



The Future of our countryside

DYFODOL EIN CEFN GWLAD – “GARDD CYMRU” SIR GAERFYRDDIN DIM MWY?

Wales: Land ~~of song~~ renewables & energy parks

Where does the story begin?



Welsh Government Policy: [Future Wales 2040](#)

- Welsh Government Targets
 - 70% of electricity generated by renewables by 2030
 - Climate emergency and International commitments
- Makes the assumption that the only thing a third of Carmarthenshire is good for are windfarms and solar arrays
- The unspoilt places that we think of as special will be ruined
- Farms face conversion to windfarms or forestry
- Our way of life, culture and language is under threat



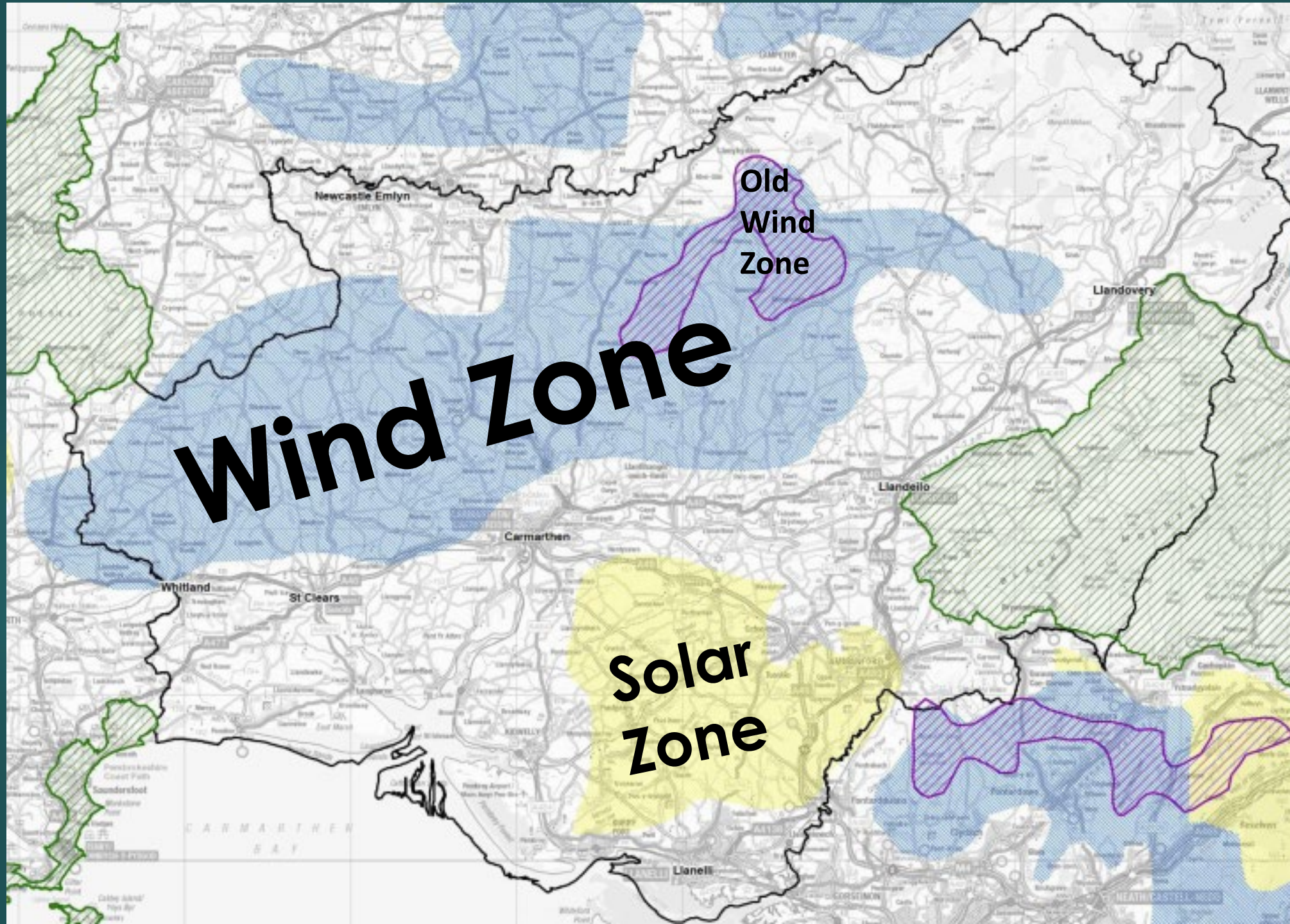
Welcome to industrial 'renewables'



