

CHAPTER 2 – PLANNING POLICY

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2 PLANNING POLICY

Introduction

- 2.1 This Chapter sets out the principal documents which provide the relevant planning and energy policy context for the assessment of the Proposed Development. It provides a review of the relevant national planning policy guidance, the Development Plan and any other relevant statutory and non-statutory guidance for material consideration.
- 2.2 To maintain the impartiality of the ER, this chapter does not assess whether the Proposed Development would comply with the identified policies. A separate Planning Statement which assesses the conformity of the Proposed Development with the Development Plan and other material considerations is also submitted as part of the planning application.
- 2.3 Technical guidance and legislation is also addressed separately within other chapters of this Environmental Report. Certain planning policies are considered in more detail in those chapters where these are directly relevant and applicable to the issues being considered therein.
- 2.4 As set out within legislation, the primary consideration in the determination of planning applications is the Development Plan. In this case the following was considered:
- The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) (Adopted 2014)¹
- 2.5 Other material considerations are also addressed below, including:
- TAN 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (2005);
 - Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 10, 2018);
 - Future Wales: The National Plan 2040, February 2021;
 - Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033;
 - Energy and Climate Change Policies and Targets:
 - Welsh Government Renewable Energy Route Map, 2008;

¹ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/planning-policy/local-development-plan-2006-2021/#.X6QuyCxxeUk> (Last accessed 05/11/2020)

- Welsh Government Energy Policy Statement, March 2010;
- Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition, March 2012;
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; and
- The Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

2.6 A summary of the key policy messages is set out below.

Development Plan

The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (Adopted 2014)

2.7 The Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan (LDP) was formally adopted on 10 December 2014 and comprises the Development Plan. The adopted LDP has therefore now formally replaced the previous adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2006).

2.8 The policies within the LDP that are most relevant to the Proposed Development are set out below.

Renewable Energy

2.9 The adopted LDP includes two specific policies relating to wind power. Policy RE1 relates to 'large scale wind power' schemes of 25MW and over, whilst Policy RE2 relates to 'local, community and small wind farms'.

2.10 Paragraph 6.7.21 of the adopted LDP confirms that Policy RE2 applies to all wind energy projects generating less than 25MW. Given the scale of the Proposed Development, Policy RE2 is applicable in this instance.

2.11 Policy RE2 states that local, community and small wind farms or individual turbines will be permitted providing they meet a number of specific criteria. The criteria set out include:

- the development will not have an unacceptable impact on visual amenity or landscape character through: the number, scale, size, design and siting of turbines and associated infrastructure;

- the development will not have an unacceptable cumulative impact in relation to existing wind turbines and other renewable energy installations and those which have permission;
- the siting, design, layout and materials used should be sympathetic to the characteristics of the land-form, contours and existing features of the landscape;
- the development would not cause demonstrable harm to statutorily protected species, and habitats and species identified in the Local Biodiversity Action Plan;
- turbines and their associated structures will not be sited in, or impact upon archaeological resources, the setting and integrity of Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings or other areas of historical value;
- proposals will not cause an unreasonable risk or nuisance to, and impact upon the amenities of, nearby residents or other members of the public;
- no loss of public accessibility to the area, and existing bridleways and footpaths will be safeguarded from development with no permanent loss to their length and quality;
- turbines and associated infrastructure will, at the end of the operational life of the facility, be removed and an appropriate land restoration and aftercare scheme agreed;
- the development will not result in significant harm to the safety or amenity of sensitive receptors and will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail or aviation safety;
- the development will not result in unacceptable electromagnetic interference to communications installations; radar or air traffic control systems; emergency services communications; or other telecommunication systems.

- 2.12 A full suite of environmental surveys and assessments have been undertaken in support of this Environmental Report. This technical work provides a comprehensive assessment of the likely effects arising from the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning. Further information is also provided in the submitted Planning Statement and Design and Access Statement.
- 2.13 The criteria set out in Policy RE2 are fully considered in the relevant topic chapters of this Environmental Report and are also assessed in the Planning Statement. This technical work demonstrates that the Proposed Development would accord with the criteria set out in Policy RE2 of the adopted LDP.

