

Statement of Community Involvement

cadence^{pr}
stakeholder engagement
planning pr

Site: Rhigos Solar Farm

Applicant: Regener8 Power

Produced by: Simon Schofield

Date: November 2023

Page Break

1. Introduction and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Statement has been prepared by Cadence PR on behalf of Regener8 Power to accompany the planning application for a new 9MW solar farm on Land off Rhigos Road, Rhigos.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to provide details of the engagement and consultation process; to summarise activities undertaken to consult with local residents, neighbours and community representatives; to present analysis of the feedback received, and to describe the applicant's response to those comments.
- 1.3 The consultation has been informed by the Localism Act (2011), advice from local stakeholders, and our own consultation experience.
- 1.4 We have engaged with ward Councillors, written to near neighbours in English and in Welsh (1,287 letters, see Appendix 8.1); published a detailed website in English (see Appendix 8.2) and Welsh (see Appendix 8.3); received feedback both verbally and through the use of a feedback form (see Appendix 8.4); held an exhibition on 11th July 2022 at Rhigos Community Centre, and, on the same day, given a presentation to Rhigos Community Council (see Appendix 8.5).
- 1.5 This site is a former open cast mine, representing the lowest possible quality of agricultural land. This proposed scheme aims to greatly improve biodiversity on the site and generate clean energy to meet local and national climate change commitments and make a contribution towards addressing the ongoing energy crisis.
- 1.6 Feedback has been mixed: near neighbours would of course prefer this site not to progress and have concerns about their residential amenity. Councillors appeared broadly supportive, although did not submit formal responses. There have been a number of interactions with supportive people locally who want to see renewable energy come forward and for the land to be used for something positive. The two most common themes received in feedback were that it was important to residents that there is a community benefit to ensure that the village of Rhigos benefits from the scheme, and that, if possible, local employment opportunities would be welcomed.
- 1.7 The team have tried to be as considerate and responsive as possible to neighbours and the wider community.
- 1.8 Our approach has been to engage early with both Councillors and the local community, listen and try to respond positively to feedback, seeking to address, as far as possible, concerns raised.

- 1.9 In response to feedback and in consideration of existing neighbours, measures have included additional screening in the form of hedgerow planting to mitigate visual impact was offered. An offer was made to the Rhigos Community Council to establish a Community Benefit Scheme should the project receive planning consent.
- 1.10 Regener8 Power remains committed to continuing to engage with the community through the planning process and onto construction, should permission be granted.
- 1.11 A declaration that this consultation has been carried out according to the Regulations has been included as an appendix to this document. Please see Appendix 8.16.
- 1.12 A further declaration has been made that the site notices were erected and displayed in accordance with regulations. Please see Appendix 8.17

2. Regulations and Policy Context

- 2.1 The Government and Local Planning Authority encourages applicants to engage with the local community prior to submitting a planning application. Details of this are included in:
1. The Localism Act (2011), and
 2. The Welsh Government's *Pre-application Community Consultation: Best Practice Guidance for Developers* (2021)
- 2.2 The applicant has undertaken a formal pre-application consultation programme to engage with the community in order to raise awareness of the proposals, receive feedback on the plans, and then make alterations to the design in response. This report outlines the activities undertaken, the issues raised, and how they were addressed for consideration with the planning application. This report meets public consultation best practice.
- 2.3 In Wales, a separate pre-application consultation is required before the planning application is submitted. Regener8 Power will post the planning application online and notify the public who will have 28 days to respond. Following, a pre-application consultation report will be drafted covering responses and any resulting changes.

3. Stakeholders

- 3.1 Ahead of carrying out the consultation programme, a stakeholder audit was carried out identifying the following as key interested parties:
1. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Councillor for Rhigos (pre-election 2022), and the Councillors for Hirwaun, Penderyn, and Rhigos (post-election 2022);
 2. Rhigos Community Council, and
 3. Local residents and businesses

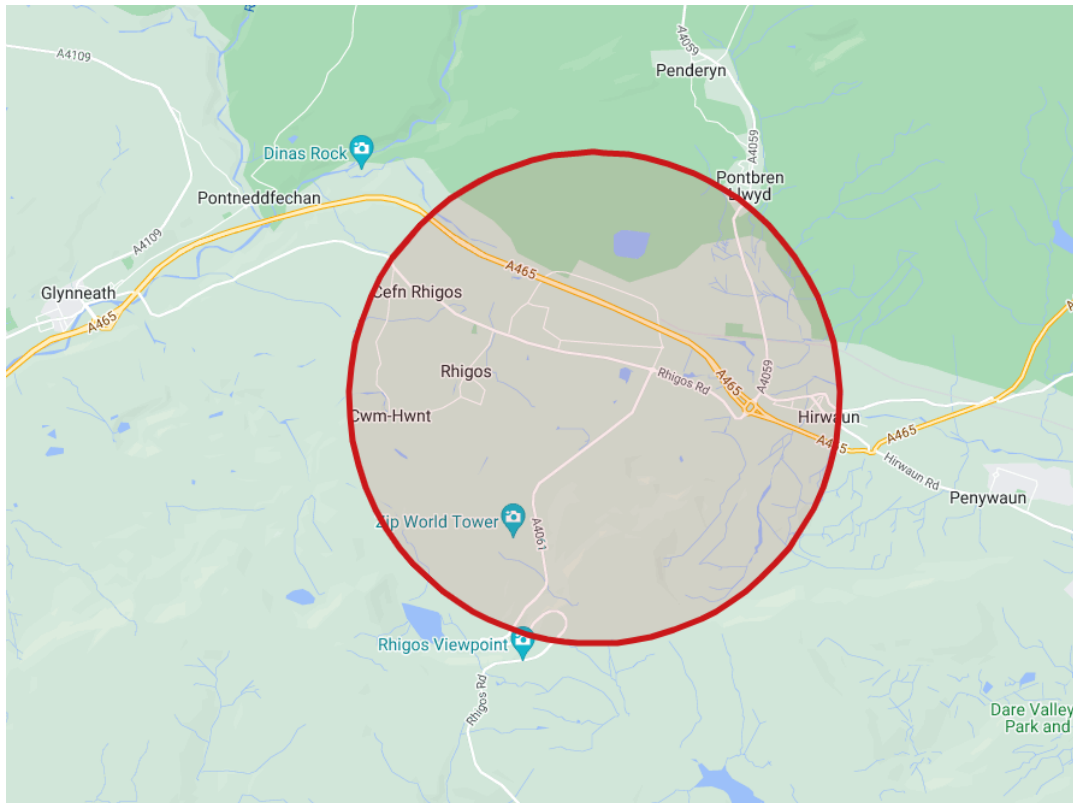
Summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Carried Out

- 4.1 In summary, the initial engagement and consultation programme consisted of the following:

W/C 27 th June 2022	Engagement with local ward councillors and Community Council, website published, resident newsletter issued
11 th July 2022	Public exhibition at Rhigos Community Centre and meeting with Rhigos Community Council at Rhigos Community Centre
13 th July 2022	Public webinar offered (although no interest indicated)
31 st July 2023	Further consultation with additional organisations
12 th September 2023	Further meeting with the Community Council
9 th October 2023	Follow up meeting with Community Council to agree community benefit package.

- 4.2 Prior to formal consultation being carried out, the team engaged with Cllr Graham Thomas, the local councillor for Rhigos Ward, although it was understood that Cllr Graham would be retiring in May 2022. Greater engagement was undertaken with Cllrs Karen Morgan and Adam Rogers, who represent the new ward of Hirwaun, Penderyn, and Rhigos from May 2022, following a boundary review and local election. The aim was to introduce ourselves, inform Councillors of our plans, brief them on the proposals, listen to feedback and discuss the consultation. Cllr Graham engaged, but noted that the Council was in purdah due to the upcoming election. Cllrs Morgan and Rogers attended the public exhibition and community council meetings made comments in favour of creating local employment through the scheme. A copy of the presentation given to the Community Council is available in Appendix 8.5.

