

# 1. FFERM SOLAR COED-ELÁI / COED ELY SOLAR FARM

## Croeso

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn bwriadu datblygu fferm solar 6-megawat ar hen safle glofa Coed-elái, sy'n eiddo i'r Cyngor. Ymarfer ymgysylltu cyhoeddus yw hwn i hysbysu trigolion lleol am y datblygiad arfaethedig a rhoi cyfle i drigolion ofyn cwestiynau a rhoi adborth. Mae'r ymarfer ymgysylltu'n cael ei gynnal ochr yn ochr â'r ymarfer Ymgynghori cyn-ymgeisio statudol ac yn ychwanegol iddo. Mae'r ymarfer ymgynghori cyn-ymgeisio yn ofynnol ar gyfer pob cynnig datblygu mawr cyn cyflwyno cais cynllunio.

## Pam ydy Fferm Solar yn cael ei chynnig?

Mae Cymru wedi datgan argyfyngau hinsawdd a byd natur, ac mae'r Cyngor wedi ymrwngwmo i chwarae ei ran. Gwneud Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf yn Garbon Niwtral erbyn 2030 yw'r cynllun sy'n egluro sut y byddai'r Cyngor yn cyfrannu. Mae'n cynnwys y targedau canlynol i'w cyflawni erbyn 2030: sicrhau bod y Cyngor yn garbon niwtral, sicrhau bod y Fwrdeistref Sirol ehangach mor agos â phosibl at fod yn garbon niwtral a chyfrannu at uchelgais Llywodraeth Cymru i gyflawni sector cyhoeddus sero net. Mae'r cynllun hefyd yn ymrwngwmo'r Cyngor i weithio gyda phartneriaid yn y sector cyhoeddus a'r sector preifat fel bod pob sefydliad sy'n gweithredu yn y Fwrdeistref Sirol yn garbon niwtral erbyn 2040. Byddai'r prosiect fferm solar arfaethedig yn helpu i gyflawni pob un o'r targedau yma, a byddai hefyd yn cynhyrchu ynni gwyrdd i bweru adeiladau'r Cyngor.

Byddai 5-megawat o'r ynni a gynhyrchir gan y fferm solar yn cael ei allforio i'r Grid Cenedlaethol. Byddai 1-megawat yn cael ei ddarparu i Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg.