Climate Change

- 2.14 The LDP sets out a series of Strategic Objectives that the Council aims to achieve. SO5 relates specifically to climate change, stating that the Council aims “to make a significant contribution towards tackling the cause and adapting to the effect of climate change by promoting the efficient use and safeguarding of resources”.
- 2.15 Paragraph 5.9.7 of the adopted LDP also recognises that the need to tackle climate change represents a fundamental challenge if sustainable development is to be delivered. This is reflected in Policy SP2, which addresses climate change directly, stating that development proposals which respond to, are resilient to, adapt to and minimise the causes and impacts of climate change will be supported. Particular emphasis is placed on proposals that promote the energy hierarchy by reducing energy demand, promoting energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy will be supported.
- 2.16 Paragraph 5.9.93 also acknowledges that addressing climate change is becoming an increasingly important issue in all aspects of policy making. The paragraph continues by recognising that local decisions relating to energy generation can influence the impact on climate change. Paragraph 5.9.94 goes on to state that policies within the adopted LDP will

facilitate the development of all forms of renewable energy in appropriate locations.

- 2.17 This is embodied in Policy SP11, which states that development proposals which incorporate energy efficiency measures and renewable energy production technologies will be supported in areas where the environmental and cumulative impacts can be addressed satisfactorily. Policy SP11 requires such developments to not cause demonstrable harm to residential amenity and to be acceptable within the landscape. The policy also makes it clear that each proposal should be assessed on a case by a case basis.
- 2.18 Policy SP17 also encourages renewable energy generation and associated utility connections, in appropriate locations and subject to other policies within the plan. The policy also states that proposals for ancillary developments to the utilities infrastructure will be permitted where:
- They have regard to their setting;
 - Incorporate landscaping;
 - Do not conflict with the areas built, historic, cultural and nature conservation and landscape qualities.
- 2.19 The Proposed Development will see the installation of up to two turbines, which will generate in the region of 5 MW of installed renewable energy capacity. This contribution is both tangible and meaningful by any measure, but especially so when considered in the context of the Council's commitment to make a significant contribution towards tackling the cause and adapting to the effect of climate change. The Proposed Development responds directly to Policy SP2, 11 and 17 by securing renewable energy generation in an appropriate location.

Design

- 2.20 Policy GP1 requires development proposals to accord with a series of criteria relating to high quality design and sustainability. This includes a requirement to:

- Conform with and enhance the character and appearance of the site or area in terms of siting, appearance, scale and height.
- Incorporate existing landscape or other features, take account of site contours and changes in levels and prominent skylines or ridges.
- Not have a significant impact on the amenity of adjacent land uses, properties, residents or the community.
- Retain, and where appropriate incorporate, important local features and embrace opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity.
- Provision of an appropriate access which does not give rise to any parking or highway safety concerns on the site or within the locality.
- Have regard for the safe, effective and efficient use of the transportation network.
- Protect and enhance the landscape, townscape, historic and cultural heritage of the County and cause no adverse effects on the setting or integrity of the historic environment.

2.21 The technical work submitted in support of this planning application, including this Environmental Report and the Design and Access Statement, demonstrates that the Proposed Development would accord with the principles of Policy GP1.

Landscaping and Ecology

2.22 Policy EQ1 relates to the protection of buildings, landscapes and features of historic importance. It states that proposals for development affecting landscapes, sites or features of historic or archaeological interest which, by virtue of their historic importance, character or significance within a group of features make an important contribution to the local character and the interests of the area, will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the built and historic environment.

