

Uwchraddio'r Grid

Pentir i Drawsfynydd

The Great Grid Upgrade

Pentir to Trawsfynydd

PTNO-AEC-ZZZZ-ZZZZZZ-RPT-ES-000034

Prosiect i Atgyfnerthu'r cysylltiad rhwng Pentir a Thrawsfynydd

Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project

Welsh Language Statement: Bryncir Works
September 2025

national**grid**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background to this Welsh Language Statement

- 1.1.1 This Welsh Language Statement (WLS) has been prepared as part of a suite of documents which accompanies an application made by National Grid Electricity Transmission (plc) ('NGET') for full planning permission for the new Bryncir Substation ('the proposed Bryncir Works'). The application, which forms part of the Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project ('the Project') will be made to Gwynedd Council as the determining local planning authority.
- 1.1.2 In line with the requirements of the Gwynedd Council & Isle of Anglesey County Council (2019) Supplementary Planning Guidance (Ref. 1-1), a Welsh Language Statement has been prepared by a competent person. The competent person is an accredited member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) with experience in assessing potential impacts of development proposals on communities. This includes considerations relating mobility of population, visual elements, quality of life, housing and employment, and drawing on their ability and experience in researching and assessing these in applicable local contexts.
- 1.1.3 The requirement to consider the Welsh Language in the planning process stems from legislation, national and local planning policy as well as local authority validation requirements. These requirements are discussed further in Section 2 of this Statement.
- 1.1.4 Wales is recognised as a bilingual nation where Welsh and English are both official languages. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 (Ref. 1-2) is a legal provision that provides that the Welsh language cannot be treated less favourably than English in Wales.
- 1.1.5 Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers (Ref. 1-3) sets out the Welsh Ministers' strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh language and describes the Welsh language as *"one of the treasures of Wales... [and is] part of what defines us as a people and as a nation"*. Cymraeg 2050: Welsh language strategy action plan 2024 to 2025 (Ref 1-4) is the action plan for the 2024 to 2025 financial year for implementing Cymraeg 2050's key targets which includes increasing the number of Welsh speakers to one million by 2050, and increasing the percentage of the population that speak Welsh daily to increase to 20% by 2050.
- 1.1.6 The Welsh language is embedded in Gwynedd, with 64.4% of the population in Gwynedd being Welsh speakers according to the 2021 Census. This remains one of the highest proportions of Welsh speakers in the context of the Welsh counties.
- 1.1.7 This Welsh Language Statement describes how the proposed Bryncir Works aligns with relevant legislation, national and local policies and demonstrates that the proposed Bryncir Works would not preclude the preservation or growth of the Welsh language in Gwynedd.
- 1.1.8 The Welsh language is described in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 12) (Ref. 1-5) as *'part of the social and cultural fabric and its future wellbeing will depend upon a wide range of factors, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities and places'*.

- 1.1.9 Technical Advice Note 20 (TAN 20) (Ref. 1-6) supports PPW and states that the Welsh language is spoken by 19% of the population, and many others have some knowledge of the language or are in the process of learning it. There are substantial variations between the proportions of Welsh speakers in different communities, ranging from less than 8% in Blaenau Gwent to more than 85% in some parts of Gwynedd.
- 1.1.10 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should consider PPW and TAN 20 in their local development plans and when determining planning applications. Gwynedd Council is the relevant LPA for this application where the Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) (Ref. 1-7) is relevant. The JLDP emphasises the importance of considering the potential impacts of development on the Welsh language, whilst also considering the local community.

1.2 Structure of the Statement

- 1.2.1 This report is structured as follows:
- **Chapter 1: Introduction**
 - **Chapter 2: Relevant Legislation and Policy**
 - **Chapter 3: Proposed Bryncir Works Description**
 - **Chapter 4: Stakeholder Engagement & Consultation**
 - **Chapter 5: Community and the Local Area**
 - **Chapter 6: Key Considerations**
 - **Chapter 7: Mitigation and Conclusion**
 - **Chapter 8: Bibliography**

2. Relevant Legislation and Policy

2.1 Relevant Legislation

Planning (Wales) Act 2015

- 2.1.1 The Planning (Wales) Act (2015) (Ref. 2-1) ('the 2015 Act') came into force in 2015 and is a set of provisions which introduced a modern legislative framework for the operation of the planning system in Wales.
- 2.1.2 Part 2 of the 2015 Act requires sustainable development to be carried out in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, with the purpose of ensuring development contributes to the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- 2.1.3 Part 3 of the 2015 Act requires the preparation of a National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales by the Welsh Ministers. The NDF sets out "*the land use priorities and infrastructure requirements for Wales*" and was created to strengthen the plan-led approach to planning. The NDF takes the form of Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 ('Future Wales') (Ref. 2-2), includes overarching ambitions for the future of Wales, including growing the Welsh language by increasing the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050 which would be an approximate increase of 80% from current numbers. Key policies in Future Wales are discussed further below.
- 2.1.4 Part 3 Section 11 of the 2015 Act amends Section 61 (2)(a) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to include the Welsh language as a matter for consideration when considering development management in local planning authority administrative areas. Part 3 Section 31 of the 2015 Act amends Section 70 of The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to direct local planning authorities to consider the Welsh language in the determination of planning applications.
- 2.1.5 The 2015 Act creates provision for and supports the preservation and growth of the Welsh language, informing the framework which includes policies which detail how this can be achieved through development.

