

Adeilad y Goron,
Parc Cathays, Caerdydd,
CF10 3NQ

Crown Buildings,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Eich Cyf/Your Ref:
Ein Cyf/Our Ref: CAS-01391-M3G6Q9

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Dyddiad/Date: 08/04/2022

Dear Mr Gwilym,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990
The Developments of National Significance (Procedure) (Wales) Order 2016
Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations
2017**

Potential DNS Application

Site Address: East Aberthaw, Land at Fonmon, Vale of Glamorgan

Proposed Development: Solar Farm with a potential generating capacity of circa 35MW

On the 21 February 2022, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) received a request made under regulation 31(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (“the Regulations”), for the Welsh Ministers to make a screening direction as to whether or not the development proposed is “EIA Development” within the meaning of the Regulations.

PEDW is authorised by the Welsh Ministers to provide that screening direction.

The project, as described above, falls within the description at paragraph 3(a) in column 1 of the table in Schedule 2 to the Regulations.

As the proposal is a potential Development of National Significance (DNS) application, the attached screening assessment identifies the key areas which have been considered. Having taken into account the selection criteria in Schedule 3 to the Regulations and the advice in Welsh Office Circular 11/99: Environmental Impact Assessment on establishing whether EIA is required, the assessment concludes that:

The application site is located to the west of Cardiff Airport, north of the settlement of Rhoose and east of Fonmon. The site is predominantly within the Green Wedge

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth Gymraeg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay

designation of 'Between East Aberthaw and Rhoose' and is immediately west of the Nant Llancarfan Special Landscape Area. There are a number of listed buildings (including Fonmon Castle) and scheduled ancient monuments (including Penmark Castle) within 3 km of the site. The proposed development is a solar farm of some 35 MW capacity, along with associated access and infrastructure. Due to local topography and the presence of existing vegetation, the effects of the scheme alone on the landscape and the settings of designated historic assets are unlikely to be significant. Furthermore, whilst there are a number of consented and proposed schemes in the vicinity of the application site (e.g. the decommissioning of East Aberthaw power station and the proposed Land at Pen Onn Solar Farm), the topography, vegetation screening and separation distances between this proposal and Land at Pen Onn (of approximately 1.7 km), I believe the cumulative impact would not be significant in EIA terms. As such, I consider that the proposal is not EIA development and an EIA is not required.

Therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by the Regulations and the authority referred to above, the Welsh Ministers hereby direct that the development subject of this application **is not EIA development** within the meaning of the Regulations.

My opinion on the likelihood of this development having significant effects is reached for the purposes of this direction. Please note that it has not been possible to obtain comments from Cardiff Airport on this proposal.

This letter will be copied to Vale of Glamorgan Council, so that this screening direction is placed on Part 1 of the Planning Register in relation to the application in question, in accordance with the Regulations.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely

Adeline Wilcox

Swyddog Cynllunio | Planning Officer
Penderfyniadau Cynllunio ac Amgylchedd Cymru | Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government