



Candwr Solar Farm

Consultation Brochure



Since our early-stage public consultation event in July 2025, we have undertaken an extensive suite of survey and design work packages to incorporate the points raised by the local community.

We have met with residents, stakeholders, politicians and community councils, and collectively this information has shaped the final draft planning application which we are now consulting on.

This consultation brochure cannot sufficiently describe all the elements of our scheme, so we have chosen the main themes local communities have raised with us, and would encourage you to search the detailed documents here: candwrsolarfarm.co.uk

We welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing your thoughts on our project.

About Candwr Solar Farm

Candwr Solar Farm is a new renewable energy scheme on the border of Torfaen, Monmouthshire and Newport in South, East Wales.

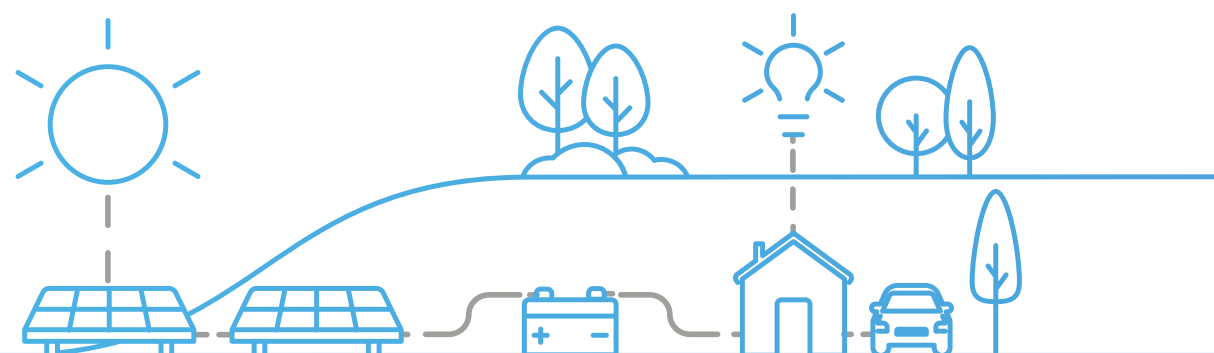
Located on land approximately 5km north-east of Newport, 500m east of Ponthir and 1.4km north of Caerleon, Candwr Solar Farm will comprise the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of the solar farm.

The site is made up of sixteen separate areas of farmland and the proposed solar farm would have the capacity to generate up to 46 MW of electricity, enough to power the equivalent of up to 17,265 typical family homes per year (statista.com), and saving up to 4905 tonnes CO₂e (assuming UK CO₂ emissions factor from grid is 0.124 kg CO₂e/kWh) per year (carbonbrief.org).

During the operational period of the project, the land below and between the solar panels will be managed grassland and will be made available for sheep grazing.

The Site is located immediately adjacent to the Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Court Farm Water Treatment Works, an existing water infrastructure facility.

The primary purpose of the development is to provide renewable energy directly to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's Court Farm Treatment Works via a private wire connection, with any additional electricity exported to the National Grid and 'sleeved' to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water sites across Wales. The project would contribute to reducing carbon emissions and supporting national targets for renewable energy and climate change.



About TotalEnergies

TotalEnergies has been present in the UK for more than 60 years.

We're reinventing and diversifying our energy offering to promote renewable and decarbonised energies, as well as sparing, well considered use of fossil energies.

We are making major investments in solar and are developing projects across England and Wales, amounting to around 1GW of power.

We have also invested in several offshore wind developments in the UK which will have the capacity to deliver about 5GW of renewable power, including Seagreen (1.1GW) which became fully operational in 2023, West of Orkney (2GW) and Outer Dowsing (1.5GW).

We are one of the UK's largest suppliers of gas and electricity to businesses and the public sector. We also offer electric vehicle charging solutions and market petroleum products including lubricants, aviation fuel, bitumen and speciality fluids.



About Dŵr Cymru

We are working in partnership with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. The energy generated by the solar farm will decarbonise their operations at Court Farm Water Treatment Works and the wider operations of the company.

The primary objective for the proposal would be to supply Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water Court Farm Treatment Works with renewable energy via a direct private wire connection. The remainder will be exported to the National Grid via connection to the existing 132kV overhead line at the Court Farm Water Treatment Works and sleeved to Dŵr Cymru Welsh water sites across Wales.

