Farm housing development are located to the north. Cosmeston Lakes Country Park is located approximately 300 m north of the Site.

2.1.2. The Site is approximately 46.5 hectares (ha) and largely comprises agricultural land with defined field boundaries and pockets of woodland. The wider Land Ownership Boundary comprises approximately 117 ha.

2.1.3. The Site occupies a gently undulating coastal landscape, on a plateau above the Severn Estuary. Agricultural fields within the Site are enclosed by hedgerows, tree belts and small woodland blocks. The wider landscape is characterised by rolling lowland topography, with coastal cliffs forming the southern edge of the landscape and falling towards the Bristol Channel.

2.1.4. The Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Ramsar Site and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are approximately 550 m east of the Site. Penarth Coast SSSI is adjacent to the south-eastern Site Boundary, while Cosmeston Lakes SSSI, Sully Island SSSI and Cog Moors SSSI are also located within 2 km of the Site.

2.1.5. There are no designated heritage assets within the Site. However, a number of listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments are located in the surrounding area, including the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point approximately 75 m east of the Site, St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox approximately 400 m south of the Site and Sully Island 'Danish Fort' approximately 1 km south-west of the Site.

# 3. Site Selection and Design Iteration

## 3.1. Site Selection

3.1.1. The Site forms part of a wider Welsh Government landholding. A review of environmental, technical and planning considerations was undertaken to identify the constraints and opportunities associated with the land. The Site was considered suitable for a combination of reasons, including:

- Suitable solar irradiance levels and favourable topography for generating renewable electricity;
- The absence of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land;
- Sufficient land to maintain appropriate separation from sensitive receptors;
- The absence of internationally or nationally designated environmental sites within the landholding; and
- Its accessibility from the local road network.

## 3.2. Design Iteration

3.2.1. An iterative design process informed by environmental surveys and assessments, engineering and technical considerations, and consultation with relevant stakeholders, has been undertaken. This process has progressively refined the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce potential environmental effects where practicable, while being balanced against the need for renewable energy generation. The final iteration of this design is assessed within the ES and is shown on **Figure 5.1: Indicative Site Layout**.

3.2.2. Following completion of the Pre-Application Consultation process, feedback from consultees, stakeholders and local communities will be reviewed alongside the findings of the EIA. Where appropriate and feasible, further refinements will be incorporated into the final design.

# 4. The Proposed Development

## 4.1. Key Components of the Proposed Development

### Overview

4.1.1. The Proposed Development will comprise the following key elements:

- Ground-mounted solar PV modules with a total installed capacity of approximately 35 MW;
- A Project Substation compound incorporating the substation and BESS;
- Inverters, transformers and switchgear;
- Underground electrical cabling;
- Fencing, security equipment and weather stations;
- Internal access tracks, earthworks and surface water management infrastructure;
- Landscaping, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement measures;
- The permanent diversion of Public Footpath L1/5/2; and
- Associated safety and security infrastructure.

4.1.2. The Proposed Development has a design life of up to 40 years. At the end of this period, the Site could either be repowered, subject to a new planning application, or decommissioned. For the purposes of the EIA, it has been assumed that the Proposed Development would be decommissioned.

4.1.3. The indicative layout of the Proposed Development is shown on **Figure 5.1: Indicative Site Layout**.

### Solar PV Modules

4.1.4. The Proposed Development would comprise approximately 50,000 to 55,000 bifacial solar PV modules. Bifacial modules can absorb sunlight from both sides of the module and would have an anti-reflective coating. Each module would be approximately 2.4 m by 1.3 m.

4.1.5. The solar PV modules would be mounted on fixed structures facing south and would be arranged in rows across the Site. The modules would be angled between approximately 10 and 30 degrees from horizontal. The lowest edge of the modules would be approximately 0.8 m above ground level, with a maximum height of approximately 3.5 m. Rows of solar PV modules would be separated by approximately 3 m.

4.1.6. The solar arrays have been arranged to maintain existing field boundaries and hedgerows. Additional hedgerow planting and strengthening would also be provided to help screen views of the Proposed Development.

## Electrical Infrastructure

4.1.7. Inverters, transformers and switchgear would be provided across the Site to convert the electricity generated by the solar PV modules into a form that can be exported to the electricity network. Approximately 95 string inverters and six transformer stations are currently anticipated. The transformer stations would be approximately 6 m by 3 m and up to approximately 3 m high.

4.1.8. The Project Substation would facilitate the export of electricity generated by the Proposed Development to the electricity network. The substation and BESS would be located within a shared fenced compound containing electrical equipment, access and maintenance areas and associated infrastructure. The compound would be approximately 60 m by 54 m.

4.1.9. The BESS would allow electricity generated by the Proposed Development to be stored and exported when required and would also provide support to the electricity network. The BESS would include battery storage units and associated electrical, control, cooling and fire safety equipment.

## Access, Fencing and Cabling

4.1.10. Permanent access to the Proposed Development would be from St Mary's Well Bay Road. Internal access tracks would be provided throughout the Site for construction and maintenance vehicles, using existing farm tracks, field gateways and gaps in field boundaries where practicable. Approximately 2.4 km of new access tracks would be required, typically around 4 m wide and up to 6 m wide at locations where two-way vehicle movements or bends are required.

4.1.11. Electrical cabling would be installed underground where practicable and would be routed alongside internal access tracks and through existing gaps in hedgerows where reasonably practicable to minimise ground disturbance.

4.1.12. The operational areas containing the solar PV modules would be enclosed by deer fencing of up to 2.5 m in height. CCTV cameras would be installed around the operational areas of the Site for security purposes, avoiding the need for permanent night-time security lighting. The fencing would incorporate suitably sized mammal gates to maintain ecological connectivity across the Site.

## Landscaping and Public Rights of Way

4.1.13. Landscaping, habitat management and biodiversity enhancement measures would form part of the Proposed Development. These measures would seek to retain and enhance ecological networks and landscape features and would include measures for the long-term management of habitats across the Site.

4.1.14. Public Footpath L1/5/2 currently passes through the eastern parcel of the Site. The Proposed Development includes the proposed permanent diversion and enhancement of this footpath to provide a more accessible and clearly defined route through the Site. The proposed route would integrate with the landscape strategy and is shown on **Figure 5.1: Indicative Layout** of the ES.