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 2.1.6 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Future Generations Act') (Ref. 2-3) was published in 2015 and provides a legally binding common purpose for the national and local governments, local health boards and other specified public bodies. Through the specification of seven well-being goals, it aims to improve the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of Wales by influencing the way new development is planned for in Wales.
- 2.1.7 One of the seven well-being goals is: A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language _ "*A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language.*"
- 2.1.8 The Future Generations Act defines sustainable development as:

“The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.”

- 2.1.9 The Act further includes a principle known as the ‘Five Ways of Working’ (FWoW) which sets out how the aspects of sustainable development should be actioned as follows:
- Long Term - The need to take a long-term approach by recognising the importance of short-term needs and balancing these with long-term needs;
 - Integration - Taking an integrated approach by each public body considering how their well-being objectives affect the well-being goals and their objectives as well as the objectives of other public bodies;
 - Involvement - Involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those involved reflect the diversity of the area in which the body serves;
 - Collaboration - Collaborating with other people or parts of the public body that can help the body meet their well-being objectives;
 - Prevention - Focusing on prevention of problems occurring or escalating to help public bodies meet their objectives.
- 2.1.10 These principles require consideration when planning any actions which concern adhering to the well-being goals, which therefore makes them relevant to the Welsh language.

2.2 Relevant Policy

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

- 2.2.1 Future Wales (Ref. 2-2) was adopted in 2019 and is the NDF for Wales, holding development plan status. It is a spatial plan which sets a direction for where investment into infrastructure should be made and where development should occur for the benefit of Wales and its people. Future Wales focuses on issues, challenges and solutions at a national scale and is intended to be used as a framework which is built upon by regional and local level Development Plans.
- 2.2.2 As set out in paragraph 2.1.3 above, Future Wales sets out the Welsh Government’s ambitions to grow the Welsh Language over the next twenty years. It notes that all development plans should consider the Welsh language and for areas where Welsh is the everyday language for the community, development will be managed to ensure the Welsh language remains central to that community.
- 2.2.3 Policy 1: ‘Where Wales will grow’, details the Welsh Government’s support for sustainable growth across Wales provided it is appropriate. The policy highlights certain areas which are to be considered as National Growth Areas, these include the North of Wales where the Bryncir Works are proposed. Policy 1 details the importance of delivering the outcomes of Future Wales in these areas to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. This is relevant to the Welsh language as there is national effort through Government policy, including Future Wales, to conserve and grow the language.
- 2.2.4 Policy 19: Strategic Policies for Regional Planning, details the strategic priorities which should inform the development of Regional Strategic Development Plans. The policy

highlights the role of regional strategies in informing local policy and further states the growth of the Welsh language as one of the key components of the Welsh Government's national ambition. The Policy further provides context as the North of Wales being home to a high concentration of Welsh speakers with many settlements where Welsh is spoken as the first language for much of the community. The policy details the relative importance of ensuring development is sympathetic to allowing the Welsh language to thrive.

Planning Policy Wales Edition 12 (PPW)

- 2.2.5 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Ref. 1-5) was first published in 2002 and last updated in February 2024. PPW sets out the land use planning policies for Wales, together with the Technical Advice Notes. PPW aims to ensure the planning system delivers sustainable development which improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- 2.2.6 The Welsh language is defined as part of the social and cultural fabric in Wales at paragraph 3.25. It goes on to direct that the planning system should consider the conditions which are critical to enable the Welsh language to thrive. Paragraph 2.27 of PPW 12 includes how far a development proposal support the conditions that allow for the use of the Welsh language as a consideration in assessing the sustainable benefits of development.
- 2.2.7 Paragraph 3.28 of PPW reinforces that the use of the Welsh language can be used by decision makers as a material consideration to applications for planning permission. Paragraph 3.29 states:
"if required, language impact assessments may be carried out in respect of large developments not allocated in a development plan which are proposed in areas of particular sensitivity or importance for the language. Any such areas should be defined clearly in the development plan."

Technical Advice Note 20

- 2.2.8 TAN 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (Ref. 1-6) was published in 2017, and provides guidance on how the Welsh language should be considered within the planning system.
- 2.2.9 TAN 20 recognises the need for creating favourable circumstances which encourage the number of Welsh speakers and that the planning system has a role to play through enabling conditions which allow sustainable communities to thrive.
- 2.2.10 TAN 20 paragraph 3.1.2 draws attention to the Welsh language as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications although it notes that, under Section 70(2) TCPA there is no *"additional weight given to the Welsh language above any other material considerations and that planning permission must be based on planning grounds only and be reasonable"*.
- 2.2.11 Section 3.4 of TAN 20 highlights the need to consult the Local Development Plan (LDP) for any requirements for mitigation and enhancement measures in support of the Welsh language. The developer should consult the LDP and follow any related guidance accordingly. TAN 20 states in paragraph 3.4.2 that
"Mitigation measures may be applied to permissions either through conditions attached to a planning permission or through section 106 obligations".

- 2.2.12 Therefore, developers can expect to incur conditions and measures should their development not comply with the requirements and expectations relating to the Welsh language as specified in the LDP. TAN 20 draws specific attention to the use of signs and advertisements in the promotion of the Welsh language, and advises developers to specifically check the LDP and any supplementary planning guidance for related policies.

