



# The Future of our countryside

DYFODOL EIN CEFN GWLAD – “GARDD CYMRU” SIR GAERFYRDDIN DIM MWY?



# Wales: Land ~~of song~~ renewables & energy parks





# Where does the story begin?



## Welsh Government Policy: [Future Wales 2040](#)

- Welsh Government Targets
  - 70% of electricity generated by renewables by 2030
  - Climate emergency and International commitments
- Makes the assumption that the only thing a third of Carmarthenshire is good for are windfarms and solar arrays
- The unspoilt places that we think of as special will be ruined
- Farms face conversion to windfarms or forestry
- Our way of life, culture and language is under threat

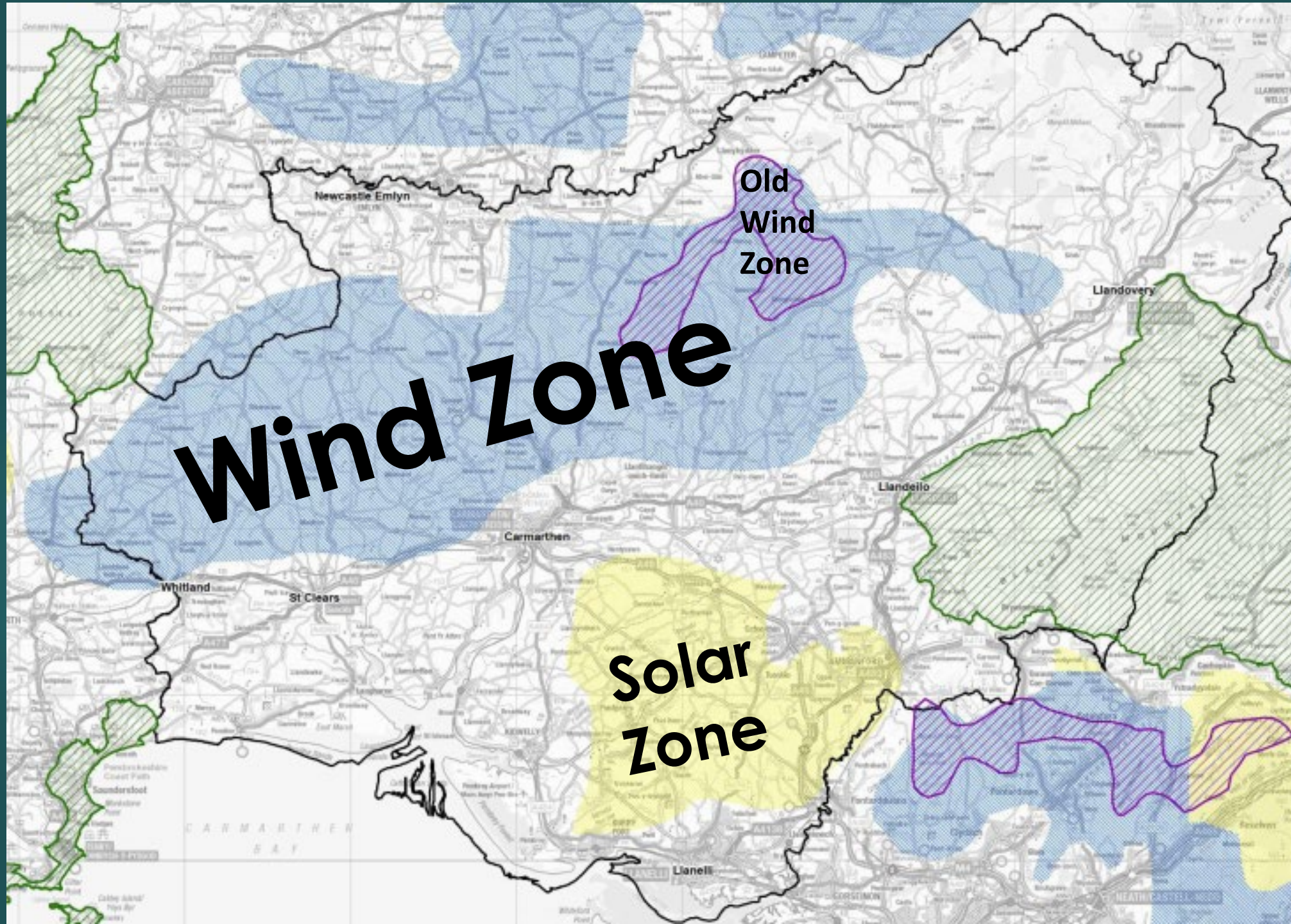


# Welcome to industrial 'renewables'



- Carmarthenshire's New Local Plan contains a target for 588.5 MW of additional installed wind turbine capacity by 2033
