Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project

Equality Impact Assessment

Updated Report

July 2026



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Updated Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) is preparing to make a compulsory purchase order (CPO) under Section 10 of the Electricity Act 1989 to support the acquisition of land and rights over land to enable them to deliver the North West Wales Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project ('the Project').

1.1.2 The Project comprises reinforcement of the transmission network between Pentir substation and Trawsfynydd substation, including a new substation at Bryncir and replacement of underground cables in Glaslyn. The Project works are supported by five Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA) applications and three applications for consent under section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989.

1.1.3 Arcadis has been commissioned by NGET to prepare an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to accompany proposals for the CPO of land and rights along the route of the Project. This document presents an assessment of the potential equality effects, including a description of the relevant baseline characteristics of the surrounding area, identification of direct effects arising from the CPO and an assessment of wider effects which may arise from the Project.

1.1.4 Additional mitigation measures have been identified where appropriate to avoid, reduce or offset any adverse effects identified and/or enhance likely beneficial effects.

1.2 Purpose of the Equality Impact Assessment

1.2.1 The Equality Act 2010 provides people with legal protection from discrimination. It sets out different ways in which it is unlawful for someone to be treated. The Public Sector Equality Duty (the PSED) was created under the Equality Act 2010 and came into force in 2011 to harmonise the equality duties and in particular, to require those subject to it to have due regard to:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

1.2.2 The purpose of this EqIA is to identify and address potential equality impacts that may arise as a result of the CPO process and from the Project. This relates to impacts of the CPO and of the Project on people with relevant protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 who live or work in areas affected by the Project. Protected characteristics (defined in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) are[1]:

- age

[1] Marriage and civil partnership is a protected characteristic in the context of employment whereby employers must not discriminate against employees or job applicants on the basis of their married or civil partnership status. It is therefore not relevant to this EqIA.

- disability
- gender reassignment
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

1.2.3 Although National Grid is not subject to the PSED, considering equality effects is good practice and demonstrates National Grid's ambition to contribute to a more equitable society. The organisation's mission is to build a business that represents, reflects and celebrates the cultures and communities it serves. Business is conducted in line with National Grid's values to 'Do the Right Thing, Find a Better Way and Make it Happen', and respect for human rights is incorporated into employment practices and values.

1.2.4 National Grid's commitment to equality is outlined through the organisation's values and Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) Strategy (National Grid, 2025a) as well as a Code of Ethics document (National Grid, updated 2024) which has clear objectives and greater accountability around the organisation with regard to Diversity, Equality and Inclusion.

1.2.5 This document will remain live throughout the CPO processIt will be updated at appropriate points to incorporate the latest equalities issues arising from engagement with landowners and tenants including through any objections, heads of terms negotiations, preparation for any public inquiry and implementation of the CPO if it is confirmed,

2 Description of the Project

2.1.1 A summary of the works proposed as part of the Project is as follows:

- **Pentir**: replacement of existing underground cables and installation of new underground cables at the existing Pentir substation.
- **Bryncir**: a new substation and a new access road from the A487; 132 kV underground cables from the new substation to their connection with the new 132 kV overhead line to the north-west; a connection between the new 132 kV overhead line and the existing Scottish Power Electricity Networks ("SPEN") (known as the 'DB route'); removal of the redundant section of the existing SPEN DB route; upgrading of an access track and the diversion of a footpath.
- **Glaslyn Cables**: an extension to the existing Wern Cables Sealing End Compound (CSEC), replacement of the Glaslyn Cables and associated infrastructure with new 400 kV sections (inland A circuit and coastal B circuit) between Wern CSEC and Minffordd CSEC, a new CSEC and a new tunnel head house similar to that previously consented by the Eryri Visual Improvement Provision (EVIP) project (increase of floor height) at Minffordd and the removal of the existing Garth CSEC and removal of redundant sections of the existing 400kv and 132kv and making safe sections of redundant Glaslyn Cables left in situ.
- **Glaslyn Cables Temporary Pumping Stations**: two temporary pumping stations to address risk of flooding from temporary works during severe storm events. One will pump water from Y Cut into Llyn Bach (open to the sea) and one will pump water from the River Glaslyn into Llyn Bach. These will be required only during the temporary works occupying part of the flood plain and would only operate in times of severe flood conditions.
- **Trawsfynydd Substation**: installation of new underground cables, installation of a shunt reactor and a new gantry.

- Reconductoring and replacement of fittings on the SPEN 4ZC overhead line between Towers 4ZC005 and Tower 4ZC0027 and replacement of the earthwire with Optical Ground Wire (OPGW).
- Reconductoring and replacement of fittings between Tower 4ZC044 and Tower 4ZC070 with 400 kV conductors and replacement of the earthwire with OPGW.
- Installation of fibre optic cables along the earthwire between Towers 4ZC070 and Tower 4ZC140.
- Other ancillary works.

2.1.2 These Project works are split across five TCPA applications, named as follows:

- Pentir substation upgrade TCPA
- Bryncir substation TCPA
- Glaslyn underground cables TCPA
- Trawsfynydd substation upgrade TCPA
- Glaslyn temporary pumping stations TCPA

2.1.3 The five TCPAs are supported by a Wider Works assessment. This assessment describes anticipated effects from activities that will comprise part of the Project but which are not defined as development and therefore do not require planning permission. This predominantly includes the works required to reinforce the existing 4ZC overhead line (OHL).

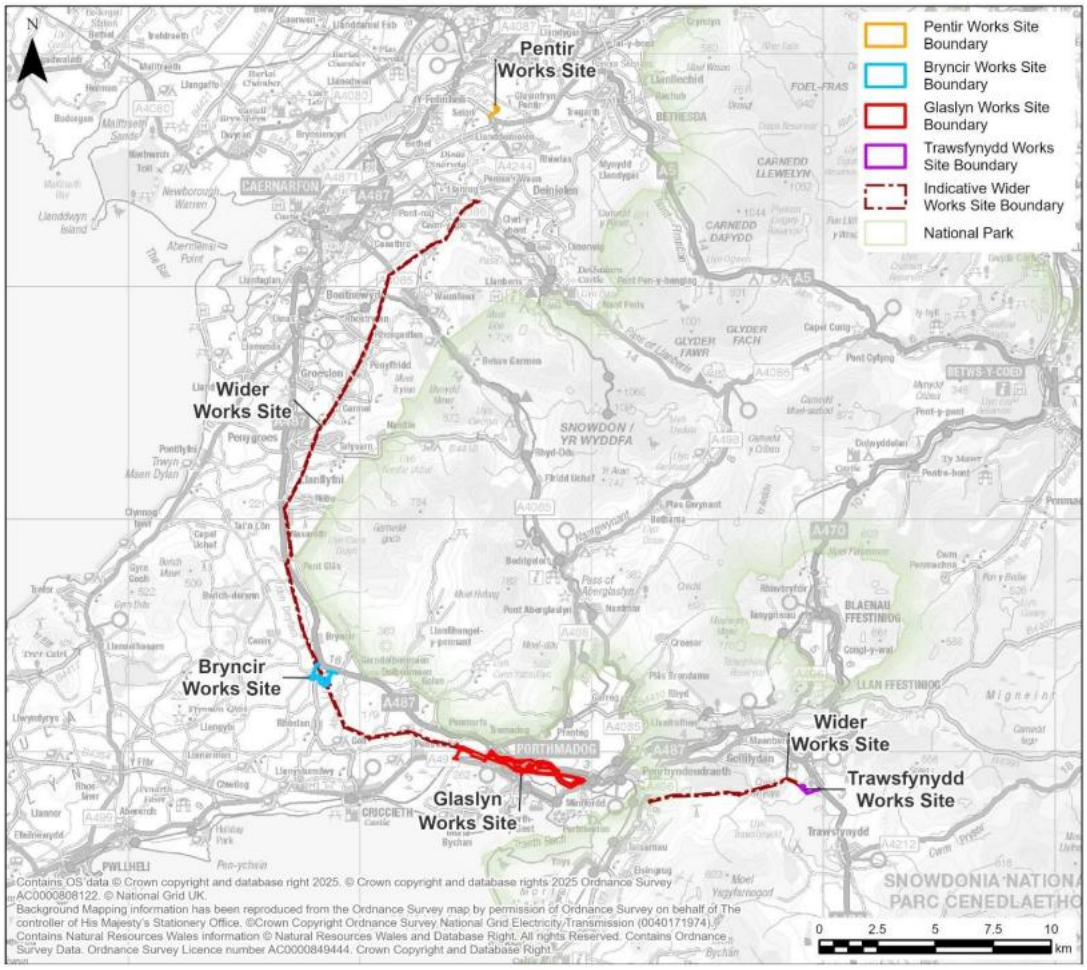
2.1.4 Three applications are required for consent under Section 37 of The Electricity Act 1989 from the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). They are:

- Consent for the connection from the 4ZC overhead line to the new Bryncir Substation
- Consent for a new section of 132kV overhead line as part of the connection between the new Bryncir Substation and the existing SPEN 132kV DB overhead line
- Replacement 400kV downleads for the existing 132kV downleads in Trawsfynydd Substation.

2.1.5 Consultation will be undertaken on these proposals prior to the consent applications being made including inviting comments from statutory consultees, inviting review and comments on the proposals by public notices and engagement with the relevant local planning authorities.

2.1.6 The extent of works and project location are illustrated in Figure 2.1, taken from the Environmental Statement Non-Technical Summary (September 2025). The proposed Glaslyn Cables temporary pumping stations are close to the southeastern Glaslyn Works Site shown.

Figure 2.1 Project Location and Extent of Works



Source: Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project Environmental Statement Volume 0: Non-Technical Summary (National Grid, September 2025)

2.2 Compulsory Purchase

2.2.1 Compulsory purchase powers enable bodies empowered with powers to acquire land and rights over land compulsorily. CPO powers are used as a means of assembling land to help deliver social, infrastructure, environmental and economic change. Compulsory purchase is intended as a last resort and should only take place where there is a compelling case in the public interest. NGET may make a CPO for the purposes of its activities authorised under the Electricity Act 1989.