Anglesey and Gwynedd Council Joint Local Development Plan 2017

- 2.2.13 The JLDP (Ref. 1-7) is the local development plan for Gwynedd Council and was adopted in 2017. The JLDP includes safeguarding and strengthening the Welsh language as part of its strategic objectives and notes that at the time of writing, the plan area has the highest proportion of the population that speak, read, and write Welsh. This statement is reinforced by the 2021 Census data as described in paragraph 1.1.5 of this Statement.
- 2.2.14 The JLDP specifies under Policy PS1: Welsh Language and Culture that a Welsh Language Statement (WLS), and Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA) are required for certain development, although the proposed Bryncir Works do not directly fall within these criteria as the proposals are not development of a retail, industrial, commercial, or residential nature.
- 2.2.15 Strategic Policy PS5: Sustainable Development of the LDP further integrates the Welsh language into the principles of sustainable development, stating all proposals should *“protect, support and promote the use of the Welsh Language in accordance with PS 1”*.
- 2.2.16 Paragraph 3 of PS1, advises that proposals should be refused where significant harm is brought to the character, language, and balance of a community where appropriate mitigation and planning measures cannot reduce this. This highlights the need for developers to consider impacts to the Welsh language in relation to development proposals, and ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are proposed where needed as far as reasonably practicable. Additionally, PS1 makes bilingual signage and Welsh names preferable for development.
- 2.2.17 Policy ISA1: Infrastructure Provision provides details as to the conditions under which proposals for the provision of infrastructure will be granted. The policy states that:
“Proposals will only be granted where adequate infrastructure capacity exists or where it is delivered in a timely manner”.
- 2.2.18 ISA1 further specifies that where the development generates a need for new or improved infrastructure a contribution to do so may be sought from the developer. Under ISA1 the Welsh language is detailed as a measure for which a contribution may be sought to ensure that a proposal is acceptable.

Emerging Local Plan

- 2.2.19 A new Local Development Plan for just Gwynedd Council is currently being prepared and will cover the period between 2024 and 2039. The new Local Development Plan is set to be adopted between September and October 2027. The review of the existing plan notes the importance of the Welsh language as part of the social and cultural fabric of the area and evidences the need for a Welsh Language Impact Assessment in the preparation of the replacement plan. It can be expected that the new Local

Development Plan will reflect the wider national aims with regard to the Welsh language.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

- 2.2.20 Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities (2019) (Ref. 2-1) is one of several adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents published by Gwynedd Council. This SPG includes guidance on the assessment of the likely effects of a proposal on the Welsh language. The SPG highlights the importance for developers to consider the need for development to contribute positively to the sustainability and viability of the Welsh language over the plan period.
- 2.2.21 The SPG explains the purpose of a WLS is to enable Gwynedd Council to determine whether the proposal meets the LDPs objectives and policies and enables both the applicant and Gwynedd Council to identify any measures required to mitigate for negative impacts and capitalise on opportunities for enhancement of the Welsh language.
- 2.2.22 The requirements for the WLS are specified in Appendix 7 of the SPG and divided into three stages as follows:
- Collecting, recording, and analysing information and about the community and local area;
 - Collecting, recording, and analysing policy requirements with the aim to identifying relevant policies to the development; and
 - Applying the information collected to identify how the application accords with national and local policies and impacts positively on the Welsh language.

3. Proposed Bryncir Works Description

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This chapter outlines why the proposed Bryncir Works are required and describes the works which would be undertaken.

3.2 The Proposed Bryncir Works

- 3.2.1 NGET operates the electricity transmission system in Great Britain and owns the system in England and Wales. The system operates at 400 kilovolts (kV) and 275 kV, connecting electricity generators to substations where higher voltages are transformed to lower voltages, enabling the power to be distributed to homes and businesses by the Distribution Network Operators.
- 3.2.2 The Electricity System Operator is responsible for identifying how the national electricity transmission system needs to be adapted to meet challenges of connecting new generation and interconnectors to address reducing carbon emissions and improving energy security. Its analysis has demonstrated that there is insufficient transmission capacity in the existing electricity transmission network in North Wales to connect additional consented, forecasted and foreseeable large scale power generation developments, notably from renewable offshore energy in the Irish Sea off the north coast of Wales and west coast of England.
- 3.2.3 The existing double circuit electric line between Pentir and Trawsfynydd Substations is primarily overhead suspended from towers (pylons), and it presently operates by underground cables between Wern and Garth (known as 'the Glaslyn Cables'). Increasing capacity on the existing double circuit electric line between these substations has been identified as an urgently required action. This is recognised by Ofgem and has identified the necessary works as Accelerated Strategic Transmission Investment (ASTI).
- 3.2.4 The proposed Bryncir Works is needed as the 132 kV circuit on the 4ZC overhead line is being replaced by a 400 kV circuit, removing the present 132 kV supply off Tower 4ZC70 to the existing Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) DB route (132 kV overhead line).
- 3.2.5 The function of Bryncir substation (the proposed Bryncir Works) would be to take power from the existing Pentir – Trawsfynydd 400 kV overhead line, transforming it to a voltage of 132 kV and connecting this to the existing 132 kV distribution network via underground cables and overhead line. A section of the existing 132 kV overhead line will become redundant and will be removed.
- 3.2.6 The new Bryncir Substation would take a 400 kV supply from the 4ZC overhead line at Tower 4ZC67. A new tower will be built to replace Tower 4ZC67 to allow downloads to connect into the substation.
- 3.2.7 A Public Right of Way (PRoW, Footpath 18 Dolbenmaen) will need to be permanently diverted to facilitate the proposed substation. This diversion would increase the journey length of users by approximately 90 metres (m).

