

Welcome...

to our statutory consultation exhibition for the
Convatec Green Manufacturing Hub.

Since we introduced our emerging proposals to the community in the summer of 2023, we've refined our plans for 3 wind turbines and a solar farm on land south of Cwm Carno Farm, adjacent to our factory on the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate, Rhymney.

These detailed proposals have taken into consideration extensive environmental studies along with the community's initial feedback to form the basis of this 6-week consultation. We're now providing a second opportunity to give your views before we submit our application to Welsh Government.

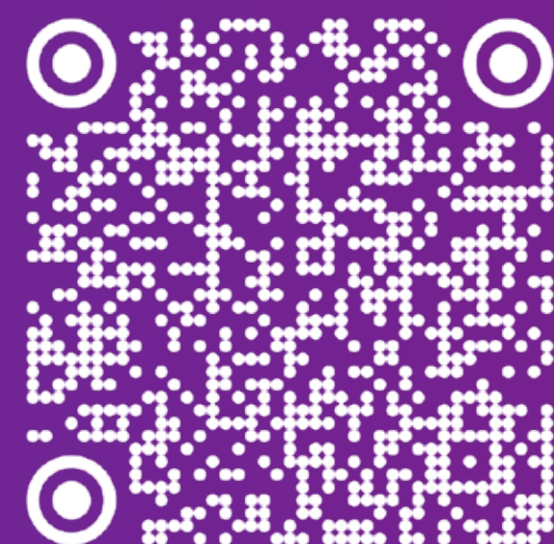
About Convatec

We are a global medical products and technologies company with a factory here in Rhymney and another in Deeside, North Wales. We're committed to improving the lives of people with chronic conditions. Our products are sold in almost 100 countries, employing around 10,000 people worldwide.

In 2022, 840,000 patients were treated with Welsh-manufactured Convatec dressings in the UK, whilst 3.3 million dressings were sold in Wales alone, where we routinely supply to the NHS. In Rhymney, we employ over 100 people.

This project represents an opportunity for stability and growth for our business in Wales which will also help us reach our ambition of becoming net zero worldwide by 2045.

After reviewing our proposals,
please give us your views by:



Completing a paper feedback form available at our events

Filling-in an online feedback form available on the project website:
convatecgroup.com/green-manufacturing-hub-rhymney

You can also email us at:
rhymneygreenhub@convatec.com



Photomontage Viewpoint 10
from Rhymney Common with Convatec plant in foreground

Our detailed proposals and benefits

As part of Convatec's drive to net zero, we're aiming to significantly reduce our reliance on gas and grid electricity in our Rhymney plant.

This would result in manufacturing at our facility having security of supply and predictable costs for the project's 25-year lifetime. At the same time carbon emissions will be greatly reduced in line with our net zero ambitions.

Proposals



Three wind turbines with a blade tip height of 150 metres and a combined capacity of around 15MW.



A solar farm (array of Solar Photovoltaics) with a capacity of approximately 5MW.



Access tracks and cranepads.



A private wire to supply energy from the hub to our manufacturing facility at the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate.



Electrical substation and control building.



Temporary construction and storage compounds.

Benefits

BUSINESS STABILITY

Our proposals aim to ensure a stable green future for our Rhymney and Deeside operations. By generating our own renewable energy we'll be able to plan ahead for the business and be less affected by fluctuating energy prices or geopolitical concerns impacting supply and cost.

Our business will become more environmentally and economically sustainable, as a direct result of our long term investment in Rhymney.

SURPLUS ENERGY

The energy generated is likely to exceed the amount needed to power Convatec's Rhymney operations, and whilst we aim to be able to use some of this to supply our Deeside factory in North Wales, we're also exploring how some of this surplus energy could also be used by neighbouring local businesses and community organisations in and around Rhymney. This involves exploring options with the local authority to supply existing demand as well as future developments.

CARBON REDUCTION

We expect to remove the equivalent of around 13,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which is equal to removing around 2,500 medium sized diesel cars driving 10,000 miles per year from the road annually.^[1]

[1] Based on DESNZ DUKES/REUK calc.)

COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND

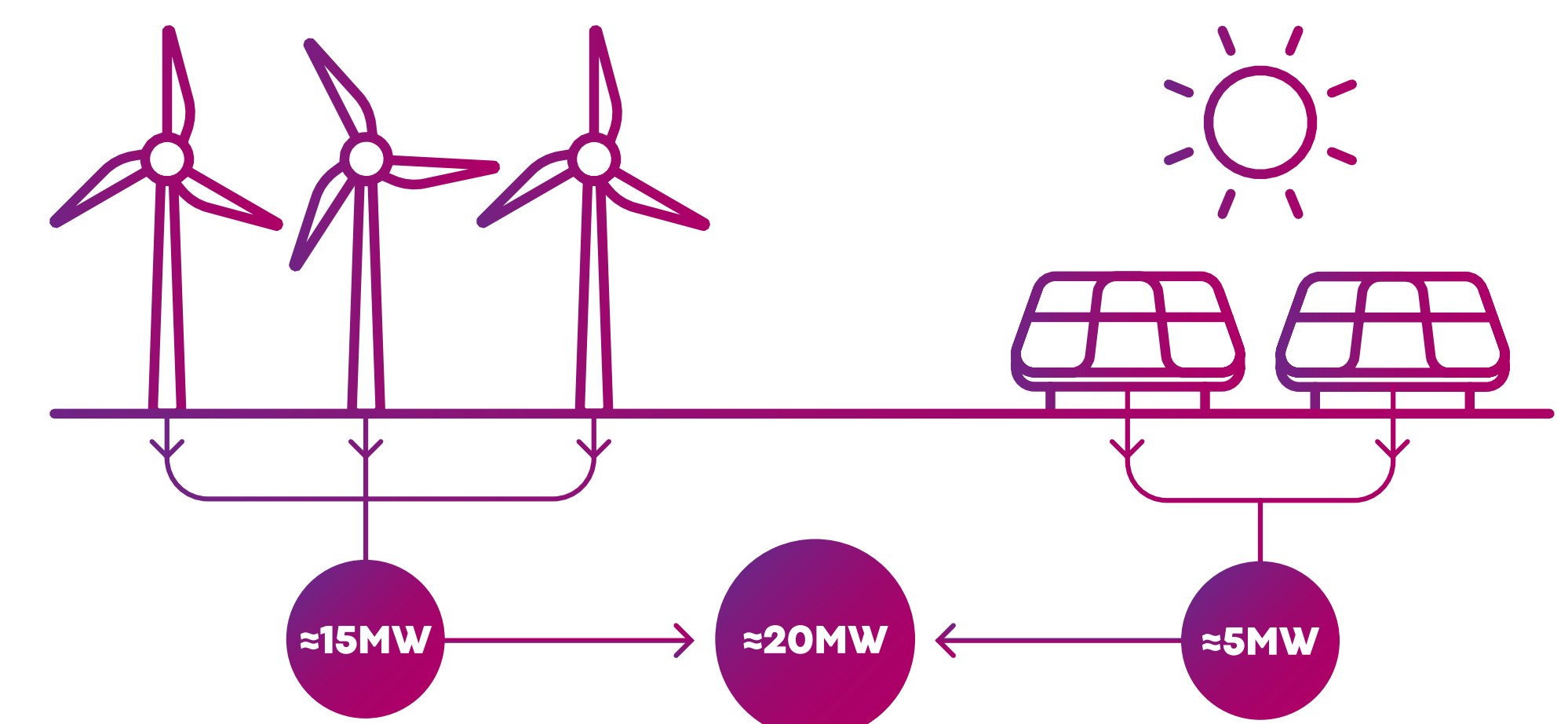
An annual fund of around £75,000 will be available to deliver meaningful local projects in Rhymney. Convatec will fully involve the community in setting up the fund to ensure maximum benefit is achieved. We have already started exploring options for the fund with key local stakeholders and will continue to welcome input and ideas from the community as the proposal moves through the planning process. Ideas so far feature the possibility of combining our fund with those of other existing developments in the area so that bigger projects can be undertaken.

EDUCATION AND GREEN EMPLOYMENT

The hub will be a local educational asset for those looking for employment by providing an introduction to job opportunities in the ever-increasing world of clean energy.

POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

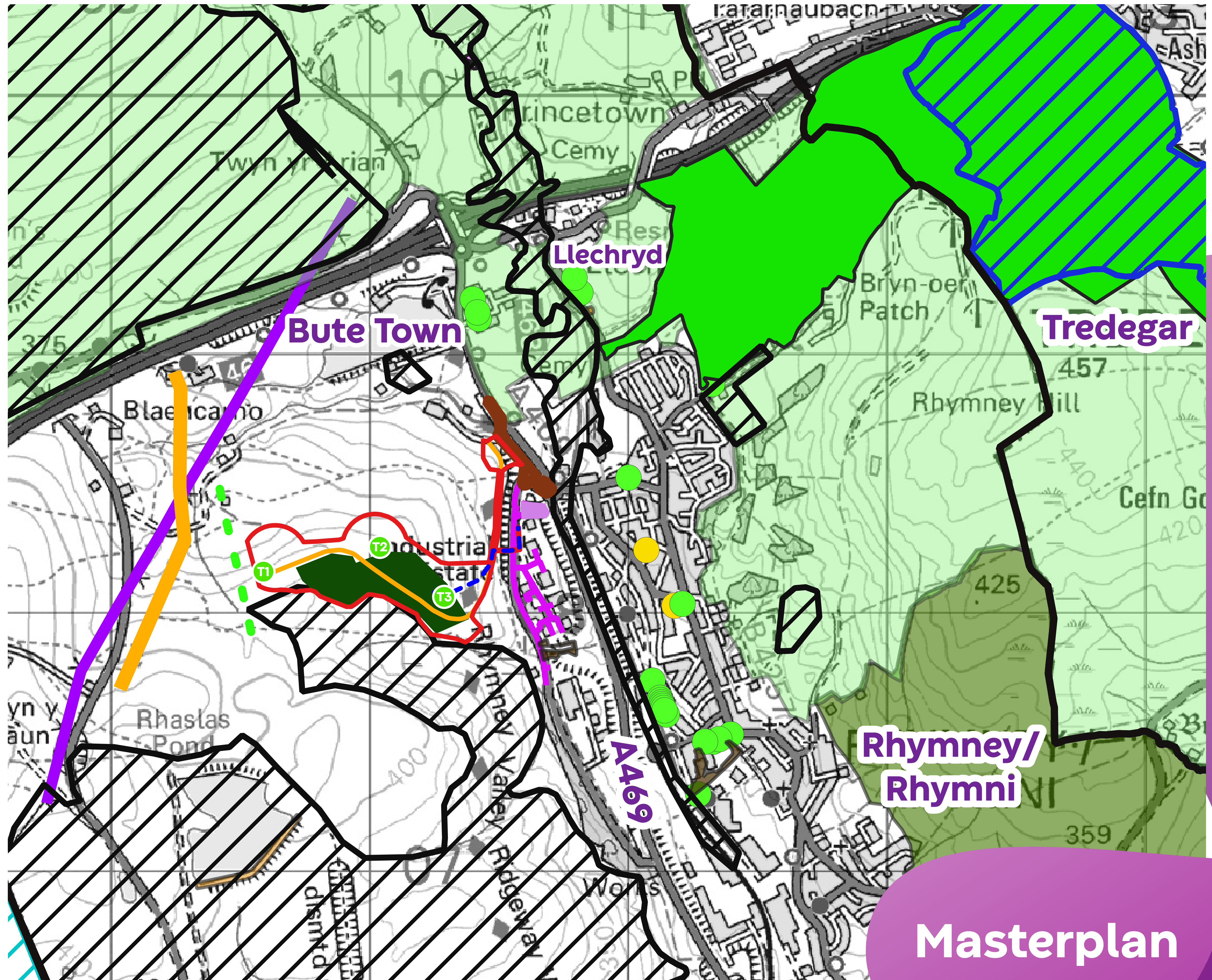
To get the maximum net zero benefit from the project we are exploring the possibility of using some surplus energy to produce Green Hydrogen. If this becomes an option, it would be subject to a separate planning application and public consultation process.



Decarbonising manufacturing in Rhymney

LEGEND

- On-Site Redline Boundary
- Off-Site Redline Boundary
- Site of Special Scientific Interest
- Special Areas of Conservation
- National Parks
- Local Nature Reserve
- Country Parks
- Ancient Woodland
- Scheduled Ancient Monument
- Registered Historic Park and Garden
- Grade I Listed Buildings
- Grade II* Listed Buildings
- Grade II Listed Buildings
- Historic Landscapes
- Low Pressure Gas Mains
- High Pressure Gas Mains
- Overhead Cables
- WPD Cable
- Special Landscape Areas
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- Visually Important Local Landscapes



Masterplan

Project setting

These photomontages show what the hub would look like from a selection of viewpoints.