- Carmarthenshire's New Local Plan contains a target for 588.5 MW of additional installed wind turbine capacity by 2033
- In reality this means up to 90 new turbines, or development across almost 14,542 acres of the pre-assessed area higher ground on NRW land and in our forestry areas
- Communities in north Carmarthenshire face being surrounded by multiple pylon chains, windfarms, solar farms, battery storage plants and there is the prospect of pumped hydro
- The initial energy parks and chains of pylons are just the start



CRAiG



The big picture so far

In Carmarthenshire

Key:

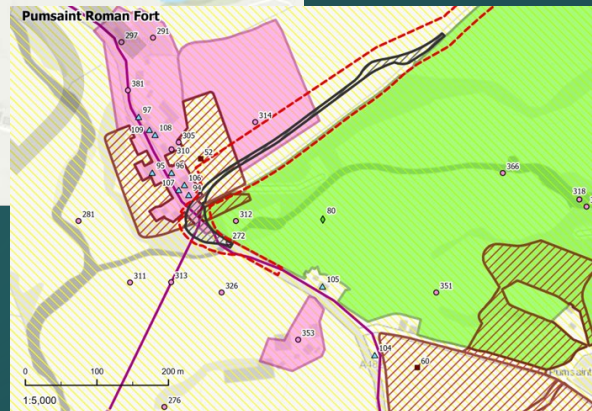
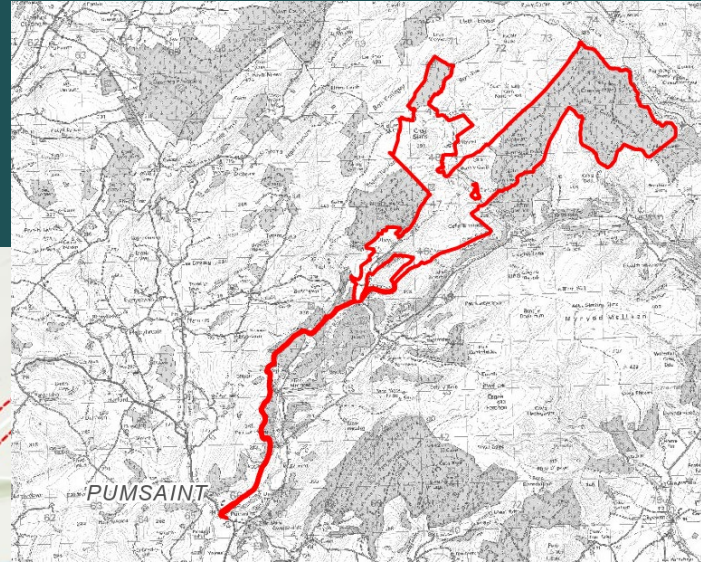
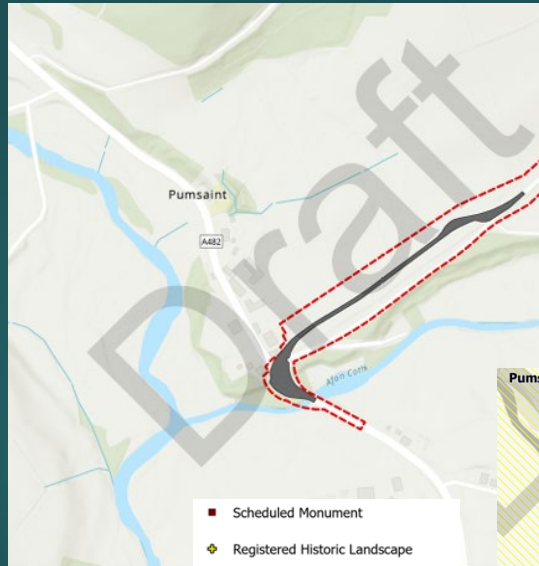
1. Brechfa West (existing)
2. 'Glyn Cothi' / Brechfa east
3. Nant Ceiment
4. Bryn Cadwgan
5. 'Green Gen' / Bute Pylon Chains
6. South Carmarthenshire Solar Farms
7. Farmers solar farm
8. Wawn Maenllwyd (Bryn Brawd – Belltown Power)



