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GLANLLYNFI GARTH WIND FARM

Draft Environmental Statement

Chapter 5 - Legislation and Policy Overview



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5 Legislative and policy overview

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section of the Draft ES outlines the relevant UK wide and Welsh legislative and policy framework for the development of renewable energy schemes. Current legislation, national policies, and local policy and guidance recognise climate change as a pressing concern. The approach taken by the UK and Wales to addressing climate change has been shaped and informed by a range of international agreements and climate change obligations including the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and the 2021 Glasgow Climate Compact reflecting the UK's role as a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This section sets out the climate and energy considerations that proposals should have regard to.

5.2 Legislative context

- 5.2.1 This section first sets out the international agreements to which the UK Government is a signatory. It then outlines the key Acts of Parliament and regulations comprising the legislative framework for the consideration of renewable energy schemes. Finally, it summarises the national strategies and policies that establish the UK-wide and Welsh approach to renewable energy generation.

International Agreements

The Kyoto Protocol 1997¹

- 5.2.2 The Kyoto Protocol sought to bind countries to limiting and then reducing the quantity of their greenhouse gases produced. The United Kingdom (UK) signed up to the Kyoto Protocol binding itself to ensuring it reduces its greenhouse gases produced to being 12.5 percent below base-year levels (1990 levels) at the end of the first commitment period (2008-2012)². Whilst the Kyoto Protocol and its commitments are old, it demonstrates the UK's commitment to meeting and exceeding international greenhouse gas reduction targets and renewable energy is key to achieving such targets.

Paris Agreement 2015³

- 5.2.3 The UNFCCC is the major international body responsible for managing climate change and carbon emissions. In 2015, parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement, the aims of which are stated as: "*This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the*

¹ United Nations (1997). The Kyoto Protocol. (Online) Available at: https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol#:~:text=In%20short%2C%20the%20Kyoto%20Protocol,accordance%20with%20agreed%20individual%20targets. (Accessed June 2026).

² DEFRA (no date). The United Kingdom's Report on Demonstrable Progress under the Kyoto Protocol. (Online) Available at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/dpr/uk1.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2015). Paris Agreement. (Online) Available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by: a) Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; and (b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.”

- 5.2.4 The Agreement requires participating countries to set and periodically update their own emissions reductions targets through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While these targets are not directly enforceable internationally they form the basis of national policy commitments aimed at achieving net zero emissions.

Glasgow Climate Pact 2021⁴

- 5.2.5 The recent Conference of the Parties (COP 26) under the UNFCCC held in Glasgow in November 2021, resulted in almost 200 countries agreeing on: the acceleration of action on climate change this decade to reduce emissions (mitigation); helping those already impacted by climate change (adaption); enabling countries to deliver on their climate goals (finance); and working together to deliver even greater action (collaboration). This agreement is in the form of the Glasgow Climate Pact which reaffirms the long-term goal to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and resolves to pursue efforts to achieve this, recognising that limiting global warming to 1.5°C “*requires rapid, deep and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, including reducing global CO₂ emissions by 45% by 2030 relative to the 2010 level and to net zero around mid-century, as well as deep reductions in other greenhouse gases*”.

5.3 Acts of Parliament and Regulations

Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended)⁵

- 5.3.1 One of the key provisions of the original 2008 Act was the introduction of legally binding targets on GHG emissions comprising reductions of at least 80% GHG emissions by 2050, and reductions in emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019⁶ came into force on 27 June 2019. This amended the legally binding target to reduce GHG emissions set in section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 from 80% to 100% against a 1990 baseline, achieving ‘net zero’ emissions. The Act also requires the Government to establish 5-year carbon budgets. The generation of electricity by renewable means such as wind energy is considered to be a key contributor towards meeting these targets.

⁴ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (2021). COP26 The Glasgow Climate Pact. (Online) available at: <https://ukcop26.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/COP26-Presidency-Outcomes-The-Climate-Pact.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁵ UK Government (2008). Climate Change Act 2008. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

⁶ UK Government (2019). The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654> (Accessed June 2026).

The Carbon Budgets Order 2009⁷

- 5.3.2 This legislation implements the carbon budgets set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. The budgets require the UK to continually reduce emissions in line with the carbon reduction commitments established under the Climate Change Act. The carbon budgets are:
- First carbon budget, 2009 to 2012, 3,018 mega tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (MtCO₂e) representing 25% reduction below 1990 levels;
 - Second carbon budget, 2013 to 2017, 2,782 MtCO₂e representing 31% reduction below 1990 levels;
 - Third carbon budget, 2018 to 2022, 2,544 MtCO₂e representing 37% reduction below 1990 levels by 2020;
 - Fourth carbon budget, 2023 to 2027, 1,950 MtCO₂e representing 51% reduction below 1990 levels by 2025;
 - Fifth carbon budget, 2028 to 2032, 1,725 MtCO₂e representing 57% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030; and
 - Sixth carbon budget, 2033 to 2037, 965 MtCO₂e representing a 78% reduction below 1990 levels by 2035.

The Energy Act 2008⁸, 2011⁹, 2013¹⁰, 2016¹¹, 2023¹²

- 5.3.3 The Energy Act (2008) implemented the legislative aspects of the 2007 Energy White Paper. The content of the Bill included strengthening the Renewables Obligation to drive greater and more rapid deployment of renewables in the UK. The Energy Act (2011) sought to increase investment in energy efficiency whilst the Energy Act (2013) put in place measures to reform the UK energy market to attract investment. The Energy Act (2016) formally established the Oil and Gas Authority as a regulator for that sector whilst it signalled the closure of the Renewables Obligation for onshore wind. More recently, the Energy Act (2023) has introduced further measures to support energy security and the transition to a low-carbon energy system.

Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015¹³

- 5.3.4 This Act places a duty on public bodies (including Local Authorities) to carry out sustainable development. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals to help ensure that

⁷ UK Government (2009). The Carbon Budgets Order 2009 (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/1259/contents/made> (Accessed June 2026).

⁸ UK Government (2008). Energy Act 2008. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/32/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

⁹ UK Government (2011). Energy Act 2011. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/16/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

¹⁰ UK Government (2013). Energy Act 2013. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/32/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

¹¹ UK Government (2016). Energy Act 2016. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/20/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

¹² UK Government (2023) Energy Act 2023. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/52/contents>

¹³ UK Government (2015). Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. (Online) Available at: <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/150623-guide-to-the-fg-act-en.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

public bodies are all working towards the same vision of a sustainable Wales. The wellbeing goals are:

- 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; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

- 5.3.5 The wellbeing goals act together to ensure outcomes across economic, environmental, social and cultural sustainability strands. The Act defines sustainable development in Wales as “*The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.*”
- 5.3.6 One of the wellbeing goals – achieving a prosperous Wales – specifically recognises the benefits of developing a low carbon society that recognises the limits of the environment and uses resources efficiently.

Planning (Wales) Act 2015¹⁴ and the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended)¹⁵

- 5.3.7 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) alongside subsequent regulations, provides the statutory basis for DNS. Any proposal to construct or operate a power generation scheme with a capacity greater than 10MW and under 350MW falls within the DNS system and requires the consent of Welsh Ministers.
- 5.3.8 While the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 introduced a new consenting regime for significant infrastructure projects from 15 December 2025, the DNS regime continues to apply to certain projects by virtue of the relevant transitional and saving provisions. In particular, Section 146 of the 2024 Act, together with the Infrastructure Consent (Pre-Application and Application Procedure and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025, enables qualifying projects to continue to be progressed and determined under the existing DNS framework.

¹⁴ UK Government (2015). Planning (Wales) Act 2015. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

¹⁵ UK Government (2016). The Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/56/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended)¹⁶

- 5.3.9 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended) places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to reduce GHG emissions in Wales by at least 100% in 2050¹⁷. The target of net zero emissions (rather than 80% as originally stated in the Act) reflects the Welsh Government's acceptance of the independent CCC recommendation¹⁸ that Wales could achieve a net zero reduction in emissions, which had previously been considered unfeasible. The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended) requires Ministers to set a series of interim targets and five-year carbon budgets to achieve the 2050 target. For 2021-26 this stands at 37% reduction compared to the baseline and for 2026-30 this is set at an average of a 58% reduction¹⁹.
- 5.3.10 These targets establish a clear trajectory for emissions reductions in Wales and provide a framework within which the development of renewable energy infrastructure including wind energy is expected to contribute to achieving statutory climate change objectives.