These views are from locations which were pre-agreed with Caerphilly County Borough Council's planning department.

The full collection of photomontages can be found on the digital screen at our public events and on our project website.



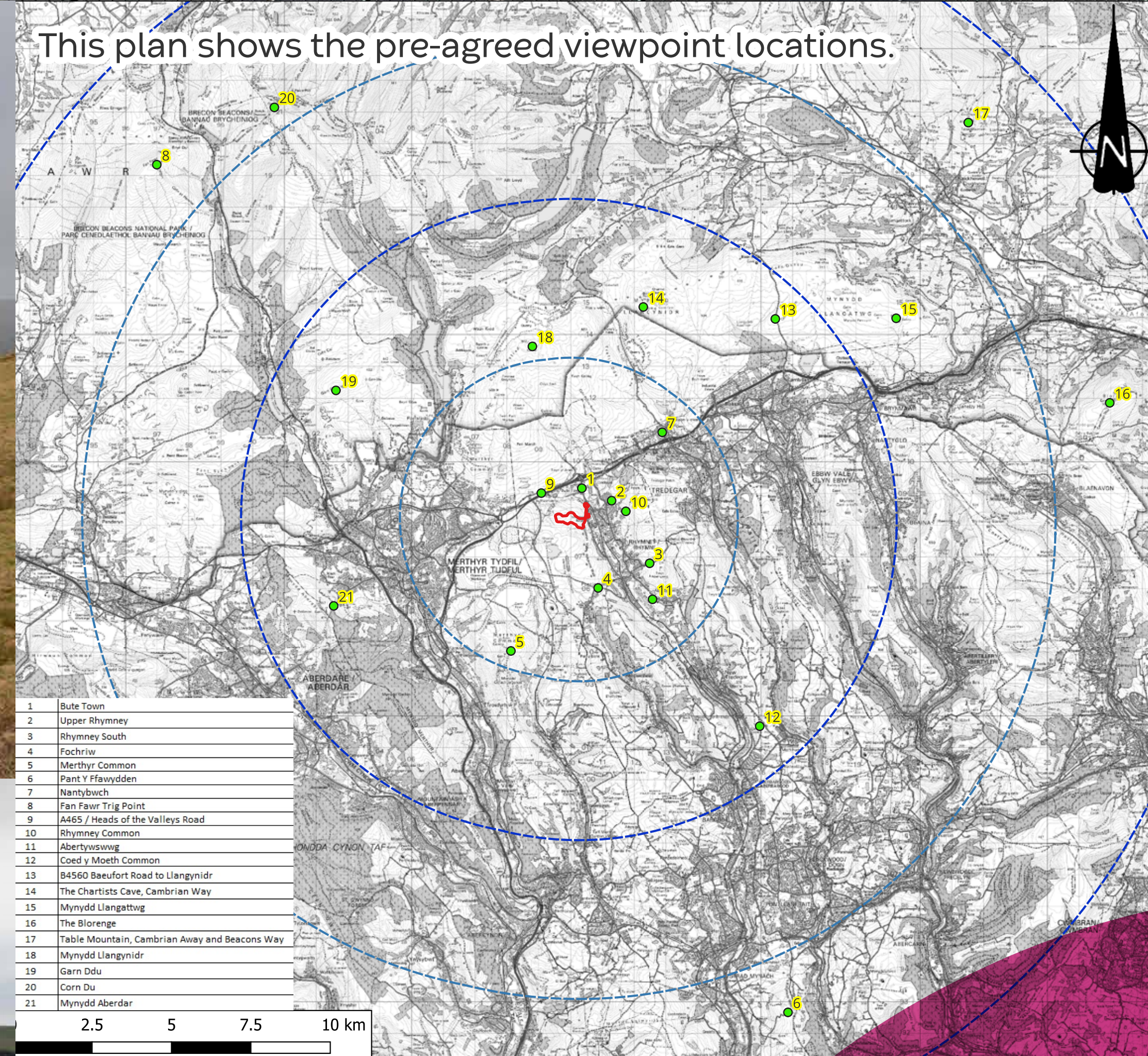
Photomontage Viewpoint 2
from Upper Rhymney



Photomontage Viewpoint 3
from Rhymney South



Photomontage Viewpoint 1
from Butetown



LEGEND

- On-Site Redline Boundary
- Viewpoints
- 5km Buffer
- 10km Buffer
- 15km Buffer
- 20km Buffer

Cumulative considerations

Convatec Green Manufacturing Hub's layout has been informed by a range of extensive environmental and technical studies along with feedback from our early public consultations.