Bryn Cadwgan



Maps from developer documents



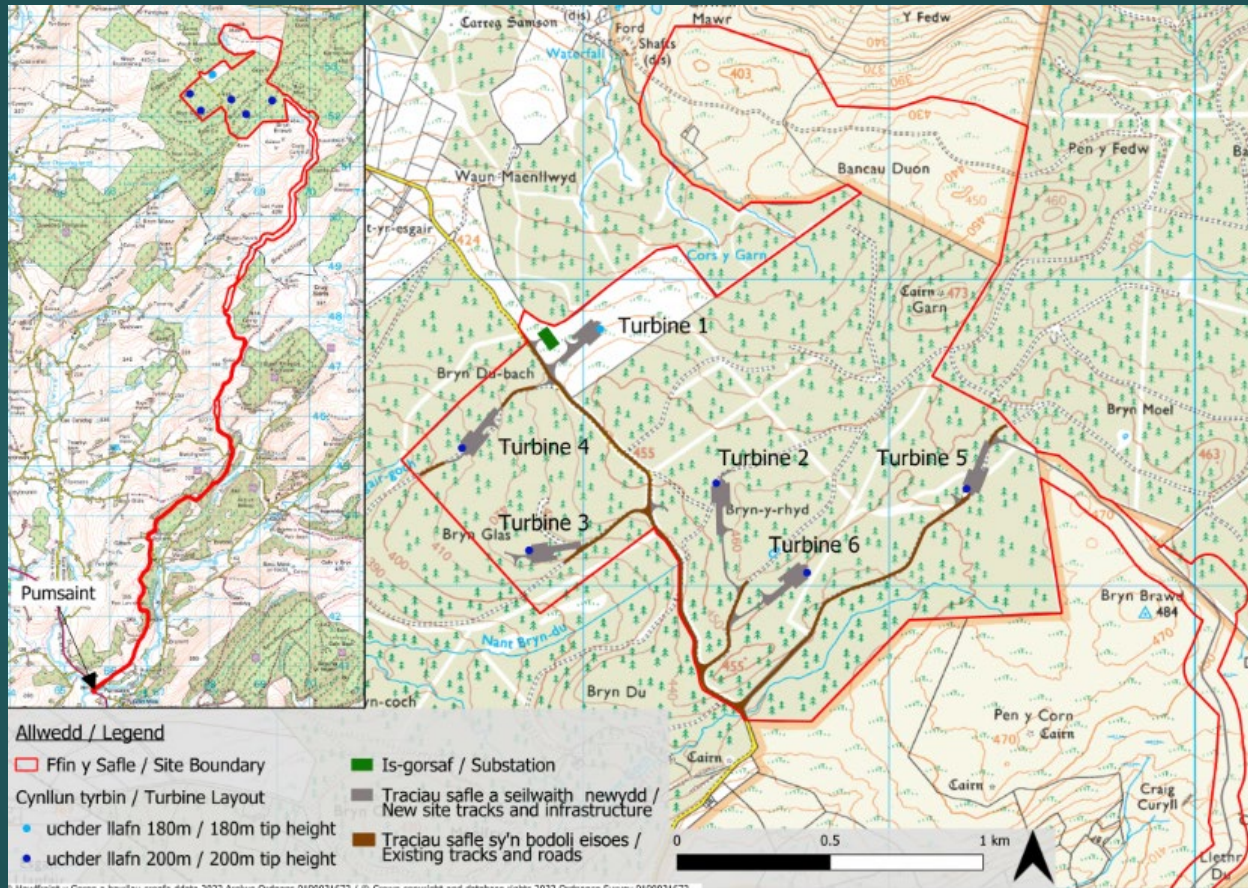
■	Scheduled Monument
◆	Registered Historic Landscape
◆	Registered Historic Park & Garden
▲	Listed Building - Grade II*
▲	Listed Building - Grade II
○	Non-Designated Heritage Asset
▨	Scheduled Monuments Extents
▨	Registered Park & Garden Extent
▨	Registered Historic Landscape Extents