- In reality this means up to 90 new turbines, or development across almost 14,542 acres of the pre-assessed area higher ground on NRW land and in our forestry areas
- Communities in north Carmarthenshire face being surrounded by multiple pylon chains, windfarms, solar farms, battery storage plants and there is the prospect of pumped hydro
- The initial energy parks and chains of pylons are just the start





**CRAiG**



# The big picture so far

In Carmarthenshire

Key:

1. Brechfa West (existing)
2. 'Glyn Cothi' / Brechfa east
3. Nant Ceiment
4. Bryn Cadwgan
5. 'Green Gen' / Bute Pylon Chains
6. South Carmarthenshire Solar Farms
7. Farmers solar farm
8. Wawn Maenllwyd (Bryn Brawd – Belltown Power)

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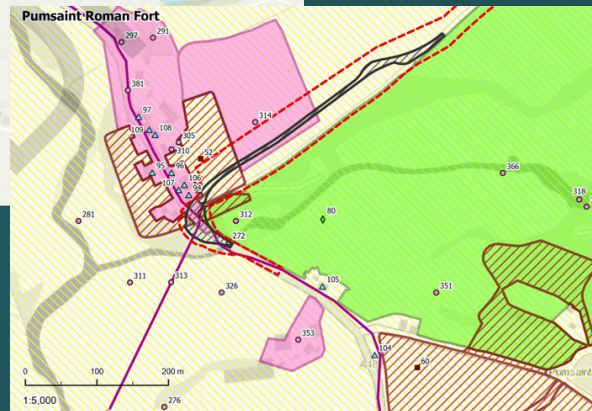
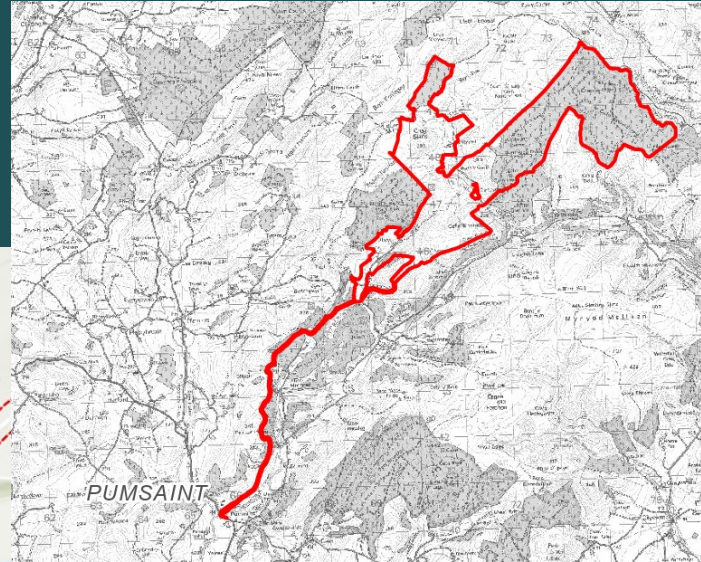
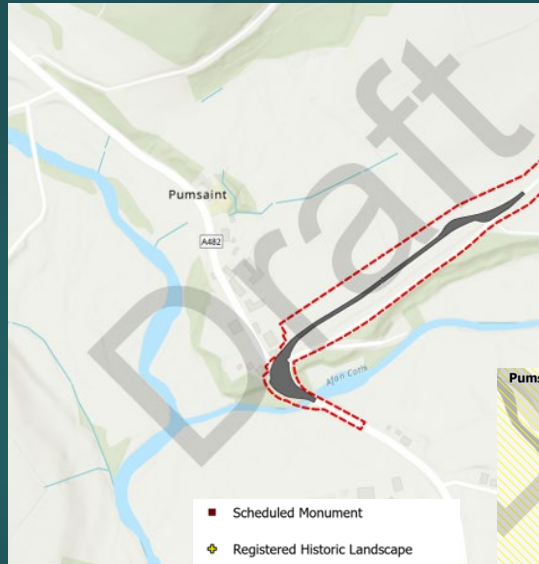