Wales Act 2017²⁰

- 5.3.11 The Wales Act 2017 sets out a number of changes to the model of devolution and provides further powers for the Welsh Government. Amongst its provisions, decisions are devolved for energy planning development consent for projects up to 350MW onshore and offshore in Welsh waters. The Act effectively removes the Secretary of State's power under the Planning Act 2008 to grant development consent in relation to electricity generating stations, up to those of 350MW (with no limit for onshore wind). Such projects are effectively transferred into the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) regime in Wales, if they are onshore.

Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024²¹

- 5.3.12 The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024 received Royal Assent in June 2024 and introduces a new framework for consenting significant infrastructure projects in Wales. The Act establishes a single consenting regime which replaces the Developments of National Significance (DNS) process and other existing consenting regimes.
- 5.3.13 The new regime came into force on 15 December 2025, supported by a suite of secondary legislation setting out detailed procedural requirements. This includes regulations covering pre-application procedures, application requirements, examination and decision-making, compulsory acquisition and fees.

¹⁶ UK Government (2016). Environment (Wales) Act 2016. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2016/3/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

¹⁷ The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (Amendment of 2050 Emissions Target) Regulations 2021 changed the statutory target within the Environment Act from 80% to 100% and came into force on 12 March 2021.

¹⁸ Climate Change Committee's (2020) The path to Net Zero and progress on reducing emissions in Wales.

¹⁹ The Climate Change (Carbon Budgets) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 amended the 2021-2025 carbon budget from an average reduction of 33% to 37% lower than the baseline and came into force on 19 March 2021. The regulations set the carbon budget for the 2026-2030 period and limit to an average of 58% lower than the baseline.

²⁰ UK Government (2017). Wales Act 2017. (Online) Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2017/4/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

²¹ Welsh Government (2024) Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2024/3/contents> (Accessed June 2026).

- 5.3.14 In addition, the Welsh Government has published a range of supporting guidance documents to assist with implementation of the new regime. This includes guidance on the overall consenting process.
- 5.3.15 Transitional provisions apply to projects already progressing under the DNS regime. Where specified criteria are met, such projects may continue to be considered and determined under that regime.

The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017²²

- 5.3.16 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (EIA Regulations) apply to applications falling under the DNS regime. The EIA Regulation Schedules define the applicability of the regulations. EIA development is defined as either:
- Schedule 1 development; or
 - Schedule 2 development, which is considered to be “development likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location.”
- 5.3.17 In the context of the Proposed Development, Schedule 2 is the relevant schedule. In particular, paragraph 3(i) (*“Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)”*) provides the relevant thresholds against which the applicability of EIA regulations are assessed. The Proposed Development subject to this ES qualifies as EIA development due to it being above the threshold for quantum (set at more than 2 turbines) and hub height (being more than 15 metres).
- 5.3.18 Schedule 4(3) sets out the requirements for the assessment to be included in the ES: “A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the inter-relationship between the above factors.”

UK Wide Strategies and Plans

UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)²³

- 5.3.19 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (HM Government, 2009) outlined the UK’s commitment to source 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020, whilst reducing its fossil fuel consumption by 10% and gas imports by 20-30%. The aim was to generate more than 30% of the UK’s electricity needs, 12% of its heating needs and 10% of its transport energy with renewables. The strategy put in place the financial mechanisms necessary for the advancement of these goals with around £30 billion to be invested

²² UK Government (2017). The 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).

²³ HM Government (2009). The UK Renewable Energy Strategy. (Online). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228866/7686.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

between 2009 and 2020. The Strategy was supported by the Renewable Energy Action Plan and Road Map which sought to increase onshore wind capacity.

- 5.3.20 In 2020, 13.6% of final energy consumption in the UK was generated by renewables, below the 15% target. Of the total electricity generated, renewable electricity amounted to 43.1% (BEIS, 2021)²⁴ Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy). In 2022 all renewables accounted for 41.5% of total electricity generation (BEIS, 2023).²⁵

Clean Growth Strategy (2017)²⁶

- 5.3.21 The key message of the Clean Growth Strategy (CGS): Leading the Way to a Low Carbon Future (BEIS, 2017) is that clean growth means growing our national income while cutting GHG emissions. The CGS sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of ‘clean growth’ i.e., deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions. The Strategy draws on the UK’s commitments under the Climate Change Act 2008 and the associated ‘Carbon Budgets’.

Industrial Strategy (2017)²⁷

- 5.3.22 The Industrial Strategy identified “Clean Growth” as one of four Grand Challenges supporting the development of low carbon technologies and infrastructure. While it has since been superseded by more recent policy frameworks, it reflects the UK Government’s long-standing commitment to the transition to a low carbon economy.

Net Zero – The UK’s Contribution to Stopping Global Warming (2019)²⁸

- 5.3.23 This report sets out a number of key findings including: the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recommendation of a new emissions target for the UK: net-zero greenhouse gases by 2050 (acted upon by The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019). For Wales, the report recommended a 95% reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases it produces by 2050. Subsequently, the Welsh Government has adopted a 100% reduction (net zero) target.

²⁴ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (2021). Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy.

²⁵ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (2023). Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES): renewable sources of energy

²⁶ HM Government (2017). The Clean Growth Strategy. Leading the way to a low carbon future. (Online) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

²⁷ HM Government (2017). Industrial Strategy. Building a Britain fit for the future. (online) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/664563/industrial-strategy-white-paper-web-ready-version.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

²⁸ Climate Change Committee (2019) Net Zero – The UK’s contribution to stopping global warming. (Online) Available at: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-the-uks-contribution-to-stopping-global-warming/> (Accessed June 2026).

National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)²⁹

- 5.3.24 The National Infrastructure Strategy (HM Treasury, 2020) sets out the UK Government's approach to deliver significant improvements to UK infrastructure which will enable economic growth and progress towards the net zero by 2050 ambition.
- 5.3.25 At page 51 the strategy recognises the need to increase capacity from onshore wind: "To deliver net zero, the share of generation from renewables needs to dramatically increase. While the UK leads the world in the deployment of offshore wind, greater generation capacity will need to come from onshore wind and solar as well."

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)³⁰

- 5.3.26 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (BEIS, 2021) provides the overarching UK wide strategy to reach the UK's target for net zero emissions in 2050. The strategy set outs a delivery pathway to achieve net zero in 2050 with policies and proposals to keep the UK on track for emissions reductions targets to up to the sixth carbon budget covering the period 2033-2037. Amongst its policies, the strategy seeks to fully decarbonise the UK power system by 2035. Key to achieving this is the commitment to "*transform (the UK's) energy system away from fossil fuels to low carbon sources of energy, such as renewable electricity generated in the UK*" (page. 39).

British Energy Security (2022)³¹

- 5.3.27 The British Energy Security Strategy (BEIS, 2022) provides the overarching UK wide strategy to accelerate the transition away from oil and gas, providing a Ten-point plan for the green industrial revolution. Amongst its strategy, it supports the work underway by the Welsh Government, Ofgem and networks to improve grid connections for onshore wind developments.

Powering Up Britain – March 2023 Energy Security Secretary Statements³²

- 5.3.28 On 30th March 2023, the UK Government announced a commitment and drive to improve the energy market and energy security within Britain. The Energy Security Secretary identified billions of pounds of additional funding would be provided to the industry in order to develop and implement more green energy development. The fifth round of Contracts for Difference has a budget of £205 million to directly provide support for the development of renewable energy within Britain. The main Powering Up Britain document identified that

²⁹ HM Treasury (2020). National Infrastructure Strategy. Fairer, faster, greener. (online) Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/938539/NIS_Report_Web_Accessible.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

³⁰ HM Government (2021). Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener. (Online). (Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

³¹ HM Government (2022). British Energy Security Strategy. (Online). Available at: [British energy security strategy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/british-energy-security-strategy.pdf) (Accessed June 2026)

³² HM Government (2023). Shapps sets out plans to drive multi billion pound investment in energy revolution. (Online) Available at: [Shapps sets out plans to drive multi billion pound investment in energy revolution - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/shapps-sets-out-plans-to-drive-multi-billion-pound-investment-in-energy-revolution). (Accessed June 2026).

onshore wind should be recognised in planning as an efficient, cheap and widely supported technology³³.

