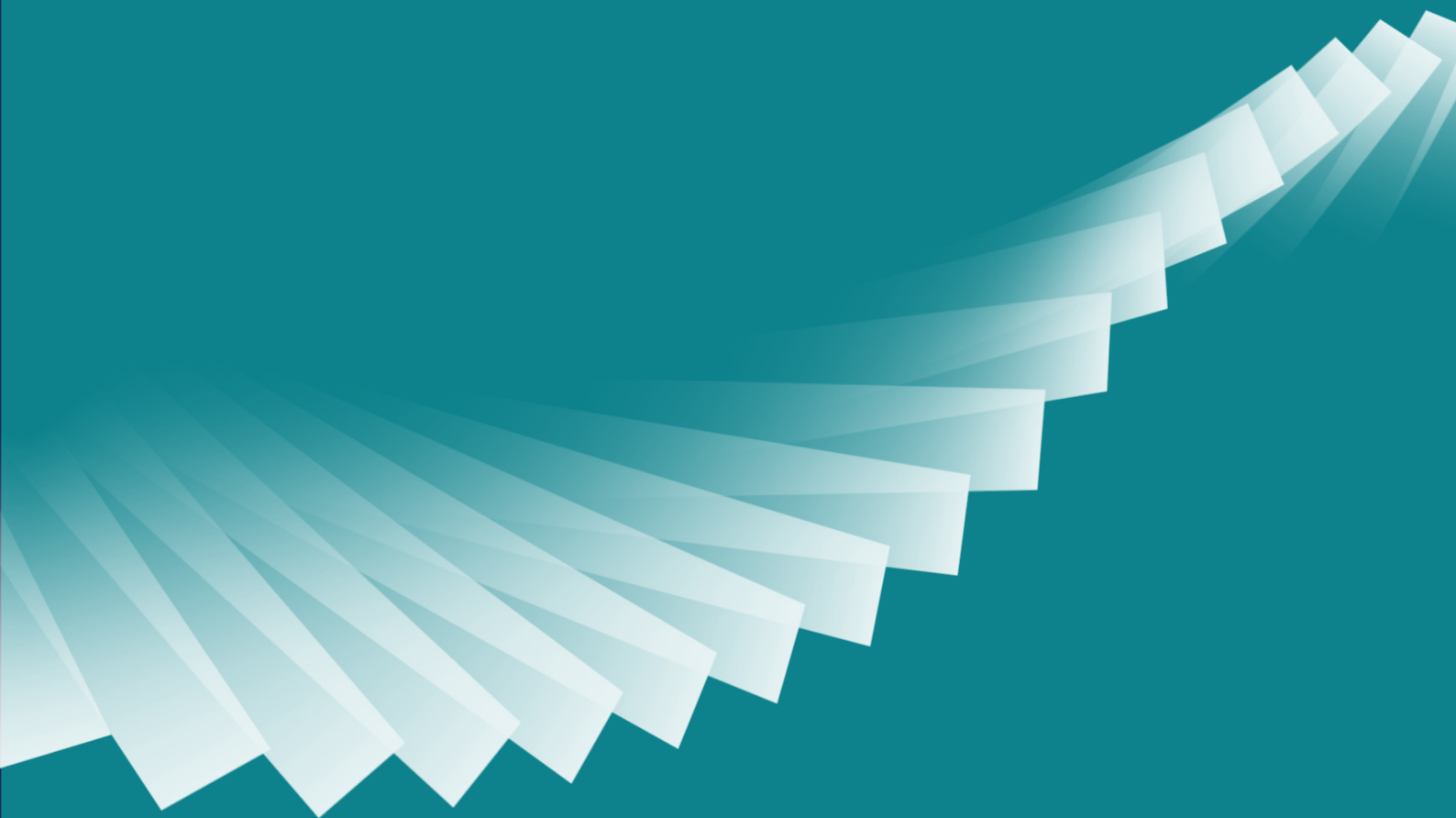




Bute Energy
Aberedw Energy Park

Strategic Recreation Framework





Aberedw Energy Park Ltd

Aberedw Energy Park Strategic Recreation Framework

12522

Version 1.3
June 2025
Prepared by LUC





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Project
Aberedw Energy Park

Client
Aberedw Energy Park Ltd

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12522

Project Team
The Aberedw Strategic Recreation Framework has been prepared by the landscape design team at LUC in collaboration with the planning team at LUC, the client team at Aberedw Energy Park Ltd with input from the EIA team.
All comments and contributions to the development of the study are gratefully acknowledged.

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Date
June 2025

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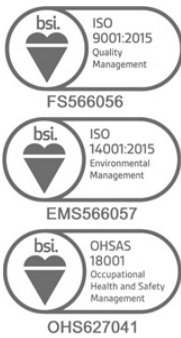
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Note

This document and its contents have been prepared by LUC for Aberedw Energy Park Ltd and is intended solely for use in relation to the Aberedw Energy Park project.

LUC and Aberedw Energy Park Ltd assume no responsibility to any other party in respect of or arising out of or in connection with this document and/or its contents.

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A landscape photograph showing a vast, open field of tall, golden-brown grass in the foreground. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills covered in dense, dark green vegetation. The background features more distant, hazy hills under a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Part one

Introduction

Chapter 1

Executive Summary



Vision : Aberedw Energy Park Ltd is committed to formulating a recreational offer alongside their energy developments, through future consultation with stakeholders, which secures improved access to quality green space and enhanced participation in outdoor recreational activities.

Purpose and Status of the Aberedw Strategic Recreation Framework (SRF)

This document has been produced to provide an indication of the potential options for improving recreational access to the Aberedw Energy Park Site. Any recreational access plan or other document seeking to achieve the same objectives would be developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders, landowners and commoners after planning permission of the Energy Park has been granted.

This document is not a plan or commitment to undertake any of the options set out herein.

The Aberedw Strategic Recreation Framework will be referred to as the Aberedw SRF hereafter.

Aims

The Aberedw SRF aims to:

- Respond to existing site constraints and balance the varying requirements of different users. It aims to support the infrastructure set out in Aberedw Energy Park Development of National Significance (DNS) Application.
- Promote improved access to green space for local communities in the vicinity of Aberedw Energy Park and for visitors to the area.

The SRF is subject to consultation with the community. Thereafter, it is intended to become a pragmatic design guidance document that can be used to inform future decisions on the implementation and management of recreational facilities within the Site.

Objectives

The objectives of the Aberedw SRF are to:

1. Offer increased access to quality recreational opportunities.

2. Demonstrate interventions which conserve and enhance the environment.
3. Balance and integrate recreational users with environmental and cultural sensitivities.
4. Balance the requirements of various uses and user groups and address potential unauthorised use.
5. Identify sufficient and appropriate infrastructure and resources to support recreational use.

The guidance found within this report should be considered as a framework for strategic recreation enhancement. Images are intended to be illustrative and indicative to suggest the potential character and aesthetic that could be achieved in relation to a specific user group.

The Aberedw SRF covers a number of site-specific considerations via a strategic concept masterplan, underpinned by a comprehensive design code.

The Aberedw SRF acknowledges that the majority of the Aberedw Energy Park Site is located on Open Access Land (Common Land). The SRF aims to provide the basis for collaboration with the Commoners and site users on any future recreational opportunities.

Recommended consultation phases can be found subsequently in Part Three: Management and Maintenance, Chapter 2 : Future Consultation and Engagement.

Background and Context

In order to develop a robust SRF, prior understanding of the background and context to Aberedw Energy Park must be established.

The Aberedw SRF has been developed to accompany an application for planning permission to construct and operate an energy park within Powys called Aberedw Energy Park.

The project is being delivered by Aberedw Energy Park Ltd, a subsidiary of Bute Energy Ltd. Bute Energy Ltd is an independent renewable energy company seeking to deliver a portfolio of energy parks within Wales. Their mission is to help address the climate crisis through onshore renewable energy generation and contribute towards the Welsh Government's ambitious target to reach Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

The proposed Aberedw Energy Park will be a 'Development of National Significance' (DNS) as the turbines will have a combined installed capacity of greater than 10MW.

Aberedw Energy Park is located approximately 3km east of Builth Wells within the local planning authority area of Powys County Council (PCC).

The main components of the proposed development are:

- 18 wind turbines, each with a maximum blade tip height of up to 200m. The indicative output capacity at this stage is

- approximately 120MW.
- Approximately 13.3km of access tracks (of which approximately 11.6km will be new track and 1.7km will be upgraded existing track).
- Site signage.
- Biodiversity enhancement proposals.

The SRF does not propose any additional infrastructure to that contained within the Aberedw Energy Park DNS application.

Planning Context

The Aberedw SRF has been informed by a range of planning policy considerations, alongside good practice guidance. More detailed information is included within the Planning Policy Review which can be found in **Appendix A**. This Appendix provides an analysis of the planning, design and management policy frameworks at both a national and local level which are relevant to the development of The SRF. Key planning policy information is summarised below.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2018-2028)

PCC have produced a Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) to provide a robust evidence base to inform decisions on access and recreation. The vision of the Plan is:

"The provision of high quality green space and public access to Powys' countryside and support for its biodiversity and heritage is at the heart of the work of Countryside Services. Public Rights of Way and Access Land offer unrivalled opportunities for the enjoyment of the Powys countryside."

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan is the means by which Powys County Council will plan and prioritise resources to the current public access available in the county, and will assist others in Powys in developing an accessible countryside. The Plan will set out the priorities and objectives for the future.

The vision of the Plan is to have a well-utilised, well-managed, meaningful and accessible countryside across Powys, supported by high quality information."

Cultural Well-Being (Planning Policy Wales)

Creating a more resilient, sustainable and mobile Wales is a key national and local policy outcome. Improved access to recreational facilities will have significant physical and mental health benefits to communities at both a local and regional level. The primary objective of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales as required by key government legislation. Further details of these policies can be found in **Appendix A**.

The Aberedw SRF aims to incorporate the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the seven well-being goals are identified as:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
- A globally responsible Wales.

Ecological, Geological and Heritage Sensitivities

The Aberedw SRF acknowledges environmental sensitivities, particularly those relating to ecology, geology and heritage. A hierarchy of paths, directional signage and wayfinding is recommended to help steer people away from sensitive areas to avoid disturbance. Appropriately located interpretation boards or discreet interactive QR codes could help users understand the environmental importance of the Site and its features.

Baseline Review and Analysis

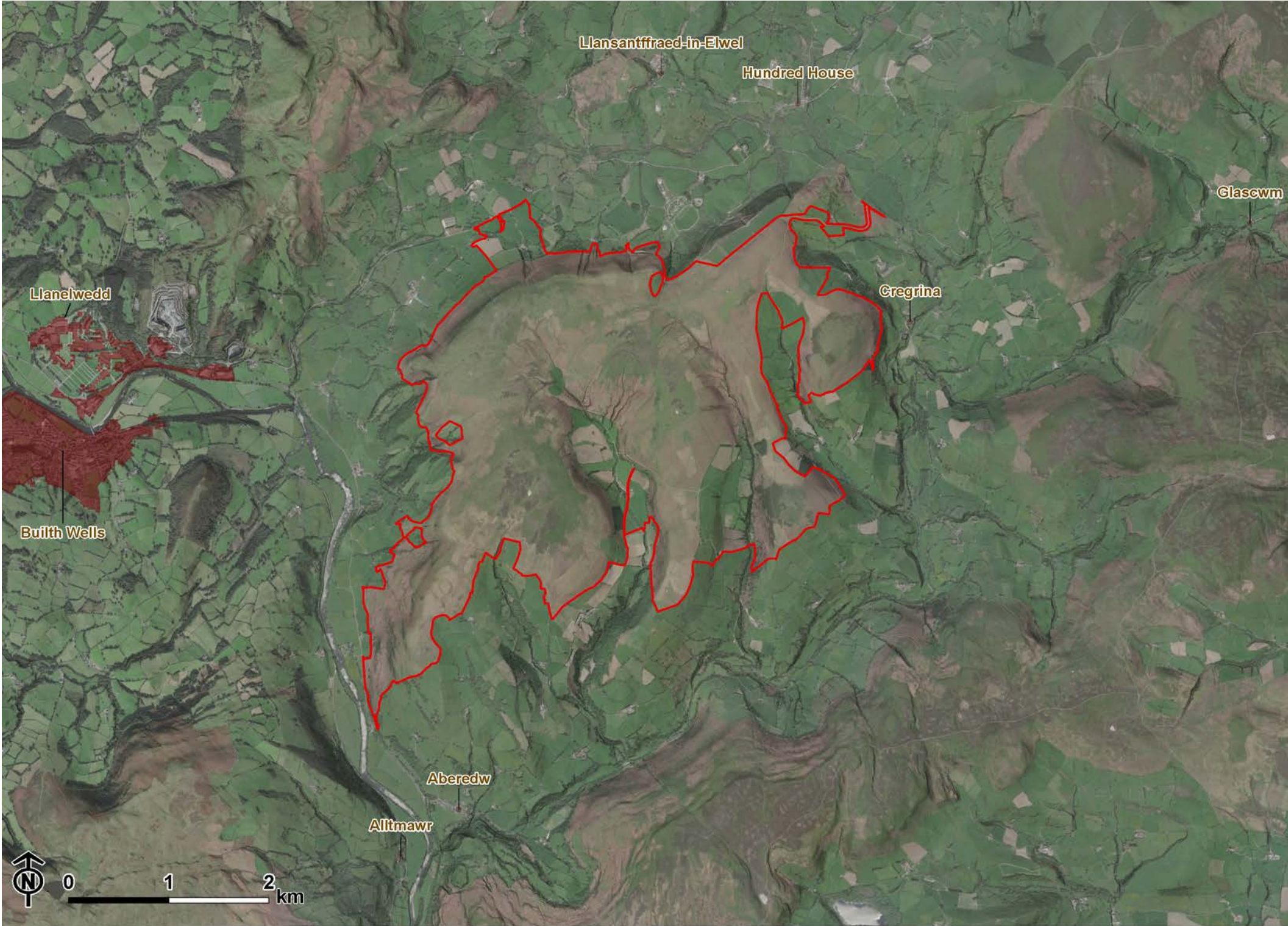
A full illustrated baseline review and analysis has been carried out to inform the development of the Aberedw SRF. The baseline review can be found in **Appendix A** and baseline analysis can be found in **Appendix B**.

The baseline review covers all aspects of baseline information that may inform decisions on any future consultation, implementation and management of recreational facilities as part of the SRF. The baseline review covers the following:

- Powys Local Development Plan
- Powys Rights of Way: Improvement Plan
- Infrastructure Layout for Aberedw Energy Park
- Topography and Geology
- Wider Landscape Context
- Cultural Heritage
- Ecology, Priority Habitat and Outline Habitat Management Plan
- Environmental Designations and Flood Risk
- Existing Access Routes and Open Access Land
- Ground Conditions and Landcover
- Landscape Character

The baseline analysis (**Appendix B**) provides a summary of key elements within the baseline review that will support the Aberedw SRF vision, aims and objectives. Constraints and opportunities mapping is identified and forms the basis of the Strategic Concept Masterplan and Design code found within **Part 2** of this document.

Chapter 2
The Site Context



- Application boundary
- Local Communities

Figure 2.1 Aerial Photography: Site Context

For the purposes of the Aberedw SRF, the study has mainly focused on the geographical area indicated on Figure 2.1 which demonstrates the surrounding environmental context to the Aberedw Energy Park. Within baseline analysis, there have been occasions where a wider geographical extent has been indicated on a plan to assist with wider context. References to the Aberedw Energy Park Site, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' correlate to the red submission boundary as part of the Aberedw Energy Park DNS Application (refer to **Appendix A**).

The area indicated on Figure2.1 is relatively sparsely populated. The largest settlements in proximity to the Site are Built Wells (approximately 3km to the east), Hundred House (approximately 1.2km to the north), Cregina (approximately 300m to the east) and Aberedw (approximately 1.1km to the south). There are isolated properties and farmsteads on nearby hills and valley slopes and property clusters along transport routes.

The majority of the Site is Open Access Land (Common Land) and includes Aberedw Hills Common and Hungry Green Common. The Aberedw SRF acknowledges the required access and use of Common Land and incorporates conservation of this designation within the Strategy.

The Site comprises a series of open, upland ridges which form part of Aberedw Hill, a broad hill top with steep escarpments and valleys on all sides. It includes a summit at 451m AOD in the centre of the Site. The Site comprises upland grazing pasture, and pockets of scrub woodland. The landscape has a sense of relative remoteness from settlements, and its perceptual character is predominantly influenced by upland agriculture and distinctive glacial landform.

There are several Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and access tracks that cross the Site and there are numerous walking and trail routes within the wider area. The Wye Valley Walk Long Distance Trail is located approximately 1km west of the site and the Heart of Wales Line Trail, a long distance footpath connecting Llanelli with Craven Arms, is located approximately 5km west of the Site. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route is the closest national cycle trail to the Site, located approximately 0.7km to the west.

Several bridleways connect roads and settlements in the valleys and lower levels to the north and west of the Site to the central upland area of Aberedw Hill. The Red Dragon Festival of Endurance is an annual equestrian race that starts at the Royal Welsh Showground in Built Wells and continues across Aberedw Hill.

The River Wye is located within close proximity of the western boundary. The River and its valley are designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

Part Two

Strategic Framework



Chapter 1

Strategic Concept Masterplan



Overview

Review and analysis of baseline information has facilitated the production of Constraints and Opportunities mapping available in **Appendix B**. The Constraints and Opportunities mapping has then informed the development of the Strategic Concept Masterplan.

The Strategic Concept Masterplan overleaf (Figure 1.1) illustrates the key features of the Aberedw SRF.

Features within the Strategic Concept Masterplan fall into the following Categories:

- Strategic Themes:** A combination of existing and proposed recreational routes designed to form a route hierarchy including:
 - Primary Recreational Routes**, suitable for multi-user access including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians and occasional vehicular access.
 - Secondary Recreational Routes**, suitable for multi-user access including pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians
 - Connection Route**, suitable for pedestrian use to link into existing PRoW network.

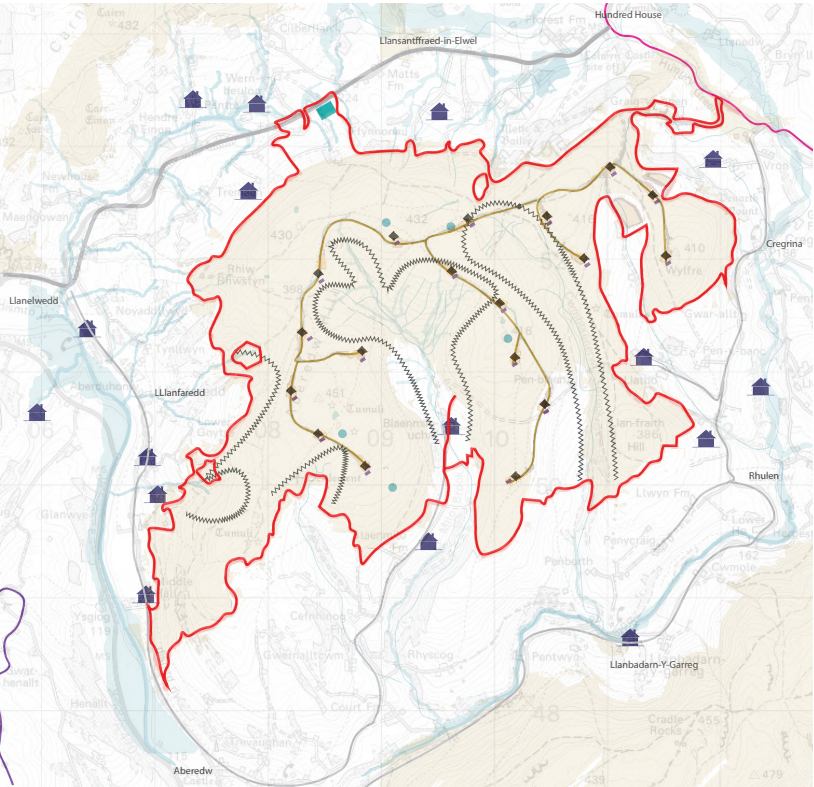
The following existing features are integrated in the Strategic Themes:

- Existing PRoW and Bridleway, with potential for upgrading.
- Existing unclassified unsurfaced road, with potential for upgrading.
- Existing long distance trail, with potential for upgrading.
- Track / local access route, with the potential for upgrading.
- Localised Interventions:** A series of targeted local features and points of note including:
 - Node**, located at convergence of key routes.
 - Access Node**, located at key pedestrian / cycle / equestrian access points.
 - Gateway**, located at prominent vehicular access points.
 - Viewpoint**, located at key strategic vantage points (often crossing-over with the function of a node).
 - Heritage focus**, located at key strategic heritage locations with an emphasis on education, conservation and enhancement.
 - Ecological focus**, located at key strategic ecological / biodiversity focus points with an emphasis on education, conservation and enhancement.
 - Geological focus**, located at key strategic geological focus points with an emphasis on education, conservation and enhancement.
 - Recreation focus**, located at key strategic points of future recreation focus such as mountain bike activity.

The following two-pages document a visual representation of the categories: **Strategic Themes** and **Localised Interventions**.

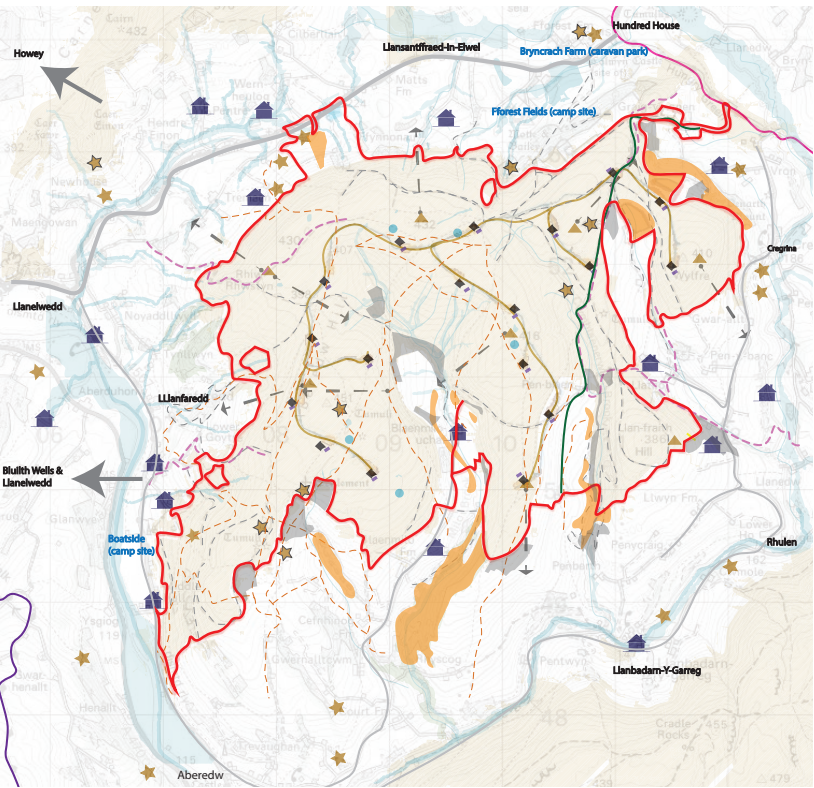
These categories will be explored further as **Core Design Principles** and **Design Components** as part of the subsequent Design Guidance section of the Aberedw SRF.

Opportunities and Constraints Analysis. Refer to Appendix B for full size drawings.



Combined Key

- Site boundary
- Priority Habitats
- Flood Risk
- Watercourse
- Water bodies
- Woodland
- Common Land
- Proposed Wind turbine
- Scheduled Monument
- Historic Assets
- Barriers to movement
- Residential property
- Permanent concrete maintenance pad
- Proposed Energy Park maintenance track
- A and B Classification Road
- Local Road
- Wye Valley Walk
- NCN
- Proposed borrow pit
- Proposed substation



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LUC | 09



Strategic Concept Masterplan: Strategic Themes

Primary recreational routes



Multi-user, utilising Energy Park Access Track. Image Source: National Cycle Network Route Collections, Sustrans

Secondary recreational routes

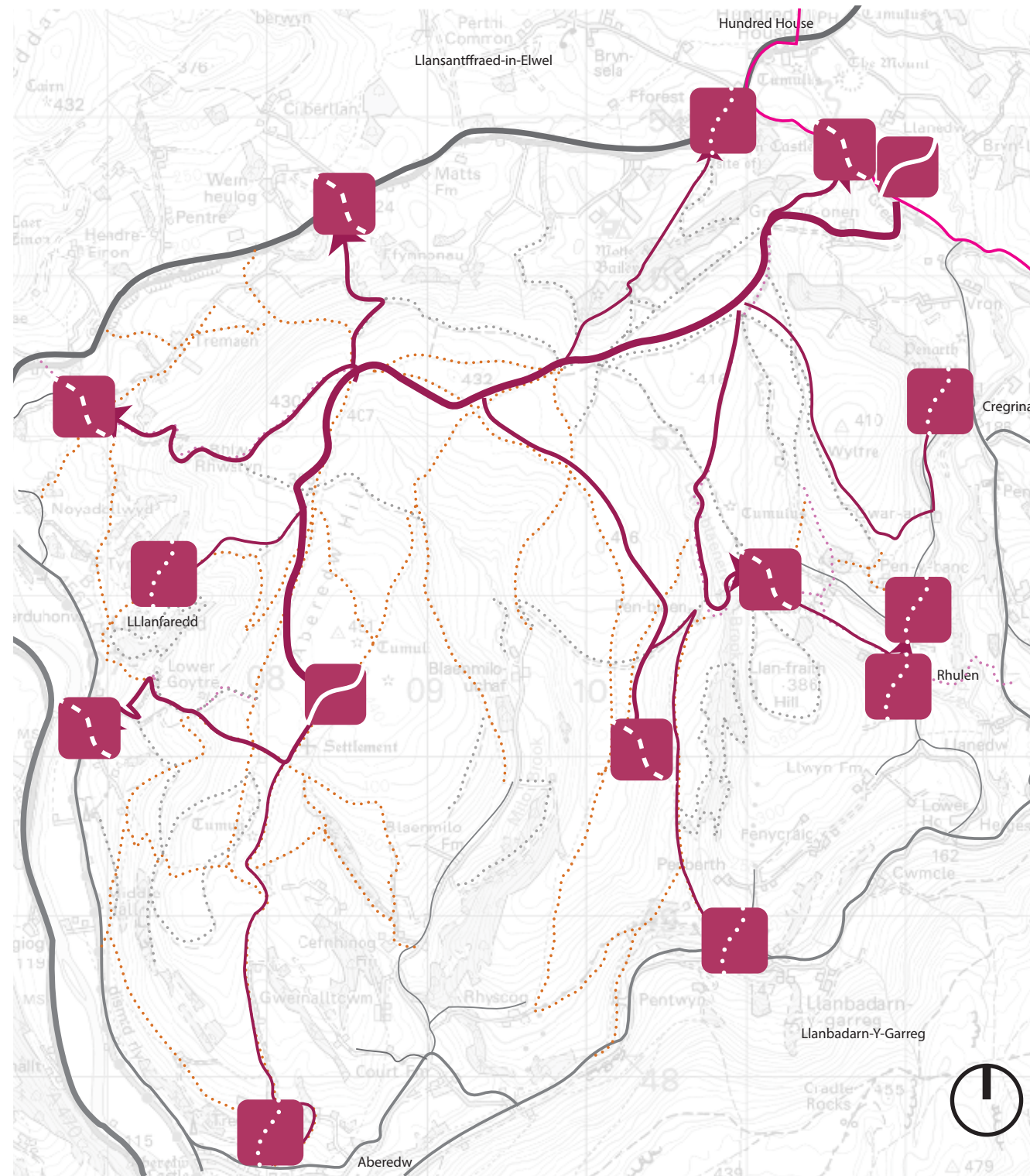


Multi-user, less formal. Image Source: The British Horse Society

Connection Routes



Pedestrian access and community connections. Image Source: Centrewire



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Figure 1.2 Strategic Themes Overview Plan

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.