- 4.3 The consultation and proposals, including exhibition, webinar, and feedback form, were promoted using a residents' newsletter (see Appendix 8.1), which was issued to 1,287 properties in a radius reproduced below:



- 4.4 A full list of properties including within the consultation radius is presented below. For reasons of data protection, the second part of the postcodes have been removed. Addresses are presented in alphabetical order by road name where possible:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Brecon Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 60, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 69a, 71-72, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 79a, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Grosmont, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Palsin House, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Deri, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Eiddew, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Llwyfen, Brecon Road, Hirwaun CF44

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 Briar Way, Hirwaun, CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Bryngelli Close, Hirwaun CF44
- Deluxe Slate Ltd, Bryngelli Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- M A K Group, Bryngelli Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- The Flowerpot Men, Bryngelli Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Unit 1, Bryngelli Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, Bute Place, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Bute Terrace, Hirwaun CF44
- Brookside Bungalow, Bute Terrace, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Cae Bryn Hyfryd, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Caswell Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, Crawshay Street, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 3a, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 15a Cross Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Glas-y-Dorlan, Cross Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Jafhica, Cross Street, Hirwaun CF44
- 3, 4 Cwm-Hwnt, Rhigos CF44
- Cwm Hwnt Farm, Cwm Hwnt, Rhigos CF44
- Gernant, Cwm-Hwnt, Rhigos CF44
- Holly Bush, Cwm-Hwnt, Rhigos CF44
- Maesycoed, Cwm-Hwnt, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Cwm Isaac, Rhigos CF44
- Calfaria Cottage, Cwm Isaac, Rhigos CF44
- Post Office, Cwm Isaac, Rhigos CF44
- Wyrfa Uchaf, Cwm Isaac, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, Cwrt Bryan Isaf, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Cwrt Glanrhyd, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Cwrt Twyn Rhyd, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, Cynlas Drive, Hirwaun CF44
- 19, 20, 21, 23, Davies Row, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Devonshire Drive, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49 Fair View, Hirwaun CF44
- 5 Fairview Gardens, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Arosfa, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bron-Nant, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brooklands, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brookwood, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Foundry House, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44

- Glenbrook, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Hillside, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Preswylfa, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Sherwood, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Terry Evans Fabrications, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Y Bwthyn, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Foundry Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, Garth Grove, Hirwaun CF44
- The Pines, Garth Grove, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, Ger Y Mynydd, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 7, 8, 14, 16, Halt Close, Rhigos CF44
- Cashel Lodge, Halt Close, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 16a, 17, 18, 19, 20, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Buckleys Bungalow, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Caer Llywn Bungalow, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Caer Llywn Cottage, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Castell, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Ffermady Nantllechau, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Fifth Avenue House, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Rhombic Farm, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Stable View, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Tai Cwplau, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Tre Banog Isaf, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- Trigfan, Halt Road, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 23, 24, 25, Harris Street, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 1a, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, Heol Esgyn, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, Heol Gwvangfryn, Rhigos CF44
- Cartref Bungalow, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- Maes y Meillion, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- Park View Bungalow, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- Pendarren Bungalow, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- Rosewood, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Heol Pendarren, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Heol Uchel, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16, 18, 24, 28 Heol-y-Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Brynmar, Heol-y-Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Cae Siriol, Heol-y-Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Tan Bryn, Heol-y-Bryn, Rhigos CF44

- Ty Dafydd, Heol-y-Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, Heol-y-De
- 3, 4, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11-12, 12a, 12b, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Dol Blodau, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Hafan Hedd, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Limberlost, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Mariver, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Min Yr Awl, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Nant Hir Bungalow, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Pendarren House, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Pendarren Farm, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Pinewood, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- Rhigos Primary School, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, Police Houses, Heol-y-Graig, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 1a, 1b, 3, 4, 26, 27, 28, 29, 34-35, 35a-36, 37, 38, 39, 40-41, 53, 53a, 54, 56, 57, 58a, 58b, 60, 69, 70, 70a, 70b, 70c, 71a, 72, 72a, 73, 73a, 74, 77, 78, 78a, 79, 80, 81, 81a, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Bronwydd House, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Cardiff Arms, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Family Kebab House, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Hirwaun Community Council, Village Hall, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Hirwaun Medical Centre, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Hirwaun Rugby Club, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Flats 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Kendon Court, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Maesgyrreg, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council, Hirwaun Library, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Rowencroft, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- South Wales Police Station, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- The Vicarage, High Street, Hirwaun CF44
- Units D, E, F, G, H, J1, J2, J3, K, L, N, P-T, S, T, Y, 1, 2, 2d, 3, 4-5, 6-7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15-16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40-42, 43-44, 45, 46-47, 48, 49, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Form Fix Solutions, Form Fix Yard, Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Hirwaun House, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Y Graig, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Tower Business Centre, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun CF44
- Cartref Bungalow, Hobbs Lane, Hirwaun CF44
- Cysgod Y Cudyll, Hobbs Lane, Hirwaun CF44
- Diddosfa Bungalow, Hobbs Lane, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Llewellyn, Hobbs Lane, Hirwaun CF44

- 55, 57, 58, 59, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 82, 83, 84, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, Langland Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 57, Limeslade Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Lle Ysgol, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Llys Bute, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, Longmead Park, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, Longmeadow, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Long Meadow Close, Hirwaun CF44
- Heids, Long Meadow Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Manchester Place, Hirwaun CF44
- Hirwaun YMCA, Manchester Place, Hirwaun CF44
- Llanvirn, Manchester Place, Hirwaun CF44
- Maesyfan, Manchester Place, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 2a, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Meadow Lane, Hirwaun CF44
- St John Ambulance, Meadow Lane, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, Min Afon, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2 Mount Pleasant, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 1a, 1b, 2, 2a, 3, 4, 5, 6, 6a, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Ardwyn, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Brickyard Farm, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Cefn Farm, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Delwyn, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, Glanyrafon, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Hendre, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Hendrefawr, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Hendrefawr Farm, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- 2, Hendrefawr House, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Llwynon, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Maesyffynon, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Penywaun, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Penywaun Farm, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- Ty Dewi, Mount Road, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 Nant Celyn, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4 Orchard Grove, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Pendarren Court, Rhigos, CF44
- Anwylfa, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brooklyn House, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryn Maerdy Barn, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryn y Gaer Lodge, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brynyffynon, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Challis House, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Chanrick, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Fairways, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Hillcrest, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Marden, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44

- Penycae, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Railway View Cottage, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Redwood, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Rose Row Caravan, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Springfield, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Swn Y Gwynt, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- The Try Line, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Brynhyfryd, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Celyn, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Garth, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Glasgoed, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Gwyn, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Hyfryd, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Mesen, Penderyn Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Penmark Row, Hirwaun CF44
- Lle Newydd, Pen-y-Banc, Rhigos CF44
- Llia Cysglyd, Pen-y-Banc, Rhigos CF44
- Mynydd Hyfryd, Pen-y-Banc, Rhigos CF44
- Swn y Gwynt, Pen-y-Banc, Rhigos CF44
- Swn y Nant, Pen-y-Banc, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 Redhill Close, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 7a, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 12a, 14, 15, 16, 17, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Abba Coaches, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- AM Nawr, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, Beacons View, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Beacons View Bungalow, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brodawl, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brynawel Bungalow, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryncoch, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, Bryngolwg House, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryngolwg Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Brynteg, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Cartref, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Cherry Trees, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Clydfan, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Conifers, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Crud Yr Awl, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Dol Fach, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Golwg Y Mynydd, Bryngolwg Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Greensleeves, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Hargreaves Surface Mining Ltd, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Hawthorns, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- High Croft, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Holly Bush, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- H P Price Cynon Valley Ltd, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Johns Garage, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44

- Maesglas Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Mountain View, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Old Gate House, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Pencaerau, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Pennant, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Plasnewydd, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Rhianfa, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Rhigos Road Motors, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- The Fairways, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Treetops, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Ionawr, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Werfa Cottage, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Werfa Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Willow Farm, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, Rhosilli Close, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Richmond Drive, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 4a, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Smiths Avenue, Rhigos CF44
- Cysgod-y-Mynydd, Smiths Avenue, Rhigos CF44
- Hillcrest, Smiths Avenue, Rhigos CF44
- New Inn, Smiths Avenue, Rhigos CF44
- 1a, 1b, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, Station Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 The Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Gwynfryn, The Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Gwrrangon Fawr, The Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- Ty Draw Farm, The Bryn, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, The Haven, Hirwaun CF44
- Bank View, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Broadlands, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryndwr, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Derryronane, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Fairview, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Glenman, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Greenore, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Hillside, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Lyndhurst, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Min-yr-Awl, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Roseville, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Royaume, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Swn-yr-Awel, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- Three Winds, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-10, 11, Tower Road, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, Tram Road, Rhigos CF44
- 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, Trebanog Terrace, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Tower Colliery, Tirherbert Road, Rhigos CF44

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, Tudor Avenue, Hirwaun CF44
- 1, 2, 4 Waun Gron Place, Rhigos CF44

Properties without road names

- Ty Mawr Cottage, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Mawr Farm, Hirwaun CF44
- Bryn Hir, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Lletty Rhys Bungalow, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Lletty Rhys Farm, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Rose Cottage, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Ty Newydd Country Hotel, Penderyn CF44
- Trebanog Fach, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Trebanog Fawr, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Trebanog Uchaf Farm, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Tynewydd Farm, Penderyn CF44
- Tynewydd Lodge, Penderyn CF44
- Underwood Lodge, Penderyn CF44
- Ynysfawr, Penderyn, Hirwaun CF44
- Eftec Ltd, Rhigos CF44
- Rhigos Rugby Club, Rhigos CF44
- Rhyd, Rhigos CF44
- Troed y Bryn Bungalow, Rhigos CF44

- 4.5 A webinar was offered for residents to attend on 13th July, however, there were no registrations of interest, and therefore it did not take place.

