

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AMENDMENTS DUE TO PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY CHANGE February 2021

Following the slight amendment to the proposed alignment of the access track leading from the north into the area of the proposed Upper Ogmores Wind Farm, a number of slight amendments are required to both the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment and the Cultural Heritage Chapter of the Environmental Statement.

The application for the main wind farm area remains unchanged. The proposed boundary for the access track from the north has been altered to avoid crossing into the adjacent local authority area of Rhondda Cynnon Taf. In the original application a possible diversion to the east of the scheduled monument of Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn (GM234, a Bronze Age burial mound) was considered. This potential alteration has now been removed from the scheme and the access track will follow the existing one on its western side. Figures 4 and 5 have also been amended to show the new access track alignment.

Within the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment paragraph 4.9 highlighted that the Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn (GM234) had been added to the list of scheduled monuments being considered in more detail in terms of possible changes to their settings. Due to the track now being retained in its current location any changes will now be minimal. This is discussed in paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 which included mention of the possible track alteration which can now be removed as laid out below:

5.7 The proposed development also includes works to approximately 3.6km of the existing track through the Mynydd Ty-isaf forest to the north west of the Site to enable it to be used for turbine delivery.

5.8 The majority of this track will require only minor improvement to the existing surface and will not result in any disturbance to the existing ground surface, ~~excluding one area where a slight diversion to the forest track is potentially proposed to curve around the eastern side of the scheduled Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn (GM234).~~

Within paragraphs 5.73 to 5.77 an assessment of impacts to the setting of the Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn (GM234) from the development proposals was laid out. These paragraphs can remain unchanged except for the following two laid out below:

*5.75 The track recorded as running through the centre of the monument **(as indicated on the scheduling maps)** has been relocated in recent years away from the monument to run along a lower patch of ground on its western side, but it is still possible to see the line of the former track way that went through the round cairn. This is evident as a c.0.30m deep vertical sided channel projecting to the north and south.*

5.77 Views to the monument from within the application area are not possible due to topography and the present extent of forestry planting as confirmed by the ZTV. It will not be visible as a distinct entity in conjunction with site. ~~The proposed diversion of the access track to the east of the monument will not result in any physical disturbance to the monument and could have a beneficial effect of moving the existing track further away from the scheduled cairn. The track lying on the eastern side of the monument may be considered to have a slight impact on its setting, purely as the trackway will~~

~~**be located within its eastern view, although this view has only returned recently with forest clearance.**~~

In terms of the Cultural Heritage Chapter of the Environmental Statement, there are only two sections that need any amendment due to the change in the application boundary. The first is section 7.72 which can be amended as follows:

*7.72 There are 57 designated historic assets of archaeological interest within 10km of the proposed Development of which 29 are within the bare earth zone of theoretical visibility. The bare earth zone of theoretical visibility is shown at Figure 5.2a. These are listed in the Desk Based Assessment at Appendix 7.1. Following the site visits, the initial list of 57 was filtered to six which it was considered possible could experience a loss of significance through a change to their setting should the proposed Development receive consent. ~~**One of these scheduled monuments would only be affected during the construction phase, lying on the proposed access track to the site (GM234 Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn).**~~*

Finally Table 7.7: Summary of Residual Effects will require the following section removed:

<p>Small temporary adverse effect on GM234 Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn through a change to its setting with diversion of access road</p>	<p>None proposed, on the basis that effect is not significant in EIA terms, and no mitigation measures considered necessary due to the nature of the proposed Development (possible diversion of the access road further away from the monument</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Small adverse, reverting to Neutral upon decommissioning</p>
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In conclusion the amendments to the application boundary only affect the line of the access track and not the main wind farm area which is the main subject of the Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment and Cultural Heritage Chapter. The amendments merely reduce the size of the access track boundary to keep it within the jurisdiction of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council. The amendments to the access track boundary also remove the need for any potential diversion of its existing alignment on the western side of the Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn, scheduled monument GM234, to a route curving further to the east. A cultural heritage management plan is proposed within the ES chapter, this will ensure that the boundaries of the scheduled monuments are clearly marked during construction to prevent any accidental damage. This will remain relevant for all monuments within or bordering the application area, including the Bachgen Carreg Round Cairn.

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