These assessments can be found in the individual chapters of the Draft Environmental Statement.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL



A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been undertaken to assess the impact of our proposals on the local area.

A cumulative assessment of how the scheme fits into the existing landscape, as well as in the context of existing developments, is also part of this work.

In addition, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) will consider the cumulative effects of other proposed renewable schemes coming forward in the area, in relation to our plans.

SHADOW FLICKER



The Draft Environmental Statement will also include an assessment of shadow flicker in proximity to the wind farm. If the potential for meaningful effects are identified, it will be possible to mitigate these by switching the turbine off at certain times.

GLINT AND GLARE



Solar panels have evolved in design and are now constructed to capture as much light as possible with minimal reflection. However, we have undertaken a Glint and Glare Assessment to review the potential for glint and glare in the surrounding area.

NOISE



Our noise assessment has been undertaken by independent specialists in order to meet the strictest requirements laid out in national noise assessment standards.

The methodology uses the Energy Technology Support Unit (ETSU) report ETSU-R-97 and the Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide, which is the approved assessment methodology published in Welsh Government guidance for onshore wind turbines.

We have positioned our project an adequate distance away from local residents to ensure that no significant environmental effects, including cumulative effects with other nearby projects, will result. PEDW and its consultees will provide an independent review.

Noise will vary during the temporary construction period, however the impact will be mitigated by restricted working hours and the adoption of best practice.

Photomontage Viewpoint 13
from B4560 Beaufort to Llangynidr



The environment and biodiversity net gain

Caring for the environment and achieving a biodiversity net gain is a key consideration for the Convatec Green Manufacturing Hub.

Our ecological surveys have been carried out since 2021. As we outlined in our introductory consultation last year, though the activity of some locally noteworthy species have been identified, such as red kite and merlin, these species are typical for the area and both wander widely during their non-breeding season. Red kites nest in mature trees and merlins are a moorland nesting species, so suitable breeding habitats for both species are not present here.

There are no statutory designated sites for nature conservation within the site boundary. A tiny part (much less than 1%) of the Cefn Gelligaer Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) is included in the southern part of the site. This is an area of land recognised for its importance for wildlife which falls outside the Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) system.

Biodiversity net gain

In order to achieve a biodiversity net gain we'd implement a Habitat Management Plan including mitigation and enhancement measures agreed with the local authority and NRW.

This would ensure that the scheme achieves the biodiversity net gain required. Some of the measures proposed are pond creation, grassland habitat enhancement, hedgerow planting, improving existing hedgerows and tree planting.



Ground conditions

Ground conditions, land use and topography, hydrology, geology and soils, hydrogeology and flood risk have been assessed. To minimise increased flood risk, we will ensure that run-off rates do not exceed the 'greenfield' run-off rates.

A mining risk assessment has also been produced and further studies are investigating historic mine workings in conjunction with the Coal Authority.

The results of these studies may have a knock-on effect on the project layout and if this transpires to be the case, some turbines may need to be 'micro-sited' i.e. moved slightly.

Bats

Our surveys show that the site has medium levels of bat activity such as foraging and commuting, with woodland, rivers and large waterbodies outside of site in the wider surrounding area providing higher value habitats. There were no bat roosting features found anywhere on the site.

During operation, the solar farm is not predicted to have any significant effect on bats, while the wind turbines have been assessed as having an overall low risk.

Mitigation measure such as a minimum 50m buffer zone between bat habitats and turbines will be implemented along with buffer zones between turbines and fence lines, including the re-alignment of fence-lines where needed.

Peat

No peatlands have been identified onsite during extensive environmental studies right across the site.



Access & transport

The route for the transportation of wind turbines and solar panels is planned to be from the port of Swansea via the A465 and A469 to the project location, entering site close to the Convatec facility at the Heads of the Valleys Industrial Estate.

