

grasshopper

March 2025

v1.1

A large, hand-drawn orange oval graphic that encircles the main title and subtitle. It starts with a short horizontal line at the top left and curves around to the bottom right.

Glyn Taff Solar Farm

Interim consultation report

Pontypridd

Nadara

Contents

Executive Summary	3
Introduction.....	4
Site overview	4
Overview of consultation process	4
Legislative context	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Early Engagement.....	6
Key stakeholder meetings	6
Invitations.....	6
Stakeholder meetings	6
Non-statutory consultation	9
Postcard	9
Website.....	9
Feedback form	10
Advertising	10
Newspaper advert.....	10
Public exhibitions	10
The project	13
The consultation	15
Community Benefit Fund.....	15
Summary of feedback	15
Emails / telephone enquiries.....	15
Feedback forms	16
Key themes.....	20
Summary and conclusion	27
Appendix.....	28

Executive Summary

- 1.1 This consultation report details the key issues raised by stakeholders during the early engagement and non-statutory consultation for Glyn Taff Solar Farm and how Nadara and its team of consultants has responded to them.
- 1.2 The consultation delivered was fully compliant with the consultation plan which can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.3 The early engagement took place between 21st February and 17th May 2024, and the non-statutory consultation took place between 10th June and 8th July 2024, with consultation events on 24th June and 25th June 2024.

1. Introduction

2.1 This report and accompanying appendices constitute the early engagement consultation report prepared by Grasshopper Communications to support a DNS application for Glyn Taff Solar Farm, located approximately 2 km to the east of Pontypridd Town centre on the southern slopes of Eglwysilan Common.

Site overview

2.2 The scheme extends to approximately 101 hectares (ha) on the western slopes of Mynydd Meio, immediately to the southeast of Pontypridd Golf Club.

2.3 The proposal for the 33.25MWac farm includes the construction of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farm, associated landscaping works, infrastructure and access, located within the existing landscape of stone walls, hedgerows and woodland.

2.4 The proposals include:

- 39.9 Megawatt peak (MWp)
- Two potential access routes; Bryntail Farm and Tir Cae-Mawr Farm.
- 35-year project lifetime.
- Construction expected to take 12 months

Overview of consultation process

2.5 Early engagement took place between Wednesday 21 February and Friday 17 May 2024, and the four week non-statutory consultation took place between Monday 10 June and Monday 8 July 2024.

2.6 Feedback has been analysed and, alongside the results of environmental studies and surveys, will inform the proposals that will be consulted on during the statutory consultation in Autumn 2024. Two in-person consultation events held on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 June 2024, with invites sent to local residents by post, and to key stakeholders by email.

2.7 Information about the proposal was made available during the consultation period via a project website, adverts placed in a local news publication, a postcard sent to local residents, and two public exhibitions held in accessible venues in settlements located immediately surrounding the site (Treforest and

Hawthorne). Consultees were encouraged to submit their feedback via email, feedback form (online and hard copies) or telephone.

2. Early Engagement

Key stakeholder meetings

Invitations

3.1 Key stakeholders (refer to **Appendix 2**) were sent an email on Wednesday 21 February 2024 to introduce the project and invite them to have a one-to-one meeting to discuss the proposals before the consultation enters the public domain. These stakeholders include local MP and MS, regional MS's, the county council site ward members, and town council.

Stakeholder meetings

3.2 Four stakeholder meetings were organised and Renantis (who have since merged with Ventient Energy to become Nadara) gave a short presentation about themselves and the project and asked for any feedback on the draft Consultation Plan and engagement strategy (see **Appendix 1**).

3.3 The following stakeholder meetings were held:

Stakeholder meeting 1: Andrew RT Davies MS (Regional MS for South Wales Central)

Date: Thursday 14 March 2024, 11:30am

Venue: Online (Microsoft Teams)

Key discussion points:

- Andrew RT Davies was interested in the impact on local residents, and asked questions about PRoW, accessibility and timeline.
- It was suggested that the consultation zone be expanded to include Tonteg and Church Village due to potential visual impact.
- Notes of the meeting are attached as **Appendix 3**.

Stakeholder meeting 2: Eleri Griffiths, on behalf of Heledd Fychan MS (Regional MS for South Wales Central)

Date: Thursday 11 April 2024, 1pm

Venue: Online (Microsoft Teams)

Eleri is a Community Case worker at Heledd Fychan's constituency office and is also a member of Pontypridd Town Council.

Key discussion points:

- Eleri asked questions about local ownership, impact on agricultural use, what infrastructure will be required, impact on PRow, and heritage.
- It was suggested that the consultation zone should include Pontypridd due to the impact on Pontypridd circular walk which goes through/near the site.
- Notes of the meeting are attached as **Appendix 4**.

Stakeholder meeting 3: Pontypridd Town Council (site community council)

Date: Thursday 25th April 2024, 6pm

Venue: Online (Zoom)

- Nadara attended an existing Town Council meeting to present to its members.
- The three ward members for the site are members of the council, and attended this meeting:
 - Cllr Loretta Tomkinson - Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf
 - Cllr Michael Powell - Trallwng
 - Cllr Steve Powderhill - Treforest

Key discussion points:

- After the presentation, the project team responded to the following questions raised on the following topics:
 - Flood Risk
 - Noise pollution
 - Visual impact
 - Access routes
 - Grid connection
 - Cable routes
 - Operational life
 - Restoration of the site after operation
 - Community benefit and the community benefit fund
 - Community ownership
 - Community engagement
- Notes of the meeting are attached as **Appendix 5**.

Stakeholder meeting 4: Alex Davies-Jones MP for Pontypridd

Date: Friday 17 May 2024, 1.30pm

Venue: Online (Zoom)

Key discussion points:

- Alex asked how will nadara prevent the project from becoming an election campaign point in the general elections?
- Alex provided her complete support for the project and offered to promote the project and provide any quotes needed for press or consultation materials.
- Notes of the meeting are attached as **Appendix 6**.

Non-statutory consultation

- 4.1 The non-statutory consultation on the emerging proposals for Glyn Taff Solar Farm took place for four weeks between Monday 10 June and Monday 8 July 2024. This section provides a summary of the communications and engagement activity during the consultation.
- 4.2 Throughout the consultation period, the developer was operation as Renantis, so all consultation materials were produced under the Renantis name and branding. The company has since merged with Ventient Energy to become Nadara.
- 4.3 A variety of consultation tools and communication channels were used to encourage participation in the consultation from stakeholders and the local community which are set out below:

Postcard

- 4.4 A bilingual postcard introducing the emerging proposals and inviting residents to the consultation events for Glyn Taff Solar Farm was posted to a total of 10,835 properties (10,516 residential and 319 business addresses) in the defined consultation zone (approximately 6.76 square mile radius of the site shown in **Appendix 7**) and emailed to 105 identified stakeholders (including elected representatives, schools, community and interest groups) in the consultation zone and wider area listed in **Appendix 8**.
- 4.5 The postcard gave a short introduction to the project, information about the upcoming public exhibitions, and provided project contact details (refer to **Appendix 9**).
- 4.6 The postcard landed on doorsteps on Monday 10 June 2024 to launch the non-statutory consultation and gave two weeks' notice of the consultation events.

Website

- 4.7 A website was set up at the start of the project to provide information about the site, proposals, who Renantis /Nadara are, consultation events, feedback mechanisms and contact details so local communities and stakeholders can find out more and comment on the emerging proposals: <https://glyntaffsolar.co.uk/>. A screen grab from the website is included in **Appendix 10**.

Feedback form

4.8 An online feedback form was produced to gather feedback during the non-statutory consultation. This was made available on project website at the start of the consultation.

4.9 Hard copies were available at the face-to-face events and returned to the project team using the Grasshopper Freepost address.

4.10 A copy of the feedback form is attached at **Appendix 11**.

Advertising

Newspaper advert

4.11 An advert was placed in the Western Mail on Monday 10 June 2024 on page 17 to advertise the public exhibitions (see **Appendix 12**).

Public exhibitions

4.12 The purpose of the exhibition events was to invite the local community to meet the project team and discuss the proposals at a venue privately rented by the Renantis/Nadara.

4.13 The following consultation events took place:

Date	Time	Venue	Attendees
Monday 24 June 2024	2pm to 7pm	Treforest Community Centre, Pontypridd, CF37 1RX	23
Tuesday 25 June 2024	10am – 3pm	Hawthorn Community Centre, Pontypridd, CF37 5LN	41

4.14 These venues were chosen because they had availability, space for the exhibition materials, disabled access, had good public transport links, parking onsite, and were central to the community and close to the site.

4.15 Renantis / Nadara would have preferred to hold one of the events in Rhydyfelin, the community closest to the site, however no venues in that area had availability on the selected dates.

Treforest Community Centre



Hawthorn Community Centre





4.16 There were 22 exhibition boards (11 Welsh and 11 English) with the following information:

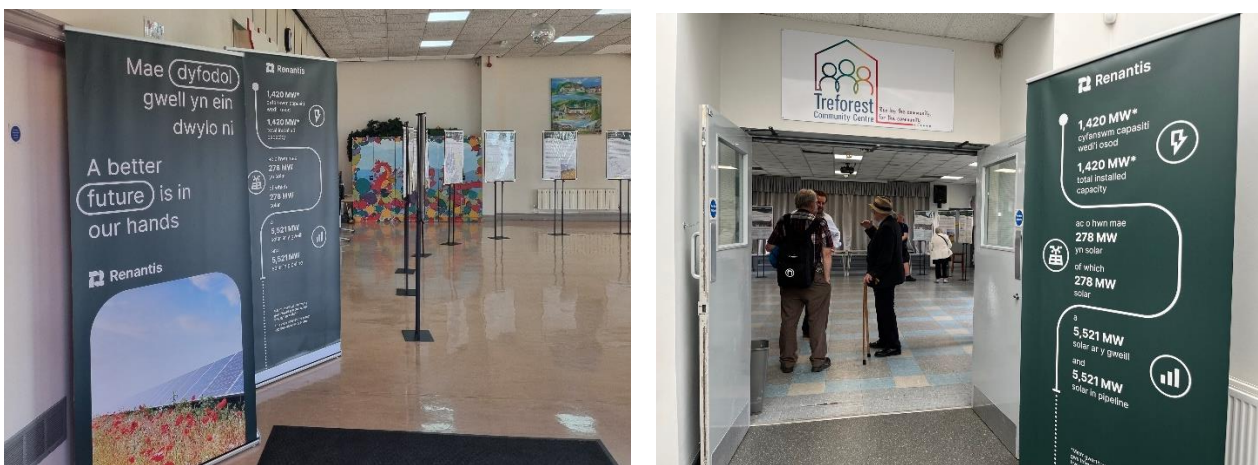
- **Board 1: Welcome** – welcome to the event, introduction to the developer, contact details, and map area with red line boundary of the site.
- **Board 2: The proposal** – information about the proposal and detailed diagram showing planned solar array placement.
- **Board 3: Hydrology and transport** – statements on impact on hydrogeology and transport, including a map detailing possible access routes.
- **Board 4: Landscape and visual** – information on the result of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and mitigation tactics.
- **Board 5: ZTV** – map of the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).
- **Board 6: Hydrology and transport** – statements on impact on hydrogeology and transport, including a map detailing possible access routes.
- **Board 7: Visualisations** – images showing computer generated visualisations of the solar farm from different viewpoint from the surrounding area.
- **Board 8: Visualisations** – images showing computer generated visualisations of the solar farm from different viewpoint from the surrounding area.
- **Board 9: Heritage and archaeology** – statements on results of heritage and archaeological assessments, including a heritage destinations map.
- **Board 10: Ecology and noise** – information about ecology implications and enhancement and noise assessments.

