

Mynydd y Gwynt Limited

Mynydd y Gwynt Wind Farm

Consultation Report Appendix 45

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Required document as set out in Section 37(3)(c) of the Planning Act 2008

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Transportation

Abnormal Load Delivery – the port of entry for the turbines has been changed from Borth to Swansea because of environmental impact concerns around Aberleri. The new route comes from the south to avoid Newtown, thus avoiding potential congestion along the northern delivery route.

A full scale trial run to prove that turbine delivery was possible was requested, and this was successfully carried out in conjunction with the police authorities in May 2012.

A much greater level of detailed analysis than usual at this stage of a project has been carried out in testing the transport route at the request of Welsh Government transport officials. Furthermore, the construction programme is arranged so the greatest impact on the road network will cause less than a 2% increase in traffic.

Grid Connection

The grid connection route has changed and a new desktop study carried out accordingly. The new route will travel north-easterly towards Carno, with the vast majority of grid lines sited on wooden poles.

Ecology

Detailed peat depth surveys using probes and GPS positioning have been carried out, as well as habitat vegetation and fauna surveys. As a result, the layout has been revised to avoid deep peat and areas of high ecological impact. For example, turbines have been removed from the Waun Goch area because of ground nesting birds. Furthermore, renewed bird collision risk modelling has also been carried out and red kite nesting surveys are ongoing.

A Habitat Management Plan and a species protection plan have been produced, and these will be live documents that continue to be refined leading up to, and during the lifetime, of the wind farm.

Community Benefits

Following consultation the annual community benefit commitment has increased from £2000 per MW to £3500 per MW. The funds will be administered through a community-run company to ensure the funds reach the most deserving causes. Over the lifetime of the project, it is estimated that £7-7.8m will be paid in community benefit funds.

Landscape Impacts

The turbine tip heights have been limited to 125m in order to reduce long distance visual impact. It was also decided not to quarry stone from the site due to fears over the visual impact of quarrying.

The proposed sub-station position has been moved from a higher position on the site to lie adjacent to the car park in order to reduce potential visual impact.

Further photography and additional viewpoints have been considered, as well as surveys on the footpath network to assess usage.

Construction

A construction environmental management plan has been produced and an ecological clerk of works will be employed to monitor all construction activities.

River Wye

The hydrological regime has been studied and improvements offered to combat current erosion issues. These include new and improved settlement ponds to improve the water quality entering the

River Wye. A contaminated land assessment has been carried out on the car park (contractors' compound) area and no pollution was found. There will be no extraction of water from the River Wye for construction.

Tourism

The Sweet Lamb Rally Complex itself is a major local venue for a variety of uses. Following consultation with businesses that use the site, all have confirmed the turbines would not impact upon their activities. Viewpoints from Snowdonia (at closest 19km) show that the National Park will not be affected by the proposed development.

Public Rights of Way

There will be no alterations to any of the PROW routes. Previously, the landowners have allowed an extension to the PROW to allow access to the source of the River Wye.

Aviation

Turbine positions have been relocated to avoid the RAF low fly training area. In addition, infra-red aviation lights will be fitted to the outermost turbines to assist RAF night flying.

Decommissioning

All visible traces of the wind farm will be removed after 25 years, with a financial bond in place to pay for this in the event of the company being declared bankrupt.

Environmental Benefits

A carbon balance assessment has been carried out using official calculation methods that show the wind farm will pay back the energy it takes to manufacture the turbines, and construct the wind farm, within 6 months.

Over its 25 year life it is anticipated the proposed wind farm will produce around 6.5TWh of electricity, saving some 3.9million tCO₂e. To illustrate this, if a coal power station produced the same amount of electricity, the train required to deliver the coal would be 242 miles long.