2.2.2 Guidance on the Compulsory Purchase Process and the Crichel Down Rules (Ministry of Housing and Local Government, June 2026) presents an overview of the CPO process and also sets out how the Public Sector Equality Duty should be taken into account in the compulsory purchase regime. The document identifies that throughout the compulsory purchase process acquiring authorities must have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. In performing their public functions, acquiring authorities must have due regard to the need to meet these three aims of the Equality Act 2010. The document also sets out the process for a CPO including engaging with those affected, making an order, notification, matters considered and process when the Secretary of State decides whether to confirm a CPO, implementation and compensation.

2.2.3 National Grid is responsible for developing, operating and maintaining the high voltage transmission system in England and Wales and for ensuring that there is sufficient electricity transmission infrastructure to support the needs of England and Wales. It is obliged to operate the system in an efficient, economic and coordinated matter and is empowered under the Electricity Act 1989 to make a CPO for these purposes.

2.2.4 The Welsh Government has issued its own CPO Guidance (Compulsory Purchase in Wales and the Crichel Down Rules Wales Version 2020), to be used by local authorities and other acquiring bodies; the rules continue the same principles of fairness and transparency as established in the CPO Guidance for England.

2.2.5 For this Project, the land included in the CPO consists of several parcels over which compulsory acquisition powers for land and rights are being sought. While National Grid aims to acquire these rights through voluntary agreements, the CPO powers enable National Grid to proceed with compulsory acquisition if voluntary negotiations with landowners are unsuccessful. Landowners have the right to object and there may be a public inquiry if they do, which National Grid will need to arrange.

2.2.6 If National Grid is unable to acquire the necessary land rights voluntarily and compulsory powers are used, the entitlement to compensation for affected parties, and the process for determining the appropriate amount, is governed by a combination of legislation, case law, and established practices. The primary statutes involved for compensation are the Land Compensation Acts 1961 and 1973 and the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965.

2.3 Policy Context

2.3.1 In addition to the Equality Act 2010 and the CPO legislation and guidance referred to above, the relevant legislative and policy context is described here, covering national and regional levels.

National

Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, 2015

2.3.2 The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 integrates equality by including 'A More Equal Wales' as one of its seven national well-being goals, requiring public bodies to work towards a society where people can fulfil their potential regardless of their background. This goal specifically addresses equality and requires public bodies to consider the long-term impact of their decisions and take action accordingly.

Planning Policy Wales

2.3.3 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) integrates the Welsh Government's broad and robust approach to equality, driven by the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010 and the 'A more equal Wales' goal of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Key principles in PPW regarding equality include legal duties for public bodies to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity for those with protected characteristics, and foster good relations between different groups. Public bodies making strategic decisions must also consider reducing inequalities resulting from socio-economic disadvantage.

Regional

Gwynedd Council's Strategic Equality Plan

2.3.4 This strategy outlines Gwynedd Council's five Equality Objectives and actions to reduce inequality based on protected characteristics (Cyngor Gwynedd, 2024). It ensures that the Council's duties under the Equality Act 2010 are fulfilled. The objectives are:

- Objective 1 – Employment: Acting to improve equality in the workplace. This relates to Cyngor Gwynedd as an employer and how improvements can be made for people with equality characteristics.
- Objective 2 – Information: Improving data about people with equality characteristics. This intends to improve the data Gwynedd has in order to use it when creating or amending a policy and to provide a better service for residents.
- Objective 3 – Systems: Ensuring that the Council is an anti-discriminatory organisation by improving internal arrangements. This aims to ensure that the Council's arrangements give consideration to all equality characteristics.
- Objective 4 – Services: Ensure equality within the Council's day-to-day work. This aims to reduce barriers and make services accessible to everyone.
- Objective 5 – Schools: Improve equality within education. This aims to ensure equality of education and opportunity for all pupils, staff, parents and carers who receives services from schools in Gwynedd. Discrimination within schools will be tackled and schools will be supported to positively promote equality.

Gwynedd Language Strategy 2023-2033

2.3.5 The strategy sets a vision to increase the use of Welsh across the whole county, and the schemes or projects that are proposed focus on areas where the Council has the power and influence to act (Cyngor Gwynedd, 2023). The Strategy's main goals are to:

- Be inclusive, with the main objective being increasing opportunities for every one of Gwynedd's residents to see and use the Welsh language in different contexts.
- Give specific attention to try and increase young people's use of Welsh over the next years, including showing them the value of the language as a skill for the world of work, and increase informal opportunities for them to use the Welsh language in their daily lives.
- Give specific attention to having a positive influence on the way residents use the Welsh language in the numerous ways that technology is a part of their lives.
- Increase the number of Welsh speakers in general and to see 100% of Gwynedd children receiving the opportunity to speak Welsh and to use the language regularly.

Eryri National Park Authority's Strategic Equality Plan

2.3.6 The Equality Plan 2024-2028 forms part of a regional effort (North Wales Public Sector Equality Network) to set shared equality objectives, informed by local as well as national evidence, so that public services in the region work more cohesively to reduce inequalities (Eryri National Park Authority, 2024). The plan sets out the seven adopted North Wales Equality Objectives and notes that whilst the Authority cannot influence all areas directly, it commits to contributing where possible. The objectives are to:

- Improve outcomes in educational attainment and well-being in schools.
- Take action to ensure the Authority is an equal opportunities employer and reduce pay gaps.
- Improve the living standards of people disadvantaged by their protected characteristics.
- Improve health, well-being and social care outcomes.
- Improve personal security and access to justice. Increase access to participation to improve diversity of decision making.
- Tackle socio-economic disadvantage by offering inclusive services to minimise inequalities of outcome in line with the Socio-economic Duty.

2.4 Structure of Equalities Impact Assessment

2.4.1 The remainder of this document is structured as follows:

- **Section 2:** contains the approach to the EqIA, including identification of study area
- **Section 3:** presents an overview of key demographic data for the study area and protected characteristics
- **Section 4:** provides an assessment of potential equalities impacts, together with mitigation measures
- **Section 5:** concludes the document.

3 Approach to EqIA

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This section sets out the scope and methodology for the EqIA in terms of the protected characteristics covered, sensitive receptors where potential impacts may be anticipated, definition of the Study Area, and the approach taken to assessment.

3.2 Assessment Methodology

Protected Characteristics

3.2.1 The EqIA considers protected characteristics as set out in Part 2 of the Equality Act 2010:

- **Age:** refers to a person belonging to a particular age or range of ages.
- **Disability:** a person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
- **Gender reassignment:** anyone who is proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process (or part of a process) for the purpose of reassigning their sex.
- **Pregnancy and maternity:** pregnancy is the condition of being pregnant or expecting a baby. Maternity refers to the period after the birth, and is linked to maternity leave in the employment context. In the non-work context, protection against maternity discrimination is for 26 weeks after giving birth.
- **Race:** refers to a group of people defined by their colour, nationality (including citizenship), ethnic or national origins.
- **Religion or belief:** religion refers to any religion, including a lack of religion. Belief refers to any religious or philosophical belief including lack of belief (such as atheism).
- **Sex:** this refers to a man or to a woman, or to a group of people of the same sex (sex is the protected characteristic and not gender).
- **Sexual orientation:** whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.

3.2.2 The Equality Act 2010 defines ‘marriage and civil partnership’ as a protected characteristic. Whilst marriage is a protected characteristic it is not a 'relevant' characteristic to this EqIA. For marriage and civil partnership, a body which is subject to the PSED needs only comply with the first of the three aims of that duty set out in Section 149 of the Act. Consequently, this equality group has been scoped out of this EqIA from the outset.

3.2.3 In addition to these groups, the EqIA has taken into consideration low-income groups. The Welsh Government’s Socio-economic Duty came into force in Wales on 31 March 2021; this means that public bodies also have to consider how strategic decisions they make can improve inequality of outcome for people who experience socio-economic disadvantage. Intersectionality means it is not uncommon for people from ethnic minorities, the elderly or people with a disability to be over-represented in low-income groups (Ministry of Housing and Local Government, 2019).

