

RWE npower renewables

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Wind Power News

Brechfa Forest Wind Farm proposal

Ffynnon Oer wind farm near Neath, South Wales. Constructed by RWE npower renewables in 2006. Photographs of existing operational wind farms within this newsletter are not intended to represent the appearance of the proposed Brechfa Forest Wind Farm.

Introducing RWE npower renewables

RWE npower renewables would like to take this early opportunity to introduce itself to the people and communities in and around Brechfa Forest, Carmarthenshire.

We are pleased to have signed an Option Agreement with the Welsh Assembly Government to potentially develop a wind farm on land managed by Forestry Commission Wales (on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government) in Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8) Strategic Search Area (SSA) G – Brechfa Forest in South West Wales.

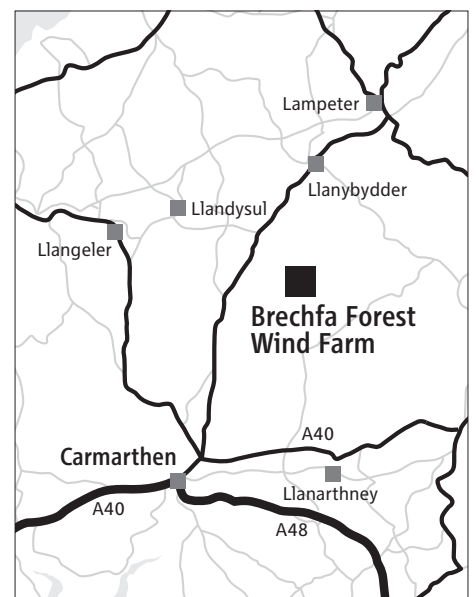
This means we have been given permission to investigate the site and pursue planning permission for a potential wind farm in the area.

The scheme is at a very early stage and requires extensive environmental site

studies to be carried out before we can begin to firm up any significant details, such as size of the potential wind farm, numbers and heights of turbines and a potential layout. Consequently, until these studies are well and truly underway, we do not have a great deal of detailed information.

However, we are beginning to carry out those studies now, so that we can start to share the details of our proposals with you as soon as possible (see later in this newsletter for how we will do that). We will then invite you to contribute your views and ideas so that we can develop a proposal which is sympathetic to the area and which takes proper account of your views.

We look forward to working with you!



Location of Brechfa Forest Wind Farm site, in South West Wales.

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What's happened so far?

In 2005, Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) invited renewable energy developers to express their interest in developing wind farms on land managed by FCW and identified within TAN 8. RWE npower renewables was announced as the preferred

bidder in 2008. We are preparing to commence the relevant environmental studies required to develop a proposal at this site, and are seeking the initial opinions of key statutory organisations.

The proposed development area

The proposed project would be located within the county of Carmarthenshire, between 11km and 20km south/south-west of Lampeter and between 12km and 23km north east of Carmarthen.

The proposed development area comprises two geographically distinct areas of upland plateau. The first area is centred around the Afon Pib Valley, east of Alltwalis and the second area around Banc Llywelau, south of Rhydcymerau.

The proposed development has a number of key features, which are important for

the development of a successful wind farm, such as:

- a) strong and persistent winds increasing the energy produced by the turbines
- b) a large land area allowing a wind farm design with good separation distances from nearby properties
- c) access to the existing road network
- d) it is outside of international, national and county landscape and ecological designations
- e) Brechfa Forest lies within one of the SSAs (Area G) identified by the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) in TAN 8 as being suitable for large-scale wind farms.

About Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8

In its document Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement on Renewable Energy 2005, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) recognizes that wind energy offers "the greatest potential for an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy, at least in the short to medium term."

To enable wind to take this leading role in the fight against climate change, WAG

concluded that large scale wind farms should only be developed in specific areas of Wales, called Strategic Search Areas (SSAs). These were detailed in its TAN 8 planning policy document. TAN 8 identifies 7 areas in Wales where wind farms could be best sited, by looking at factors such as wind speeds, proximity to houses, and important landscape or ecological designations.

Ongoing Communications

Throughout the development of our proposals for Brechfa Forest, RWE npower renewables will keep you up to date with progress and provide opportunities for dialogue with local communities and stakeholders interested in the project. We will do this through our newsletters, updates to our website and through the local press.

As part of our commitment to developing the site in consultation with local communities, we will establish public consultation opportunities, including

a series of public exhibitions later on in the process.

We have set up a website containing information about the scheme and this will be regularly updated:
www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest

If you have any questions about the scheme, please don't hesitate to contact us.
By email: brechfaforest@rwe.com
Or by post: Brechfa Forest RWE npower renewables, Unit 22, Technium: Sustainable Technologies, Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park, Port Talbot, South Wales, SA12 7AX.

RWE npower renewables in Wales

RWE npower renewables is one of the UK's leading renewable energy companies, dedicated to generating electricity using sustainable, environmentally friendly resources.

We develop, build and operate renewable energy schemes across the UK, and are particularly proud of our heritage in Wales, where our oldest hydro-electric power station has been operating for over 100 years.

Across Wales, we operate a number of onshore wind farms, in north, mid and south Wales. Our latest, Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm, north of Neath, became fully operational in 2006, and we have submitted proposals for three further wind farms, including a major wind farm near Welshpool, which incorporates one of the largest habitat restoration projects in Wales.

Offshore in Wales, our company developed and operates the UK's first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle, near Rhyl; we are currently constructing our second offshore wind farm, Rhyl Flats and we have recently received permission to build a third, Gwynt y Môr.

We also operate six hydroelectric power stations around Wales, and have based our UK operations control centre at Dolgarrog, Conwy. Finally, RWE npower renewables has a number of established office bases in North, South and Mid Wales, and employs over a third of its UK staff in Wales.