

Attending

Bute Energy:

[Information redaction – Bute representative 1]

[Information redaction – Bute representative 1]

[Information redaction – Bute representative 3]

Welsh Government:

Julie James, Minister for Climate Change (MCC)

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

Introductions

The Bute team introduced themselves and screen shared a slide pack to support the discussion.

[Information redaction – Bute representative 1]

described the company, its office in Cardiff and proposed offices in other areas in Wales and in Edinburgh, and its investment partner. He outlined the broad portfolio with the potential pipeline of projects: 16 plus sites, 2.1 GW capacity. Sites all have a grid connection contract by 2028. First site is due to be operational in 2025.

Bute has looked to offer equity to some landowners where appropriate.

Bute has established Green GEN Cymru, a separate grid company under the Bute umbrella that will operate independently. Bute is seeking to solve the challenge of grid in rural Wales. It will be a regulated independent network distribution operator (IDNO) that can bring forward generation in a rapid timeline. Their proposal is not solely for the benefit of Bute: other developers can connect in. They consider the solution to be strategic for mid or rural Wales and less disruptive than other plans.

MCC explained Welsh Government is working with UK Gov to develop a plan for properly planned and optimised grid across Wales. She is keen to understand what Bute is planning & how this fits into the planned grid. The infrastructure built must be effective, the most strategic and efficient – the smallest grid for maximum benefit. She remembers the previous plans for grid in rural Wales and the response. MCC has already received correspondence from landowners on Bute's early engagement with them.

MCC was clear that grid needs community buy in and acceptance, which requires good design. People also need to feel they benefit from large scale wind. MCC described how households off the gas grid using oil heating see large wind farms and feel they don't benefit.

[Information redaction – Bute representative 2] and [Information redaction – Bute representative 3] described Bute’s grid proposals, for three high capacity 132 kv circuits allowing bidirectional flow of power. Where possible they are planning for wood pole lines. The main lines are 800 MW capacity, to allow communities in mid Wales to have better networks. Bute is in discussion with NGED and SPEN to discuss how these new lines can connect to their systems and offer local generation/demand connections. This should allow EVs, heat pumps and other low carbon technologies (LCTs) to connect. Bute considered this to be the early stages of a new type of system, potentially linking to the new transmission network under early development by NGET.

MCC reiterated that Bute should meet with officials to share more detail to allow us to see how this aligns with our outcomes.

[Information redaction – Bute representative 1]

described how access to high-speed broadband can really enable business in mid Wales and the new Bute grid infrastructure could offer a suitable means of delivery. The network could also unlock hydrogen as a fuel source, generated by renewable energy.

Bute has begun to engage with landowners and initial reception has been positive. The plans are more sensitive to landscape than previous proposals as the infrastructure is half as big. They are keen to listen to communities.

MCC said it was useful to have sight of proposals and asked Bute to speak in more detail with officials, as grid needs to be planned and we need to understand how this fits with existing processes.

Action: Bute Energy to propose participants for a meeting with officials.

Inception Meeting - 8 December 2022



Developments of National Significance Inception Meeting:

Llyn Lort Energy Park, DNS Case Reference - CAS-02362-P3S4H4

Thursday 08 December 2022 14:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Bute Energy

[Information redaction – Bute Energy representative]

Carney Sweeney

[Information redaction – Carney Sweeney representative]

Planning and Environment Decisions

Wales (PEDW)

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

RSK

[Information redaction – RKA representative 1]

[Information redaction – RKA representative 2]

Applicant – Bute Energy

Site Address - Land approximately 5.5 KM South-West of Llanerfyl

Meeting Note:

Representatives from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) met with the above named potential project team regarding a proposed 24 / 25 Turbine Wind Farm located

approximately 7 km NE of the existing 'Carno' Wind Farm, close to the existing 'Carnedd Wen' and 'Tir Gwynt' Wind Farms and approximately 24 km NW of the boundary of Snowdonia National Park. It is understood that the entirety of the application site lies within the administrative boundary of Powys County Council.

The project team prepared a slideshow presentation which was shared on screen during the discussions which took place.

The location of the proposed Wind Farm has been selected so as to avoid as many local and nationally designated sites as possible e.g. SSSI's, SAC's etc. The proposed site was also included in, the now superseded, TAN 8 search area. It is now in the pre-assessed area 3 as shown in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040.

A lot of the survey and feasibility work has already taken place. 2 years' worth of Ecological and Ornithological surveys have also taken place. Cumulative effect studies (given the number of existing Wind Farms already in the same area) have also been carried out.

Peat and Best Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land was discussed. PEDW referred the project team to the agricultural land classification predictive map guidance <https://gov.wales/agricultural-land-classification-predictive-map-guidance> and the E-Mail address for the Agricultural Land Use Planning Department of Welsh Government - lqas@gov.wales. PEDW confirmed that they are also consulting this team with Scoping requests moving forward with regards to Peat.

The project team confirmed that they will be undertaking community engagement in the form of consultation events, hosting a project website, engaging with Community Councils, using 'maildrops', placing notices in local newspapers and setting up a Community Benefits team. It is anticipated that the non-statutory consultation will begin in Spring (March) 2023, with the formal statutory consultation beginning in December 2023.

There was a discussion regarding Secondary Consents. The project team confirmed that it is not yet known exactly which Secondary Consents might be applied for. There is a possibility that the Application might be accompanied by one / some of the following Secondary Consents – Common Land, Public Rights of Way and Highways. Discussion was held regarding the likely route for the consents – either to the Local Planning Authority (following a possible granting of the planning permission) or submitted as Secondary Consents alongside the Application. PEDW advised that if the project team elect to submit Rights of Way and / or Highways application(s) as Secondary Consents, that they would need to contact the Transport and Orders Branch of the Welsh Government well in advance of any proposed application submission to agree draft Orders prior to their submission as Secondary Consents. PEDW agreed to send the project team a copy of its draft guidance regarding Common Land Secondary Consents.

The project team were advised to engage meaningfully with Community and Specialist consultees as much and as often as possible and to seek pre-application advice from the Local Planning Authority.

The project team outlined the following 'key milestones':

Scoping request submitted to PEDW – February 2023

Notification of an intention to submit an Application submitted to PEDW – Q3 2023

Application(s) submitted to PEDW – March 2024

PEDW asked to be informed of any changes to the expected submissions timetable in order to assist with resource planning.

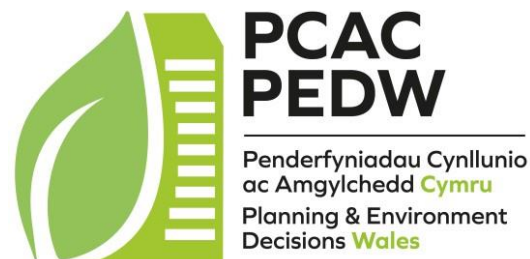
If any further pre-application advice is required, the project team should contact PEDW to discuss their paid pre-application service, however, any advice given is always on a without prejudice basis to the future handling of the application by the appointed Inspector or the Welsh Ministers.

PEDW requested that a Shapefile, in the following format, be provided in advance of the submission of the Scoping request:

- Polygon geometry type, consisting of one or more polygon features representing the proposed DNS site boundary;
- A single Shapefile provided as a zip file using the default WinZip settings (i.e. no encryption, normal compression etc.);
- The zip file must contain one of each of the following files: prj, dbf, shp, shx; and
- There must not be any other files within the zip file;
- In British National Grid (OSGB1936) format;
- If the proposed DNS site boundary comprises a number of separate discrete polygons, these should all be included within the single shape file contained in the zip file.

To aid PEDW with its Consultation (when the Application is submitted for Examination), it would be helpful if the Grid References (Easting and Northing) for each Turbine proposed could be provided as a standalone document.

Inception Meeting - 8 December 2022



Developments of National Significance Inception Meeting: CAS-02379-G1Z1J0

Nant Mithil Grid Connection Project

Thursday 08 December 2022 10:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Bute Energy

[Information redaction – Bute Energy representative]

LUC consulting

[Information redaction – LUC representative]

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

Welsh Government Planning Directorate (Decisions Branch)

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

Meeting Note:

Planning Environment and Decisions Wales (PEDW) and the Welsh Government representatives met with the above potential project team regarding a proposed grid connection application. The proposal currently of a connection between renewable energy parks in mid-Powys to a new a substation in Carmarthenshire (location to be confirmed – the new substation also falls outside of the remit of this proposal). The connection route will be approximately 90 km long and will utilise L7 lattice towers.

The project team highlighted that, due to the complexity and nature of the scheme, significant study work had already been undertaken that has informed the emerging development proposals. It is anticipated that the Scoping Report will be submitted to PEDW around June 2023, with submission of the DNS scheme itself being around Quarter 1 of 2025. The project team informed the attendees that consultation with statutory consultees was ongoing, and that a non-statutory round of consultation would be undertaken prior to submitting a Scoping request to inform the final choice of connection route to be specified in the Scoping request. The Notification step of the DNS project is likely to be undertaken once the applicants are ready to undertake statutory pre-application publicity and consultation.

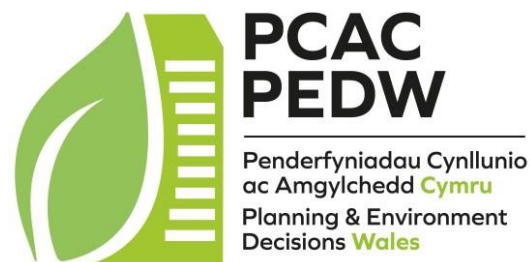
There was a brief conversation relating to Peat and Best Most Versatile (BMV) Agricultural Land; the project team notes that they have taken these considerations into account in the process of defining the emerging development proposals. PEDW referred the project team to the agricultural land classification predictive map guidance <https://gov.wales/agricultural-land-classification-predictive-map-guidance> and the email address for Agricultural Land Use Planning lqas@gov.wales. PEDW confirmed that they are also consulting this team within Scoping Requests moving forward.