# Bryn Cadwgan



## Maps from developer documents



■	Scheduled Monument
◆	Registered Historic Landscape
◆	Registered Historic Park & Garden
▲	Listed Building - Grade II*
▲	Listed Building - Grade II
○	Non-Designated Heritage Asset
▨	Scheduled Monuments Extents
▨	Registered Park & Garden Extent
▨	Registered Historic Landscape Extents

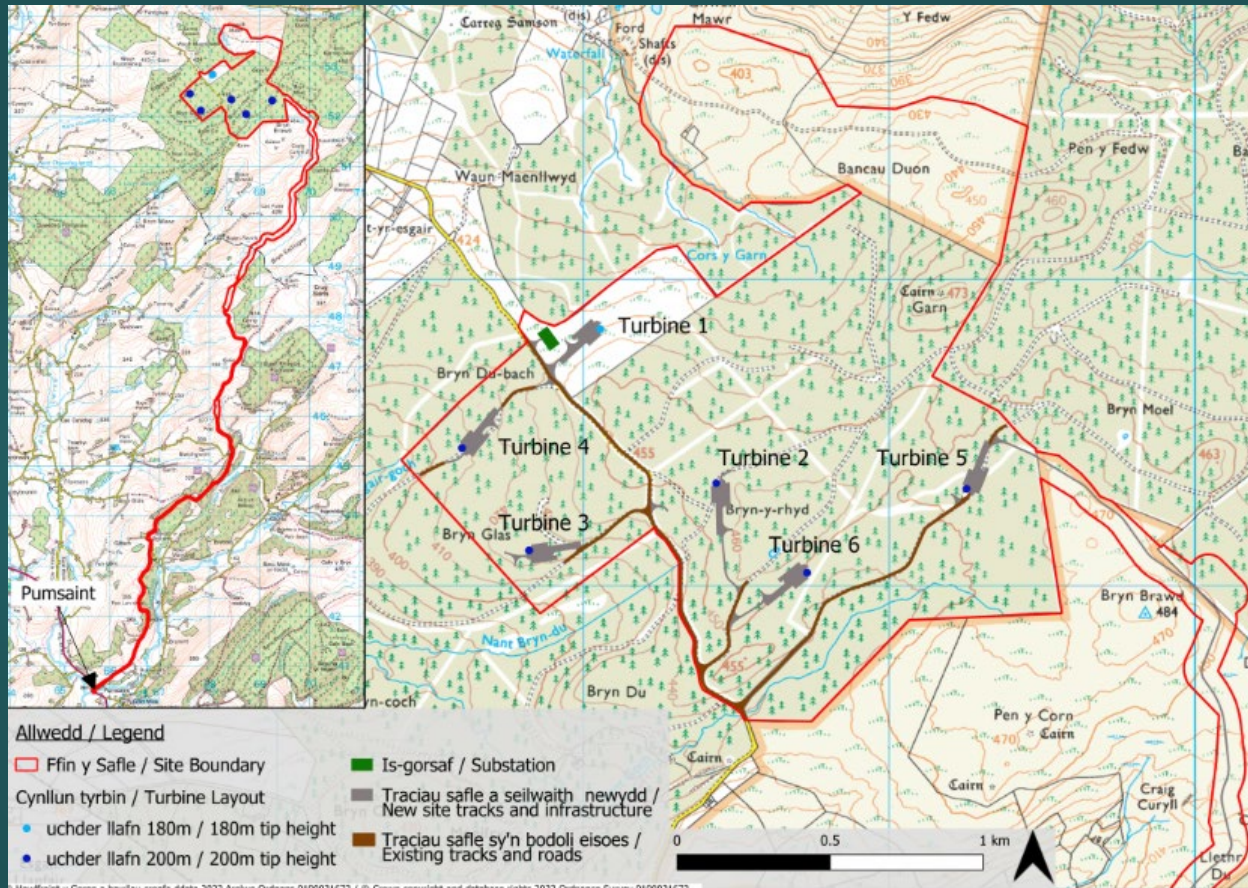
- Developed by Galileo Empower Ltd via wholly owned “Galileo 06”
- 19 wind turbines, battery storage, solar PV, associated infrastructure and access routes
- Currently in pre-planning consultation
- Public consultation deadline 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025, aim to submit formal submission end 2025
- Developers’ draft Environmental Statement states ‘Significant adverse effects’ on landscape, heritage etc.
- Major effects on Pumsaint and surrounding areas
- Roadway passes over the Roman Fort at Pumsaint – A Scheduled Ancient Monument
- You can find the developer website here: <https://bryncadwganenergypark.co.uk/>



# Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub



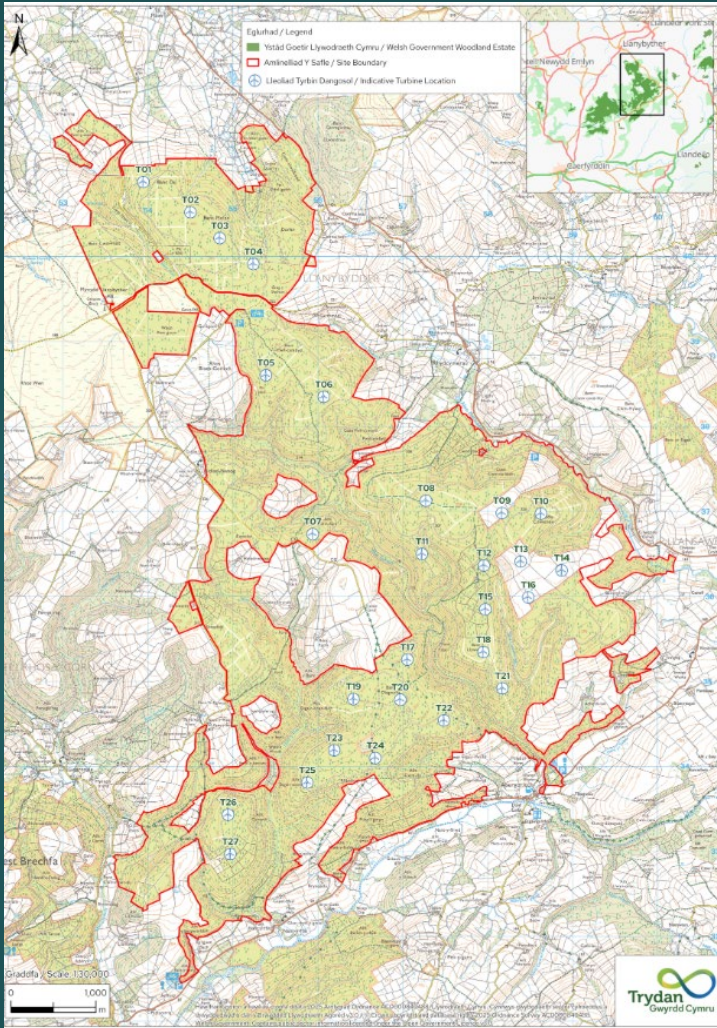
Maps from developer documents



- Developed by Belltown Energy
- Six wind turbines, five up to 200m tall together with associated infrastructure and access routes
- Public consultation deadline 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025, aim to submit formal submission end 2025
- Developers' draft Environmental Statement notes disturbance to peat bogs and watercourses and the excavation of 103,467 cubic metres of aggregate from borrow pits on site
- Major effects on the important mid-Wales red squirrel population and would be a dominant feature of the Cambrian Hills from the Ceredigion Coast
- Roadway passes over the Roman Fort at Pumsaint – A Scheduled Ancient Monument
- You can visit the developer website here: <https://www.waunmaenllwyd.com/>



