

APPLICANT: Y Bryn Wind Farm Limited C.o Agent

AGENT: PEDW Marloes Holtkamp, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ,

Y Bryn Wind Farm - Land at Bryn and Penhydd Forest, located between Port Talbot and Maesteg (CAS-01294-W3D7Y5)

Scoping Report Addendum - A wind farm of up to 18 turbines with battery energy storage and ancillary infrastructure

SITE AND CONTEXT

The proposal falls outside of the administrative area of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and owing to its characteristics, it constitutes a Development of National Significance. As such the responsibility for EIA screening and scoping lies with the Welsh Ministers.

This is a response to a consultation request (as a neighbouring authority) received from Welsh Government for a scoping opinion addendum under the EIA (Wales) Regulations 2017.

DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development is for a wind farm of up to 18 turbines with battery energy storage and ancillary infrastructure. It is located to the east of Port Talbot and to the west of Maesteg, as shown below:



REPORT

In reaching a scoping opinion, the decision maker must have regard to the matters listed in Paragraph 14 (6) of the Regulations (The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017) and before adopting a scoping opinion, the authority must take into account:-

- (a) Any information provided by the applicant about the proposed development;

- (b) The specific characteristics of the particular development;
- (c) The specific characteristics of development of the type concerned; and
- (d) The environmental features likely to be significantly affected by the development.

The proposal is considered to fall under the following section of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations): Schedule 2, Part 3 'Energy Industry', subsection (i), as a windfarm exceeding the stated threshold.

The request for a scoping opinion has been accompanied by a scoping report for the site identifying the following areas where the proposed development could give rise to significant environmental effects. Having considered these, and the potential for cumulative effects, the principal consideration relating to the Vale administrative area are to do with landscape and visual impacts.

It is agreed the matter should be considered an EIA topic and that the scoping information submitted covers that topic in sufficient depth. The scope of the LVIA, which includes assessment of the cumulative impact to a viewpoint on the Wales Coast Path in Ogmores-by-Sea, is also considered appropriate. The documentation indicates that it would be potentially visible from other areas in the Vale. This would include areas locally designated as Special Landscape Areas, and this has been recognised in the documentation. There are also promoted walking routes in these areas (circular trails, walks etc.) from which the development is potentially visible. However, considering the separation distance (>10km), the scope of the LVIA is considered acceptable in relation to Vale-side impacts without recourse to considering additional viewpoints.

No observations are made in relation to the other topics.

RECOMMENDATION

Observations as follows:

1. VoG LPA have no adverse comments and PEDW are advised to consider the observations contained within the attached report.

NOTE:

Please note that this consent is specific to the plans and particulars approved as part of the application. Any departure from the approved plans will constitute unauthorised development and may be liable to enforcement action. You (or any subsequent developer) should advise the Council of any actual or proposed variations from the approved plans immediately so that you can be advised how to best resolve the matter.

In addition, any conditions that the Council has imposed on this consent will be listed above and should be read carefully. It is your (or any subsequent developers) responsibility to ensure that the terms of all conditions are met in full at the appropriate time (as outlined in the specific condition).

The commencement of development without firstly meeting in full the terms of any conditions that require the submission of details prior to the commencement of development will constitute unauthorised development. This will necessitate the submission of a further application to retain the unauthorised development and may render you liable to formal enforcement action.

Failure on the part of the developer to observe the requirements of any other conditions could result in the Council pursuing formal enforcement action in the form of a Breach of Condition Notice.