There was a brief discussion relating to secondary consents. The developer confirmed that at this time, it is not known what secondary consents may be needed. PEDW advises the team to consult with the DNS guidance published online should they need any assistance - <https://gov.wales/developments-national-significance-dns-guidance>

PEDW asked to be informed of any changes to the expected submission timetable to assist with Inspector resource planning.

If further pre-app advice is required the project team should contact PEDW to discuss their paid pre-application service, however, any advice given is on a without prejudice basis to the outcome.

Inception meeting - 8 June 2022



Developments of National Significance Inception Meeting

Banc Du Energy Park: DNS CAS-01927-F0T2T1 and

Rhiwlas Energy Park: DNS CAS-01928-W3M9S8

Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 14:00

Via Video Conference

Attendees:

Bute Energy

[Information redaction – Bute Energy representative 1]

[Information redaction – Bute Energy representative 2]

[Information redaction – RSK representative]

(PEDW

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

Meeting Note:

Planning Environment and Decisions Wales (PEDW) met with the above representatives regarding the proposed renewable energy park schemes in mid-Wales. Both schemes are near the village of Llangurig, Powys, with Banc Du being to the north west of the village, and Rhiwlas lying to the south / south east of the village.

The applicants briefly summarised the proposed schemes and clarified that some initial desk studies had taken place which had resulted in these schemes coming forward, independently. Each scheme will be applied for as separate DNS applications. However, the applicants are also aware that given the location of both applications, it would be prudent for both sites to be considered cumulatively; for transparency reasons as well as it being easier for consultees and stakeholders. The project programmes for both schemes will therefore run concurrently where possible.

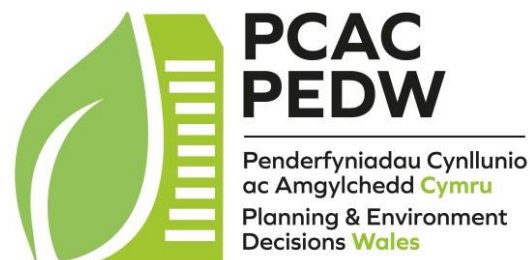
PEDW mentioned that the applicants needed to carefully consider the approach to the Consultation Reports for the two schemes, to ensure that interested parties' representations were placed on the relevant project. Where there is any doubt as to which project a representation relates to, it may be advisable to place the representation on both Consultation Reports.

It is not anticipated at this stage that any secondary consents will be required, however, Bute will confirm the requirement for any secondary consents in advance of the statutory consultation period. Grid connections for these projects will be separate and be subject to individual planning application('s).

The intention is also for the applicants to submit two scoping directions to PEDW in the next few weeks. PEDW requested that a Shapefile is provided for each site boundary with the Scoping Requests.

PEDW requested that the applicants keep PEDW informed of any changes to their expected submission timetable, to assist with Inspector resource planning.

Inception meeting - 11 May 2022



Developments of National Significance Inception Meeting: CAS-01907-D7Q6Z1 - Nant Mithil Energy Park

Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 14:00

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Bute Energy

[Information redaction – Bute representative 1]

[Information redaction – Bute representative 2]

[Information redaction – Bute representative 3]

Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)

[Information redaction – Welsh Government Officials]

David Bell Planning

[Information redaction – David Bell representative]

Land Use Consultants (LUC)

[Information redaction – LUC representative]

[Information redaction – LUC representative]

Meeting Note:

Planning Environment and Decisions Wales (PEDW) met with the above representatives regarding the proposed scheme.

The applicants briefly summarised the scheme, which includes wind, solar and battery storage with ancillary development. The wind element could consist of up to 36 turbines of up to 220 m to tip. The applicants also explained that the grid connection would be subject to a separate DNS application, and that the connection point is in Carmarthenshire.

A Scoping request is being prepared for submission in the near future, and the applicants have undertaken work to inform that submission. The application submission is anticipated to take place in Q3 2023. The grid connection application will likely take place in 2024.

The application will involve some secondary consent applications, likely including S16 and S38 Common Land applications. The scheme will involve widening and fortifying an existing access track across common land. There may also be an off-site secondary consent planning application for access works.

The applicants asked about the status of other DNS wind schemes, and PEDW confirmed that the Upper Ogmore scheme (3213662) is the most advanced to date, being at an advanced stage of examination. PEDW agreed to provide copies of the hearing schedule / agendas for the Upper Ogmore scheme. DNS - CAS-01907-D7Q6Z1 - Nant Mithil Energy Park.

PEDW also agreed to provide guidance regarding Common Land applications and how they may differ when submitted as Secondary Consents to a DNS.

PEDW asked that the applicants keep them updated regarding anticipated submission dates to assist with resource planning.