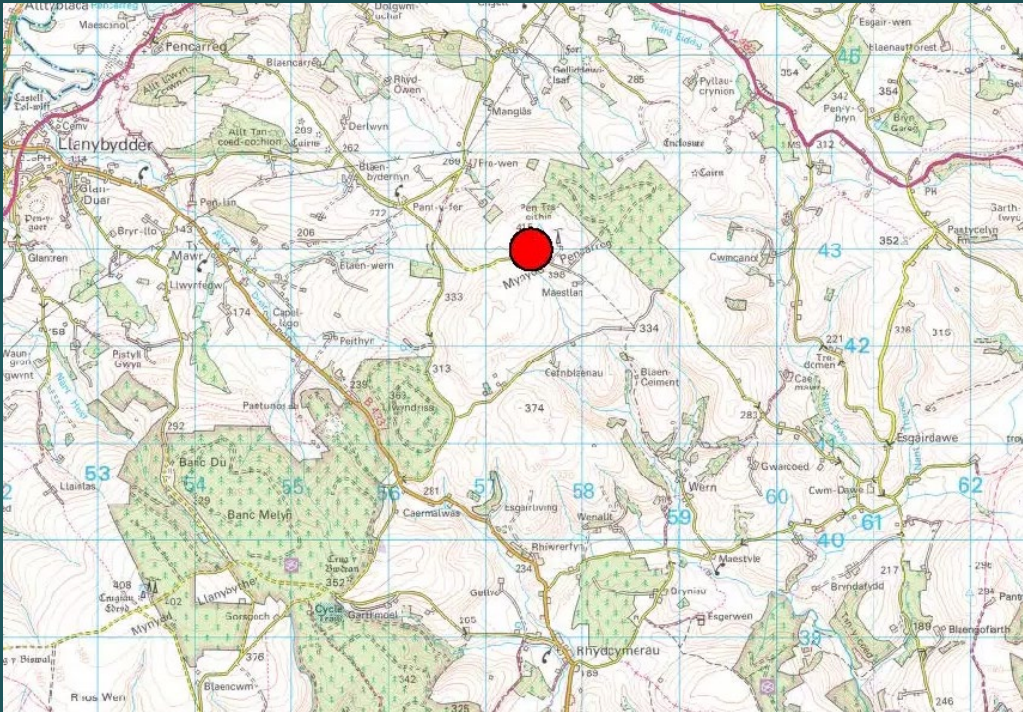
# Glyn Cothi / Brechfa East



- Up to 27 turbines up to 250 m tall
- Private company wholly owned by the Welsh Government
- Within NRW owned land including Brechfa Forest
- Submission of planning application target early 2027 with 2030 construction works
- You can visit the developer website here:  
<https://trydanglyncothi.wales/>



# Nant Ceiment



- Developer Bute Energy
- 13 turbines up to 220m
- At early stages
- Aiming to submit development application in Q4 2026
- Local campaigners have joined forces with DimTyrbinau as it affects much of the same area as Brechfa East /Glyn Cothi
- You can visit the developer website here: <https://bute.energy/nant-ceiment/overview/>



# Pylon Chains



- GreenGen / Bute Energy 2 pylon chains
- Possible 400KV National Grid pylon chain – currently unknown route through Carmarthenshire to Llandyfaelog
- Various campaign groups along route and into Powys and Cardiganshire
- More pylon chains to come.....
- You can view the developer websites here:
- Green Gen Tywi Teifi: <https://greengentowyteifi.com/>
- Green Gen Towy Usk: <https://www.greengentowyusk.com/>
- National Grid: Llandyfaelog: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/llandyfaelog-substation>



# South Carmarthenshire Solar Farms



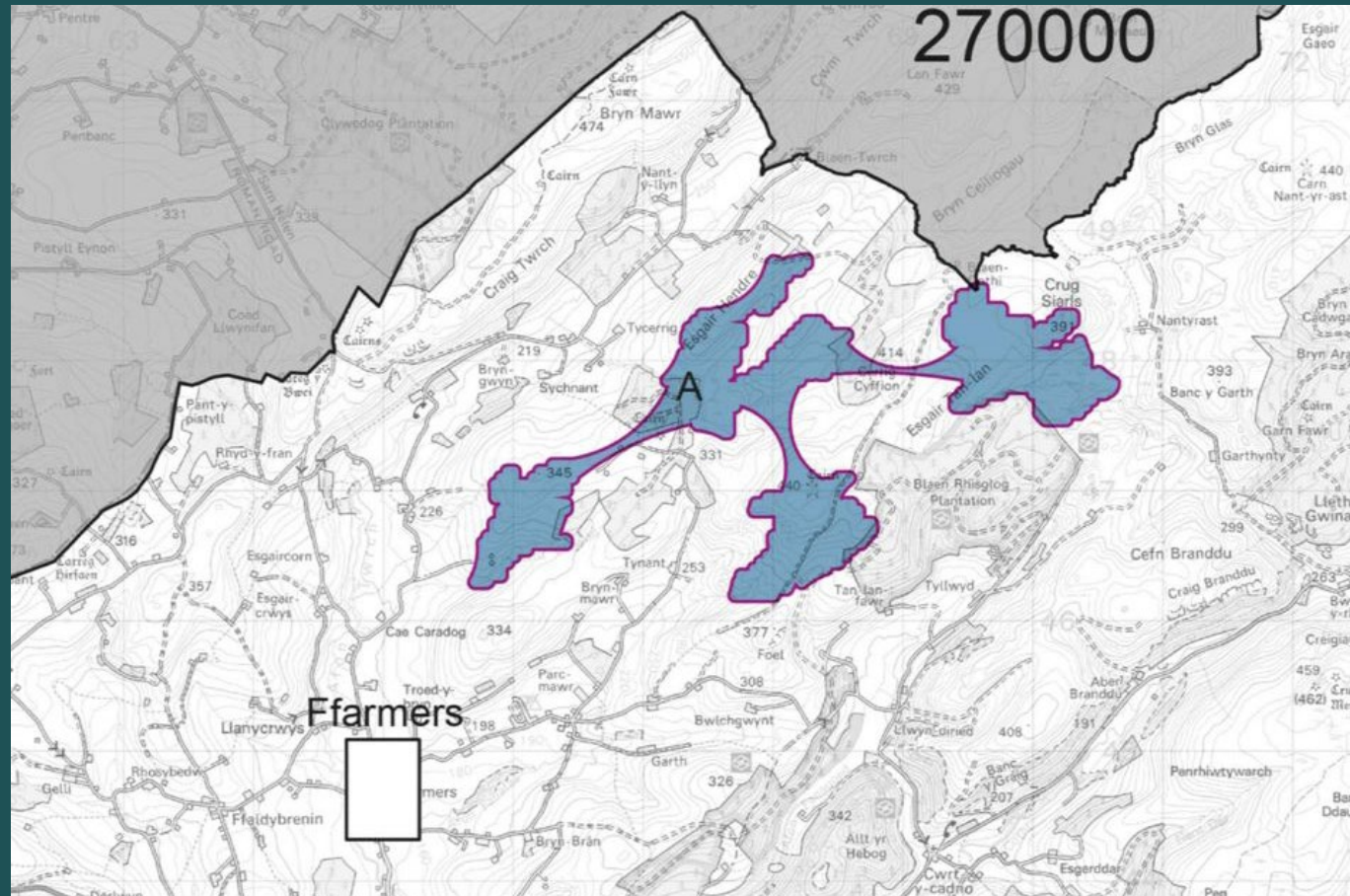
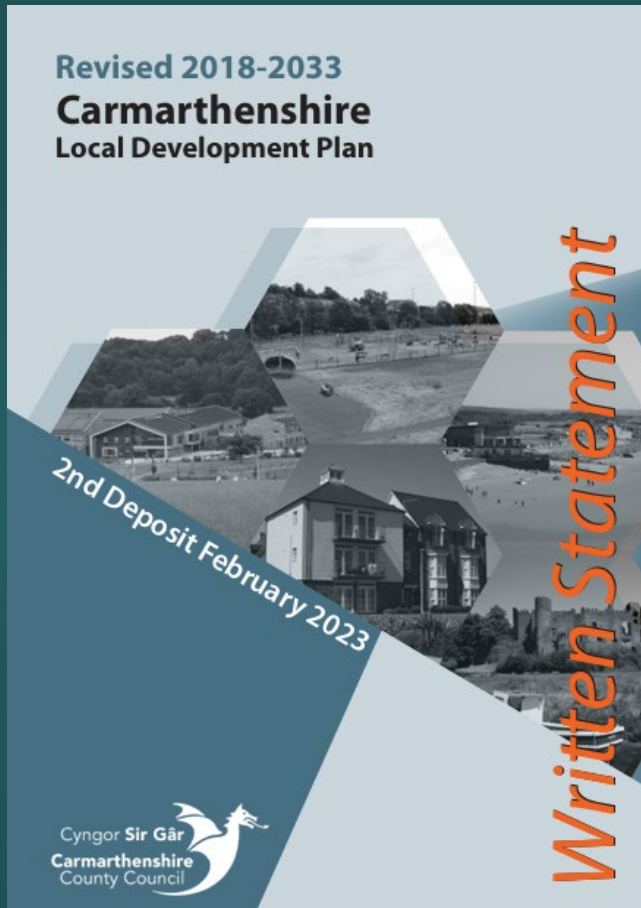
- Pencoed Ganol – Loughor valley
  - [Heolddu Solar Farm](#) – Tywi valley near Ferryside:
- 
- Both located in sensitive locations
  - Both outside of the Future Wales 2040 Solar zones