Carbon Budget Delivery Plan (2023)³⁴

- 5.3.29 The Carbon Budget Delivery Plan 2023 has been designed and adopted to aid in the achievement of the goals contained within the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget. The Delivery Plan estimates that currently the UK would not be able to meet the requirements of the Sixth Carbon Budget, barely missing its target by 3% (reaching 97% of the required carbon savings by 2037) (page 15). However, the Delivery Plan highlights the need for continued research into low-carbon technologies and their use to enable the Sixth Carbon Budget to be met and exceeded and the Delivery Plan is confident such technologies would ensure the achievement of the Sixth Carbon Budget's requirements in reality (page 15-16).
- 5.3.30 Onshore wind is identified as one of the key technologies that are helping the UK meet the requirements of the Carbon Budgets. Part of the Delivery Plan's advice is for the UK to establish local partnerships that can develop onshore wind farm development.
- 5.3.31 The Delivery Plan identifies onshore wind as an efficient, cheap, and widely supported technology (page 49). The Delivery Plan also identifies that establishing energy connections to renewable energy development (including onshore wind) should be made easier, to help provide assurance and savings to energy development developers.

Powering Up Britain – The Net Zero Growth Plan (2023)³⁵

- 5.3.32 Released in March 2023, the Net Zero Growth Plan seeks to reduce emissions across the economy of the UK and support the transition of its economy to being net zero, whilst maintaining economic growth. The Net Zero Growth Plan states the following with regard to the future of the UK's energy sector, "*A secure, reliable, cost-effective, decarbonised power sector is critical for a modern industrial economy*" (page 26).
- 5.3.33 Demand for renewable energy is only going to increase in the future as the Net Zero Growth Strategy identifies that the demand for energy is likely to increase by up to 60% by 2035, making it harder to achieve decarbonisation goals (page 27).
- 5.3.34 The Net Zero Growth Plan reiterates the statement that onshore wind is an efficient, cheap and widely supported technology (page 27).

³³ HM Government (2023). Powering Up Britain. (Online) Available at: [Powering Up Britain - Joint Overview](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Powering-Up-Britain-Joint-Overview.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Powering-Up-Britain-Joint-Overview.pdf)). (Accessed June 2026). Page 23.

³⁴ HM Government (2023). Carbon Budget Delivery Plan. (Online) Available at: [Carbon Budget Delivery Plan](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Carbon-Budget-Delivery-Plan.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Carbon-Budget-Delivery-Plan.pdf)). (Accessed June 2026).

³⁵ HM Government (2023). Powering Up Britain – The Net Zero Growth Plan. (Online) Available at: [Powering Up Britain - The Net Zero Growth Plan](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Powering-Up-Britain-The-Net-Zero-Growth-Plan.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1184444/Powering-Up-Britain-The-Net-Zero-Growth-Plan.pdf)). (Accessed June 2026).

Clean Power 2030 Action Plan (2024)³⁶

- 5.3.35 The Clean Power 2030 Action Plan sets out the UK Government's pathway to delivering a clean electricity system by 2030, including accelerating the deployment of renewable energy and reforming grid connections to enable timely delivery of infrastructure.

Welsh National Strategies and Plans

A Low Carbon Revolution: Wales' Energy Policy Statement (2010)³⁷

- 5.3.36 The Energy Policy Statement (EPS) set the objective for Wales to become a world leader in low carbon energy following consultation on the Energy Route Map. The EPS summarises the pressing arguments to tackle climate change highlighting that: *"unless we quickly reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases, the world will probably be another 3°C hotter by 2060 and there will be much higher risks of catastrophic global climate changes"*. The headline target contained within the EPS is *"to renewably generate up to twice as much electricity annually by 2025 as we use today"* (page 26). With regard to onshore wind the target identified is *"to have 4.5 kWh/d/p of installed onshore wind generation capacity by 2015/2017"* (page 14). It recognises that the average electrical power consumption per person per day in Wales is approximately 22 kWh/d/p, so this target represents 20% of electricity consumption coming from onshore wind within the seven years following publication (to 2017).
- 5.3.37 Whilst the targets set out in the Energy Policy Statement have now been superseded by more recent policy frameworks, the document remains an important early statement of Welsh Government support for renewable energy development.

The Climate Change Strategy for Wales (2010)³⁸

- 5.3.38 This document sets out the Welsh Government's commitments to and strategy for managing climate change in Wales through reducing GHG emissions and enabling effective adaptation in Wales. The Strategy sets targets to reduce GHG emissions in Wales by 3% every year and achieve at least a 40% reduction by 2020 compared to figures from the 1990 baseline. The commitments have subsequently been superseded by the legal requirements of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, which introduced legally binding emissions reduction targets and carbon budgets for Wales.

³⁶ UK Government (2024) Clean Power 2030 Action Plan: A New Era of Clean Electricity. (Online) Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/677bc80399c93b7286a396d6/clean-power-2030-action-plan-main-report.pdf> (Accessed June 2026)

³⁷ Welsh Assembly Government (2010). A Low Carbon Revolution – The Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement. (Online) Available at: <http://www.marineenergywales.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WAG-low-carbon-revolution2.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

³⁸ Welsh Assembly Government (2010). Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Delivery Plan for Emission Reduction. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-04/climate-change-research-emission-reduction-scenarios.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition (2012) ³⁹

- 5.3.39 Energy Wales sets out the how the Welsh Government will work in partnership with private, public and social sectors to ensure the transition to a low carbon economy to secure a wealthier, more resilient and sustainable future for Wales. Amongst other measures, the document states that the Welsh Government seeks to make the best use of commercially proven renewable energy sources, facilitate appropriate deployment to deliver against Wales's low carbon objectives and realise the significant wealth generating opportunities Wales has.
- 5.3.40 The Welsh Government wants to provide leadership on the energy agenda in Wales. It aims to improve a number of areas to ensure the energy agenda progresses to a more low carbon format. In specific relation to delivering renewable energy the statement explains that in 2010 capacity from wind farms was 562MW, with 62% of renewable energy coming from wind or solar. The aim is to make best use of proven renewable sources, including onshore wind, and deliver against low carbon objectives. This will include improvements to the planning and consenting regime and ensure that the necessary infrastructure for a diverse portfolio of renewable energy is delivered.

Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition Delivery Plan (2014)⁴⁰

- 5.3.41 The Energy Wales Delivery Plan sets out how the Welsh Government proposed to implement the objectives set out in the Energy Wales (2012) document. The Delivery Plan includes a number of themes and priority project areas which are within the gift of the devolved administration to support, aimed at supporting the transition to a low carbon energy system and facilitating the deployment of renewable energy technologies.

Energy Generation Targets for Wales: Statement to Assembly Members (2017) and 2023 Update ⁴¹

- 5.3.42 In September 2017, the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs announced to the Welsh Assembly that the Welsh Government was setting a target for Wales to generate 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030 and a target for 1GW of renewable electricity capacity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030. Additionally, it set a target for all renewable energy projects to have an element of local ownership.
- 5.3.43 In January 2023 the Welsh Government⁴² announced an updated target to meet 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2035 and to achieve 1.5GW of renewable

³⁹ Welsh Government (2012). Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/energy-wales-a-low-carbon-transition.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁴⁰ Welsh Government (2014). Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition Delivery Plan. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-07/energy-wales-a-low-carbon-delivery-plan.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁴¹ Welsh Government (2017) Lesley Griffiths high on ambition for clean energy. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/lesley-griffiths-high-ambition-clean-energy> (Accessed June 2026).

⁴² Welsh Government (2023a) Climate Change Minister - Wales aims to meet 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2035 (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/wales-aims-meet-100-its-electricity-needs-renewable-sources-2035> (Accessed June 2026)

energy capacity within local ownership by 2035, these targets have now been formally adopted⁴³.

Policy Statement: Local Ownership of Energy Generation in Wales – Benefitting Wales Today and for Future Generations (2020)⁴⁴

- 5.3.44 This policy statement places considerable importance on moving from polluting energy generating technologies to renewables. It also identifies that Wales has made considerable and impressive gains in ensuring energy generating facilities have some form of public ownership, contributing to local economies considerably more than traditional ownership methods.
- 5.3.45 The Policy Statement clarifies the definition of local ownership as “energy installations, located in Wales, which are owned by one or more individuals or organisations wholly owned and based in Wales, or organisations whose principal headquarters are located in Wales. This includes the following categories: Businesses; Farms and estates; Households and other domestic scale generation; Local Authorities; Other public sector organisations; Registered Social Landlords; Third sector organisations including social enterprises and charities, their subsidiaries, trading arms and special purpose vehicles.”

