

# Wind Power News



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.

## Welcome to the Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm newsletter

This February, RWE npower renewables is launching its formal consultation period for Brechfa Forest West.

### Background

RWE npower renewables is proposing to build a wind farm, with a generating capacity of between 56 and 84 megawatts (MW), at Brechfa Forest, Carmarthenshire, known as Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm. This will involve the construction of 28 wind turbines, 9.1km of new access tracks and the upgrade of around 12.7km of existing access tracks. Also construction of other wind farm components including an onsite substation, hardstanding areas, external transformers, underground cabling and one permanent wind monitoring mast.

As the generating capacity of the wind farm is over 50 megawatts (MW), the planning application will be determined by the Infrastructure Planning Commission

under the provisions of the Planning Act 2008 (the Act).

The Act requires applicants to carry out pre-application consultation on the development proposal under Section 42 of The Act. Groups that must be consulted include local authorities, a prescribed list of public and regulatory bodies and those who own or have an interest in the land affected by the project.

In addition, RWE npower renewables, as the applicant, must consult with the local community under Section 47 of the Act. In November 2010, RWE npower renewables published a Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) which outlined how

The consultation period will start on 10th February and will last for 56 days. All Consultation responses must be received by 5pm on 6th April to be considered. The Brechfa Forest West team look forward to meeting you at our public exhibitions – details of which are included in this newsletter – and to discussing our proposals for Brechfa Forest West.

we will consult local people on our plans to develop Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm.

Comments made during the consultation process will be recorded and considered carefully by the project team. A consultation report will be prepared, setting out the comments and feedback that has been received and describing how the issues raised have been dealt with. The IPC must take into account the consultation report in its consideration of the application.

# What are we consulting on?

During the consultation period, we will be consulting local people, users of the forest and statutory consultees about the Brechfa Forest West Wind Farm project.

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 require us to consult on 'preliminary environmental information'. For the purposes of this consultation, the 'preliminary environmental information' is a full draft Environmental Statement for the site, setting out all of the environmental work that has been completed at Brechfa Forest West to date.

A number of documents will be available for consideration during the consultation period:

- a full draft Environmental Statement which sets out the results of the assessment of likely impacts of the wind farm development on the environment, including mitigation measures to minimise any predicted environmental impacts

- a non-technical summary of the draft Environmental Statement – available in English and Welsh
- a draft Planning Statement setting out the planning context for the proposed wind farm.

We will be seeking opinions about the proposal, including ways in which it may be changed or improved. People may like to comment on how the benefits of the scheme could be maximised or how impacts can be minimised.

It is important to be clear about what we are and what we are not consulting on. The following table provides a breakdown of example subjects:

Consulting on	Not consulting on
Turbine layout	The need for renewable energy
Siting of other infrastructure	Suitability of the Brechfa Forest Strategic Search Area for wind farm development
Surveys undertaken	The grid connection (subject to a separate application)
Proposed mitigation	

# How are we consulting?

Local consultation will take place as described in our SoCC, which is available on our website – [www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest](http://www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest)

Throughout the consultation period, the full consultation materials will be available at a number of local venues. In addition, consultation exhibitions will take place in venues near to Brechfa Forest.

The events will give local people the chance to find out more about the plans to develop a new wind farm at Brechfa Forest West and formally give their views.

Consultation materials will also be available on our website – [www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest](http://www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest) and copies of the non-technical summary are available free of charge on request. If you wish to purchase a copy of the Environmental Statement, DVD copies are available for £10 and in hard copy format at a cost of £250.

Venues where documents will be available:  
**Carmarthen Planning Office**  
 (9am – 5pm) Planning Services  
 Carmarthenshire County Council  
 40 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LQ

**Carmarthen Library**  
 (Monday – Wednesday and Friday: 9.30am to 7pm, Thursday and Saturday: 9.30am – 5pm)  
 St. Peters Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LN

**Llandeilo Planning Office** (9am – 5pm)  
 Planning Services Civic Offices,  
 Llandeilo, SA19 6HW

**Llandeilo Library** (Tuesdays and Fridays  
 10am – 12noon, 1.30pm – 4.30pm,  
 5pm – 7pm; Wednesdays 1.30pm – 5.30pm;  
 Saturdays 10am – 12noon)  
 Crescent Road, Llandeilo, SA19 6HN

## Public exhibitions details

**Friday 18 February 2011**

**2pm – 8pm**

Brechfa Church Hall  
 St. Teilo, Brechfa  
 Carmarthenshire, SA32 7BL

**Saturday 26 February 2011**

**10am – 3pm**

Llanybydder Community School  
 Llanybydder, Carmarthenshire  
 SA40 9RP

**Monday 28 February 2011**

**2pm to 8pm**

Llanllwni Church Community Hall  
 Llanllwni, Pencader  
 Carmarthenshire, SA39 9DR

