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Sent Via email

Our Ref: EN010008

Date: 28 May 2012

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Dear Sir/Madam,

**Application for the Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm – Planning Act 2008  
and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010,  
Notice of Hearings under Rule 13**

Further to the letter I sent you on 10 May 2012, I am now writing to you to provide formal notification of the hearings I have decided I will be holding and to confirm the time, date, location and subject matter for these. Annex A provides the details for the issue-specific and open-floor hearings, including issue-specific hearings on noise, transport and local access, and on ecology. A formal agenda for each hearing will be available on the day and on the Brechfa project page of the national infrastructure web-site from 13 June 2012.

All interested parties are entitled to attend these hearings. I would particularly like the following organisations to attend issue-specific hearings on the following issues:

**Noise**

The Applicant  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Statkraft  
Grwp Blaengwen

**Transport and Local Access**

The Applicant  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Countryside Council for Wales  
Welsh Government

## **Ecology**

The Applicant  
Countryside Council for Wales  
Environment Agency Wales  
Carmarthenshire County Council

I have decided no other hearings are necessary at this time. I have given particular consideration to a hearing on landscape and visual impact, but the nature of the responses suggest that the written evidence will be more appropriately supplemented via site inspection than a further hearing.

I have also given consideration to a hearing which might cover the DCO, S106 and any outstanding Local Impact Report issues and have provisionally earmarked the 12 July 2012 for this. Should I decide to hold this hearing I will notify all interested parties of the venue and timing details nearer the time.

Two open-floor hearings have been identified. While you may look to attend each I am not inviting you to speak at more than one of these. The purpose of two hearings in different locations is to make it easier for the local community to attend.

Interested parties wishing to attend any of the issue-specific and/or open-floor hearings should inform the Planning Inspectorate by **17:00 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012** indicating:

- i) which hearing(s) they wish to attend;
- ii) which hearing(s) they wish to speak at, and on what matter(s).

Please also advise us in your response of any special need you may have (eg disabled access, hearing loop) so that we can make appropriate arrangements where practicable.

If you have already told us in response to my letter of 10 May then there is no need for you to write to us about this again unless there is anything you may wish to add (eg in the light of any other responses we received by 25 May 2012). We will endeavour to make the latter available for viewing on the Brechfa project page of the national infrastructure web-site by 1 June 2012.

Although also set out in my letter of 10 May, I thought you may find it helpful if I reiterate how I propose to conduct the issue-specific hearings. If you have asked to speak you will be expected to summarise very briefly the key points you wish to make, with the expectation that these be based on your earlier representations. The method of examination will be inquisitorial in nature. Therefore if you speak at a hearing, particularly an issue specific hearing, you should expect to be questioned on what you say. I propose to allow those at the hearings to comment on responses of other parties where in my view this is likely to add value. I may have to revise this approach if it appears not to be helping the conduct of the examination.

At the open-floor hearings I also propose to set a time limit for each individual who wishes to speak to ensure that all who wish to speak have a chance to do so. Your oral representation should focus on issues in your earlier written representations and not repeat points made by others. Furthermore, you can rely on my having read your relevant and written representations and therefore do not need to repeat what you have already submitted in writing.

Please see Advice Note 8.5 'Participating in the Examination' on the national infrastructure web-site<sup>1</sup> for further information on how hearings are conducted.

Yours sincerely

*Bob Macey*  
**Examining authority**

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Advice may be given about applying for an order granting development consent or making representations about an application (or a proposed application). This communication does not however constitute legal advice upon which you can rely and you should obtain your own legal advice and professional advice as required.

A record of the advice which is provided will be recorded on the Planning Inspectorate website together with the name of the person or organisation who asked for the advice. The privacy of any other personal information will be protected in accordance with our Information Charter which you should view before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://infrastructure.planningportal.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Advice-note-8.5.pdf>

## Annex A

### Proposed Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm – Carmarthenshire (EN010008)

### Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 – Rule 13(3) Notice of Hearings

#### ISSUE SPECIFIC HEARINGS

Please be advised that the Examining Authority will be holding the following hearings under sections 91 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as amended on the following dates:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Issue</b>
20 June 2012	Start 10:00 am Registration 9:30 am	<b>Noise</b> Matters to be dealt with under this issue include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concerns of local community including level and nature of noise and potential health issues drawing on Alltwalis experience where relevant;</li><li>• Experience of CCC in addressing complaints from existing windfarms, and lessons learned;</li><li>• Applicants approach to measuring background noise, inc estimating equations;</li><li>• Proposed limits;</li><li>• Cumulative effects;</li><li>• Monitoring compliance and addressing complaints; and</li><li>• DCO provisions (including requirements) relating to noise.</li></ul>
21 June 2012	Start 10:00 am Registration 9:30 am	<b>Transport and Local Access</b> Matters to be dealt with under this issue include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental impacts of the proposed access ;</li><li>• Extent to which these impacts can be mitigated;</li><li>• Impact of proposed access on existing</li></ul>

		<p>S106 agreement;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for, and nature and extent of, mitigation in relation to the existing S106;</li> <li>• Alternatives considered to proposed access, and extent to which any adverse consequences would be mitigated;</li> <li>• Transport concerns including road safety and transport to the site; and</li> <li>• DCO provisions (including requirements) relating to transport and local access.</li> </ul>
21 June 2012	<p>Start 14:00 Registration 13:30</p>	<p><b>Ecology</b></p> <p>Matters to be dealt with under this issue include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Report;</li> <li>• Nightjars – adequacy of mitigation;</li> <li>• Habitats management plan; and</li> <li>• DCO provisions (including requirements) relating to ecology.</li> </ul>

All the above hearings are held at the Canolfan Waunifor Centre (Cedar Hall), Maesycrugiau, Nr Pencader, SA39 9LX.

## OPEN FLOOR HEARINGS

Please be advised that the Examining Authority will be holding the following hearings under sections 93 of the Planning Act 2008 (PA2008) as amended on the following dates:

**11 July 2012** at 10:00 (registration 9:30am) at the Brechfa Church Hall, St. Teilo, Brechfa, SA32 7RA and at 14:00 (registration 13:30) at the Canolfan Waunifor Centre (Cedar Hall), Maesycrugiau, Nr Pencader, SA39 9LX.

**Thursday 12 July 2012** has been reserved for any additional hearings that may be required.