Programme for Government (2021)⁴⁵

- 5.3.46 The Welsh Government’s Programme for Government published in June 2021 sets out the actions that the Welsh Government intend to take over the lifetime of the Senedd. It seeks to ensure that tackling the climate and nature emergencies is at the heart of Welsh Government activity. One of the ten well-being objectives is “*Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do.*”

Net Zero Wales (2021)⁴⁶

- 5.3.47 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 (as amended) Act requires the publication of a report setting out policies and proposals for each carbon budget period. In October 2021, the Welsh Government published Net Zero Wales: Carbon Budget 2 (2021 to 2025) which builds upon their previous plan Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales (Welsh Government, 2019). This sets out a large number of policies for action in the five-year carbon budget period and proposals for action in the longer term to ensure that Wales

⁴³ Welsh Government (2023b) Consultation Document: Review of Wales’ Renewable Energy Targets (Online) Available at: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/consultations/2023-01/consultation-document-review-of-renewable-energy-targets_0.pdf (Accessed June 2026)

⁴⁴ Welsh Government (2020). Policy Statement: Local Ownership of Energy Generation in Wales – Benefitting Wales Today and for Future Generations. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2020-02/policy-statement-local-ownership-of-energy-generation-in-wales.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁴⁵ Welsh Government (2021). Programme for Government: Well-being Statement. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-06/programme-for-government-2021-to-2026-well-being-statement.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁴⁶ Welsh Government (2021). Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25). (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-10/net-zero-wales-carbon-budget-2-2021-25.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

meets the required average reduction of 37% in GHG emissions against the baseline and is on track to achieve net zero emissions in 2050.

- 5.3.48 The Plan reinforces the importance of delivering energy generation from renewable sources to meet the energy needs of Wales. The plan plays an important role in meeting challenges posed by the climate emergency declared by the Welsh Government in April 2019.⁴⁷

Energy Generation Energy Generation & Use in Wales First Combined Edition (2026)⁴⁸

- 5.3.49 The Energy Generation & Use in Wales First Combined Edition sets out the latest data on renewable energy generation and use. It sets out that 7.9TWh of energy generated in Wales was from renewables in 2024. Renewable electricity generation supplied 36% of total generation (compared to 34% in 2023). Wales had 1,285 MW of onshore wind capacity, which is greater than that in 2023 (1,267MW). Onshore wind provided equivalent to 70% of renewable output generation capacity in Wales. In 2024, 54% of all electricity consumed in Wales originated from renewable sources, showing a marginal increase from the previous year (53%) but still substantially below the 2035, 100% target.

5.4 UK Planning Policy Context

- 5.4.1 This section sets out the relevant UK wide policy context set out in National Policy Statements (NPS). Developments of National Significance (DNS) applications are determined in accordance with *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040* (considered in the next section) in line with the revised legal framework since the NPS were first enacted in 2011. However, the NPS provide broader energy policy context that applies across England and Wales and are therefore briefly reviewed here.

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)⁴⁹

- 5.4.2 A revised version of NPS EN-1 came into force on 06 January 2026, replacing the previous version published in 2024. Section 2 EN-1 sets out the Governments commitment to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and reflects more recent policy objectives, including the delivery of a decarbonised power system under the Clean Power 2030 programme.
- 5.4.3 Recent revisions to the NPS (EN-1), alongside the Infrastructure Planning (Onshore Wind and Solar Generation) Order 2025, support the accelerated deployment of low carbon energy infrastructure. These changes include the reintroduction of onshore wind projects exceeding 100MW into the NSIP regime in England. The NPS also recognises the

⁴⁷ Welsh Government (2019) Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths Welsh Government makes climate emergency declaration

⁴⁸ Welsh Government (2026) Energy Generation & Use in Wales First Combined Edition. (Online) Available at: [Energy Generation & Use in Wales: first combined edition](#) (Accessed June 2026).

⁴⁹ UK Government (2025). Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). (online) Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1015f41883f4e50ed9ab/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

devolved planning context, noting that decisions relating to onshore electricity generating stations in Wales are devolved and determined under the Welsh planning system, rather than the NSIP regime. As such, the provisions of EN-1 relating to NSIPs are not of direct relevance to the direct relevance to the determination of onshore wind developments in Wales, although is noted within the NPS that it may be a relevant consideration in planning decisions.

- 5.4.4 EN-1 identifies the delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure as a Critical National Priority, reflecting the urgent need for such development to meet net zero targets and ensure energy security. Within the NSIP regime, this establishes a strong policy presumption in favour of consent, with the benefits of low carbon energy development likely to outweigh residual adverse impacts in all but the most exceptional circumstances. While this policy framework applies primarily to nationally significant infrastructure, it is nevertheless relevant in demonstrating the national importance and urgency of renewable energy development.
- 5.4.5 The Proposed Development would support the overarching aims of EN-1 by delivering renewable energy which would contribute to the achievement of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Overarching National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)⁵⁰

- 5.4.6 A revised version of NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) came into force on 06 January 2026. The scope of revised EN-3 reflects recent changes to the planning framework, most notably including the reintroduction of onshore wind >100MW into the NSIP regime in England.
- 5.4.7 The Welsh Government sees onshore wind as a key element of the infrastructure required in Wales and schemes over 10MW are considered to be of a scale to be nationally significant. This is embedded in Future Wales: the National Plan and Planning Policy Wales 12. Decisions on onshore wind developments in Wales are devolved and are determined under the Welsh planning system (including the Developments of National Significance regime), rather than under the NSIP regime to which EN-3 primarily relates.
- 5.4.8 Nevertheless, EN-3 remains a relevant consideration, as it reflects the UK Government's strengthened support for renewable energy deployment, the urgent need for significantly increased low-carbon electricity generation, and alignment with Clean Power 2030 objectives. As such, it can be afforded limited weight in demonstrating the wider national need and policy support for onshore wind.

5.5 National Planning Policy Context

- 5.5.1 Welsh national policy is set out in Future Wales: The National Plan, Planning Policy Wales 12 (PPW) and relevant supplementary Technical Advisory Notes (TAN). This section considers the documents in turn.

⁵⁰ UK Government (2025). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). (online) Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/695d1368b5c46330350ed9a2/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf> (Accessed June 2026)

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (2021)⁵¹

- 5.5.2 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 (Future Wales) was published by the Welsh Government in February 2021. Future Wales sets out the national development framework for Wales and has development plan status. As the highest tier of the development plan, it provides the framework for the development of regional level Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) (which have yet to be produced) and Local Development Plans (LDPs). Future Wales is the Welsh Government's *"strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, achieving decarbonisation and climate resilience, developing strong eco systems and improving the health and well-being of our communities"* (page. 6). Future Wales is the policy document against which DNS (including the Proposed Development subject to this draft ES) must be determined in accordance with unless material considerations indicate otherwise, in line with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 5.5.3 Future Wales has been prepared to provide a clear, long term spatial direction for Government policy, action and investment in Wales. It sets out a framework for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, inclusive of decarbonisation. It states (page. 46): *"Future Wales together with Planning Policy Wales will ensure the planning system focuses on delivering a decarbonised and resilient Wales through the places we create, the energy we generate, the natural resources and materials we use and how we live and travel."*
- 5.5.4 Future Wales recognises the role that Wales can play in supporting the use of renewable energy. It recognises that *"Wales can become a world leader in renewable energy technologies"* (page. 48) Furthermore, it recognises that *"Our wind and tidal resources, our potential for solar generation, our support for both large and community scaled projects and our commitment to ensuring the planning system provides a strong lead for renewable energy development, mean we are well placed to support the renewable sector, attract new investment and reduce carbon emissions"* (page. 48).
- 5.5.5 Future Wales sets out 11 outcomes to provide a vision for change to 2040. Outcome 11 seeks *"A Wales where people live ... in places which are decarbonised and climate-resilient"* (page. 56). Further it states, *"The challenges of the climate emergency demand urgent action on carbon emissions and the planning system must help Wales lead the way in promoting and delivering a competitive, sustainable decarbonised society"* (page. 56).
- 5.5.6 Future Wales reaffirms the Welsh Government's commitment to maximising renewable and the Welsh Government targets (although as noted above these are subject to change):
- For 100% of electricity consumption to be generated from renewable energy by 2035;
 - For 1.5 gigawatt of renewable energy capacity to be locally owned by 2035; and
 - For new renewable energy projects to have at least an element of local ownership from 2020.