- 2.23 Consideration is given to potential impacts on landscape and visual amenity and the historic environment in Chapters 4 and 5 of this Environmental Report. This work demonstrates that the Proposed Development will accord with Policy EQ1.
- 2.24 Policy EQ3 states that proposals that are likely to cause unacceptable harm to a Local Nature Reserve (LNR), or Regionally Important Geological/Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) will only be permitted where the need to safeguard the substantive nature conservation value of the site or feature is clearly outweighed by the reasons for the development. This Environmental Report, and the technical work supporting it, demonstrates that the Proposed Development would not have caused unacceptable harm to a LNR or RIGS.
- 2.25 Policy EQ4 states that development proposals which have an adverse impact on protected species or their habitats, or the integrity of other habitats, sites or features of recognised importance to biodiversity and nature conservation interests will not be permitted except where it can be demonstrated that:
- the impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated, acceptably minimised or appropriately managed to include net enhancements;
 - there are exceptional circumstances where the reasons for the development or land use change clearly outweighs the need to safeguard the biodiversity and nature conservation interests of the site and where alternative habitat provision can be made in order to maintain and enhance local biodiversity.
- 2.26 Potential effects on ecology and nature are considered at Chapter 6 of this Environmental Report. The environmental assessments and surveys undertaken in support of Chapter 6 demonstrate that the Proposed Development would accord with Policy EQ4.
- 2.27 Policy SP14 relates to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The policy seeks to protect, and wherever possible enhance,

the natural environment by considering areas of nature conservation value, the countryside, landscapes and coastal areas. Compliance with Policy SP14 is addressed through the relevant chapters of this Environmental Report.

- 2.28 The application site does not form part of a designated Special Landscape Area (SLA). Policy EQ6 therefore does not apply to the proposed development.

Historic Environment

- 2.29 Policy SP13 addresses the protection and enhancement of the built and historic environment. It states that proposals relating to historic/culturally important sites and features, such as listed buildings, conservation areas and Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMS), will be considered in line with national guidance and legislation.
- 2.30 The potential effects of the Proposed Development on the historic environment are considered in Chapter 5 of this Environmental Report. It concludes that the residual effects of the Proposed Development on all heritage assets will be no more than of negligible significance and that the overall effect on the historic environment will not therefore be significant.

Hydrology and Geology and Other Pollution

- 2.31 Policy EP1 relates to water quality and states that development proposals will be permitted where they do not lead to a deterioration of either the water environment and/or the quality of controlled waters. Watercourses are required to be safeguarded through biodiversity/ecological buffer zones/corridors. Chapter 10 of this Environmental Report considers hydrology and geology in detail.
- 2.32 Policy EP2 states that proposals for development should wherever possible seek to minimise the impacts of pollution. The policy also requires new developments to ensure that light and noise pollution are minimised where appropriate. Potential sources of pollution are considered throughout the Environmental Report, in particular through Chapter 7 and 8.

Transportation

- 2.33 Policy TR2 relates to the location of development. It states that developments which have the potential for significant trip generation will be permitted where it is located in a manner consistent with the plans strategic objectives, its settlement framework and its policies and proposals.
- 2.34 Policy TR3 sets out a series of design considerations for highways in developments. This includes ensuring that the required access standards reflective of the relevant class of road are achieved (such as visibility splays). The policy also confirms that proposals which do not generate unacceptable levels of traffic on the surrounding road network, would not be detrimental to highway safety, or cause significant harm to the amenity of residents, will be permitted.
- 2.35 Traffic and transportation is considered in Chapter 10 of this Environmental Report. It concludes that, with the implementation of appropriate mitigation, no residual impacts of significance are anticipated in respect of traffic and access issues.

Other Material Considerations

TAN8: Planning for Renewable Energy

- 2.36 Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN8): Planning for Renewable Energy was published in 2005 and provides detailed technical advice. Paragraph 2.2 notes that onshore wind offers the greatest potential for an increase in the generation of electricity from renewable energy in the short to medium term.
- 2.37 TAN 8 identifies 7 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) within Wales, which have been assessed and considered suitable for the location of large-scale onshore wind power developments. Paragraph 2.4 also notes that if there is robust evidence that land outside (but close to) the SSA is suitably unconstrained local planning authorities might wish to consider the possibility of development of wind farms in these areas as well. The Proposed Development is up to 5MW, thus does not constitute a large-

scale development and is therefore not constrained by the SSAs. The application site does, however, lie partially within SSA G (see Figure 2.1).

