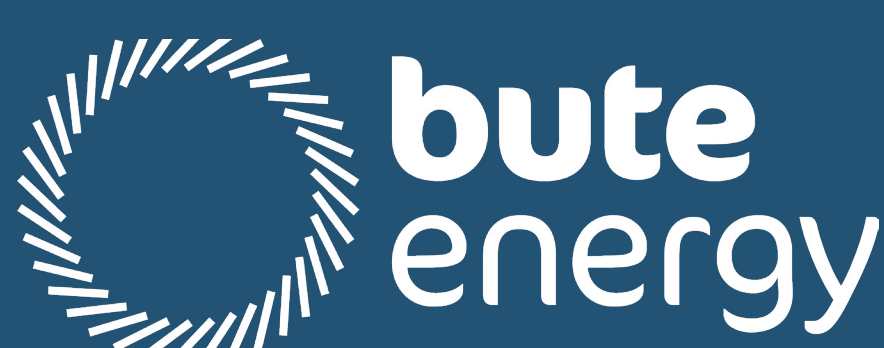
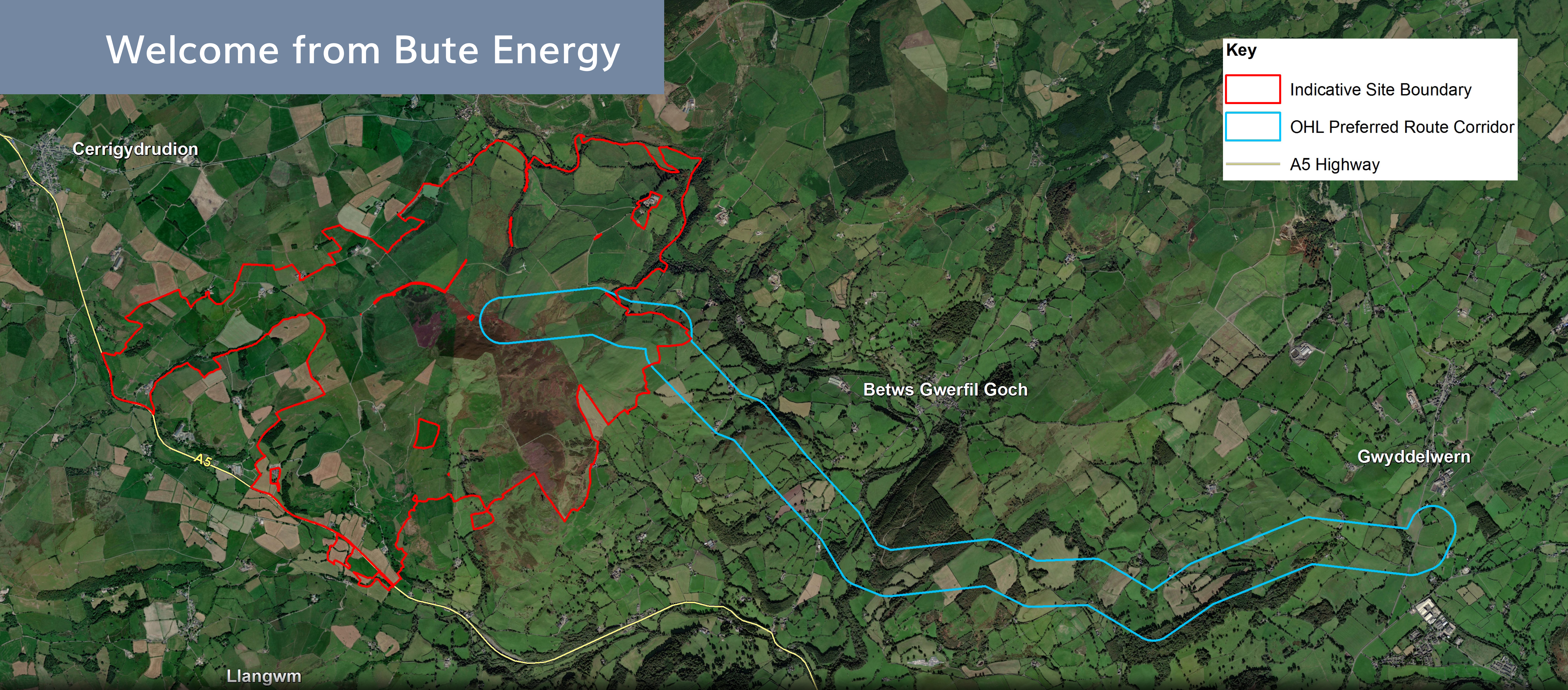


Welcome from Bute Energy



Welcome to our public consultation for the Moel Chwa Energy Park.