## Grid Connection

4.1.15. The Proposed Development would connect to either Penarth Primary Substation or Sully Grid Bulk Supply Point, with the final point of connection to be agreed through the ongoing grid connection process. The connection would be provided by underground electrical cables and is anticipated to be predominantly located within the public highway corridor.

4.1.16. The grid connection would be brought forward separately by National Grid Electricity Distribution and does not form part of the planning application for the Proposed Development. It has therefore been considered as a cumulative development within the EIA and is outlined in **Appendix 2A: Grid Connection Appraisal**.

## Key Parameters

4.1.17. A summary of the key elements and parameters of the Proposed Development is provided in **Table 4.1**.

*Table 4.1 - Proposed Development elements and parameters*

| Proposed Development Element | Parameter |
|---|---|
| Solar PV generation | 35 MW |
| Solar PV modules | 50,000 to 55,000 |
| | 2.4 m x 1.3 m per module |
| Solar arrays | 0.8 m minimum height |
| | 3.5 m maximum height |
| | South-facing, approximately 10 to 30-degree tilt |
| | 3 m between rows |
| String inverters | Approximately 95 |
| Solar Mounting Structures | Depth 1.5-3 m |
| Transformer stations | 6 |
| | Approximately 6 m x 3 m and up to 3 m high |
| Project Substation Compound | Footprint: 60 m x 54 m |
| | Foundation Depth: 1.7 m |
| | Substation Height: 3.5 m |
| Substation Fencing | Up to 2.75 m high |
| Solar field fencing | Up to 2.5 m high |
| Internal access tracks | 2.4 km of new tracks |
| | Typically, approximately 4 m wide, up to 6 m at two-way sections and bends |
| On-site Cable Trenches | Approximately 1 m wide and 1.2 m in depth |

## 4.2. Construction Details

### Programme

4.2.1. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2028 and would take approximately six to nine months, followed by a commissioning period of approximately three months.

4.2.2. Construction activities would generally take place between 07:00 and 19:00 on weekdays and between 07:00 and 13:00 on Saturdays. No construction works would normally take place on Sundays. Quiet activities, such as electrical commissioning, may take place outside these hours where required.

### Temporary Construction Compounds

4.2.3. Three temporary construction compounds would be established within the Site for the storage of materials, plant and equipment and to provide staff welfare facilities, waste storage and wheel washing facilities.

4.2.4. The approximate locations of the construction compounds are illustrated in **Figure 5.8: Construction Compounds and Access**.

### Construction Activities and Environmental Management

4.2.5. The main construction activities would include:

- Preparing the Site;
- Importing construction materials, plant and equipment;
- Establishing temporary construction compounds;
- Upgrading existing tracks and constructing new internal access tracks;
- Installing the solar PV support structures and modules;
- Installing underground cables, inverters, transformer stations and battery storage units;
- Constructing the Project Substation;
- Installing fencing, gates and security infrastructure;
- Undertaking landscaping, habitat creation and ecological enhancement works; and
- Testing, commissioning and reinstating areas temporarily disturbed during construction.

4.2.6. Construction works and traffic would be managed through a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). These would set out measures to minimise environmental effects and ensure compliance with relevant commitments and regulatory requirements. An outline CEMP (**Appendix 5A: Outline CEMP** of the ES) and outline CTMP (**Appendix 5B: Outline CTMP** of the ES) have been prepared as part of this application.

## 4.3. Operation

4.3.1. Operational activity would be limited and would principally comprise vegetation management, routine inspection and maintenance of any infrastructure, and the replacement of equipment where required.

4.3.2. The Project Substation Compound would not be permanently lit. Lighting would only be used when personnel are present and would be controlled through motion sensors and/or timers. Lighting would be directed downwards and away from vegetation and other sensitive features to minimise light spill.

4.3.3. Landscape and ecological measures would be managed and monitored throughout the operational phase. Opportunities are also being explored for grassland and animal grazing beneath the solar PV modules, allowing agricultural activity to continue alongside renewable energy generation.

## 4.4. Decommissioning

4.4.1. Decommissioning would involve disconnecting the Proposed Development from the electricity network before dismantling and removing the solar PV modules and above-ground infrastructure. Materials would be reused where possible, followed by recycling, with disposal considered only where other options were not available.

4.4.2. Following decommissioning, the land would be returned to agricultural use, while established habitats and planting, including hedgerows and woodland, would be retained.

# 5. Environmental Impact Assessment

## 5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. EIA is a process through which the likely significant environmental effects of a proposed development are identified and assessed. It considers the people and environmental resources, known as 'receptors', that could be affected by the Proposed Development and provides information to inform the decision-making process.

5.1.2. The EIA has been undertaken alongside the development of the design, allowing environmental considerations to influence the Proposed Development from an early stage. Where potential adverse environmental effects have been identified, measures have been incorporated into the design or proposed for construction, operation and decommissioning to avoid, prevent or reduce these effects where practicable.

5.1.3. The findings of the EIA are reported in the ES, which describes the existing environmental conditions, assesses the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and identifies the measures proposed to mitigate adverse effects.

## 5.2. Scoping and Engagement

### EIA Screening and Scoping

5.2.1. A request for an EIA Screening Opinion was submitted to the Council on 16 December 2025. A Screening Opinion was issued on 27 March 2026, which confirmed that the Proposed Development constitutes 'EIA development'. This was based on the scale and local context of the Proposed Development and the potential for significant effects relating to landscape and visual matters, mineral resources, protected sites and species, and archaeological resources.

5.2.2. An EIA Scoping Report was subsequently submitted to the Council on 23 June 2026. The Scoping Report identified the environmental matters to be considered and proposed the methods to be used in undertaking the EIA. The Council issued its formal Scoping Opinion on 7 October 2026, which has informed the scope of the EIA and the preparation of the ES.

### Consultation and Engagement

5.2.3. Consultation and engagement have formed an important part of the EIA and design process. The Applicant has engaged with statutory and non-statutory consultees, local communities, organisations and other interested parties to inform the Proposed Development, the scope of the assessments and the development of appropriate mitigation measures.

5.2.4. Informal community consultation was undertaken between 3 December 2025 and 23 January 2026. This included sharing information on the emerging proposals and environmental surveys and holding community drop-in events.

5.2.5. The ES also forms part of the statutory pre-application consultation process, providing local communities, statutory consultees and other stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment on the Proposed Development and the findings of the EIA. Feedback received will be reviewed by the Applicant and, where appropriate, used to inform further refinement of the Proposed Development and the ES prior to submission of the planning application.

