

# Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility

## Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report



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## 1. Introduction/Context

This 'Pre-Application Consultation Report' (PAC Report), relates to an application made by RES ('the Applicant') for Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility ('the proposed development'). It provides an account of the statutory consultation, publicity, deadlines set, and activities required under section 61Z of the 1990 Act.

The report also provides details and further information of engagement and consultation undertaken with local communities.

A summary of any issues raised by statutory consultees and the local community are provided in this report, including confirmation of how any issues raised have been addressed. Original copies from statutory consultees are included as an appendix to this report.

A link to the full planning application is also available at the project website [www.upperogmore-windfarm.co.uk](http://www.upperogmore-windfarm.co.uk). Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we have not placed any hard copies of the planning documents in public viewing locations, however, hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary and CD copies of the Environmental Statement are available free of charge to interested parties.

## 2. Consultees

### 2.1 Statutory Consultees

Letters notifying the start of the formal consultation period were sent by email to the following statutory consultees on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Copies of the letters can be found at Appendix 2a.

Consultee	Capacity
Welsh Government	Consultee in respect of secondary consent for consent under Section 16 of the Commons Act 2016.
Cadw	Specialist Consultee
Natural Resources Wales	Specialist Consultee
The Coal Authority	Specialist Consultee
Bridgend County Borough Council	Specialist Consultee
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	Specialist Consultee

### 2.2 Community Consultees

The proposed Upper Ogmore wind farm and energy storage site is located in the electoral divisions of Blaengarw and Nant-y-Moel in Bridgend. The access track north of the A4107 highway is located within the electoral division of Gwynfi in Neath Port Talbot.

Letters notifying the start of the formal consultation period were sent to the following community consultees on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Copies of the letters can be found at Appendix 2a.

Name	Capacity
Ann Harris	Garw Valley Community Council
Louvain Lake	Ogmore Valley Community Council
Cllr D Patel	Ogmore Vale Ward, Bridgend CBC
Cllr S Dendy	Blaengarw Ward, Bridgend CBC
Cllr M Jones	Bettws Ward, Bridgend CBC
Cllr R Jones	Margam Ward, Neath Port Talbot Council
Cllr J Jones	Gwynfi Ward, Neath Port Talbot Council

Cllr Chapman	Treorchy Ward, RCT Borough Council
Cllr Webster	Treorchy Ward, RCT Borough Council
Cllr Evans-Fear	Treorchy Ward, RCT Borough Council
Mr D Rees MS	Aberavon Constituency
Mr H Irranca-Davies MS	Ogmore Constituency
Ms L Wood MS	Rhondda Constituency
Mr C Bryant MP	Rhondda Constituency
Mr C Elmore MP	Ogmore Constituency
Mr S Kinnock MP	Aberavon Constituency

At the time of the statutory consultation period, the councillor post for Nant-y-Moel ward was vacant. Prior to the vacancy, the councillor was consulted from September 2017 to discuss the project. In consultation with PINS the ward councillor for the nearest neighbouring ward, Ogmores Vale, was consulted in the absence of a ward councillor for Nant-y-Moel.

Initial contact was made with the above stakeholders in September 2017, by letter, advising them that the Applicant was investigating the potential for a wind farm development at the site location. They were invited to arrange a meeting with the Applicant to discuss the proposal further.

Meetings were subsequently held with the following elected officials to brief them about the project:

Elected Member	Constituency	Date(s)
Chris Elmore MP	Ogmore	22 November 2017
Chris Bryant MP	Rhondda	22 November 2017
Cllr Sorrel Dendy	Blaengarw	23 November 2017, 14 December 2017
Cllr Emyr Webster	Treorchy	23 November 2017
Cllr Alison Chapman	Treorchy	23 November 2017
David Rees AM (now MS)	Aberavon	27 November 2017
Huw Irranca-Davies AM (now MS)	Ogmore	27 November 2017
Cllr Ralph Thomas	Gwynfi	27 November 2017
Cllr David Owen	Nantymoel	28 November 2017
Community Cllr Ryan Clatworthy	Pontycymmer	29 November 2017
Cllr Roz Stirman	Llangeinor	29 November 2017
Cllr Rod Shaw (telephone call)	Pontycymmer	4 January 2018, 21 February 2018

Further correspondence was shared in November 2017 and September 2018 inviting the community consultees to two rounds of public exhibitions. More information about how these events were publicised can be found at 3.2.

