



WHITELEE WIND FARM An example for Bute?



Whitelee wind farm- the biggest in the UK at the moment, covers over 30 square miles and houses **215** turbines. **146** of these are **110m** tall (to blade tip), **69** are **140m** tall. They are significantly smaller than those proposed in The Cambrians.

Whitelee wind farm is the inspiration for Bute Energy's future vision for Wales. [\(Link\)](#)

We have produced an in depth report (*attached to this email*) on Whitelee, outlining this development, in comparison to the various proposals for the Cambrians. Please also see our website to read this important report: <https://caruteifi.cymru/>

We are not alone

Breaking news from Australia! The Australian Conservation Foundation has released a joint statement: Building renewables to benefit nature and communities. In it they state...

*'The roll out of renewable energy infrastructure can happen while preserving and restoring biodiversity. **There is absolutely no need, on our over-cleared continent, to knock down rainforests or irreplaceable wildlife habitat for renewable energy projects.'***

They go on to say... **'Nature is itself a climate solution. Healthy forests, oceans, wetlands and mangroves store carbon and help limit climate damage, as well as being home to the wildlife we love.'**

So we need to make sure nature is protected and thriving as we build our renewable powered future.'

It is signed by 14 organisations including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace and the WWF. Hardly NIMBY's. Could UK government and our own Welsh Senedd be informed by such thinking?

Isn't it ironic?

In 2003, Bute Energy raised more than £7000 for charity partners. One charity they have chosen to support is The DPJ Foundation.

This very worthy charity, for those who are unaware, supports those in the agricultural sector with poor mental health by providing support, spreading awareness, and training those in farming to be aware of poor mental health and its impact.

But we are confused, is this to offset the calls and visits by Cartas Jonas (on behalf of Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru) to landowners to harass them into giving access to property. Or, the subsequent letters issued by Cartas Jones to anyone who declined to allow access, threatening possible recourse to legal action to gain access (which they know they do not currently have).

These visits and letters have caused considerable upset and alarm to most who have received them. Perhaps Bute have a sense of conscience, or a sense of irony maybe?

Nant Ceiment Energy Park

Facing Lampeter is Pencarreg Mountain of 415 meters height. It has on top a prominent television transmitter mast which is a further 100 meters height. Immediately beyond the mast Bute Energy are proposing to build a 14 turbine wind farm with a blade tip height of more than twice that of the mast. This will be called Nant Ceiment Energy Park.

Giving it a Welsh name is where this foreign company's sympathies end. In order to attain their cash cow they need to move people from their homes. Without welcome they began applying pressure on residents and landowners during lockdown. Despite Bute not having been granted a licence for compulsory purchase they, nevertheless, made the homeowners believe that this wind farm would be inevitable. They have enticed and pressurised the residents of three small holdings to agree to sell their properties to Bute, though the company will not buy them until they get the required planning permission to build.

The tactics being employed by Bute or their representatives are approaching owners individually and telling them that the other land and home owners are complying and that any one holding out will lose out on the best offers. They claim that this wind farm is going to be built regardless. Some of the land has a SSSI status but this will not stand in their way.

This leaves the residents in limbo with an axe over their heads. Not able to sell, because who would buy a property with a proposed wind farm behind the house. Not wanting to further invest in their homes and businesses having been told that they might have to move soon. Then Bute saying they wont actually buy until or even if they get their permission so the people cant move on and put this behind them despite not wanting this in the first place.

Needless to say this is having an emotional toll on the people who've loved living there, having built what they have for themselves. Now being told that all this tranquility will have to be spoiled to make room for 14 whirling giants so that a multinational company can make more profit. Far more electricity is already produced in Wales than the country uses but wind farms are heavily subsidised so the profiteers are circling like vultures.

This scenario is unfortunately a reality for many more people in Wales facing the same tactics by Bute and other prospectors who think climate change can be stopped by tearing down trees, ripping up the earth, filling it with concrete and build enormous structures that may produce electricity for up to 25 to 30 years all while turning a tidy profit. We'd say that its the pursuit of more and more profit thats largely responsible for the crisis we all now have to face.

BUTE Energy cancel Moelfre wind farm!

CPRW the Welsh Countryside Charity have reported that Bute Energy has been compelled to retract their plans for the Moelfre Wind Farm development due to strong local opposition. It states: "This marks a victory for community resilience and solidarity in the face of a development that threatened the integrity of the local landscape and residents' quality of life".

"Bute Energy's decision comes as no surprise," stated Ross Evans, spokesperson for the CPRW. "Given the strength and unity of the local opposition, the developer's position became untenable. They had no choice but to withdraw."

Full story on CPRW website: ([Link](#))

Funding available: 'Local Places For Nature Fund'

Ceredigion Nature Partnership has funding for projects to create, **restore or enhance natural assets** and to deliver nature on your doorstep where people live, work and access public services. The scheme is funded by the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature fund. Grants values range from £5000 to £50,000.

