



Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeology

Historic Environment
Desk Based
Assessment:
Mynydd Maen Wind
Farm

HCUK Group is a multi-disciplinary environmental practice offering expert advice in archaeology, heritage, landscape, arboriculture, and planning. It began life in 2010 as Heritage Collective LLP, before becoming Heritage Collective UK Limited in 2014. In the coming years diversification saw the addition of Archaeology Collective, Landscape Collective and Planning Collective, before all strands came together to be branded under a single umbrella: HCUK Group, based on the acronym for the original company. A home working company since the beginning, we are pleased to employ a talented workforce of consultants and support staff, who are on hand to advise our clients.



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1. Introduction

- 1.1** This written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (HEDBA) has been prepared by James Meek MCIfA, Director at Archaeology Collective, part of the HCUK Group, on behalf of RES. The HEDBA will be prepared by James Meek and Dr Paula Jones of HCUK.
- 1.2** The HEDBA will support an application for the proposed Mynydd Maen Wind Farm, for up to 13 Wind Turbines with a provisional capacity of 4.2 MW each and associated infrastructure. The proposed wind farm is considered a 'Development Of National Significance' and will be determined by Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).
- 1.3** This WSI outlines the methodology by which this report will be completed.
- 1.4** The proposed Mynydd Maen Wind Farm is located between Newbridge, Caerphilly and Cwmbran, Torfaen (centred on NGR 324857 196493). The site does not lie within a designated landscape on the Register of Landscapes of Historic Interests in Wales (Ref number HLW(Gt)2).
- 1.5** The aim of the HEDBA will be to determine the archaeological potential of the Site, to identify any particular areas of archaeological potential or significance and to provide guidance on ways to accommodate any relevant constraints identified, as well as describing the potential impact, through changes to the setting of any listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments and registered parks and gardens. This assessment is in accordance with Chapter 6 of Planning Policy Wales, Planning Policy Wales Technical Advice Note 24 and the procedures set out in CIfA's 'Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment'¹.
- 1.6** This HEDBA will include an examination of evidence on the Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record (GGAT HER) and National Monuments Record of Wales data (NMRW) within 2 km of the site and designated historic assets within 10 km of the site. Map regression will be undertaken in order to review change through time of the site.
- 1.7** A desk-based assessment is defined by CIfA as: *.....a programme of study of the historic environment within a specified area or site on land, the inter-tidal zone or underwater that addresses agreed research and/or conservation objectives. It consists of an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information in order to identify the likely historic assets, their interests and significance and the character of the study area, including appropriate consideration*

¹ CIfA. Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment 2020

of the settings of historic assets and, in England, the nature, extent and quality of the known or potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest. Significance is to be judged in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.²

- 1.8** This WSI details the methodology for the assessment which will be undertaken and has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for historic environment desk-based assessments (CIfA 2019) and undertaken in accordance with the CIfA Code of Conduct (CIfA 2020).
- 1.9** This WSI will need to be approved by the archaeological advisors to the planning authority Planning Services at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Services, in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the planning authority.

