

Community News

Bedlinog Wind Farm Proposal

Merthyr Tydfil Planning Application P11 0250

The application has been submitted by Bedlinogwynt Ltd (a company set up by Wind Farm Developers – Tegni Cymru).

The site planned for the Community Wind Farm is on farm land approximately 1km north east of Bedlinog and the development will consist of 3 turbines.

The turbines will have a hub height of 83.8 metres and a height to blade tip of the turbines of up to 126.5 metres.

Following discussions between Bedlinog Environmental Group and Tegni Cymru, Bedlinog Community Council and Taff Bargoed Communities First team, Bedlinog Environmental Group have asked a series of questions which were answered by the Developers and Bedlinog Community Council, these are as follows:

1) Noise levels - will they affect residents? If so, how would we apply for compensation?

If planning permission is granted then a series of planning conditions will be imposed upon the development.

These conditions will require noise levels at any neighbouring properties from the development to be below a threshold set by the Planning Authority.

The threshold is usually set in accordance with recommendations set out in “ETSU” guidance as prepared for the DTI.

In respect of compensation should any complaints regarding noise be upheld and found not to be in accordance with the aforementioned conditions then recourse will be sought by the Planning Authority, which will require the complaint to be mitigated by the site owner.

2) Will Bedlinog benefit directly from the electricity generated?

The direct benefit for the community of Bedlinog is the financial benefit. The electricity produced would go directly to the nearest sub-station of the local distribution network.

Bedlinog Community Council has recently created a Company Ltd by Guarantee “Bedlinog Community” which will be the organisation that will manage the community profits realised from the Wind Farm.

The logistics of how this will work have yet been confirmed, however Bedlinog Community have secured £26,000 from Ynni'r Fro Renewable Energy at Community Scale fund.

Ynni'r Fro is a Welsh Government funded programme that uses European Structural Funds to:

- support the development of community scale renewable energy scheme across Wales
- provide legal advice in terms of the creation and management of proposed schemes

The latter will ensure we maximise the community benefits from the Wind Farm and ensure the income generated for the community is managed effectively for the betterment of the community.

This would include being responsible for preparing and presenting an action plan detailing potential community projects & initiatives that would benefit from the fund through meaningful engagement and consultations with the community.

This new organisation will also be welcoming of new committee members to be involved.

It is mutually understood and agreed between the parties that the funds will be distributed within the village of Bedlinog Only.

3) Have tests been carried out to determine if there is sufficient wind?

Monitoring of the wind regime is continuing. Whilst the developer is satisfied with the results to date, further monitoring will continue to provide greater confidence to lenders when providing project finance.

4) The application is for 3 turbines. Will there be any more later on?

The developers have opted for the maximum number of turbines allowed for the site which is currently used as grazing pasture.

This location was chosen because:

- It was deemed environmentally suitable and because of its good wind resource and road access.
- The site concerned physically would not allow any further wind turbines due to the proximity of common land.
- They couldn't be placed any further towards Bedlinog due to noise levels.
- They couldn't be placed any further north of the land due to the curlews.

- They wouldn't be able to go to the opposite side of the road because of the archaeology.

In any event, any proposal to increase the number of turbines would form a separate planning application and would be subject to further scrutiny.

5) Which model of turbine will be used and can representatives go to a site using a similar model?

The planning application provides an "envelope" which will accommodate several different machines that are currently available.

The final choice of turbine is as yet undetermined; this will be the subject of a competitive tender, which will require the final choice of machine to comply with planning conditions.

Tegni Cymru are currently arranging for access to a nearby development of turbines of similar scale and design type and will arrange a visit for representatives of the community when this is finalised.

6) Are the archaeological sites properly preserved?

The design of the site avoids any known archaeological sites. If planning consent is granted then it is usual for an archaeological condition to be included. This typically requires the presence of an approved archaeologist during excavation works. This is to record and where appropriate preserve any archaeology uncovered during the works.

7) Will the bird life be protected? Especially the rare curlews breeding close by?

The site layout has been prepared to avoid any direct impacts upon the nearby curlew breeding areas.

As with other concerns it is usual for any planning consent to require that certain activities are curtailed during the bird-breeding season. This is typically an embargo on any invasive construction activities being undertaken between March and June in any one year.

8) Have the paragliders, who use the area as a training ground, been informed and advised?

No direct notice has been given to the local paragliders.

Whilst Paragliding is not regulated by statute, the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) recommends an absolute minimum unobstructed area of 200 metres in the direction of take off for "hang glider foot powered light aircraft".

The South-East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club names Pen Garnbugail as the hill from which such activities takes place.

Pen Garnbugail is approximately 1km from the nearest proposed turbine and is therefore outside the 200m separation distance quoted by the BHPA.

It should also be noted that the Civil Aviation authority have not raised objection the proposed development.

9) Will cable distribution be overhead or underground?

All cables within the site boundary will be underground.

The connection to the electricity grid will be the subject of design by the grid operator, Western Power & Distribution.

Tegni are advised by WPD that the site will be connected to the existing 33kv line that runs to the north-east of the site. The connection between the site and the existing line will also be underground but may entail an additional pole to be erected on the line of the existing 33kv line.

10) Are the roads to be upgraded to enable the transport of the turbines to the site?

The existing County roads are already extensively used by HGV's serving the nearby quarry and open cast workings. The transport vehicles that will be used to deliver components will all have similar axle loadings to the existing HGV's.

In respect of long loads then the existing horizontal and vertical alignments are within the parameters required for deliveries.

