



Fferm Wynt  
**Garn Fach**  
Wind Farm

## Introducing Garn Fach Wind Farm

Building a sustainable future through wind power and other renewable technologies, in partnership with local communities.



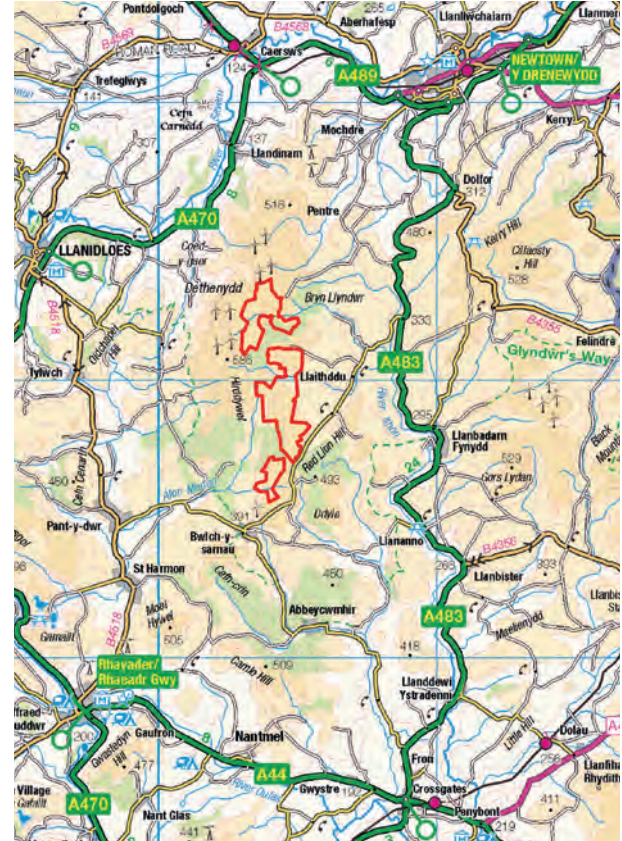
Proud to be investing in Wales and Welsh communities.


# Introducing Garn Fach Wind Farm

Working with fourteen local farming families who own and manage the land, EDF Renewables (EDF R) has been investigating the potential for a wind farm on land to the south of Newtown.

The site was originally scoped for a wind farm by a different developer some time ago, but the scheme – then called Llaithddu – didn't proceed. EDF R has reinvented the scheme and made significant improvements and commitments to the community.

Taking into account the advice of the planning inspector, there are now fewer turbines proposed, and turbines to the south of the site have been removed altogether. The turbine layout has been modified to mitigate the landscape and visual impact concerns of the original scheme.



 Site Boundary

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# Garn Fach in numbers



Turbines: **up to 22**

Height: **up to 149.9 m**

Turbine capacity: **around 5 MW each**

Total installed capacity: **up to 110 MW**

Generating enough electricity for **66,000 households** each year<sup>1</sup>

**Saving 110,000 tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions annually<sup>2</sup>

**Fourteen local farming families** are partners in the project

Community benefit fund: **£5,000 per MW** which could equate to up to **£550,000 per year**

<sup>1</sup> Load factors based on the five-year rolling averages on unchanged configuration basis using 'Digest of UK Energy Statistics' July 2019 release.

<sup>2</sup> Based on conversion figures provided by BEIS and the digest of UK Energy Statistics.



Site Boundary



Indicative Turbine Location

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# Developing the project

**When proposing a wind farm a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA) records the baseline environmental conditions for the proposed site and assesses how those characteristics will be affected by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm.**

Extensive **ecological surveys** are being conducted to identify local habitats and the species that live or travel across the site. The results of these studies along with other environmental information such as wind speeds, background noise, and landscape and visual assessments will be used to determine the final turbine layout.

A **transport and access study** will be undertaken to assess the best routes for construction vehicles and for bringing turbine components to site, and what highway modifications – if any – might be necessary. The Newtown bypass greatly improves access to the area. Transportation of turbines will be managed in consultation with the police.

The EIA also considers a number of other issues including how recreational and other use of the site might be impacted, especially during the construction, how any impact on rights of way can be mitigated, how best to protect archaeological and cultural heritage assets on site, and geology and hydrology considerations.

The project also includes access tracks, a substation, battery storage containers, a temporary construction compound, borrow pits, a permanent meteorological mast, external transformers, and underground cabling.

EDF R is in the process of making a formal **grid connection application**. Currently, the connection points and grid route are not known. More details about this will be known during 2020 and will be shared publicly at the statutory pre-application consultation period in the summer, which will include a public exhibition.

**All this information will be available for members of the public to view and comment on during the pre-application public consultation period, alongside the Environmental Impact Assessment documents.**

**The overall aim is to produce a turbine layout that will have the least impact on the environment, whilst optimising the renewable energy generation of the site.**



# Climate Change, policy and planning

**Government policy at a local, national and global level is changing rapidly to address the threat of climate change.**

Decarbonisation means we have to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels and increase renewable and low carbon energy generation. The Welsh Government has a target for Wales to be generating 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030, and to reduce carbon emissions by at least 95% by 2050.

The planning system in Wales has changed. The final planning decision will be taken by the Welsh Government, on the advice of an independent planning inspector. Powys County Council won't make the final decision, but the local authority's opinion will be taken into account as a statutory consultee. EDF R is engaging with Powys Council, seeking input and feedback, to ensure that the project can be developed as sensitively as possible.

**Onshore wind is one of the cheapest forms of low carbon large scale electricity generation in the UK, helping to tackle climate change.**



# Community

**EDF R is committed to delivering local benefits and working in partnership with local communities.**

The Garn Fach **community benefit fund** will be £5,000 per megawatt, which could be up to £550,000 each year the wind farm is operational. The community will decide what local good causes will benefit from funding.

In line with EDF R's good practice, and to meet the Welsh Government's target for renewable energy projects to have an element of **local ownership**, we are exploring ways in which the community can have a stake in Garn Fach.

Many local businesses in Powys already supply the renewables industry. We will ensure that Garn Fach delivers **contracts to local suppliers**. EDF R is a member of the Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce and we'll work with them to ensure that local firms can access contract opportunities.

As part of the engagement process we will establish a wind farm **community liaison group** to share information and respond to queries.



# What happens now?

In January, EDF R notified the planning inspectorate of its intention to submit a planning application, presented a scoping report, and held public information days locally.

Next steps include:

- Further engagement with local communities and stakeholders, including a formal **pre-application public consultation**, and publication of the **Environmental Statement**
- Revision of the scheme based on feedback received from the local community and expert stakeholders
- Submission of the **Planning Application** to the planning inspectorate towards the end of 2020
- Examination of the application by an **independent planning inspector** – at which point there may be a hearing or inquiry – who provides recommendations to the Welsh Government Minister (early 2021)
- A decision by the **Welsh Government Minister**



# About EDF Renewables

EDF Renewables is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in the UK is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities. With our operating portfolio of 36 wind farms and battery storage units (totalling almost 1GW) we are providing much needed new and affordable, low carbon electricity in the UK. In Wales we currently operate two wind farms and have plans to develop more renewables projects here.

For further information please e-mail  
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and for project updates visit  
[www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/garn-fach](http://www.edf-re.uk/our-sites/garn-fach)



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