Study Area

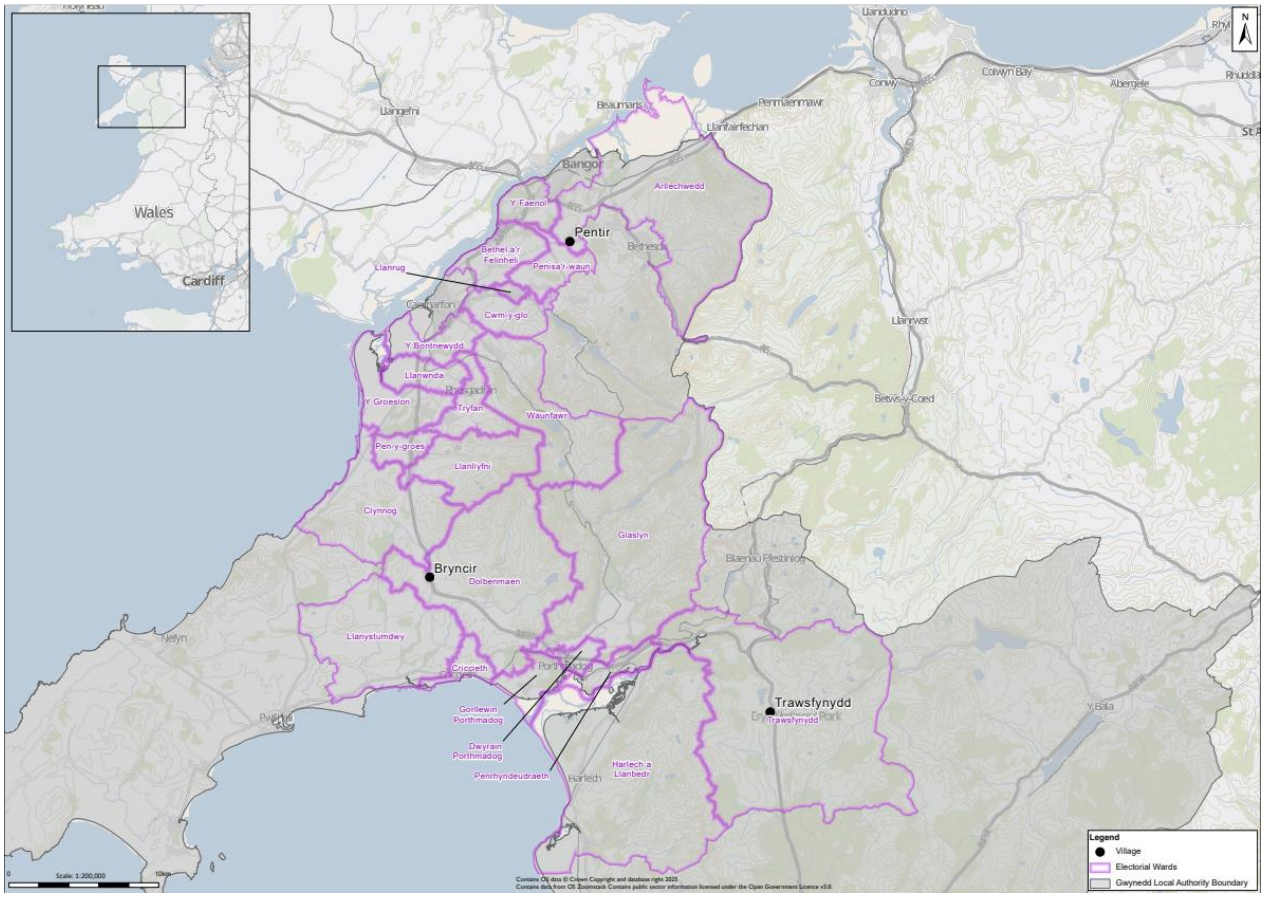
3.2.4 An appropriate Study Area has been established to effectively understand the baseline characteristics of the local population and to ensure that potential equalities impacts are adequately captured. For consistency, the Study Area has taken into consideration that adopted within the Socio-economics chapters of the Environmental Statement prepared for the Project. The Study Areas used in the socio-economic assessments referred to the following:

- Up to 500m radius from the works sites for Public Right of Way ("PROW"), recreational routes and other private and community assets (residential properties, business premises and visitor attractions).
- 1km radius from the works site for community facilities e.g. education and childcare facilities, places of worship, health and social care facilities, cultural centres, town halls.

3.2.5 To facilitate data collection, all electoral wards intersecting the 500m radius surrounding the work sites have been identified and collectively define the EqIA Study Area. Electoral wards were identified using the Welsh Government's DataMapWales interactive map (DataMapWales, 2023). The following electoral wards are included in the Study Area and are shown on Figure 3.1:

- Arllechwedd
- Bethel a'r Felinheli
- Clynnog
- Criccieth
- Cwm-y-glo
- Dolbenmaen
- Dwyrain Porthmadog
- Glaslyn
- Gorllewin Porthmadog
- Harlech a Llanbedr
- Llanllyfni
- LlanrugLlanystumdwy
- LlanwndaPenisa'r-waun
- Penrhyndeudraeth
- Pen-y-groes
- TryfanTrawsfynydd
- Waunfawr
- Y BontnewyddY Faenol
- Y Groeslon

Figure 3.1 EqIA Study Area



Data Sources

3.2.6 Where available, data has been collected at the electoral ward level. In cases where such data is unavailable, corresponding local authority data for Gwynedd has been used, alongside national data for Wales.

3.2.7 Sources of information used to inform the EqIA are:

- Office of National Statistics (ONS) Census Data 2021
- ONS Population Estimates
- Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2025
- Information contained in the Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project Environmental Statement, Planning Statements for each section of works and supporting documents including the Welsh Language Statements.

Methodology

3.2.8 The assessment of impacts on protected characteristics has been informed by a combination of quantitative and qualitative data, where appropriate, and supported by professional judgement. Quantitative data is numerical and measurable, focusing on amounts and frequencies, while qualitative data is descriptive and explores characteristics, opinions, and experiences. For example, data collected through the desktop review is largely quantitative, whereas information received through stakeholder engagement is likely to be qualitative in nature. To identify and evaluate potential impacts, key demographic data related to protected characteristics have been analysed (see Section 4). The sensitivity of these groups has been considered, alongside whether the anticipated effects are likely to be temporary or permanent in nature. Potential equality impacts are classified into one of the following categories:

- A **disproportionate** equality impact relates to an effect on a particular group or protected characteristic that is greater than on other members of the general population at a particular location. A disproportionate equality impact may also arise where an effect is predicted on a receptor which is predominantly or heavily used by one or more protected characteristic (e.g. primary schools are predominantly used by young children).
- A **differential** equality impact is one which affects protected characteristics differently from the rest of the general population because of their specific needs, or a recognised sensitivity or vulnerability associated with that protected characteristic, irrespective of the number of people affected i.e. an effect which varies according to the circumstances of groups that receive the impact.

3.2.9 Groups of landowners have been engaged as part of the CPO process, as outlined in Table 3-2. The equality impact assessment (Section 5) considers the potential equality impacts affecting landowners and takes account of their protected characteristics where such information is available. The EqIA does not assess impacts on individual landowners because it is designed to evaluate impacts at a group level rather than undertake personal, case-by-case assessments.

3.3 Community Engagement to Date

3.3.1 National Grid has proactively engaged with landowners, stakeholders and the wider community. All public engagement has been undertaken in both Welsh and English.

3.3.2 Briefing sessions with elected representatives including Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of the Senedd (MSs) were first held in September 2022 to announce the Project. The Project has since continued to engage with stakeholders, updating them by email about progress and key milestones. This has allowed representatives to share relevant information with their communities. Proactive engagement with stakeholders continues.

3.3.3 A dual-language website for the Project (Welsh and English) has been created, which shares the duties are pinformation about the scheme and why it is needed. When the Project organises public engagement events or webinars, details of any sessions are published on the website.

Community Newsletter and Public Information Events

3.3.4 In May 2025, a dual-language Community Newsletter for the Project was published (National Grid, 2025). The newsletter included a map showing the existing network and the locations where upgrades, refurbishments, and reinforcements are needed. It highlighted that National Grid has been actively engaging with key stakeholders, including the Welsh Government, Cyngor Gwynedd, local town and community councils, Eryri National Park Authority, and Natural Resources Wales. The newsletter also explained that, where access is needed for surveys or investigations, National Grid has been working closely with farmers and landowners. Additionally, it provided details about the upcoming statutory consultation (which took place between 18 September and 16 October 2025) and how public feedback would be taken into account. In order to reach a wide audience, local notices were placed in appropriate locations to ensure the information was accessible to more people. A series of public information events were held in 2025, details of which are provided in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Public Information Events

Date and time	Venue
Friday 9 May 2025 4–7pm	Garndolbenmaen Village Hall, Garndolbenmaen, Gwynedd LL51 9SQ
Saturday 10 May 2025 10am–1pm	Byw'n Iach Glaslyn, Stryd Y Llan, Porthmadog, Gwynedd LL49 9HW
Tuesday 13 May 2025 4–7pm	Porthmadog FC Function Room and Conference Centre, Y Traeth, Porthmadog, Gwynedd LL49 9PP
Thursday 15 May 2025 4–7pm	Tremadog Memorial Institute, Market Square, Tremadog, Gwynedd LL49 9RA
Tuesday 20 May 2025 11am–2pm	Neuadd Goffa Penrhyndeudraeth, Griffin Terrace, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd LL48 6LP

3.3.5 All venues were visited by appropriate members of the Project team prior to the events to assess accessibility provision, with risk assessments also completed. The events were scheduled on different days and at varying times throughout the week to accommodate individuals with diverse working patterns, including those employed at weekends or during non-standard working hours.

3.3.6 Each event was attended by appropriately experienced Welsh and English-speaking members of the Project team and featured display boards and a video presentation with Welsh and English subtitles. A comment box to enable attendees to provide informal feedback to the Project team was provided. According to the Pre-Application Consultation Report there were 42 attendees across the five events.

3.3.7 A webinar took place on the 28 May 2025 and was available for registration via the Project website. Three people attended the webinar.

Landowner and Stakeholder Engagement

3.3.8 A number of targeted discussions took place throughout 2025 with potentially affected organisations and individuals (for example landowners). A summary of this engagement is presented in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2 Stakeholder Engagement

Properties/Asset/Facility, Tenant/Freeholder	Type of Engagement, Date	Summary of discussion
Bryncir Landowners	Correspondence and site meetings	Land agents are in correspondence with the affected landowners. Heads of Terms have been issued and signed for the main substation site, whilst the design of the Project is still being refined for the outlying areas. Heads of Terms for the outlying areas are to be issued imminently.
Glaslyn Landowners	Heads of Terms and site meetings	The land agents have issued Land Interest Questionnaires and Heads of Terms to all landowners affected by the element of the Project at Glaslyn, which involves the replacement of underground cables. Meetings and regular correspondence have now taken place with all parties and the land agents continue to engage with landowners who have not yet signed the Heads of Terms Agreements. Additionally, direct correspondence via phone call, in-person meetings and email have been undertaken with a small number of landowners who are unable to liaise with the land agents in person due to health concerns, mobility issues, or age-related limitations. In some cases, family members have requested that the land agent liaise directly with them regarding all future Project-related correspondence.
Wider Works Landowners	Correspondence and site meetings	All landowners have been engaged with along the 4ZC OHL and Heads of Terms issued for relevant landowners. Discussions generally concern the impact from, usage of access tracks, project works and usage of common land and open access land.
Traeth Glaslyn North Wales Wildlife Nature Reserve, North Wales Wildlife Trust	Email and Online meetings (March 2025)	Email correspondence with North Wales Wildlife Trust with regard to the Nature Reserve. A Teams meeting and further site meeting have been held where the requirements of the Project were explained in detail.