- 3.2.8 The construction period is expected to last 18 to 20 months from Quarter 1, 2026 and Quarter 3, 2027. Therefore, the likely effects will be of a medium-term temporary nature. Although the jobs generated are temporary, they represent a positive economic effect for a substantial period.
- 3.2.9 During the construction phase an access road from the A487, bell-mouth, substation platform, site compound and laydown areas would be established in support of construction. During construction, a range of vehicles will be accessing the site including concrete lorries, heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs).
- 3.2.10 NGET estimates that the proposed works will require an average of 16 gross direct full-time equivalent (FTE) construction jobs on-site per day during the construction period, with a peak workforce of 32 in 2027. This is based on the construction activities required and will fluctuate during the period.

4. Stakeholder Engagement & Consultation

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This chapter outlines the Stakeholder Engagement which has been undertaken to date, both in relation to the wider Project and the proposed Bryncir Works. Stakeholder Engagement is frequently discussed in the SPG (Ref. 2-1), with emphasis placed on the principle of communication and consultation with stakeholders throughout the formulation of a development.

4.2 Stakeholder Engagement undertaken to date

- 4.2.1 Throughout the Project, NGET has engaged with several key stakeholder groups ensuring appropriate consideration is given to the Welsh language.
- 1.1.1 An initial phase of engagement was undertaken by the NGET. The purpose of this engagement was to introduce the wider Project to members of the public and to offer the opportunity to learn more about the ongoing proposals in respect of the proposed Bryncir Works and the wider Project. Local engagement will continue throughout the construction phase to keep local communities, businesses and stakeholders fully informed and will be undertaken bilingually.
- 4.2.2 This initial phase of engagement included:
- A newsletter distributed to residents living in the vicinity of where aspects of the work will take place, including in Porthmadog, Tremadog, Minffordd, Bryncir and Pentir. The newsletter explained the context and need case for the project, outlined the work proposed, the planning and consents processes, the project timeline, and provided the details of information events and project contact details to find out further details.
 - A website, containing the same information.
 - Five public information events, the first of a regular series where people could talk to members of the project team face-to-face about our work and discuss any queries. These were held at venues in Porthmadog (x2, including one on a Saturday morning to maximise availability), Tremadog, Bryncir/Garndolbenmaen, and Penrhyndeudraeth.
 - A dual-language virtual event held online for those unable to attend a physical event in-person.
 - Correspondence to elected representatives, including community councils, ward councillors, MP and Members of the Senedd informing them of the engagement and offering a meeting or briefing.
 - A dedicated project email address and freephone project enquiry telephone line where people could leave a message to be responded to typically between 9am and 5:30pm Monday to Friday.
- 4.2.3 The engagement information has been produced both in Welsh and English, including newsletters, letters and information panels. Welsh speakers have been and will continue

to be available to engage at all events and via the project telephone line. All public correspondence, including emails and letters have been produced in both languages. Simultaneous translation has been made available where requested for meetings.

- 4.2.4 The project was presented throughout in its entirety to allow people to understand the Project and its interrelated elements 'in the round'.
- 4.2.5 This initial phase of pre-application engagement forms part of ongoing engagement with communities and elected representatives that will take place throughout the lifetime of the Project, including during construction. Parties involved include the Local Authority, The Local Town Council, The Health Board and the Community School with site and online meetings engaging their relevant stakeholders. Full details of engagement are set out in the Pre-Application Consultation Report accompanying the planning application. The application will also be subject to statutory Pre-Application Consultation (PAC), and the responses to this will be included in the PAC report.
- 4.2.6 The Bryncir substation is proposed on agricultural land in the Garndolbenmaen area south of the A487 bypass. NGET has engaged with the landowner for the application site since 2022, having previously discussed its already consented substation proposal on that land. Discussions have included how NGET can minimise its effects on the agricultural operation whilst accommodating the components of the development.
- 4.2.7 NGET have also been in consultation with SPEN and they have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU sets out the principles of how NGET will ensure continuity of supplies to SPEN once the new Bryncir substation is constructed.