# Ffarmers solar farm



- In Carmarthenshire new revised Local Plan





# What will they look like for us?



- New turbines are 230 m or 750 ft tall to the tip of their blades. Up to 250 m being considered for Brechfa East (Glyn Cothi)
- Red lights on top to warn aircraft day and night
- As close as 500 m from your home if you live in the pre-assessed area
- Hillsides will be carpeted in solar panels and battery storage plants





# What will be the cumulative impact?





# Where will they get the materials?



- The 200m turbines being constructed in Scotland  
The foundation required 750 cubic metres (1,875 tonnes) of concrete
- Planned west Wales turbines are larger than this and will need bigger foundations
- Brechfa forest faces significant quarrying operations to “win” the aggregate for the Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru turbines
- Likely see this pattern repeated throughout the turbine and pylon sites in west Wales multiplying the environmental damage



# The finished product.....





# Battery Storage Plants

New renewables create a need for storage



'We are playing with fire'

Fears persist of battery storage.  
BBC News 11<sup>th</sup>  
September 2025

Drone footage shows fire at one of the world's largest battery storage plants

BBC News USA & Canada 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025



# Pumped hydro future.....

New renewables create a need for storage



## ► Corie Glas (Loch Lochy)



## ► Glyn Rhonwy (Llanberis)





# Why should we be against energy parks?



- ❑ Loss of amenity: noise, light pollution and planning blight
- ❑ No grid upgrade or free electricity for residents
- ❑ Loss of jobs in the farming and tourism sectors
- ❑ Loss of public amenity and common land
- ❑ Trees felled, hedgerows bulldozed, birds killed by turbines
- ❑ Landscape scarred by new roads and access routes
- ❑ Fire risk from power lines in woodland and battery storage
- ❑ Water supplies disrupted, communities flooded for hydro dams
- ☑ Fluffy grants to charities which may not materialise if companies go bust
- ☑ Farms bought by international companies swapping people for panels
- ☑ Wales becomes the land of the international carbon offset
- ☑ Very few long-term jobs as construction is undertaken by international teams

# What makes Carmarthenshire special?



- The “Garden of Wales”
- Unspoilt countryside, rivers and landscapes
- Home to the National Botanic Garden
- Family farms which feed our nation
- Our cultural heritage and Welsh Language

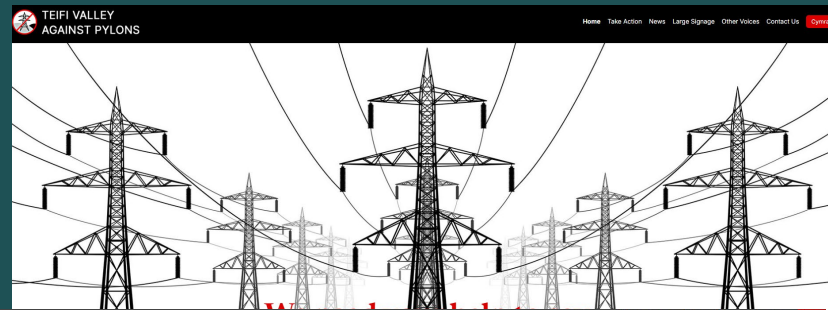


Tourism income £731million to the Carmarthenshire economy in 2024 according to Carmarthenshire County Council over a million people stayed at one of the 1,250 establishments in our County with 6,656 people are employed in the tourism sector.



