Foel Fach Wind Farm Limited.

Foel Fach Wind Farm – Environmental Statement Volume III

Appendix 9.7: National Park Assessment

Project Reference: 664094

DECEMBER 2025

Energy for generations

Coriolis Energy

RSK

CONTENTS

APPENDIX 9.7 - NATIONAL PARK ASSESSMENT

1.1 Introduction

Overview

1.1.1 Eryri National Park (formerly known as Snowdonia National Park) is located in north-west Wales and covers an area of 2,176 km^2. It was designated in 1951 as the third National Park in Britain. The National Park contains some of Wales most spectacular mountain scenery, including Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), the highest mountain in Wales and England at 1,085 m.

1.1.2 The Cynllun Eryri National Park Partnership Plan (2020) describes the National Park as encompassing *"diverse, high quality landscapes and seascapes within a small geographic area, ranging from coast to rolling uplands to rugged mountains for which Eryri is famed."* The National Park's landscape is characterised by its dramatic glaciated mountain scenery, extensive upland moorlands, wooded valleys, rivers and lakes, and a distinctive cultural landscape shaped by centuries of human activity.

Statutory Purposes

1.1.3 The statutory purposes of National Parks, as set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, are:

- To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and
- To promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks.

1.1.4 In pursuing these purposes, National Park Authorities also have a duty to seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

Purpose and Scope

1.1.5 This appendix provides a detailed assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape character and visual amenity of Eryri National Park. The assessment focuses on:

- Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and NRW's identified "Key Viewpoints" that fall within the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV);
- The special qualities of Eryri National Park as identified in the Cynllun Eryri Landscape Management Plan 2020;
- The specific characteristics of individual LCAs and Key Viewpoints that have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development; and
- The potential effects on the landscape character, visual amenity and special qualities.

1.1.6 The Proposed Development is located approximately 1.9 km to the east of the Eryri National Park boundary at its closest point. The assessment considers effects on LCAs and visual amenity within the National Park up to 20 km from the proposed turbines, which based on professional judgement working on comparative wind farm schemes in similar upland areas significant effects are considered unlikely. That is not to say that there would be no visibility beyond this distance, but simply that any such visibility would be so limited in nature that it would have no potential to give rise to significant effects. It is important to note that the majority of the National Park lies beyond this 20 km distance, including the summit of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) which lies around 35 km away.

1.1.7 The assessment is supported by a series of plans provided at **Annex 1**. These plans illustrate the 'key viewpoints' within the National Park, as identified by NRW, overlaid on to both the blade tip ZTV mapping and the visible turbine aviation lighting ZTV mapping. Areas of Tranquillity (levels 9 and 10) as identified by NRW are also shown for context.

Methodology

1.1.8 The assessment methodology follows that set out in **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual** and is consistent with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2013, GLVIA 3). The assessment considers:

- The sensitivity of each LCA or visual receptor (combining value and susceptibility to change);
- The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development
- The significance of landscape or visual effects.

References

1.1.9 The assessment is informed by field survey observations from representative viewpoints and the following key documents:

- Eryri National Park Authority (2020). The Eryri National Park Partnership Plan 2020 - Cynllun Eryri Landscape Management Plan.
- Eryri Local Development Plan (ELDP) 2016-2031. Eryri National Park Authority;
- Eryri National Park Authority (July 2014). Local Development Plan 2016-2031 Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscape and Seascapes of Eryri
- Eryri National Park Authority (October 2016). Local Development Plan 2016-2031 Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment.
- Eryri Local Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance: Obtrusive Lighting (Light Pollution) (October 2016);
- LANDMAP Visual and Sensory, Historic Landscape, and other aspect area descriptions (Natural Resouces Wales (NRW), 2024)); and
- LANDMAP Guidance Note 046, LANDMAP in Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA), (NRW, 2021).

Eryri National Park Special Qualities

1.1.10 The Cynllun Eryri Landscape Management Plan 2020 identifies nine special qualities that make Eryri a unique and important place:

- SQ1: Diverse Landscapes: Diverse, high quality landscapes and seascapes within a small geographic area;
- SQ2: Community Cohesion: A robust sense of community identity and belonging;
- SQ3: Vibrancy of the Welsh Language: The vibrancy of Welsh as the choice language;
- SQ4: Inspiration for the Arts: A place inspiring notable culture, folklore, art, literature and music;
- SQ5: Tranquillity and Solitude: Peaceful Areas: Opportunities for silence, tranquillity and solitude;
- SQ6: Recreation, Leisure and Learning: Extensive opportunities for all ages and abilities;
- SQ7: Historic Landscapes: Landscapes of great beauty and variety produced by changing relationships between people and nature;
- SQ8: Renowned Geology: Complex varied and internationally important geology; and
- SQ9: Internationally Important Habitats and Species: Tremendous biodiversity with 17 National Nature Reserves.

1.1.11 Of particular relevance to this assessment are Special Qualities ('SQs') 1 (Diverse Landscapes), 5 (Tranquillity and Solitude) and 7 (Historic Landscapes).

1.2 Landscape Character Areas Within The ZTV

Identification of Affected LCAs

1.2.1 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.29: National and Local Landscape Character Areas with Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km** the following Eryri National Park LCAs have theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development and potential to be significantly affected:

- **LCA 15: Yr Arenig** - Elevated eastern slopes and mountain summits with 360 degree panoramas;
- **LCA 16: Dyffryn Dyfil** – Northern areas with theoretical visibility; and
- **LCA 19: Coedwig Penllyn** - Eastern edge with potential visibility.

1.2.2 Additional LCAs may have limited theoretical visibility from elevated locations but are considered unlikely to experience significant effects due to distance and limited extent of visibility.

1.3 Assessment of Effects on Eryri National Park Landscape Character Areas

LCA 15: Yr Arenig (Arenig Uplands)

Baseline Description

1.3.1 LCA 15 - Yr Arenig encompasses a mountainous upland landscape centered on the prominent peaks of Arenig Fawr (854 m AOD) and Arenig Fach (689 m AOD). This LCA represents one of the more remote and elevated parts of Eryri National Park, characterized by:

Physical Characteristics

1.3.2 **High, prominent upland landscape** - The twin summits of Arenig Fawr and Arenig Fach form iconic landmarks visible across much of north Wales, with Arenig Fawr particularly valued as one of NRW's identified Key Viewpoints (SNP11). The elevated position (significantly higher than the Proposed Development site at 450-500 m AOD) provides extensive panoramic views;

1.3.3 **Combination of high moorland, prominent forestry plantations, dramatic glacial landforms and human-influenced landscape** - Large-scale commercial forestry (particularly around Llyn Celyn reservoir) contrasts strongly with open moorland summits. The dramatic glacial lake of Llyn Celyn (constructed 1960s) and the visible human infrastructure including the reservoir dam, access roads, and recreational facilities demonstrate this is not a wilderness landscape untouched by modern development;

1.3.4 **Contrasting settled and wild landscapes** - The valley contains Llyn Celyn reservoir with associated built development and the B4391 corridor, while mountain summits retain a sense of remoteness and exposure.

Perceptual Characteristics in Relation to Existing Baseline Context

1.3.5 The sense of "relative" solitude and tranquillity particularly relates to views from elevated locations. It is critical to note that views eastwards in the direction of the Proposed Development already includes views of existing wind energy infrastructure which forms part of the established baseline context;

1.3.6 Existing Wind Energy Development Visible from this LCA (all operational, forming assessed baseline):

- Hafoty Ucha Repowering (4 turbines, 86.5 m) at 2.9 km north of the Site
- Bryn Ffynon (1 turbine, 86.5 m) at 3.02 km north
- Disgarth Ucha/Ty'n Gwyn (1 turbine, 86.6 m) at 5.3 5km north-east
- Bodtegir (1 turbine, 100 m) at 7.19 km north-east
- Clocaenog Forest (27 turbines, 145 m) at 10.94 km north-east - This substantial operational wind farm is explicitly acknowledged in Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance as being "visible from parts of Snowdonia National Park"
- Wern Ddu (4 turbines, 90 m) at 11.41 km north-east
- Tir Mostyn & Foel Goch (25 turbines, 75 m) at 14.32 km north-east

1.3.7 Other Modern Infrastructure Visible in Eastward Views:

- Multiple routes of steel lattice overhead power lines (both National Grid 400 kV and SP Manweb distribution voltage lines) crossing the landscape to the east
- The A494 transport corridor
- B4501 transport corridor forming a clear physical and perceptual separation between the National Park and the Foel Goch Uplands
- Extensive commercial forestry plantations

1.3.8 The sense of tranquillity and solitude experienced from elevated locations within this LCA looking eastward therefore reflects a landscape where some modern energy infrastructure and development is already an established characteristic of views in that direction. The concept of "relative" solitude is key - this is not absolute remoteness from all signs of modern development, but rather a landscape where, in eastward views, operational wind turbines, overhead lines, transport corridors and plantation forestry already form part of what is experienced. The Proposed Development would therefore be introducing additional turbines into a view direction where wind energy development is already present and visible, rather than introducing an entirely new and unfamiliar feature type into an unspoiled prospect.

Sensitivity Assessment

Value Assessment - Very High

1.3.9 The LCA merits a very high value assessment on the basis of*:*

- National Park Designation ;
- Special Quality Representation - The LCA strongly exemplifies multiple Special Qualities of Eryri National Park, particularly:
  - SQ1 (Diverse Landscapes) - The combination of high mountain summits, glacial lakes, moorland, and contrasting commercial forestry demonstrates landscape diversity
  - SQ5 (Tranquillity and Solitude) - Despite existing infrastructure, elevated locations retain a sense of relative remoteness and opportunities for quiet enjoyment, though this is directionally variable
  - SQ7 (Historic Landscapes) - Glacial geomorphology and patterns of land use tell the story of human interaction with this upland environment
  - SQ8 (Renowned Geology) - The area's geology and glacial features are of scientific interest
- Presence of Key Viewpoints - Arenig Fawr is identified as one of NRW's Key Viewpoints (SNP11), recognizing its importance as a significant vantage point for experiencing and understanding the wider National Park landscape;
- Recreational Value - Popular with hill walkers and providing access to remote upland areas, contributing to understanding and enjoyment of the National Park's special qualities;
- Scenic Quality - While LANDMAP assessments show variable scenic quality (with some forest areas of low scenic value), the open mountain summits and lake landscapes are valued for their dramatic character.

1.3.10 However, value assessment must also acknowledge landscape condition and the presence of detracting features:

- Large-scale commercial forestry significantly affects landscape character across substantial parts of the LCA
- The constructed reservoir at Llyn Celyn, while now a landscape feature in its own right, represents major 20th century infrastructure
- Visible overhead power lines in multiple directions
- The landscape has demonstrably accommodated modern infrastructure previously

Susceptibility Assessment - High (with directional variation)

1.3.11 Susceptibility reflects the LCA's ability to accommodate the proposed type of change (in this case indirect effects from a Proposed Development outside the boundary of the National Park) without unacceptable adverse effects on character. A high susceptibility is assessed based on:

1.3.12 Factors Increasing Susceptibility:

- Elevated, Open Character - Mountain summits and ridges are highly sensitive to skyline development. The introduction of vertical man-made elements would be readily visible and would contrast with the predominantly horizontal emphasis of the upland plateau landscape;
- Sense of Remoteness (from certain locations) - Despite existing infrastructure, summit locations particularly retain qualities of exposure and relative isolation that are susceptible to visual intrusion from modern development;
- National Park Purpose - The statutory purposes require particular attention to conserving landscape character and natural beauty, increasing susceptibility to change;
- Recreational Use Patterns - Hill walkers specifically seek out these locations for panoramic views and appreciation of upland character, increasing sensitivity to changes in those views.

1.3.13 Factors Decreasing Susceptibility:

- Existing Modern Infrastructure in Eastward Views - The established presence of operational wind turbines (particularly the substantial Clocaenog Forest scheme), overhead power lines, transport corridors and commercial forestry in eastward views demonstrates the landscape has previously accommodated modern development in that direction. This does not eliminate susceptibility, but it does mean the Proposed Development would not be introducing an entirely unfamiliar feature type;
- Directional Variation in Character - The sense of remoteness and tranquillity is strongest in westward views into the heart of the National Park. Eastward views already incorporate more developed/managed landscapes;
- Scale of Landscape - The large scale of this upland landscape and the separation distance (minimum 6.8 km from the Proposed Development to nearest part of LCA, with Key Viewpoint SNP11 at 11.1 km from nearest turbine) provides some capacity to absorb change without overwhelming the landscape;
- Topographical Separation - The B4501 corridor and intervening topography create a clear physical and perceptual separation between the National Park and the Foel Goch Uplands where the Proposed Development is located.

From elevated positions such as SNP11 (Arenig Fawr), this "topographical bowl" containing the site is clearly evident, emphasising the distinct landscape unit within which the turbines would be located.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.14 Combining **very high** value with **high** susceptibility results in an overall sensitivity of **very high.**

1.3.15 However, it is important to note that this very high sensitivity must be understood in the context of:

- Directional variation (effects primarily on eastward views)
- Existing baseline context (operational wind development already visible eastward)
- Distance relationships (effects primarily from elevated locations 7-11 km+ from the Site)
- The LCA itself remaining physically undeveloped by the proposals

Magnitude of Change

Assessment Against ZTV and Viewpoint Evidence

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis:

1.3.16 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**, theoretical visibility from LCA 15 shows:

- Visibility concentrated to elevated eastern-facing slopes and summit areas
- Only a worst-case 44% total theoretical visibility from LANDMAP Visual & Sensory Aspect Area SNPVS125 (Arenig Fawr), with 56% having no theoretical visibility
- Where visible, only 38% of the aspect area would theoretically see 8-10 turbines, indicating views of the full or near-full array are generally only from elevated positions
- The Hub Height ZTV (Figure 9.6) shows more limited visibility, confirming that from lower elevations and valley locations, only blade tips would be visible or visibility would be screened entirely

Viewpoint Evidence:

1.3.17 The assessment is informed by two representative viewpoints within this LCA:

1.3.18 **VP12 - Arenig Fawr (SNP11 - NRW Key Viewpoint) at 11.1 km:** This viewpoint represents the summit of Arenig Fawr, one of NRW's identified Key Viewpoints (SNP11), recognizing its importance as a significant panoramic vantage point. The viewpoint assessment (ES Volume III, Appendix 9.9) identifies:

- All 10 turbines would be theoretically visible
- Elevated viewing position (854 m AOD vs site at 450-500 m AOD) means turbines would be viewed looking down into the "topographical bowl" containing the site
- Turbines would appear as relatively prominent features breaking the distant ridgeline/skyline in the north-easterly sector of the 360° panorama

- However, they would occupy a limited portion of the extensive panoramic view

1.3.19 Critically, existing infrastructure already visible in this same view sector includes**:**

- Clocaenog Forest Wind Farm (27 turbines) and newly consented Alwen Forest extension visible in the background beyond the Proposed Development
- Multiple routes of steel lattice overhead power lines
- B4501 transport corridor
- Commercial forestry plantations§
- The physical and perceptual separation provided by the B4501 corridor and topographical variation is clearly evident from this elevated vantage point
- The assessment concludes a Moderate-Major magnitude leading to a Major (Significant) effect for this specific viewpoint

1.3.20 **VP10 - Picnic Area west of Llyn Celyn Reservoir at 8.4 km:** This viewpoint represents recreational users at an established visitor facility. The viewpoint assessment identifies:

- Notable theoretical visibility to multiple turbines
- However, distance (8.4 km) considerably reduces their sense of scale
- Turbines would appear as distant features on the north-eastern horizon
- Existing context includes the reservoir infrastructure, car parking, and forest edge
- The assessment concludes a Medium magnitude leading to a Moderate-Major (Significant) effect

Relationship to NRW Key Viewpoints:

1.3.21 NRW's identified Key Viewpoints within 20 km of the Proposed Development (as referenced in **paragraph 1.4.14** of this appendix) with potential visibility comprise:

- SNP11 (Arenig Fawr – 11 km) - Represented by VP12 and lying within LCA 15
- SNP12 (Aran Fawddwy – 20 km) - Outside LCA 15, in LCA 15a to the south
- SNP18 (Mynydd Garthmyn – 20 km) - Outside LCA 15, but only 4 blade tips visible with no hubs

1.3.22 The fact that only SNP11 lies within LCA 15 is material to the assessment. NRW's selection of Key Viewpoints represents locations they consider particularly important for experiencing and understanding the National Park. The absence of other Key Viewpoints within or immediately adjacent to LCA 15 with significant visibility suggests the geographic extent of notable effects is limited.

Geographic Extent of Change

1.3.23 Effects would be experienced from:

- Elevated summit and ridge locations - particularly Arenig Fawr (SNP11/VP12), Arenig Fach, and higher eastern-facing slopes where panoramic views are obtained
- Moderate geographic extent within the LCA - approximately 44% of the Arenig Fawr visual & sensory aspect area has theoretical visibility, but actual visibility

would be further reduced by local topography, vegetation, and atmospheric conditions

- Primarily eastward-facing views - effects concentrated in views looking toward/across the Foel Goch Uplands. Views in other directions (particularly westward into the heart of the National Park) would be unaffected
- Distance - all effects occurring at distances of 7-11 km+, where the scale of turbines is moderated by distance and atmospheric perspective

1.3.24 However, the change must be understood in the context of:

- Existing baseline includes visible wind turbines - Particularly Clocaenog Forest (27 turbines) at 10.94 km which is explicitly acknowledged as visible from parts of the National Park;
- Incremental change to established pattern - The Proposed Development would add to an existing pattern of wind energy development visible eastward, rather than introducing the concept for the first time;
- Limited horizontal extent within panorama - From SNP11, turbines would occupy approximately 8-10° of a 360° panorama;
- Physical separation evident - The topographical and land use separation between the National Park and the Foel Goch Uplands is clear from elevated viewpoints;
- Directional concentration - Effects limited to one sector of views, with other directions (particularly the valued westward views into the National Park core) unaffected.

Magnitude of Change Conclusion

1.3.25 Taking all the above factors into account - the visibility from elevated locations, the distance relationships, the horizontal extent within panoramic views, the existing baseline context of operational wind development, and the directional nature of effects - the magnitude of change is assessed as **medium**.