Bute Energy is in the early stages of bringing forward proposals for an onshore renewable energy project, located between the village of Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr, Llangwm and Cerrigydrudion, to the north of the A5.

Why have we chosen this site?

Our mission is to deliver a sustainable world, now and for future generations. To help achieve this aim and address the climate emergency and current concerns relating to energy security, we have undertaken an extensive site selection process to identify areas of land which would be suitable for the delivery of this Energy Park.

Moel Chwa Energy Park sits within a Pre-Assessed Area for large-scale onshore wind energy identified in the Welsh Government's National Development Framework, Future Wales.

Planning permission was granted for an onshore wind farm on this site for 11 turbines and associated infrastructure in 2011, which indicates the potential suitability of the site for renewable energy generation.

Our initial proposals will be refined over the coming months in response to further technical assessments and surveys as well as feedback received from consultees, stakeholders and local people.

Your views are important to us

We are at an early stage of our project. Bute Energy is committed to informing, engaging and consulting with local communities and stakeholders through the design and planning process and we look forward to hearing your initial views and suggestions on issues we should consider as we continue to refine our plans.

Learn more about the project:



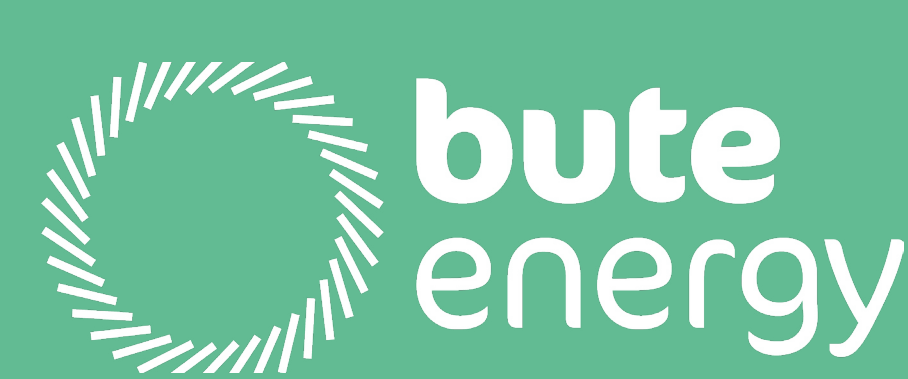
Visit – www.moelchwaenergypark.wales



Image of a typical wind turbine for indicative purposes only



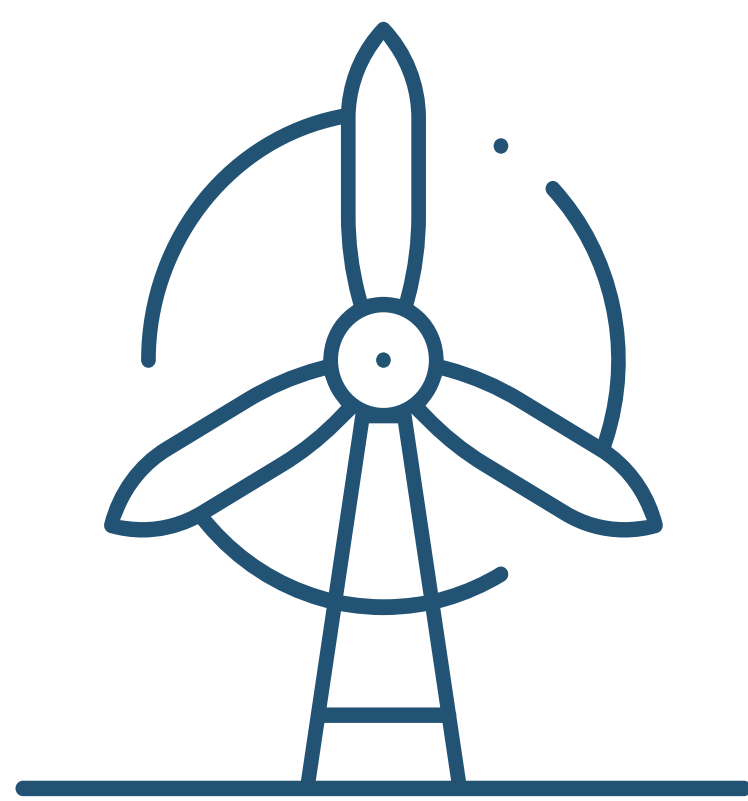
Image of a typical Energy Park for indicative purposes only



A sustainable world, now and for future generations

Headquartered in and focused on Wales, we are an independent renewable energy company combining experience with innovation. We are seeking to develop a portfolio of energy parks, with suitable infrastructure, using the latest proven technology to deliver sustainable onshore renewable power generation across Wales.