# What can we do about it?

- ▶ The power to change this lies here in Wales – with the Welsh Government and their Ministers
- ▶ Join a campaign group – who is involved already?



# What can we do about it?



## ▶ Technical

- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Landscape
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Ecology / nature / arboriculture / habitats
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Heritage (built and archaeological)
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Tourism

## ▶ Political

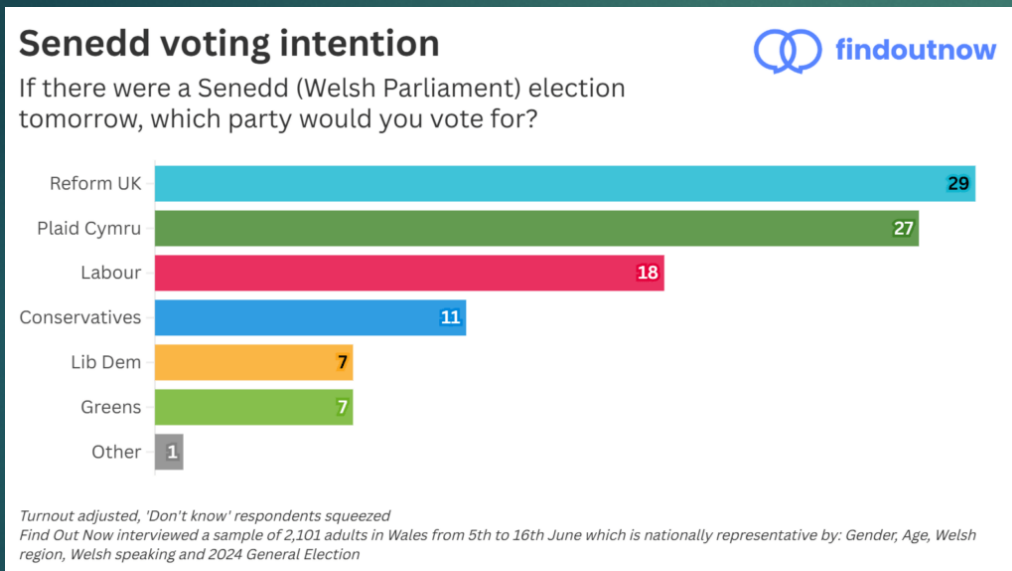
- ▶ Local campaigns
- ▶ Political pressure – all parties
- ▶ Letter and email writing
- ▶ Open to everyone



# Change Welsh Government Policy



All year the opinion polls have signified a big change in Welsh Politics



Find Out Now [Senedd Polling from June 2025](#)

ITV Wales:

[Reform UK's popularity surges in neck-and-neck race with Plaid Cymru, says ITV Wales' latest poll](#)

Nation Cymru:

[Sensational poll shows Welsh Labour Senedd election meltdown and Plaid Cymru and Reform neck and neck for the lead](#)

Wales Online

[Bombshell poll puts Wales on course to change beyond all recognition](#)

# Change Welsh Government Policy



- ▶ Each new Senedd seat such as Sir Gâr will have six members
- ▶ Pure proportional election under the D'hondt system and only parties with more than 12.5% of the vote will get a seat
- ▶ Sir Gâr in play with Plaid, Reform, Conservatives, Labour and others fighting for the 6 seats
- ▶ Demand answers from our MSs and Senedd Candidates as to what they will do to stop the destruction of our countryside



# Change Welsh Government Policy



- ▶ Ask Senedd candidates to commit to a moratorium on development in Sir Gâr
- ▶ Senedd manifestos must reflect the need to prioritise our countryside and protect local people and jobs
- ▶ Get a commitment that political parties will redraft Future Wales 2040 to remove exploitation of our landscapes and to protect the Welsh countryside
- ▶ Renewables should be about communities not making millionaire executives richer
- ▶ Time to recognise the importance of Carmarthenshire's Countryside – Tywi Valley National Landscape (AONB)

**Change of policy is needed  
before voting in May 2026**



# Conclusion



- ▶ West Wales hasn't seen change like this since the industrial revolution
- ▶ Energy Park proposals will not be defeated on technical or legal arguments alone
- ▶ In 2026 we will need to force a change in Welsh Government policy at the ballot box
- ▶ We must act now to preserve the Carmarthenshire we know before it is gone for good