



The Planning Inspectorate Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio

Inception Meeting: 3264571 – Y Bryn Windfarm

Tuesday 8 December 2020 13:30 – 14:30

Via Video Conference

Attendees:

Coriolis Energy

Trevor Hunter – Project Manager

Natural Power

Ffion Edwards – EIA Coordinator

Thirty4/7

Will Morgan - Communications

Planning Inspectorate

Robert Sparey – Planning & Environment Manager

Giulia Bazzoni – Planning Officer

Chris Sweet – Planning Officer

Harry Edgeworth – Casework Team Lead

Nina Kinsey – Case Officer

Holly Venus – Case Officer

Welsh Government

Alan Groves – Decisions Branch, Planning Directorate

Meeting Note:

Overview

The Planning Inspectorate Wales (the Inspectorate) met with the above representatives regarding the proposed scheme at Bryn and Penhydd Forests, between Port Talbot and Maesteg on land owned by NRW.

Currently the scheme proposed is up to twenty-six 6.6 MW turbines with battery storage. No secondary consents are currently identified, but there is potential for a secondary consent planning application for the related grid connection. Current estimated submission would be approximately April / May 2022.

TH gave an overview of the scheme, its location and key characteristics including the scale and number of turbines proposed.

Publicity

WM gave an overview of the proposed engagement strategy; including plans for virtual consultation and engagement where required due to ongoing restrictions.

Environmental Impact Assessment

FE talked through the current state of play with initial survey work and there was some discussion around consultation with statutory consultees, both within and prior to the

formal steps of the EIA process. FE confirmed that a scoping direction request is likely to be submitted to the Inspectorate in January 2021.

Other Matters

The Inspectorate answered a number of questions from the applicant around the DNS process including timescales for determination, identification of parties to be notified, fees and the potential for pre-application advice.

There was a brief discussion regarding the statutory Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Consent system in Wales. The Inspectorate raised the importance of early discussions with the SuDS Approving Body (SAB), as SuDS consent is a separate matter to planning permission but may have design implications for the scheme.

The Inspectorate advised that regular communication regarding timescales would be useful in order to effectively allocate resources. The developers confirmed they would keep in contact regarding progress as appropriate.

Agreed Actions

The Inspectorate agreed to provide the applicants with information on past examination timescales and examples of pre-application advice given on previous schemes.