- Developed by Galileo Empower Ltd via wholly owned “Galileo 06”
- 19 wind turbines, battery storage, solar PV, associated infrastructure and access routes
- Currently in pre-planning consultation
- Public consultation deadline 1st October 2025, aim to submit formal submission end 2025
- Developers’ draft Environmental Statement states ‘Significant adverse effects’ on landscape, heritage etc.
- Major effects on Pumsaint and surrounding areas
- Roadway passes over the Roman Fort at Pumsaint – A Scheduled Ancient Monument
- You can find the developer website here: <https://bryncadwganenergypark.co.uk/>

Waun Maenllwyd Wind Energy Hub

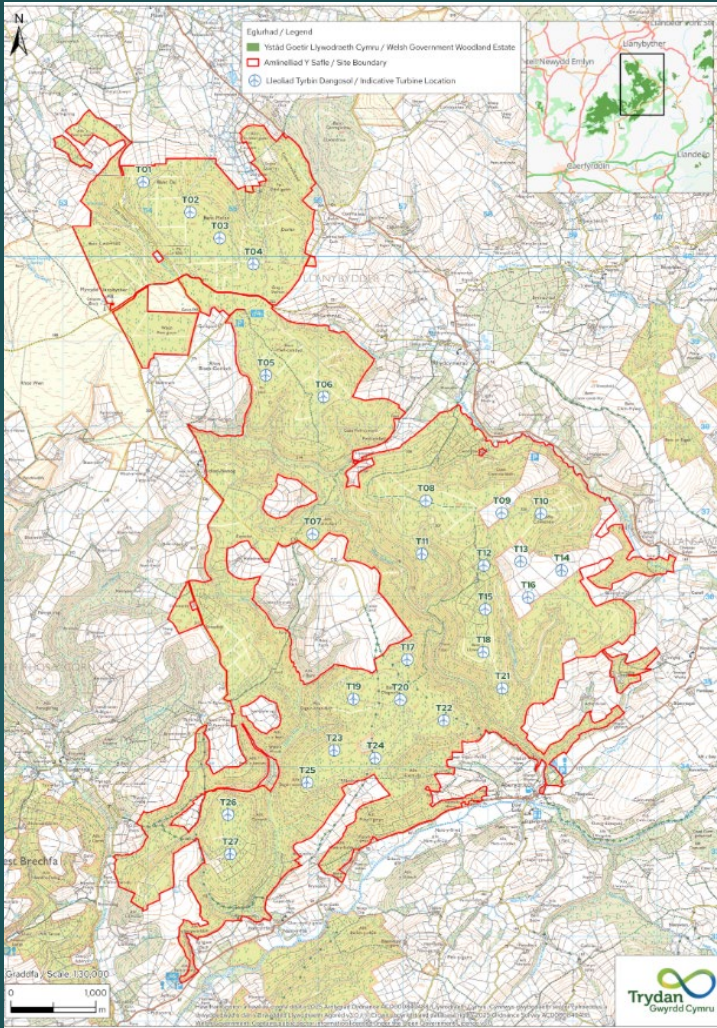


Maps from developer documents



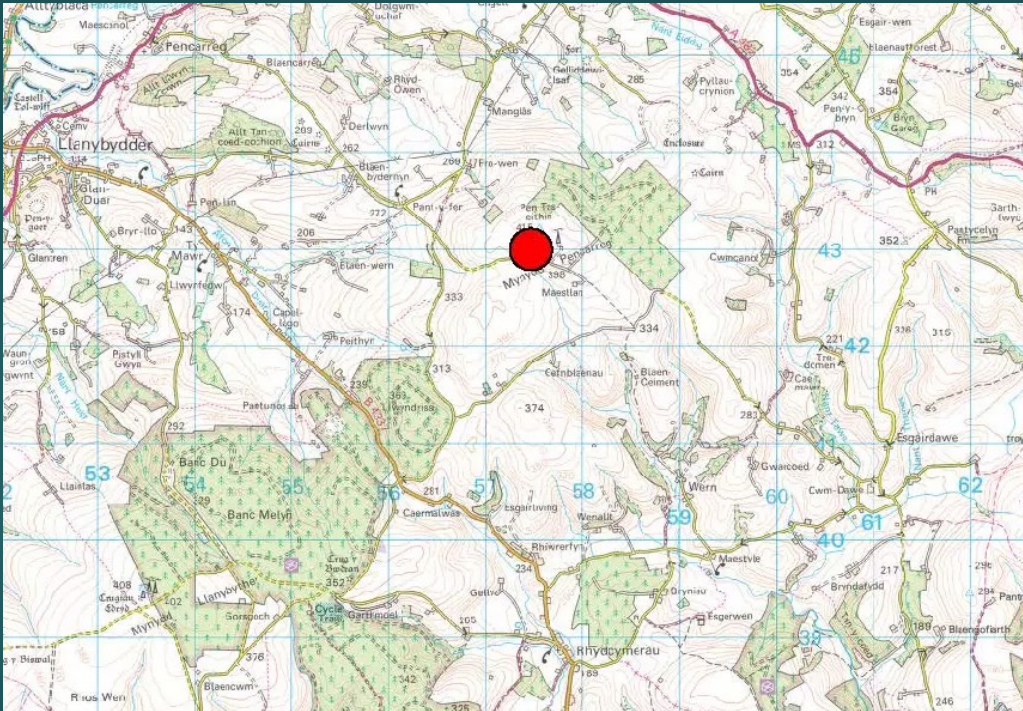
- Developed by Belltown Energy
- Six wind turbines, five up to 200m tall together with associated infrastructure and access routes
- Public consultation deadline 29th October 2025, aim to submit formal submission end 2025
- Developers' draft Environmental Statement notes disturbance to peat bogs and watercourses and the excavation of 103,467 cubic metres of aggregate from borrow pits on site
- Major effects on the important mid-Wales red squirrel population and would be a dominant feature of the Cambrian Hills from the Ceredigion Coast
- Roadway passes over the Roman Fort at Pumsaint – A Scheduled Ancient Monument
