



# BELLTOWNPOWER

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## Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub Update

August 2024

To whom it may concern,

In June 2023 we invited you to our first, non-statutory, public consultation event for the Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub. Following our newsletter of January this year, we wanted to provide a further update on our project progress and timelines.

**Project recap:** Waun Maenllwyd is approximately 3.5km southeast of Llanddewi Brefi in Ceredigion. The site comprises commercially managed forestry with some open moorland used for sheep grazing.

Most of Waun Maenllwyd falls into Pre-Assessed Area (PAA) 6, as defined in *Future Wales: The National Plan 2040*. This means that the Welsh Government has 'modelled the likely impact [of turbines] on the landscape and has found the PAAs capable of accommodating large-scale wind development in an acceptable way' (Policy 17).

If consented, Waun Maenllwyd would have a capacity of 25.2 megawatts (MW); enough clean energy to power over 20,000<sup>1</sup> households per year, the equivalent of two-thirds of homes in Ceredigion. It would save over 1.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide over its expected 40-year lifetime.

**Grid connection:** Waun Maenllwyd would connect to the local electricity network at Lampeter substation via a new 33kV overhead line, which would use wooden poles like those already in the area. No pylons are required for this project. The route would be designed by National Grid Electricity Distribution and be subject to its own Development of National Significance (DNS) planning application process, which would include pre-application public consultations.

**Planning surveys and site design:** Specialist consultants are carrying out extensive surveys and analysis for the various environmental considerations required to prepare our planning application, including, but not limited to, visual impact, ecology, ornithology, hydrology, peat, cultural heritage, shadow flicker and noise. More information about the work we've been doing can be found on the project website - [www.waunmaenllwyd.com](http://www.waunmaenllwyd.com).

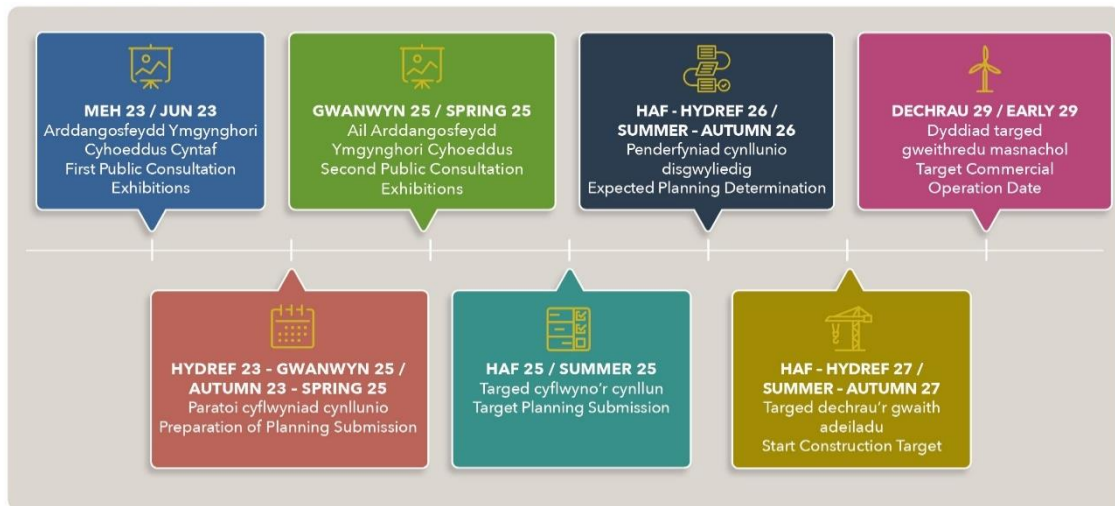
**Access:** We continue to work with stakeholders on access from the public highway at Pumsaint, while finalising surveys and engineering considerations. More detail will be available once a route is finalised.

**Project Timeline:** Prior to submitting a planning application and an accompanying Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), local residents will have the opportunity to feedback on our draft planning application during a six-week Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) period. This will include further exhibition events to share the revised plans, taking into account the feedback to date.

Unfortunately, we have encountered some unexpected delays this year and as a result, we now anticipate submitting our planning application in Autumn 2025, with our PAC period and public exhibitions in Spring/Summer 2025; approximately nine months later than previously planned. We will be in touch again prior to the launch of the next phase of consultation to provide details of our events and where to find out more information.

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<sup>1</sup> RenewableUK, Statistics explained



*Mae'r amserlenni uchod yn ddangosol a gallant newid / The above timescales are indicative and subject to change.*

**Community Offering:** Belltown Power fundamentally believes that renewable energy projects should benefit the local communities that host them. We are offering a fixed £5,000 per MW every year to the community for the lifetime of the project, which is expected to be around 40 years. With a capacity of up to 25.2MW, this would be around £126,000 each year or just over £5 million in total over the expected project lifetime. The income is guaranteed each year from when the turbines begin operating and is index linked so will also rise with inflation.

In addition, Belltown Power is also offering a material amount of project ownership (at least 15%) to the local community. Of this, Belltown Power would donate 1% ownership at no cost; an additional 4% would be available to purchase at cost price (a substantial discount from market price); and further ownership would be available at market price.

From the initial consultations last year, the most popular suggestion for use of the Community Offering was support with energy bills. We have therefore identified a potential Electricity Discount Scheme (EDS) which could provide fixed annual reductions to electricity bills for local homes and businesses near to the proposed turbines, whilst also ensuring funds are still available to support other local projects and initiatives. We are keen to hear any further feedback or ideas about what the funds could be used for. We encourage you to either contact us via the details below or reach out to your local Community Council who can share your ideas with us.

**Public Consultation and Feedback:** Since the first consultation events we have been engaging with Community and County Councils, Ward Councillors, MSs and MPs in the local area, to inform them about Waun Maenllwyd and hear their feedback and input to our Community Offering proposals. We have had many engaging and productive conversations and look forward to continuing working with your community representatives to maximise the local benefits.

More detailed information and answers to the most frequently asked questions about the project can be found on our website at [www.waunmaenllwyd.com](http://www.waunmaenllwyd.com). Please don't hesitate to get in contact using the details below if there is anything you would like to discuss.

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