

Inception Meeting:
CAS-04707-X8P9X1 - Mynydd Tryfan Wind Farm
CAS-04708-Y6C2S2 - Gwytherin Wind Farm
Thursday 28 January at 11:00
Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Alerion UK Ltd

Josh Nicholls
Jake Williams

Axis

Steve Harding
Ben McCormack

**Planning and Environment Decisions
Wales (PEDW)**

Giulia Bazzoni – Infrastructure Consenting Manager
Tali Perry – Student Planner
Hannah Roberts – Infrastructure Consenting Team
Leader
Robert Sparey – Planning and Environment Manager

Representatives from PEDW met with the above-named project representatives regarding Mynydd Tryfan Wind Farm and Gwytherin Wind Farm. The project team confirmed that the projects will be submitted as separate applications, however a joint meeting was considered appropriate due to project timescales and the same team working on all schemes.

Proposed development

Mynydd Tryfan Wind Farm: The site is located in Conwy, approximately 3.7 km east of the settlement of Llansannan and 7.7 km west of the settlement of Denbigh. The proposed development is for the installation and operation of a wind farm of up to 5 no. turbines up to a tip height of 180 metres and associated ancillary development. It is envisaged that the proposed development will have a generation capacity of ~24 MW.

Gwytherin Wind Farm: The site is located in Conwy, approximately 2 km south east of the settlement of Gwytherin and 8.5 km east of the settlement of Llanrwst. The proposed development is for the installation and operation of a wind farm of up to 5 no. turbines up to a tip height of 180 metres and associated ancillary development. It is envisaged that the Proposed Development will have a generation capacity of ~24 MW.

Consenting approach

The project team confirmed their intention to progress as a Development of National Significance (DNS) for the time being. However, should the project timescale be delayed, the project team enquired about transferring to the new Significant Infrastructure Projects (SIP) consenting process.

PEDW confirmed that the threshold for a project to be submitted as a SIP is set out in the primary legislation within Part 1 of the Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024, with Section 2 being relevant for 'Electricity Infrastructure':

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asc/2024/3/contents>

The relevant threshold for generating stations is that they should be expected to have an installed generating capacity of between 50 and 350 megawatts when constructed. As the proposed projects have a generating capacity of 24 MW each, they do not meet the legislative threshold and therefore cannot be submitted as SIPs. PEDW advised that the criteria for the purpose of Section 22(c) of the 2024 Act, i.e. projects that could be classed as SIP subject to ministerial direction, are published in Schedule 1 to the Infrastructure Consent (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2025:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2025/887/contents/made>

Post meeting, PEDW checked the regulations and, for energy projects, the lower thresholds is a generating capacity of 35 MW. Therefore, individually, the two projects do not qualify.

PEDW advised the developers to liaise with Planning Directorate regarding directing that the projects are SIPs. PEDW advised that any future request to the Welsh Ministers should clearly explain why the project team believe the two projects should be transferred to the new infrastructure consenting process and not stay as planning applications to be determined by the relevant planning authority.

The applicant is advised to submit a written request via the PEDW infrastructure mailbox PEDW.Infrastructure@gov.wales which can be passed on to the Planning Directorate for a decision.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Scoping Requests for the two projects as individual DNS cases have been submitted and the consultations with relevant Specialist Consultees are underway.

Timescales

PEDW advised that the DNS process must be completed by 2027 due to the savings provisions relevant to DNS within the relevant SIP legislation. PEDW also highlighted that, the process will be subject to a more rigid framework with limited scope for flexibility.

The project team confirmed their anticipated timelines for the projects are as follows:

- January 2026 - February 2026 – Pre-application
- February 2026 – March 2026 – EIA Scoping
- February 2026 – June 2026 – Draft Planning Application
- July 2026 – September 2026 – Statutory Pre-Application consultations and Design Finalisation
- October 2026 – November 2026 – Final Planning Application
- December 2026 – Review / Editing
- December 2026 – Submission

PEDW pointed out that the timescale is quite short, especially considering the ornithology survey timescales. PEDW encouraged the applicant to consider a contingency plan should the timescale slip. PEDW stressed that, should Natural Resource Wales have any concerns regarding the length of the ornithological surveys, there is a potential risk that the ES will not be considered complete in terms of robustness of the baseline when submitted.

Should the applicant consider requesting a transfer to SIP, PEDW reported that the legislation does not give the Minister the power to direct the applicant to “do” something, i.e. to undertake certain publicity measures, but can only direct that certain requirements of the SIP process are disapplied. It is therefore important that, in a hypothetical request to the Welsh Minister to direct that the two projects are one SIP, the Applicant clearly explain what has been done during pre-application against the 2024 Act requirements and why they consider other requirements should be disapplied.

PEDW highlighted that submitting a project as a Significant Infrastructure Project (SIP) carries several implications, including a draft bilingual Infrastructure Consenting Order (ICO) and explanatory memorandum. PEDW guidance for the submission process is provided here: <https://www.gov.wales/significant-infrastructure-projects-sip-guidance>

Alternatively, the Applicant is encouraged to explore a potential future submission with the relevant planning authority.

Finally, PEDW asked some clarification in terms of potential Secondary consents, should the application progress as DNS. The project team explained that it is currently not clear and the aim would be to avoid including common land within the site if possible.