At the same time, the Welsh Government is aware, and supportive of, proposals around the building of onshore windfarms, and hundreds of miles of overhead pylons which, arguably, can only **detrimentially impact our natural environment** 'on our doorstep'.

If anyone is interested in funding for a project under this scheme, or if you have any queries, you are advised to contact:
biodiversity@ceredigion.gov.uk

CARUTEIFI WEBSITE NOW LIVE

The [Caru Teifi website](#) is now up and running. It has a lot of information relevant to the projects that are proposed for us here, and provides useful guidance for composing objection letters or emails. Sending objection letters or emails is crucial for making your concerns heard. Action will be needed soon for the first Lan Fawr Energy Park consultation, which, according to their website, is scheduled for "late Summer or early Autumn". (Date as yet unknown)

The May edition of our newsletter contained an article entitled "We Are Not Alone." Following that thought, please visit the "[Other Voices](#)" page on the website. You can find it under the campaign tab. As well as being an effective links page, it has received surprisingly positive feedback. It underlines the message that "We Are Not Alone" in our fight against pylon lines and wind turbine proposals.

If you have received this newsletter as a printed copy, please keep in touch with us by visiting www.caruteifi.cymru and signing up to our mailing list.

THE SCANDAL OF HENDY WIND FARM

Hendy Wind Farm in Llangedegly Rhos, Powys is a comparatively modest development of 7 turbines which a wing tip height of 110m. These are half the size of the turbines now being proposed across the Cambrian Mountains. Whilst there was widespread opposition to it, eventually it was approved and built. Scandalously Hendy wind farm has stood idle and, to this day, not generated any electricity! It remains in breach of many of the conditions attached to the planning approval including pre-construction conditions.

In 2014 Hendy Wind Farm Ltd applied for planning permission to construct the wind farm. Powys County Council's planning committee refused to approve the development. The developer's appeal resulted in an independent Planning Inspector's hearing in March 2017. The Inspector again rejected the development, saying in summary "*It follows that, when taken together the combined harm to landscape and heritage matters significantly outweigh the identified benefits*".

In October 2018 the Welsh Government Cabinet Minister for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, Lesley Griffiths, overrode her own Planning Inspector's recommendation and approved the wind farm proposal, asserting that in her opinion "*the benefits of the wind farm, in particular its displacement of carbon dioxide emissions overrode all other concerns*".

The introduction of The National Plan 2040 which in February 2021 revoked Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy – Strategic Search Areas (TAN8). TAN8 identified 7 Strategic Search Areas most appropriate for large scale wind farm development with the important function of restricting the proliferation of large-scale wind farms in other parts of Wales. By 2018/19 the majority of Local Planning Authorities had carried out their own 'Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity' reports together with 'Renewable Energy Assessments' which showed none or very few areas suitable for even 120m high turbines.

The National Plan 2040 enabled planning procedures under developments of National Significance (DNS) which identified 10 areas with presumption in favour of large-scale wind farms with turbine heights up to 250m. Now all onshore wind farm developments over 10MW capacity fall outside of Councils' Planning procedures and are subject to direct approval by the Welsh Government whose authority can be delegated to one Minister. Any such decision may not be challenged except by Judicial Review

More recently the 'The Infrastructure (Wales) Act 2024' became law on 3rd June 2024 which streamlines the process for approval of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) and is in the process of replacing the DNS planning regime. To this day much of rural Wales's population is unaware that they live in Pre-Assessed areas with a presumption in favour of developments of large scale wind farms.

When introducing the 'Infrastructure (Wales) Bill to the Senedd, Julie James' presentation (12th June 2023) sounds laudable – who can argue with striving to reach Net Zero in the face of a global climate crisis. But she omitted to mention the Senedd's plans to desecrate the Cambrian Mountains with large-scale wind farms. Likewise, Jeremy Miles has reportedly assured MS's that "*the planning process is rigorous, robust, transparent and, critically affords opportunities for community engagement*". He omitted to say that the Senedd has total powers to disregard any/all objections and to appoint a single Minister to decide on an application for planning permission for a DNS and NSIP as it was with Hendy!

It is an irrefutable fact that Wales could meet its net zero targets by using just offshore wind farms. The Government's 'Renewable Energy in Wales' report May 2022 states "Wales's geography and topography offer abundant opportunities for renewable energy development both on land *and* offshore.

If these opportunities are seized, Wales can go beyond meeting domestic energy and become a world leader in renewable energy production, supplying clean, affordable energy across the UK and beyond". Yet all we hear is that we must have onshore wind farms to meet our net zero targets.

Hendy Wind Farm was a precursor for the destruction of our countryside we now face. It emboldened politicians to override the rational views of their constituents and their own planning experts. We must take action and not let Hendy Wind Farm merely stand as a monument to the death of democracy.