



Pennant Walters

GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Draft Environmental Statement

Chapter 1 - Introduction



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1 Introduction

1.1 Overview of the Proposed Development

- 1.1.1. Pennant Walters Ltd. ('the Applicant') is seeking planning permission for the construction and operation of a wind farm of up to eight turbines on land to the east of Maesteg in South Wales (the 'Site'). A Site Location Plan and Draft Development of National Significance (DNS) Application Boundary is shown on **Figure 1.1**.
- 1.1.2. Glanllynfi Garth Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') consists of the following elements:
- Up to eight wind turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 180m, located across two land parcels referred to as the 'Northern Array' and 'Southern Array';
 - Two substations including transformer housing;
 - Two temporary construction compounds;
 - Two temporary site offices;
 - Crane pads and cabling;
 - Access track construction; and
 - Overhead line connection (via wooden pole) to agreed Points of Connection (PoC) with National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED).
- 1.1.3. The Proposed Development is located predominately within a Pre-Assessed Area (PAA) for Wind Energy as defined in the National Development Framework (NDF) – Future Wales: The National Plan 2040¹ (PAA 9). However, a portion of the Southern Array, including two turbines, is located outside of the PAA.
- 1.1.4. The Proposed Development is predominantly within the administrative boundary of Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). As such, BCBC will be considered the lead Local Planning Authority (LPA). However, access to the Northern and Southern Array will be achieved via existing access tracks which serve operational wind farms in the area. Starting north at the A4061, the access tracks travel south through the Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, then cross the A4107 and traverse the Llynfi Afan Wind Farm. The access track traverses the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) and Neath Port Talbot Council (NPTC) authority areas (see **Figure 1.1**).
- 1.1.5. The Proposed Development will require two grid connection points and individual substations within each parcel. The Northern Array will connect to the 66kv Overhead line that runs adjacent to the western extents of the parcel. The Southern Array will connect to the 66kv Overhead line that traverses the centre of the parcel. It is envisaged that each PoC will be achieved via a short overhead line. Both connections have been identified through discussion with NGED and form part of the EIA assessment.

¹ Welsh Government (2021) Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/future-wales-national-plan-2040> (Accessed: June 2026).

- 1.1.6. The assessments within this Draft ES are based on the Proposed Development as described above and shown on **Figure 1.2: Site Layout**, **Figure 1.3: Northern Array Site Layout**, and **Figure 1.4: Southern Array Site Layout**. Further details are provided in **Chapter 2: Approach to the EIA** and **Chapter 4: Development Description**.

1.2 The Applicant and the Project Team

- 1.2.1. The Applicant, Pennant Walters Ltd, is a Walters Group company with a focus on renewable energy having obtained consent for and/or developed a wide variety of schemes including onshore wind, solar, small-scale hydro and battery storage in Wales.
- 1.2.2. This Draft Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared on behalf of the Applicant by WSP UK Ltd (hereafter referred to as 'WSP').
- 1.2.3. WSP is registered with the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP) EIA Quality Mark scheme. The scheme allows organisations that lead the co-ordination of EIAs in the UK to make a commitment to excellence in its EIA activities and have this commitment independently reviewed.
- 1.2.4. Regulation 17(4)(a) of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended)² ('the EIA Regulations') requires that an ES must *"be prepared by persons who in the opinion of the relevant planning authority or the Welsh Ministers, as appropriate, have sufficient expertise to ensure the completeness and quality of the statement"*.
- 1.2.5. The relevant experience and qualifications of the competent experts who have prepared this ES, as required by Regulation 4(b) of the EIA Regulations, are provided in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1 Environmental topics to be addressed in the Draft ES and details of the expertise of staff who have undertaken each assessment

Topic	Staff	Relevant expertise/qualifications
Chapter 6 Landscape and Visual Impact	Kate Ward	- Chartered Member Landscape Institute (CMLI) - BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture - Postgraduate Diploma Landscape Architecture
	Laura Fretwell	- Chartered Member Landscape Institute (CMLI) - BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture - Postgraduate Diploma Landscape Architecture
Chapter 7 Historic Environment	Tom Lovekin	- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA) - BA(Hons) English History & Landscape Archaeology - MA Landscape Archaeology

² UK Government (2017). Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 [online]. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2017/567/contents> [Accessed June 2026].