- **Board 11: Community benefits** – the developer's commitment to local community, and the wider benefits the project will bring.

4.17 The boards were produced and displayed in English and Welsh at each of the venues. The exhibition boards are attached as **Appendix 13**.

4.18 Feedback forms and freepost envelopes were available at the events to give attendees.

4.19 Each exhibition included two bilingual pull up banners with information on Renantis' UK operations, including energy production statistics.



4.20 Events were held at different times of the day to allow the most opportunity for local people to attend around their work/life schedules.

4.21 The following key issues raised during the events were:

The project

The project

- Will there be power lines?
- Are the panels storm resistant?
- Why can't we invest in marine energy instead?
- Will batteries be used?
- Is there a lot of maintenance?
- How will the panels be recycled?

Community impact

- Concern around loss of recreational area for the community
- Would like to see something built there and additional facilities for recreational use for residents (eg. structure with seating/shelter)
- Concern around impact on value of nearby homes.

Heritage

- To say there is no heritage is problematic – the site is where Williams Price lived who opened the first crematorium in Wales.
- Concern around proximity to the graveyard.

Environmental impact

- Concern around impact on badgers in the area (there is a set to the North of the site).
- What happens to the grass under the panels?
- Concern around removal of trees and hedgerows.
- Concern raised around contamination of local spring water supply.

Flooding

- The mountain suffers from bad flooding already – how will this impact on flooding and will more drainage be added?

Security

- Will there be CCTV/how will it be monitored?
- What fence will be used?

Access

- Concern around impact on PRow - Will the PRow be improved/maintained?

Traffic and Transport

- Concern around damage caused to access road – will the road be improved at all as the existing road is not well looked after?
- Concern around construction access and impact of traffic during the construction period (access, disruption, noise etc.)
- Concern around the amount and frequency of traffic.

Visual impact

- General concern around visual impact.
- Will there be mitigation on visual impact?
- How far from properties do solar farms have to be? Is there a law on this?
- Would like to see additional viewpoint visualisations – can viewpoints from specific houses be requested?
- Why is such a large fence needed – this will have a worse visual impact than the panels and is not needed.
- Concern around glare from panels.
- Smaller clusters of solar panels would be preferred to minimise visual impact.

The consultation

- Noted that the size of the site has been publicised differently in different places – on the postcard it is 79h and on the website it is 101ha.
- Noted some confusion around language used around the size of the site (hectares). What is the equivalent in acres or is there a real-life comparison that can be made for easier understanding (eg. XX amount of football fields).
- Website isn't fully bilingual and had issues with the Welsh translation.
- One person had issues with seeing the boards properly due to the glare from the stand sleeves and suffering from an eyesight issue (Irlen syndrome).
- No maps with contours provided at first event so difficult to understand the geology of where the panels are going.
- Check colour of maps and visualisations and make sure they are clear.

Community Benefit Fund

- Treforest FC – need help engaging with a more diverse community than they are previously used to and identified the following opportunities:
 - Opportunity to invest in better changing room facilities to cater to other religions beliefs around public nudity
 - Help to publicise the club with local residents and increase involvement
- Funds are usually administered through RCT Council
- Interlink is another option for administering the fund.
- Meadow Street Community Garden could benefit from the fund
- A local pub near the site was closed a couple of years ago (couldn't remember the name) – may be an opportunity for the community benefit fund to get this up and going again.
- Interest voiced in community buy-in/BENCOM option
- How will RCT benefit from the community benefit fund?

Summary of feedback

Emails / telephone enquiries

4.22 A total of 7 emails and 1 phone call were received during the non-statutory consultation with:

- 4 giving feedback on the consultation

- 3 consultation related enquiries

4.23 The following key issues raised were:

- Will the project reduce local residents' electricity bills?
- The incorrect venue had been advertised in the email sent to key stakeholders.
- Contamination of private water supply.
- Concern around impact of transport and access to the site.
- Size of site is advertised differently on the postcard compared to the website.
- Noise pollution.
- Community benefit.
- Site location choice.
- Impact on biodiversity and biodiversity gain.
- What other projects nadara has in Wales.
- Current use of the land.
- Size of the site.
- Consultation plans.

Feedback forms

4.24 During the non-statutory consultation, 11 feedback forms were completed online or returned using the freepost address. Copies of these feedback forms are attached as **Appendix 11**.

4.25 No Welsh feedback forms were received.

Demographic

4.26 Roughly 2/3 of respondents were 45 years old or above.

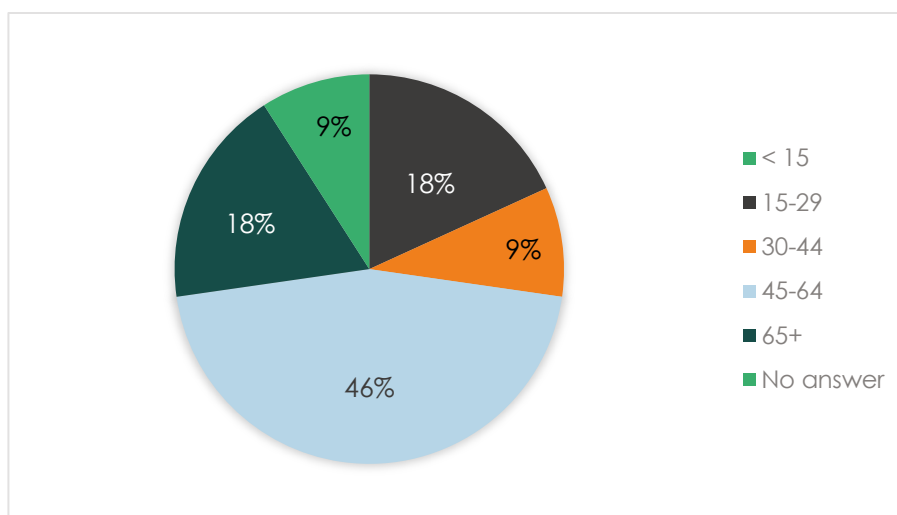


Figure 1. Age Breakdown of respondents in years

4.27 55% of respondents were male, and a further 36% were female.

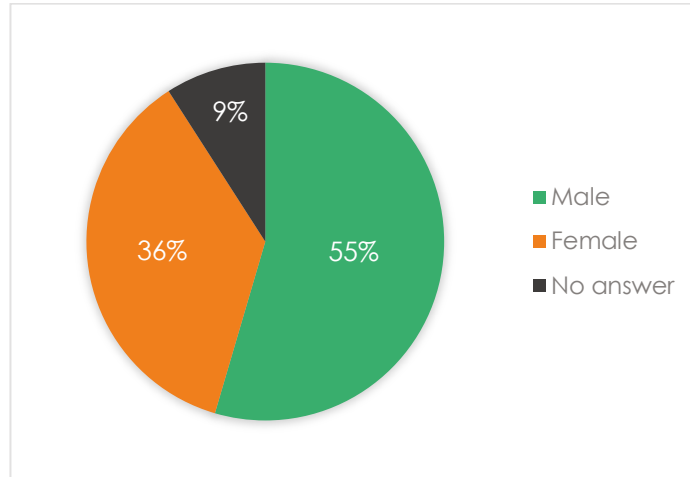


Figure 2. sex breakdown of respondents in years

4.28 Roughly 80% of respondents were white/British, and the further 20% either preferred not to say or didn't respond.

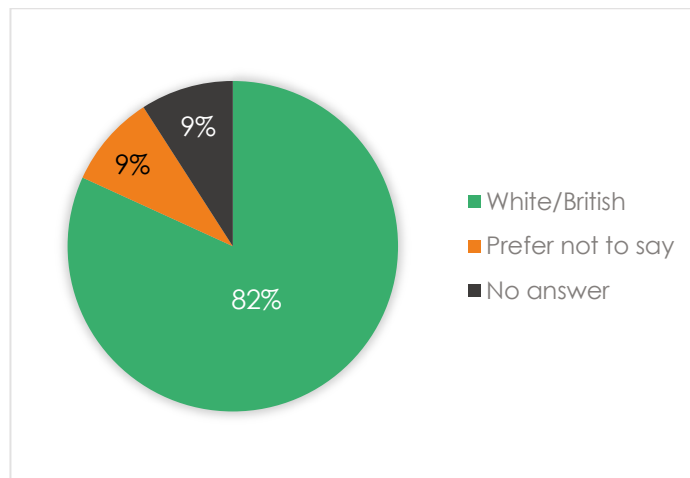


Figure 3. race breakdown of respondents in years

4.29 The purple markers on the map below show where the respondents live in comparison to the site (redline boundary):

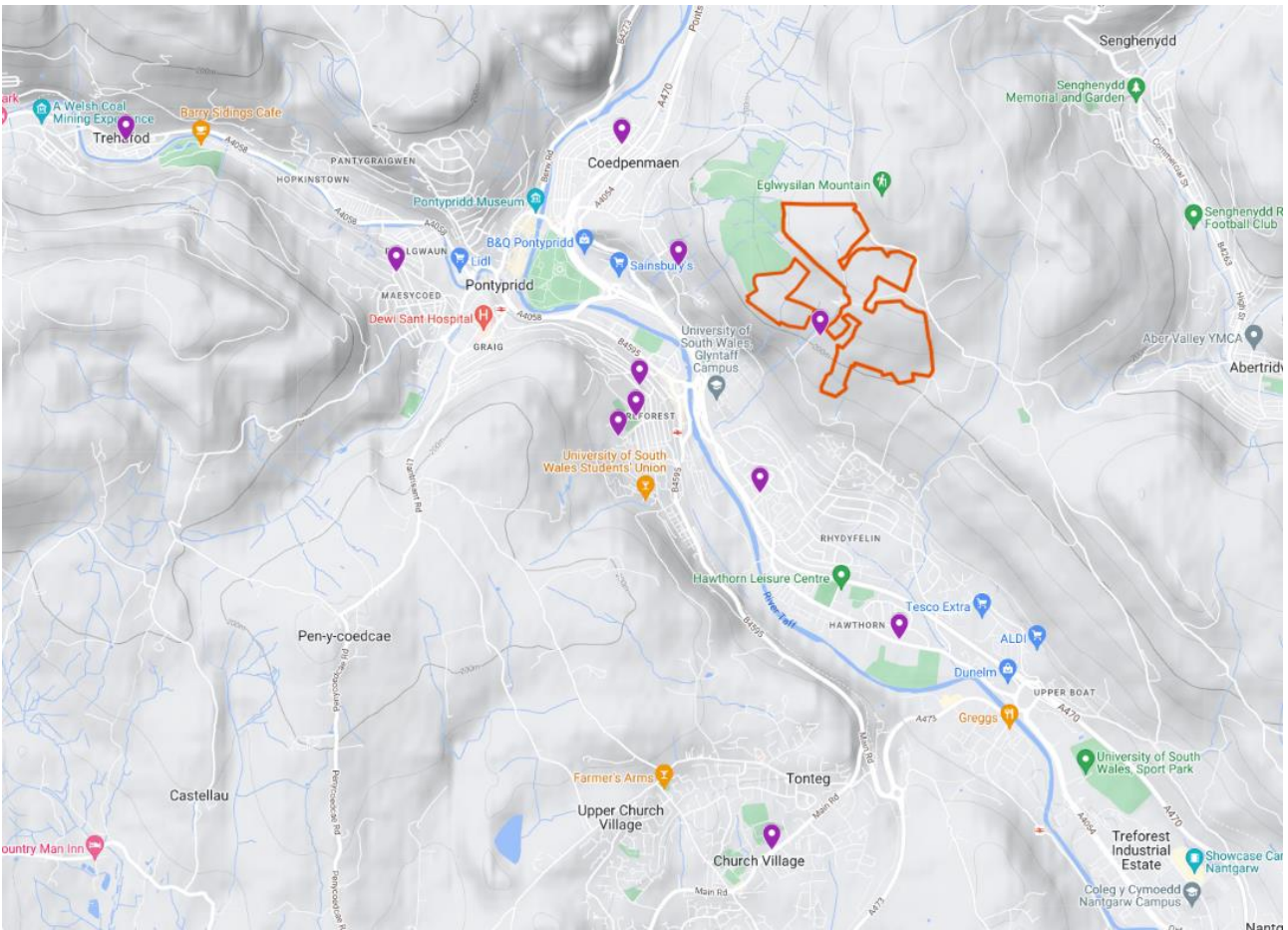


Figure 4. Map of location of respondents in comparison to the site

Consultation

4.30 Of those who responded to the statement: **'Wales needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources'**; almost 100% were either strongly supportive or supportive.