5. Community and the Local Area

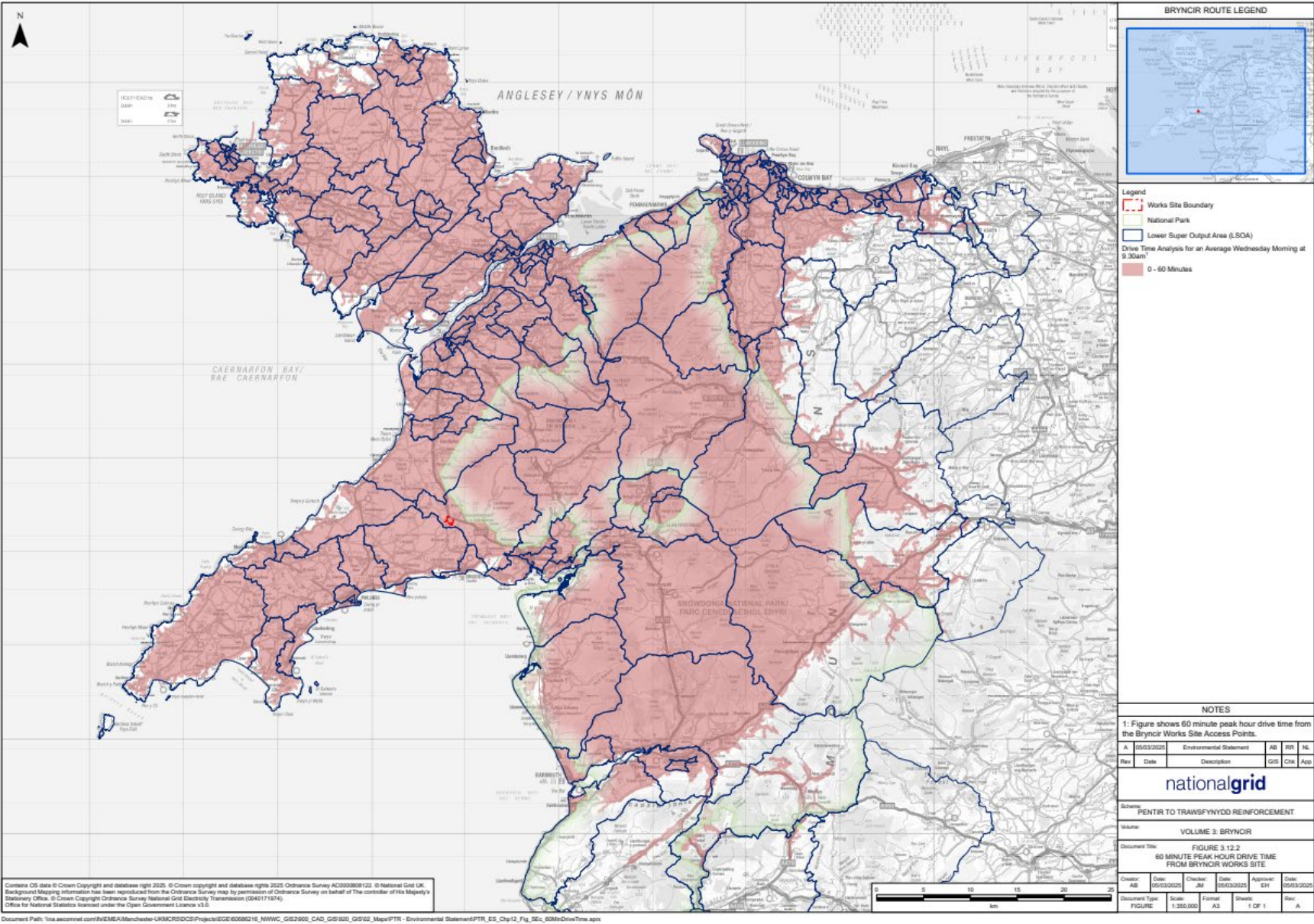
5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 This section comprises data collated for the assessment of socio-economics and tourism as part of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 5.1.2 Socio-economic and tourism data is relevant to this Welsh language statement as it helps better understand the potential impacts of the proposed Bryncir Works on tourism, recreation, community and employment, all of which are topics for consideration as recommended by the Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities SPG. This section also refers to other chapters of the ES where collated information is relevant to the Welsh language, e.g. transport.
- 5.1.3 Additional data specific to the Welsh language has been collated. Links to relevant reports and data are provided in the bibliography of this statement.

5.2 Community and Local Area

- 5.2.1 As part of the socio-economic assessment, a Principal Economic Impact Area (60-minute drive time) was defined, which is consistent with the 'area of influence', as required by the Welsh Language Statement SPG. This comprises 191 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs). This takes in most of Gwynedd, the Isle of Anglesey and Conwy and small sections of Denbighshire and Powys. The effects of the proposed Bryncir Works on PRoW, private and community assets are assessed according to a 500m radius from the Bryncir Works site, whilst community facilities are assessed according to a 1 kilometre (km) radius from the site.
- 5.2.2 **Figure 1** shows the location of the works site boundary and the 60-minute drive time boundary which makes up the Principal Economic Impact Area of the proposed Bryncir Works – see the Socio-economics chapter of the ES (**Volume 3, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economics**) for explanation on how this has been defined.

Figure 1 Bryncir Works Principal Economic Impact Area



5.3 Population

- 5.3.1 According to the 2021 Census (Ref. 5-1), the Principal Economic Impact Area had a population of 315,251 which constituted approximately 10.1% of Wales' population (3,107,494). In this area, 25.6% of the population were aged over 65, a higher proportion than that recorded in Gwynedd (23.1%) and Wales (21.3%). Correspondingly, the Principal Economic Impact Area recorded a smaller proportion of working age residents (59.3%) compared to Gwynedd (61.4%) and Wales (62.1%).
- 5.3.2 The 2019 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation presents deprivation data at LSOA level (Ref. 5-2). There are 1,909 LSOAs across Wales; the average rank of the LSOAs comprising Gwynedd was 1,080 (with 1 being the most deprived). Scores are also given for each LSOA, with 0 being the least deprived and 100 the most deprived. The average score across the Gwynedd LSOAs was 16.8. Furthermore, the median deprivation decile for Gwynedd's LSOAs was 6; this indicates that the average LSOA in Gwynedd is less deprived than 60% of LSOAs in Wales. Overall, Gwynedd is relatively less deprived on average.

5.4 Welsh Speakers

- 5.4.1 The 2021 Census (Ref. 5-3) states that there were 144,837 people across the Principal Economic Impact Area that could speak Welsh (45.9% of the total Principal Economic Impact Area population). The previous 2011 Census data (Ref. 5-4) does not use the same 2021 LSOA boundaries, however, when reconciling the geographies using a NOMIS LSOA 2011 to 2021 comparison dataset (Ref. 5-5), it shows that 151,560 people, or 48.8% of the population, could speak Welsh. The 2011 Census dataset considers different categories of Welsh skills to 2021, hence the remaining 51.2% of the population includes those who may have other Welsh language skills, such as the ability to understand spoken Welsh or the ability to read or write.
- 5.4.2 **Table 5-1** outlines the age of the total Welsh speaking population of the Principal Economic Impact Area. In 2021, approximately 19.7% of the population of Welsh speakers in the Principal Economic Impact Area were under age 15, decreasing slightly from 20.2% in 2011. Similarly, in 2021, 59.2% of Welsh speakers in the Principal Economic Impact Area were of working age (16-64 years), decreasing slightly from 2011 (60.2%). The proportion of Welsh speakers aged 65 and over increased from 2011 (19.6%) to 2021 (21.1%).