- 2.38 Paragraph 2.12 advises that LPAs are expected to encourage smaller community-based wind farm schemes (generally less than 5 MW) via development plan policies and when considering individual applications. The paragraph continues by stating that this could be done through a set of local criteria that would determine the acceptability of such schemes and define in more detail what is meant by 'smaller' and 'community based'.
- 2.39 Paragraph 2.13 states that in areas outside of the SSAs the Welsh Government would support Local Planning Authorities in introducing policies in their development plans that restrict almost all wind energy developments, larger than 5MW, to within SSAs and urban/industrial brownfield sites.
- 2.40 Paragraph 6.4 states that Local Planning Authorities should consider including appropriate conditions for the decommissioning of wind farms and their restoration when they reach the end of their design life. In addition, TAN8 advises that operators should ensure that sufficient finance is set aside to enable them to meet restoration obligations.
- 2.41 In July 2011 the Welsh Government issued a ministerial statement to reaffirm its commitment to TAN8, stating that it anticipates that 300MW of the 2GW maximum target in TAN8 will come from small-scale developments, with no requirement that these must be within identified Strategic Search Areas.
- 2.42 As set out above, a portion of the Proposed Development does lie within SSA G and is not over 5MW, and should be assessed accordingly. The environmental assessments and surveys prepared in support of this Environmental Report demonstrate that the Proposed Development would accord with the guidance set out in TAN8.

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (Edition 10, 2018)

- 2.43 Planning Policy Wales (PPW) sets out the Welsh Government's (WG) land use planning policies and has been revised in the context of the WG's energy policy.
- 2.44 PPW sets out a broad strategic framework which, inter alia, sets the achievement of sustainable development as one of the main goals and a thread which runs throughout the policy documents. It is clear in its support for renewable energy generation.
- 2.45 Chapter 5, section 5.7 relates specifically to energy and recognises the key role the planning system plays to deliver clean growth and the decarbonisation of energy (Paragraph 5.7.1). Reference is also made to the energy and decarbonisation targets and commitments the Welsh Government that the planning system should facilitate delivery of both this and Welsh, UK and European targets on renewable energy. PPW acknowledges benefits of renewable and low carbon energy, as part of the overall commitment to tackle climate change and increase energy security, is of paramount importance. Further stating that the planning system should maximise renewable and low carbon energy generation.
- 2.46 Paragraph 5.9.13 states that within and immediately adjacent to the SSAs (which the Proposed Development is located), there should be implicit acceptance that there will be significant change in landscape character from wind turbine development.
- 2.47 PPW also sets (paragraph 5.9.16) out the criteria in which planning authorities should take into account when determining applications for the range of renewable and low carbon energy, these include:
- the contribution a proposal will make to meeting identified Welsh, UK and European targets;
 - the contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
 - the wider environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities from renewable and low carbon energy development.

- 2.48 Paragraph 5.9.17 further reiterates the weighting that should be given to Welsh Government targets, stating that planning authorities should give significant weight to the Welsh Government's targets to increase renewable and low carbon energy generation, as part of our overall approach to tackling climate change and increasing energy security. Noting, in circumstances where protected landscape, biodiversity and historical designations and buildings are considered in the decision making process, only the direct irreversible impacts on statutorily protected sites and buildings and their settings (where appropriate) should be considered. In all cases, considerable weight should be attached to the need to produce more energy from renewable and low carbon sources, in order for Wales to meet its carbon and renewable targets.
- 2.49 The Proposed Development will make a positive contribution to national renewable energy targets and would comply with national planning policy set out in PPW.

Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

- 2.50 Future Wales: The National Plan 2040 was published in February 2021 and is a new development plan which will set the direction for development in Wales to 2040 and replaces the Wales Spatial Plan. It sets a strategy for addressing key national priorities through the planning system, including sustaining and developing a vibrant economy, decarbonisation, developing resilient ecosystems and improving the health and well-being of our communities. Future Wales is a spatial plan, which means it sets a direction for where we should be investing in infrastructure and development for the greater good of Wales and its people.
- 2.51 Future Wales is the highest tier of development plan and is focused on issues and challenges at a national scale. Its strategic nature means it does not allocate development to all parts of Wales, nor does it include policies on all land uses. It is a framework which will be built on by Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) at a regional level and Local Development Plans (LDPs) at local authority level. These plans will identify the location of new infrastructure and development. SDPs and LDPs are required to be in

conformity with Future Wales and must be kept up to date to ensure they and Future Wales work together effectively. Planning decisions at every level of the planning system in Wales must be taken in accordance with the development plan as a whole.

- 2.52 Future Wales should be read alongside Planning Policy Wales (PPW) which provides planning policy on an all-Wales basis. Future Wales complements PPW, with a shared commitment to placemaking and by setting out the spatial priorities for planning and development where national-level consideration is required. Future Wales and PPW ensure the planning system across Wales is fully aligned in working towards national ambitions and well-being goals. Future Wales does not repeat PPW nor cover all of the same policy areas. Together they set out how the planning system responds to and addresses national challenges and opportunities.
- 2.53 Future Wales acknowledges (page 96) Wales' is abundant in opportunities to generate renewable energy and reiterates the Welsh Government's commitment to maximising this potential and that generating renewable energy is a key part of their commitment to decarbonisation and tackling the causes of climate change.
- 2.54 Page 96 also defines the thresholds for proposals for large scale energy development. Onshore wind generation over 10 megawatts is classed as large-scale energy development and Developments of National Significance and are determined by Welsh Ministers. Proposals below the threshold for Developments of National Significance are determined by local planning authorities. The Proposed Development fits the latter.
- 2.55 Page 97 notes that the Welsh Government has undertaken an assessment to identify 'Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy' these areas provide certainty where, in principle, developments would be acceptable. In these areas there is a presumption in favour of large-scale on-shore wind energy development and the associated landscape change. These areas

in general cover and expand on the previous TAN8 areas². The Proposed Development lies partially within Pre-assessed Area 8³ (see Figure 2.1).

- 2.56 Policy 17 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy and Associated Infrastructure (page 95), of Future Wales, states that the Welsh Government strongly supports the principle of developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies and at all scales to meet our future energy needs. Furthermore that, In determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy development, decision-makers must give significant weight to the need to meet Wales' international commitments and our target to generate 70% of consumed electricity by renewable means by 2030 in order to combat the climate emergency. In addition, In Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy the Welsh Government has already modelled the likely impact on the landscape and has found them to be capable of accommodating development in an acceptable way. It is expected that proposals should describe the net benefits the scheme will bring in terms of social, economic, environmental and cultural improvements to local communities.
- 2.57 The proposed development is considered to be appropriately situated on the fringes of a Pre-Assessed Area for Wind Energy. In addition, the environmental assessments and surveys prepared in support of this Environmental Report demonstrate that the Proposed Development would accord with Policy 17 of Future Wales.

Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018-2033

- 2.58 Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) are currently preparing on a Revised Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018-2033. The Revised LDP is scheduled to replace the current adopted LDP in December 2021. The proposed timetable for preparing the Revised LDP is detailed in the

² <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-08/priority-areas-for-solar-and-wind-energy-executive-summary-stage-1-and-2.pdf> (Last accessed: 06/11/2020)

³ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/future-wales-the-national-plan-2040.pdf>Page 94 (Last accessed: 26/02/2021)

Delivery Agreement⁴, according to the CCC website it appears the current stage of the Revised LDP preparation is Key Stage 4 – Deposit LDP with CCC consulting on the Deposit Revised Local Development Plan. Given its current stage of preparation, only limited weight can be attached to this document.