During the early engagement, questions were asked about whether the current A465 Heads of the Valleys Dualling Scheme would prevent the turbine elements from being transported. It is not anticipated that road works will prevent access to the site.

The issue of transport and access has been given careful consideration and an appropriate route to the site for construction vehicles has been identified.

The route is:

Swansea Docks – Baldwins Crescent – A483 - A483/Ffordd Amazon/Ashleigh Terrace Roundabout - A483 - A483/M4 West - A465 East - A469 South to site entrance (Access route from port to site plan)

We're considering two options for a local access point for construction. The preferred option is to access the project location directly from the north. The other option is to access from the roundabout adjacent to Convatec's plant on the A469.

LEGEND

- On-Site Redline Boundary
- Off-Site Redline Boundary
- Turbine Transport Route



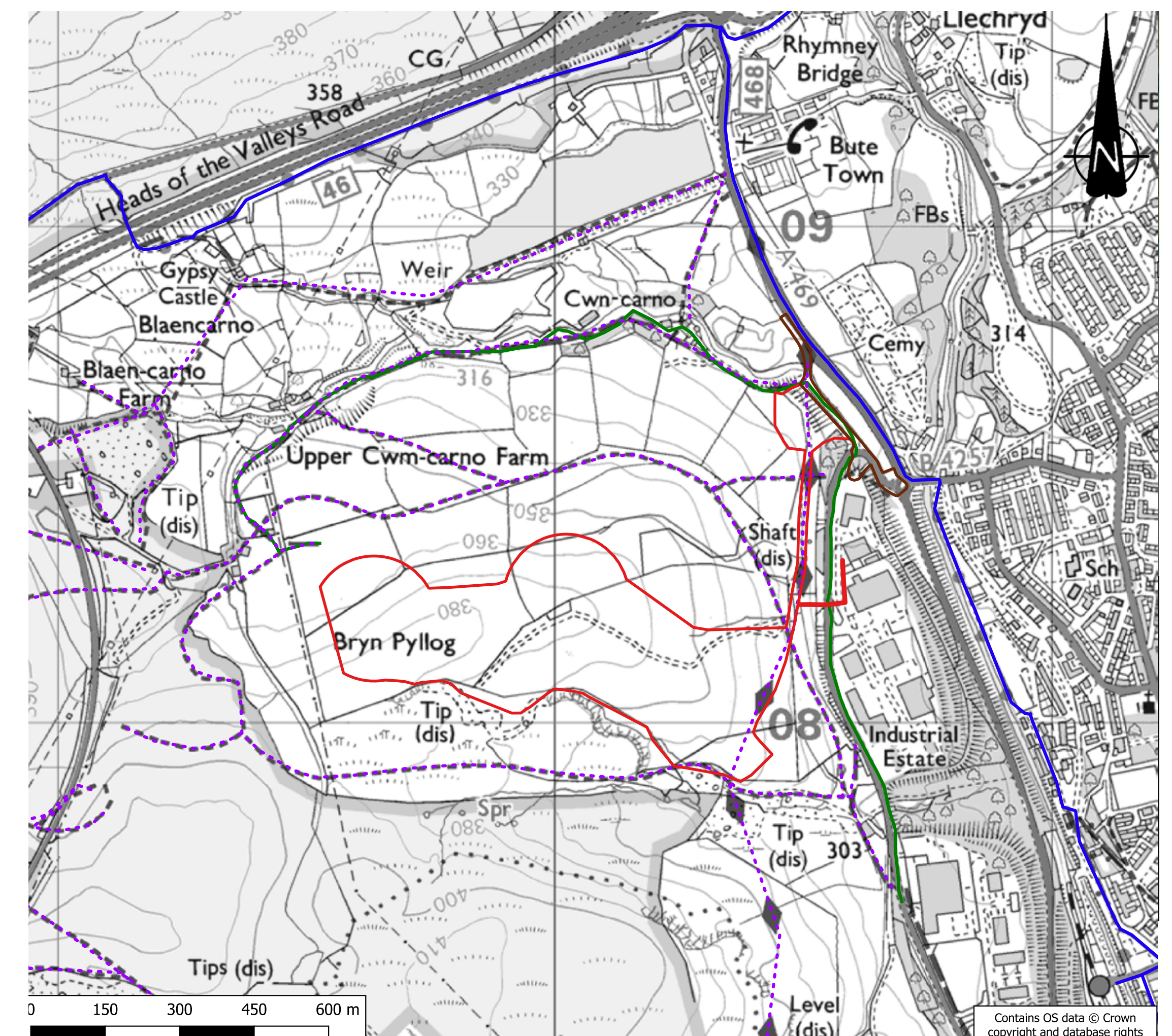
Public Rights of Way

The project location has footpaths around it, one of which crosses into the project boundary in the southeast corner. This is not expected to cause more than temporary and minor re-routing.

