

Developments of National Significance (DNS)

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 and the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) and subsequent regulations, provides the statutory basis for DNS. Any proposal to construct or operate a power generation scheme with a capacity greater than 10 MW falls within the DNS system and requires Welsh Ministers consent.

All energy generation projects between 10 MW and 350 MW, including overhead electric lines of up to 132 kV which are associated with a devolved generation station, are considered a DNS project.

The Local Planning Authority have been consulted on the following DNS applications. Some of which straddle other Local Authority areas such as Torfaen and Caerphilly.

Mynydd Carn y Cefn – REF CON 2021/0004

Status: Application Start Date 23.11.22

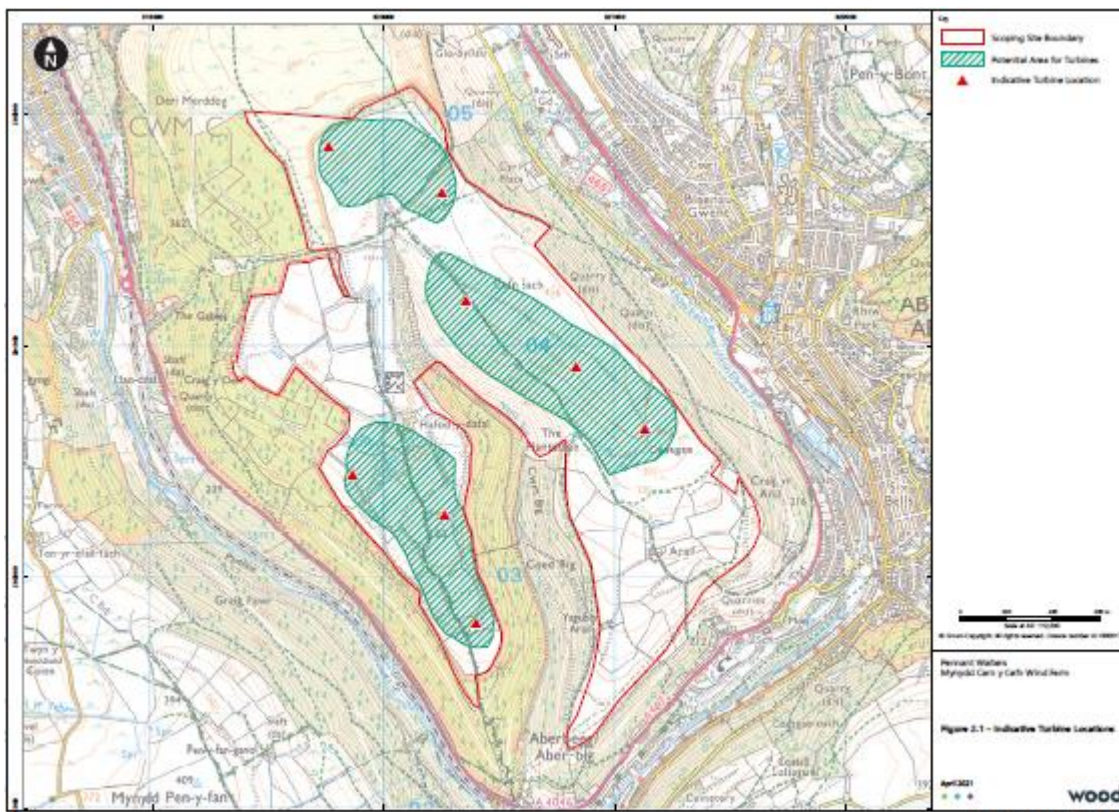
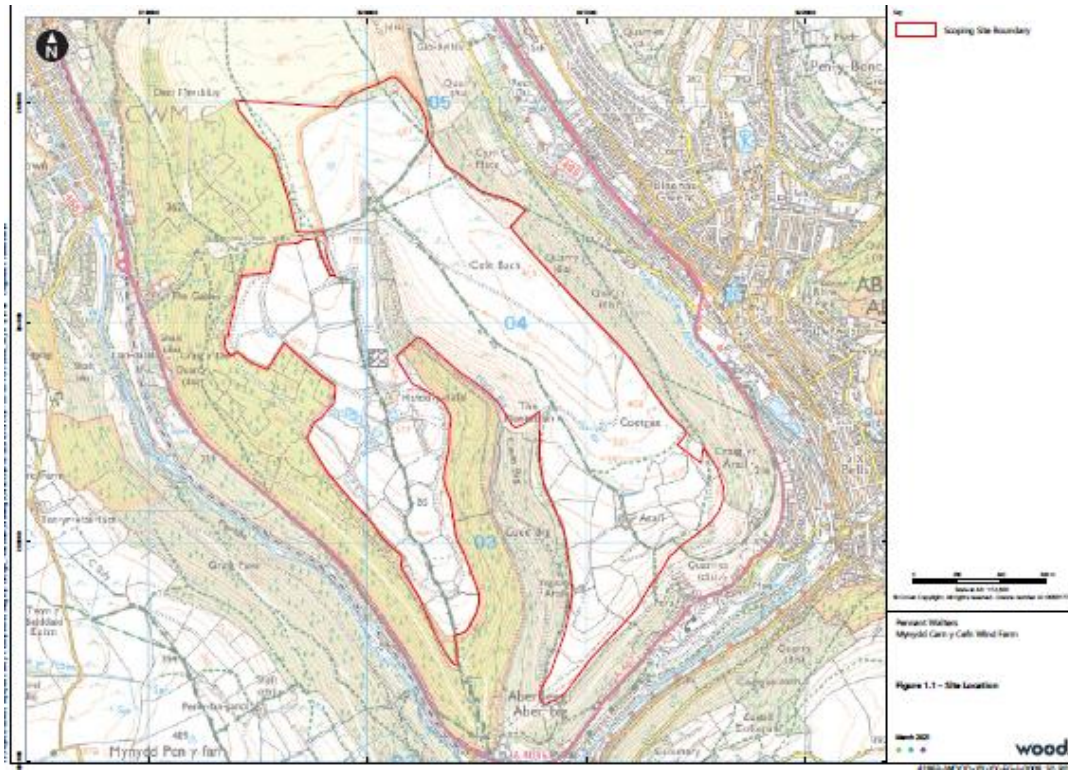
The Site lies within the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council administrative area and its boundary is located approximately 500m from the western edge of Abertillery. The eastern section of the Site is separated from the town's western boundary by a 200-300m buffer of mature trees. The Site is accessed from a forestry haul road which is taken off the A4046 Aberbeeg Road.