⁵¹ Welsh Government (2021). Future Wales: The National Plan 2040. (online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/future-wales-the-national-plan-2040.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

- 5.5.7 Future Wales confirms that energy generation accounted for 29% of GHG emissions in 2018 and is clear that large scale renewable electricity generation is vital meeting renewable energy and climate change targets and alternatives would not meet the targets (page. 97):
- “The Welsh Ministers have considered alternatives to the need for new large-scale electricity generation infrastructure, including building-mounted installations and energy efficiency measures. Although we believe that these measures have an important part to play in meeting our energy, decarbonisation and climate change targets, they will not enable us to meet these objectives on their own.”*
- 5.5.8 Future Wales identifies 10 Pre-assessed Areas (PAAs) for wind energy within which there is a presumption in favour of large-scale wind development under Future Wales’ Policy 17 - Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure subject to detailed criteria in Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance. Policy 17 states that *“The Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs”* whilst decision makers are required to give *“significant weight”* to the need to meet international commitments and Wales’ target to generate 70% of energy from renewables by 2030. Policy 18 provides a detailed decision-making framework for the renewable and low carbon energy developments. The Site is located in PAA for wind energy location 10.
- 5.5.9 Additionally, Policy 9 – Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure states that the resilience of ecosystems and green infrastructure assets must be demonstrated as part of development proposals. Policy 33 – National Growth Area – Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys sets out the overall strategic view for development in the South East which includes the area covered by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC). Amongst its provisions, the Policy states that *“The Welsh Government supports co-ordinated regeneration and investment in the Valleys area to improve well-being, increase prosperity and address social inequalities.”*

Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) (2024)⁵²

- 5.5.10 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. PPW Edition 12 was adopted in February 2024. PPW, with the supporting Technical Advice Notes (TAN), Circulars and Policy Clarification letters comprise national planning policy but do not form part of the development plan.
- 5.5.11 At para 3.30 PPW states that *“In 2019 the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency in order to coordinate action nationally and locally to help combat the threats of climate change. The planning system plays a key role in tackling the climate emergency through the decarbonisation of the energy system and the sustainable management of natural resources.”*
- 5.5.12 Chapter 5: Productive and Enterprising Places sets out the planning policy approach to energy within Wales. Para 5.7.6 states that *“The planning system should secure an appropriate mix of energy provision, which maximises benefits to our economy and*

⁵² Welsh Government (2021). Planning Policy Wales Edition 12. (Online) Available at: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-12_1.pdf (Accessed June 2026).

communities whilst minimising potential environmental and social impacts. This forms part of the Welsh Government's aim to secure the strongest economic development policies, to underpin growth and prosperity in Wales, recognising the importance of decarbonisation and the sustainable use of natural resources, both as an economic driver and a commitment to sustainable development."

- 5.5.13 PPW12 reaffirms the Welsh Government's targets for renewable energy generation and local ownership. Para 5.7.7 states that "The benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance." PPW12 states that the planning system should (Para 5.7.7):
- *"Integrate development with the provision of additional electricity grid network infrastructure;*
 - *Optimise energy storage;*
 - *Facilitate the integration of sustainable building design principles in new development;*
 - *Optimise the location of new developments to allow for efficient use of resources;*
 - *Maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation;*
 - *Maximise the use of local energy sources, such as heat networks;*
 - *Minimise the carbon impact of other energy generation; and*
 - *Move away from the extraction of energy minerals, the burning of which is carbon intensive."*
- 5.5.14 PPW12 states that local planning authorities should ensure "development plan policies are supportive of renewable and low carbon energy development in all parts of Wales, direct developments to the right locations and set out clearly the local criteria against which proposals will be evaluated" (Para 5.9.10). PPW12 is also clear that local planning authorities should not seek to amend the PAAs identified in Future Wales within their LDPs.
- 5.5.15 PPW12 affirms that planning applications for onshore wind generating projects over 10MW are made directly to Welsh Ministers as part of the DNS process and are to be considered under the policies of Future Wales.
- 5.5.16 A number of changes to PPW were included as part of PPW12, which mainly relate to Chapter 6 of PPW. The changes bring into practice updated policies and approaches including the use of the 'DECCA Framework' and the 'Step-wise approach' for delivery of net benefit for biodiversity. Amongst the changes is also the identification of the need for all planning applications to be supported by a Green Infrastructure Statement proportionate to the development proposed.

Technical Advice Notes

Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)⁵³

- 5.5.17 TAN 5 provides advice about how the land use planning system should contribute to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation within Wales. It sets out the key principles of planning for nature conservation for both local development plans and when deciding planning applications that may affect nature conservation. These include:
- Being mindful of the principles of sustainable development, environmental limits, the precautionary principle;
 - Contributing to the protection and improvement of the environment;
 - Promoting the conservation and enhancement of statutorily designated areas and undeveloped coast;
 - Ensuring that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance;
 - Protecting wildlife and natural features in the wider environment;
 - Ensuring that all material considerations are taken into account and decisions are informed by adequate information about the potential effects of development on nature conservation;
 - Ensuring that the range and population of protected species is sustained; and
 - Avoiding harm to nature conservation, minimising unavoidable harm by mitigation measures, offsetting residual harm by compensation measures and looking for new opportunities to enhance nature conservation.

Technical Advice Note 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities (2010)⁵⁴

- 5.5.18 TAN 6 provides guidance on sustainable rural economies, rural services and housing and agriculture. It notes that planning authorities should support the diversification of the rural economy and that the planning system has a key role to play in supporting the delivery of sustainable rural communities. It goes on to consider the range of rural matters that the planning system should address from homes and employment opportunities to rural services whilst protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment and safeguarding the countryside and open spaces. It also notes the need to respond to the challenges posed by climate change and identifies that one method which can contribute to this is renewable energy generation, particularly using local renewable sources. In paragraph 3.7.2, TAN6 considers farm diversification and notes the range of activities

⁵³ Welsh Assembly Government (2009). Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan5-nature-conservation.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁵⁴ Welsh Assembly Government (2010). Technical Advice Note 6: Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan6-sustainable-rural-communities.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

which can be sustainably located on farms and notes that the production of renewable energy is likely to be an appropriate use.

Technical Advice Note 11: Noise (1997)⁵⁵

- 5.5.19 TAN 11 provides advice on how the planning system can be used to minimise the adverse impact of noise, without placing unreasonable burdens on applicants. Local planning authorities must ensure that noise generating development does not cause an unacceptable degree of disturbance. They should also bear in mind that if subsequent intensification or change of use results in greater intrusion, consideration should be given to the use of appropriate conditions.

Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016)⁵⁶

- 5.5.20 The purpose of this TAN is to equip all those involved in the design of development with advice on how ‘promoting sustainability through good design’ may be facilitated through the planning system and the preparation and validation of mandatory design and access statements. There are a number of key objectives in relation to design which are set out by TAN 12:

- Access - Ensuring ease of access for all;
- Character - Sustaining or enhancing local character, promoting legible development, promoting a successful relationship between public and private space, promoting quality, choice and variety and promoting inclusive design;
- Community Safety - Ensuring attractive, safe public spaces and security through natural surveillance;
- Environmental Sustainability - Achieving efficient use and protection of natural resources, enhancing biodiversity and designing for change; and
- Movement - Promoting sustainable means of travel.

Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development (2014)⁵⁷

- 5.5.21 TAN 23 sets out guidance for the approach to economic development. Under section 3, TAN 23 reaffirms the importance of sustainable economic development in rural areas. Under paragraph 2.1.13 the TAN restates that the planning system should support (inter alia) the low-carbon economy. TAN 23 states that the balance between economic benefits and social and environment impacts need to be carefully weighed up and decisions on each case will depend on local circumstances.

⁵⁵ Welsh Assembly Government (1997). Technical Advice Note 11: Noise. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan11-noise.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁵⁶ Welsh Government (2016). Technical Advice Note 12: Design. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan12-design.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁵⁷ Welsh Government (2014). Technical Advice Note 23: Economic Development. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-09/tan23-economic-development.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment (2026)⁵⁸

- 5.5.22 TAN 24 provides guidance on how the planning system should consider the historic environment during development plan preparation and decision making on planning applications.

5.6 Local Planning Policy Context

- 5.6.1 This section sets out the local planning policy context including the Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Replacement Local Development Plan (LDP) (2018-2033), Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) LDP (2006-2021), Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC) LDP (2011-2026) and relevant supplementary planning guidance (SPG). As set out above, Future Wales in the highest tier of the development plan. The adopted LDP's form the local part of the development plan for the site. RCTCBC and NPTCBC are currently preparing replacement LDP's, which are considered further below.
- 5.6.2 There are also a range of SPG documents in place for BCBC, RCTCBC and NPTCBC which are also relevant to the consideration of the scheme. SPGs supplement and explain the policies in the LDP – they do not form part of the development plan but can act as material considerations in the decision making process.

Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan 2018 to 2033⁵⁹

- 5.6.3 The Proposed Development is predominantly located within the boundary of BCBC. The LDP for BCBC is the replacement LDP which has a plan period extending from 2018-2033 and was adopted in March 2024.
- 5.6.4 The LDP sets out the key policies and land use allocations that will shape the future of Bridgend and guide development up to 2033.
- 5.6.5 The LDP policies relevant to the Proposed Development are included in **Table 5.1**. The policies are considered in more detail in the relevant technical chapters of the Draft ES.

