



GREEN GEN CYMRU

**Green GEN Towy Usk
Stage 1 Non-statutory Consultation
Report – March to April 2023**

March 2024

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Summary

Background

As a nation we're in a climate emergency, and a cost-of-living crisis. Our supply of energy is threatened by world events, yet there is endless potential for renewable energy in Wales – particularly from the wind that blows across our hills and mountains.

The Welsh Government, the Senedd and energy generators have been looking for ways to unlock this potential for a number of years but have been frustrated by a lack of robust electricity grid capable of distributing large volumes of power.

Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru (Green GEN Cymru) is taking action now, to help deliver clean green energy to our homes and businesses by developing an energy network in Wales. This will help tackle both the energy crisis and the climate crisis and make sure that communities in Wales and wider will be able to live modern electric lives with less reliance on fossil fuels.

The Green GEN Towy Usk proposal is for a new 132kV (132,000 volt) overhead line, supported on steel pylons and wood poles, connecting Bute Energy's proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park in the Radnor Forest area to a new substation on the existing 400kV (400,000 volt) transmission line near Llandyfaelog in Carmarthenshire.

Green GEN Towy Usk will transport around 237 MW (megawatts) of clean, green energy from Bute Energy's proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park to the national grid. It will also be able to connect further renewable energy projects in future, reducing the amount of additional infrastructure needed.

This approach to expanding the Welsh electricity grid is quicker, cheaper and less disruptive than the alternatives. It will also allow direct connection of community and other renewable projects, while reducing pressure on the existing electricity grid, supporting energy resilience, green businesses and enabling green heating, which will help Wales to live a healthy future.

First round of consultation

Green GEN Cymru attaches great importance to the effect that its work may have on the environment and on local communities. Green GEN Cymru has engaged with stakeholders, including local communities and others who may have an interest in the Project, at a stage where they can have an influence on the development of its proposals.

The first round of consultation on the Green GEN Towy Usk proposals took place from March to April 2023.

Green GEN Cymru posted leaflets to over 7,816 homes and businesses within a one kilometre consultation zone around the Preferred Route corridor for the new overhead line. The leaflet gave an overview of the Project, explained how people could find out more detailed information, and set out how they could provide feedback.

This was supported by the Project website: www.greengentowyusk.com

Information was also sent to elected representatives and officers of Powys and Carmarthenshire Councils, Members of Parliament, Members of the Senedd, Community Councils, PEDW, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Cadw, Archaeological trusts and The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority to encourage them to participate in the consultation.

A bespoke feedback form (Appendix B) was developed, which could be completed online or downloaded for print via the consultation website. Hard copies were also available at consultation events or on request using the dedicated Project email address, Freepost address or Freephone number. Feedback could also be submitted without a feedback form via the Project email address, Freepost address or Freephone number.

During the first round of consultation, Green GEN Cymru held five public information events across the Project consultation zone, which were attended by 2,607 people. Three online webinars were also held for people as an alternative to attending the in-person events. These were attended by 42 people.

Feedback

The views of local people, organisations and bodies are very important to the effective development of the Project.

During the consultation, 2,949 pieces of feedback were received, of which the majority (1,811) were classified as 'template' responses from campaign groups. All feedback received was recorded, analysed and has been considered in the subsequent development of the Project.

This report summarises the feedback received. The project team continues to consider all of the feedback received as part of the development of the proposals comprising the Project.

Comments on the Project in general

Many people's principal concerns were visual impact, environmental effects and the impacts on the proposals from adverse weather conditions.

Respondents expressed strong concerns regarding the visual impact of the Project near them, in general, as well as specifically on areas valued for natural beauty, such as the Tywi Valley, Bannau Brycheiniog and the National Botanic Gardens of Wales.

Respondents expressed concerns regarding the environmental impact of the proposals, commenting that in addition to effects on the visual environment, the pylons might also affect wildlife habitats and migration. Some respondents also noted the potential impact of the overhead lines on migrating birds, with concerns that birds may fly into them.

Respondents expressed concerns regarding the impact of weather conditions, such as high winds, on the stability of pylons, commenting that pylons are highly susceptible to wind and/or storm damage.

There were also concerns about the possible impact of the Project on the tourism industry and there were a large number of comments expressing support for undergrounding all or parts of the Project.

A number of responses received disagreed with the proposed routeing in the Towy Valley, with a strong preference for undergrounding in this area.

To read summaries of comments from members of the public on the need for and general approach to the Project, and Green GEN Cymru's responses to them, please see section 4.4 of this report.

Comments on the Preferred Route

The majority of feedback received related to the Preferred Route.

Respondents expressed concern regarding the Preferred Route and the process by which it was identified and selected, commenting that there has been a lack of information and involvement in this process by the public and those affected by proposals.

Many respondents also commented that selection of the Preferred Route indicates a lack of understanding from Green GEN Cymru with regard to the part of Wales the proposed route travels through, including its landscape, culture and natural beauty. Some commented that this is shown by steel lattice towers being proposed in areas considered by respondents to be of significant importance and natural beauty, as well as proposing to route new infrastructure near glamping sites, tourist attractions, schools and residential properties.

Comments on Green GEN Cymru's consultation

Although there were comments of support for the consultation, many respondents expressed concerns about the consultation citing a lack of events near them, little notice of events and perceived poor timing due to the consultation taking place during lambing season.

Some commented that they felt their opinions would not influence the evolution of the Project, that Green GEN Cymru are just 'ticking a box' and decisions regarding the Project have already been made.

Respondents also expressed concerns regarding the consultation events, commenting that they felt Green GEN Cymru's staff had insufficient knowledge of the local area and were not always able to answer questions put to them. Some also commented that they felt the consultation events were under-staffed, leaving them unable to ask questions and receive answers. Comments were also made in relation to the quality of the maps available at the events, with some feeling they were of poor quality and difficult to read.

Green GEN Cymru's conclusions from the first round of consultation

Green GEN Cymru has reviewed and considered in detail all feedback received from the public, consultee bodies and local interest groups. In addition, Green GEN Cymru has considered a number of additional technical studies and undertaken further environmental work to inform its responses to the issues raised.

The feedback received has informed Green GEN Cymru's further development of the Project with regard to the following:

- the proposed route alignment, including tower and pole locations;
- opportunities for mitigation measures

The feedback suggested a number of modifications to the Preferred Route, along with suggestions for alternative technology choices which Green GEN Cymru has considered in detail. These have resulted in changes to the proposals, including the use of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project and the use of wood pole technology instead of steel lattice towers in one area.

Green GEN Cymru is consulting on a draft route alignment in a second round of non-statutory consultation in March/April 2024. Feedback from this consultation will be taken into account and, alongside further assessment and surveys, inform the development of a detailed design on which Green GEN Cymru is currently planning to hold a statutory consultation in 2025.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Green GEN Towy Usk Project

1.1.1. Introduction

This report describes the first phase of consultation (non-statutory consultation) on proposals for the Green GEN Towy Usk Project (hereafter referred to as the 'Project') between Monday 06 March and Friday 28 April 2023.

This report sets out the details of the consultation and a summary of the feedback. It also sets out the methodology used to analyse the feedback received, as well as Green GEN Cymru's responses.

The report also includes information on how the feedback has been taken into account in the Project design.

The report will inform and be appended to the Consultation Report that will accompany the Development of National Significance (DNS) application for the Project to Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW) currently proposed to be submitted in 2025.

1.1.2. About Green GEN Cymru

The Project is being developed by Green GEN Cymru, part of the Bute Energy group of companies. Green GEN Cymru intends to develop, own and operate a 132kV (132,000 volts) independent distribution network to connect Welsh renewable energy generation to the existing grid network.

To allow it to distribute electricity, Green GEN Cymru has applied to Ofgem for an Independent Distribution Network Operator (IDNO) licence. The Electricity Act 1989 imposes a statutory duty on IDNO licence holders to develop a grid network which balances technical, economic, and environmental factors whilst having regard to the desirability of preserving the environment and doing what can reasonably be done to mitigate any affect the proposals may have on the natural environment.

Green GEN Cymru intends to design, build and operate the proposed 132kV distribution network needed to connect new Welsh renewable energy projects to the electricity transmission network, helping to get green energy to homes and businesses across Wales and beyond.

Green GEN Cymru, subject to appropriate planning consents, will pay for the construction and maintenance of the new electricity distribution network, while renewable energy generation, including Bute Energy's energy parks will pay an annual charge for using the distribution network, which provides Green GEN Cymru with a return on its assets. When granted a licence to operate as an IDNO, Green GEN Cymru would be required to offer connections to third party developments in line with the licence conditions.

Green GEN Cymru is based in Wales and developing electricity grid projects in Wales – helping to meet the future needs of Welsh people, communities and businesses, taking renewable energy safely and securely from where it is generated to our homes, hospitals, schools, businesses, and communities.

Green GEN Cymru is playing a pivotal role in providing a reliable and robust distribution network that will support tackling the energy crisis and climate crisis. The green grid network currently being developed will

also have the capacity to support technologies like 5G that could help farmers, schools and businesses be at the cutting edge of technology while being based in rural areas.

More information can be found on the Green GEN Cymru website www.greengencymru.com.

Bute Energy Group

Bute Energy is an independent renewable energy company combining experience with innovation. With great focus on Wales, Bute Energy is headquartered in Cardiff. Bute Energy is committed to playing a leading role in building a low carbon and prosperous country, delivering clean energy and supporting viable communities, now and into the future.

Bute Energy is set to become a leading developer of onshore renewable energies in the UK, making a substantial contribution towards meeting the renewable energy targets of the Welsh Government and the net zero carbon objectives of the UK Government.

Bute Energy has also set up a Community Benefit Fund that will invest millions of pounds every year into local communities. Funding will come from the Energy Parks developed by Bute Energy that will connect to grid routes developed by Green Gen Cymru, including Green GEN Towy Usk. In this unique approach, every year Bute Energy will pay £7,500 per megawatt (MW) of installed capacity into the fund which will be shared between the communities closest to the Energy Parks and those along the grid connection routes.

Bute Energy will empower rural communities through investment, jobs and skills, enabling communities to live modern electric lives. More information can be found on Bute Energy and its Energy Park projects on its website www.bute.energy

1.2. Project Background

Much of the existing electricity transmission infrastructure in Wales was built many years ago to transport electricity from old fossil-fuel power stations in the north and south. The existing electricity network in Mid Wales does not have the capacity to connect new renewable energy to homes and businesses, in Wales and beyond - to end the use of fossil fuels we need new infrastructure and quickly.

To respond to this challenge and meet Welsh Government's target for 100% renewable electricity in Wales by 2035, we're developing a stronger, more resilient renewable electricity network that is greatly needed in Wales – taking clean, green energy from where it is generated to the homes and businesses that will use it.

The Green GEN Towy Usk Project is a proposal for a new 132kV double-circuit overhead line, supported on steel lattice pylons (with one section of underground cable where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project). It will also include a section of single-circuit overhead line supported on wood poles. The Project will enable the transfer of up to 235MW of clean, green energy generated by proposed Energy Parks in Mid Wales, including Bute Energy's Nant Mithil Energy Park in the Radnor Forest to a new substation proposed by National Grid, connecting into the existing 400kV (400,000 Volts) transmission line at a new substation being developed by National Grid Electricity Transmission near Llandyfaelog, Carmarthen.

The new Project will bring clean, green energy to the homes and businesses that need it. Other green energy projects will also be able to connect to it, reducing the amount of additional grid infrastructure needed in future.

Bute Energy's proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park, subject to relevant planning consents, is due to start generating electricity by 2028, so the proposed new connection would need to be in place by then. It is anticipated that other proposed energy parks would connect after Nant Mithil Energy Park.

1.2.1. Overview of Development of the Proposal

Approach to Routeing Grid Infrastructure in Wales

Green GEN Cymru has published its 'Approach to Routeing Grid Infrastructure in Wales'. This document sets out how Green GEN Cymru will develop grid projects that would be located wholly in Wales and would follow the Developments of National Significance planning process. It includes a routeing methodology and an approach to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all of its projects in Wales.

The purpose of the Approach is to provide stakeholders and consultees with clarity on how projects will be developed and to ensure consistency in Green GEN Cymru's approach to developing projects located wholly in Wales.

Green GEN Towy Usk is being developed in accordance with Green Gen Cymru's published Approach.

Options appraisal

An options appraisal process was undertaken to identify the proposals to take forward as part of the Project. This was undertaken in two parts:

- An appraisal of the grid connection options – this is detailed in the Green GEN Phase One Grid Connection Strategy and involved identifying, comparing and assessing 11 potential options, within three broad geographical zones, for connecting the new energy parks into both new and existing substations in Wales and England. Each option was reviewed against how they performed on environmental, technical and cost grounds. This document concluded that the preferred option is to connect the South Wales Energy Parks to a new substation in Carmarthenshire.
- The second stage, following the selection of the grid connection location in Carmarthenshire, involved the identification and appraisal of corridors for new overhead lines, followed by the identification and appraisal of route options within the preferred corridor to arrive at a Preferred Route for the new overhead line. This is outlined in the Project Routeing and Consultation document. The aim of the first round of non-statutory consultation was to present the work undertaken on developing the options and to seek community and stakeholder feedback on the Preferred Route that was identified along with any other matters relating to the Project.

2. Methods of consultation

2.1. Introduction

This section sets out how Green GEN Cymru undertook its first phase of consultation (non-statutory consultation) for the Project. As a company based in Wales, and investing in Wales, Green GEN Cymru attaches great importance to the effect that its work may have on the environment and local communities in Wales. Green GEN Cymru is committed to providing clear and up-to-date information on its proposals, and listening to local people and consulting them at each stage where their views can help to shape Green GEN Cymru's proposals before consent applications are submitted.

Green GEN Cymru recognises that finding a route for the Project is a complex process, and its consultation strategy goes beyond the Planning and Environment Decision Wales (PEDW) good practice guidance to ensure that local people have the opportunity to comment at each stage of the routeing process.

Green GEN Cymru's approach to engagement for Green GEN Towy Usk is to carry out three phases of consultation with communities and stakeholders, beginning at an early stage, to give people the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at a formative stage of project development, ahead of more detailed design work being carried out.

The three rounds of pre-application consultation that will be carried out are:

- phase one non-statutory consultation on the work done to date to develop the Project and specifically the Preferred Route which is reported on here;
- phase two non-statutory consultation on a draft route alignment for the Project, including proposed pylon and pole locations, to be carried out from March 2024; and
- statutory consultation on the draft planning application, which is currently planned for 2025.

This approach to both non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation is guided by the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) and PEDW's Pre-Application Community Consultation: Best Practice Guidance for Developers (December 2021) document.

2.2. Engagement to date

2.2.1. Stakeholder engagement

Green GEN Cymru values the input of stakeholders at all stages of the Project design and is committed to an ongoing programme of engagement outside of the defined phases of consultation. This began in January 2023 and has included reaching out to MPs, Senedd members, technical stakeholders including Natural Resources Wales and CADW, local authority officers, communities and landowners, prior to, at the start of and following the non-statutory consultation. This engagement will continue as the Project develops.

2.2.2. Landowner engagement

Green GEN Cymru attaches great importance to working closely with affected landowners and occupiers on all aspects of its projects and will continue to give them opportunity to comment on the proposals as they progress.

The Project team began engagement with landowners in January 2023, writing to those who may have a legal interest in land affected by the proposals, asking for confirmation of their land interest. Green GEN Cymru offered to hold meetings with landowners and where required these were held with both parties' representatives, where appointed.

To further develop its proposals, Green GEN Cymru asked for permission to undertake a range of non-intrusive walkover surveys. The surveys are carried out by specialist contractors and are important because they help determine any factors that need to be considered during the development of the Project.

Events held during the consultation allowed landowners potentially impacted by the Project to meet, ask questions of the Project team and request additional meetings with the Project team. Following the events, landowner meetings have been taking place at the request of landowners and their professional representatives.

Purpose of the consultation

Whilst there is a strategic need for the for the development of new transmission and distribution grid infrastructure (as set out in the Welsh National Policy and Guidance (Future Wales and Planning Policy Wales) and the Project (as detailed in section 1.2.1), it is imperative to engage with all relevant stakeholders to better understand their views, needs and priorities. This enables Green GEN Cymru to better understand, evaluate and measure any community concerns, address any misunderstandings regarding the presented Preferred Route for the Project, and, where appropriate, further refine the Project design in a manner that better consultees needs and priorities.

The overall objective of the non-statutory consultation was to present relevant and meaningful information about the Project in a clear and accessible manner, in order for stakeholders and the public to be able to consider it and provide an informed response. This helps ensure a robust consultation that contributes to, and supports, the DNS process. This included:

- presenting the case, as outlined in the Green GEN Phase One Grid Connection Strategy and further detailed in the Project Routeing and Consultation Document, for developing the double-circuit overhead line, supported on steel pylons;
- presenting the Preferred Route corridor and less preferred options;
- presenting the benefits, constraints and adverse impacts of the proposed new infrastructure;
- pro-actively engaging with the local and wider community and stakeholders to understand their views of the Project and options presented;
- consulting with relevant local authorities and prescribed consultees at an early stage to ensure technical and local knowledge is taken into account in the early development of the Project; and
- addressing any questions regarding the Preferred Route and evolving design options.

To ensure that the responses to the consultation have been fully considered in Green GEN Cymru's decision making process, the Project team has analysed all responses received to the non-statutory consultation through a robust process and considered these in the further development of the Project's design which will form the basis of the second non-statutory consultation in 2024.

The phase one non-statutory consultation took place between Monday 6 March and Friday 28 April 2023 (53 days). Feedback received after Friday 28 April 2023, and prior to project design freeze, has been accepted at the discretion of Green GEN Cymru and included within this report. Feedback received after this date will be considered as the Project is developed following the second non-statutory consultation.

Approach to consultation

In response to changes in stakeholder engagement habits and behaviours following the Covid-19 pandemic, Green GEN Cymru adopted a hybrid approach to consultation that included a mix of traditional, in-person and digital engagement methods to ensure stakeholders could view consultation materials and provide feedback through means that felt most appropriate to them.

By providing a variety of engagement methods – ranging from, but not limited to, in-person events and physical mailouts to online webinars and a social media campaign - Green GEN Cymru's approach to consultation also aimed to engage hard to reach groups, made up of residents, younger people, the time constrained, and those who identify themselves to have a disability with additional groups identified through a desktop stakeholder mapping exercise.

2.2.3. Preferred Route consultation sections

To enable stakeholders to identify locations close to and within the Preferred Route that are important to them, and to encourage detailed and meaningful feedback, the Preferred Route was presented as five sections in the consultation:

- Section 1: Nant Mithil Energy Park to Builth Wells
- Section 2: Builth Wells to Llangammarch Wells
- Section 3: Llangammarch Wells to Llandovery
- Section 4: Llandovery to Llandeilo
- Section 5: Llandeilo to Llandyfaelog

Each section presented was broadly similar in length and a similar level of information about each section was provided in the consultation leaflet, on the consultation event banners, the Project website and referenced in the consultation feedback form.

2.2.4. Consultation zone

A consultation zone (a geographic area which defines the area of focus for the consultation) was defined to ensure that local residents, businesses, and community stakeholders that may be affected by the Project were included in the engagement and consultation being carried out (see appendix A).

The zone included all addresses within the Preferred Route corridor and a 1km buffer either side of it. The 1km zone either side of the Preferred Route corridor was based on the potential for likely visual impact and potential disturbance from construction. Where the 1km buffer bisected or crossed a road or street of homes, the boundary was extended to include the whole settlement. The total number of addresses within the consultation zone identified was 7,816.

2.2.5. Audiences

Although the consultation was non-statutory (and therefore not prescribed by planning legislation), every effort was made by Green Gen Cymru to approach all relevant stakeholders, local communities and relevant organisations that may be affected by the Project, including those likely to be classed as community consultees, specialist consultees or relevant persons during the future statutory consultation, including:

- PEDW;
- Community Councils;
- Natural Resources Wales (NRW);
- Cadw;
- Archaeological trusts;
- Local planning authorities Powys and Carmarthenshire County Councils;
- The Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority;
- Known local interest and community groups operating in the area affected by the proposals;
- Elected members of Powys and Carmarthenshire Councils;
- Members of the Senedd (MSs);
- Members of Parliament (MPs) whose constituencies are within the consultation zone; and
- the general public.

A list of organisations and stakeholders contacted by Green GEN Cymru at the start of consultation inviting them to engage and provide feedback can be found in appendix D and E.

Communications channels

To ensure the consultation was as inclusive as possible, a range of communication channels were set up and utilised to ensure all consultees were able to access information about the Project, ask questions of the Project team and provide informed feedback.

2.2.6. Project website

At the start of the non-statutory consultation, Green GEN Cymru launched a dedicated consultation website for Green GEN Towy Usk - <http://www.greengentowyusk.com/>.

The website contained all consultation materials released into the public domain. It also contained dates and times of in-person consultation events and online webinars; and a platform to submit feedback via an online feedback form.

The website provided additional engagement opportunities through the inclusion of an interactive map detailing the Preferred Route along with less preferred options considered, all Project documents, information about the dedicated Project contact centre and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) to facilitate stakeholder understanding of the proposals.

The website was available at all times during the consultation and provided stakeholders and the public with the information they needed to understand the proposals, the opportunity to raise questions and provide meaningful feedback.

The Project website remains live following the close of the non-statutory consultation to provide details of what was consulted on, and as a platform to publish Project updates.

2.2.7. Contact centre

At the start of the non-statutory consultation, Green Gen Cymru launched a dedicated contact centre made up of the following channels:

- a Freephone Project phonenumber (0800 3777 339);
- a dedicated Freepost address (Freepost Green GEN Towy Usk); and
- a Project email address (info@greengentowyusk.com)

to enable and encourage a two-way dialogue between stakeholders and the Project team through which they could ask questions of Project team members and take part in the consultation.

2.2.8. Consultation events and webinars

In-person consultation events and online webinars were publicised at the start of the non-statutory consultation to help ensure that stakeholders could talk to and ask questions of the Project team, find out more about the proposals, and provide feedback in a manner that suited their needs and preferences. More details on these events are available in Section 0.

2.2.9. Information points

Folders containing selected Project documents were made available to view at the following locations:

Location	Contact details
Llandrindod Wells Library, Powys	The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AA Tel: 01597 826870 Email: llandrindod.library@powys.gov.uk
Builth Wells Library, Powys	Builth Library, Antur Gwy, Park Road, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BA Tel: 01982 552722 Email: builth.library@powys.gov.uk
Llanwrtyd Community Library, Powys	Library Service Llanwrtyd, Ysgol Dolafon C.P., Llanwrtyd Wells LD5 4RA Tel: 01591 610657 Email: LlanwrtydCommunityLibrary@outlook.com
Newtown Library, Powys	Newtown Library, Park Lane, Newtown, Powys SY16 1EJ Tel: 01686 626934 Email: newtown.library@powys.gov.uk
Llandovery Library, Carmarthenshire	Town Hall, Market Square, Llandovery SA20 0AA Tel: 01550 721626 Email: libraries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Llandeilo Library	Crescent Rd, Llandeilo SA19 6HN Tel: 01558 825323 Email: libraries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Carmarthen Library	9 St Peter's St, Carmarthen SA31 1LN Tel: 01267 224824 Email: libraries@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Documents available at the above information points were provided in folders which contained an introductory letter outlining high-level details of the Project, how stakeholders could contact the Project team, access the consultation website (including via a quick response (QR) code) and how to provide feedback.

Consultation documents available to view within the folders included:

- Consultation leaflet;
- Routeing and consultation document;
- Green GEN Phase 1 Grid connection Strategy; and
- EMF Factsheet.

Each document hosted at the selected information points was available for anyone to view in line with the advertised information point opening times.

Members of the Project team maintained regular contact with each information point to ensure documents remained available. Following the consultation, all documents were collected and recycled by members of the Project team.

Consultation materials

The following materials were produced and shared extensively during the consultation. Copies of all materials described below are included in Appendix B.

2.2.10. Consultation Leaflet

The leaflet introduced Green Gen Cymru and provided an overview of the Project proposals, including a map of the Preferred Route and detailed section maps, as well as a description of the consultation process, how to find out more, and how to provide feedback.

2.2.11. Routeing and Consultation Document

The Project Routeing and Consultation Document contained information about the detailed options appraisal including the methodology and work undertaken to identify and appraise the route corridors and route options resulting in the selection of the Preferred Route option that was consulted on during the non-statutory consultation.

2.2.12. Consultation feedback form

Green GEN Cymru provided a consultation feedback form for anyone wishing to respond to the non-statutory consultation.

The feedback form was made available to be completed by hand (returnable using the Freepost Green GEN Towy Usk address), or online via the Project website or Project email address.

Consultees could also request printed copies of the consultation feedback form by contacting the Project community relations lines.

2.2.13. In-person consultation event banners

Exhibition style banners were produced by Green GEN Cymru to facilitate and inform engagement during in-person consultation events. The banners, which were also made available on the Project website, covered the following topics:

1. Bute Energy and Green Gen Cymru
2. The Green GEN Towy Usk Project
3. How we have developed our proposals
4. Our Preferred Route; route map
5. What the route will look like
6. Our Preferred Route: Section 1
7. Our Preferred Route: Section 2
8. Our Preferred Route: Section 3
9. Our Preferred Route: Section 4
10. Our Preferred Route: Section 5
11. Have your say
12. Nant Mithil Energy Park
13. What happens next?
14. Bute Energy's Community Benefit Fund.

2.2.14. EMF Factsheet

A factsheet, containing information about electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) and answers to commonly asked questions about EMFs in relation to grid infrastructure was produced and made available in hard copy and on the Project website.

The factsheet also contained information setting out how consultees could find out more information about EMFs from the independent Energy Networks Association and provided contact details for the EMF helpline run by National Grid on behalf of the UK's electricity industry.

2.2.15. Supporting consultation documents

Additional supporting documents which explained how the Project has been developed were also made available to view at in-person consultation events and on the Project website. These included:

- Green GEN Cymru’s **Approach to Routeing Grid Infrastructure in Wales**
- Green GEN Cymru’s **Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy**

Consultation promotion

A series of additional activities were undertaken to raise awareness of the non-statutory consultation, as set out below. Copies of all materials described below are included in appendix B.

2.2.16. Consultation Leaflet

To notify consultees of the start of consultation, an introductory leaflet (described above in section 2.4.1) was sent to the 7,816 addresses contained within the consultation zone.

2.2.17. Introductory emails

To maximise awareness of the consultation among known stakeholders, the Project team emailed a consultation launch notification to all identified consultees on Monday 6 March 2023.

The introductory email set out details of the consultation including an overview of events, materials that were available and how stakeholders could provide feedback.

Details of the stakeholders contacted are included in appendix D and E.

2.2.18. Social media advertising

A social media campaign was also undertaken throughout the consultation via Green GEN Cymru’s Facebook, LinkedIn and ‘X’ (formally Twitter) channels.

Posts were designed to inform stakeholders of the start of consultation and promote engagement, highlight in-person and online events, encourage consultees to provide feedback and notify that the non-statutory consultation had closed.

The campaign was implemented to extend outreach beyond the consultation zone and to make a wider range of communities aware of the consultation and how to take part.

2.2.19. Website

Information regarding the consultation was made available on the Project website. Throughout the consultation period, the pages on the website received a cumulative 43,511 visits.

2.2.20. Press advertising

Green GEN Cymru placed advertisements in local weekly newspapers to run during the first two weeks of the consultation to promote consultation events and set out how consultees could find out more and engage with the consultation.

The consultation adverts were published in The County Times and The South Wales Argus, both of which have a combined coverage area that includes the Preferred Route and consultation zone.

Each advert ran over two consecutive weeks, appearing in The County Times on 10 March and 17 March, and The South Wales Argus on 9 March and 16 March. Details of each advert can be found in appendix C.

A news release was issued to local media announcing the impending start of the consultation period. A copy of the news release can be seen in appendix C.

Consultation events

2.2.21. In-person consultation events

Five consultation events were held between 23 March and 30 March 2023 to provide communities living along the Preferred Route with the opportunity to learn about the proposals, to view maps and documents, and to meet and ask questions of the Project team.

To maximise the opportunity for anyone with an interest in the Project to get involved, the five locations were chosen so that people within the consultation zone would only be a short distance from their nearest exhibition by car or public transport.

The events were promoted through the Project leaflet, Project website, the press release, adverts, and via emails issued to stakeholders.

The dates and venues and number of attendees recorded at each of the events are listed below.

Event	Number of attendees
Thursday 23 March, 2pm to 7:30pm Montgomery Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells, LD2 3SY	752
Saturday 25 March, 11am to 4pm Llandeilo Fawr Civic Hall, 17 Crescent Road, Llandeilo SA19 6HW	734
Tuesday 28 March, 2pm to 7:30pm Penybont District Community Centre, Penybont, nr Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UA	201
Wednesday 29 March, 2pm to 7:30pm Llandovery Rugby Club, Church Bank, Llandyfaelog, Llandovery SA20 0BA	721
Thursday 30 March, 2pm to 7:30pm Llandyfaelog Community Hall, Carmarthenshire SA17 5PA	199
Total	2607

2.2.22. Online webinars

Three online webinars were held during the consultation period, making it easier for those who could not attend an in-person event to participate in the consultation.

The webinars were hosted on Livestorm, an online webinar platform. Participants were able to sign up via the Project website or by contacting the Project team. The consultation newsletter also publicised the webinars and how participants could sign up.

Webinar	Number of attendees
Wednesday 12 April, 6pm to 7pm	17
Thursday 13 April, 10.30am to 11.30am	8
Tuesday 18 April, 2pm to 3pm	17
Total	42

Responding to the non-statutory consultation

2.2.23. Feedback mechanisms

To ensure that consultees could engage with the Project proposals and consultation meaningfully, feedback to the non-statutory consultation could be provided via the following channels:

- In person at consultation events;
- Using an online feedback form on the Project website, <https://www.greengentowyusk.com/>;
- By completing a hardcopy feedback form, or writing a letter, and sending it to FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK;
- By sending an email to info@greengentowyusk.com; and
- By phone freephone number 0800 3777 339.

2.2.24. Feedback form

In order to gather informed feedback on the proposals, a detailed consultation feedback form was produced which asked a series of questions about different aspects of the proposals. The feedback form was made accessible online and in hard copy format and is provided in appendix B.

Feedback was invited on a series of themes including:

- the identified need for the Project and respondents' support for developing renewable energy projects to fight climate change, increasing energy independence in Wales and speeding up the development of energy projects in Wales that are currently held up by a lack of grid infrastructure;
- the location of the proposed Preferred Route, the less preferred options considered and any features, considerations or mitigations that respondents felt should be considered during the ongoing design of the Project;
- Bute Energy's Community Benefit Fund and how the respondents would like to see the fund used in the area close to the proposed Preferred Route; and
- the quality of the communication of the non-statutory consultation and activities.

When responding to questions about the Preferred Route, consultees were able to indicate which section of the Preferred Route they were commenting on. They were also able to comment on the 'Entire route' and/or tick multiple boxes if they wanted to provide feedback on multiple sections.

Information on the feedback gathered during the non-statutory consultation is provided in section three, and section four of this report.

3. Feedback processing

3.1. Introduction

All feedback received as part of the consultation was read and analysed by members of the Project team. This section describes how feedback received during the non-statutory consultation was processed and analysed, while section four sets out Green GEN Cymru's responses to issues raised in consultee feedback.

3.2. Processing

3.2.1. Online response forms

An online version of the response form was available on the Project website. Completed forms were saved directly to the Project customer relationship management system (CRM) – a secure database logging Project engagement. These were then imported into the analysis database via comma-separated values (CSV) files.

3.2.2. Hardcopy response forms and letters

Hardcopy documents received through the Freepost address were collected, scanned and then securely stored. The scanned images were securely saved on the Project SharePoint.

The content of response forms was then manually input into the Project CRM database, utilising an interface which mirrored that used by the public for online responses. These were then imported into the analysis database via CSV.

The content of printed letters was converted to text using Optical Character Recognition (OCR), checked for accuracy, and then entered into the analysis database. Handwritten letters were transcribed, checked for accuracy and then entered into the analysis database.