Existing PRoW: potential for upgrading



Existing PRoW, Aberedw. Image Source: LUC

Track / local access route: Potential for upgrading



Existing Access track, Aberedw. Image Source: Graham Horn CC BY-SA 2.0



Strategic Concept Masterplan: Localised Interventions

Gateway



Key vehicular parking point and onward access to recreational routes (pedestrian / cycle / equestrian). Image Source: Birches Valley Car Park, William Hook CC-BY-SA 2.0

Access Node

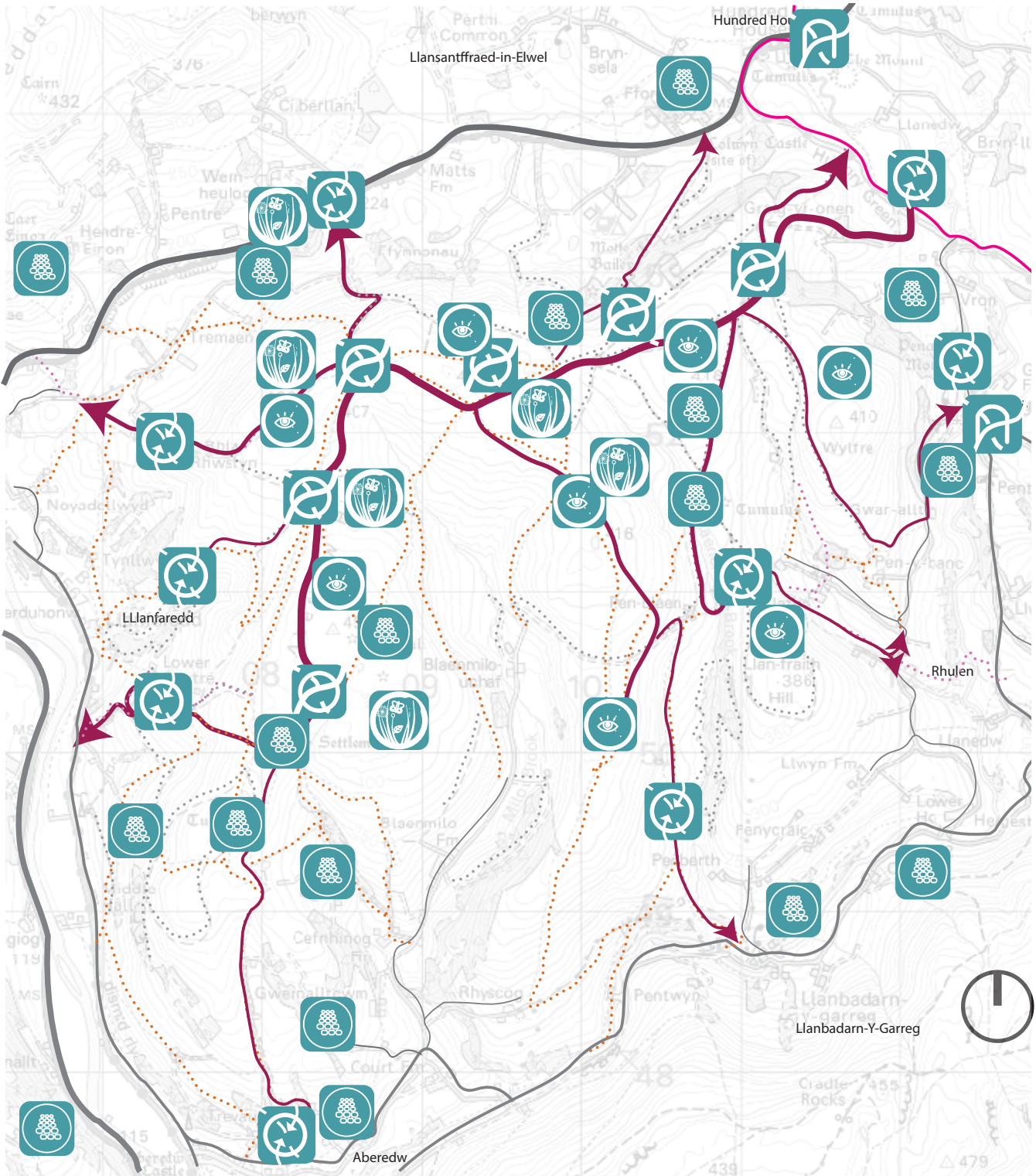


Recreational route access / convergence point. Image Source: Robert Struthers CC BY-SA 2.0.

Node



Interpretation and Signage placed at nodes to help inform users of heritage and ecological sensitivities. Image Source: Linmere Hill, Delamere Forest, Forestry Commission.



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Figure 1.3 Localised Interventions Overview Plan

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.

Viewpoint



Key viewing area. Image Source: Differentia

Ecology Focus



Routes that provide access to nature whilst conserving and enhancing habitats. Image Source: Gail Hampshire CC BY 2.0

Heritage Focus



Routes that focus on heritage features and providing information on heritage assets. Image Source: LUC site photography

Vision

Aberedw Energy Park Ltd is committed to formulating a recreational offer as part of the energy park, which through future consultation with stakeholders, secures improved access to quality green space and offers enhanced participation in and management of outdoor recreational activities.

Objectives

The Aberedw SRF aims to:

- Offer increased access to quality recreational opportunities.
- Demonstrate interventions which conserve and enhance the environment.
- Balance and integrate recreational users with environmental and cultural sensitivities.
- Balance the requirements of various uses and user groups.
- Identify sufficient and appropriate infrastructure and resources to support recreational use.



Image Source : LUC - Diagrammatic representation of SRF Objectives

How to use the design guide

The purpose of the Design Guide is to promote a set of recommendations on how to apply design principles in order to provide a well-designed, practical and manageable recreational offer for the Site.

The aim of this Design Guide is to demonstrate the next level of detail, expanding upon the rationale for the Concept Masterplan as defined by the two **Core Design Principles**:

- Strategic Themes
- Localised Interventions

Within the Design Guide, the Core Design Principles will capture the vision and objectives of the Aberedw SRF, as set out at the beginning of this strategy document, and relay the key design messages. A summary of the vision and objectives are noted to the left.

It has then been identified that there will be a number of cross-cutting **Design Components** which will sit under the Core Design Principles. High level discussion around each Design Component will aim to de-construct the Strategic Concept Masterplan to enable greater understanding and cross-connectivity of the Core Design Principles, and ultimately aid implementation. Design Components have been identified as:

- Boundary Treatments
- Access Control
- Street Furniture and Art Work
- Signage and Wayfinding
- Interactive Trails
- Soft Landscape.

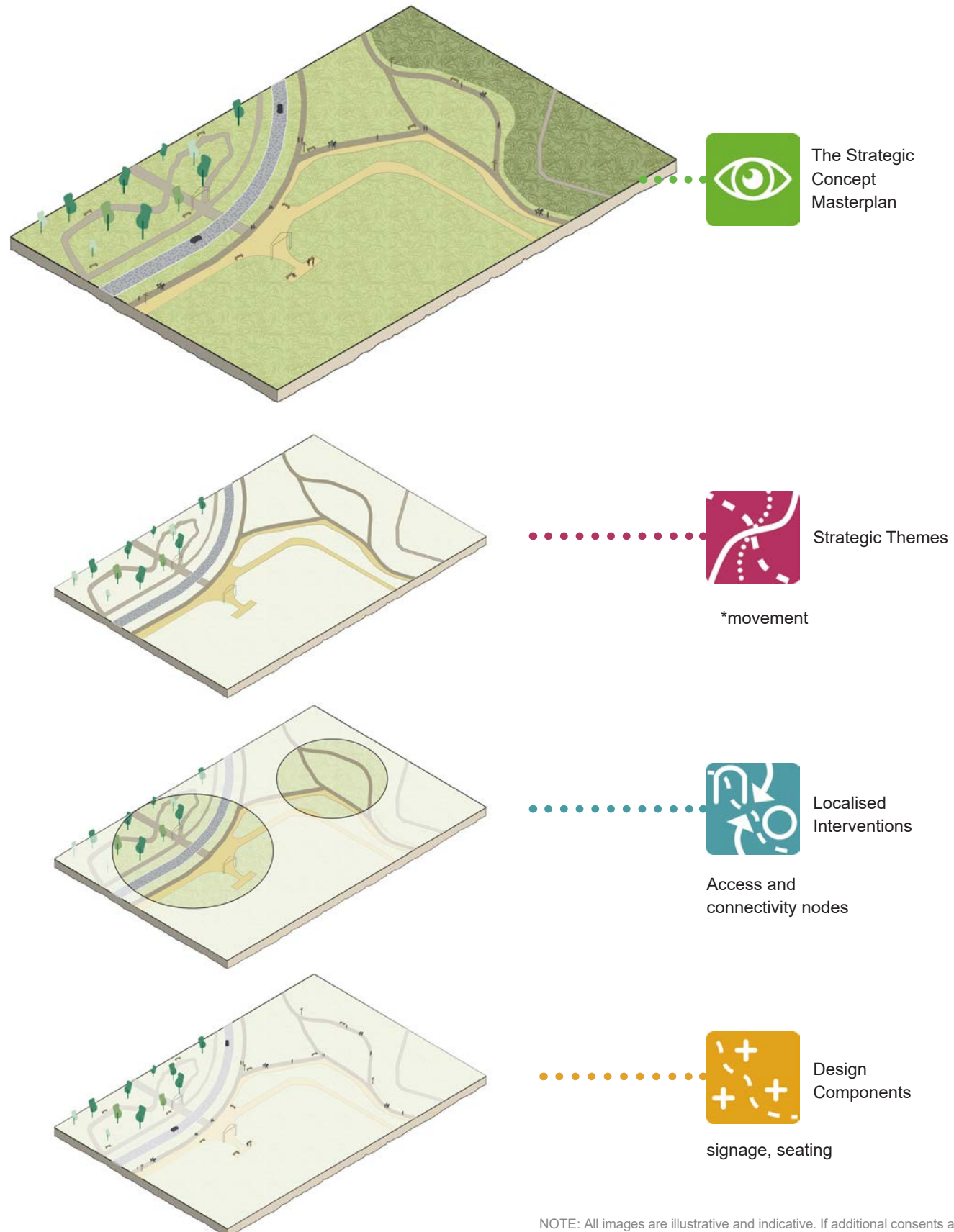
The Strategic Concept Masterplan illustrates the key features of the Aberedw SRF using info-graphics (information-rich iconography) which will be utilised throughout the Design Guide to easily demonstrate linkages across Core Design Principles.

It is through overlap and interconnection of Core Design Principles with Design Components that a list of multiple implementation options can be derived by the user. For example, a Primary Recreational Route may include boundary treatments, access control and signage and contain a number of Nodes which offer street furniture, interpretation and soft landscaping.





Strategic Vision Landscape Layers



NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.

Landscape Layers

This section aims to demonstrate how the Strategic Concept Masterplan can be de-constructed, showing the layering of the Core Design Principles and Design Components to contribute towards the delivery of the Masterplan.

Example images



Image Source: Bute Energy Ltd



Image Source: markhillary CC BY 2.0



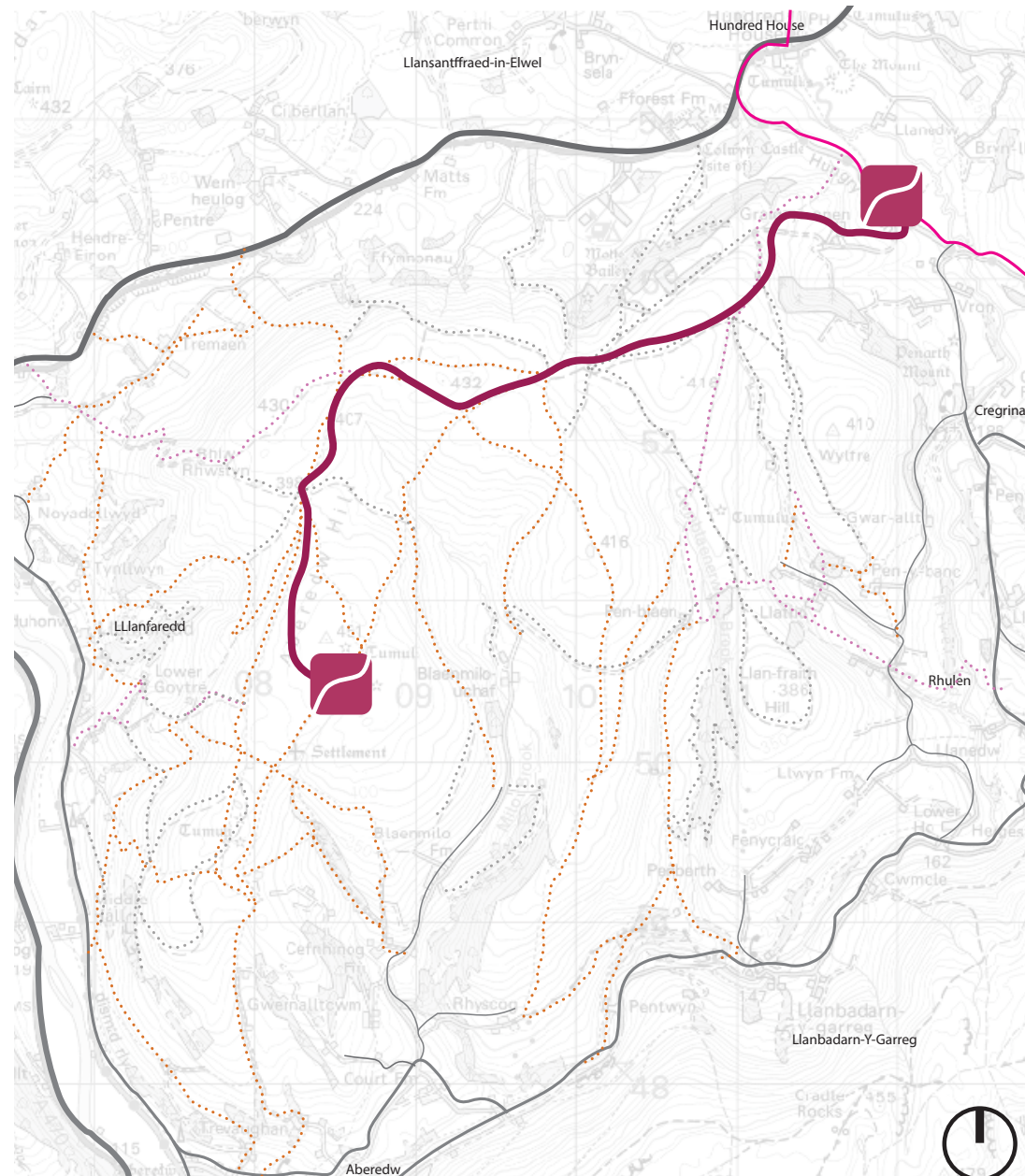
Image Source: Fitzpatrick Woolmer



Image Source: LUC



Strategic Theme Primary Recreational Route



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Primary recreational route

Strategic Route Map - Primary Recreational Routes

The above map extract illustrates:

- Primary Recreational Routes
- Existing PRow (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Long Distance Trail (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Settlements
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Uses and Users

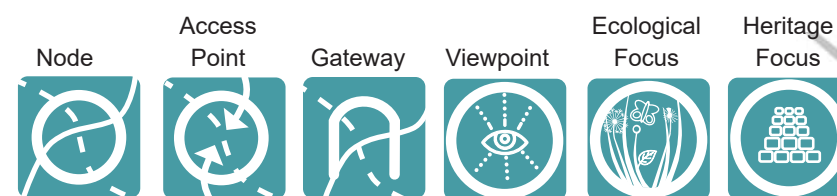
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle
- Vehicular access - for maintenance only

Character and Materiality

- Upgrade existing PRow where proposed energy park access track coincides. Width typically 5.5m
- Unbound surface of crushed stone of local aggregate recommended
- Species rich grass verge recommended where achievable within land-take parameters
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Cross cutting Themes

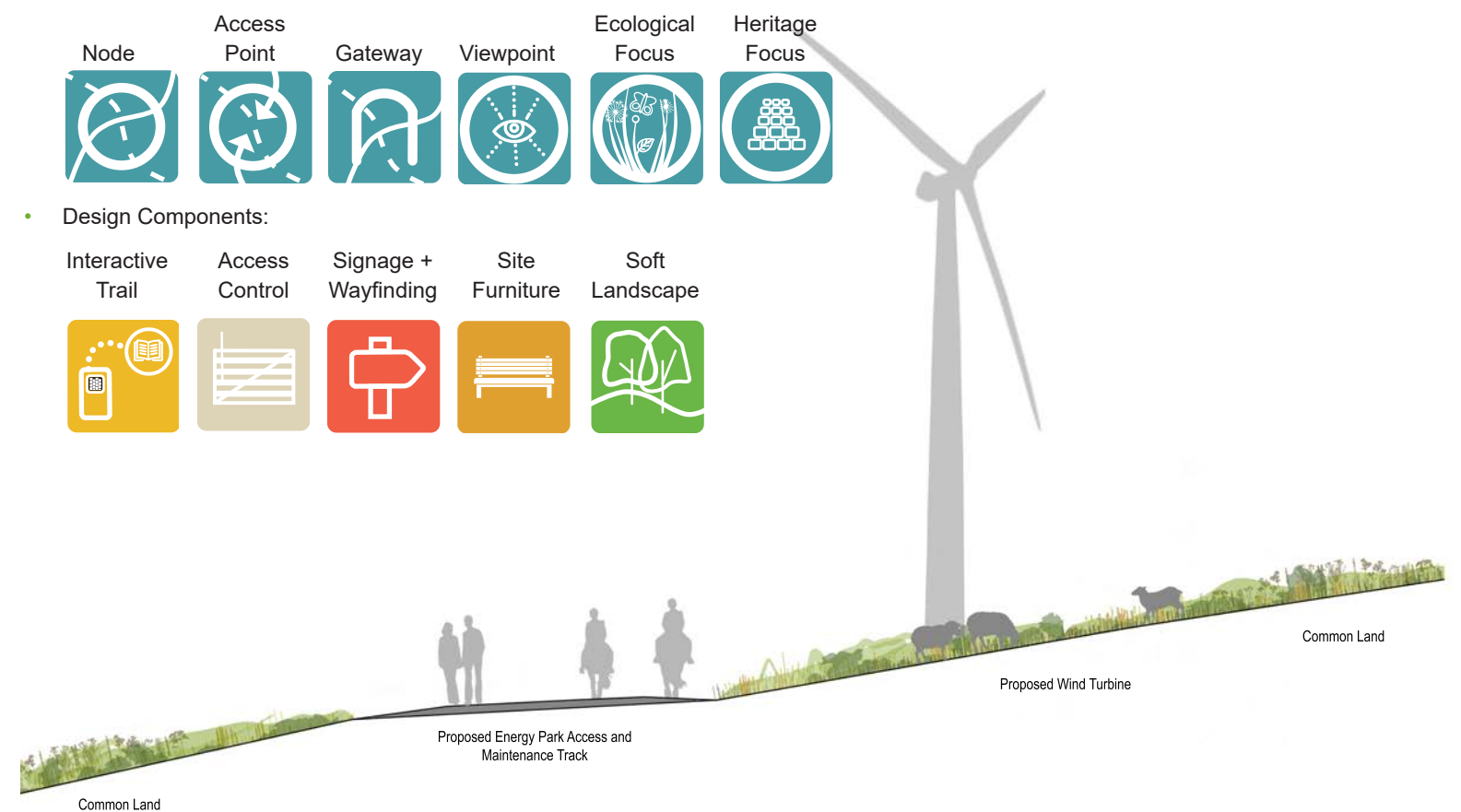
- Design Principles:



- Design Components:

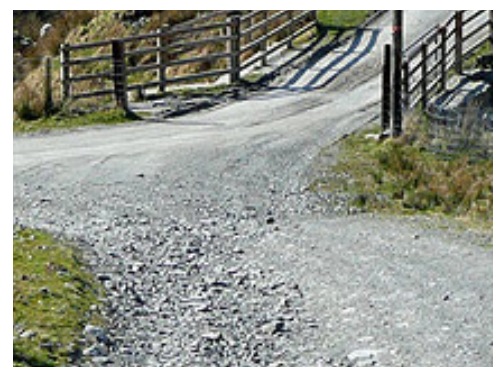


Indicative Section



Primary Route: The example above, illustrates part of the route through Common Land along the energy park maintenance track.

Character and Materiality



Unbound surfacing: Recommend crushed stone from local aggregate. Image Source: Breedon Group



1m grass verge treatment (where possible). Image Source: British Horse Society

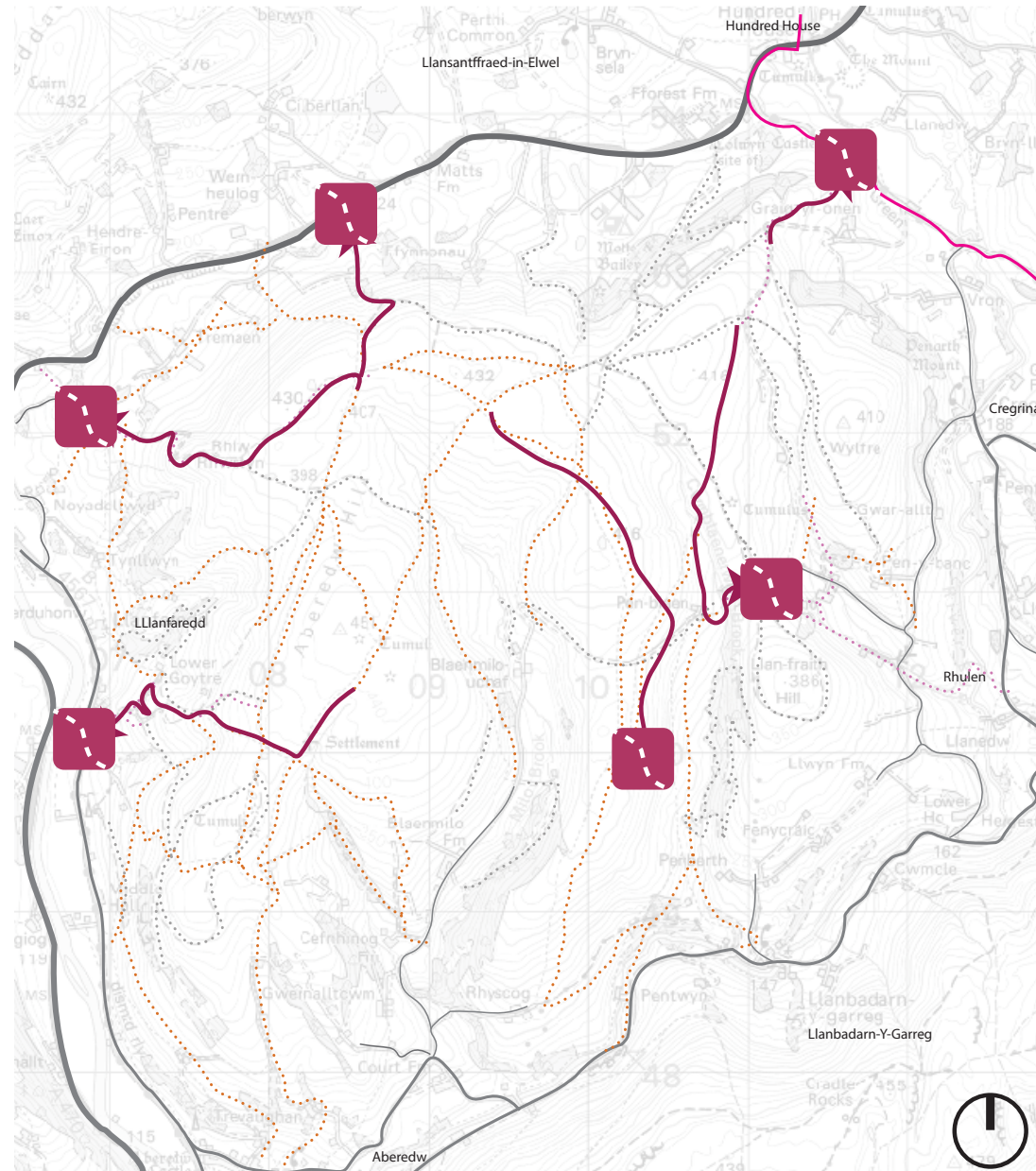


Primary routes provide multi-user access for pedestrians cyclists, equestrian and vehicular maintenance access. Image Source : Rudi Winter CC BY-SA 2.0

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Strategic Theme Secondary Recreational Route



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Secondary recreational route

Strategic Route Map - Secondary Recreational Routes

The above map extract illustrates:

- Secondary Recreational Routes
- Existing PRow (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Settlements
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Use and Users

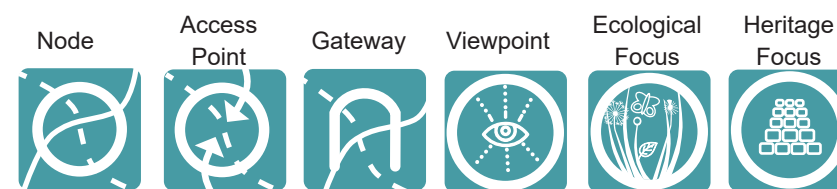
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle
- Vehicular access - for maintenance only on select routes

Character and Materiality

- All identified routes utilise existing PRow and tracks
- Existing surface maintained and improved to ensure more even / improved drainage where required
- Species rich grass verge recommended where achievable within land-take parameters
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Cross cutting Themes

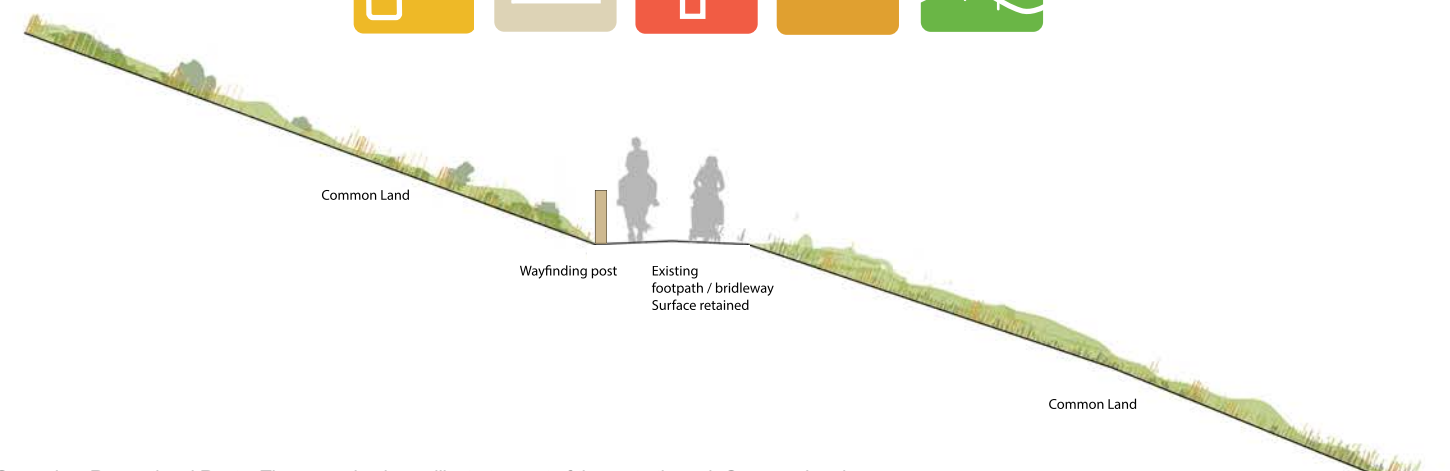
- Design Principles:



- Design Components:



Indicative Section



Secondary Recreational Route: The example above, illustrates part of the route through Common Land.

Character and Materiality



Existing surfacing: Repair / maintain existing secondary route sections with existing material, and / or provide drainage where necessary to promote additional use. Image Source: Graham Horn, Lane towards Aberedw Hill, CC BY-SA 2.0



Secondary routes may be used by pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Image Source: Sustrans

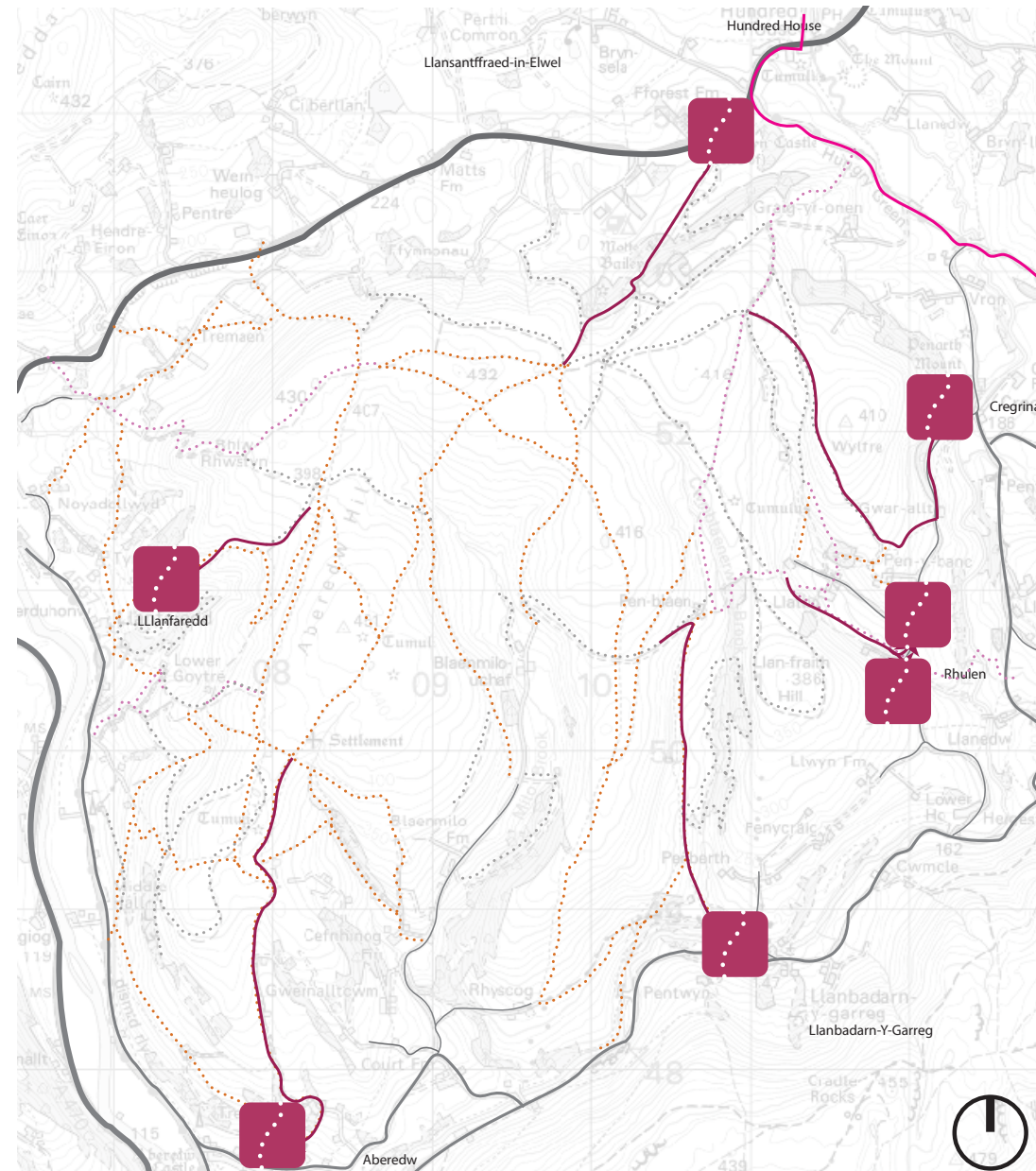


Secondary routes are unlikely to be as busy as primary routes but remain multi user and will accommodate multiple users. Image Source : The British Horse Society

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Strategic Theme Connection Routes



Key

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— Connection route

Strategic Route Map - Connective Routes

The above map extract illustrates:

- Connection Routes
- Existing PRoW (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Settlements
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Use and Users

- Predominantly Pedestrian
- Occasional Equestrian
- Occasional Cycle

Character and Materiality

- Worn grass paths
- No surfacing or edgings, to maintain existing character.
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Cross cutting Themes

- Design Principles:

Node



Access Point



Ecological Focus



Heritage Focus



- Design Components:

Access Control



Signage + Wayfinding



The example above illustrates typical improvements to Proposed Connection Route.