The Proposed Development site comprises a mix of semi-improved and unimproved grassland which forms the southern end of a forked upland ridge between the Ebbw Fawr valley and the Ebbw Fach valley. The Site is split by a forestry haul road, woodland and an operational solar farm.

The Mynydd Carn y Cefn Wind Farm ('the Proposed Development') consists of the following elements:

- up to eight wind turbines with heights to blade tip in a range of between 170-180m and a combined maximum rated output of up to 48MW of electrical power;
- substation and transformer housing;
- temporary construction compound;
- temporary site offices;

- crane pads and cabling; and
- access track construction.

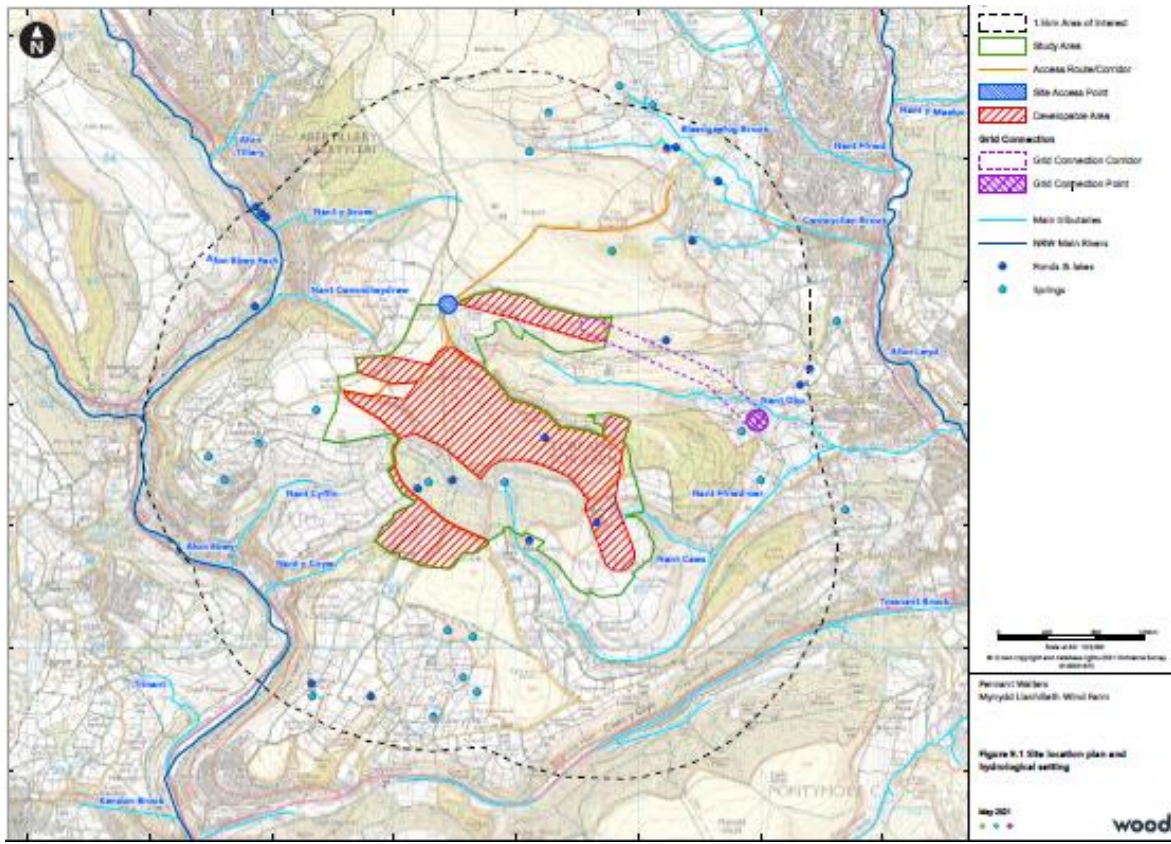


Status: Pre-Application Statutory Consultation (PAC) -

The site is located to the south-east of Abertillery and to the east of Llanhilleth and has a *developable* site area of approximately 193 hectares. The site spans across two Local Planning Authorities with the majority falling within Torfaen County Borough (TCBC) and the remainder of the site (to the west) being located within Blaenau Gwent. Access into the site is proposed from the existing road through the common coming from a north westerly direction from Talywain.

The proposal includes:

- Up to 12 wind turbines, anticipated to be 4–6MW each with an indicative height of up to 180m to tip together with external transformer housing;
- Turbine foundations, crane pads and laydown areas;
- An electrical substation and control building;
- Underground power cables linking the turbines and the on-site substation;
- Construction of access tracks off main access corridor;
- Permanent anemometer mast for wind turbine performance monitoring;
- Construction enabling works; and
- A temporary construction and storage compound