**Thursday 10 March 2011**

**2pm to 8pm**

Llanpumsaint Memorial Hall  
 Heol Y Neuadd, Llanpumsaint  
 Carmarthenshire, SA33 6BZ

**Saturday 19 March 2011**

**12pm to 5pm**

Llanllwni Church Community Hall  
 Llanllwni, Pencader  
 Carmarthenshire, SA39 9DR

**Saturday 26 March 2011**

**12pm – 5pm**

Brechfa Church Hall  
 St. Teilo, Brechfa  
 Carmarthenshire, SA32 7BL

### Brechfa Community Shop

(Monday and Thursday 9am – 1pm,  
 Tuesday and Saturday 9am – 12noon)  
 Brechfa, Carmarthen  
 Carmarthenshire, SA32 7QY

### The Old School Community Centre

(only between 9am-4pm)  
 Llansawel Road, Llanybydder  
 SA40 9RN

### Gwyddgrug Post Office

(9am – 5pm)  
 Gwyddgrug, Pencader  
 Carmarthenshire, SA39 9AX

### Pencader Post Office & Albion Stores

Albion Stores, Pencader  
 Carmarthenshire, SA39 9ES

# How to respond to the consultation

RWE npower renewables is keen for people to respond in writing. Comments can be made by filling in a feedback form with a number of set questions which can be sent out on request, is available on our website and can be picked up at the exhibitions. Alternatively, you can write to us or email us with your feedback on the proposals. We request that any responses include contact information including a name and an address to which any correspondence relating to the consultation can be sent.

Please note that your feedback will be passed onto Carmarthenshire County Council and the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). Your comments and contact details may be made public in a Consultation Report that will document all comments received and how they have been acted upon. This report will be submitted to the IPC as part of the Brechfa Forest West planning application.

Consultation responses must be received by 5pm on 6th April.

## Contact us

Brechfa Forest West Consultation,  
RWE npower renewables Unit 22  
Technium, Central Avenue  
Baglan Energy Park  
Port Talbot, SA12 7AX

Email: [brechfaforest@rwe.com](mailto:brechfaforest@rwe.com)

Phone (for information only):

01639 816180

Website: [www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest](http://www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest)