Welsh Highland Heritage Railway	Correspondence and in person meetings	A land agent has been appointed to represent the Railway; ongoing correspondence via email and phone has taken place in addition to two in-person meetings with the agent and a representative of the Railway to discuss the Project, the works and how this may temporarily impact the working railway.
Ffestiniog Heritage Railway	Correspondence and in person meetings	A land agent has been appointed to represent the Railway; ongoing correspondence via email and phone has taken place in addition to two in-person meetings with the agent and a representative of the Railway to discuss the Project, the works and how this may temporarily impact the working railway.
Former Porthmadog Golf Range, Haroe Porthmadog Limited	Heads of Terms agreed	There has been discussion with the freeholder. The Land Agent retains all dates and times of correspondence. Heads of Terms have now been agreed and are with the legal team. .
Porthmadog Eisteddfod Stone Circle Park and Bodawen Playground, Porthmadog Town Council	Site Meeting, July 2025	Meeting with the Town Council to discuss the Project followed by email and phone call correspondence with the Town Clerk regarding Heads of Terms for works. Reinstatement of the Play Area remains a key concern.
Ysgol Eifionydd Secondary School, Gwynedd Council	School Governors meeting, 29 April 2025	Presented the Project, including the plans to include work within the main playing field for a period of up to two years to lay new cables. Provided confirmation of the work programme. Discussion of potential mitigation measures including cost of transporting pupils to a different venue for activities should the main playing field not be suitable for use. Requested exam dates for Spring 2026 to Spring 2029 to give consideration within the construction programme from a noise / disruption perspective.
	Meeting 29 April 2025	Meeting with the head teacher and board of governors to formally introduce the Project prior to the public engagement events. The meeting discussed works in relation to the school. Provided a presentation to go through the Project and then completed a Q&A session with the governors.

	Meeting 19 March 2026	Meeting with the head teacher and two governors to provide a Project update on the current programme of works and to discuss a compensation and mitigation package, which was agreed in principle. Informed the school of the indicative programme dates including key dates when the school field would close during construction works. Heads of Terms agreed and agreement is legally complete.
Gwynedd Council	Email and Online meetings	Ongoing correspondence via email and Teams meetings with Lands Officer at Gwynedd Council to discuss Project and land requirements for Project. Continued chasers for responses to Heads of Terms.

Statutory Consultation

3.3.9 National Grid carried out statutory Pre-Application Consultation on the first four planning applications for the main elements of the Project between 18 September and 16 October 2025. The elements covered under this process included:

- Replacing underground cables and installing new underground cables at National Grid's existing Pentir Substation.
- Constructing a new substation south of Bryncir and installing 132kV underground cables from the substation towards an existing SPEN overhead line.
- Underground cabling works and installing a new shunt reactor and other infrastructure at National Grid's existing Trawsfynydd Substation.
- Extending the existing Wern Cable Sealing End Compound (CSEC); constructing a Tunnel Head house and CSEC; replacing the existing underground Glaslyn Cables including the removal of redundant sections of cable; and the removal of the existing Garth CSEC.

3.3.10 Feedback was considered in the finalisation of these planning applications. All four planning applications were submitted to the relevant local planning authorities on 13 January 2026. The planning application for the temporary pumping stations near Glaslyn is being prepared and will be submitted in Q2 2026.

Targeted Community Updates

3.3.11 In February 2026, National Grid sent dual language letters to residents around the proposed Bryncir Substation site, to let them know about planned vegetation clearance activity. The update, sent in Welsh and English, let people know what the work involved, when it would be happening, and why it was needed. This update was also sent to the local Community Council and Cyngor Gwynedd Ward Councillor for information.

Mitigation

3.3.12 Mitigation measures may be required to prevent, reduce or offset adverse effects at receptors which affect the experience of users with protected characteristics and these have been set out in Section 4 of this EqIA where relevant.

4 Overview of Demographic Data

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 This section provides an outline of key demographic data relating to each of the protected characteristics within the Study Area. Comparative figures for the protected characteristics datasets for Gwynedd local authority and Wales have been provided where available to demonstrate where ward figures are typical, above or below average compared to the region and rest of the country.

4.2 Data Limitations, Gaps and Assumptions

4.2.1 The following assumptions have been made for the purposes of this EqIA:

- Data has been collected where available for the 23 electoral wards that comprise the Study Area (Figure 3.1). Where data corresponds to a different spatial boundary, this has been noted. For instance, the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation is available at ward level, but the boundaries (Figure 4.1) used differ slightly from those in the Study Area due to changes made since 2019.
- The EqIA Study Area covers the electoral wards near the four TCPA application areas which have CPO requirements. Although the electoral ward of Dolbenmaen spans two TCPA areas (Bryncir and Glaslyn), it has been included only once in the demographic data to prevent double counting.
- A number of datasets are unavailable at electoral ward level and data has therefore been presented for Gwynedd and Wales. These datasets comprise gender identity, sexual orientation, and general and total fertility rates.

4.3 Relevant Data

Age

4.3.1 Table 4-1 presents population data for the Study Area. The resident population in most electoral wards grew between 2020 and 2024 with the exception of Bethel a'r Felinheli, Criccieth and Waunfawr which showed small declines. The biggest increase is seen in Y Faenol at 10.5% (ONS, 2024a). The population of the Study Area as a whole grew by 5.9% between 2020 and 2024 which is higher than for Gwynedd as a whole (3.1%) and the national average also 3.1% over this time period (ONS, 2025).

Table 4-1 Population and Growth Over Time

Electoral Ward	2020 (Population no.)	2024 (Population no.)	Population Growth (2020-2024)
Arllechwedd	1,883	1,994	5.9%
Bethel a'r Felinheli	3,683	3,585	-2.7%
Clynnog	1,269	1,356	6.9%
Criccieth	1,711	1,702	-0.5%
Cwm-y-glo	1,319	1,352	2.5%

Dolbenmaen	1,197	1,208	0.9%
Dwyrain Porthmadog	1,687	1,757	4.1%
Glaslyn	1,577	1,610	2.1%
Gorllewin Porthmadog	1,499	1,615	7.7%
Harlech a Llanbedr	2,703	2,791	3.3%
Llanllyfni	2,001	2,016	0.8%
Llanrug	1,855	1,897	2.3%
Llanystumdwy	1,927	2,020	4.8%
Llanwnda	1,394	1,510	8.3%
Penisa'r-waun	1,334	1,346	0.9%
Penrhyndeudraeth	1,024	2,110	4.2%
Pen-y-groes	1,770	1,865	5.4%
Tryfan	1,539	1,550	0.7%
Trawsfynydd	1,343	1,426	6.2%
Waunfawr	1,428	1,410	-1.3%
Y Bontnewydd	1,253	1,325	5.8%
Y Faenol	2,498	2,760	10.5%
Y Groeslon	1,656	1,675	1.2%
Study Area	39,550	41,880	5.9%
Gwynedd	118,180	120,813	3.1%
Wales	3,104,483	3,186,581	3.1%

Source: Mid-year Population Estimates, ONS

4.3.2 Table 4-2 highlights the age profile within the Study Area. Llanllyfni has a higher population of younger people under 16 (22.7%) in comparison to Gwynedd (16.6%) and Wales (17.6%). Gorllewin Porthmadog has the lowest population of younger people under 16 with only 8.7% in this age group. The average percentage of young people aged under 16 across the Study Area is 16.9% (ONS, 2021a).

4.3.3 Cwm-y-glo has a higher population of working age adults (aged 25 – 64) with 56.3%, higher than Gwynedd (48.1%) and Wales (50.4%). Gorllewin Porthmadog has the highest proportion of older people (aged 65+) (44.1%) in the Study Area, much higher than Gwynedd (23.2%) and Wales (21.4%) as a whole. The average percentage of older people across the Study Area is 25.5%.

Table 4-2 Population by Age Group (%)

Electoral Ward	Aged under 16 (%)	Aged 16-24 (%)	Aged 25-64 (%)	Aged 65+ (%)
Arllechwedd	15.6	8.9	52.0	23.5
Bethel a'r Felinheli	17.7	8.4	52.2	21.5
Clynnog	16.4	9.6	49.7	24.2
Criccieth	14.6	6.5	41.5	37.5
Cwm-y-glo	14.3	8.6	56.3	20.9
Dolbenmaen	16.1	7.3	43.3	33.4
Dwyrain Porthmadog	19.5	11.0	47.1	22.4
Glaslyn	16.6	7.0	48.3	28.1
Gorllewin Porthmadog	8.7	5.0	42.1	44.1
Harlech a Llanbedr	12.5	6.8	45.4	35.4
Llanllyfni	22.7	9.0	49.4	19.0
Llanrug	20.0	9.6	48.4	22.1
Llanystumdwy	15.5	10.0	48.8	25.7
Llanwnda	19.8	9.1	49.0	22.2
Penisa'r-waun	18.1	8.6	51.8	21.4
Penrhyndeudraeth	16.8	9.8	50.6	22.9
Pen-y-groes	18.7	9.2	48.3	23.6
Tryfan	20.5	8.4	51.3	19.9
Trawsfynydd	14.6	9.2	50.6	25.6
Waunfawr	19.1	9.5	49.2	22.2
Y Bontnewydd	13.8	9.0	51.3	25.8

Y Faenol	20.1	7.8	52.9	19.3
Y Groeslon	16.0	9.6	48.3	26.1
Study Area	16.9	8.6	49.0	25.5
Gwynedd	16.6	12.2	48.1	23.2
Wales	17.6	10.6	50.4	21.4

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Sex

4.3.4 On average across the Study Area there are slightly more females (50.8%) than males (49.2%), this is in line with the Gwynedd and Welsh average (see Table 4-3) (ONS, 2021b).