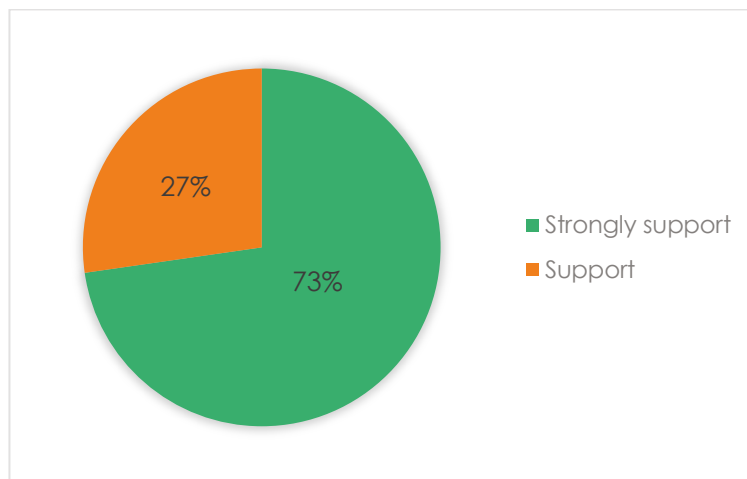


Figure 5. support for renewables by respondents

4.31 Of those who responded to the statement: '**Solar farms are a good way to generate renewable energy**'; over 4/5 (82%) were either strongly supportive or supportive, and under 10% were opposed.

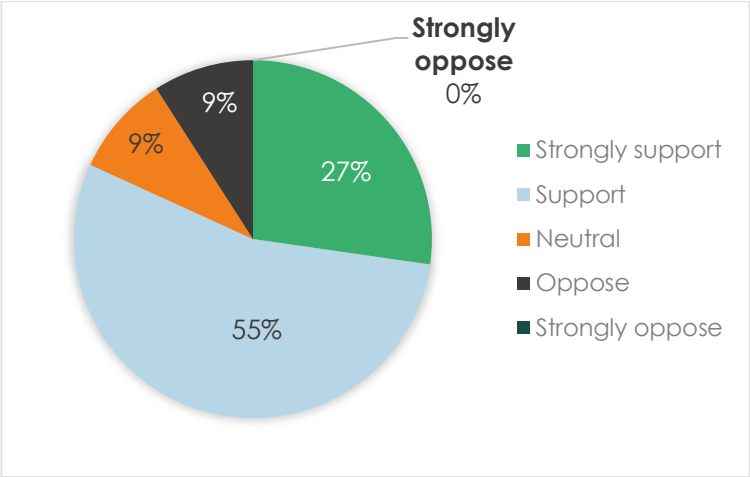


Figure 5. support for solar farms by respondents

3. Main issues raised during non-statutory consultation

4.32 Key considerations respondents thought should be taken into account as the proposals were developed for Glyn Taff Solar Farm included:

Issue Raised	Consequent actions
Biodiversity	
<p>Biodiversity net benefit: The negative impact that agricultural grazing can have on biodiversity was brought up by some respondents, commenting that a solar farm on this land is a good opportunity to reintroduce native plant species and bring forward net benefit for biodiversity.</p>	<p>A solar farm is a dual operational use of agricultural land that can facilitate both renewable energy production and sheep grazing. A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment and Landscape & Ecological Management Plan will accompany the EIA which will set out details on planting including native species hedgerows etc. The proposal will result in a net gain for biodiversity protecting / establishing ecological corridors and reinforced naturally defined boundary treatment where appropriate.</p>
<p>Impact on wildlife: Concern was voiced on the impact the solar farm would have on wildlife, with the panels blocking the sun causing fauna to die and impacting on habitats for insects and mammals.</p>	<p>The potential impact on wildlife has been carefully considered through comprehensive ecological assessments. The design of the solar farm ensures that sunlight can still reach the ground between and beneath the panels, allowing vegetation to thrive and supporting local ecosystems. The project incorporates biodiversity enhancements, including wildflower meadows, improved hedgerows, and dedicated habitat areas to support insects, birds, and mammals. These measures will help to maintain and enhance biodiversity, creating a net ecological benefit over time.</p>
<p>Badgers: One response mentioned that there is a badger set close to the site to the North of the golf course, which is in contradiction to the claim that there are no badger sets within 2km of the site.</p>	<p>All ecological surveys were conducted by qualified professionals in accordance with best practice guidelines, thoroughly assessing local wildlife and habitats. Where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to protect and support biodiversity. We acknowledge this feedback and will review any additional information to ensure our findings remain accurate and up to date.</p>
Climate change	

<p>Support for renewables: Multiple respondents voiced their support for clean energy and the need for renewable energy to help us move towards a sustainable future.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the strong public endorsement for clean energy initiatives and recognize the critical role renewable energy plays in achieving a more sustainable future.</p>
<p>Community benefit</p>	
<p>Community benefit fund: A range of ideas for the community benefit fund were suggested, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making use of unutilised land owned by Pontypridd Golf Club. 2. Working with local schools, colleges and universities to promote solutions to the climate crisis and careers in the renewables sector. 3. Providing funding to Treforest FC to help them: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build an artificial pitch - Provide materials for pitch maintenance - Renovate the changing rooms - Energy assistance (eg. provide solar panels/batteries) - Assist with local engagement to get a diverse range of children involved. 	<p>Glyn Taff Solar Farm will provide a fund of £500 per MW capacity which will be distributed to the Pontypridd community for onward investment into local projects, groups and initiatives. This is equivalent to £630,000 over the lifetime of the project.</p> <p>Additionally, the project continues to welcome feedback on how it may provide further support to areas such as community groups, services and charities, as well as supporting local employment opportunities during the construction and into operation.</p>
<p>Job creation: Respondents would like to see the project employ local people where possible during the construction and operation of the project, with a need for good, stable, well-paid jobs in the area.</p>	<p>The relationships we forge with local suppliers help our projects to become successful and provide valuable economic benefits through inward investment. This ensures that, where possible, local people are employed during the construction and operation of the project.</p>
<p>Local electricity use: Some responders think that 100% of the energy produced should remain in the local electricity network and should benefit the communities most affected by the solar farm.</p>	<p>While the solar farm will supply energy to the national grid, contributing to the overall transition to renewable energy, we understand the interest in ensuring local benefits. Although it is not possible to guarantee that all electricity remains within the immediate area due to the way the energy network operates, the project will look to bring positive impacts to the local community in other areas as set out in the Community Benefit fund responses above</p>
<p>Reduced energy prices: Some people would like to see reduced energy prices for the surrounding community who will be most affected by the solar farm.</p>	<p>Whilst we understand the desire to ensure benefits from the project are felt locally, energy prices are currently set at a national level and not directly controlled by individual projects. The addition of renewable energy does however help to strengthen energy</p>

	security and contribute to long-term price stability.
Community ownership	
What is community ownership?: One person asked for an explanation as to what community ownership is and how it would work for this project.	<p>We are actively exploring opportunities for community ownership of Glyn Taff Solar Farm. Community ownership models in renewable energy projects can provide local benefits by allowing residents to have a stake in the development, generate revenue for community initiatives, and promote long-term sustainability. There are various approaches, such as co-operative models, shared investment schemes, or community benefit funds, each offering different levels of involvement and return.</p> <p>Whilst we continue to assess the viability of the various options available, we also welcome feedback on which proposed structure would provide the most practical benefit to the community.</p>
Interest in community ownership: Multiple people saw the community ownership offering as a positive thing and a way of keeping the financial benefits from the solar farm in the community most impacted by it.	
<p>Community ownership ideas: A range of ideas and suggestions were given for the community ownership offering, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This needs to be affordable so that it is inclusive, and everyone can afford to purchase a stake. 2. This should include residents from the Senghenydd Valley. 3. Local schools should be included in the community ownership process. 4. It needs to have the support of the whole community to be worthwhile. 	
Against community ownership: One response questioned how 3000 people in the local community of Pontypridd own and benefit from a solar farm.	
Consultation	
Event location: One respondent would have liked to have seen a consultation event held in Pontypridd Town Centre which would have been easier to access for them.	The consultation events were strategically held at Treforest Community Centre and Hawthorn Community Centre in June 2024 to ensure accessibility for a broad catchment area while maintaining proximity to the subject site. These locations were selected to balance convenience for local residents and stakeholders with the need for meaningful engagement. However, we appreciate the suggestion regarding Pontypridd Town Centre and will take it into consideration for future consultation events to enhance accessibility.
Event: One person gave his appreciation of the openness of the team members he spoke to at the event who answered all of their questions and put their mind at ease about the development.	These comments are noted and welcomed

