



Mr James Dawkins
Planning Case Manager
Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1 0ET

Our Ref: 01592-1485332

2 September 2020

Dear Mr Dawkins,

Re: Llanbrynmair Onshore Wind Farm Redetermination – Request for Further Information following the withdrawal of the Carnedd Wen Onshore Wind Farm application

Thank you for your letter dated 25 August 2020 in which you request information as to whether the withdrawal of the Carnedd Wen Wind Farm application has resulted in any changes to the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm application, such as the proposal to share an Abnormal Indivisible Load (AIL) route with Carnedd Wen.

The original Llanbrynmair application included the wind farm site and the proposed access for AILs along the Llanerfyl to Talerddig minor road. During the conjoined public inquiry in 2013/2014, Powys County Council (PCC) requested that RES considers an alternative access arrangement with the Carnedd Wen scheme and, in February 2014, RES submitted Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI) which considered both AIL routes.

Following closure of the inquiry, the Inspector concluded in paragraph 668 (page 110) of his report to the Secretary of State dated 8 December 2014, that on balance he considered that the benefits of the proposed Llanbrynmair Wind Farm would clearly outweigh its adverse effects. He went on to say that use of the Llanerfyl to Talerddig road to provide access for AILs to the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm would cause significant adverse environmental effects. He also concluded that the alternative of sharing access for AIL's with the Carnedd Wen scheme would be strongly preferable in environmental terms. Accordingly, he recommended (in paragraph 669 of his report) that the proposal for AILs to gain access to the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm from the Nant yr Eira Valley should be rejected.

In paragraph 675 of his report the Inspector recommended that if the Secretary of State decides to grant section 36 consent and deemed planning permission for the proposed Carnedd Wen scheme, then he would recommend section 36 consent and deemed planning permission should be granted for that part of the Llanbrynmair proposal relating to the erection of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure, but not insofar as it relates to the creation of a route for AILs via the minor road from Llanerfyl to Talerddig. That part of the proposal which the Inspector recommended should be granted consent is shown on the enclosed Drawing 1A (Sheet 1) which accompanied the February 2014 SEI.

Although the Carnedd Wen Wind Farm application has been withdrawn, this does not alter the Inspector's conclusion that the benefits of the proposed Llanbrynmair Wind Farm would clearly outweigh its adverse effects. Furthermore, if the Secretary of State agrees with the Inspector's recommendation that consent should be granted for the Llanbrynmair proposal, but subject to a requirement that AILs do not access the site from the Llanerfyl to Talerddig road, then the withdrawal of the Carnedd Wen application does not alter this conclusion. Consent could and should be granted for that part of the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm as shown on the enclosed Drawing 1A (Sheet 1), in accordance with the Inspector's clear recommendation.

Importantly, by granting consent for the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm in this manner, the Secretary of State would enable RES to justify undertaking the further investment needed to assess and submit a new application for an alternative access to the Llanbrynmair site. Consent would also ensure that this significant renewable energy project is still able, in due course, to contribute to Welsh and UK targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, without further unnecessary delay, this latter point being an issue that the Inspector emphasises in paragraph 673 of his report.

Furthermore, granting consent as proposed by the Inspector would finally conclude the Section 36 process for the Mid Wales wind farm schemes, as the responsibility for determining future energy proposals, including an application for an alternative access to the Llanbrynmair site, has now been devolved to the Senedd. This process has already been delayed for a considerable period of time and any further delay to its conclusion is not in anyone's interest.

I therefore urge the Secretary of State either to consent the Llanbrynmair Wind Farm application as submitted or alternatively to consent that part of the proposal relating to the erection of the wind turbines and associated infrastructure, as recommended by the Inspector and as shown on the enclosed Drawing.

If you require any further details, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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