The complete project would provide 100% clean and stable energy directly to the Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's wider estate, helping to meet Government and company targets for carbon neutrality.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will purchase all the generated energy, with some consumed directly at the Court Farm Water Treatment Works and the rest of the electricity utilised at other Welsh Water sites via the National Grid.

The Proposals

Our indicative site layout shows our current proposals for Candwr Solar Farm. This shows where the solar panels and key infrastructure could be located within the project boundary, as well as land we anticipate using for biodiversity and other environmental designations. The site has been designed to minimise impacts on existing trees, hedges, woodlands, and Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

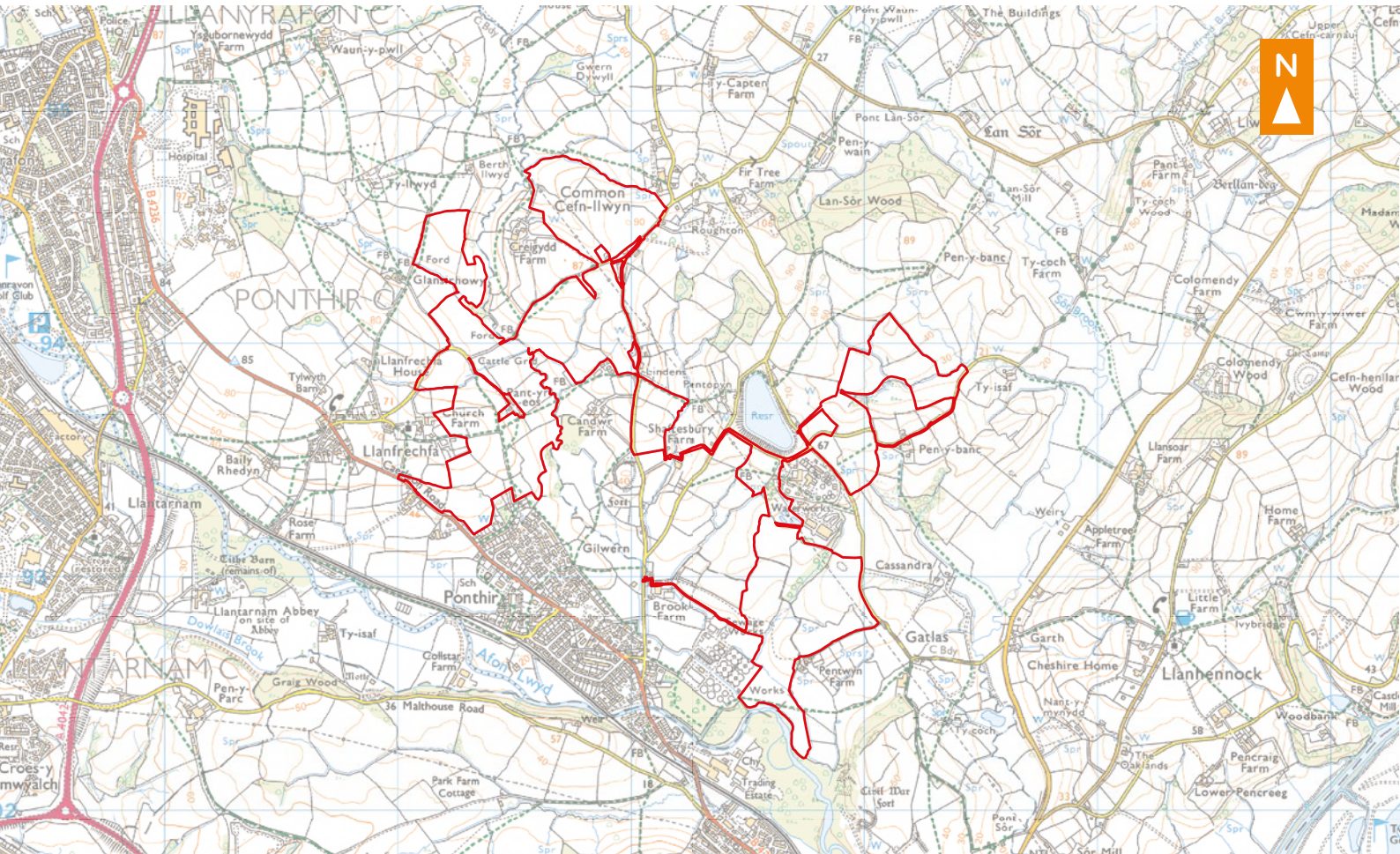


Why solar?