Bute Energy is committed to maximising the positive impact of our projects to deliver:



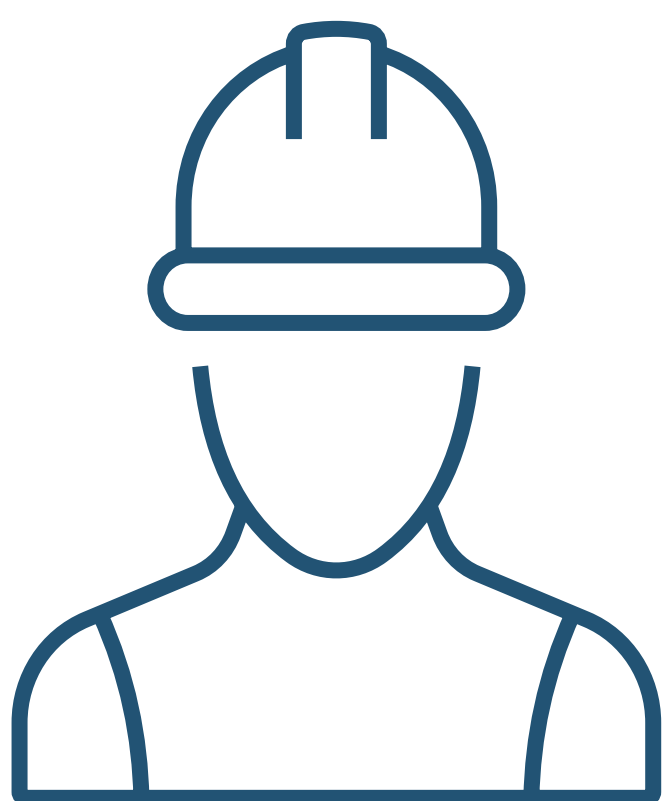
2 GigaWatts

worth of clean, sustainable electricity across our portfolio



£3 billion

worth of investment into the Welsh economy



6,500 jobs

will be generated during the construction phase of our projects and up to 150 skilled long-term jobs during their operational phase. We'll invest in local training and apprenticeships, and grow the renewable energy supply chain

Our vision and commitment

We want to deliver a sustainable world, now, and for future generations. To achieve this, we are committed to:

- Helping increase Wales' renewable energy capacity, and support the delivery of the Welsh Government's goal of meeting 100% of the country's electricity needs through renewable sources by 2035.
- Supporting efforts to tackle the climate emergency and securing our long-term energy future.
- Delivering long-term benefits and providing significant investment in the communities surrounding our projects.
- Working with local residents to identify what issues they face on a daily basis and what groups, projects or third sector organisations already exist which we could support.

Bute Energy is also committed to ensuring that our projects support and grow the national, regional and local economies. Whilst we are preparing our planning application we will be looking to build up a network of local suppliers to take forward into the procurement stage, should we receive planning consent.

Examples of the types of local suppliers we would look to procure include:

- Ground works
- Materials
- Environmental restoration and enhancement
- Site management and maintenance



Our proposal



Image of a typical Energy Park for indicative purposes only

Our proposal for Moel Chwa Energy Park is at an early stage. Currently, it is anticipated that the Energy Park could generate up to 79.2MW of electricity, which could provide enough power to meet the needs of approximately 51,960* homes.

