



BELLTOWNPOWER

Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub FAQ - 2022





| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| <p>Who are Belltown Power?</p> | <p>Belltown Power is an established UK based clean energy company at the leading edge of renewable energy development in Wales, Scotland and England. Founded in 2013 by a team of highly experienced renewable energy professionals, we have successfully delivered over 200MW of now operating wind, solar, and hydropower capacity across the UK, including the 24MW Tirgwynt Wind Farm in Carno and the 50MW Frodsham Wind Farm in Cheshire.</p> <p>We are committed to playing our part in enabling the transition to renewable, low-carbon energy and combating the climate emergency. and have over 1GW of unsubsidised UK wind and solar projects under development.</p> <p>Belltown has strong development values and engages in transparent, open and tailored consultations with communities and key stakeholders. Communities, education, and the environment are at the heart of everything we do.</p> |
| <p>How did you find this site?</p> | <p>Belltown has undertaken an extensive site identification and constraint mapping process to find the best windiest and least constrained development areas for wind farms in Wales. This process included reviewing the outputs of Welsh Government’s own spatial analysis presented in its “Future Wales: a National Plan 2040”, which concluded in the identification of Pre-Assessed Areas within which there is a presumption in favour of landscape change.</p> <p>The Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub area scored highly in all scoring criteria. Moreover, approximately half the site is located within one of the aforementioned Pre-Assessed Areas, meaning it scored highly in the Government’s own spatial analysis.</p> |
| <p>What happens when wind farms turbine technology as a wind farm gets to the end of their life?</p> | <p>As part of the consenting process, a decommissioning plan is agreed with the local authority and financial mechanisms are put in place to ensure that the turbines are removed at the end of the project life. However, some tracks may remain.</p> <p>With regard to the technology itself - currently ca. 85% - 90% of the total mass of a wind turbine can be recycled with components such as steel, cement, copper wire, electronics and gearing having well-established recycling processes. While turbine blades are more challenging to recycle, manufacturers are actively working toward enabling the recycling of blades and their composites. Equally, there are several companies emerging who offer such services with the industry in the process of maturing. In June 2021, WindEurope, a leading trade association representing the industry, the European wind industry actively committed to re-use, recycle, or recover 100% of decommissioned blades.</p> |



| Question | Answer |
|---|---|
| Where exactly will the turbines go? | The turbines will be located within the site boundary marked on the website. Their exact location will be dependent on the results of the various technical and environmental surveys currently underway as well as consultation with the local communities and other key stakeholders. |
| What surveys have you done on this site? | To date, we have undertaken a range of surveys including ornithological surveys, heritage surveys, aviation surveys and habitats surveys. |
| How many turbines will there be and what will be their height? | <p>The maximum capacity of the site is 25.2MW. The reason why the project capacity is capped at this size is because that is the size of the grid connection the project has secured into the existing grid network.</p> <p>At this early stage, we anticipate there being between 5 - 7 turbines with the final number depending on the size of turbine we're feasibly able to bring on site. We are seeking tip heights between 149.9 metres and 200 metres, with the final decision reliant on the outcomes of the various surveys and future consultation processes we run.</p> |

Impact (1)