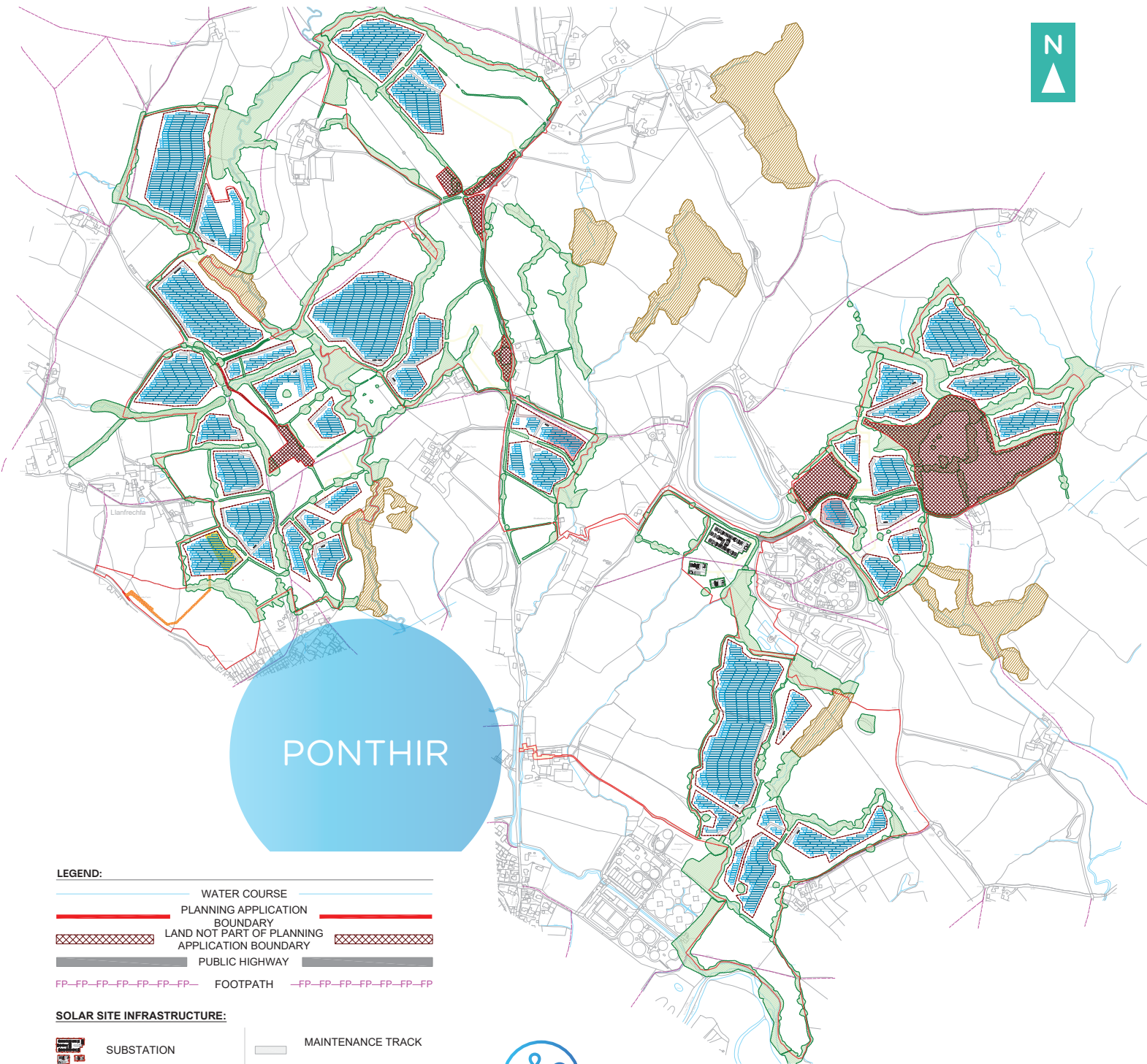
Solar farms provide a sustainable and clean energy source, that contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and combating climate change. Solar farms harness sunlight to generate electricity, which can be used to power homes, businesses and the national grid. They are a vital part of the UK's net zero strategy and play a crucial role in the transition to renewable sources.