Health and safety procedures during relevant construction periods will be agreed ahead of commencement.

LEGEND

- Off-Site Redline Boundary
- On-Site Redline Boundary
- National Cycle Network
- Public Footpaths
- Bridleways



Planning Process

Due to the size and nature of the project, it is considered to be a Development of National Significance (DNS) by the Welsh Government.

Therefore, the planning application will need to be submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), which will undertake its own consultation before making recommendations to the Welsh Government about whether to approve the plans. A decision will then be made by Welsh Ministers.








Timeline

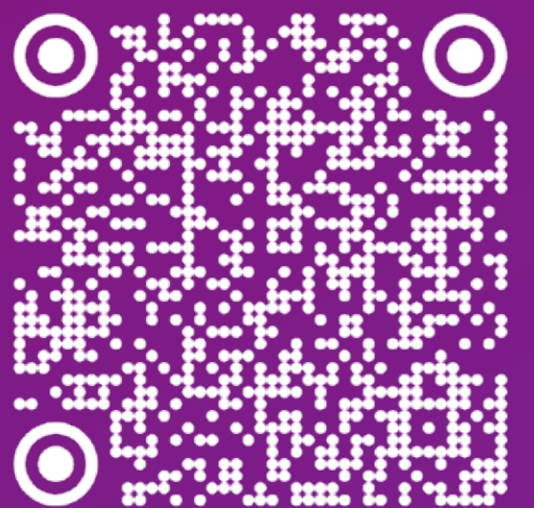


Contact Us

You can get in touch with the project team by:

-  01685 701254
-  rhydneygreenhub@convatec.com
-  Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT (no stamp or further address required)
-  Completing a paper feedback form available at our public exhibitions
-  Filling-in an online feedback form available on the project website:
convatecgroup.com/green-manufacturing-hub-rhydney

Please submit your early engagement comments by Wednesday 29 May 2024.



The above contact details will put you in touch with Grasshopper, who are managing the consultation with the team at Convatec.

Thank You for your time today. We look forward to hearing from you.