<p>Consultation materials: One person would have liked information to be provided in a more accessible format such as a consultation brochure that they could take away from the event.</p>	<p>The projects approach to stakeholder engagement are wide ranging including public events, press releases and project postcards, a project website and direct 1-1 engagement. Where possible, it has been a conscious decision however to limit the amount of hardcopy project literature to lower wastage and support the projects sustainability objectives.</p>
<p>Information: One person commented that some of the project information was not aligned between consultation materials, stating the size of the site and the lifetime of the project was different on the website compared to the postcard received through the door.</p>	<p>The project strives to ensure consistency across all consultation materials and we regret any discrepancies that may have occurred. Despite community feedback resulting in numerous design refinements, the project details, including site size and lifespan, have been updated and are outlined in the official documentation.</p>
<p>Welsh language: A Welsh language speaker asked why the information was not available in Welsh.</p>	<p>All exhibition boards were provided bilingually to facilitate Welsh speakers. Notably, a member of our team was also present at the two public exhibitions available for translation and communications in Welsh.</p>
<p>Visualisations: One person claimed that the visualisation only show the good things (panels and sheep), but aren't showing other disruptions such as the construction impacts, cable routes, access routes, and other infrastructure.</p>	<p>The visualisations are intended to provide a representative view of the proposed solar farm, focusing on its long-term appearance within the landscape. While they do not depict temporary construction activities, all aspects of the development, including access routes, cabling, and associated infrastructure, are fully considered in the planning application and supporting documentation. Construction impacts will also be managed through a detailed Construction and Environmental Management Plan to minimise disruption</p>
<p>Environmental considerations</p>	
<p>Noise pollution (construction): A concern was raised about the impact of noise in the valley during the 6 months of construction.</p>	<p>We recognise the concern regarding potential noise during the construction phase. A Noise Impact Assessment has been conducted as part of the planning process to assess and mitigate any potential effects. Construction activities will be strictly managed through a Construction and Environmental Management Plan, which will include measures such as limited working hours, noise reduction strategies, and ongoing monitoring to minimise disruption. Importantly, as the construction period is limited to approximately six months, any</p>

	noise impact will be temporary and carefully controlled.
Noise pollution (operation): The impact of the noise produced by the panels was a concern of one of the survey responses.	Similar to the above the EIA will be supplemented by a comprehensive Noise Impact Assessment. That said, it is worth noting that unlike traditional power generation methods that rely on mechanical components such as turbines or engines, solar photovoltaic (PV) systems operate silently by harnessing the sun's energy through semiconductor materials.
Hydrology	
Water pollution: A resident was concerned about the pollution of water courses on the mountain, as some residents do not have mains water supply and rely on private supplies to natural springs for their water consumptions. They queried what would happen if their water supply was polluted.	Protecting local water sources is a priority of the project, and we are committed to implementing strict environmental measures to prevent any risk of contamination. A comprehensive flood risk and drainage impact assessment plan will accompany the EIA incorporating robust drainage and pollution control strategies to safeguard watercourses. In addition, regular monitoring during construction and operations will be conducted to ensure full compliance with environmental regulations.
Landscape and visual impact	
Glare from panels: A question was asked about whether there would be any glare or reflection from the solar panels?	The EIA will be supplemented by a comprehensive Glint and Glare Assessment. Notably, modern solar panels are designed to minimize glint and glare through advancements in technology and materials. Most photovoltaic (PV) panels are coated with anti-reflective materials that significantly reduce the amount of sunlight reflected off their surface. Additionally, solar panels are designed to absorb as much light as possible to maximize energy efficiency, meaning they reflect very little light compared to other surfaces
Impact on green land: Some responses were concerned about the loss of green land, and the visual impact of the black solar panels on the landscape.	As noted in the EIA Screening Response, the lands are not associated with Best & Most versatile land. That being said, it should be noted that solar farms operate as a temporary use accompanied with a comprehensive decommissioning plan to revert the lands to its former use.
Impact on view: Some people are concerned about the visual impact of the solar farm in terms of how visible the location is, and the impact this	The EIA will be accompanied with a comprehensive Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment including photomontages which

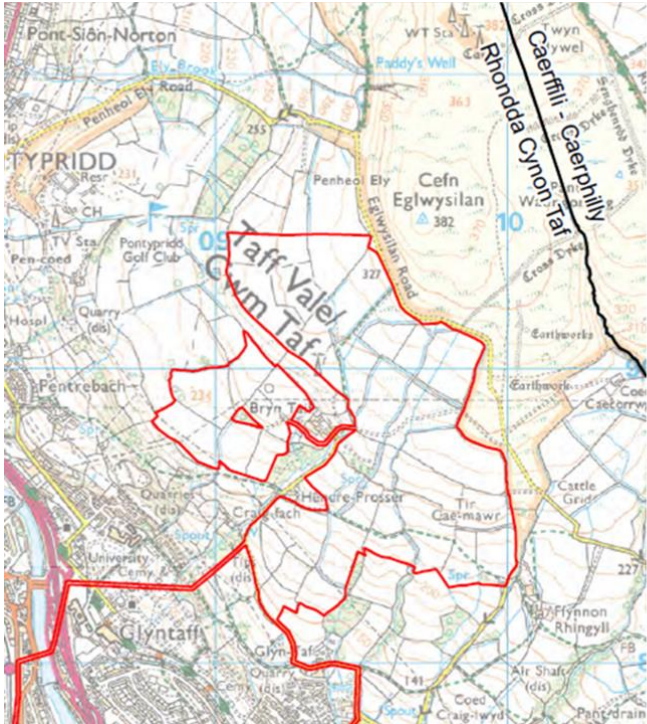
<p>will have on the views of many residents in the surrounding area. One person made specific reference to considering the visual impact from residential areas.</p> <p>Others were reassured that the site is not in a prominent hilltop position and it would be partly shielded by existing trees and hedgerows so visual impact would be minimal.</p> <p>Another requested that the proposal be designed and implemented in a way that does not detract from the unspoiled nature of the area which is an important 'escape to nature' for many residents.</p>	<p>will illustrate how the proposal will integrate into its rural setting. The LVIA will also set out a series of mitigation features which will be incorporated into the design approach including appropriate screening, boundary treatment and appropriate layout arrangements as suggested in the observations raised during the pre-application community consultation.</p>
<p>The project</p>	
<p>Alternative energy: One person voiced their relief that this is a solar project rather than a wind project, as wind projects have a greater visual impact.</p>	<p>We acknowledge the strong public endorsement for clean energy initiatives and recognize the critical role renewable energy plays in achieving a more sustainable future.</p>
<p>Solar: Some responses voiced their support for solar as a sustainable form of energy generation, and that they the positives of the project outweigh the negatives.</p> <p>One person is opposed to the project and would like to see it done elsewhere.</p>	
<p>Transport and access</p>	
<p>Access routes: Multiple people voiced concern about accessing the site as the lanes are narrow, and they want more information on how this will be managed.</p>	<p>The EIA will be accompanied by a comprehensive Construction Traffic & Management Plan. The specific details of access arrangements are to be agreed. That said, traffic management will be carefully planned to minimise any localised disruption including traffic control measures, operational hours and traffic calming.</p>
<p>Construction traffic: Some residents voiced concern about disruption caused by traffic during the construction period, especially due to existing congestion issues and especially around school times.</p> <p>One person asked if there would be lorries going up and down the lane for 6 months.</p>	<p>The EIA will be accompanied by a comprehensive Construction Traffic & Management Plan. The specific details of access arrangements are to be agreed. That said, traffic management will be carefully planned to minimise any localised disruption including traffic control measures, operational hours and traffic calming.</p>
<p>PRoW: Suggestions were made for maintaining and improving PRoW through and near the site to improve amenity, through preserving and clear marking footpaths.</p>	<p>All public rights of way will be appropriately integrated into the proposed solar farm incorporating suitable buffer areas and security fencing to ensure that these will remain free from development and protected during all stages of the project lifespan.</p>

Summary and conclusion

- 5.1 This consultation report successfully documents the actions taken by the nadara to undertake the non-statutory publicity and consultation set out by Article 8 of the Development of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016. However, the report also demonstrates the applicant's willingness to go beyond what is deemed 'statutory' in this context.
- 5.2 The responses to the consultation have been documented and will be considered and acted upon by the applicant leading into the statutory consultation.
- 5.3 This report demonstrates the activities undertaken by the Applicant in both undertaking the consultation in line with the relevant legislation and also where the Applicant has utilised best practice guidance in taking further steps in engaging with interested parties.
- 5.4 Furthermore, the report identifies how the consultation responses received have been addressed – either by answering the questions posed and making reference to other application documents or explaining how the proposed development (whether that be the methodology, assessment or other feature) has been altered to account for this.
- 5.5 It is considered by Nadara that the consultation process was essential and valuable in respect of both obtaining and understanding feedback on the project and implementing changes prior to consulting with the community again during the statutory consultation later this year, where appropriate.
- 5.6 Importantly, the non-statutory consultation process has identified and addressed matters raised by consultees ahead of the pre-application consultation and submission of the application to PEDW. This process and the content of this report demonstrates how the Applicant has considered the matters raised, resulting in a more refined scheme for consideration.

Appendix

Appendix 1



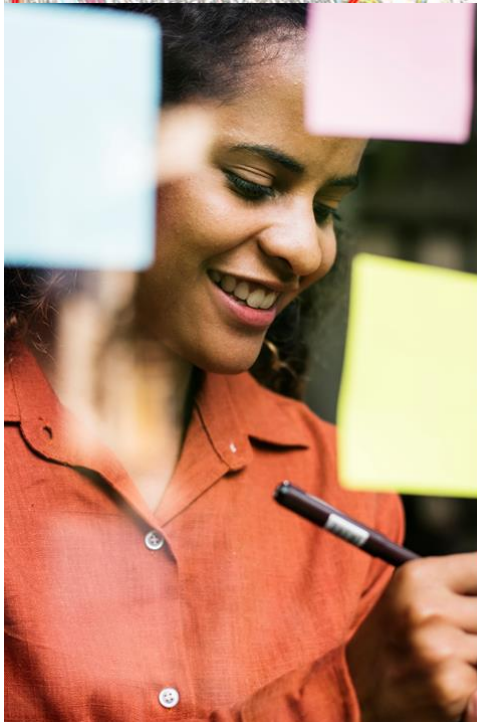
 Renantis | 

Consultation Plan

Glyn Taff Solar Farm

April 2024

DO.1





Our approach

2

Consultation requirements



The following legislation / guidance has informed the Consultation Plan:

- **Planning (Wales) Act 2015:** for a Development of National Significance, which will be submitted to the Planning and Environment Decisions Wales for determination by Welsh Ministers.
- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**
- **Wales Principles of Public Engagement**
- **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council:** discussion with officers and local ward members on the draft Consultation Plan.

Renantis is committed to promoting Welsh language and culture, and all key consultation materials will be produced in English and Welsh.

Multi-stage approach



Early engagement – non statutory consultation



- Initial discussions with key elected representatives and stakeholders to introduce the project and discuss the draft Consultation Plan.
- Stakeholder and community engagement on the emerging proposals for Glyn Taff Solar Farm **(for a minimum of 4 weeks/28 days)**.

Statutory consultation



- Update discussions with key elected representatives
- Statutory consultation on the detailed proposals and draft planning application **(for a minimum of 6 weeks/42 days)**.

Analysis and reporting



- Feedback will be analysed and used to help shape the final application, which will be detailed in the Consultation Report submitted with the planning application.

Consultees

1

Statutory consultees

- Specialist consultees
- Community consultees
- Relevant persons
- Landowners

2

Non-statutory consultees

- Residents and businesses within the consultation zone
- Local stakeholders and community groups
- Local and regional interest groups

3

Wider community

- Stakeholders, community groups, businesses and residents in the wider area

Consultation zone



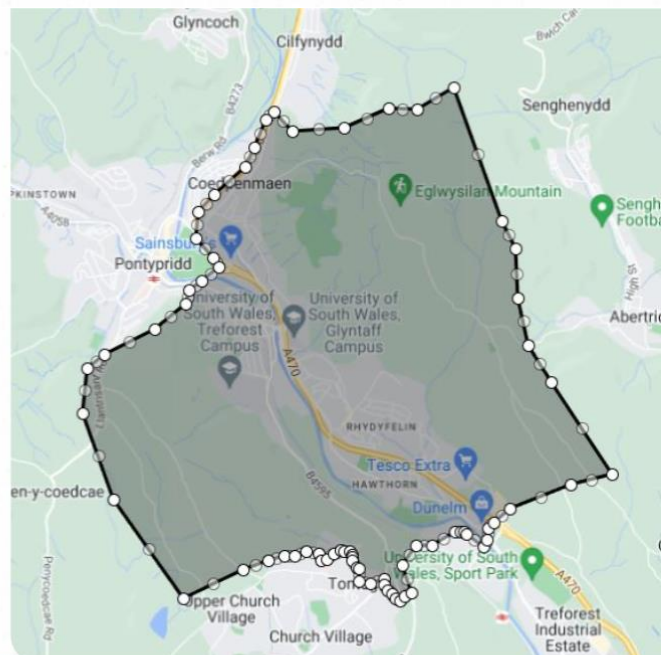
6.76 square miles



10,516 households



319 businesses





Methodology

*Timings are indicative

Non-statutory engagement

Spring / Summer 2024

Inform

- Launch project webpage: <https://glyntaffsolar.co.uk/>
- Newsletter to introduce the project and promote the early engagement
- Advert for local media
- Poster for local stakeholders

Collaborate

- Meetings/briefings with local elected representatives/key stakeholders

Engage

- 2 public drop in events (exhibition boards to be produced by Neo Environmental)
- Feedback form – online or paper copies

Stakeholder feedback



Analysing

All comments obtained during early engagement will be examined, collated and presented to the project team so feedback from local communities and stakeholders can help inform the emerging proposals.