5. Public Consultation Feedback

- 5.1 As discussed in the previous section, the community was invited to view the proposals, ask questions, and leave comments. People were also able to email or call the team throughout the consultation period.
- 5.2 Feedback was invited both informally through telephone and email, and formally through a feedback form made available at the exhibition (see Appendix 8.4). In total 11 emails were received offering informal feedback, two telephone calls were received, the website was visited 103 times by 88 unique visitors, two people submitted formal feedback forms at the exhibition, and five filled in the webform provided on the website, although many more residents felt more comfortable offering informal feedback verbally in person.
- 5.3 On 11th July, immediately following the closure of the public exhibition, the team met with Rhigos Community Council. A Powerpoint presentation was given explaining the proposals and a question-and-answer session lasting approximately one hour took place (see Appendix 8.5).
- 5.4 Two follow-up meetings with the Community Council were attended by representatives from Enviromena Developments UK Ltd to introduce themselves as the construction partner of the project. Discussions were also had over the level and structure of the community benefit to be offered as part of the scheme which has now been agreed.
- 5.5 All feedback has been considered and the plans have been amended to address the issues raised as far as practically possible. A summary is included in the table below.

Issue/Comment	Our Response
Visual impact from Rhigos Mountain viewpoint	Visual impact studies are ongoing including consideration of this view point, and we will put in place measures to reduce impact as much as

	possible.
Nearest neighbours unhappy with proximity to their homes and impact on residential amenity	The solar farm will not come straight up to the red line boundary, instead a buffer has been incorporated. We are working closely with the nearest neighbours to understand their concerns. We considered a number of options, including setting the panels back, filling in gaps in existing screening, and exploring the potential for new screening in the form of treelines and hedge rows to minimise this impact.
Noise from solar panels	The only part of a solar panel array that makes noise are the inverters. We will be making sure these are strategically placed away from homes to minimise noise and do not expect there to be noise in excess of the general background noise of cars and daily life. The potential for wind passing over solar modules to make noise will be investigated.
Will the site create jobs for local people?	Solar farm construction requires specialist skills, however there may be some potential for local employment around landscaping and maintenance.
Will the scheme provide a community benefit?	Yes – we are proposing a community benefit scheme. Discussions have been had with the Community Council over the level of contribution that can be offered. This will be followed up with further engagement to come to a satisfactory arrangement for all parties. Having examined options for delivering this, and taking feedback from local residents, Councillors, and the Community Council, we have decided that the best mechanism for delivering this community benefit scheme is to pay the funds directly to Rhigos Community Council for distribution. This option must be considered and approved by the Community Council.
Health impacts of living near a solar farm	To date, there is no evidence that living near to a solar farm has any measurable impact on people's health. This position is supported by advice of the World Health Organization (WHO).
Will there be traffic impact on the main Rhigos Road?	Access to the site is off the A4061. The path delivery vehicles will take to the site will be described in the planning application, however the most likely will be an approach from the east off of the A465 or A4059.

Will there be any disruption related to construction?	A comprehensive Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be developed and submitted to the Council as part of the planning application. This Plan will include a suite of measures to ensure that any disruption is minimised. The construction period is approximately 12 – 16 weeks, and there will be some disruption, particularly near the beginning of this period in the form of HGVs arriving on site to deliver equipment, and noise from piling as the panel frames are erected. However, these will be managed to be respectful to the local community, for instance through limits on the hours of work.
Where does the electricity go?	The electricity generated will be exported to the distribution network.

6. Specialist Consultation

- 6.1 Pre-application consultation ran from 22 December 2022 – 20 January 2023, a period of at least 28 days. Following a request from RCT Council, a further period of consultation was undertaken from 31 July 2023 – 29 August 2023 to allow additional consultees the chance to respond.
- 6.2 In accordance with the statutory requirements, a site notice in both English and Welsh (Appendix 8.6 below) was posted in four locations - see detail of locations in Appendix 8.18. The site notices were displayed at least 28 days], from 22 December 2022 – 20 January 2023. There was no need to replace site notices during this period.
- 6.3 In addition to the physical site notice, the same site notice was sent to the owner of the site, owners of adjacent land, members of the Rhigos Community Council and Ward members, the Local Highways Authority, and the Coal Authority. A list of the public officers contacted is below:

Rhigos Community Council

- Councillor Pat Oliver, Chair
- Councillor Helen Wagner, Vice Chair
- Councillor Mairwen Evans
- Councillor Mike Smith
- Councillor Carys Hopes
- Councillor Owain Morgan
- Councillor Stacey Maull

Rhondda Cynon Taf Ward Councillors

- Councillor Karen Morgan
- Councillor Adam Owain Rogers

- 6.4 In the second round of consultation undertaken from 31 July – 29 August 2023, a list of the organisations contacted is below:

- Coal Authority
- South Wales Fire and Rescue
- Welsh Water
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Public Health, Protection & Community Services
- Cadw
- Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
- Neath Port Talbot Council
- Natural Resources Wales
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Transport Team
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Ecology Team

The Coal Authority

- 6.5 In response to the consultation, the Coal Authority confirmed that the site is within the Development High Risk Area as defined by the Coal Authority. Our records indicate that the site lies within an area of recorded shallow coal mining; coal seams of workable thickness infer to outcrop at or close to the surface of the site and surrounding area that may have been historically worked at shallow depths; and a recorded on-site mine entry (CA shaft ref: 293205-019). In addition, the site is within the boundary of a site from which coal has been removed by surface mining (opencast) operations.
- 6.6 The Coal Authority advised that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped. They advised that the mine shaft be zoned off from any development taking place and for this to be identified on all site layout plans.
- 6.7 At present, there is a 5m buffer provided between the mine shaft and any development. We are consulting with our advisors RSK, an engineering and environmental consultancy, on whether this is sufficient.
- 6.8 The Coal Authority also advised that a Coal Mining Risk Assessment be provided. This formed part of the pre-submission package and will be submitted with the full application to RCT Borough Council.
- 6.9 The full responses from the Coal Authority is available in Appendix 8.7 below.

Highways Authority

- 6.10 In response to the consultation, the Highways Authority responded that the visibility splay provided for the southern entrance should take into account the 60 MPH speed limit on A4061, rather than the 30 MPH speed limit applicable on the access road.
- 6.11 The visibility splay was revised showing that the required 215m visibility for a stretch of highway with a 60 MPH speed limit is still possible on A4061 where traffic will be turning off A4061 and onto the access road. The Transport Statement was revised with this visibility splay.
- 6.12 The Highways Authority also requested that a swept path analysis of the internal tracks be provided to demonstrate the ability of the largest expected vehicle to manoeuvre. While this analysis was provided in the Construction Traffic Management Plan, an additional figure has been added to the Transport Assessment with this information.

6.13 The Highways Authority response is available in Appendix 8.8 below.

6.14 Following this initial response from the Highways Authority, it was also possible to reduce the number of deliveries required during the construction phase which will result in less disruption to the local road network. Details of these movements are referenced in the Transport Statement which accompanies this application.