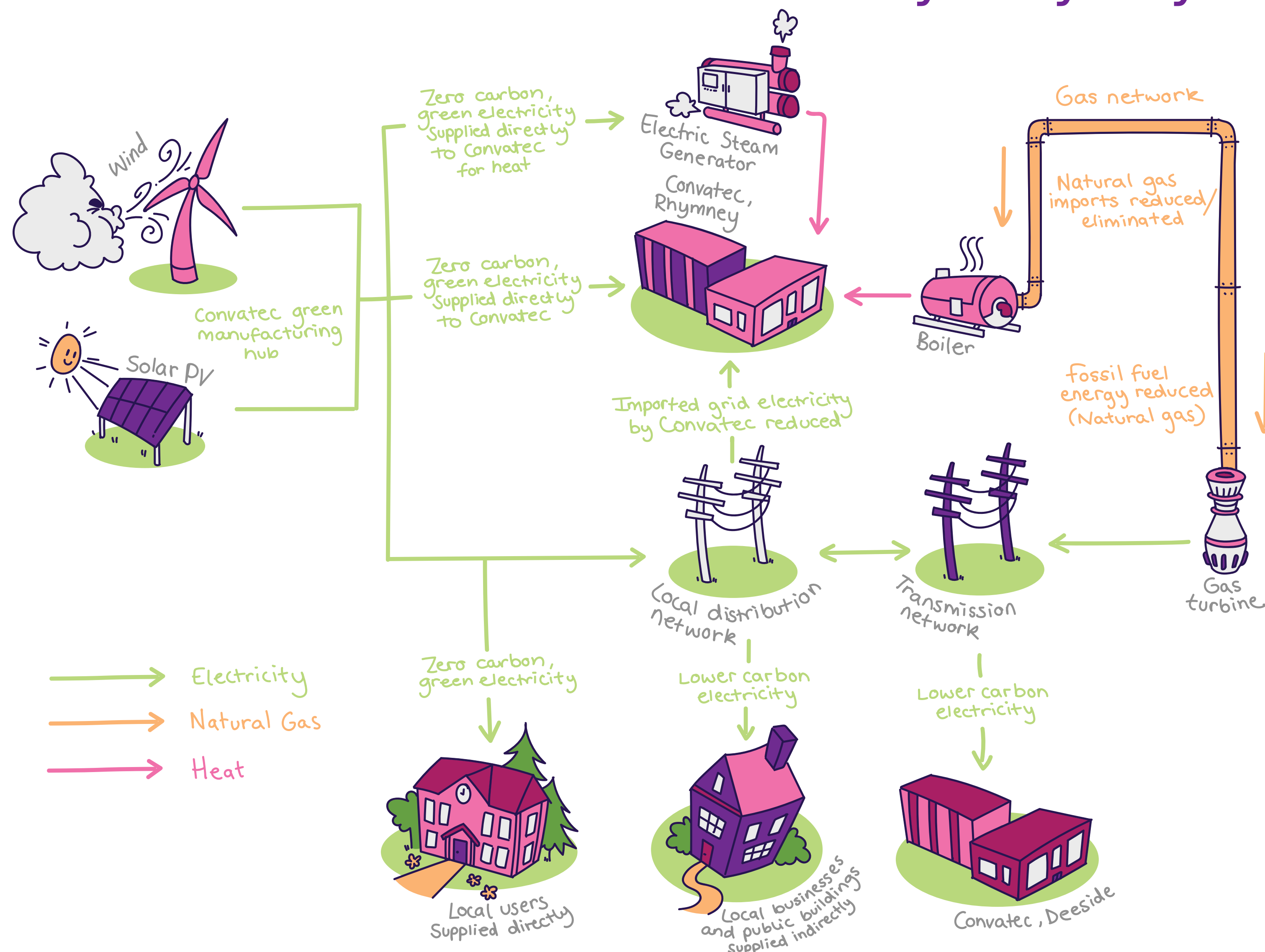
Schools engagement

Hi, I'm
Heulwen

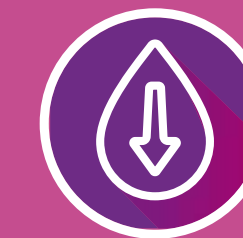
and I'm
Awel

We're here to talk to you about Convatec's Green Manufacturing Hub and we want to know what you think!

Convatec wants to cut down on its use of fossil fuel gas and electricity from the grid in a big way by building three wind turbines and a solar farm next to its factory in Rhymney.



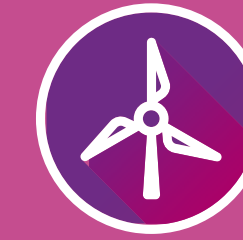
WHY?



To cut down its use of fossil fuels



To have predictable energy costs



To have its own secure source of energy



To ensure a stable green future for its factories in Wales

What will our community get out of the project?

SURPLUS ENERGY

The hub will produce more energy than Convatec needs so the company wants to make it available to other local businesses or publicly owned developments. Can you think of anywhere which could make use of this energy? It could be an existing building or something that hasn't been built yet.

CARBON REDUCTION

We expect to remove the equivalent of around 13,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year, which is equal to removing around 2,500 medium sized diesel cars driving 10,000 miles per year from the road annually.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS FUND

An annual fund of around £75,000 will be available to deliver meaningful projects in Rhymney. What would you like to see this money used for?

EDUCATION AND GREEN EMPLOYMENT

The hub will be an asset to local education, giving an introduction to the world of wind and solar energy.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS!

Our team is here to answer anything you like about our project.

Your views matter whether you are in support of what we want to do, against our proposals, or not sure either way.

You can write your feedback on post-it notes or fill in a feedback form.

This is what Convatec would like to build:



3 wind turbines up to 150m tall



Around **10** hectares of solar panels

The wind turbines would produce around 15 megawatts (MW) and the solar farm would generate around 5MW, making a total of around 20MW.