3.2.3. Email feedback

Emails which were categorised as consultation feedback were separated from other emails in the inbox (following the completion of any correspondence with the senders). These emails were then further separated into individual responses and campaign template responses. All feedback emails were then individually input into the analysis database, including attachments where applicable.

3.3. Analysis

Analysis took place in Userbit, a software package designed specifically for qualitative analysis, using an analysis approach based on Classic Grounded Theory. The Project team developed a coding framework for capturing all issues raised in responses, where individual issues were assigned codes or 'tags', which were categorised into themes, such as Environment, Socio-Economic and Consultation. For example:

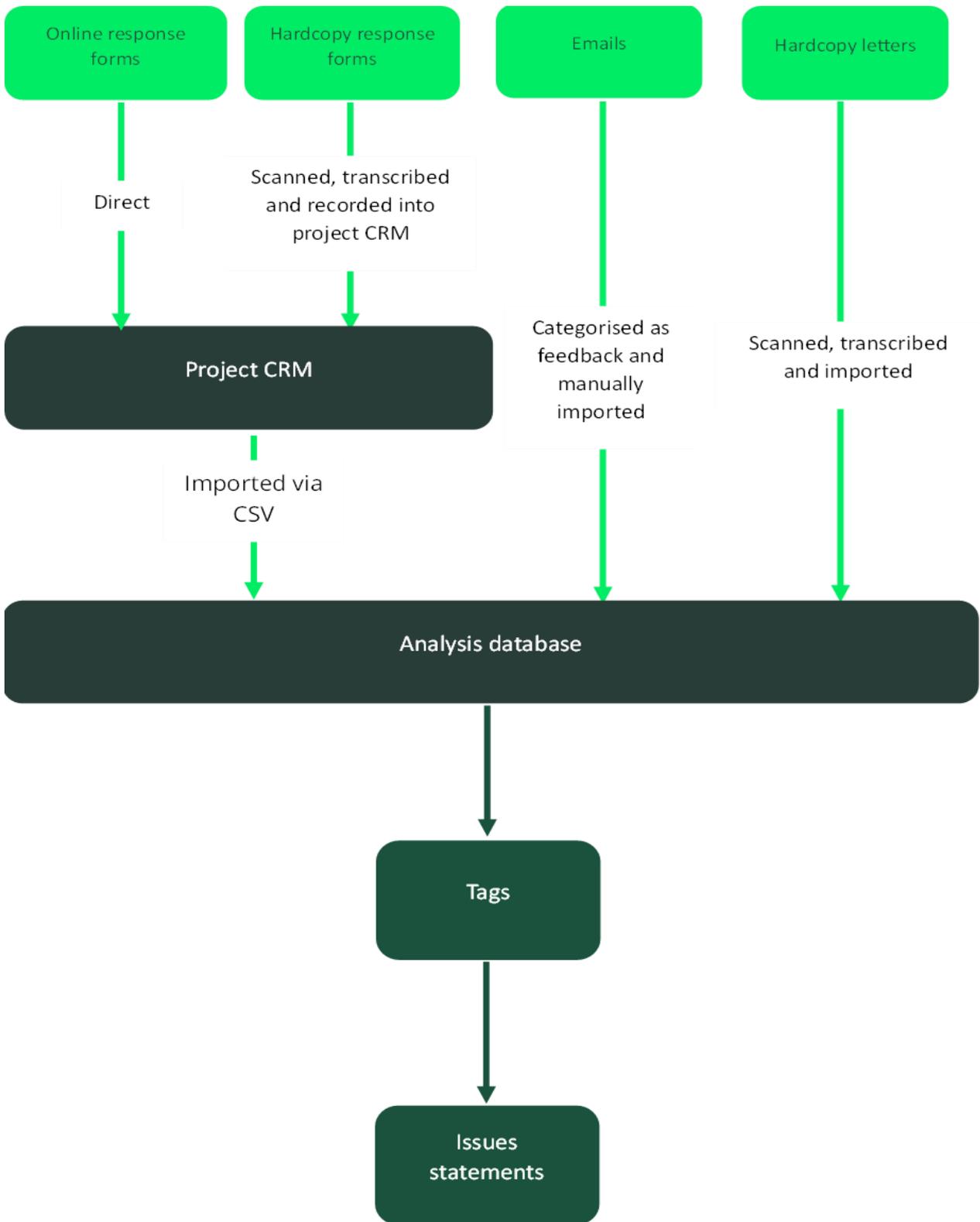
Theme	Code/tag
Environment	Public rights of way
Construction	Construction mitigation

Similar comments would receive the same code, with new codes created whenever new distinct issues were raised in the feedback.

For response forms, each answer was read and tagged with a code for each issue raised, with as many codes applied to the answer as was required to capture all issues raised in the text. For emails and letters, tags were applied to the section of text to which they corresponded.

The coding framework was data driven (i.e. it was not devised in advance of reviewing the responses) and continued to evolve until the coding of the final response.

The text tagged with each code was then reviewed and formed the basis of each issue statement. The issue statements, along with the Applicant's responses, are described in full below.



4. Feedback received

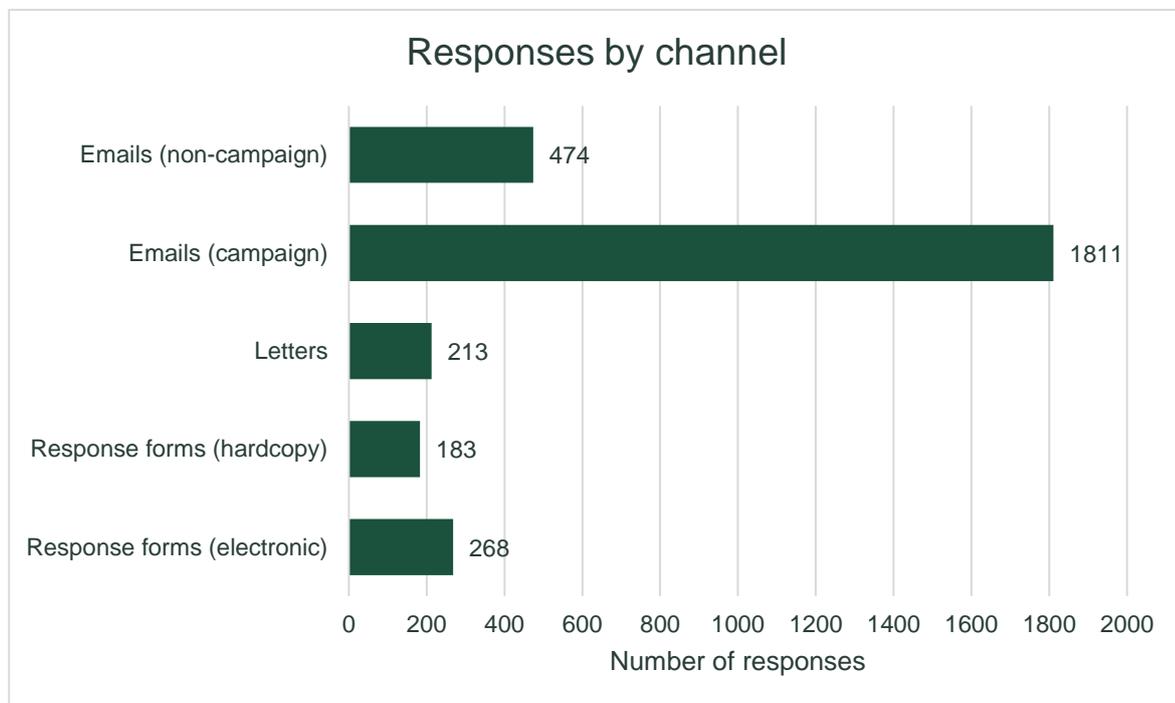
4.1. Note on interpreting the feedback

The following sections describe the feedback received during the consultation. As with all consultations, respondents were self-selecting, and are not statistically representative of the population that was consulted or that may be affected by the proposals.

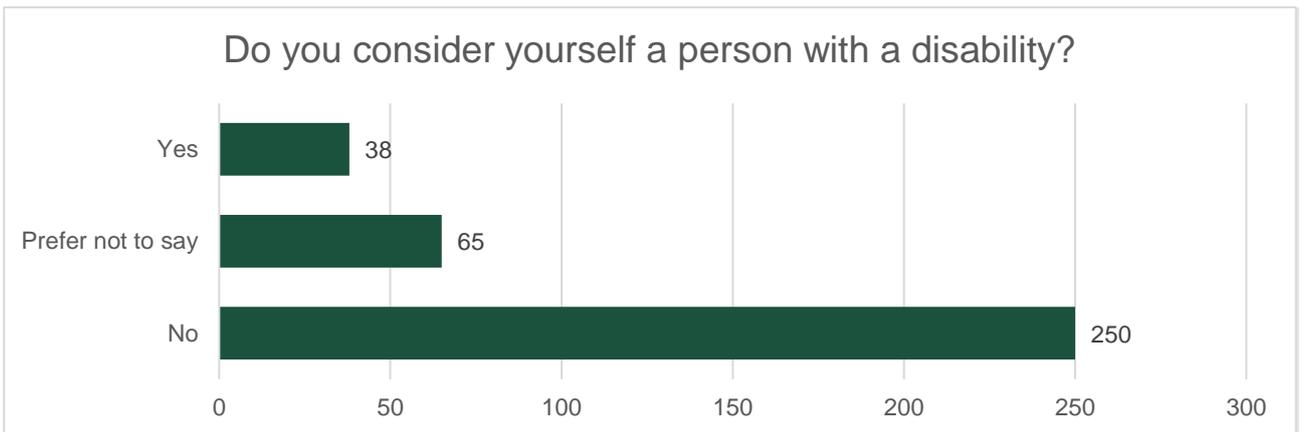
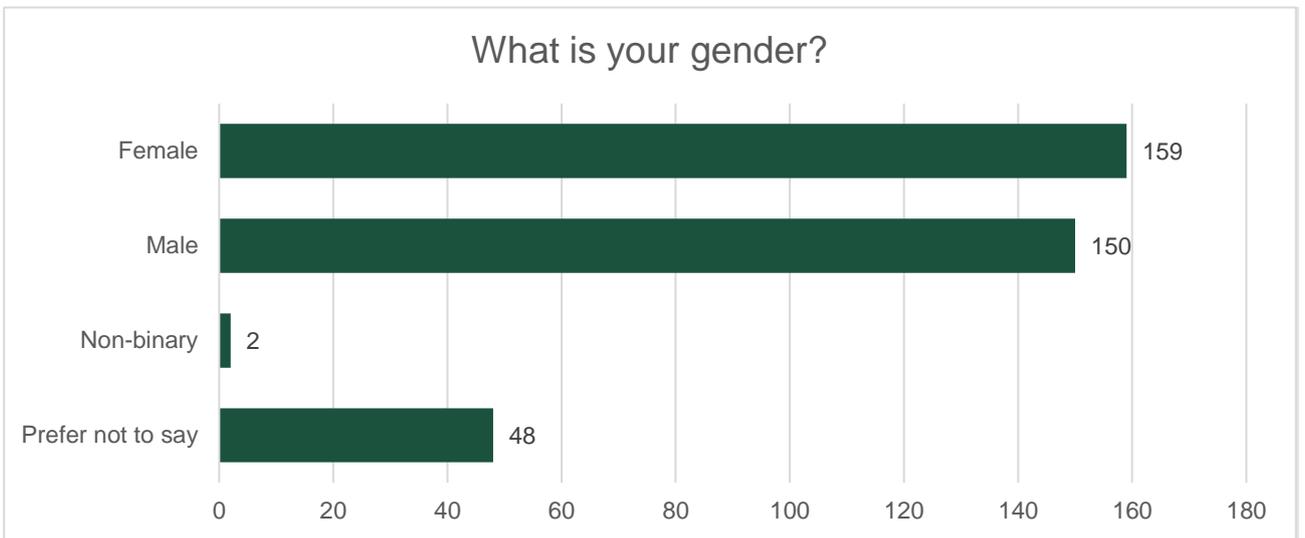
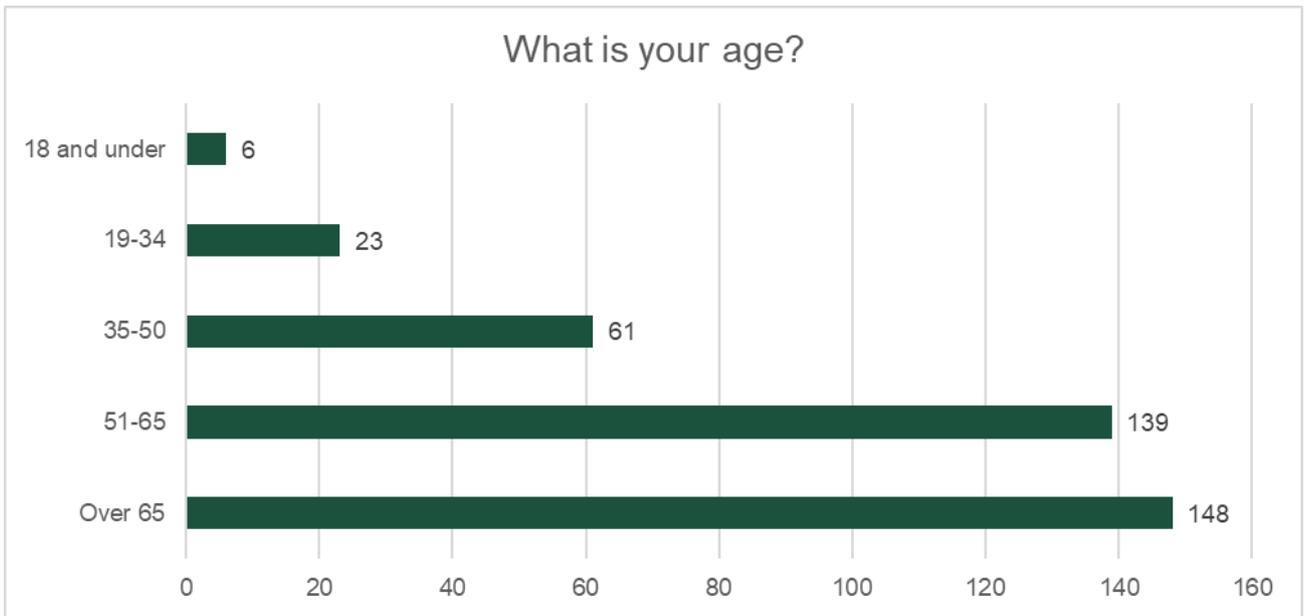
As noted below, responses to closed questions only represent those who completed a feedback form and answered these questions – the answers are not necessarily representative of the majority of respondents, who responded by email.

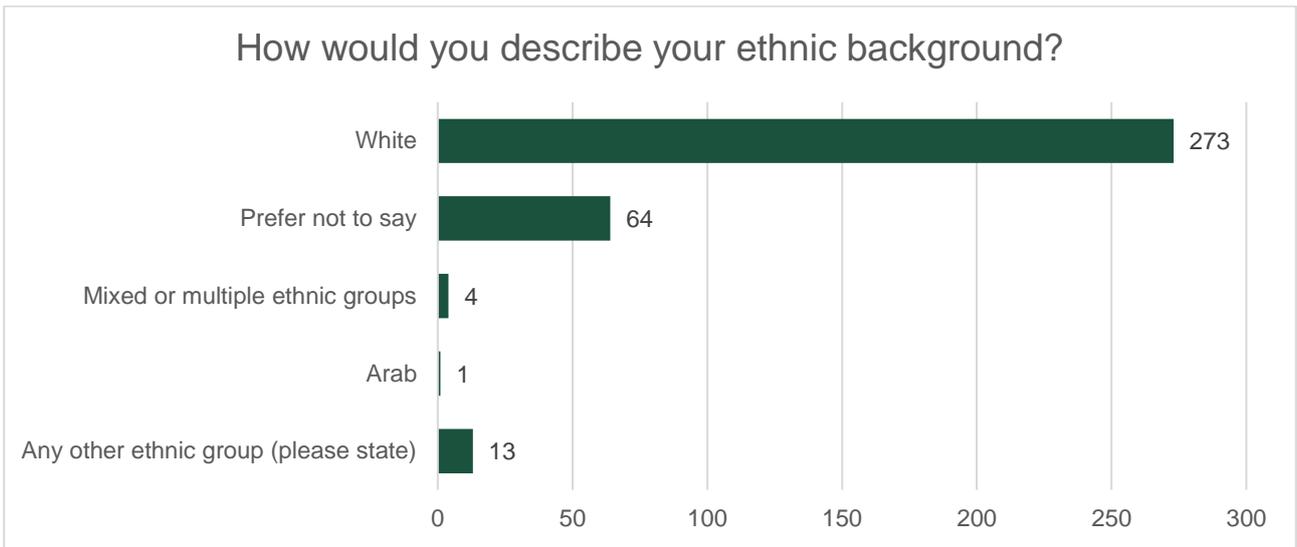
4.2. Responses received

The consultation received 2,949 responses, of which the majority (1,811) were identified as campaign group ‘template’ responses. A copy of the texts from campaign responses is included in appendix F.



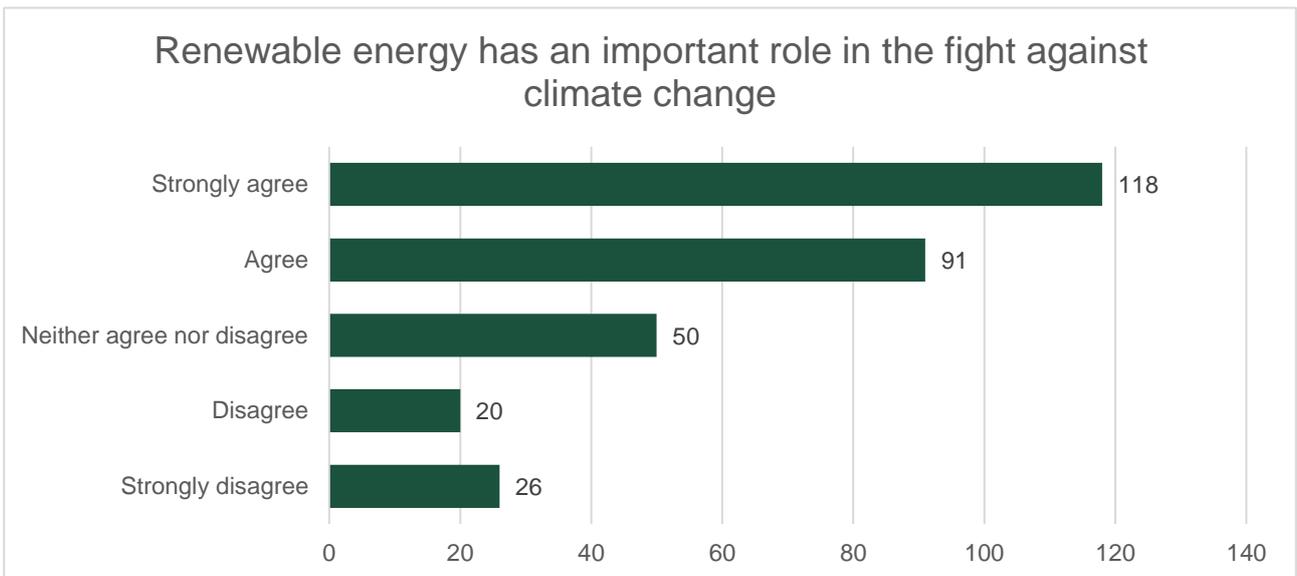
Those who submitted response forms were able to answer questions about their age, gender, disability status and ethnic background. Among these respondents, the majority were aged over 50, with similar proportions of male and female. About 10% of respondents consider themselves to have a disability and about 5% identify as being from ethnic minorities.





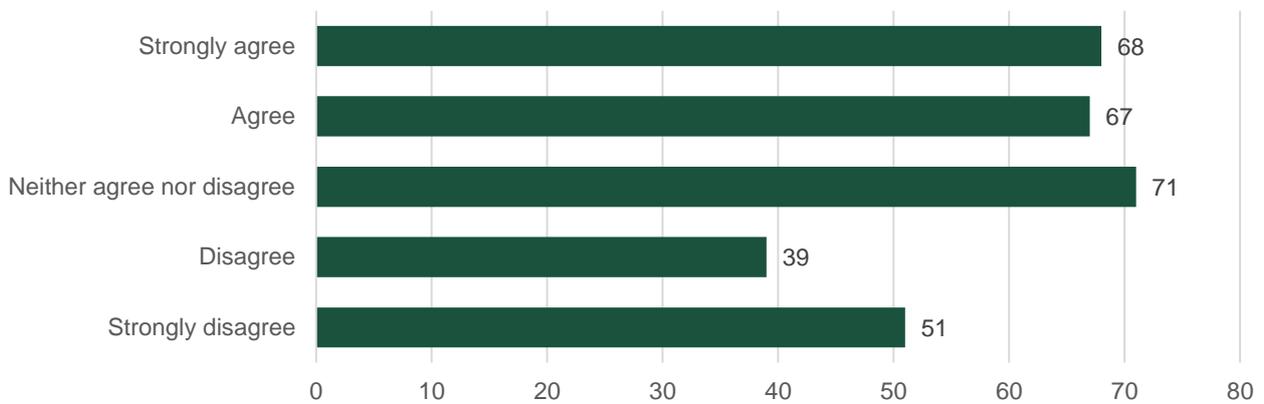
4.3. Closed question responses

The following shows the answers given to each of the closed questions on the response form, for those who responded to the consultation via this method and chose to answer the question.



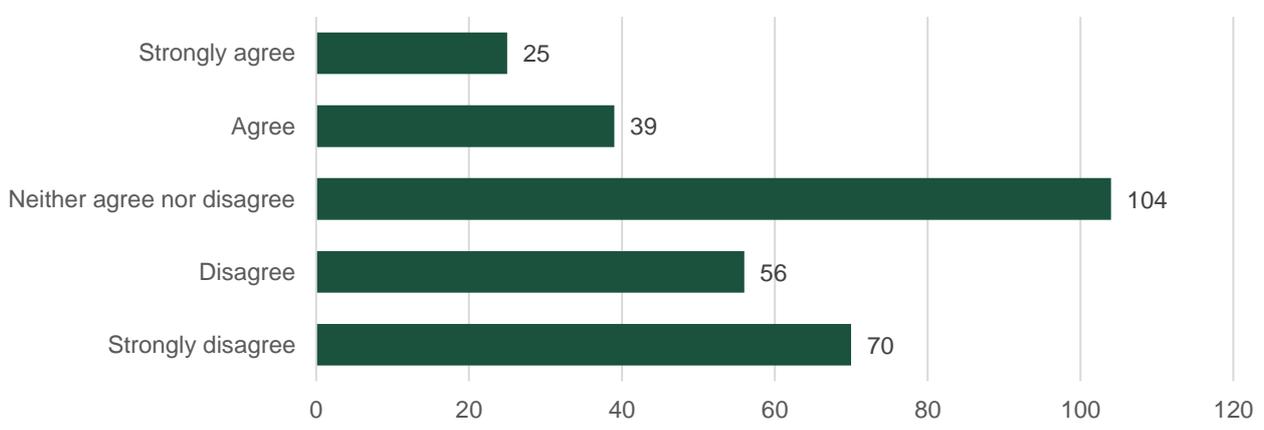
Respondents tend to agree with this statement, with 69% of those who answered this question indicating that they agree or strongly agree that ‘renewable energy has an important role in the fight against climate change’, with 15% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

More renewable energy generation in Wales would make us less reliant on imported energy and help to guarantee secure energy supplies for Wales in future

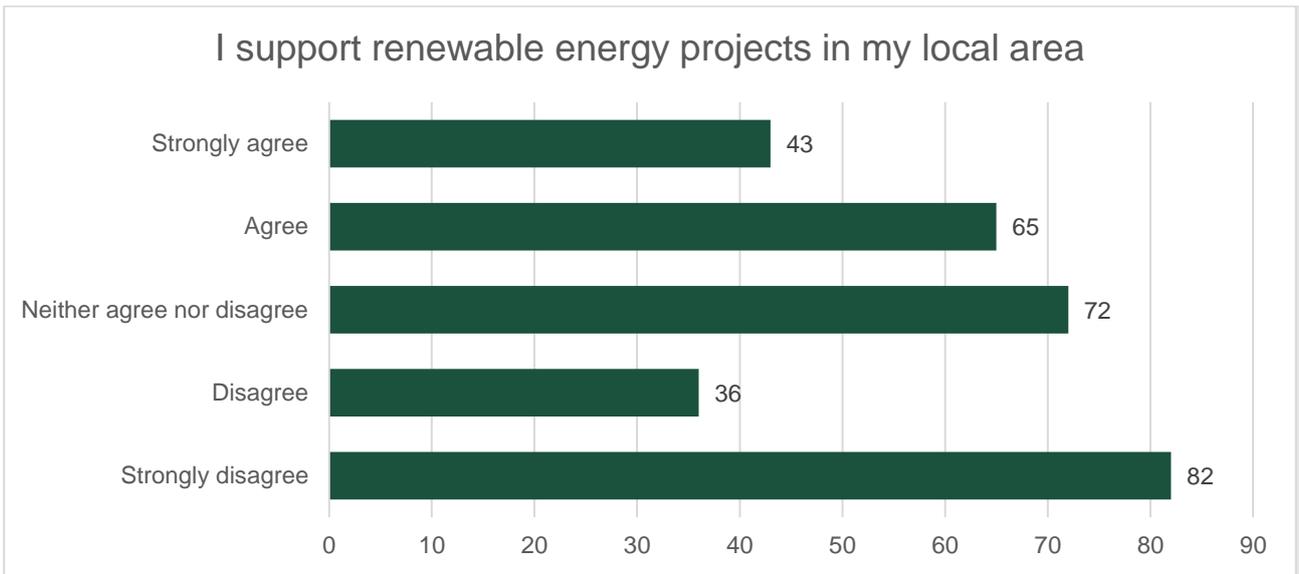


Respondent views on this question were more mixed, but still with a tendency to agree with 45% agreeing or strongly agreeing, 30% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and 24% indicating they neither agree nor disagree (the most commonly given answer).

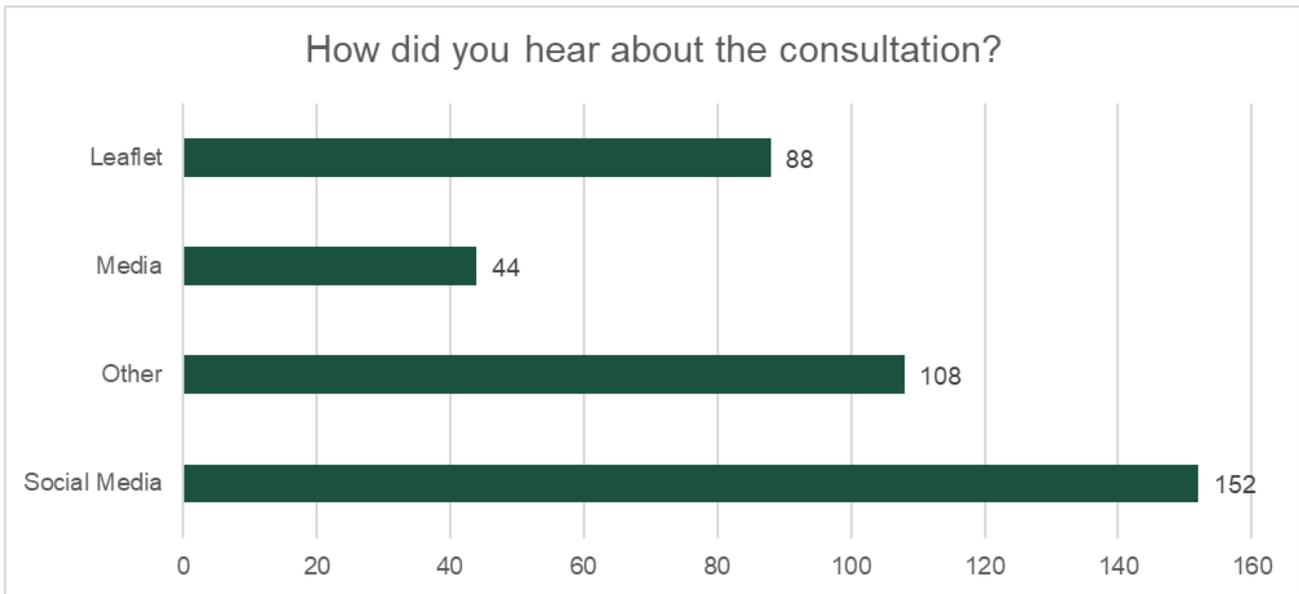
Renewable energy developments in Wales are being held back by a lack of grid infrastructure to connect them to power networks



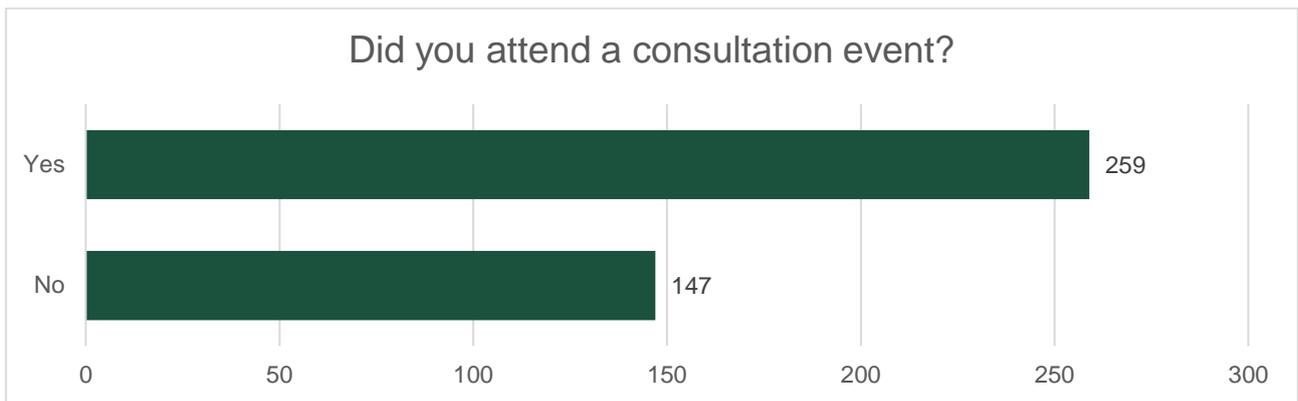
Uncertainty was high for this question, with 35% of those who answered this question indicating they neither agree or disagree with the statement. Among those who did express an opinion, almost twice as many disagree as agree.



Respondents were slightly more likely to disagree than agree with this statement, but the strength of feeling was higher than previous questions, with 28% indicating they strongly disagree with the statement, the highest of any question.



23% of respondents who answered the question indicated they heard about the consultation through the leaflet that was distributed. Significantly more (39%) heard through social media.



The majority of respondents who answered the question did attend a consultation event.

4.4. Project design changes since the first round of consultation and Project design evolution

4.4.1. Design change control

Following the first round of consultation, changes to the proposed Project design suggested in stakeholder feedback have been robustly considered.

These requests for changes in the Project design, along with details of how these have influenced the design of the Project, are summarised below.

4.5. Project design evolution

Through the consideration of each piece of consultation feedback, the proposed changes raised in the responses were extracted and reviewed individually by members of the Project team. Each of these changes was considered from an environmental, technical, land interest and cost perspective to ensure that a multi-discipline approach was taken to them.

The first stage in considering the requests was to identify any proposed changes that could be made to the 200m preferred route. All requests were then considered in comparison in order to ensure that no conflict would arise in taking multiple requests forward for the development of the design.

Comments about the potential impact of the Project on a specific house, community facility, holiday property or other sensitive location, were considered and accommodated where appropriate to do so. Requests that were considered but did not result in a proposed change to the Preferred Route were taken into account where appropriate in developing the draft alignment for the second round of consultation. We have sought to route away from sensitive areas wherever practicable.

A large number of comments were received in relation to potential undergrounding in specific locations. The Project team decided to review the whole route in terms of landscape and visual impact to determine where undergrounding might be appropriate mitigation for potential impacts.

The review concluded that the potential impacts of an overhead line crossing of the River Towy near Llanarthney could be of greater significance than at other locations on the Preferred Route, and Green GEN Cymru therefore considers it appropriate to propose underground cables in this location. This is considered further below in section 4.7.5.