South Wales Fire and Rescue

6.15 South Wales Fire and Rescue have been consulted on the application and have responded that they have no objection.

6.16 Their response is available in Appendix 8.9 below.

Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru

6.17 Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru were consulted, and responded that: "We would advise there is no objection to the proposed development and offer the following standing advice which should be taken into account within any future planning application for the Rhigos Road Solar Farm."

6.18 Welsh Water's response is available in Appendix 8.10 below.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Public Health, Protection, and Community Services

6.19 The Council's public health department was consulted and recommend various actions Public Health recommend various conditions which would apply to any consent, including a requirement to prepare and submit a Land Contamination Report (one has already been prepared and was provided to them as part of the pre-application consultation pack) and undertake intrusive site investigation alongside general due diligence conditions related to soil quality and contamination found during development. The response also advised placing a restriction on construction hours.

6.20 As a result of this feedback, a number of changes have been made to the application, including:

6.21 Hours of operation during construction have been amended in relevant reports to reflect those requested in the consultation response:

- Monday to Friday: 08.00 to 18.00 hours
- Saturday: 08.00 to 13.00 hours
- Sunday and Bank Holidays: Not at All

- 6.22 Discussions are ongoing regarding the need for intrusive land contamination investigation as the report prepared to date indicates this is not necessary based on the site characteristics.
- 6.23 Their response is available in appendix 8.11 below.

Cadw

- 6.24 Cadw were consulted and responded with the following: ""Having carefully considered the information provided, we have no objection to the proposed development in regards to the scheduled monuments listed in our assessment of the application below.
- 6.25 The pre-application is accompanied by a Historic Environment assessment produced by Land Use Consultants Ltd that considers the potential effect on the settings of the above designated historic assets. This concludes that none of the above scheduled monuments will be inter-visible with the proposal and the consequently there will be no effect on their settings. We concur with this conclusion; the proposed development will have no impact on the settings of above scheduled monuments.
- 6.26 Finally, there may also be undesignated historic assets that could be affected by the proposed development and, if you have not already done so, we would advise that you consult the Historic Environment Record held by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust www.ggat.org.uk"
- 6.27 There were no actions arising from this feedback, as Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust were consulted during the design phase of the project.
- 6.28 Cadw's response is available in appendix 8.12 below.

Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

- 6.29 The National Park was consulted and noted that they welcomed the inclusion of the viewpoint 7 assessment, but wished for additional assessment for viewpoint 11 due to its historical landscape significance. However, it is noted that the National Park's wording is a suggestion and not a request: "We welcome the inclusion of viewpoint 7 from Moel Penderyn, however would have also welcomed inclusion of a viewpoint from Mynydd y Glog (noted as viewpoint 11)". Despite this, in the interest of best practice, the possibility has been considered. On this matter there are several considerations:
- 6.30 Firstly it is important to note that Mynydd y Glog is not identified as a viewpoint in the Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) report, but rather as a visitor attraction (it is referenced visitor attraction 11), the NRW comments misinterpret the LVA report in this respect.

- 6.31 Secondly, the LVA also contains zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) assessment, which demonstrates that the site is not visible from the cairn at Mynydd y Glog, which is identified as visitor attraction 11.
- 6.32 Thirdly, notwithstanding the previous point about Mynydd y Glog being outside the ZTV of the site, the LVA authors chose to include viewpoint 7 as a more appropriate viewpoint as this is considered to be more representative of views from recreational receptors within the National Park (footpath users). This is because it provides a wide and largely uninterrupted view from the National Park across the valley area and beyond, it sits within a SSSI, and it is closer to the proposed development (approximately 2.5km versus nearly 5km from Mynydd-y-Glog). There is also less intervening landform, built development and screening from trees/existing woodland areas between Moel Penderyn and the Rhigos Road site than there is between Mynydd-y-Glog and the site.
- 6.33 In summary, it is not considered appropriate or necessary to update the LVA to include the requested viewpoint.
- 6.34 It is also important to consider whether the National Park would constitute a 'specialist consultee' in accordance with the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended). They were consulted in accordance with written advice received from the Local Planning Authority, but as stated by the National Park in their own response: "It is not clear that the National Park Authority, as local planning authority, is a specialist consultee in this instance; the proposed development site, at its nearest point, being more than 700m from the National Park boundary (and therefore is not likely to affect land within the area of the Brecon Beacons National Park)". As such issues raised by the National Park Authority, whilst of course important, should not delay the validation of this application.
- 6.35 The full Bannau Brycheiniog National Park response is available in appendix 8.13 below.

Neath Port Talbot Council

- 6.36 As a neighbouring authority, NPTC were consulted, and raised no objection to the application.
- 6.37 Their response is available in appendix 8.14 below.

Natural Resources Wales

- 6.38 A detailed response was received from NRW on 25 September 2023 requesting clarity on some elements of the LVA and suggested measures to mitigate impacts of the scheme. These will be reviewed and addressed in due course. These are summarised below.

- 6.39 NRW highlighted some inconsistencies in the LVA report in relation to the mitigating effect of low level planting. These inconsistencies have been reviewed and remedied in the final LVA report submitted with the application.
- 6.40 NRW also advised that "viewpoint photography and visualisations should be prepared in accordance with LI TGN 06/19. It is not appropriate to rely on 90 degree panoramas presented at A3 as these inevitably underestimate scale. Single frames presented at A3 with panoramas for context are acceptable". The submitted LVA report accords with the required guidance.
- 6.41 NRW also requested that the viewpoint locations be added to Figure 4, which shows the designated landscapes. The version in the submitted LVA includes an updated Figure 4 which addresses the request.
- 6.42 NRW also raised concerns regarding the proposed mitigation planting, setting out that more planting should be included along the southern boundary of the site in order to help screen views from the south e.g. Hirwaun common. In response to this, it is considered that such planting would be ineffective for screening purposes. This owes to the topography of the surrounding area and rising topography of the site (when viewed from the south). Due to this, there is no suitable additional planting that could be implemented that would mitigate the views of the development from this area. The applicant would welcome the opportunity to discuss suitable mitigation with the case officer through the planning process. If necessary, the developer would then adapt the submitted LEMP accordingly during the planning process, or secure suitable mitigation via a condition.
- 6.43 NRW also requested increased planting of trees and hedgerows along the northern boundary of the proposed development. However, it is important to note that the proposed planting contained to the north (which is set out within the LEMP sent to NRW as part of the consultation and submitted in support of the application) has been designed in consultation with stakeholders and the neighbours to the northeast of the site. Notably, one neighbour requests for their views of the hills to the south to not be obstructed by planting. It is also not considered likely that increased planting beyond that which is currently proposed would make a noticeable difference in terms of visibility of the development from the north. As for the request for planting to the south, the developer would like to discuss the various advantages and disadvantages of this with the case officer, and the results of these discussions will then be taken into account in any revised LEMP or through mitigation which could be secured via a condition.

6.44 The NRW response had no objections in relation to protected species, groundwater or contamination, although did ask for clarification as to whether the underground cables will be fluid filled in respect of potential groundwater contamination. We can confirm that fluid filled cabling will not be used.

6.45 Their response is available in appendix 8.15 below.

Outstanding Responses

6.46 The following bodies have also been consulted, but as of 22nd September 2023, no response has yet been received:

- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Transport Team
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council Ecology Team

Adjacent neighbours

6.47 One objection was received from the neighbour to the north of the site, citing several concerns outlined below. No responses were received from other neighbours or members of the public.