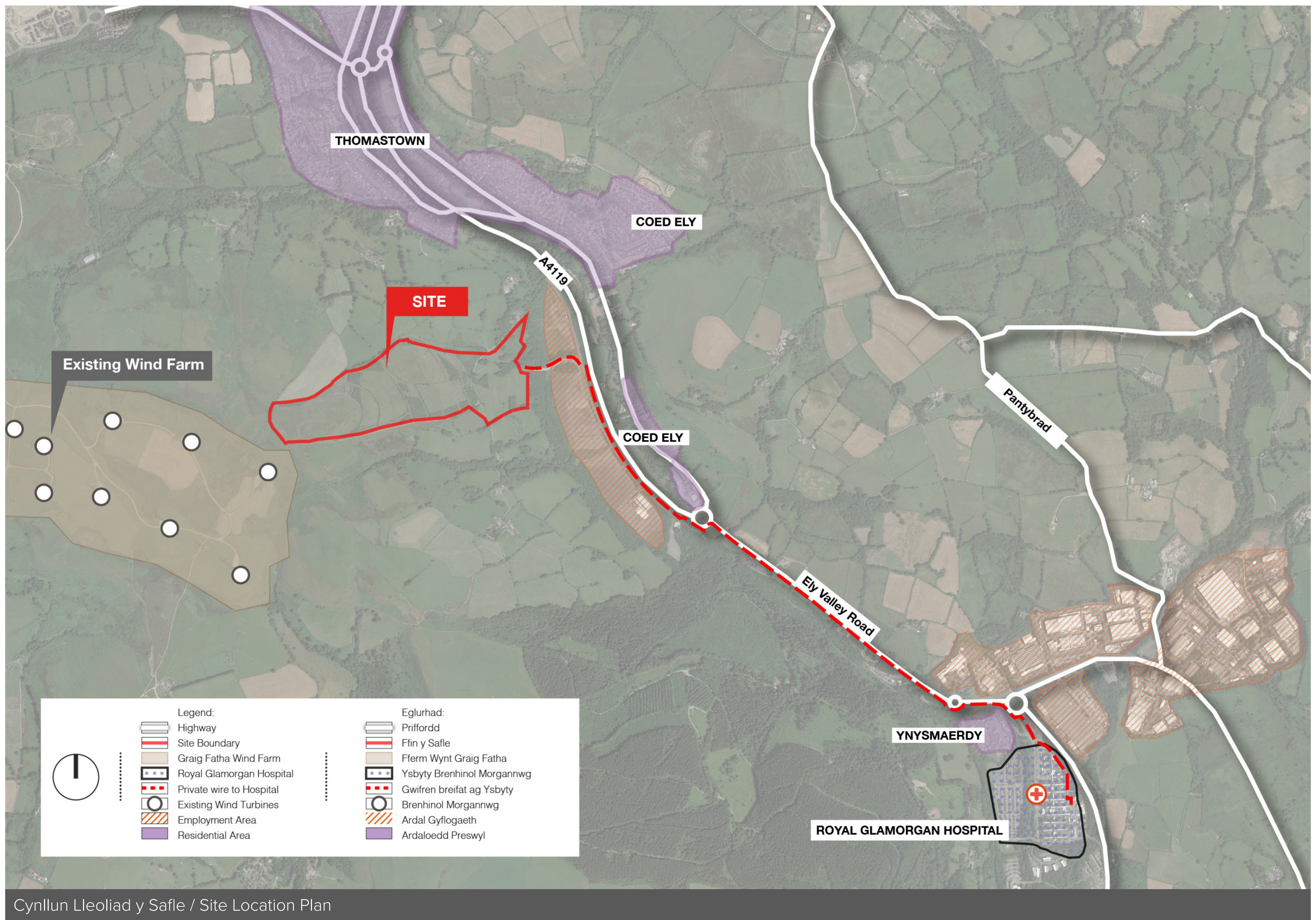
## Welcome

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council is planning to develop a 6-megawatt solar farm on the former Coed Ely colliery site, which is owned by the Council. This is a public engagement exercise to inform local residents about the proposed development and provide the opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide feedback. The engagement is being undertaken alongside, and in addition to, the statutory Pre-Application Consultation exercise that is required for all major development proposals prior to the submission of a planning application.

## Why is the Solar Farm Proposed?

Wales has declared climate and nature emergencies, and the Council is committed to playing its part. Making Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council carbon neutral by 2030 is the plan that explains how the Council would contribute, and it includes the following targets to be achieved by 2030: to ensure the Council is carbon neutral; to ensure the wider County Borough is as close as possible to being carbon neutral; and, to contribute to Welsh Government's ambition to deliver a Net Zero public sector. The plan also commits the Council to work with public and private partners so that by 2040 all organisations operating in the County Borough are carbon neutral. The proposed solar farm project would help to deliver these targets, and it would also generate green energy to power Council buildings.

5 megawatts of the energy generated by the solar farm would be exported to the National Grid. 1 megawatt would be provided to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital.



# 2. SAFLE'R FFERM SOLAR / THE SOLAR FARM SITE

## Lleoliad

Byddai'r fferm solar arfaethedig ar hen safle glofa Coed-elái; mae tua'r gorllewin o bentref Coed-elái ac yn uchel uwchben llawr y dyffryn. Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'r safle yn dir llwyd sydd wedi'i adfer, ond yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf mae wedi adfywio'n naturiol yn amrywiaeth o laswelltiroedd. Mae'r safle'n cael ei ddefnyddio ar hyn o bryd ar gyfer pori preifat, a bydd hyn yn parhau ar ôl i'r fferm solar gael ei hadeiladu.

## Location

The proposed solar farm would be located on the former Coed Ely colliery site; it is located to the west of the Coed Ely village and is elevated above the valley floor. Most of the site is brownfield land that has been remediated, however, in recent years it has naturally regenerated into a variety of grasslands. The site is currently used for private grazing, which would be maintained during the operation of the solar farm.