The suggestion of a connection location in England as an alternative to a new substation in Carmarthenshire has been reviewed in an addendum to the Grid Connection Strategy that is available for consideration as part of the second round of non-statutory consultation. This document also backchecked the appraisal methodology for the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy following the receipt of feedback.

Following the receipt of feedback in relation to the potential use of alternative pylon designs and the 'T-Pylon', it is not considered that this would be appropriate for this Project. The development of the 'T-Pylon' has been focused on deployment for 400kV projects and a 132kV version of the pylon has not yet been developed or approved for use in the UK. To use T-Pylons for this Project would involve a substantial over engineering of the technology required and would not have provided an economic and efficient solution and has therefore not been considered further.

A number of comments were received relating to the potential to route through the Bannau Brycheiniog/Brecon Beacons National Park to facilitate a shorter connection to the National Grid. We have not proposed a route through the national park due to the protection afforded to this area through planning policy and it is not considered appropriate to identify a connection through this landscape especially as other routes were available that avoided impacts on this important designation.

Where comments were received that related to proposed new developments that could be impacted by the Towy Usk Project, these have been taken into account where practical in the development of the draft alignment. The second round of non-statutory consultation on the draft alignment provides another opportunity for stakeholders and the community to have their say on the proposals. Any feedback received will be considered by the Project team along with proposed survey work and will inform the development of a proposed design for the application along with the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will be submitted as part of the planning application to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales.

Following the close of the non-statutory consultation period in April 2023, a number of design changes have been incorporated into the proposals for the Project. A summary of the evolution of the Project design, based on changes requested and subsequent evaluation following the non-statutory consultation, is provided below. These changes have been incorporated into the draft route alignment presented at the second round of non-statutory consultation.

4.6. Summary of requests for changes in the Project design and subsequent changes to the Project

This section summarises change requests by the section of the Preferred Route (as presented during the consultation) to which they refer and provides a summary of subsequent changes to the Project design.

Where a change request has been interpreted as relating to more than one section, the change is included in each relevant summary.

4.6.1. Summary of change requests relating to Section 1 (Nant Mithil Energy Park to Builth Wells)

Multiple requests were made in consultee feedback for the route to be adjusted within section one. These included:

- Re-routing to reduce the distance between the Preferred Route corridor and specific existing education establishments, holiday parks and related businesses, and agricultural buildings;

- Changing the proposed route from the Nant Mithil Energy Park to run over less populated uplands in the vicinity of the energy park; and
- Routing through the existing valley north of the Radnor area towards Builth.
- To reduce the visual impact of the proposals in this area including use of undergrounding

Several requests were made by consultees to underground the 132 kV overhead line in and around Builth Wells, including to the east of Garth Hill.

Alternatively, consultees requested that lines be routed underground in specific locations within the section with references made to multiple specific locations, along with the potential impact of an overhead line on the local environmental, tourism and businesses reliant on visitors to the area. Specified locations include:

- Where the Preferred Route in Section 1 intersects with the River Wye and businesses that operate along the river; and
- Along the stretch of route currently proposed between Hirllwyn Bank and to the south of Ffynnanau.

Some consultees also expressed concern about the potential for visual intrusion on businesses reliant on tourism, including some to the south of the hamlet of Hundred House, with one consultee requesting a ground study be undertaken by Green GEN Cymru to further consider the interaction between businesses providing accommodation for visitors to the area, the local skyline and the Project.

A request was made for the Project to make use of 'T-Pylons' in the Wye Valley in the Builth Wells area.

A proposal for the introduction of a 'collector substation' and the use of 'wood pole' overhead line infrastructure was also considered by the Project team which would reduce the visual impact in this area.

4.6.2. Summary of changes to the Project design in Section 1 (Nant Mithil Energy Park to Builth Wells)

A summary of the key changes to the Project in Section 1 following the first round of non-statutory consultation are below:

- The inclusion of a route into the Nant Mithil Energy Park to the identified on-site substation. The route was previously identified as starting at the Energy Park boundary, but now a site for the proposed new energy park substation has been identified in the south west corner of the site, the proposed Green GEN Towy Usk route will now start at this location.
- The introduction of a switching station to the south of the A481 at the foot of Aberedw Hill. This switching station would enable the efficient connection of the Nant Mithil, Aberedw and Bryn Gilwern Energy Parks at one location before the power is taken to the National Transmission System at Llandyfaelog near Carmarthen.
- The switching station will allow the initial section of the connection between the Nant Mithil Energy Park and the switching station to be developed as a single circuit supported on wood poles instead of steel lattice pylons.
- The proposed alignment has been moved further to the east of the settlement of Franksbridge to increase the distance from this community.
- The proposed alignment has been moved further to the north west of the settlement of Hundred House to increase the distance from this community.

- Routing to the north west of Penfforest to avoid potential impacts on blocks of woodland and priority habitat.
- The Preferred Route at the first round of consultation passed through a pinch point between two residential properties near Neuadd Fach and over agricultural buildings and close to the residential property at Tremaen. The intention is to now increase distance between the route and residential properties along with avoiding agricultural buildings. The draft route alignment would be on higher ground but the steep landform at the foot of Aberedw hill would provide opportunities for ‘back clothing’ of the overhead line.
- The previous route proposed to cross the River Wye at a relatively narrow and wooded section of the river valley, crossing areas of ancient woodland and passing near to residential properties and fishing pools. The draft route alignment is now proposed to cross the River Wye further north at a more open section of the valley, where there is an existing 66kV wood pole line. The proposed draft route alignment would reduce the potential impact on fishing pools and increase the potential of the Project to connect into the existing Distribution Network Operator (DNO) network due to the presence of a National Grid Electricity Distribution Substation in the area.

4.6.3. Summary of change requests relating to Section 2 (Builth Wells to Llangammarch)

Several consultees in their feedback requested some or all of Section 2, between Builth Wells and Llangammarch, be re-routed. Reasoning for these requests includes:

- Avoiding areas of higher population density by routeing across less or unpopulated uplands; and
- To reduce the potential impact of designated woodland and businesses reliant on tourism.

An additional routing request, to back check and review the work done to date and reevaluate the potential for a new option to the south of the Preferred Route in the vicinity of Garth House was raised.

Requests were also made for the undergrounding of the proposed infrastructure across the whole section as well as in some specified and sensitive locations. These included:

- North of Epynt close to existing military infrastructure; and
- Close to the Royal Welsh Showground where events may be impacted.

Consultee feedback also raised concern about the potential impact of the proposed new infrastructure on views from listed buildings to the north of Garth and on agriculture close to Cilmeri.

4.6.4. Summary of changes to the Project design in Section 2 (Builth Wells to Llangammarch Wells)

A summary of the key changes to the Project in Section 2 following the first round of non-statutory consultation are below:

- Near the settlement of Rhosforio, the proposed draft route alignment will move further north than the Preferred Route to avoid impacts on ancient woodland and small watercourse valleys.
- To reduce the potential for interactions with Ancient Woodland (for example between Cilmeri and Garth), the draft route alignment has been developed to avoid these areas.
- The draft route alignment has been moved as far west as possible from the edge of Builth Wells to reduce the potential for visual effects on users of tourist facilities.

4.6.5. Summary of change requests relating to Section 3 (Llangammarch Wells to Llandovery)

Requests to re-route parts of the Preferred Route in section 3, between Llangammarch Wells and Llandovery, were specified as follows:

- A portion of route option 4N (as outlined in the Routeing and Consultation Document) that would result in the corridor being sited further away from the River Towy and the existing Dolauhirion bridge;
- Along the north side of the River Towy before being routed behind an existing ridge to the north of the A40 road;
- Option 4N (as outlined in the Routeing and Consultation Document) being utilised and routed further to the north;
- Where other developments are currently proposed, including close to Llandeilo;
- Where the new infrastructure could follow the route of the existing railway line in the area;
- Through sections of the Crychan Forest; and
- Away from Cefn Gorwydd and the nearby Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Feedback from consultees also included requests for localised undergrounding of the proposed new infrastructure in or close to the following areas:

- Along the existing railway line in the area;
- Close to residential properties in the vicinity of Cefn Gorwydd; and
- Where the route is currently close to residential properties in general.

Concerns were raised with regard to the impact of the Project on businesses, listed buildings such as the Cynghordy Viaduct, heritage and amenities including Carreg Sawddle common and Castell Meurig as well as existing public rights of way (PROWs).

4.6.6. Summary of changes to the Project design in Section 3 (Llangammarch Wells to Llandovery)

A summary of the key changes to the Project in Section 3 following the first round of non-statutory consultation are below:

- The Preferred Route previously passed close to the village of Cefn Gorwydd, and could have been visible in principal views from residential properties as the village is located on a ridgeline overlooking the valley to the east. The draft route alignment now passes to the north and west of the village, on lower ground following the valley.
- The Preferred Route previously passed through approximately 5.2km of commercial forestry at Crychan Forest. This remains feasible but we are now proposing two options for the draft route alignment as follows:
 - Option A – this would follow the route as proposed at the first round of consultation through the Crychan Forest
 - Option B – this option would be routed to the north of the previously proposed route at the Crychan Forest and would reduce the potential impact on woodland from approximately 5.2km to approximately 3km. The route would be closer to some residential properties and other designations, however direct impacts on these designated sites would be avoided where practical.

4.6.7. Summary of change requests relating to Section 4 (Llandoverly to Llandeilo)

Requests were made in consultee feedback to re-route or underground the proposed connection throughout section 4 and in specific locations including:

- Where the Preferred Route runs close to existing education establishments close to Llandoverly and Cwrt Henri;
- For the new infrastructure to be routed on only one side of the A40 road and the River Towy;
- Away from planned developments close to Llandeilo;
- To avoid areas of scientific, heritage and agricultural interest close to Llynjack;
- Where the Preferred Route runs close to specified residential properties, listed buildings, ancient monuments and sights of heritage, historic or visual interest throughout the section;
- Between Llangadog and Rhosmaen; and
- To the north of Llanarthney.

Concerns were raised with regard to the potential visual impact on businesses reliant on tourism close to the Preferred Route .

Several respondents also cautioned about the impact of the Project on points of historical interest, such as The Castle in Llanfair-ar-y- Bryn church, the existing roman road to the north of the Fort at Llandoverly and on the river Towy, particularly where the Preferred Route follows the river between Llangadog and Llandeilo. One consultee also requested Green GEN Cymru consider the impact that concrete bases used by steel lattice pylons may have on flooding locally.

4.6.8. Summary of changes to the Project design in Section 4 (Llandoverly to Llandeilo)

A summary of the key changes to the Project in Section 4 following the first round of non-statutory consultation are below:

- Changing the proposed route from the south side of the Towy Valley to the north side. The key reasoning behind this is:
 - Our previously Preferred Route (4S) was on the south side of the Towy Valley, but after considering feedback received in the first round of consultation, along with further environmental and technical studies, we have developed a draft alignment on the north side (previously referred to as option 4N, which was shown as an alternative option at the first round of consultation).
 - The previously preferred route would have involved passing to the west of Llandoverly, close to the rugby club, golf course and a caravan park before crossing the floor of the Towy Valley to reach the southern side of the valley. The proximity of the line to Llandoverly and the crossing of the valley in this location were key points raised through consultation feedback.
 - The previously preferred route would have involved two additional crossings of the River Towy, which is subject to multiple environmental designations. Whilst it is feasible that an overhead line could cross the river without direct impacts on the designations, we agreed it would be better to avoid these crossings if possible. The draft route alignment avoids those crossings in this section.
 - Through further investigation, we also agreed that the previously preferred route could affect views from Felindre and Llangadog, and open spaces around the Afon Sawdde. The A4069, which passes through and to the south-east of Llangadog, is considered a key route

into the Bannau Brycheiniog/ Breacon Beacons National Park (BBNP) and the stretch of the road between the settlement and the BBNP boundary acts as a gateway into the National Park. The previously preferred route could have interrupted views towards the BBNP in this part of the River Bran valley.

Further examination of the route within 4N suggested that the route could be modified to reduce sky-lining, thereby reducing impacts on the Towy Valley as a whole. The 4N route has been designed to be outside the Towy Valley Special Landscape Area and Registered Historic Landscape, as far as possible.

4.6.9. Summary of change requests relating to section 5 (Llandeilo to Llandyfaelog)

Requests were made in consultee feedback for localised changes to the Preferred Route throughout section 5, between Llandeilo and Llandyfaelog, and in specific locations including:

- Through the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park;
- Away from existing educational establishments;
- To avoid established local amenities in the area; and
- Away from areas already utilised for biodiversity, ecological or visual enhancements.

Feedback also requested that Green GEN Cymru give further consideration to undergrounding in specific locations including:

- Where the Preferred Route crosses the existing A48 road;
- Where the Preferred Route currently passes close to existing educational establishments;
- Close to the River Towy; and
- Near Public Rights or Way (PROWs) and local points of heritage and historical interest.

One consultee requested that mitigation measures be considered to minimize the visual impact of the Project on a local point of historical interest.

4.6.10. Summary of changes to the Project design in Section 5 (Llandeilo to Llandyfaelog)

A summary of the key changes to the Project in Section 5 following the first round of non-statutory consultation are below:

- Following feedback received in the first round of consultation, and our own further technical and environmental studies, we are now proposing to use underground cables rather than overhead lines where the draft route alignment crosses the River Towy (a length of about 5.5km).
- In reaching this decision we considered how an overhead line might have significant effects on the landscape and views of the special landscape area, particularly around Paxton Tower and Dryslwyn Castle. Our studies also indicated that an overhead line could present a collision risk to breeding and wintering birds on the River Towy Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and wider Towy floodplain, including geese, swans, ducks, gulls and waders.
- Using underground cables to cross this particularly sensitive area would reduce the potential for effects on the views, landscape and wildlife. The underground cables would pass beneath the main A40 road and the River Towy at a point where they are close to each other, allowing us to minimise disruption to both the road and the river and complete the route in the most efficient way.

4.6.11. Summary of change requests relating to the whole Preferred Route

Requests were made in consultee feedback for an unspecified ‘modern pylon’ design to be used across the whole proposed route as an alternative to steel, lattice pylons.

A large number of respondents also requested that the Project be developed with the entire route being undergrounded.

Some respondents also requested changing the route so that the connection point with the existing high-voltage transmission network is in Birmingham or Worcester or the shortening the overall length of the route by connecting to an unspecified location in England.

Issues raised in consultation responses and responses from Applicant

This analysis details all the free form responses received from consultees that did not contain requests for changes to the Project design. Analysis of answers to closed questions is detailed in section 3.3. All responses have been analysed, coded, and organised into themes by members of the Project team so that a response could be provided by Green Gen Cymru.

As part of the robust coding and analysis undertaken, all issues raised in feedback to the first round of consultation have been given equal weight and consideration. For reporting purposes, and for ease of understanding, the following framework has been adopted to highlight the level of community interest in each issues raised.

<i>Report framework wording</i>	<i>Number of times an issue is raised within consultee feedback responses</i>
<i>‘A small number of respondents’</i>	1-50 responses
<i>‘A few respondents’</i>	51-100 responses
<i>‘A considerable number of respondents’</i>	101 – 250 responses
<i>‘A large number of respondents’</i>	Over 250 responses.

The tables on the following pages outline the topic raised in the feedback and a summary of the feedback provided within the context of the above framework, along with a response from the Project.

4.6.12. Environment

Topic	Summary of matters raised	Green GEN Cymru's response
Visual Impact	<p>A large number of respondents expressed strong concerns regarding the visual impact of the Project near them, in general, as well as specifically on areas valued for natural beauty, such as the Towy Valley, Bannau Brycheiniog and National Botanic Gardens of Wales. Some respondents particularly contrasted the pylons with the Welsh landscape in which they would be placed, commenting that the pylons will ruin the landscape.</p>	<p>As we develop our projects, we consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful routeing and siting, for example seeking to avoid important designations and proximity to towns and villages, and potential for effects to be mitigated. We also consider other environmental and technical considerations including landscape designations, ecology and ornithology, hydrology and peat, cultural heritage, ancient woodland, forestry, agricultural land and other land uses.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru is committed to, and has been following, the guidance set out in the Holford Rules and associated notes of clarification for routeing overhead lines, the key principles of which include avoiding prominent ridges and skylines; following broad wooded valleys; avoiding settlements and residential properties; and maximising opportunities to make use of a background of landform or other features such as woodlands which can be viewed behind the proposed new infrastructure (known as 'back clothing').</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru acknowledges that a number of responses to the consultation identified locations where respondents felt that an overhead line would be unacceptable to them and where specific constraints in the area meant that the connection should be put underground. This feedback has been taken into consideration and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project to reduce the impacts in the areas considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p> <p>We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful detailed routeing and siting.</p>
Environmental Impact	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the environmental impact of the proposals, commenting that in addition to the damage to the visual environment, the pylons will also affect wildlife habitats and</p>	<p>As part of the ongoing routeing and design process, we have taken biodiversity interests into account, seeking to avoid important or sensitive habitats and known wildlife sites, including designated areas.</p> <p>Field surveys will collect further baseline data on habitats and protected species, including bats and birds. We will use this data to inform and help develop the design of the Project to reduce effects on biodiversity and assess how the Project may impact on key species. We will also use the data to identify and implement measures to reduce potential impacts, including those arising from bird collisions with the lines.</p>

	<p>migration. Some of the respondents suggested that pylons will be a hazard and will endanger the lives of birds, swans, bats and other species which may fly into the overhead wires.</p>	<p>Green GEN Cymru will also consider opportunities to ensure the proposals contribute to a net biodiversity benefit in line with National Policy and further details on this will be available as the Project develops.</p> <p>A full detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will also be carried out after which Green GEN Cymru will hold a statutory consultation on this and the the proposed application so that stakeholders can give us their views on the detailed route alignment.</p>
Weather conditions	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the impact of weather conditions, such as high winds, on the stability of pylons, commenting that pylons are highly susceptible to wind and/or storm damage. A small number of respondents commented this will require more maintenance than underground alternatives and may endanger the lives of humans and wildlife, as well as habitats.</p>	<p>Pylons and conductors (overhead lines) are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions that are likely to occur in Wales.</p> <p>In the UK, overhead lines are designed to withstand a 1 in 150-year wind or ice event. Though overhead lines are exposed to the elements and adverse weather conditions, the design approach mitigates safety risks to the public and environment and ensures a robust system with adequate levels of reliability, maintainability and serviceability is achieved.</p> <p>The overhead line connection will be subject to regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that it operates safely and securely. Inspection is usually by helicopter fly through or on the ground by foot walk over. Overhead faults can often be repaired remotely through resetting/switching which reduces the amount of time that the line is out of operation.</p> <p>Fault-finding and corrective maintenance and repair on underground cables often requires that the cables are dug up to identify and resolve issues. Excavation can result in extended interruption to the energy supply that may impact on network reliability.</p>
Flood risk	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the effect the proposals may have on flood risk, especially in the areas that are already prone to torrential flooding. Some respondents suggested that the construction of the Project will cause damage to the flood plain, and cause flooding to wind farms</p>	<p>As part of the ongoing routeing and design process, we have taken flood risk into account, seeking to avoid effects.</p> <p>If effects cannot be avoided, an assessment will be undertaken to understand the potential impact of the Project on flood risk to or from the area and to identify any mitigation that may be required</p> <p>The Project design will avoid the use of ground-based infrastructure in mapped flood zones wherever possible. Where this is not possible, for example where the span between pylons would be too great to enable them to operate safely, suitable assessment and mitigation will be employed such that necessary ground-based infrastructure (e.g. pylon bases) do not cause an increase in potential flood risk to up and/or downstream receptors.</p>

	<p>such as those at Aberedw and Radnor Forest.</p>	<p>With regards to pluvial/ surface water flooding, the same avoidance prior to mitigation stance will be taken. If/ where required, the discrete nature of the proposed ground-based infrastructure will ensure that mitigation measures are adopted such that flow routes are not materially altered.</p> <p>As part of our ongoing programme of engagement outside of defined phases of consultation, the Project is continuing to engage with relevant technical stakeholders on this topic.</p>
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<p>Biodiversity and wildlife</p>	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the impacts on biodiversity, commenting that the chosen route will have an adverse effect on the environment, wildlife, habitats and the overall ecosystem. Some respondents also commented that biodiversity and ecology will be less impacted if the route were underground instead.</p> <p>Respondents commented on specific species raising concerns that overhead lines may impact several species of birds and small mammals some of which are on the UK Red List and Wales Red List. Respondents also suggest that the landscape through which the Project is proposed is an important breeding and feeding ground for many kinds of waterfowl. Some respondents suggest that even the underground option will affect microhabitats that won't be restored.</p>	<p>During the ongoing routeing and design process, we have taken biodiversity into account, by considering and seeking to avoid overlap with important or sensitive habitats and known wildlife sites, including designated areas.</p> <p>Field surveys, which will be undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will collect further baseline data on habitats and protected species, including birds and mammals. This data will be used to identify how the construction and presence of different elements of the Project, including pylons, overhead lines, and undergrounded sections, may affect important species and habitats. A key consideration to date has been the presence of waterfowl populations and the identification of important areas for breeding and wintering waterbirds.</p> <p>Further information on the presence of important bird and mammal populations, including red-listed species, will be collected during field surveys. The conservation status of different species, including their occurrence on red lists, is taken into account when planning field surveys and during the assessment stage.</p> <p>Data collected during desk studies and field surveys will be used to inform the design of the Project to seek to further reduce effects on biodiversity and identify measures to reduce potential impacts through mitigation or best practice measures, such as habitat specific reinstatement, and will be used to develop proposals to improve biodiversity outcomes for the ecosystems through which the Project passes.</p> <p>The Project will continue to engage with relevant technical stakeholders on this topic as part of our ongoing programme of engagement outside of formal phases of consultation.</p> <p>As part of our proposals, we will aim not only to protect key habitats and species wherever possible on site, but to also enhance the area for biodiversity throughout the lifetime of the Project.</p> <p>We will also comply with current Welsh guidance on achieving a net benefit for biodiversity around the Project and, working with the relevant stakeholders, will work to deliver an environmental benefit over and above these requirements.</p>
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<p>Geological concern</p>	<p>A large number of respondents commented that the ground under the Towy Valley is composed of a soft alluvial soil which is susceptible to severe erosion and not safe for such proposals.</p>	<p>Once the route is confirmed, a suitable geotechnical site investigation will be undertaken in the location of all required ground-based infrastructure to confirm the ground conditions present.</p> <p>These investigations will allow the appropriate design for foundations, taking into account the unique geotechnical ground properties for all ground-based elements of the proposed development, including pylons and substations.</p> <p>Once the geotechnical investigations are complete an appropriate design will be developed. The ground conditions expected are not unusual for the design of an overhead line.</p>
<p>Visual screening</p>	<p>A small number of respondents suggested undertaking more assessments on the environmental impacts of the proposals, particularly visual impacts and potential mitigation of these, to better inform the route and its design.</p>	<p>During the ongoing routeing and design process to date, Green GEN Cymru has considered the potential effects of route options on visual amenity, particularly existing views experienced by people at residential properties and settlements, users of public rights of way (PROWs) and promoted walking routes, visitors to promoted locations, and people travelling on key routes.</p> <p>The routeing process has sought to reduce the extent of potentially significant visual effects where possible, on balance with other environmental considerations. Ongoing detailed design and alignment will consider the potential visual effects of the route, seeking to make use of screening and ‘back clothing’ of pylons where possible to reduce visual effects.</p> <p>As part of the second non-statutory consultation in spring 2024, we will share a draft route alignment for the new connection, including any areas of high sensitivity where we are considering the use of alternative technology including underground cables. We will use feedback from this consultation to further refine the Project.</p> <p>We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and hold a statutory consultation so that stakeholders can give us their views on the detailed route alignment. This could include suggestions for how mitigation (including screening) could be used in areas to reduce potential effects.</p>
<p>Public Rights of Way (PROWs)</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns on the impacts of the proposals on the Public Rights of Way (PROWs), commenting that the erection of pylons may disturb the existing paths and make it unsafe or</p>	<p>During the ongoing routeing and design process, Green GEN Cymru has considered the potential effects of route options on views from public rights of way (PROWs), focusing on potential for effects on views experienced from National Trails and long-distance walking routes.</p> <p>Whilst visual effects on users of the rights of way network will be unavoidable, routeing has sought to reduce the extent of potentially significant effects where possible, on balance with other environmental considerations.</p> <p>Direct impact on Public Rights of Way (PROWs) will be avoided wherever practicable. Where there could be an impact on a PROW, this will be discussed with the relevant authorities to ensure that any proposed mitigation is appropriate and included as</p>

	unpleasant for people to use these.	part of the application for consent. This will include information on how PROWs can remain accessible and safe throughout the construction and operation of the Project.
Agriculture	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the impact the Project may have on agricultural land, including its quality and potential negative effects on grazing for sheep and other animals. Some respondents suggested that the concrete poured into the land due to pylons will cause loss of arable land and consequently lead to loss of profits and agricultural businesses that they rely on the land for their income.</p> <p>A few respondents also expressed concerns regarding the noise impact on farms once the pylons are in operation and the possible distress caused to farm animals.</p>	<p>Throughout Wales and the wider UK, electricity connections have been sited and are operating within agricultural land.</p> <p>Grazing can continue up to and within the footings of the pylons, which take up a small area. There is no evidence that overhead lines and pylons have a materially adverse impact on livestock or grazing behaviour.</p> <p>It is anticipated the normal farming practice will be able to continue under the overhead lines or over cables (except in the footprint of the pylons themselves).</p> <p>The footprint of the pylons proposed for the Towy Usk connection will be modest (approximately 5m x 5m for a standard suspension pylon). However, detailed consideration of pylon siting and overhead line alignment during the design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process will seek to reduce the loss of agricultural land and disruption of agricultural activities to the extent feasible, commensurate with consideration of other constraints.</p> <p>We will work closely with farmers in developing the Project to understand their concerns and to reduce any effects on their operation of their land.</p> <p>High-voltage power lines can generate noise under certain conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audible noise from overhead-line conductors and fittings is generally either a “crackle” or a “hum”. It occurs mainly in wet weather, particularly fog and rain. • Noise may also arise as a result of the wind blowing past the line or pylons. <p>The impact of noise will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and mitigations may be proposed where it is identified as an issue.</p>

4.6.13. Socio Economics

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
<p>Impact on tourism</p>	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concern that the proposed routeing across the unspoilt landscape may negatively impact tourism, which is relied on by many local businesses, commenting that the area may become less attractive to tourists due to pylons blocking the picturesque views.</p> <p>A large number of respondents particularly highlighted Bannau Brycheiniog and Towy Valley, which they described as culturally important to Wales, as well as the impact on camping/glamping sites.</p>	<p>Throughout the routeing process to date, we have sought to reduce the potential for effects on views experienced by tourists and visual amenity has been considered, where possible, on balance with other environmental constraints. Views from tourism and recreation sites and routes is one of the landscape and visual appraisal criteria used to inform the selection of the Preferred Route. This information is presented in the Routeing and Consultation Document which remains available on the Project website. Green GEN Cymru will continue to take into account the visibility from tourism and recreation sites and routes during the detailed design and assessment stages.</p> <p>The potential impact of the Project on views across the Towy Valley and from key viewpoints including Paxton's Tower, Dryslwyn Castle and the National Botanical Gardens have factored into the decision to propose a section of the Project, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 underground to further reduce the landscape and visual impact in this area.</p> <p>The impact of the Project on the landscape will continue to be assessed in more detail in work to develop the proposals, including identifying locations for pylons and other infrastructure required for the connection. Further assessment will be undertaken, taking into account feedback received in the second round of non-statutory consultation, and this will be presented at the statutory consultation that will take place before the Project Development of National Significance (DNS) application is submitted.</p> <p>Pylons are used across the UK in areas of high amenity value where people work and visit and we are confident that with careful routeing we can reduce the potential impacts.</p> <p>We are continuing to engage with stakeholders, such as the Bannau Brycheiniog/ Breacon Beacons National Park Authority, to understand their views about the proposals and address their concerns.</p>
<p>Impact on local amenities</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concern that the routeing of the pylons will impact the community's quality of life, commenting that it will</p>	<p>Potential for effects on views experienced by tourists and visual amenity has been considered throughout the routeing process to date.</p> <p>Routeing has sought to reduce the extent of potentially significant visual effects where possible, on balance with other environmental constraints. Views from tourism and recreation sites and routes is one of the landscape and visual appraisal criteria used to inform the selection of the Preferred Route. This information is presented in the Routeing and Consultation</p>

	<p>spoil the landscape and tranquillity it offers to local communities, residents, and tourists. Some respondents expressed concern that local amenities, including pubs, shops, hotels and a local botanical gardens, may have to close due to a decrease in tourism caused by the Project.</p>	<p><u>Document</u> which remains available on the Project website. Visibility from, and the impact on, tourism and recreation sites/routes will continue to be taken account of during the detailed design and assessment stages.</p> <p>The Project is continuing to engage with relevant stakeholders on this topic.</p>
<p>Impact on planned developments</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concern regarding how the routeing of the pylons may impact other planned Projects, particularly Carmarthenshire County Council's plans for the Towy Valley Path.</p>	<p>The Project could cross the proposed Towy Valley Path at one location and would not prevent people from using the Path.</p> <p>Potential for effects on views experienced by users of the Towy Valley Path, as well as other relevant committed developments (based on data provided by the local authorities), has been considered throughout the routeing and design process and will continue to be taken into account as the Project develops.</p> <p>The routeing work undertaken to date has sought to reduce the extent of potentially significant visual effects where possible, and avoid any direct interaction with other proposed developments, on balance with other environmental constraints.</p> <p>The Project will continue to engage with relevant technical stakeholders on this topic as part of our ongoing programme of engagement outside of formal phases of consultation.</p>
<p>Impact on respondents business opportunities</p>	<p>A few respondents expressed concern regarding how the routeing of the pylons may impact their own individual plans for converting parts of their developments into accommodation for tourists. Some respondents expressed more general frustration with</p>	<p>The routeing and appraisal process undertaken to date has taken account of consented and valid planning applications termed 'committed development' within the Land Use category of the appraisal tables. The methodology for how these types of proposed developments have been taken account of is set out in Appendix C of the <u>Routeing and Consultation Document</u>.</p> <p>As the Project progresses, all new proposals with valid planning applications will be taken account of during the design and assessment stages to seek to continue to ensure that the Project seeks to avoid adversely affecting other developments.</p> <p>Visibility from, and the impact on, established and proposed tourism and recreation sites and routes will continue to be taken account of during the detailed design and assessment stages.</p>

	<p>the Project's route, commenting how this will affect their investments to date; and destroy potential income streams.</p> <p>Respondents, including some landowners, made similar comments about the effects of erecting pylons on farmland, commenting that agricultural and other businesses based on the land will be negatively affected and some may cease to exist.</p>	<p>We follow the electricity industry's best practice approach to negotiating rights of access for surveys, temporary works and the installation of our equipment on private land.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru and our contractors will always make reasonable endeavours to work with landowners regarding any potential effects on their property or business. A Landowner payments schedule for new electricity infrastructure is available on the Project Website which includes details on payments for landowners and appropriate land agent and solicitor fees.</p> <p>If a landowner feels they are directly affected by the Project and they have suffered any losses above and beyond any advanced compensation, they can submit a claim for compensation either directly to the company or through their professional advisors.</p>
<p>Heritage impact</p>	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the Project's potential impacts on designated heritage assets; culturally important historical landscapes; and other sites, including Dolauhirion Bridge, Dryslwyn Castle, Paxton's Tower, Hundred House, Garn Goch.</p>	<p>Reducing the potential effects to these historic assets has been a key consideration in the design and routeing process to date and will be kept under consideration during design evolution of the Project and the related Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.</p> <p>This feedback has been taken into consideration and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project to reduce the impacts in the areas considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p> <p>We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful detailed routeing and siting.</p> <p>A detailed assessment on the potential impacts on heritage assets will be undertaken through the EIA process and mitigation to reduce these impact will be included as part of our proposals. This will be subject to statutory consultation in advance of the application for consent being submitted.</p>

