

Dear

ATISN 22141 – Future Wales and Pre-Assessed Areas for wind energy

Thank you for your request which was received on 27th November 2024. You asked for:

In relation to Future Wales and Pre-Assessed Areas for wind energy:

1. All reports used by Welsh Government to identify the Pre-Assessed Areas.
2. The criteria used to determine that the developments could be progressed in an acceptable way.
3. The analysis and studies completed to determine the aforementioned criteria.

Our response

Our response to the information you requested is: -

The research, '*Assessment of onshore wind and solar energy potential in Wales*', was conducted by consultants Arup on behalf of the Welsh Government to provide evidence to help inform the development of Future Wales (referred to as the National Development Framework during its development) renewable energy policy and to help identify Pre-Assessed Areas (referred to as Priority Areas during the preparation of Future Wales). The research consisted of a [Phase 1 and Phase 2 report](#) which are publicly available on the Welsh Government website (also see Future Wales links listed below).

The research identified possible policy options and conducted a constraints exercise and landscape evaluation aimed at identifying areas that may be suitable for wind and solar energy development in Wales. The assessment methodology is set out in the Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.

Wider engagement and consultation with the public and other interested parties took place as policies (on all planning topics) were being developed by the Welsh Government during the preparation of Future Wales. Future Wales policies 17 and 18, which provide a policy framework to assess large scale renewable energy proposals, were part of the extensive overall consultation and engagement process. The final iteration of Pre-Assessed Areas was informed by the Arup research and the consultation process.

For further information on the final selection and renumbering of Pre-Assessed Areas please see [ATISN \(FOI\) 17200](#), which explains which potential areas were amended or omitted between the publication of the ARUP report (2019) and the final version of Future Wales (2021).

The Future Wales engagement and consultation processes and events are published and available to view on the Welsh Government's Future Wales web pages (under Engagement) and on our Consultation web pages. The 'Consultation Report - Draft National Development Framework (September 2020)' includes summaries of consultation comments on Priority Areas/Pre-Assessed Areas. Individual responses to the Draft National Development Framework (2019) can also be viewed on our website. See list of Future Wales links below which you may find helpful.

Future Wales web site

[Future Wales: the national plan 2040 web site – all principal documents informing the preparation of Future Wales \(apart from consultations see below\)](#)

[NDF Statement of Public Participation](#)

[Summary of Involvement and Engagement](#)

[Assessment of on-shore wind and solar energy potential in Wales](#) (Pre-Assessed Areas)

[Future Wales: frequently asked questions](#)

NDF/Future Wales Consultations

[Draft National Development Framework consultation \(2019\), including consultation documents, consultation report, and consultation responses.](#)

[Future Wales: integrated sustainability appraisal \(January 2021\)](#)

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at: Information Rights Unit, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ or Email: Freedomofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely