

4 SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 Site Location

- 4.1.1 The Site lies on the east/south-east facing hillside adjacent to the west boundary of the Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate in the town of Rhymney, Caerphilly, South Wales. The Site currently consists of several fields of improved grassland, bound by a mix of scrub, hedgerows and open/featureless boundaries.
- 4.1.2 The Site is broadly bound by the Nant Carno stream, local roads with scattered properties and further improved grassland to the north, the Heads of the Valley Industrial Estate and the A469 to the east, further unimproved grassland and disused tips to the south and an un-named local road, unimproved grassland and disused tips to the west.
- 4.1.3 Figure 4.1 shows aerial imagery of the Site and its surroundings, including its proximity to Rhymney and the road network.



Figure 4.1: Aerial Imagery of the Site Location

(Google © 2024, Imagery © 2024 Landsat/Copernicus)

- 4.1.4 The A465 ‘Heads of the Valleys’ Road is located c. 200m to the north of the Site. The Biffa Trecatti Landfill site and opencast workings are located c. 800m and c. 1.4km to the south-west, respectively. An overhead line and pylons pass through the western parts of the site on a broadly south-west to north-east direction.
- 4.1.5 The nearest bodies of standing water are c. 100m to the north and c. 600m to the south (see Figure 4.2).



Figure 4.2: View from the site looking south

- 4.1.6 The town of Rhymney lies c. 230m to the east on the opposite side of the A469. The town of Merthyr Tydfil is located c. 1.86km to the west, and the village of Fochriw is located c. 1.96km to the south.
- 4.1.7 There are several existing wind turbines within the area, the nearest being three 110m tip high wind turbines at Pen Bryn Oer 1.6km to the east (see Figure 4.3), a single 77m tip high turbine at Pengarnddu Industrial Estate 2.1km to the north-west, and a single 74m tip high wind turbine at Tafarnaubach Industrial Estate, Tredegar 2.4km to the north-east.



Figure 4.3: View from the site looking east towards Pen Bryn Oer

4.1.8 There is one existing solar farm within the area, c. 2.4km to the south-west.

4.1.9 The site is within National Landscape Character Area (NLCA) 37: South Wales Valleys.

4.1.10 This NLCA is described as:

“Many deep, urbanised valleys dissect an extensive upland area. Combined with industrial heritage and the distinct identity of its people, the South Wales Valleys provide some of Wales’ most widely known and iconic national images. Extensive ribbon development fills many valley bottoms and lower slopes. Their urban and industrial character is juxtaposed with dramatic upland settings with steep hillsides, open moors or forests. Networks of railways and roads connect valley settlements. Topography constrains passage between valleys, and there are only a limited number of high passes between valleys. The noise and business of many valleys contrast with the relatively remote and wild qualities of adjacent hill plateaux”.

4.1.11 Rhymney is built around a rich heritage of heavy industry and mining, with the establishment of the Union Ironworks in 1801 using local coking coal, iron ore and limestone. From the mid-19th century, steam coal pits were sunk to the south of the town.

4.1.12 There are several recreational routes within the site and surrounding area. Footpath RHYM/FP96/1, RHYM/FP95/5 and RHYM/FP91/1 are the main footpaths that pass through the site in a broadly east to west direction. There are a number of other Public

Rights of Way (PRoW) within the 45km study area, forming a comprehensive network of public access throughout the Heads of the Valley Area.

- 4.1.13 The nearest residential property is Cwm Carno Farm, 530m north of the site (owned by the project Landowner). Further residential properties are located 640m east of the site, on the edge of the settlement of Rhymney, and 650m northwest of the site at Blaencarno Farm.