<p>Impact on recreational activities</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns regarding how the pylons may impact the tranquillity of the unspoilt landscapes, making it less appealing for any recreational activities to take place. A few also commented that the presence of huge pylons will take away the peace and serenity from any walk or cycle ride.</p>	<p>During the ongoing routeing and design process, we have considered the potential visual effects of route options on views experienced by people undertaking recreational activities whose attention or interest is focused on their surroundings.</p> <p>Whilst visual effects on recreational receptors will be unavoidable, routeing has sought to reduce the extent of potential for significant effects where possible, on balance with other environmental constraints.</p> <p>As the Project design develops further, the identification of suitable mitigation will further seek to reduce potential effects, and these will be considered fully in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which will be consulted on prior to the application being submitted.</p>
<p>Community benefits</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents commented that there are no benefits to the community from the Project, or that the proposed benefits are insignificant in comparison to the deleterious effects on the same communities of having pylons routed through them. Some respondents suggested using community benefit funds for undergrounding the whole or sections of the pylon route instead.</p>	<p>The community benefit funding will come from the Bute Energy Parks that connect to Green GEN Towy Usk. In this unique approach every year Bute Energy will pay £7,500 per MW of installed capacity into the fund, which will be shared between the communities closest to the Energy Parks and those along the grid routes.</p> <p>The Bute Energy Community Benefit team are already talking with local people and organisations about where they would like to see community benefit funds invested. The 5 themes of focus in which Bute Energy are looking to invest in are: Recreation and Health, Education, Employability, Natural Environment and Heritage and Culture and also the Cost of Living.</p> <p>The establishment of the Community Benefit Fund is a significant part of Bute Energy’s dedication to ensuring that the benefits of the energy park Projects reach the local communities. This fund is an integral aspect of Bute Energy’s Projects, and they are committed to making sure it has a meaningful and lasting impact on the areas closest to their Energy Parks and along the associated grid connection routes.</p> <p>The Bute Energy Community Benefit Fund will only start to become available once the Energy Parks are consented, constructed and operational. The community funding will be taken from the profits generated by the Energy Parks on an annual basis and therefore these funds will not be available to pay for undergrounding in advance of generation commencing.</p> <p>As a business based in Wales, Bute Energy has learnt that communities are complex and there are differing and competing needs and priorities within a community, therefore deciding to allocate the entire fund to undergrounding the grid may mean</p>

		<p>forgoing other valuable Projects or initiatives. Bute Energy will continue to engage with the communities, and the feedback received will be taken into account as Project plans are refined.</p> <p>Bute Energy's priority is to deliver clean green energy and support local communities in a sustainable manner. Bute Energy want to collaborate with local organisations, residents, and community leaders to ensure that the community benefit fund is directed towards Projects that truly matter to local communities.</p>
Community impact	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concerns about the impact the routeing of the pylons will have on their lives, wellbeing and livelihood.</p> <p>Some of these respondents commented that the proposals will devastate the communities who have found peace and solace by being able to enjoy the outstanding natural beauty of the countryside.</p>	<p>The objective of the routeing process to date has been to seek to avoid or reduce effects on the environment, including people who live, work, enjoy and visit the local area. Green GEN Cymru will seek to continue to avoid or reduce effects on the environment, such as landscape and visual effects, effects on biodiversity and cultural heritage, during the design of the Project.</p> <p>Effects associated with the construction and operation of the final design of the Project will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and additional measures and controls will be proposed to further reduce effects.</p> <p>The findings of the EIA will be presented within the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted alongside the Development of National Significance (DNS) application.</p> <p>Socio-economic information, including tourism information will also be presented in a separate report to accompany the DNS application.</p>
Economic impact (including unemployment)	<p>A large number of respondents suggested the routeing of the pylons will have detrimental impact on the tourist business which as a result will affect the local economies. Some respondents believe tourism is the main income and revenue stream for this part of Wales and any negative impact on it will deprive local communities.</p>	<p>The objective of the routeing process undertaken to date has been to seek to avoid or reduce effects on the environment, including people who live, work, undertake recreate activities, as well as visit, the local area. Green GEN Cymru seek to continue to avoid or reduce effects on the environment, and associated tourism receptors, such as landscape and visual effects, and traffic and transport effects during the ongoing design of the Project.</p> <p>Effects associated with the construction and operation of the final design of the Project on tourism-related receptors will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA process), and additional measures will be proposed to further reduce effects.</p> <p>The design and assessment will continue to seek to avoid or reduce effects on tourism related receptors and the findings of the EIA will be presented within the Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted alongside the Development of National</p>

		Significance (DNS) application. Tourism information will be presented in a separate socio-economics and tourism report to accompany the DNS application.
Distribution of Profits	Some respondents expressed a desire for profits made from this Project are utilised to serve the communities such as covering their electricity bills.	<p>Bute Energy will ensure that their energy park projects deliver wider benefits to support local communities in the form of Community Benefit Funds through the lifetime of each of its energy parks.</p> <p>Informed by local people and communities, funding will focus on improving access to recreation, health and wellbeing activities, enhancing local education offering while creating new pathways into employment. In the short-term, with those living near Energy Parks feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis, Bute Energy is voluntarily and proactively investing in energy efficiency and household support programmes.</p>

4.6.14. Strategic Options and Needs Case

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
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<p>Route options</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concern regarding the number of route options presented and the process by which they were identified and selected, commenting that there has been a lack of information and involvement in this process by the public and those affected by proposal. Many of these respondents also commented that selection of the route indicates the lack of the Project team's understanding of the part of Wales that it is proposed to travel through, including its landscape, culture and natural beauty. They commented that this is shown by pylons being suggested to be placed in areas of significant importance and natural beauty, as well as routeing pylons through glamping sites, other tourist attractions, schools and residential properties.</p>	<p>The methodology for the routeing process undertaken to date is set out within the Routeing and Consultation Document which remains available on the Project website. The methodology reflects established guidance for routeing of overhead lines known as the Holford Rules (and associated notes) which guide overhead line development by seeking to avoid 'areas of highest amenity value' such as internationally and nationally designated natural and cultural areas.</p> <p>The routeing process was undertaken by independent environmental consultants with extensive experience in routeing overhead lines reflecting the Holford Rules. The work undertaken to date has, in the absence of access to private land, necessarily utilised desk-based information supplemented by extensive fieldwork by landscape specialists utilising publicly accessible areas within the local area. The environmentally led routeing work identified and appraised a number of 200m wide route options. At this point Green GEN Cymru felt this was the appropriate time to engage stakeholders including local communities as prior to this time there was insufficient information to ensure an informed and meaningful consultation. The feedback gathered during the consultation process provided more location specific useful information. This included previously unavailable data, such as (but not limited to) data on proposals for new glamping pods and residential properties. This has been reviewed by the Project team to inform a number of modifications to the Preferred Route.</p> <p>This information, supplemented by field-based surveys (subject to access being granted) will inform the siting/location of pylons and associated infrastructure. Further detailed consideration of pylon siting and overhead line alignment will take place and there will be further opportunities for landowners, the public and other stakeholders to have their say on our proposals through two further rounds of consultation on the Project. The first will be consultation on a proposed draft alignment in 2024 and following this, a round of statutory consultation on the detailed Project design in 2025.</p>
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<p>Strategic options and need case</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the need for this Project in this side of Wales, commenting they have not been presented with evidence of why the area has been chosen or even why it is needed in Wales, with some commenting that it should be re-routed to England instead. Some of the respondents commented there are existing wind farms and off-shore wind producing all the electricity they need.</p>	<p>The existing distribution network surrounding the Bute Energy sites is not sufficient to transport the amount of power that will be generated.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru has assessed a variety of potential connections points to allow the export of power from Bute Energy’s energy park sites. We initially identified a total of 11 potential connection points: 4 in England and 7 in Wales.</p> <p>The route options to England presented longer overhead route lengths overall (and associated environmental impact) and greater cost.</p> <p>The route to Carmarthen had the shortest overall route length and lowest indicative cost. Connecting to Carmarthen also allows for other Energy Parks to connect to the grid and for this important low carbon generation to get to the homes and businesses where it is needed in Wales and wider.</p> <p>Further information about how we identified our Preferred Route, and the other options we considered, is available in our Routeing and Consultation Document and our Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy both of which remain available on the Project website.</p>
<p>Routeing and design (General)</p>	<p>A few respondents suggested re-routeing away from residential properties, schools, historic monuments, green landscapes, as well as areas of natural beauty and sites of significant importance. Some respondents suggested aligning the route with railway lines and existing roads to reduce the impact on the environment and visual amenity.</p>	<p>The methodology for the routeing process undertaken and how environmental conditions within the Project area have been taken into account is set out within the Routeing and Consultation Document and our Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy both of which remain available on the Project website.</p> <p>Areas deemed to be of 'highest environmental value' which are mapped within the Routeing and Consultation Document have also been avoided where possible in identifying the Preferred Route, this includes historic monuments and sites designated for nature conservation.</p> <p>Following from the routeing methodology set out for the Project and in accordance with the Holford Rules (Rule 4), development of the overhead line alignment and pylon and pole positioning has sought to reduce the number of crossings of linear features (e.g. roads and rivers) however the initial study area, as set out in the Routeing and Consultation Document, is notably aligned to existing transport infrastructure, primarily the A483 which travels from Builth Wells to Carmarthen and the preferred route has followed this where physical space, environmental and design constraints allow. This positioning assists with access to the line during both construction and maintenance, in addition to reducing visual impact. The approach is similar with respect to unelectrified railway lines. Throughout the ongoing design and routeing work as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process that will be carried out, Green GEN Cymru will continue to seek to increase the distance from</p>

		sensitive receptors such as schools as well as individual residential properties and other environmental features such as historic monuments where practicable.
Maintenance costs	Respondents expressed concerns regarding the maintenance costs of pylons in comparison to the cost of having the route underground.	<p>Maintenance costs for overhead lines are typically evaluated at Project development in the life cycle cost analyses (LCA) of the asset.</p> <p>The LCA generally comprises of capital costs, operations, and maintenance costs, and is an evaluation approach common in Project development and asset management of infrastructure.</p> <p>The total life cycle costs of overhead lines when compared to underground cables is typically more favourable due to the higher capital costs associated with underground cabling.</p>
Costs	A few respondents suggested using the Community Benefit Fund for undergrounding the whole or at least part of the route.	<p>The Community Benefit Fund will only start to become available once the Energy Parks are consented, constructed and operational. The community funding will be taken from the profits generated by the Energy Parks on an annual basis and therefore these funds will not be available to pay for undergrounding in advance of generation commencing. Identifying areas where undergrounding is likely to be appropriate will be based on professional consideration of planning policy, environmental effects and what level of mitigation would be required to reduce these effects. The methodology to identify where undergrounding may be appropriate needs to be applied consistently across all of Green GEN Cymru’s grid connection projects and the process will be carefully documented and evidence produced as part of the planning process.</p> <p>Bute Energy is dedicated to supporting communities where they develop projects and along the grid route connecting clean energy to the National Grid. Bute Energy will ensure that their energy park projects deliver wider benefits to support local communities in the form of Community Benefit Funds through the lifetime of each of its energy parks.</p> <p>Informed by local people and communities, funding will focus on improving access to recreation, health and wellbeing activities, and enhancing local education opportunities whilst creating new pathways into employment. Bute Energy are also committed to supporting communities who are feeling the pinch of the cost-of-living crisis and working with stakeholders to support energy efficiency and household support programmes.</p>
Alternative options	A large number of respondents suggested re-evaluating the routes to identify potentially better suited ones, such as those that are shorter in distance and do not run	The justification of the preferred option to connect into a new substation in Carmarthenshire is outlined in the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy. This document has been updated and back checked based on feedback provided at the first round of consultation.

	through beautiful natural landscapes, historic sites and areas, as well as residential properties, towns and agricultural lands and farms.	The background justification for the routeing is presented in the Routeing and Consultation Document which took known constraints into account. This information, along with the consultation feedback received has fed into the updated draft route alignment.
Oppose	A large number of respondents expressed opposition to the Project without specifying further.	General objection to the Project is noted. Specific comments have been addressed throughout the rest of this document.
Support green projects in principle	A large number of respondents expressed support for green projects in general, but commented that they don't consider the Green Gen Towy Usk Project to be one of them due to its potential adverse impacts on the environment, landscape, agriculture, wildlife, biodiversity, community, tourism, business, health and wellbeing. Many respondents believe this is a 'greenwash' project, as they feel the benefits the Project offers will not outweigh the damage they feel it will cause to local communities and the environment.	<p>General support for the development of green projects is noted.</p> <p>Specific comments in relation to the potential impact that the Project may have on both communities and the environment are taken very seriously and have been addressed throughout the rest of this document, specifically in relation to the assessments we will undertake and produce throughout the development of the Project.</p> <p>The Project will support the Welsh Government's target for 100% renewable electricity in Wales by 2035. Green GEN Towy Usk will help develop a stronger, more resilient renewable electricity network that is greatly needed in Wales – taking clean, green energy from where it is generated to the many homes and businesses that will use it.</p> <p>Much of the existing electricity transmission infrastructure in Wales was built many years ago to transport electricity from old-fossil-fuel power stations in the north and south. The existing electricity network in Mid Wales does not have the capacity to connect new renewables energy to homes and businesses locally and nationally – to end the use of fossil fuels we need new infrastructure and quickly.</p> <p>The ongoing energy crisis has highlighted the vulnerability of UK energy to external forces, with significant implications for energy affordability.</p> <p>Onshore renewable energy in Wales will provide greater energy security, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels. Onshore wind offers the most cost-effective choice for new electricity generation in the UK – cheaper than gas, nuclear, coal and other renewables. As we move away from fossil fuels, new energy generation will be located where it can capture sustainable sources like wind, tidal and solar.</p>

		<p>As part of the Development of National Significance (DNS) process all issues raised, including environmental factors and feedback raised by consultees, will be examined by an independent Examining Authority appointed by Planning and Environmental Decisions Wales (PEDW) after the DNS application has been submitted. Only if the benefits of the Project are deemed to outweigh the potential impacts will consent be granted.</p>
<p>Cost comparisons</p>	<p>How the decisions on the route options presented at the non-statutory consultation have been made, including the difference in costs between underground and overhead options.</p>	<p>The justification of the preferred option to connect into a new substation in Carmarthenshire is outlined in the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy which remains available on the Project website. This document has been updated and back checked based on feedback provided at the first round of consultation.</p> <p>The background justification for the routeing is presented in the Routeing and Consultation Document which took known constraints into account. This information, along with the consultation feedback received has fed into the updated draft route alignment.</p> <p>We note the comments about costs, both of the Project and of undergrounding. We are aware of the development of cable ploughing techniques that were not previously appropriate for the development of 132kV overhead lines and will continue to look into the viability using this technology for the project against technical, environmental and cost factors.</p>

4.6.15. Technology

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
<p>Undergrounding - Whole route</p>	<p>A large number of respondents suggested placing the whole route underground, to mitigate impacts on the outstanding natural beauty of the landscapes; Special Areas of Conservation; Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs); and affected towns and villages. Some respondents commented they would be more willing to accept the short-term impacts of excavation from undergrounding for better long-term results.</p>	<p>High voltage, high-capacity overhead lines are the proven economic, efficient, and reliable choice for the bulk movement of electricity throughout the world. We will consider undergrounding a 132kV overhead line, or section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an overhead line can be identified because of environmental, technical or engineering constraints.</p> <p>Traditional underground cable trenching methods are typically between 6 and 10 times more expensive than overhead lines but Green GEN Cymru notes that the development of new cable ploughing techniques may change this and are working to determine the cost and feasibility of this method. These additional costs are made up of additional construction and material costs required for underground cables. Although underground cables also remove long term landscape and visual effects, the construction impacts can be more significant on biodiversity and habitats.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that a number of responses to the consultation have suggested certain locations that could benefit from undergrounding the connection due to specific constraints in the area. This feedback has been considered and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project, in the area considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>
<p>Undergrounding - Specific sites</p>	<p>A small number of respondents suggested undergrounding parts of the route if it is impossible to underground the whole route. Many respondents expressed their concerns for the impacts on landscapes and health, and suggest undergrounding in areas including the Towy</p>	<p>A number of people and stakeholders submitted feedback identifying areas where they thought undergrounding could be appropriate and told us the reasons why. This feedback has been considered and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project, in the area considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>

	<p>Valley, Bannau Brycheiniog, River Towy and the Towy Valley Path. Respondents also requested undergrounding near specific sites including nurseries, schools and colleges, and when the route comes into close contact with residential properties and tourist attractions more generally.</p>	
<p>Pylon design</p>	<p>A few respondents expressed their opposition to the proposed pylon design, suggesting they be made shorter or painted to blend into the landscape more, with others suggesting T-pylons or wooden poles to be used instead.</p>	<p>The pylon types and heights have been carefully selected, attempting to achieve the most optimal solution, striking a balance between pylon utilisation, cost, visual impact, land take and environmental impact, whilst achieving and maintaining minimum safety clearances.</p> <p>T-pylons are designed for 400kV overhead lines and are not appropriate or suited for 132kV lines.</p> <p>Field experience has shown that galvanized steel fades over time and blends into the background or skyline better than painted steel. This fading is ongoing, but the majority of the effect takes place over the first 1-2 years that it's subjected to weather and atmospheric conditions.</p> <p>Although wood poles offer a more natural aesthetic, they do not provide the structural capacity to support the conductor configuration to transport the required amount of electricity for the entirety of the route.</p> <p>To support a conductor system capable of providing an 800 Mega Volt Amp (MVA) rating, approximately four parallel wood pole lines would be required, resulting in increased land take which may have more visual impact.</p>
<p>Wind power instead</p>	<p>A small number of respondents suggested utilising local and offshore wind generation instead of the proposed pylon route and substations, commenting that this would</p>	<p>The ongoing energy crisis has highlighted the vulnerability of UK energy to external forces, with significant implications for energy affordability.</p> <p>Onshore renewable energy in Wales will provide greater energy security, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels. Onshore wind offers the most cost-effective choice for new electricity generation in the UK – cheaper than gas, nuclear, coal and other renewables. As we move away from fossil fuels, new energy generation will be located where it can capture sustainable sources like wind, tidal and solar. The electricity grid will also change to connect these new sources to homes</p>

	<p>reduce or remove the impacts on the landscape, tourism, property values and the communities.</p>	<p>and businesses. If we do not upgrade the electricity network quickly, we risk missing renewable targets and failing to address the climate emergency.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru's Towy Usk connection will mean that the energy generated by new energy parks can be used in homes and businesses, both locally and nationally.</p> <p>The infrastructure we need to transition to a low carbon economy can also bring many benefits. It has the potential to create new skills and jobs, nationally and locally. It will also support the adoption of low carbon technologies in our homes and businesses.</p> <p>Bute Energy is focused on delivery of onshore wind and has no plans to develop offshore wind.</p>
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4.6.16. Construction

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
<p>Construction Impact</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the impacts of construction on the environment, habitats and local communities, including traffic disruption and the impacts of diversions on access to local roads, villages and properties. A few respondents also suggested that the roads are not fit for heavy vehicles or the</p>	<p>The potential impacts of the construction phase on the environment, including local communities will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Project. The ongoing design of the Project will be informed by desk and field surveys to identify the environmental baseline (including traffic numbers and the type of existing road network) and the Project will be designed to reduce construction effects where possible.</p> <p>The subsequent assessment of construction effects on the environment, including any additional mitigation measures to further reduce effects will be presented within the Environmental Statement (ES) to accompany the DNS application.</p> <p>A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be in place during the construction phase of the Project. A Construction Method Statement (CMS) will also be in place during construction which will set out the methods to be used.</p> <p>In relation to traffic, a Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the relevant highways authorities to be implemented during the construction phase. Green GEN Cymru will liaise with local communities in advance of and during construction of the Project.</p>

	transportation of construction materials.	
Construction impact of underground alternative	<p>Respondents commented that they would be willing to tolerate the even higher construction impacts of an underground route, as they feel these would be outweighed by the long-term benefits of avoiding overhead pylons.</p>	<p>High voltage, high-capacity overhead lines are the proven economic, efficient, and reliable choice for the bulk movement of electricity throughout the world. We will consider undergrounding a 132kV overhead line, or section of that line, in particular circumstances where no suitable route for an overhead line can be identified because of environmental, technical or engineering constraints.</p> <p>Underground cables are typically between 6 and 10 times more expensive than overhead lines. These additional costs are made up of additional construction and materials costs required for underground cables. Although underground cables also remove long term landscape and visual effects, the construction impacts can be more significant on biodiversity and habitats.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that a number of responses to the consultation have suggested certain locations that could benefit from undergrounding the connection due to specific constraints in the area.</p> <p>This feedback has been considered and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project, in the area considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p> <p>We feel that on balance an overhead line is the best overall solution to making the required connections. We recognise the interest in the use of cable ploughing and have been talking to a local contractor for some time and are having regular meetings with them to understand the viability and costs of cable ploughing. We anticipate that construction for a typical 132kV connection could require 7 cable ploughs side by side (six if 18 cables are needed for the connection and one to accommodate the earth/communications), this would typically be an area of 20 metres wide. The plough could insert a duct and the cables could be pulled through at a later date. Typically underground cable is delivered in lengths of between 600m to 1000m. A joint bay would need to be excavated to join each length of cable. We are confident that the costs of cable ploughing will be significantly more than for overhead lines and are working with the industry to determine the cost difference. This cost difference is mainly due to the additional cost of underground cable which is larger (copper core/shielding to protect it from damage) and the construction costs including transport of cable to site and excavation/cable jointing.</p>

<p>Construction Mitigation</p>	<p>A small amount of respondents suggested mitigating the constructions impacts by avoiding construction at times when ground nesting birds lay their eggs.</p>	<p>A detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) will be in place during the construction phase of the Project. The CEMP will include a number of specialist plans including a Bird Protection Plan (BPP), which will detail protocols to avoid or reduce effects on bird populations, particularly breeding birds which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981).</p> <p>The BPP will ensure that the timing and location of certain operations take account of bird populations, specifying appropriate pre-construction surveys to identify sensitive sites to assist with construction planning.</p>
<p>Construction communication</p>	<p>Respondents suggested populating and sharing information on construction and its process with local communities in advance.</p>	<p>Green GEN Cymru values the input of stakeholders at all stages of the Project development and is committed to an ongoing programme outside the defined phases of consultation. Subject to planning consent, this engagement will continue during the Construction phase of the Project.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru note this comment and opportunities to share information regarding construction and its processes with local communities will be considered in advance of construction taking place.</p>
<p>Sustainability of construction materials</p>	<p>Respondent's questions what materials will be used to construct the Project, how much carbon the process will produce, and asked for further information on how pylons will be maintained.</p>	<p>In general, the main materials used in the construction of an overhead line include sand, stone, cement, steel reinforcement bar, galvanised pylon steel, all aluminium alloy conductors, composite insulators and optical ground wire.</p> <p>Generally, overhead lines are subjected to preventive maintenance, age-based maintenance, condition-based maintenance and corrective maintenance.</p> <p>To ensure adequate levels of reliability and safety are maintained, overhead lines including foundation muffs, steel, conductors, line hardware and fittings are periodically inspected.</p> <p>Foundation muffs are generally painted periodically or repaired and painted as and when required (based on condition), steel pylons are normally painted every 10-20 years to protect the pylons from corrosion. If severely corroded bars are identified through condition inspections, they are replaced.</p> <p>Conductor hardware fittings and insulators are periodically inspected through visual and other techniques respectively (e.g., UV inspection; radio noise; electric field measurements; leakage current monitoring). Inspection findings identify any risks of failure in components and the degree of severity. These subsequently inform the maintenance required. Components utilized within their design capabilities offer service lifetimes of typically 20 – 30 years. Components at high risk of failure are identified by inherent design defects or a measure of degradation that will compromise the component's functioning</p>

		<p>under environmental conditions. These components are generally removed from service at the next opportunity and assessed to determine root causes and further risks to those respective components across the overhead line.</p> <p>The Project is in the early stage of development and Procurement for construction will not take place for several years. At that time we will talk to a variety of suppliers to understand the options open to us and make a decision based on availability, quality and price. If there is steel available from a Welsh manufacturer that is a viable option we will of course consider this.</p> <p>In the construction of its projects Green GEN Cymru will prioritise local supply chains. Contracts will include partners signing up to a social value standard, investing jobs, time and resources in the area.</p>
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4.6.17. Consultation

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
Good consultation	A small number of respondents expressed support for the consultation process, including the clarity of information provided and the locality of events.	This comment is noted
Poor consultation	A large number of respondents expressed concern for the consultation process, commenting that they feel the materials contained insufficient information and the consultation timing was	<p>As a company based in Wales, and investing in Wales, Green GEN Cymru attaches great importance to the effect that its work may have on the environment and local communities in Wales.</p> <p>We are committed to providing clear and up-to-date information on our proposals, and listening to local people and consulting them at each stage where their views can help to shape the proposals before consent applications are submitted.</p> <p>We consulted in the early stages of the Project to ensure that communities and stakeholders could view the proposals and have the opportunity to provide feedback and insight at the formative stage of the proposals that we could use to influence the Project's development.</p>

<p>unsuitable due to the lambing period.</p> <p>A few commented that there were no events near them or that they were not informed of events taking place. Some comment that they feel their opinions will not influence any decisions made and that Green Gen Cymru are just 'ticking a box'. A few also stated that they feel the Project is for the English, and therefore the Welsh will not be listened to.</p> <p>Respondents also expressed concerns regarding the consultation events, commenting that they felt staff had insufficient knowledge of the Project, the area and were not always able to answer questions. Some also commented that they feel the events were under-staffed, leaving them unable to ask questions and receive answers. A few respondents suggested that during consultation events the company's representatives</p>	<p>Our phase one non-statutory consultation on the Preferred Route ran for eight weeks from Monday 6 March to Friday 28 April 2023. The eight-week period is longer than the period required for statutory consultation, but we felt the extended period was important to ensure that people had enough time to meet the Project team at a face-to-face events to ask questions, and to ensure there was sufficient time for people to respond to the consultation, taking into account the Easter holiday period.</p> <p>Green Gen Cymru's approach to consultation also includes an ongoing programme of engagement outside of the defined phases of consultation. We understood the consultation period was a busy time for landowners and farmers and we therefore reached out to landowners in January 2023. We wrote to those landowners who our research indicated may have a legal interest to introduce Green GEN Cymru and inform them of our proposals. We also offered to meet face to face with landowners or their appointed land agents.</p> <p>This ensured that landowners had advance notice of the consultation, a longer period to engage with the consultation, and to ask for any further information they required and to provide feedback.</p> <p>To ensure the consultation was as inclusive as possible, a range of communication channels were set up and utilised to ensure consultees to access more information about the Project and provide informed feedback.</p> <p>At the start of the non-statutory consultation, Green Gen Cymru launched a dedicated consultation website for Green Gen Towy Usk - http://www.greengentowyusk.com/.</p> <p>The website provided additional engagement opportunities through the inclusion of an interactive map detailing the Preferred Route along with less preferred options considered, detailed FAQs, and technical documents to enable stakeholder understanding.</p> <p>People were able to make contact with the Project team through a dedicated Project email address, telephone number and Freepost address through which people could ask questions about the Project or the consultation.</p> <p>At the start of the consultation a consultation leaflet was sent to all addresses along the Preferred route of within a 1km consultation zone. This leaflet contained information on the Project including maps, Project contact information and details of the dates, times and location of the drop in events and webinars. We also advertised in local newspapers with details of the Project and the drop-in events and webinars.</p>
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	<p>lacked knowledge about the area and were providing contradicting information.</p>	<p>We held five public drop-in events during the consultation, held in carefully chosen locations along the route to allow people to attend an event local to them. We also held three online webinars and phone-in sessions so that people could talk to the Project team. Details of these were also available on the Project website.</p> <p>To maximise the opportunity for anyone with an interest in the Project to get involved, the five locations for public events were chosen so that people within the consultation zone would only be a short distance from their nearest exhibition by car or public transport. We have noted comments on additional/alternative locations for events and will bear these in mind for the next round of consultation.</p> <p>At the drop-in events, information was available for people to read and take away if they wished to do so. The Project team, including environmental, engineering and land specialists, were available to answer questions and spoke to large numbers of people to answer their questions.</p> <p>We feel that the consultation information was clear and that good engagement took place. However, we note the feedback received and we will bear comments in mind when organising our next consultation.</p> <p>All consultation responses received have been read by the Project team and will be taken into account in developing the design and potential mitigation for the Project. Additionally, feedback received after Friday 28 April 2023, and prior to Project design freeze, has been accepted at the discretion of Green GEN Cymru and included within this report wherever feasible. Feedback received after this date will be considered as the Project is developed following the second non-statutory consultation.</p>
<p>Consultation materials - support</p>	<p>Respondents expressed support for the consultation materials, commenting that they found them helpful and informative.</p>	<p>This comment is noted</p>
<p>Consultation materials - concern</p>	<p>Respondents suggested the maps on the material were of poor quality, out of date with missing properties (such as glamping sites) and too small to read.</p>	<p>The Project leaflet, sent to all addresses in the consultation zone contained a series of maps and also pointed to the Project website where more detailed maps were available, including an interactive and searchable map so that people could zoom into the route and see how the proposals related to their property or areas that they selected.</p> <p>Maps were produced using latest available data from Ordnance Survey. We recognise that properties may have been built since the mapping was produced and that the mapping may not identify properties as businesses. The purpose of the</p>

	<p>Some respondents commented that they found the questions biased or leading or that the Project costs were presented in a misleading way to make an underground alternative look less viable. A few respondents also suggested they have not seen adequate cost comparisons between underground versus pylons, suggesting this has been done intentionally by the Project team to save money for developer and confuse the public.</p>	<p>consultation was to build our detailed understanding of the local area including local businesses and we will take account of the information we have received as part of the consultation as we develop our proposals.</p> <p>When giving feedback people were free to use the consultation feedback form or provide feedback in any other way that was suitable for them including letter or email.</p> <p>We note the comments about costs, both of the Project and of undergrounding. Further and updated information on this topic has been presented as part of the second round of non-statutory consultation to enable communities to provide further detailed feedback.</p>
<p>Further engagement</p>	<p>A small number of respondents suggested that further engagement is required, due to what they feel was unsuitable timing of the consultation period and a lack of sufficient information to enable them to make more informed decisions about the Project.</p>	<p>We have been engaging directly with landowners since January 2023 on our proposals including meeting as many landowners in person as possible. We understand that this is a busy time for farmers, but we continued to engage directly with them during the consultation process to ensure that they had the information they needed.</p> <p>We held a series of five face-to-face events (which ran into the evening and one on a Saturday) and three webinars during the consultation period (a mix of morning, afternoon and evening). The Project team can also be contacted by email, by phone or via the Project Freepost address. There were lots of opportunities for people to speak to the Project team with any questions. We accepted feedback either online or by post and a feedback form was made available for people to fill in. This was the first round of consultation in a multi-stage process.</p> <p>Consultation took place at an early stage of the development of the Project to ensure that peoples' views could influence the Project as it developed.</p>

		<p>Following the second round of non-statutory consultation in 2024, as part of which more detailed information about the Project will be made available at statutory consultation will be held on Green Gen Cymru’s defined proposals for the Project before the application is submitted.</p>
<p>Lack of information at current stage</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concern regarding what they view as a lack of information on the Project's routeing, design and environmental research.</p> <p>Specifically, respondents feel there was a lack of information on the route selection process that had been followed, how the Preferred Route was arrived at and how the Preferred Route compares to the alternatives. Respondents also feel that insufficient information was provided as to why the route is not underground.</p>	<p>To support the consultation, Green GEN Cymru prepared two technical reports; a Routeing and Consultation Document and the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy, both of which remain available on the Project website.</p> <p>These reports set out details of the work done to date, options considered in developing the Project and the environmental and cost information that had been used to support decision-making.</p> <p>The information from these reports was summarised into non-technical language in the consultation materials.</p> <p>The Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy sets out the strategic work to support the Project, and how in developing our proposals, we looked at 11 options to connect the power into the existing electricity network, including new overhead lines that could connect to the National Grid transmission network or building several new overhead lines and substations in different locations.</p> <p>Overall, we felt a connection into the existing network near Carmarthen to be the best option to take forward for further detailed routeing and siting investigations. The methodology for this approach is set out in the Green GEN Towy Usk Routeing and Consultation Document.</p> <p>The Routeing and Consultation Document sets out details of the routeing process and information on how we developed our Preferred Route. This report also sets out the detailed consultation methods used to engage with stakeholders and communities to encourage feedback from all relevant parties on the Preferred Route.</p> <p>In developing the proposals, we employed independent environmental specialists including for landscape, ecology and cultural heritage. We carried out extensive mapping of considerations such as communities, designations such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and cultural heritage sites. We also undertook several site visits to confirm the constraint mapping. In developing the Preferred Route we have sought to reduce the impacts on communities, the environment and important designations such as National Parks and SSSIs. We identified several alternative routes and compared these.</p> <p>As set out in the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy, Green GEN Cymru would consider the undergrounding of a 132kV overhead line within a designated landscape such as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and this has been taken into account in the consideration when developing proposals for Green GEN Towy Usk. , Green GEN</p>