Table 5.1 Replacement Bridgend Local Development Plan 2018 to 2033

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
SP1: Regeneration and Sustainable Growth	Requires the proposal to demonstrate alignment with the Plan's strategic spatial approach, sustainability objectives and infrastructure led growth principles.
SP3: Good Design and Sustainable Placemaking	Policy SP3 requires all development to deliver high-quality design and adopt a sustainable placemaking approach, creating attractive, healthy and well-connected places that respond positively to their natural, historic and built context. Proposals must demonstrate good design principles through appropriate

⁵⁸ Welsh Government (2026). Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment. (Online) Available at: <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2026-03/technical-advice-note-tan-24-the-historic-environment.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁵⁹ Bridgend County Borough Council (2024) Local Development Plan 2018-2033. (Online) Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/izcfqp1f/written-statement.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
	scale, layout, materials and density, while promoting active travel, efficient land use, community safety and environmental protection. The policy also emphasises biodiversity enhancement, sustainable resource use, climate resilience, and the provision of necessary infrastructure, ensuring that development supports both existing communities and future needs without adversely affecting amenity or environmental quality.
SP4: Mitigating the Impact of Climate Change	Policy SP4 requires all development proposals to contribute positively to climate change mitigation and adaption. This includes promoting sustainable transport, minimising energy demand, supporting renewable and low carbon energy generation, using resources more efficiently, enhancing biodiversity resilience and avoiding flood risk. Proposals must clearly demonstrate how these measures are incorporated into their design and delivery.
SP5: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility	Policy SP5 requires development to be located and designed to minimise the need to travel and reduce reliance on private cars, while facilitating sustainable access to jobs, services and facilities. It promotes the sustainable transport hierarchy, prioritising walking, cycling and public transport, and requires safe and efficient access to transport networks. The policy also seeks to protect and enhance active travel routes, support delivery of local transport improvements, mitigate impacts on the highway network, reduce transport-related emissions, and ensure appropriate parking and infrastructure (including for emerging technologies). Development that would harm the safe and effective operation of the transport network will not be permitted.
PLA9: Development Affecting Public Rights of Way	Requires development to link with and seek to minimise impacts on the PROW network. The policy states that any adverse impacts on the character, safety, enjoyment and convenient use of a PROW must be mitigated.
SP10: Infrastructure	Requires proposal to demonstrate that it is supported by adequate infrastructure capacity or will contribute to the timely provision of necessary infrastructure required to make the development acceptable. This includes ensuring that impacts on transport, utilities, education, community facilities, drainage and other essential services are appropriately assessed and mitigated.
SP13: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Development	The policy supports renewable and low carbon energy development where proposals avoid unacceptable environmental, landscape, transport and amenity impacts, provide for restoration and grid connection, and do not give rise to cumulative effects. It identifies specific Local Search Areas as suitable for wind and solar development and seeks to safeguard these areas from development that would prejudice their renewable energy potential, including alignment with Future Wales Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy.
ENT12: Development in Mineral Safeguarding Zones	Policy ENT12 seeks to safeguard mineral resources by ensuring that development within mineral safeguarding areas does not unnecessarily sterilise minerals. Proposals must demonstrate that extraction is either not viable, would not be prejudiced by the development, or that any temporary development can be restored within the timeframe required for future mineral working.

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
SP17: Conservation and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	Policy SP17 seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment by resisting development that would harm landscape character, biodiversity, natural resources or the integrity of the countryside. It affords strong protection to internationally and nationally designated sites, requiring Habitats Regulations Assessment where relevant, and permits development only where it can be demonstrated that there would be no adverse effects on designated sites or environmental quality.
DNP1: Development in the Countryside	Policy DNP1 seeks to conserve and enhance the countryside by maintaining a presumption against development outside settlement boundaries, except for specified uses including renewable energy. Acceptable development must be sustainable, respect natural and cultural heritage, and prioritise the re-use of existing buildings and previously developed land where possible.
DNP5: Local and Regional Nature Conservation Sites	Policy DNP5 seeks to protect local and regional nature conservation sites by resisting development that would harm their ecological or geological value, unless the benefits outweigh the harm or it can be appropriately mitigated or compensated. Development must be compatible with the site's conservation interest and support its ongoing management and educational role
DNP6: Biodiversity, Ecological Networks, Habitats and Species	Policy DNP6 requires development to deliver a net benefit for biodiversity, maintain and enhance ecological networks, and support ecosystem resilience. Proposals must retain and enhance green infrastructure where possible, avoid harm to habitats and species, and minimise impacts through design. Where harm is unavoidable, it must be justified, mitigated, or compensated to ensure no loss—and where possible a net gain—in biodiversity, supported by appropriate ecological assessment.
DNP7: Trees, Hedgerows and Development	This policy requires proposals to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect trees, woodlands or hedgerows of amenity, ecological or cultural value, or those providing important ecosystem services. If any trees are affected the proposals must be supported by a BS 5837 compliant assessment. Where tree loss is unavoidable, a replacement planting and aftercare scheme must be agreed prior to development.
DNP8: Green Infrastructure	Policy DNP8 requires development to integrate with, protect and enhance existing green infrastructure, improving its extent, quality, connectivity and multifunctionality. Where loss is unavoidable it is advised that appropriate mitigation and compensation measures must be provided. The policy also requires all major developments to be supported by a Green Infrastructure Assessment.
DNP9: Natural Resource Protection and Public Health	Policy DNP9 seeks to protect natural resources and public health by ensuring development does not cause or worsen unacceptable risks from pollution, contamination, land instability or other environmental hazards. Proposals must demonstrate that impacts can be avoided or mitigated, with particular regard to sensitive uses and flood risk, supported by appropriate assessments where required.
SP18: Conservation of the Historic Environment	Requires the proposals to demonstrate that they protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the significance of heritage

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
	assets and their settings, with a strong presumption in favour of their preservation.

Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan 2006-2021⁶⁰

- 5.6.6 The access track for the Proposed Development traverses partly through RCTCBC and as such the adopted RCTCBC LDP (2006-2021) is considered to be a relevant consideration.
- 5.6.7 The LDP policies relevant to the Proposed Development and in particular the part of the access track which falls within RCTCBC are included in **Table 5.2**. The policies are considered in more detail in the relevant chapters of the Draft ES.

Table 5.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan 2006-2021

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
CS1: Development in the North	Policy CS1 supports sustainable growth in the Northern Strategy Area by directing development to key settlements, promoting regeneration and reuse of brownfield land, improving accessibility and sustainable transport, supporting economic diversification, and protecting the natural and cultural environment, in order to reduce out-commuting and strengthen local communities
CS10: Minerals	Policy CS10 seeks to safeguard mineral resources and ensure a sustainable supply by maintaining adequate reserves, protecting areas of known resources from sterilisation, and encouraging prior extraction where appropriate. Proposals must incorporate restoration and aftercare, promote efficient use of resources, and ensure impacts on the environment, communities and transport networks are kept within acceptable limits.
AW5: New Development	Policy AW5 supports development where it is well-designed, protects local character and amenity, and is compatible with surrounding uses. Proposals must be accessible by sustainable transport, minimise reliance on the private car, and provide safe access and appropriate parking without causing unacceptable traffic impacts.
AW6: Design and Placemaking	Policy AW6 supports high-quality design and placemaking by requiring development to reflect local character, integrate landscaping, promote sustainable transport and connectivity, and make efficient use of land. Proposals must enhance the built and natural environment, support biodiversity, energy efficiency and water management, and demonstrate flexibility and functionality, with masterplans required for larger residential and commercial schemes.
AW7: Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment	Policy AW7 seeks to protect and enhance the built and historic environment by requiring development affecting heritage or archaeological assets to preserve or enhance their character and appearance. It also resists the loss of open space and access routes unless there is clear surplus, appropriate replacement, or demonstrable enhancement of existing facilities.

⁶⁰ Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (2011) Local Development Plan up to 2021. (Online) Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/LocalDevelopmentPlans/RelateddocumentsLDP20062021/AdoptedLocalDevelopmentPlan.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
AW8: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	Policy AW8 seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment by resisting development that would harm locally designated sites or features of ecological and landscape importance. Proposals must avoid or minimise impacts on biodiversity, ecological networks and natural resources, and demonstrate appropriate mitigation, compensation and ecological assessment where required, with support given to development that contributes to ecological network enhancement.
AW10: Environmental Protection and Public Health	Policy AW10 seeks to protect environmental quality and public health by resisting development that would cause unacceptable harm through pollution, contamination, land instability, flooding or other hazards. Proposals must demonstrate that any adverse impacts can be effectively avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level.
AW14: Safeguarding of Minerals	Policy AW14 seeks to safeguard mineral resources by resisting development that would unnecessarily sterilise or hinder their extraction. It protects identified areas of sand and gravel, sandstone, limestone and coal, and applies buffer zones around active quarries to ensure continued operation.
NSA25: Special Landscape Areas	Policy NSA25 identifies Special Landscape Areas and requires development within them to achieve high standards of design, siting and materials that are appropriate to, and conserve, the character and quality of the landscape.

Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011-2026⁶¹

- 5.6.8 The NPTCBC Local Development Plan (LDP) 2011–2026 adopted in January 2016, forms the statutory development plan for the County Borough and provides the framework for land use and development over the plan period. It establishes the strategic vision, objectives and spatial strategy for the area, alongside a comprehensive set of overarching, area-based and topic-specific policies and site allocations to guide development. The LDP is used as the primary basis for determining planning applications and managing sustainable growth within Neath Port Talbot.
- 5.6.9 Part of the access track for the Proposed Development traverses through NPTCBC. Relevant policies to the access track are therefore listed in **Table 5.3**. The policies are considered in more detail in the relevant technical chapters of the Draft ES.

Table 5.3 Neath Port Talbot Local Development Plan 2011-2026

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
SC1: Settlement Limits	Policy SC1 directs development to within defined settlement limits, where proposals proportionate to the settlement hierarchy are acceptable in principle. Outside settlement limits, development is strictly controlled and only permitted for specific uses, including infrastructure and energy generation, with any

⁶¹ Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (2016) Local Development Plan (2011-2026). (Online) Available at: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/ca2fbumd/ldp_written_statement_jan16.pdf?v=20240823155047 (Accessed June 2026).

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
	proposals required to be sustainably located, well-related to existing development, and appropriate in scale and form.
EN2: Special Landscape Areas	Policy EN2 designates Special Landscape Areas and seeks to protect their high landscape value by only permitting development where it can be demonstrated that there would be no significant adverse impact on their defining characteristics.
SP15: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy SP15 seeks to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity by safeguarding internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites, as well as important habitats, species and geological features. Development must avoid harm and support the long-term management of natural heritage assets.
EN6: Important Biodiversity and Geodiversity Sites	Policy EN6 seeks to protect important local and regional biodiversity and geodiversity sites by requiring development to conserve and enhance their natural heritage value. Proposals will only be permitted where impacts are acceptable or where there are no reasonable alternatives and the benefits outweigh the harm, with appropriate mitigation or compensation secured where necessary.
EN7: Important Natural Features	Policy EN7 seeks to protect important natural features, such as trees, hedgerows and watercourses, by requiring development to retain and integrate these features within design wherever possible. Where loss is unavoidable, appropriate mitigation measures must be provided to address impacts on biodiversity and landscape value.
EN8: Pollution and Land Stability	Policy EN8 requires development proposals to demonstrate that there would not be an unacceptable adverse effect on health, biodiversity and/or local amenity or expose people to unacceptable risk. Proposals must demonstrate that any adverse impacts can be effectively mitigated to an acceptable level.
SP16: Environment Protection	Policy SP16 seeks to protect and improve environmental quality by ensuring development does not cause significant adverse effects on air, water or land, prioritises brownfield land where appropriate, and avoids increasing exposure to pollution for existing or future occupants.
SP17: Minerals	Policy SP17 seeks to ensure a sustainable supply of minerals by safeguarding resources, maintaining adequate reserves, and promoting efficient use of materials. Development must minimise impacts on the environment and communities, with buffer zones used to protect sensitive uses from mineral operations.
M1: Development in Mineral Safeguarding Areas	Policy M1 seeks to safeguard mineral resources by controlling development within mineral safeguarding areas. Proposals will only be permitted where the resource is of no value, can be extracted prior to development, would not be prejudiced, or there is an overriding need, including ensuring temporary uses do not sterilise future mineral extraction.
M3: Development in Mineral Buffer Zones	Policy M3 seeks to protect mineral operations by restricting development within mineral buffer zones unless it can be demonstrated that mineral resources will not be sterilised and that the proposed development would not be adversely affected by ongoing mineral activities.
TR2: Design and Access of New Development	Policy TR2 requires development to ensure safe and efficient access, avoid adverse impacts on the highway network, and be accessible by a range of sustainable transport modes. Proposals

Adopted LDP Policy	Policy Summary
	must provide appropriate parking and servicing and be supported by Transport Assessments and Travel Plans where significant traffic generation is expected.
SP21: Built Environment and Historic Heritage	Policy SP21 seeks to conserve and enhance the built environment and historic heritage by promoting high-quality design, protecting key landscapes and gateways, and safeguarding designated heritage assets, including Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and historic landscapes.
BE1: Design	Policy BE1 requires high-quality, context-led design that respects local character, landscape and heritage, protects amenity and important site features, and promotes safe, inclusive and well-connected places. Development must make efficient use of land and resources, incorporate sustainable drainage and energy efficiency, and support accessibility for all users.

5.7 Other Local Planning Considerations

Supplementary Planning Guidance

BCBC

SPG19 Biodiversity & Development⁶²

- 5.7.1 This guidance promotes a green infrastructure-led approach, requiring development to integrate, protect and enhance biodiversity and natural features as part of the design process rather than treating them as constraints. It emphasises early assessment of ecological assets, retention of existing habitats, and the creation of connected, multifunctional green networks that deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. Development should follow the mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate, enhance), provide appropriate surveys and management plans, and secure long-term maintenance, with opportunities taken to deliver measurable biodiversity enhancements alongside necessary mitigation.

SPG20 Renewables in the Landscape⁶³

- 5.7.2 SPG 20 (Renewables in the Landscape) provides guidance on the siting and design of renewable energy developments to ensure they are appropriately integrated into the landscape. It emphasises the need to understand landscape character and sensitivity, requiring proposals to be informed by robust assessment (including LVIA where necessary) and to minimise adverse visual and cumulative impacts. The SPG promotes careful site selection, high-quality design, and mitigation to protect key landscape features, views and designations, while supporting the delivery of renewable energy in suitable locations where landscape capacity can accommodate development.

⁶² Bridgend County Borough Council (2014) SPG 19 Biodiversity & Development. (Online) Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/a3fou4rh/spg-19-biodiversity-and-development.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁶³ Bridgend County Borough Council (N.D) SPG 20 Renewables in the Landscape. (Online) Available at: <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/media/km3oh30e/spg-20-renewables-in-the-landscape.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

RCTCBC

Access Circulation and Parking⁶⁴

- 5.7.3 This SPG provides detailed guidance on how development should address access, circulation and parking to support sustainable transport and effective placemaking. It requires proposals to demonstrate safe and efficient access to the highway network, supported by proportionate Transport Assessments and Travel Plans where necessary, to identify impacts and secure mitigation measures. The SPG promotes a shift away from car-dominated design, encouraging walking, cycling and public transport, and introduces maximum parking standards based on accessibility and location to help manage demand. It also emphasises high-quality street and layout design, appropriate servicing arrangements, and consideration of public rights of way, alongside the potential for developer contributions and ongoing management measures to ensure that transport infrastructure operates safely and effectively.

Nature Conservation⁶⁵

- 5.7.4 This SPG provides guidance to ensure development protects and enhances biodiversity, geological features and wider ecosystem services as part of the planning process. It emphasises that biodiversity considerations are a material factor for most sites and should be addressed early through appropriate surveys and design. Development should avoid harm to designated sites, protected habitats and species, maintain and enhance ecological networks and connectivity, and follow a mitigation hierarchy where impacts cannot be avoided. Proposals are expected to demonstrate no net loss of biodiversity where possible, incorporate mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures, and secure long-term management through planning conditions or obligations.

NPTCBC

Biodiversity and Geodiversity⁶⁶

- 5.7.5 This SPG requires development to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity as an integral part of the planning process. Proposals must assess ecological and geological features at an early stage, avoid harm to designated sites, habitats and species where possible, and ensure no net loss of biodiversity, with opportunities for net gain encouraged. A step-wise approach is promoted with strong emphasis on maintaining

⁶⁴ Rhondda Cynon Taf (2011) Delivering Design and Placemaking: Access, Circulation & Parking Requirements. (Online) Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/LocalDevelopmentPlans/RelateddocumentsSupplymentaryplanningGuidanc/AccessCirculationandParkingSPG.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁶⁵ Rhondda Cynon Taf (2011) Nature Conservation. (Online) Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/LocalDevelopmentPlans/RelateddocumentsSupplymentaryplanningGuidanc/NatureConservationSPG.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁶⁶ Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (2018) Biodiversity and Geodiversity. (Online) Available at: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/nqpnpgge/spg_biodiversity_geodiversity_may18.pdf?v=20241209172432 (Accessed June 2026).

ecological connectivity, protecting green infrastructure, and supporting ecosystem resilience. Development must be supported by appropriate surveys, assessment and long-term management measures, with mitigation and compensation secured where impacts are unavoidable and enhancement incorporated wherever possible.