A Community Liaison Group (CLG) was also established to keep the community informed and an initial meeting was held on 28 February 2018 in Blaengarw. A further meeting was held on 3 July 2018 in Nantymoel. A further virtual CLG meeting will be arranged once the application has been validated to update members on the status of the application. Members of the CLG are:

- Chris Elmore MP, Ogmore
- Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Ogmore
- Cllr Sorrel Dendy, Blaengarw
- Cllr David Owen, Nantymoel
- Cllr Glyn Walters, Garw Valley Community Council
- Cllr Andy McKay, Ogmore Valley Community Council
- Cllr Sandy Blackburn, Ogmore Valley Community Residents Association

## 2.3 Other Consultees

Letters notifying of the start of the formal consultation period were sent to the following other consultees on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Copies of the letters can be found at Appendix 2a.

Consultee	Capacity
Commoners Association	Interested Party
Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust	Interested Party
LLangeinor Hunt	Interested Party
Open Spaces Society	Interested Party
Ramblers Association	Interested Party
Duchy of Lancaster	Landowner
Historic Railways Estate (on behalf of Dept of Transport)	Landowner
Mr J Pugh	Landowner
National Assembly for Wales	Landowner
Secretary of State for Wales	Owner - Adjoining Property
Messrs R&D Howells	Owner - Adjoining Property
Mr L Howells	Owner - Adjoining Property
Mr D Lewis	Owner - Adjoining Property

## 3. Publicity

### 3.1 Statutory Publicity

Five site notices were displayed at four locations at the main public access points to the site and to the common, as shown on the plan appended to this report at Appendix 2a.

The site notices were placed on display on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 advising all representations should be made by 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The site notices were removed on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020. A copy of the notice can be found at Appendix 2a along with photographs of the site notices in-situ.

The plan at Appendix 2a also identifies adjoining properties on which written notice was served.

Notices were displayed in The Glamorgan Gazette and the Rhondda Leader on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020, advising any representations should be made within 42 days, by 7<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Copies of the newspaper advertisements can be found at Appendix 2a. A notice could not be displayed in the Glamorgan GEM as this was not being published at the time due to COVID-19.

All documentation is available to view or download on the project website - <http://upperogmore-windfarm.co.uk/dns-application/>. The website was updated with all the application documentation on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Screenshot images of the website can be found at Appendix 2a.

Declarations confirming that five site notices was displayed at the proposed site, and that all documents were published on the project website, [www.upperogmore-windarm.co.uk](http://www.upperogmore-windarm.co.uk), for at least 42 days are appended to this report at Appendix 1.

### 3.2 Public Publicity

In November 2017 the first public exhibitions were held. Prior to the event, invitations were posted to 6,425 addresses, including residents, community councils, county councillors, AMs, and MPs, located within the wards of Blaengarw, Nantymoel, Abergwynfi and Treorchy. Advertisements were also placed in local

papers to inform the wider community of the public exhibitions. Copies of the mailed leaflet and newspaper advertisements can be found at Appendix 2b.

The public exhibition took place over two days with morning (10am to 2pm) and afternoon sessions (4pm to 8pm), in 4 different locations:

- 28th November 2017 10am to 2pm Blaengwynfi
- 28th November 2017 4pm to 8pm Nantymoel
- 29th November 2017 10am to 2pm Cwmparc
- 29th November 2017 4pm to 8pm Blaengarw

The venues were identified through background research and were selected for their proximity to the site and their accessibility for local people. The public exhibitions were open at these times to ensure a wide cross section of the local community and stakeholders could attend, including people returning from work.

Six staff members representing the Applicant were present during the public exhibitions to discuss the proposals with attendees, covering a range of specialisms, including technical (wind resource and turbine layout), construction, environmental, development and community relations. There was also a Welsh speaker present at every event.

Attendees were asked to sign a visitor book on entry to the exhibition with 51 people in total signing in, 4 signed in at the Blaengwynfi event, 17 at the Nant-y-Moel event, 9 at the exhibition at Cwmparc and 21 people signed in at Blaengarw.

Information banners covering the following topics were on display at the public exhibition and copies of these can be found at Appendix 2b:

- About the Project
- Site Layout
- Transport & Access
- Environmental Studies
- Commitment to Excellence

In addition to the information banners the following visualisations were on display:

- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
- Photomontages from selected viewpoints to provide the best representation of what the wind farm could look like.