Concern	Response
Wind noise, this area is very open & renowned for being windy which will inevitably create a lot of noise when blowing against/through the solar panels.	Wind through the panels or cabling would only result due to poor installation practices, i.e. modules not being attached tightly to the racks. As this would not only cause noise but potentially damage the development, all equipment will be securely installed. Typically, solar farms noise levels are lower than background levels.
Disruption during the months of construction.	There will be more activity on site during the construction period than currently experienced, however access to the site will be via the southern access point, therefore no traffic will be routed past the residences to the north. In addition, construction hours will be controlled via a condition enforced by the local planning authority and are contained to sociable hours.
Maintenance disruption over the 40 years plus this project is intended to be in use.	As described in the Construction Traffic Management Plan, it is expected that the site will generate 10-15 trips per year by light goods vehicle during operation for servicing and maintenance. Access to the site will remain via the southern access point, therefore no traffic will be routed past the residences to the north.
Destroy vegetation & harm our wildlife.	As described in the Arboricultural Assessment, the only damage to vegetation required will be in the northeast corner of the site where the cable will be laid. In that instance, more trees will be

	planted than are removed. For the remainder of the site, no removal of hedgerows or trees is required and additional hedgerows are planned for the northwest and northern borders of the site. With regards to damage to wildlife, a detailed Ecological Assessment was prepared which assessed the impact of the development on designated sites, habitats, bats, badgers, great crested newts, reptiles, nesting birds, dormouse, water voles, and marsh fritillary butterflies. It identified that the development would have minimal impacts on flora and fauna. The report also recommended mitigation and enhancements measures which will improve the site's biodiversity.
Security cameras surrounding the site will invade our privacy.	The cameras will all be focussed inwards to the site and away from any residences. Once in the detailed design phase, the sweep of each camera can be analysed to confirm none will be facing residences.
Reflection off the solar panels.	As the panels will be south-facing, the Glint and Glare study demonstrated that no reflections are geometrically possible to the north of the site where residences are located.
Depreciation of our property.	Property depreciation is not a planning consideration.
Research has shown that a solar farm needs to be sited at least .1 of a mile (528ft) away from a dwelling to have little or no effect on that property.	The source of this research is not known, however the planning process takes into consideration a number of factors related to siting solar farms including visual impact, glint and glare, ecological impacts, traffic creation, etc which are all facets of impacts on adjacent dwellings. Overall, the reports concluded that impact on nearby residences will be greatest during construction, then minimal during operation.
In November 2022 planning permission was granted to Bryngolwg Solar farm on Rhigos Road which is very close to this site. Surely this area now has enough Solar farms.	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment has considered the consented and existing solar farms in the vicinity and found that there are only two locations out of the 11 examined where one or more sites would be visible. These are from Moel Penderyn and the Rhigos viewpoint.
There is a public tourist View point on the top of Rhigos Mountain & all that you will see from there will be fields full of solar panels, which at the moment is an area of beauty & an	The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment modelled the impact of the existing, consented and planned solar farms from the Rhigos viewpoint (Viewpoint 6). The visualisation demonstrated that the planned solar farm would have a minimal impact on this view. Given the

excellent tourist attraction.	topography, the consented site at Bryngolwg will be more visible from this viewpoint.
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Elected officials

6.48 No responses were received from any of the elected officials notified.

6. Main Changes Due to Feedback

- 6.1 Additional screening in the form of hedgerow planting along the northern boundary to mitigate visual impact was offered. An offer was made to the Rhigos Community Council to establish a Community Benefit Scheme should the project receive planning consent.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 Regener8 Power is committed to community consultation and understands development can be sensitive and controversial.
- 7.2 The objectives of the consultation have been to:
1. To inform neighbours, stakeholders, and the wider community of the proposals;
 2. To ensure everyone has had the opportunity to comment and help shape the emerging proposals;
 3. To understand any concerns, issues or opportunities with respect to the scheme, and
 4. To consider all feedback and where possible, incorporate it into the proposals.
- 7.3 1,287 briefing notes were sent out informing near neighbours of the proposals, we set up a comprehensive website detailing our proposals, offering both a public exhibition and also to hold a public webinar. 11 emails and two telephone calls were received, asking questions about the development and the consultation programme; five people filled in the webform on the website, and two people filled in the exhibition feedback form, with others offering informal feedback.
- 7.4 As a result of the consultation, amendments have been made to the proposals and hopefully reassurance provided over concerns raised.
- 7.5 We look forward to continuing to engage with the local community as the process moves onto the next stage and hope they can be supported.

8. Appendixes

8.1 Community newsletter (two pages)

Regener8 Rhigos Solar Farm

Dear Neighbour,

I wanted to write to let you know that Regener8 Power are developing plans for a solar farm on land off Rhigos Road CF44 9YR. We wanted to introduce ourselves and the proposals as well as invite questions and feedback.



9 MW solar farm - powers 2,700 homes



Sheep farming would continue



Ecologically rich



Discreet, quiet, and very little activity



Retained business rates

The Proposal

The site is a former open-cast mine, which is now Grade 5 agricultural land – this is the very lowest grade and is only useful for grazing sheep, which can continue with a solar farm in place. Our proposals include photovoltaic (PV) panels that could generate up to 9MW of clean energy per year, helping reduce carbon emissions and reduce the need for expensive oil and gas imports which are driving up energy prices. We are interested in talking to business owners nearby about the opportunity to purchase the clean energy being generated.

In addition, we intend to improve biodiversity, leaving the site in a better state than we found it. This will include measures for new planting and creation of new habitats for wildlife. Our plans also include a community benefit fund, ensuring that for every megawatt generated, a sum is donated to fund local projects.

This project will give the land a 55-year period to recover and improve, after which point the panels will be removed and the land restored.

Access for construction and maintenance would be off A4061, avoiding bus routes. We have started the studies required to submit a planning application. Once we secure planning permission, which could take 6-8 months, construction will take 3-4 months.

For more information, please visit www.regener8rhigos.com.

Have Your Say

We are holding an exhibition at the Rhigos Community Hall, 7 Heol Esgyn on 11th July 2022 from 2pm to 6pm where you can come along, see our plans, and ask questions.

We are also holding online webinars from 7-8pm on Tuesday the 12th and Thursday the 14th of July.

To register for the webinars, or to ask any other questions, please contact simon@cadence-pr.uk.

Fferm Solar Regener8 y Rhigos



Annwyl Gymydog,

Dyma ysgrifennu atoch i roi gwybod bod Regener8 Power yn datblygu cynlluniau ar gyfer fferm solar ar y tir oddi ar Heol y Rhigos CF44 9YR. Rydyn ni'n awyddus i gyflwyno ein hunain a'r cynigion, a gwahodd unrhyw gwestiynau ac adborth.



Fferm solar
9 MW -
pweru
2,700
o gartrefi



Byddai
ffermio
defaid yn
parhau



Ecolegol
gyfoethog



Tawel, heb
lawer o
brysurdeb



Cadw
cyfraddau
busnes

Y Cynnig

Hen bwl glo brig yw'r safle, sydd bellach yn dir amaethyddol Gradd 5 – dyma'r radd isaf bosib, sydd ond yn ddefnyddiol i ddefaid bori, ac mae modd i hyn barhau gyda fferm solar weithredol. Mae ein cynigion yn cynnwys paneli ffotofoltäig (PV) a allai gynhyrchu hyd at 9MW o ynni glân bob blwyddyn, gan helpu i leihau allyriadau carbon a lleihau'r angen i fewnforio olew a nwy drud sy'n codi prisiau ynni. Mae ganddon ni ddiddordeb mewn siarad â pherchnogion busnesau cyfagos am y cyfle i brynu'r ynni glân a fydd yn cael ei gynhyrchu.

Yn ogystal, rydyn ni'n bwriadu gwella bioamrywiaeth, gan adael y safle mewn cyflwr gwell na phan ddaethon ni o hyd iddo. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys mesurau ar gyfer plannu o'r newydd a chreu cynefinoedd newydd i fywyd gwyllt. Mae ein cynlluniau hefyd yn cynnwys cronfa budd cymunedol, ac am bob megawat a gynhyrchir, bydd swm yn cael ei roi i ariannu prosiectau lleol.

Bydd y prosiect hwn yn rhoi cyfnod o 55 mlynedd i'r tir adfer a gwella, ac yna bydd y paneli'n cael eu tynnu a'r tir yn cael ei aillosod.

Byddai'r fynedfa ar gyfer adeiladu a gwaith cynnal a chadw oddi ar yr A4061, gan osgoi llwybrau bysiau. Rydyn ni wedi dechrau'r astudiaethau sydd eu hangen i gyflwyno cais cynllunio. Pan fyddwn ni'n cael caniatâd cynllunio, a allai gymryd 6-8 mis, bydd y gwaith adeiladu'n para 3-4 mis.

I gael rhagor o wybodaeth, ewch i www.regener8rhigos.com.

Dweud eich Dweud

Rydyn ni'n cynnal arddangosfa yn Neuadd Gymunedol Rhigos, 7 Heol Esgyn, ar 11 Gorffennaf 2022 rhwng 2yp a 6yh, lle gallwch alw heibio, gweld ein cynlluniau, a gofyn cwestiynau.

Rydyn ni hefyd yn cynnal gweminarau ar-lein rhwng 7-8yh nos Fawrth 12 Gorffennaf, a nos Iau 14 Gorffennaf.