Table 5-1: Percentage of Total Welsh Speakers by Age

	≤15 years	16-24 years	25-34 years	35-49 years	50-64 years	65+ years
2011 (%)	20.2	12.3	11.0	19.0	17.9	19.6
2021 (%)	19.7	11.3	11.8	16.9	19.2	21.1

Source: 2021 Census (Ref. 5-1), 2011 Census (Ref. 5-2).

5.5 Local Facilities and Services

- 5.5.1 There is one community facility within 1 km of the Bryncir Works Site: the Ysgol Garndolbenmaen primary school, approximately 930 m from the site boundary.
- 5.5.2 The community surrounding the Bryncir Works Site comprises small clusters of sparsely located residential properties on the B4411 and Station Road. There are two visitor accommodation sites within 500m of the Site: the Eiddior cottage holiday rental and the Hafod Llecheiddior holiday home alongside a gastropub, garden centre and cafe, and agricultural services. There is a larger cluster of residential properties approximately 1.1 km to the north-east, in the village of Garndolbenmaen.
- 5.5.3 The site intersects two Public Rights of Way (PRoW), namely the Llanystumdwy No 96 and Dolbenmaen No 18 footpaths. Footpath 18 Dolbenmaen will be permanently diverted as a result of the proposed Bryncir Works. In addition, National Cycle Route 8 (Lôn Las Cymru) runs along the western boundary of the Bryncir Works Site from north to south, using the minor road near Tyddyn-y-felin.
- 5.5.4 There are two bus routes within 1km of the site. These include two bus stops from The Goat Inn - Tafarn Yr Afr (approximately 825 m north-east of the site) serviced by the T2 TrawsCymru route and T22 TrawsCymru route, running between Bangor and Aberystwyth and Blaenau Ffestiniog to Caernarfon respectively. Criccieth offers the closest train station which provides Transport for Wales services to Pwllheli and Machynlleth.
- 5.5.5 The proposed Bryncir Works are not expected to adversely impact the availability of public transport routes in the community. An assessment of potential effects on public transport has been undertaken as part of the ES (**Volume 3, Chapter 9 – Traffic and Transport**).

6. Key Considerations

- 6.1.1 **Table 6-1** sets out the key considerations as provided by the Maintaining and Creating Distinctive and Sustainable Communities SPG (Appendix 7) and answers each question with a response relating to the proposed Bryncir Works and the measures undertaken to protect and enhance the use of the Welsh language. A rating is then assigned and discussed overall in the conclusion. Due to the nature of the project being the provision of electricity infrastructure, questions which are not applicable to the assessment have been omitted, such as those relating to school capacity and new housing.

Table 6-1: Key Considerations

Theme	Response	Rating
Language and Mobility of Population		
How will the development ensure opportunities for local people to stay in their communities?	<p>During the construction period, mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the impact of construction activities on the local community.</p> <p>All employment associated with the proposed Bryncir Works will be during construction, where an estimated peak of 32 FTE workers will be on site per day at Bryncir. It is estimated that 4 construction jobs may be taken up by local residents, as described in the socio-economics chapter of the ES (Volume 3, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economics), and the employment opportunities generated by the proposed Bryncir Works represent a very modest change. As this slight change will only occur temporarily for construction, the employment opportunities to encourage local people to stay in their communities will be small.</p> <p>In terms of noise and vibration impacts, the contractor will adhere to the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) (ES Volume 8, Appendix 3.2.A – Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan) which sets out Best Practicable Means (BPM) to control noise effects, such as using modern plant which complies with UK noise emission requirements and complying with set working hours. These measures will minimise the likelihood of local people leaving the community due to negative noise and vibration impacts.</p> <p>With regards to traffic and transport impacts during construction, embedded mitigation measures such as traffic controls and controlled access points to the site will be in place, hence no significant effects are anticipated for road users, as identified in the ES (Volume 3, Chapter 9 – Traffic and Transport). As a result, local people are unlikely to experience negative effects with respect of travelling and remain able to undertake their daily activities in the area, hence are likely to remain in their local communities.</p> <p>From a landscape and visual perspective, embedded mitigation has been designed into the proposed Bryncir Works, such as the retention of existing vegetation and the incorporation of</p>	Neutral