Table 4-3 Sex (%)

Electoral Ward	Female (%)	Male (%)
Arllechwedd	50.9	49.1
Bethel a'r Felinheli	50.8	49.2
Clynnog	48.9	51.1
Criccieth	53.7	46.3
Cwm-y-glo	48.7	51.3
Dolbenmaen	51.2	48.8
Dwyrain Porthmadog	51.0	49.0
Glaslyn	49.2	50.8
Gorllewin Porthmadog	50.8	49.2
Harlech a Llanbedr	50.7	49.3
Llanllyfni	51.6	48.4
Llanrug	52.2	47.8
Llanystumdwy	50.5	49.5
Llanwnda	52.1	47.9
Penisa'r-waun	48.8	51.2
Penrhyndeudraeth	51.3	48.7
Pen-y-groes	50.6	49.4
Tryfan	51.6	48.4
Trawsfynydd	48.2	51.8

Waunfawr	50.4	49.6
Y Bontnewydd	52.4	47.6
Y Faenol	50.3	49.7
Y Groeslon	51.7	48.3
Study Area	50.8	49.2
Gwynedd	51.0	49.0
Wales	51.1	48.9

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Sexual Orientation

4.3.5 Table 4-4 shows sexual orientation across Gwynedd and Wales. This data is not available at electoral ward level. The majority of individuals in the Gwynedd Council area identify as straight or heterosexual (87.3%) which is below the Welsh average (89.4%). Less than 4% identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or other (ONS, 2021c).

Table 4-4 Sexual Orientation (%)

Spatial Area	Straight or Heterosexual (%)	Gay or Lesbian (%)	Bisexual (%)	All other sexual orientations (%)	Not answered (%)
Gwynedd	87.3	1.3	1.6	0.3	9.4
Wales	89.4	1.5	1.2	0.3	7.6

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Gender Reassignment

4.3.6 There are multiple definitions of transgender. For the purposes of this report, following the approach taken by the Office for National Statistics (ONS, 2023), we have used the common umbrella term 'trans' to refer to people whose lived identities conflict with societal gender norms. This encompasses a range of identities ranging from those who cross-dress to those people who identify their own gender differently to that assigned to them at birth. It also includes individuals who identify as androgynous, non-gendered or non-binary. Importantly, it is not limited to people who have undergone gender reassignment surgery.

4.3.7 Table 4-5 shows gender identity across Gwynedd and Wales. No data sets are available to enable an assessment of the proportion of trans people in the Study Area population for the purposes of this EqIA. The majority of people in Gwynedd and Wales identify the same as their sex registered at birth, although the proportion for Gwynedd (91.7%) is slightly lower than the national average (93.3%) (ONS, 2021d).

Table 4-5 Gender Identity (%)

Spatial Area	Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth (%)	Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given (%)	Trans woman (%)	Trans man (%)	Non-binary (%)	All other gender identities (%)	Not answered (%)
Gwynedd	91.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	8.0
Wales	93.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	6.3

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Ethnicity

4.3.8 Table 4-6 shows the ethnic profile of the population across the Study Area. Across the Study Area the majority of the population is of white ethnicity (97.8%), in line with the regional average (96.2%) but higher than the Welsh average (93.8%). Y Faenol is the most diverse electoral ward in the Study Area, with 8.6% Asian and 87.3% white, while Llanrug is the least diverse with 99.6% of the population being white (ONS, 2021e).

Table 4-6 Ethnic Group (%)

Electoral Ward	Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh (%)	Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African (%)	Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups (%)	White (%)	Other ethnic group (%)
Arllechwedd	0.7	0.3	1.1	96.0	1.9
Bethel a'r Felinheli	0.7	0.6	1.0	97.6	0.1
Clynnog	0.1	0.2	1.0	98.5	0.3
Criccieth	0.6	0.1	0.5	98.7	0.1
Cwm-y-glo	0.1	0.1	0.3	99.5	0.0
Dolbenmaen	0.5	0.0	1.0	97.9	0.6
Dwyrain Porthmadog	0.9	0.1	1.0	97.6	0.4
Glaslyn	0.3	0.1	1.5	98.1	0.1
Gorllewin Porthmadog	1.7	0.2	1.2	96.9	0.1
Harlech a Llanbedr	0.6	0.4	0.7	98.3	0.1
Llanllyfni	0.6	0.1	1.1	98.2	0.1

Llanrug	0.1	0.0	0.2	99.6	0.1
Llanystumdwy	0.1	0.2	0.6	99.0	0.1
Llanwnda	0.4	0.0	0.7	98.8	0.1
Penisa'r-waun	0.7	0.1	0.9	98.1	0.1
Penrhyndeudraeth	0.4	0.1	0.6	98.7	0.3
Pen-y-groes	0.6	0.1	0.9	98.2	0.2
Tryfan	0.1	0.1	0.9	98.9	0.0
Trawsfynydd	0.3	0.0	0.3	98.8	0.6
Waunfawr	0.3	0.1	0.8	98.3	0.5
Y Bontnewydd	0.7	0.1	0.6	98.2	0.4
Y Faenol	8.6	0.9	1.5	87.3	1.7
Y Groeslon	0.2	0.0	0.4	99.3	0.0
Study Area	0.8	0.2	0.8	97.8	0.3
Gwynedd	1.7	0.4	1.1	96.2	0.5
Wales	2.9	0.9	1.6	93.8	0.9

Source: ONS Census Data 2025

Disability

4.3.9 There is no single indicator for disability. Two data sets have been used to identify health characteristics of people living in the Study Area. Considering general health characteristics, Table 4-7 shows that 50.8% of the study consider themselves to have very good health, followed by 31.0% considering themselves to have good health and 3.9% having bad health. In comparison to Gwynedd and Wales, a higher proportion of the Study Area consider themselves to have very good health and a smaller proportion consider themselves to have bad health. Llanrug reports the highest proportion of residents with self-reported very good health (59.0%), while Criccieth has the highest proportion of residents self-reporting bad health (7.0%) (ONS, 2021f).

Table 4-7 General Health Characteristics (%)

Electoral Ward	Very good health (%)	Good health (%)	Fair health (%)	Bad health (%)	Very bad health (%)
Arllechwedd	53.4	29.1	12.6	3.2	1.7
Bethel a'r Felinheli	54.9	30.0	11.1	3.0	1.0
Clynnog	47.8	32.5	14.4	4.0	1.2
Criccieth	44.2	34.0	13.9	7.0	0.9
Cwm-y-glo	52.7	30.1	13.7	2.5	1.0

Dolbenmaen	46.4	33.5	14.1	4.4	1.5
Dwyrain Porthmadog	49.3	32.7	14.7	2.6	0.7
Glaslyn	51.2	31.0	13.3	3.6	0.9
Gorllewin Porthmadog	42.1	34.2	16.9	5.7	1.1
Harlech a Llanbedr	41.3	36.7	15.3	5.2	1.5
Llanllyfni	48.7	30.9	13.9	5.5	1.0
Llanrug	59.0	25.0	11.9	3.2	0.9
Llanystumdwy	52.8	30.7	12.9	2.6	0.9
Llanwnda	58.7	27.6	10.3	2.9	0.6
Penisa'r-waun	55.0	27.4	13.2	3.2	1.1
Penrhyndeudraeth	48.8	33.4	12.7	3.8	1.3
Pen-y-groes	48.6	30.3	14.8	5.0	1.4
Tryfan	48.1	32.2	12.4	5.2	2.0
Trawsfynydd	51.2	30.0	14.0	3.7	1.1
Waunfawr	53.9	29.6	12.4	3.3	0.9
Y Bontnewydd	50.2	34.6	11.1	3.3	0.8
Y Faenol	57.8	26.8	11.0	3.4	1.0
Y Groeslon	53.4	30.8	11.5	3.3	1.0
Study Area	50.8	31.0	13.1	3.9	1.1
Gwynedd	49.9	31.6	13.3	4.0	1.1
Wales	46.2	32.4	14.5	5.3	1.7

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

4.3.10

4.3.11 Table 4-8 provides an overview of the extent to which day to day activities are limited for residents of the Study Area. On average across the Study Area, 8.4% of residents consider their day-to-day activities to be limited a lot, which is in line with the regional average (8.4%) and less than the Welsh average (10.3%) (ONS, 2021g).

Table 4-8 Disability (%)

Electoral Wards	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a lot (%)	Disabled under the Equality Act: Day-to-day activities limited a little (%)	Not disabled under the Equality Act: Has long term physical or mental health condition but day-to-day activities are not limited (%)	Not disabled under the Equality Act: No long term physical or mental health conditions (%)
Arllechwedd	7.8	11.1	6.0	75.1
Bethel a'r Felinheli	7.3	9.7	6.5	76.5
Clynnog	9.2	11.6	6.9	72.3
Criccieth	11.2	10.5	6.6	71.7
Cwm-y-glo	6.3	10.9	8.8	74.0
Dolbenmaen	10.2	11.3	6.9	71.5
Dwyrain Porthmadog	7.8	10.4	5.4	76.4
Glaslyn	6.7	11.4	5.7	76.1
Gorllewin Porthmadog	11.6	12.5	7.4	68.5
Harlech a Llanbedr	9.1	12.4	7.7	70.8
Llanllyfni	9.6	11.2	5.2	73.9
Llanrug	8.2	9.1	5.3	77.4
Llanystumdwy	6.8	10.3	6.5	76.4
Llanwnda	7.0	9.0	6.1	77.9
Penisa'r-waun	8.0	10.5	8.6	72.9
Penrhyndeudraeth	7.3	11.6	6.9	74.2
Pen-y-groes	11.2	10.8	4.7	73.4
Tryfan	10.0	11.0	6.8	72.1
Trawsfynydd	8.6	9.6	6.7	75.1
Waunfawr	6.4	11.5	6.4	75.6
Y Bontnewydd	7.2	9.1	6.2	77.5
Y Faenol	8.6	7.8	5.5	78.1
Y Groeslon	6.5	10.6	6.5	76.4

Study Area	8.4	10.6	6.5	74.5
Gwynedd	8.4	10.8	6.3	74.5
Wales	10.3	11.3	6.6	71.8

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Religion

4.3.12 Table 4-9 shows the religious profile of the population across the Study Area. Across the Study Area the majority are from a Christian denomination (48.0%), closely followed by no religion (43.3%). There are more Christians in the Study Area than the local authority (46.2%) but fewer people of no religion than the Welsh average (46.5%). Y Faenol is the most diverse electoral ward in the Study Area, with 46.4% Christian, 5.8% Muslim, 1.9% Hindu. Trawsfynydd is the least diverse with 56.1% of residents stating they are Christian and 38.2% no religion (ONS, 2021h).