- You can visit the developer website here: <https://www.waunmaenllwyd.com/>

Glyn Cothi / Brechfa East



- Up to 27 turbines up to 250 m tall
- Private company wholly owned by the Welsh Government
- Within NRW owned land including Brechfa Forest
- Submission of planning application target early 2027 with 2030 construction works
- You can visit the developer website here:
<https://trydanglyncothi.wales/>

Nant Ceiment



- Developer Bute Energy
- 13 turbines up to 220m
- At early stages
- Aiming to submit development application in Q4 2026
- Local campaigners have joined forces with DimTyrbinau as it affects much of the same area as Brechfa East /Glyn Cothi
- You can visit the developer website here: <https://bute.energy/nant-ceiment/overview/>

Pylon Chains



- GreenGen / Bute Energy 2 pylon chains
- Possible 400KV National Grid pylon chain – currently unknown route through Carmarthenshire to Llandyfaelog
- Various campaign groups along route and into Powys and Cardiganshire
- More pylon chains to come.....
- You can view the developer websites here:
- Green Gen Tywi Teifi: <https://greengentowyteifi.com/>
- Green Gen Towy Usk: <https://www.greengentowyusk.com/>
- National Grid: Llandyfaelog: <https://www.nationalgrid.com/electricity-transmission/network-and-infrastructure/infrastructure-projects/llandyfaelog-substation>