A feedback questionnaire was also provided (see Appendix 2b), to elicit responses from attendees about the project. 43 questionnaires were completed providing the following information:

People were asked how they found out about the exhibition? 33 people (77%) found out about the exhibition via the newsletter, 1 person (2%) through seeing the 'advert' in one of the local papers, 1 person (2%) by visiting the project website, 2 people (5%) saw a poster advertising the event and 5 people (12%) through 'other' ways (including word of mouth). One person did not provide an answer to this question.

Visitors were asked, before they came to the exhibition how they would describe their knowledge of the proposed scheme. 1 person (2%) stated that they 'knew a lot' about the project before attending the exhibition, 7 people (16%) said that they 'knew quite a lot', 16 people (37%) said that they 'knew a little', 9 people (21%) stated that they 'knew very little' and 10 people (23%) said that they 'knew nothing at all'.

Having attended the exhibition, people were then asked to what extent they felt their understanding of the project had been increased. 8 people (19%) reported that they felt that their knowledge had increased 'a lot' after attending the exhibition, 19 people (44%) said it had increased 'quite a lot', 10 people (23%) stated that it had increased 'a little', 3 people (7%) said that it had increased 'very little' with 3 people (7%) stating their knowledge had not increased at all.

People were then asked to consider how they felt about the plans for the proposed Upper Ogmores project. 9 people (21%) said they were happy with the current proposal, 10 people (23%) were neutral, 15 people (35%) had concerns about the proposal and 8 people (19%) stated they did not like wind farms in general. 1 person declined to answer this question.

The comments received at the public exhibitions in November 2017 were taken into account as the proposal was refined. A revised proposal was presented to the public at a second series of exhibitions in September 2018. Once again, the exhibitions were held over 2 days, with morning and afternoon sessions:

- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 10am to 2pm Blaengwynfi
- 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018 4pm to 8pm Nantymoel
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 10am to 2pm Cwmparc
- 5<sup>th</sup> September 2018 4pm to 8pm Blaengarw

A second newsletter (see Appendix 2b) was sent to 6,387 households within the wards of Blaengarw, Nantymoel, Abergwynfi and Treorchy containing an invitation to the public exhibition and information about the revisions made. Advertisements for the public exhibition were also placed in the following newspapers.

- Glamorgan Gazette (30/08/18 edition)
- The Rhondda Leader (30/08/18 edition)
- The Glamorgan GEM (30/08/18 edition)

Information banners covering the following topics were on display at the public exhibition and copies of these can be found at Appendix 2b:

- About the Project
- Site Layout
- Transport & Access
- Environmental Studies
- Commitment to Excellence
- Your Views Count
- Energy Storage
- Why Choose This Site?
- Common Act
- Eight to Seven Turbines

In addition to the information banners the following visualisations were on display:

- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)
- Photomontages from selected viewpoints to provide the best representation of what the wind farm could look like.

Visitors were again asked to complete a feedback questionnaire (see Appendix 2b) following their visit to this second round of exhibitions. People were asked the question - since the previous public exhibitions in Nov 2017, RES has revised the proposals by confirming the site entrance location, moving turbine T3, reducing the height of T6 and removing T8, do you believe that these changes have improved the design of the project? 20 of the 38 respondents (53%) stated that yes they did believe the design was improved, 6 people (16%) said it had not and 12 people (32%) did not know.

In response to the question of how people now felt about the plans for the proposed Upper Ogmores project, 11 people (32%) said they were happy with the current proposal, an increase of 11% from the previous exhibition. 10 people (29%) were neutral, an increase of 6%, 6 people (18%) had concerns about the proposal which was a decrease of 17% from the exhibitions held in November 2017. 7 people (21%) stated they did not like wind farms in general, an increase of 2%.

Throughout both exhibitions the project specific website address was advertised on the banners. Prior to the exhibitions the website address was also included on leaflets. The website contains project

information such as site location map, proposed number of turbines and key dates for the project. A 'Contact Us' page on the website provides various ways which the public can get in touch should they want to comment or if they require further information in relation to the proposed project. Following the public exhibitions, links were added to the website to provide access to exhibition banners and photomontages on display at the exhibition. An image from the website is provided in Appendix 2b.

## 4. Number of Responses

This section of the report quantifies the total number of responses received and a summary of the responses are provided below. All responses were made within the 42-day consultation period.