## Disgrifiad o'r Safle

Mae mynediad i'r safle o Barc Coed-elái, ffordd unffrwd ddwy ffordd sydd wedi'i lleoli tua'r dwyrain o brif ardal y fferm solar, ac sy'n cysylltu'n uniongyrchol â'r A4119. Mae mynedfa bresennol o'r A4119 sy'n rhoi mynediad i'r fferm solar; mae'r trac a grëwyd i adeiladu a chynnal fferm wynt Graig Fatha hefyd yn rhoi mynediad uniongyrchol. Rhaid i'r llwybrau mynediad presennol i'r safle sicrhau bod modd adeiladu a chynnal y fferm solar heb fod angen i gerbydau fynd trwy ardaloedd preswyl.

## Site Description

The site is accessible from Parc Coed Elai, a two-way single carriageway that is located to the east of the main solar farm area, and which connects directly to the A4119. There is an existing access from the A4119 that provides access to the solar farm; the track that was created to construct and maintain the Graig Fatha wind farm also provides direct access. The existing access routes to the site shall ensure the solar farm can be constructed and maintained without the need for vehicles to go through residential areas.

Byddai cysylltiad lleol â'r Grid Cenedlaethol i gysylltu'r pŵer a gynhyrchir gan y fferm solar, ond byddai cysylltiad gwifren breifat hefyd ag Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg. Byddai'r wifren breifat i'r ysbyty o dan y ddaear a thrwy'r ffyrdd mynediad rhwng safle'r fferm solar a safle'r ysbyty, sef Parc Coed-elái a'r A4119. Mae'r mwyafrif helaeth o'r pibellau sydd eu hangen ar gyfer y wifren breifat eisoes wedi'u gosod yn rhan o'r gwaith uwchraddio i'r A4119.

To connect the power generated by the solar farm there would be a local connection to the National Grid, but there would also be a private wire connection to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital. The private wire to the hospital would be underground and via the access roads between the solar farm site and hospital site, namely Parc Coed Elai and the A4119. The vast majority of the ducting required for the private wire has already been put in place as part of the upgrade works to the A4119.



Darluniau'r Safle - Darlun y Safle: 1 a 2 Golygfeydd o'r caeau ble cynigir gosod paneli solar 3 a 4 Trac mynediad presennol i'r safle  
Site Images 1 & 2 - View of fields where solar panels are proposed. Site images 3 & 4 - Existing access track to the site



Cyfyngiadau'r Safle a Chynllun Cyfleoedd / Site Constraints and Opportunities Plan

# 3. Y CYNNIG / THE PROPOSAL

Byddai'r fferm solar yn cynnwys y paneli solar a'r strwythur cynhaliol cysylltiedig. Byddai'r paneli'n cael eu gosod ar y ddaear ac yn amrywio o ran uchder yn seiliedig ar dopograffeg y safle. Byddai'r fferm solar hefyd yn cynnwys gorsafoedd gwrthdröydd ac is-orsafoedd sydd eu hangen i drosglwyddo'r ynni a gynhyrchir gan y paneli i'r grid a'r ysbyty a ffensys diogelwch at ddibenion iechyd a diogelwch. Byddai gan y fferm solar oes o 40 mlynedd ac yn dilyn hyn byddai'r safle'n cael ei adfer.

## Gwelededd

Gan y byddai'r fferm solar ymhell o eiddo preswyl ni fyddai'n weladwy iawn o ardaloedd preswyl. Bwriedir hefyd integreiddio'r paneli i ddilyn topograffeg y safle a chadw'r coed presennol a'r mwyafrif helaeth o'r gwrychoedd presennol ar y safle i sgrinio golygfeydd o'r fferm solar. Byddai golygfeydd o'r datblygiad o'r ardal breswyl hefyd yn cael eu fframio gan dyrbinau gwynt o fferm wynt Graig Fatha. Byddai'r fferm wynt yn parhau i fod yn amlycach na'r paneli solar isel, a fydd dim ond 2.5 metr uwchben y ddaear. Byddai'r datblygiad fwyaf gweladwy o ochr arall y dyffryn, ond byddai'r effeithiau'n gymedrol oherwydd y pellter, y sgrinio a gynigir gan wrychoedd a llinellau coed a'r lleoliad presennol sy'n cael ei ddiffinio gan y tyrbinau gwynt a'r anheddiad ehangach yn y cwm.