1.3.26 This medium magnitude reflects that:

- Turbines would form noticeable new features in eastward views from elevated locations;
- They would not fundamentally alter the overall landscape character of this extensive upland LCA;
- They represent an incremental addition to an existing pattern of wind energy development visible eastward;
- Effects are geographically and directionally limited within the wider LCA;
- The LCA would continue to fulfil its role in providing opportunities for appreciation of upland character, remote landscapes, and panoramic views.

Significance of Effect

1.3.27 The combination of very high sensitivity and **medium** magnitude of change results in a **moderate-major** adverse effect, which is significant.

1.3.28 The effect would be adverse in nature, primarily affecting:

- The sense of relative solitude and tranquillity (Special Quality 5);
- The perception of the landscape as remote and undeveloped; and

- The visual relationship with adjacent upland areas to the east.

1.3.29 It should be noted that the sense of 'relative' solitude and tranquillity in eastward views from this LCA is already affected by existing operational wind energy development. The baseline context includes:

- Hafoty Ucha Repowering (4 turbines, 86.5 m) at 2.9 km north of the site
- Bryn Ffynon (1 turbine, 86.5 m) at 3.02 km north
- Bodtegir (1 turbine, 100 m) at 7.19 km north-east
- Clocaenog Forest (27 turbines, 145 m) at 10.94 km north-east

1.3.30 These schemes, particularly the substantial Clocaenog Forest wind farm, are already visible from elevated locations within this LCA when looking eastward. The Eryri Supplementary Planning Guidance explicitly acknowledges that 'Some of the turbines [from Clocaenog] are visible from parts of Snowdonia National Park.'

1.3.31 As confirmed in the cumulative assessment (**ES Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual,** paragraph 9.11.5), all operational wind farms form part of the assessed baseline. The Proposed Development would therefore be introducing turbines into an eastward view direction where the presence of wind energy infrastructure is already an established characteristic, rather than into a landscape currently perceived as entirely free from such development.

1.3.32 This existing baseline context is material to the assessment of magnitude of change. The introduction of the Proposed Development represents an incremental addition to an established pattern of wind energy development in the wider landscape to the east of the National Park, rather than the introduction of an entirely new and unfamiliar feature type. While the turbines would be more prominent due to their proximity and scale compared to more distant existing schemes, the fundamental character of eastward views as including wind energy infrastructure would not be altered.

1.3.33 The sense of 'relative' solitude therefore reflects a landscape where some modern energy infrastructure is already visible in certain directions, rather than complete remoteness from all such development. The Proposed Development would reduce this sense of relative solitude further in eastward views from elevated locations, but it would not fundamentally change the character of what is experienced - views eastward already include operational turbines as part of the established baseline.

1.3.34 However, the effects would be localised to eastward views and would not affect:

- The geological interest of the LCA;
- The ecological designations;
- The ability to appreciate the glacial landforms; and
- Views in other directions, particularly westward into the heart of the National Park.

1.3.35 The LCA itself would remain undeveloped by the Proposed Development, with no physical works occurring within this designated landscape. Views eastward from this LCA already include operational wind energy infrastructure at varying distances, and the Proposed Development would add to this existing baseline context rather than introducing wind energy development as an entirely new feature in the eastward prospect.

1.3.36 Detailed assessment of effects on the three relevant special qualities of Eryri National Park (SQ1 Diverse Landscapes, SQ5 Tranquillity and Solitude, and SQ7 Historic Landscapes) is presented in **Table 1** (**Section 1.4**). In summary:

- SQ1 (Diverse Landscapes): Moderate and significant - noticeable new features affecting elevated viewpoints but landscape diversity maintained;
- SQ5 (Tranquillity and Solitude): Moderate-Major and significant - reduction in sense of remoteness from elevated locations, though within context of existing wind farm visibility; and
- SQ7 (Historic Landscapes): Moderate-Minor and not significant - limited effect on historic features and their settings.

LCA 16: Dyffryn Dyfil

Baseline Description

1.3.37 Dyffryn Dyfil encompasses the Upper Dee Valley landscape centred on the historic market town of Bala and Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake). This LCA represents a settled valley landscape within Eryri National Park, characterised by:

Physical Characteristics

1.3.38 **Valley landscape with surrounding uplands** - A broad U-shaped glacial valley extending approximately 18 km from Bala southward, contained by upland ridges rising to 600 m+ on either side. The valley floor sits at approximately 160 m AOD around Bala, creating a distinct landscape unit with clear topographic containment;

1.3.39 **Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake)** - This natural glacial lake is the largest natural lake in Wales (6 km long, 1 km wide), forming the dominant feature of the northern part of the LCA. Its scale, scenic quality, and ecological importance (SSSI designation) make it a landscape feature meriting particular consideration. The lake shores provide key recreational routes and viewpoints, with the Bala Lake Railway operating along the southern shore contributing to the tourist economy;

1.3.40 **Historic town of Bala** - A traditional Welsh market town with historic core including numerous listed buildings, forming a significant settlement focus. The town's relationship with the lake and its setting within the valley are key characteristics;

1.3.41 **Pastoral valley landscapes with strong field patterns** - The valley floor and lower slopes comprise improved pasture with well-defined hedgerows and stone walls creating a medium-scale, geometric field pattern. This agricultural character contrasts with the rougher moorland of surrounding uplands;

1.3.42 **A494 corridor** - A primary A-road route following the valley floor past Bala and continuing south along the western shore of Llyn Tegid, representing a significant transport corridor with associated traffic movement and noise. This is a busy tourist route, particularly in summer months;

1.3.43 **Varying degrees of settlement and development** - Bala town centre is relatively dense, but the wider valley contains scattered farms and small hamlets. The southern lake shore has the Bala Lake Railway infrastructure and associated visitor facilities.

1.3.44 Existing Baseline Wind Energy Development Visible from Northern Parts of this LCA:

- From elevated northern areas of this LCA (particularly viewpoints looking north/north-eastward across Llyn Tegid), the following operational wind farms are visible as part of the established baseline;
- Hafoty Ucha Repowering (4 turbines, 86.5 m) - visible on upland slopes to the north-east;
- Bryn Ffynon (1 turbine, 86.5 m) - visible to the north;
- The presence of these turbines establishes that views northward from this LCA already include some wind energy development as part of the existing character.

1.3.45 Other Existing Infrastructure:

- A494 as a primary route with regular traffic
- Overhead power lines crossing the valley in places
- Bala Lake Railway and associated infrastructure
- Tourist facilities and car parks at various locations around the lake
- The landscape is clearly influenced by human activity and is not remote or undeveloped in character

Perceptual Characteristics

- Settled valley character - This is notably a settled, accessible, and relatively intensively managed agricultural valley landscape. It does not possess the remote or wild qualities of the higher mountain LCAs within the National Park;
- Tourist destination - Bala and Llyn Tegid are popular visitor destinations with associated recreational activities including water sports, walking, cycling and heritage railway. This creates a landscape that, while scenic and valued, is actively used and has an animated character;
- Tranquillity variables - Tranquillity is reduced along the A494 corridor and around Bala town due to traffic and urban influences. It increases toward the southern end of the lake and on quieter valley lanes, but this is always within a recognizably settled and accessible landscape context;
- Visual relationship with surrounding uplands - Views from the valley floor and lake shores take in the surrounding upland ridges.

Baseline Context for Assessment

1.3.46 The sense of landscape character within this LCA is fundamentally one of a settled, working, and visited valley landscape rather than remote upland wilderness. The presence of Bala town, the A494 corridor, tourist infrastructure, and smaller-scale existing wind turbines means this is a landscape with clear human influences and some capacity to accommodate views of further development outside of the boundary of the National Park, though always with careful consideration of effects on the key characteristics including the setting of Llyn Tegid and views toward surrounding uplands.

Sensitivity Assessment

Value Assessment - Very High

1.3.47 Despite the settled character, the LCA merits very high value assessment on the basis of:

- National Park Designation - Statutory national-level protection requiring conservation and enhancement of natural beauty;
- Llyn Tegid - The largest natural lake in Wales with high scenic quality, ecological importance (SSSI), and cultural/historical significance. The lake and its setting represent a landscape feature meriting particular protection;
- Historic Landscape Designation - The LCA includes part of Register of Landscapes of Outstanding Historic Interest in Wales (Y Bala a Glannau Tegid);
- Settlement Heritage - Bala's historic character and numerous listed buildings contribute heritage value;
- Special Quality Representation - The LCA contributes to National Park Special Qualities, particularly:
- SQ1 (Diverse Landscapes) - Exemplifies the diversity from valley floor to lake to upland margins
- SQ7 (Historic Landscapes) - Historic settlement patterns and land use visible in the landscape

1.3.48 However, value assessment must acknowledge:

- This is a working, settled landscape rather than pristine or remote wilderness
- Tourism and recreation are established uses affecting character
- Modern infrastructure including the A494 already influences the landscape
- The sense of "special" landscape quality is concentrated around Llyn Tegid itself and in views toward upland surrounds, rather than being uniformly distributed across the LCA

Susceptibility Assessment - Medium

1.3.49 Susceptibility reflects the LCA's ability to accommodate the proposed type of change. A medium susceptibility is assessed based on:

1.3.50 Factors Increasing Susceptibility:

- Llyn Tegid Setting - The lake and its mountain backdrop are susceptible to changes that would affect its scenic composition or introduce incongruous features into key views;
- Valley Containment Character - The sense of the valley as a contained, coherent landscape unit is susceptible to skyline intrusions that would visually extend the landscape or alter the relationship with surrounding uplands;
- National Park Purpose - Statutory requirement to conserve landscape character increases susceptibility to change;
- Recreational Experience - Users of the Bala Lake Railway, lake shore paths, and tourist viewing points are specifically seeking scenic enjoyment, increasing sensitivity to visual changes.

1.3.51 The following Reducing Susceptibility:

- Settled, Developed Character - Unlike remote upland LCAs, this landscape already accommodates significant settlement (Bala), transport infrastructure (A494), tourist facilities, and smaller-scale wind turbines. The presence of

these existing human influences demonstrates some capacity for further appropriate development;

- Directional Variation - Effects would be limited to northern parts of the LCA, with southern areas (around the valley extending south from Bala) largely unaffected due to topographic screening;
- Existing Wind Development - Small-scale turbines already visible from northern viewpoints means wind turbines are not an entirely new feature type in the visual experience of this landscape;
- Distance - The Proposed Development would be located 4-8 km from the northern parts of this LCA, with distance moderating visual effects;
- Partial Screening - The rolling valley topography and intervening vegetation would provide screening from valley floor locations, with effects concentrated from more elevated northern viewpoints.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.52 Sensitivity: Combining **very high** value with **medium** susceptibility results in **high sensitivity.**

1.3.53 This high sensitivity reflects the nationally important landscape context but acknowledges that the settled, accessible character provides some capacity for change compared to the more remote upland LCAs.

Magnitude of Change

Assessment Against ZTV and Viewpoint Evidence:

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Analysis:

1.3.54 With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.4: Blade Tip ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**, theoretical visibility from LCA 16 shows:

1.3.55 Visibility concentrated in northern parts of the LCA only, particularly from:

- Northern shores of Llyn Tegid
- Elevated ground north and north-east of Bala
- The A494 corridor north of Bala

1.3.56 There is Limited visibility from:

- Bala town centre (screened by local topography and buildings)
- Southern and western parts of the valley (screened by valley sides and distance)
- Valley floor locations due to local rolling topography
- The pattern of visibility is clearly defined by topography, with effects localised to specific geographic areas rather than affecting the LCA uniformly

Viewpoint Evidence:

1.3.57 The assessment is informed by three representative viewpoints that sample different parts of the LCA and different receptor types:

1.3.58 **VP2 - A4212 at 4.1 km (within LCA 16):** This viewpoint represents road users on the A4212 approaching Bala from the west. The viewpoint assessment identifies:

- Turbines would be visible on the skyline to the north-east, appearing above the intermediate upland horizon
- Turbines would break the natural skyline that currently bounds the view, introducing prominent vertical features
- The viewpoint is within the National Park and represents a key approach route where views of surrounding landscape are experienced
- Assessment concludes High-Medium magnitude leading to Major (Significant) effect

1.3.59 **VP4 - Mwnwgl-y-llyn Bridge at 5.5 km (within LCA 16)**: This viewpoint represents recreational users on the Bala Lake Railway and B-road users on the eastern shore of Llyn Tegid. The assessment identifies:

- Turbines would be visible in the northern sector, appearing as skyline features
- Distance (5.5 km) moderates their apparent scale somewhat
- The view is experienced in the context of journey along the lake shore railway, a key tourist route
- Assessment concludes **Medium** magnitude leading to **Moderate-Major** (Significant) effect

1.3.60 **VP5 - Llangower at 7.8 km (within LCA 16):** This viewpoint represents recreational users on the promoted railway path and residents of Llangower village on the southern lake shore. The assessment identifies:

- Notable theoretical visibility but at 7.8 km distance
- Turbines would appear on the distant horizon to the north-east
- From this southern location within the LCA, the turbines are sufficiently distant that their effect is moderated
- Assessment concludes Medium-Low magnitude leading to Moderate (Significant) effect

Relationship to NRW Key Viewpoints:

1.3.61 None of NRW's identified Key Viewpoints which lie within 20 km of the Proposed Development and have theoretical visibility (SNP11, SNP12, SNP18) lie within LCA 16. This is material to the assessment - it indicates that NRW does not consider any locations within this LCA to be among the most important viewpoints for experiencing and understanding the National Park from a landscape perspective. This does not diminish the importance of the LCA, but it does provide context that effects are not occurring from the most highly valued panoramic vantage points.

Geographic Extent and Nature of Change:

1.3.62 Effects would be experienced from:

- Northern parts of the LCA only - specifically:
- North shore of Llyn Tegid and areas north/north-east of Bala town
- Elevated viewpoints looking north across the lake
- The A4212 approach to Bala from the west
- The A494 corridor north of Bala

- Northern section of the Bala Lake Railway route

1.3.63 Effects would NOT be experienced from:

- Bala town centre
- Southern half of Llyn Tegid shores
- The southern valley extending from Bala
- Valley floor locations with local topographic screening
- Represents approximately 30-35% of the geographic extent of the LCA

Nature of Change:

1.3.64 The turbines would introduce:

- New skyline features visible on the northern/north-eastern horizon when viewed from northern parts of the LCA
- Vertical man-made elements contrasting with the predominantly horizontal emphasis of the valley floor landscape and the natural skyline of upland surrounds
- Movement through blade rotation
- Change to the composition of key views - particularly views north across Llyn Tegid which currently terminate at natural upland skylines

1.3.65 The lake is the defining feature of this LCA and views of and across the lake are valued by residents, visitors, and recreational users. The introduction of turbines visible on the northern horizon when viewing across the lake from southern shores (VP4, VP5) would alter the composition of these views. While the turbines would be seen at distance (5.5-7.8 km) and would not directly affect the lake itself or its immediate shores, they would become features in the visual experience of the lake setting. This is a material consideration in the assessment.

However, change must be understood in context:

1.3.66 Existing smaller-scale wind turbines already visible from northern viewpoints in this LCA (Hafoty Ucha, Bryn Ffynon). The Proposed Development would be larger in scale and more prominent, but not the introduction of wind turbines as a wholly new feature type;

- Distance - all effects occurring at 4-8 km range, with atmospheric perspective and distance reducing apparent scale, particularly from southern viewpoints (VP5 at 7.8 km);
- Limited horizontal extent - turbines would occupy a defined sector of views northward, not dominating the entire panorama ;
- Settled valley character - this LCA already accommodates significant human influence including Bala town, the A494 corridor, tourist infrastructure, demonstrating it is not a remote landscape unable to accommodate any modern features;
- Directional and geographic limitation - effects confined to northern parts of LCA in northward views only; southern and western parts of the LCA unaffected.

Assessment Against Special Quality Components:

SQ1 - Diverse Landscapes:

1.3.67 The Proposed Development would affect the perception of landscape diversity specifically in terms of the relationship between the settled valley and the upland margins.

1.3.68 The introduction of large-scale wind turbines on the skyline would alter the composition of views that currently demonstrate the contrast between the intimate valley scale and the open upland character beyond.

1.3.69 This effect would be experienced from the **northern parts of the LCA only**, where views northward take in upland horizons.

1.3.70 **Medium magnitude** - the fundamental diversity of the valley landscape (lake, settlement, pastoral land, woodland, upland margins) would remain appreciable, but the character of the northern vista would change.

SQ5 - Tranquillity and Solitude:

1.3.71 This LCA does not possess the same degree of tranquillity or opportunities for solitude as the remote upland LCAs given its settled, accessible, and actively used character.

1.3.72 The A494 corridor, Bala town, and tourist activities already affect tranquillity.

1.3.73 The introduction of visible turbines on northern horizons would further affect the **relative sense of tranquillity** experienced from quieter locations such as southern lake shores, though these are already within sight/sound of development.

1.3.74 **Low-Medium magnitude** - the existing settled character means the addition of visible distant turbines would not fundamentally transform the tranquillity character, which is already variable within the LCA.

SQ7 - Historic Landscapes:

1.3.75 Effects on historic landscape character would be limited given:

- Turbines would not directly affect historic landscape features within the LCA
- The relationship between Bala town, the lake, and the surrounding agricultural pattern would remain legible
- Historic land use patterns and boundaries would not be altered
- Views from key historic features might include distant turbines but at sufficient distance that interpretation of historic landscape patterns would not be materially affected
- Low magnitude - no direct physical effects on historic features; very limited effects on setting or appreciation of historic character

Magnitude of Change Conclusion:

1.3.76 Taking all factors into account - the localised geographic extent (northern parts only), the distance relationships, the existing settled character, the presence of smaller-scale existing wind development, and the specific considerations around Llyn Tegid setting - the magnitude of change is assessed as **medium**.

1.3.77 This medium magnitude reflects that:

- Changes would affect the composition and character of valued views across Llyn Tegid from southern viewpoints
- Changes would introduce notable new skyline features in northern views from the northern part of the LCA
- Effects would be geographically limited to approximately 30-35% of the LCA (northern parts only)
- The fundamental characteristics of the LCA - settled valley, pastoral land use, Llyn Tegid as the dominant natural feature, Bala as the historic settlement focus - would remain appreciable
- The southern and western parts of the LCA would be unaffected.