² Ibid

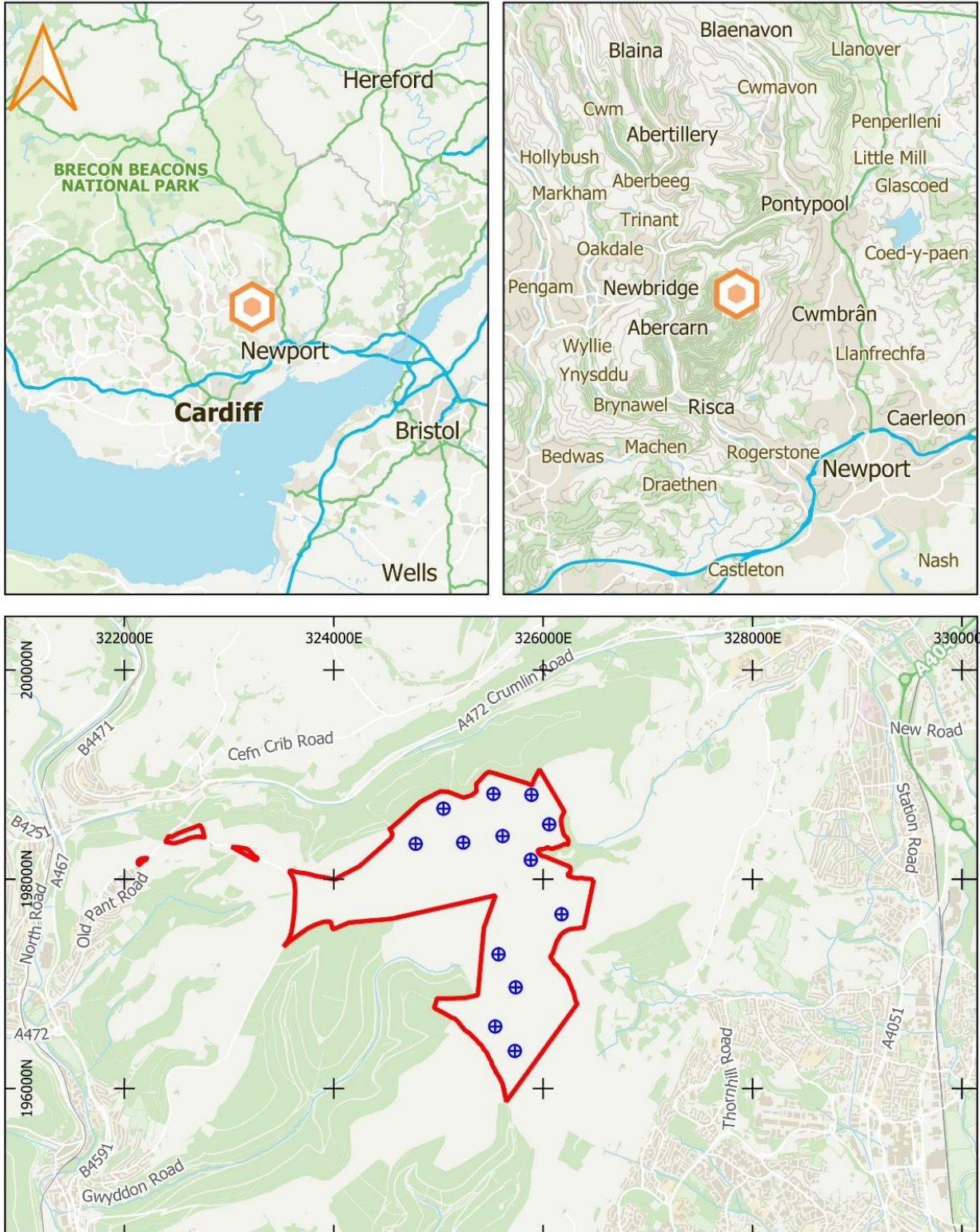


Figure 1: Site Location Plan and provisional turbine locations

2. Aims of Project

Aims

2.1 The HEDBA will consider only designated and non-designated heritage assets of archaeological and historic interest. The assessment will aim to:

- Identify known and potential historic assets located within, or within material proximity to, the site;
- Determine the significance of any known and/or potential historic assets identified within the site;
- Assesses the potential impact of development within the site, of a nature and on a scale of that anticipated under the present design concept, upon the significance of any identified and/or potential historic assets within the site; and
- Examine any potential physical, non-physical or indirect impacts upon the significance of proximate designated historic assets within the site environs.

3. Methodology

3.1 The HEDBA will be undertaken in accordance with the *CiFA Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2020) and all other relevant industry guidance.

3.2 The following sources will be consulted:

- The Glamorgan Gwent Historic Environment Record, including procurement of site and events;
- National Monuments Record of Wales information as held by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales in Aberystwyth (RCAHMW offices in Aberystwyth) via the COFLEIN website (a licence for data will be obtained);
- Identification of any Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens, Historic Landscape Character Areas or Conservation Areas within or in the vicinity of the site area (Cadw, GGAT, NRW);
- Bibliographic, cartographic and photographic information, including a search of available material that might be held at the National Library of Wales and potentially information held at the Local Studies Library;
- Aerial photographs of the site area, using sources include RCAHMW, online sources (APU Online; Britain from Above) and aerial surveys specifically undertaken for the site;
- A review of available Lidar data sources, including information available through the LLE website and potentially Lidar data obtained specifically for the proposed wind farm;
- Relevant web-based information;
- A site walkover survey in order to: assess the site within its wider landscape context, Identify/confirm any evidence for previous disturbance within the Site; and identify any as yet unknown archaeological features within the Site.
- Assessment of the archaeological potential of the area;
- Assessment of likely impacts on any identified remains (or potential remains) and likely requirements, if any, for further stages of archaeological work.

