

Penpergwm Solar Farm

Community Consultation Newsletter June 2021

Great House Energy Centre Limited, a subsidiary of Renewable Connections, is proposing to develop a solar farm at a site located roughly 4km southeast of Abergavenny, Monmouthshire. This project will play a vital role in helping to deliver Welsh climate commitments.

As this is a Development of National Significance, the application will be made to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate who will make a recommendation to the Welsh Government on whether this project meets national planning policy for renewable energy projects.

Following on from our initial engagement in February, we are now undertaking a formal consultation period on our draft plans, which will run until 25th August 2021. This newsletter has been produced to inform local people of our next phase of community consultation, and update on how our proposals have developed and to invite your feedback on this.

Your feedback

For more information on the project, including our draft planning application, and details of how to register for our online public information events, please visit our website. Below are also details of how you can submit comments on our proposal. These are important in shaping the final planning application submission.

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A - Penpergwm Solar c/o Pegasus Group,
First Floor, Equinox North, Great Park Road,
Bristol, BS32 4QL

Consultation timeline

30th June 2021
Consultation commences

28th July 2021
First consultation event
(7pm, online)

5th August 2021
Second consultation event
(1pm, online)

25th August 2021
Consultation ends

Autumn 2021
Application formally submitted to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate

Quick Facts



18,000 tonnes
of CO² saved



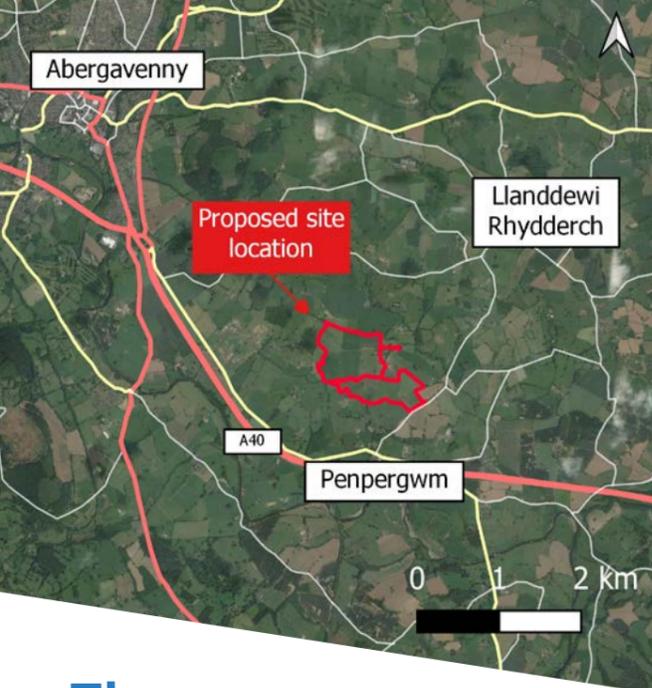
40,000 MWh
generated



Over **11,000**
homes powered



70ha of biodiversity
and habitat
improvements



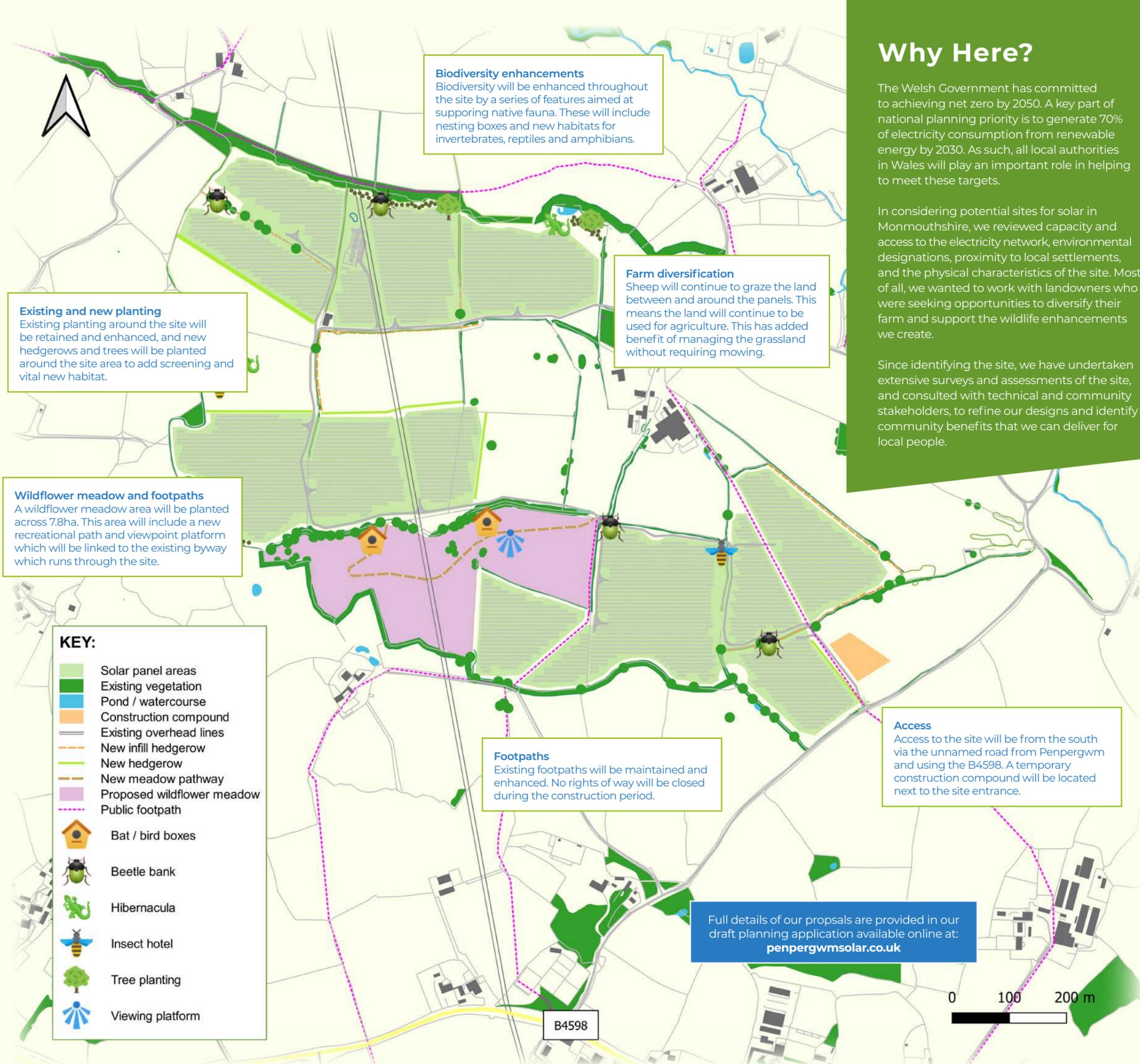
The Proposed Site

The proposed site for Penpergwm Solar Farm is currently used for livestock and arable farming and is comprised of undulating fields bound by mature hedges and trees. The project will consist of the installation of a 40MW solar farm and will comprise solar photovoltaic panels mounted on metal frames, along with associated infrastructure such as access roads, fences and grid infrastructure. The operational lifespan will be 40 years.

Our latest designs have split the development into three separate areas and use the existing landform and vegetation to ensure each of these three areas is contained in the local landscape. We have avoided areas in close proximity to local residential properties in the area and we have also avoided the areas of the site where views of the development would be most prominent.

Views of the site will be experienced from local roads and footpaths, and from isolated properties. Existing trees and hedgerows around the application site will be retained and enhanced to further integrate the site into the local landscape. There will be a limited number of views to small parts of the overall development from further afield.

The management of the land will see the creation of a number of areas of new hedgerows and trees, alongside substantial areas of meadow grassland and habitat areas to support native wildlife. We will also be enhancing existing rights of way and creating new permissive walking paths which link to the existing footpath network. Our plans are still in the development stages, so our design proposals will continue to evolve as we gather local input and the results of our environmental assessments.