South Carmarthenshire Solar Farms



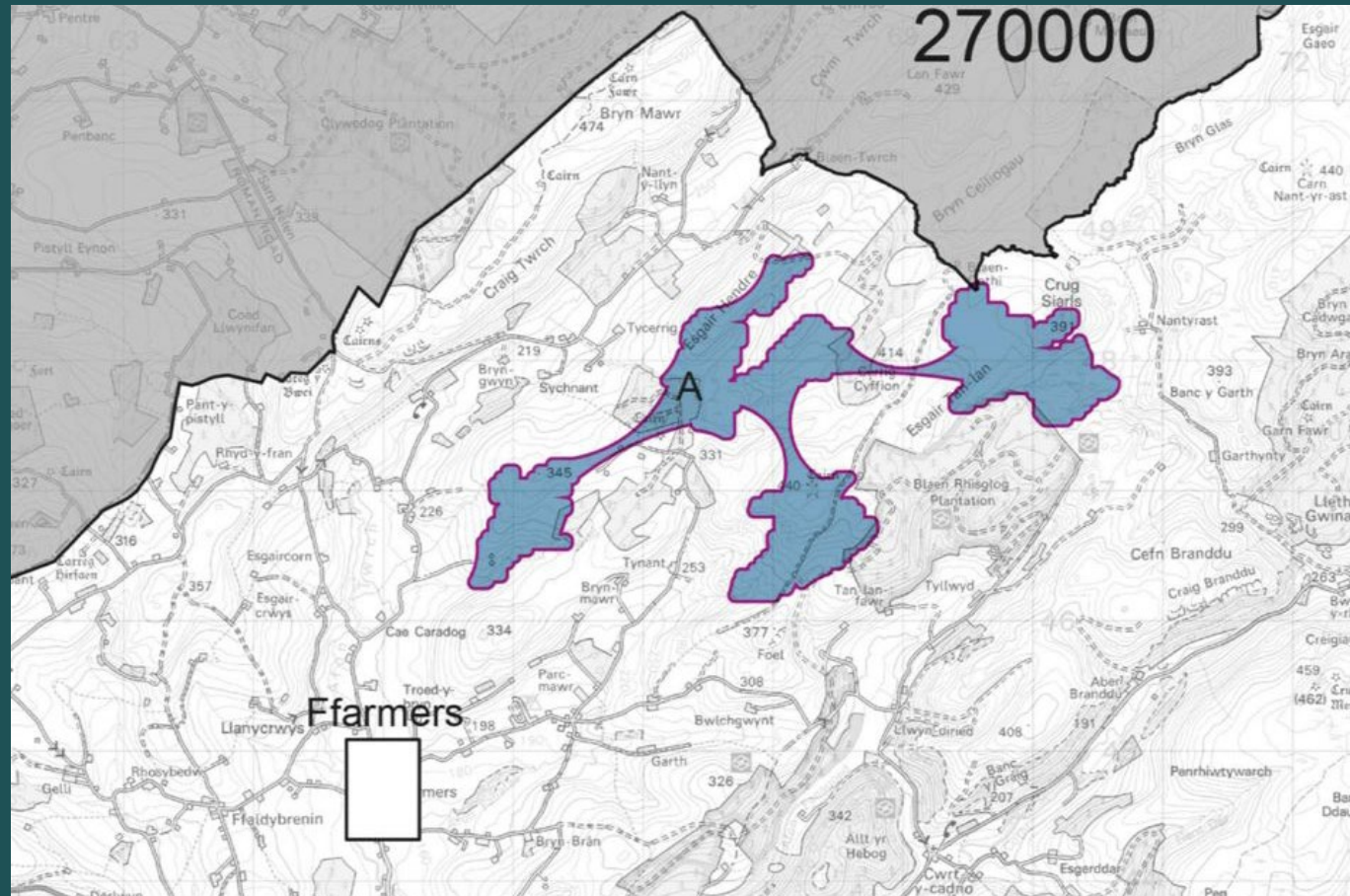
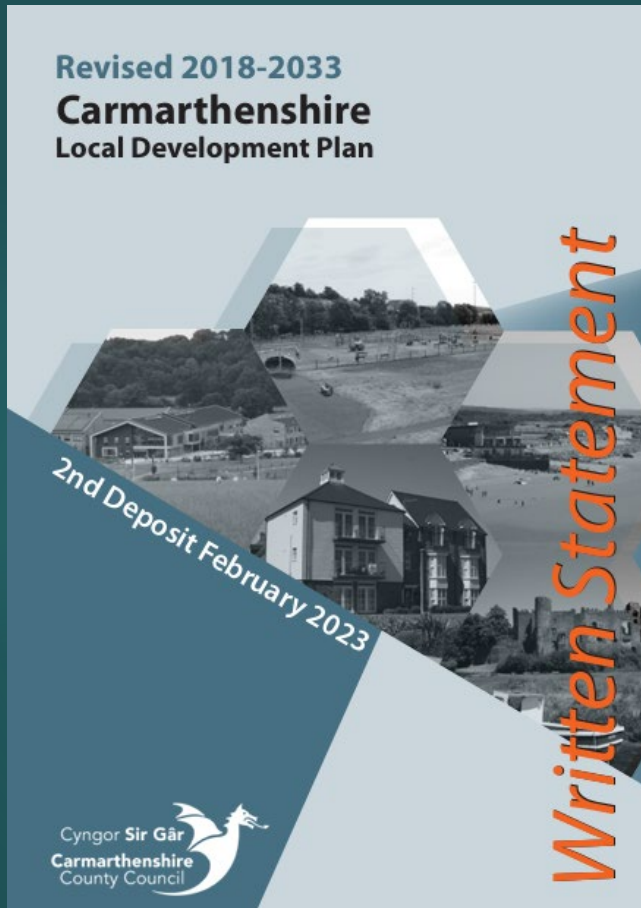
- Pencoed Ganol – Loughor valley
 - [Heolddu Solar Farm](#) – Tywi valley near Ferryside:
-
- Both located in sensitive locations
 - Both outside of the Future Wales 2040 Solar zones