| Question | Answer |
|--|---|
| <p>Ceredigion already has a lot of wind turbines - why do we need more?</p> | <p>Wales is at the forefront of fighting the climate emergency and has established world-leading clean energy ambitions, which include a target for Wales to generate 70% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. In May 2020, Ceredigion declared a global climate emergency and aligned with the objectives of the Welsh Governments' Well-being of Future Generations Act. This project will support in combatting the climate emergency and supporting Wales in meeting its targets while also providing a range of benefits to the local community, including a ground-breaking community ownership offering.</p> |
| <p>Are you planning a Phase 2 or extension to the project?</p> | <p>Belltown has no current plans for a Phase 2 or extension to the project, and our only activity in the area is limited to this project. The proposed development area presented in the maps is the extent of land secured and for which we have a grid connection. The project will be capped at 25.2MW because that is capacity secured into the local grid network - to our knowledge, there is no additional capacity available on that network.</p> |
| <p>How tall will the turbines be?</p> | <p>We are currently proposing tips heights of between 149.9m and 200m. A comprehensive consultation process will be undertaken to gain feedback on the final design and proposal so we can refine the scheme before applying for planning permission.</p> |
| <p>Why are the turbines so tall?</p> | <p>The industry is heading towards larger and taller turbines for various reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a wind farm to be feasible in a subsidy-free market, the equipment needs to be larger, more efficient and in the windiest places. The taller the turbine, the higher the wind speed and energy capture. • As turbines have got larger, they have improved their efficiency and so it is now possible to harness far more wind energy per unit of land so newer turbines provide a far better climate benefit. • Manufacturers are catering to a global market of both onshore and offshore wind farms. As such, many suppliers no longer manufacture the smaller turbines installed at existing operating wind farms. <p>An additional consideration for why taller turbines are required at this particular site is that it is to be constructed in commercially forested area, which means greater clearance distances are needed between the bottom of the turbine blade and the surrounding trees.</p> |
| <p>What exactly will be built at the site?</p> | <p>A combination of wind turbines, access tracks, a substation, a temporary meteorological mast, and, potentially, some battery storage facilities will be built within the site boundary. There will also be a mix of overhead and undergrounded cabling from the site substation to the point of connection at Lampeter BSP.</p> |

Impact (2)



| Question | Answer |
|--|---|
| Where are the nearest residential properties? | All properties within close proximity of the site will be consulted with and considered when determining the wind farm’s final design. |
| Will I be able to see the turbines from my house? | We do not yet have a final design of the wind farm at this early stage. Following feedback from our initial public consultations (targeted for early 2023) and from our ongoing site surveys, we will produce visualisations at locations representative of the local communities, which will be used to discuss any potential visual impacts with Ceredigion Council. Minimising visibility from local communities and sensitive receptors will be a key consideration as the project design evolves. |
| What impact will the project have on local tourism? | Studies by both Welsh Assembly and Scottish Government have concluded that wind farms do not materially impact tourism locally. |
| What about traffic during construction? | <p>We are committed to minimising any disruption during the construction phase of the project. Belltown have significant experience managing the construction phase of wind farms.</p> <p>At this early stage, we are still in the process of finalising our preferred route to site. If the project is consented, we would look to use a text alert service during the delivery period so that as soon as each delivery slot is agreed with the Police, we text local residents to let them know where, when and for how long each delivery will be so they can plan their day accordingly. For this project, each turbine is likely to require 10 or so components to be delivered. We would work with Police to agree conveyances and off-peak times as much as possible. Overall, we would expect around 30 convoys over roughly a 4-6 weeks for this project.</p> |
| Will the project be noisy? | Following surveys and public consultation, we will undertake a desk-based noise assessment based on the resultant layout to identify if any houses have the potential for noise impact. We will then work with the council Environmental Health Officer to agree if there are any potentially sensitive properties. If there are, we would look to undertake baseline noise monitoring at the closest of these (subject to landowner’s permission) for a couple of weeks to establish the current background noise levels. We would then assess if any of the proposed turbines would result in an unacceptable noise increase at any property. If it was shown there could be an unacceptable increase, we would then propose mitigation as part of our planning application. This could include micro-siting or running certain turbines in low sound mode (low power) during certain weather conditions so noise wouldn’t be propagated. If consented any proposed mitigation would be a condition of the consent. |

Impact (3)



| Question | Answer |
|--|--|
| Will there be any impact on wildlife? | Belltown is committed to delivering a net biodiversity gain via its developments. As part of the development process, we will carry out extensive ecological, ornithological and habitat surveys to build a comprehensive understanding of the natural flora and fauna on site. To enable this, several surveys are being and will be undertaken to inform on local ecology and potential impacts, which will feed into the final design. At Belltown we strongly believe our sites should benefit the local environment and as such we assess how we can enhance and improve the natural capital and biodiversity on our sites and employ an environmental management plan that governs the biodiversity enhancement measures put in place. |
| Will there be more overhead wires (both on site and to connect to grid)? | <p>Connecting the project to Lampeter substation will include some length of overhead cabling on small wooden poles (the same as you see along roads). The connection route and infrastructure chosen will be designed to minimise any impact to the local area. The connection voltage of this project is at 33kV, which is the smallest and least obstructive connection infrastructure available to large-scale wind projects.</p> <p>Cabling between onsite infrastructure will be undergrounded.</p> |
| Where will the project be connected to the grid? Is there enough grid capacity? | The project has secured a 25.2MW connection into Lampeter BSP, ca. 13km away from the project development area. There is currently no additional capacity on the existing grid network beyond the capacity we have secured for this project. |