## Golau Llachar

Mae dyluniad a goleddf arfaethedig y paneli solar wedi'u dewis i sicrhau eu bod nhw ddim yn achosi golau llachar. Mae asesiad o'r paneli yn y cynllun arfaethedig wedi'i gynnal ac mae'n nodi y byddai effaith golau llachar isel ar breswylwyr. Byddai'r datblygiad yn weladwy i'r eiddo o ochr arall y dyffryn, ond dim ond ychydig o olau llachar y bydd yr eiddo yma'n ei weld. Serch hynny, bydd plannu coed sy'n mynd ymlaen ar hyn o bryd a phlannu coed arfaethedig yn lleihau ei hyd. Mae disgwyl na fydd golau llachar yn cael effaith fawr ar yrwyr cerbydau. Mae ffordd gyhoeddus gul iawn yn cysylltu Heol Pantybrad a Heol Cwm Elái tua'r dwyrain o'r safle a rhan fechan o Wern Heulog sy'n rhedeg o'r dwyrain i'r gorllewin i'w gweld o'r safle ac mae'n bosibl y bydd y rhain yn cael eu heffeithio ar rai cyfnodau o'r flwyddyn. Serch hynny, bydd terfynau cyflymder isel a sgrinio rhannol yn lliniaru effeithiau.

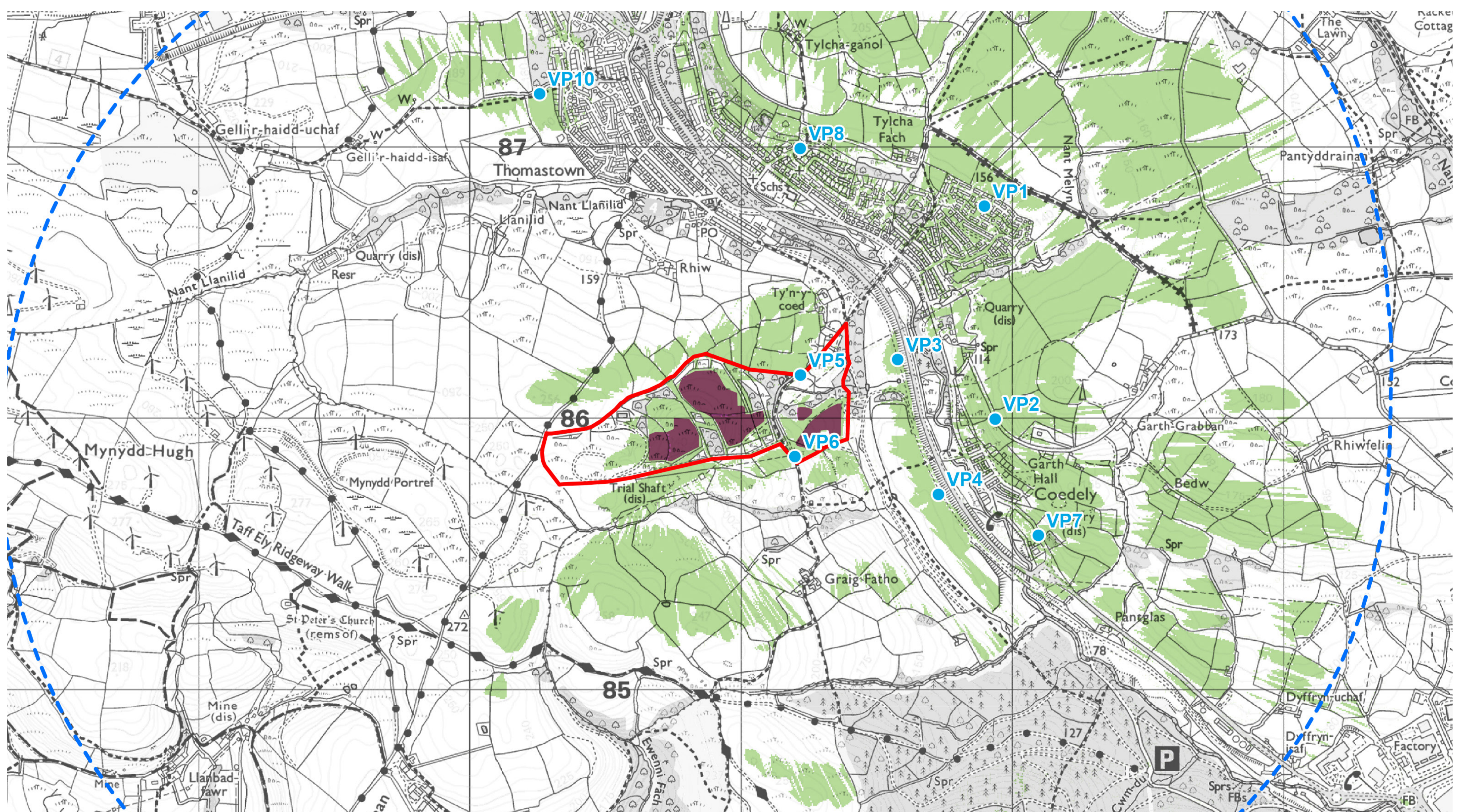
The solar farm would include the solar panels and associated supporting structure. The panels would be fixed into the ground and vary in height based on the site topography. The solar farm would also include inverter stations and substations that are required to transfer the energy generated by the panels to the grid and the hospital and security fencing for health and safety purposes. The solar farm would have a life span of 40 years and following this the site would be reinstated.