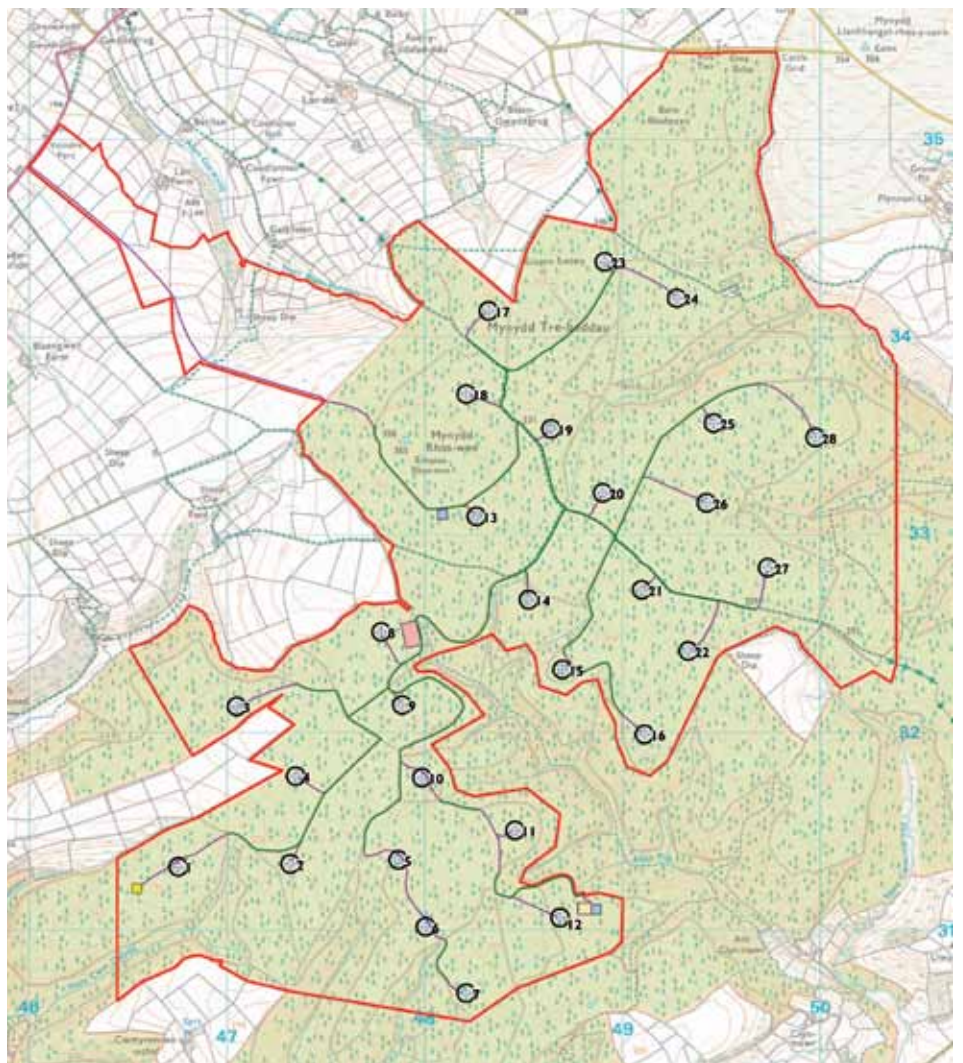
## Project details

The main components of the scheme are:

- installation of 28 wind turbines (each with a maximum height to blade tip of 145 metres)
- construction of approximately 9.1 km of new onsite access tracks and the upgrading of 12.7 km of existing access track
- construction of an onsite substation, hardstanding areas, external transformers, underground cabling and one permanent wind monitoring mast
- creation of two temporary construction compounds
- working of one new borrow pit for the extraction of stone to be used elsewhere on the site
- a period of felling works to take place prior to construction.

Brechfa Forest West could accommodate an installed capacity of between 56 and 84 megawatts (MW). The average annual generation expected at the site would be equivalent to the approximate domestic needs of up to 39,700 average UK households. This figure is based on annual electricity consumption per home of 4,700 kWh and is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority.

Subject to the IPC granting planning permission, construction is likely to be completed over 22 months. It is estimated that up to 150 people will be directly employed on the site during the 22 month construction period.



Brechfa Forest West - Site Layout

The wind farm will have an operational life of 25 years. At the end of this period, the turbines will be dismantled and removed from the site, unless further planning permission is sought.

### Key

- Site boundary
- Turbine locations and likely rotor sweep
- Met mast
- Existing tracks
- New tracks
- Substation
- Borrow pit
- Construction compounds

# Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm planning application

## Plans submitted for wind farm that could power 15,700 homes

RWE npower renewables is proposing another wind farm project at Brechfa Forest – Brechfa Forest East.

RWE npower renewables has recently submitted a planning application to Carmarthenshire County Council for Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm, located to the South of Rhydcymerau.

Brechfa Forest East is a 12 turbine wind farm with an installed capacity of between 24 and 36MW and, when fully operational, could be capable of generating enough energy to supply the needs of up to 15,700 average UK households (1).

Prior to submission, a programme of public engagement was held about the proposal, which included a number of public exhibitions in local venues. RWE npower renewables also set up a Community Liaison Group, involving a number of representatives from local groups with an interest in RWE npower renewables' two proposals for Brechfa Forest.

Jenny Prothero, Renewables Developer at RWE npower renewables said: "Our proposal for Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm has been developed in consultation with Carmarthenshire County Council and Forestry Commission Wales. The wind farm could make an important contribution toward Wales' renewable energy targets as well as creating up to 100 jobs during construction."

Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm is in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government's planning guidance Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8), which identifies Brechfa Forest as

suitable for the development of large scale renewable energy schemes.

As part of the application, RWE npower renewables has submitted a detailed Environmental Statement (ES). This brings together the findings of a wide ranging Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), led by environmental consultants Land Use Consultants (LUC).

Carmarthenshire County Council will now hold its own consultation on the application before it is considered by the Planning Committee, and will advertise details of where the application documents can be viewed. Any comments should be made in writing, and quoting the application reference number (E/24195), to Head of Planning at Planning Services, Carmarthenshire County Council, 40 Spilman Street, Carmarthen, SA31 1LE or by emailing [planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk). Information about the application can also be found at: <http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/english/environment/planning/applications/pages/viewapplicationsonline.aspx>



**Footnotes:**

<sup>1</sup>Equivalent homes supplied is based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh. This figure is supported by recent domestic electricity consumption data available from The Digest of UK Energy Statistics and household estimates and projections from the UK Statistics Authority.

This booklet is printed on paper which is made from FSC certified pulp and has been printed using vegetable inks.

If you would like this newsletter in larger print please contact us on:  
01738 825132

## Contact us

If you have any questions about the proposal then members of the project team would be pleased to meet you at the public exhibitions.

However, if you are unable to attend, please don't hesitate to contact the team.

**E-mail**  
[brechfaforest@rwe.com](mailto:brechfaforest@rwe.com)

**Telephone**  
01639 816180

**Web**  
Our website is regularly updated:  
[www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest](http://www.npower-renewables.com/brechfaforest)



**Post**  
Brechfa Forest RWE npower renewables,  
Unit 22, Technium: Sustainable Technologies,  
Central Avenue, Baglan Energy Park, Port  
Talbot, South Wales, SA12 7AX