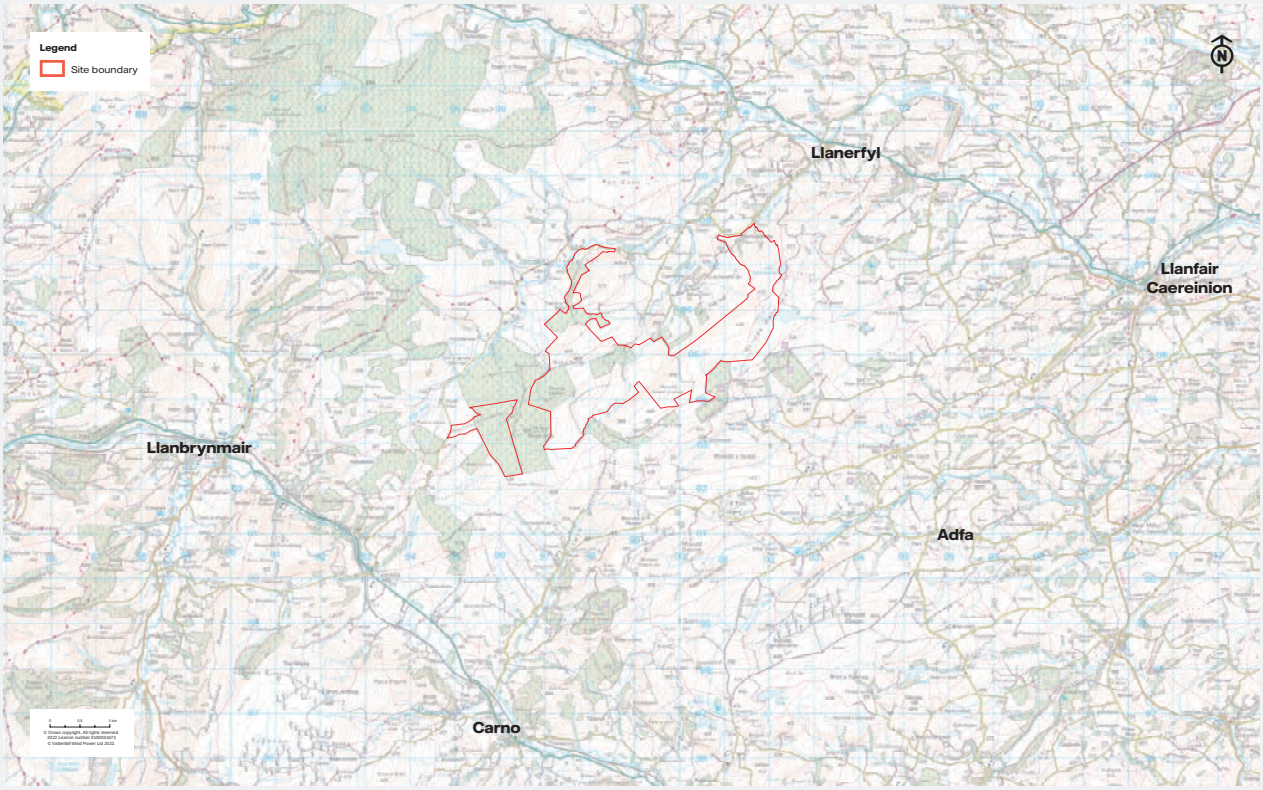
April 2023

Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm

Mynydd Lluest y Graig update

VATTENFALL

Feedback from informal community consultation



Late last year, Vattenfall held an early informal consultation on the proposed Mynydd Lluest y Graig energy park near Llanerfyl, Powys.

The informal consultation ran from 9-30 November 2022. Information was hosted on the project website, and Vattenfall held five community events located in Llanerfyl, Adfa, Carno, Llanfair Caereinion, and Llanbrynmair.

The purpose of the initial phase of engagement was to share early information and gather initial views and ideas from local communities about the proposed project.

Those attending the events in person were invited to read about the proposal on information boards, look at a 3D model of the site from different vantage points, as well as speak to Vattenfall project team members. An information booklet was also offered along with a project feedback form. An online feedback form was also made available.

The informal consultation information is still available to view online at vattenfall.co.uk/mllyg

Technology

Wind, solar, hydrogen and battery storage technologies are being explored on this project at this stage.

Wind

Up to 18 turbines, up to 200m to blade tip, with the potential to generate up to 135 MW, enough electricity for around 90,000 homes* per annum.

1 rotation of a single turbine revolution could power an average UK house for 32 hours.*

1 rotation of the wind farm could power an average UK house for 24 days.*

*Based on onsite wind data.

Llanfair Caereinion event during informal consultation in November 2022.

Feedback - snapshot of participation

Over the informal consultation period, in total:

368 visitors attended the project web-page

203 individuals attended the community events

93 feedback forms were received

The feedback received was hugely valuable, and Vattenfall sincerely thanks all those who took the time to read the information and respond with their views. The project team has been busy considering the feedback, which has fed into research and discussions with specialists as the project is designed, as well as in a number of cases liaising direct with those who responded.