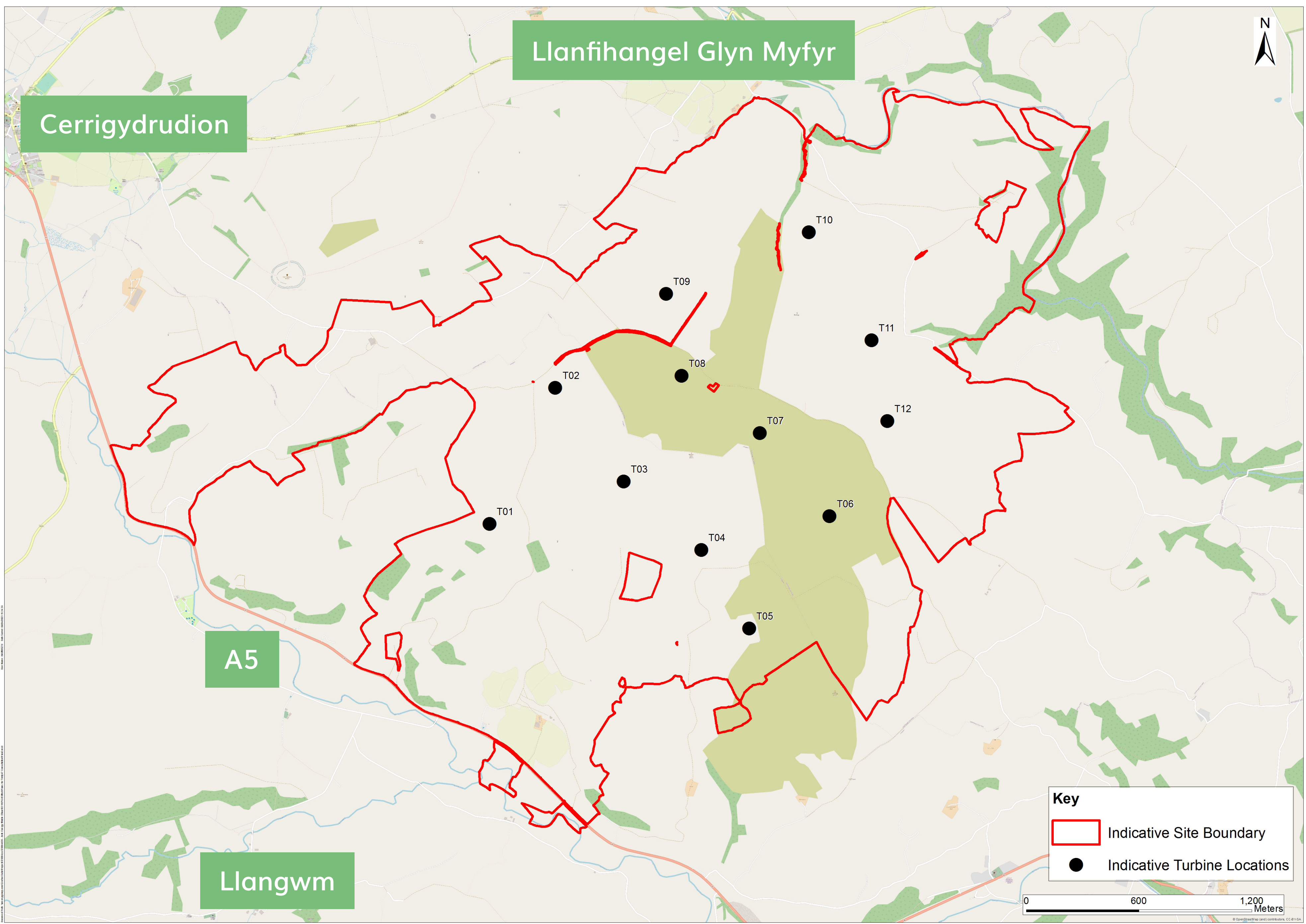
*Renewable UK: Wind Energy Statistics Explained (www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEDEExplained/Statistics-Explained.htm)

The design of the wind farm is likely to evolve during the pre-application process. However, at this initial stage the project proposals include:

- Up to 12 turbines, with a maximum tip height of 200m
- Transformers housed either within or adjacent to turbines
- On-site infrastructure, including a substation
- Access tracks
- Crane pads and cabling
- Temporary construction compound, including site offices
- A wooden pole overhead line (OHL) connection to the existing electricity grid approximately 7km east of the site.

The wind farm will be designed with an operational life of 40 years, exporting renewable energy directly to the national grid.

More information on the OHL can be found on the next board.



Do you have any thoughts about the siting of the proposed turbines?
Let us know as part of our consultation.

The planning consent process

As our Energy Park will generate more than 10MW of electricity, it is deemed a Development of National Significance (DNS).

This means that we will submit our planning application to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). PEDW will examine the proposals and make a recommendation to Welsh Ministers, who will make the final decision on our proposals, on whether or not to grant planning permission.