Character and Materiality



Existing Aberedw footpath to be retained in current condition and enhanced with signage and wayfinding .
Image Source : LUC



Existing Aberedw footpath to be retained in current condition and enhanced with signage and wayfinding .
Image Source : Graham Horn CC BY-SA 2.0

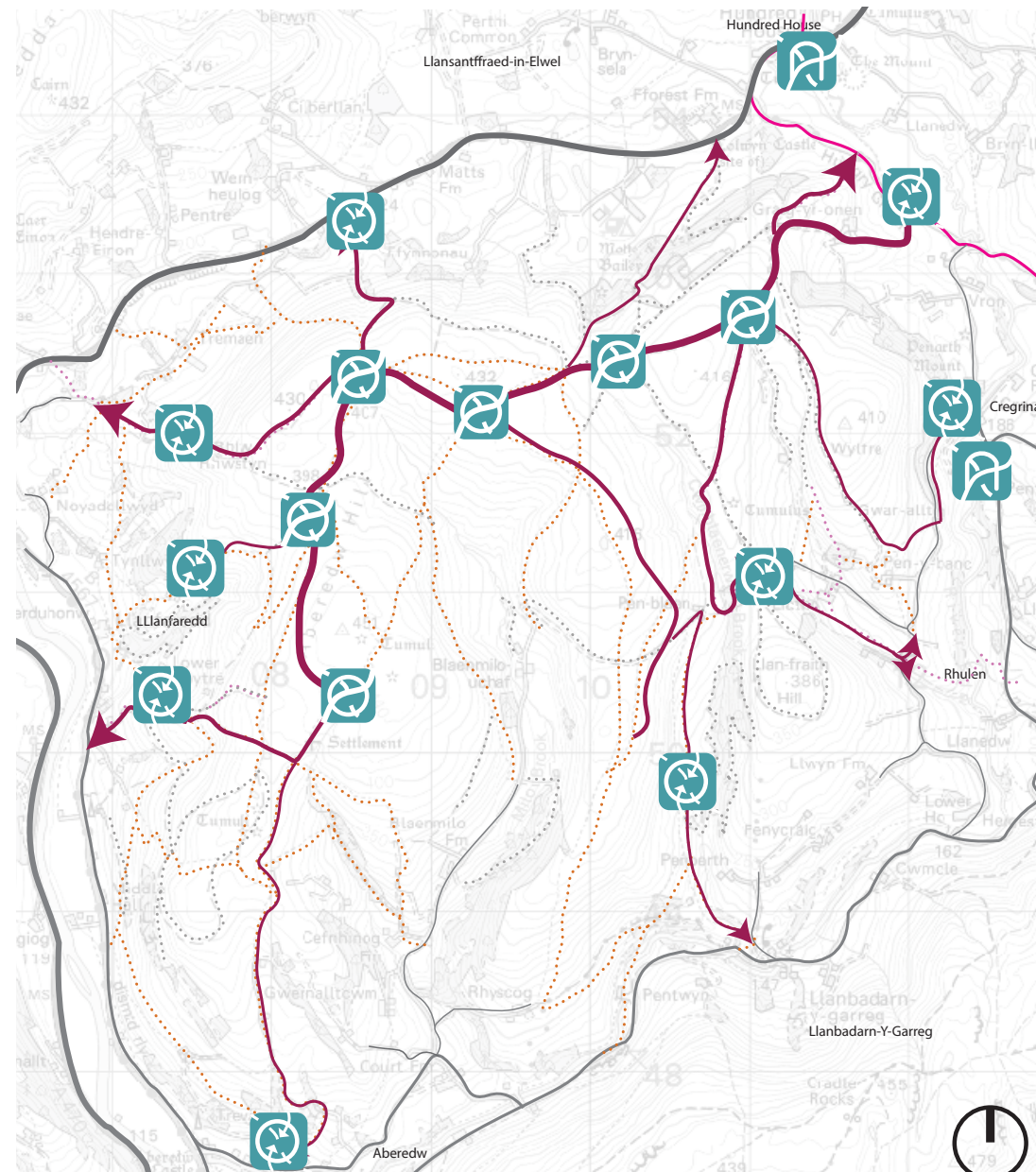


Existing Aberedw footpath to be retained in current condition and enhanced with signage and wayfinding .
Image Source : Graham Horn CC BY-SA 2.0

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Localised Intervention Node / Access Point / Gateway



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- Primary recreational route
- Secondary recreational route
- Connection route

Node / Access Point / Gateway Map

The above map extract illustrates:

- Nodes
- Access Points
- Gateways
- All Strategic Themes
- Existing Settlements
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Use and Users

- Vehicle (Gateway only: maintenance access)
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle

Node: Character and Materiality

- Located at the convergence of key routes along Primary Route
- Materiality will draw upon that of adjacent routes
- Option to utilise alternative surfacing treatments to indicate a threshold
- Will display directional / route information
- Often be associated with a key focus such as Heritage, Ecology or a viewpoint
- Will often encourage dwell time through Design Components such as seating and / or interpretation
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Access Point: Character and Materiality

- Located at key pedestrian / cycle / equestrian access points
- Materiality will draw upon that of adjacent routes and surrounding landscape character
- Option to use alternative surfacing to indicate a threshold
- Will display directional / route information
- Will often offer key Design Components such as seating
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Gateway: Character and Materiality

- Located at prominent vehicle access points
- Vehicle parking may be a consideration
- Will display directional / route information and key signage / branding
- Will often offer key Design Components such as bins and cycle parking
- Access control linked to stock-proof fencing to prevent unauthorised access (e.g. kissing gates)

Cross cutting Themes

- Design Principles:

Primary Routes



Secondary Routes



Connections



Ecological Focus



Heritage Focus



Viewpoint



- Design Components:

Interactive Trail



Access Control



Signage + Wayfinding



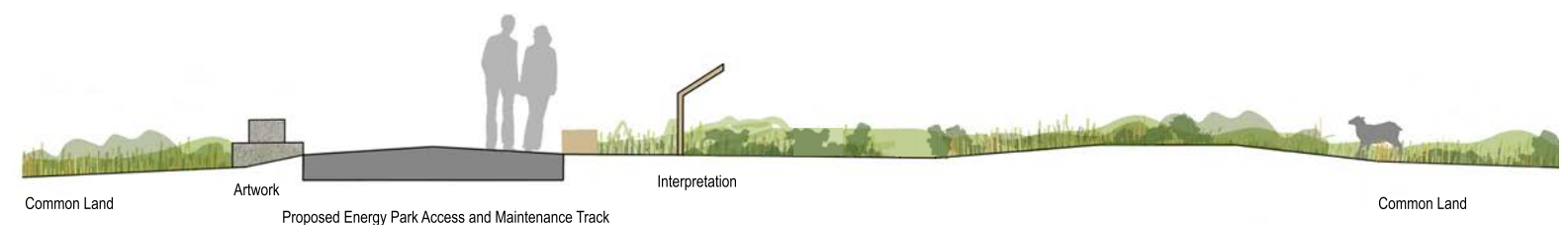
Site Furniture



Soft Landscape



Indicative Section

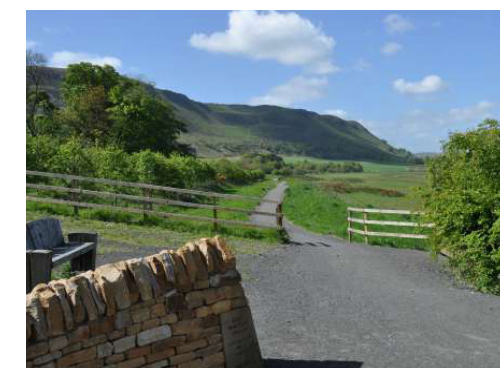


The example above illustrates a Primary Route passing through a Node with a Heritage Focus. This provides opportunities for enjoyment of the surrounding environment

Character and Materiality



Node: Example of a dwell area with seating. Image Source: Sustrans



Access Point: Where routes converge, various types of access control may be required. Image Source: Loch Leven Heritage Trail, Robert Struthers CC - BY - 2.0

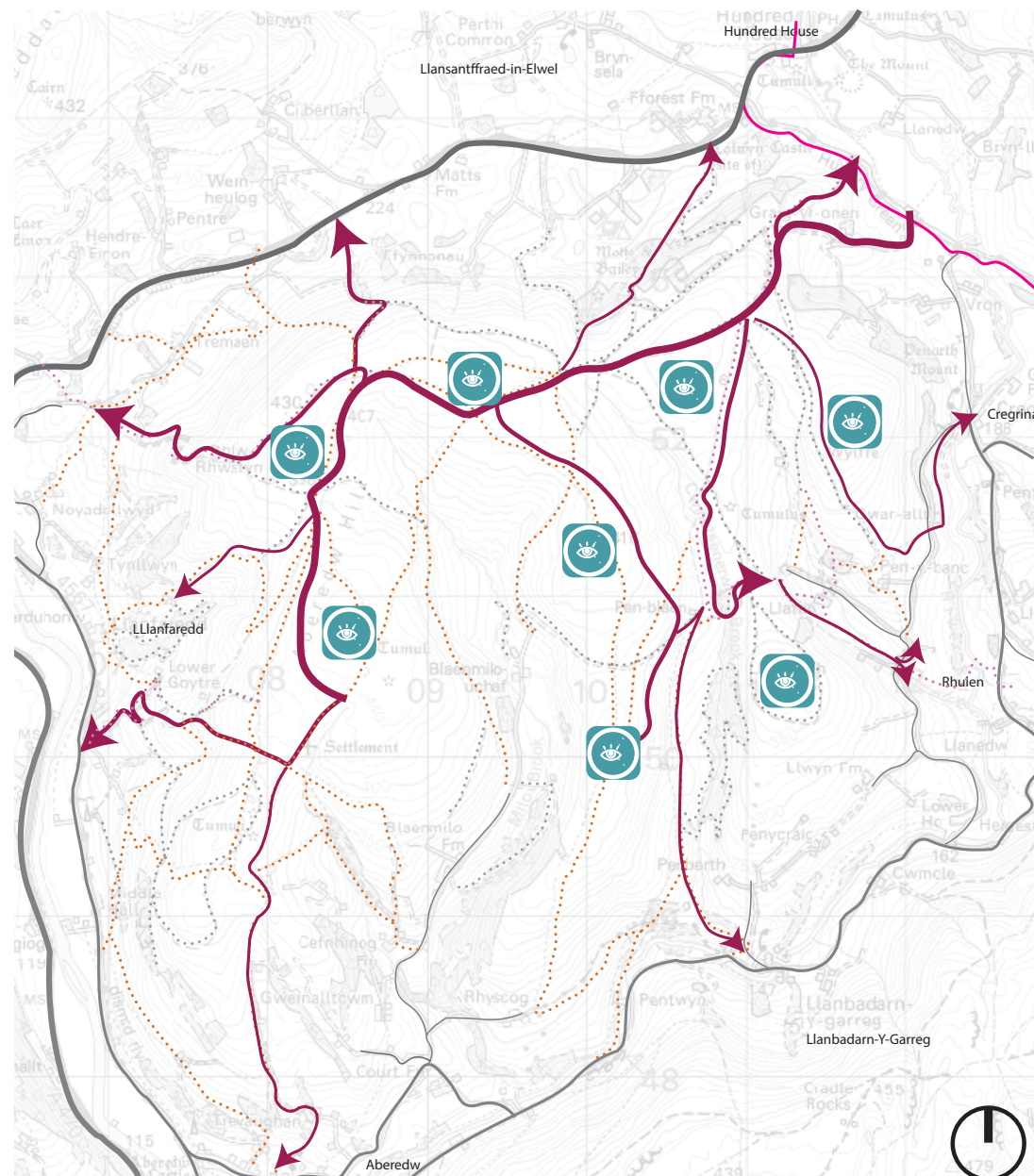


Gateway: Appropriate space for the integration of strategic visitor access such as vehicle parking. Image Source: Forestry England

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Localised Intervention Viewpoint



Key

NTS © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000808122

- Primary recreational route
- Secondary recreational route
- Connection route

Viewpoint Map

The above map extract illustrates:

- Viewpoints
- All Strategic Themes
- Existing Settlements
- Existing PRow (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Use and Users

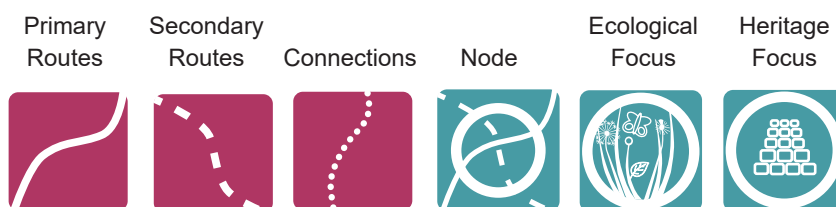
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle

Character and Materiality

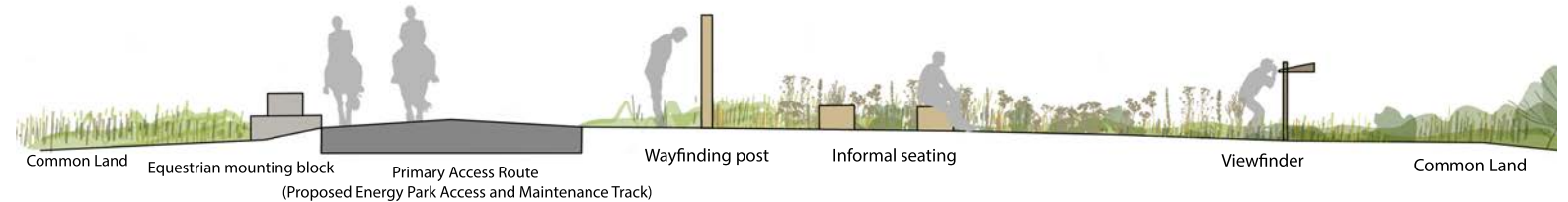
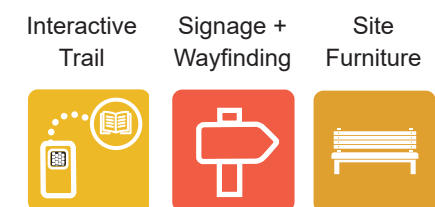
- Located at key strategic vantage points, often at a Node
- Will often be associated with Design Components such as interpretation, seating and art work
- Materiality will draw upon that of adjacent routes
- Dependent on location, a combination of timber and stone Design Components are recommended

Cross cutting Themes

- Design Principles:

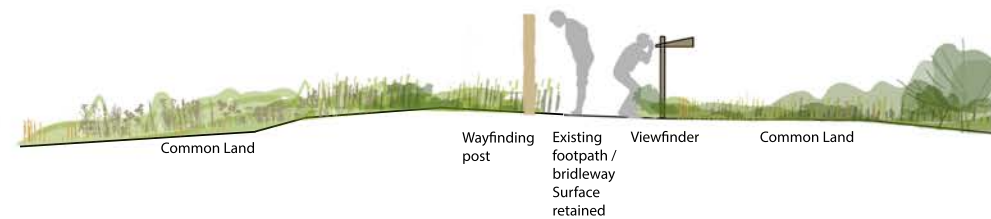


- Design Components:



The example above illustrates a Primary Route passing through Key Node with a Viewpoint providing opportunities for dwell time and Interpretation. Connection and enhancement of the wider landscape and regional context.

Indicative Sections



The example above illustrates a Secondary Route or a Connection Route with wayfinding and viewpoint opportunities immediately adjacent the route

Character and Materiality



Focal points: Interpretation of energy heritage (Quarries and now wind turbines) through the introduction of art pieces is also an option. Image Source: Old Pale Hill, Forestry Commission. Land-take will be carefully considered to minimise impact on Common Land.



Selected viewpoints may also introduce heritage or ecology focus via interpretation. Image Source: Glenmore Park, Forestry and Land Scotland.

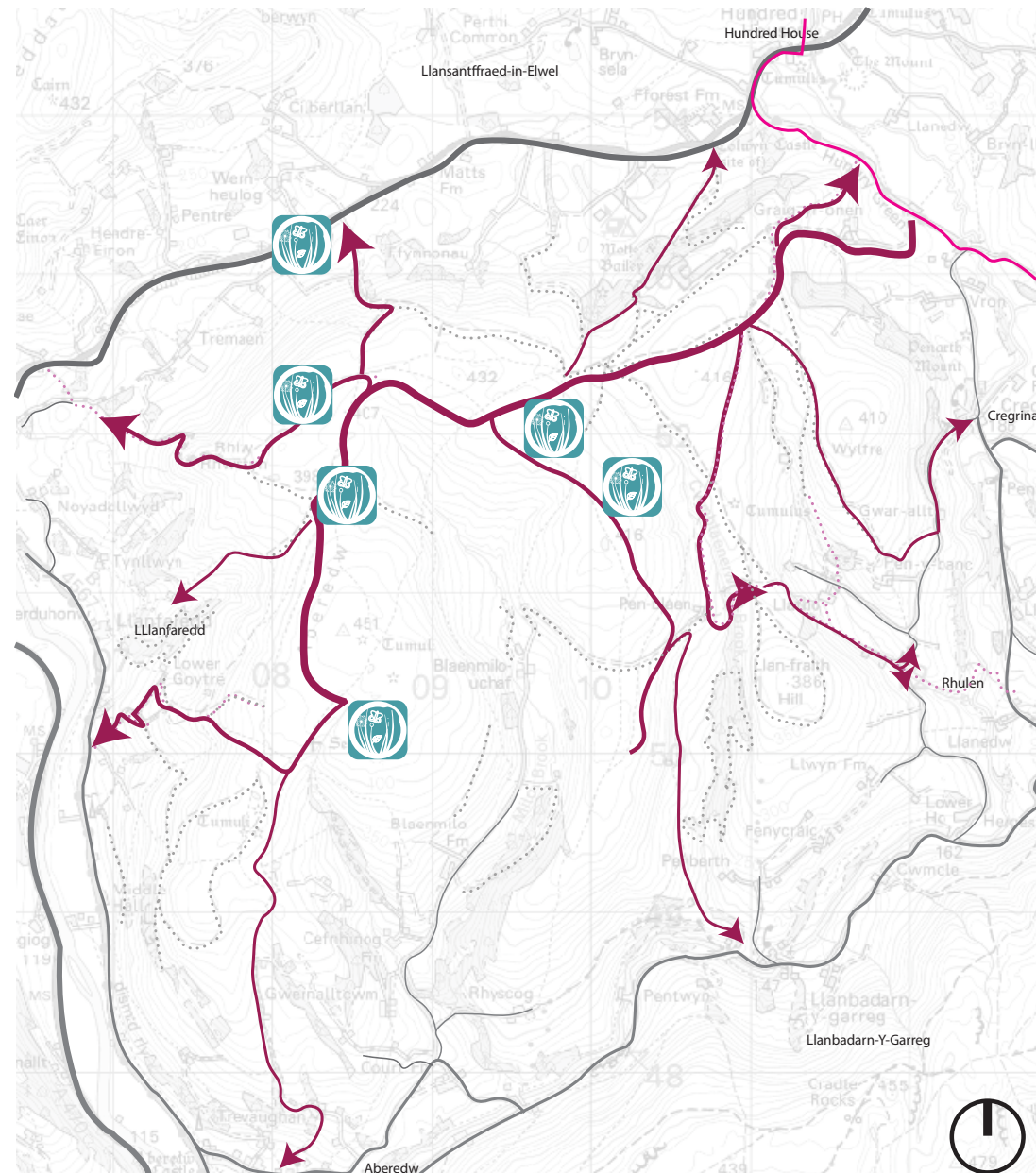


Viewfinders could also be located at key viewpoints to aid interpretation of views. Image Source: Landezine

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Localised Intervention Ecological Focus



Key

- Primary recreational route
- Secondary recreational route
- Connection route

Ecological Focus Map

The above map extract illustrates:

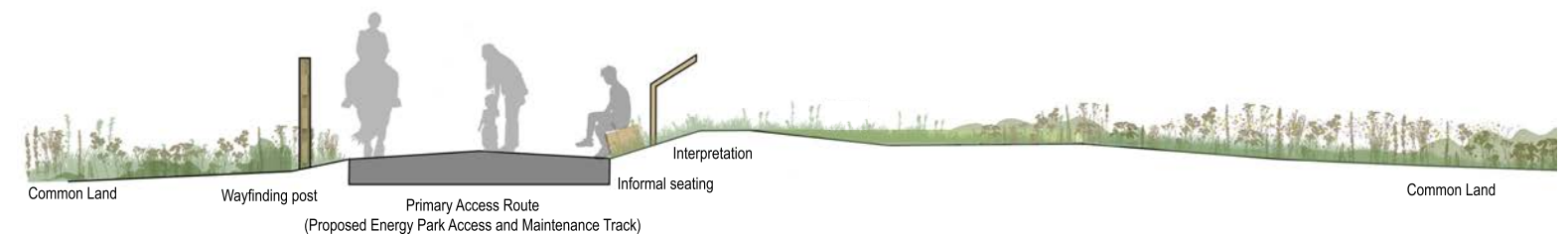
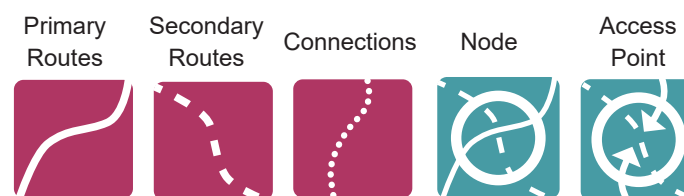
- Ecology Focus
- Nodes
- Access Points
- All Strategic Themes
- Existing Settlements
- Existing PRoW (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland.

Use and Users

- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle

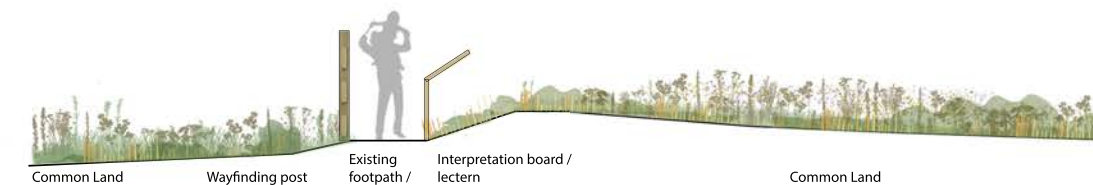
Cross cutting Themes

- Design Principles:



The example above illustrates a Primary Route passing through an ecologically sensitive Key Node providing opportunities for dwell time, education and managed interaction with the landscape

Indicative Sections



The example above illustrates a Secondary Route or a Connection Route with opportunities for wayfinding and interpretation immediately adjacent the route

Character and Materiality



Playful exploratory routes with varying levels of interaction and alternative route accessibility. Locations to be led by the requirements within the Environmental Statement and HMP. Image Credit: CC BY 2.0 Michael M Stokes



Sculptural wayfinding and artworks depicting ecological assets set that can be found within the Site. To be located within lowland areas at access points. Image Source : Brockholes Nature Reserve, Lancashire Wild life Trust

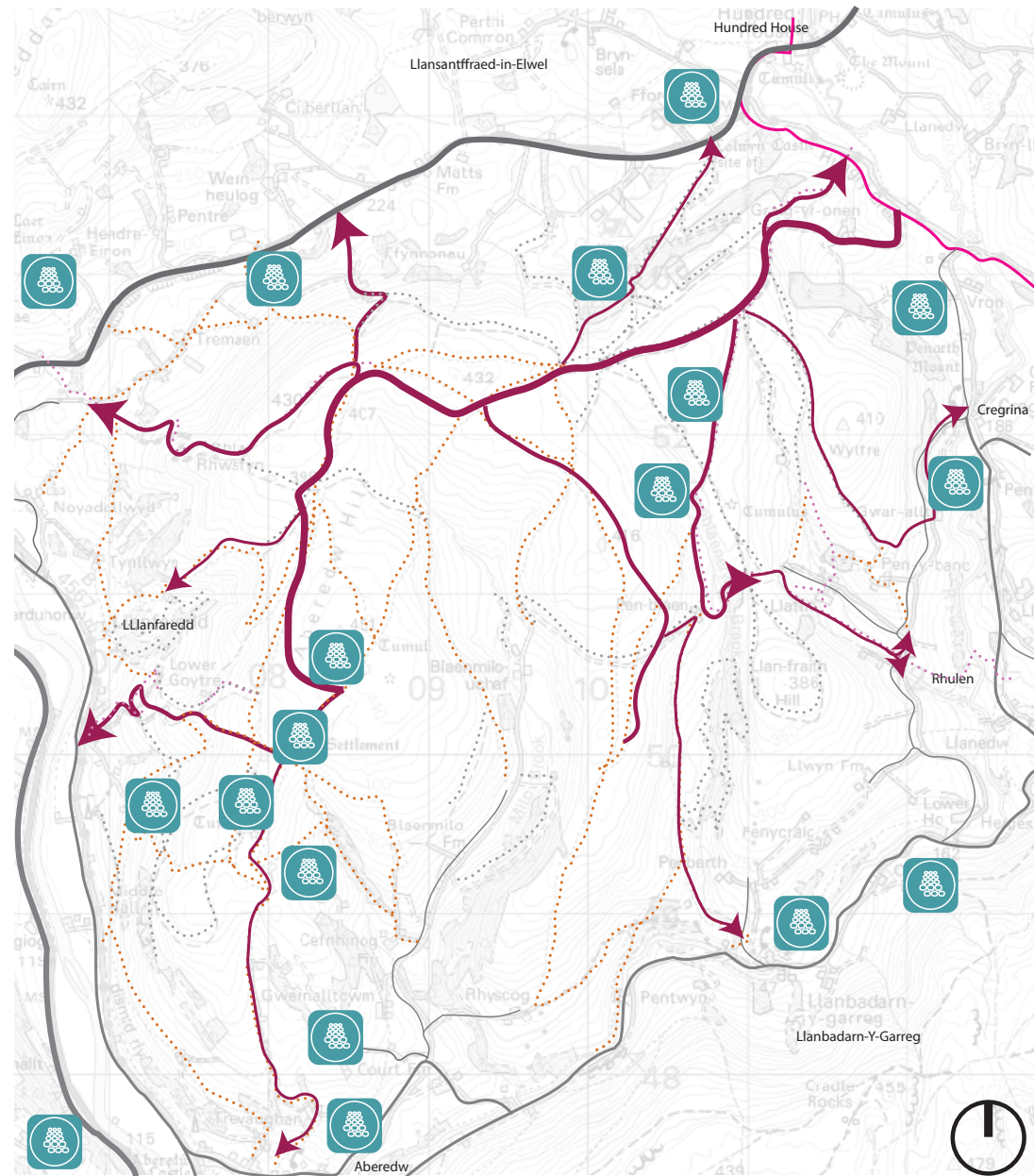


Raised routes may be required over sensitive habitat to mitigate the impact on nature of increased use by recreational users. Image Source: Llun Llech Owain Countryh Park CC BY-SA 4.0 Deed

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Localised Intervention Heritage Focus



Key

NTS © Crown copyright and database rights 2025 Ordnance Survey AC0000808122

- Primary recreational route
- Secondary recreational route
- Connection route

Heritage Focus Map

The above map extract illustrates:

- Heritage Focus
- Nodes
- Access Points
- All Strategic Themes
- Existing Settlements
- Existing PRoW (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland

Use and Users

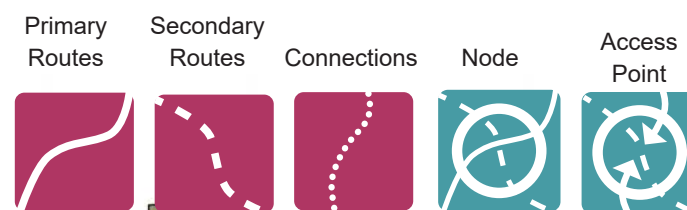
- Pedestrian
- Equestrian
- Cycle

Heritage Focus: Design and Materiality

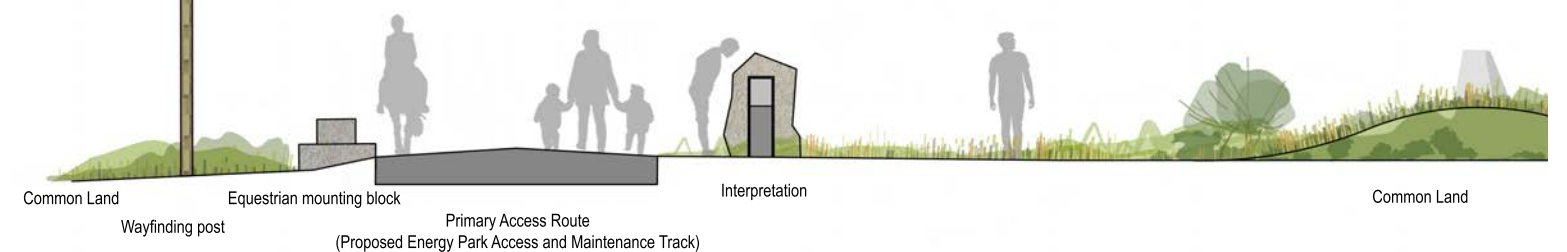
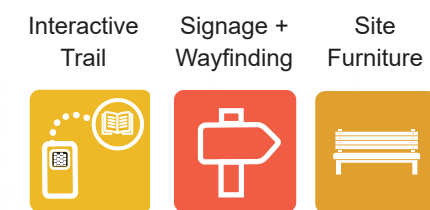
- Located at key strategic heritage locations including Scheduled Monuments and significant heritage assets
- Will often be associated with Design Components such as interpretation and seating
- Dependent on location, a combination of timber and metal Design Components are recommended

Cross cutting Themes

- Design Principles:



- Design Components:



The example above illustrates a Primary Route passing through a Key Node with a Heritage Focus, providing opportunities for dwell time, education and managed interaction with the landscape.