Table 4-9 Religion (%)

Electoral Wards	No religion (%)	Christian (%)	Buddhist (%)	Hindu (%)	Jewish (%)	Muslim (%)	Sikh (%)	Other religion (%)	Not answered (%)
Arllechwedd	42.7	44.7	0.3	0.9	0.1	1.8	0.0	1.5	7.9
Bethel a'r Felinheli	44.4	48.4	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	6.1
Clynnog	44.4	48.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	6.1
Criccieth	39.5	50.6	0.5	0.0	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.3	8.5
Cwm-y-glo	48.4	42.4	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	8.3
Dolbenmaen	43.6	47.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	8.0
Dwyrain Porthmadog	46.2	44.4	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.2	0.0	0.3	7.7
Glaslyn	48.7	42.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.9	7.7
Gorllewin Porthmadog	35.4	55.0	1.0	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.2	8.1
Harlech a Llanbedr	41.9	50.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.4	6.1
Llanllyfni	54.2	37.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5	6.7
Llanrug	39.4	52.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.3	7.2
Llanystumdwy	36.7	52.8	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	9.5
Llanwnda	35.7	57.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	6.0
Penisa'r-waun	47.8	45.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.7	5.5
Penrhyndeudraeth	47.4	43.7	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.5	8.0

Pen-y-groes	46.1	47.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	6.0
Tryfan	50.9	38.6	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	1.0	9.1
Trawsfynydd	38.2	56.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	5.4
Waunfawr	46.3	44.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.8	7.4
Y Bontnewydd	38.6	54.8	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6	4.8
Y Faenol	38.4	46.4	0.6	1.9	0.0	5.8	0.2	0.5	6.3
Y Groeslon	40.6	51.7	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	7.1
Study Area	43.3	48.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.0	0.5	7.1
Gwynedd	44.2	46.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.7	7.3
Wales	46.5	43.6	0.3	0.4	0.1	2.2	0.1	0.5	6.3

Source: ONS Census Data 2021

Pregnancy and Maternity

4.3.13 The general fertility rate for residents across Gwynedd and Wales as a whole are shown in Table 4-10. General and total fertility rates for electoral wards are not available. The general fertility rate (GFR) denotes the number of live births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44 years. The GFR for Gwynedd at 42.7 is lower than the Welsh average at 45.7. The total fertility rate (TFR) denotes the average number of children born to a woman over her lifetime. Similarly, the TFR for Gwynedd at 1.29 is slightly lower than the Welsh average at 1.35 (ONS, 2024b).

Table 4-10 Pregnancy and Maternity

Electoral Wards	Live births 2024	General fertility rate 2024	Total fertility rate 2024
Arllechwedd	13	-	-
Bethel a'r Felinheli	30	-	-
Clynnog	11	-	-
Criccieth	9	-	-
Cwm-y-glo	10	-	-
Dolbenmaen	6	-	-
Dwyrain Porthmadog	13	-	-
Glaslyn	13	-	-
Gorllewin Porthmadog	11	-	-
Harlech a Llanbedr	19	-	-
Llanllyfni	21	-	-

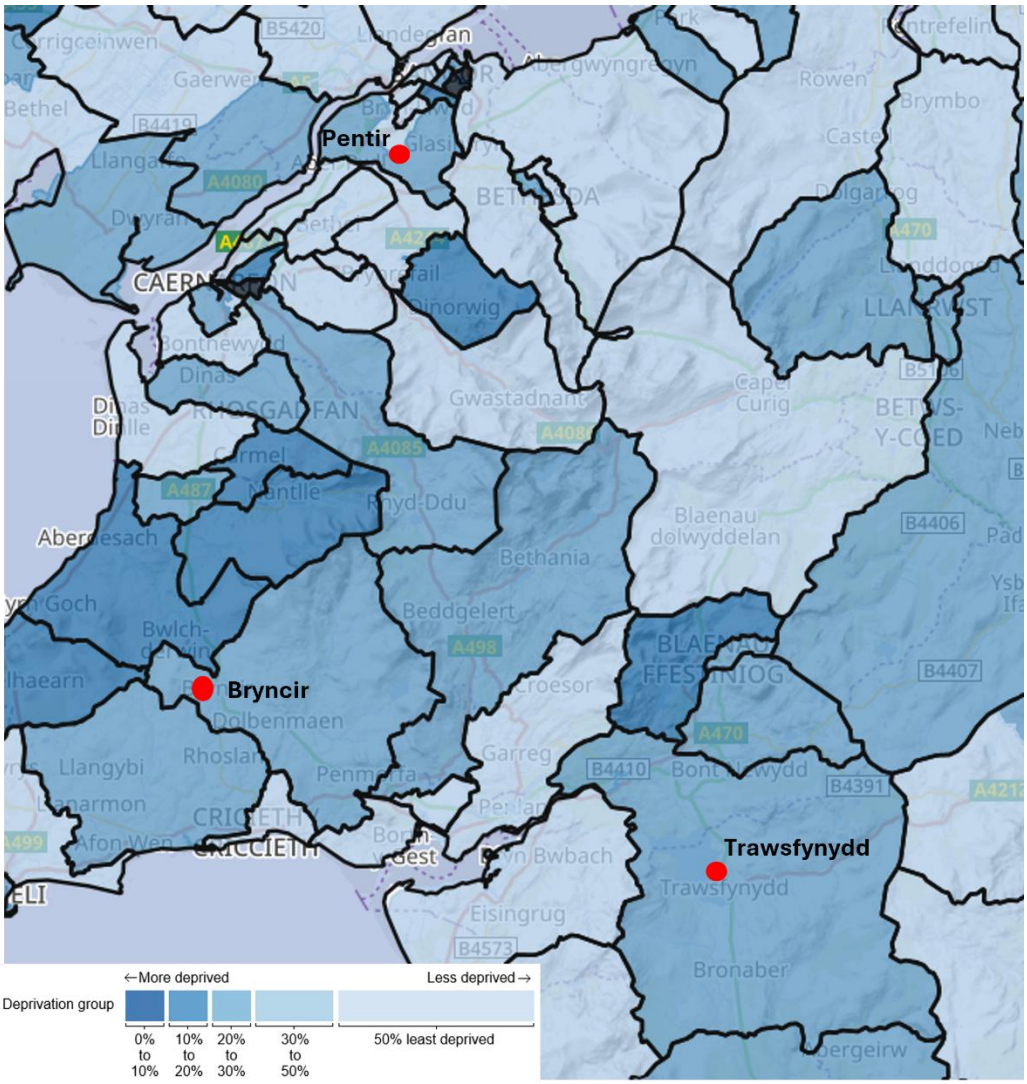
Llanrug	17	-	-
Llanystumdwy	13	-	-
Llanwnda	20	-	-
Penisa'r-waun	15	-	-
Penrhyndeudraeth	20	-	-
Pen-y-groes	18	-	-
Tryfan	12	-	-
Trawsfynydd	11	-	-
Waunfawr	8	-	-
Y Bontnewydd	10	-	-
Y Faenol	28	-	-
Y Groeslon	15	-	-
Study Area	343	-	-
Gwynedd	945	42.7	1.29
Wales	26,832	45.7	1.35

Source: ONS, 2024

Low Income Populations

4.3.14 The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) is the Welsh Government's official measure of relative deprivation in Wales (DataMap Wales, 2025). WIMD 2025 is calculated using 1,917 Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). Figure 4.1 presents the 2025 WIMD data for overall deprivation, which considers all eight domains: income, employment, health, education, access to services, housing, community safety, and physical environment.

Figure 4.1 Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, Overall



4.3.15 Across the Study Area (shown in Figure 4.1) most of the electoral wards are in the 30% to 50% least deprived across Wales. There are no LSOAs within the Study Area that fall in the 10% most deprived in Wales.

Summary

4.3.16 The baseline information presented in this section shows that the Study Area population is quite different in terms of demographic make-up to the rest of the Gwynedd region and Wales as a whole. A higher proportion of people living in the Study Area are likely to be:

- Older (within the over 65 age category)
- From a white ethnic background
- Christian or of no faith
- In relatively affluent areas, with low levels of deprivation
- Experiencing better health outcomes.

4.3.17 The baseline information provides context for conducting the EqIA and assessing how the Project may affect people with protected characteristics.

5 EqIA Assessment

5.1 Scoping

5.1.1 The EqIA scoping exercise assesses how protected characteristics may be affected by potential impacts associated with the Project. The first stage of the scoping exercise has involved a review of the socio-economic assessment chapters within the ES for all elements of the Project (Pentir, Bryncir, Glaslyn and Trawsfynydd) and the associated Wider Works assessment. Each assessment identified potential construction and operational impacts of relevance to the local population and determined whether they should be scoped in or out of the assessment. Where socio-economic receptors were scoped out, it was considered appropriate to also exclude potential equality impacts at those receptors.