### 4.1 Statutory Consultees

Six notices and letters were sent out to statutory consultees and five separate responses were received. These responses are summarised below and copies included at Appendix 4 along with RES' replies to those responses.

Consultees	Opinion	Main Issue(s)
Welsh Government	No objection	Declined to comment
Cadw	No objection	The likely impact on the setting of three scheduled monuments and the lack of compensatory or off-setting measures.
Natural Resources Wales	No objection	Water vole Date of bird surveys Construction Environment Management Plan Borrow Pit hydrology
The Coal Authority	No objection	No objection
Bridgend Borough County Council	No objection	No response received
Neath Port Talbot Council	No objection	Visual Amenity Highways Land Contamination

### 4.2 Community Consultees

Sixteen notices and letters were sent out to community consultees and no responses were received.

### 4.3 Other Consultees

Thirteen notices and letters were sent out to other consultees and no responses were received.

### 4.4 Other Respondents

As a result of seeing one of the site notices a response was received from a member of public. This response is summarised below and a copy included at Appendix 4 along with RES' reply to that response.

Name	Opinion	Main Issue
Joey Pickard	No objection	Peat resource



## **5. Responses and Actions**

### **5.1 Statutory Consultees**

Responses from statutory consultees are summarised below together with consequential actions undertaken where necessary. Copies of the responses are appended to this report at Appendix 4.

Consultee Name and ID	Response ID	Summary of Response / Main Issue(s)	Relevant consent	Consequent Actions
Welsh Government 001	WG001	Declined to comment	Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006	Email from PINS (WG001.1).
CADW 002	CW001	The likely impact on the setting of three scheduled monuments and the lack of compensatory or off-setting measures.	DNS	Applicant Letter (CW001.1). Consultee Reply (CW001.2)
Natural Resources Wales 003	NRW001	Water Vole Conservation	DNS	Applicant Letter (NRW001.1).
Natural Resources Wales 003	NRW002	Date of Bird Surveys	DNS	Applicant Letter (NRW001.1) and revised ES Chapter 6.
Natural Resources Wales 003	NRW003	Construction Environment Management Plan	DNS	Applicant Letter (NRW001.1).
Natural Resources Wales 003	NRW004	Borrow Pit Hydrology	DNS	Applicant Letter (NRW001.1) and revised ES Chapter 8.
The Coal Authority 004	CA001	The site falls within the defined Development High Risk Area	DNS	None required.
Bridgend County Borough Council 004	BCBC001	No response received	DNS	None required.
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 005	NPT001	Visual amenity	DNS	Applicant Letter (NPT001.1)
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 005	NPT002	Highways	DNS	Applicant Letter (NPT001.1)
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council 005	NPT003	Land contamination	DNS	Applicant Letter (NPT001.1)

## 5.2 Other Respondents

Respondent Name and ID	Response ID	Summary of Response / Main Issue(s)	Relevant consent	Consequent Actions
Joey Pickard 006	JP001	Peat resource	DNS	E-mail (JP001.1)

## 5.3 Responses Received During Non-Statutory Consultation Period

The majority of the queries/topics raised during the non-statutory consultation period were raised verbally during conversations at the public event or meetings with local representatives. In addition, a total of 82 feedback questionnaires were completed across both public exhibitions. The main issues raised during this consultation, along with the Applicant's response to each issue are summarised below.