## 5.3. Potential Environmental Effects

5.3.1. The EIA has considered the environmental topics where there is potential for likely significant effects to arise. The following sections of this NTS provide a summary of the findings of the assessments undertaken for:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Biodiversity;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Historic Environment;
- Other Environmental Effects; and
- Cumulative effects.

5.3.2. The EIA considers effects arising during construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Depending on the environmental topic, effects may be direct or indirect, temporary or permanent, short, medium or long-term, and beneficial or adverse.

5.3.3. The method used to determine the significance of an environmental effect varies between environmental topics. In general, the assessment takes account of the sensitivity, value or importance of the receptor and the magnitude of the change resulting from the Proposed Development. Topic-specific assessment methods and criteria are described in the relevant chapters of the ES.

### Embedded Environmental Measures

5.3.4. EIA is an iterative process, and environmental considerations have been considered throughout the design development of the Proposed Development. Measures incorporated into the design include changes to the location and layout of infrastructure to avoid or reduce environmental effects and good-practice measures that would be implemented during construction, operation and decommissioning.

5.3.5. Where adverse effects cannot be sufficiently avoided or reduced through the design and embedded measures, further mitigation has been identified where required. Any requirements for environmental monitoring are also identified within the relevant technical assessments.

## Other Environmental Topics

5.3.6. Not all environmental topics require a standalone technical chapter within the ES. Several environmental and technical topics have instead been considered through supporting technical assessments and are summarised in **Chapter 11: Other Environmental Effects**. These include climate and greenhouse gases, climate resilience, glint and glare, hydrology, hydrogeology and geology.

5.3.7. Other topics have been scoped out of detailed EIA assessment where, taking account of the nature and scale of the Proposed Development, the Site conditions and proposed management measures, significant environmental effects are not considered likely. These include agriculture and land use, air quality, heat and radiation, major accidents and disasters, material assets and waste, socio-economics, traffic and transport, and arboriculture.

## Cumulative Effects

5.3.8. The EIA also considers whether environmental effects could arise as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with other existing, consented or proposed developments. Relevant developments have been identified and considered within the individual environmental topic assessments where there is potential for cumulative effects to arise.

5.3.9. In addition, consideration has been given to whether different effects arising from the Proposed Development could interact and combine to affect the same receptor. These inter-related effects are considered in **Chapter 10: Intra-project Cumulative Effects** of the ES.

# 6. Environmental Assessment

## 6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. This section provides a summary of the assessment of likely significant effects to resources and receptors including:

- Landscape and Visual;
- Biodiversity;
- Noise and Vibration;
- Historic Environment; and
- Other Environmental Effects.

## 6.2. Landscape and Visual

### Introduction

6.2.1. The landscape and visual assessment considers how the Proposed Development could affect the character of the landscape and the views experienced by people. Landscape effects relate to changes to landscape features, patterns and character, while visual effects relate to changes in views and visual amenity experienced by residents, recreational users and people travelling through the area.

### Methodology

6.2.2. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance, including the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition. It has been informed by desk-based studies, LANDMAP information, field surveys, viewpoint photography and computer-generated Zone of Theoretical Visibility mapping, which identifies locations from which the Proposed Development could theoretically be visible.

6.2.3. An initial 5 km survey area was reviewed to understand the wider landscape context. Following field surveys and detailed assessment, a 1 km study area was adopted because existing hedgerows, tree belts, woodland and the locally undulating landform restrict views of the Site and contain its influence on the wider landscape.

### Baseline Environment

6.2.4. The Site comprises agricultural land within an elevated coastal landscape overlooking the Severn Estuary. The surrounding landscape is characterised by undulating, medium-scale fields, predominantly used as pasture and enclosed by hedgerows, tree belts, tree groups and woodland blocks.

6.2.5. The Site lies within the Lavernock Hinterland LANDMAP Visual and Sensory Aspect Area. This is a predominantly rural agricultural landscape with gently rolling landform, pastoral fields, hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees. The landscape also has a coastal influence, with intermittent sea views from elevated locations, although its rural character is affected locally by tourism, recreation and nearby residential development.

6.2.6. The Wales Coast Path passes through part of the Site, while Footpath L1/5/2 crosses it between Fort Road and St Mary's Well Bay Road. Lavernock Point Nature Reserve is located immediately adjacent to the south-eastern boundary, and The Bay Caravan Park lies next to part of the Site. Other visual receptors include nearby residential properties, Marconi Holiday Village, Sully Island and users of Fort Road, St Mary's Well Bay Road and Lavernock Road. It is noted that residential properties will be considered within the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment as part of the final ES.

6.2.7. There are no National Parks or National Landscapes within the study area. The Site is located within the South Penarth to Sully Green Wedge, which seeks to maintain the openness of the land and prevent the coalescence of Penarth and Sully.

**Mitigation Measures**

6.2.8. The design of the Proposed Development has been informed by early landscape appraisal work and includes a range of measures to avoid or reduce landscape and visual effects. These include:

- Locating solar panels and associated infrastructure within the existing field pattern and retaining existing boundary vegetation where possible;
- Retaining areas of open land to provide visual buffers around nearby properties and landscape features;
- Providing appropriate buffers between solar panels and existing hedgerows, trees, woodland and the Wales Coast Path;
- Using existing gaps in hedgerows for cable routes and internal access tracks where possible; and
- Restoring land temporarily used during construction following completion of the works.

6.2.9. Additional measures include strengthening and managing existing hedgerows, new hedgerow, tree and scrub planting, orchard planting, and the creation of tussocky grassland and wildflower meadow within field margins and buffers. These measures would help integrate the Proposed Development into the surrounding landscape, screen or soften views and reinforce the existing landscape structure.

## Assessment

### Landscape

6.2.10. Construction and decommissioning activities would introduce noticeable features into the landscape. However, these effects would be short-term and mainly confined to the Site and its immediate surroundings. The resulting effects on landscape character during construction and decommissioning are therefore assessed as not significant.

6.2.11. During operation, the solar panels and associated infrastructure would introduce technical elements into a predominantly pastoral landscape. Significant landscape effects are predicted for the Lavernock Hinterland Visual and Sensory Aspect Area and Cultural Landscape Services Aspect Area. These effects would be focused on the Site and its immediate setting, with the wider landscape influence limited by the existing field structure, vegetation and undulating landform.