## Visibility

As the solar farm would be located far from residential properties it would not be highly visible from residential areas. It is also proposed to integrate the panels to follow the site topography and to retain the existing trees and the vast majority of the existing hedgerows on site to screen views of the solar farm. Views of the development from the residential area would also be framed by wind turbines from the Graig Fatha wind farm, which would continue to be more prominent than the low-lying solar panels, the maximum height of which is only 2.5 metres above ground. The development would be most visible from the opposite valley side, but the impacts would be moderate due to the distance, screening offered by hedgerows and tree lines and the existing setting which is defined by the wind turbines and wider valley settlement.

## Glint and Glare

The proposed design and pitch of the solar panels has been selected to minimise glint and glare effects. An assessment of the panels in the proposed layout has been undertaken and it identifies there would be low glint and glare impact for residential areas. Some properties that are in view of the development across the valley will have some limited occurrences of glint and glare but this would not present a health risk and would not unduly impact on residential amenity. The presence of existing and proposed tree planting will reduce the duration of any impacts. Glint and glare impacts for vehicle drivers are also expected to be low. A very narrow public road connecting Pantybrad Road and Ely Valley Road east of the Site and a small section of the Gwern Heulog running east-west are in view of the site and may have periods in the year which are impacted. However, low speed limits and partial screening will help mitigate effects on road users and, although there will be some visibility to glint, this is will not jeopardise road safety and usability.



Cynllun Gwelededd y Safle – mae gwyrdd yn dangos o ble mae modd gweld y safle. Mae'r golygfeydd yn dangos o ble mae effaith weledol y safle wedi'i hasesu). Site Visibility Plan - Green shows where the site can be seen. Viewpoints show where the visual impact of the site has been assessed from).



Golygfa 1 - Crib-y-ddôl – Yr olygfa ar ôl ei gwblhau / Viewpoint 1 - Highfields - View on Completion



Golygfa 1 - Crib-y-ddôl – Yr olygfa 10 mlynedd ar ôl ei gwblhau / Viewpoint 1 - Highfields - View 10 Years After Completion



Golygfa 6 / Y ffordd wrth ymyl y safle – Yr olygfa ar ôl ei gwblhau / Viewpoint 6 - Road next to the site - View on Completion



Golygfa 6 - Y ffordd wrth ymyl y safle – Yr olygfa 10 mlynedd ar ôl ei gwblhau / Viewpoint 6 - Road next to the site - View 10 Years After Completion