Ffarmers solar farm



- In Carmarthenshire new revised Local Plan



What will they look like for us?



- New turbines are 230 m or 750 ft tall to the tip of their blades. Up to 250 m being considered for Brechfa East (Glyn Cothi)
- Red lights on top to warn aircraft day and night
- As close as 500 m from your home if you live in the pre-assessed area
- Hillsides will be carpeted in solar panels and battery storage plants



What will be the cumulative impact?



Where will they get the materials?



- The 200m turbines being constructed in Scotland
The foundation required 750 cubic metres (1,875 tonnes) of concrete
- Planned west Wales turbines are larger than this and will need bigger foundations
- Brechfa forest faces significant quarrying operations to “win” the aggregate for the Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru turbines
- Likely see this pattern repeated throughout the turbine and pylon sites in west Wales multiplying the environmental damage

The finished product.....



Battery Storage Plants

New renewables create a need for storage



'We are playing with fire'

Fears persist of battery storage.
BBC News 11th
September 2025

Drone footage shows fire at one of the world's largest battery storage plants

BBC News USA & Canada 17th January 2025

Pumped hydro future.....

New renewables create a need for storage



► Corie Glas (Loch Lochy)



► Glyn Rhonwy (Llanberis)



Why should we be against energy parks?



- ❑ Loss of amenity: noise, light pollution and planning blight
- ❑ No grid upgrade or free electricity for residents
- ❑ Loss of jobs in the farming and tourism sectors
- ❑ Loss of public amenity and common land
- ❑ Trees felled, hedgerows bulldozed, birds killed by turbines
- ❑ Landscape scarred by new roads and access routes
- ❑ Fire risk from power lines in woodland and battery storage
- ❑ Water supplies disrupted, communities flooded for hydro dams
- ☑ Fluffy grants to charities which may not materialise if companies go bust
- ☑ Farms bought by international companies swapping people for panels
- ☑ Wales becomes the land of the international carbon offset
- ☑ Very few long-term jobs as construction is undertaken by international teams

What makes Carmarthenshire special?



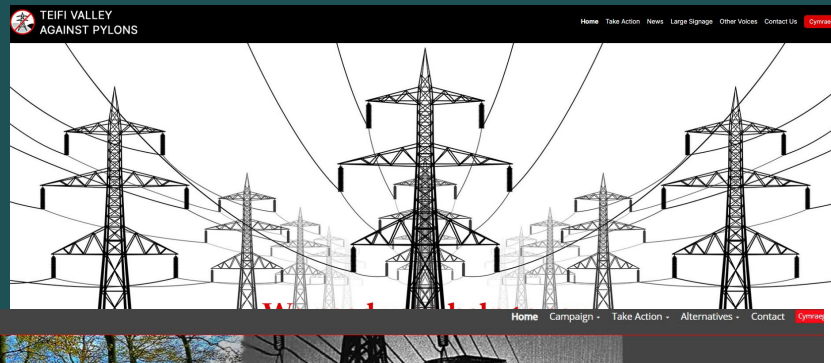
- The “Garden of Wales”
- Unspoilt countryside, rivers and landscapes
- Home to the National Botanic Garden
- Family farms which feed our nation
- Our cultural heritage and Welsh Language



Tourism income £731million to the Carmarthenshire economy in 2024 according to Carmarthenshire County Council over a million people stayed at one of the 1,250 establishments in our County with 6,656 people are employed in the tourism sector.

What can we do about it?