Currently Wales aims to meet 100% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by 2035 and aims to reach net zero by 2050. Welsh Government has ambitious goals, and its policies and initiatives demonstrate its commitment to renewable energy and its role in driving economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Site Location



Site Layout



LEGEND:

	WATER COURSE
	PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY
	LAND NOT PART OF PLANNING APPLICATION BOUNDARY
	PUBLIC HIGHWAY
	FOOTPATH

SOLAR SITE INFRASTRUCTURE:

	SUBSTATION		MAINTENANCE TRACK
	PERIMETER FENCELINE		TRANSFORMER
	PALISADE FENCELINE		MV STATION
	INDICATIVE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND		INVERTER
	MAIN SITE COMPOUND		PV FULL TABLE
	INDICATIVE HAUL ROAD		PV HALF TABLE
	PASSING PLACE		PV QUARTER TABLE
	INDICATIVE TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION ACCESS		SITE ACCESS TRACK

VEGETATION:

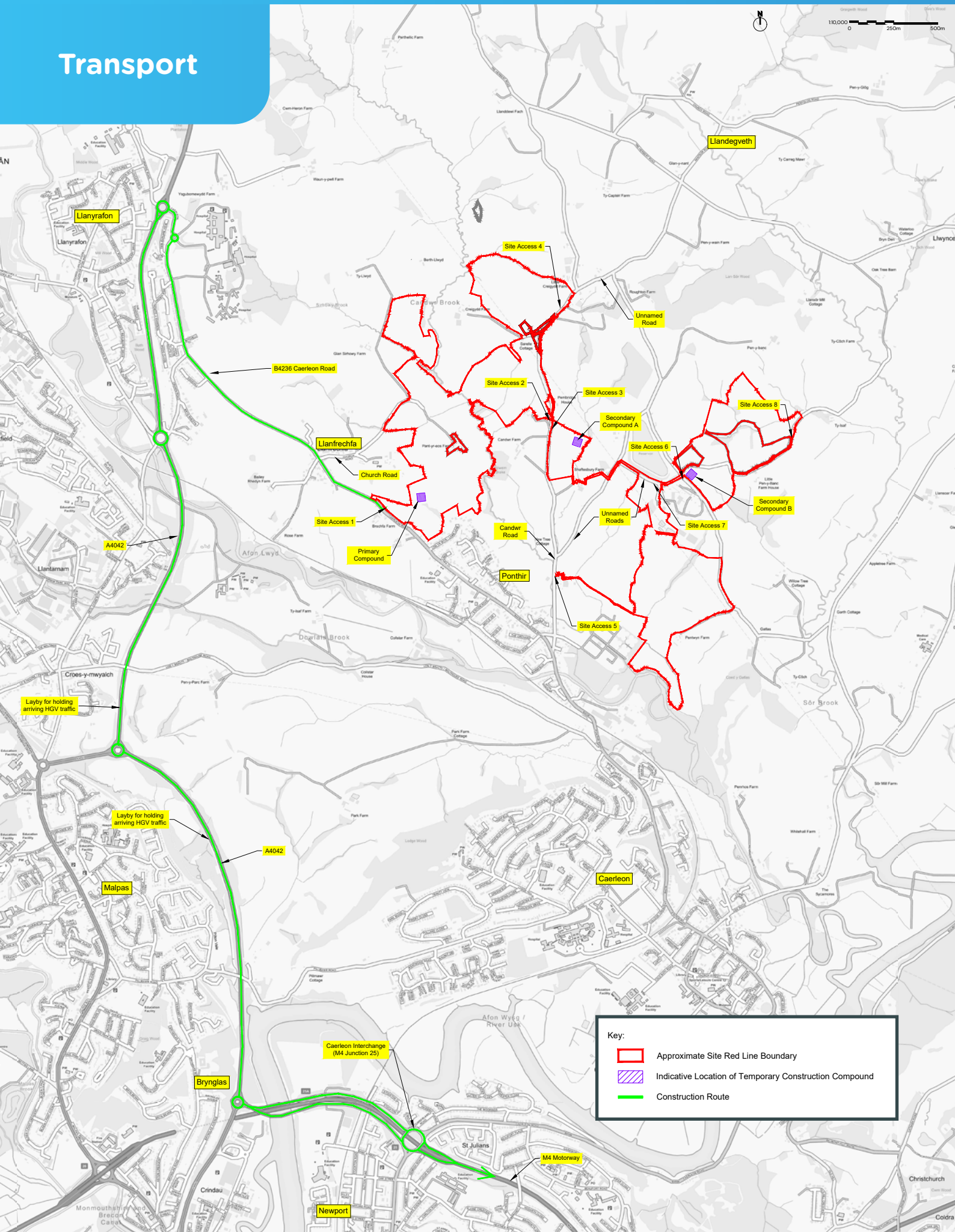
	EXISTING VEGETATION		EXISTING VEGETATION
	ANCIENT WOODLAND		ANCIENT WOODLAND



Why this site?

This site has been selected because of the extra high voltage grid connection at Court Farm Treatment Works. Grid connection will be made via a newly constructed substation connecting to the existing 132kV overhead powerlines.

Transport



Since the non-statutory consultation, meetings have been held with the local highways authorities of Newport City Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Torfaen County Borough Council, and significant survey work has been carried out to look at the potential effects of the construction of the site on the local road network and how it may impact the community.

The Construction Phase

A Construction Traffic Management Plan will minimise the impact of construction traffic on local residents and the local road network. This will include traffic management controls, timings of deliveries and routing strategies to reduce disruption and maintain safety

The site will be accessed primarily via a new main access point from the B4236, designed to accommodate large vehicles, including HGVs. This main access will connect to an internal haul road and to a temporary construction compound, where materials will be delivered and redistributed across the site (via tractor and trailer). Other access points will be used for smaller vehicles and for moving materials around the site.

All HGV traffic will be routed via the strategic road network (M4/A4042) to minimise use of local rural lanes. The amount of construction traffic will be managed through the Construction Traffic Management Plan to ensure safe operation of the road network.

