

UPPER OGMORE WIND FARM AND ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT
COMMUNITY LIAISON GROUP MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 6TH JANUARY 2021

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

ATTENDEES

Scott Allin (SA)	Clerk to Ogmores Valley Community Council
Chris Elmore MP (CE)	Member of Parliament for Ogmores
Huw Irranca-Davies MS (HID)	Senedd Constituency Member for Ogmores
Cllr Dhanisha Patel (DP)	Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Glyn Walters (GW)	Garw Valley Community Council
Alex Williams (AW)	Parliamentary Assistant to Chris Elmore MP
Carey Green, Community Liaison Officer (CG)	RES
Chris Jackson, Senior Development Project Manager (CJ)	RES

APOLOGIES

Cllr Andy McKay Ogmores Valley Community Council

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

CJ welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. Introductions were made by all.

2. PROJECT UPDATE

CJ presented a project update, as appended to these minutes.

3. Q&A

Q HID asked if RES could provide a ballpark figure for the community benefit.

A RES is seeking to provide clean, green electricity at the lowest cost to the consumer, while still ensuring that the project provides significant social, economic and environmental benefits. It is not possible to provide a definitive figure at this time as it will be subject to a number of variables but we are keen to learn more about the priority projects in the local area.

Q GW noted that much of the area is now desolate and the lakes are in poor condition.

A Information on such potential habitat improvement schemes are of great interest to RES and the sort of project we would seek to explore with the local community.

Q SA asked if an annual community benefit fund was under consideration.

A RES believes that onshore wind should continue to provide significant benefits locally and we want to remain flexible on how these are delivered. RES is inviting input from the local communities on their priority aims and projects in their area. We're looking for feedback to understand what projects could be supported directly, with priority given to the communities closest to the wind farm. The type of projects we could envisage are things like fuel poverty schemes, village hall improvements, further education and apprenticeship schemes or other priorities as determined by local action plans.

Q DP asked what the deadline was for representations.

A The period for representations will close at midnight on the evening of 28/01/2021. Representations should be made using the published form on the DNS website.

Q DP asked if we would be consulting with the wider public following submission of the planning application.

A RES has consulted widely with both stakeholders and the general public since 2017. Details of this consultation are outlined in the [Pre-Application Consultation Report](#). It is unusual

for open forums to be held post-submission, however, RES is happy to receive questions and comments at any time. Contact details are on the project [website](#).

- Q DP noted that, alongside the Pennant Walter scheme, turbines would be visible across the entire valley. It was also noted that the Pennant Walters scheme has committed to a 25-year community benefit fund.
- A Landscape and visual assessments have shown that the Upper Ogmore and Pennant Walters schemes would not appear as one large windfarm. Further photomontages demonstrating this can be provided. The project or projects that may be directly supported by the Upper Ogmore scheme will provide meaningful local benefit and we're keen to learn more about the type of projects that would be of value to the local community. .
- Q HID asked that RES keep an open mind on any community benefit provided by the Upper Ogmore wind farm.
- A All decisions on the project or projects supported by Upper Ogmore will be carried out in full consultation with the local stakeholders and their communities.
- Q GW noted that there was an area, suitable for solar PV development on Garw Valley Community Council land.
- A This is something RES would definitely consider and would be grateful if GW would confirm the exact location of the land. Available capacity on the electricity network is very limited throughout Wales and the proximity to a viable point of connection will be a factor in the viability of a solar project.
- Q HID asked what the regulations are regarding decommissioning the proposed scheme at end of life. HID impressed the importance of adequate restoration following past instances when this has not been the case.
- A There are always obligations under planning and/or land lease agreements with regard to decommissioning and restoration. Generally, all parts of the wind farm and storage system at ground level, and up to one metre below ground level, are required to be removed and the land reinstated to a condition matching or better than that prior to construction. Improvements in technology have led to a much longer turbine life, subject to correct maintenance, and typically planning permission is now sought for 35 years (as with Upper Ogmore) rather than the previously usual 25 years. This is an important environmental advancement.
- Q HID asked whether there would be liaison with local authorities, with regard to linking up tracks which provide prime walking and cycling areas. HID also asked if there was a risk of large swathes of open access land being cut off.
- A There are a number of public rights of way crossing the Upper Ogmore site, including a bridleway linking Cwmparc with the Garw Valley, footpaths linking the other surrounding valleys, and following the ridge of Mynydd Llangeinwyr south. If consented, we propose permanent diversions to the bridleway and one footpath in order to offer a greater separation distance from the wind turbines. Most of the land is Open Access, so that ramblers and riders can choose whether to walk nearer or further away from the turbines. A temporary footpath diversion during the construction period is also proposed to enable use of a borrow pit to provide stone for the site tracks. The proposed permanent and temporary diversions follow similar terrain to the existing routes and do not encroach into any environmentally sensitive areas. During construction of the wind farm, construction areas will be fenced off for the safety of people and animals and crossing points will be provided to ensure that use of the rights of way is not interrupted.
- In addition, RES has been exploring options with the Commoner's Association with regard to restricting access on the common land by unauthorised motor vehicles.
- Q SA asked which route the heavy goods vehicles will take, if the project is consented.
- A The access route is carefully selected to ensure maximum use of trunk and primary roads, minimising the distance travelled on the public highway, to minimise the effect on sensitive receptors such as schools and residential areas and to minimise land take and widening works. The route for abnormal load deliveries will exit off the A4061 and use the Pen y