- 2.59 This Deposit Revised LDP is part of a set of documents which we are required to prepare in the process of producing the Revised LDP for Carmarthenshire. It represents an integral stage in preparing the Development Plan for Carmarthenshire and follows the publication of the Delivery Agreement as approved by the Welsh Government on the 28th June 2018⁵, and the Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy published for consultation in December 2018.
- 2.60 This Deposit LDP takes forward the evidence gathering, stakeholder engagement and Pre-Deposit work undertaken to date, including that contained within the Preferred Strategy and looks develop on its strategic direction through more detailed land use policies and proposals (including the allocation of land for development). The Deposit LDP consists of a written statement detailing its policies and proposals and a proposals map on a geographical base.
- 2.61 Noted in paragraph 2.6 of the written statement is that In preparing this Deposit LDP regard has been given to other spatial and thematic documents and strategies produced at a national and regional level, together with those with a local emphasis.
- 2.62 Relevant to the Proposed Development is Strategic Policy – SP 15: Climate Change of the written statement (page 197), which states that where development proposals respond to, are resilient to, adapt to and minimise the causes and impacts of climate change they will be supported. In particular proposals will be supported where they: c) Promote the energy

⁴ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1215059/delivery-agreement-agreed-by-welsh-government.pdf> (Last accessed: 06/11/2020)

⁵ <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/local-development-plan-2018-2033/delivery-agreement/#.X6VmrFpxeUI> (Last accessed: 06/11/2020)

hierarchy by reducing energy demand, promoting energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy.

- 2.63 Paragraph 11.472 of the written statement recognises that the Welsh Government is committed to using the planning system to optimise renewable energy and low carbon energy generation. PPW states that Local Planning Authorities can make a positive provision by considering the contribution that their area can make towards developing and facilitating renewable and low carbon energy, and enable this contribution to be delivered. Renewable energy targets have been set by the Welsh Government, one target is for Wales to be generating 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030.
- 2.64 Another relevant policy to the Proposed Development in the written statement (page 199) is CCH1: Renewable Energy, which states: proposals for renewable and low carbon energy development and associated infrastructure, either on their own, cumulatively or in combination with existing, approved or proposed development will be permitted provided they accord with the following:
- a) The development will not result in demonstrable harm to statutorily protected sites and species, and habitats and species identified in Section 7 of the Environment Act;
 - b) The development will not have an unacceptable impact on roads, rail or aviation safety; electromagnetic interference to communications installations, radar or air traffic control systems, emergency services communications or other telecommunications systems;
 - c) Proposals will not cause an unreasonable risk or nuisance to, and impact upon the amenities of, nearby residents or other members of the public, and will not result in unacceptable loss of public accessibility to the area;
 - d) Proposals should be accompanied with appropriate mitigation measures, including satisfactory restoration of land following decommissioning.

- 2.65 As this Revised LDP is not yet final and adopted only limited weight can currently be given to it. Nevertheless, the Proposed Development supports the Revised LDP policies by making a positive contribution to minimise the causes and impacts of climate change and supporting national targets (SP 15), while not causing unacceptable impacts as demonstrated in the environmental assessments and surveys prepared as part of this report.

Energy and Climate Change Policies and Targets

- 2.66 The national drive to increase the proportion of energy met through the use of renewable sources of energy and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is also expressed in a number of other national level documents, which are summarised below.
- 2.67 As part of the Kyoto Protocol (1997), the UK made a commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by 12.5% between 2008 and 2012 and to move towards a target of 30% reduction of CO₂ by 2020, with an aspirational target of 80% reduction by 2050. This latter commitment has subsequently been enshrined in legislation through the Climate Change Act 2008.
- 2.68 The UK Climate Change Programme (2006) provides details of the proposals for meeting the targets stated in the Kyoto Protocol. This includes stipulating target emissions and the process of how the 2050 target can be altered, by the Secretary of State.
- 2.69 European Union Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (2009) established a statutory requirement on the UK to source 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- 2.70 The UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009) sets out a lead scenario that a target of 30% of the UK's electricity should be sourced from renewable resources by 2020.
- 2.71 Statutory Instrument No. 243 (2011) (The Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources Regulations) confirms the Statutory Obligation on the UK to secure at least 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.
- 2.72 The UK Renewable Energy Road Map (2011) considers how the UK can achieve the target of "at least 15%" which is set out in Statutory Instrument

no. 243 (2011) and with which mix of technologies. In doing so, it provides a central range of deployment for key technologies such as onshore wind which, whilst not targets, nonetheless provide an indication of the scale of deployment likely to be required if the statutory 2020 targets are met. For onshore wind the central range indicates 13GW of deployment by 2020.