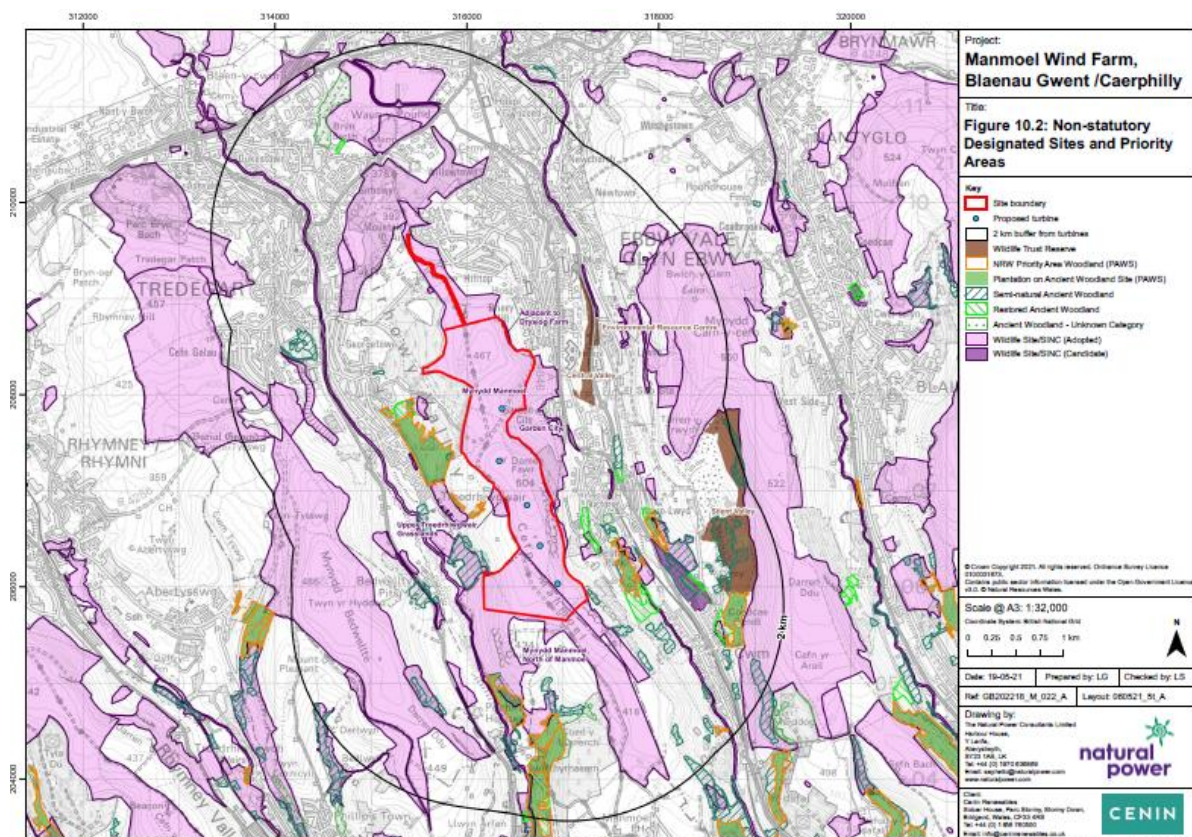
Manmoel Wind Farm – CON 2021/0006

Status: Pre-application Engagement

The site is situated mostly within the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council (BGCBC) area, although its south-western corner lies within the Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) local authority boundary. The southern half of the site is in one of the Future Wales - Pre-assessed Areas (FWPAA). The site lies within registered Commons Land.

At this stage, the project is envisaged as comprising:

- up to 5 turbines of up to 180m maximum tip height and associated crane hardstandings;
- transformers housed adjacent to or in turbines;
- onsite access tracks plus underground cable runs alongside;
- an onsite sub-station building;
- construction compound(s); borrow pits; and
- access into the site boundary.



Abertillery Wind Farm – REF CON 2021/0007

Status: Scoping Completed. Anemometer mast approved for 5 years

The proposed wind farm site is located between the valley towns of Abertillery and Abersychan to the immediate west and east of the site.