Er mwyn cofrestru ar gyfer gweminar, neu i ofyn unrhyw gwestiynau eraill, cysylltwch â simon@cadence-pr.uk.

8.2 English Website (www.regener8rhigos.com)



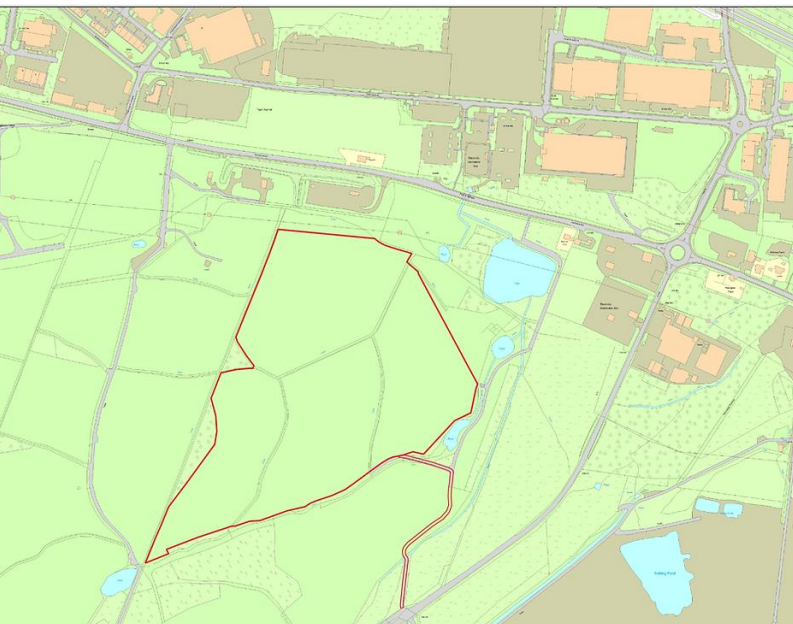
Regener8 Rhigos Solar Farm

Rhigos has a long and proud history of being an energy hub, with coal mining forming a major part of life in the past. We believe Rhigos can maintain that legacy as the country moves away from fossil fuels and towards green energy.

[Read More](#)

Rhigos Solar Farm

Regener8 Power is proposing to develop a 9MW, 39-acre solar farm, on former open-cast mine land. A solar farm of this size could generate about 10,000 MWh/year. To put that in context, the average home in Wales uses 3,700 kWh/year, so this one site could generate enough electricity to supply around 2,700 homes. By generating clean energy locally, there is an equivalent reduction in burning fossil fuels, which improves air quality. Regener8 also plan additional planting on the site to screen the development and to improve biodiversity. Projects of this type also help Wales and Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council to reach their net zero targets.



Location and Access

The proposed site for the new solar farm is to the east of Rhigos and the proposed Bryngolwg Solar Farm, and opposite the Hirwaun Industrial Estate to the south of Rhigos Road. The site ceased operation as an opencast mine by the year 2006.

We recognise that development of any kind is sensitive and we follow a robust site identification process to ensure that only the most suitable sites are brought forward.

The site at Rhigos rated highly in these 5 key areas:

- It is close to a grid connection point that has capacity for renewable energy to connect, which is a relatively rare situation.
- Once built, the site will be visually discreet, here the site is well-screened by the Rhigos Road bund and topography.
- On low agricultural value land. The land was formerly an open-cast mine and is rated 5 on the Agricultural Land Classification scale, which is the lowest grade on the scale.
- Has good access for construction vehicles.
- The site is categorised as Flood Zone 1, which is the lowest risk

The site will likely be accessed from the southeast at an entrance across from the closed Tower Colliery site. This was chosen as there is an existing lay-by and avoids a busy bus route along the section of Rhigos Rd. to the north of the field. The number of delivery vehicles and path to the site will be determined as part of the reports being prepared for the planning application and will be available for public inspection on RCT's planning portal once submitted.

Ecological Benefits

We want the solar farm to make positive contributions to climate change, farming, and local ecology. If possible, sheep would be able to continue grazing under and around the panels helping support local farming. We are hoping to see an improvement in the site's biodiversity by creating valuable wildflower habitats for pollinators, enhance hedgerows and grassland for amphibians and reptiles, and protect existing trees for birds and bats. This will mean that the local environment will be more ecologically valuable in terms of wildlife and plants, than it is now.



We Welcome Your Feedback

The plans are at an early stage and we would welcome feedback on our proposals, whether you think they can be improved, your thoughts on the proposed access, and if you have any interest in investing in the scheme.

Subject to feedback, we would hope to apply for planning permission later in the Autumn and be generating clean renewable energy by 2024. All successful solar farms receive approval on a temporary basis, with the solar farm envisaged to be taken down after 40 years and returned to a natural state.

The below provides information on the emerging proposals and details of how to get in touch with the team.

Who are Regener8?

Regener8 Group Ltd is a clean energy development and regeneration company, focused on high-impact projects combining renewable energy, carbon farming and biodiversity enhancements. Regener8 has 49 projects in train across the UK, Italy and Poland with a total generating capacity of 2.1GW.

Regener8 believes that renewable energy projects should offer not just clean energy but also a significant impact on the ecological health of the landscape. Regener8 is focussed on optimising the value of its projects through carbon farming and biodiversity restoration alongside solar PV. This drives community acceptance and plays an increasingly important role in obtaining planning permissions for solar projects, while landowners recognise the long-term value accretion from agriculture, regenerative soil management, tree planting and rewilding on their properties. UK and European legislators are setting requirements on natural capital enhancement across all developments and assigning value to these improvements via tradable carbon and biodiversity credits. Regener8 sees real economic benefits in following this strategy.





The Proposals

Our proposals are for a 9MW solar farm that will allow sheep farming to continue and bring forward local ecological improvements.

The main body of the energy project is of course the installation of photovoltaic (PV) panels. These normally stand up to 3m high. Panels are attached to mounting systems called tables which are connected in strings and feed into an inverter to collect the energy generated and transport it to the substation.

Alongside the panels, we are proposing a suite of measures to enhance the local environment including the planting of wildflower meadows on the site and providing new habitats to encourage biodiversity.

Access for construction or maintenance vehicles would be from the existing access road off Rhigos Road and would be shared with the landowner.

Construction would take around 12-16 weeks. The number of Heavy Goods Vehicle trips and the path to the site will be examined as part of the planning application and will be available for scrutiny once submitted.

Once operational, the scheme will require minimal maintenance, which will likely take the form of occasional visits in one passenger vehicle from a maintenance team.

Features and Benefits

We need to move away from fossil fuels, secure our energy supplies, and take steps to improve biodiversity and take better care of our environment in the UK. Solar energy addresses all of these concerns and brings a number of key benefits.

- Solar is quicker to build and less noisy than other energy sources such as nuclear.
- Solar generates cheaper electricity, using reliable, tried and tested technology. New developments mean solar can even generate electricity on cloudy days.
- At a time when farmers are struggling, it is important to support them, or risk losing our locally produced foods. Hosting solar farms allows farmers to find new revenue, helping British farming to continue.
- Make a significant contribution to local, national, and international efforts to address the climate and ecological crises.
- Providing a 40-year period in which the intensively farmed land can 'rest' while the onsite boundary vegetation is improved and maintained in accordance with a site-specific management plan.
- If consented, the project will receive temporary permission and the land will be restored at the end of the project's life.
- If the scheme goes ahead, there will be a community benefit programme to ensure that local people share in its success. This scheme would spend £3,000/year supporting local services according to local priorities.
- In addition to community benefit, there will be an opportunity for residents and businesses to invest in the project themselves for a financial return*. Please get in contact at the email address below if you are interested.

In 2019 the Welsh Senedd declared a climate emergency, and RCT Council has made clear that global climate change is a significant issue that requires urgent and decisive action. New development in Wales is guided by the national planning principles of placemaking, reflecting the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Three of the seven well-being goals are a resilient Wales, a healthier Wales, and a globally responsible Wales. We will be contributing directly to these three objectives with this project by generating local clean energy, reducing the burning of fossil fuels for electricity and helping to contribute to the nation's response to climate change.



Timeframe

We are currently preparing our detailed designs ahead of submitting our planning application and welcome your thoughts.