	<p>new and additional tree and hedgerow planting to assimilate the Bryncir Works into the existing landscape character and provide localised screening. Retaining, and where possible, improving the visual amenity in these local areas would potentially encourage people to stay within their communities and attract people outside of the immediate community and make use of the aforementioned walking and cycling routes. Whilst these routes may attract visitors who are non-Welsh speakers it may also attract Welsh speakers from neighbouring communities.</p> <p>Finally, as discussed below, the proposed Bryncir Works will provide vital electrical infrastructure for the local area, helping to ensure that both residents and businesses can remain technologically equipped. This investment will reduce the likelihood of either group relocating due to outdated or insufficient infrastructure.</p>	
Is there a likelihood that local people will migrate from the community as a result of the development?	<p>During the construction phase there are planned mitigation measures, which will be secured in the CEMP, to reduce impacts on local people. During the operational phase, there will be no impacts on the local community.</p> <p>Once operational, the proposed Bryncir Works would deliver much needed improvements to the electrical infrastructure serving the local community. This will support and sustain the ability of the local community to function and develop. Without the required infrastructure delivered by the proposed Bryncir Works, it is possible that the community may face disruption due to insufficient capacity in the National Grid network, which may lead to local people and businesses leaving the area.</p> <p>As discussed, the construction works will be medium term with mitigation measures in place, no operational effects are anticipated, and the proposed Bryncir Works comprise a key requirement for electrical infrastructure in the local community. It is unlikely that local people will migrate from the area due to the proposed Bryncir Works.</p>	Neutral
Balance between Welsh speakers (including learners) and individuals that do not have any Welsh language skills	<p>During construction, up to 32 FTE operatives will be on site at one time. Where feasible, local workers will be sourced from the Principal Economic Impact Area, although given the isolation of the site from populated areas, it may not be possible to source all workers locally. As highlighted in Section 5.4, 45.9% of people in the Principal Economic Impact Area can speak Welsh. It is possible that workers who may be from the Principal Economic Impact Area may speak Welsh.</p>	N/A

	To ensure that the proposed Bryncir Works would not affect the balance between Welsh speakers and individuals without any Welsh language skills, signage and relevant communications will be prepared in both Welsh and English which would ensure both groups are adequately catered for.	
Is the development likely to lead to a change in the age structure within the population: more or less children, young people, middle-aged people, elderly?	All employment associated with the proposed Bryncir Works will be during construction, when an estimated peak of 32 FTE workers will be on site per day at Bryncir. It is estimated that 4 FTE jobs are likely to be taken up by local residents, therefore employment levels are sufficient only to carry out the works needed and overall represent a very modest change in employment set in the context of the labour force in the study area generally. As this slight change will only occur temporarily for construction, there will be no permanent changes to the age structure in the local population.	Neutral
Is the change likely to be a permanent one or a temporary one?	The change to the infrastructure is permanent but it does not require permanent employment and no permanent changes to population characteristics are expected.	Neutral
Visual Elements		
Will the development increase the visibility of the language?	During construction, project information and signage will be displayed in both English and Welsh. As the development involves the development of a new substation, the opportunity to provide visual elements which increase the visibility of the Welsh language is limited.	Neutral
Will the development provide signs and advertisements on the site that are within the planning remit?	During construction, information and signage relating to the proposed Bryncir Works will be displayed in both English and Welsh.	Neutral
Will the name of the development retain an old Welsh name or will be a new name derived from historical,	All existing names applicable to the site will be retained. The proposed Bryncir Works relates to the creation of a new substation facility, hence there will be no opportunity or need to provide a new named area.	Neutral

geographical, or local
ties to the area?

Quality of Life (some questions have been omitted e.g. local school capacity and Welsh speaking in schools, as the proposed Bryncir Works relates to the provision of electricity infrastructure which would not generate additional residents in the area for a prolonged period of time who may make use of local schools).

Will the development
increase the demand on
local facilities and
services?

During peak construction, an estimated 32 FTE workers will be on site at its peak. As a result, it is likely that some workers may be required to stay in local hotels and use local facilities/services during the construction period.

Neutral

To what extent will the
development have a
positive or negative
impact on existing
facilities or services?

The Socio-economics chapter of the ES (**Volume 3, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economics**) has concluded that the local hotel, bed and breakfast and inns accommodation sector has the capacity to cater for the potential peak construction workforce of 32.

Regarding local businesses, where owners and staff may speak Welsh, the presence of additional workers during the construction phase of the proposed Bryncir Works could lead to increased visits to these establishments, thereby boosting business activity and benefiting the local community.

In terms of demand arising on local transport networks during construction, the proposed Bryncir Works will promote car sharing to reduce the number of vehicle trips generated, with 50% assumed to take part in this scheme, with the remaining 50% using private vehicles. It is unlikely there will be any negative impacts on public transport networks, and the increase in road traffic would be minimal.

As identified, PRow Footpath 18 Dolbenmaen will need to be permanently diverted in both construction and operation phases to facilitate the proposed Bryncir Works. The diversion would increase the journey length of users by approximately 90 m alongside the provision of a new kissing gate. A large network of PRowS within the study area also offers additional options for recreational activity. Given the short increase in distance of the diverted PRow and the presence of alternative recreational routes in the local area, it is unlikely there will be any negative impacts on PRow or way of life in the local area.

In addition, the National Cycle Network Route 8 (Lôn Las Cymru) passes along the western boundary of the Bryncir Works Site. The proposed Bryncir Works will not impact the use of the cycle route. There is potential for some landscape and visual impacts during construction and operation (Year 1 winter) phases, however there are no significant effects on any receptors at Year 15 due to the established boundary planting scheme, as described in the ES (**Volume 3, Chapter 4 – Landscape and Visual Amenity**). In terms of effects on transport, National Cycle Network Route 8 is not expected to be impacted by the proposed Bryncir Works, as described in the ES (**Volume 3, Chapter 9 – Traffic and Transport**).

The above potential impacts are temporary in nature and are not expected to have an adverse impact on the use of the Welsh language in the local community.

To what degree will the development create new opportunities to promote the Welsh language in local facilities and services such as halls, shops, and so on?