Feedback

Comments received will be categorised into key themes and reported in the **interim consultation report** will be prepared.

All those stakeholders and residents will be given projects updates and notified of the next steps as the project progresses.

Statutory consultation

Autumn 2024

Inform

- Statutory notices (letters and press only)
- Update project webpage: <https://glyntaffsolar.co.uk/>
- Newsletter to update on project progress and promote the statutory engagement
- Advert for local media
- Poster for local stakeholders

Collaborate

- Meetings/briefings with local elected representatives/key stakeholders

Engage

- 2 public drop in events (exhibition boards to be produced by Neo Environmental)
- Feedback form – online or paper copies
- Other feedback mechanisms- email, phone, freepost (same as non-statutory engagement)

Adverts and media releases



Media releases to be issued to:

- Wales Online
- Nation.Cymru
- The Western Mail
- South Wales Argus
- Pontypridd and Llantrisant Observer
- Business News Wales
- Insider Media
- Renews.biz
- Solar Power Portal

Adverts to be placed in:

Pontypridd and Llantrisant Observer

- Frequency: weekly
- Day of publication: Thursday

The Western Mail

- Frequency: daily

Venues for events



The following events have been organised

Event 1:

Date: w/c

Time:

Venue: Rhydyfelin Community centre (in the community closest to site)

Event 2:

Date:

Time:

Venue: Treforest Community Centre (in the community across the valley which can see the site)

Consultation Report



Analysing

All comments received during the statutory consultation will be categorised into key themes and responded to through the Consultation Report



Reporting

The Consultation Report will detail the consultation process and explain how key issues have been addressed in the final proposals, where appropriate. This will form part of the final planning application to be submitted to Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW).

Indicative timeline

April – July 2024

Informal Engagement



July / August 2024

Stakeholder Feedback



September – October 2024

Statutory Consultation



November / December 2024

Analysis, reporting and feedback in Consultation Report

(as part of application submission)

Project contact details

grasshopper



Website: www.glyntaffsolar.co.uk



Email: GlyntaffPV@grasshopper-comms.co.uk



Telephone number: **01443 584238**



Address: **Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT** (no stamp or further address required)

Appendix 2

- **Local MP**
 - Alexandra Davies-Jones, MP for Pontypridd |
- **Local MS**
 - Mick Antoniw, MS for Pontypridd
 - Rhys ab Owen, Regional MS for South Wales Central
 - Andrew RT Davies, Regional MS for South Wales Central
 - Heledd Fychan, Regional MS for South Wales Central
 - Joel James, Regional MS for South Wales Central
- **Site Local Authority (Council) Ward Members**
 - Loretta Tomkinson (Site ward member for Upper Rhydfelen and Glyn-taf, and Rhydfelin Central ward member for Pontypridd Town Council)
 - Michael Powell (Site ward member for Trallwng and leader of RCT Independent Group.
 - Steve Powderhill (Site ward member for Treforest, Presiding Officer for RCTCBC, and sits on Pontypridd Town Council)
- **Site Community Council (Clerk)**
 - Pontypridd Town Council

Appendix 3

Meeting notes

Project Name: Glyn Taff Solar Farm

Purpose of meeting: Stakeholder meeting

Phase of consultation: Early engagement

Date and time: Thursday 14 March 2024 11:30am

Venue: Microsoft teams

Attendees

- Andrew RT Davies
- Saurabh Shah
- Gabriel English
- Hannah Dineen
- Iwan Iwanca-Davies

Summary of discussion

Presentation given by Saurabh, Gabriel and Hannah.

Andrew RT Davies' comments

- Andrew RT Davies knows one of the landowners (son in law) and the site very well.
- Interest in the impact link to [local residents](#)
- Doesn't think we will see many objections to it in the area as not as much opposition to solar as there is to wind.
- Will the site be opened to walkers / educational visits?
 - Gabriel ensured that the [PRoW](#) will be accessible and will be made easily identifiable.
- Sceptical of employment opportunities – doesn't take many people to run them.
 - Need to be careful about what is being said about employment opportunities from solar and specifically local opportunities.
- May be more visual impact in [Tonteg](#) and Church Village so worth including them in the consultation zone.
- Asked how long it takes PEDW to approve applications – often delayed.
 - Aiming to start construction in late 2025.
- Look forward to engaging as the project me

Appendix 4

Meeting notes

Project Name: Glyn Taff Solar Farm

Purpose of meeting: Stakeholder meeting

Phase of consultation: Early engagement

Date and time: Thursday 11 April 2024 1pm

Venue: Microsoft teams

Attendees

- Eleri Griffiths (on behalf of Heledd ~~Evchan~~)
- Gabriel English (Renantis)
- Hannah Dineen
- Iwan Irranca-Davies

Summary of discussion

Project introduction presentation given by Gabriel and Hannah.

Eleri's comments and questions:

- What percentage of local ownership would there be?
 - up to 10%.
- How do you ensure that it will be local ownership?
 - investment can be from £50 to £20,000, and you would have to live within a certain area to be able to apply.
- Will the land be acquired?
 - No, it will be leased for 35 years and then go back to its original use.
- What impact this will have on the land for grazing
 - The land could still accommodate grazing (sheep only – which is what the land is already used for).
- Will pylons be needed for grid connection?
 - No, it will be underground cabling. There are discussions with University of South Wales on supplying them with some power as the cable runs past them (discussions ongoing).



- Are there any PRoW's?
 - There are and they will be enhanced as part of the planning application.
- Are the PRoW's that will be affected a part of the Ponty Circular walk?
 - Unsure, but possibly.
- Are there any archaeological remains that may be affected.
 - Not according to surveys conducted.

Consultation zone feedback

- Because it is part of the Pontypridd circular walk the people in Pontypridd might be particularly interested in being consulted so may be worth including them in the consultation zone.
- Some people on the West of Pontypridd, and opposite the mountain in Tonteg may have visual impact, so may be worth including them in the consultation zone as well.

Appendix 5

▲ Meeting notes

Project Name: Glyn Taff Solar Farm

Purpose of meeting: Stakeholder briefing meeting

Phase of consultation: Early engagement

Date and time: Thursday 25th April 2024

Venue: Zoom

Attendees

- Cllr Thomas
- Heledd Fychan MS
- Dawn Wood
- Chris Roberts
- Hywel Gronow
- Paul Anton
- Angela Karadog
- Cath Lises
- Mike Powell, Site ward member for Trallyng
- Gabriel English, Renantis
- Hannah Dineen, Grasshopper Communications
- Additional attendees in person

Summary of discussion

Presentation from Gabriel English and Hannah Dineen introducing Renantis, the site, the proposal, community benefit offer and approach to community consultation.

Questions and answers

After the presentation, the project team responded to the following questions raised:

Flood Risk: This area is already subject to flood risk. How will the proposals ensure that the installation of the solar farm infrastructure will not increase flood risk?

- The Flood Risk Surveys have been undertaken and have shown the site to be at low risk of flooding.
- The solar panels will be installed on piles so there is no concrete underground.

Noise complaints: How much noise will be generated and from what distance will it be heard?

- The proposals for static solar panels will ensure that the standards set by environmental health will be met.
- During the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, the noise impacts will be reviewed in detail.

Landscape and visual impact: what visualisations will you be providing?

Attendees suggested that it would be good to have a series of visualisations prepared showing the impacts on the Pontypridd community.

Public rights of way: What is the impact on the Pontypridd Circular Walk?

The team confirmed that the walk would not be affected.

Transport and access: what is the access route for the infrastructure to site?

During the construction phase, it is anticipated that there will be some temporary effects on transport and access, particularly given the rural nature of the site and surrounding area. Detailed traffic impacts will be provided.

There are two potential operational access points, both are existing farm entrances and gateways. These are either via:

- Bryntail Farm
- Tir Cae-Mawr Farm

Grid connection: Will there be pylons necessary to connect the solar farm to the electricity sub-station at Upperboat?

There will be no pylons used to connect the solar farm to the substation.

The proposed development will connect to the electricity network via underground cables to the National Grid Substation at Upperboat, roughly 4km from the site.

Where are the cables going?

We are currently exploring options for the underground cables. |

Operational life: What happens at the end of the operational life of the project – will it be extended?

We propose that the solar farm would export renewable energy directly to the National Grid for up to 35 years.

If after 35 years we consider continuing the solar farm, the proposal would have to go through the planning process again.

Restoration of the site: Will the site be converted back to its original state after operation has finished?

As part of the planning conditions, there will a legal requirement under the restorative planning conditions to return the site to its original state.

Community benefit: Given there are energy park proposals all over Wales affecting the natural amenity of the landscape, what's in it for people suffering fuel poverty?

Given the size of the proposals producing in the region of 36.6 megawatts of renewable energy to the National Grid, the administration costs and the location of the site in a densely populated area, it is not viable to discount energy at source and help people with fuel bills.

We are currently open to discussion regarding community benefit. The community benefit fund will be in the region of £500 per megawatt. We are keen to explore opportunities to contribute to worthwhile projects which reflect the ethos of the scheme and are keen to hear the communities' ideas.

Once the project is up and running, there will be a call for projects to apply for funding to help benefit the local area.

Who would benefit from the community benefit fund and how would it be distributed?

The communities closest to the site would receive the funds. We welcome ideas form the Town Council

Community ownership: How can people afford to buy into the scheme?

There are low thresholds of £100 to buy into the scheme. The maximum investment is £20,000.

Concerns were raised by attendees that many people can not afford to invest £100 and would rather see their energy bills being reduced.

Local businesses and organisations can also invest in the Solar Farm. On some of Renantis' other projects, Community Development Trusts have been set up. There is potential support to give legal advice to help set them up.

There may be an opportunity for Pontypridd Town Council to buy-in to the scheme.

Community engagement: Are you holding any events? If so, where?

As part of the non-statutory consultation, we are proposing to hold two events, one in Rhydyfelin Community Centre and one in Treforest Community Centre.

Attendees confirmed that the venues were suitable being on both sides of the valley. They also suggested that both events run from early afternoon to the evening.

Other comments

- Pronunciations of local places – one attendee suggested that it would be useful to ensure that the project team know how to pronounce local place names.
- Suggestion that it would be useful to have educational material on the website which could be co-produced locally.
- Attendees thanked the project team for their presentation.

Appendix 6

Meeting notes

Project Name: **Glyn Taff Solar Farm**

Purpose of meeting: **Stakeholder meeting**

Phase of consultation: **Early engagement**

Date and time: **Friday 17 May 2024 1.30pm**

Venue: **Microsoft teams**

Attendees

- Alexandra Davies-Jones MP
- Gabriel English (Renantis)
- Alex Henderson (Renantis)
- Hannah Dineen
- Iwan Irranca-Davies

Summary of discussion

Project introduction presentation given by Gabriel, Alex and Hannah.

