



Welcome

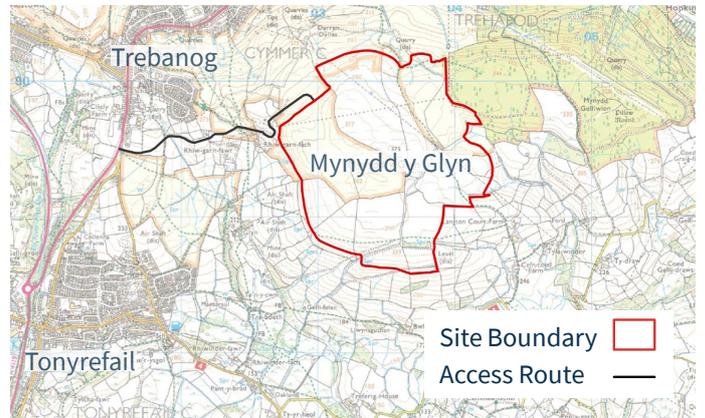
Pennant Walters is developing proposals for a wind farm on a site at Mynydd y Glyn, 3km to the west of Pontypridd in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

The views of the local community are important to us and, as we start the project, we want to introduce ourselves and provide information about our emerging proposals.

We also want to take the opportunity to explain the environmental studies we'll be undertaking to help inform the number and location of the wind turbines in the proposed Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm.

Please note, we are at a very early stage of the project and are not able to provide information about potential visual impact as the location of the wind turbines has not been determined yet. We would, however, welcome your thoughts on key viewpoints in the area, so we can take these into consideration as we develop our plans.

We are committed to informing, engaging and consulting with local communities and stakeholders through the design and planning process and look forward to hearing your views and suggestions.



Above: Site Location Plan

About Pennant Walters

Pennant Walters is a subsidiary of Walters Group, a local company based at Hirwaun and operating nationally. Walters Group employ around 500 people and has diversified significantly in the last 20 years.

Since 2003, we have developed, built and now operate six wind farms and some solar in South Wales, generating a total of 127MW, making us Wales' largest home-grown renewable energy developer.

For more information,
visit: www.pennantwalters.co.uk

Why we need Wind Farms

In April 2019, the Welsh Government declared a climate emergency and published its Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, which was adopted at the start of 2021. The Mynydd y Glyn site in Rhondda Cynon Taf lies adjacent to an identified Pre-Assessed Area for the provision of wind farms.

While many county councils in Wales have declared a climate emergency, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has stated it sees no merit in declaring an emergency and is focussing instead on the measures required to tackle it. These include creating its own green sustainable energy supply through wind farms and solar-powered energy, ensuring all vehicles are as environmentally friendly as possible, promoting more sustainable forms of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport, and a tree-planting programme.

As the proposed Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm will generate more than 10MW of electricity it is defined as a Development of National Significance (DNS). This means that the planning application will be submitted to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (formerly Planning Inspectorate for Wales) and considered by an Inspector with the final decision made by Welsh Ministers.

Question:

Do you support the principle of wind farms to generate renewable energy?



The site

The site lies within Rhondda Cynon Taf and is located on an upland plateau with steep sloping sides to the west of Pontypridd. At its closest point, the site is approximately 17km south of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