Indicative Sections



The example above illustrates a Secondary Route or a Connection Route with wayfinding and interpretation opportunities immediately adjacent the route

Character and Materiality



The Round Barrow on Aberedw Hill. The Barrow is one of a number of heritage assets found within and around the boundary of the Site. These form part of the proposed interactive Heritage Trail. Image Source: Anthony Parkes, CC BY-SA



A trig point on Aberedw Hill provides a focus within the landscape. These provide waymarkers for the proposed Heritage Trail as part of the Strategic Recreational Framework. Image Source: LUC



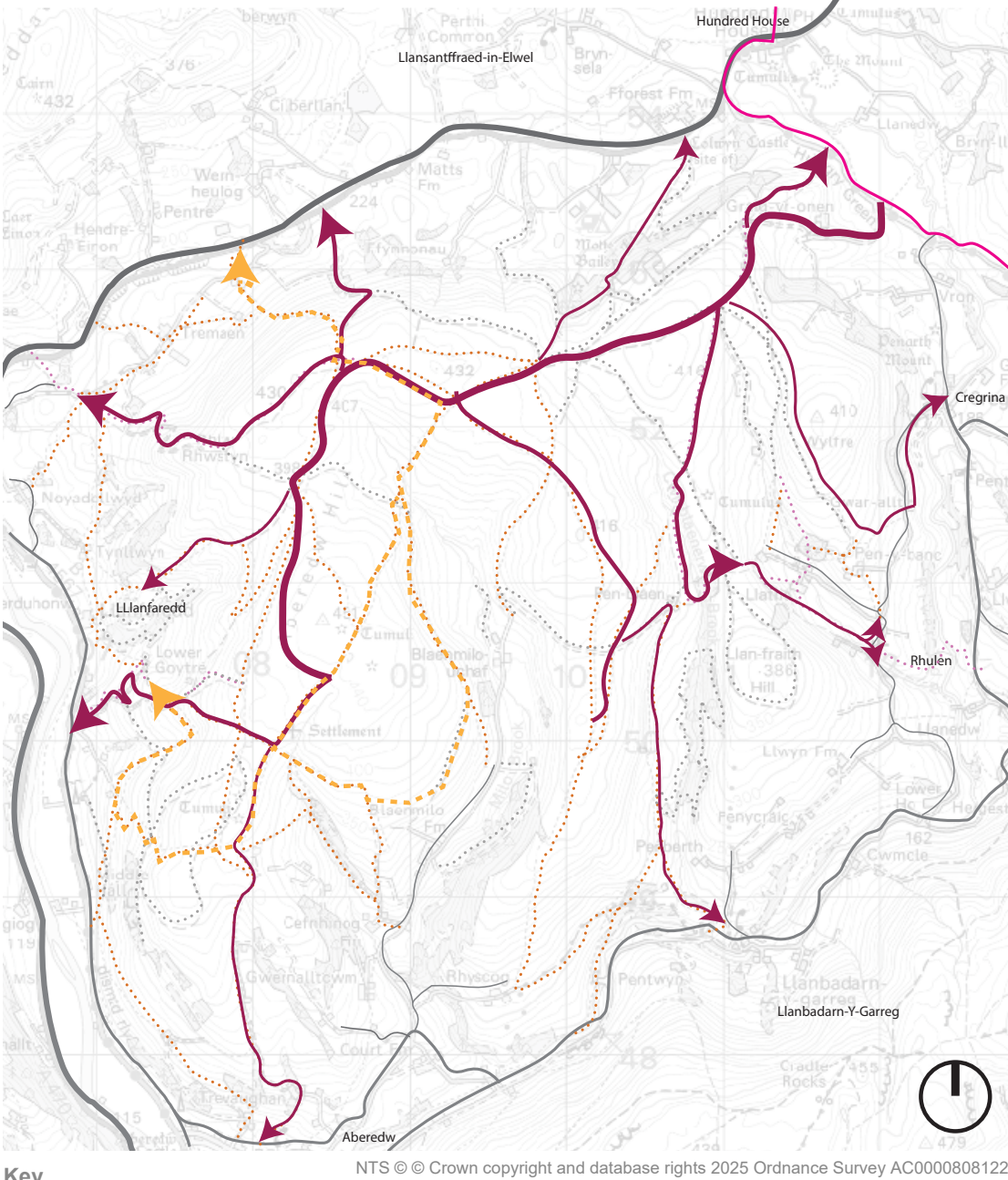
View of the Aberedw Hill Round Barrow. Interventions would within vicinity of this Scheduled Monument would be minimal to preserve integrity of land form. Image Source: Anthony Parkes, CC BY-SA 2.0

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Design Component Themed Trails

Aberedw Recreation Framework
Aberedw Energy Park Ltd
June 2025



Key

- Primary recreational route
- Secondary recreational route
- Connection route
- Interactive Trail

Themed / Interactive Trails

The above map extract illustrates:

- Interactive Trail
- Heritage Focus
- Ecological Focus
- Geological Focus
- Nodes
- Access Points
- Gateways
- All Strategic Themes
- Existing Settlements
- Existing Railway Lines
- Existing Woodland
- Existing A and B Classification Roads
- Existing unsurfaced unclassified road (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing PRow (with potential for enhancement)
- Existing Track / Local Access Route (with potential for enhancement)

Interactive Trails : Case studies - QR code links to web-hosted content



Providing sculptural seating that incorporates locally sourced stone from within the Site links such features with the natural heritage. Seating may be provided at Gateways, Access Nodes and Nodes as part of interactive trails within the Site. Image Source: The Ullswater Way Heritage Trail, Artists Seat, CC - BY - 1.0 Anne and David.



Bute Park QR trail in Cardiff enables visitors to access an online library of information including archive photographs, drawings and maps all found on a web platform which can be accessed whilst visiting the park. Image Source: www.HistoryPoints.org, Bute Park and Arboretum.



Trigonometry points found at the top of Aberedw Hill would provide relevant locations for QR codes that may provide further information on the views from those points and / or provide historical context for example of the barrow mounds. Image Source: Trevor Littlewood, CC BY-SA 2.0



The technology company Audio Trails devised a smart-phone trail on behalf of the Canal & River Trust for the Montgomery Canal in Welshpool. QR codes and embedded NFC chips (the same technology used for contactless payment) can be found along the canal, linking to a web page optimised for mobile use with key written information, images and audio description. Image Source: Canal and River Trust.

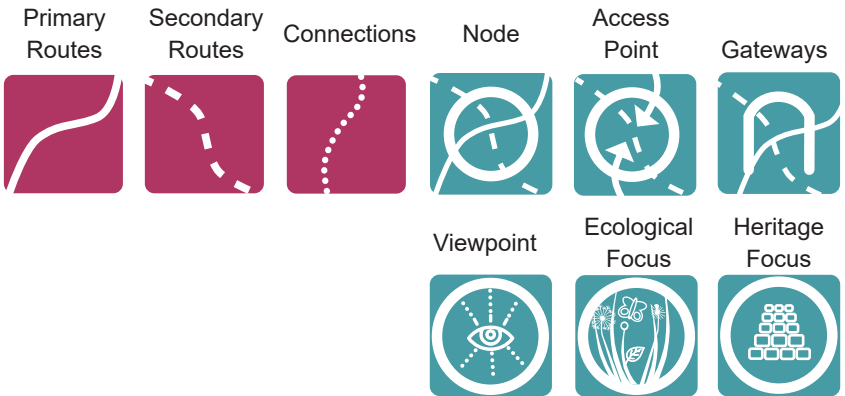


The South Downs Way is a long distance footpath and bridleway running through the South Downs National Park. The National Park contains sensitive landscapes where it is not appropriate to install large display panels, for example near aircraft crash sites. It utilises QR codes and web hosted content attached to finger posts, walls and bollards to enrich user experience. Image Source: South Downs National Park Authority.

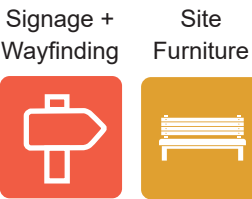


Cross-cutting themes

- Design Principles:



- Design Components:



NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Design Component Access Control

Examples



Cycleway Access control
Source: Sustrans.



Bridleway access control : Source: The British Horse Society - Advice on Opening a Gate From Horse back. Image Source: The British Horse Society.



Due to Open Access land, boundary treatments will be limited and associated with livestock retention, including stock proof fencing. Image Source: Trawsfynydd Lake Cycle Route, Snowdonia.

Access Control: Materials Palette



Metal access control kissing gate and field gate with timber posts at Site perimeter where stock-proof fencing is present Image Source: Paul Farmer CC BY-SA 2.0.



Timber bollards, min. of 1.8m apart to allow ease of access for cyclists and equestrians whilst reducing unauthorised vehicular access. Option for lockable dropped bollards to allow maintenance access. Image Source: LUC .Wandle Trail.



Equestrian gates: Latch release, operated with one hand. Latch on the top of the gate so that the rider may not have to dismount. Image Credit: Centrewire.



Pedestrian gates: Kissing gates with larger access and turning circles for limited mobility and pushchair access. Image Source: Steve Daniels CC-BY-SA-2.0.



Pedestrian gates: Gated access is recommended over stiles to enable inclusive access to the Site. D-shaped handles to enable latch to be opened with one hand and allow for increased manoeuvrability. Image Source: Centrewire.

Cross-cutting themes

- Design Principles: Primary Recreational Routes, Secondary Recreational Routes. Icons are indicated below:



NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Design Component Site Furniture and Artwork

Examples



Cyclists: There will be some landscape features such as cycle parking and public air pumps that could be installed at key locations such as Gateways and Access Nodes to promote recreational use. Image Source: Civiq, Cycle Fixit Bike Repair Station.



All users of recreational opportunities will require some facilities to enhance their experience. This may include landscape features such as picnic benches. Image Source: Fitzpatrick Woolmer Ltd



Discrete art and wayfinding interventions may be considered an appropriate landscape feature that can help promote identity and route continuity. Inspiration can be drawn from the local environment. Image Credit: DAB Graphics.

Furniture: Materials Palette



Cycle Parking: Simple timber and corten metal structures may work well with the rural landscape character. Image source: Streetlife.



Cycle Parking: Locally sourced timber fabricated into bespoke cycle storage may be an appropriate treatment. Image source: Gavin Anderson CC BY-SA 2.0.



Seating: Timber is recommended to fit with landscape character. Seats can vary in style with those at certain locations engraved with mapping and interpretation. Image Source: "Map on bench, Monmouthshire Brecon Canal by M J Roscoe, CC BY-SA 2.0.



Seating: Integrating seating into structures such as boundary treatments may be a clever option if there are existing site constraints. Image Source: Jim Barton CC-BY-SA-2.0.

Cross-cutting themes

- Design Principles: Node, Access Point, Gateway, Viewpoint, Heritage Focus, Ecology Focus. Icons are indicated below:



Bridges across small watercourses may be required to ensure inclusive access to strategic routes across the Site. It is recommended that these are timber construction or possibly timber composite in areas prone to flooding, and can often be sourced as 'kits'. Minimum width of 1.8m with balustrade to either side. Image Source Secure-a-Field Ltd.



Bins: Whilst users will be encouraged to take rubbish home with them, it is recommended to allow for segregated waste disposal at key locations such as Gateways and Access nodes. QR codes would allow for reporting issues. Image Source : Woodcraft UK and West Lindsey District Council.

NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Design Component Signage and Wayfinding

Examples



Signage: wooden monoliths with engraved artwork would communicate an overview of the area focus, interpretation and recreation opportunities. Image Source: Landmark.



Interpretation: Notice boards and signage at Nodes and Focus Areas, interpreting heritage, ecology and views. Image Source: Coniston, The Way Design.



Wayfinding: Signs and directions along a route that categorises the modes and conventions of use. Image Source: DAB. Graphics.



Wayfinding: Etched oak marker disc. Image Source: DAB. Graphics.

Signage: Communications strategy



Integrating interpretation with other design components such as seating will minimise land-take. Image Source: Forestry England.



Signage will be used to encourage people to use the recreational facilities and will combine interpretation and directional information such as maps and interactive trails. Image Source: Ebbw Fach Trail, Blaenau-Gwent CBC.



Innovative interpretation products are currently being developed including products which leave a 'light touch' on the landscape such as etched perspex with timber posts. Image Source: LUC.



Interpretation that offers information on local ecology and heritage features may help to educate users on the relationships between people and the environment, helping conserve key assets. Image Credit: Mount Merion, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.



Finger post signage will offer directional information. There are options to include distance information and connect key settlements and features across Aberedw. Image Source: Wild Trails Wales Guide



Signage denoting the hierarchy of tracks, access designations, instructions and considerations required on shared multi-user routes. Image Source: 1- Eli Brown CC BY-SA 2.0 2: Norbury Park Wood Products.



Cross-cutting themes

- Design Principles: Primary Recreational Routes, Secondary Recreational Routes, Connection Routes, Node, Access Point, Gateway, Viewpoint, Heritage Focus, Ecology Focus, Geology Focus, Recreation Focus. Icons are indicated below:
- Design Components: Interactive Trails and Art Work. Icons are indicated below:



NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.



Design Component Soft Landscape

Aberedw Recreation Framework
Aberedw Energy Park Ltd
June 2025

Examples



Grassland: Managed heathland grass verges are recommended along the Primary Recreational Route where possible and in accordance with minimal land-take. This Soft Landscape component would align with the local and national policy framework as outlined in section 1.10 Policy, Legislation and Good Practice in the Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) and net benefit for biodiversity. Image source: Loch Katrine, Richard Webb, CC BY-SA 2.0.



Hedgerows: Hedgerow networks are largely found within the lower-lying parts of the Site bordering some of the improved fields. Hedgerow species may be considered for stopping up gaps in existing hedgerows or for creating new hedgerow boundaries in the north of the Site near to the proposed sub-station. This Soft Landscape component would align with existing species found on Site (hawthorn, blackthorn, pedunculate oak, field maple, guelder rose, hazel, holly dog rose, common dogwood, elder, hornbeam, sweet briar, spindle and wild crabapple) as outlined in section 4.70 Hedgerow Planting in the Outline Habitat Management Plan. Image Source: CC BY 2.0 D H Wright.



Woodland: Native tree species may be implemented at carefully considered locations to help reinforce landscape character, promote setting and increase biodiversity. Tree planting would strictly follow guidance from the Outline Habitat Management Plan. Image Source: Designed and built by Southern Green.co.uk, sourced from Landscape.com - Oxhey Activity Park.

Guidance on Plant Specification



On the hill tops within the site, dry heath is interspersed with acid grassland with some examples of mire communities and standing water. There will be opportunity to recreate heathland communities on areas disturbed by earth works. Species such as *Ulex gallii*, *Deschampsia flexuosa*, *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Calluna vulgaris* will be prioritised. Heather brash and seeds will be collected from the footprint prior to excavation. Image credit: Eric Jones CC BY-SA 2.0



Crataegus monogyna, Hawthorn. Image Source: Enneafive CC BY-SA 2.0.



Prunus spinosa, Blackthorn. Image Source: Sweden 20050924CC BY-SA 3.0.



Field Maple. Image Source: ndrwwg CC BY 2.0.



Alnus glutinosa, Hazel. Image credit: Nikanos CC BY-SA 2.5.



Quercus robur, Pedunculate oak. Image Source: CC BY-SA 2.0.



Betula pendula. Image Source: talaakso CC BY-SA 2.0.



Corylus avellana. Image credit: Michael Garlick CC BY-SA 2.0.

Cross-cutting themes

- Design Principles: Primary Recreational Routes, Secondary Recreational Routes, Connection Routes, Node, Access Point, Gateway. Icons are indicated below:



NOTE: All images are illustrative and indicative. If additional consents are required this will be considered in the development of any future recreational proposals.

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road in the foreground, leading into a field of tall grass and shrubs. In the background, there are rolling hills under a sky with scattered white clouds. The overall tone is natural and somewhat muted.

Part Three

Summary of Management and Consultation

Chapter 1 : Maintenance Requirements

Overview

The following section summarises the anticipated future landscape management and maintenance requirements which may result from delivery of **Core Design Principles** (the routes and places) and **Design Components** (the landscape treatments) relating to the **Aberedw SRF**.

This maintenance is specific to the recreational interventions identified in this SRF, and excludes any management and maintenance relating to the Aberedw Energy Park itself and associated Outline Habitat Management Plan. Refer to the Design and Access Statement for further information.

Treatments and interventions proposed have been selected on the basis of their visual appropriateness, robustness and cost. They are all considered low-maintenance, but some elements will provide increased longevity if maintained in accordance with manufacturer and best practice guidance.

Management of Proposed Landscape Features

Following implementation of the proposed **Core Design Principles** and / or **Design Components**, there will be different management practices attributed to each feature. The anticipated key maintenance points are summarised in the table opposite.

Establishment

Soft landscape features will have a slightly different maintenance requirement during establishment phase than once established. Sufficient consideration will be given to any enhanced requirements that may be required at this time, including animal / stock proofing and replacement planting.

Seasonality

Management inputs and resource requirements will vary throughout the year and within each season. There will also be seasonal restrictions on maintenance due to ecological constraints such as nesting seasons. Refer to Habitat Management Plan for further information.

Monitoring and Review

Management regimes will be subject to ongoing monitoring and review. This will be coordinated with the findings of ongoing ecological monitoring and surveys.

Collaboration and engagement with landowners, key stakeholders and the community will help determine an effective Maintenance and Management Plan for recreation assets with efficiencies in operations, and opportunities for community cohesion through Corporate Social Responsibility ventures such as litter picking, path maintenance, vegetation management (where aligned with the Outline Habitat Management Plan).

Core Design Principles
Strategic Themes Unbound Surfaces: - Typical Lifespan 5-10 years - Topping up of areas of significant wear - dependent on use - As-dug material can be generated on-site (dependent on ground conditions), particularly from borrow pits resulting from the Aberedw Energy Park Development. Self-Binding Surfaces: - Typical Lifespan 10-15 years - Relatively straightforward to maintain and repair areas of restricted damage. Litter Pick: - To be carried out as required, a recommended minimum of 6 times / year to maintain safety for route users.
Design Components
Timber: - Typical Lifespan 15+ years with preservative treatment - May require cleaning - specialist products can remove graffiti - If utilised as surfacing (e.g. board-walk), will require anti-slip treatment - Leaf litter can create slippery surface conditions and may require removal. Metal: - Typical Lifespan 20+ years - May require cleaning - specialist products can remove graffiti. Species Rich Grass Seeding (verges): - Late summer / autumn conservation cut, control invasive species, leaf and litter clearance, grass along path edge maintained to between 50-75mm. Late spring cut to around 60mm as required. Small scale native tree planting (at Gateways and outside areas of Common Land): - Formative pruning undertaken as per species requirements. Ties, stakes and health checked and adjusted 4 times / year to aid establishment.



Community litter pickers as part of a collaborative approach to management. Image Source: The Helping Hand Company Ltd.

Chapter 2

Future Consultation

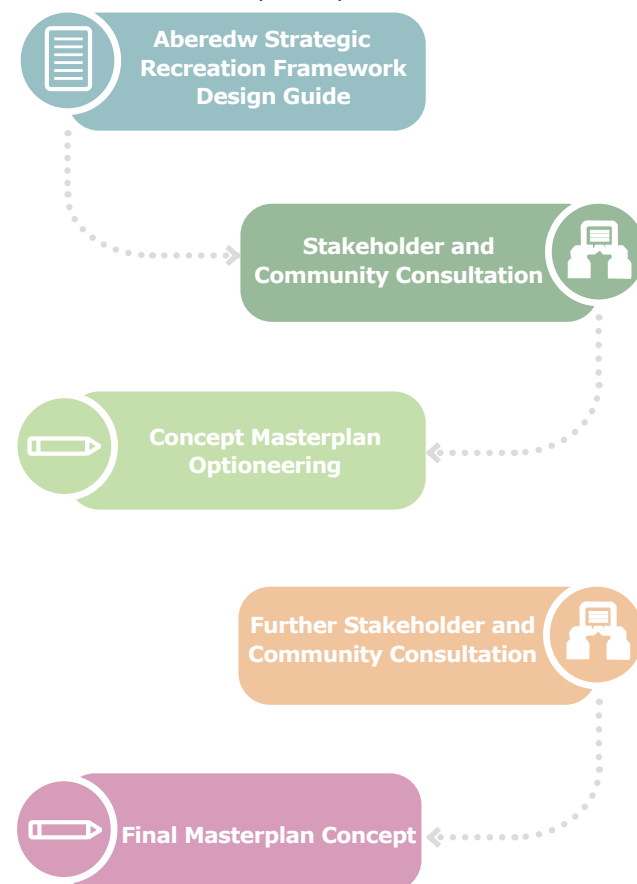
The Aberedw SRF focuses on the establishment of a clear Vision and deliverable Objectives backed by **Core Design Principles** and **Design Components**.

The SRF acknowledges that the Energy Park Site is almost entirely located within Common Land. Any future recreational developments will be undertaken in collaboration with the Common Association and key stakeholders to ensure acceptability of proposals. Other key stakeholders will also include Powys County Council, The British Horse Society, the Open Spaces Society, the organisers of the Red Dragon Festival of Endurance, the local community, and landowners.

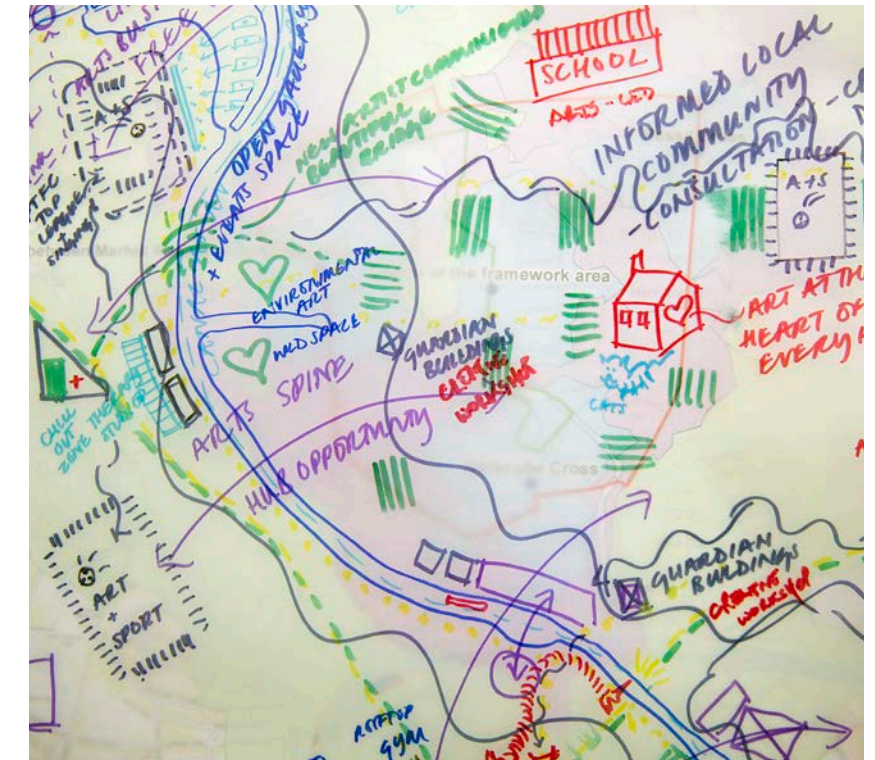
Celebrating collaboration through ongoing engagement with project partners will maximise local knowledge address issues, and foster future stewardship. This will ensure that recreation interventions meet the needs of users, are better utilised and enjoyed.

Consultation should be inclusive, accessible, audience specific, creative and transparent with clear outcome measures that can be reported back to form a robust part of the iterative design process. Engagement may be carried out in a number of ways and phases including:

- Pop-up and / or drop-in events
- Design workshops - potentially targeted at existing audiences such as schools, community groups or user groups
- Online / paper surveys
- Joint Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community 'call to action' e.g. litter pick event
- Social media and / or local press updates.



What Floats Your Boat Charrette, consultation for Forth and Clyde Canal. Image Source: LUC , Claypits Consultation.



What Floats Your Boat Charrette, consultation for Forth and Clyde Canal. Image Source: LUC , Claypits Consultation.



Image Source: LUC , Community Consultation.



Image Source: LUC , Community Consultation.

Part Four
Summary and Conclusion

Summary and Conclusion

The Aberedw SRF is intended to set out an identified strategy and guiding framework for future consideration of recreational activity within Aberedw Energy Park. It is an ambitious and aspirational strategy which will form the basis for future consultation.

The Aberedw SRF focuses on the establishment of a clear Vision and deliverable objectives, backed by **Core Design Principles** and **Design Components**. This will help formulate and guide the most effective and positive identified interventions in relation to recreational activities within and around the Site.

It will help foster a long-term legacy that transects multiple stakeholders and enables collaborative approaches to achieve a shared vision.

The Aberedw SRF forms a reference document, supporting the development of a recreational offer. It signposts the user to other policies, environmental information, and strategies and acts as justification for decisions as the plan-making process evolves.

The SRF has been developed to be flexible and able to accommodate future change, to continue to be relevant throughout the life of the Aberedw Energy Park design, construction and operational phases.

Overall, the SRF could assist in the development of a sustainable, functional and accessible recreational resource at Aberedw Energy Park which enhances visitor experience, conserves key ecological and heritage assets and balances the needs of the Commoners using the land.



Visualisation of the recreation offer at Aberedw. Image Source: LUC.

Appendix A
Planning Policy,
Consultation and Baseline
Review



Appendix A : Planning Policy Review

National Planning Policy

The Aberedw SRF will be informed by a range of planning policy considerations, alongside good practice guidance. The information included within this Chapter will provide an overview to the design and management policy frameworks at both a national and local level which are relevant to the development of the SRF.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 12, 2024

Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (PPW) (Welsh Government, 2024) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. It is supplemented by a series of Technical Advice Notes (TANs), Welsh Government Circulars and policy clarification letters, which together with PPW12, provide the national planning policy framework for Wales.

The primary objective of PPW12 is to ensure that the planning system contributes towards the delivery of sustainable development and improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales as required by key government legislation.

PPW12 promotes good design as a mechanism for providing better places for Welsh Communities.

PPW12 para.3.3 states that:

“Good design is fundamental to creating sustainable places where people want to live, work and socialise. Design is not just about the architecture of a building but the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment and between people and places. To achieve sustainable development, design must go beyond aesthetics and include the social, economic, environmental, cultural aspects of the development ... Design is an inclusive process, which can raise public aspirations, reinforce civic pride and create a sense of place and help shape its future ... Meeting the objectives of good design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process and applied to all development proposals, at all scales”

The five objectives of good design, as stated in PPW are summarised in the adjacent graphic and includes:

- Access and Inclusivity
- Character
- Community Safety
- Environmental Sustainability
- Movement.

PPW12 para. 6.2.3 recognises that Green infrastructure is capable of providing several functions at the same time and as a result offers multiple benefits, for social, economic and cultural as well as environmental resilience.

Future Wales - The National Plan 2040

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 was adopted in 2021 and is the national development framework, setting out the direction for development in Wales. It is a development plan with a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system. These include sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving de-carbonisation and climate-resilience, developing strong ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of communities.

Policy 17 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure states that:

“Proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities”

Technical Advice Notes

Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016) provides further guidance on the principles of good design in relation to any developments. The recommended approach includes the identification, analysis and diagnosis of problems and barriers, and then providing solutions through research, critique, development and testing. The guidance recommends increased scrutiny on condition, legibility, fitness for purpose (particularly in changing climates), ease of use for everyone, safety, convenience, enjoyment and contribution to local identity.