Traffic levels are expected to be relatively low, with typically up to two HGV deliveries per day during peak periods. Measures such as shared transport (e.g., minibuses for workers) will also be used to reduce the number of vehicle trips.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan will be carefully managed to reduce environmental effects during the construction phase and will include controls on working practices, environmental monitoring, and measures to manage impacts such as noise, dust, traffic, and pollution.

Working hours are expected to be limited to standard daytime hours, with deliveries scheduled outside peak traffic periods.

Once operational the only trips associated with the site would be occasional maintenance, anticipated as being one maintenance trip every two weeks with personnel attending site in standard 4x4 vehicles.

 You can find more information on transport management in the Documents section of the website.



Flood Mitigation

The Welsh Government Development Advice Map (“DAMs”) shows the majority of the Application Site is located within Flood Zone 1; the area is considered to have the lowest probability of flooding. A small area is located within Flood Zone 2 and 3 which lies adjacent to Candwr Brook and Afon Lwyd Main, however, there are no panels proposed for these areas.

Following feedback received during the non-statutory consultation and ongoing discussions with the local community, flooding has been identified as a key concern for residents. In response, a range of measures has been incorporated into the site’s design to protect the water environment and minimise potential flood risks.

A Flood Consequence Assessment and Surface Water Drainage Strategy has been developed to manage surface water and ensure the proposed development does not increase flood risk during its lifetime.

These will be submitted as part of the planning application. These plans include:

-  **Locating most infrastructure in areas of lowest flood risk**
-  **Using permeable surfaces (e.g., internal access tracks) to reduce runoff**
-  **Maintaining natural water flows by elevating panels above ground**
-  **Keeping a buffer zone alongside watercourses to protect natural drainage and allow maintenance**
-  **Incorporating a site-wide sustainable drainage system (SuDS), including features such as swales and attenuation areas**

The site will also be maintained as managed grassland beneath the panels, which is expected to increase infiltration and reduce soil compaction, leading to better long-term water management.

 **Details of the flood mitigation, water environment assessments and its findings are provided in the Water Environment chapter of the Environmental Statement on the Documents page of the website.**

Ecological Enhancements

There is a commitment to protect, enhance and manage habitats across the site during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the site.