This is the first phase of our consultation to understand initial views on Moel Chwa Energy Park. Later this year we will be carrying out a statutory consultation, where people will be able to view our draft application documents and provide further feedback.

We are still in the early stages of developing our plans for the site. As part of our consultation process we would like your feedback on key issues such as the proposed turbine locations, access to and from the site, and whether there are specific issues (environment, biodiversity, noise etc...) which we should consider as we refine our plans.

Connection to the grid

Bute Energy has an agreement in place to connect to a proposed new National Grid substation near Gwyddelwern, approximately 7km east of the proposed Energy Park.



Our current proposal is to deliver the connection to the grid via a continuous overhead line (OHL), which will be made up of wooden poles, which will blend in to the landscape similar to the images below.

The wooden poles will be sufficient to carry the amount of power proposed to be generated safely and securely and will blend in more sympathetically to the local landscape and will ensure that the visual impact of the OHL is reduced.



Our approach to routeing the OHL is centred around reducing the visual effects as much as possible, doing this by using the existing contours of the land, as well as using trees for screening. Importantly, visual effect is one of a number of issues that have been considered in the routeing process.

We have carried out technical surveys and assessments and considered a wide variety of constraints, such as local ancient woodland and protected habitat, among other things. We have also tried to keep as far away from homes as practicable. This work has helped us narrow down to the OHL corridor shown above.



Images of typical wooden H poles

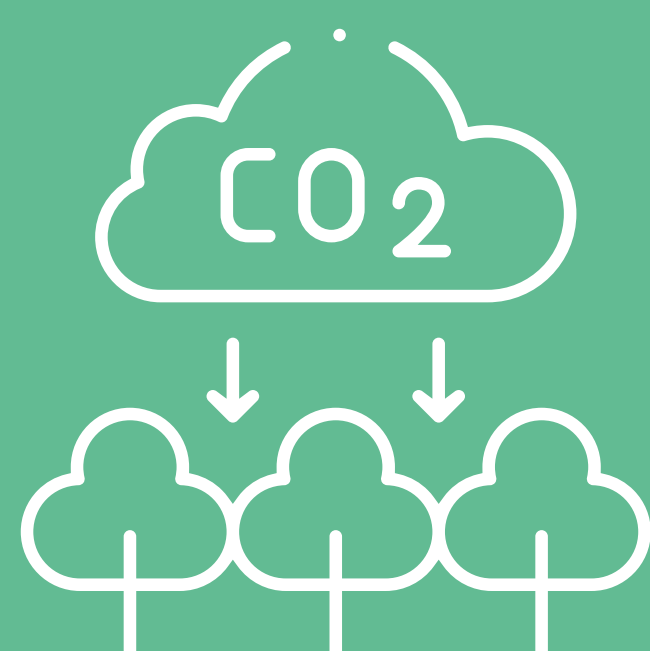
We're keen to hear your thoughts on our current OHL corridor, and whether there is anything else we should consider as we continue to work on our preferred route.

As part of our consultation, we have prepared a Routeing and Consultation Document (RCD). This sets out the process being undertaken to identify a preferred route option to provide a grid connection for the Moel Chwa Energy Park. For more information on the RCD please speak to a member of the team.



Visit – www.moelchwaenergypark.wales

We believe there are a number of benefits to delivering an Energy Park on the site. These include:



Producing cleaner, greener and more sustainable energy will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and help to meet local and national targets.



Generating energy here in Wales and the UK will reduce our reliance on imported fossil fuel energy sources, providing longer term energy security.



The project does not need government subsidies, so won't add a burden on taxpayers or increase the national debt.



The project will be subject to UK taxation, including payment of business rates.



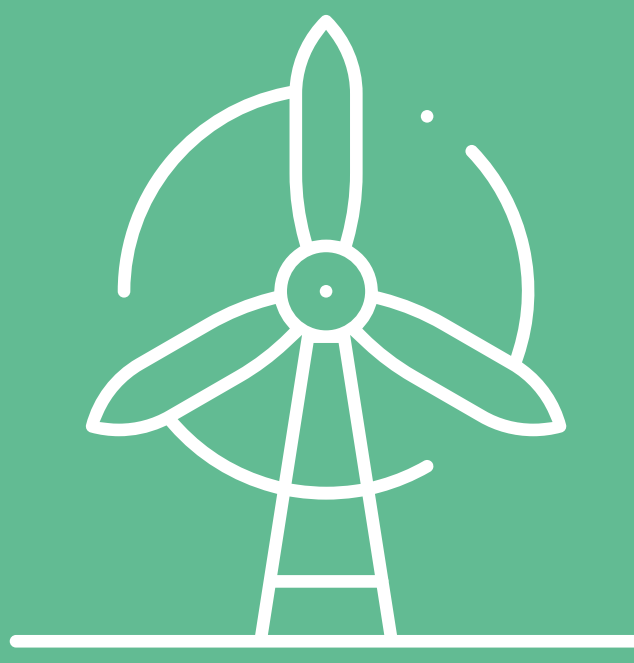
A comprehensive package of locally focussed investment, including a Community Benefit Fund which will be in place for the entire 40 year life of the Energy Park.