We will be holding a public exhibition on:

Monday 11 July 2022, from 2pm to 6pm
Rhigos Community Hall, 7 Heol Esgyn, Rhigos, Aberdare CF44 9BJ.

We are also planning to hold a public webinar, for those unable to attend the exhibition. This will take place on:

Tuesday 12th July 2022, from 7p, to 8pm
Thursday 14 July 2022, from 7pm to 8pm
Zoom Webinar - Please get in touch RSVP by filling in the contact form below

Here we will be showcasing our plans in greater detail and giving the opportunity for you to ask questions and have your say.

From there, we aim to take on board community feedback, fine-tune our proposals, and make a planning application to RCT Council around October 2022.

Once submitted, the Council will then consider our plans and determine whether they should receive planning permission. It is difficult to estimate how long this will take, but we expect around four months.

If planning permission is granted, we aim to be on site within 12 months and construction takes 12 – 16 weeks to complete. If successful, we expect to be generating clean energy by 2024.

FAQs

How much electricity will the scheme generate per year?

The 9MW project would generate around 10,000 MWh/year, which is enough to power more than 2,700 houses. (Source: PV Syst modelling and [Average household energy consumption UK | Statista](#))

Will there be battery storage on-site?

While we are considering battery storage on other sites, it was ruled out for this location.

How large is the site?

The red line site is 16 hectares, but not all the area is proposed to be fitted with solar panels, this site will also include grazing space for sheep and biodiversity enhancements.

Why has this site been chosen in Rhigos?

Regener8 has a careful site selection process, and we believe that this is an ideal location because:

- The land is of very low agricultural value
- The area is well-screened, with limited visual impact
- It is adjacent to a grid connection, which is fairly uncommon
- The site is categorised as Flood Zone 1, which is the lowest risk

Why do we need more solar power?

The Government has set a legally binding target for the UK to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and build back greener from coronavirus. More renewable energy, such as solar, forms a major part of the strategy to get to net zero, and makes the UK energy supply more secure.

How much carbon will this project save?

In generating solar energy at Rhigos instead of using gas, it will save approximately 2,300 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. (Source: BEIS 2020 emissions factors)

Are you working with the developers of Bryngolwg Solar Farm?

Yes, we had coordinated with them earlier in the process, however ultimately we proceeded with a separate project.

Will the project rely on Government subsidies to be financially viable?

No, over recent years changes in efficiencies and economies mean that solar farms are financially viable without any form of Government subsidy. Per MW solar is far more economic to produce than alternatives such as nuclear and coal.

Can I invest in the solar farm?

More information will be available on this site about how the community can invest in this project.

What can you tell me about construction?

Construction is likely to take around 6 months with access from Rhigos Road. The amount of traffic will vary across the construction period but we would estimate that there would be around 5 – 10 deliveries per day, or roughly one vehicle an hour. To minimise impact to Rhigos and the surrounding area, we are proposing:

- Restricting deliveries at peak times.
- Developing, and keeping to, a detailed traffic management plan.
- Having a strict wheel wash and mud management system

Why do solar panels need a fence?

Solar farms need to be fenced for security and insurance reasons with a 2m high deer fence, with a small gap would be left at the bottom of the fence would be included to allow small wildlife to access and exit the solar farm. Inward facing CCTV cameras would be incorporated.

Are solar farms noisy?

The noise from the inverters is negligible, typically no more than the surrounding background noise. These will not be located near any homes.

What community benefits will there be?

On all our projects Regener8 Power is very keen to engage with local stakeholders to see whether there are projects or initiatives that we can support, especially those based on renewable energy, community energy or combatting fuel poverty.

What will the visual impact for the site be?

As the site is set back from the road and there is a bund along the northern border of the site, the visual impact is likely to be minimal, however photomontages and studies of visual impact will be conducted to examine the extent of the visual impact. In addition, new hedgerows will be planted to fill in gaps along the southeast border.

Have your say

If you would like more information about Regener8 or our proposals, or you would like to have your say, please contact Simon Schofield on Simon@Cadence-PR.uk and we would be happy to speak to you.

You can also have your say by using this form:

First Name *	Last Name *
Email *	
Your comments *	

Submit

8.3 Welsh Website (www.regener8rhigos.com/cy)

CY ▼



Fferm Solar Regener8 Heol y Rhigos

Mae gan y Rhigos hanes balch o fod yn ganolfan ynni, gyda'r pyllau glo yn ffurfio rhan fawr o fywyd yr ardal yn y gorffennol. Rydyn ni'n credu y gall y Rhigos gadw'r gwaddol hwnnw wrth i'r wlad symud oddi wrth danwydd ffosil, a thua at ynni gwyrdd.

[Darllen Mwy](#)

Fferm Solar y Rhigos

Mae Regener8 Power yn cynnig datblygu fferm solar 9MW 39 erw, ar dir hen bwl glo brig. Gallai fferm solar o'r maint hwn gynhyrchu tua 10,000 MWh y flwyddyn. I roi hynny mewn cyd-destun, mae'r cartref cyffredin yng Nghymru yn defnyddio 3,700 kWh y flwyddyn, felly gallai'r safle hwn gynhyrchu digon o drydan i gyflenwi tua 2,700 o dai. Drwy greu ynni glân yn lleol, mae lleihad cyfatebol yn y tanwydd ffosil a gaiff ei losgi, sy'n gwella ansawdd yr aer. Mae Regener8 hefyd yn cynllunio mwy o blannu ar y safle, i guddio'r datblygiad a gwella bioamrywiaeth. Mae prosiectau fel hyn hefyd yn helpu Cymru a Chyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf i gyrraedd eu targedau sero net.

Lleoliad a Mynediad

The Mae safle arlaethedig y fferm solar newydd i'r dwyrain o'r Rhigos ac i Fferm Solar arlaethedig Bryngolwg, a gyferbyn ag Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Hirwaun, i gogledd y de o Heol y Rhigos. Dydy'r safle heb fod yn bwl glo brig ers 2006.

Rydyn ni'n cydnabod bod datblygiad o unrhyw fath yn fater sensitif, ac rydyn ni'n dilyn proses canfod safle gadarn er mwyn sicrhau mai dim ond y safleoedd mwyaf addas sy'n cael eu cynnig.

Mae'r safle yn y Rhigos wedi cael sgôr uchel yn y pum maes allweddol canlynol:

- Mae'n agos at bwynt cysylltu â'r grid ac mae ganddo gapasiti i gysylltu ynni adnewyddadwy, sy'n sefyllia gymharol brin.
- Ar ôl ei adeiladu, bydd y safle'n weledol guddiedig; yma mae'r safle wedi'i guddio'n dda gan lwnd a thopograffeg Heol y Rhigos.
- Mae ar dir sydd â gwerth amaethyddol isel. Roedd y tir yn arfer bod yn bwl glo brig, ac mae ganddo sgôr o 5 ar y raddfa Dosbarthiad Tir Amaethyddol, sef y radd isaf ar y raddfa.
- Mae mynediad da ar gyfer cerbydau adeiladu.
- Mae'r safle wedi'i gategoreiddio fel Parth Llifogydd 1, sef y risg isaf.

Mwy na thebyg bydd mynediad at y safle o'r de ddwyrain, drwy fynedfa gyferbyn â safle Glaf'r Tŵr, sydd wedi cau. Dewiswyd hwn gan fod cillan eisoes yn bodoli, ac mae'n osgoi llwybr bysiau prysur ar hyd y rhan o Heol y Rhigos sydd i'r gogledd o'r cae. Bydd niler y cerbydau cludiant a'r llwybr i'r safle yn cael ei bennu fel rhan o'r adroddiadau sy'n cael eu paratoi ar gyfer y cais cynllunio, a byddant ar gael i'w harchwilio gan y cyhoedd ar borth cynllunio Rhondda Cynon Taf ar ôl iddo gael ei gyfiwyno.

Manteision Ecolegol

Rydyn ni'n awyddus i'r fferm solar wneud cyfraniad cadarnhaol i newid hinsawdd, amaeth, a'r ecoleg leol. Os oes modd, byddai defaid yn parhau i bori o dan ac o gwmpas y paneli, gan helpu i gefnogi ffermio lleol. Rydyn ni'n gobeithio gweld gwelliant ym miaoamrywiaeth y safle, drwy greu cynefinoedd blodau gwyllt gwerthfawr ar gyfer peillio, gwella gwrychoedd a glaswelltir ar gyfer amffibiaid ac ymlusgiaid, ac amddiffyn y coed sydd yno'n barod ar gyfer adar ac ystlumod. Bydd hyn yn golygu y bydd yr amgylchedd lleol yn fwy gwerthfawr yn ecolegol o ran bywyd gwyllt a phlanhigion nag y mae ar hyn o bryd.