Issue Raised	Response
<p><b>Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>"I know that they are a good thing but we do not want our valley covered in turbines"</p> <p>"Against any more wind farms in the Ogmore Valley"</p> <p>"I don't think any more wind farms should be situated in this area"</p> <p>"There are too many"</p> <p>"I'm not happy at all, I think we have enough turbines spoiling our beautiful valley"</p> <p>"We have too many turbines in the area already. They are unsightly, ineffective and destroying any chance of increasing tourism through walking, mountain biking etc"</p>	<p>Due to the presence of adjacent wind farms, RES was aware that the relationship with the adjacent wind farms and those in the wider area would be an important consideration.</p> <p>Accordingly RES analysed the cumulative effects as part of the layout design and the various design iterations are described in the Environmental Statement Vol 2 Chapter 2. Cumulative impacts are an important consideration and the potential for cumulative effects is also assessed in detail in each of the technical Chapters within the Environmental Statement.</p> <p>The existence of wind farms in this area demonstrates that they can be acceptable in planning terms. Part of the reason for selecting this site is to adopt the proven approach of clustering wind farm developments. Clustering wind farm developments in proximity to each other focus the development of wind farms in certain areas which are naturally suited to this type of development due to high wind speeds, appropriate distance from dwellings and good accessibility.</p>
<p><b>Noise Levels</b></p> <p>"I am worried about the current noise levels and then the levels of the 8 which may go ahead"</p> <p>"I am not concerned about the visuals, it is the sound and loud noise at night"</p> <p>"Noise is a concern as the low whooping drone of turbines is not acceptable"</p> <p>"Noise is my main concern, however, I do feel better about the issue having spoken to your representative"</p>	<p>RES has undertaken noise assessments to determine the background noise levels in the local area and the noise levels predicted to be emitted by the Development to determine if the noise levels are acceptable in planning terms.</p> <p>The potential acoustic effects of the Development are examined in detail in the Environmental Statement Vol 2 Chapter 10.</p>
<p><b>Traffic and Transport</b></p> <p>"As access does not affect this valley I have no objection"</p> <p>"Impossible to take them up those roads"</p>	<p>Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement Vol 2 sets out the transportation, traffic and access assessment for the proposed development.</p>

<p>“Excellent - not using valley roads”</p> <p>“Turbine access explained and seems to be fine but basic construction traffic in doubt”</p> <p>“Current road conditions are appalling, heavy traffic will make it worse”</p> <p>“I am happy with the transport route although must be mindful of delays - funerals, etc at the crematorium”</p>	
<p><b>Visual Impact</b></p> <p>“I don’t want the units installed where I can see them”</p> <p>“If you put them back a bit from the mountain edge and make them less visible I would be less concerned”</p> <p>“Beautiful wild landscape overshadowed by turbines, need to be further back from the ridge. Not true dimensions on montages, always bigger”</p> <p>“Although I think the turbines are unsightly we need to find a way to make them blend into the countryside better”</p>	<p>RES pays careful consideration to the positioning of turbines in the existing landscape, resulting in well designed wind farms that minimise their visibility from sensitive locations.</p> <p>Initial site investigations considered a development comprising 8 turbines. As a result of consultation and a thorough design process the number of proposed turbines was reduced to 7. From the studies we have undertaken and professional advice received we believe that the proposed turbine locations are appropriate for a wind farm at this location.</p> <p>The landscape impacts are assessed in detail in the Environmental Statement Vol 2 Chapter 5.</p>
<p><b>Archaeology and Cultural Heritage</b></p> <p>“Due care is required for the iron age remains in the hill there”</p> <p>“Concerned about archaeology”</p>	<p>Detailed analysis and assessment were undertaken during the initial site selection and throughout the design process as part of the environmental impact assessment to ensure that the wind farm layout is sensitively sited with regards to sites of Historical Interest. The findings of the Archaeology &amp; Cultural Heritage Assessment are presented in the Environmental Statement Vol 2 Chapter 7.</p>
<p><b>Community Benefit</b></p> <p>“In my opinion for the community that are affected to accept the project there must be proposals for community benefit such as funding. Very little benefit.”</p> <p>“I see benefits but also opportunities and hope that the operation of the windfarm will optimise the potential for tourism.”</p> <p>“I have been told there is no community funds, not good at all.”</p> <p>“Community benefits are vital and not just a short term plan”</p> <p>“I hope the company gives back to the valley e.g. more bridleways”</p>	<p>RES is committed to ensuring that our wind farms benefit communities that host its renewable energy projects.</p> <p>Expenditure in the local economy during the development, construction and operation of wind farm projects in UK varies from project to project as a function of various factors, including project size, duration and availability of local suppliers. In recent years, we have seen typical spend with local stakeholders, suppliers and service providers in the region of £279,000 per wind turbine during the development, construction and first year of project operation. In some cases it has been possible to significantly improve on this number. RES estimates for Upper Ogmore Wind Farm a local spend of approximately £1.9 million in the area. Expenditure in the local community continues throughout the operational phase of the project.</p>

	<p>RES estimates that based on a 25MW scheme being constructed that non-domestic rates payments of approximately £312K per annum would be paid to the Local Authority. Non domestic rates are used to pay for a variety of public services but how these rates payments are allocated by the Local Authority is outside RES's control.</p> <p>RES is interested in learning more about projects and/or partnerships with particular focus on broader environmental or sustainability objectives, and this has been communicated within the local community.</p>
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## 6. Main Issues