Overview of feedback survey respondents:

The vast majority **lived 'local' to the area**

Of those who noted their age group the vast majority (63%) were **over the age of 55,** with just 5% under the age of 35

A number of local businesses asked to be notified of any future supply chain opportunities

The proposed site

What information would you find useful on the technologies we are considering?

Renewable technologies	Grid connection	Transport routes
Noise impact	Environmental impact	Peat

Information people said they would find useful about the technologies proposed for the energy park included:

- **Renewable technologies proposed** – people wanted to know how these technologies would work together on an energy park, from layout through to visual impact. While people said they knew a lot about 'wind' and 'solar' energy they knew far less about 'hydrogen' and 'battery'.
- **The grid connection** – people asked for more information on how the energy park would connect to the national grid, including the location of the sub-station and what the wider grid infrastructure might be (e.g. 'pylons').
- **Transport routes** – there was interest in the proposed routes for transportation of heavy loads in and out of the energy park during construction.
- **Noise impact** – there were queries on noise impacts from the turbines and how this would be managed.
- **Environmental impact** – people wanted an understanding of any environmental impacts that the energy park might have, including on any peat on site, and on biodiversity. People wanted to know more about the carbon intensity of the infrastructure.

Climate change, policy and planning

A majority of respondents felt the most important 'priorities' to look at when considering 'energy security and tackling climate change' in Powys were:

47% of those who responded when asked **'How concerned are you about climate change, if at all?'** were 'very concerned' about climate change.

70%
energy efficiency

65%
nature/biodiversity

48%
agriculture

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Environmental Impact Assessment assesses all aspects of the proposal.

The outcomes of the surveys and assessments undertaken as part of the EIA work, determine where best to locate the energy infrastructure, and identifies areas where additional measures need to be taken.

The feedback form asked people what issues were most important to them. A majority of respondents noted 'Ecology and nature conservation' (80%); 'Landscape and visual' (76%); 'Noise' (66%); as 'high priorities for me' when asked 'which of these topics are priorities to you when considering this project'.

Specific comments have been grouped under a number of themes for the project team to consider as they develop the proposal further:

- **Landscape and visual impact** – the visual impact of the energy park.
- **Grid connection** – how the project would be connected to the grid and any likely infrastructure such as a sub-station.
- **Transportation** – traffic during construction stage.
- **Noise** – wind turbine noise and its impact on the tranquillity of the area as well as on specific businesses.
- **Ecology and Nature Conservation** – consideration of the biodiversity of the local area and a desire to see a net gain of biodiversity and in areas such as native woodland.
- **Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Geology** – protecting water courses in order to avoid flooding further downstream.
- **Peat** – avoiding peatland loss as well as exploration of peatland restoration possibilities.
- **Ornithology** – making sure up to date bird data is used (e.g. red kite numbers).
- **Shadow Flicker** – consideration of 'shadow' and any wider impact on aviation.

Taking on board your comments

Over recent weeks the project team has been addressing a number of direct comments raised in the informal consultation. The team has also been carrying out further research, speaking to specialists and liaising directly with individuals who live locally and raised specific queries during the early stage informal consultation.

The things that people have told us will help inform the way we develop the proposal. We are looking at the issues that have been raised and will try to address any concerns, as well as identify further opportunities to maximise the benefit of the project to the local area.

Investing in the area

When asked to share ideas of what is important for the area:

73%

Environmental protection and enhancement topped the responses (73%)

59%

Energy efficiency measures for public and domestic buildings mentioned by 59%

49%

Skills and employment mentioned by 49%

When thinking about what the future challenges and opportunities are for the local area a broad grouping of themes became apparent:

- **Local employment and skilled workforce** – one of the key 'challenges' for people in the area was finding employment as well as ensuring the workforce was adequately skilled for the needs of the future.
- **Transport links, infrastructure, connectivity and broadband** – lack of adequate public transport and connectivity was noted as an issue. This included the absence of adequate public transport provision.
- **Incentives for the community** – perceived lack of investment in the local communities.
- **Tranquillity and minimum visual impact** – a number of people saw little opportunity and didn't want any change to the 'tranquillity' of the area.
- **Community benefits** – including enhanced bike trails and foot paths at the energy park were also logged for future consideration.
- **Wider comments** – including the need for increased habitat restoration, healthcare provision, local renewable energy, as well as traffic concerns.

Next steps...

A large number of those who engaged with the informal consultation process wanted to be kept updated about the energy park's future development. Suggestions about how this could be done included a newsletter sent to homes, further events, and wider online opportunities to learn more.

All of the feedback has been shared with the relevant specialists to make sure that comments, ideas and concerns are fully considered in the design of the project. We will also continue dialogue over the coming months to explore the ideas and priorities raised to see what can be built into the project to make the most of the possible benefits and opportunities.

One particular area where valuable feedback was received was regarding possible transportation route options to site. As such we are now assessing a larger number of routes than initially envisioned and while this has meant further time is needed to carry out our studies, along with project timeline delay, we believe this will ultimately lead to establishing the best transportation route possible.

Contact us

You are welcome to get in touch with us at any time with any queries:

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