The Historic Environment⁶⁷

- 5.7.6 The SPG requires development to conserve and enhance the historic environment, ensuring that both designated and non-designated heritage assets are protected with a strong presumption in favour of preservation. Proposals must assess impacts on heritage significance and setting, avoid or minimise harm, and justify any adverse effects where unavoidable, while seeking opportunities for sensitive reuse and enhancement of historic assets.

Pollution⁶⁸

- 5.7.7 The SPG requires development to avoid and minimise pollution impacts on health, biodiversity and amenity, ensuring sites are suitable for use and that any effects are mitigated to an acceptable level.

Emerging Local Development Plans

RCT Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2022 – 2037

- 5.7.8 RCTCBC is currently preparing a Revised Local Development Plan for the period 2022-2037. It is currently at the Pre-Deposit (Preferred Strategy) Stage⁶⁹, which was subject to public consultation between February and April 2024.
- 5.7.9 Following consultation, an Initial Consultation Report was prepared, and the Council is progressing work on refining the strategy, policies and allocations in response to representations and ongoing evidence base work.
- 5.7.10 The Plan is therefore advancing towards the Deposit Plan stage, which will form the next formal stage of consultation prior to submission for independent examination. However, delays to the programme mean that the previous Delivery Agreement timetable⁷⁰ (which anticipated adoption in May 2026) has not been met and is now out of date.

⁶⁷ Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (2019). The Historic Environment. (Online) Available at: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/zasgszo5/spg_historic_environment_april19.pdf?v=20241209172433 (Accessed June 2026).

⁶⁸ Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (2016) Pollution. (Online) Available at: https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/uhck2amj/spg_pollution_oct16.pdf?v=20241209172432 (Accessed June 2026).

⁶⁹ Rhondda Cynon Taf (2024) Revised Local Development Plan April 2022 – April 2037 Preferred Strategy. (Online) Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/RelatedDocuments/Pdfs/RevisedLDP20222037PreferredStrategy.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁷⁰ Rhondda Cynon Taf (2023) Revised Local Development Plan 2022-2037 Delivery Agreement. (Online) Available at: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/PlanningandBuildingControl/RelatedDocuments/Pdfs/RCTRevisedLDPDeliveryAgreement.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

NPT Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2023-2038

- 5.7.11 The emerging Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2023–2038 is currently at the Preferred Strategy stage, which establishes the high-level vision, growth strategy, strategic policies and key development sites for the County Borough.
- 5.7.12 Public consultation on the Preferred Strategy was undertaken between December 2024 and February 2025⁷¹, with feedback informing amendments to key site allocations and the supporting evidence base.
- 5.7.13 The RLDP is progressing towards the Deposit Plan stage (anticipated late 2026), with submission for examination expected in 2027 and adoption currently programmed for 2028⁷².

5.8 Other Relevant Strategies

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCR) Energy Vision and Strategy (2021)⁷³

- 5.8.1 Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCR) (which includes CCBC) has developed an Energy Vision and Strategy in partnership with the Welsh Government. The Strategy seeks to set out a route to decarbonisation that will enable the region to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050, which includes supporting low carbon technologies. The vision is guided by three core principles, which seek to:
 1. Act as an enabler to a sustainable regional economy: deliver inclusive employment, profits and skills, lower costs and open up markets, and stimulate public and private investment in capital projects that deliver low carbon improvements across the region.
 2. Contribute wider benefits to the region: including alleviating fuel poverty, sparking innovation and developing local training and skills.
 3. Decarbonise the energy system to meet national targets as a minimum: carbon reductions across all sectors, energy efficiency as a core focus, and to have a multi-vector system that includes a range of low carbon technologies.
- 5.8.2 The Strategy also seeks to decarbonise the regions public transport through electrification.

⁷¹ Neath Port Talbot Council (2024) Preferred Strategy (Consultation Document). (Online) Available at: <https://media.npt.gov.uk/media/znbliwac/doc-2-eng-preferred-strategy-easy-read-version.pdf?v=20241212120026>. Accessed June 2026).

⁷² Neath Port Talbot Council (2026) Neath Port Talbot Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) 2023-2038. (Online) Available at: <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/documents/s111607/Council%2026-Feb-26%20RLDP%20Report.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁷³ Welsh Government Energy Service (2021) Cardiff Capital Region Energy Strategy. (Online) Available at: <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-11/regional-energy-strategy-cardiff-capital-region.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

Cardiff Capital Region Regional Economic & Industrial Plan 2023-2028⁷⁴

- 5.8.3 The CCR Regional Economic & Industrial Plan 2023-2028 establishes the economic and industrial strategy and future for the region. The Plan seeks to ensure that the economy of the region is “*bigger, fairer and greener*”. (Page 3)
- 5.8.4 The Plan seeks to decarbonise the regions environment by 2050 and highlights that adopting a business as usual approach would ensure the region misses its decarbonisation goals (only achieving 26% decarbonisation by 2035, instead of the needed 55%). The Plan therefore seeks to encourage the development of green technologies within the region and for fundamental changes to occur within its energy market/supply towards green energy. The Plan also identifies that green energy is needed in order to secure the regions/Wales’s energy security.

Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP)

- 5.8.5 Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) are strategic, evidence based frameworks that set out how a defined area can transition to a net zero energy system by 2050. Developed for all Welsh local authorities as part of a national programme, LAEPs provide a locally specific roadmap of actions and investment priorities, including improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable energy generation, decarbonising heat and transport, and upgrading energy networks.
- 5.8.6 They are intended to guide decision making by local authorities, utilities and stakeholders, ensuring that development and infrastructure planning aligns with wider climate objectives, supports resilient and affordable energy systems, and contributes to achieving net zero targets.
- 5.8.7 The Bridgend LAEP⁷⁵ provides a strategic framework for decarbonising the local energy system, including substantial growth in renewable electricity generation such as onshore wind and solar. It identifies the importance of increasing local generation to meet rising demand from electrification of heat and transport, alongside upgrades to the electricity network and supporting infrastructure. The plan promotes early delivery of renewable energy schemes as “low-regret” actions, ensuring that developments such as wind energy contribute to local energy security, carbon reduction and wider net zero objectives.
- 5.8.8 The Rhondda Cynon Taf LAEP⁷⁶ sets out a roadmap to achieve net zero by 2050, prioritising a significant increase in renewable energy generation, including onshore wind, to support local decarbonisation and energy resilience. The plan identifies opportunities for large-scale renewable deployment across the borough, alongside building retrofit, electrification of heating and transport, and network reinforcement. It emphasises that

⁷⁴ Cardiff Capital Region (2023). Cardiff Capital Region Regional Economic & Industrial Plan 2023-2028. (Online) Available at: <https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ccr-reip-2023.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁷⁵ Bridgend County Borough Council (2021) Local Area Energy Plan. (Online) Available at: <file:///C:/Users/UKHVM001/OneDrive%20-%20WSP%200365/Desktop/01a%20BCBC%20LAEP%20Refresh%20Final%20Report%20v1.0%20-%202021-10-13%203.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

⁷⁶ Rhondda Cynon Taf (N.D) Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). (Online) Available at: <https://democracy.npt.gov.uk/documents/s111607/Council%2026-Feb-26%20RLDP%20Report.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).

renewable energy development, including wind, will play a key role in reducing emissions, supporting economic growth and delivering local, low-carbon energy supply in line with regional and national targets.

- 5.8.9 The Neath Port Talbot LAEP⁷⁷ establishes a whole-system pathway to net zero, with a strong emphasis on the expansion of renewable energy generation, including onshore wind, supported by grid reinforcement and enabling infrastructure. It identifies the potential for significant growth in renewable capacity, positioning the area as a net exporter of low-carbon electricity, while also supporting industrial decarbonisation and economic transition. The plan highlights the need to align renewable energy deployment, including wind, with spatial “focus zones”, infrastructure investment and coordinated partnership working to deliver a resilient and low-carbon energy system.

⁷⁷ Neath Port Talbot Council (2024) Local Area Energy Plan 2024. (Online) Available at: <file:///C:/Users/UKHVM001/OneDrive%20-%20WSP%20O365/Desktop/npt-laep-final-english-version.pdf> (Accessed June 2026).