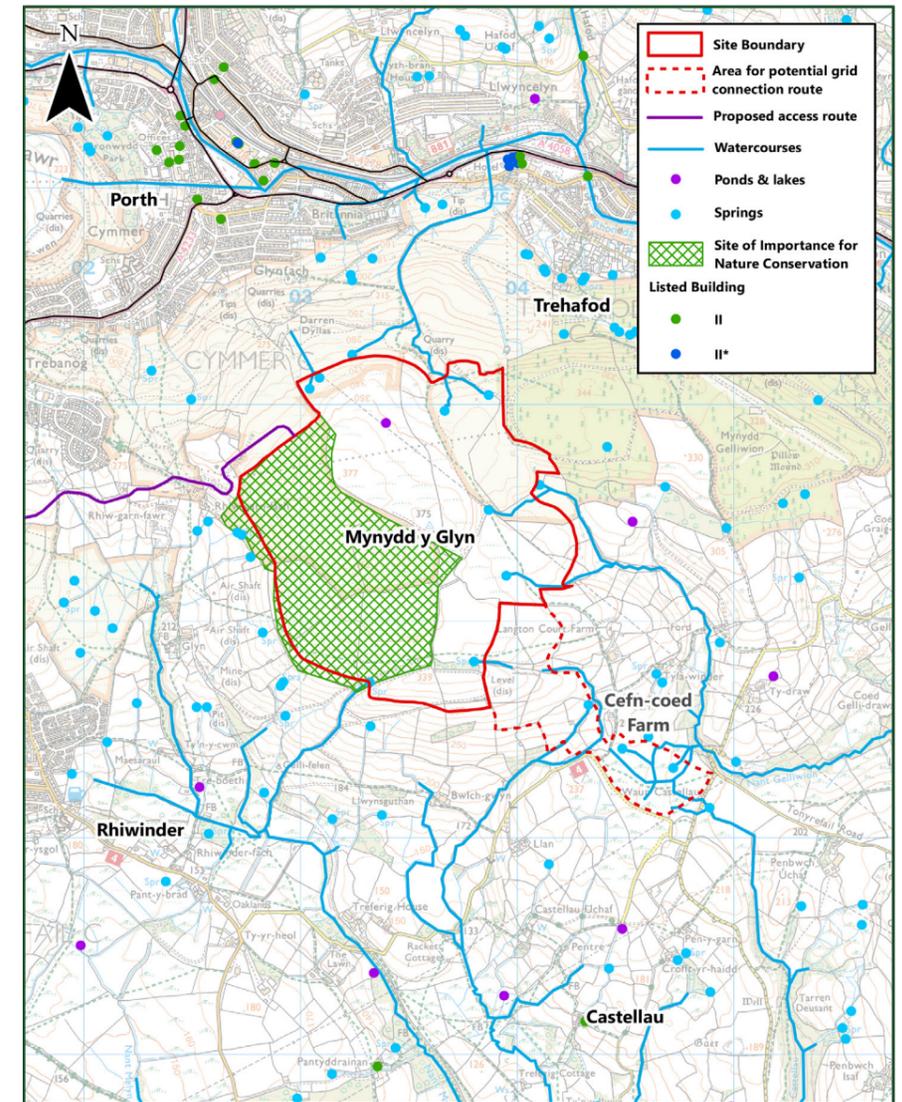
The site as currently defined extends to approximately 200 hectares, which is predominantly grassland used for grazing. Mynydd y Glyn lies to the north of Pre-assessed Area 9 for wind energy. The nearest settlements are Porth, Trebanog, Tonyrefail and Trehafod.

Government policy, as set out in Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, provides a positive policy framework for renewable energy.

It is because of this positive policy support and the fact that the proposed Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm is some distance from the Brecon Beacons and any Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that Pennant Walters considers that the site could be suitable for an onshore wind farm.

Further studies and investigations will help establish the site's suitability against a wide range of environmental criteria.

The site of the proposed Mynydd-y-Glyn Wind Farm comprises a plateau of extensive semi-improved acid grassland used for grazing livestock. The wider landscape surrounding the site is predominantly used for livestock grazing with plantation conifer woodland managed for forestry and small urban settlements.



Above: Indicative Site Constraints Plan

There are a number of constraints that we will need to take into account as we develop the proposals for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm.

Over the course of this year, environmental surveys will continue to be undertaken and they will help us to reduce the area of the development site to avoid potentially sensitive features.

Question:

Are there any other constraints that you think we should take into consideration as we develop the proposals for the Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm?



The proposals

Currently, our proposals for the Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm include:

- up to seven wind turbines with a maximum blade height of 180m
- substation and transformer housing
- temporary construction compound
- temporary construction site offices
- crane pads and cabling
- access track construction
- Construction/improvements for an access to site

It is estimated that the Wind Farm will generate up to 42MW of electricity, which is equivalent to providing enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 32,000 homes.

The Wind Farm will be designed with an operational life of 30 years, exporting renewable energy to the National Grid.

Pennant Walters has an accepted grid offer from Western Power Distribution for a 33kV connection at Upper Boat. The connection is likely to comprise 1.5km of new line on wooden poles and a further 7.5km underground via ducting in the highway network.



Question:

What are your initial thoughts on our emerging proposals for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm?

Environmental

We have submitted an Environmental Scoping Report to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales to establish the parameters for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which will accompany the application.