Technical Advice Note 16: Sport, Recreation and Open Space (2009) advises on the role of the planning system in making provision for sport and recreational facilities and informal open spaces as well as protecting existing facilities and open spaces in urban and rural areas in Wales.

Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013

The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 requires each local authority to develop an Active Travel Plan which will have an influence on active travel in the local authority area. Whilst the focus for active travel is within the urban areas of key settlements such as Llandrindod Wells to the west of the Site and Presteigne and Knighton to the east, Public Rights of Way within a 45 minute travel distance of each key settlement also have a part to play to improve provision for active travel (Powys Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028).

Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales 2023

This guidance document sets out the key design objectives and considerations for the development of large-scale on-shore wind, solar and ancillary infrastructure in Wales as set out by the Design Commission for Wales. The guidance notes:

“Wind and solar farm designs should seek to maximise the benefits to local communities in terms of meaningful participation in the site selection and design process; access to employment in the creation and running of the facility; local landscape and infrastructure improvements; and access, learning and interpretation functions associated with the facility.”



Appendix A : Planning Policy Review

Local Planning Policy

There are a number of County Borough Council plans and strategies which are relevant to recreation delivery. The information included in this chapter represents a summary of the key policies.

The Site is entirely located within Powys County Council (PCC). The policies summarised below are representative of the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP). It is worth noting that the LDP is reaching the end of its plan period (2011-2026), and whilst it remains the determining LDP until replaced, it should be noted that they may be superseded by more up to date national planning policy in Wales.

Powys County Council Local Development Plan (2011 - 2026)

The primary policy document is the Written Statement which sets out what the local authority are aiming to deliver and how this should be achieved. The LDP is committed to:

“Mental Health and Well-being and Healthy Living through open space policies, preventing the loss of important community facilities and services unless mitigated against and by being supportive of well-designed and well located recreational and leisure facilities. This works alongside the LDP’s protection of the natural environment for the enjoyment of all.”

Any shortfall in the provision of space and facilities for play, recreation and sport should be met wherever possible through development opportunities.

Specific attention is drawn to the following LDP Objectives and Policies:

- LDP Objective 14 - Supporting Healthy Communities: To encourage active healthy lifestyles by enabling access to open spaces, areas for recreation and amenity including allotments or growing spaces and to ensure development provides opportunities for walking, cycling, open and play spaces where required.
- Strategic Policy SP7 - Safeguarding of Strategic Resources and Assets: The following have been identified as strategic resources and assets in Powys: Recreational Assets including:
 - National Trails;
 - Public Rights of Way Network;
 - Recreational Trails;
 - National Cycle Network.
- Policy DM13 - Design and Resources: Development proposals must be able to demonstrate good quality design and shall have regard to the qualities and amenity of the surrounding area, local infrastructure and resources. Proposals will only be permitted where all of the following

criteria, where relevant are satisfied:

- It is inclusive to all, making full provision for people with disabilities;
- The public rights of way network or other recreational assets listed in Policy SP7 are enhanced and integrated within the layout of the development proposal; or appropriate mitigation measures are put in place where necessary.
- No LDP policies have been included for off-road recreational vehicles as they are adequately covered by national guidance (TAN 16).

Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2018-2028

The Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2018 - 2028 was produced by Countryside Services Officers and adopted by Powys County Council (PCC) in 2019. It is the means by which PCC will plan and prioritise resources in relation to publicly accessible routes and land available in the County and sets out how such assets should be managed.

The ROWIP will enable PCC Countryside Services to meet the four priorities of the Council's Cabinet 2025 Vision, focusing on:

- The Economy - maximising the valuable tourism and economic resource associated with access to the countryside.
- Health and Care - encouraging recreational activity can improve health and well-being.
- Learning and Skills - education associated with access to the countryside including interpretation, leaflets and volunteer opportunities.
- Residents and Communities - connecting communities through recreational opportunities.

The ROWIP identifies four themes as being key to delivering the vision for access to the Powys countryside. Under these priorities sits Statements of Actions that form the key goals supporting each of the themes. The four themes are:

- Public Rights of Way and Open Air Recreation - Take all reasonable steps to improve access for all.
- Management and Enforcement of Public Rights of Way and Green Spaces - To continually open and have a well-signed public rights of way network and take enforcement action where necessary.
- Definitive Map and Statement - achieve an accurate and up to date definitive map.
- Publicity and Promotion - review digital and printed publications to ensure they are accurate, up to date and distributed effectively.

Key issues highlighted in the plan include user integration (walkers, cyclists, horse riders and motorised modes), accessibility (least restrictive access hierarchy, particularly for

those with disabilities, and improved access for horse-riders) and orientation.

As the majority of the Site is open access land (Common Land), there is a right to access this land for recreational activities on foot. No additional rights of access are granted to horse-riders, cyclists or vehicle use.

The ROWIP states that waymarked routes on open access land are a key priority.

Consultation highlighted that the current rights of way network provides average to good experience for walkers but is least effective in providing access for those with mobility or sensory difficulties or families.

Overall, the strategic recommendations of the ROWIP are outlined below:

- The continued and measured opening up of the existing public rights of way network, with an importance placed on maintaining paths already open.
- Improve signage and waymarking of paths already open in collaboration with partners. This includes Common Land and all Access Land.
- Remove obstructions including stiles.
- Emphasis on the development of local, circular routes around settlements rather than long distance routes.
- Develop and implement a 'Higher Tiered Approach' to work with community councils and groups. This is a process whereby PCC assesses and prioritises works to Rights of Way based on a checklist system of 8 Priority classifications.
- Production of better marketing and support information.
- Improve provision for people with mobility and sensory difficulties, therefore applying the 'least restrictive principal'.
- Continue to invest in the existing promoted Recreational and National Trails.
- In the majority of instances, a finger post should be installed where a PRoW meets a metalled road where the path is determined to be in satisfactory condition for use. Waymarker discs should also be installed along the path as required. It is important that paths are only waymarked if there are no obstructions, so as to maintain and improve user confidence levels.
- The level of waymarking will be appropriate to the landscape and likely level of use. The intensity of waymarking will generally be higher in areas with an anticipated greater level of use such as near urban areas and on promoted Recreational Trails. In expansive upland and remote areas, waymarking will be more selective.

To encourage more walking and cycling, the County Council and its partners aim to build walking and cycling into new development design e.g. segregated cycle or shared use routes. The Council pledges to work in collaborative partnerships with internal and external partners to achieve mutually beneficial

aims.

Well-Being

Creating a more resilient, sustainable and mobile Wales is a key national and local policy outcome. Improved access to recreational facilities will have significant physical and mental health benefits to communities at both a local and regional level.

According to the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015, the seven well-being goals are identified as:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

The Act states that future generations have at least the same quality of life as we do now, ensuring that decisions:

- Take account of the long-term.
- Help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse.
- Take an integrated approach.
- Take a collaborative approach.
- Consider and involve people of all ages and diversity.

This approach is seen as providing opportunities for innovative thinking to meet these ends.

Public Service Boards (PSBs) have been established under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. Towards 2040, The Powys Well-Being Plan, focuses on the following objectives:

- People in Powys will experience a stable and thriving economy.
- People in Powys will enjoy a sustainable and productive environment.
- People in Powys will be healthy, socially motivated and responsible.
- People in Powys will be connected to resilient communities and vibrant culture.

Appendix A : Consultation Review

Engagement and Feedback

Aberedw Energy Park Ltd is committed to working with the local community and key stakeholders to help develop the Aberedw Energy Park.

In 2023, initial engagement was undertaken to discuss early project proposals and to introduce the Community Benefit Fund. This fund represents a significant local investment. Aberedw Energy Park Ltd has committed to delivering £7,500 per megawatt of generating capacity for the Aberedw Energy Park into a Community Benefit Fund. Over the lifetime of the energy park, this investment will equate to more than £1.4 million investment / year over the 40-year lifespan of the project.

Public Exhibitions were organised between November 2023 and December 2023 in Builth Wells, Penybont and Llandrinodd Wells with over 400 people attending. These were held to provide preliminary design information and understand any initial concerns regarding the Energy Park. Leaflets were provided alongside consultation boards showing the proposed Site layout.

Community and Stakeholder feedback on how to best utilise the Community Benefit Fund have been grouped into five themes:

- Recreation and Health
- Environment and Culture
- Employability
- Education
- Cost of living support

Of these themes 'Recreation and Health' and 'Environment and Culture' are particularly relevant to the Aberedw SRF.

Recreation and Health

To improve access to outdoor recreation and health and well-being activity available locally and scope opportunities and partnerships to encourage a diversity of use of the open spaces.

Enhancement of Open Spaces

- A long-term management and improvement plan for the Site developed in consultation with site users.
- Waymarked routes to define PRoW within Common Land and provide clarity for users.
- Virtual guides created to assist multiple users in environmentally sensitive upland areas where in-ground infrastructure is not always appropriate.
- Promoting inclusivity particularly at accessible periphery parts of the Site.
- Improved accessibility for multi-purpose use including horse riders, mountain bikers, walkers, trail runners and others.

Health, Well-being, and Local Sporting Initiatives

- Collaborative initiatives between sports clubs in the local

area could include the Red Dragon Festival of Endurance, an endurance hose-race across Aberedw Hill starting at the Royal Welsh Showground at Builth Wells.

- Engagement with services aiming to improve the well-being and quality of life of people living in the local community and visitors.
- Community facilities including educational resources.

Environment and Culture

To identify opportunities to engage the community in the natural environment, celebrate and promote local culture, heritage sites and local wildlife and habitats.

Culture and Heritage Enhancements

- Funding to directly support local Heritage Groups, cultural and heritage activities.
- Increasing understanding of the heritage features in the area in collaboration with local, regional, and national heritage groups.
- Funding to directly support local walking and cycling groups, particularly those linked to the local tourism economy.

Biodiversity, Wildlife, and Ecological Enhancements

- A comprehensive suite of ecological and ornithological studies have been undertaken on the Site as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment.
- The project will deliver Net Biodiversity Benefit over its lifetime in accordance with the requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and Planning Policy Wales.
- Facilitation of access, enjoyment of wildlife and biodiversity, increasing awareness and knowledge inclusively for all ages.

Consultation Feedback

Since initial engagement, Aberedw Energy Park Ltd has encouraged feedback from the community and stakeholders translating this into the iterative design process for the development of the energy park. Aberedw Energy Park Ltd has also been developing partnerships with representatives from the Commons Association, British Horse Society, Powys Ramblers, and other local organisations, groups and service providers to identify opportunities where they can support and add value to those living in the area. Further consultation has taken place with members of the public at a local level, responding to queries,

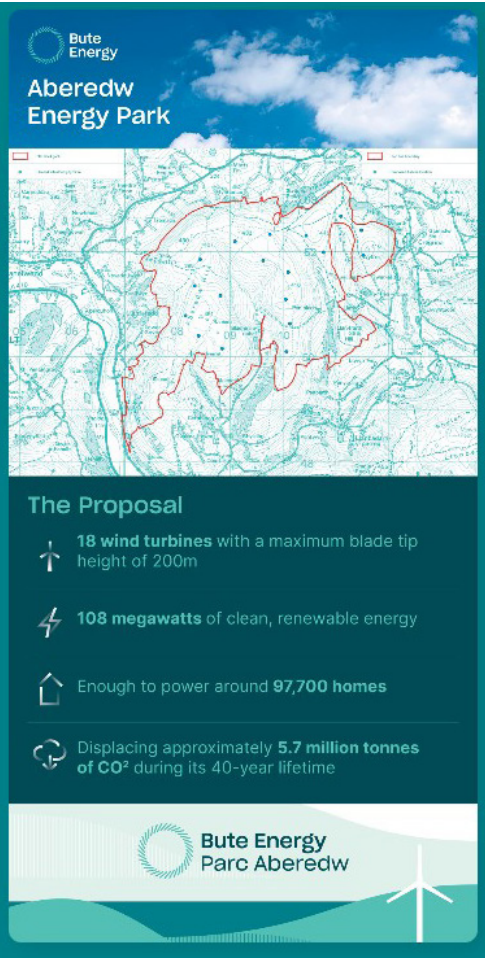
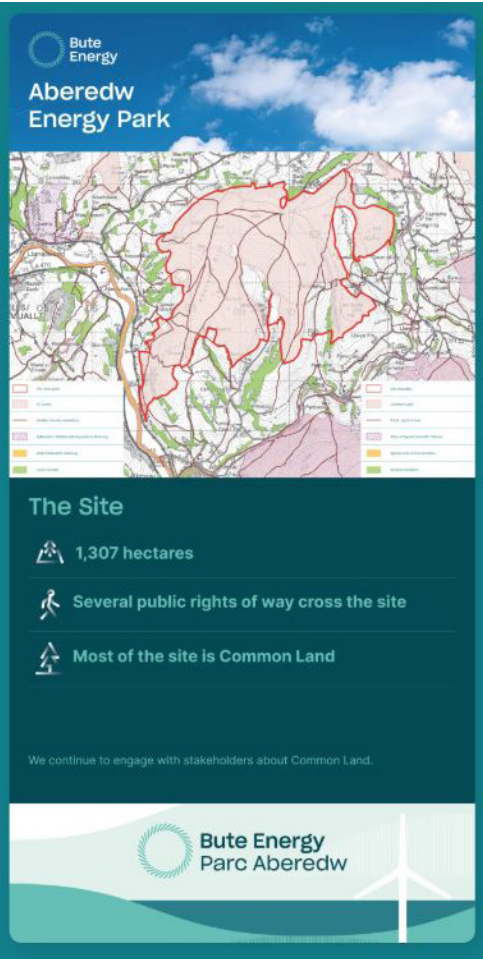
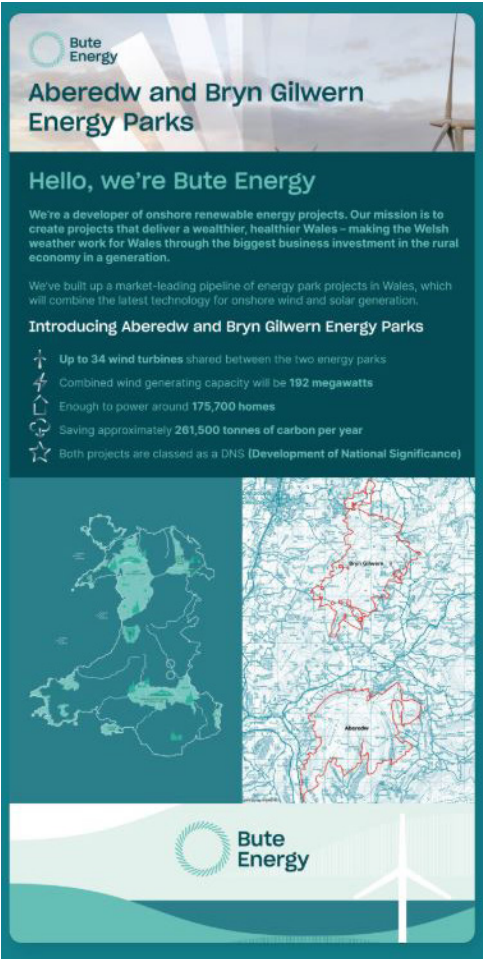
and meetings with landowners to discuss the project proposals.

The detailed environmental assessments promoted further consultation with statutory bodies including Powys Council and Cadw.

In 2023 an online consultation hub was launched. The online consultation was offered to members of the public as an alternative to face-to-face consultation. The online consultation hub included a series of information boards which outlined details of the Proposed Development, including the Site location, proposed Site layout (correct at the time), connected grid infrastructure, environmental considerations and information on Community Benefits. Visitors to the online exhibition had the opportunity to provide feedback by completing an online questionnaire or requesting further information from development team contacts.

The project website (<https://consultation.aberedwenergypark.wales/>) was updated to provide progress updates and any relevant news stories relating to the Proposed Development.

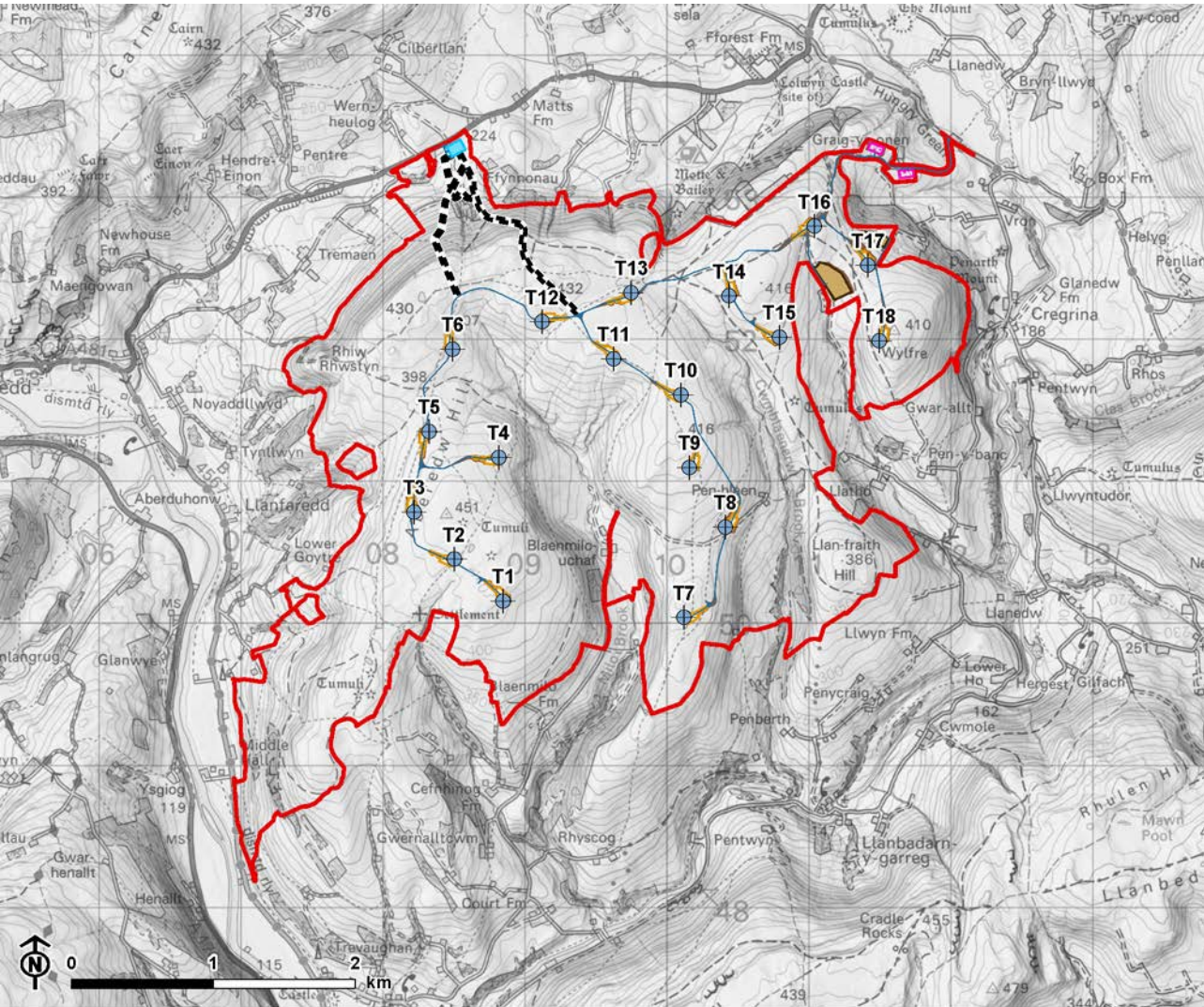
Publication, consultation and notification for the statutory consultation will be carried out from July 2025.



Appendix A : Baseline Review

Site Layout

The Proposed Development comprises of 18 wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of up to 200 m and associated infrastructure, including: crane hardstandings and adjacent laydown areas for each turbine location; approximately 13.3km of access tracks (of which approximately 11.6km will be new track and 1.7km will be upgraded existing routes) and associated ancillary engineering works; an electrical substation and control building; onsite underground electrical cables, generally laid in cable trenches alongside access tracks; watercourse crossings and associated infrastructure; onsite vehicle turning heads and passing places; site signage; and biodiversity enhancement proposals. The figure below shows the proposed wind turbine layout.

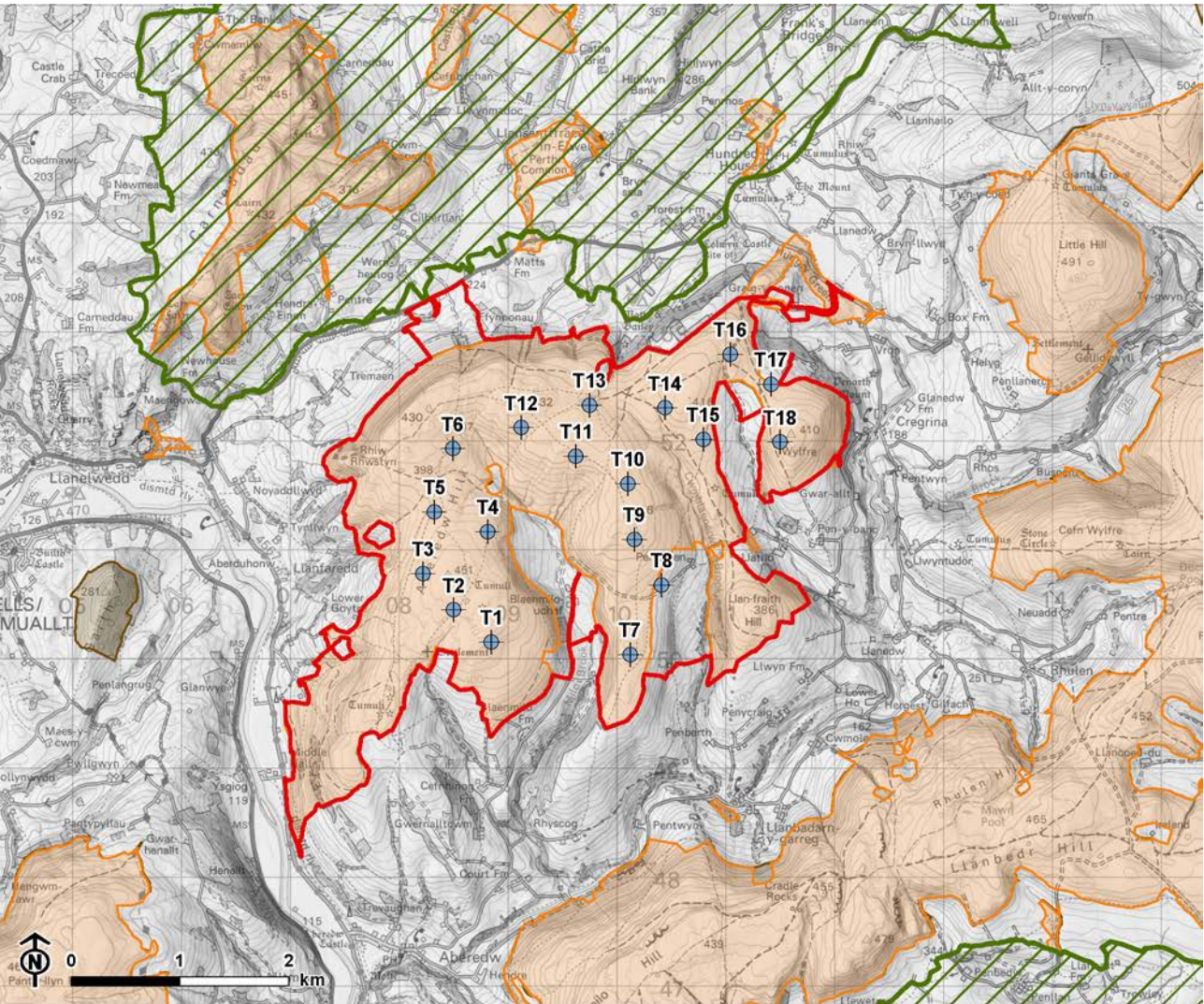


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- Application boundary
- Turbine
- Track
- Hardstanding
- Construction Compound
- Substation
- Borrow Pit Search Area
- Earthworks
- Cable Route Installation Zone

Open Access Land and Pre-Assessed Wind Priority Areas

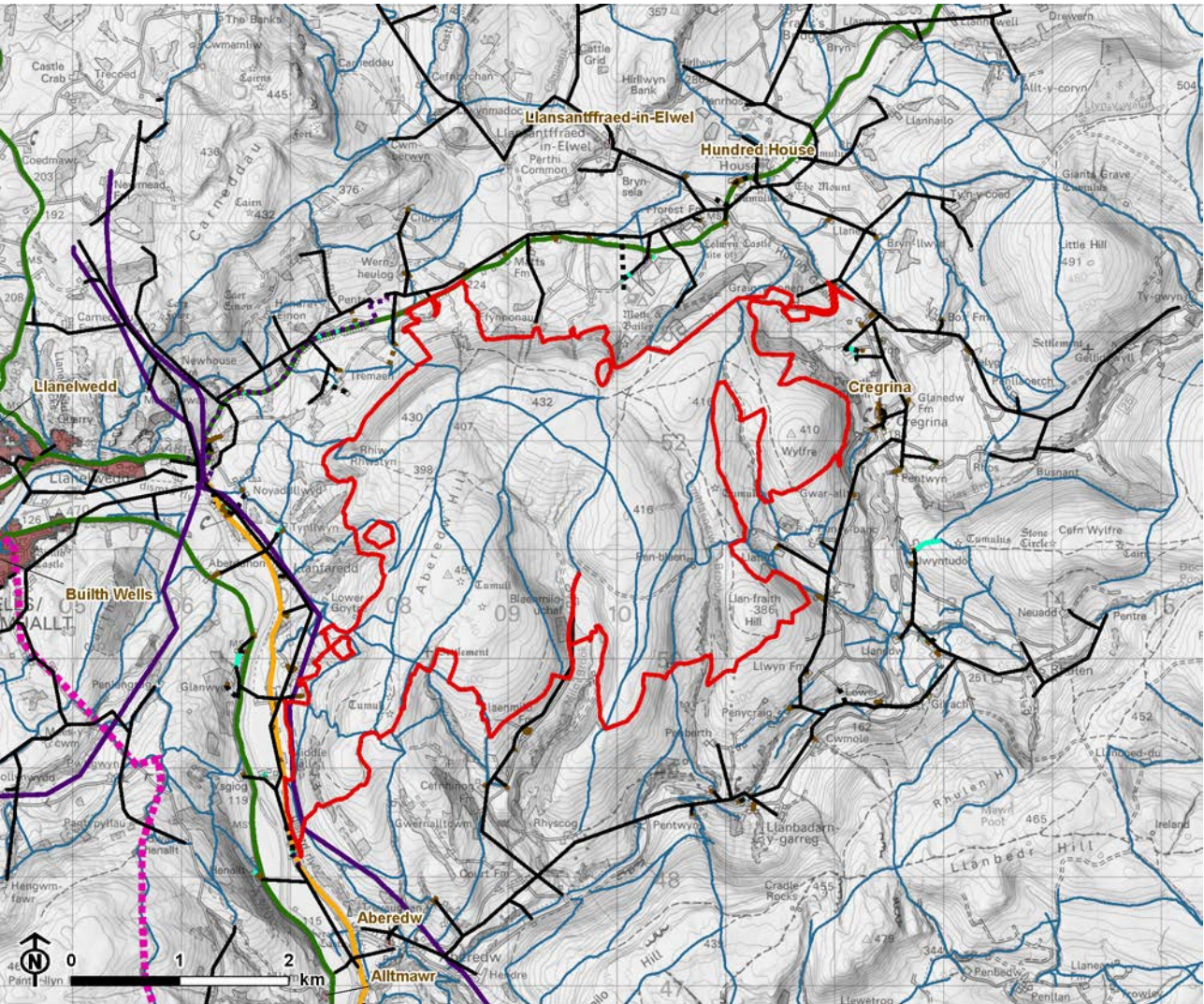
The Site is almost entirely open access land (common land), providing public access along with several public rights of way (PRoWs) which cross it. The figure below also illustrates the Welsh Government’s ‘pre-assessed wind priority areas’, located to the north of the Site, where there is a presumption in favour of granting consent.



- Application boundary
- Turbine
- Pre-assessed Areas for Wind Energy
- Open Access Land
 - Common Land
 - Open country

Existing Settlements, PRow, Road, Rail, and PRow Infrastructure

There are no long-distance, National Trails or National Cycle Network (NCN) routes within the Site. The closest Long-Distance Trail is the Wye Valley Walk at approximately 1.1km west of the Site. The Heart of Wales Line Trail is located approximately 3.3km to the west of the Site skirting Builth Wells. A number of Public Rights of Way (PRow) and Bridleways cross into and within the vicinity of the Site as shown in the figure below. National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 8 is located approximately 1.7km west of the Site at Llanellwedd.