Topic	Staff	Relevant expertise/qualifications
		MA Town & Country Planning
	Gabriella Amos	- Associate Member, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ACIfA) - MSc Archaeological Science - BA Archaeology & Ancient History
Chapter 8 Biodiversity	Nia Bowen	- BSc (Hons) Zoology - Full member of Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
	Trevor Fletcher	- BSc (Hons) Geography - MSc Environmental and Engineering Geology - Acorn Ecology – Certificate in Ecological Consultancy - CIEEM Associate
Chapter 9 Ornithology	Liz Probert	- MSc Behavioural Ecology with Ornithology - BSc (hons) Behavioural Biology
	John Falconer	- MSc Species Identification & Survey Skills - BSc Conservation Biology & Ecology
Chapter 10 Water Environment	Vic Mohun	- Chartered member of CIWEM - Chartered Environmentalist - BEng Chemical and Environmental Engineering - MSc Environmental Engineering
	Sarah Hamilton	- Chartered member of CIWEM - Chartered Environmentalist - PhD Geography - MSc Geomorphology and Environmental Change - BSc (Hons) Geography
Chapter 11 Ground Conditions	Lynne Gemmell	- Chartered Environmentalist - PISEP - MEnvS Environmental Studies
	Dave Watts	- Chartered Environmentalist - Chartered Water and Environmental Manager (C.WEM) - Specialist in Land Conditions (SiLC) - BSc (Hons) Geology with Physical Geography

Topic	Staff	Relevant expertise/qualifications
		■ MSc Applied Environmental Geology
Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport	Bev Coupe	■ BA (Hons) Town Planning ■ Diploma in Town Planning ■ MSc Transport Engineering and Operations ■ Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute
	Adam Guy	■ BSc (Hons) Civil and Environmental Engineering
	Sam Gardner	■ BSc (Hons) Geography ■ MSc Transportation Planning and Engineering (Behaviour) ■ Member of the Transport Planning Society
Chapter 13 Noise	James Powlson	■ BSc (Hons) Audio Technology ■ Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA)
	Robin Brown	■ BSs (Hons) Audio Technology ■ Member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA)
Chapter 14 Shadow Flicker	Steven Fitzpatrick	■ MEng, Product Design Engineering ■ PgDip, Energy Systems and the Environment
Chapter 15 Socio-economics	Andrew Williamson	■ BA (Hons) Geography, ■ MA Practicing Human Geography, ■ MA Spatial Planning, ■ PhD, MRTPI
Chapter 16 Other Issues (Aviation and Telecommunications)	Steven Fitzpatrick	■ MEng, Product Design Engineering ■ PgDip, Energy Systems and the Environment
Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects	Chris Prydderch	■ BSc (Hons) Environmental Science, ■ MSc (Dist) Environmental Monitoring and Assessment ■ PISEP
	James Thomas	■ BSc (Hons) Geography ■ Msc Sustainable Environmental Management ■ PISEP

1.3 Purpose of the Environmental Statement

- 1.3.1. It is recognised that the Applicant is producing this Draft ES following the transitional period between consenting regimes in Wales. The Applicant submitted their notification of intent to submit a DNS application on 11 December 2025, which was subsequently accepted by PEDW on 14 December 2025. Therefore, the Proposed Development is being submitted under the DNS consenting regime.
- 1.3.2. The Proposed Development requires EIA (i.e., it is 'EIA development') because it falls under paragraph 3(i) ("*Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)*") of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations and exceeds its thresholds for both Site area and hub height. On this basis, an EIA has been undertaken for the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.3. As the installed generating capacity of the Proposed Development would exceed 10 megawatts (MW), it qualifies as a DNS according to the criteria set out in Regulation 4A of *The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016*³.
- 1.3.4. An EIA has been prepared to meet the requirements of the EIA Regulations and provides part of the information that will be used by the Welsh Ministers, and other key stakeholders, to inform the process of determining the application for consent of the Proposed Development.
- 1.3.5. In accordance with good practice, a Scoping Report (**Appendix 1A**) was prepared to identify the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. Those effects that were assessed as being likely to be significant or where likely significant effects could not be discounted at the scoping stage were proposed for further assessment in the ES. This reflects the requirement of the EIA Regulations for the ES to focus on those effects that are likely to be significant.
- 1.3.6. A request for a Scoping Direction was made to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) on 2nd March 2026, under Regulation 33 of the EIA Regulations in respect of applications for planning permission to Welsh Ministers as a DNS project. A Scoping Direction was received on 12th June 2026 (**Appendix 1B**).
- 1.3.7. As the Proposed Development is a DNS, in accordance with *Developments of National Significance: Procedural Guidance* (Welsh Government, 2024⁴) this Draft ES has been prepared to allow consultees an opportunity to comment on its contents, and for the Applicant to consider and respond to any comments received. The Draft ES presents an assessment of effects based on current information available at the time of writing, with respect to project design and baseline environmental information.
- 1.3.8. Following consultation and a review of responses received, a final assessment of likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development during its construction, operation and decommissioning will be presented within a final ES.
- 1.3.9. This Draft ES has been based on the Scoping Direction (**Appendix 1B**), as well as subsequent consultation and assessment work. It includes an assessment of the likely