Significance of Effect

1.3.78 High sensitivity combined with medium magnitude results in a moderate adverse effect, which is significant.

1.3.79 This significant effect is judged to arise due to:

- The nationally important context of the National Park designation
- The specific importance of Llyn Tegid as a landscape feature
- The introduction of new skyline features visible from valued viewpoints including lake shore locations
- The alteration of the composition of valued views northward

1.3.80 However, the significant effect must be understood as:

- **Geographically limited** - affecting northern parts of the LCA only (approximately 30-35% of the geographic extent)
- **Not affecting the LCA's core characteristics** - the lake, the historic town, the agricultural valley character would all remain
- **Occurring in a landscape with some capacity** - the settled, accessible character and presence of existing smaller wind turbines demonstrates this is not a landscape unable to accommodate any modern development
- **Effects on setting rather than direct impacts** - the turbines would not be located within this LCA; effects are on views toward adjacent upland areas

LCA 19 - Coedwig Penllyn

Baseline Description

1.3.81 Located in the south-eastern corner of Eryri National Park, this LCA is centred on Penllyn Forest and comprises a series of rounded hills lying between the Berwyn and Aran Ranges, including Foel Cwm Sian Llwyd (649 m), Foel Cedig (666 m) and Foel y Geifr (626 m).

1.3.82 Key characteristics include:

- Extensive conifer plantations greatly influencing landscape character, with small bands of broadleaved woodland along valley sides;

- Series of rounded hills with underlying bedrock of Ordovician and Silurian sedimentary rocks;
- Fast-flowing streams and waterfalls forming headwaters of rivers including the Dee;
- Pockets of small-scale irregular fields within valleys, but majority is open and unenclosed hill summits surrounded by large-scale regular enclosures of ffridd;
- Heather-dominated upland heath interspersed with blanket mire of international ecological importance;
- Sparse scattered settlement limited to valleys, with unsettled uplands and forestry;
- More tranquil with greater sense of solitude than busier central peaks, though extensive forestry plantations introduce strong human influence;
- Forms a gateway into the National Park and part of upland spine extending into Berwyn Mountains; and
- Wind farms are already visible when looking north-east from Moel Cwm Sian Llwyd (as noted in Forces for Change), particularly the operational Clocaenog Forest wind farm (32 turbines, 12.8 km north-east) and consented Alwen Forest extension.

Sensitivity Assessment

1.3.83 **Value:** The LCA forms part of the nationally designated Eryri National Park with internationally important ecological designations (part of wider Berwyn Mountains SAC/SPA/NNR/SSSI). The Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment (*Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Renewable Energy, Transmission Infrastructure, and Tourism Development* (Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Council, and Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2013) identifies concerns regarding potential wind energy effects on "extensive and panoramic views" and "high degree of intervisibility with other important landscape and cultural heritage features including other parts of the National Park, the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB, Bala Hinterland SLA and three nationally important Historic Landscapes." However, the extensive conifer plantations significantly modify the landscape character and limit the sense of naturalness compared to open mountain areas elsewhere in the Park. Value is assessed as **high**.

1.3.84 **Susceptibility:** While the open hill summits above the forestry are susceptible to visible change, the extensive conifer plantations provide significant screening and already introduce strong human influence into the landscape. The LCA description specifically notes that wind farms are already visible from elevated locations when looking north-east, meaning the landscape already has some experience of wind energy development in views. The enclosed, forested character of much of the LCA provides natural screening limiting visibility. The key sensitivities relate to maintaining the distinctive forested character and avoiding cumulative effects on panoramic views from open summits. Susceptibility is assessed as **medium**.

1.3.85 **Sensitivity:** Combining **high** value with **medium** susceptibility results in an overall sensitivity of **high**.

Magnitude of Change

1.3.86 **Existing Context:** It is important to note that the sense of "relative" solitude from views eastwards is **already affected** by the presence of operational wind turbines. The Forces for Change section of the LCA description specifically identifies that "*Wind farms are visible when looking north-east from Moel Cwm Sian Llwyd*." The operational Clocaenog Forest wind farm (32 turbines at 145 m tip height, 12.8 km north-east) and the recently consented Alwen Forest extension (9 turbines at 200 m tip height, 10 km north-east) form part of the existing and emerging baseline context for eastward views from this LCA. This existing presence of wind energy development reduces the relative impact of the Proposed Development.

1.3.87 With reference to the ZTV analysis (ES Volume IV, Figure 9.4 and Figure 9.6) and the viewpoint assessments:

- The Proposed Development would have very limited visibility from this LCA due to the extensive screening provided by the conifer plantations;
- Theoretical visibility is primarily restricted to the eastern edges of the LCA, particularly from the open hill summits above the tree line;
- Dense forestry would substantially limit actual visibility across the majority of the LCA;
- Where glimpsed from elevated open areas, the turbines would appear as distant features beyond the forest edge at 4-8 km, where they would be seen in similar directions to existing operational turbines but at closer proximity;
- The fundamental landscape diversity represented by the extensive forestry would remain entirely intact - the contrast between this enclosed, forested landscape and the open mountains elsewhere would not be affected;
- Geographic extent affected would be limited, primarily from elevated summits where forestry cover is absent;
- The enclosed character within the forested areas - which forms the distinctive quality of this LCA - would be entirely unaffected;
- The turbines would appear in an already modified visual context where wind energy development is present, rather than introducing an entirely new element type into pristine views.

1.3.88 The magnitude of change is assessed as **low** - while turbines would be visible from limited elevated locations, they would not fundamentally alter the distinctive forested character of this LCA, and would be experienced in a context where wind energy development is already present in eastward views.

Significance of Effect

1.3.89 The combination of **high** sensitivity and **low** magnitude of change results in a **moderate-minor adverse effect**, which is **not significant**.

1.3.90 The effect would be adverse in nature, but limited in extent, primarily affecting:

- Limited panoramic views from open hill summits above the forestry, and only in eastward directions;
- The perception of complete remoteness from elevated vantage points (though this is already modified by existing visible wind farms); and
- A small portion of the "extensive and panoramic views" identified in the sensitivity assessment.

1.3.91 Critically, the effect on the sense of solitude and tranquillity from eastward views would be relatively limited because:

- The baseline already includes visible wind turbines - the LCA description specifically notes wind farm visibility when looking north-east, meaning the Proposed Development would not introduce a fundamentally new element but rather add to an existing context;
- The existing Clocaenog Forest and consented Alwen Forest schemes already affect the sense of remoteness in views towards the north-east, reducing the relative additional impact of the Proposed Development;
- The extensive forestry screening means the Proposed Development would only be visible from a small proportion of the LCA;
- The distinctive forested character - which is the defining quality differentiating this LCA from other parts of the National Park - would remain entirely intact.

1.3.92 The effects would **not** affect:

- The distinctive enclosed, forested landscape character which defines this LCA;
- The fundamental diversity this LCA provides within the National Park through its contrast with open mountain landscapes;
- The majority of the LCA where dense forestry provides screening;
- Views in other directions, particularly westward into the heart of the National Park;
- The ecological designations or ability to appreciate the natural heritage values;
- The gateway function and sense of arrival into the National Park from the east (this would arguably be enhanced by clearer delineation); and
- The strong human influence already present through extensive commercial forestry management.

Assessment Against Special Qualities

1.3.93 **SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes: Low** magnitude. The Proposed Development would have minimal effect on landscape diversity. The fundamental contrast between this extensively forested landscape and the open mountains elsewhere in the National Park would remain entirely intact. **Effect: Minor-moderate and not significant.**

1.3.94 **SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude: Low** magnitude. While there would be some effect on the sense of tranquillity from limited elevated locations, this must be considered in the context that wind farms are already visible in these views. The relative additional impact on solitude is therefore reduced. The enclosed forested areas - which comprise the majority of the LCA - would maintain their sense of tranquillity. **Effect: Minor and not significant.**

1.3.95 **SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes: Very Low** magnitude. The prehistoric cairns on summits would not experience significant effects on their setting, and the Bala Landscape of Special Historic Interest would not be materially affected. **Effect: Negligible and not significant.**

1.4 Assessment of Effects on Eryri National Park Special Qualities

Special Qualities Assessment

1.4.1 The Landscape Institute's technical guidance note (LI TGN 02/21) 'Assessing landscape value outside national designations' describes special qualities as *"the characteristics that, individually or combined, give rise to an area's outstanding scenery."* While this guidance relates primarily to areas outside national designations, it provides useful context for understanding the concept of special qualities.

1.4.2 This assessment is conducted in accordance with NatureScot's 'Guidance for Assessing the Effects on Special Landscape Qualities' (Naturescot, Jan 2025, recognised as the most comprehensive framework for evaluating impacts on National Park special qualities. Although originally developed for Scotland, the underlying principles are equally relevant to Welsh National Parks and have been appropriately adapted for use in this assessment.

1.4.3 NatureScot's guidance is aimed specifically at landscape professionals undertaking Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments (LVIA) for developments or land use changes with potential to impact on the special qualities of National Scenic Areas (NSA) or National Parks. While there are differences in the planning context of National Parks designated in Scotland and Wales, there are similarities in the use of special qualities to protect the interests of National Parks as defined in the statutory purposes of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949.

1.4.4 For these reasons, the NatureScot guidance is considered appropriate for use in Wales, with additional consideration given to the use of LANDMAP, together with NRW's identified Key Viewpoints, in understanding the underlying baseline characteristics of Eryri National Park and its special qualities.

Approach

1.4.5 The following approach has been specifically developed for the assessment in relation to the Proposed Development. The approach and method have been adapted from the NatureScot methodology for use in Wales.

1.4.6 The NatureScot guidance sets out a four-step approach that is intended to be *"proportionate to the scale and nature of the development, be clear and transparent so that the reasoning that informs judgements can be tracked and convey the complexity of effects"*. The steps are as follows:

- Step 1: The Proposal - understanding the key aspects of the proposal that have the potential to affect the special qualities;
- Step 2: Definition of the study area and Scope of the Assessment - extent of the area of the National Park likely to be affected;
- Step 3: The Analysis of Effects on special qualities - identify potentially affected special qualities; identify landscape characteristics that underpin special qualities; and assess the effects on special qualities;
- Step 4: Summary of Effects on the special qualities.

1.4.7 These steps have been adapted for the approach to assessing the special qualities of Eryri National Park, considering additional factors including consideration of the NRW Key Viewpoints within the National Park and reference to qualities identified in LANDMAP for underlying landscape characteristics of the visual and sensory LANDMAP aspect areas within the National Park or identified within the landscape character assessment.

Step 1: The Proposal

1.4.8 Key aspects of the Proposed Development that have the potential to affect the special qualities of Eryri National Park largely relate to the potential effects of the proposed wind farm which includes 10 turbines with blade tip heights of either 200 m or 220 m.

1.4.9 The key turbine parameters assessed in the LVIA are:

- Turbine tip heights:
  - 200 m and 220 m.
- Hub height ranges:
  - 200 m turbines: 112.42 m to 119 m (difference 6.58 m); and
  - 220 m turbines: 132.46 m to 138 m (difference 5.54 m).
- Blade diameters:
  - 200 m turbines: 162 m to 175.16 m; and
  - 220 m turbines: 164 m to 175.08 m.
- Number of turbines: 10.
- Colour: Off-white with low reflectivity semi-matt finish.
- Aviation lighting: Required on turbines T01, T04, T05 and T10 for aviation safety.

1.4.10 The Site infrastructure including access tracks, hardstandings, the BESS and substation would not be visible from the vast majority of Eryri National Park due to the intervening topography and distance. Only from the closest elevated areas at the eastern edge of the National Park might tracks associated with the nearest turbines potentially be visible.

Step 2: Definition of the Study Area and Scope of the Assessment

1.4.11 ZTV mapping has been used to illustrate the geographical extent of theoretical visibility across Eryri National Park. With reference to **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.3: Blade Tip ZTV to 35 km with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.4**, the ZTVs reveal that within Eryri National Park, the Proposed Development would be theoretically visible from:

- The upland areas at the eastern edges of the National Park at its closest range, with the nearest turbine located approximately 1.9 km from the National Park boundary;
- Elevated areas within the National Park including the summits and ridges of Yr Arenig (Arenig Fawr at 854 m and Arenig Fach);
- The shores and elevated areas around Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake);
- Limited areas of the eastern margins of the National Park including parts of Coedwig Penllyn; and

- More distant elevated areas including parts of the Migneint to the west and Aran range to the south-west, though visibility becomes increasingly fragmented with distance.

1.4.12 The hub height ZTV (**ES Volume IV, Figure 9.5: Hub Height ZTV to 35 km with Viewpoints** and **ES Volume IV, Figure 9.6: Hub Height ZTV to 20 km with Viewpoints**) shows a more limited pattern of visibility, confirming that in many areas only the upper parts of the turbines would be visible.

1.4.13 The preliminary assessment of LCAs presented in **ES Chapter III, Appendix 9.4: Detailed LANDMAP assessment** concludes that the Proposed Development has the potential to result in significant effects on some parts of the following LCAs that lie within Eryri National Park:

- LCA 15 - Yr Arenig;
- LCA 16 - Dyffryn Dyfil; and
- LCA 19 - Coedwig Penllyn.

1.4.14 Preliminary assessment of NRW's identified Key Viewpoints (as shown on the plans included within **Annex 1** to this Appendix) show that there are only 3 such (out of a total 37) within 20 km of the Proposed Development with potential for visibility, being:

- SNP11 (Arenig Fawr – 11 km)[included as LVIA VP12]
- SNP12 (Aran Fawddwy – 20 km)[not requested as an LVIA VP for the Proposed Development and at 20 km the Proposed Development would not be prominent and would form a highly limited element of the overall 360 panorama available, seen beyond the National Park boundary, in the same direction as the existing Clocaenog Forest turbines]
- SNP18 (Mynydd Garthmyn – 20 km): [not requested as an LVIA VP for the Proposed Development and at 20 km the Proposed Development would not be prominent, noting only 4 blade tips and no hubs would be visible and would form a highly limited element of the overall 360 panorama available]

1.4.15 The focus for the assessment of special qualities is therefore based primarily on these 3 LCAs and SNP11, as these are regarded as most susceptible to change from the Proposed Development. Other areas of Eryri National Park are considered to have no potential for significant effects either as a result of:

- Limited or no theoretical visibility of the Proposed Development;
- Greater distance from the Proposed Development (beyond 20 km where effects are unlikely to be significant);
- Intervening topography and vegetation providing screening; and
- The presence of existing wind energy development that already forms part of the baseline context.

Step 3: The Analysis of Effects on Special Qualities

The Special Qualities of Eryri National Park

1.4.16 The special qualities of Eryri National Park are outlined in Chapter 3 of the Cynllun Eryri National Park Partnership Plan 2020. As the Proposed Development is located in a landscape outside the National Park, any effects upon the designated area would be indirect. Therefore, only those special qualities which relate to, or have potential to be influenced by, the wider landscape setting and Proposed

Development to the east of the National Park are considered within this assessment. These are:

- **SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes:** Diverse, high quality landscapes and seascapes within a small geographic area, ranging from coast to rolling uplands to rugged mountains for which Eryri is famed.
- **SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude - Peaceful Areas:** The opportunity for people to understand and enjoy Eryri National Park actively, whilst maintaining areas of silence, tranquillity and solitude, thus promoting vital aspects of health, well-being and personal reflection.
- **SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes:** The changing relationship between people and nature over time has produced landscapes of great beauty and variety in Eryri; a national asset that is essential both to our identity and to our individual 'sense of place' and wellbeing.

Special Qualities Baseline

1.4.17 The landscape characteristics that underpin each of the LCAs are described in the Eryri Local Development Plan Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Eryri (2014), as summarised in Section 9.4 of **ES Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual**. The special qualities of the National Parklisted in the Management Plan are those which comprise the primary focus of the assessment in the table below.

Value and Susceptibility

1.4.18 Given the level of scenic and recreational value denoted in a national park designation and the unique features and qualities outlined in the description of special qualities, the overall value of Eryri National Park is considered to be of the highest level. The value of the National Park is considered to be highest in the core mountain areas and somewhat lower at the edges of the Park boundary where the special scenic value is less acutely experienced and the landscape is influenced to a greater degree by the relationship with the less sensitive landscape beyond its boundary, though still of high value.

1.4.19 Susceptibility to change from the Proposed Development is considered to vary according to the characteristics of each LCA and its relationship with the Proposed Development. Where the Proposed Development would be experienced at closer range, at the eastern edges of the National Park, the susceptibility to change is greater due to the proximity and potential prominence of the turbines as a result of the intervisibility with the landscape of the Site. More distant areas have lower susceptibility due to the reduced potential for influence of the turbines on landscape character and special qualities because the primary elements influencing the landscape would be the more immediately surrounding landscape context.