- 2.73 The Energy Act (2013) was introduced to allow the UK to virtually decarbonise by 2030 to meet its legally binding emission reduction commitments set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act. The Act includes a number of measures aimed to ensure security of energy supply, cut emissions, and to encourage investment in cleaner, lower-carbon energy sources, including renewables.
- 2.74 With regard to specific policy relating to Wales, the below also constitutes a material consideration.
- 2.75 The Welsh Government renewable Energy Route Map 2008 which makes the suggestion that '...single or double, large turbines (or a cluster of smaller turbines) can normally be sited sensitively in a way which either enhances the landscape or has minimal impact'.
- 2.76 'A Low Carbon Revolution' (March 2010) which identifies Wales' sustainable renewable energy potential to 2020/2025. The document provides specific targets for onshore wind development, set at 4.5 kWh/d/p (kWh per day per person) of installed onshore wind generation capacity by 2015/17, based on a population of 3 million and a 30% load factor. This gives a total installed capacity of 1.875GW, although the report states a target of 2GW.
- 2.77 'Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition March 2012' which takes forward the WG's commitment to create a low carbon economy. The report states 'Wales has significant assets in virtually every energy source – we have significant wind resources, both onshore and offshore'.
- 2.78 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is the primary legislation requiring all Wales' based public bodies - such as local authorities, health boards etc - to put long-term sustainability at the forefront of thinking and actions. One purpose of the most recent version

of PPW (Edition 10, 2018) was to harmonise it with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

- 2.79 The Environment Wales (Act) which received royal assent in 2016 provided Welsh Ministers with powers to put in place statutory emission reduction targets, including at least an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050 and carbon budgeting to support their delivery.
- 2.80 Furthermore, in September 2017 the Welsh Government set out key ambitious energy targets for Wales⁶:
- Wales to generate 70% of its electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030;
 - A target of 1GW of renewable electricity in Wales to be locally owned by 2030; and
- 2.81 In 2019, in light of the climate change emergency, the UK government raised the level of ambition, legislating for a net-zero target for all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Wales has also accepted this challenge with a target of reducing its greenhouse gas by 95% by 2050⁷, as recommended by the UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC), an independent non-departmental public body. Furthermore, in February 2021, the Welsh Government set out its legal commitment to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, and is pushing to “get there sooner”⁸.
- 2.82 It is considered that Proposed Developments accordance with the provisions of the documents listed above, as well as the contribution towards national targets, should be afforded significant weight in the determination of the application.

Conclusions

- 2.83 This chapter sets out the main policy, guidance and legislative context taken into consideration in the preparation of this planning application.

⁶ <https://gov.wales/lesley-griffiths-high-ambition-clean-energy> (Last accessed: 10/11/20)

⁷ <https://gov.wales/wales-accepts-committee-climate-change-95-emissions-reduction-target> (Last accessed: 10/11/20)

⁸ <https://gov.wales/wales-commits-net-zero-2050-sets-out-ambitions-get-there-sooner> (Last accessed: 26/02/21)

Further consideration is given to other relevant policies and guidance within the remaining chapters of this Environmental Report. A full suite of supporting environmental assessments and surveys are also submitted. This work demonstrates that the Proposed Development has taken account of, and is in accordance with, the key national and local planning policy and guidance. It is clear that PPW and the draft National Development Framework are providing momentum to allow for national targets to be achieved, in which the Proposed Development would contribute.