Why Here?

The Welsh Government has committed to achieving net zero by 2050. A key part of national planning priority is to generate 70% of electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030. As such, all local authorities in Wales will play an important role in helping to meet these targets.

In considering potential sites for solar in Monmouthshire, we reviewed capacity and access to the electricity network, environmental designations, proximity to local settlements, and the physical characteristics of the site. Most of all, we wanted to work with landowners who were seeking opportunities to diversify their farm and support the wildlife enhancements we create.

Since identifying the site, we have undertaken extensive surveys and assessments of the site, and consulted with technical and community stakeholders, to refine our designs and identify community benefits that we can deliver for local people.

FAQ's

Why solar?

Solar is one of the cleanest, lowest cost forms of energy available. Penpergwm Solar Farm will make a meaningful contribution to Monmouthshire's energy needs and help to tackle the climate emergency.

Why is the application not being submitted to Monmouthshire County Council?

All solar energy projects above 10MW are considered Developments of National Significance. Applications must, therefore, be submitted to the Welsh Planning Inspectorate, rather than local planning authorities. We have and will engage extensively with Monmouthshire County Council as part of our pre-application process.

Are solar farms noisy?

Solar panels themselves do not generate noise. The only noise generating features are small substations distributed within the panel array. These have very low noise levels and will be inaudible at the site boundary.

Will there be any permanent impact?

This project will be operational for 40 years, after which time the equipment is removed and the land restored.

Will there be any impacts on local roads?

For a period of approximately 6 months during construction, there will be deliveries of equipment to site. Renewable Connections will put in place measures to manage impacts of construction traffic and these measures will be included in a Construction Traffic Management Plan that will be submitted with the planning application. There will be infrequent maintenance visits to the site during operation.

What are the benefits to the local community?

Renewable Connections is committed to maximising benefits for the Monmouthshire community. The project will support local businesses, provide enhanced business rates, and provide wildlife and recreational benefits across the site. The project will also be available for local people or organisations to invest in.

About us

Great House Energy Centre Limited is a subsidiary of Renewable Connections. Renewable Connections was established in early 2020 to deliver solar energy projects across the UK. The Renewable Connections team is one of the most experienced renewable energy teams in the UK having developed over 1GW of solar projects globally since 2010.

Our team is committed to developing high quality projects which see benefits delivered locally and we are committed to listening to local people in advance of any planning submission. Renewable Connections is working in partnership with European Energy, one of the largest renewable energy investors in Europe.

Find out more at penpergwmsolar.co.uk

I dderbyn y cylchlythyr hwn
yn y Gymraeg, cysylltwch â
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