Cymoedd Wind Farm/NRW Forestry tracks before exiting onto the A4107 for a short distance to proposed development site access. The route can also be seen on this [plan](#).

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business.

5. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place in July/August 2021, although RES welcomes individual meetings with elected members, as required.

Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility

January 2021



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Agenda



- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Update
- Q&A
- Any Other Business
- Date and Time of Next Meeting



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RES in Wales

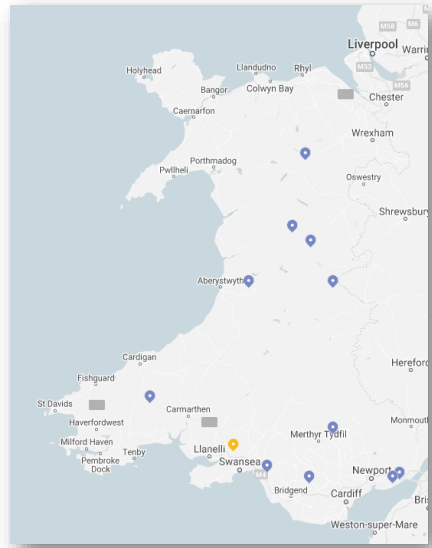


RES has been at the forefront of wind energy development for nearly 40 years and has developed and/or built more than 19GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone we are responsible for approximately 10% of the current wind energy capacity.

RES has developed and/or built seven wind farms in Wales with a total generation capacity of 120MW.

RES currently operate six wind farms and one solar farm across Wales, with generating capacity of 69MW. In 2019 these operating sites produced over 181,000MWh enough to power over 47,900 Welsh homes.

RES has been operating from offices in Cardiff since 2007.



www.upperogmore-windfarm.co.uk

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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Consultation



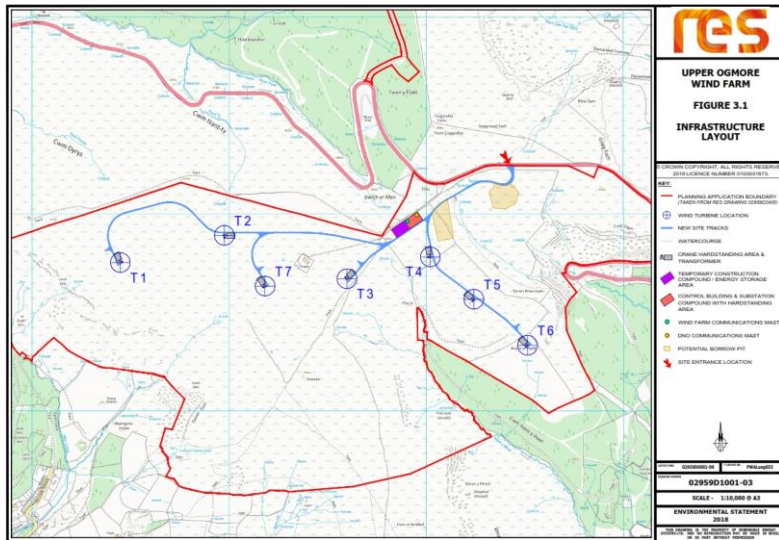
- Committed to consultation with stakeholders and local communities.
- First public exhibition held in November 2017 with 6245 invitations issued.
- Comments received taken into account as design refined.
- First CLG meeting held in February 2018.
- Revised proposal presented at a second public exhibition in September 2018.
- Pre-application publicity and consultation carried out.