Biodiversity is expected to improve through the implementation of a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan, by strengthening habitat connectivity and creating a more varied and ecologically valuable landscape by:

-  **Retaining and protecting existing habitats, such as hedgerows, trees, and woodland, with appropriate buffer zones**
-  **New planting, including native hedgerows, trees, woodland, and orchard areas**
-  **The creation of wildflower meadows, grassland, and wetland areas to enhance habitat diversity**
-  **Measures to support wildlife, including protection for species such as bats, birds, and badgers**

Information on specific habitats and species in and around the site has been gathered through both desk-based studies and on-site surveys between 2023 and 2025, with further updates in 2026.

Surveys included habitat mapping, bird surveys, bat surveys, and checks

for protected species, carried out at appropriate times of year in line with best practice guidance.

Details of all the ecological assessments and its findings are provided in the Ecology chapter of the Environmental Statement on the Documents page of the website.

Overall, the scheme is expected to improve biodiversity by strengthening habitat connectivity and creating a varied and ecologically valuable landscape.

Other Environmental Topics

In addition to assessments of water, ecology and transport, the Environmental Impact Assessment has considered a wide range of other environmental topics, including landscape and visual effects, built heritage, agricultural land and soils, air quality, glint and glare from solar panels, noise and climate change. The assessments have informed the design of the Proposed Development, helping to avoid and reduce potential impacts wherever possible.

 **You can find more information in the documents section of the website.**



Community Benefits

A Community Benefit Fund is a voluntary commitment by a developer to pay into a fund which is then made available to finance community projects. As part of our commitment to supporting the local community, and being good neighbours, our Community Benefit Fund would support initiatives that enhance the local area, economy, society and environment.

This vision aligns with our broader goal of contributing to social and environmental prosperity by providing reliable, long-term funding. The Fund will address local needs around climate and environment, youth inclusion and education, road safety and cultural dialogue and heritage.

The Community Benefit Fund will be managed by a Community Liaison Group, to ensure that local communities decide how and where the Fund is spent.

Fund Value

The community around Candwr Solar Farm would benefit from an annual community benefit fund of £46,000. The community benefit fund will be available for the operational lifetime of the Solar Farm. The Solar Farm is expected to operate for 40 years. If the Solar Farm operates beyond this, the community benefit fund will be extended in line with the lifetime of the Solar Farm.

Fund Priorities

The fund will be open to proposals from the community to promote social and environmental prosperity and will prioritise funding in the following areas:

-  **Climate and Environmental improvements**
-  **Youth Inclusion and Education**
-  **Road Safety**
-  **Cultural Dialogue and Heritage**

However, the fund will not support:

-  **Organisations that promote any kind of discrimination**
-  **Religious organisations, trade unions and political parties**
-  **Organisations that target or support an individual**
-  **Partnerships that require money to pay for salaries**

We will engage with the local community to help establish the governance and structure of the Community Liaison Group that will decide how the fund should be spent.

Planning Approach including Timeline

Candwr Solar Farm meets the criteria to be classified as a Development of National Significance (DNS).

This type of project requires a special type of planning permission where a planning application is submitted to and approved by Planning Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), a part of the Welsh Government.

The Local Planning Authorities (Torfaen County Borough Council, Monmouthshire County Council and Newport City Council) will provide a local impact report with their opinion on the application, but they will not be responsible for making the final decision.

Consultation is a statutory part of the DNS process, and it enables everyone to comment on the draft planning application. We are currently running a statutory consultation from **2nd July 2026 to 20th August 2026** on the draft planning application for the solar farm.



Contact us

You can submit any ideas for how the community benefit fund should be spent through our project email address info@candwrsolarfarm.co.uk



More information and the draft application documents are also on our project website candwrsolarfarm.co.uk.



Have your say

Provide feedback or contact us by:



Completing the feedback form online



Emailing:
info@candwrsolarfarm.co.uk



Phoning: **01633 631890**



Writing: **Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT** (no stamp or further address required)

Please submit your feedback by
20 August 2026

*These contact details will put you in touch with Grasshopper Communications who are managing the consultation on behalf of TotalEnergies.



You can also view our plans online at: **candwrsolarfarm.co.uk**