Benefits



| Question | Answer |
|--|---|
| <p>What benefits will there be for the local community?</p> | <p>At Belltown Power we fundamentally believe that renewable energy projects should benefit the communities that host them. If consented, Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub will provide £5,000 / MW (index linked) per annum in community benefits to local communities impacted by the project. Based on a 25.2MW capacity, this would equate to £126,000 in community benefits per annum paid out to local communities, before indexation. Depending on what communities need - and want - we can front load some or all of this.</p> <p>These funds will be made available for communities to invest in initiatives most needed by the community, buy additional ownership and/or go towards electricity bills for local residents.</p> |
| <p>What is the community ownership offering?</p> | <p>Communities local to the Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub will benefit through our ground-breaking community ownership scheme.</p> <p>We want to go beyond simply offering the opportunity for local investment into our projects and actually enable the uptake of community ownership in a way that benefits everyone. Belltown's Community Ownership scheme includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving local community organisations 1% of the equity in the project for free. • Enabling them to buy a further 4% of the equity at cost once the project is operational. • Offering them as much further ownership as they want to take at market value (up to a maximum 49% share of equity). <p>We will be more than happy to talk this through with interested parties - please contact us to register your interest.</p> |
| <p>How much electricity will this scheme generate?</p> | <p>The proposed capacity of 25.2MW would deliver enough energy to power the equivalent of ca. 18,500 homes p.a. and lead to a net CO2 reduction of ca. 31,000 tonnes of CO2 p.a..</p> |
| <p>Will the wind farm create any local jobs?</p> | <p>We will be promoting local suppliers during the project construction by committing to award contracts to local companies where they are within 10% of the lowest bid and meet environmental, quality and safety requirements. Longer term than this we are keen to support apprenticeship programmes or training schemes which can be funded through the community benefit offering. In addition, our education programme aims to teach the next generation about renewables and hopefully will inspire renewable professionals of the future.</p> |

Process



| Question | Answer |
|--|---|
| Who decides whether the project goes ahead? | <p>The application will ultimately be determined by the Welsh Ministers. In Wales, any energy generating station greater than 10MW in capacity is considered a Development of National Significance (DNS) and decided upon by the Welsh Ministers. The body tasked with handling applications is the Planning and Environment Division Wales (PEDW).</p> <p>The planning process requires comprehensive consultation with local stakeholders and local planning authorities such as Ceredigion County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council, each of which will be required to submit Local Impact Reports.</p> |
| When is the project going to be submitted? | <p>While timelines are still fluid, we currently anticipate submitting the project for scoping in early 2023 with a view to submitting a formal application by early 2024.</p> |
| If the project is approved, when will construction begin? | <p>Based on the above timelines, we expect to start construction in early 2025.</p> |
| When will construction be completed? | <p>Construction typically takes between 12 - 18 months depending on the size of the wind farm and the season in which construction is started. As such, our expected energisation date for the project is by end of 2026. Delivery of Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) will only be over a period of weeks.</p> |
| Are you going to be consulting with the local community? If so, how and when? | <p>Absolutely we will. As our plans develop, we will look to undertake direct engagement with local communities via informal events and, eventually, a formal consultation process to ensure local communities have an opportunity to input into the project. We are currently targeting 2023 for public exhibitions and consultation. Please do register via our website if you would like to be kept up-to-date as the project develops.</p> <p>At this early stage, we have presented to the LLanddewi Brefi Community Council and are committed to providing regular updates as they happen. We have also reached out to both Ceredigion County Council and Carmarthenshire County Council to introduce them to the project.</p> <p>In the meantime, please continue to visit the project website for updates and do feel free to reach out to us for more information.</p> |
| If I want to find out more about the project, who should I contact in the first instance? | <p>James Grey and Louis Kirkup, Belltown Power T: 0117 303 5217 E: waunmaenllwyd@belltownpower.com</p> |