		<p>Cymru would consider the undergrounding of a 132kV overhead line within a designated landscape such as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and this has been taken into account in the consideration when developing proposals for Green GEN Towy Usk.</p> <p>Following feedback during the first phase of non-statutory consultation in 2023 the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project, in the area considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>
<p>Bute Energy Reputation</p>	<p>A few respondents raised concerns regarding Bute Energy, their experience, credentials and competence within the energy sector or its locality and closeness to Welsh culture. Some of these respondents feel the company is only interested in profits from the Project rather than the actual impact the Project will have on the community and environment, commenting that they do not feel like Bute cares about their livelihood and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Bute Energy is a company registered in England and Wales with a head office situated in Cardiff and satellite offices in Builth Wells and Edinburgh.</p> <p>Bute Energy has recruited a team of experienced energy professionals including specialist project, consents and land managers with many years of relevant industry experience. No Government funding or subsidies are available for the development of projects to support Welsh Government's ambitions of 100% of energy produced by renewable sources by 2035 and therefore Bute Energy have sought investment from an experienced developer/operator of renewable projects, Copenhagen Investment Partners.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru is a wholly owned subsidiary of Bute Energy.</p> <p>As Green Gen Cymru develop the Project they are working with specialist advisors in relation to the environment and technical/engineering. We are also engaging with stakeholders to understand their views on the proposals and to seek advice on how the Project should be developed and in particular the environmental assessment work.</p> <p>There will be further consultation on the Project in 2024 and 2025 when we will share details of the work that has been undertake and respond to feedback and develop a detailed design for the Project.</p> <p>To support our application for planning consent to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), Green GEN Cymru we will also carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).</p> <p>The aim of EIA is to protect the environment by ensuring that the planning decision maker, when deciding whether to grant planning permission for a project, which is likely to have effects on the environment, does so in the full knowledge of the likely effects, and takes this into account in the decision-making process.</p> <p>To support our planning application to PEDW, we will continue carry out comprehensive surveys and detailed independent analysis over an extended period. These assessments and studies are fundamental to inform the final design of the Project.</p>

		All of this will be reported in our Environmental Statement (ES), a draft of which will be available for interested parties to review and comment upon during our statutory pre-application consultation, which will take place in 2025, before it is submitted as part of our planning application.
Fear that decision already made	Perceived bias in the Project and that decisions have already been made, making them feel helpless in their objections and that their feedback will not be listened to or have any value and influence.	<p>We consulted in the early stages of the Project to ensure that communities and stakeholders could view the proposals and give us feedback that we could use to influence the Project's development.</p> <p>All consultation responses received have been read by the Project team and have been taken into account in developing the design and potential mitigation for the Project. Changes have been made to the design of the Project based on consultation feedback received as well as further assessment and survey. Consultation feedback will continue to influence decisions on the Project up to submission of an application for planning consent to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).</p> <p>As part of the Development of National Significance planning process, the application will be submitted to PEDW who will examine the proposals before making a recommendation to Welsh Ministers who will make the final decision on whether the Project should be granted consent.</p>

4.6.18. Lands and property

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
Proximity to residential property	A considerable number of residents expressed concerns regarding the proposed route's proximity to residential properties, commenting that some of the route's sections will run through their land and property. A few of these respondents suggest that	<p>It is very important to us that people respond to the consultation and tell us their concerns so we can work to reduce effects on communities and individual properties. We will work hard to reduce impacts on individual properties but if the final design does impact properties, we will discuss what compensation is available in line with current legislation.</p> <p>In developing our proposals to date, we have tried to route away from homes, gardens and other buildings where practicable. During design, minimum safety distances are ensured. These include a minimum clearance to ground of 7.3 metres from the bottom conductor. We are continuing to assess the visual impact of the proposals as the Project develops and will undertake further rounds of detailed consultation throughout 2024 and 2025 prior to the Development of National Significant (DNS) application for the Project being submitted.</p>

	<p>pylons near, next to, or on their properties will not only obstruct and destroy their view but will affect their wellbeing and safety, as well as the tranquility of their homes.</p>	<p>Although there is no minimum safety distance from an overhead line and there are many examples of houses being built under or very close to overhead lines elsewhere, Green GEN Cymru is committed to working hard to reduce the impact on properties by moving the overhead line away from houses as far as practicable.</p> <p>When completed, and to ensure adequate levels of reliability and safety are maintained, the overhead line connection will be subject to regular inspection and maintenance to ensure that it operates safely and securely. This includes the periodic inspection of foundation muffs, steel, conductors, line hardware and fittings. Inspection is usually by helicopter or done on the ground by foot walk over. Where practicable, overhead faults can often be repaired remotely.</p>
<p>Impact on property values</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the impact of pylons on their property values, commenting that the publication of the proposals has already decreased the value of their properties. Some of these respondents also suggest that if the proposals are to be approved, it will further devalue their properties, making them unsellable and a loss of investment.</p>	<p>It is very important to us that people respond to the consultation and tell us their concerns so we can work to reduce effects on communities and individual properties. Once we have a final design, we will speak with landowners affected on a one-to-one basis and to discuss how we can support them. We will work hard to reduce impacts on individual properties but if the final design does impact properties, we will discuss what compensation is available in line with current legislation.</p>
<p>Surveys</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns about what they view as a lack of research specific to the areas</p>	<p>In developing the work on the Project to date a considerable amount of research, desktop study and site visits were undertaken. All of this information was presented in the technical reports supporting the first non-statutory consultation. It was important that we consulted on the Project in the early stages of development to take on board comments and views from communities and stakeholders before final decisions were made on preferred draft route alignment. Environmental and technical surveys will continue as we develop the Project. We will also undertake further rounds of detailed</p>

	<p>proposed for the route, including absence of environmental assessment surveys. Many of these respondents suggested these should be undertaken prior to developing any Project plans and consulting the public.</p>	<p>consultation throughout 2024 and 2025 prior to the DNS application for the Project being submitted. Green Gen Cymru are working hard to obtain access to land for environmental surveys and are engaging with landowners regarding this.</p>
<p>Proximity to non-residential property (general)</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the proposed route's proximity to non-residential properties, including tourist attractions and monuments.</p>	<p>Throughout the routeing process to date, we have sought to reduce any potential effects on views experienced by tourists and visual amenity has been considered, where possible, on balance with other environmental constraints. Views from tourism and recreation sites and routes is one of the landscape and visual appraisal criteria used to inform the selection of the Preferred Route. This information is presented in the <u>Routeing and Consultation Document</u> which remains available on the Project website. Green GEN Cymru will continue to take into account the visibility from tourism and recreation sites and routes during the detailed design and assessment stages.</p> <p>The impact of the Project on the landscape will continue to be assessed in more detail during development of the proposals, including identifying locations for pylons and other infrastructure required for the connection. Further assessment will take into account feedback received in the second round of non-statutory consultation, and will support the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that will be available at the statutory stage of consultation that will take place before the application is submitted.</p> <p>Pylons are used across the UK in areas of high amenity value where people work and visit, and we are confident that with careful routeing we can reduce potential impacts.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru acknowledges that a number of responses to the consultation identified locations where respondents felt that an overhead line would be unacceptable to them and where specific constraints in the area meant that the connection should be put underground. This feedback has been taken into consideration and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project to reduce the impacts in the areas considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>

		<p>We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful detailed routeing and siting</p> <p>We are continuing to engage with stakeholders, such as the Bannau Brycheiniog/ Breacon Beacons National Park Authority, to understand their views about the proposals and address their concerns.</p>
Proximity to farmland	<p>Respondents expressed concerns regarding the proposed routes proximity to farmland, including land hosting tourist attractions and camping/glamping sites, suggesting the pylons will negatively impact on farming activities and related tourism.</p>	<p>The routeing and appraisal process undertaken to date has taken account of consented and valid planning applications termed 'committed development' within the Land Use category of the appraisal tables. The methodology for how these types of proposed developments have been taken account of is set out in Appendix C of the <u>Routeing and Consultation Document</u>.</p> <p>As the Project progresses, all new proposals with valid planning applications will be taken account of during the design and assessment stages to seek to continue to ensure that the Project does not adversely affect other developments.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru acknowledges that a number of responses to the consultation identified locations where respondents felt that an overhead line would be unacceptable to them and where specific constraints in the area meant that the connection should be put underground. This feedback has been taken into consideration and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project to reduce the impacts in the areas considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p> <p>We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful detailed routeing and siting.</p>
Proximity to schools or nurseries	<p>Some respondents suggest any erection of pylons near educational establishments will significantly discourage parents from enrolling their children into such schools and nurseries.</p>	<p>There is no minimum safety distance from an overhead line and there are many examples of houses and other buildings being built under or very close to overhead lines elsewhere. However, Green GEN Cymru is committed to working hard to reduce the impact on properties and education establishments by moving the overhead line away as far as practicable.</p> <p>In developing our proposals to date, we sought to increase the distance from homes, gardens and other buildings including educational establishments, wherever practicable.</p>
Access for surveys	<p>A small number of respondents expressed</p>	<p>Access to land for surveys is required to enable the Towy Usk proposals to progress in accordance with planning and environmental requirements. It has been and continues to be Green GEN Cymru's preference to agree voluntary terms of</p>

	<p>concerns about surveys taking place on their properties and land, commenting they either have been pressured to allow access or been made uncomfortable if they did not agree to do so. Some of these respondents commented they do not support the Project and will not allow access in the future.</p>	<p>access to land for surveys for the Towy Usk proposals with all affected landowners. We are keen to work closely with landowners and understand their concerns. We are happy to pay properly incurred professional fees to represent landowners in our discussions. We will continue to work hard to ensure that where possible we can reach an amicable agreement to allow us access to carry out survey work.</p> <p>We have sought to work with landowners and have put in place arrangements to support them in engaging with us by paying land agents reasonably incurred fees.</p>
<p>Site location - opposition</p>	<p>A large number of respondents expressed opposition toward routeing through specific sites, particularly Towy Valley, large proportion of Llandovery and parts of Section 5.</p> <p>These respondents commented that if the proposal was to go ahead, cables should go underground, with some of the respondents strongly opposing any plans for</p>	<p>The approach to routeing grid infrastructure in Wales is set out in Green GEN Cymru’s document. This approach has been followed for the Towy Usk Project.</p> <p>The methodology and findings of the routeing process for the Towy Usk Project are set out in the Routeing and Consultation Document.</p> <p>Chapter 3 sets out the over-arching methodology and Chapter 4 (with associated figures) presents the findings of the Corridor Identification and Selection stage which explains why the Project is largely proposed within the Towy Valley.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru’s approach to undergrounding is also set out in the ‘Approach to Routeing Grid Infrastructure in Wales’ document and undergrounding will continue to be taken into account for the Towy Usk Project as the design and assessment stages progress.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru acknowledges that a number of responses to the consultation identified locations where respondents felt that an overhead line would be unacceptable to them and where specific constraints in the area meant that the connection should be put underground. This feedback has been taken into consideration and the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project to reduce the impacts in the areas considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>

	routeing through these areas at all.	We are continuing to review and consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful detailed routeing and siting
Financial Compensation	<p>A few respondents expressed concerns regarding perceived financial compensation or a lack of it, commenting that even if the proposals do not directly cross through their land or property, it will have an adverse effect on their investment and property value, which they feel needs to be compensated for.</p> <p>The majority of these respondents suggest either routeing away from such properties, sites and agricultural lands, or compensating the difference between the property's value before and after the proposals.</p>	<p>We follow the electricity industry's best practice approach to negotiating rights of access for surveys, temporary works and the installation of our equipment on private land.</p> <p>Our land agents will continue to engage with all landowners who might be affected by our plans.</p>
Affected Landowners - lack of communication	Respondents expressed concerns about a perceived lack of cooperation and coordination between the developer and affected	Green GEN Cymru attaches great importance to working closely with affected landowners and occupiers on all aspects of its projects. We're keen to engage with landowners as early as possible in the initial design phase and to understand any potential concerns.

	<p>landowners, commenting they were not engaged earlier in the process when the routes were being identified and selected, with some saying that have not been contacted at all.</p>	<p>The Project team began engagement with landowners in January 2023, writing to those who may have a legal interest in land affected by the proposals, asking for confirmation of their land interest and the area of land which it covers.</p> <p>To further develop our proposals, we asked landowners for permission to undertake a range of non-intrusive walkover surveys. Access to land for surveys is required to enable the Towy Usk proposals to progress in accordance with planning and environmental requirements. We need to demonstrate for the planning process that we have sought to gain the necessary land access for surveys and this has meant that we have been required to contact landowners to request survey access.</p> <p>The surveys are carried out by specialist contractors and are important because they help determine any factors that need to be taken into consideration during the development of the Project.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru consulted in the early stages of the Project to ensure that communities and stakeholders could view the proposals and give us feedback that we could use to influence the Project’s development. The consultation ran for 8 weeks, which is longer than the statutory requirements, as we felt it important to ensure that people had enough time to meet the Project team at a face-to-face event to ensure there was sufficient time for people to respond to the consultation.</p> <p>As part of the consultation, we also communicated directly with landowners potentially affected by the Project. Landowners were sent letter correspondence informing them of the consultation and requesting information regarding landownership.</p> <p>We understand that this is a busy time for landowners/farmers and therefore we sent early correspondence to them in January informing them of the Project. This ensured that they had advance notice of the consultation, a longer period to engage with the consultation, to ask for any further information they required and to provide feedback. Alongside our ongoing programme of engagement, stakeholders will also have additional opportunity to comment on our emerging proposals for the during the second non-statutory and the statutory consultations.</p>
<p>Affected Landowners - poor treatment</p>	<p>Some respondents suggested they were harassed to allow access to their lands for surveying.</p>	<p>Access to land for surveys is required to enable the Towy Usk proposals to progress in accordance with planning and environmental requirements We need to demonstrate for the planning process that we have sought to gain the necessary land access for survey and this has meant that we have been required to contact land owners to request survey access.</p> <p>It has been and continues to be Green GEN Cymru’s preference to reach and agree voluntary terms of access to land to carry out important survey work for the Towy Usk proposals with all affected landowners.</p>

		<p>We follow the electricity industry’s best practice approach to negotiating rights of access for surveys, temporary works and the installation of our equipment on private land.</p> <p>Green Gen Cymru is keen to work closely with landowners and understand their concerns.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru will pay properly incurred professional fees to represent landowners in Project discussions.</p> <p>Our land agents are available to talk to all landowners who might be affected by our plans and will continue to engage with all landowners who might be affected by our plans.</p>
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4.6.19. Consents (procedure)

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru’s response
Nationwide net zero policy	<p>A small number of respondents commented that the potential negative environmental impacts of the proposals, including on wildlife, habitats and ecology in general, mean that the proposals are not 'green' in nature and are therefore the 'opposite' of net zero.</p> <p>Some respondents suggested that an underground alternative would only have short-</p>	<p>The Proposed Development, overhead lines of 132kV, will require consent from the Welsh Ministers under the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended). Furthermore, the proposed development will include an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), in the form of an Environmental Statement (ES).</p> <p>The ES will adhere to The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (as amended) which is a procedure that ensures environmental implications, including wildlife, habitats and ecology, are taken into account before planning decisions are made. The EIA will assess the positive and negative impacts the Proposed Development may have on the environment.</p> <p>In addition to the ES, Green GEN Cymru will prepare and submit a Green Infrastructure Statement, which will describe how green infrastructure has been incorporated into the proposal. The Green Infrastructure Statement will be an effective way of demonstrating positive multifunctional outcomes.</p> <p>As set out in the Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy, Green GEN Cymru would assume the undergrounding of a 132kV overhead line within a designated landscape such as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and this has been taken into account in the consideration when developing proposals for Green GEN Towy Usk.</p>

	<p>term environmental impact, and therefore could be considered a 'green' project.</p>	<p>Consideration of undergrounding in other areas will be determined on a specific project basis and, following feedback during the first phase of non-statutory consultation in 2023 the proposals have been updated to include a section of undergrounding, where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project, in the area considered to be the most sensitive to the development of an overhead line.</p>
<p>Welsh policy</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concern that the proposals may not adhere to the Wales policy for protecting and preserving the beautiful landscape, wildlife and environment.</p> <p>These respondents comment that routeing pylons through sensitive areas such as Towy Valley is against this policy and therefore any proposals must be underground.</p>	<p>Paragraph 5.7.7. of Planning Policy Wales (11th Edition) (PPW11) states that the benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle the climate emergency and increase energy security, is of paramount importance. The continued extraction of fossil fuels will hinder progress towards achieving overall commitments to tackling climate change. The planning system should [amongst other criteria]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate development with the provision of additional electricity grid network infrastructure; • Optimise energy storage; • Facilitate the integration of sustainable building design principles in new development; • Optimise the location of new developments to allow for efficient use of resources; • Maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation; • Maximise the use of local energy sources, such as heat networks; • Minimise the carbon impact of other energy generation; and • Move away from the extraction of energy minerals, the burning of which is carbon intensive. <p>PPW11 Paragraph 5.7.8 states that <i>“an effective electricity grid network is required to fulfil the Welsh Government’s renewable and low carbon ambitions. An integrated approach should be adopted towards planning for energy developments and additional electricity grid network infrastructure. In certain circumstances, additional electricity grid network infrastructure will be needed to support the Pre-Assesses Areas in Future Wales, but also new energy generating developments more generally.”</i></p> <p>PPW11 Paragraph 5.7.9 states that <i>“[t]he Welsh Government’s preferred position on new power lines is that, where possible, they should be laid underground. However, it is recognised that a balanced view must be taken against costs which could render otherwise acceptable projects unviable. Where undergrounding of lines is not possible or applicable, proactive</i></p>

		<p><i>engagement with energy companies and the public to mitigate the visual impact of any potential new transmission lines should take place.”</i></p> <p>Sensitive areas include Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Parks, World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and protected sites under relevant Habitats laws including the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017 (as amended), the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.</p> <p>Whilst the Towy Valley has some of these features, the designations do not necessarily preclude development within, or over, them.</p>
<p>Planning process</p>	<p>A few respondents expressed concern regarding the process of identifying the routes and then selecting the Preferred Route. Some of these respondents also expressed concern over what they view as a lack of community involvement and engagement early in the process.</p>	<p>To support the consultation, Green GEN Cymru prepared two technical reports; a Routeing and Consultation Document and in the Green GEN Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy, both of which remain available on the Project website.</p> <p>These reports set out detail of the work done to date, what options were considered in developing the Project and the environmental and cost information that had been used to support decision making.</p> <p>The information from these reports was summarised into non-technical language in the consultation materials. These technical reports are available to view and download on the Project website.</p> <p>The Phase 1 Grid Connection Strategy sets out the strategic work to support the Project, and how in developing our proposals, we looked at 11 options to connect the power into the existing electricity network, including new overhead lines that could connect to the National Grid transmission network or building several new overhead lines and substations in different locations.</p> <p>Overall, we felt a connection into the existing network near Carmarthen is the best option to take forward for further detailed routeing and siting investigations. The methodology for this approach is set out in the Green GEN Towy Usk Routeing and Consultation Document.</p> <p>The Routeing and Consultation Document sets out detail of the routeing process and information of how we developed our Preferred Route. This report also sets out the detailed consultation methods used to engage with stakeholders and communities to encourage feedback from all relevant parties on the Preferred Route.</p> <p>In developing the proposals, we employed independent environmental specialists including for landscape, ecology and cultural heritage, amongst others. We carried out extensive mapping of considerations such as communities, designations</p>

		<p>such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and cultural heritage sites. We also undertook several site visits to ground truth the constraint mapping. In developing the Preferred Route we sought to reduce the impacts on communities, the environment and important designations such as National Parks and SSSIs. We identified several alternative routes and compared these.</p> <p>The public consultation programme that will be undertaken prior to submitting the Development of National Significance (DNS) application will be carried out in the following stages –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st round of non-statutory consultation (March - April 2023); 2. 2nd round of non-statutory consultation (March - April 2024); 3. Statutory consultation (Mid 2025); and 5. Submission (Q4 2025). <p>Prior to the submission of the DNS application, the proposal must be publicised and consulted on for a period of at least six weeks (42 days). In terms of pre-application engagement with the relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, as a minimum we must consult specific community consultees, specialist consultees and any relevant persons, service written notice on owners or occupiers of land adjoining the site, display site notices (on or near site), and place a notice in a local newspaper. A DNS application must be accompanied by a pre-application Consultation Report which provides an account of the statutory consultation, publicity, deadlines set, and activities undertaken. A summary of all issues including confirmation of whether the issues raised have been addressed and, if so, how; and the particulars of all responses received from persons consulted, including copies of responses from specialist consultees; and the account taken of these.</p> <p>In addition to the statutory requirements, the Project will have undertaken two rounds of non-statutory consultation to ensure that stakeholders and the community will have had sufficient opportunities to engage with the proposals and influence the potential design.</p>
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4.6.20. Health and safety

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru’s response
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<p>Health and Safety impacts</p>	<p>A large number of respondents expressed concern regarding the construction of pylons in areas that are prone to flooding, experience high winds or are close to the rivers. These respondents comment that weather conditions will impact the stability of pylons, creating health and safety risks to people, wildlife, environment, and other habitats.</p>	<p>Overhead lines are designed to withstand weather conditions that are likely to occur in the planned location of the overhead line.</p> <p>In addition, foundation designs are considerate of site-specific soil conditions and constraints such as flood risk areas.</p> <p>The overhead line design approach balances site constraints and reduces the risk of adverse weather impacts on the overhead line through consideration of statistically determined minimum weather conditions.</p> <p>In the UK, the minimum design wind or ice condition is associated with a 1 in 150-year return period (i.e., a 1 in 150-year wind or ice event). Where any overhead line structures are placed at critical crossings or support tension loading (e.g. at an angle position), wind or ice conditions associated with a 1 in 500-year return period is tested in the design.</p>
<p>Health concerns (EMF)</p>	<p>A considerable number of respondents expressed concern regarding possible health impacts of pylons, including EMFs. These include a perceived link to cancer, air pollution as well as concerns on how the Project and erection of pylons will affect the mental health and wellbeing of those people living in close proximity. These respondents comment that people in the countryside are looking for relaxation and solace, which would be</p>	<p>Electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) are produced whenever electricity is used or transmitted.</p> <p>Background EMFs are present in most homes. They are produced by household wiring, electrical appliances, low-voltage distribution cables that carry electricity along streets and by high voltage power lines and substations.</p> <p>Green GEN Cymru will develop our networks in accordance with advice published authoritative and independent scientific organisations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and will comply with these guidelines.</p> <p>A vast amount of independent research has been undertaken into the possibility of health effects, without establishing any risks at the levels we are proposing.</p> <p>A factsheet, containing information about electric and magnetic fields and answers to questions commonly asked about EMFs in relation to grid infrastructure was produced and made available in hard copy and on the Project website for the first non-statutory consultation.</p> <p>The factsheet also contained information setting out how consultees could find out more information about EMFs from the independent Energy Networks Association and provided contact details for National Grid’s EMF Helpline.</p>

	impossible in the presence of pylons.	<p>Green GEN Cymru recognises that new infrastructure can be disruptive to communities and stakeholders. We are committed to doing everything we can to cause the least disturbance to the environment and those who live, work and enjoy recreation close to our proposals.</p> <p>To ensure that this is done as robustly as possible the public consultation programme that will be undertaken prior to submitting the Development of National Significance (DNS) application will be carried out in the following stages –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st round of non-statutory consultation (March - April 2023); 2. 2nd round of non-statutory consultation (March - April 2024); 3. Statutory consultation (Mid 2025); and 5. Submission (Q4 2025). <p>Prior to the submission of the DNS application, the proposal must be publicised and consulted on for a period of at least six weeks (42 days). In terms of pre-application engagement with the relevant statutory and non-statutory stakeholders, as a minimum we must consult specific community consultees, specialist consultees and any relevant persons, service written notice on owners or occupiers of land adjoining the site, display site notices (on or near site), and place a notice in a local newspaper. A DNS application must be accompanied by a pre-application Consultation Report which provides an account of the statutory consultation, publicity, deadlines set, and activities undertaken. A summary of all issues including confirmation of whether the issues raised have been addressed and, if so, how; and the particulars of all responses received from persons consulted, including copies of responses from specialist consultees; and the account taken of these.</p> <p>In addition to the statutory requirements, the Project will have undertaken two rounds of non-statutory consultation to ensure that stakeholders and the community will have had sufficient opportunities to engage with the proposals and influence the potential design.</p>
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4.6.21. Noise

Topic	Comment	Green GEN Cymru's response
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<p>Noise impact</p>	<p>A small number of respondents expressed concerns regarding the noise impact of erecting and operating pylons, commenting the humming and buzzing of the overhead lines will affect their quality of life, as well as scaring animals.</p>	<p>High-voltage power lines can in some cases generate noise under certain conditions, which occur mainly in wet weather, particularly fog and rain.</p> <p>However, for the proposed 132kV connection the noise emissions compared to a high-voltage connection, even in wet weather, will be very low.</p> <p>In developing our proposals to date we sought to increase the distance from homes, gardens and other buildings as far as practical. We are seeking to avoid oversailing homes, their gardens and other buildings completely.</p> <p>Therefore any noise impact from the line is expected to be negligible. The low level of the noise and its relatively constant nature also means that it is unlikely to affect wildlife.</p> <p>The impact of construction noise will be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and noise mitigation measures may be proposed where it is identified as a potential issue.</p>
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5. Lessons Learnt and Next Steps

5.1. Lessons learnt for the next round of non-statutory consultation

The Project team have noted comments from respondents about additional and alternative locations for in-person events, and these will be considered for the next round of consultation.

The Project team has noted comments about addresses that were not identified as businesses, as well as properties that have been built since the latest Ordnance Survey data (which was used for the Project mapping) and will ensure to use the most up-to-date data available at the time of the next round of consultation.

The Project team has noted comments about the presentation of Project costs and will present updated information at the next round of consultation, to enable further detailed feedback from communities.

The Project team has noted comments about the approach to landowners along the route and revised their approach accordingly. However, it should be noted that the planning process requires thorough environmental surveys to be carried out along the proposed route and we need to ensure that we contact all landowners and seek agreement on access for survey. Where we receive no response, we do need to continue to contact landowners, and this may involve calling at their property if we receive no response or where we cannot find contact details for the landowners.

5.2. Next steps

As described above, all feedback received has been carefully considered by the Project team as part of our ongoing detailed design process, along with outputs from our ongoing environmental and technical surveys.

This helped us to develop a draft route alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for pylons, wood poles and undergrounding where the route crosses the River Towy in Section 5 of the Project that we are consulting on during our second non-statutory consultation.

All feedback received during our second non-statutory consultation will be carefully considered by the Project team. This, along with ongoing environmental and technical work, will inform the detailed alignment of the Project.

We will also carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

We will then hold a third (statutory) round of public consultation so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment. This is currently planned for 2025.

After considering feedback received in the second round of consultation, we will finalise our proposals and submit applications for consent to the Welsh Ministers in early 2025.

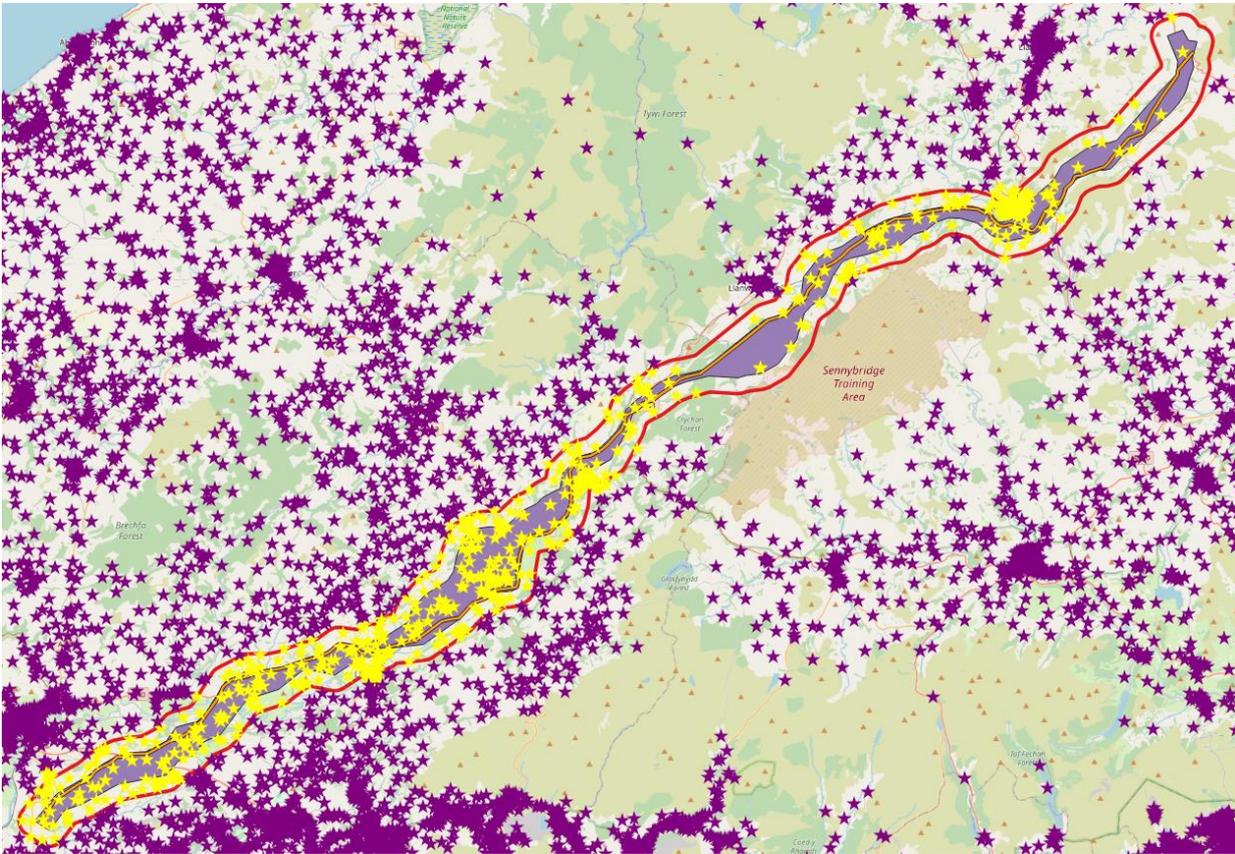
The Welsh Ministers will then hold a final round of statutory consultation before making any decision on our applications.

The connection will be in place to support the Energy Park contracted connection date in 2028.

We will continue our ongoing programme of engagement outside of the formal phases of consultation. This ranges from updating the Project website with relevant Project news and ensuring stakeholders can ask members of the Project team via the community relations lines. Should consent be granted for the Project, Green Gen Cymru will continue to engage with stakeholders throughout construction.

Appendix

Appendix A - Consultation zone



Appendix B - Consultation materials

Consultation banners (2 of 14)



Acting now to help deliver clean, green energy to our homes and businesses in Wales

As a nation we're in a climate emergency, and a cost-of-living crisis. Our supply of energy is threatened by world events. There is endless potential for renewable energy in Wales – particularly from the wind that blows across our hills and mountains.

But this clean, green energy is stuck in the windy areas of Wales, and we need to get it to the homes, hospitals, schools, businesses, and communities that need it.