Main Issue	Cultural Heritage
Relevant Application Documents	Environmental Statement (ES), CW001, CW001.1
Respondent(s)	CADW
Applicant's Summary of the Response (CW001)	<p>CADW had concerns about the likely impact of the proposed development on the setting of (1) Carn y Hyrddod and Neighbouring Cairn (GM243), (2) Round Barrow on the Werfa (GM499), (3) Bwlch yr Avan Dyke (GM246) and the lack of any compensatory or off-setting measures.</p> <p>CADW recommended that the Applicant considers compensatory and offsetting measures to counteract the impacts in order to avoid them objecting to the planning application.</p>
Applicant's Response (CW001.1)	<p>It was agreed that a commitment to produce a Monument Management Plan would be acceptable and that this could be a condition of the planning consent (see Consultee Reply CW001.2). Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Chapter 13: Mitigation have been revised to include reference to this Monument Management Plan</p>

Main Issue	Ecology
Relevant Application Documents	Environmental Statement (ES), NRW001, NRW002, NRW001.1
Respondent(s)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Applicant's Summary of the Response (NRW001, NRW002)	<p><u>Water Vole and Bird Surveys</u> Based on the information provided, NRW had concerns with the proposal as submitted. To overcome these concerns, NRW recommended that the following information is included prior to the formal submission, and conditions secured to address these concerns.</p> <p>Requirement 1: The inclusion of a Water Vole Conservation Strategy. Requirement 2: The inclusion of updated bird surveys.</p>
Applicant's Response (NRW001.1)	<u>Water Vole</u>

	<p>A Water Vole Conservation Strategy will be included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) to be submitted to and approved by the competent Authority prior to site preparation and commencement of construction. The CEMP will set out the methods to be implemented to avoid killing or injuring water vole, as well as protection and management of habitats that may be used by water vole. Environmental Statement (ES) Chapter 6: Ecology and Biodiversity has been revised to include reference to this Water Vole Conservation Strategy.</p> <p><u>Bird Surveys</u> The revised ES Chapter 6 has also been updated with the records and assessment of the updated bird surveys, which were completed this year.</p>
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Main Issue	Construction Environmental Management Plan
Relevant Application Documents	Environmental Statement (ES), NRW003, NRW001.1
Respondent(s)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Applicant's Summary of the Response (NRW003)	<p>NRW have requested the following planning condition be applied if the application is consented:</p> <p>No development including site clearance, shall commence until a site wide Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the competent Authority.</p>
Applicant's Response (NRW001.1)	A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be submitted to and approved in writing by the competent Authority and implemented during the site preparation and construction phases of the development.

Main Issue	Hydrology and Hydrogeology
Relevant Application Documents	Environmental Statement (ES), NRW004, NRW001.1
Respondent(s)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Applicant's Summary of the Response (NRW004)	<p>NRW noted that a borrow pit is likely to be installed in quite close proximity to the areas of peat on site.</p> <p>In addition, NRW sought clarity from the following statement "additional peat required to address local deficits for track verges should be taken from the closest possible source of peat excavation." (Section 8.84 Chapter 8 hydrology and hydrogeology). NRW was unclear if peat will be used for track verges and advised that peat should not be used for track verges as they are likely to be dry.</p>
Applicant's Response (NRW001.1)	<p>Prior to excavation of a borrow pit, a borrow pit management plan will be included in the CEMP for approval by the competent Authority and will include an assessment of and proposals for addressing hydrology.</p> <p>Peat will not be used for track verges and this point has been removed from the ES Chapter 8: Hydrology and Hydrogeology, paragraph 8.84.</p>

Main Issue	Landscape and Visual
Relevant Application Documents	Environmental Statement (ES), NPT001, NPT001.1
Respondent	Neath Port Talbot CBC