Sensitivity

1.4.20 The LVIA has considered the susceptibility to change and resulting sensitivity (incorporating value) of the National Park through both landscape assessment and visual assessment. Given that the LCAs and Key Viewpoints identified in Step 2 of this assessment form the focus of the detailed assessment of special qualities, it follows that the sensitivity assessments for these LCAs are appropriate for the assessment of special qualities within each of the LCAs assessed. Sensitivity has been assessed for these LCAs in the LVIA as follows:

- LCA 15 - Yr Arenig (Very High sensitivity);
- LCA 16 - Dyffryn Dyfil (High sensitivity); and
- LCA 19 - Coedwig Penllyn (High sensitivity)

Table 1 Assessment of Effects on Special Qualities by Landscape Character Area

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
LCA 15 - Yr Arenig assessed as having a Sensitivity of Very High			
SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes	This expansive LCA is centred on Arenig Fawr (854 m) and includes high, open upland landscape with summits of Moel Llyfnant (751 m) and Rhobell Fawr (734 m). The LCA demonstrates landscape diversity through its combination of high open moorland, prominent forestry plantations, the dramatic glacial landforms and the contrasting human-influenced landscape of Llyn Celyn reservoir. The area provides a transition between the wild mountain landscapes to the west and the more settled landscapes to the east. The sense of openness and extensive views in all directions allows appreciation of the wider landscape diversity of the National Park.	Development which interrupts the sense of openness and the appreciation of landscape diversity. Introduction of features which compromise the transition between wild and settled landscapes. Development affecting views across the diverse landscape mosaic. Visual intrusion which detracts from the ability to appreciate the range of landscape types visible from elevated viewpoints.	The Proposed Development would be visible from elevated locations within this LCA, particularly from viewpoints such as SNP11: Arenig Fawr (VP12 at 11.1 km) and the Picnic Area west of Llyn Celyn Reservoir (VP10 at 8.4 km). From these elevated positions, the turbines would be seen as additional vertical elements on the eastern horizon, appearing beyond the immediate upland landscape of the LCA. The turbines would be viewed within the context of the existing settled landscape to the east of the National Park, where overhead powerlines, the A494 corridor, and existing wind developments already form part of the baseline visual context. The fundamental diversity of the landscape within this LCA would remain unaffected - the dramatic glacial landforms, the contrast between open moorland and forestry, and the human-influenced landscape of Llyn Celyn would all remain unchanged. The turbines would appear as distant features that would not dominate or fundamentally alter the landscape

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
			character. While they would introduce additional vertical elements into eastward views, they would not compromise the ability to appreciate the landscape diversity that characterises this LCA. The magnitude of change is assessed as **medium** as a worst-case, from that part of the LCA closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to **low** with distance - the turbines would form noticeable new features in the landscape but would not fundamentally alter its diverse character. From the majority of the LCA however, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development and no impact on the SQ.
SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude	The LCA possesses high levels of tranquillity due to its openness, perceived naturalness, low noise levels and location within the National Park's core dark skies area. There are few detracting features in terms of human development, though the presence of Llyn Celyn reservoir, forestry operations and the numbers of people on popular walking routes can locally reduce the sense of tranquillity. The combination of relative inaccessibility, dramatic landform and absence of settlement	Introduction of incongruous features into the landscape which affect perceptions of tranquillity, remoteness and relative wildness. Development which introduces movement, noise or visual intrusion into otherwise tranquil areas. Features which compromise dark sky qualities through lighting. Infrastructure which reduces the sense of	The sense of tranquillity and solitude within this LCA would be affected to a degree by the introduction of the Proposed Development, though the effects would be concentrated in generally longer distance views looking east. From elevated viewpoints, the turbines would introduce additional movement and prominent vertical elements into views that currently possess a sense of remoteness and tranquillity. However, it is important to note that existing wind farms are already visible to the south and east from parts of this LCA, and the Proposed Development would be seen

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
	gives the central part of the LCA a strong sense of remoteness. These qualities, combined with the sense of openness and exposure, create a perception of relative wildness, particularly when contrasted with the settled valleys to the east.	remoteness through increased perception of human influence.	within this established context rather than introducing wind energy into a previously undeveloped view. The turbines would be located at sufficient distance (8-11 km) that they would not dominate the landscape or create noise intrusion. Turbine aviation lighting would be visible from this LCA during hours of darkness but would be viewed against the backdrop of existing lit settlements in the valleys to the east of the National Park, rather than affecting the dark skies above the LCA. The core sense of tranquillity and solitude that characterises this LCA would be retained, though there would be some diminishment in the quality of the experience when looking east from elevated viewpoints. The effects would not be experienced however, when looking north, west or south. The ability to find peaceful areas and experience solitude would not be compromised, as the turbines would not physically intrude into the LCA or prevent access to tranquil locations. The magnitude of change is assessed as **medium** as a worst-case, from that part of the LCA closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to **low** with distance - there would be a noticeable reduction in the sense of tranquillity from

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
			SNP11, but the fundamental qualities of peace and solitude would be retained. From the majority of the LCA however, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development and no impact on the SQ.
SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes	The LCA contains evidence of the changing relationship between people and nature over millennia, including prehistoric ritual and burial sites, medieval settlements, and more recent industrial archaeology. The historic landscape is characterised by extensive archaeological remains on the open moorland, traditional patterns of land use, and the more recent but now historic influence of water engineering at Llyn Celyn. The beauty and variety of the landscape has been shaped by this long history of human interaction with the natural environment.	Development which directly affects archaeological features or their landscape setting. Introduction of modern features which compromise the ability to understand historic landscape patterns. Visual intrusion which detracts from the appreciation of the time-depth evident in the landscape.	The Proposed Development would have no direct physical impacts on any historic features within this LCA. The turbines would be visible as distant features on the eastern horizon but would not affect the ability to understand or appreciate the historic landscape within the LCA. The archaeological remains, traditional land use patterns and the historic narrative of the landscape would remain entirely legible. The visual setting of the historic landscape would experience some change through the addition of new modern turbines in distant views, but this would not compromise the ability to appreciate the time-depth and cultural significance of the landscape, and would arguably add a further layer of understanding representing modern societies recognition of the impacts of (relatively recent) past activities and the need to mitigate their negative impacts on the environment. The historic features within the LCA would retain their landscape context and

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
			their relationships with each other. The magnitude of change is assessed as **low** as a worst-case, from that part of the LCA closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to **very low** with distance - there would be limited visual influence on the wider setting of the historic landscape with no effect on the understanding or appreciation of historic features. From the majority of the LCA however, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development and no impact on the SQ.
LCA 16 - Llyn Tegid A Dyffryn Dyfrdwy assessed as having a Sensitivity of High			
SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes	This LCA encompasses the Upper Dee Valley including the historic town of Bala and Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake). The landscape demonstrates diversity through the contrast between the enclosed valley with its pastoral landscapes and strong field patterns, and the surrounding uplands. The presence of the lake adds another dimension to the landscape variety, while the A494 corridor and tourist facilities represent the human influence on the landscape. The valley provides	Development which affects the visual relationship between the valley and surrounding uplands. Features which compromise the scenic quality of the lake and its setting. Introduction of elements which detract from the pastoral character and traditional field patterns. Development affecting key views along the valley or across the lake.	The Proposed Development would be theoretically visible from the northern parts of this LCA, with assessment viewpoints including VP2 (A4212) at 4.1 km, VP4 (Mwnwgl-y-llyn Bridge) at 5.5 km, and VP5 (Llangower) at 7.8 km. From these locations, the turbines would appear on the skyline to the north-east, introducing new vertical elements into views that currently feature open moorland horizons. However, the fundamental landscape diversity of the LCA would remain intact. The valley character, with its enclosed pastoral landscapes and strong

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
	important visual and physical connections between the mountain landscapes to the west and the more settled landscapes to the east.		field patterns, would be unchanged. The relationship between the valley floor and surrounding uplands would be maintained, though with additional features visible on the distant skyline. Llyn Tegid would retain its scenic qualities and landscape setting, though views northwards from the southern shores would include the turbines as new elements on the horizon. The existing A494 corridor and associated development already provides a context of human influence within the landscape. The turbines would add to this influence but would not fundamentally alter the diverse character of the LCA. The magnitude of change is assessed as **medium** as a worst-case, from that part of the LCA closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to **low** with distance - the turbines would be noticeable new features affecting views from the northern part of the LCA, but the landscape diversity would be retained.
SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude	While the presence of the A494, the town of Bala, and tourist facilities reduces tranquillity in parts of this LCA, there remain quieter areas particularly around the lake margins and in the side valleys. The enclosed nature of much of	Development which introduces noise or visual intrusion into the quieter parts of the LCA. Features which extend the influence of existing development into currently	The effects on tranquillity and solitude within this LCA would be limited and localised. The Proposed Development would primarily affect views from the northern parts of the LCA, particularly around the shores of Llyn Tegid and along the A4212 corridor. These areas

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
	the valley creates intimate spaces where tranquillity can be experienced despite the proximity of busier areas. Natural sounds of water and wildlife contribute to the peaceful character in these quieter locations. The contrast between busy and peaceful areas is part of the character of this LCA.	tranquil areas. Elements which compromise the ability to find peaceful spaces within the valley landscape.	already experience reduced tranquillity due to the presence of the road corridor and existing development within the settlement of Bala. The more tranquil areas within the valley, including the quieter lake margins and side valleys, would largely be unaffected due to the screening provided by topography and vegetation. Where visible, the turbines would be distant features that would not introduce noise or dominate the landscape. The existing contrast between busier and more peaceful areas would be maintained. The valley's enclosed character would continue to provide opportunities for finding tranquil spaces. The magnitude of change is assessed as **low-medium** as a worst-case, from that part of the LCA closest to the Proposed Development, reducing to **low-very low** with distance - there would be some additional visual influence in areas that already have reduced tranquillity, with limited effect on the quieter parts of the LCA which lie outside of the ZTV.
SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes	The LCA contains the historic town of Bala with its distinctive Welsh character and cultural significance. Traditional field patterns, historic routes, bridges and other features demonstrate the long	Development affecting the setting of Bala or other historic settlements. Features which compromise the legibility of historic field patterns or routes.	The Proposed Development would have very limited effects on the historic landscape of this LCA. The core of the historic town of Bala would not have views of the turbines due to its location and the screening provided by

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
	history of human settlement and land use in the valley. The area forms part of the Y Bala a Glannau Tegid Landscape of Special Historic Interest, recognised for its well-preserved historic landscape character.	Visual intrusion which detracts from the appreciation of the historic landscape character.	topography and buildings. The traditional field patterns, historic routes and other features that characterise the historic landscape would remain entirely unaffected. The turbines would be visible from some locations within the Landscape of Special Historic Interest but would appear as distant features on the skyline that would not affect the ability to understand or appreciate the historic character of the valley landscape. The magnitude of change is assessed as **Very Low** - there would be no meaningful effect on the historic landscape or the ability to appreciate its special qualities.
LCA 19 - Coedwig Penllyn assessed as having a Sensitivity of High			
SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes	Located in the south-eastern corner of the National Park, this LCA comprises rounded hills situated between the Berwyn and Aran mountain ranges. The landscape is characterised by extensive conifer plantations which create a very different character from the open mountain landscapes elsewhere in the National Park. The sparse settlement and high proportion of open access land contribute to its distinctive character.	Development which affects the distinctive forested character. Features which compromise the sense of enclosure and contrast with surrounding open landscapes. Introduction of elements which detract from the remote character despite proximity to the Park boundary.	The Proposed Development would have very limited visibility from this LCA due to the extensive screening provided by the conifer plantations. Theoretical visibility is primarily restricted to the eastern edges of the LCA, and even here the dense forestry would substantially limit actual visibility. Where glimpsed, the turbines would appear as distant features beyond the forest edge, at distances of 8-13km would not affect the distinctive character of this LCA. The

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
	This forested landscape provides diversity within the National Park through its contrast with the open mountains and settled valleys. The forestry creates a strong sense of enclosure and separation from surrounding landscapes.		fundamental landscape diversity represented by the extensive forestry would remain entirely intact. The contrast between this enclosed, forested landscape and the open mountains elsewhere in the National Park would be maintained. The sparse settlement pattern and remote character would be unaffected. The magnitude of change is assessed as **low** - there would be very limited visibility with the distinctive forested character and landscape diversity maintained.
SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude	Despite its proximity to the National Park boundary and settled areas beyond, this LCA retains a strong sense of tranquillity and remoteness. The extensive forests create a sense of enclosure and separation from the outside world. Limited access routes enhance the sense of solitude, while natural sounds of wind in the trees and forest wildlife dominate the soundscape. The commercial forestry operations periodically disturb this tranquillity but it quickly re-establishes.	Development visible above or through the forest canopy. Features which introduce noise that penetrates the forest environment. Elements which compromise the sense of enclosure and separation from external influences.	The sense of tranquillity and solitude within this LCA would be largely preserved. The extensive forest cover would screen views of the Proposed Development from most areas, maintaining the sense of enclosure and separation that contributes to the tranquil character. In the very limited areas where the turbines might be glimpsed, they would appear as distant features that would not introduce noise or dominate the experience of the landscape. The forest environment would continue to provide opportunities for solitude and peaceful enjoyment. Natural sounds would remain dominant within the forest. The magnitude of change is assessed as **low** - the fundamental qualities of tranquillity and

Eryri NP LCA and Special Quality	Components that Relate to Each SQ and the Proposed Development	Sensitivities Noted in the LCA Description	Magnitude of Change
			solitude would be preserved with only minimal visual influence at the eastern margins.
SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes	This LCA forms part of the Bala Landscape of Special Historic Interest. While much of the area is now under commercial forestry, there remain archaeological features and evidence of earlier land use patterns. The forests themselves represent a particular phase in the landscape's history, while earlier remains survive within and around the plantations.	Development affecting archaeological features within or adjacent to the forests. Elements which compromise the ability to understand the landscape's historical development. Features which detract from the appreciation of the time-depth represented in the landscape.	The Proposed Development would have no effect on the historic landscape of this LCA. There would be no physical impacts on archaeological features, and the very limited visibility would mean no meaningful effect on the setting of historic features. The ability to understand and appreciate the historical development of the landscape, from its earlier uses through to the current forestry, would be entirely maintained. The magnitude of change is assessed as Very Low- **negligible** - there would be no discernible effect on the historic landscape or its special qualities.

Magnitude of Change Summary

1.4.21 For the geographic area potentially affected by the Proposed Development, the magnitude of change for the affected special qualities within the identified Eryri National Park LCAs is considered to be at a medium to negligible level. This is due to a number of moderating factors including:

- The separation between the Proposed Development and the areas in which the special qualities would be experienced;
- The underlying broad upland context of the Site and surrounding area of moorland at the edges of and to the east of the National Park which is considered to be a suitable receiving landscape for the Proposed Development;
- The extensive presence of operational wind energy development in views south and east from the National Park which provides an underlying wind energy context for the Proposed Development which would not be viewed as entirely uncharacteristic as a result; and
- The sense of remoteness and tranquillity will not be lost, and the pattern and diversity of the landscape will remain intact.

Step 4: Summary of Effects on the Special Qualities

1.4.22 This section provides a summary of the effects on the relevant special qualities of Eryri National Park, noting the geographical extent of effects and implications for the National Park. The sensitivity of each of the LCA's is combined with the magnitude of change as described in **Table 1** above; which is then combined to determine the level of effect as shown in

1.4.23 **Table** 2 below.

1.4.24 Having considered the extent to which the effects on the relevant special qualities have been minimised (through careful turbine positioning in order to create as compact an arrangement as possible, as well as the reduction in height of 4 no. turbines from 220 m to 200 m), it was then determined the extent of the residual significant effects that would remain, and understood to what extent these residual significant effects would affect the special qualities of the National Park.

Table 2 Special Qualities Assessment Summary

Special Quality	Effects for each LCA considered		
	LCA 15 - Yr Arenig	LCA 16 - Llyn Tegid A Dyffryn Dyfrdwy	LCA 19 - Coedwig Penllyn
SQ 1 - Diverse Landscapes	**Moderate-major** and **significant** (restricted to areas with visibility of the Proposed Development at closest proximity)	**Moderate** and **significant** (restricted to areas with visibility of the Proposed Development at closest proximity)	Minor-moderate and not significant
SQ 5 - Tranquillity and Solitude	**Moderate-major** and **significant** (restricted to areas with visibility of the Proposed Development at closest proximity)	Moderate-minor and not significant	Minor and not significant
SQ 7 - Historic Landscapes	Moderate-minor and not significant	Minor and not significant	Negligible and not significant

Significance of Effect

1.4.25 The special qualities for the majority of the Eryri National Park area to the west, north and south of the potentially affected area would be unaffected by the Proposed Development. This is due to a range of factors including:

- The intervening topography which creates a limited and patchy extent of potential visibility across the wider National Park;
- Further restricted visibility within valleys due to woodland/forestry screening;
- Distance between areas of potential visibility and the Proposed Development;
- The number of NRW's identified Key Viewpoints which would remain entirely unaffected or only affected in a limited way at substantial distance; and
- The existing context of wind farm development either as a backdrop or as closer developed context relative to views towards the Site from the National Park.

1.4.26 In the eastern area of the National Park, the Proposed Development would have the potential to introduce or intensify some adverse effects on some of the special qualities, with localised significant effects identified in relation to SQ1 and SQ5. However, a significant effect on a special landscape quality or qualities does not inevitably compromise the designation's objectives and/or integrity. Not least when the identified effect would relate to impacts that would only occur across a limited geographic proportion of the National Park, or would be experienced from only a number of key viewpoints, as is the case with the Proposed Development. The

Proposed Development would only have any visibility of note from one of the key viewpoints in the National Park identified by NRW, with any others either having no visibility at all or lying a minimum of over 20 km away from the Proposed Development. From that viewpoint (Arenig Fawr) existing wind energy is already visible in the same direction as the Proposed Development and the most sensitive and important views look away from the Proposed Development, towards the summits of Yr Wyddfa and Cadair Idris.

Potential for Cumulative Effects on Special Qualities

Cumulative Development Context

1.4.27 The cumulative assessment considers the effects of the Proposed Development in combination with other wind energy developments.

1.4.28 The detailed cumulative analysis is provided in Section 9.11 of **ES Volume II, Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual,** with supporting cumulative ZTV analysis presented in **ES Volume IV, Figures 9.36 to 9.43**.

1.4.29 The assessment considers two scenarios:

- **Scenario 1 - Operational and Consented Schemes:** This includes all currently operational wind farms and those with planning consent. The key schemes visible from Eryri National Park include operational wind farms at Hafoty Ucha (3 turbines, 3.5 km north of site) and Bodtegir (1 turbine, 7.5 km north-east), plus larger schemes including Clocaenog Forest (32 turbines, 12.8 km north-east). The consented scheme at Pant Y Maen (7 turbines, 102 m tip height) is located approximately 15 km to the north and Alwen Forest (9 turbines, 200 m) at 10 km north-east.
- **Scenario 2 - Operational, Consented, Submitted and In Scoping Schemes:** This worst-case scenario additionally includes submitted and schemes at scoping stage including Gaerwen (9 turbines, 180 m) at 5 km east, Moel Chwa (12 turbines, 200 m) at 5 km north-east.

Cumulative Effects Assessment

Scenario 1: Operational and Consented Schemes

1.4.30 In relation to the consented scenario, the theoretically visible schemes from within Eryri National Park would only slightly add to the cumulative backdrop of turbine development already experienced to the east of the National Park. The operational wind farms at Hafoty Ucha and Bodtegir, along with the more distant Clocaenog Forest scheme, already form part of the baseline context. The addition of Pant Y Maen at 15 km north and Alwen Forest at 10 km north-east would further increase the existing presence of turbines visible from the National Park, consolidating the presence of wind energy as a characteristic of views looking out from the National Park, but would not change the assessment findings in relation to the Proposed Development.

Scenario 2: Operational, Consented, Submitted and In Scoping Schemes

1.4.31 Under this worst-case scenario, the potentially emerging pattern of wind farm development to the east of Eryri National Park would noticeably increase the influence of wind farm development on some, generally more elevated views in the eastern fringes of the Park. The developments currently in planning and at scoping stage would create a more extensive array of turbines across the upland areas beyond the boundary to the east of the National Park. This would serve to consolidate the effects on the SQs identified in relation to the Proposed Development, but as with the effects from the Proposed Development, they would continue to only apply to localised areas and would not compromise the designation's objectives and/or integrity.