6.2.12. No significant operational effects are predicted for the other assessed LANDMAP areas. Mitigation and habitat enhancement measures are expected to result in a minor beneficial effect on the host Landscape Habitats Aspect Area over time, although this would not be significant.

### Visual

6.2.13. During construction, a significant visual effect is predicted for users of Footpath L1/5/2. This effect would arise from close or prominent views of construction activities but would be temporary. No other significant visual effects during construction have been identified.

6.2.14. During operation, significant effects are predicted for users of Footpath L1/5/2 when the Proposed Development first becomes operational. New hedgerow and orchard planting would provide some screening and visual interest, although a significant effect would remain in the longer term. No significant visual effects were identified in relation to recreational users of the Wales Coast Path, Footpath L1/1/1, Lavernock Point Nature Reserve and visitors to The Bay Caravan Park and Marconi Holiday Village during operation.

6.2.15. Significant visual effects are initially predicted for pedestrians and cyclists using St Mary's Well Bay Road. As hedgerow infill, boundary planting and planting around the substation mature, the Proposed Development would become more screened and these effects would reduce to levels that are not significant. Effects on vehicle users would not be significant.

6.2.16. Future users of the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route have been considered and the future receptors would not experience significant visual effects during the operational phase.

6.2.17. No significant decommissioning effects are predicted for users of the assessed roads and recreational receptors.

6.2.18. Construction of the residential development at Upper Cosmeston Farm could give rise to cumulative visual effects. Temporary Moderate Adverse (Significant) effects are predicted for recreational users of the Wales Coast Path and for pedestrians and cyclists using Lavernock Road. However, the two developments would generally be experienced separately due to their separation and the intervening undulating agricultural landscape.

6.2.19. During operation, cumulative effects with Upper Cosmeston Farm on landscape character and most visual receptors would generally be Not Significant. During construction, significant cumulative visual effects are predicted for users of the Wales Coast Path in combination with the Upper Cosmeston Farm residential development. During operation, cumulative effects on users of the Wales Coast Path would reduce as mitigation planting associated with the residential development matures and would not be significant in the longer term.

6.2.20. By the time of decommissioning, the residential development is expected to form part of the established landscape baseline and, therefore, no additional cumulative effects are anticipated.

6.2.21. Significant cumulative landscape and visual effects were identified in relation to the consented residential development at Upper Cosmeston Farm. The effects associated with the Proposed Development would be temporary and reversible following decommissioning.

## 6.3. Biodiversity

### Introduction

6.3.1. The biodiversity assessment considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on designated nature conservation sites, habitats and protected or notable species during construction, operation and decommissioning. It also considers opportunities to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity across the Site.

### Methodology

6.3.2. The assessment has been informed by a desk study and ecological surveys undertaken during 2025 and 2026. These included an extended Phase 1 habitat survey, wintering bird surveys, an indicative skylark territory assessment, bat activity and roost surveys, and targeted surveys for threatened arable plants. The assessment has also been informed by consultation with the Council's ecologist and Natural Resources Wales.

6.3.3. The study area varied according to the ecological feature being considered. Information was collected for designated sites, habitats, waterbodies and protected or notable species within the Site and surrounding area. The assessment considered whether the Proposed Development could affect the integrity of designated sites and habitats or the conservation status of protected or notable species.

**Baseline Environment**

6.3.4. The Site predominantly comprises arable fields separated by hedgerows and lines of trees, with areas of woodland, scrub and grassland. Four habitat types recorded within the Site correspond to two habitats of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales: lowland mixed deciduous woodland and native hedgerows. The Proposed Development would principally affect arable land, while woodland, scrub, trees and other habitats of higher ecological value would be retained.

6.3.5. The Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site are located east of the Site. Several nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites are also present in the surrounding area, including Penarth Coast SSSI, Cosmeston Lakes and Lavernock Point Wildlife Trust Reserve. Parts of the Site also fall within locally important nature conservation areas and the B-Line network, which supports habitat connectivity for pollinating insects.

6.3.6. The ecological surveys identified habitats suitable for bats, dormice, badgers, hedgehogs, breeding and wintering birds, widespread amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. Bat activity was moderate, although no bats or evidence of bat roosts were identified through close inspection surveys. Suitable habitats for dormice are present within woodland, scrub and hedgerows, and dormice have therefore been assumed to be present as a precaution. Slow worms and common toads were recorded, and suitable habitat is present for other widespread reptiles and amphibians.

6.3.7. Wintering bird surveys recorded 44 bird species. No qualifying bird species associated with the Severn Estuary SPA or Ramsar site were recorded using the surveyed fields. The surveyed land was therefore not considered to provide functionally linked habitat for these designated sites. Ten potential skylark breeding territories were identified across the wider Survey Area.

6.3.8. Targeted plant surveys recorded two threatened arable plant species within the wider landholding: round-leaved fluellen and sharp-leaved fluellen. Most records were located in fields outside the Site, although one round-leaved fluellen plant was recorded within the south-eastern part of the Site. Butcher's-broom, a species of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales, was also recorded within a hedgerow.

## Mitigation Measures

6.3.9. The design of the Proposed Development has sought to avoid effects on designated nature conservation sites and habitats of higher ecological value. Woodland, scrub, trees, hedgerows and field boundaries will be retained and protected, wherever practicable. Existing field access points will be used where possible, with any widening limited to the minimum necessary. The Proposed Development will also avoid confirmed locations of threatened arable plants.

6.3.10. Construction would be managed through the detailed CEMP. This would include measures to control surface water runoff, sediment, dust and accidental pollution; protect retained habitats; manage construction lighting; and reduce the risk of animals being injured, trapped or killed during the works. Pre-construction ecological checks and precautionary working methods would be used where required. Biosecurity measures would also be implemented to avoid introducing or spreading invasive non-native plant species.

6.3.11. Landscape and ecological management measures would provide long-term habitat management, biodiversity enhancement and improvements to ecological connectivity. These measures would include strengthening habitats of value to pollinating insects within the B-Line network and managing retained and newly created habitats throughout the operational phase. Ecological monitoring would be undertaken to confirm that the mitigation and enhancement measures are being implemented successfully.

## Assessment

6.3.12. No direct land-take would occur within the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA or Ramsar site. The wintering bird surveys did not identify qualifying birds using the surveyed fields, and the land was not considered to provide functionally linked habitat for the designated sites. With construction pollution, runoff and disturbance controls in place, effects on these internationally designated sites are assessed as negligible and not significant.