<p>Applicant's Summary of the Response (NPT001)</p>	<p>NPTCBC considered that the visual impact of such a development upon Neath Port Talbot would be minimal. However they recommended that viewpoints from settlements where the turbines would be visible would be required, with a cumulative impact assessment of the proposal in conjunction with operational wind farms, consented wind farms and wind farms currently in planning.</p> <p>NPTCBC commented that a view point from the settlement of Cymmer had not been included, and, given the amount of windfarms visible from this location, recommended that this in particular is included.</p>
<p>Applicant's Response (NPT001.1)</p>	<p><u>Visual Amenity</u> While carrying out the landscape and visual impact assessment our consultants considered the settlement of Cymmer and concluded that this was not a suitable location for a viewpoint. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV), shown in Figure 5.3b of the Environmental Statement (ES), indicates fairly limited visibility across the settlement and the paired ZTV with the Llynfi Afan turbines indicates that Upper Ogmere turbines would not introduce any 'new' visibility of turbines. As a result of this, Cymmer was scoped out of the assessment.</p> <p>Since receiving the NPT Officer Report, our consultants have prepared a wireline of the view from Railway Terrace, Cymmer, which is probably the most open view from the village. A copy of that wireline, which shows how the Upper Ogmere turbines sit behind Llynfi Afan turbines and that the Upper Ogmere turbines do not add to the spread of wind farms around the settlement, is attached in Appendix 4 as ID NPT001.1.</p>

<p>Main Issue</p>	<p>Traffic, Transport and Access</p>
<p>Relevant Application Documents</p>	<p>Environmental Statement (ES), NPT002, NPT001.1</p>
<p>Respondent</p>	<p>Neath Port Talbot CBC</p>
<p>Applicant's Summary of the Response (NPT002)</p>	<p>NPTCBC's Highways section raised a possible concern over the visibility splay associated with the proposed vehicular access from the A4107 to the wind farm and energy storage facility. They commented that there are a number of works that could be undertaken to improve this situation.</p> <p>NPTCBC recommended that a Transport Assessment, Construction and Traffic Management Plan, AIL assessment and dry run should form part of the submission.</p>
<p>Applicant's Response (NPT001.1)</p>	<p>The site access is located on a section of the highway which is wholly within the boundary of Bridgend County Borough and, accordingly, RES consulted the Highways Department in that Authority. BCBC Highways visited the site and provided their advice on the site access during preparation of the planning application. Their advice concluded that concerns could be addressed with adequate signage and a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP). A CTMP would be prepared prior to commencement of construction and we would expect this to be a condition of the planning consent.</p>

<p>Main Issue</p>	<p>Land Contamination</p>
<p>Relevant Application Documents</p>	<p>Environmental Statement (ES), NPT003, NPT001.1</p>
<p>Respondent</p>	<p>Neath Port Talbot CBC</p>

Applicant's Summary of the Response (NPT003)	NPTCBC commented that part of the site within NPT has the potential for land contamination and recommended that appropriate reports are submitted with the application to address any possible land contamination issues.
Applicant's Response (NPT001.1)	<p>The following reports, are attached at Appendix 4 as ID NPT001.1, which forms a part of the DNS application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geo-environmental preliminary assessment; and</li> <li>• Upper Ogmore Forestry Track Groundsure Enviro Insight: GS-7026462</li> </ul> <p>The reports conclude that no sources of contamination were identified within the area of influence of the development.</p>

## 7. Summary and Conclusion

This Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report sets out the consultation in respect of the DNS application for the Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility. The PAC report confirms that all necessary statutory pre-application consultation has been undertaken.

This report also sets out consultation activities undertaken during the non-statutory consultation period. It shows that RES engaged early with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process; this has helped us understand and address any concerns as the project developed. Through the consultation process, we have helped the community in understanding the benefits and impacts of the proposed wind farm and added value and improved the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Feedback received from the first round of public exhibitions was considered as the design for the proposed scheme was refined and contributed to changes to the proposal including a reduction in the number of turbines, reduction in turbine height and a change to some turbine positioning.

In summary, very few responses have been received to the formal consultation exercise from all consultees and no fundamental issues have been raised by statutory consultees. Where possible, the comments of consultees have been taken into account and the design of the development and reports amended as necessary. Copies of relevant correspondence between Statutory Consultees and the Applicant are included at Appendix 4 to this PAC Report.



Appendices

Appendix 1	Declarations of Compliance
Appendix 2a	Copies of Publicity Documentation - (Statutory letters, notices and newspaper advert)
Appendix 2b	Public Publicity (introduction letter, exhibition invite letter, exhibition leaflet, exhibition advert, exhibition information banners, exhibition questionnaire, website image)
Appendix 3	List of Addresses for all consultees
Appendix 4	Copies of Responses from Statutory Consultees and Copies of Consequent Actions Taken