Bute Energy is an independent renewable energy company focused on building a low carbon and prosperous country, delivering clean energy and supporting Welsh communities.

Green GEN Cymru, part of the Bute Energy Group, is developing a stronger, more resilient renewable electricity network that is greatly needed in Wales, to help deliver clean green energy to our homes and businesses and meet the Welsh Government's target for 100% renewable electricity in Wales by 2035.

Gweithredu nawr i helpu i ddarparu ynni glân a gwyRDD i'n cartrefi a'n busnesau yng Nghymru

Fel gwlad, rydym ni mewn argyfwng hinsawdd, ac argyfwng costau byw. Mae digwyddiadau byd-eang yn bygrwth ein cyflenwad ynni. Mae potensial di-bendraw i ynni adnewyddadwy yng Nghymru – yn enwedig o'r gwynt sy'n chwythu ar draws ein bryniau a'n mynyddoedd.

Ond mae'r ynni glân a gwyRDD hwn yn cael ei ddal yn ardaloedd gwyntog Cymru, ac mae angen inni sicrhau ei fod yn cyrraedd y cartrefi, yr ysgolau, yr ysbyteli, y busnesau a'r cymunedau sydd ei angen.

Mae Bute Energy yn gwmni ynni adnewyddadwy annibynnol sy'n canolbwyntio ar adelladau gwlad carbon isel sy'n ffynnu, gan ddarparu ynni glân a chefnogi cymunedau yng Nghymru.

Mae Green GEN Cymru, rhan o Grŵp Bute Energy, yn deitlygu rhwydwaith trydan adnewyddadwy cryfach a mwy cydnorth i mae Cymru mawr angen, a hynny ar mwyn helpu i ddarparu ynni gwyRDD glân i'n cartrefi a'n busnesau a chyrraedd targed Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 100% o drydan adnewyddadwy yng Nghymru erbyn 2035.





About the Green GEN Towy Usk Project

The Green GEN Towy Usk proposal is for a new 132kV (132,000-volt) double-circuit overhead line, supported on steel pylons, between a substation on the Nant Mithil Energy Park in the Radnor Forest area and a new substation, to be developed by National Grid, on the existing 400kV (400,000-volt) transmission line near Llandyfaelog, between Carmarthen and Pont Abraham.

Green GEN Towy Usk will bring this clean green energy to the homes and businesses that need it. Importantly, other Bute Energy parks and green energy projects will be able to connect, reducing the amount of additional infrastructure needed in future.

Green GEN Towy Usk will reduce pressure on the existing electricity grid, supporting energy resilience, green businesses and enabling green heating and the roll out of electric vehicles across Wales – particularly in rural areas.

This grid will not only transport green energy across Wales, it also has the potential to support technologies such as 5G that could help farmers, schools and businesses to be at the cutting edge of technology while being based in a rural area. The project will have a lasting and positive impact on Welsh people.

Gwybodaeth am Brosiect Green GEN Tywi Wysg

Mae cynnig Green GEN Tywi Wysg ar gyfer llinell uwchben cylched dwbl 132kV (132,000 folt), a gefnogr ar bellonau dur, rhwng is-orasaf ar Barc Ynni Nant Mithil yn ardal Fforest Maesyfed ac is-orasaf newydd ar llinell drawysrnu 400kV (400,000 folt) bresiennol y National Grid ger Llandyfaelog, rhwng Caerdyddin a Phont Abraham.

Bydd Green GEN Tywi Wysg yn dod ag ynni gwyRDD glân i'r cartrefi a'r busnesau sydd ei angen. Yn bwysig iawn, bydd perolau ynni Bute Energy a phrosiectau ynni gwyRDD eraill hefyd yn gallu cysylltu, gan lleihau faint o seilwaith ychwanegol fydd ei angen yn y dyfodol.

Bydd Green GEN Tywi Wysg yn lleihau'r pwysau ar y grid trydan presennol, gan gefnogi cadernid ynni, busnesau gwyRDD a galluogi gwres gwyRDD a chyflwyno cerbydau trydan ledled Cymru – yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Bydd y grid hwn nid yn unig yn cludo ynni gwyRDD ledled Cymru, ond mae ganddo hefyd y potensial i gefnogi technolegau fel 5G a allai helpu ffermwyr, ysgolion a busnesau i fod ar flaen y gad yn maes technoleg ar iddyn nhw fyw mewn ardal wledig. Bydd y prosiect yn cael effaith barhaol a chadarnhaol ar bobl Cymru.

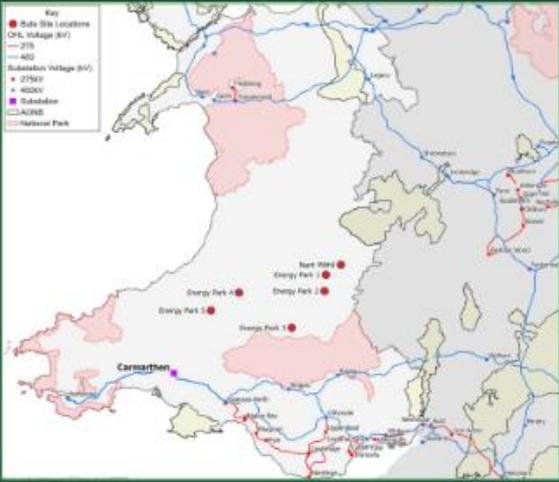


Consultation banners (4 of 14)



How we have developed our proposals

Sut rydym wedi datblygu ein cynigion



When drawing up our plans, we compared the environmental, technical and cost implications of 11 potential connection options for Nant Mithil and other potential energy parks.

We decided a connection near Carmarthen was the best option to take forward. Other options would mean more infrastructure (longer overhead lines), impacts on the Brecon Beacons National Park or protected landscapes, or losing the opportunity to connect more than one energy park using the same infrastructure.

Fe wnaethom edrych ar 11 opsiwn i gysylltu ein chwe pharc ynni arfaethedig â'r rhwydwaith trydan presennol yn Na Cymru a'r gororau.

Pendertynwyd mai cysylltiad ger Caerfyrddin oedd yr opsiwn gorau i fwrw ymlaen ag ef. Byddai opsiynau eraill yn golygu mwy o seilwaith (linellau uwchben hirach), effeithiau ar Berc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog neu dirweddau gwarchoddedig, neu gollï cyfle i gysylltu mwy nag un parc ynni gan ddefnyddio'r un seilwaith.



Our preferred route

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym



Working with our environmental consultants, we identified corridors of land through which an overhead line route could be installed, looking at how each might affect local communities, the landscape, local views, biodiversity, forestry and cultural heritage, flood risk.

We then selected a preferred corridor seeking to reduce the impact and identified potential route options within it. Following further research, we selected a route that best reduced the effects to take forward for public consultation.

In developing our proposals we have considered The Holford Rules, which set out principles for routeing overhead lines, such as avoiding prominent ridges and skylines, following broad wooded valleys, avoiding settlements and residential properties, and maximising opportunities for 'backclothing' and the screening of infrastructure.

We believe our preferred route would have the lowest impact on the landscape and local communities, and is also the most economic and efficient solution with the least new infrastructure.

Dan weithio gyda'n hymgyngherwyr amgylcheddol, gwnaethom nodi coridorau o dir y gallid eu defnyddio i osod llwybr llinell uwchben, gan edrych ar sut y gallai pob un effeithio ar gymunedau lleol, y dirwedd, golygfeydd lleol, bioamrywiaeth, coedwigaeth, treftadaeth ddiwylliannol a pherygl llifogydd.

Yna gwnaethom ddevis y coridor mwyaf ffafriol i osod llinell uwchben a nodi opsiynau llwybr posibl oddi mewn iddo. Yn dilyn rhegor o ymchwili, rydym ni wedi dewis llwybr sy'n amharu lleiaf ar yr ardal ar gyfer ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus.

Rydym ni'n ystyried Rheolau Holford wrth ddatblygu ein cynigion. Mae'r rheolau'n gosod egwyddorion ar gyfer llwybro llinellau uwchben, ac mae'r prif egwyddorion yn cynnwys osgoi cribau a thoeau amlwg; dilyn dyffrynnoedd coedlog eang; osgoi sneddiadau ac eiddo preswyl; a manteisio i'r eithaf ar gyfleoedd i greu 'cefniau' a sgrinio seilwaith.

Rydym ni'n credu mai'r llwybr rydym ni'n ei ffafrio byddai'n cael yr effaith leiaf ar y dirwedd ac ar gymunedau lleol, a dyma hefyd yr ateb mwyaf economaidd ac effeithlon gyda'r lleiaf o seilwaith newydd.

Consultation banners (6 of 14)



What will it look like?



Sut bydd yn edrych?

The new 132kV overhead line will be carried on steel lattice pylons. We need to use pylons because there will be two circuits (three sets of wires on each side of the pylons), carrying more power than can be carried safely on a single line of wooden poles.

The standard height for the type of 132kV pylon we would look to use is 27 metres. Pylon heights and span lengths may need to be increased or decreased depending on the terrain, or where crossing obstacles like streams and rivers.

As we develop our projects, we consider the visual impacts of the overhead lines and how these can be reduced through careful routing.

We know that new infrastructure can be disruptive to communities. We are committed to doing everything we can to cause the least disturbance to the environment and those who live, work and enjoy recreation close to our proposals.

Bydd y llinell uwchben 132kV newydd yn cael ei chludo ar beilonau delitog dur. Mae angen i ni ddefnyddio peilonau dur oherwydd bydd dwy gylched (tair set o wifrau ar ddwy ochr y peilonau), sy'n cludo mwy o bŵer nag y gellir ei gludo'n ddiogel ar un llinell o bolion pren.

Yr uchder safonol ar gyfer y math o beilon 132kV y byddem yn ei ddefnyddio yw 27 metr. Mae'n bosibl y bydd angen cynyddu neu leihau union uchder a hyd y peilonau yn dibynnu ar y tir, neu wrth gresi rhwystrau fel afonydd a nentydd.

Wrth i ni ddatblygu ein prosiectau, rydyn ni'n ystyried effeithiau gwledol y llinellau uwchben a sut mae modd lleihau'r rhain drwy lwybro gofalus.

Gwyddom y gall seilwaith newydd amharu ar gymunedau. Rydyn ni wedi ymrwmo i wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i darfu cyn lleied â phosibl ar yr amgylchedd a'r rhain sy'n byw, yn gweithio ac yn mwynhau gweithgareddau hamdden yn agos at ein cynigion.

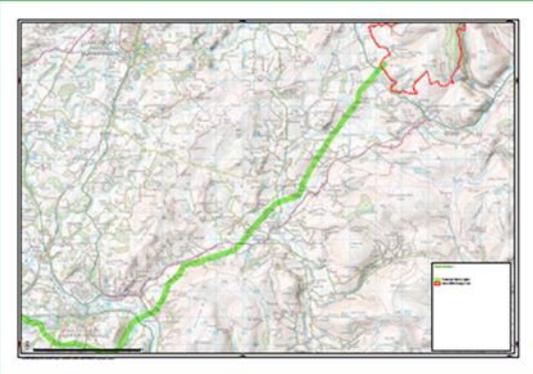


Our preferred route: Section 1

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym: Adran 1

Nant Mithil Energy Park to Buith Wells

Parc Ynni Nant Mithil i Lanfair-ym-Muallt



Our preferred route starts at the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park between Radnor and Llandrindod Wells. It heads southwest to Franks Bridge, then passes south of Llanantffraed-in-Elwel, avoiding an area of ancient woodland to reach a point near Llanfaredd, east of Buith Wells.

The preferred route offers better opportunities to reduce effects on homes through detailed routing, and runs through a more open valley, avoiding frequent changes of direction. It is also preferred on cultural heritage grounds, hydrology and geology, and avoids passing through a block of ancient woodland.

Mae'r llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym yn dechrau ym Mharc Ynni arfaethedig Nant Mithil rhwng Maesyfed a Llandrindod. Mae'n mynd tua'r de orllewin i Bont Franks, ac yna'n mynd i'r de o Llanantffraed, gan osgoi ardal o goetir hynafol i gyrraedd pwynt ger Llanfaredd, sydd i'r dwyrain o Buith Wells.

Mae'r llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio yn cynnig gwell cyfleoedd i leihau'r effeithiau ar gartrefi drwy lwybro manwl, ac mae'n rhedeg drwy ddyffryn mwy agored, gan osgoi newid cyfeiriad yn aml. Mae hefyd yn cael ei ffafrio ar sail treftadaeth ddiwyllianol, hydroleg a deareg, ac mae'n osgoi mynd drwy bloc o goetir hynafol.

Consultation banners (8 of 14)

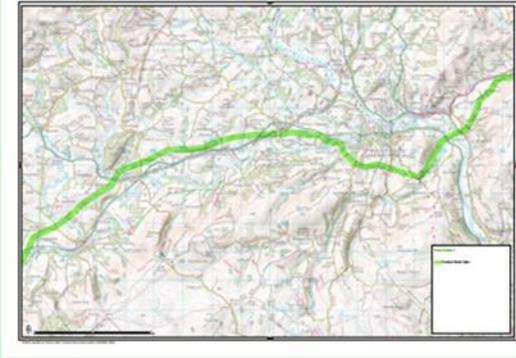


Our preferred route: Section 2

Builth Wells to Llangamarch Wells

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym: Adran 2

Llanfair-ym-Muallt i Llangamarch



The route then heads west, passing south of Builth Wells, screened by the low hill of Garth and avoiding wooded slopes south-west of the town. The route crosses the railway line and A483 just south of Cilmerly, and then runs in parallel with them (on the north side) to a point just west of Garth, where it crosses the A483 again to head south-west towards Llangamarch Wells.

Our preferred route has the best 'fit' with the landscape, avoiding the river valley to a greater extent than other options considered, but is likely to be more visible from roads. It crosses a greater amount of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land and (as with all route options) cannot avoid ancient woodland, but is also preferred to other options in relation to biodiversity, hydrology and geology.

Yna, mae'r llwybr yn mynd tua'r gorllewin, gan basio i'r de o Lanfair-ym-Muallt, wedi'i guddio gan fryn isel Garth ac osgoi llethrau coedlog i'r de-orllewin o'r dref. Mae'r llwybr yn croesi'r rheilffordd a'r A483 ychydig i'r de o Gilmeri, ac yna'n rhedeg yn gyfochrog â nhw (ar yr ochr ogleddol) i bwyt ychydig i'r gorllewin o Garth, lle mae'n croesi'r A483 eto i gyfeiriad y de-orllewin tuag at Llangamarch.

Mae'r llwybr rydyn ni'n ei ffafrio yn 'cyd-fynd' ora'u â'r dirwedd, gan osgoi dyffryn yr afon i raddau mwy nag opsiynau eraill a ystyriwyd, ond mae'n debygol o fod yn fwy gweladwy o'r ffordd. Mae'n croesi mwy o dir Gorau a Mwyaf Amibwrsas (BMV) ac (fel gyda phob opsiwn llwybr) ni all osgoi coedir hynafol, ond mae hefyd yn cael ei ffafrio yn lle opsiynau eraill mewn perthynas â bioamrywieth, hydroleg a deareg.

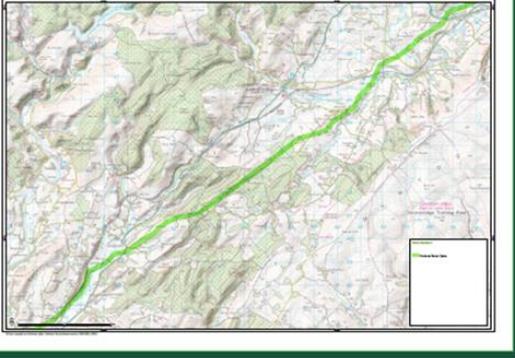


Our preferred route: Section 3

Llangamarch Wells to Llandovery

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym: Adran 3

Llangamarch i Llanymddyfri



The route continues south-west to Bryn-belli (between Llanwrtyd Wells and the Sennybridge Training Area) and then along the edge of Crychan Forest, keeping south of Cyngordy to a point where it meets the railway line north of Abercrychan, near Llandovery.

Our preferred route passes through coniferous forest plantation and routes around Cyngordy and contains a smaller amount of ancient woodland than other route options. Effects on the Afon Gwy SAC/SSSI and other designated sites, such as Abererbwil fort Scheduled Monument, can be avoided or minimised by careful placement of pylons at the detailed design stage.

Mae'r llwybr yn parhau i'r de-orllewin i Fryn-belli (rhwng Llanwrtyd ac Ardal Hyfforddi Pontsenni) ac yna ar hyd ymyl Coedwig Crychan, gan gadw i'r de o'r Cyngordy i bwyt lle mae'n cwrrd â'r rheilffordd i'r gogledd o Abercrychan, ger Llanymddyfri.

Mae'r llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym yn mynd drwy blanhigfa coed conwydd a llwybrau o amgylch Cyngordy ac mae'n cynnwys llai o goedir hynafol nag opsiynau llwybr eraill. Gallir osgoi neu leihau'r effeithiau ar ACA/SoDdGA Afon Gwy a safleoedd dynodedig eraill, fel Heneb Restredig Abererbwil, drwy leoli pillionau'n ofalus ar y cam dylunio manwl.

Consultation banners (10 of 14)

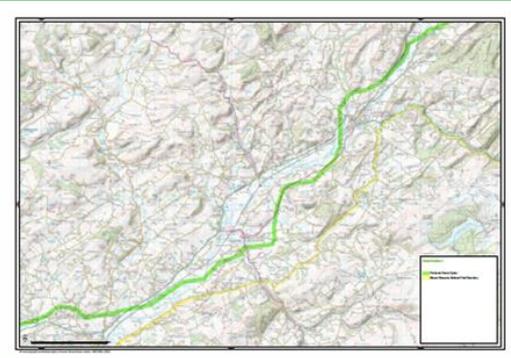


Our preferred route: Section 4

Llandoverly to Llandeilo

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym: Adran 4

Llanymddyfri i Llandeilo



The route keeps west of Llandoverly, then turns south to cross the A40 and the River Towy. It then heads south-west, contained within a side valley away from the Towy valley so it is less visible from areas popular with visitors. Continuing south-west, it keeps to the east of Llangedog and south of Manordello to a point near Rhoemaen, north of Llandeilo.

Our preferred route avoids the Afon Tywi SAC/SSSI, is at the greatest distance from Gallt y Tlodion (Poor Man's Wood) Wildlife Trust Reserve and contains the smallest amount of Floodplain Grazing habitat. It also avoids pinch points at the edge of Llandoverly, and offers opportunities to avoid ancient woodland with careful routing and siting of infrastructure.

Mae'r llwybr yn cadw i'r gorllewin o Lanymddyfri, yma'n troi i'r de i grosi'r A40 ar Afon Tywi. Wedyn mae'n mynd i'r de-orllewin gan lwybro ochr dyffryn a throi ffwrdd o ddyffryn Tywi, felly mae'n llai amlwg i ardaloedd sy'n boblogaidd gydag ymwelwyr. Gan barhau i'r de-orllewin, mae'n mynd i'r dwyrain o Llangedog ac i'r de o Faenordello i bwynt ger Rhoemaen, i'r gogledd o Llandeilo.

Mae'r llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym yn osgoi ACA/SoDdGA Afon Tywi, a dyma'r pellaf o Warchodfa Ymddiriedolaeth Natur Gallt y Tlodion ac mae'n cynnwys y lleiaf o gynefin Pori Gorlifdir. Mae hefyd yn osgoi manau cul ar gyrion Llanymddyfri, ac mae'n cynnig cyfleoedd i osgoi coetir hynafol drwy lwybro a lleoli seilwaith yn ofalus.

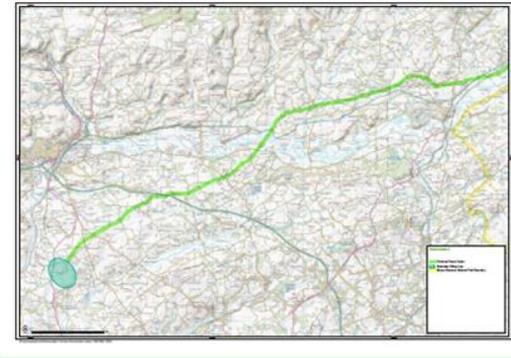


Our preferred route: Section 5

Llandeilo to Llandyfaelog

Y llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym: Adran 5

Llandeilo i Landyfaelog



The route keeps north of Llandeilo, heading south-west and passing to the west of Lanarthne before crossing the A48 at a point east of Nantycaws. It continues south-west to reach the existing National Grid 400kV electricity transmission line north of Llandyfaelog. The preferred route in this section has less impact than other options on woodland, forestry and designated nature sites.

This route is preferred on landscape and visual grounds. It crosses the Afon Tywi SAC/SSSI and the Gwendraeth Fach and their tributaries fewer times than other options, and does not cross any other SSSIs, NNRs or Wildlife Trust Reserves. It has best opportunity to minimise effects on woodland and forestry and crosses the smallest amount of BMV land.

Mae'r llwybr yn cadw i'r gogledd o Llandeilo, gan fynd tua'r de-orllewin a mynd i'r gorllewin o Lanarthne cyn croesi'r A48 ar bwynt i'r dwyrain o Nantycaws. Mae'n parhau i'r de-orllewin i gyrraedd llinell trawsyrru trydan 400kV bresennol y National Grid i'r gogledd o Landyfaelog. Mae'r llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio yn yr adran hon yn cael llai o effaith nag opalyneu eraill ar goetiroedd, coedwigaeth a safleoedd natur dynodedig.

Mae'r llwybr hwn yn cael ei ffafrio am resymau tirwedd a gweledol. Mae'n croesi ACA/SoDdGA Afon Tywi ac Afon Gwendraeth Fach a'u hifafonydd yn llai aml nag opalyneu eraill, ac nid yw'n croesi unrhyw SoDdGA, Gwarchodfeydd Natur Cenedlaethol na Gwarchodfeydd Ymddiriedolaeth Bywyd Gwylt eraill. Mae'n cynnig y cyfle gorau i leihau'r effeithiau ar goetiroedd a choedwigaeth a dyma'r llwybr sy'n croesi'r lleiaf o dir BMV.

Consultation banners (12 of 14)



Have your say

In this first round of consultation we would like your views on our preferred overhead line route, and any specific locations or issues you would like us to consider when planning where the pylons should go.

We have divided our preferred route into five sections, to make it easier for you to let us know which section or sections you are referring to, or if your comments apply to the whole route.

Our public consultation runs from Monday 06 March 2023 to Friday 28 April 2023.

We welcome your feedback, which you can send to us using the online form at www.greengentowysusk.com or by completing a hard copy form (available at our exhibitions or on request).

You can email us at:
 Info@greengentowysusk.com
 You can write to us free of charge at:
 **FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK**
 You can call us free of charge on:
 **0800 3777 339**

Dweud eich dweud

Yn y rownd gyntaf hon o ymgynghori, hoffem gael eich barn ar y llwybr llinell uwchben sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym, ac unrhyw leoliadau penodol neu faterion yr hoffech i ni eu hystyried wrth gynllunio ble y dylai'r pellonau fynd.

Rydyn ni wedi rhannu'r llwybr rydym ni'n ei ffafrio yn bum adran, i'w gwneud yn haws i chi roi gwybod i ni pa adran neu adrannau rydych chi'n cyfeirio atynt, neu a yw eich sylwadau'n berthnasol i'r llwybr cyfan.

Mae ein hymgyngoriad yn cael ei chynnwys rhwng dydd Llun 06 Mawrth 2023 a dydd Gwener 28 Ebrill 2023.

Rydyn ni'n croesawu eich adborth. Gallwch ei anfon atom gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen ar-lein yn www.greengentowysusk.com neu drwy lenwi ffurflen copi caled (sydd ar gael yn ein harddangosfeydd neu ar gais).

Gallwch anfon e-bost atom:
 Info@greengentowysusk.com
 Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn rhad ac am ddim yn:
 **FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK**
 Gallwch ein ffonio am ddim ar:
 **0800 3777 339**







Nant Mithil Energy Park

Nant Mithil Energy Park is a project by Bute Energy to help tackle the climate emergency in Wales and secure affordable, clean, green energy supplies for the future.

Located in the Radnor Forest area, 9km east of Llandrindod Wells, the energy park will generate around 237MW (megawatts) of clean, green energy – enough to power around 200,000 homes and displace some 350,000 tonnes of CO2 each year.

The energy park will have approximately 36 wind turbines, with a maximum blade tip height of 220m, a substation, control building and permanent anemometer masts for monitoring wind speeds and turbine performance.

The energy park site, currently used mainly as pasture, has been chosen for its technical suitability and wind speeds. Part of the site is identified as a Pre-assessed Wind Priority Area in the Welsh Government's *Future Wales: the national plan 2040*.

Parc Ynni Nant Mithil

Mae Parc Ynni Nant Mithil yn brosiect gan Bute Energy i helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng hinsawdd yng Nghymru a sicrhau cyflenwadau ynni fforddiadwy, glân a gwyrdd ar gyfer y dyfodol.

Wedi'i leoli yn ardal Coedwig Maesyfed, 9km i'r dwyrain o Landrindod, bydd y parc ynni'n cynhyrchu tua 237MW (megawat) o ynni glân a gwyrdd – digon i bwrw tua 200,000 o gartrefi a dadleoli tua 350,000 tunnell o CO2 bob bliwyddyn.

Bydd gan y parc ynni tua 36 o dyrbinau gwynt, gydag uchafswm uchder o 220m at frig y llafn, is-orsaf, adeilad rheoli a mastiau anemometr parhaol ar gyfer monitro cyflymder gwynt a pherfformiad tyrbinau.

Mae safle'r parc ynni, sy'n cael ei ddefnyddio fel porfa ar hyn o bryd, wedi cael ei ddevis oherwydd ei addasrwydd technegol a'i gyflymder gwynt. Mae rhan o'r safle wedi'i nodi fel Ardal â Blaenoriaeth wedi'i asesu ymlaen llaw yn y Llywodraeth Cymru Cymru'r Dyfodol: y cynllun cenedlaethol 2040.



Consultation banners (14 of 14)




Community Benefit Fund

Bute Energy is setting up a Community Benefit Fund that will invest millions of pounds every year into local communities.

The funding will come from the Bute Energy Parks that connect to Green GEN Towy Usk. In this unique approach, every year Bute Energy will pay £7,500 per MW of installed capacity into the fund, which will be shared between the communities closest to the Energy Parks and those along the grid routes.

The Bute Energy Community Benefit team will be talking with local people and organisations about the projects, groups and services they are engaged with and how we can help. Let us know who's doing great work where you live so that we can speak with them. We want to be good neighbours as a part of a thriving community.

Cronfa Budd Cymunedol

Mae Bute Energy yn sefydlu Cronfa Budd Cymunedol a fydd yn buddsoddi miliynau o bunnoedd bob blwyddyn mewn cymunedau lleol.

Daw'r cyllid gan Barciau Ynni Bute Energy sy'n cysylltu â Green GEN Tywl Wysg. Yn y dull unigryw hwn bob blwyddyn bydd Bute Energy yn unig yn talu £7,500 y MW o gapasiti wedi'i osod yn y grefa, a fydd yn cael ei rannu rhwng y cymunedau sydd agosaf at y Parciau Ynni a'r rheini sydd ar hyd llwybrau'r grid.

Bydd tîm Budd Cymunedol Bute Energy yn siarad â phobl a sefydliadau lleol am y prosiectau, y grŵpiau a'r gwasanaethau maen nhw'n ymwneud â nhw a sut gallwn ni helpu. Rhwch wybod i ni pwy sy'n gwneud gwaith gwych yn lle rydych chi'n byw er mwyn i ni allu siarad â nhw. Rydyn ni eisiau bod yn gymdognog da fel rhan o gymuned sy'n ffynnu.





What happens next?

Following this first round of public consultation, we will carefully consider all feedback received, along with reports from our environmental and technical surveys.

We will continue talking to landowners, communities and stakeholders to help us develop a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for pylons, access routes and working areas.

We will also carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment, and our detailed proposals will be subject to further consultation.

New overhead lines of 132kV, and other overhead lines associated with a devolved generation station, are classed as a Development of National Significance (DNS). This means that developers must submit consent applications to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), and decisions are then made by the Welsh Ministers.

Beth sy'n digwydd nesaf?

Yn dilyn y rownd gyntaf hon o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd, byddwn yn ystyried yn ofalus yr holl adborth a gawn, ynghyd ag adroddiadau o'n harolygon amgrychedol a thechnegol.

Byddwn yn parhau i drafod â thirfeddianwyr, cymunedau a rhanddeiliaid i'n helpu i ddatblygu dyluniad manwl ac aliniad ar gyfer y llinell uwchben newydd, gan gynnwys lleoliadau ar gyfer pelionau, llwybrau mynediad ac ardaloedd gwaith.

Byddwn hefyd yn cynnal Asesiad manwl o'r Effaith Amgrychedol, a bydd ein cynigion manwl yn destun ymgynghoriad pellach.

Mae llinellau uwchben newydd 132kV, a llinellau uwchben eraill sy'n gysylltiedig â gorsaf gymhyrchu ddatganoledig, yn cael eu hystyried yn Ddatblygiad o Arwyddocâd Cenedlaethol (DNS). Mae hyn yn golygu bod yn rhaid i ddatblygwyr gyflwyno ceisledau am ganiatâd i'r adran Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgrychedol Cymru (PEDW), a bydd penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud wedyn gan Weinidogion Cymru.



GREEN GEN CYMRU

Green GEN Towy Usk Public consultation

The last day for submitting feedback is Friday 28 April 2023

Acting now to help deliver clean, green energy to our homes and businesses in Wales

As a nation we're in a climate emergency, and a cost-of-living crisis. Our supply of energy is threatened by world events. Yet there is endless potential for renewable energy in Wales – particularly from the wind that blows across our hills and mountains.

The Welsh Government, the Senedd and energy generators have been looking for ways to unlock this potential for a number of years but have been frustrated by a lack of robust electricity grid capable of distributing large volumes of power.

Green GEN Cymru (Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru) is taking action now, to help deliver clean green energy to our homes and businesses by developing the energy network in Wales. This will help tackle both the energy crisis and the climate crisis and make sure that local communities will be able to live modern electric lives with less reliance on fossil fuels.

Part of the Bute Energy Group, Green GEN Cymru is based in Wales and has a uniquely Welsh approach. Our network will be planned in Wales, for Wales, and we will deliver it without using any public money.

Green GEN Towy Usk will link Bute Energy's Nant Mithil Energy Park, which will generate around 237MW (megawatts) of clean, green energy in the Radnor Forest area, to the national grid. In the future, other renewable energy projects will also be able to connect, reducing the amount of additional infrastructure needed.

The Green GEN Towy Usk proposal is for a new 132kV (132,000-volt) double-circuit overhead line, initially connecting the Nant Mithil Energy Park to a proposed new substation near the existing National Grid 400kV (400,000-volt) transmission line between Carmarthen and Pont Abraham.

We now want to hear your views to help us develop our proposals. Please let us know by completing this feedback form, or scan the QR code to visit our website www.greengentowyusk.com, where you can also find more information about the project and give your feedback online.



Climate change and our energy supplies

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 (This section is optional)

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Renewable energy has an important role in the fight against climate change					
More renewable energy generation in Wales would make us less reliant on imported energy and help to guarantee secure energy supplies for Wales in future					
Renewable energy developments in Wales are being held back by a lack of grid infrastructure to connect them to power networks?					
I support renewable energy projects in my local area					

Green GEN Towy Usk: our preferred route

Working with our environmental consultants, we identified corridors of land through which an overhead line route could be installed, looked at how each might affect local communities, the landscape and views, biodiversity, forestry and cultural heritage, flood risk and other land uses.

We then selected a preferred corridor for Green GEN Towy Usk and identified potential route options within it. Following further research, we have selected a preferred route in that corridor to take forward for public consultation.

Our preferred route avoids and seeks to reduce potential impacts on the Brecon Beacons National Park and other sensitive landscapes and requires the least amount of new infrastructure.

We believe this route achieves the best balance between our technical requirements and minimising the impact on the environment and the people, who live, work and enjoy spending their time in the area.