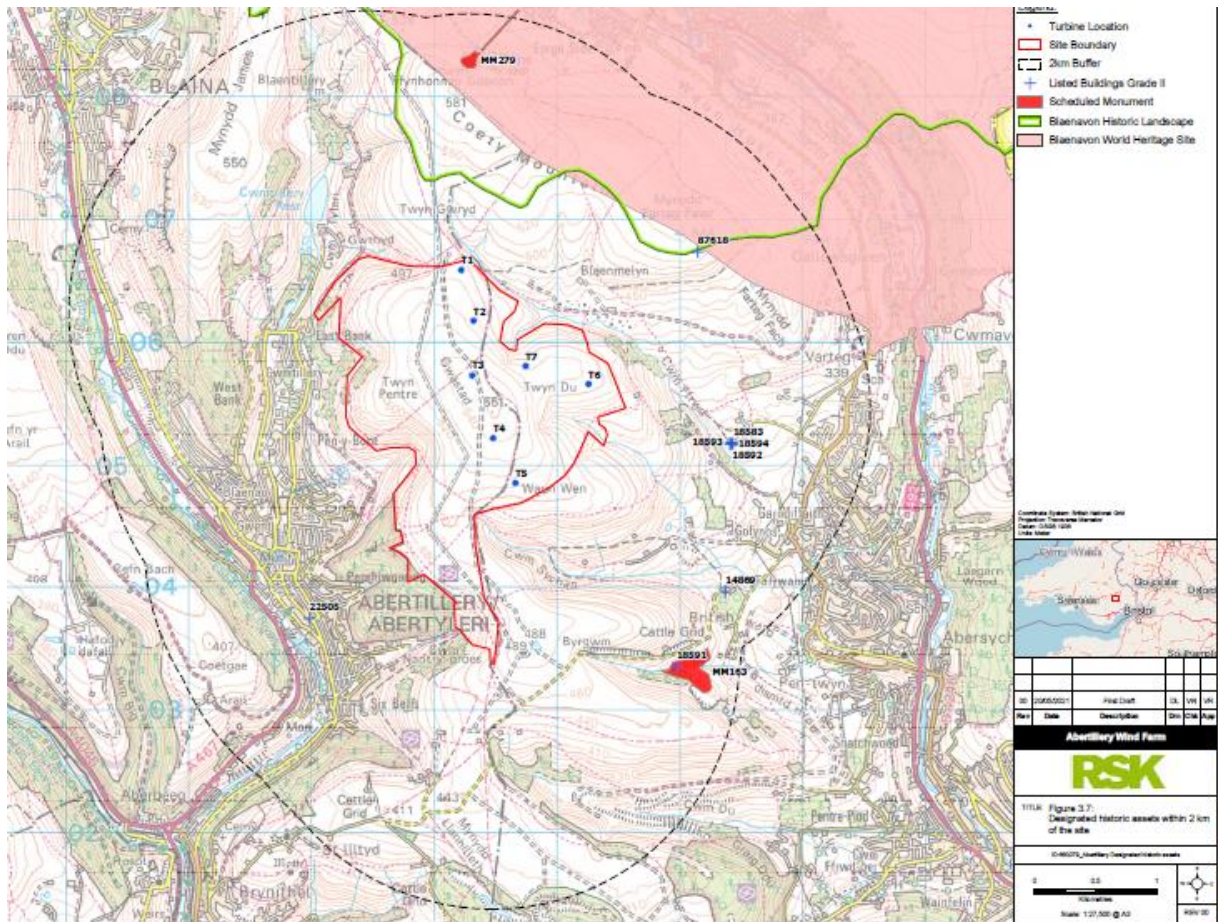
The site covers approximately 385 ha and is largely comprised of dry heath and is grazed by sheep.

The site is registered as common land and incorporates parts of Common Land Unit 16 Gwastad Common and Common Land Unit 17 Llanhilleth Common.

A number of public rights of way (PRoW) including footpaths and bridleways cross the site. The site is also classified as Open Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2005.

The proposed development would include:

- Up to seven wind turbines up to a maximum tip height of 180m, and associated infrastructure including transformers, foundations, crane pads and laydown/storage areas;
- Underground cables;
- Onsite substation/control building;
- Energy storage equipment;
- Site entrance and access track from the main road;
- Internal access roads;
- Permanent anemometer mast;
- Borrow pits (where technically feasible);
- Habitat Management Area;
- One or more temporary construction compounds; and
- Off-site works to facilitate the transport of abnormal loads