Panelli Solar ac Enghraifft o'r Cit / Solar Panel and Kit Example



Is-orsaf Gweithredwr Rhwydwaith Ardal / DNO Substations



Is-orsafoedd Cwsmeiriad ac Ysbyty/ Customer and Hospital Substations

# 4. RHEOLI'R AMGYLCHEDD / MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT

## Ynni Gwyrdd

Byddai'r fferm solar yn darparu ynni gwyrdd yn uniongyrchol i'r Grid Cenedlaethol. Byddai 5 megawatt o bŵer yr awr yn cael ei allforio i'r Grid Cenedlaethol. Mae hyn yn cyfateb i ddigon o bŵer i dua 400 o gartrefi. Byddai 1 megawatt o bŵer yn cael ei ddarparu i Ysbyty Brenhinol Morgannwg hefyd yn helpu i fodlonigofynion ynni'r ysbty gydag chyflenwad ynni gwyrdd ac yn helpu'r bwrdd iechyd i gyrraedd deidarged ei hun i gyflawni Carbon Sero-Neter byn 2030.

## Ecoleg

Mae asesiad effaith ecolegol wedi'i gwblhau i arwain y dyluniad er mwyn sicrhau bod y fferm solar yn sensitif i ecoleg y safle. Mae'r asesiad yn nodi bod ardaloedd gorllewinol a dwyreiniol y safle o werth ecolegol uchel oherwydd presenoldeb glaswelltir corsiog ac adar gwarchoddedig sy'n nythu ar y ddaear. Ni chynigir gosod unrhyw baneli solar yn yr ardaloedd yma. Lle cynigir paneli solar, maen nhw wedi'u trefnu i gadw'r mwyafrif helaeth o gynefin presennol y safle, ac maen nhw wedi eu dylunio i sicrhau bod y ddaear o dan y paneli yn gallu parhau i gael golau'r haul a chael ei bori. Yn dilyn adeiladu'r fferm solar byddai ardal y safle yn derbyn rheolaeth wedi'i thargedu i wella ansawdd y cynefin, a byddai hyn yn cynnwys pori wedi'i drefnu. Drwy ddilyn y dull yma, mae'r asesiad effaith ecolegol yn dod i'r casgliad bod modd i'r safle gynnwys y fferm solar heb effeithiau ecolegol annerbyniol ac mae modd gwella gwerth ecolegol y safle trwy weithredu cynllun rheoli hirdymor.

## Coed a Gwrychoedd

Byddai'r coed aeddfed ar y safle yn cael eu cadw yn rhan o'r datblygiad. Byddai angen tynnu 16% o'r gwrychoedd ar y safle er mwyn galluogi'r datblygiad, ond mae'r gwrychoedd yma wedi'u hasesu ac wedi'u nodi fel rhai â gwerth ecolegol isel. Byddai maint y gwrych a gollwyd yn cael ei ddisodli mewn man arall ar y safle datblygu gyda gwrychoedd newydd sy'n cynnwys mwy o fathau o blanhigion cyfoethog eu rhywogaethau sy'n cynnig gwerth ecolegol uwch. Byddai gwrych newydd yn cael ei leoli ble byddai'n sgrinio golygfeydd o'r datblygiad orau.

## Green Energy

The solar farm would deliver green energy directly into the National Grid. 5 megawatts of power per hour would be exported to the National Grid, which is equivalent to power around 400 homes. 1 megawatt of power would be provided to the Royal Glamorgan Hospital would also help to meet the Hospital's energy requirements with a green supply and help the Health Board to meet its own target to achieve Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

## Ecology

To ensure the solar farm is sensitive to onsite ecology, an ecological impact assessment has been completed to guide the design. The assessment identifies that the western and eastern areas of the site are of high ecological value due to the presence of marshy grassland and protected ground nesting birds, and these areas are subsequently not proposed to have any solar panels. Where solar panels are proposed, they have been arranged to retain the vast majority of the existing site habitat, and they have been designed to ensure that the ground beneath the panels can continue to receive sunlight and be grazed. Following construction of the solar farm the site area would receive targeted management to increase the quality of the habitat, this would include organised grazing. By following this approach, the ecological impact assessment concludes that the site can accommodate the solar farm without unacceptable ecological impacts, and that by implementing a long-term management plan the ecological value of the site could actually be improved.