During construction, the proposed Bryncir Works will generate a peak workforce of 32 in 2027. Where feasible, local workers will be sourced from the Principal Economic Impact Area, although given the isolation of the site from populated areas, it may not be possible to source all workers locally. The socio-economics chapter of the ES (**Volume 4, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economics**) concluded that the proposed works will support up to 4 gross direct FTE jobs per day sourced from residents within the Principal Economic Impact Area during the construction period.

As highlighted in Section 5.4, almost half (45.9%) of people in the Principal Economic Impact Area could speak Welsh, 59.2% of whom are of working age (16-64 years). It is possible that workers who may be from within the area, making use of local facilities and services, may also speak Welsh, which would represent a small potential increase in Welsh speakers or opportunities for Welsh speaking in the local community.

Measures will be in place to ensure workers have a sound understanding of the importance of the Welsh language in the local community, such as providing lists of phrases to workers and creating opportunities in the area and in Gwynedd for adults to learn Welsh via educational schemes.

Neutral

New Housing – omitted as not applicable to the proposed Bryncir Works

Employment

How will the development contribute to current employment opportunities in the area, e.g. will it foster economic variability in the local area or not?	<p>As stated above, there will be 4 gross direct FTE on-site construction jobs taken up by residents of the study area. This will increase employment opportunities and have a positive impact on the local economy but at a modest scale whereby no change is expected to the structure of the employment market in respect of labour mobility and wages.</p> <p>As discussed, construction jobs are likely to be generated in the Principal Economic Impact Area, increasing employment opportunities for the working age population (16-64 years), comprising 59.2% of the Welsh speaking population.</p> <p>Construction staff are likely to require services from the local economy and businesses such as shops and restaurants. This will have a positive impact on the local economy during construction of the proposed Bryncir Works.</p> <p>No new permanent jobs would be created by the proposed Bryncir Works during operation.</p>	Positive (short- term benefit)
Skills which are necessary for the business or organisation and how that compares with the labour skills of local people (within the travel to work area)	<p>A combination of local and national workers are anticipated to be required during the construction phase to provide the activities required.</p> <p>During operation, no new permanent jobs would be created by the proposed Bryncir Works. Occasional visits and checks by individuals with a specific skillset from National Grid will be undertaken, who will likely travel from within the Principal Economic Impact Area.</p>	Neutral
Salaries that will be offered and how that compares with average wages in the area	As previously described, the construction phase is likely to generate up to 4 gross direct FTE jobs for local residents. Information relating to anticipated wages is not available, however it is anticipated that these would be in line with national averages for the job types required, and the modest level of job creation overall would mean that no changes to local wage levels will occur.	Neutral
The labour skills of local people (within the travel to work area) and how likely it is according to the above assessment the posts will be filled	As previously described, the construction phase is likely to generate up to 4 gross direct FTE jobs for local residents. Job roles will be assigned based on the skills required, hence should local people fulfil this requirement, it is likely they would be able to fill these posts.	Neutral

from among the local population		
Is it likely that you will need to search outside the local area for employees, e.g. to obtain specialist skills?	As previously described, the construction phase is likely to generate up to 4 gross direct FTE jobs for local residents during the construction period. Roles will be assigned based on the skills required, hence should local people not fulfil these requirements, it is likely that workers with the relevant skillset will be sought from outside the Principal Economic Impact Area.	Neutral
What type of Welsh language skills are essential and desirable for the jobs that will be created by the development? These will need to be defined as part of the development's Welsh language Plan (voluntary or statutory).	As previously described, no permanent jobs would be created by the proposed Bryncir Works. Infrequent maintenance activities may be undertaken by existing National Grid staff, who may be based locally and are likely to speak Welsh.	N/A
Welsh language skills that will be necessary for the workers and their dependents to integrate into the local community	As previously described, no permanent jobs would be created by the proposed Bryncir Works. Infrequent maintenance activities may be undertaken by existing National Grid staff, who may be based locally and are likely to speak Welsh.	N/A
The possible cumulative impact that the development could have, taking account of any other relevant recent development in the local area	The proposed Bryncir Works are not expected to impact other developments in the area, as described in the ES (Volume 3, Chapter 12 – Socio-Economics). As previously described, the proposed Bryncir Works are not anticipated to generate operational employment hence it would not result in any cumulative impact on employment.	N/A

7. Mitigation and Conclusion

- 7.1.1 This Welsh Language Statement has considered the potential effects of the proposed Bryncir Works on the use of the Welsh language in the local community. The Key Considerations scored each category as positive (short-term), not applicable, or neutral, hence did not identify any adverse impacts on the use of the Welsh language in the Principal Economic Impact Area.
- 7.1.2 Despite no adverse impacts identified within the assessment, it is expected that measures will be implemented to ensure that use of the Welsh language is preserved. Measures will include the use of bilingual signage for the Project and on affected road routes and PRoW, and where possible, ensuring local people are employed who may speak or have knowledge of the Welsh language. Additionally, as identified within the Key Considerations, the Project will provide resources for workers, such as key phrase lists, to help those who cannot speak Welsh.
- 7.1.3 Further consultation with the local community and key stakeholders will continue to take place across all project phases and will provide information in both Welsh and English, and where in person events take place, a Welsh speaker will be present. This will ensure language requirements of the local community are catered for and satisfy the standards of national and local policy with regards to the Welsh language.
- 7.1.4 National Grid considers that this Welsh Language Statement has sufficiently met the requirements of national and local policy, and it will implement measures to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Welsh language across the proposed Bryncir Works.

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National Grid plc
National Grid House,
Warwick Technology Park,
Gallows Hill, Warwick.
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales
No. 4031152
nationalgrid.com