6.3.13. No direct habitat loss would occur within nationally designated sites. Potential indirect effects associated with dust, sediment, surface water runoff, pollution and construction disturbance would be controlled through the CEMP. Effects on nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites are therefore assessed as not significant.

6.3.14. Woodland and hedgerows would largely be retained and protected. Any loss or disturbance would be limited and localised and would not materially affect the extent, integrity or ecological function of these habitats. Effects on habitats of principal importance for biodiversity in Wales would therefore be minor and not significant.

6.3.15. Potential disturbance effects on dormice would be avoided or reduced by retaining woodland, scrub, hedgerows and connecting habitat, protecting vegetation and implementing precautionary working measures. Similar measures would protect badgers and other species during vegetation clearance, excavation and vehicle movements. Effects on these species would be temporary and localised and are assessed as not significant.

6.3.16. The layout would avoid confirmed locations of threatened arable plants and would be restricted to areas outside their likely distribution within the Site. Effects on threatened arable plants are therefore assessed as negligible and not significant. Bats, breeding birds other than skylark, wintering birds and invertebrates would also not experience significant effects because the principal habitats supporting these species would be retained and protected.

6.3.17. The Proposed Development will result in the loss or displacement of up to four skylark breeding territories, which could result in a significant adverse effect without additional mitigation. Dedicated skylark plots will therefore be created and maintained within suitable retained agricultural land to the east of the Proposed Development. The location, number and management of the plots would be confirmed through the final mitigation strategy and secured through the relevant ecological management plan.

6.3.18. Following the implementation of this mitigation, the residual effect is expected to be negligible and not significant. The plots would be monitored, with management adapted if the intended ecological outcomes are not achieved.

6.3.19. Operational activities would be limited and retained habitats would continue to be managed through the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). Lighting would be limited and directed away from habitats used by bats and other nocturnal species. No significant operational biodiversity effects are anticipated.

6.3.20. Decommissioning effects would be similar to those arising during construction and would be controlled through equivalent environmental and ecological measures. No significant decommissioning effects are anticipated.

6.3.21. Following the implementation of the embedded measures and the proposed skylark mitigation, no significant residual adverse effects on biodiversity are anticipated. Habitat management and biodiversity enhancement measures would also support ecological connectivity, pollinating insects and the resilience of habitats across the Site.

6.3.22. No significant inter-project cumulative effects are anticipated for receptors identified in the Biodiversity chapter.

## 6.4. Noise and Vibration

### Introduction

6.4.1. The noise and vibration assessment considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on noise-sensitive receptors during construction, operation and decommissioning. The assessment considers noise and vibration from construction activities, operational noise from electrical equipment, and cumulative effects with other nearby developments.

### Methodology

6.4.2. The assessment has been undertaken using relevant noise and vibration guidance and standards. A three-dimensional computer noise model was used to predict operational noise from the Proposed Development.

6.4.3. Construction noise has been assessed within approximately 300 m of the Site. The same study area was applied to construction vibration as a conservative approach. Operational noise has been assessed within approximately 500 m of the Site, encompassing the residential receptors considered in the assessment.

6.4.4. A baseline sound survey was undertaken between 6 and 13 March 2026 at two locations representative of the nearest residential receptors. The survey methodology was agreed with the Environmental Health Team at the Council. Monitoring was undertaken near properties on Fort Road and at the northern boundary of The Bay Caravan Park, with weather conditions also recorded during the survey.

6.4.5. Construction noise predictions represent a reasonable worst-case scenario, when individual construction activities would be closest to nearby receptors. Most construction activities are expected to move around the Site and would not remain close to any individual receptor for an extended period.

### Baseline Environment

6.4.6. The baseline survey found that existing sound conditions near Fort Road were principally influenced by traffic using the B4267 Lavernock Road. At The Bay Caravan Park, vehicle movements associated with the caravan park were identified as the dominant source of sound.

6.4.7. The assessment considered the following nearby noise-sensitive receptors:

- The Bay Caravan Park;
- Dros-y-Mor;
- The Vineyard, Lavernock Road;
- Baruch, Fort Road;

- Ty'r Orsaf, Fort Road;
- Sutton Farm, Fort Road;
- Lavernock Point Holiday Estate;
- Ysgol Llyn Derw;
- Wales Coast Path; and
- Cosmeston Lakes Country Park.

6.4.8. The assessment assumes that, without the Proposed Development, existing sound conditions would remain broadly similar, although traffic noise may gradually increase as a result of normal growth on the local highway network.

## Mitigation Measures

6.4.9. Construction would be undertaken in accordance with an agreed CEMP (secured by planning condition), good practice and Best Practicable Means. Activities with the potential to generate significant noise would be limited to normal construction hours of 07:00 to 19:00 on weekdays and 07:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays.

6.4.10. Once a contractor has been appointed and detailed information on construction plant and the programme is available, the construction noise and vibration assessment would be reviewed. If this identifies the potential for significant effects, additional measures would be incorporated into the detailed CEMP. Nearby residents would also be informed before piling activities that could result in perceptible vibration.

6.4.11. An Operational Noise Management Plan would be prepared before the Proposed Development becomes operational. This would assess the final equipment selected, confirm any mitigation required within the detailed design and establish a programme of monitoring to verify that the measures are effective. The plan would be secured by planning condition.

## Assessment

### Construction Noise

6.4.12. The construction noise assessment considered activities including the operation of construction compounds, foundation works, equipment installation, erection of the solar panels, trenching and any trenchless crossings. Most of these activities would require relatively limited plant and would not involve intensive work in one location for a prolonged period.

6.4.13. Predicted construction noise levels generally remain below the relevant assessment threshold. Foundation construction and the installation of pile-driven supports for the solar panels could reach the threshold at Ty'r Orsaf and Sutton Farm, and exceed the threshold at the Wales Coast Path. However, the extent of area of the Wales Coast Path affected by construction noise would be limited and the exposure to the receptors would be limited in duration. Construction noise effects at all assessed receptors are therefore expected to be temporary and not significant.

**Construction Vibration**

6.4.14. Potential sources of construction vibration include vibratory rollers used for construction compounds and foundations and piling that may be required to install the solar panel supports.