Alexandra's comments and questions:

- How will we prevent it from becoming an election campaign point in the general elections?
 - The timing is not ideal, but we will do our best to avoid this project becoming a campaign point.
- What is the cost of the project?
 - Around £40 million
- Alexandra said she thinks this looks like a fantastic project and is very supportive of it.

Appendix 7

Consultation zone



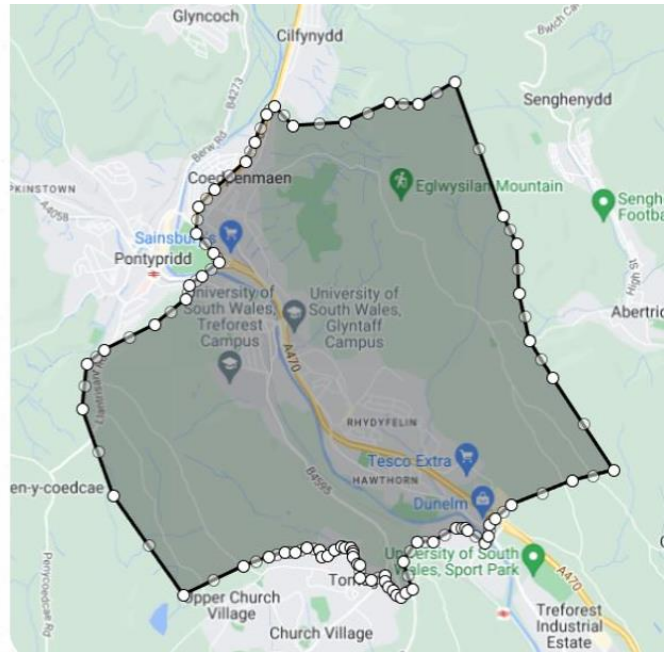
6.76 square miles



10,516 households



319 businesses



Appendix 8

Tier 1 – highest priority key stakeholders to be engaged at early engagement and direct engagement through consultation process.

Local MP

- Simon Hart MP

Local MS(s)

- Mick Antoniw MS (site)
- Rhys ab Owen MS (regional)
- Andrew RT Davies MS (regional)
- Heledd Fychan MS (regional)
- Joel James MS (regional)

Site Local Authority Ward Members

- Cllr Loretta Tomkinson,
- Cllr Michael Powell
- Cllr Steve Powderhill

Site Community Council

- Pontypridd Town Council

Tier 2 – statutory consultees to be directly engaged throughout consultation process.

Specialist consultees

- Relevant Welsh Ministers
- Natural Resources Wales
- Highways authority (local authority and/or Welsh Government)
- Network Rail
- Fire & Rescue Authorities
- Coal Authority
- Health & Safety Executive
- Control of Major Accident Hazards
- Office for Nuclear Regulation
- The Canal & Rivers Trust
- Sports Council for Wales
- CADW
- Theatres Trust

-
- Water and Sewerage Undertaker
 - Local grid provider
 - National Grid

Site and adjacent landowners

Relevant parties

Tier 3 – wider community consultees directly targeted during informal and statutory consultation.

- Adjacent community councils - Aber Valley Community Council
- Adjacent ward members, MP, MS, and Local Authority
- Council Leadership and Cabinet Members
- Members of the Planning Committee
- Council Officers
- Community consultees/groups likely to have a high interest

Tier 4 – wider non statutory stakeholders engaged during informal and statutory consultation.

Community stakeholders

Community venues

Interest stakeholders

Tier 5 – Wider community engaged during informal and statutory consultation.

Wider residents, businesses and visitors

The information contained in this mapping document will also be used to shape the communications strategy and the consultation plan, to ensure we approach and engage everyone in the stakeholder mapping in the most appropriate way and to ensure our key messaging addresses local issues, considerations, and opportunities.

Appendix 9



 Renantis

Fferm Solar Glyn Taff

GWAHODDIAD I DDIGWYDDIADAU GALW
HEIBIO CYHOEDDUS



Dydd Llun 24 Mehefin

2pm – 7pm

Canolfan Gymunedol Trefforest



Dydd Mawrth 25 Mehefin

10am – 3pm

Canolfan Gymunedol Y Ddraenen Wen

Glyn Taff Solar Farm

INVITATION TO PUBLIC DROP-IN EVENTS



Monday 24 June

2pm – 7pm

Trefforest Community Centre



Tuesday 25 June

10am – 3pm

Hawthorn Community Centre

Fferm Solar Glyn Taff

HELO, RYDYN NI'N RENANTIS.

Rydym yn gyffrous i gyflwyno ein cynlluniau newydd i chi ar gyfer Fferm Solar Glyn Taf ar tua 79ha o dir amaethyddol gradd 4 ar lethrau gorllewinol Mynydd Meio i'r de o glwb golff Pontypridd.

Glyn Taff Solar Farm

HELLO, WE'RE RENANTIS.

We're excited to present to you our emerging plans for Glyn Taff Solar Farm on approximately 79ha of grade 4 agricultural land on the western slopes of Mynydd Meio, to the southeast of Pontypridd Golf Club.

Return Address:
Postal Administration
A7 Mercury Business Park
Bradninch
EX5 4BL

Delivered by



Title Forename Surname

AddressLine1

AddressLine2

AddressLine3

AddressLine4

AddressLine5

AddressLine6

Postcode



glyntaffsolar.co.uk



glyntaffPV@grasshopper-comms.co.uk



01443 584238



 Renantis

Appendix 10



Glyn Taff Solar Farm

Another step towards net-zero

The project

Located to the east of Pontypridd, Glyn Taff Solar Farm will provide 36.6MW of clean, zero-carbon renewable energy, equivalent to providing enough power to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 10,000 homes.

The operational life of the development would be 35 years, providing long-term carbon dioxide savings and significant improvement to biodiversity in the locality.



Appendix 11



A better
future is in
our hands

Glyn Taff Solar Farm: Feedback Form

We'd like to ask for your feedback about our proposals for the Glyn Taff Solar Farm on the southern slopes of Eglwysilan Common, Pontypridd. We are carrying out a non-statutory consultation to find out local views about the [project](#), and explain how the proposals can benefit the community.

The consultation period ends at midnight on **Monday 8 July 2024**.

To find out more, visit glyntaffsolar.co.uk. Feedback forms can be returned to us via:

- online: glyntaffsolar.co.uk (or scan the QR code); or
- handing a copy into a staff member at the Consultation Events
- post: **Freepost GRASSHOPPER CONSULT** (no stamp required);
- email: glyntaffPV@grasshopper-comms.co.uk



Fields marked as **MANDATORY** must be completed. Failure to do so may result in your answers not being counted as part of the survey.

GDPR Statement

Renantis will use and store the information provided by you in line with the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

How will we use the information we collect about you?

We will use your personal data collected via this consultation for our legitimate business purposes, including:

- To analyse your feedback to the consultation
- To produce a Pre-Application Consultation Report, based on 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 updates.
- To keep up to date records of our communications with individuals and organisations.
- To monitor for equalities purposes

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:

- Renantis
- Planning Environment Development Wales (PEDW) (which will consider our application for consent – any details published as part of this process will be anonymised)
- The Welsh Ministers
- Our legal advisers
- Consultants working on Glyn Taff Solar Farm (Grashopper and Neo Environmental)

What rights do I have over my personal data?

Under the terms of the UK GDPR, you have certain rights over how your personal data is retained and used by Renantis.

For further information about how Renantis processes personal data and your rights please see our privacy notice on our website - <https://renantis.com/privacy-policy/>.

1. Please tick 'Yes' to confirm you have read and understood the GDPR statement.

MANDATORY

Please select **only 1** option

Yes

Project feedback

2. "Wales needs to generate more electricity from renewable sources"

Please select only 1 option

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Oppose

Strongly oppose

3. "Solar farms are a good way to generate renewable energy"

Please select only 1 option

Strongly support

Support

Neutral

Oppose

Strongly oppose

4. Please provide any comments you have on the proposals. We welcome your feedback on all aspects of the emerging proposals

5. Are there any specific factors on or near the site that you would like us to consider when developing our proposals?

6. We are committed to delivering local community benefits. Please give us your suggestions of how we could support your local community.

7. Please provide any comments you have on local community ownership of the solar farm?

About the consultation

8. How did you find out about the project?

- Word of mouth Newsletter Email Social media Event

9. Have you found the materials (newsletter, website) helpful in informing you about our proposals?

Please select only 1 option

- Very useful Useful No opinion Not very useful Not at all useful

10. Did you attend a public information event? If so, which one?

- Monday 24 June, 2pm - 7pm at Treforest Community Centre Tuesday 25 June, 10am-3pm at Hawthorne Leisure Centre I did not attend an event

11. Is there any other information you would have found useful?

12. Please provide us with your postcode.

▲ MANDATORY

Equalities monitoring form

This section is optional, but helps us identify who our consultation has reached, and helps us identify which groups we may need to work harder to engage with in the future.

13. What is your age group?

Please select **only 1** option

- Under 15 15-29 30-44 45-64 65+

14. What is your gender?

Please select **only 1** option

- Male Female Non-binary Other

15. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

Please select **only 1** option

- Yes No

16. What is your ethnic group?

Please select **only 1** option

- White / British White / Any other Mixed Asian / Far Eastern Asian/ Pakistani
 Asian / Bangladeshi Asian / Indian Asian / Any other Black / African Black / Caribbean
 Black / Any other Arab Any other Prefer not to say

17. Can you do the following in Welsh?

- Read Write Speak Listen

18. Which of the following best describes what you are doing at present?

Please select **only 1** option

- Working full time (30+ hours per week) Working part time (less than 30 hours per week) In full time education Unemployed Retired
 Not working due to sickness or disability Full time carer Other Prefer not to say

Your details

First name

Last name

Email

Organisation name

Appendix 12

STAFF REPORTER
newsdesk@walesonline.co.uk

A WELSH trio who are gearing up to support Foo Fighters on Saturday have spoken out about the realities of being a female-fronted rock band in 2024.

The Foos are set to embark on their Everything or Nothing at All UK stadium tour next week, visiting Manchester, Glasgow, London, Cardiff and Birmingham to showcase their album *But Here We Are*.

The band will be supported by a variety of artists during their UK stint, 70% of which are female-fronted.

Ahead of opening for arguably the biggest rock band on the planet, Welsh alt-rock band Chroma, from Pontypridd, have contributed to a discussion about the ongoing misogyny and abuse faced by women in the music industry, and called for more to be done to create a safe working environment for female musicians.

Speaking ahead of their date with Grohl and co, lead singer Katie Hall shared some of the things she has been subjected to.

This includes an occasion when an unknown man approached bassist Liam Bevan and drummer Zac Mather during a show and told them he was "going to have sex" with Katie.

Recalling the incident, she said: "This bloke had come up to both of you and said, 'I'm going to have sex with Katie after the show.' The boys came up to me and said, 'Katie, do not go near that man.'

'The only way to tackle misogyny is for men to call out other men's bad behaviour'



Welsh band Chroma, fronted by Katie Hall, are supporting Foo Fighters on Saturday

"I know the boys have got my back a hundred per cent, but it's still wild."

The band have spoken as part of the Welsh Government's flagship campaign to end violence against women, aptly titled *Sound*.

Sound was launched in 2023 as a community-led platform encouraging young men to take personal and collective responsibility in ending violence against women and girls.

Liam and Zac spoke about the responsibility of men in the industry to take a zero-tolerance approach to misogyny and abuse, and the impor-

ance of working together to make the industry safer for female counterparts.