Therefore in most instances there will be no requirement for road modifications. It is however anticipated that approximately 100m of road from the "common road" to the site entrance will require some localised widening works. This will be carried out at the expense of the project and will be undertaken to Local Authority satisfaction.

11) What are the benefits for the local community of Bedlinog?

The direct benefit for the community of Bedlinog is the financial annual benefit. Bedlinog Community Council has created a company by the name of "Bedlinog Community" to manage the community benefit aspects of the proposal.

The company will be responsible for the negotiations and agree terms and conditions for either a Community Trust Fund or a Shared Ownership Scheme.

Funding has recently been secured by Bedlinog Community to seek legal advice to ensure maximum community benefits are realised from this development.

If the wind farm becomes operational, Bedlinog Community would also be responsible for preparing and presenting an action plan detailing potential community projects/initiatives that would benefit from the fund through meaningful engagement and consultations the community.

Listening to the community and addressing any concerns. It is mutually understood and agreed by all parties that the funds will be distributed directly within the village of Bedlinog only.

To view the full planning application and Environmental Statement, please visit

Bedlinog Resource Centre, Commercial Street, Bedlinog

If you have any objections to this application or wish to express your support, please write to:

Development Control

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

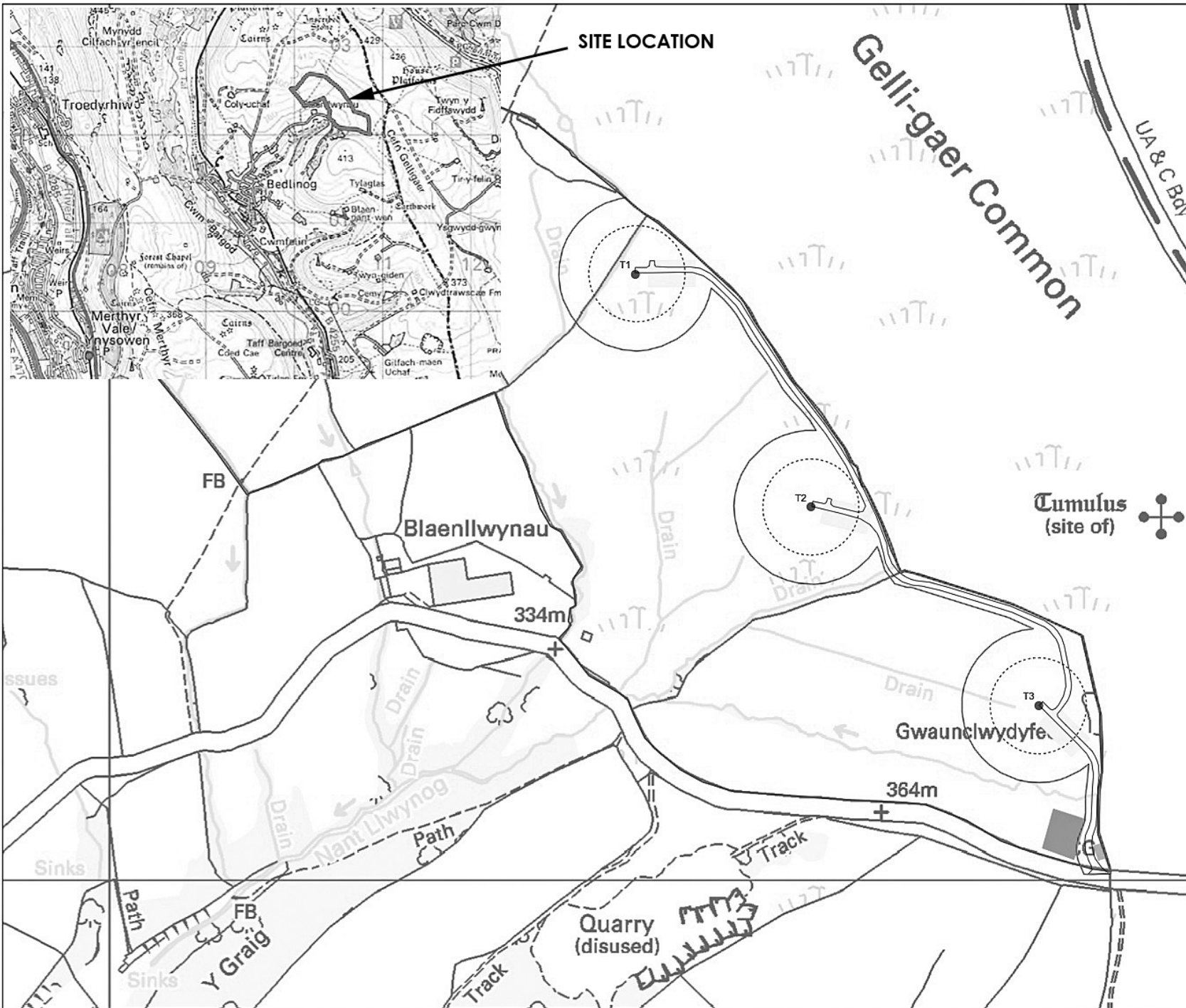
Civic Centre

Merthyr Tydfil

CF47 8AN

Telephone 01685 725000

Please Quote application reference P/11/0250 on all correspondence



Legend

- Turbine Locations
- 41.2m Blade Radius
- Planning Application Boundary
- Site Boundary
- Access Tracks
- Crane Pad
- Switch Room
- Construction Compound

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED WIND FARM CAN BE SEEN AT THE BEDLINOG RESOURCE CENTRE

0 25 50 100 150 Metres

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Client

TEGNI CYMRU CYF

Project

Bedlinog Wind Farm

Figure

Figure 1.2

Title

Development Site Layout Plan

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