There will be opportunities to improve wildlife habitat across the site and enhance biodiversity, through things like planting or land management.



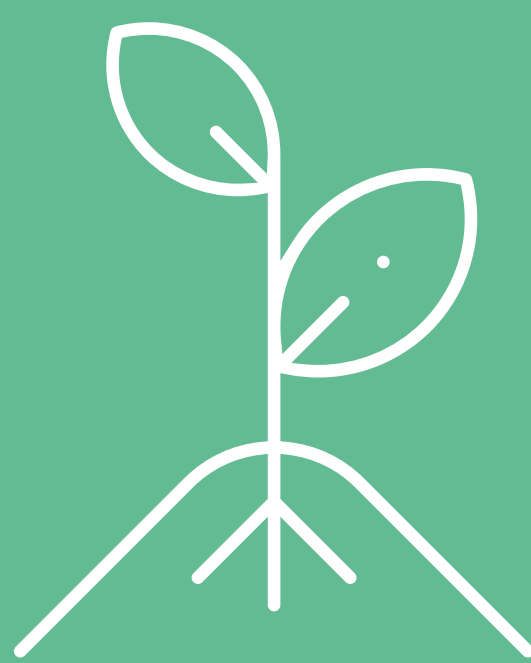
We will work with local landowners to ensure the Energy Park disrupts agricultural practices as little as possible.



The site has already been identified as suitable for large-scale onshore wind development in the National Development Framework and has previously had a planning consent for a wind farm.



Significant investment into the local, regional and national economy, creating 'green' jobs and opportunities for upskilling.



We want to ensure that our project improves access for those who currently use the site for exercise or recreation.

At Bute Energy, we are committed to ensuring that our projects maximise the benefits they generate locally, regionally and nationally.

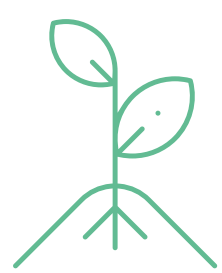
We have five key themes which we are focused on. These are:



Cost-of-living support – identifying how we can support local residents struggling with the cost-of-living, particularly those living in fuel poverty.



Education – designing and delivering interactive educational sessions for all ages, raising awareness about issues like climate change and renewable energy generation.



Environment & culture – engaging with communities to celebrate and promote the natural environment and local culture and heritage sites.



Employability – working with education, training and employment providers to create pathways and opportunities to enter the renewable energy industry.



Recreation & health – helping to improve access to local recreation, health and wellbeing activities to support the physical and mental health of local communities.

Community Benefit Fund

As part of our project, we will be establishing a Community Benefit Fund to help deliver significant investment locally. If our application is successful, we are committed to providing an annual fund of approximately £7,500 per megawatt of installed wind energy capacity.

Our current proposal could generate up to 79.2MW per year, meaning that there could be an annual fund of over £590,000 for the site.

Supply Chain

We are committed to using local supply chains and businesses wherever possible to ensure that the investment, jobs and training potential of the project is maximised.

We are currently at a very early stage of our project, however, we will be using this time to build up a network of local suppliers which will be taken forward into the project's procurement phase, subject to receiving planning permission. We would therefore encourage local business owners who are interested in future procurement opportunities to contact us with any enquiries.

How can we help?

We have some ideas about what we can do as a company, and as part of our proposal to help tackle issues facing people locally. However, you know the local area, the schools, community groups and other organisations, far better than we do.

Please tell us about what you would like improved or enhanced in your local area. Are there local community groups or projects in need of financial support? We want to hear from you about what we should be focusing on.



The EIA process

We will be undertaking extensive studies across a wide range of technical, environmental, and commercial considerations. This is known as an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA process will play a vitally important role in identifying and evaluating the likely effects, both positive and negative, and help shape the design of the proposed Energy Park.