Zac said: "It's about knowing and learning how as men we can do better to respond to individuals when they say something that doesn't flow right."

He added it's important men can respond safely and call out other men, if they say or do something inappropriate.

"It's important to have those difficult conversations with men without feeling like you're putting yourself in a dangerous position where they may become violent with you, or dis-

regard what you're saying."

Katie said: "It's the only way things can really change, in terms of misogyny and men calling out other men's bad behaviour."

"It is important to sound it out because that person might not be aware of the full picture or aware that they're even doing it."

In 2023, the band released an album called *Ask for Angela*, named after a campaign which has been implemented across bars, clubs and other licensed businesses across the UK, including Wales.

It allows people who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened to

approach a member of staff and ask them for "Angela", indicating to staff they need help.

Chroma will support Foo Fighters at Emirates Old Trafford in Manchester on Saturday.

The US rockers will also be calling at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff on June 25.

For more information about *Sound*, follow @soundcymru on Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

The Live Fear Free helpline offers 24-hour support - call 0908 8010800, text 07860 077333, email info@livefearfreehelpline.wales or live chat at livefearfree.gov.wales




Glyn Taff Solar Farm

NON-STATUTORY CONSULTATION

Renantis is carrying out the non-statutory consultation on proposals for Glyn Taff Solar Farm on the western slopes of Mynydd Meio, to the southeast of Pontypridd Golf Club.

Further information can be found on our website.

Please submit your comments by:
Monday 8 July 2024.

COME ALONG TO OUR PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS:



Monday 24 June 2024
2pm - 7pm
Treforest Community Centre



Tuesday 25 June 2024
10am - 3pm
Hawthorn Community Centre

Fferm Solar Glyn Taff

YMGYNGHORIAD ANSTATUDOL

Mae Renantis yn cynnal yr ymgynghoriad anstatudol ar gynigion ar gyfer Fferm Solar Glyn Taf ar lethrau gorllewinol Mynydd Meio, Pontypridd.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar ein gwefan.

Cyflwynwch eich sylwadau erbyn:
8 Gorffennaf 2024.

DEWCH I'N HARDDANGOSFEYDD CYHOEDDUS:



Dydd Llun 24 Mehefin
2pm - 7pm
Canolfan Gymunedol Treforest



Dydd Mawrth 25 Mehefin
10am - 3pm
Canolfan Gymunedol Y Ddraenen Wen

 glyntaffsolar.co.uk

 glyntaffPV@grasshopper-comms.co.uk

 01443 584238



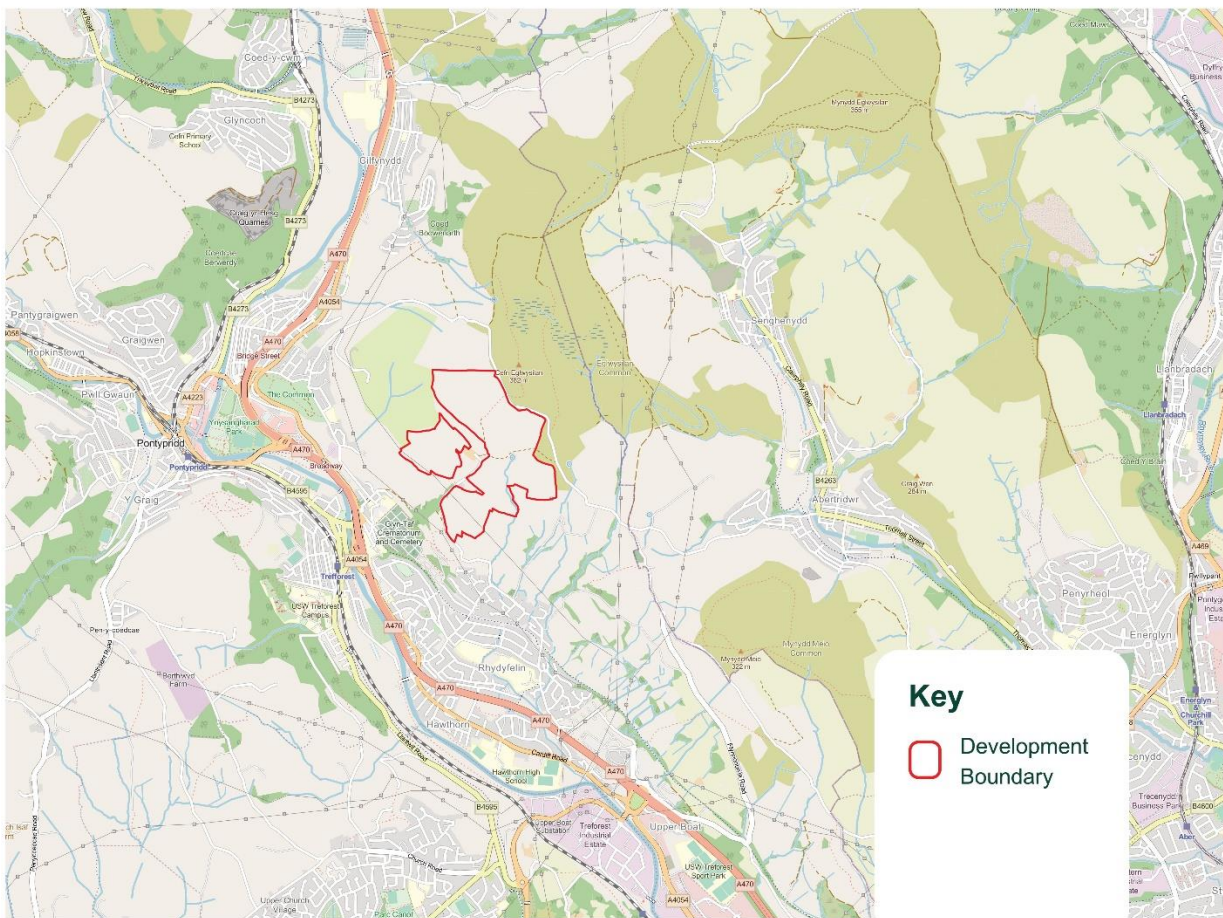
Appendix 13

Glyn Taff Solar Farm



Welcome

Welcome to the public consultation for the proposed solar farm at the land east of Glyn Taff



About us

Renantis develops, designs, builds and manages power plants from renewable sources, with an installed capacity of more than 1.4 GW in the UK, Italy, USA, Spain, France, Norway and Sweden.

Get in touch



-  glyntaffsolar.co.uk
-  glyntaffPV@grasshopper-comms.co.uk
-  01443 584238

The Proposed Development



Description of proposal

The Proposed Development will consist of the construction of solar panels mounted on metal frames, new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with CCTV cameras and access gates, temporary construction compounds and all ancillary grid infrastructure and associated works.

The solar panels will be fixed tilt, bi-facial, ground mounted arrays. They will not exceed 4m in height and will be affixed to a frame which is drilled into the ground to a maximum depth of 1-2 metres which will cause minimal ground disturbance and reduce potential impacts on unknown sub-surface archaeology.

The panels will have a non-reflective surface, which will increase the proportion of solar radiation absorbed, removing the risk of unwanted reflection and glare.

The design includes the provision of secure deer fencing running around the perimeter of the Proposed Solar Farm and set back 5m from existing field boundaries. The fence will consist of timber posts and deer fencing (similar to sheep wire fence but higher) measuring to 2m in height with a 0.1m gap at the bottom allowing access for smaller mammals.

All on-site cabling will be located underground. Cable trenches will be excavated to 1m deep x 1m wide.



Hydrology and Transport

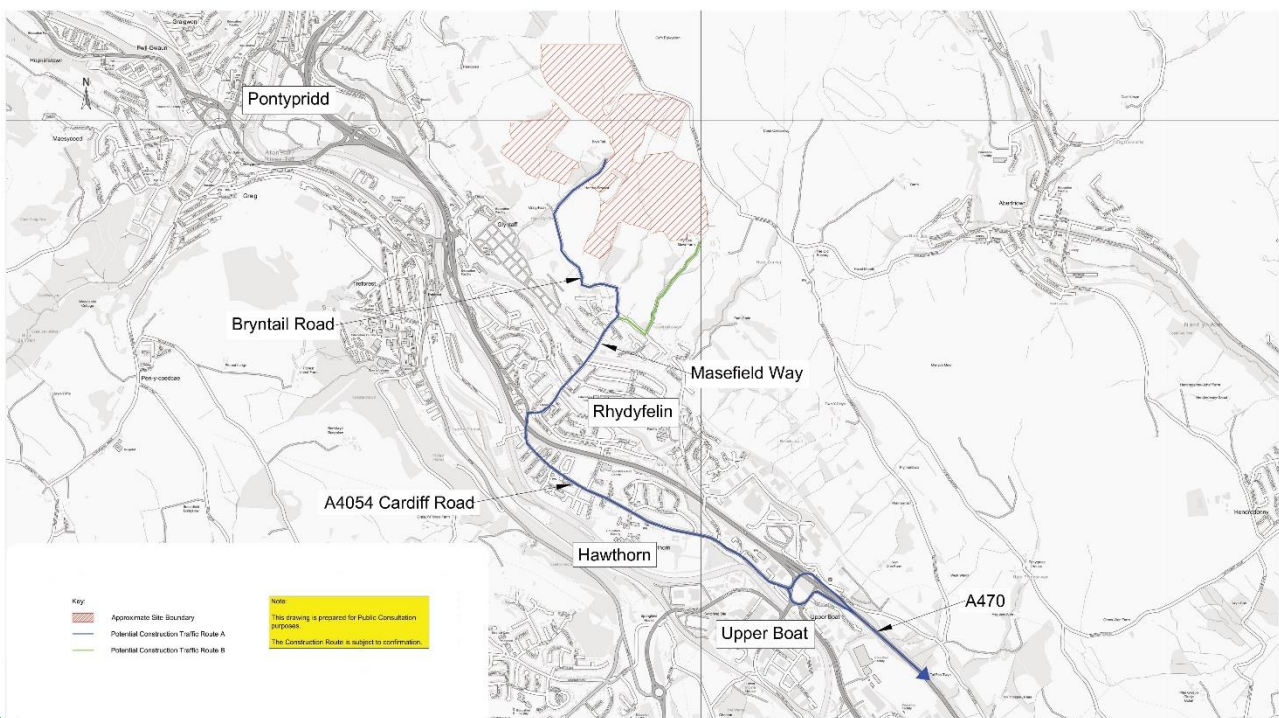
Hydrology

The site is not at risk of fluvial flooding from any major rivers/watercourses and flood impacts are not considered to be an issue. Any forthcoming planning application will be supplemented with a Flood Consequence Assessment and Drainage Strategy. The site will still be circa 95% greenfield and with any proposed mitigation will not result in any additional flood risk within the site or outside of the site.

Transport

The application site is located close to the A&B Road Network which will not result in any constraints in relation to the transportation of materials. A haul route and swept path analysis will be undertaken as part of the application submission which will also indicate visibility splays. A pre and post-condition survey will be submitted to ensure that the site access will remain in an acceptable condition.

There is not anticipated to be a significant increase in vehicles using the road network during the operational stage (c.15 – 20 LGVs per annum). There are two access options being considered for the construction stage and abnormal loads are not required, with a maximum daily peak of 20 HGVs during the construction stage. It is anticipated that the construction stage will last for 6 months.



Landscape and Visual Impact

Landscape & Visual

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) will be included with the Planning Application to outline the potential landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development upon the existing landscape and visual receptors within the defined study area of the site.

