



## The Alternative View: When is a wind not a wind?

According to Stuart George, managing director at Bute;

*"With its rich landscapes and coastal winds, Wales holds vast potential for onshore wind power."*

<https://nation.cymru/news/energy-firm-reveals-its-wind-farm-plans-for-wales-are-inspired-by-the-uks-biggest-such-project-in-scotland/>

Note the words **'coastal winds'** - we are not much more than 12 miles from the coast in and around Lampeter. A wind blowing here is also blowing at sea. Or, if it's not right now, it was a few minutes ago, or will be in a few minutes time. So why onshore wind specifically?

Offshore wind is more powerful and consistent than onshore wind and the UK boasts some of the best offshore windspeeds in Europe and large stretches of shallow seabed. Already there are significant offshore windfarms at; Hornsea (North Yorkshire), the Dogger Bank, and Walney Island (Cumbria), and studies show 50GW could be available from the Celtic Sea between UK and Ireland.



**Erebus** is a pilot project for an offshore floating wind farm 45km off the South West Coast of Pembrokeshire to generate 96MW. A follow on 'early commercial project' (**Valorous**) to generate 300MW

is planned. This 'early commercial project' would generate more energy than the Lan Fawr energy park ('up to' 260MW) close to Llanddewi-Brefi.

Proposals to establish **Celtic Freeport** to support investment at Port Talbot and Milford Haven to maximise floating offshore wind opportunities have been made. The UK Crown Estate plans to lease three areas in the Celtic Sea, west of Lundy Island, for floating offshore wind farms. It hopes to see as many as 260 large turbines across the three sites by 2035.

So why the rush for onshore wind?

Our land provides our housing, employment, and recreation, it sustains us in food, and it supports a rich natural biodiversity, an ecosystem constantly under pressure with many species already under threat of extinction. Planning strategically for offshore power generation leaves the land and natural habitats we still have, for future generations.

Certainly, that seems to be the public intention of Labour. Sir Keir Starmer, in a recent visit to Holyhead publicly stated:

*"Here in Wales, **the potential for offshore wind is enormous..**" and also "I think it's (floating offshore wind) going to be **one of the main drivers for the future..** I think there's a reason **we should make it a priority** in the UK because we've got the skills, the infrastructure, we've got a track record when it comes to static offshore wind".*

<https://www.standard.co.uk/business/business-news/starmer-confirms-floating-offshore-wind-will-be-gb-energy-s-priority-b1147609.html>

Will we see this supported by Labour in the Senedd and a pause to onshore developments while the potential Sir Kir believes in can be realised?