The review concluded that all construction and operational socio-economic impacts had been scoped out for the Pentir and Trawsfynydd elements of the Project, while for Bryncir and Glaslyn only operational socio-economic impacts were scoped out.

5.1.2 Table 5-1 therefore only presents the receptors for the Bryncir and Glaslyn elements of the Project, with only construction impacts considered.

5.1.3 For the Wider Works component, which includes the 4ZC overhead line element of the Project, the socio-economic effects were scoped out of the ES for both construction and operation phases as there were no discernible impacts anticipated. However, through the CPO process, the Land Agents for this element of the Project have identified open space and recreational routes that may need to be accessed during construction and operation, and therefore these aspects have been scoped into the EqIA.

5.1.4 The TCPA application for the proposed temporary pumping stations near Glaslyn is currently being prepared; therefore, limited detail is available regarding this element of the project. Once full details are provided, these works will be assessed and incorporated as appropriate. Based on the information currently available, no disproportionate or differential equality impacts are anticipated. Consequently, this element has been excluded from the scoping exercise at this stage.

The second stage of the scoping exercise is to determine whether there is potential for differential or disproportionate equality impacts on protected characteristic groups. This is done by considering the nature of the impacts identified on each receptor in the relevant ES chapters. A tick (✓) has been used to indicate where there is potential for either a differential or disproportionate impact on protected groups at a receptor (see

5.1.5 Table 5-1). Only two groups are expected to experience a potential equality impact: Age and Disability.

Table 5-1 Receptors with Potential for Equality Impacts

Location	Receptors	Age	Disability	Gender Reassignment	Pregnancy and Maternity	Race	Religion	Sex	Sexual Orientation
Bryncir	PRoW and recreational routes	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Open space	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Community facilities	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Residential properties	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Visitor attractions	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Businesses	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Agricultural land	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Glaslyn	PRoW and recreational routes	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Open space	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Community facilities	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Residential properties	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Visitor attractions	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Businesses	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Agricultural land	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
Wider Works (4ZC OHL)	PRoW and recreational routes	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Open space	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Community facilities	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Residential properties	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Visitor attractions	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Businesses	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
	Agricultural land	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×

5.2 Detailed Assessment

5.2.1 Where there is potential for equality impacts, these have been qualitatively assessed in Table 5-2 and Table 5-3 with an outline of recommendations / good practice / additional mitigation that has not already been considered in the ES.

Table 5-2 Impacts on Protected Characteristics from the Bryncir TCPA

Potential Impact	Description of Potential Impacts (from the TCPA ES)	Explanation of Effects on Protected Characteristics	Recommendations / Good Practice / Additional Mitigation
Temporary closure of PRoW and recreational routes	No diversion will be provided to mitigate the impact of the temporary closure of the PRoW Dolbenmaen No 18 footpath. It is assumed as a worst-case scenario that this section of the footpath would be closed for the duration of the construction works (18 – 20 months). During this time, walkers would need to use the roads (B4411 and A487) as an alternative route, which would be 250m longer than following the PRoW. After construction, the PRoW will be permanently diverted. The footpath will be diverted along the proposed substation access track, then across a field to cross a field boundary via new kissing gates. The diversion would then follow the proposed Bryncir Substation boundary fence before re-joining the existing alignment of the footpath south-west of the proposed Bryncir Substation. The footpath would not be surfaced. The diverted footpath will be 90m longer than the current route. This section of Footpath 18 Dolbenmaen is likely to be used for recreation; it does not connect users to community facilities or employment opportunities. There is a large network of PRoWs in the Study Area that could be used as substitutes for recreational activity. The sensitivity of PRoW users is assessed to be low. Given the length and nature of the diversions as detailed above, the magnitude of impact would be medium. This results in a minor adverse (not significant) effect.	**Construction:** During construction no diversion will be provided to mitigate the impact of the temporary closure. Walkers would need to use roads (B4411 and A487) as an alternative route, which is approximately 250m longer than the PRoW, for the duration of construction. No significant effects on PRoW users were identified in the Environmental Statement (ES), however there may be the potential for adverse differential impacts on people with a disability due to the nature of the required alternative route (i.e. increased length, and use of roads as specified). The requirement to use the road may also negatively impact children who are more vulnerable to traffic than adults. The temporary nature of the effect is, however, noted. **Operation**: The footpath will be permanently diverted along the proposed substation access track, then across a field to cross a field boundary via new kissing gates. The new route would run close to the proposed Bryncir Substation boundary fence before re-joining the existing alignment of the footpath south-west of the proposed Bryncir Substation. The footpath would not be surfaced.	Where a path crosses a field boundary, in line with the British Standard, the gate, stile or gap should be the least restrictive option for all users, including disabled people or those with limited mobility. (Ramblers, 2025). Consideration could be given to designing the kissing gate to accommodate people with mobility issues; however, this would need to be considered in the light of accessibility considerations along the rest of the route.

		According to the CTMP the diverted footpath would not be substantially longer than the current route (approximately 90m). No significant effects on PRoW users were identified in the Environmental Statement (ES), however there may be the potential for adverse differential impacts on people with a disability due to the permanent diversion through a field (unsurfaced route) and a kissing gate which could pose as a barrier to access according to the Ramblers Association. The Ramblers suggest that many routes are not accessible to disabled people due to the presence of stiles and kissing gates which act as barriers. However it is also noted that recreational routes in this location are characterised by features including unsurfaced sections and features such as kissing gates and stiles.	
Land take from agricultural land holdings	One landowner will be affected by permanent land take as acquisition of land is required for the proposed Bryncir Substation. The magnitude of impact is assessed to be low, as it is assumed that compensation will be provided as part of the easement to reflect adverse impacts on agricultural land. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium due to the importance of farms to the local economy and the number of farms surrounding the Bryncir works site. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant). Temporary land take would be required from the four landowners and the tenant farming the landholdings within the Bryncir works site. For the proposed Bryncir Substation, a new site access, laydown area, and site welfare and office facilities will be required. The new DB connection route will be part underground cables and part overhead line; the cables would be laid via an open cut trench. Installation of the overhead line would involve taking materials to each support site and excavating a trench to accommodate the support structure; access would be required	**Construction and operation:** Land agents are in correspondence with the affected landowners. Heads of Terms for voluntary acquisition of land have been issued and signed for the main substation site, whilst the design of the Project is still being refined for the outlying areas. Land agents are not aware of any protected characteristics for the Bryncir landowners.	Under the compulsory purchase regime compensation will be provided to qualifying landowners affected by the permanent land take . The ES states access will be maintained for landowners affected by temporary land take. No additional mitigation proposed.

	along the route e.g. via a temporary haul road or steel trackway running alongside. These works will be temporary. Appropriate access for landowners will be maintained during the works to minimise disruption; impacts on landowners will also be mitigated via financial compensation where appropriate. The Bryncir works site will be reinstated after construction, including landscape works. The magnitude of impact is low. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium due to the importance of farms to the local economy and the number of farms surrounding the Bryncir works site. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant).	

Table 5-3 Impacts on Protected Characteristics from the Glaslyn TCPA

Potential Impact	Description of Potential Impacts (from the TCPA ES)	Explanation of Effects on Protected Characteristics	Recommendations / Good Practice / Additional Mitigation
Temporary closure of PRoW and recreational routes	In general, where a PRoW crosses the Glaslyn works site, it will be fenced off with Heras type temporary fencing to create a designated crossing point. To install the ducts, there may be a requirement to temporarily create a diversion to the PRoW for a short time. However, for the National Cycle Route (NCR 8), due to the complexity of this crossing point (cycle route, drainage ditch, status and duration) a more extensive diversion will be required by a temporary surfaced track west of its current route for the full extent of the Glaslyn works. The route will be subject to consultation and obtaining the necessary consents from Cyngor Gwynedd. The ES identifies a large network of PRoWs within the Study Area that could potentially be used as substitutes in the case of PRoW closure. As such, the sensitivity of PRoW is assessed to be low. While the scale of impact may not be extensive, factors such as potential disruptions to access, usage patterns, or environmental considerations are still considered, magnitude is assessed to be low, which results in a minor adverse effect (not significant).	**Construction:** As outlined in the CTMP the Glaslyn works site intersects several PRoWs, including the Porthmadog No 10 and No 37 bridleways, Porthmadog No 6, No 8, No 11, and No 12 footpaths, and Dolbenmaen No 107 footpath. In addition, NCR 8 crosses through the centre of the Glaslyn works site. Due to the complexity of the NCR 8 crossing point (cycle route, drainage ditch, status and duration) a more extensive diversion is required, in the form of a temporary surfaced track. There may be potential for adverse differential impacts on people with a disability or children and elderly people due to the increased length of the diversion during construction. **Operation:** No effects identified during operation stage.	Resting points along routes could be provided to mitigate the additional route lengths with potentially challenging surfacing. Signage could also be provided to advise users of changes to routes (timing, duration, availability of information about alternatives, contact point for more information about the project).
Temporary land acquisition at community facilities / open space	A number of areas of open space have been identified within 500m of the site area; areas where potential effects are identified are considered below: The Bodawen Playground is west of Porthmadog roundabout and is on the field of the Porthmadog Eisteddfod Stone Circle Park. This playground will be closed for approximately two years whilst the cables beneath the playground are removed and replaced. Upon completion of the proposed works, the current facilities will be reinstated with new equipment installed. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium as Porthmadog Park is approximately 1 km away and provides a	**Construction:** The temporary closure of Bodawen Playground is likely to have an adverse disproportionate effect on young children who live close to the park and who are unable to travel easily to another playground. This may result in young children having less opportunity for play and physical activity. Two years in the life of a young child represents a significant proportion of their childhood. Provision of a temporary play area has been discussed with Porthmadog Town	National Grid is engaging with Ysgol Eifionydd Secondary School to understand exam dates to build this into the Project's construction programme. Further detail will be provided at the