We know that new infrastructure can be disruptive to communities. We are committed to doing everything we can to cause the least disturbance to the environment and those who live, work and enjoy recreation close to our proposals.

1. Do you have any comments on the process we followed in selecting our preferred route?

2. Do you have any comments on our preferred route for the overhead line, or the alternatives we considered? We have divided the preferred route into five sections for ease of reference.

Please indicate which section your response relates to (tick all that apply):

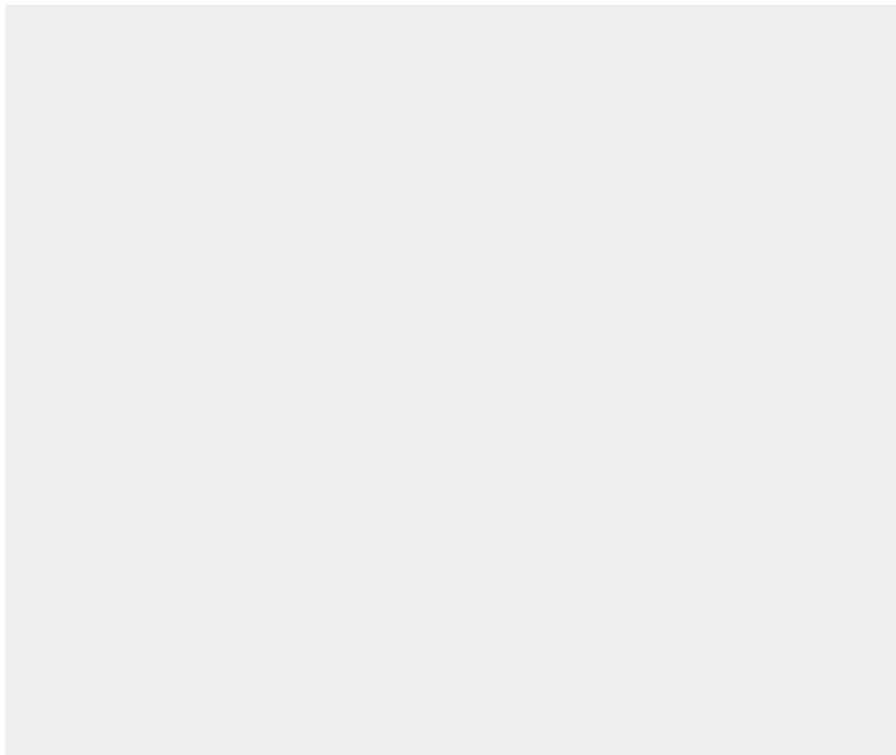
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 1:
Nant Mithil Energy Park to Builth Wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Section 4:
Llandovery to Llandello |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 2:
Builth Wells to Llangammarch Wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Section 5:
Llandello to Llandyfaelog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 3:
Llangammarch Wells to Llandovery | <input type="checkbox"/> Entire route |

Green GEN Towy Usk: our preferred route

- 3. We will carry out further assessments to help us decide where we could locate the pylons within the preferred route. Are there any particular features, considerations or mitigations you would like us to consider as we develop our proposals?**

Please indicate which section your response relates to (tick all that apply):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 1:
Nant Mithil Energy Park to Bulth Wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Section 4:
Llandoverly to Llandello |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 2:
Bulth Wells to Llangammarch Wells | <input type="checkbox"/> Section 5:
Llandello to Llandyfaelog |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Section 3:
Llangammarch Wells to Llandoverly | <input type="checkbox"/> Entire route |



Community Benefit Fund

**GREEN
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CYMRU**

Bute Energy is setting up a Community Benefit Fund that will invest millions of pounds every year in local communities. The funding will come from the Bute Energy Parks that connect to Green GEN Towy Usk.

In this unique approach, every year Bute Energy will pay £7,500 per MW of installed capacity into the fund, which will be shared between the communities closest to the Energy Parks and those along the grid routes.

The Bute Energy Community Benefit team will be talking with local people and organisations about the projects, groups and services they are engaged with and how we can help. Let us know who's doing great work where you live so that we can speak with them. We want to be good neighbours as a part of a thriving community.

4. What would you like to see the Community Benefit Fund used for in your area?

About this consultation

5. How did you hear about the consultation?

- Leaflet media social media other

Was the information useful and what further information would have been helpful?

6. Did you attend a consultation event?

- Yes No

If yes, which one?

- Royal Welsh Showground Llandovery Llandello
 Penybont Llandyfaelog Online webinar

7. Is there anything else you would like us to consider?

Consultation Feedback Form (page 7 of 8)

About You



Title (Mr. Ms. Mrs. etc.):

First name*: Surname*:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email (if you would like to receive updates when there is project news):

Age range: 18 and under 19-34 35-50 51-65 over 65

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? Yes No

If yes, which one

Please tick here if you would like us to keep you updated about our proposals via email

Equality and diversity

Green GEN Cymru would be grateful if you could answer the following equality and diversity questions. We will use the information we receive to help understand whether our consultation has been useful to people of different backgrounds and requirements.

We may publish a summary of the results, but no information about an individual would be revealed.

If you agree to provide equality and diversity information, you can withdraw your permission at any time. To withdraw your details, please contact us via email at info@greengentowyusk.com. If you wish to receive paper copies of these documents or need them in another format, please get in touch via the details on the bottom of this page (please note print charges may apply).

8. What is your gender?

- Male Female Non-binary Prefer not to say

9. Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

10. How would you describe your ethnic background?

- African, Carribean or Black Arab Asian Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 White Mixed or multiple ethnic groups Prefer not to say

Any other ethnic group (please state)

11. What is your age?

- Under 13 13 – 20 21 – 50 51 – 75 76+ Prefer not to say

Consultation Feedback Form (page 8 of 8)

Thank you

**GREEN
GEN
CYMRU**

Your views are important to us as we develop our proposals. If you have any questions, please contact us:

 Website: www.greengentowyusk.com

 Email: info@greengentowyusk.com

 Post: You can write to us free of charge at **FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK**
(no stamp for further address is needed)

 Phone: You can call us free of charge on **0800 3777 339**

GDPR statement

Green GEN Cymru (a subsidiary of Bute Energy) is committed to protecting your personal information. Whenever you provide such information, we are legally obliged to use it in line with all applicable laws concerning the protection of personal data, including the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

How will Green GEN Cymru use information we collect about you?

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for a number of purposes, including:

- To analyse your feedback to the consultation
- To produce a Pre-Application Consultation Report, based on our analysis of responses (Individuals will not be identified in the Report)
- To write to you with updates about the results of the consultation and other developments if you have opted in to receive these updates
- To keep up to date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.

Any personal information you include in this form will be handled and used by (or made available to) the following recipients to record, analyse and report on the feedback we receive:

- Green GEN Cymru
- Bute Energy (development services provider to Green GEN Cymru)
- PEDW (which will consider our application for consent to build Green GEN Towy Usk – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised)
- The Welsh Ministers
- Our legal advisers
- Consultants working on the Green GEN Towy Usk project.

Consultation Leaflet (page 1 of 6)



Green GEN Towy Usk

Acting now to help deliver clean, green energy to our homes and businesses in Wales

As a nation we're in a climate emergency, and a cost of living crisis. Our supply of energy is threatened by world events. Yet there is endless potential for renewable energy in Wales – particularly from the wind that blows across our hills and mountains.

The Welsh Government, the Senedd and energy generators have been looking for ways to unlock this potential for a number of years but have been frustrated by a lack of robust electricity grid capable of distributing large volumes of power.

Green GEN Cymru (Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru) is taking action now, to help deliver clean green energy to our homes and businesses by developing the energy network in Wales. This will help tackle both the energy crisis and the climate crisis and make sure that local communities will be able to live modern electric lives with less reliance on fossil fuels.

Part of the Bute Energy Group, Green GEN Cymru is based in Wales and has a uniquely Welsh approach. Our network will be planned in Wales, for Wales, and we will deliver it without using any public money.

Why is this project needed?

Green GEN Towy Usk will link Bute Energy's Nant Mithil Energy Park, which will generate around 237MW (megawatts) of clean, green energy in the Radnor Forest area, to the national grid. It will bring clean green energy to the homes and businesses that need it. Importantly, other green energy projects will also be able to connect, reducing the amount of additional infrastructure needed in future.

Green GEN Towy Usk will also allow direct connection of community projects, while reducing pressure on the existing electricity grid, supporting energy resilience, green businesses and enabling green heating and the roll out of electric vehicles across Wales – particularly in rural areas.

This grid will not only transport green energy across Wales, it also has the potential to support technologies such as 5G that could help farmers, schools and businesses to be at the cutting edge of technology while being based in a rural area. The project will have a lasting and positive impact on Welsh people.

Green GEN Tywi Wysg

Gweithredu nawr i helpu i ddarparu ynni glân a gwyrdd i'n cartrefi a'n busnesau yng Nghymru

Fel gwlad, rydyn ni mewn argyfwng hinsawdd, ac argyfwng costau byw. Mae digwyddiadau byd-eang yn bygwth ein cyflenwad ynni. Ac eto, mae potensial di-ben-draw i ynni adnewyddadwy yng Nghymru – yn enwedig o'r gwynt sy'n chwythu ar draws ein bryniau a'n mynyddoedd.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru, y Senedd a chynhyrchwyr ynni wedi bod yn chwilio am ffyrdd o ddatglo'r potensial hwn ers nifer o flynyddoedd, ond maen nhw wedi cael eu llesteirio gan ddiffyg grid trydan cadarn sy'n gallu dosbarthu symiau mawr o bŵer.

Mae Green GEN Cymru (Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru) yn gweithredu nawr, i helpu i ddarparu ynni gwyrdd glân i'n cartrefi a'n busnesau drwy ddatblygu'r rhwydwaith ynni yng Nghymru. Bydd hyn yn helpu i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfwng ynni a'r argyfwng hinsawdd ac yn sicrhau y bydd cymunedau lleoli yn gallu byw bywydau trydan modern gyda llai o ddbyniaeth ar danwydd ffosil.

Mae Green GEN Cymru, sy'n rhan o grŵp Bute Energy, wedi'i leoli yng Nghymru ac mae ganddo agwedd unigryw Gymreig. Bydd ein rhwydwaith yn cael ei gynllunio yng Nghymru, i Gymru, a byddwn yn ei ddarparu heb ddefnyddio unrhyw arian cyhoeddus.

Pam mae angen y prosiect hwn?

Bydd Green GEN Tywi Wysg yn cysylltu Parc Ynni Nant Mithil Bute Energy, a fydd yn cynhyrchu tua 237MW (megawat) o ynni gwyrdd glân yn ardal Fforest Maesyfed, â'r grid cenedlaethol. Bydd yn dod ag ynni gwyrdd glân i'r cartrefi a'r busnesau sydd ei angen. Yn bwysig iawn, bydd prosiectau ynni gwyrdd eraill hefyd yn gallu cysylltu, gan leihau faint o seilwaith ychwanegol fydd ei angen yn y dyfodol.

Bydd Green GEN Tywi Wysg hefyd yn caniatáu cysylltu prosiectau cymunedol yn uniongyrchol, gan leihau'r pwysau ar y grid trydan presennol, cefnogi cadernid ynni, busnesau gwyrdd a galluogi gwres gwyrdd a chyfiwyno cerbydau trydan ledled Cymru – yn enwedig mewn ardaloedd gwledig.

Bydd y grid hwn nid yn unig yn cludo ynni gwyrdd ledled Cymru, ond mae ganddo hefyd y potensial i gefnogi technolegau fel 5G a allai helpu ffermwyr, ysgolion a busnesau i fod ar flaen y gad ym maes technoleg tra'n byw mewn ardal wledig. Bydd y prosiect yn cael effaith parhaol a chadarnhaol ar bobl Cymru.

Consultation Leaflet (page 2 of 6)



What does the project involve?

The Green GEN Towy Usk proposal is for a new 132kV (132,000-volt) double-circuit overhead line, supported on steel pylons, between a substation on the Nant Mithl Energy Park in the Radnor Forest area and a new substation on the existing National Grid 400kV (400,000-volt) transmission line near Llandyfaelog, between Carmarthen and Pont Abraham.

When drawing up our plans, we compared the environmental, technical and cost implications of 11 potential connection options. Following this work, connecting the Nant Mithl Energy Park to the national grid in the Carmarthen area was determined to be the most appropriate solution to take forward for more detailed routing studies and consultation.

What will Green GEN Towy Usk look like?

The new 132kV overhead line will be carried on steel lattice pylons. We need to use steel pylons because there will be two circuits (three sets of wires on each side of the pylons), carrying more power than can be carried safely on a single line of wooden poles. Each pylon will have three arms on each side, and each arm will carry a set of wires – known as conductors.

The standard height for a 132kV pylon is 27m. The average distance between pylons, or span length, is approximately 250m. Exact pylon heights and span lengths can be increased or decreased depending on the terrain they cross, or obstacles like streams and rivers.

Community Benefit Fund

Bute Energy is setting up a Community Benefit Fund that will invest millions of pounds every year into local communities. The funding will come from the Bute Energy Energy Parks that connect to Green GEN Towy Usk. In this unique approach every year Bute Energy alone will pay £7500 per MW of installed capacity into the fund, which will be shared between the communities closest to the Energy Parks and those along the grid routes.

The Bute Energy Community Benefit team will be talking with local people and organisations about the projects, groups and services they are engaged with and how we can help. Let us know who's doing great work where you live so that we can speak with them. We want to be good neighbours as a part of a thriving community.

Beth mae'r prosiect yn ei olygu?

Mae cynnig Green GEN Towy Wysg ar gyfer llinell uwchben cyched dwbl 132kV (132,000 folt), a gefnogi ar bellonau dur, rhwng is-orasaf ar Banc Ynni Nant Mithl yn ardal Fforest Maesfryd ac is-orasaf newydd ar llinell drwsymu 400kV (400,000 folt) bresennol y National Grid ger Llandyfaelog, rhwng Caerfyrddin a Phont Abraham.

Wrth lunio ein cynlluniau, gwnaethom gymharu goblyddiau amgylcheddol, technegol a chost 11 opsiwn cysylltu posibl. Yn dilyn y gwaith hwn, penderwyd y biddai cysylltu Parc Ynni Nant Mithl â'r grid cenedlaethol yn ardal Caerfyrddin yn ddyddig o fod yr ateb mwyaf priodol i fwrw ymlaen ag ef ar gyfer astudiaethau llywbro ac ymgynghori manylach.

Sut fydd Green GEN Towy Wysg yn edrych?

Fydd y llinell uwchben 132kV newydd yn cael ei chldo ar bellonau delit dur. Mae angen i ni ddefnyddio bellonau dur oherwydd bydd dwy gylched (tair set o wirfau ar ddwy ochr y pylonau), sy'n cudo mwy o bŵer nag y gellir ei gudo'n ddiogel ar un llinell o bellon pren. Bydd gan bob pylon dair brach ar bob ochr, a bydd gan bob brach set o wirfau – a eirir yn darsgolyddion.

Uchder safonol bellon 132kV yw 27m. Mae'r pellter cyfartalog rhwng bellonau, neu 'hyd rhychiawnt', oddeutu 250m. Mae modd cynyddu neu leihau union uchder y bellonau a'r hydodd yn dibynnu ar y tir maen nhw'n ei croesi, neu rwystrau fel nantydd ac afonydd.

Cronfa Budd Cymunedol

Mae Bute Energy yn sefydlu Cronfa Budd Cymunedol a fydd yn buddsoddi miliynau o bunnedd bob blyddyn mewn cymunedau lleol. Daw'r cyllid gan Banelau Ynni Bute Energy sy'n cysylltu â Green GEN Towy Wysg. Yn y dull unigryw hwn bob blyddyn bydd Bute Energy yn unig yn talu £7500 y MW o gapasiti wedi'i osod yn ymrodd i fydd yn cael ei rannu rhwng y cymunedau sydd agosaf at y Parcâu Ynni a'r rheini sydd ar hyd lwybrau'r grid.

Bydd tîm Budd Cymunedol Bute Energy yn siarad â phobl a sefydladau lleol am y prosiectau, y grŵpau a'r gwasanaethau maen nhw'n ymwneud â nhw a sut gallwn ni helpu. Rhoddi wybod i ni pwy sy'n gwneud gwaith gwyb yn lle rydych chi'n byw er mwyn i ni allu siarad â nhw. Rydym ni eisieu bod yn gymdoglon da fel rhan o gymuned fhyanniannu.

How to have your say

Our public consultation runs from Monday 06 March 2023 to Friday 28 April 2023.

We welcome your feedback, which you can send to us using the online form at www.greengentowysusk.com or by completing a hard copy form (available at our exhibitions or on request).

You can email us at:

Info@greengentowysusk.com

You can write to us free of charge at:

FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK

You can call us free of charge on:

0800 3777 339

If you think our project might affect land you own or occupy, please contact us and we will ask our land agents Bruton Knowles to get in touch.

What happens next?

New overhead lines of 132kV, and other overhead lines associated with a devalued generation station, are classed as a Development of National Significance (DNS) in Wales. This means that decisions are made by Welsh Ministers, and developers must submit consent applications to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).

Following this first round of public consultation, we will carefully consider all feedback received, along with reports from our environmental and technical surveys.

We will continue talking to landowners, communities and stakeholders (such as Natural Resources Wales and local Planning Authorities) to help us develop our proposal. These conversations and engagement will help us to develop a detailed design and alignment for the new overhead line, including locations for pylons, access routes and working areas.

We will publish a report summarising the feedback received in this first round of consultation and how this has influenced our proposals.

We will then carry out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and hold further public consultation, so that people can give us their views on the detailed route alignment including locations for pylons, access routes and working areas.

After considering feedback received in future consultation, we will finalise our proposals and submit applications for consent. The Welsh Ministers will then examine our applications in detail and make a decision, which requires their consent under the Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016.

Dwued eich dwued

Bydd ein rownd gyntaf o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd yn cael ei chynnal rhwng dydd Lun 06 Mawrth 2023 a dydd Gwener 28 Ebrill 2023.

Rydym ni'n croesawu eich adborth, y gallwch ei anfon atom gan ddefnyddio'r ffurflen arlein yn www.greengentowysusk.com neu drwy lenwi ffurflen copï cated fydd ar gael yn ein harddangosfeydd neu ar gais.

Gallwch anfon e-bost atom:

Info@greengentowysusk.com

Gallwch ysgrifennu atom yn rhad ac am ddim yn:

FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK

Gallwch ein ffonio am ddim ar:

0800 3777 339

Os ydych chi'n meddwl y gallai ein prosiect effaithio ar y tir rydych chi'n berchen arno neu'n ei feddiannu, cysylltwch â ni a byddwn yn gofyn i'n hasiantau tic Bruton Knowles, ysylltu â chi.

Beth sy'n digwydd nesaf?

Mae llinellau uwchben newydd 132kV, a llinellau uwchben arall sy'n gysylltu â gorsaf gynhyrchu datganoledig, yn cael eu hystyried yn Ddatblygiad o Arwyddocaidd Cenedlaethol (DNS) yng Nghymru. Mae hyn yn golygu bod penderfyniadau'n cael eu gwneud gan Weinidogion Cymru, a rhoddi i ddatblygwyr gyflwyno cais iadau am gytundeb i Benderfyniadau Dynolunio ac Amgylchedd Cymru (PCAC).

Yn dilyn y rownd gyntaf hon o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd, byddwn yn ofynnol i'n hasiantau'r holl adborth a gawn, ynghyd ag adroddiadau o'n harlygon amgylcheddol a rheolegol.

Byddwn yn siarad i siarad â thirfodolwyr cymunedau a manddellid (fel Cyfoeth Naturio Cymru ac Awdurdodau Cynllunio lleol) i'n helpu i ddatblygu ein cynnig. Bydd y siaradau a'r ymgynghori hyn yn ein helpu i ddatblygu dyluniad manwl ac allmud ar gyfer y llinell uwchben newydd, gan gynnwys lleoliadau ar gyfer pylonau, lwybrau mynediad ac ardaloedd gwaith.

Byddwn yn cyhoeddi adroddiad yn crynhoi'r adborth a gafwyd yn y rownd gyntaf hon o ymgynghori a sut mae hyn wedi dylanwadu ar ein cynnig.

Byddwn wedyn yn cynnal Assiad Effaith Amgylcheddol manwl ac yn cynnal ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus pellach, er mwyn i bobol allu rhoi eu barn i ni ar yr alioedd llyw'r manwl gan gynnwys lleoliadau ar gyfer pylonau, lwybrau mynediad ac ardaloedd gwaith.

Ar ôl i'w hystyried yr adborth a gafwyd mewn ymgynghoriad yn y dyfodol, byddwn yn cwblhau ein cynnig ac yn cyflwyno cais iadau am ganiatid. Bydd Weinidogion Cymru wedyn yn archwilio ein cais iadau'n fawr ac yn gwneud penderfyniad, sy'n gofyn am eu cytundeb o dan Reoladau Datblygiadau o Arwyddocaidd Cenedlaethol (Cymru) 2016.

Consultation Leaflet (page 3 of 6)

Public consultation

We want to hear your views. Our first round of public consultation runs from Monday 06 March 2023 to Friday 28 April 2023.

Green GEN Cymru is proposing to build a 100% renewable energy network in Wales – to invest in communities and enrich the lives of people in Wales. We're listening and responding to everyone's views so that we can develop the best solution for the environment and for those living across the country.

We know that new infrastructure can be disruptive to communities. We are committed to doing everything we can to cause the least disturbance to the environment and those who live, work and enjoy recreation close to our proposals.

In this first round of consultation we would like your views on our preferred overhead line route, and anything you would like us to consider when planning where the pylons should go.

Come and see us

You can find out more, and ask questions of the project team, at one of our public exhibitions:

Thursday 23 March, 2pm to 7:30pm

Montgomery Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY

Saturday 25 March, 11am to 4pm

Llandeilo Fawr Civic Hall, 17 Crescent Road, Llandeilo SA19 6HW

Tuesday 28 March, 2pm to 7:30pm

Penybont District Community Centre, Penybont, nr Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UA

Wednesday 29 March, 2pm to 7:30pm

Llandoverly Rugby Club, Church Bank, Llandoverly SA20 0BA

Thursday 30 March, 2pm to 7:30pm

Llandyfaelog Community Hall, Carmarthenshire SA17 5PA

Online events

We will also be holding online sessions. To find out more and to take part, please visit www.greengentowysk.com

Ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus

Rydyn ni eisiau clywed eich barn. Bydd ein rownd gyntaf o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd yn cael ei chynnal rhwng dydd Llun 06 Mawrth 2023 a dydd Gwener 28 Ebrill 2023.

Mae Green GEN Cymru yn bwriadu adeiladu rhwydwaith ynni adnewyddadwy 100% yng Nghymru – i fuddsoddi mewn cymunedau a chyfoethogi bywydau pobl yng Nghymru. Rydyn ni'n gwrandao ac yn ymateb i farn pawb er mwyn i ni allu datblygu'r ateb gorau i'r amgylchedd ac i'r rheini sy'n byw ledled y wlad.

Gwyddom y gall seilwaith newydd amharu ar gymunedau. Rydyn ni wedi ymrwymo i wneud popeth o fewn ein gallu i darfu cyn lleied â phosibl ar yr amgylchedd a'r rheini sy'n byw, yn gweithio ac yn mwynhau gweithgareddau hamdden yn agos at ein cynigion.

Yn y rownd gyntaf hon o ymgynghori, hoffem gael eich barn ar y llwybr llinell uwchben sy'n cael ei ffafrio gennym, ac unrhyw beth yr hoffech i ni ei ystyried wrth gynllunio ble y dylai'r peilonau fynd.

Dewch i'n gweld ni

Gallwch gael rhagor o wybodaeth, a gofyn cwestiynau i dîm y prosiect, yn un o'n harddangosfeydd cyhoeddus:

Dydd Iau 23 Mawrth, 2pm ac 7:30pm

Pafiliwn Trefaldwyn, Maes Sioe Frenhinol Cymru, Llanfair-ym-Muallt LD2 3SY

Dydd Sadwrn 25 Mawrth, 11am ac 4pm

Neuadd Ddinesig Llandeilo Fawr, 17 Heol y Cilgant, Llandeilo SA19 6HW

Dydd Mawrth 28 Mawrth, 2pm ac 7:30pm

Canolfan Gymunedol Ardal Pen-y-bont, Pen-y-bont, ger Llandrindod LD1 5UA

Dydd Mercher 29 Mawrth, 2pm ac 7:30pm

Ciwb Rygbi Llanymddyfri, Banc yr Eglwys, Llanymddyfri SA20 0BA

Dydd Iau 30 Mawrth, 2pm ac 7:30pm

Neuadd Gymunedol Llandyfaelog, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA17 5PA

Digwyddiad ar-lein

Byddwn hefyd yn cynnal sesiynau ar-lein. I gael gwybod mwy ac i gymryd rhan, ewch i www.greengentowysk.com

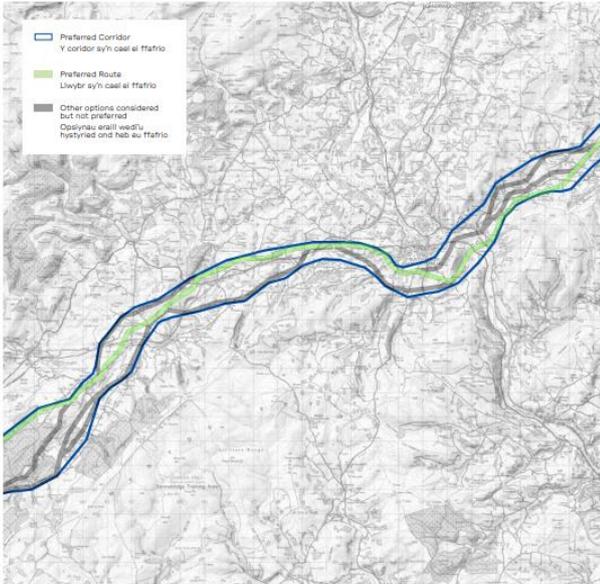
Consultation Leaflet (page 5 of 6)

2 Builth Wells to Llangammarch Wells

The preferred route then heads west, passing south of Builth Wells, screened by the low hill of Garth and avoiding wooded slopes south-west of the town. The route crosses the railway line and A483 just south of Cilmerly, and then runs in parallel with them (on the north side) to a point just west of Garth, where it crosses the A483 again to head south-west towards Llangammarch Wells.

Llanfair-ym-Muallt i Llangammarch

Yna, mae'r llywybr yn mynd tua'r gorllewin, gan basio i'r de o Lanfair-ym-Muallt, wedi'i guddio gan fryn isel Garth ac osgoi llethrau coedlog i'r de-orllewin o'r dref. Mae'r llywybr yn croesi'r rheilffordd ar A483 ychydig i'r de o Gilmerly, ac yna'n rhedeg yn gyfochrog â nhw (ar yr ochr ogleddol) i bwynt ychydig i'r gorllewin o Garth, lle mae'n croesi'r A483 eto i gyfeirnod y de-orllewin tuag at Llangammarch.

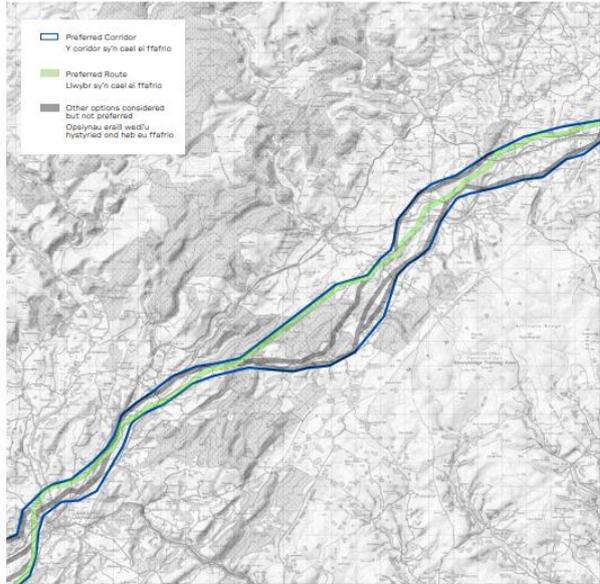


3 Llangammarch Wells to Llandoverly

The preferred route continues south-west to Bryn-belli (between Llanwrtydy Wells and the Sennybridge Training Area) and then along the edge of Crychan Forest, keeping south of Cynghorby to a point where it meets the railway line north of Abercrychan, near Llandoverly.

Llangammarch i Lanymddyfri

Mae'r llywybr yn parhau i'r de-orllewin i Fryn-belli (rhwng Llanwrtydy ac Ardal Hyfforddi Pontrevel) ac yna ar hyd ymyl Coedwig Crychan, gan gadw i'r de o'r Cynghorby i bwynt lle mae'n cwrdd â'r rheilffordd i'r gogledd o Abercrychan, ger Llanymddyfri.

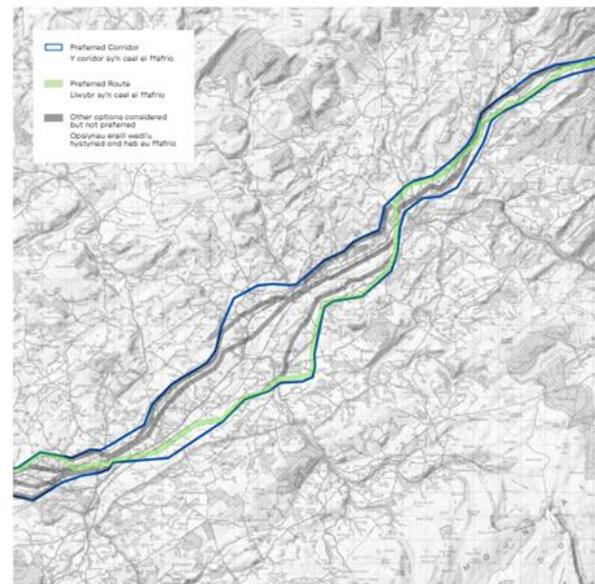


4 Llandoverly to Llandeilo

The preferred route keeps west of Llandoverly, then turns south to cross the A40 and the River Towy. It then heads south-west, contained within a side valley away from the Towy valley so it is less visible from areas popular with visitors. Continuing south-west, it keeps to the east of Llangadog and south of Mandello to a point near Rhosmaen, north of Llandeilo.

Llanymddyfri i Llandeilo

Mae'r llywybr yn cadw i'r gorllewin o Lanymddyfri, yna'n troi i'r de i grosi'r A40 ar Afon Towy. Wedyn mae'n mynd i'r de-orllewin, sydd ar ochr y dyffryn oddi wrth dyffryn Towy, felly mae'n llai amlwg oddi wrth ardaloedd sy'n boblogaidd gydag ymwelwyr. Gan barhau i'r de-orllewin, mae'n mynd i'r dwyrain o Llangadog ac i'r de o Faenordello i bwynt ger Rhosmaen, i'r gogledd o Llandeilo.

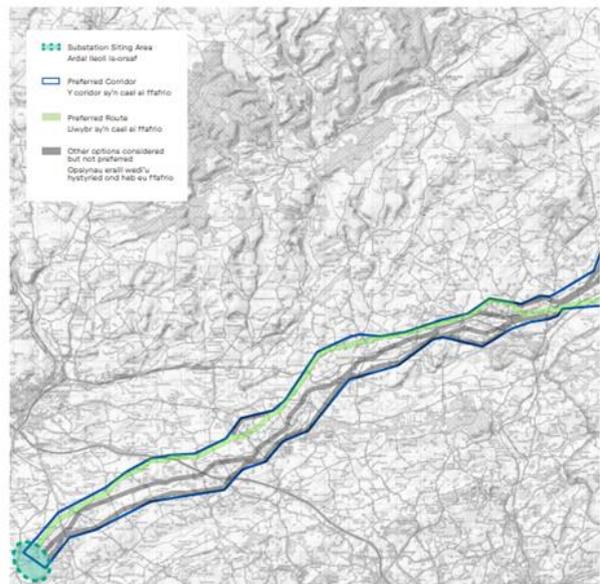


5 Llandeilo to Llandyfaelog

The preferred route keeps north of Llandeilo, heading south-west and passing to the west of Llanarthne before crossing the A48 at a point east of Nantycaws. It continues south-west to reach the existing National Grid 400kV electricity transmission line north of Llandyfaelog. The preferred route in this section has less impact than other options on woodland, forestry and designated nature sites.