## Trees and Hedgerows

The mature trees located on the site would be retained as part of the development. 16% of the total hedgerow on site would need to be removed to enable the development, but this has been assessed and has been identified as having low ecological value. The extent of the hedgerow lost would be replaced elsewhere on the development site with new hedgerow that include more species rich plant types that offer higher ecological value. New hedgerow would be located where it would best screen views of the development.



## Draenio

Byddai systemau draenio dŵr wyneb yn cael eu gosod yn rhan o'r fferm solar arfaethedig. Byddai dŵr wyneb o'r paneli solar yn disgyn i bantiau lle byddai'n mynd drwy fesurau lliniaru llygredd ac yn cael ei drosglwyddo i'r cyrsiau dŵr presennol ar y safle. Byddai'r pantiau yn gwanhau'r wyneb ac yn ei ryddhau dan reolaeth. Byddai'r dŵr yna'n teithio i'r cyrsiau dŵr ar draws y tir presennol gan efelychu symudiad dŵr wyneb presennol ar y safle. Byddai dyluniad y system ddraenio yn sicrhau bod cyfradd dŵr ffo'r dŵr wyneb presennol ar y safle yn aros yr un fath ar ôl cwblhau'r fferm solar. Byddai'r paneli solar yn cael eu trefnu o amgylch y cyrsiau dŵr bach ar y safle. Er mwyn creu llwybrau mynediad rhwng y paneli solar byddai angen sianelu rhai cyrsiau dŵr a chael Caniatâd Cwrs Dŵr Cyffredin i gytuno ar ddyluniad y ceuffosydd cyn ymgymryd ag unrhyw waith adeiladu.

## Cyflwr y Tir

Gan i'r safle gael ei ddefnyddio'n flaenorol fel tomen sbwriel pwll glo, bu'n destun gwaith adfer helaeth i fynd i'r afael â halogiad blaenorol. Byddai'r fferm solar ddim yn effeithio ar y dull adfer, nac ar ardaloedd a oedd wedi'u halogi o'r blaen gan mai dim ond sylfeini a chloddio cymharol gyfyngedig sydd eu hangen ar y fferm solar.

## Traffig

Byddai cerbydau sydd eu hangen i adeiladu a chynnal a chadw'r fferm solar yn cael mynediad i'r safle o Barc Coed-elái a'r A4119 i sicrhau nad yw cerbydau'n mynd trwy ardaloedd preswyl; bydd cerbydau'n defnyddio llwybr fferm Tyrbin Gwynt Graig Fatha. Fyddai cerbydau adeiladu mawr ddim yn cael eu caniatáu i'r safle rhwng 08:00 a 09:00 a 17:00 a 18:00 er mwyn eu symud oddi ar y briffordd leol yn ystod oriau prysur o draffig. Bydd y fferm solar yn cynhyrchu tua 100 o symudiadau dwy ffordd dros y cyfnod adeiladu o 4 mis, sy'n cyfateb i lai nag un Cerbyd Nwyddau Trwm (HGV) y dydd; er y bydd cyfnodau pan fydd mwy o ddwyseidd, fyddai lefel y traffig adeiladu ddim yn effeithio ar draffig nac amodau diogelwch ar ffyrdd lleol. Yn ystod gweithrediad y fferm solar byddai tua un ymweliad yr wythnos yn cael ei wneud mewn fan fechan neu gerbyd 4x4. Ychydig iawn o effaith a gâi hyn ar y rhwydwaith priffyrdd.

## Drainage

As part of the proposed solar farm surface water drainage systems would be provided. Surface water from the solar panels would fall into swales where it would receive pollution mitigation and be transferred to the existing watercourses on the site. The swales would attenuate and control the release of the surface water which would travel to the watercourses across the existing ground replicating the existing movement of surface water on the site. The drainage design would ensure that the current surface water run-off rate on the site remains the same following the completion of the solar farm. The solar panels would be arranged around the small watercourses located on the site. To create access paths in between the solar panels some watercourses would need to be culverted and Ordinary Watercourse Consent would be obtained to agree the design of the culverts before any construction activities are undertaken.