1.5 Conclusions

1.5.1 The assessment of effects on the special qualities of Eryri National Park demonstrates that:

1. Significant effects would be limited to specific special qualities within localised parts of LCAs 15 and 16, relating to a development seen in only one direction of an overall wide panorama, with LCA 19 experiencing no significant effects, primarily due to forest screening.
2. The most notable effects would be on Special Quality 5 (Tranquillity and Solitude) but these would be limited to elevated locations in LCA 15 (particularly SNP11: Arenig Fawr), where the introduction of moving turbines would reduce the sense of remoteness and tranquillity to some degree in eastward views, but where wider views to the north, west and south would remain unaffected.
3. Effects on landscape diversity (SQ1) would be significant only from the northern parts of LCA 16, where new skyline features would change the composition of views across Llyn Tegid.
4. Historic landscapes (SQ7) would experience minimal effects with no compromise to the understanding or appreciation of the historic environment.
5. The geographical extent of significant effects would be concentrated in the eastern parts of the National Park, with the core mountain landscapes including the Carneddau, Glyderau and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) massif remaining unaffected.
6. Cumulative effects would intensify impacts but would not extend effects to new areas or special qualities not already affected by the Proposed Development alone.

1.5.2 A significant effect on a special landscape quality or qualities does not inevitably compromise the designation's objectives and/or integrity. Not least when the identified effect would relate to impacts that would only occur across a limited geographic proportion of the National Park, or would be experienced from only a number of key viewpoints, in only one direction, as is the case with the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development would only have any visibility of note from one of the key viewpoints in the National Park identified by NRW, with any others either having no visibility at all or lying a minimum of over 20 km away from the Proposed Development. From that viewpoint (Arenig Fawr) existing wind energy

is already visible in the same direction as the Proposed Development and the most sensitive and important views look away from the Proposed Development, towards the summits of Yr Wyddfa and Cadair Idris.

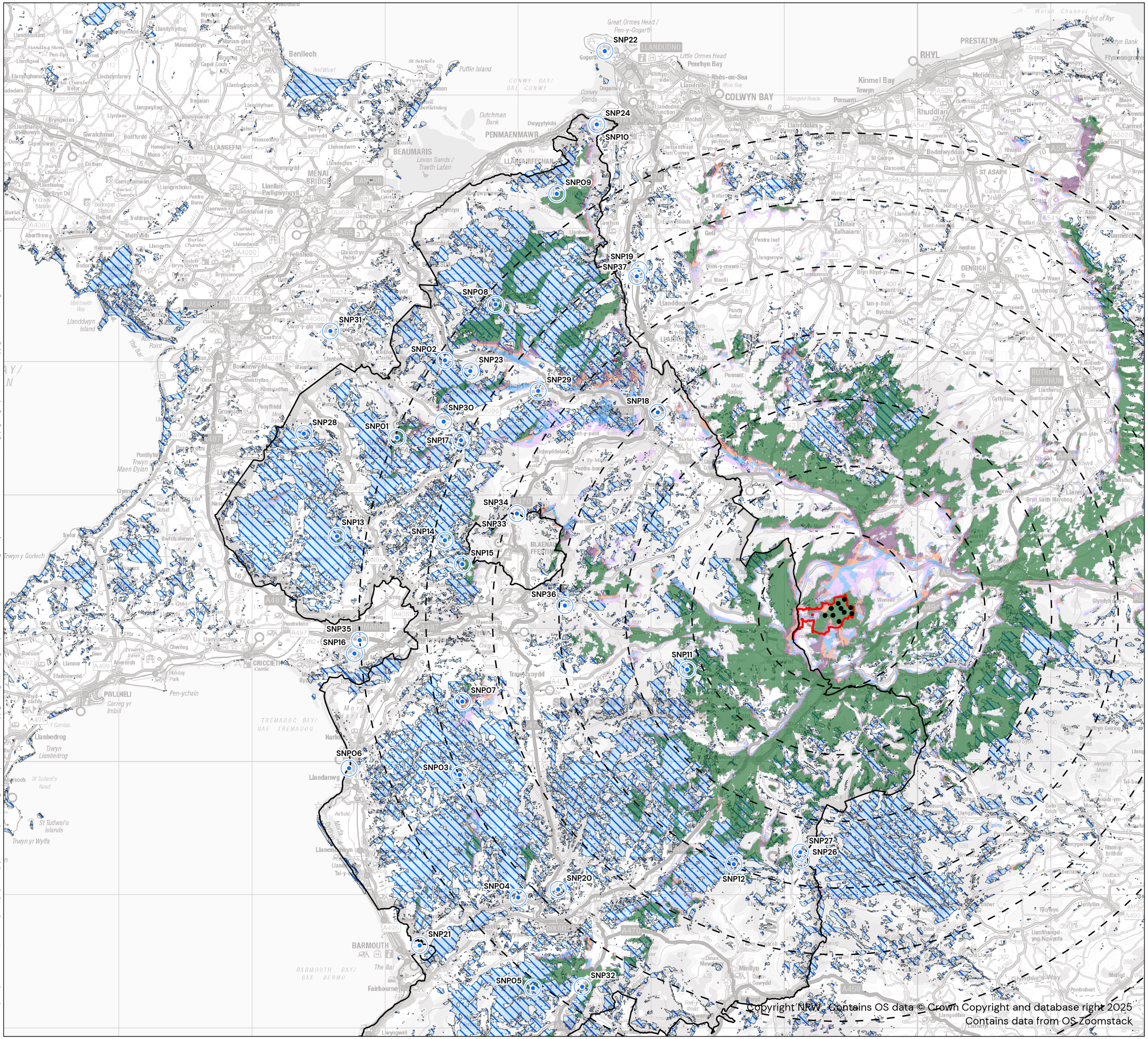
1.5.3 The Proposed Development would not compromise the overall integrity of Eryri National Park or prevent the appreciation of its special qualities across the designated area as a whole. Embedded mitigation through careful siting has minimised effects, with the turbines located outside the National Park boundary and positioned to take advantage both of the natural topographical bowl within which the site sits as well as of the existing pattern of wind development to the east and north-east.

References

Snowdonia National Park Authority, Gwynedd Council, and Isle of Anglesey County Council. *Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment for Renewable Energy, Transmission Infrastructure, and Tourism Development*. Published in collaboration with Natural Resources Wales, 2013. Snowdonia National Park Authority, Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Assessment, October 2016.

Snowdonia National Park Authority. (2014). *Supplementary Planning Guidance: Landscapes and Seascapes of Snowdonia*. Snowdonia National Park Authority.

Annexes



KEY

- Site Boundary
- Wind Turbines
- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible

NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV OVERVIEW

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

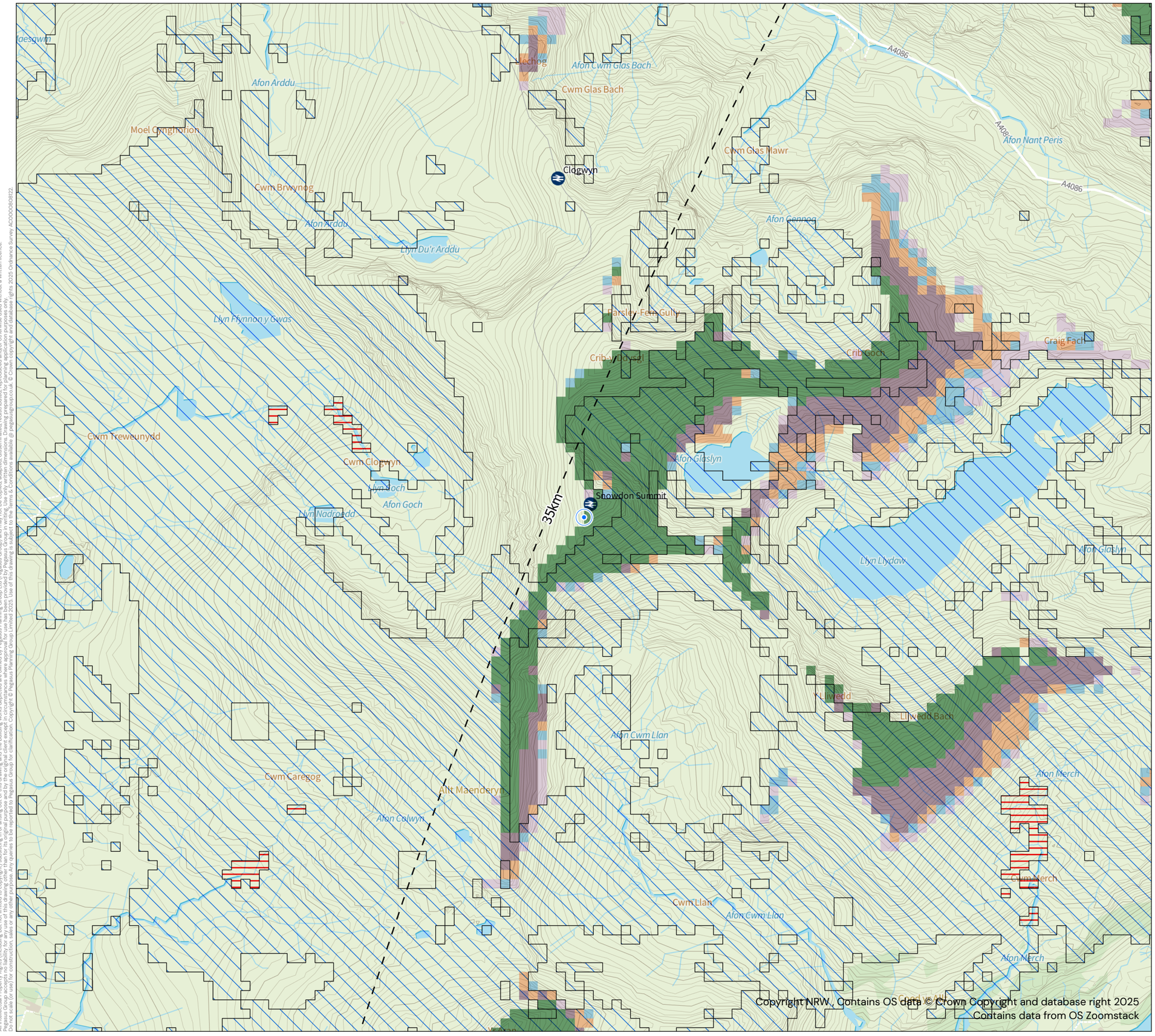
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:280,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 5KM
-	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_64

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

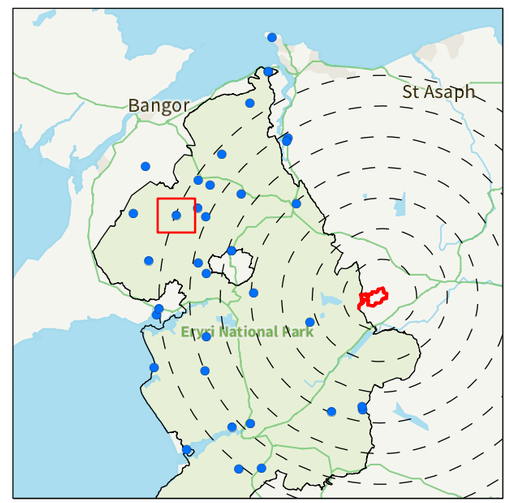
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNPO1: YR WYDDFA

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

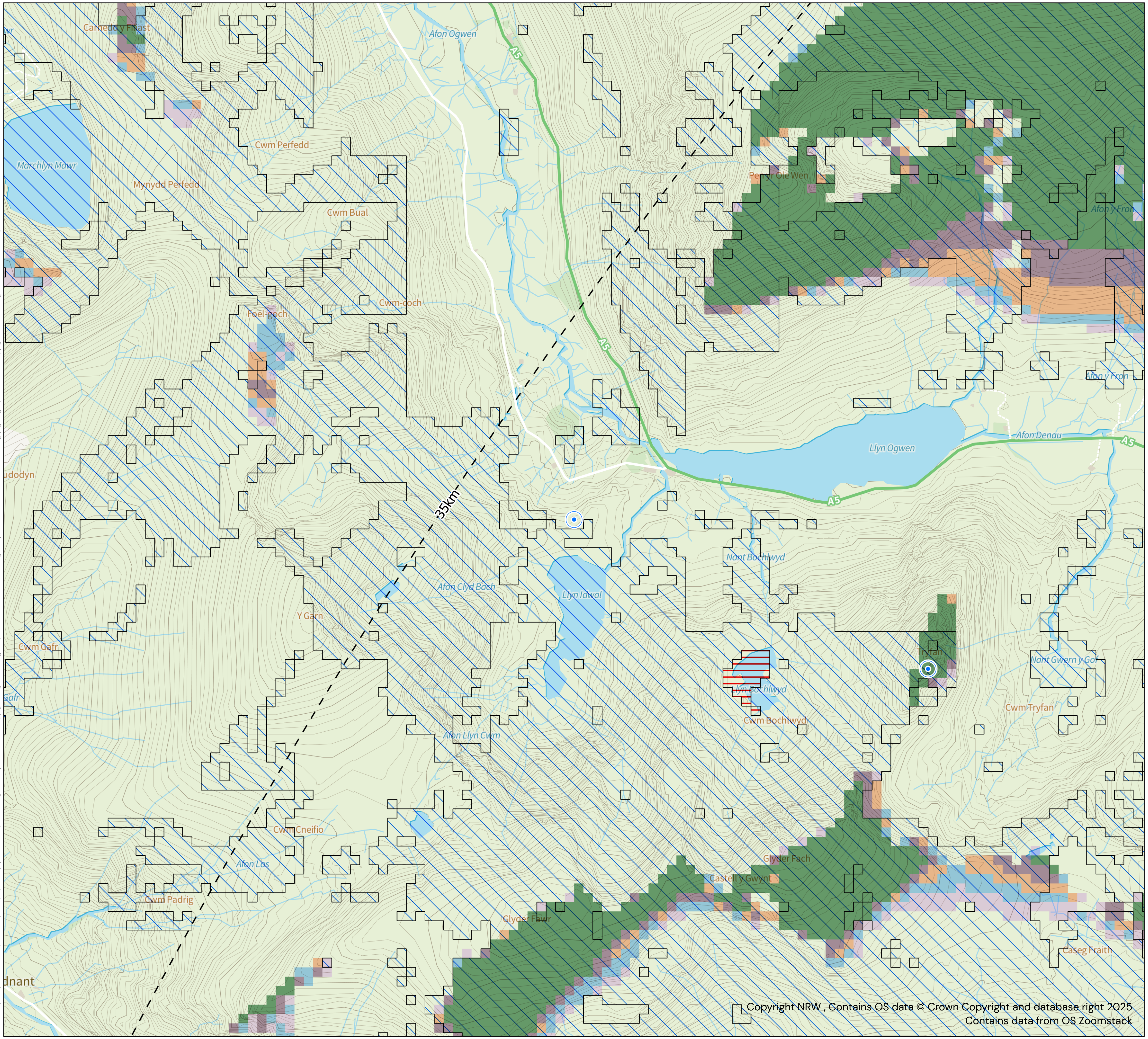
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
1 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

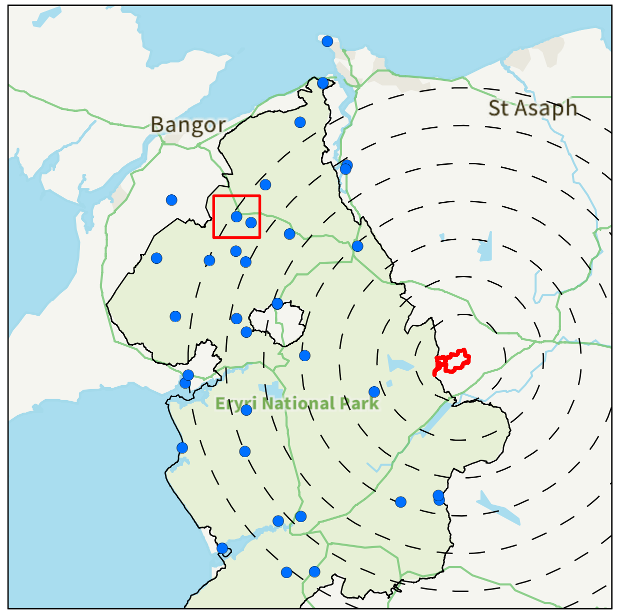
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP02: LLYN IDWAL