Initial fieldwork including photography has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations, aided by aerial photography and fieldwork observations from the surrounding area.

From initial desktop and site surveys, it is envisioned that the surrounding landscape will experience minor impacts from the introduction of the Proposed Development as the development will be viewed at distance given its unique setting and site context.

The proposed design will integrate with the landscape and existing vegetation and field patterns, sensitively aligning form, colour and material where possible. The design will incorporate minimum offsets from existing landscape features, including residential properties, ancient woodland, woodland and hedgerows, Public Rights of Way, and watercourses.

The site and part of the study area to the east and west of the development site are located within a Special Landscape Area (SLA).

A summary of the key policies and management of the SLA are outlined include:

- Conserve skyline
- Protect/preserve/conservate historic features relating to Senghenydd
- Bracken control on open common land
- Introduction of Tir Gofal for conservation of grasslands



Landscape and Visual Impact

Landscape & Visual

The Proposed Development site and the study area are also located within National Landscape Character Area 37 – South Wales Valleys. Key Characteristics of the LCA are summarised below:

- Extensive Upland plateaux – typically wild and windswept, often with unenclosed tracts, running roughly north-south as ‘fingers’ parallel between intervening deep valleys.
- Ribbon urban and industrial areas in valleys – in places extending up valley sides and to valley heads. The area is sometimes regarded as being part of a ‘city region’. Middle and eastern valleys tend to be the most heavily and continuously developed, e.g. Rhondda Valley.
- The contrast of urban valley activity next to quiet uplands – e.g. busy roads, new developments, traffic noise, night lighting, versus the adjacent wilder, remoter, quieter uplands.
- Large blocks of coniferous plantation and deciduous woodland fringes – covering many steep hillsides and hilltops, most notably in the middle to western portion of the area, providing a softer contemporary landscape where there was once industry.
- Settlements developed - either directly associated with particular industrial enterprises or as service towns for Pontypridd.

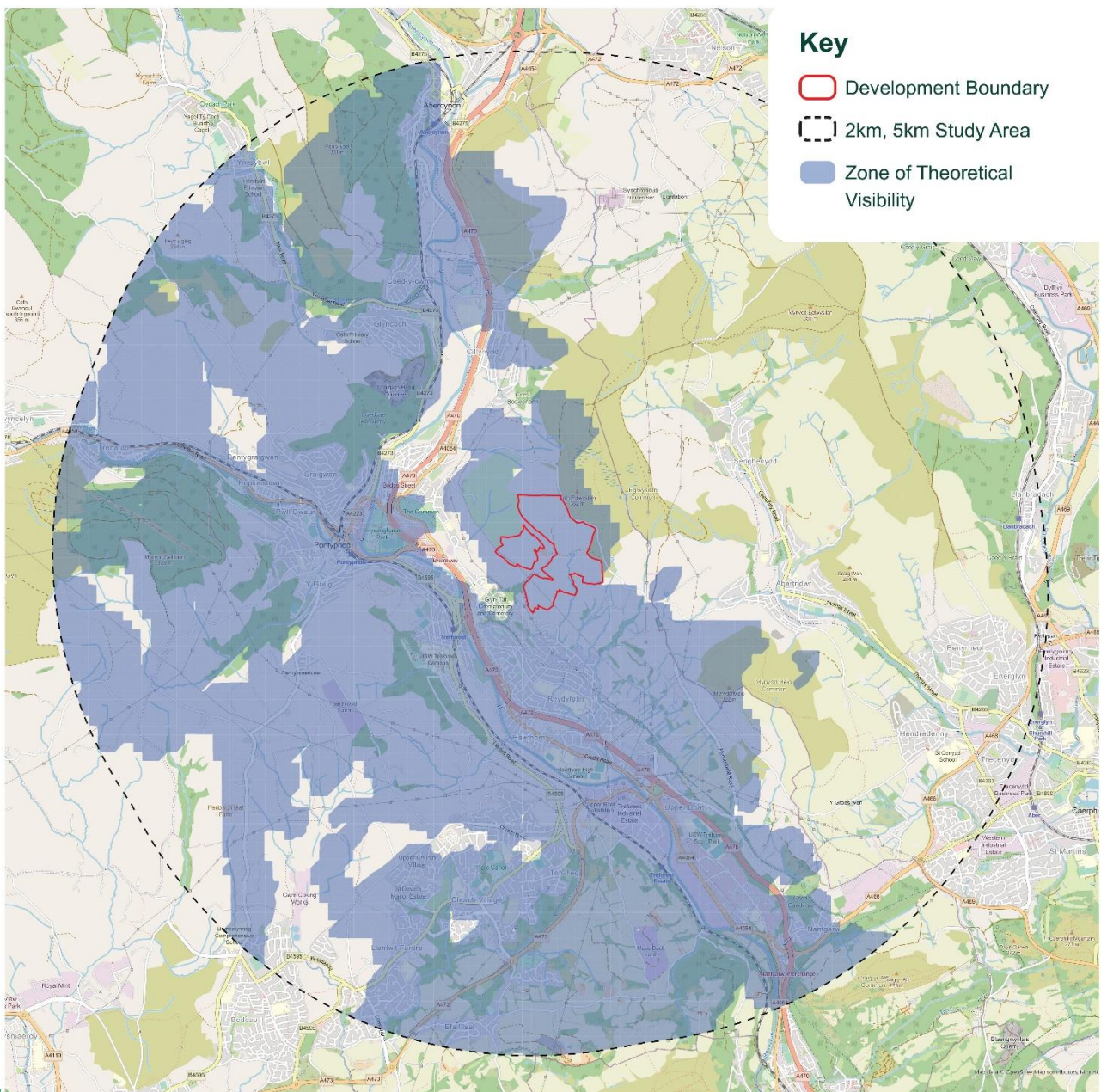


Development Visibility



Zone of theoretical visibility

Zones of Theoretical Visibility show areas of where the proposed development may be visible in order to assess the visibility of the development within the wider landscape.





Viewpoint 1: Llantwit Fardre, Efail Isaf, Rhondda Cynon Taf



Viewpoint 2: Llantwit Fardre, Upper Boat, Tonteg, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Visualisations



Viewpoint 3: Eglwysilan Road, Aber Valley, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf



Viewpoint 4: New Park Terrace, Hawthorn, Pontypridd, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology



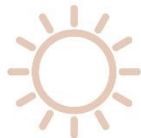
Heritage

There are no designated heritage assets located inside the proposed development boundary.

There are a number of listed buildings within the nearby settlements of Glyn Taff, Pontypridd and Treforest, which will be carefully assessed for potential indirect effects.

There are two internal non-designated heritage assets:

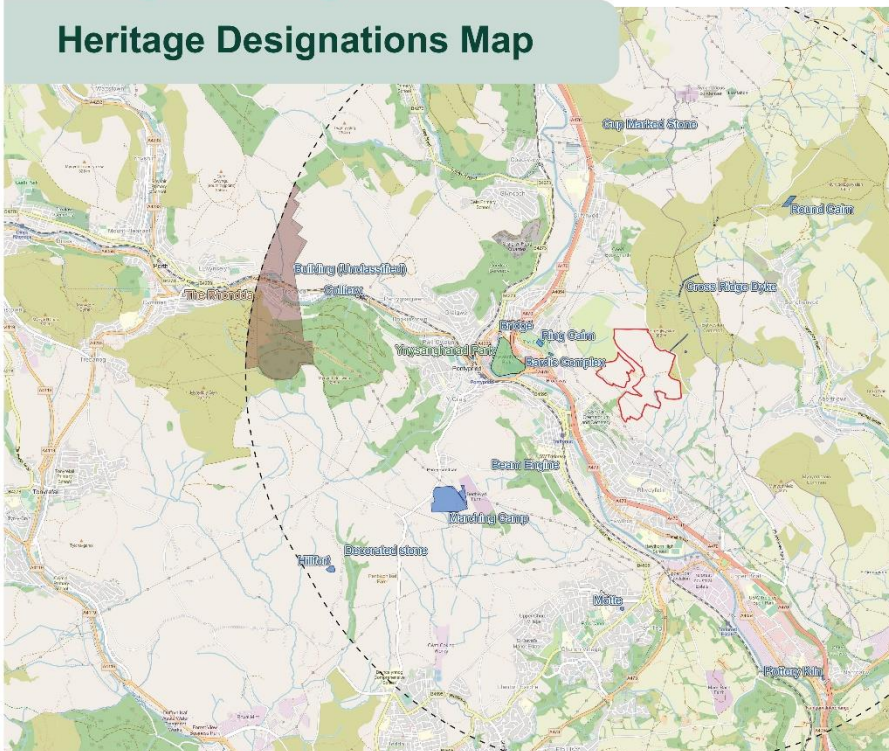
1. the remains of a former sheep wash
2. the (mislocated) record for the nearby village of Rhydyfelin.



Archaeology

The site lies within a landscape containing recorded archaeological activity from the prehistoric period onwards, with the earliest such remains being several Bronze Age round cairns around the summit of Cefn Eglwysilan to the northeast and the Bronze Age scheduled monument 'Cross Ridge Dyke and Earthwork' adjacent to the east of the proposed development site. However, there are currently no known indicators for significant archaeological remains within the proposed development site itself, while land will be subject to archaeological evaluation methods to ascertain its specific archaeological potential.

Heritage Designations Map



Key

- Development Boundary
- 5km Study Area
- Scheduled Monuments
- Registered Historic Parks and Gardens
- Historic Landscapes

Ecology and Noise



Ecology

The proposed solar farm does not lie within or adjacent to any statutory environmental designated sites. The nearest designated sites are Craig-Yr-Hesg Local Nature Reserve (woodland), located c 1.46km to the northwest and Nant Gelliwion Woodland SSSI, located c 2.86km to the west.

The majority of the site comprises pastoral farmland (heavily grazed improved grassland) of generally low ecological value, with a number of grazed and un-grazed poor semi improved grassland areas present towards the north and east of the Site.

Various surveys have been undertaken to date including an extended phase 1 habitat survey, Breeding Birds and Great Crested Newts (GCN). Other species considered to date include bats, badger (no records within 2km), otter (no suitable habitat on site), water vole (no signs observed on site) amphibians and reptiles. No significant impacts are anticipated for any species or habitats.

Habitat enhancement measures will be produced and will be implemented during the construction and operation all phases of the Proposed Development. This will involve the creation of new habitats offering food and shelter to wildlife, including priority species and breeding birds. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will result in a net gain for biodiversity.

Noise

Solar panels themselves do not generate noise.

The main noise source associated with a solar farm will be the inverter stations, these are sited internally within the layout to achieve the maximum possible separation distance from Noise Sensitive Receptors (NSRs) and as such there will be no significant noise impacts.

A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) will be produced and submitted with the planning application to confirm there will be no exceedance of acceptable noise limits.



Community Benefits



Adding value in the communities

Renantis will work closely with local communities, businesses and residents to ensure that the Glyn Taff Solar Farm proposal will continue to bring real benefits to the local area while helping to meet national climate change targets.

Renantis' commitment is to provide added value in the communities where it installs its projects with the implementation of programs focused on local sustainable development, through various economic, social, cultural, training and environmental measures.



Wider benefits of the proposed development include;



Assisting Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national and international targets and the declared Climate Emergency



Making an important contribution to achieving legally binding national net zero by 2050 targets



The wider project provides an opportunity for local farmers to diversify their operations and ensure the long-term viability of their farm



Opportunities for shared ownership, ensuring the communities hosting the project retain benefit from local energy generation



Net benefit for biodiversity