It will also ensure that the recommendation of Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW), and the decision of Welsh Ministers, are made in the full knowledge of the likely environmental effects of the project.

Key chapters of our EIA will cover:

-  Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
-  Cultural heritage
-  Ecology
-  Ornithology
-  Noise and vibration
-  Access, traffic and transport
-  Land Use, Socio-Economics and Tourism
-  Hydrology, hydrogeology and geology (including peat)
-  Other issues (including Aviation, Air Quality, Telecommunications, Shadow Flicker (if required), Major Accidents and Disasters, Forestry and Climate Change)

We appreciate that there are a number of other wind turbine developments in areas surrounding the site. Our surveys and assessments will also look to collect data on these developments so that we can assess the likely cumulative impact of Moel Chwa Energy Park alongside other developments.

The results and findings of the surveys and assessments carried out as part of the EIA process will be detailed in an Environmental Statement (ES), a draft of which will be available to review during the statutory consultation later this year, and a final version will also be submitted as part of our planning application.

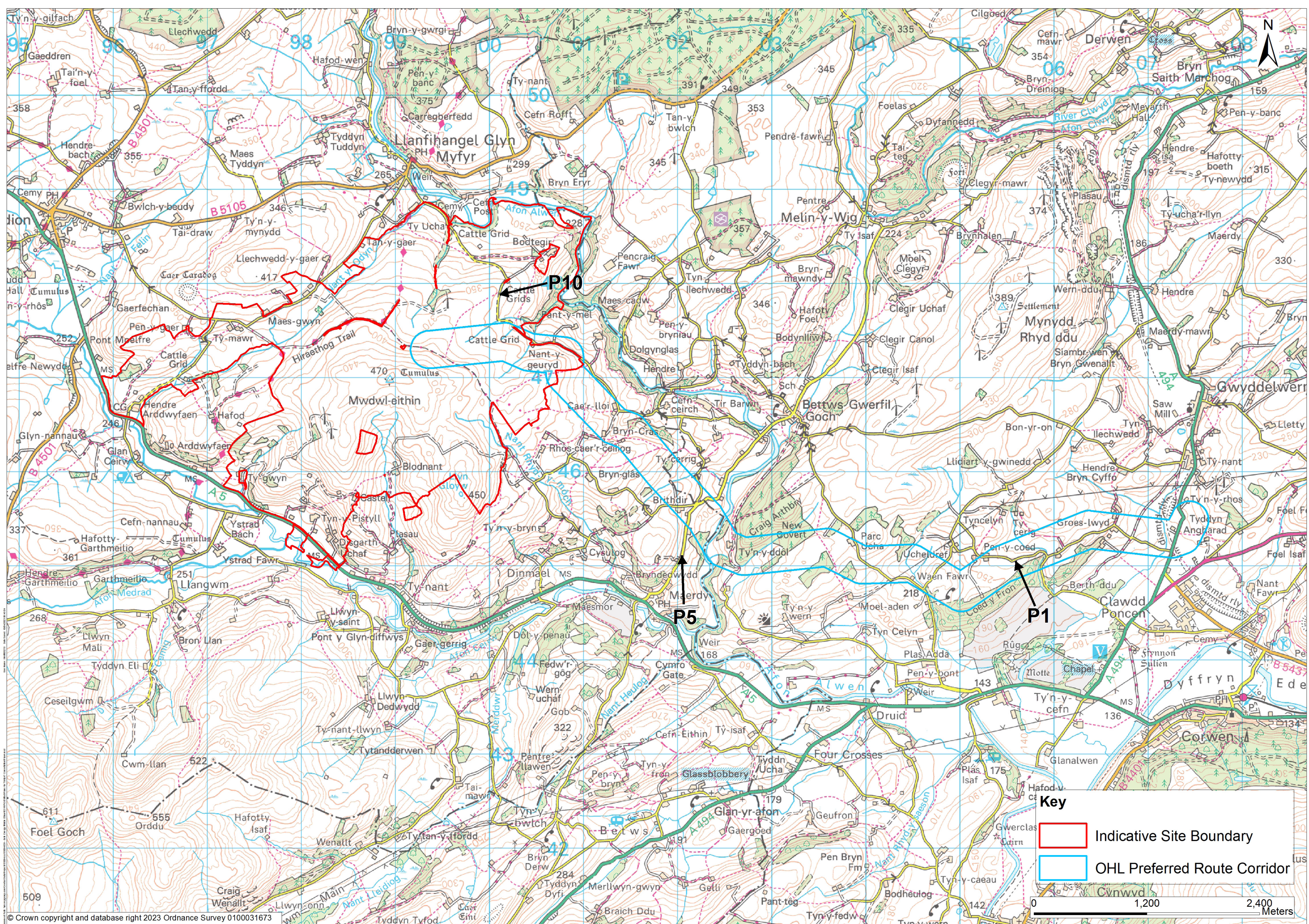


Assessing visual impact

We know that what the scheme looks like is a key consideration for many local residents.