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

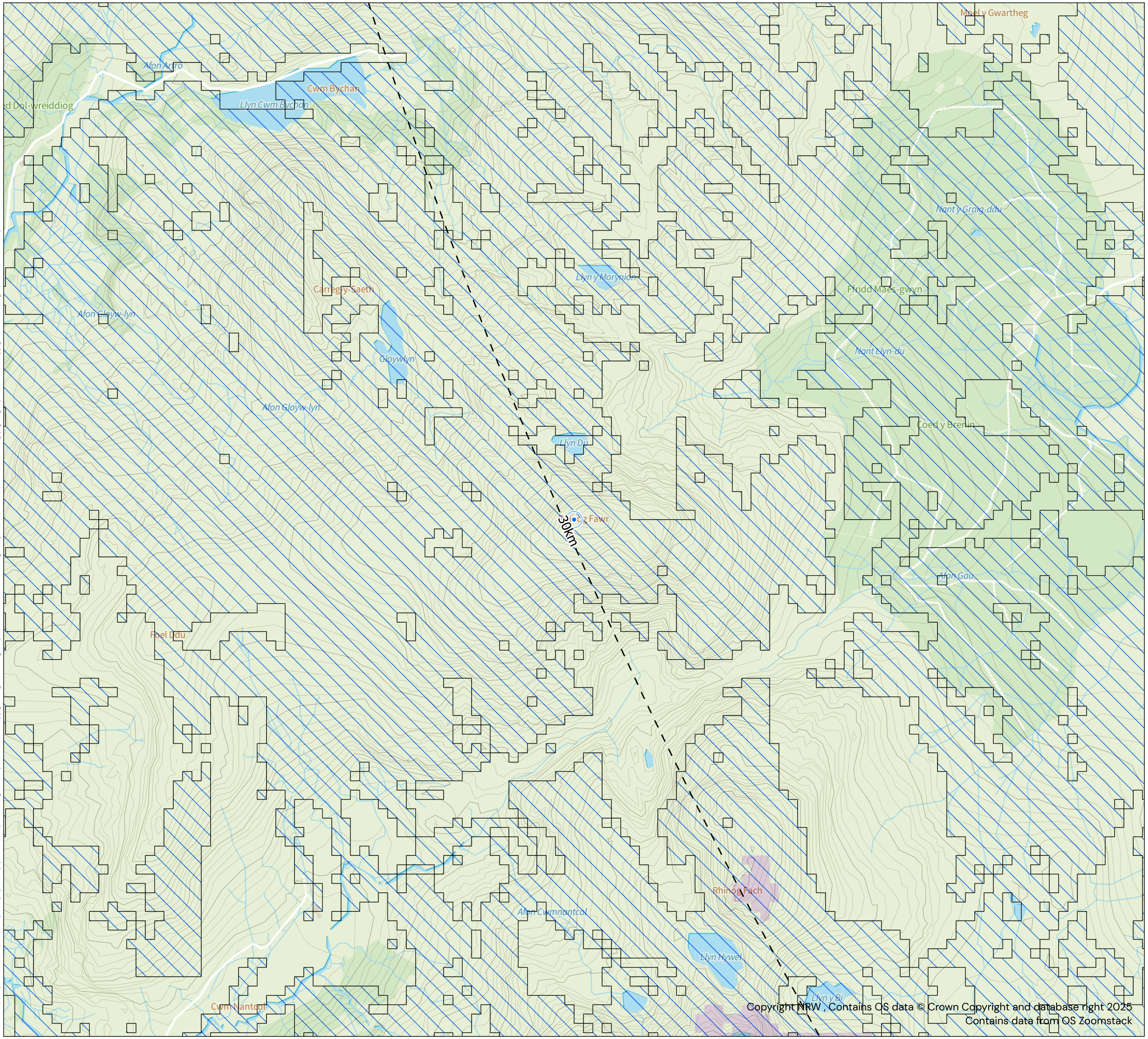
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
2 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

Initial Study Area

NRW Key Viewpoints

National Parks

NRW Tranquillity & Place

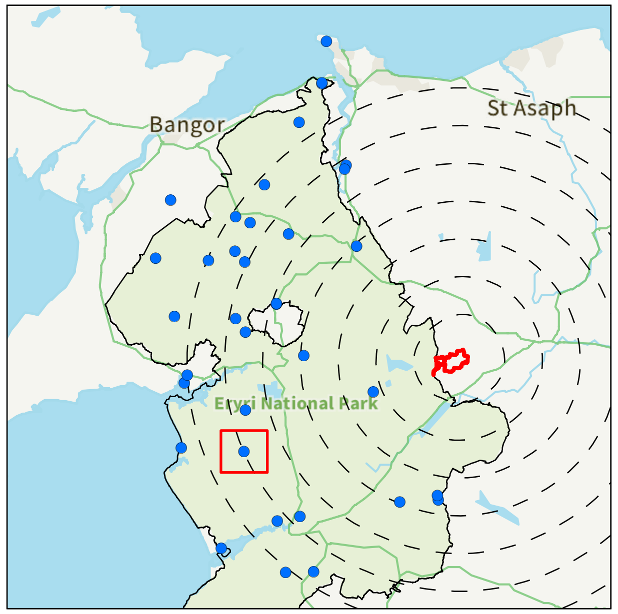
Rural Combined Score:

9 - Second Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

1 to 2 Turbines Visible

3 to 4 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV SNP03: RHINOG FAWR

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

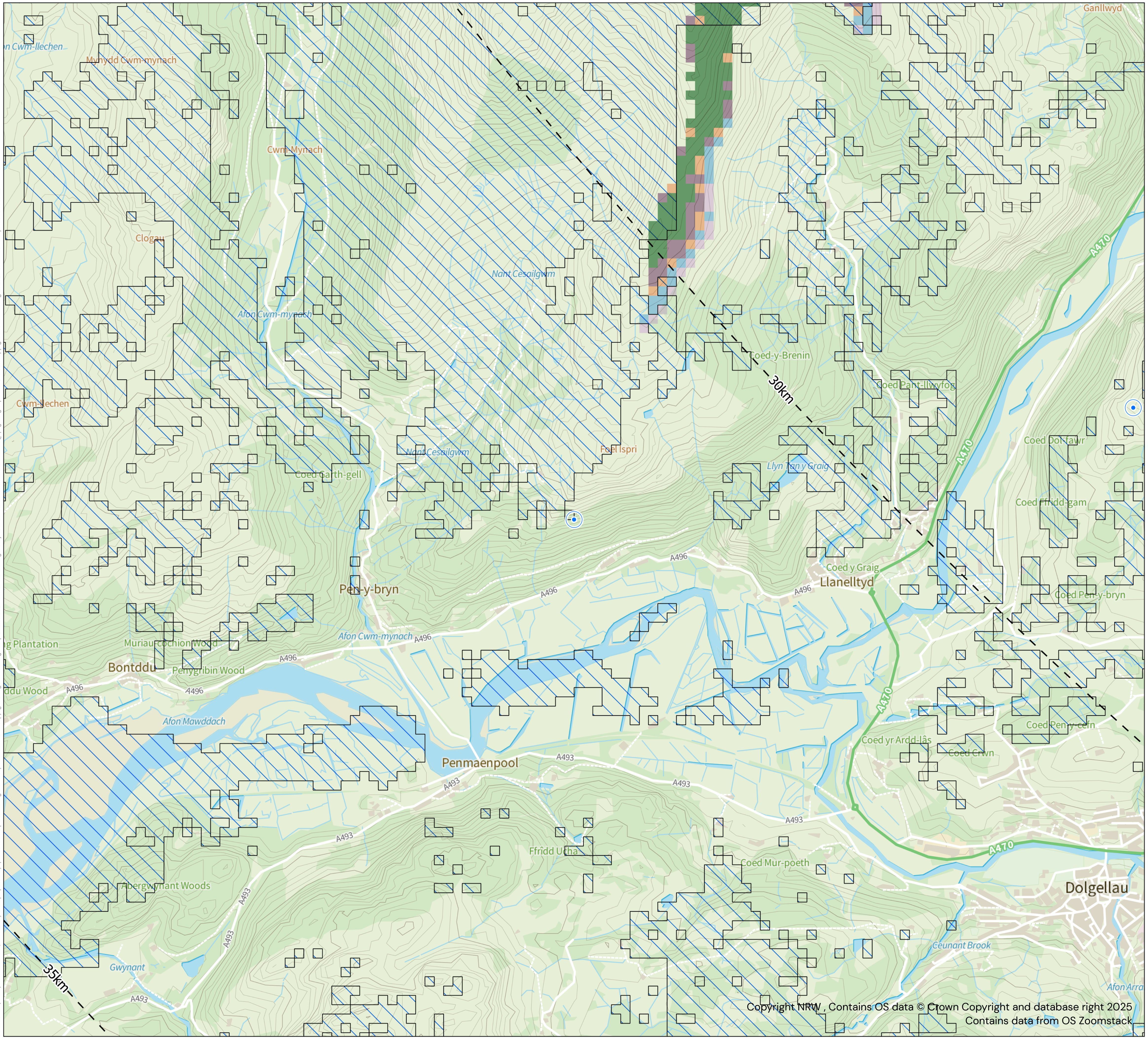
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
3 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

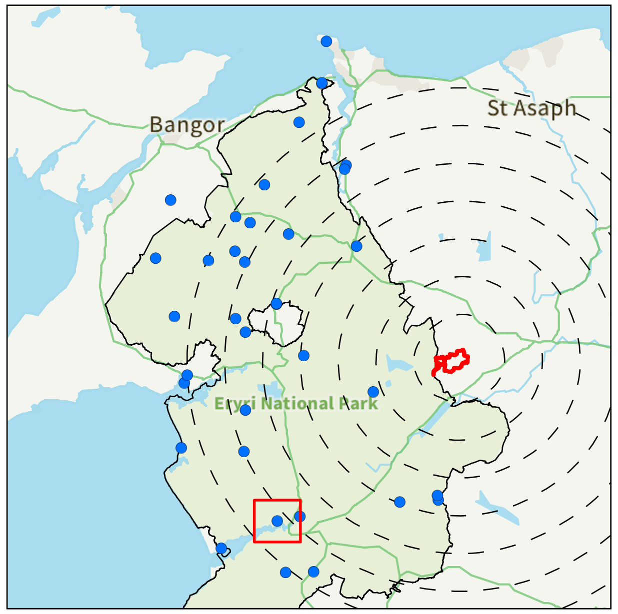
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP04: NEW PRECIPICE WALK, MAWDDACH

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

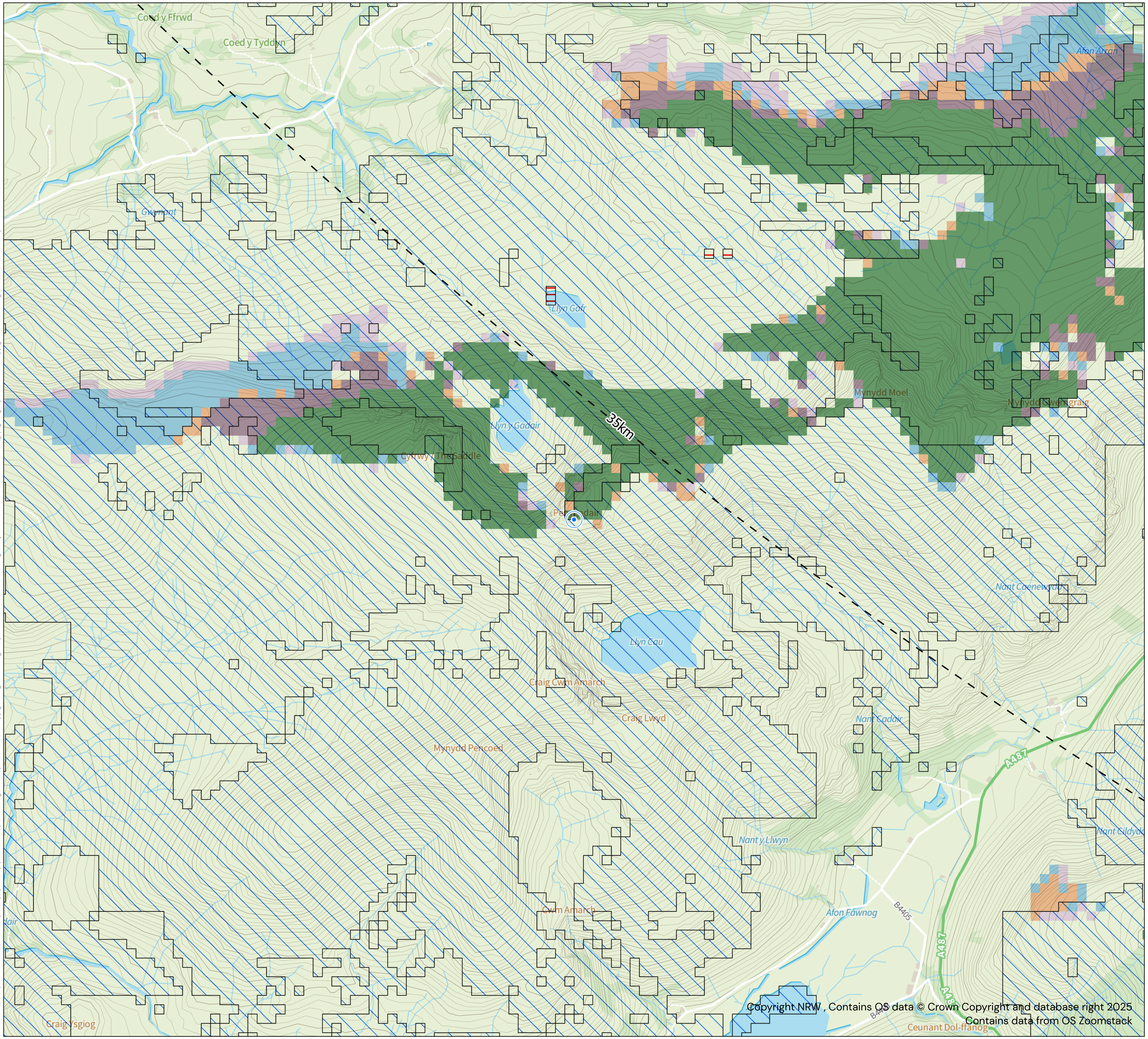
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 — 0.5 KM
4 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

Initial Study Area

NRW Key Viewpoints

National Parks

NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

9 - Second Most Tranquil

10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

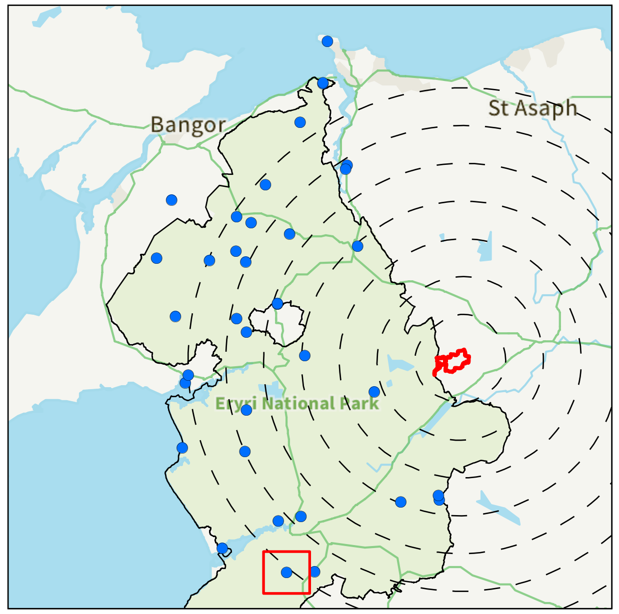
1 to 2 Turbines Visible

3 to 4 Turbines Visible

5 to 6 Turbines Visible

7 to 8 Turbines Visible

9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV SNP05: CADER IDRIS

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

CORIOLIS ENERGY

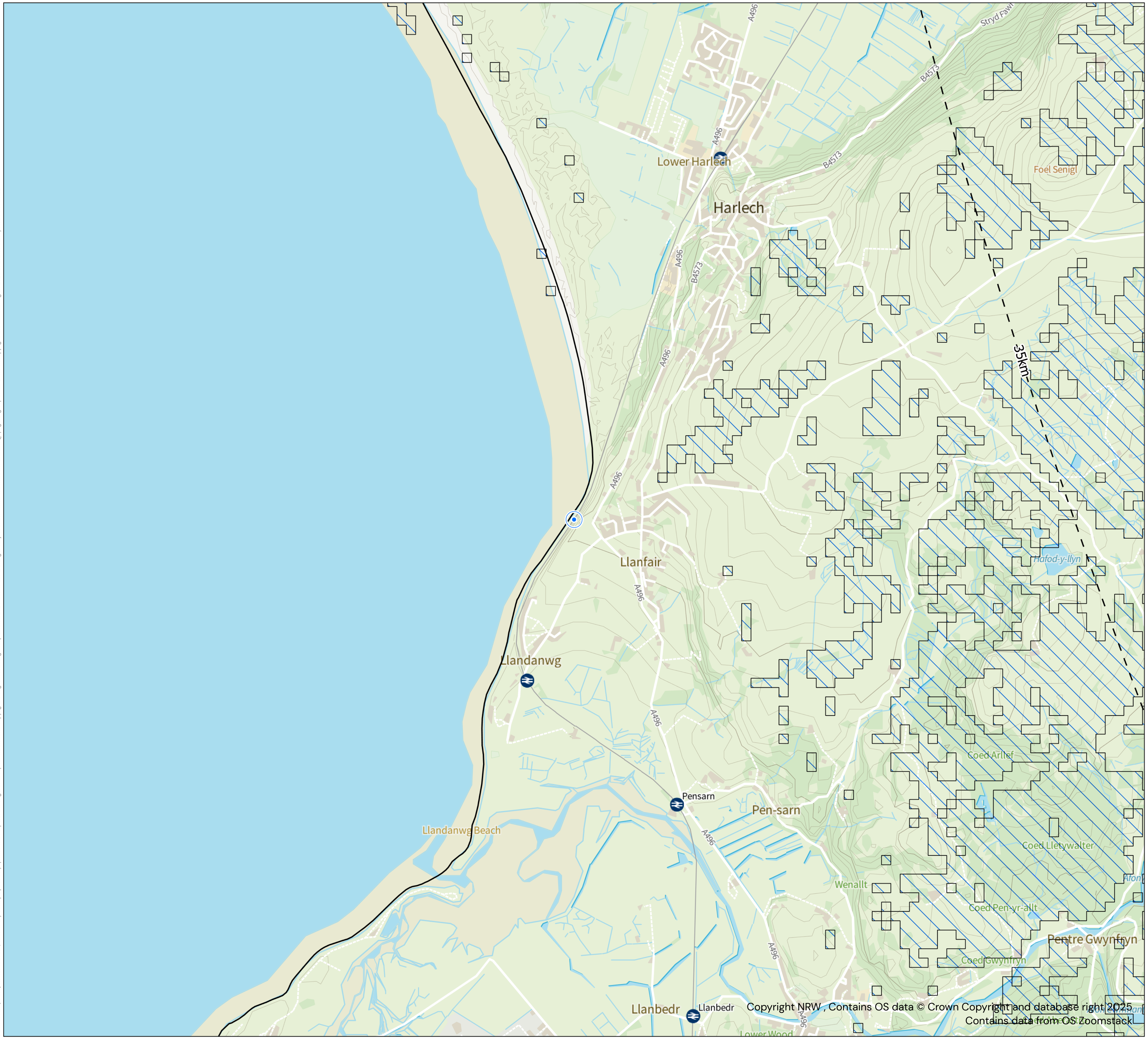
DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 0.5 KM
5 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER

P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



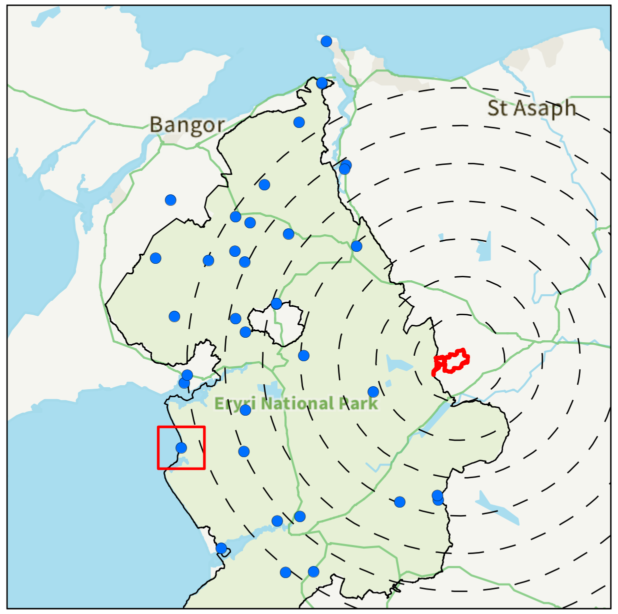
KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP06: LLANFAIR, NEAR HARLECH

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

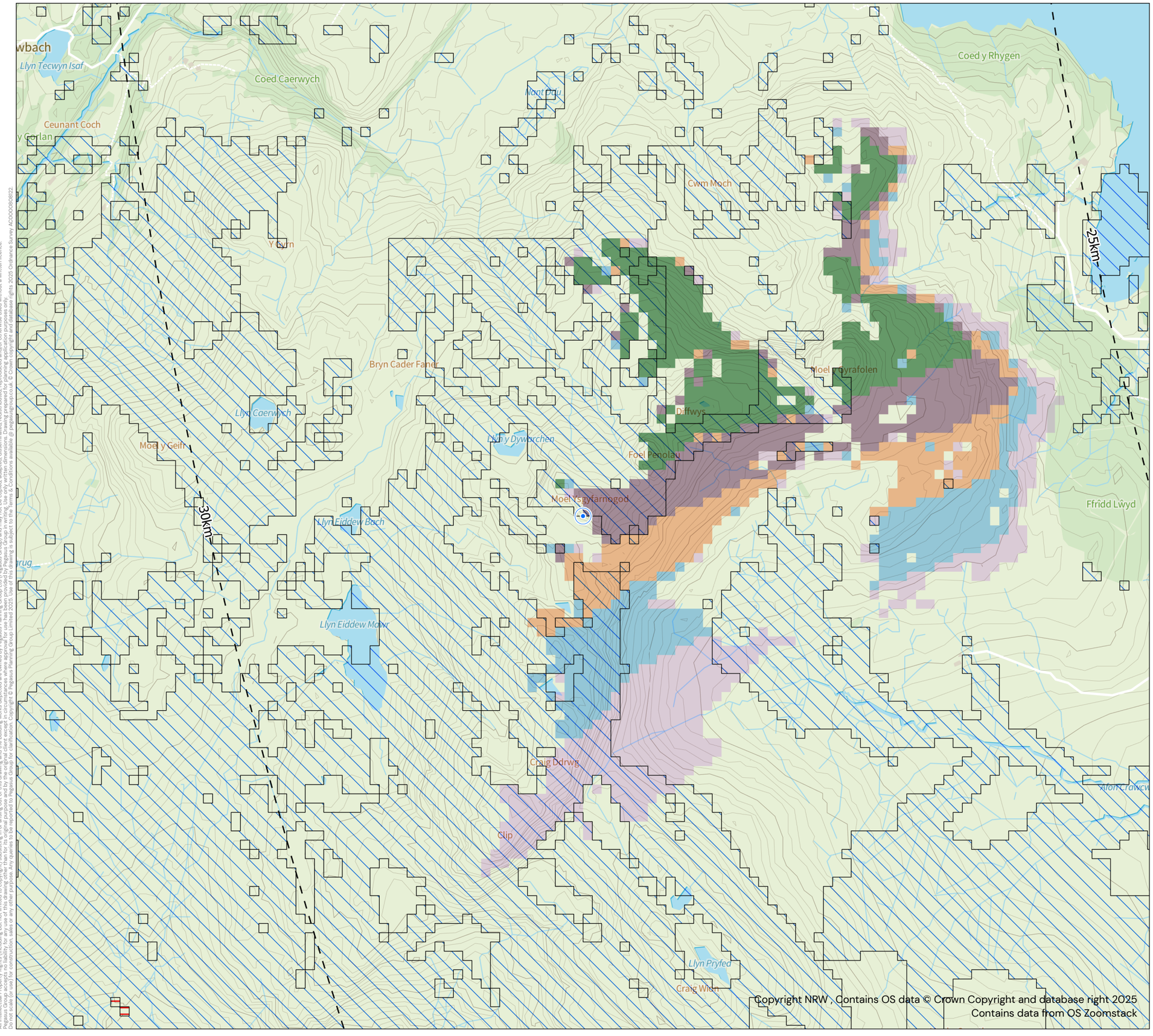
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 — 0.5 KM
6 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

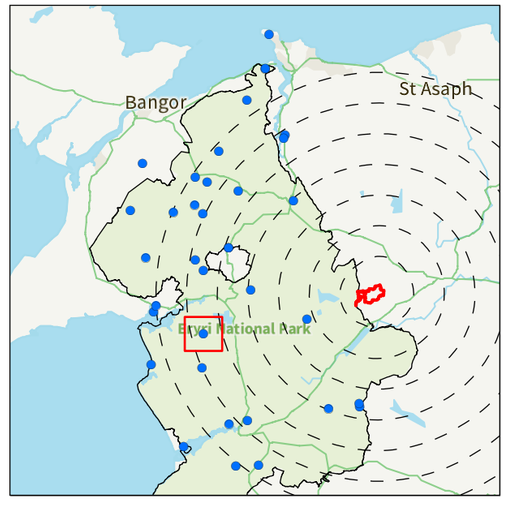
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP07: MOEL YSGYFARNOD

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

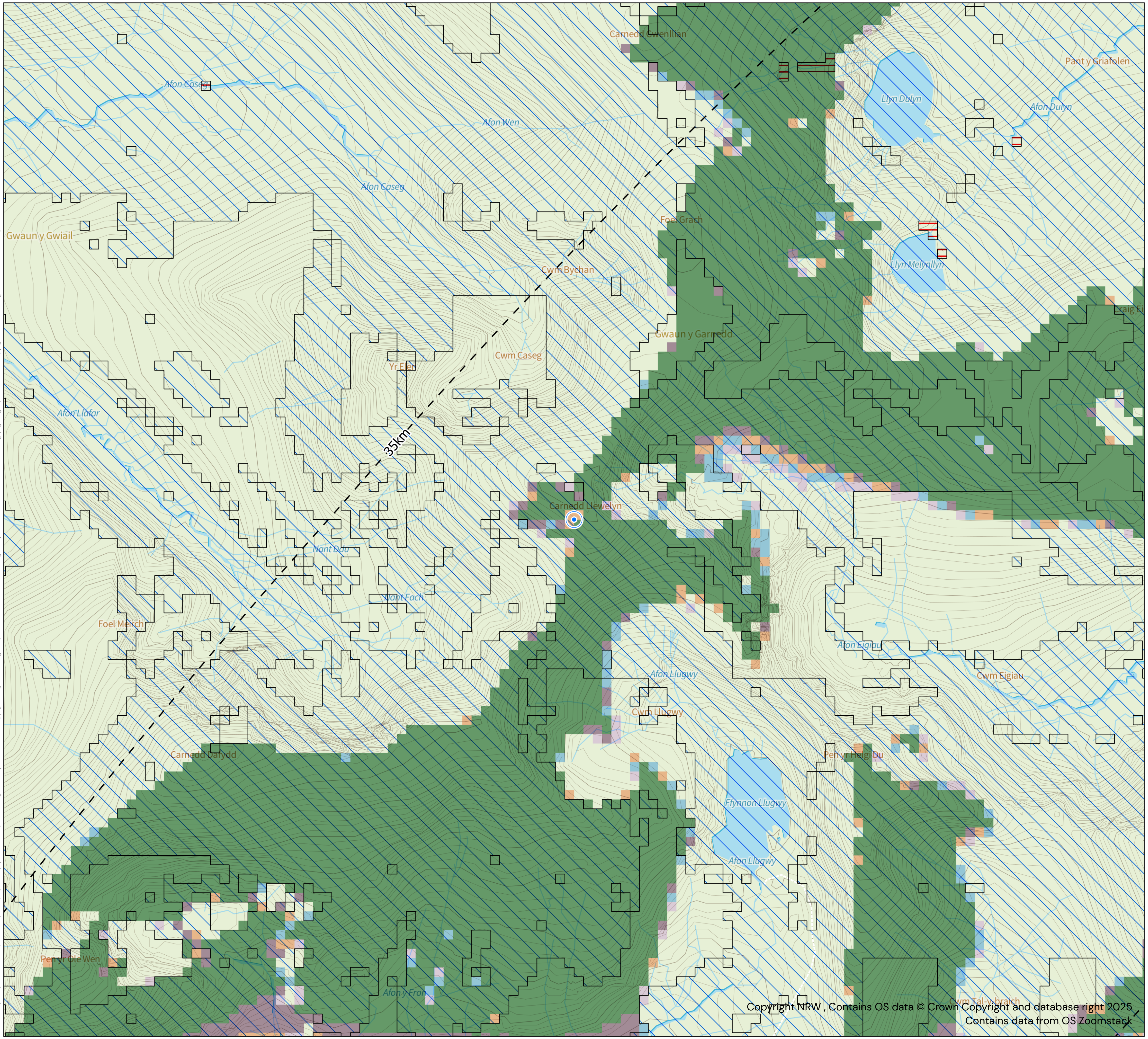
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
7 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

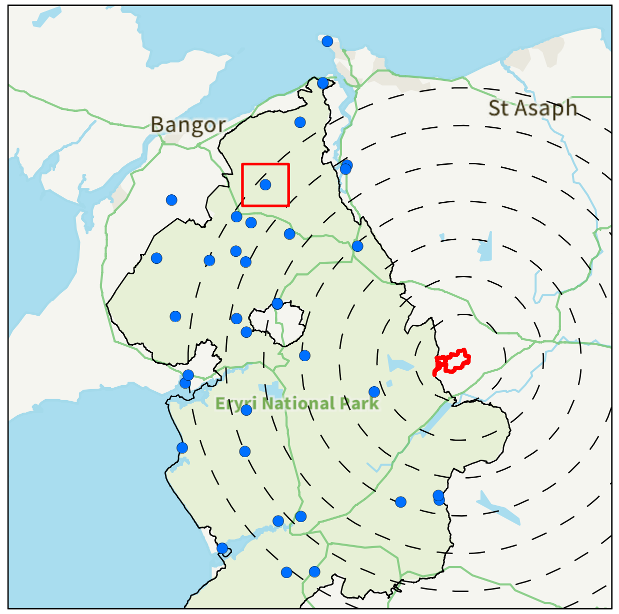
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP08: CARNEDD LLYWELYN

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

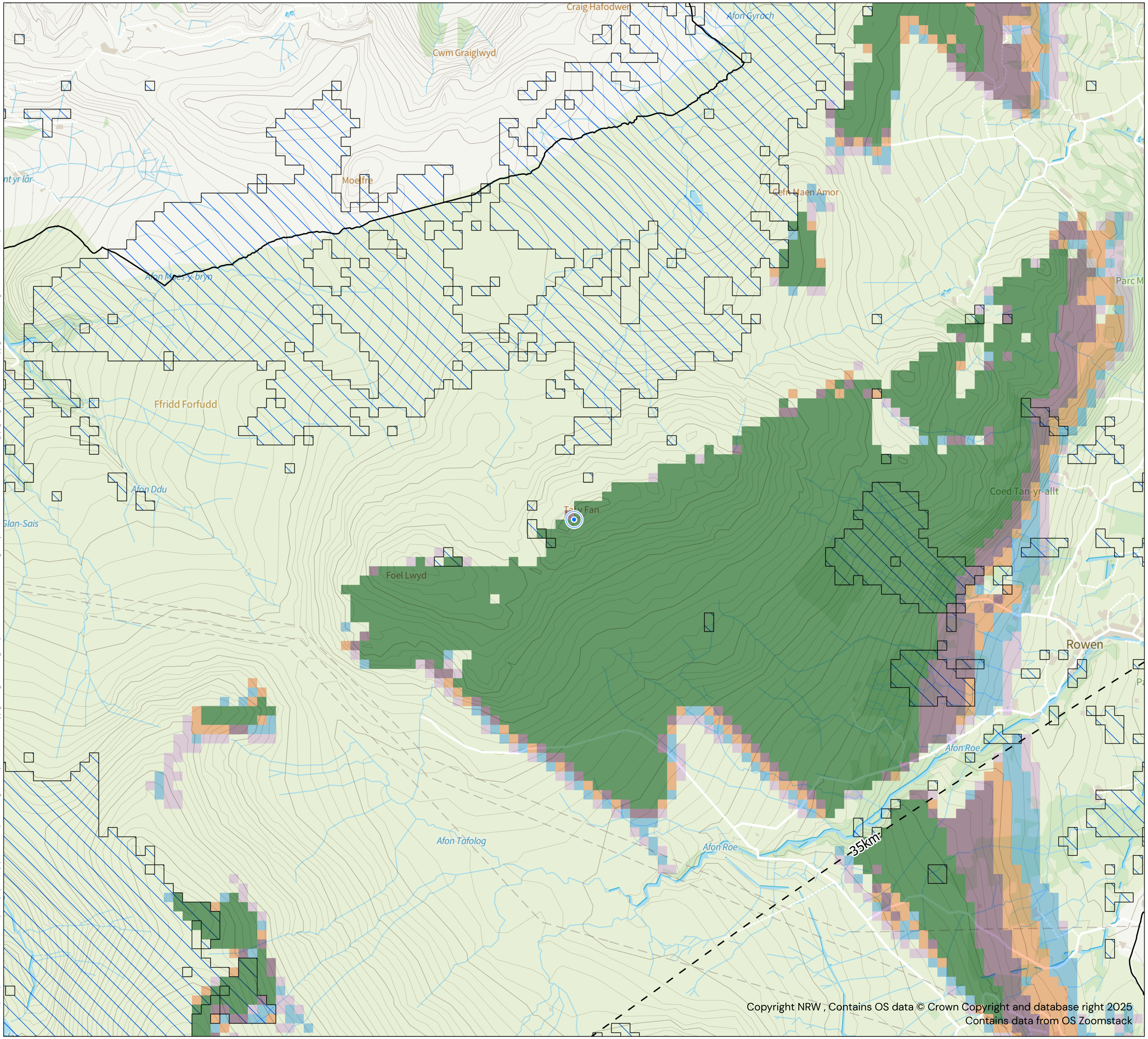
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 0.5 KM
8 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

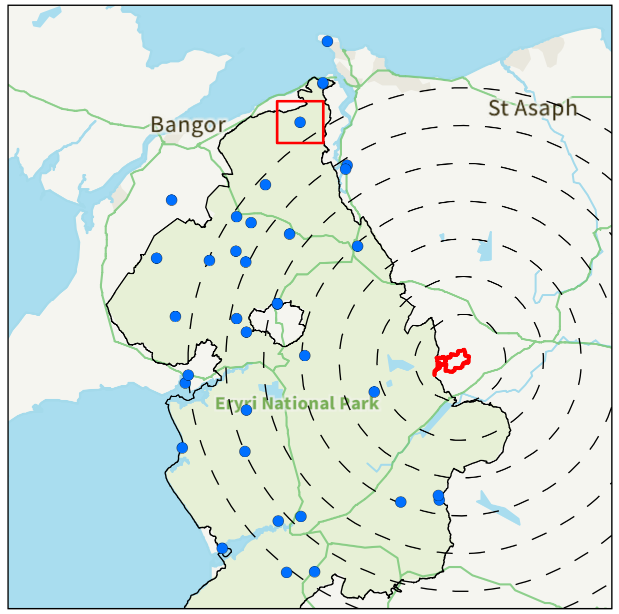
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP09: TAL Y FAN SUMMIT

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

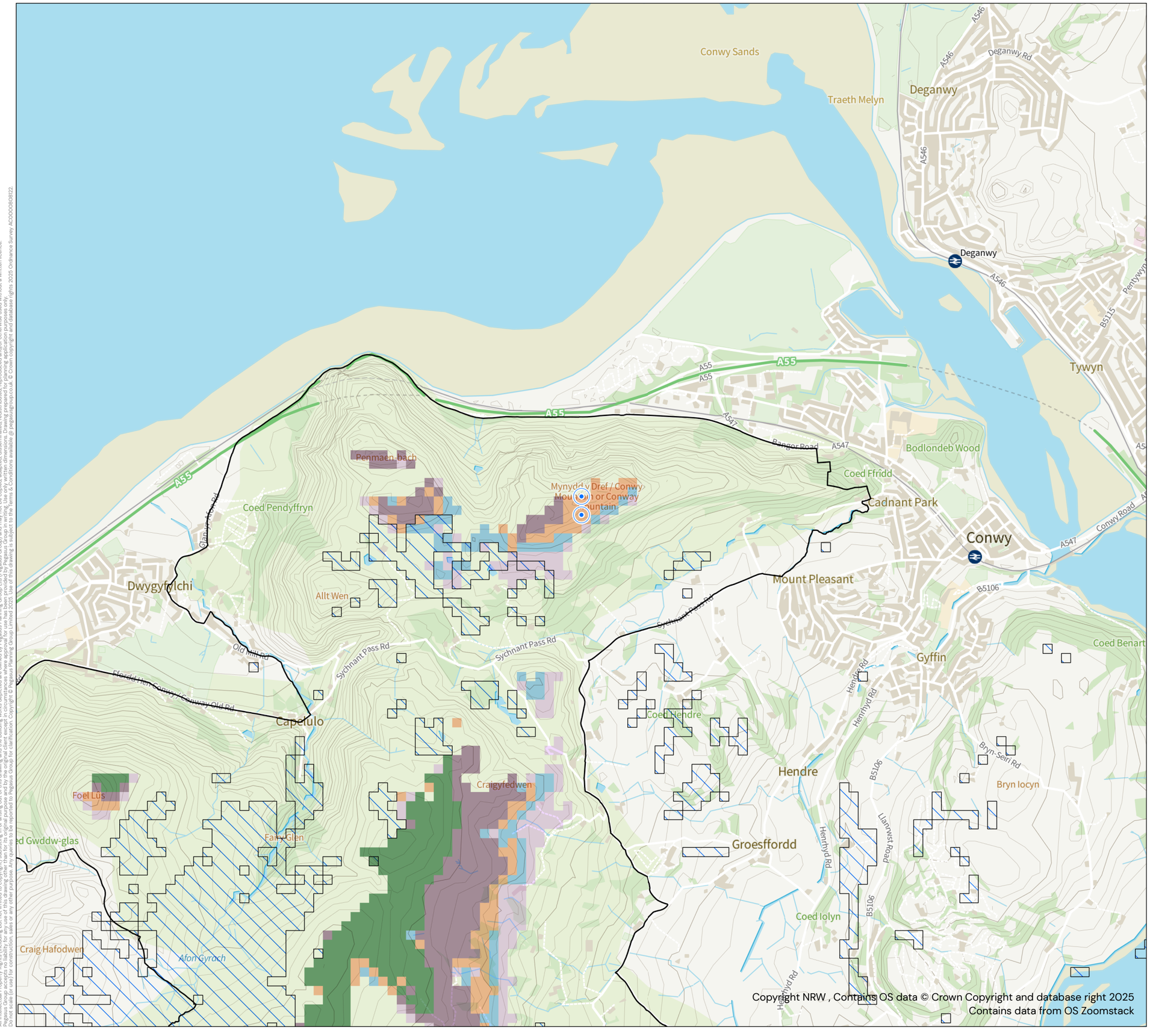
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 — 0.5 KM
9 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