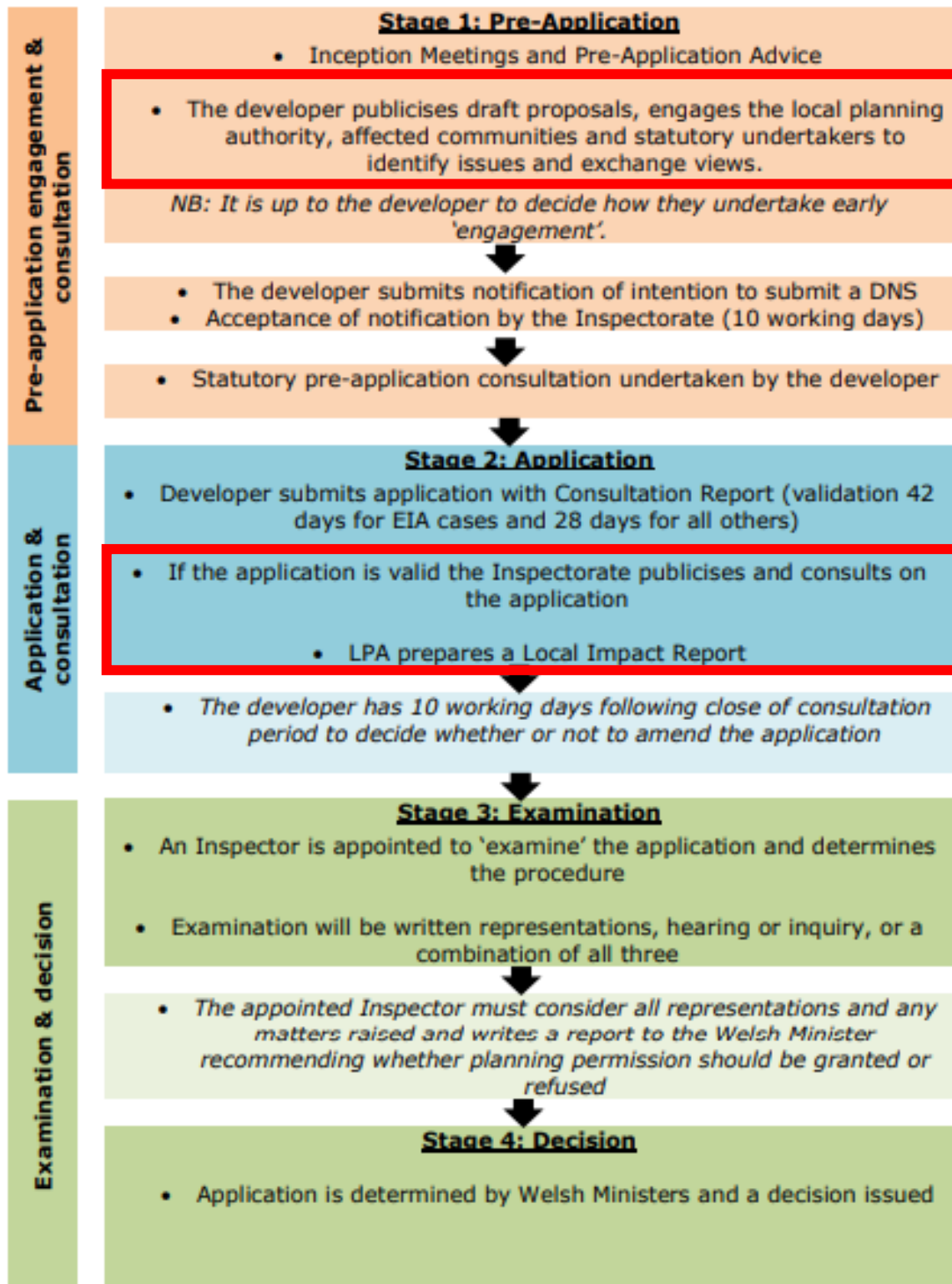


DNS Application Process

Applications for DNS schemes are submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) for consideration and determination. However, there are certain duties that the Local Planning Authority have to fulfil in a timely manner, otherwise there are financial penalties.

Responsibility of the Local Planning Authority (LPA)

Below is a table showing the various stages of a DNS application. The red boxes highlight the main parts that require actions from the LPA :



As part of the application stage, the LPA has to erect site notices, place a copy of the application on the local planning register and produce a Local Impact Report (LIR). All other publicity and consultation is carried out by PEDW.

The LIR is a factual report that details the likely impact of the proposal on the area based on local knowledge and evidence of local issues. It is not intended to consider the merits of the application. The impacts are presented in terms of their positive, neutral and negative effects.

The report will also include the planning history of the site, any relevant local designations, planning policies, any draft conditions that are considered necessary to mitigate any likely impacts of the development and provides evidence of publicity undertaken. If any secondary consents are required, then the LIR must also address the likely impact of these consents being granted.

There is no requirement to carry out consultation with the community in producing the LIR.

The LPA receive a fee of £7,750 for preparation of the LIR. However, **if the LIR is not submitted within 5 weeks then the LPA will not receive the full fee.** If the deadline is missed by up to 14 days, the LPA will receive only half the fee. If the LIR is submitted more than 14 days after the deadline, then no fee will be received but the LIR must still be submitted.

How Can Members Get Involved?

As Community Consultees, you will be consulted directly if the development falls within your ward. However, anyone can make a representation to PEDW, provided it has been received by them within the identified period – unlike standard applications, the consultation period is 30 days.

Any sensitive personal data will be redacted (in line with GDPR Regulations and the Data Protection Act). However, representors' names and addresses will not be redacted, unless specifically requested.

- Talk to your constituents and make them aware of the developments.
- You and your constituents can view the documents on the PEDW website
<https://planningcasework.service.gov.wales/>
- Representations can be made to: PEDW.infrastructure@gov.wales

Further guidance on the DNS procedure can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-guidance>