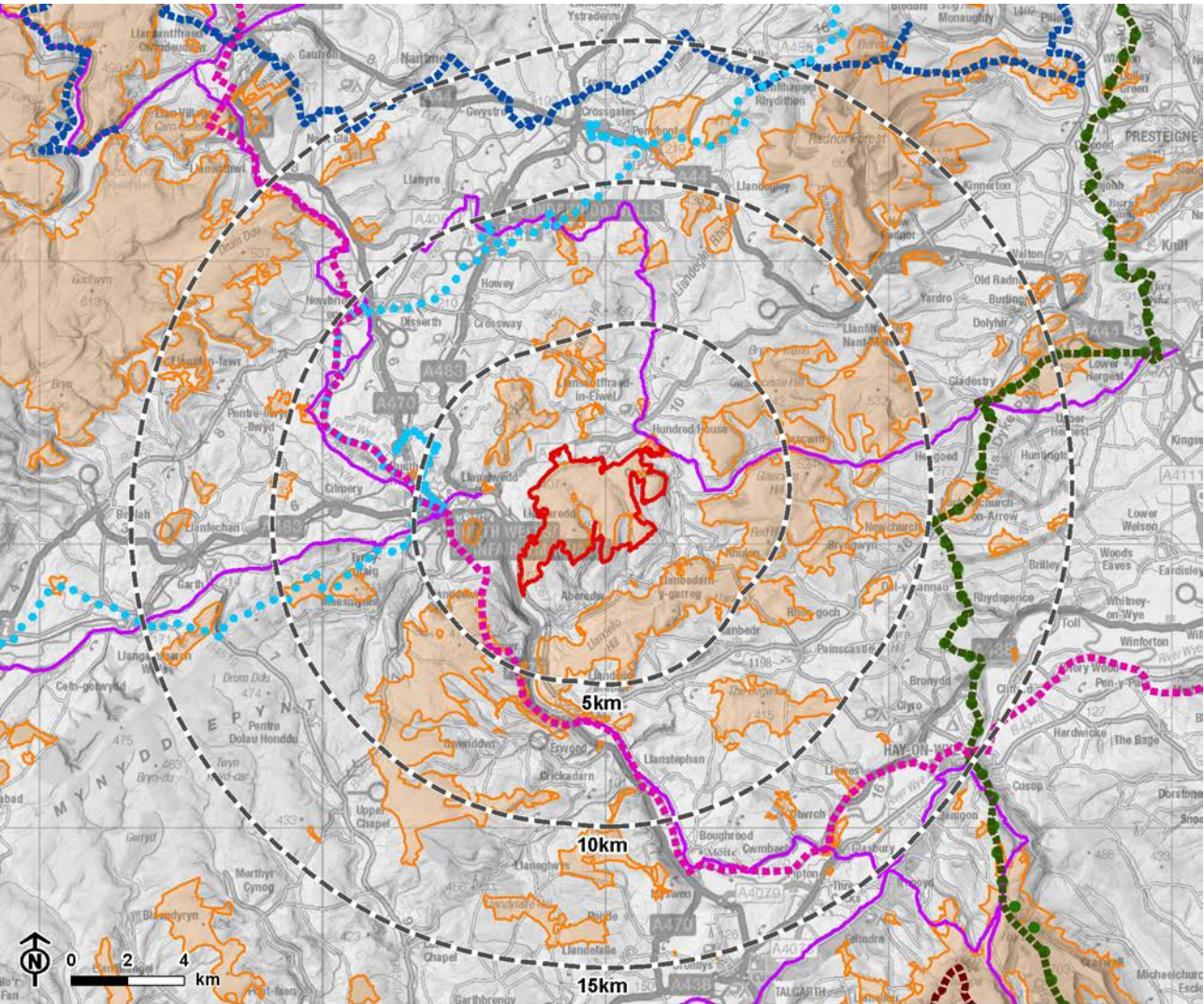


- Application boundary
- Local Communities
- A Road
- B Road
- Public Right of Way
- Long Distance Walks**
 - Cambrian Way
 - Elan Valley Way
 - Heart of Wales Line Trail
- Utilities**
 - Low voltage electricity cable (overhead)
 - Low voltage electricity cable (underground)
 - 66kV electricity cable (overhead)
 - High voltage electricity cable (underground)
 - Service line (overhead)

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Visitor Destinations

There are a number of key visitor attractions within the area surrounding the Aberedw Site. These include the Heart of Wales Line Trail and Wye Valley Walk Long Distance Fotopaths, and National Cycle Route 8, all located to the west of the Site near Builth Wells and Llanellwedd. The remains of Aberedw Castle, and the medieval settlements (Scheduled Monuments) located around Aberedw Hill provide historic attractions for visitors.

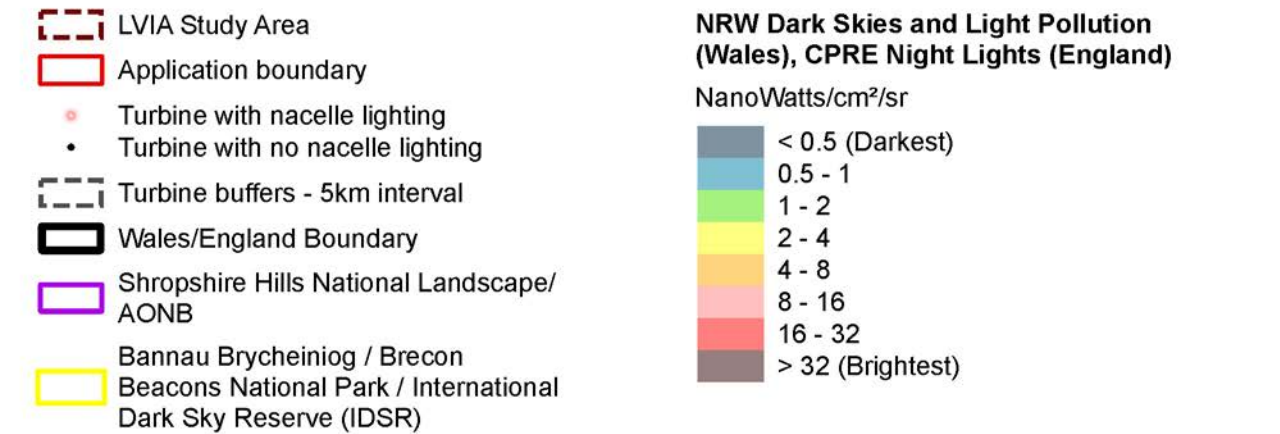
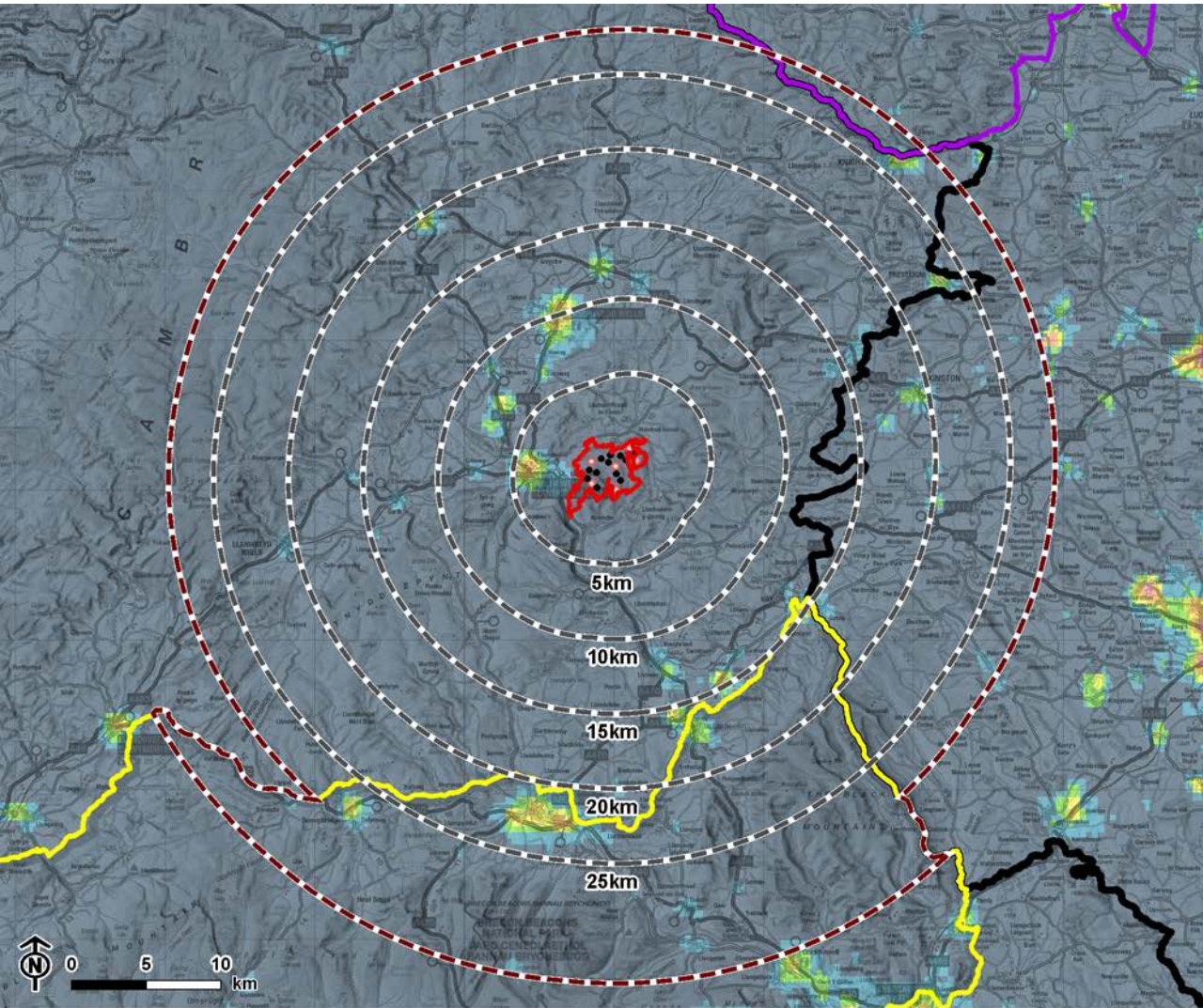


- Application boundary
- Turbine buffers - 5km interval
- Open Access Land
- National Trail
- National Cycle Network (NCN)
- Long Distance Walks**
 - Cambrian Way
 - Elan Valley Way
 - Heart of Wales Line Trail
 - Offa's Dyke Path National Trail
 - Wye Valley Walk

Notes: Open Access Land is a combination of Registered Common Land, Other Statutory Access Land, Other Dedicated Land and Open Country.
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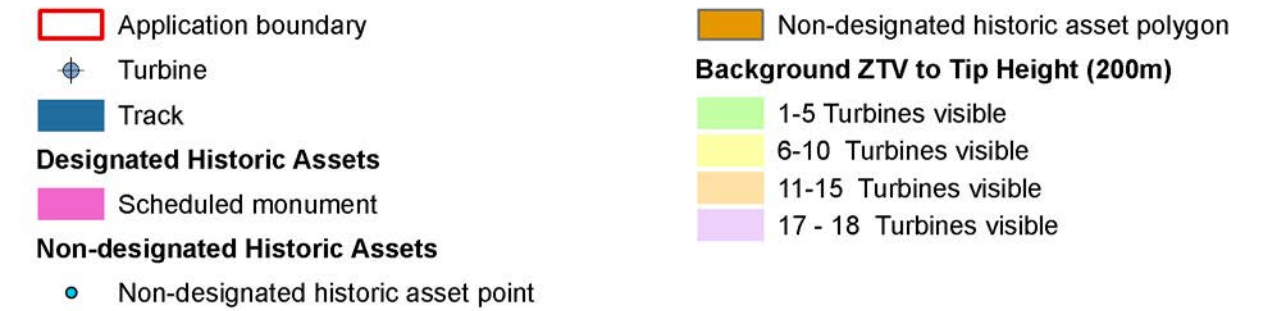
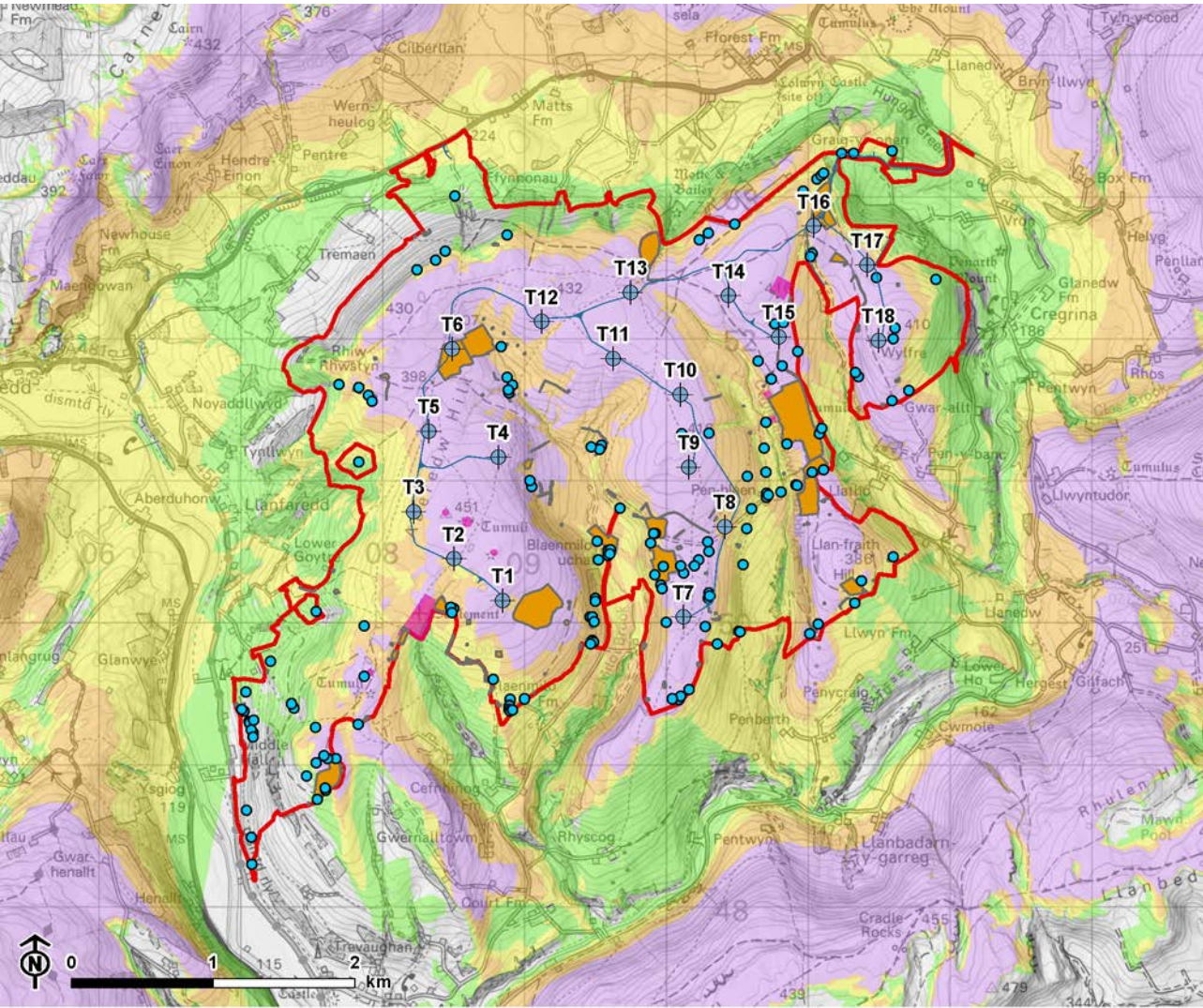
Dark Skies

The landscape has a sense of relative remoteness from settlement, and experiences dark night skies as indicated by the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) map of Dark Skies and Light Pollution in Wales. See figure below. Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, situated approximately 14 km to the south from the outermost wind turbine of the Proposed Development, is also designated as an International Dark Sky Reserve.



Designated and Non-Designated Historic Assets (The Site)

There are four Scheduled Monuments within the Site. These comprise: Aberedw Hill Round Barrows (SM Ref. RD074); Cwmblaenerw House Platforms (SM Ref. RD170); Aberedw Hill Deserted Rural Settlement (SM Ref. RD166); and Cwmblaenerw Enclosed Long Hut (SM Ref. RD169). The Clwyd-Powys Archaeology (CPAT) Historic Environment Record (HER) has 347 entries for the Site in its core database. There is evidence of medieval and post-medieval habitation, land-use and agricultural practices within the Site. In the southern part of the Site above the Wye Valley, there is evidence of post-medieval quarrying with a number of quarry pits. Similar evidence of localised small scale stone extraction is recorded on historic OS mapping.



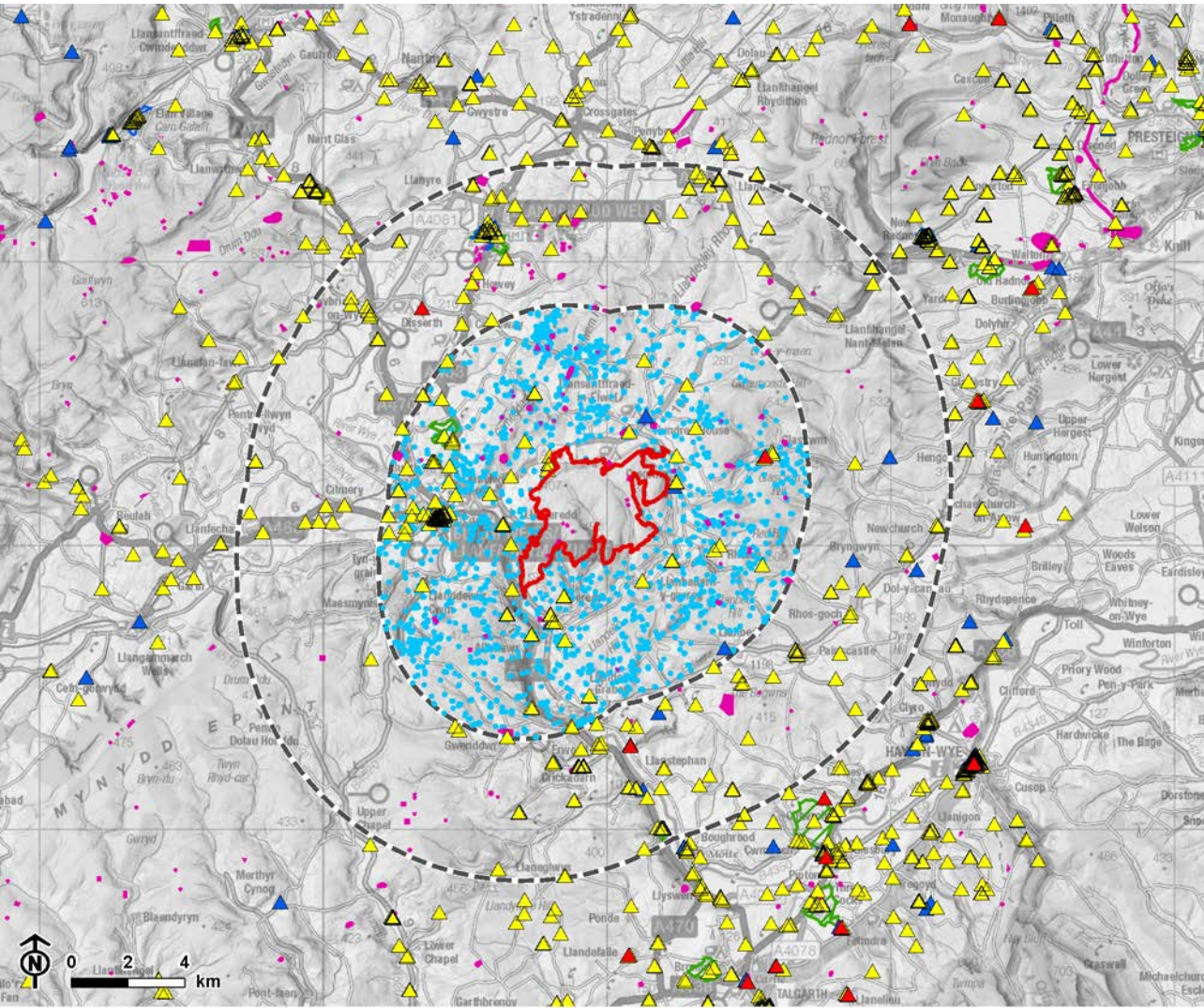
Notes: The ZTV is calculated to turbine tip height (200m) from a viewing height of 2m above ground level. The terrain model assumes bare ground and is derived from 1m LiDAR height data (obtained from the Welsh Government and Environment Agency in September 2024). Earth curvature and atmospheric refraction have been taken into account. The ZTV was calculated using ArcGIS Pro 3.4.0 software.

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Designated Historic Assets (Wider Context)

The Core Study Area (the site and 5km immediate context) contains numerous historic assets, these comprise: 56 scheduled monuments; 128 listed buildings (one Grade I; eight Grade II*; 119 Grade II); Builth Wells Conservation Area; Pencerrig Registered Historic Park and Garden (PGW(Po)19(POW)); and 3335 CPAT HER entries.

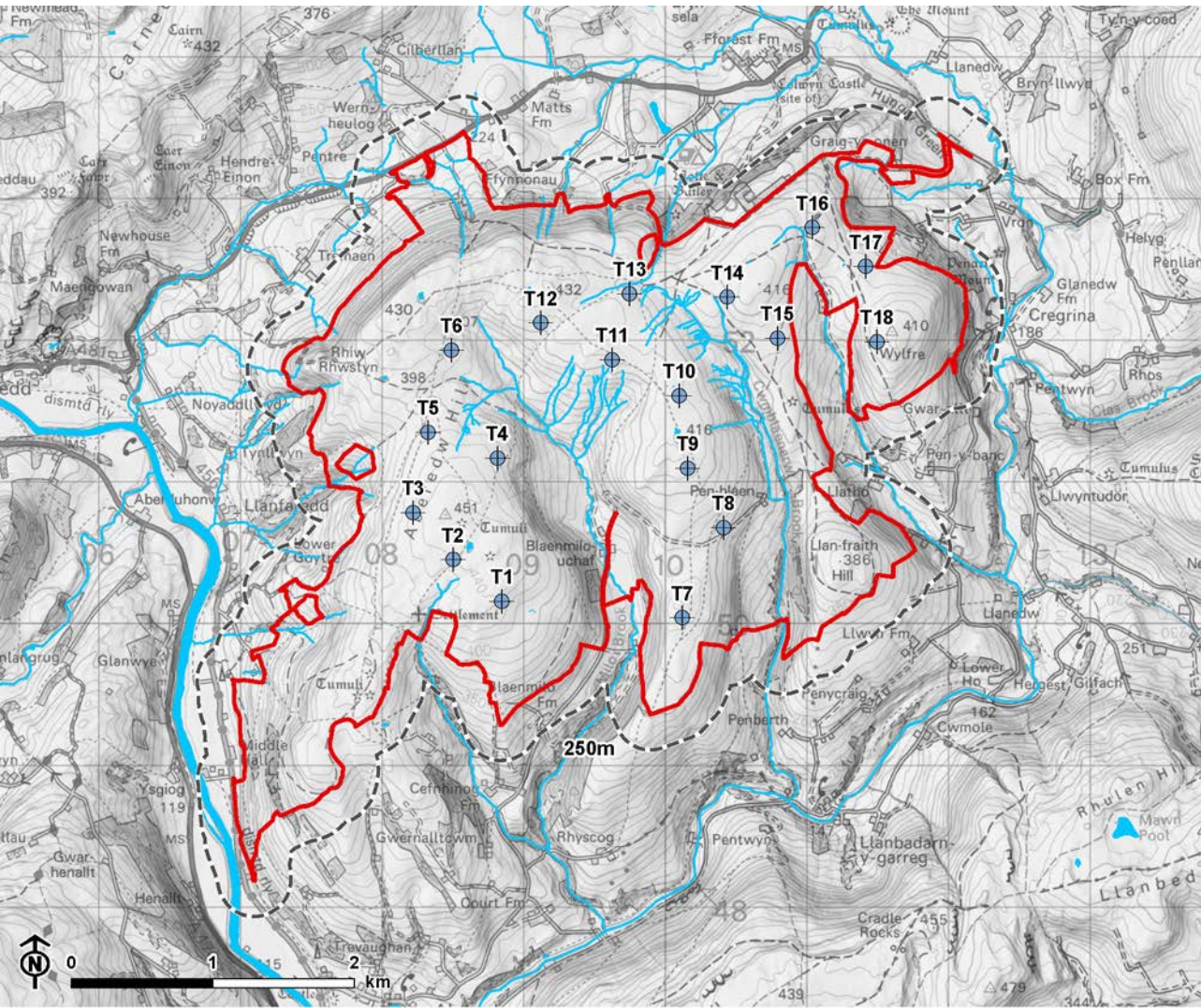
The following designated historic assets are located within the area surrounding the Site: 65 scheduled monuments; 179 listed buildings (two Grade I; 11 Grade II*; 166 Grade II); Llandrindod Wells Conservation Area; and Pencerrig (PGW(PO)19(POW), Llangoed Hall (PGW(Po)12(POW) and Llandrindod Wells Public Parks PGW(Po)20(POW) which is a Registered Park and Garden.



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Water Features

Colwyn Brook lies adjacent to the north of the Site, near the A481 and the River Edw, and lies 200 m east of the Site at its closest point near Cregrina. The River Wye is located approximately 50 m west of the Site at its closest point. The Colwyn Brook Marshes extend onto the north of the Site. In addition to these watercourses, the Site has several small discrete pools and ponds many of which, based on the walkover survey by Yellow Sub Geo Ltd in September 2023, are considered likely to be manmade as they typically comprise livestock watering holes. These are typically located within topographical hollows within the upland landscape. The largest being Llyn Cawr, approximately 70 m in length on Aberedw Hill.

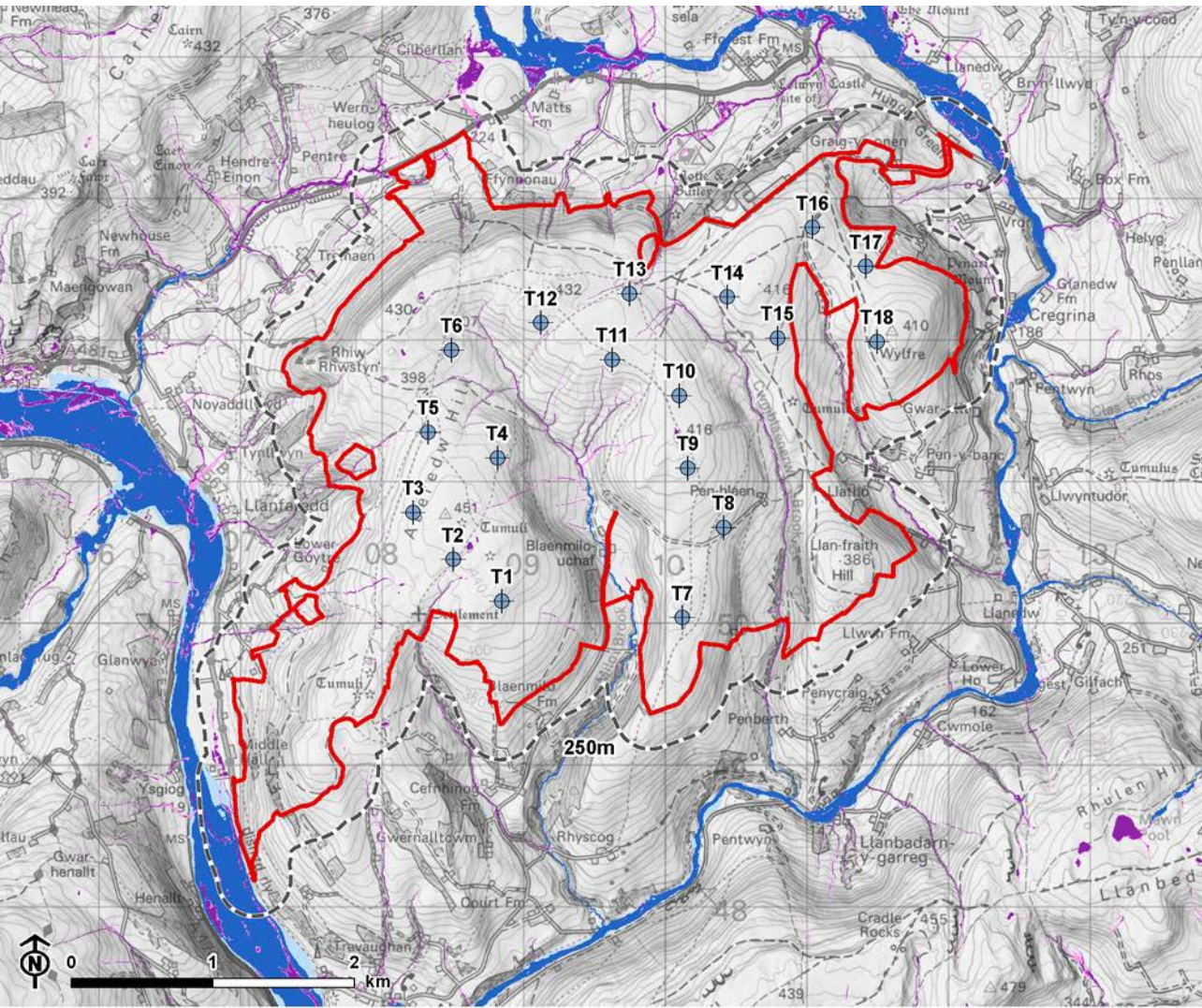


- Application boundary
- Site boundary 250m radius
- Turbine

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Pluvial and Fluvial Flood Risk

Data available from NRW indicates that the majority of the Site is within Flood Zone 1 (low risk). Small areas of the Site are within medium and high-risk flood zones (Flood Zones 2 or 3). However, these are all within well-defined valley/channel systems which drain upland areas. There is also a medium risk of flooding (Flood Zone 2) associated with the River Wye adjacent to the south-west of the Site.