Assessing the visual impact of the proposed Energy Park on the local area will form a key part of our ongoing work. To do this, we will carry out a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which will form part of our Environmental Statement. This will look at various viewpoints around the site from varying distances, and we will develop indicative imagery to show what the site may look like from these positions to help us design the proposals.

As the locations of our turbines have not yet been fixed, more detailed imagery will be available to review and comment on during our statutory consultation later this year, including the production of a 'Zone of Theoretical Visibility' (ZTV), which will show where the turbines could be visible from.



View looking north towards OHL corridor area

View looking north towards OHL corridor area

View looking south towards proposed Energy Park site

Noise

Noise from an operating wind farm can be generated in a number of different ways. Whether this noise is audible to people living near to or using the site depends upon many factors, including distance from the turbine, wind speed/wind direction, and whether there are any background noise sources (e.g. from local traffic flows).

Assessment of the existing noise levels across the site and in surrounding areas is currently ongoing. Once we have collected this data, we will consider any potential impacts from the expected noise generated by the day-to-day operation of the Energy Park. This data will also enable us to identify what mitigations to put in place to address any issues that are identified.



Image of a typical Energy Park for indicative purposes only

Transport and access

We are currently in the process of assessing the local road network to understand what routes will be able to accommodate construction traffic without being negatively impacted. This work will form part of our Traffic Impact Assessment.

Whilst we are at an early stage, it is likely that a majority of larger vehicles, especially those carrying pre-assembled turbine components, will use the A5 to access the site in order to protect less suitable local roads.

We will also be consulting extensively with both Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, the North and Mid-Wales Trunk Road Agency, and other technical consultees to agree on a suitable access route for the site.

As part of our consultation we would like to hear your thoughts on which roads to use/avoid so that we are able to use your local knowledge in our work to refine the proposed access routes.



Construction

Construction is likely to take between 1-2 years and would be carried out in a number of phases.

To ensure that the construction process has minimal impact on the local community we will be submitting an Outline Construction Management Plan as part of our application.

The Construction Management Plan will be informed by a number of factors, including the final design of the Energy Park and alignment of the OHL, the findings of the EIA process, engagement with consultees and feedback from stakeholders and residents.

Operation and decommissioning

The anticipated lifespan of the project is 40 years. After construction is complete, and the Energy Park is operational, our engineers will regularly assess and maintain the turbines and on-site infrastructure. Any issues on the site will be able to be reported to us and will be followed up accordingly.

Once the Energy Park’s generating life has come to an end Bute Energy will also be responsible for the decommissioning process. This is something we take incredibly seriously. At the end of the Energy Park’s operation a range of assessments, surveys and management plans will be agreed with the relevant authorities, ensuring that the turbines and supporting infrastructure is removed from the site safely and securely.

We will also be responsible for restoring the land across the Energy Park to ensure that there is minimal impact on the local environment.



Project timeline



How to get involved

Thank you for taking the time to visit our event and find out more about the project. This is our early engagement consultation to find out local views on our proposals, and an opportunity for you to highlight anything we should be focusing on as we look to refine our proposals.

We will hold a further round of consultation later this year, which will provide detailed information about issues like visual impact, noise, traffic and construction and environmental impact. Your views are important to us at this early stage. Please feel free to provide feedback using any of the methods outlined below:

- » **Project website** – www.moelchwaenergypark.wales
- » **Email** – moel.chwa@bute.energy
- » **Feedback forms** – available online via the project website, or at our public drop in sessions. Alternatively, get in touch and request a hard copy and we will post it to you
- » **Freepost** – FREEPOST TC CONSULTATION (no further address or stamp required)
- » **Freephone** –0800 699 0081 during normal office hours (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm excluding public holidays)

The deadline for comments is 11 June 2023.



Visit – www.moelchwaenergypark.wales