6.4.15. Vibration from rollers could be perceptible at Ty'r Orsaf and Sutton Farm during some activities. However, these activities would be limited in duration, and the resulting effects on people would not be significant. Predicted vibration levels would also remain well below those associated with a risk of building damage.

6.4.16. Piling could result in perceptible vibration at The Bay Caravan Park, Ty'r Orsaf and Sutton Farm, with lower levels predicted at the other assessed receptors. As piling would be transient and would affect receptors for only a few days, and nearby residents would be informed before works begin, the resulting effects are assessed as not significant. Predicted piling vibration would not result in significant effects associated with building damage.

**Operational Noise and Vibration**

6.4.17. Operational noise could arise from the inverters, transformers, BESS units and associated electrical equipment. The initial assessment identified the greatest potential effects at The Bay Caravan Park and Sutton Farm during the daytime and evening. However, the predicted increases in the overall sound environment would be small, at no more than 1 to 2 decibels, and absolute sound levels would remain low. The resulting operational noise effects at all assessed residential receptors are therefore expected to be not significant.

6.4.18. Predicted operational noise at Ysgol Llyn Derw would not increase the representative daytime sound level and would remain within the relevant criteria for external teaching and recreational areas. The effect at the school is therefore assessed as not significant.

6.4.19. Predicted operational noise at Wales Coast Path and Cosmeston Lakes Country Park would not materially alter the existing sound environment. At both locations, operational noise from the Proposed Development is predicted to be below or comparable to existing background sound levels and would not give rise to significant increases in overall ambient noise levels. Operational noise effects at these recreational receptors are therefore assessed as no significant.

6.4.20. Operational vibration was scoped out because the Proposed Development would not contain significant rotating equipment, other than small cooling fans, or other operational sources capable of causing significant ground-borne vibration.

6.4.21. Potential noise caused by wind passing through the solar panels was also considered. The assessment concludes that this would be low level, would tend to be masked by wind noise from vegetation and other structures, and would be unlikely to result in significant effects.

6.4.22. Noise and vibration effects during decommissioning are expected to be similar to those during construction. The construction assessment therefore also applies to the decommissioning phase, with effects expected to be temporary and not significant.

6.4.23. The cumulative assessment considered the Proposed Development alongside the grid connection, the Sully to Cosmeston Active Travel Route, the consented development at Upper Cosmeston Farm, and the consented residential development at Swanbridge Road. Construction works associated with some of these developments could overlap with construction of the Proposed Development. However, the relevant works would either be temporary, move progressively along a route or be sufficiently separated from the nearest receptors. No significant inter-project cumulative effects are anticipated for receptors identified in the Noise and Vibration chapter.

## 6.5. Historic Environment

### Introduction

6.5.1. The Historic Environment assessment considers the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on archaeological remains, historic buildings and other historic assets. The assessment considers the potential for construction activities to disturb archaeological remains within the Site and for the operational solar farm to affect the settings of historic assets in the surrounding area.

## Methodology

6.5.2. Information on the existing historic environment was obtained through a desk-based assessment, a review of historic mapping, LiDAR data and records held by Cadw, Heneb and other relevant sources. This was supplemented by site visits, a geophysical survey and an archaeological trial trench evaluation. The assessment also considered comments received from Cadw, the Council and Heneb.

6.5.3. The assessment considered archaeological remains within and around the Site and potential changes to the settings of historic assets within 3 km of the Proposed Development.

## Baseline Environment

6.5.4. There are no designated historic assets within the Site. Within 3 km of the Site, there are 49 listed buildings, comprising 47 Grade II and two Grade II* listed buildings. Two scheduled monuments containing built heritage remains are also located within this area: the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point and St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox.

6.5.5. There are no designated below-ground archaeological remains within the Site. Sully Island "Danish" Fort, a scheduled monument, is located approximately 920 m south-west of the Site. A number of non-designated historic assets are recorded within the Site, including the locations of medieval pottery finds, former limekilns and Rowland's Well.

6.5.6. The geophysical survey identified features that could have represented archaeological remains, including linear features, former field boundaries, trackways, enclosures, pits and areas of past activity. Archaeological trial trenching was subsequently undertaken to investigate these features. The evaluation principally identified features dating from the post-medieval and modern periods, including historic field boundaries, a modern pit and possible remains associated with Second World War activity. Several of the geophysical anomalies were found to be natural geological features.

6.5.7. Overall, the Site has a low potential for remains dating from the early medieval period, a moderate potential for prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, and a high potential for post-medieval and modern features associated primarily with the Site's agricultural use.

**Mitigation Measures**

6.5.8. Historic environment considerations have informed the design of the Proposed Development. The eastern land parcels identified through the geophysical survey as being archaeologically sensitive have been removed from the Site Boundary, thereby avoiding effects on the features identified in those areas.

6.5.9. The layout has also been designed around existing land parcels, with woodland and historic field boundaries retained where practicable. Existing and proposed vegetation would help screen and filter views of the Proposed Development, reducing changes to the settings of nearby historic assets. Measures are also incorporated into the design of the solar panel foundations to reduce the depth and extent of ground disturbance where appropriate.

**Assessment**

6.5.10. Construction activities, including the installation of solar panel supports, underground cables and associated infrastructure, could disturb or remove archaeological remains within the Site. The archaeological features that could be affected are considered to be of negligible to low sensitivity. Effects on identified features and any previously unknown archaeological remains would range from negligible to minor adverse and would not be significant in EIA terms.

6.5.11. During operation, the assessment considered potential changes to the settings of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point, St Mary's Well Bay Pillbox, Cog Farm, Cog House, the Barn at Home Farm and Homestead Cottage. Existing vegetation, intervening development and local topography would restrict or filter views of the solar farm. The Proposed Development would not affect the important relationships, views or surroundings from which these assets derive their historic significance. Operational effects would therefore range from negligible to minor adverse and would not be significant in EIA terms.

6.5.12. Overall, no significant residual effects on the historic environment are predicted. No significant inter-project cumulative effects are anticipated for receptors identified in the Historic Environment chapter.

## 6.6. Other Environmental Effects

6.6.1. This section provides an overview of the topic areas considered within **Chapter 11: Other Environmental Effects**. These topics have been considered as part of separate technical reports and summarised in **Table 6.1** below.