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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Infrastructure Layout



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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Viewpoints



Parc Calon Lan, Blaengarw



www.upperogmore-windfarm.co.uk

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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Viewpoints



Ogmore Terrace, Nant-y-Moel



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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Viewpoints



Caroline Street, Blaengwynfi



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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Project Benefits



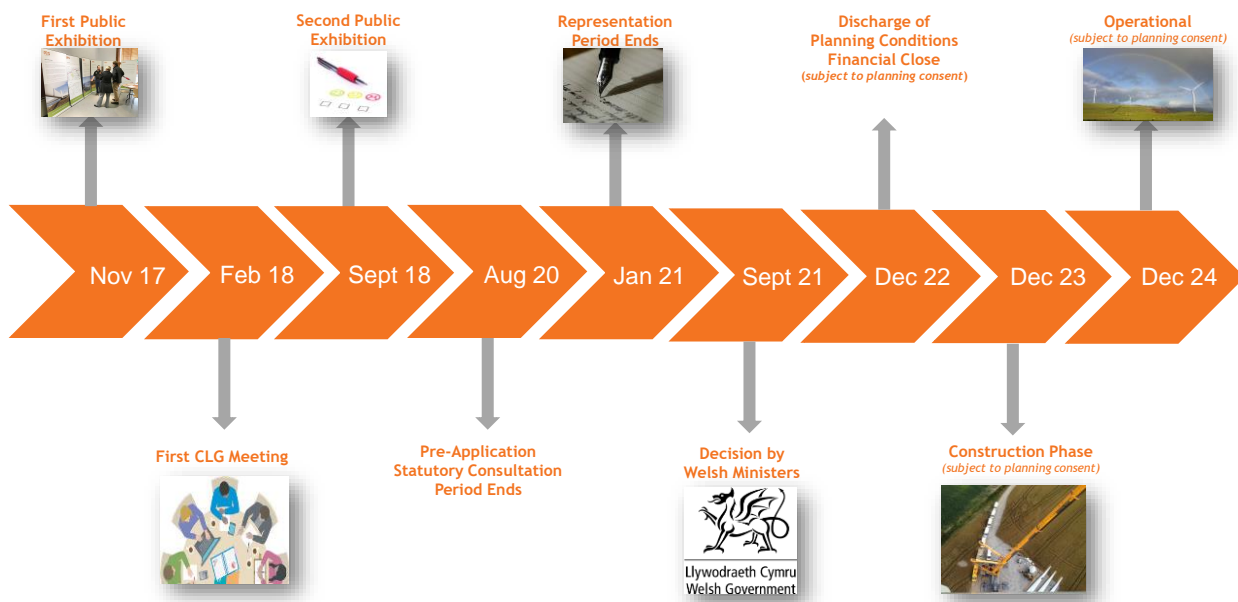
- Approximately 21,000 homes served.
- Over 38,500 tonnes of CO₂ emissions offset each year.
- Cheapest source of electricity generation.
- More than £1.9 million inward investment.
- £16 million in business rates delivered.
- Engagement on priority aims and projects within the local communities.



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Upper Ogmore Wind Farm and Energy Storage Facility - Timeline



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Any questions?



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Thank you!

Chris Jackson
Senior Development Project Manager
+44 2920 021 074
chris.jackson@res-group.com

Cedar House, Greenwood
Close, Cardiff Gate Business
Park, Cardiff, CF23 8RD, Wales
www.res-group.com



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