- Application boundary
- Site boundary 250m radius
- Turbine

Flood Map for Planning: Surface Water and Small Water Courses Flood Zones

- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

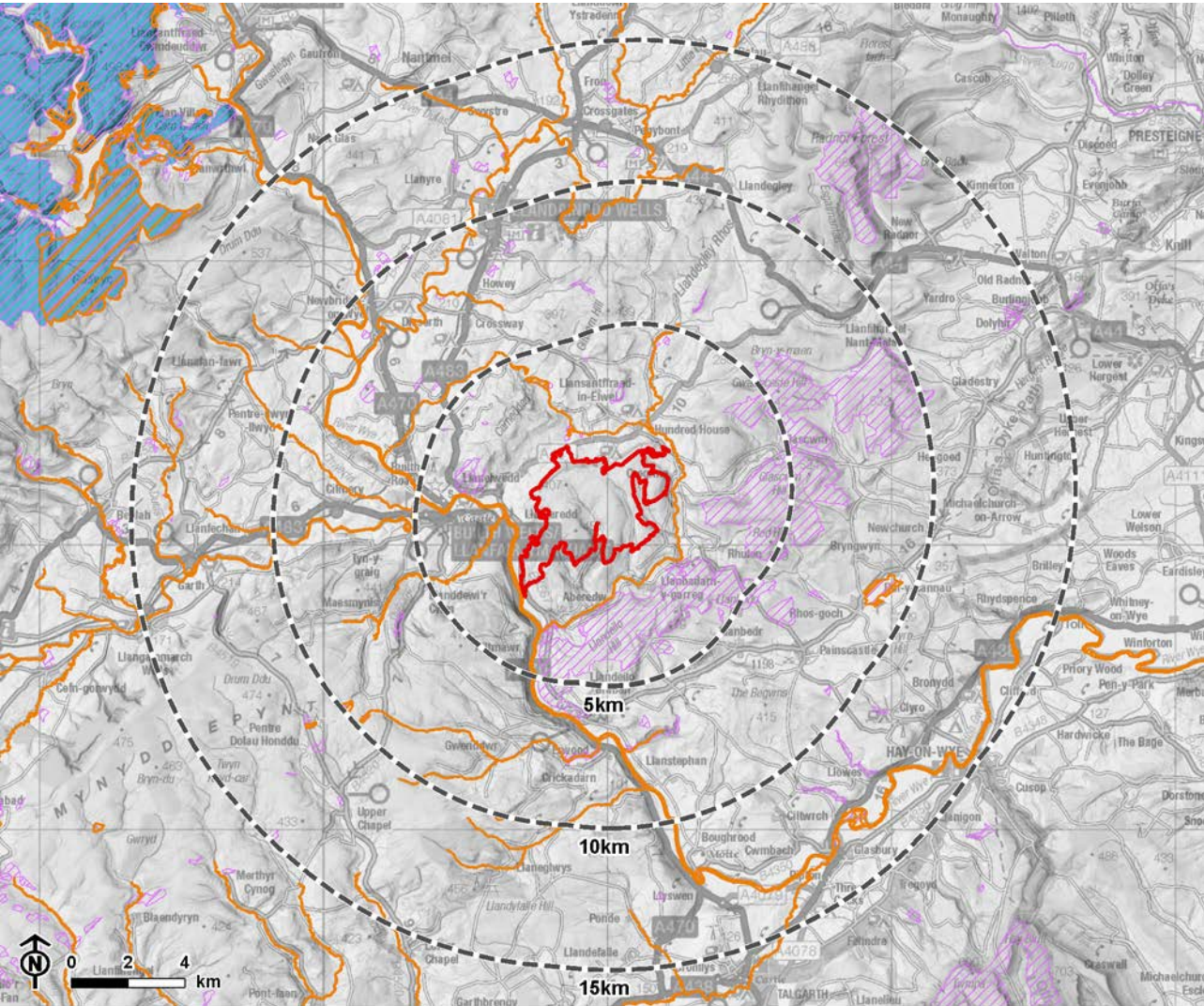
Flood Map for Planning: River Flood Zones

- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

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Designated Sites

There are 20 nature conservation designations, covering 19 geographical areas of international or national importance within 5 km of the Site boundary, or up to 10 km for those with bats as a feature of importance. One of these designations is of international importance (River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC) and several of local importance including Colwyn Brook Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), River Wye / Afon Gw SSSI, Llandeilo Rhulen and Llanbedre Hills SSSI, Duhonw SSSI, Coed Aberedw SSSI, Gascwm and Gladestry Hills SSSI, Llanellwedd Rocks SSSI, Banc Hirllwyn SSSI, New Castle Meadows SSSI, Llan Bwch-Llyn Lake SSSI, Pen-Common, Llanbedr SSSI, Caeau Coed Mawr (Coedmawr Fields) SSSI, Afon Irfon SSSI, Allt Cynhelyg SSSI, Neuadd and Tylelo Mires SSSI, River Ithon SSSI, Ciliau SSSI, Llanellwedd Road Verge Nature Reserve, Hendre Road Verge Nature Reserve, Old Bedw SINC.

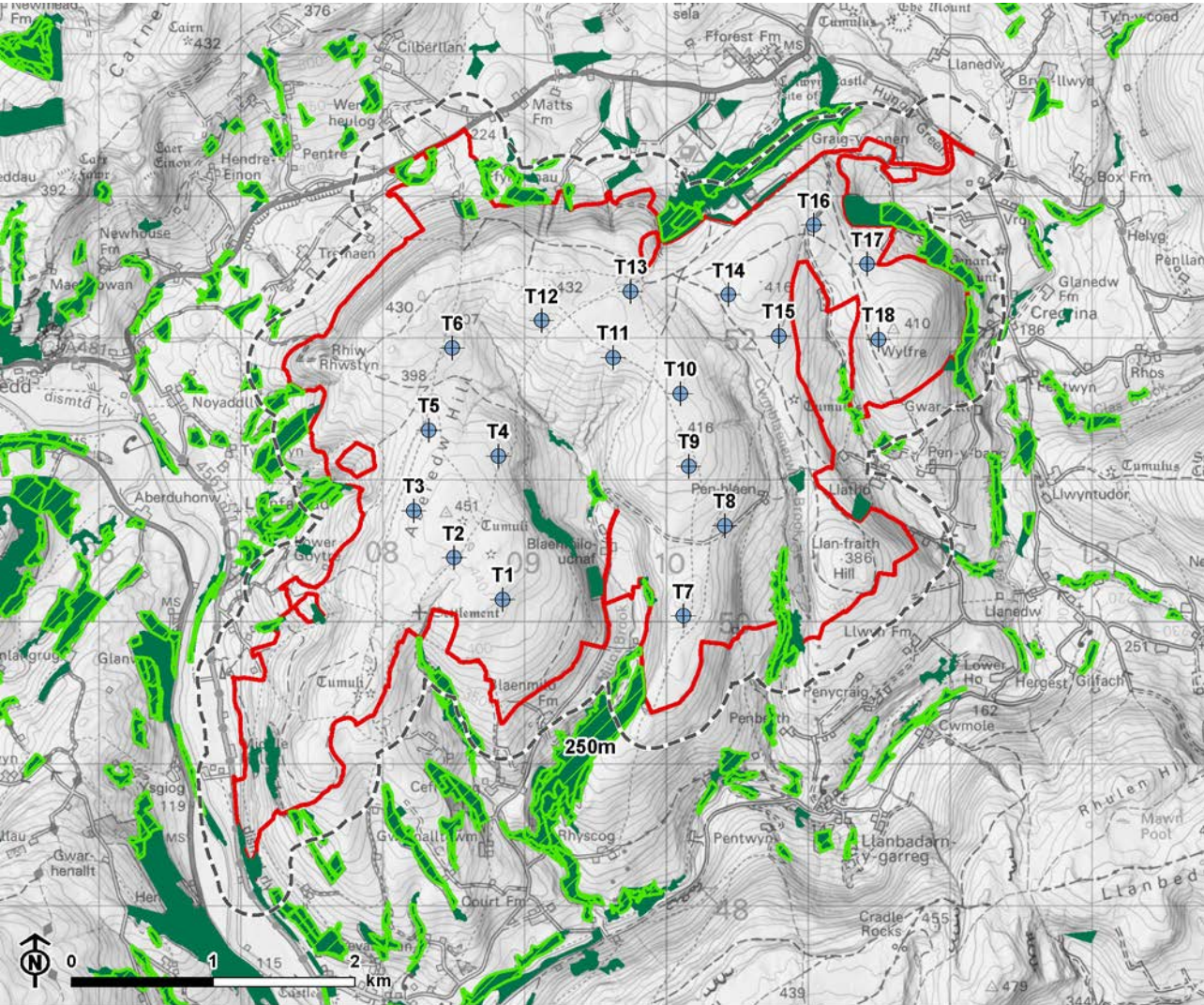


- Application boundary
- Turbine buffers - 5km interval
- Designated Sites**
- Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Area (SPA)

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Forestry Records

The Site is not extensively wooded nor contains any sizeable coniferous plantations. There are however 13 parcels of woodland identified through NFIWW. The average size of these woodlands is between two and three hectares. Of these 13 woodlands, 11 are broadleaved with two areas identified as coniferous woodland. Additionally, four are classified within AWI as ancient semi-natural woodland. The woodlands tend to be on steeper valley sides or associated with watercourses.



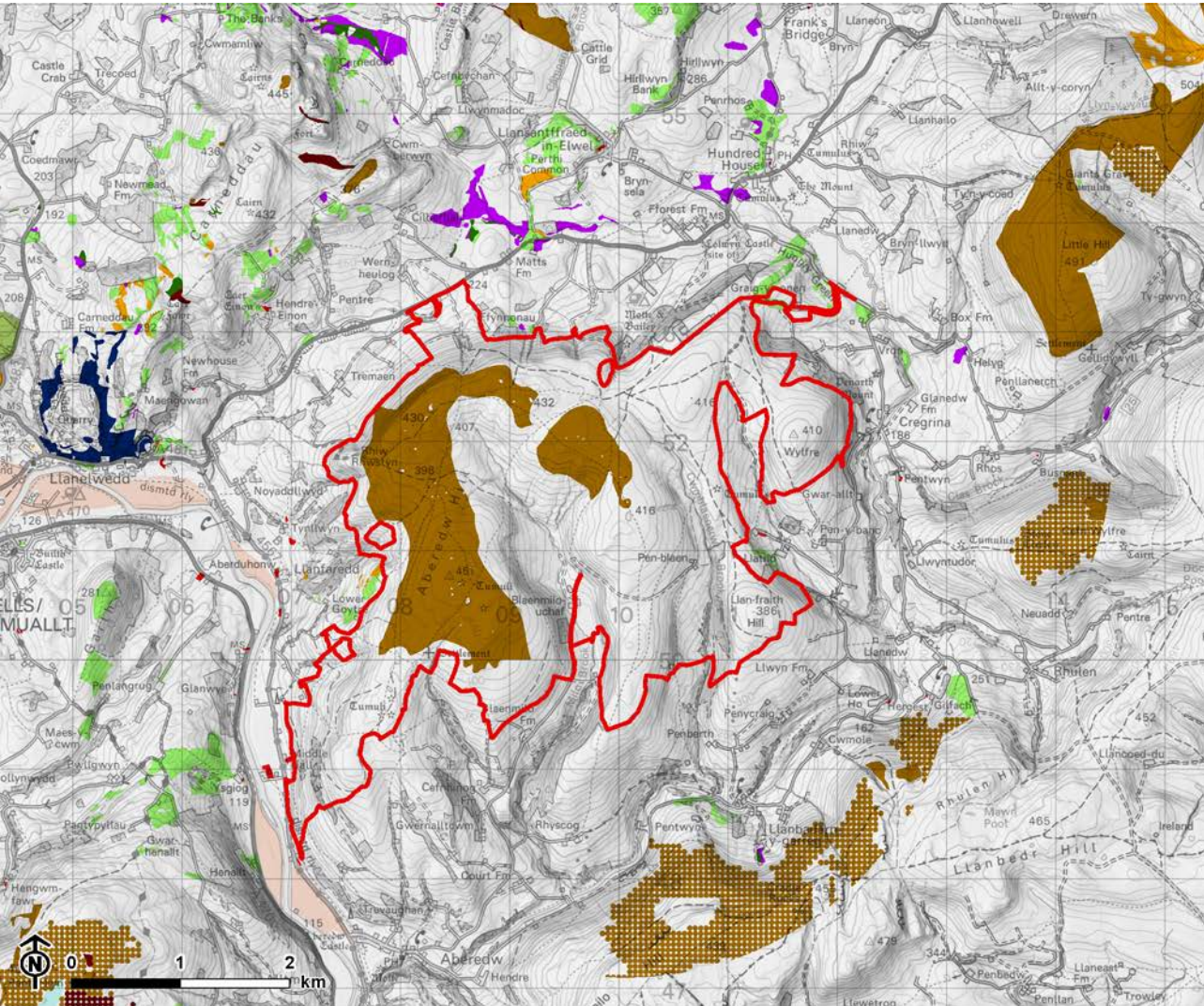
- Application boundary
- Site boundary 250m radius
- Turbine
- Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI)
- National Forest Inventory (NFI)

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Ecology and Priority Habitats

The dominant priority habitat is Upland Heathland, located within a large central part of the Site. There are parcels of scattered and unconnected Ancient Woodland around the Site including some small parcels within the Site Boundary linked to the Cwmblaenerw Brook as shown in the figure below.

The 2020 habitat and National Vegetation Classification (NVC) survey found the Site to be largely covered by grasslands and dense bracken (895ha or 67.2% of the Site), with localised mire, upland heathland and rush pasture habitats. In total 12 NVC communities were recorded.



- Application boundary

Priority Habitats

Open Mosaic Habitats of Previously Developed Land

Coastal Grazing Marsh and Floodplain Grassland

Wood Pasture and Parkland

Upland Heathland

Upland Flushes Fens and Swamps

Upland Calcareous Grassland

Traditional Orchards

Raised Bog
- Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures

Lowland Meadows

Lowland Heathland

Lowland Fens and Reedbeds

Lowland Dry Acid Grassland

Calcareous Grassland

Inland Rock Outcrop and Scree Habitats

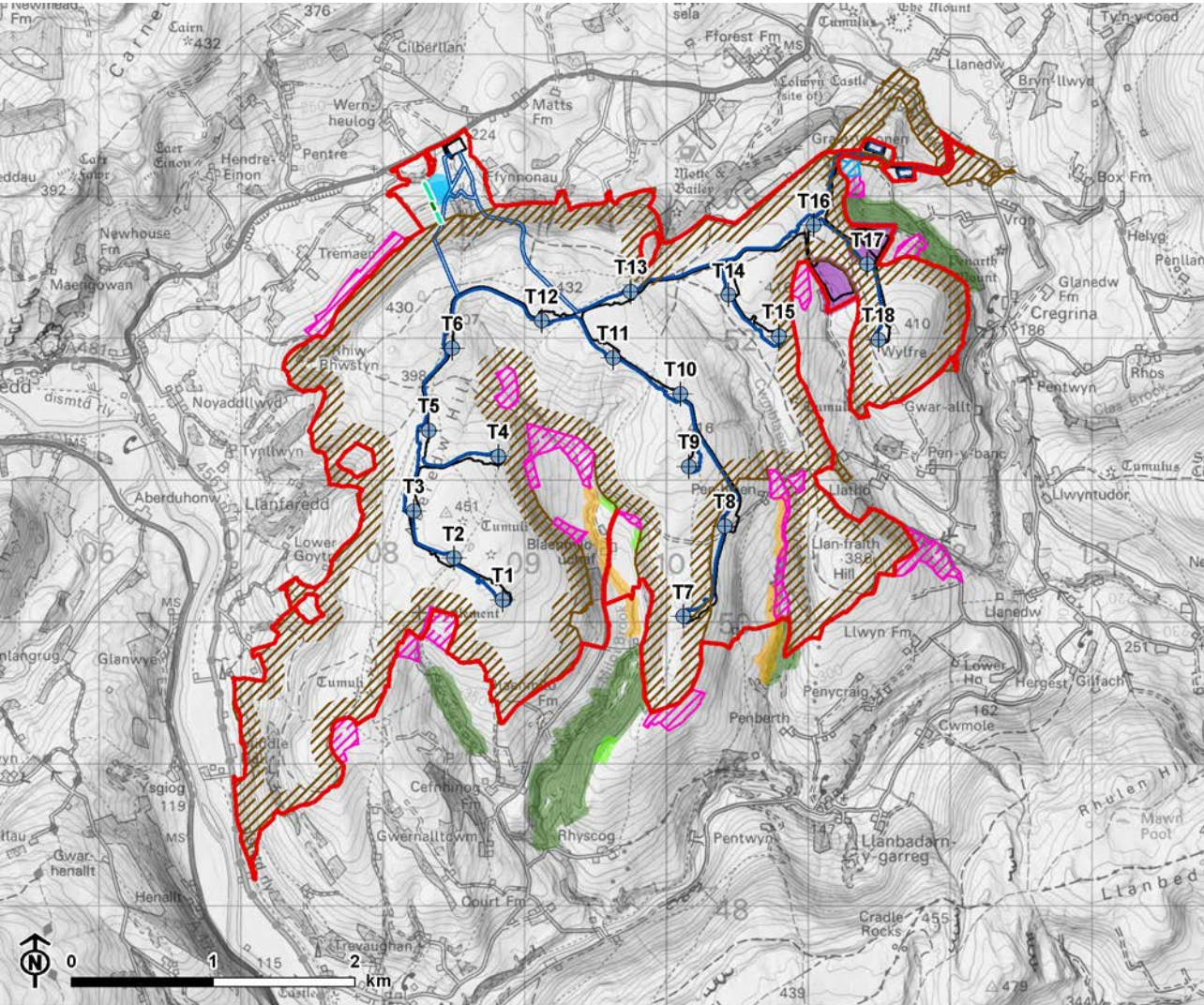
Coastal Saltmarsh

Blanket Bog

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Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP)

An Outline Habitat Management Plan (OHMP) has been drafted to identify positive land management measures that will be implemented during the construction and operational phases of the development of Aberedw Energy Park, in order to deliver a Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB). The OHMP provides guidance on the restoration and enhancement of areas of heathland, areas of woodland management and planting, areas for riparian restoration, borrow pit restoration, hedgerow creation, watercourse management and pond enhancement.



- Application boundary

Turbine

Infrastructure footprint (temporary loss)

Infrastructure footprint (permanent loss)

Common Exchange Land - CL56

Common Exchange Land - CL46

Registered Common Land
- Option for enhancement

Ancient woodland restoration

Heathland restoration

Riparian planting

Tree planting

Hedgerow enhancement

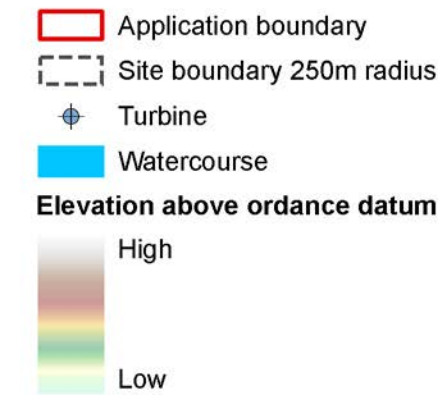
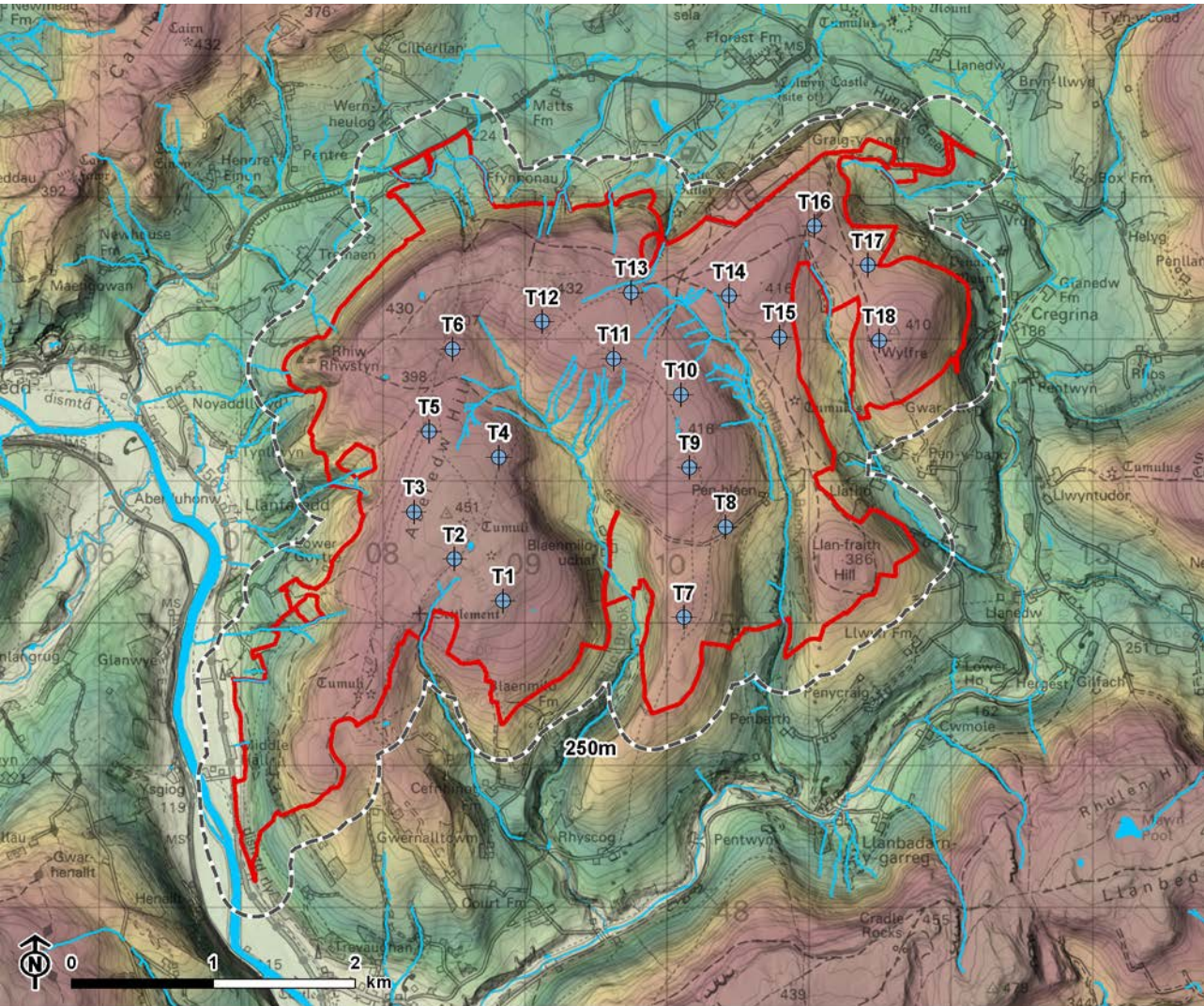
Hedgerow planting

Pond with scrub planting

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Topography

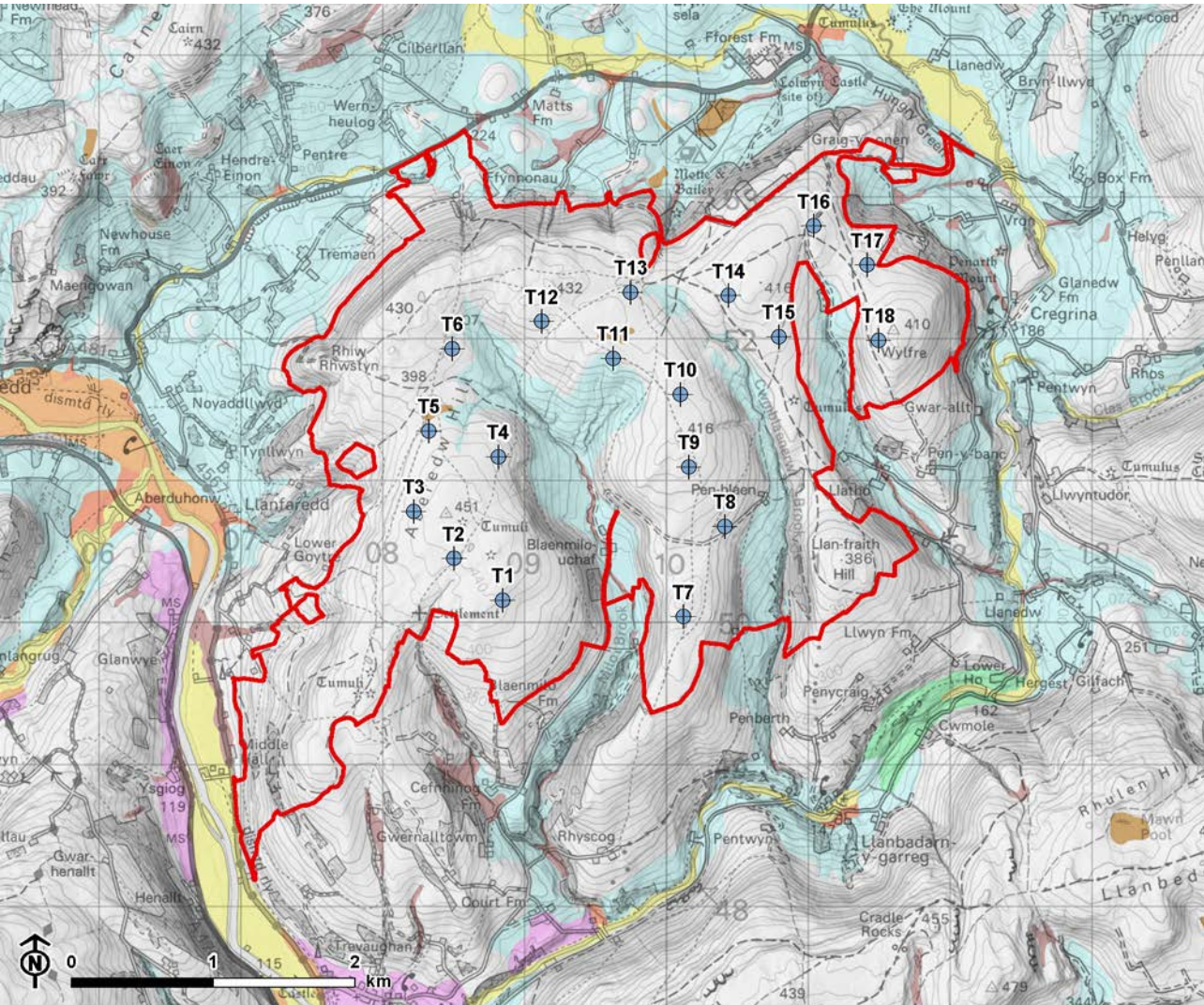
Aberedw Hill comprises a broad hill rising to a maximum elevation of 451m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD), its summit marked by a triangulation point. The hill is edged by steep escarpments/slopes and valleys on all sides, most prominently on the northern and western flanks. The deepest and broadest of these valleys, to the west of the Site, is that of the River Wye, above which Aberedw Hill occupies a prominent position and forms a distinguishable landform feature when viewed from the valley. The valley of the River Edw (a tributary of the River Wye flowing south-west) is located to the east and south of the Site. Several smaller, incised valleys contain watercourses that drain south from Aberedw Hill and feed into the River Edw. There are several outlying summits to the north, east, and south, including Wylfre (410 m AOD) and Llan-fraith Hill (386 m AOD).



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Superficial Geology

Published British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping indicates Superficial Deposits within the Site, mainly comprising of glacial till. This typically outcrops across lower elevations and is present across the agricultural fields at the northern most point of the Site and within the two valleys which extend southwards between Aberedw Hill and Llan-fraith Hill. There is also a small linear deposit of Head associated with Milo Brook in the south of the Site, a small outcrop of Alluvium in the north of the Site near the A481 and two small deposits of peat towards the centre of the Site. This is indicated on the plan below.