	playground that can act as a substitute for users of the Bodawen Playground. Magnitude is assessed to be low as the impact is not permanent, recovery is possible and the current facilities will be improved upon completion of the proposed works. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant). Sections of the Porthmadog Stone Circle Park will need to be temporarily closed during construction. The stones, which are modern and commemorate the 1987 Eisteddfod, will be left in if possible and securely fenced. If removal of some of the stones closest to the works is necessary, they will be carefully stored and subsequently reinstated post-construction. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium as Porthmadog Park is a viable substitute for park users approximately 1 km away. Magnitude is assessed to be low, as recovery back to the previous use is possible and the effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant). Sections of the car park in the Ysgol Eifionydd Secondary School will be temporarily closed and fenced to accommodate minor works to the existing cable. Works may include the use of an excavator. Sensitivity is assessed to be low, as only sections of the car park will be closed and alternative parking areas are available nearby. Magnitude is assessed to be low as the school will not be closed and the works in the car park are very limited. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant). The Ysgol Eifionydd Secondary School's main playing field will be closed for a maximum of 2.5 years during the construction period to accommodate excavating works to install cables. After construction , the field will be reinstated and returned to its previous use. Sensitivity is low given the smaller southern playing field being available and proximity to the Porthmadog Football Club grounds approximately 450 m away. Magnitude is assessed to be medium, as the playing field will not be usable for up to two years, however recovery is possible to return it to its previous use and the facility may be improved. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant).	Council and with Gwynedd Council officers, however no suitable site has been identified. As a substitute playing field has been identified at Porthmadog FC no equalities impacts are expected from the playing field closure, however, there is still expected to be disruption due to construction which may disproportionately impact pupils (children and young people). The HSE also finds that vulnerable groups particularly children may attempt to access construction sites and therefore managing site access is essential (HSE, 2025). The ES states that the construction site will be securely fenced. The ES Noise and Vibration assessment did not identify any significant noise impacts at the playground or school. However, disabled children, particularly those with sensory sensitivity and autism may be more prone to the disruption impacts of nearby construction noise. **Operation:** New play equipment will be installed at the Bodawen Playground on completion of the works, which may present an improvement on existing and be beneficial for users (children). .	appropriate time as to how site access will be planned, provided and maintained at the school. This will include information on construction times to avoid loud noise during school hours where possible.

Land take from agricultural land holdings	There is potential for permanent impacts on agricultural land holdings during the construction of the proposed works. Raised link boxes will be required to be installed in some locations on agricultural land. Where this occurs, the area will be fenced and compensation will be provided as part of the easement. Agricultural land will also be acquired at Wern and Minffordd for the proposed works, where appropriate compensation will also be provided. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium due to the importance of farms to the local economy and the number of farms surrounding the Glaslyn works site. Magnitude is assessed to be low, as appropriate compensation will be provided as part of the easement for any adverse impacts on agriculture land. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant). There is potential for impacts from temporary land take during construction on agricultural land holdings around the Glaslyn works site. The Applicant will carry out pre-construction meetings with landowners at risk of impact to gather information on farming practices. This information will be used to develop appropriate mitigation to avoid impacts where possible. Where mitigation is not possible, the Applicant will provide compensation on a proven loss basis. Sensitivity is assessed to be medium due to the importance of farms to the local economy and the number of farms surrounding the Glaslyn works site. Magnitude is assessed to be low, as where possible mitigation will be put in place to avoid impacts, with compensation being provided where this is not possible. The effect is assessed to be minor adverse (not significant).	**Construction and operation:** No significant effects on agricultural land holdings have been identified in the ES. However, correspondence with landowners has highlighted a need for a tailored approach to communication. Direct correspondence has been undertaken with a small number of landowners who are unable to meet with the land agents in person due to health issues, mobility challenges, or age-related limitations. In some cases, family members have requested that the land agent liaise directly with them regarding all future Project-related correspondence. While a small number of elderly landowners are affected by the Project, their needs have been taken into account, and alternative engagement arrangements have been implemented. The freeholder for one area has advised that his grandfather occupies a caravan on the land. The caravan is portable and has not always been on the land when site visits have taken place. The Land Agent retains all dates and times of correspondence. No adverse equality impacts on these landowners are anticipated.	For those affected by temporary land take the ES states that pre-construction meetings with landowners at risk of impact will be carried out to develop appropriate mitigation. Where mitigation cannot be provided compensation will be provided. Under the compulsory purchase regime, compensation will be provided to qualifying landowners affected by the permanent land take. No additional mitigation is proposed.

Table 5-4 Impacts on Protected Characteristics from the Wider Works element of the Project

Potential Impact	Description of Use from Land Agents	Explanation of Effects on Protected Characteristics	Recommendations / Good Practice / Additional Mitigation

Temporary closure of PRoW and recreational routes	The Wider Works may affect a few PRoWs although it is noted these are largely short sections of routes within areas of moorland and covered in dense vegetation / woodland. Public access beyond the PRoW is unlikely due to dense vegetation cover.	**Construction:** These routes are not used to connect the public with community facilities / largely used for recreational purposes. Due to the nature of the vegetation cover in and around the routes, they are not considered to be used by large numbers of recreational users. Temporary closure of these PRoW is not expected to have an equality impact on any groups.	Good practice would include signage to advise users of changes to routes (timing, duration, availability of information about alternatives, contact point for more information about the project).
Temporary use of open space	Woodland At Rhosgadfan. Stiles and gates enable pedestrian access into the land and there is a sign advising the site is a Park and Community Woodland. The woodland comprises dense vegetation and footpath routes through the woodland are unclear. The Llanrug United F.C football playing field is adjacent to the Project and is an area of allocated open space. The nature of the usage / impact on these areas is unclear at present; this will be updated in the next iteration of the EqIA when further information is available.	**Construction:** There are limited signs of use by members of the public at this woodland site and no differential or disproportionate equality impacts are anticipated. During construction works are expected to be minimal [can we say what we are doing ? We are not closing the woodland are we, or stopping usage, and so we should say this?] At this stage it is unclear what impact construction of the wider works would have on the football playing field. No significant effects relating to open space or PRoW have been identified in the Environmental Statement for the wider works (socio-economics was scoped out of the assessment). As such, no differential or disproportionate equality impacts are expected in relation to usage of areas of open space. **Operation:** No effects identified during the operation stage.	N/A
Land take from agricultural land holdings	There is potential for construction working areas along the wider works element of the project. These are not typical construction compounds that contain welfare facilities. These working areas include Horizontal Directional Drill launch pads.	**Construction:** Due to the contained nature of the activities in the Wider Works area, potential temporary noise and vibration impacts on residential receptors, as well as socio-economic	N/A

	All construction work areas are located on agricultural land and NGET are in contact with all affected landowners.	receptors such as agricultural land, were scoped out of the assessment. Although predicted characteristics of landowners are not known at this stage, it is not anticipated that equality impacts would occur during the construction stage. NGET are in contact with all affected landowners, **Operation:** No effects identified during the operation stage.	

6 Conclusions

6.1.1 The Pentir to Trawsfynydd Reinforcement Project is part of the Great Grid Upgrade, supporting the UK's transition to a low-carbon energy system. This EqIA sets out how National Grid has given due regard to the needs of people with protected characteristics, in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the PSED. The EqIA has assessed the potential for differential and disproportionate impacts on people with protected characteristics during the pre-application, construction and operational phases of the Project. The assessment has been informed by demographic data, consultation and engagement feedback, and the findings of the relevant assessments for each TCPA application.

6.1.2 National Grid has undertaken inclusive and accessible consultation throughout the development of the Project. To date this has included publication of a community newsletter with details and information on the different elements of the Project; four Public Information Events and an online webinar in May 2025 for members of the public; and ongoing engagement with landowners and key stakeholders who may be impacted by the Project. These efforts are considered to have supported positive equality outcomes and demonstrate due regard to the PSED. In a number of cases Heads of Terms have been agreed voluntarily.

6.1.3 The assessment has identified that the Project may give rise to temporary and permanent adverse equality impacts, particularly in relation to:

- Temporary closure and permanent diversion of PRoWs, which may affect older people, those with mobility issues or those who have a disability.
- Temporary closure of a children's playground which may result in young children having less opportunity for play and physical activity.
- Construction noise and vibration at sensitive community facilities including a school, which may differentially affect children, particularly children with sensory conditions.
- Temporary or permanent land take from agricultural holdings may have a greater impact on older landowners or those with health issues, particularly where these factors limit their ability to communicate or fully understand the potential effects on their property.

6.1.4 Where appropriate, additional mitigation has been proposed to reduce the potential adverse equality impacts that have been identified. For the Bryncir and Glaslyn elements of the Project this is detailed in the previous section (see Table 5-2 and Table 5-3) and comprises:

- Provision of resting points along routes to mitigate the additional route lengths, particularly where routes are unsurfaced. This would support young, older and disabled users of recreational routes.
- Appropriate signage would advise users about the temporary changes to the routes in advance of works and provide details of alternative routes and/or duration of works.

6.1.5 No equality impacts were identified from the Wider Works element of the Project and therefore no additional mitigation has been proposed for this element beyond good practice measures to advise users of changes to PRoW / recreational routes.

6.1.6 Engagement with landowners is ongoing and, once this stage has been completed, the EqIA will be revisited should this be necessary. It is also noted that, following submission of the TCPA planning application for the temporary pumping stations near Glaslyn, the scoping exercise may need to be revisited to ensure any potential equality impacts arising from these works are captured.

6.1.7 In conclusion, the Project has been developed with due regard to the needs of people with protected characteristics. Recommendations and good practice measures have been highlighted in Table 5-2 and Table 5-3. The information presented in this EqIA provides National Grid and the Secretary of State with a robust basis to consider equality matters in deciding whether the CPO should be made and confirmed.

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