Llandeilo i Llandyfaelog

Mae'r llywybr yn cadw i'r gogledd o Llandeilo, gan fynd tua'r de-orllewin a mynd i'r gorllewin o Lanarthne cyn croesi'r A48 ar bwynt i'r dwyrain o Nantycaws. Mae'n parhau i'r de-orllewin i gyrraedd llinell trawsyru trydan 400kV bresennol National Grid i'r gogledd o Llandyfaelog. Mae'r llywybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio yn yr adran hon yn cael llai o effaith nag opsiynau eraill ar goetiroedd, coedwigaeth a safleoedd natur dymodedig.



Consultation Leaflet (page 6 of 6)

Find out more

You can find project documents and more information at our project website www.greengentowyusk.com, or by coming to one of our public exhibitions. Folders containing our project documents are also available to view at the following locations:

Deposit locations: Green GEN Towy Usk		
Location	Contact details	Opening hours
Llandrindod Wells Library, Powys	The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AA Tel: 01597 826870 Email: llandrindod.library@powys.gov.uk	Monday to Wednesday: 9am to 5pm Thursday: 9am to 6pm, Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm Saturday: 9.30am to 12.30pm
Builth Wells Library, Powys	Builth Library, Antur Gwy, Park Road, Builth Wells, Powys LD2 3BA Tel: 01982 552722 Email: builth.library@powys.gov.uk	Mon/Tue: 9.30am to 1pm, 2pm to 4.30pm Wednesday: Closed, Thursday: 9.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5.45pm Friday: 10am to 1pm Sat: 10am to 12.15pm
Llanwrtyd Community Library, Powys	Library Service Llanwrtyd, Ysgol Dolefon C.P., Llanwrtyd Wells LD5 4RA Tel: 01591 610657 Email: LlanwrtydCommunityLibrary@outlook.com	Tuesday: 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm Wednesday: 10am to 12.30pm Friday: 10am to 12.30pm, Saturday: 10am to 12pm
Newtown Library, Powys	Newtown Library, Park Lane, Newtown, Powys SY16 1EJ Tel: 01686 626934 Email: newtown.library@powys.gov.uk	Monday: 9am to 5pm, Tuesday: 9am to 6pm Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 9am to 5pm Friday: 8am to 4pm, Saturday: 9.30am to 1pm
Llandoverly Library, Carmarthenshire	Town Hall, Market Square, Llandoverly SA20 0AA Tel: 01550 721626 Email: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Monday: 10am to 6pm (closed 1pm to 2pm) Tuesday and Wednesday: Closed Thursday: 10am to 6pm (closed 1pm to 2pm) Friday: Closed
Llandello Library	Crescent Rd, Llandello SA19 6HN Tel: 01558 825323 Email: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Monday: Closed Tuesday: 10 am to 1 pm, 2 to 6pm Wednesday: 1.30pm to 5.30pm Thursday: Closed Friday: 10am to 1 pm, 2 to 6pm Saturday: 9am to 1 pm
Carmarthen Library	9 St Peter's St, Carmarthen SA31 1LN Tel: 01267 224824 Email: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Monday: 9am to 7pm, Tuesday: 9 am to 6pm Wednesday: 9am to 6pm, Thursday: 9am to 7pm Friday: 9am to 6pm, Saturday: 9am to 5pm

Rhagor o wybodaeth

Mae dogfenau'r prosiect a rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefan ein prosiect www.greengentowyusk.com, neu drwy ddisod i un o'n harddangosfeydd cyhoeddus. Mae ffolden yn cynnwys dogfenau ein prosiect hefyd ar gael i'w gweld yn y lleoliadau canlynol:

Lleoliadau adneuo: Green GEN Tywi Wysg		
Lleoliad	Manylion cyswilt	Oriau agor
Llyfrgell Llandrindod, Powys	Y Gwalia, Ffordd Ithon, Llandrindod, LD1 6AA Ffôn: 01597 826870 E-bost: llandrindod.library@powys.gov.uk	Dydd Llun i ddydd Mercher: 9am i 5pm Dydd Iau: 9am i 6pm, Dydd Gwener: 8.30am i 4.30pm Dydd Sadwrn: 9.30am i 12.30pm
Llyfrgell Llanfai-nym-Mualit, Powys	Llyfrgell Llanfai-nym-Mualit, Antur Gwy, Ffordd y Parc, Llanfai-nym-Mualit, Powys LD2 3BA Ffôn: 01982 552722 E-bost: builth.library@powys.gov.uk	Dydd Llun a Mawrth: 9.30am i 1pm, 2pm i 4.30pm Dydd Mercher: Wedi cau Dydd Iau: 9.30am i 1pm and 2pm i 5.45pm Dydd Gwener: 10am to 1pm Dydd Sadwrn: 10am i 12.15pm
Llyfrgell Gymunedol Llanwrtyd, Powys	Gwasanaeth Llyfrgell Llanwrtyd, Ysgol Gynradd Dolefon, Llanwrtyd LD5 4RA Ffôn: 01591 610657 E-bost: LlanwrtydCommunityLibrary@outlook.com	Dydd Mawrth: 10am i 12.30pm a 2pm i 4.30pm Dydd Mercher: 10am i 12.30pm Dydd Gwener: 10am i 12.30pm Dydd Sadwrn: 10am i 12pm
Llyfrgell y Drenewydd, Powys	Llyfrgell y Drenewydd, Park Lane, Y Drenewydd, Powys SY16 1EJ Ffôn: 01686 626934 E-bost: newtown.library@powys.gov.uk	Dydd Llun: 9am i 5pm, Dydd Mawrth: 9am i 6pm Dydd Mercher: Wedi cau, Dydd Iau: 9am i 5pm Dydd Gwener: 8am i 4pm Dydd Sadwrn: 9.30am i 1pm
Llyfrgell Llanymddyfri, Sir Gaerfyrddin	Neusdd y Dref, Sgwâr y Farchnad, Llanymddyfri SA20 0AA Ffôn: 01550 721626 E-bost: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Dydd Llun: 10am i 6pm (ar gau rhwng 1pm a 2pm) Dydd Mawrth a dydd Mercher: Wedi cau Dydd Iau: 10am i 6pm (ar gau rhwng 1pm a 2pm) Dydd Gwener: Wedi cau
Llyfrgell Llandello	Crescent Rd, Llandello SA19 6HN Ffôn: 01558 825323 E-bost: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Dydd Llun: Wedi cau Dydd Mawrth: 10 am tan 1 pm, 2 i 6pm Dydd Mercher: 1.30pm i 5.30pm, Dydd Iau: Wedi cau Dydd Gwener: 10am i 1pm, 2 i 6pm Dydd Sadwrn: 9am i 1pm
Llyfrgell Caerfyrddin	9 Heol San Pedr, Caerfyrddin SA31 1LN Ffôn: 01267 224824 E-bost: libraries@carthenshire.gov.uk	Dydd Llun: 9am i 7pm, Dydd Mawrth: 9am i 6pm Dydd Mercher: 9am i 6pm, Dydd Iau: 9am i 7pm Dydd Gwener: 9am i 6pm, Dydd Sadwrn: 9am i 5pm



Appendix C - Consultation publicity

Green GEN Towy Usk

We'd like your views

Green GEN Cymru, part of the Bute Energy Group, is developing the energy network in Wales to get more clean, green energy to our homes and businesses, helping to fight climate change and secure future Welsh energy supplies.

Green GEN Towy Usk will link Bute Energy's Nant Mithil Energy Park to the national grid. We have identified a preferred route for a new overhead power line, and we would like to hear your views to help us develop our plans.

Our first round of public consultation runs from 06 March 2023 to 26 April 2023.

You can find full details, maps and documents on our project website www.greengentowyusk.com. You can comment online at the website or contact us in one of the following ways:

-  Email: info@greengentowyusk.com
-  Post: FREEPOST GREEN GEN TOWY USK
-  Phone: 0800 3777 339

At this stage, your comments are not representations to the planning authority. If we do make an application for development consent in future, you will be able to make formal representations at that stage.

Green GEN Tywi Wysg

Hoffem glywed eich barn

Mae Green GEN Cymru, rhan o Grŵp Bute Energy, yn datblygu'r rhwydwaith ynni yng Nghymru i gael mwy o ynni glân, gwydd i'n cartrefi a'n busnesau, gan helpu i frwydro yn erbyn newid yn yr hinsawdd a sicrhau cyflenwadau ynni Cymreig yn y dyfodol.

Bydd Green GEN Tywi Wysg yn cysylltu Parc Ynni Nant Mithil Bute Energy i'r grid cenedlaethol. Rydym ni wedi nodi llwybr sy'n cael ei ffafrio ar gyfer llinell bŵer uwchben newydd, a hoffem glywed eich barn i'n helpu ni i ddatblygu ein cynlluniau.

Bydd ein rownd gyntaf o ymgynghori â'r cyhoedd yn cael ei chynnal rhwng 06 Mawrth 2023 a 26 Ebrill 2023.

Mae manylion llawn, mapiau a dogfenau ar gael ar wefan ein prosiect www.greengentowyusk.com. Gallwch wneud sylwadau ar-lein ar y wefan neu gysylltu â ni yn un o'r ffordd canlynol:

-  E-bost: info@greengentowyusk.com
-  Post: RHADBOST GREEN GEN TYWI WYSG
-  Rhif ffôn: 0800 3777 339

Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw eich sylwadau'n gynrychioliadau i'r awdurdod cynllunio. Os byddwn yn gwneud cais am gytundeb datblygu yn y dyfodol, byddwch yn gallu cyflwyno sylwadau ffurfiol bryd hynny.

**GREEN
GEN
CYMRU**

Public exhibitions

During March we will hold five events where you can view our proposals and ask questions of our project team:

- Thursday 23 March, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Montgomery Pavilion, Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells LD2 3SY
- Saturday 25 March, 11am to 4pm**
Llandello Fawr Civic Hall, 17 Crescent Road, Llandello SA19 6HW
- Tuesday 28 March, 2pm to 7.30pm**
Penybont District Community Centre, nr Llandrindod Wells LD1 5UA
- Wednesday 29 March, 2pm to 8pm**
Llanoverly Rugby Club, Church Bank, Llanoverly SA20 0BA
- Thursday 30 March, 2pm to 8pm**
Llandyfaelog Community Hall, Carmarthen SA17 5PA

We will also be holding online sessions. To find out more and to take part, please visit www.greengentowyusk.com

Arddangosfeydd cyhoeddus

Yn ystod mis Mawrth, byddwn yn cynnal pum digwyddiad lle gallwch weld ein cynigion a gofyn cwestiynau i dîm ein prosiect:

- Dydd Iau 23 Mawrth, rhwng 2pm ac 7.30pm**
Pafiliwn Trefaldwyn, Maes Sioe Frenhinol Cymru, Llanfair-ym-Muallt LD2 3SY
- Dydd Sedwrn 25 Mawrth, rhwng 11am a 4pm**
Neuadd Ddinasig Llandello Fawr, 17 Heol y Cigant, Llandello SA19 6HW
- Dydd Mawrth 28 Mawrth, rhwng 2pm ac 7.30pm**
Canolfan Gymunedol Ardai Penybont, ger Llandrindod LD1 5UA
- Dydd Mercher 29 Mawrth, rhwng 2pm ac 7.30pm**
Clwb Rygbi Llanymddyfri, Banc yr Eglwys, Llanymddyfri SA20 0BA
- Dydd Iau 30 Mawrth, rhwng 2pm ac 7.30pm**
Neuadd Gymunedol Llandyfaelog, Sir Gaerfyrddin SA17 5PA

Byddwn hefyd yn cynnal sesiynau ar-lein. I gael gwybod mwy ac i gymryd rhan, ewch i www.greengentowyusk.com



Information points

You can also view hard copies of project documents at the following locations. Opening hours vary; please check before travelling.

Llandrindod Wells Library Llyfrgell Llandrindod	The Gwalia, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AA Gwalia, Ffordd Ithon, Llandrindod, LD1 6AA
Builth Wells Library Llyfrgell Llanfair-ym-Muallt	Antur Gwy, Park Road, Builth Wells LD2 3BA Antur Gwy, Ffordd y Parc, Llanfair-ym-Muallt, Powys LD2 3BA
Llanwrtyd Library Llyfrgell Llanwrtyd	Ysgol Dolafon C.P., Llanwrtyd Wells LD5 4RA Ysgol Gynradd Ddlaefon, Llanwrtyd LD5 4RA
Newtown Library Llyfrgell Y Drenewydd	Park Lane, Newtown SY16 1EJ Park Lane, Y Drenewydd, Powys SY16 1EJ
Llanoverly Library Llyfrgell Llanymddyfri	Town Hall, Llanoverly SA20 0AA Neuadd y Dref, Sgwâr y Farchnad, Llanymddyfri SA20 0AA
Llandello Library Llyfrgell Llandello	Crescent Rd, Llandello SA19 6HN Heol y Cigant, Llandello SA19 6HN
Carmarthen Library Llyfrgell Caerfyrddin	9 St Peter's St, Carmarthen SA31 1LN 9 Heol San Fêr, Caerfyrddin SA31 1LN

Pwyntiau Gwybodaeth

Gallwch hefyd weld copiâu caled o ddogfenau prosiect yn y lleoliadau canlynol. Mae'r oriau agor yn amrywio; dylech holi cyn teithio.

Appendix D - List of technical stakeholders that were contacted at the start of consultation

MP Brecon and Radnorshire
MP Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
MP Montgomeryshire
MP Dwyfor Meirionnydd
MP Ceredigion
MP Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
MP Llanelli
MP Gower
MS Brecon and Radnorshire
MS Montgomeryshire
MS Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
MS Ceredigion
MS Carmarthen West and South Pembs
MS Llanelli
MS Gower
MS Mid and West Wales
MS South West Wales
MS South West Wales
MS South West Wales
MS South West Wales
PEDW

Welsh Government - Director General, Climate Change and Rural Affairs
Welsh Government - Director, Climate Change
Welsh Government - Deputy Director, Energy
Welsh Government - Head of Decarbonisation
Welsh Government - Energy Adviser to the Welsh Government
Welsh Government - Head of Domestic Energy and Fuel Poverty
Welsh Government - Head of Energy Delivery
Welsh Government - Energy Policy Manager, Renewable Capacity
Welsh Government - Head of Renewable Energy
Welsh Government - Senior Energy Policy Manager - Power
Welsh Government - Senior Energy Policy Manager
Welsh Government - Energy Policy Officer
Welsh Government - Energy Policy Manager
Welsh Government - Energy Officer
Welsh Government - Energy Delivery Manager
Welsh Government - Oil and Gas Licensing Manager
Welsh Government - Renewable Energy Technical Manager
Welsh Government - Energy Programme Officer - Power
Transport directorate of the Welsh Government
Transport for Wales
Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Cadw
The Canal & River Trust
Ministry of Defence
Network Rail
Powys County Council - Head of Property, Planning and Public Protection
Carmarthenshire County Council - Director of Environment (Planning)

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Penybont Community Council
New Radnor Community Council
Glascwm Community Council
Llanelwedd Community Council
Duhonw Community Council
Builth Wells Town Council
Builth Community Council
Cilmery Community Council
Treflys Community Council
Llangammarch Community Council
Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Community Council
Llandoverly Community Council
Llanwrda Community Council
Myddfai Community Council
Llangadog Community Council
Llansadwrn Community Council
Manordeilo and Salem Community Council
Llandeilo Community Council
Llangathen Community Council
Llanegwad Community Council
Llanarthney Community Council
Llanddarog Community Council
Llangunnor Community Council
Llangyndeyrn Community Council
Cilycwm Community Council
Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council

Llanfihangel Aberbythych Community Council
Llanafan Fawr with Garth Council
Cynor Bro Dyffryn Cennen Community Council
Ithon Valley Council
Llandrindod Wells Town Council
Llandyfaelog Community v
RSPB
Wildlife Trusts Wales
Valleys Bat Group
Welsh Kite Trust
Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT)
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT)
Welsh Water
Wales and West Utilities
Central Wales RIGS Sites
National Grid Electricity Transmission
Visit Wales
British Horse Society
Ramblers Cymru
The Long Distance Walking Association (LDWA)
Valleys Bat Group
Sustrans
Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution
National Farmers Union (NFU) Cymru
Countryside Alliance Wales
Country, Land and Business Association Wales
Farmers Union or Wales (FUW)

Appendix E - List of technical stakeholders who responded

MP Brecon and Radnorshire
MP Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
MS Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
MS Mid and West Wales
MS Mid and West Wales
Cadw
Carmarthenshire County Council
Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Glascwm Community Council
Llangammarch Community Council
Llandovery Community Council
Llanwrda Community Council
Llansadwrn Community Council
Manordeilo and Salem Community Council
Llandeilo Community Council
Llanarthney Community Council
Llanddarog Community Council
Llangydeyrn Community Council
Llandyfaelog Community Council
RSPB
Wildlife Trusts Wales
Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT)
Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT)
Woodland Trust
NFU Cymru
National Botanic Garden of Wales
Nature Friendly Farming Network

CPRW
National Trust

Appendix F - Campaign template responses

Campaign 1 (Lobby Network) – English version

Dear Sir/Madam

I am responding to the consultation by Green GEN Cymru on the proposal to install an overhead electricity distribution network via 60 miles of steel pylons from the proposed energy park at Nant Mithil, Radnor Forest to the grid in Carmarthenshire.

The need to embrace renewable energy and to have energy security in Wales is recognised by all, particularly after the impact high energy costs have had this last winter on households and businesses, but I feel strongly that using steel pylons is not the answer and that the cabling should be placed underground to deliver this resource. In fact, nearly 60% of National Grid's electricity distribution network is via underground cables.

I also fully support the Welsh Government's policy that cables should be placed underground as confirmed by the Minister for Climate Change, Julie James MS, in the Senedd on 8 February, who stated that "the policy is that electricity transmission cables should be placed underground where possible, not just in designated landscapes" when referring to the proposal and I firmly believe that Green GEN Cymru must include underground cabling in their plans.

The Welsh landscape has a plethora of benefits for the people of Wales and beyond. It has health, economic, historical, and cultural values which should be maintained and protected. People from all over the world visit Wales for the experience of being absorbed in well-managed picturesque landscapes, and this in turn ensures a thriving tourism economy which is essential for rural communities the length and breadth of Wales. Tourism is worth £6.2 billion to the Welsh economy, 13% of the total economy, and in mid-Wales 13% of employment is in tourism which demonstrates the reliance this area has on this important industry. Furthermore, people who have been brought up here or chose to live here and make Wales their home, also embrace the very same benefits as those who holiday with us.

I am totally opposed to the project's proposal of overhead lines on pylons as a method of energy distribution and believe that Green GEN Cymru must revisit its consultation and include underground cabling as an option for this infrastructure project.

Yours sincerely

[Name]

Campaign 1 (Lobby Network) – Welsh version

Annwyl Sir/Madam

Rwy'n ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad gan Green GEN Cymru ar y cynnig i osod rhwydwaith dosbarthu trydan uwchben ar ffurf 60 milltir o beilonau dur o'r parc ynni arfaethedig yn Nant Mithil, Coedwig Maesyfed, i'r grid yn Sir Gaerfyrddin.

Mae pawb yn cydnabod bod angen cofleidio ynni adnewyddadwy a chael sicrwydd o ran egni yng Nghymru, yn enwedig yn sgil yr effaith y mae costau uchel ynni wedi'i chael dros y gaeaf ar aelwydydd a busnesau, ond teimlaf yn gryf nad defnyddio peilonau dur yw'r ateb ac y dylid gosod y ceblau dan ddaear er mwyn darparu'r adnodd hwn. Yn wir, mae bron i 60% o rwydwaith dosbarthu trydan y Grid Cenedlaethol ar ffurf ceblau tanddaearol.

Rwyf hefyd yn llwyr gefnogi polisi Llywodraeth Cymru, sef y dylai ceblau gael eu gosod dan ddaear, fel y cadarnhaodd y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd, Julie James, AS, yn y Senedd ar 8 Chwefror. Bryd hynny, datganodd 'y polisi yw y dylid gosod ceblau trawsyrru trydan o dan y ddaear lle bo modd, nid yn unig mewn tirweddau dynodedig' wrth gyfeirio at y cynnig, a chredaf yn bendant fod rhaid i Green GEN Cymru gynnwys ceblau tanddaearol yn eu cynlluniau.

Mae gan dirwedd Cymru lu o fuddion i bobl Cymru a'r tu hwnt. Mae ganddi werthoedd iechyd, economaidd, hanesyddol a diwylliannol y dylid eu cynnal a'u diogelu. Mae pobl o bob cwr o'r byd yn ymweld â Chymru ar gyfer y profiad o ymgolli yn y tirweddau prydferth a reolir yn dda, sydd yn ei dro yn sicrhau economi dwristiaeth ffyniannus sy'n hanfodol i gymunedau gwledig ar hyd a lled Cymru. Mae twristiaeth yn werth £6.2 biliwn i economi Cymru, 13% o'r economi gyfan ac, yn y Canolbarth, mae 13% o gyflogaeth ym maes twristiaeth, sy'n dangos dibynadwyedd yr ardal hon ar y diwydiant pwysig hwn. At hynny, mae pobl sydd wedi cael eu magu yma neu sy'n dewis byw yma ac ymgartrefu yng Nghymru, hefyd yn manteisio ar yr un buddion â'r rhai sy'n dod ar eu gwyliau yma.

Rwy'n gwrthwynebu cynnig y prosiect yn llwyr, sef llinellau uwchben ar beilonau fel dull o ddsbarthu ynni, a chredaf fod rhaid i Green GEN Cymru edrych eto ar ei ymgynghoriad a chynnwys ceblau tanddaearol fel opsiwn ar gyfer y prosiect isadeiledd hwn.

Yn Gywir

[Name]

[Email]

Campaign 2

Dear Sirs

Green GEN Pylons Proposal Towy Usk

Following on from the consultation by Green GEN Cymru ("Green GEN"), I am contacting you to object to the proposal to construct a network of pylons through 60 miles of unspoilt Mid Wales, including the

important Towy Valley to link the proposed Nant Mithil Energy Park to the existing National Grid transmission line in Carmarthen.

I am happy to support appropriate green energy projects, but this pylons proposal potentially does huge damage to the landscape, the culture and heritage of Llandovery and surrounding areas together with the local economy.

The consultation run by Green GEN failed to address any of these issues (and numerous others) or to seriously look at alternative routes or solutions, including the undergrounding of cables, which would significantly mitigate some of these concerns. In my view the consultation was presented as a foregone conclusion and merely a PR exercise.

Accordingly, the reasons for my objection include the following:

Negative Visual and Landscape Impact

The Towy Valley is an important and valued landscape and pylons of 27m in height, as set out in the Pylons Proposal, will have a devastating visual and landscape impact on Llandovery and the surrounding areas. Natural Resources Wales describe the Towy Valley as “scenically and ecologically outstanding”. It is also designated a Special Landscape Area, all of which will be heavily negatively impacted by this proposal.

Negative Impact on Llandovery

The proposed route almost encircles Llandovery and these pylons will dwarf and overshadow this small town having a detrimental overbearing impact on its buildings, residents and harming its economy which is largely reliant on tourism. The pylons will be highly visible from critical local landmarks including The Castle, Llanfair-ar-y Bryn church and most of the town.

Cultural and Heritage Damage

Llandovery and the surrounding area has a large number of designated heritage assets which would be negatively impacted upon by the proposal. This Valley’s heritage and cultural significance to Wales is enormous.

Significant Economic Impact on Tourism and Diversification

The Towy Valley is primarily an agricultural area, which has been encouraged by the Welsh Government to diversify. The main diversification has been into tourism, because of the unspoilt, rugged, natural beauty of the area and, indeed, tourism is now a vital part of the local Llandovery economy. There will be no ability to diversify if the Pylons proposal is implemented because the visual landscape will be so altered.

The proposed route goes straight through tourist venues and sites (eg campsites, wedding venues and essential tourist accommodation which includes hotels, B&B and Furnished Holiday Lets which all support the local economy. Tourism is worth approximately £412 million per year to Carmarthenshire as a whole. It is clear, if the pylons proposal were to go ahead, tourism will be severely damaged. These pylons will be seen the length and breadth of the Towy valley and the economic damage to this area is likely to be substantial.

Unsuitable Proposed Route

Green GEN 's preferred and alternative routes are totally unsatisfactory, and the pylons should be undergrounded which is in accordance with Welsh Government policy.

The Minister for Climate Change, Julie James MS has taken the view that undergrounding should be used wherever possible. As such, why have your proposals only dealt with an overhead line based on pylons?

The proposed route will have a considerable impact on agricultural land and yield. Diversification will be hampered, relevant to the sustainability of local farms, also impacting on the Welsh language if traditional farming families, particularly younger members, have to relocate for work.

Lack of Access/ Transportation Consideration

The majority of roads in the Llandovery and surrounding areas area are small and narrow and no serious consideration has been given to this aspect in your consultation.

Health

Green GEN have not considered or taken into account health concerns, particularly cancer and mental health issues of those residents who have large pylons sited close to them. The precautionary principle should be followed, that no pylons should be placed anywhere near homes, schools or nurseries.

No Community Benefit

I do not consider that the Pylons Proposal will have any long-term substantial community benefit. Given the company profile and its overseas investors, there is no circular benefit for the local community, the economy of the Towy Valley or Wales

We need to protect, preserve and enhance the beauty and features of the landscape, the historical heritage and landscape that is the Towy Valley, together with its biodiversity and its economy based directly and indirectly on agriculture, tourism and visitor revenue.

For all the above reasons I am strongly opposed to the Pylons Proposal and any future application for planning permission based on that proposal and I urge you to amend the Towy Usk plan

Yours faithfully

Campaign 3

Response to Green GEN Cymru informal consultation on Towy-Usk electricity line proposal:

I am opposed to the use of pylons and overhead lines in the Llanarthne area and the Tywi Valley.

I want to ensure that the Tywi Valley's distinctive identity and environment remain intact for generations to come.

Pylons: Impact on Visual Landscape

This landscape is unique, exceptional and very beautiful. Natural Resources Wales describes the meandering river and accompanying valley as "scenically and ecologically outstanding". There are the

'finest' 360 degrees views from many sites within the Valley, including Merlin's Hill, Paxton's Tower, Dryslwyn Castle, Dinefwr Castle and the Iron Age Fort at Garn Goch. Pylons are a recognised environmental blot. They are being removed and undergrounded in nationally important landscapes in England and Wales under the Visual Impact Provision Project. The Tywi Valley should be afforded the same protection, respect and reverence. The Welsh Government's preferred position on new power lines is that, "where possible, they should be laid underground". This presumption should apply to the Towy-Usk plan. Green GEN's negating of this presumption, on "viability" grounds, has not been evidenced in the informal consultation documents nor at the informal information events

Pylons: Impact on Heritage and Historical Landscape

This valley's heritage and cultural significance to Wales cannot be overstated. The history of the valley tells of some of the most important parts of the history of Wales. There are iron age hill forts and roman encampments. The Lord Rhys ruled Deheubarth from Grade 1 listed Dinefwr Castle; Owain Glyndwr battled against the English at Grade 1 listed Dryslwyn Castle; Grade II listed Paxton's Tower has links to Lord Nelson. The Battle of Cadfan, which saw Prince Llewelyn (the Last) defeat the English forces, took place near Broad Oak in 1257. Other Grade II listed buildings include Golden Grove Park and Mansion, Aberglasney Mansion and walled Gardens, Cwrt Henri (Court Henry), Llangathen Church and Llanarthne church. The Tywi Valley is a 'registered landscape of outstanding historic interest in Wales'. Painters and poets have been inspired by this landscape for centuries. John Dyer's famous poem, "Grongar Hill" is set near Dryslwyn; JMW Turner produced watercolours of Llandeilo and Dinefwr; and contemporary artists like William Wilkins, Meiron and Joanna Jones continue the valley's creative arts tradition. Many regard the proposal to place pylons in such an inspiring landscape to be nothing short of cultural vandalism.

Pylons: Impact on Economy (Tourism)

Plans to put pylons in an area which is being developed for tourism is at odds with National and County economic strategy. More than £19 million pounds, including Welsh Government money and £16.4 million UK Government levelling up funding, has been invested in the Tywi Valley Path, a cycle trail from Carmarthen to Llandeilo. The Council hopes that the Tywi Valley Path will help to decarbonise travel and expand tourism. According to Council projections, the Tywi Valley Path has the "potential to generate £4.4 million a year for the local economy". Tourism is worth approximately £412 million per year to Carmarthenshire as a whole.

Pylons in the Llanarthne area would have a detrimental impact on the village's camping and caravan sites, Visitor accommodation, holiday cottages, restaurants, pubs and cafés. There could be a significant impact on attractions like the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Abergasney Gardens, Dieefwr Park, Gelli Aur Arboretum, The British Bird of Prey Centre and Paxton's Tower. Overhead lines would adversely affect tourism and visitor revenues. Green GEN's proposal clashes with Carmarthenshire County Council's strategic economic plan. The elected Councillors have unanimously voted on a motion which says No to pylons. Green GEN to rethink the Towy-Usk plan.

Pylons: Impact on Economy/Welsh language (Agriculture)

The area is known for its fine quality alluvial soil, which is valuable for grazing and silage. Generations of farming families have deeply held attachments to the land here, and are regarded as custodians of the valley. There is an agricultural college based at Gelli Aur / Golden Grove. Pylons and overhead cables could mean considerable disruption and land loss for farmers. Safety precautions to prevent flashover from lines may also mean changes to land use, possible changes to field access routes, and safety modifications regarding the use of high agricultural equipment. The Energy Network Association's safety guidance advises farmers to establish six metre exclusion zones around 132kv lines. The top of the pylons' concrete bases will be five metres square, so there will be a considerable adverse impact on useable land and agricultural yields. Diversity will be hampered, relevant to the sustainability of farms, impacting on the Welsh language if traditional farm holders have to relocate for work.

Pylons: Impact on Economy (Property Values)

Property values are bound to be affected by Pylons. There is no compensation for the owners of properties and farms and tourist/ visitor related businesses which will not carry pylons, but which are nearby or overlook pylons. Owners of land carrying pylons will receive some compensation but the statutory compensation scheme is not expected to compensate for the real loss in value and already property owners have lost arranged sales confirming the likely effect on saleability as well as value.

Pylons: Impact on Ecology/Bio-diversity

The valley is a nationally important breeding and feeding ground for some endangered and many protected birds, mammals, invertebrates, aquatic life and fungi. The River Tywi is a site of special scientific Interest (SSSI) and the surrounding land is in a special conservation area (SAC). Waun Las, Llanarthne, and Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, are National Nature Reserves. Parklands, meadows and ancient hedge networks form unique connected habitats which sustain biodiversity. The Tywi boasts Wales' largest breeding population of tree sparrows and is home to Hairstreak butterfly, Riffle beetles, water voles, otters, Plovers, Waxcap mushrooms and rare orchids. Pylons pose particular electrocution risk for water feeding birds with larger wing spans. Whooper and Mute Swans, Red Kites, Egrets and Herons are all present here.

Pylons: Impact on Health and Well- being

The precautionary principle should prevail. Pylons, and overhead wires should not be placed anywhere near homes, schools or nurseries. Llanarthne has many young families and a children's nursery situated very near to Green GEN's preferred route. Research relating to power lines and human health is still being investigated. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified power-frequency magnetic fields as "possibly carcinogenic". Even the Energy Network Association, the body which represents operators of electricity wires in the UK, acknowledges that there is a statistical association between unusually high magnetic fields and childhood leukaemia. There is also a need to consider social wellbeing and mental health. Anecdotal reports confirm the proposals have caused considerable stress and anxiety.

Summary

The Tywi Valley holds a special place in the hearts of thousands of people living and working in Llanarthne and the surrounding area. We want to protect, preserve and enhance, the outstanding beauty and features of landscape, the heritage and historical landscape, the unique identity of the Tywi Valley , its biodiversity, and its economy based directly and indirectly on agriculture, tourism, visitor revenue and a healthy property market. Green GEN Cymru, we urge you to amend the Towy-Usk plan.