³ Welsh Government (2016). Town and Country Planning, Wales: The Developments of National Significance (Specified Criteria and Prescribed Secondary Consents) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 [online]. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/358/pdfs/wsi_20160358_mi.pdf [Accessed: June 2026].

⁴ Welsh Government (2024). Developments of National Significance: Procedural Guidance [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-procedural-guidance-html> [Accessed: June 2026].

significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development based on current proposals, leading to a conclusion about which effects were assessed as likely to be significant and identifying potential environmental mitigation measures⁵ in respect of likely significant adverse effects.

- 1.3.10. The overall approach that has been taken to defining significance, as well as further information about the approach to preparing the Draft ES, are outlined in **Chapter 2** of this document.
- 1.3.11. Regulation 4 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations require that the environmental topics listed in column 1 of **Table 1.2** need to be considered when preparing an ES. Column 2 then lists where these topics are included in this Draft ES, with reference to the relevant chapter numbers.

Table 1.2 Environmental Topics to be Addressed in the Draft ES and Chapter References

Topics ⁶ that need to be assessed under the EIA Regulations	Chapter titles where the topics are addressed in this Draft ES
Population	■ Landscape and Visual Impact (Chapter 6); ■ Traffic and Transport (Chapter 12); ■ Noise (Chapter 13); ■ Socio-economics (Chapter 15); and ■ Aviation and Telecommunications (Chapter 16).
Human health	■ Traffic and Transport (Chapter 12); ■ Noise (Chapter 13); ■ Shadow Flicker (Chapter 14); ■ Socio-economics (Chapter 15); and ■ Aviation and Telecommunications (Chapter 16).
Biodiversity	■ Biodiversity (Chapter 8); and ■ Ornithology (Chapter 9).
Land	■ Ground Conditions (Chapter 11).
Soil	■ Ground Conditions (Chapter 11).
Water	■ Water Environment (Chapter 10).
Air	■ Scoped out (See Appendix 1A and 1B).
Climate	■ Carbon Balance Assessment (Appendix 2A); ■ Development Description (Chapter 4); ■ Biodiversity (Chapter 8); ■ Water Environment (Chapter 10); ■ Ground Conditions (Chapter 11); and ■ Socio-economics (Chapter 15).

⁵ Discussed further in Chapter 2

⁶ In this ES, the word 'topic' is used when referring to the environment that could be affected by the Proposed Development. Other words with the same general meaning are used in the EIA Regulations, notably 'factor' and 'aspect', but these are not used in the same context within this ES.

Topics ⁶ that need to be assessed under the EIA Regulations	Chapter titles where the topics are addressed in this Draft ES
Cultural heritage	Historic Environment (Chapter 7).
Landscape	Landscape and Visual Impact (Chapter 6).
The inter-relationship between the above factors	- Considered within each topic chapter as relevant (Chapters 6 to 16); and - Inter-project Cumulative Effects (Chapter 17).
Vulnerability to major accidents or disasters	- Approach to EIA (Chapter 2); - Development Description (Chapter 4); and - Ground Conditions (Chapter 11).

1.4 Structure of this Environmental Statement

1.4.1. This Draft ES is sub-divided into the following volumes:

- **Volume 1** presents the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of this Draft ES;
- **Volume 2** contains the written report, including the following chapters:
 - ▶ Chapter 1 – introduction to the Proposed Development (this chapter);
 - ▶ Chapter 2 - details the approach that has been adopted in preparing the Draft ES;
 - ▶ Chapter 3 - explains the need for the Proposed Development, outlines the main alternatives considered for meeting this need and describes the design process for the Proposed Development;
 - ▶ Chapter 4 - provides the description of the Proposed Development;
 - ▶ Chapter 5 – Provides an overview of the legislation and policies that are relevant to the Draft ES;
 - ▶ Chapters 6 to 16 - these set out the technical assessments for the environmental topics considered in the Draft ES; and
 - ▶ Chapter 17 – details the inter-project cumulative effects.
- **Volume 3** – contains the appendices referred to in this Draft ES;
- **Volume 4** – contains the figures referred to in this Draft ES.