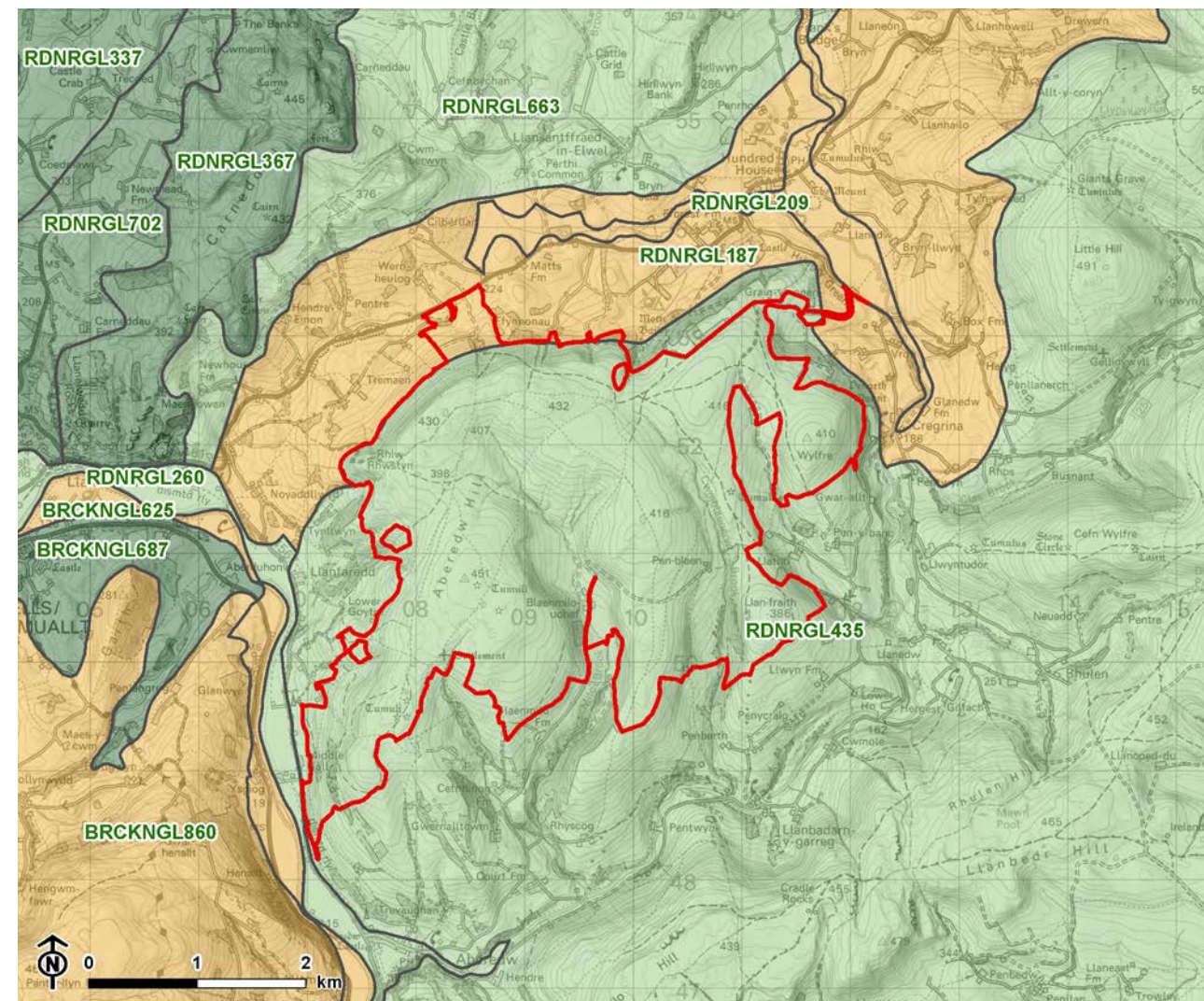
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Landscape Character

Landscape Character - Geological Landscape

LANDMAP is a GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set.

The geological landscape of the Site is classified as high in the LANDMAP landscape and visual impact assessment tool.



 Application boundary

LANDMAP: Geological Landscape

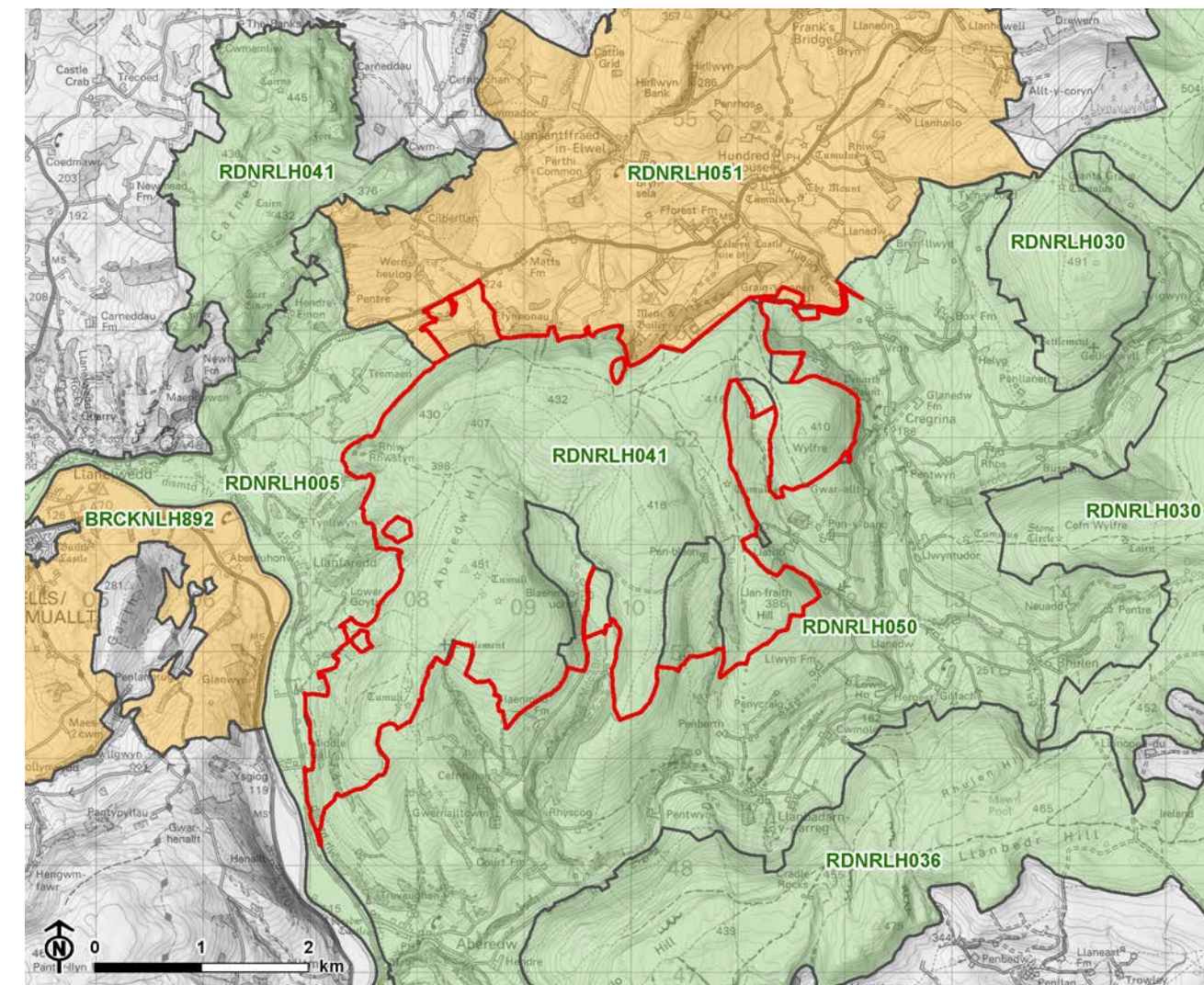
Overall Evaluation



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Landscape Character - Landscape Habitat

LANDMAP is a GIS based landscape resource where landscape characteristics, qualities and influences on the landscape are recorded and evaluated into a nationally consistent data set. Landscape Habitat identifies the characteristics and spatial relationships of habitats and vegetation. The key Landscape Habitats identified within the Study Area (the site and it's immediate surroundings) include An overall evaluation score is also attributed to the key Landscape Habitats, as indicated in the plan above. The site is attributed a high classification. This represents a landscape which is important at regional or county level.



 Application boundary

LANDMAP: Landscape Habitat

Overall Evaluation



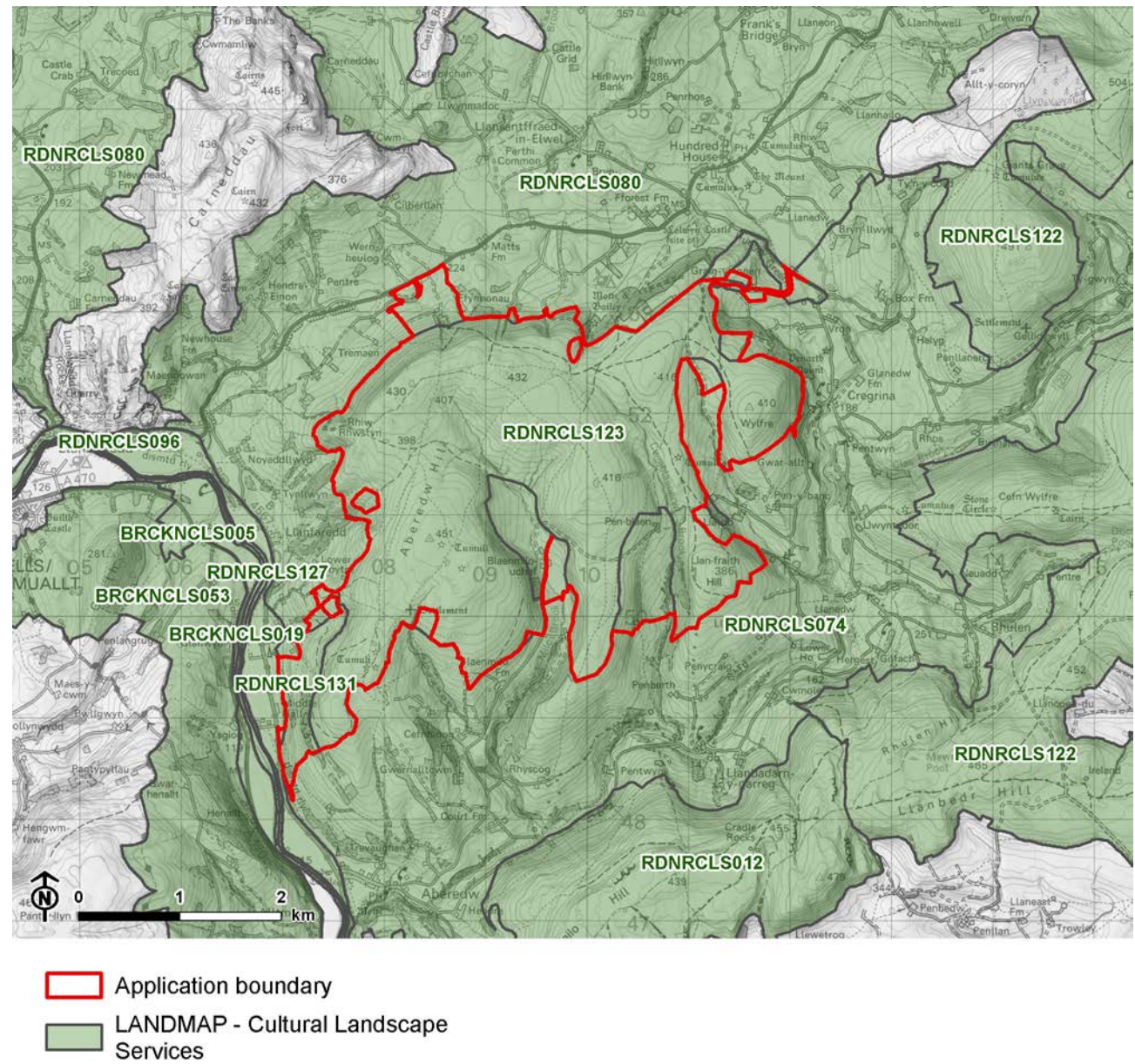
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Landscape Character

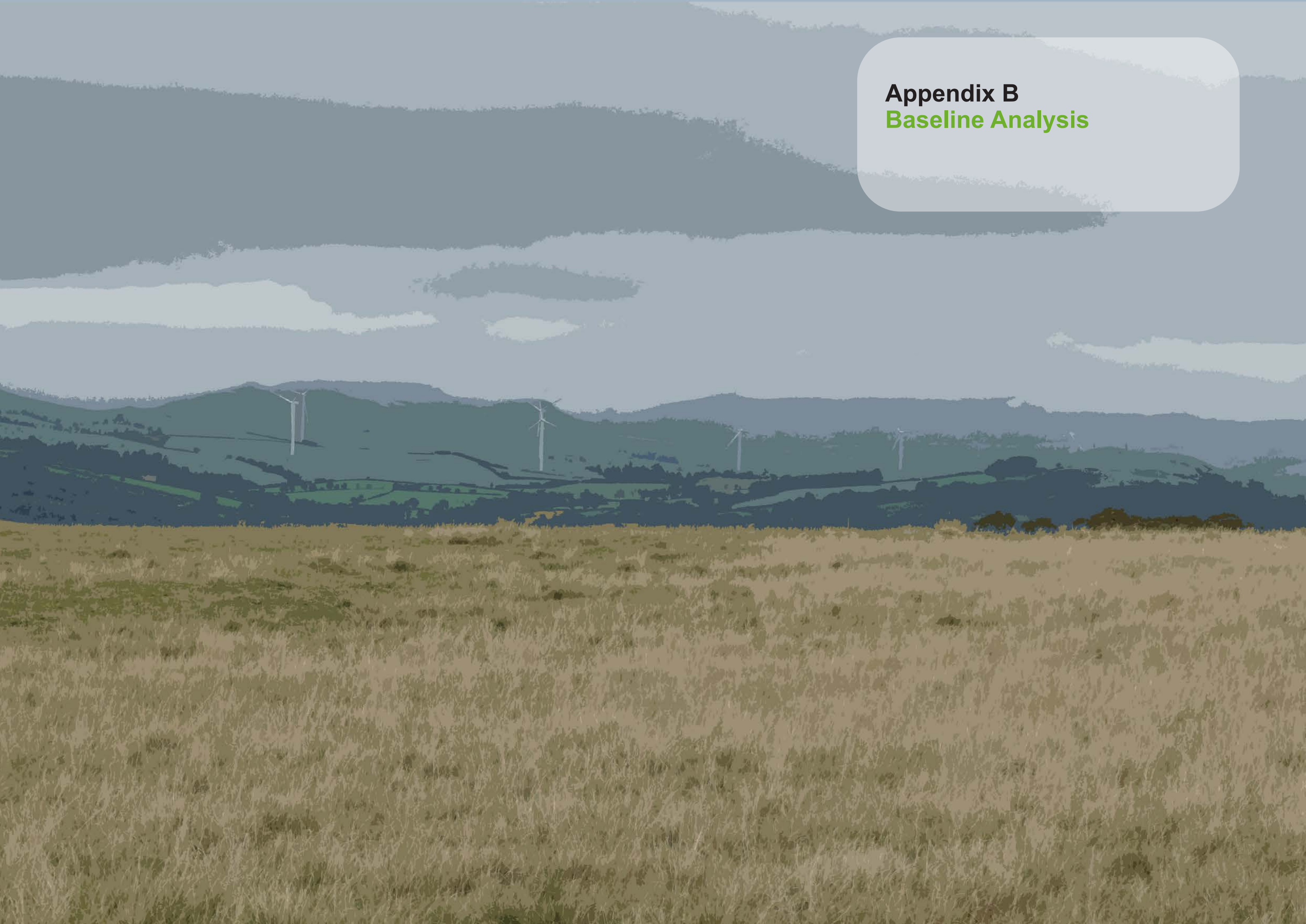
Landscape Character - Cultural Landscape Services

The LANDMAP Cultural Landscape Services layer provides information relating to cultural services and the connections between landscape, the natural environment and place. Including natural settings, aesthetic appreciation, tranquillity, cultural heritage, inspiration and spiritual and identity and sense of place.

The Site is located entirely within the High evaluation layer. This represents a landscape which is likely to be more sensitive to change.



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The background image is a landscape photograph. The foreground is a field of tall, dry, golden-brown grass. In the middle ground, there are rolling green hills with several white wind turbines. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text 'Appendix B' is in black and 'Baseline Analysis' is in green, both in a sans-serif font, located in the top right corner within a white rounded rectangle.

Appendix B

Baseline Analysis

Appendix B : Baseline Analysis

Baseline Summary and Objectives

Overview

Below is a summary of the baseline information highlighting the relevant objectives identified as part of the Aberedw SRF Vision found within the Executive Summary.

Objectives

The Aberedw SRF will:

1. Offer increased access to quality recreational opportunities.
2. Demonstrate interventions which conserve and enhance the environment.
3. Balance and integrate recreational users with environmental and cultural sensitivities.
4. Balance the requirements of various uses and user groups and address potential unauthorised use.
5. Identify sufficient and appropriate infrastructure and resources to support recreational use.

Infrastructure Layout for Energy Park : Connective Framework - Objective 1 and 5

The Aberedw Energy Park Development will provide approximately 13.3km of access tracks, of which approximately 11.6km will be new infrastructure and 1.7km will be upgrade of existing routes. Sections of the access tracks will provide opportunity for the Primary Recreational Route through the Energy Park Site.

Wider Landscape context: Landscape Character - Objective 2 and 3

The distinctive upland landscape presents significant inter-visibility with parts of the surrounding landscape. There will be an emphasis on landscape character and appropriate recreational use as part of the SRF to minimise landscape and visual effects.

Visitor Attractions : Links to Local Visitor Facilities and Attractions - Objective 1 and 5

There are a number of key visitor attractions within the area surrounding the Aberdw Site. These include the Heart of Wales Line Trail and Wye Valley Walk Long Distance Footpaths, and National Cycle Route 8, all located to the west of the Site. The remains of Aberedw Castle, and the medieval settlements (Scheduled Monuments) located around Aberedw Hill provide historic attractions for visitors.

Local Communities : Improved Links to communities - Objective 1 and 4

The Site is located within a predominantly rural area. There scattered residential properties and small settlements within close proximity of the Site, but no large urban areas. Settlements and residential properties are typically located in the lower-lying valleys to the .

Cultural Heritage: Interactive Trails - Objective 1 and 3

There are four Scheduled Monuments (SM) within the Site. These are former medieval and post-medieval barrows and settlements, and are part of a wider dispersed landscape on elevated summits. The majority of historic assets within the Site are not designated, and form a rich tapestry of interpretative features.

Ecology and Priority Habitat : Assets to explore through Interactive Trails - Objective 3

The majority of the area to be developed as the Aberedw Energy Park comprises Common Land and grazed pasture. From the Phase 1 Habitat Plan, Dry Heath / Acid Grassland, Dry Dwarf Shrub Heath - Acid and Bracken were dominant classifications. Standing water was identified at Llyn Cawr and Aberedw Hill and Blanket Bog within the central part of the Site, north of Pen-blaen. The Aberedw SRF recognises a number of the management strategies outlined in the Habitat Management Plan to enhance existing habitats.

Outline Habitat Management Plan : Maintenance and Management Priorities - Objective 3

The priority features for management action within the Site are identified in the Habitat Management Plan (HMP) include; enhancement of areas of heathland, areas of woodland management and planting, areas for riparian restoration, borrowpit restoration, hedgerow enhancement and creation, watercourse management and pond enhancement and creation.

Topography and Geology : Recreational Viewpoint Opportunities - Objective 1 and 4

The Site is an expansive upland moorland. Land rises to a high point at 451m AOD at Aberedw Hill, before sloping down towards a number of steeply incised valleys located to the west and south. Hill ridges offer spectacular views that could inform recreational routes and nodes.

Landscape Character - Landscape Habitat - Objective 2

LANDMAP Landscape Habitat mapping identifies the characteristics and spatial relationships of habitats and vegetation within the Site and their evaluation score. This is a Mosaic Habitat incorporating the following classifications: Unimproved Acid Grassland, Semi-improved Acid Grassland, Improved Grassland, Bracken, Dry Heath / Acid Grassland Mosaic. The majority of the Site is currently scored as ‘High’ with some areas on the northern noted as ‘Moderate’ landscape habitat value.

Landscape Character - Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Landscape - Objective 3

The entirety of the Site is determined as ‘High’ Cultural Landscape value. This area will exhibit policy to protect the natural and visual attributes of large parts of the landscape from being overrun by development, and for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

Existing Access Routes : Connectivity and Legibility - Objective 1 and 5

A number of public access routes cross the Site, including: 2 bridleways and the unsurfaced, unclassified road. A number of footpaths connect the roads in and around the Site and it’s immediate context to the settlements in the valleys and along transport routes. These include direct links into Aberedw village, Llanelwedd and Builth Wells and Hundred House.

Common Land : Access and Users- Objective 4

Large parts of the central Site are designated as Common Land with open access. Common Land is land owned by a person or persons over which other persons have certain common rights, such as to allow their livestock to graze, and the right to roam. Potential recreational routes are informed by existing PRoW and the proposed Energy Park Infrastructure. The Aberedw SRF aims to conserve and enhance Common Land through positive management practice such as wayfinding and route improvements.

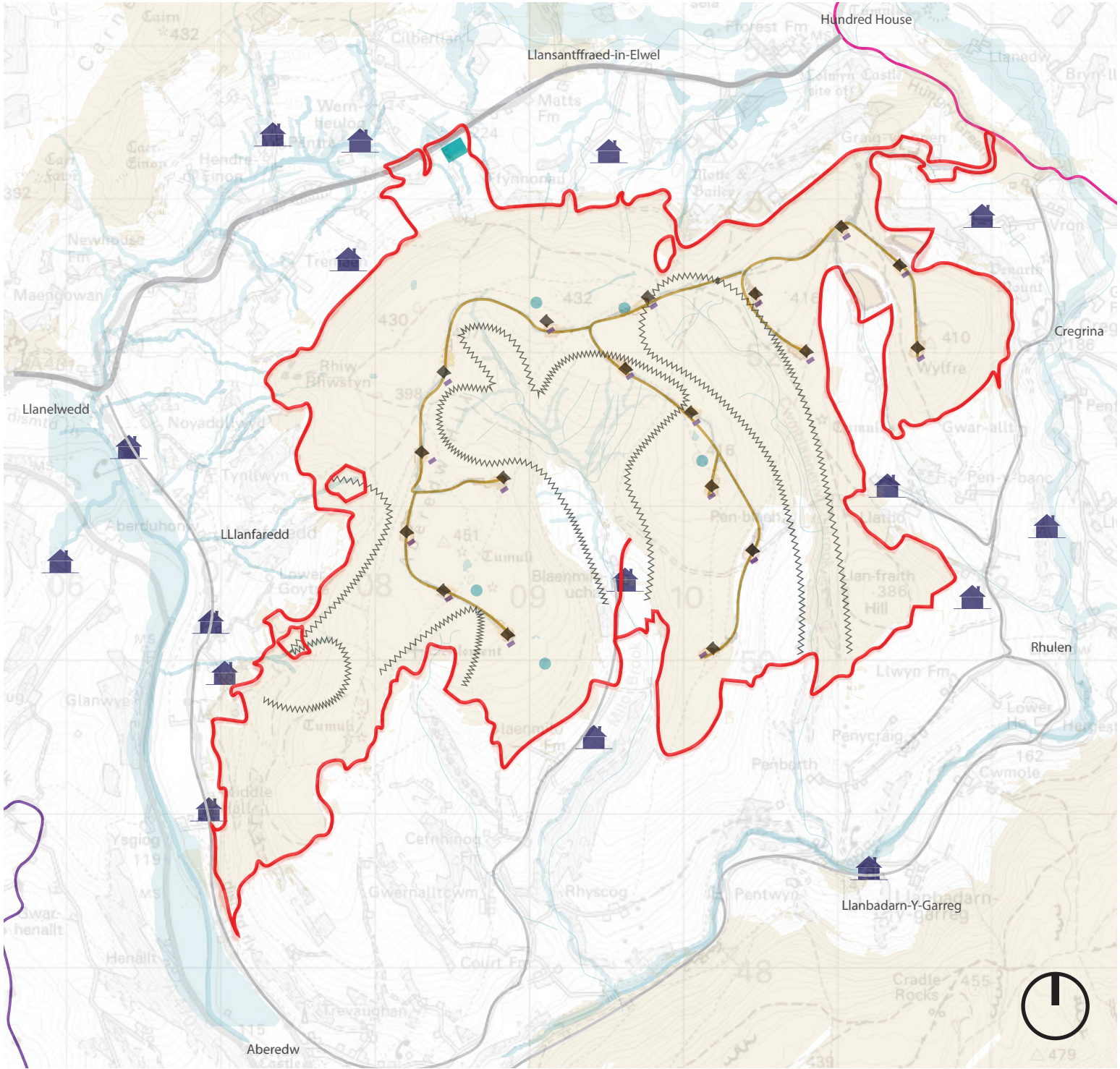
Wider Connective Infrastructure - Objective 1, 4 and 5

Major roads near the Site include the A481 to the north and the B4567 and A470 to the west. The nearest train station at Builth Wells approximately 5km to the north west connects Wales with Shropshire. NCN Route 8 is located approximately1.7km to the west at Llanelwedd offering onward cycle connectivity to a 391.7km linear route through the length of Wales connecting Anglesey with either Cardiff Bay or Chepstow. The Heart of Wales Line Trail offers 225km of onward trail connectivity between Swansea and Shrewsbury, connecting a number of train stations in Wales and England. This long distance footpath is located approximately 3.3km to the west skirting Builth Wells. The Wye Valley Walk a 219km Long Distance Route which follows the River Wye is located approximately 1.1km to the west of the Site.

Appendix B : Constraints

Key

- Site boundary
- Priority Habitats
- Flood Risk
- Watercourse
- Water bodies
- Woodland
- Common Land
- Proposed Wind turbine
- Scheduled Monument
- Historic Assets
- Barriers to movement
- Residential property
- Permanent concrete maintenance pad
- Proposed Energy Park maintenance track
- A and B Classification Road
- Local Road
- Wye Valley Walk
- NCN
- Proposed borrow pit
- Proposed substation



Constraints Plan: Figure A1.1

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Constraints Overview

The plan to the left (Figure A1.1) illustrates the combined Aberedw SRF constraints, analysing specific needs and sensitivities from overlaying baseline information associated within the Site Boundary and the surrounding landscape.

The elements within the constraints plan fall within the following categories, aligning with the objectives outlined in the Planning Policy Wales (PPW) objectives of good design (see Appendix A):

- Access and Movement
- Character and Cultural Heritage
- Community Safety
- Environmental Sustainability.

Some elements included present both a constraint and an opportunity depending on subsequent treatment as part of the Concept Masterplan and Design Guidance.

Access and Movement

- Existing PRoW, Bridleways, informal tracks, the unclassified road are not inclusive with poor surfacing, challenging ground conditions, breaks in connection and steep inclines, presenting a barrier to inclusive access.
- There are areas located within flood zone 2 and 3 along the tributary stream off River Edw such as Milo Brook and Cwmblaenerw Brook. This and the numerous watercourses within the Site present barriers to movement.

Community Safety

- The B4567 and the A481 bounds part of the site to the north and west. The road represent a constraint in terms of safety and legibility for western and northern connections.

Character and Cultural Heritage

- Scenic views are of high landscape value and must be considered within the Aberedw SRF, both in terms of appropriate location of routes, route features and materiality.
- Aberedw Hill Round Barrows are of significant heritage importance, containing burial mounds dating to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). (source: ancient monuments)
- Within the Site to the south-west and the north east there have been some significant finds associated with Medieval settlement. They are both longhouses of national importance.
- To the north there is Fforest Wood Mound & Bailey Castle, Colwn Castle and The Mount Mound & Bailey Castle, Hundred House all created for defence during the Medieval period.

Environmental Sustainability

- The diverse habitats found within The Site support a number of Species of Principal Importance in Wales and Priority Species including a variety of flora and fauna. All recreational routes and uses will be required to conserve the ecological sensitivities of the Site and provide appropriate design solutions.

Key

	Site boundary
	Priority habitats
	Flood risk areas
	Watercourses
	Water bodies
	Woodland
	Proposed habitat focus area (from OHMP)
	Common Land
	Proposed Common Land Replacement Area
	Proposed wind turbine
	Historic Asset
	Scheduled Monument
	Residential property
	Permanent concrete maintenance pad
	Proposed Energy Park maintenance track
	A and B Classification Road
	Local Roads
	Wye Valley Walk
	NCN
	PRoW (footpath)
	PRoW (bridleway)
	Tracks
	Proposed borrow pit
	Unsurfaced unclassified road
	Proposed substation
	Settlement (off the map)
	High points
	Unobstructed view



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The plan to the left (Figure A1.2) illustrates the combined Aberedw SRF opportunities resulting from analysis of baseline information within the Site Boundary and the surrounding landscape.

The elements within the Opportunities plan fall within the following categories, aligning with the objectives outlined in the Planning Policy Wales (PPW) objectives of good design (see Appendix A) and cross-referencing those constraints identified on the page 48:

- Access and Movement
- Character and Cultural Heritage
- Community Safety
- Environmental Sustainability.

Access and Movement

- There is an existing network of PRoW, Bridleways, informal tracks, an unclassified road, A and B classification roads and the proposed Aberedw Energy Park maintenance tracks. Whilst in varying condition, there is opportunity to improve existing routes, creating additional links and ensure inclusive access to local communities, key attractions and facilities.
- There is an opportunity to create a hierarchy of routes to ensure all users are catered for, within the Aberedw SRF.
- Convergence of user routes with the Primary Route presents opportunities for nodal spaces, meeting points and way-finding.

Community Safety

- There is opportunity to provide safe off-road pedestrian, cycle and equestrian routes.

Character

- The Aberedw SRF aims to utilise the location and presence of the wind turbines and infrastructure as a key focus of the route planning hierarchy. Strategic interpretation will provide users with a mix of historic, geological and present-day (renewable) narrative.
- The glacial landform and bronze age barrows within the Site, present opportunities for education, interpretation and engagement.
- The hill ridge lines present opportunities for key views and vistas supported by way-finding and interpretation.

Environmental Sustainability

- The Habitat Management Plan will conserve and enhance biodiversity across the Site. Ecological enhancements present interpretation and interactive trail opportunities. The restriction or reduced access, to sensitive landscapes will inform the treatment of the route and enhance the experiential quality for users.