*Table 6.1 - Summary of Environmental Effects*

| Topic | Summary of Effects |
|---|---|
| Climate (Greenhouse Gases) | A Carbon Balance Assessment has been undertaken to assess the GHG emissions and savings associated with the Proposed Development (**Appendix 11A: Carbon Balance Assessment** of the ES). It concludes that the Proposed Development would provide a net carbon benefit of approximately 639,008 $tCO_2e$ and has an estimated carbon payback period of approximately 1.2 years. Following this period, the Proposed Development would continue to provide a net carbon benefit for the remainder of its operational life.<br><br>No significant adverse GHG effects are anticipated. The Proposed Development is expected to make a beneficial contribution to climate change mitigation and wider electricity sector decarbonisation. |
| Climate Resilience | Climate resilience has been considered across the relevant environmental assessments and through the design process. Climate resilience has been incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development through:<br>• Locating flood-sensitive infrastructure outside areas at risk from flooding;<br>• Incorporating climate change allowances within the drainage design;<br>• Retaining existing drainage features where practicable;<br>• Designing infrastructure to relevant engineering standards to withstand anticipated future climatic conditions;<br>• Incorporating fire detection, suppression, monitoring and emergency response measures for the BESS;<br>• Providing habitat creation, enhancement planting and ongoing landscape and ecological management; and<br>• Undertaking ongoing inspection and monitoring to identify and respond to emerging climate-related risks.<br><br>Taking account of the measures incorporated into the Proposed Development, its vulnerability to future climate change is considered to be low. The Proposed Development is therefore expected to remain resilient to the anticipated effects of climate change over its 40-year operational lifetime. |
| Glint and Glare | An initial Glint and Glare Assessment has been undertaken (see **Appendix 11B: Glint and Glare Assessment** of the ES). Potentially sensitive receptors include aviation receptors, road users and residential properties where reflected sunlight could affect visibility or amenity.<br><br>Measures proposed to reduce potential glint and glare effects include:<br>• Strengthening existing hedgerows and providing additional planting along sensitive boundaries; and<br>• Allowing specific sections of hedgerow adjacent to Fort Road and The Bay Caravan Park to establish to over 3 m in height where necessary to provide screening.<br><br>The majority of residential properties would also experience either no effect or a low effect. Mitigation would be provided for receptors where |

| Topic | Summary of Effects |
|---|---|
| | screening is more limited, including properties along Fort Road, to the south-west of the Site and parts of The Bay Caravan Park. Considering embedded mitigation, there would be no significant glare effects on residential properties.<br><br>Most roads would experience either no effect or a low effect. Potential effects along Fort Road would be reduced through the reinforcement and enhancement of boundary hedgerows. Considering embedded mitigation, there would be no significant glare effects on road receptors.<br><br>No significant effects are predicted for airport flight paths, heliports or helicopter flight paths. Limited periods of glare were identified at the Cardiff Airport Air Traffic Control Tower. Further detailed glint and glare assessment will be undertaken as part of the final ES, which will incorporate further consideration of existing and proposed screening and determine the requirement for further mitigation. |
| Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology | The assessment has been informed by a Flood Consequence Assessment and Drainage Statement, provided in **Appendix 11E: Flood Consequences Assessment and Outline Drainage Statement,** Preliminary Risk Assessment, provided in **Appendix 11C: Preliminary Risk Assessment**, and Mineral Resource Assessment, provided in **Appendix 11D: Mineral Resource Assessment**.<br><br>The design and construction of the Proposed Development would incorporate measures to protect water resources and ground conditions, including the siting of flood-sensitive infrastructure away from flood risk areas, retaining existing drainage pathways, sustainable drainage design, and incorporating sediment, erosion and pollution prevention measures during construction.<br><br>Construction measures would be secured through the detailed CEMP. If previously unidentified contamination is encountered during construction, works within the affected area would stop and the material would be appropriately assessed and managed before construction recommences.<br><br>Taking account of the design of the Proposed Development and the proposed mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects are anticipated in relation to flood risk, water quality, groundwater, geology, ground conditions or safeguarded mineral resources during construction, operation or decommissioning. |

## 6.7. Intra-project Cumulative Effects

6.7.1. Intra-project cumulative effects consider whether individual environmental effects resulting from the Proposed Development could interact to result in a combined effect on the same receptor. These are most likely to relate to effects on people and communities, for example through interactions between noise and visual. Consideration has also been given to potential interactions affecting other environmental receptors.

6.7.2. The assessment focused on receptors where significant effects were identified across two or more environmental topics, or where individual effects were approaching relevant assessment thresholds. No significant intra-project cumulative effects arising from interactions between environmental topics were identified.

## 6.8. Overall Conclusions

6.8.1. The EIA has assessed the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning. An environmentally led design approach has been adopted, alongside embedded mitigation and additional management measures, to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects wherever practicable.

6.8.2. Following the implementation of these measures, no significant adverse effects are anticipated in relation to biodiversity, cultural heritage, noise and vibration, hydrology and flood risk, geology and ground conditions, climate (greenhouse gases).