This report seeks to agree the scope of the studies needed with consultees including the Council.

Key chapters of the EIA will cover:

- Landscape and visual impact
- Historic environment
- Biodiversity
- Ornithology
- Water environment
- Ground conditions
- Traffic and transport
- Noise
- Infrastructure
- Socioeconomics
- Population and human health

The Environmental Scoping Report can be viewed on the project website: www.mynydd-y-glyn.co.uk

We have already undertaken a number of environmental surveys, which focussed on establishing a baseline of current ecological and ornithological conditions in and around the site. Initial results suggest that the site is a typical upland area, with some areas of habitat designated for their ecological importance.

Wildlife being surveyed includes badgers, bats, dormouse, otter, water vole, great crested newt, reptiles and birds. Surveys will also investigate the current water environment, ground conditions and the presence of peat.

Additional early work undertaken also includes an initial assessment of noise, which indicated the site has the potential to accommodate a modern commercial wind farm.

Further detailed studies will help establish the best locations for the turbines, which will have minimal noise impacts on local residents and key receptors.

Surveys will continue into 2022 and the results will form part of the Environmental Statement that will be submitted with the planning application.

Question:

Are there any other environmental issues you think we should be aware of as we develop our proposals?



Transport and access

The majority of traffic movements associated with the Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm will be generated during the construction phase. Once operational, traffic movements associated with maintenance and repairs are expected to be minimal. Occasional visits are likely to be made by 4x4 vehicles or similar and there may be an occasional need for a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) to access the site.

During the construction phase, it is anticipated that Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) will transport the turbine equipment to the site by road from the Port of Swansea or Bristol.

The potential for impacts upon road users will be assessed once the routing of construction vehicles is confirmed. The results of this assessment will also be included within the EIA.

Question:

Are there any roads you would be concerned about us using to transport the turbine equipment? If so, please let us know why.

Community benefits

The communities in which our wind farms operate are important to us. We operate a Community Fund for each of our wind farm projects, which invests money into the local communities.

To date we have distributed around £4 million to qualifying projects.

This has included:

- Refurbishing play areas
- Converting tennis courts into Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)
- Supplying equipment to sports clubs
- Environmental and wildlife projects
- Upgrades to footpaths
- Skate parks

More information on the funding given to our other sites can be found on the individual site's page at: www.pennantwalters.co.uk

As part of the early engagement for Mynydd y Glyn, we would like to hear your views about local ownership and how the Community Fund linked to the Wind Farm can be most effectively administered. There are a number of options we are considering; one is to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) to allocate funds annually to local, qualifying projects.

Question:

What do you think about community benefit opportunities for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm, such as local ownership and the potential for a Community Interest Company to manage a Community Benefit Fund?



Have your say

Although the planning application is a Development of National Significance (DNS) and will ultimately be determined by Welsh Ministers, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council and the local communities are key consultees. We will be undertaking extensive engagement and consultation with local councillors, stakeholders and residents on our emerging plans.

This first phase of public engagement on proposals for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm is designed to introduce the project and enable all those interested in our emerging plans to engage and share their thoughts and ideas with us.

Please complete the feedback form on the project website – www.mynydd-y-glyn.co.uk – or contact us using the details below.

Please let us have your feedback by 30 November 2021.

Comments received will be reviewed and used to inform the emerging proposals. You will then have a chance to comment on the detailed proposals for Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm later in the year, before we finalise and submit a planning application in Autumn 2022.

Contact us

We would like to hear your views on the emerging proposals for the Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm. Please let us know your initial thoughts by:

- Completing the feedback form at the public exhibition or online at: www.mynydd-y-glyn.co.uk
- Calling **01443 548032**
- Emailing consultation@mynydd-y-glyn.co.uk
- Write to **Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT** (no stamp or further address required)

These contact details will put you in touch with Grasshopper Communications, who are managing the consultation.

Indicative project timeline

Autumn 2021	Early engagement on emerging proposals
Spring/Summer 2022	Statutory consultation on detailed layout of proposed Wind Farm
Autumn 2022	DNS application submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Spring/Summer 2023	Examination of application and report/recommendation submitted to Welsh Government
Autumn/Winter 2023	Welsh Ministers determine application

The construction of the Mynydd y Glyn Wind Farm would take around two years, so the Wind Farm could be developed and generating electricity by Winter 2025.