3.3 A 2 km study area will be used for the purposes of data capture for non-designated historic assets recorded on the HER and NMRW. A 10 km search area will be used for designated historic assets. This data will then be reviewed and refined, and

those heritage assets of relevance to the assessment of the site's potential and proposed wind farm's' potential impact will be discussed. All spatial data acquired will be interrogated using industry-standard GIS software.

3.4 The following will be considered when preparing the assessment (in some cases no such features may be present and thus will not be considered):

- Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and their settings;
- Non-scheduled ancient monuments and their settings;
- Listed buildings and their settings;
- Non statutory Buildings of Local Importance, where this information is readily available and relevant to the proposed wind farm;
- Registered Parks and Gardens and their essential settings;
- Buried archaeological potential;
- Palaeo-environmental potential;
- Hedgerows and field patterns;
- Ancient woodland;
- Place-name evidence; and
- Newly identified sites of historic importance;

3.5 The HEDBA will be supported by a Heritage Impact Assessment using the Cadw guidance 'Heritage Impact Assessment in Wales' (2017). This will also be prepared by HCUK.

3.6 The HEDBA will not include detailed documentary research as that is beyond the scope of a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment. Should a detailed documentary research exercise be required, that would be a separate exercise to be prepared by a documentary historian.

4. Reporting

Project Specific Reporting Requirements

4.1 The HEDBA would anticipated to comprise the following:

- A concise non-technical summary of the assessment results in Welsh and English.
- Plans showing the site's location in respect to the local topography.
- A list of all the sources consulted.
- Where necessary, suitably selected plans and maps (including historic maps) of significant archaeological features.
- Written description of the site visit and information on any archaeological features observed during the site visit.
- A statement of the local and regional context of the historic assets identified. consideration, where appropriate, of the National Research Agenda.
- An assessment of the relative value or significance of each recognised historic asset.
- An impact assessment of the proposed wind farm on the potential archaeological resource.

4.2 Once completed, a copy of the report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the consideration of their archaeological advisers Planning Services at Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust and also Cadw. A further copy of the report will be provided for deposition within the GGAT Historic Environment Record (HER) following the Welsh Archaeological Trust HER guidelines³.

4.3 Where appropriate, a summary report on any new significant archaeological discovery will be submitted for publication to a national journal (e.g. Archaeology in Wales) no later than one year after the completion of the work.

4.4 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality should be maintained, the report would normally be deposited with the HER no later than six months after completion of the work.

³ WAT 2018

5. Staffing and Programming

Staffing

- 5.1** The assessment will be prepared by James Meek, Director and Dr Paula Jones, Associate Director of HCUK Group. Other HCUK staff and accredited sub-contracted specialists may contribute as necessary.

Programming

- 5.2** It is envisaged that the updated assessment and report will take three months to complete, taking into account scheme changes and other factors.

Health and Safety

- 5.3** Prior to the site visit, a full risk assessment document will be produced, setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce any risks to health and safety.

Access and Safety

- 5.4** Before any site visit is undertaken a risk assessment document will be produced setting out the site specific health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety. In addition to this risk assessment, the following considerations will also be made:
- All relevant health and safety regulations will be followed.
 - All current Covid-19 H&S guidance will be followed.

Archiving

- 5.5** An archive of the desk-based report (and any potential fieldwork) will be structured in accordance with the specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The standard and guidance of the National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales and those of Chartered Institute for Archaeologists will also be adhered to. Digital

archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMW.

5.6

For the HEDBA it is assumed that a digital archive will be prepared containing the report and potentially information from site visits.

6. References

AAF, 2011, Archaeological Archives: A Guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation: Archaeological Archive Forum (Brown D).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020) Standard and guidance for the preparation of Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments

CIfA, 2019, Code of conduct, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA, 2020, Standard and guidance for commissioning work or providing consultancy advice on archaeology and the historic environment. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

CIfA, 2020, Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Reading)

Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales, 2019, The National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives

The National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives, Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales Digital Archives (2015)

WAT 2018, Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs), Welsh Archaeological Trusts July 2018 (reviewed 2019)