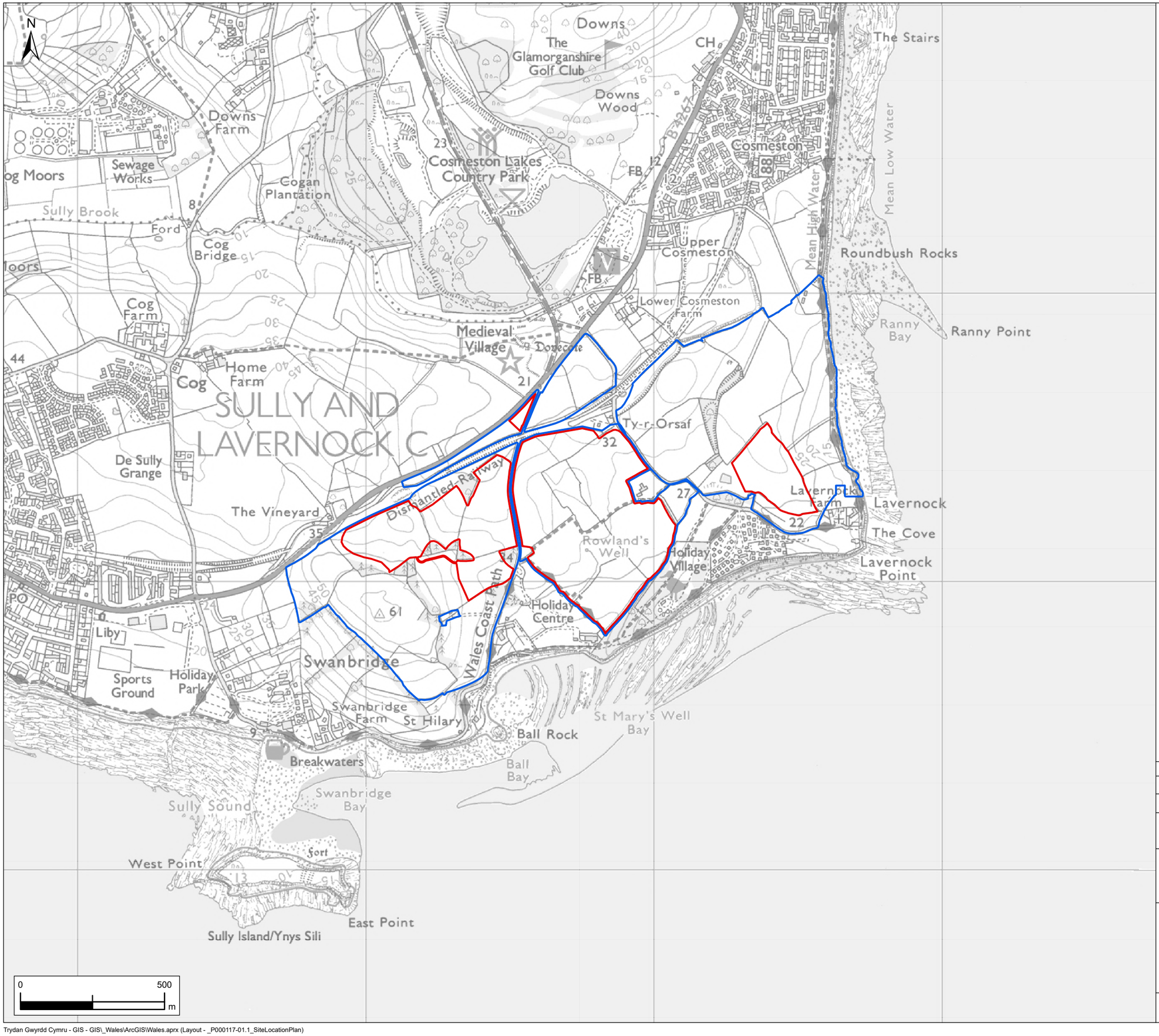
6.8.3. No significant Glint and glare effects are predicted for residential properties, road users, airport flight paths, heliports or helicopter flight paths following embedded mitigation. Limited periods of potential glare have been identified at the Cardiff Airport Air Traffic Control Tower and will be subject to further detailed modelling.

6.8.4. Residual significant effects have been identified in relation to landscape and visual amenity. Significant effects are predicted for some nearby recreational and transport-route receptors. Many of these effects would reduce over time as mitigation planting becomes established and would be reversible following decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

6.8.5. The Proposed Development would also result in beneficial effects through the generation of renewable electricity and the associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared with electricity generated from the current grid energy mix. Overall, the EIA demonstrates that the environmentally led design of the Proposed Development, together with the mitigation and management measures identified through the assessment, has avoided or reduced adverse environmental effects across the majority of environmental topics.

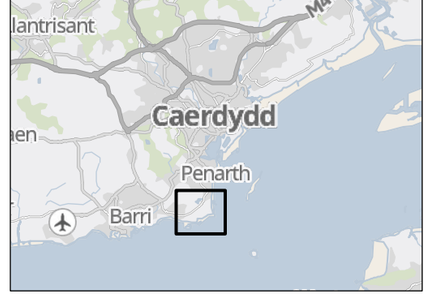
6.8.6. While some significant landscape and visual effects would remain, particularly for receptors close to the Site, these effects would be geographically limited, and several would reduce as mitigation planting establishes. These effects should also be considered alongside the beneficial contribution of the Proposed Development to renewable electricity generation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

6.8.7. The Proposed Development would be temporary and reversible, with the solar infrastructure removed following decommissioning and the land returned to agricultural use, while established habitats and planting would be retained.




Legend

- Site Boundary
- Land Ownership Boundary




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| Rev. | Date | Revision Description | Drawn | Check | Rev. | App. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 05/10/2026 | Initial Issue | AR | RJ | DP | SM |

Scale @ A3 | Scale: 1:12,500 | DO NOT SCALE

Project: Fferm Solar Larnog

Drawing Title: Site Location and Land Ownership Boundary

Drawing No.: Figure 1.1

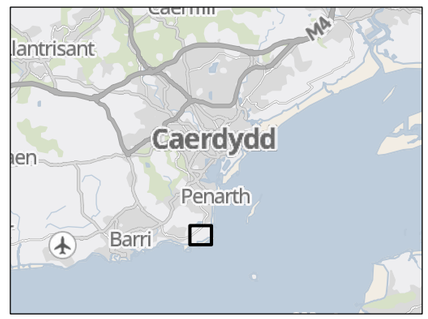
Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

N

0 200 m

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Transformer Station
- Solar PV Array
- Site Access Track
- Attenuation Pond
- Ecology Mitigation Area
- Substation and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Compound
- Construction Access Point (will become Permanent once Proposed Development is operational)
- Construction Access Point
- Access Gates
- Solar Fencing
- Substation Fencing
- Existing Electricity (High Voltage) - Overhead Line
- Existing Watermain




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| Rev. | Date | Revision Description | Drawn | Check | Rev. | App. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 02/11/2026 | Initial Issue | AR | RJ | DP | SM |

Scale @ A3 | Scale: 1:5,500 | DO NOT SCALE

Project: Fferm Solar Larnog

Drawing Title: Indicative Site Layout

Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

Drawing No.: Figure 4.1

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0 200 m

Legend

- Site Boundary
- Main Site Compound (approximately 2,600m2)
- Western Satellite Compound (approximately 3,250m2)
- Eastern Satellite Compound (approximately 900m2)
- Site Access Track
- Construction Access Point (will become Permanent once Proposed Development is operational)
- Construction Access Point




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| 0 | 05/10/2026 | Initial Issue | AR | RJ | DP | SM |

Scale @ A3 — Scale: 1:5,500 — DO NOT SCALE

Project: Fferm Solar Larnog

Drawing Title: Construction Compounds and Access

Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru

Drawing No.: Figure 4.2