## Ground Conditions

As the site was previously used as a colliery spoil tip it has been subject to extensive remediation to address previous contamination. The solar farm would not impact on the remediation approach, nor interface with previously contaminated areas as the solar farm only requires relatively limited foundations and excavation.

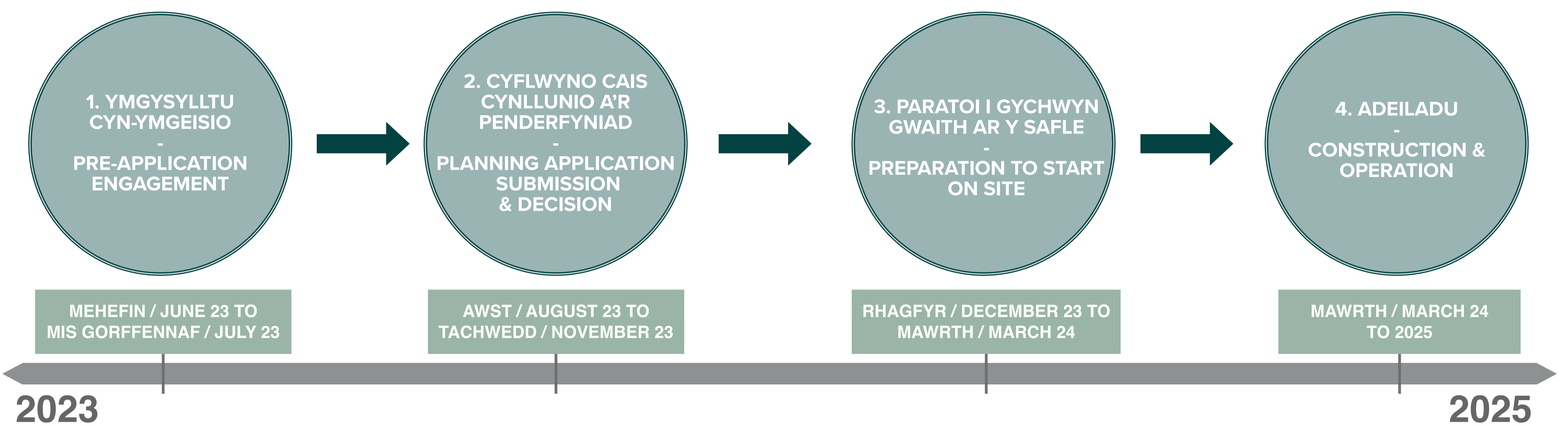
## Traffic

Vehicles required to construct and maintain the solar farm would access the site from Parc Coed Elai and the A4119 to ensure that vehicles do not route through residential areas; vehicles will utilise the Graig Fatha Wind Turbine farm route. Large construction vehicles would not be permitted to the site during the hours of 08:00 and 09:00 and 17:00 and 18:00 to remove them from the local highway during peak hours. The solar farm will generate approximately 100 two-way movements over the 4-month construction period, equating to less than one HGV per day; although there will be periods where there is greater intensity, the level of construction traffic would not affect traffic or safety conditions on local roads. During the operation of the solar farm approximately one visit per week would be made in a small van or 4x4. This would have a negligible impact on the highway network.

# 5. AMSERLENNI'R PROSIECT / PROJECT TIMESCALE

Dangosir yr amserlenni presennol ar gyfer y prosiect isod. Gall y rhain fod yn destun mân ddiwygiadau wrth i'r prosiect symud ymlaen.

The current timescales for the project are shown below. These may be subject to minor amendment as the project moves forward.



Mae modd gweld y cais cynllunio llawn drwy'r dolenni isod. Mae modd i chi adael adborth hefyd.

The full planning application can be reviewed via the below links. Feedback can also be provided.

[www.theurbanists.net/application/proposed-solar-farm-at-coed-ely-tonyrefail](http://www.theurbanists.net/application/proposed-solar-farm-at-coed-ely-tonyrefail)