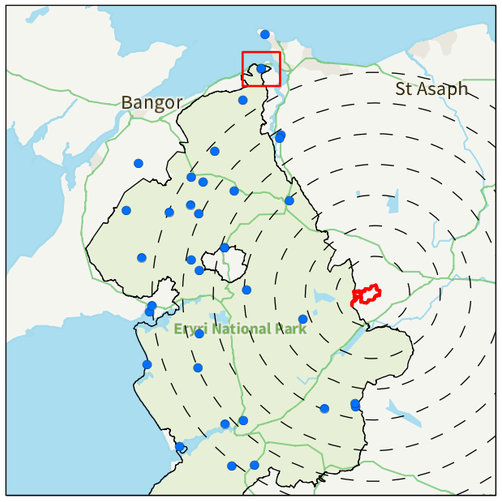
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV SNP10: MYNYDD CONWY SOUTH

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

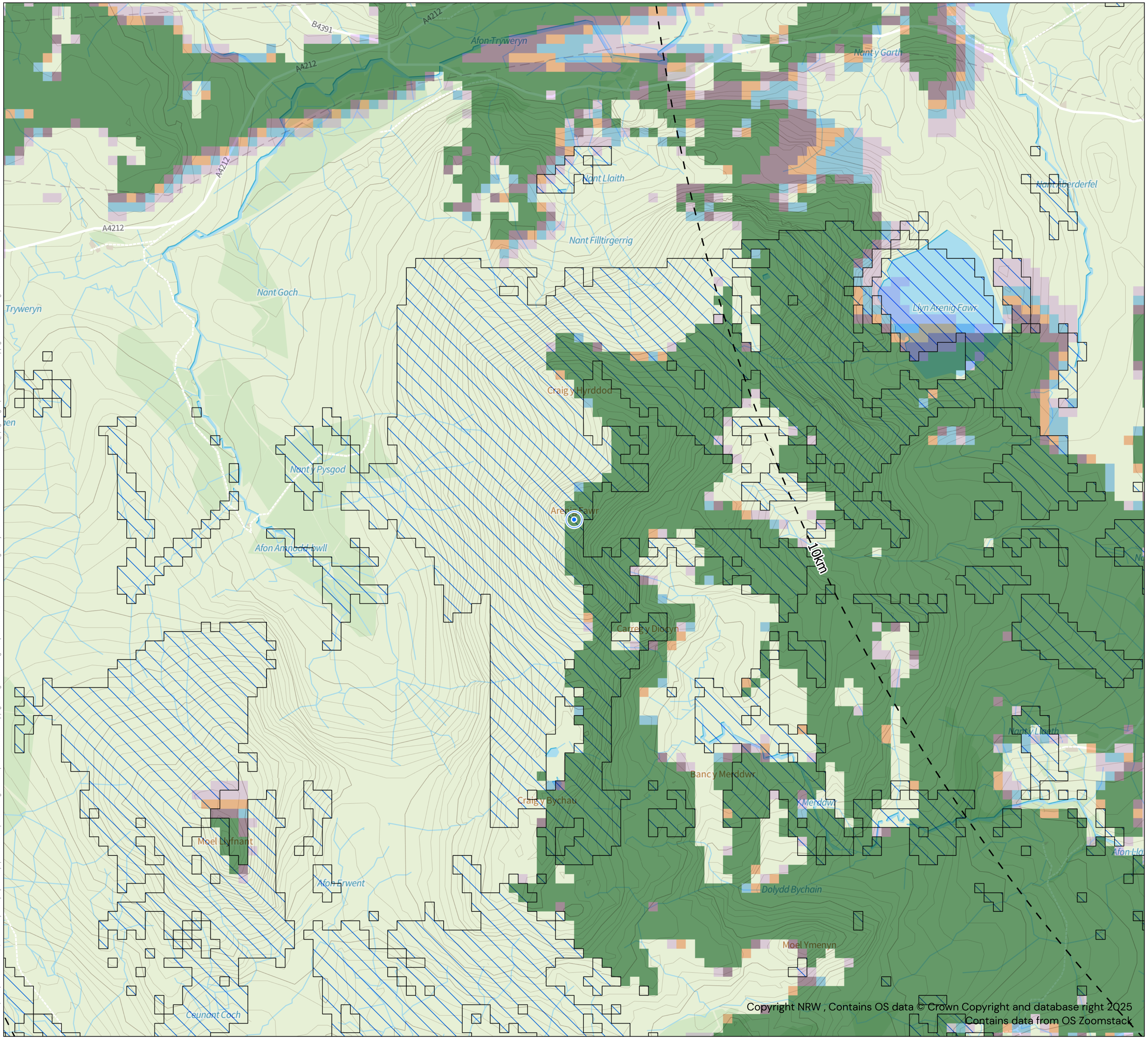
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
10 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

Initial Study Area

NRW Key Viewpoints

National Parks

NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

9 - Second Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

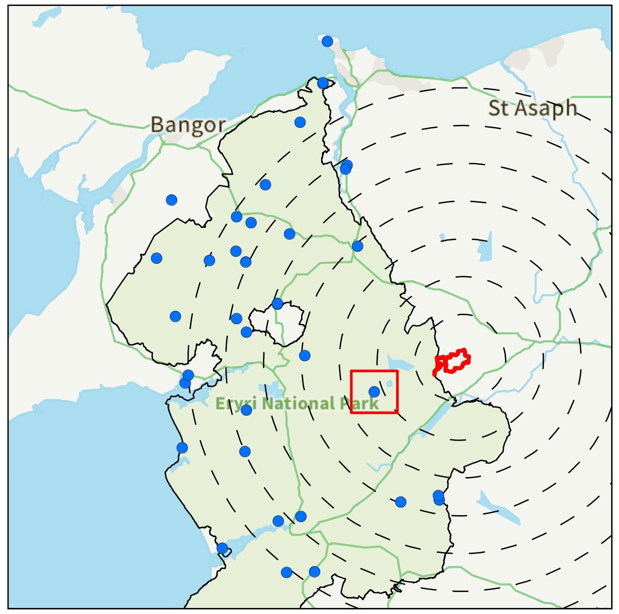
1 to 2 Turbines Visible

3 to 4 Turbines Visible

5 to 6 Turbines Visible

7 to 8 Turbines Visible

9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP11: ARENIG FAWR

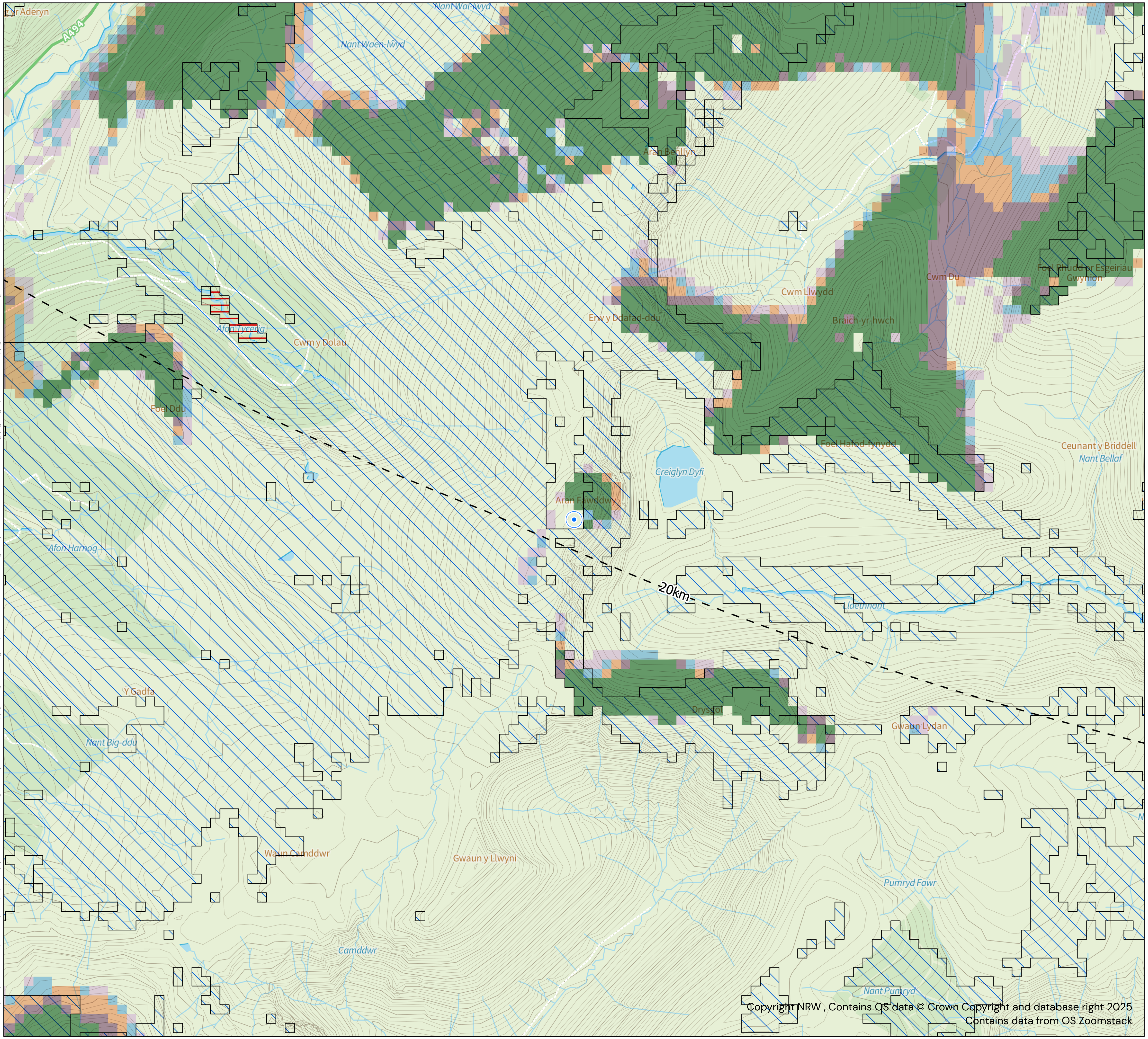
FOEL FACH WIND FARM

CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT
SHEET	REV	N	0 — 0.5 KM
11 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

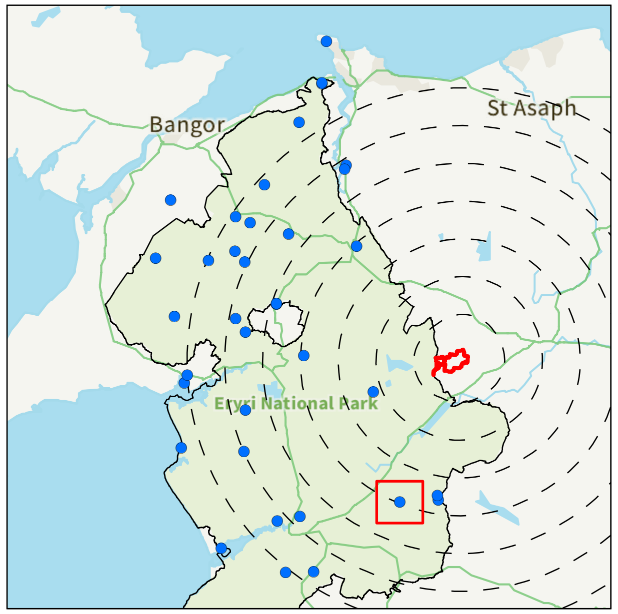
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV SNP12: ARAN FAWDDWY

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

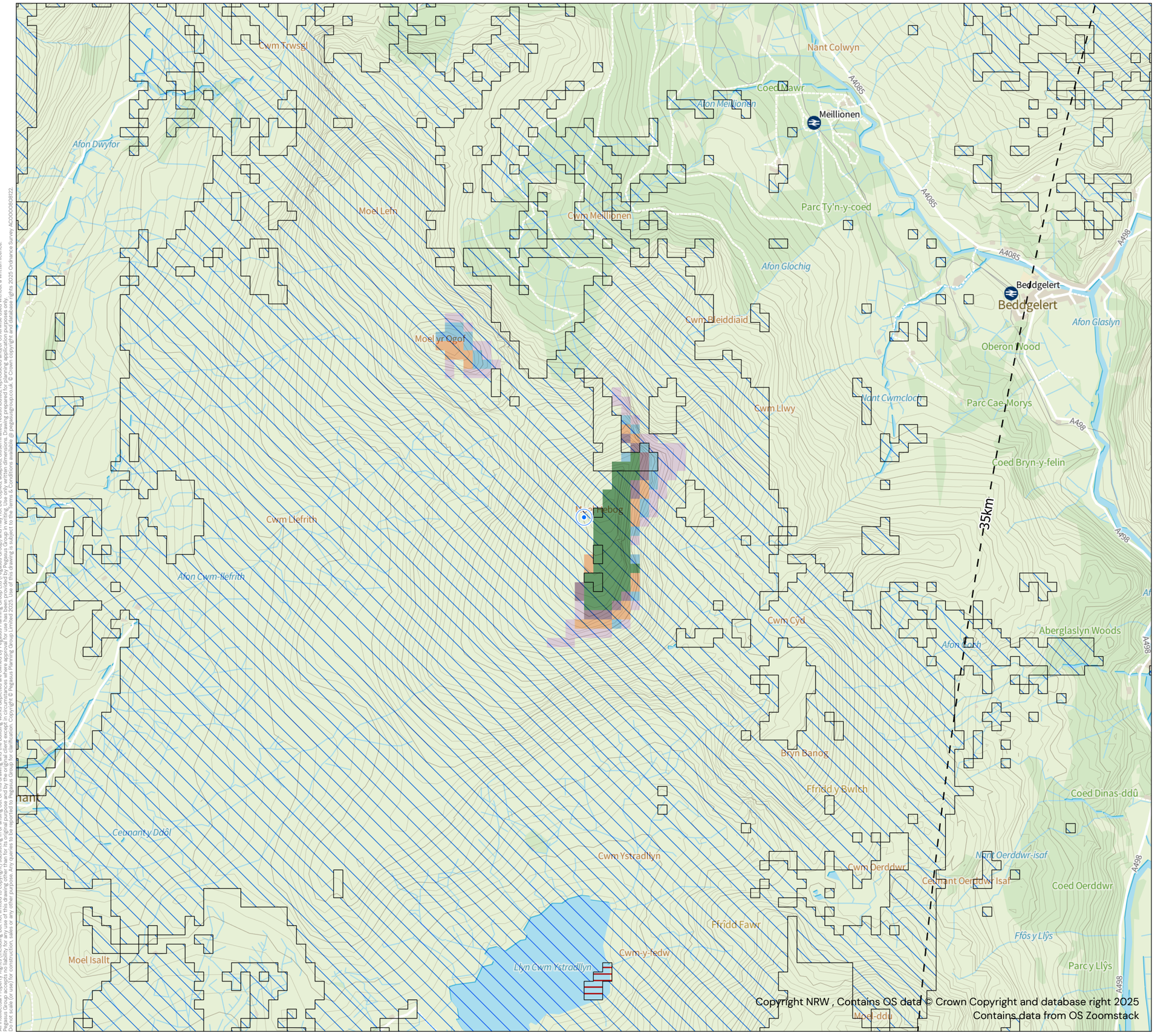
CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0 — 0.5 KM
12 OF 36	A		

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP



KEY

- Initial Study Area
- NRW Key Viewpoints
- National Parks

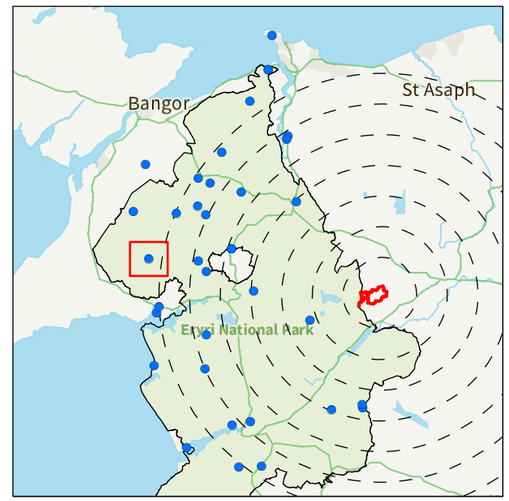
NRW Tranquillity & Place

Rural Combined Score:

- 9 - Second Most Tranquil
- 10 - Most Tranquil

Tip Height Zone of Theoretical Visibility (200m and 220m)

- 1 to 2 Turbines Visible
- 3 to 4 Turbines Visible
- 5 to 6 Turbines Visible
- 7 to 8 Turbines Visible
- 9 to 10 Turbines Visible



NRW TRANQUILLITY & PLACE - TIP HEIGHT ZTV
SNP13: MOEL HEBOG

FOEL FACH WIND FARM

CORIOLIS ENERGY

DATE	SCALE	DRAWN	APPROVED
25/11/2025	1:20,000@A3	EN/RL	DT

SHEET	REV	N	0	0.5 KM
13 OF 36	A			

DRAWING NUMBER
P23_2375_EN_62

PEGASUS GROUP