



## Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm

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### Common Land Consultation Information Summer 2021

Pennant Walters is developing proposals for a wind farm on a site at Mynydd Llanhilleth, which lies east of the settlements of Llanhilleth, Brynithel, Aberbeeg and Six Bells, and west of Pontnewnydd and Pontypool. The A472 runs along the valley to the south of the proposed site.

The proposed site occupies part of Mynydd Llanhilleth Common located between Abersychan (within Torfaen County Borough Council) and Abertillery (within Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council).

The proposals are for up to 12 wind turbines with an indicative height of up to 180m to tip. It is estimated that the wind farm will generate up to 48MW of electricity, which is equivalent to providing enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 24,000 homes\*.

\* <https://www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEExplained>



**Common Land Consultation**

Land within the proposed site boundary for Mynydd Llanhilleth wind farm falls under the common land register and we are therefore required to prepare and submit an application to the Planning Inspectorate Wales under the Commons Act 2006.

This means that alongside our consultation for the proposed wind farm, we will also be undertaking a specific consultation in relation to the fact that part of the site falls within Mynydd Llanhilleth Common.

Working closely with the landowners, we will be seeking to de-register a section of Common Land in order to build the proposed wind farm. We are in the process of defining which areas of Common Land may be required, and identifying replacement land nearby. This process is a central consideration throughout the development of these proposals and further information is contained in this leaflet.

We are keen to hear from anyone that has an interest in or uses the Common to help us ensure we minimise any impact, and maximise any potential broader benefit through this process. Please get in touch or visit the website for further details.

As part of this process, we hope to identify areas in which we may be able to improve management of parts of this Common Land.

**A Development of National Significance (DNS)**

This project is deemed a Development of National Significance (DNS), meaning that we will need to apply to the Planning Inspectorate Wales, which will make a recommendation to Welsh Ministers with whom lies the final decision on whether or not to grant planning permission.

For proposed energy projects such as this, the applicant generally needs to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This involves undertaking surveys and assessments on the existing local environment, and how the proposals may change or influence things like local habitats, biodiversity, visual amenity, flood risk and archaeology, to name a few.

This information plays a central role in helping to design the proposals to ensure that the project fully considers all aspects of the environment within which it lies.

Further information about the DNS process can be found at <https://dns.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/>



**The Commons Act 2006**

Applications to deregister and exchange common land (under Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006) and to undertake ‘works on common land’ (under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006) require certain statutory consultation to be undertaken prior to consideration by Welsh Ministers. Guidance recommends that informal pre-application consultation takes place prior to submission of an application in order to identify any differences in opinion and find early solutions to develop a proposal with a high degree of consensus among interested parties.

**Further information about the Commons Act 2006 can be found here:**  
<https://gov.wales/common-land>

**How will these proposals impact the Common Land?**

Where construction activities and wind turbines are proposed to be located on common land, this will necessarily restrict access to common land either temporarily or longer term in the specific locations where turbines are located. Where access would be restricted, we must go through a process of applying to deregister the common land, and replacing it with comparable areas of replacement land in proximity.

We don’t yet have a specific area of land that we have identified to apply to de-register, however, the plan on this page shows where the Common Land boundary overlays the proposed site search area boundary. It is likely that some land within this area will be removed from the Common Land register, and alternative land nearby will be provided as a replacement.

**Overview of proposals**

The wind farm site is located on Mynydd Llanhilleth, and whilst the majority of the site boundary lays within Torfaen County Borough, parts do extend into Blaenau Gwent County Borough.

The proposed development includes:

- Up to 12 wind turbines, anticipated to be 4 – 6MW each with an indicative height of up to 180m to tip;
- Turbine foundations, crane pads and laydown areas;
- An electrical substation and control building;
- Underground power cables linking the turbines and the on-site substation;
- Construction of access tracks;
- Permanent anemometer mast for wind turbine performance monitoring;
- Construction enabling works; and
- A temporary construction and storage compound.

Further information on the Project can be found at [www.mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk](http://www.mynydd-llanhilleth.co.uk)

**What works will be undertaken on Common Land?**

It is likely that we will be seeking to undertake numerous activities on parts of Mynydd Llanhilleth Common. This could include the erection of wind turbine bases, crane pads and construction of access tracks.

These activities will likely require us to restrict access to part of the Common – either temporarily during construction – or permanently for the lifetime of the project (i.e. to accommodate a turbine), which is why we will need to provide replacement land.

**Providing feedback**

As the number and location of turbines are to be informed by assessments (therefore yet to be confirmed) we cannot yet confirm which areas of common that we would seek to deregister and replace. Our surveys and assessments will also help identify the most suitable areas of new common land proposed as replacement common.

To inform our considerations, we are keen to understand how, when and where the common is used. We also welcome any suggestions on actions that could be considered to improve or enhance use of the common. **Let us know (using the details on the back page) how you think the proposals for Mynydd Llanhilleth could affect your use of the Common – and also, where you think any benefits could be identified.**





## Get in touch

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We would like to hear local views on the emerging proposals for the Mynydd Llanhilleth Wind Farm from those with an interest in, rights over, or broader knowledge of Mynydd Llanhilleth Common.

If you have a question or comment relating to Mynydd Llanhilleth Common, please email: [Mynydd-Llanhilleth@pennantwalters.co.uk](mailto:Mynydd-Llanhilleth@pennantwalters.co.uk), and put 'Common Land' in the email header.

## Contact details:

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**Email** [Mynydd-Llanhilleth@pennantwalters.co.uk](mailto:Mynydd-Llanhilleth@pennantwalters.co.uk)

**Phone** 0800 699 0081 (freephone)

**Post** Send to FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION  
(no further address or stamp required)

## About us

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We are Wales' largest home-grown renewable energy developer. Pennant Walters is part of the Walters Group based in Hirwaun - a local company operating nationally, employing up to 500 people, many of which are in South Wales.

Since 2003 Pennant Walters has developed, built and now operates six wind farms in South Wales producing a total of 127MW. We seek to develop a long-lasting relationship with all stakeholders including surrounding **communities, landowners, local authority and regulators.**

We have developed all of our renewable energy projects in former coalfields of South Wales, so we have a strong track record of delivering projects on sites like Mynydd Llanhilleth.

Find out more: [www.pennantwalters.co.uk](http://www.pennantwalters.co.uk)