- ▶ The power to change this lies here in Wales – with the Welsh Government and their Ministers
- ▶ Join a campaign group – who is involved already?



What can we do about it?



▶ Technical

- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Landscape
- ▶ Energy
- ▶ Ecology / nature / arboriculture / habitats
- ▶ Transport
- ▶ Heritage (built and archaeological)
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Tourism

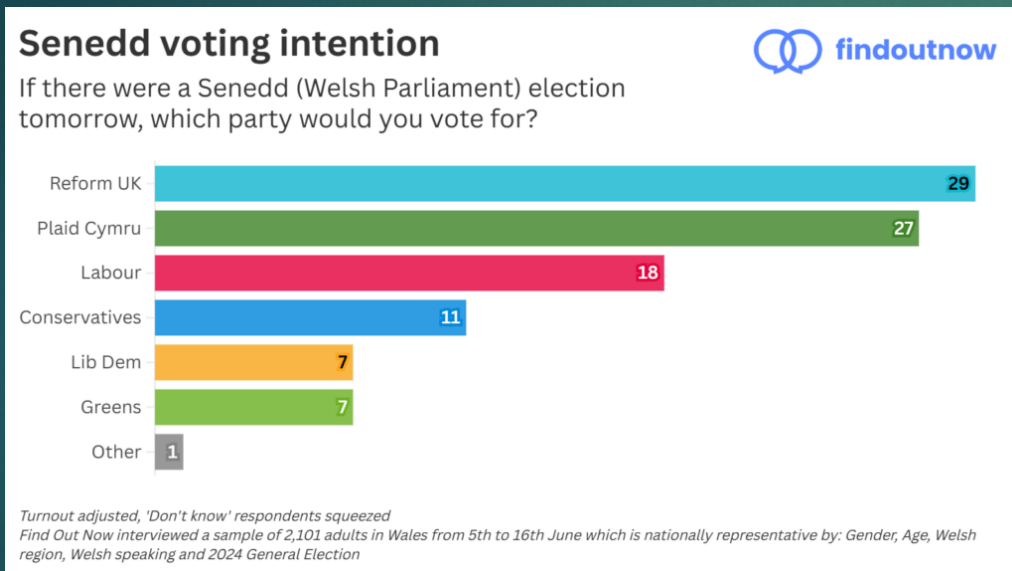
▶ Political

- ▶ Local campaigns
- ▶ Political pressure – all parties
- ▶ Letter and email writing
- ▶ Open to everyone

Change Welsh Government Policy



All year the opinion polls have signified a big change in Welsh Politics



Find Out Now [Senedd Polling from June 2025](#)

ITV Wales:

[Reform UK's popularity surges in neck-and-neck race with Plaid Cymru, says ITV Wales' latest poll](#)

Nation Cymru:

[Sensational poll shows Welsh Labour Senedd election meltdown and Plaid Cymru and Reform neck and neck for the lead](#)

Wales Online

[Bombshell poll puts Wales on course to change beyond all recognition](#)

Change Welsh Government Policy



- ▶ Each new Senedd seat such as Sir Gâr will have six members
- ▶ Pure proportional election under the D'hondt system and only parties with more than 12.5% of the vote will get a seat
- ▶ Sir Gâr in play with Plaid, Reform, Conservatives, Labour and others fighting for the 6 seats
- ▶ Demand answers from our MSs and Senedd Candidates as to what they will do to stop the destruction of our countryside

Change Welsh Government Policy



- ▶ Ask Senedd candidates to commit to a moratorium on development in Sir Gâr
- ▶ Senedd manifestos must reflect the need to prioritise our countryside and protect local people and jobs
- ▶ Get a commitment that political parties will redraft Future Wales 2040 to remove exploitation of our landscapes and to protect the Welsh countryside
- ▶ Renewables should be about communities not making millionaire executives richer
- ▶ Time to recognise the importance of Carmarthenshire's Countryside – Tywi Valley National Landscape (AONB)

**Change of policy is needed
before voting in May 2026**



Conclusion



- ▶ West Wales hasn't seen change like this since the industrial revolution
- ▶ Energy Park proposals will not be defeated on technical or legal arguments alone
- ▶ In 2026 we will need to force a change in Welsh Government policy at the ballot box
- ▶ We must act now to preserve the Carmarthenshire we know before it is gone for good