Rydyn Ni'n Croesawu Eich Adborth

Mae'r cynlluniau ar gam cynnar, a bydden ni'n croesawu adborth ar ein cynigion: os ydych chi'n meddwl y gellir eu gwella; eich safbwyntiau ar y fynedfa a gynigiwyd; ac os oes gennych ddiddordeb mewn buddsoddi yn y cynllun.

Yn amodol ar adborth, rydyn ni'n gobeithio gwneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio yn nes ymlaen yn yr hydref, a byddwn ni'n cynhyrchu ynni adnewyddadwy glân erbyn 2024. Mae pob fferm solar lwyddiannus yn cael cymeradwyaeth ar sail dros dro, a rhagwelir y bydd y fferm solar yn cael ei thynnu i lawr ar ôl 40 mlynedd, ac yn dychwelyd i gyflwr naturiol.

Isod mae gwybodaeth am y cynigion a manylion ynghylch sut i gysylltu â'r tîm.

Pwy yw Regener8?

Cwmni adfywio a datblygu ynni glân yw Regener8 Group Ltd, sy'n canolbwyntio ar brosiectau effaith uchel sy'n cyfuno ynni adnewyddadwy, ffermio carbon, a gwella bioamrywiaeth. Mae gan Regener8 49 o brosiectau ar waith ledled Prydain, yr Eidal, a Gwlad Pwyl, gyda chyfanswm capasiti cynhyrchu o 2.1GW.

Mae Regener8 yn credu y dylai prosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy gynnig ynni glân a chael effaith sylweddol ar lechyd ecolegol y tirwedd ar yr un pryd. Mae Regener8 yn canolbwyntio ar gynyddu gwerth ei brosiectau drwy ffermio carbon ac adfer bioamrywiaeth ochr yn ochr â solar ffotofoltâig. Mae hyn yn cynyddu derbyniad cymunedol ac yn chwarae rhan gynyddol bwysig wrth gael caniatâd cynllunio ar gyfer prosiectau solar, tra bod perchnogion tir yn cydnabod gwerth croniant hirdymor drwy amaethyddiaeth, rheoli pridd adfywiol, plannu coed, ac ail-wylltio ar eu heiddo. Mae deddfwyr yn y Deyrnas Unedig ac Ewrop yn gosod gofynion ar wella cyfalaf naturiol ar draws pob datblygiad ac yn dynodi gwerth i'r gwelliannau hyn drwy gredydau carbon a bioamrywiaeth masnachadwy. Mae Regener8 yn gweld manteision economaidd go iawn wrth ddilyn y strategaeth hon.





Nodweddion a Manteision

Mae angen symud oddi wrth danwydd ffosil, sicrhau cyflenwadau ynni, a chymryd camau i wella bioamrywiaeth a gofalu'n well am ein hamgylchedd ym Mhrydain. Mae ynni solar yn mynd i'r afael â'r holl bryderon hyn, ac yn cynnig nifer o fanteision allweddol.

- Mae solar yn gyflym i'w adeiladu ac yn llai swmlyd na ffynonellau ynni eraill fel niwclear.
- Mae solar yn cynhyrchu trydan rhatach, gan ddefnyddio technoleg ddibynadwy, sydd wedi'i phrofi. Mae datblygiadau newydd yn golygu gall solar gynhyrchu trydan ar ddiwrnodau cymylog hyd yn oed.
- Ar adeg pan mae ffermywyr yn ei chael yn anodd, mae'n bwysig eu cefnogi, neu beryglu colli cael bwyd a gynhyrchir yn lleol. Mae cynnal ffermydd solar yn caniatáu i ffermywyr ddod o hyd i refeniw newydd, gan helpu ffermio i barhau ym Mhrydain.
- Gwneud cyfraniad sylweddol i ymdrechion lleol, cenedlaethol a rhyngwladol i fynd i'r afael â'r argyfyngau hinsawdd ac ecolegol.
- Darparu cyfnod o 40 mlynedd lle gall y tir a gaiff ei ffermio'n ddwys 'orfws' am ychydig tra bod y llystyfiant ffiniol ar y safle yn cael ei wella a'i gynnal yn unol â chynllun rheoli safle-benodol.
- Os caiff y prosiect ganiatâd, dros dro bydd y caniatâd hwnnw, a bydd y tir yn cael ei adfer ar ddiwedd oes y prosiect.
- Os yw'r cynllun yn mynd yn ei flaen, bydd rhaglen budd cymunedol i sicrhau bod pobl lleol yn rhannu yn ei lwyddiant. Byddai'r cynllun yn gwario £3,000 y flwyddyn yn cefnogi gwasanaethau lleol yn unol â blaenoriaethau lleol.
- Yn ogystal â budd cymunedol, bydd cyfle i drigolion a busnesau fuddsoddi yn y prosiect eu hunain am elw ariannol*. Cysylltwch drwy'r cyfeiriad e-bost isod os oes gennych ddiddordeb.

Yn 2019, datganodd Senedd Cymru argyfwng hinsawdd, ac mae Cyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf wedi datgan yn glir bod newid hinsawdd byd-eang yn fater o bwys y mae angen gweithredu brys a phendant arno. Caiff datblygiadau newydd yng Nghymru eu harwain gan egwyddorion cynllunio cenedlaethol creu lleoedd, gan adlewyrchu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015. Ymhlith y saith nod llesiant mae Cymru gydnerth, Cymru iachach, a Chymru sy'n gyfrifol ar lefel byd-eang. Byddwn ni'n cyfrannu'n uniongyrchol at y tri amcan hwn gyda'r prosiect hwn drwy gynhyrchu ynni glân lleol, lleihau llosgi tanwydd ffosil ar gyfer trydan, a helpu i gyfrannu at ymateb y genedl i newid hinsawdd.

Y Cynigion

Ein cynnig yw codi fferm solar 9MW a fydd yn caniatáu i ffermio defaid barhau, a chynnig gwelliannau ecolegol lleol.

Wrth gwrs, prif gorff y prosiect ynni yw gosod paneli ffotofoltäig (PV). Mae'r rhain fel arfer yn 3m o uchder. Mae paneli wedi'u glynu i systemau mowntio o'r enw byrddau, sydd wedi'u cysylltu â llinynnau ac sy'n bwydo i mewn i wrthdrôydd i gasglu'r ynni a gynhyrchir a'i gludo i'r is-orsaf.

Ochr yn ochr â'r paneli, rydym ni'n cynnig cyfres o fesurau i wella'r amgylchedd lleol, gan gynnwys plannu dolydd blodau gwyllt ar y safle a darparu cynefinoedd newydd i annog bioamrywiaeth.

Byddai mynediad ar gyfer cerbydau adeiladu neu gynnal a chadw o'r heol fynediad sydd eisoes yn bodoli oddi ar Heol y Rhigos, a bydd yn cael eu rhannu â pherchennog y tir.

Byddai'r gwaith adeiladu'n para tua 12-16 wythnos. Bydd nifer y teithiau Cerbydau Nwyddau Trwm a'r llwybr i'r safle yn cael eu harchwilio fel rhan o'r cais cynllunio, a bydd y rhain ar gael i graffu arnynt ar ôl eu cyflwyno.

Unwaith y bydd yn weithredol, ni fydd angen llawer o waith cynnal a chadw ar y cynllun, a bydd fel arfer yn cynnwys ymweliadau achlysurol mewn cerbyd un teithiwr o dim cynnal a chadw.



Amserlen

Rydyn ni wrthi'n paratoi ein cynlluniau manwl cyn cyflwyno ein cais cynllunio, ac rydyn ni'n croesawu eich barn.

Byddwn ni'n cynnal arddangosfa gyhoeddus:

Dydd Llun 11 Gorffennaf 2022, rhwng 2yp a 6yh
Neuadd Gymunedol y Rhigos, 7 Heol Esgyn, y Rhigos, Aberdâr CF44 9BJ.

Rydyn ni hefyd yn bwriadu cynnal gweminar gyhoeddus, ar gyfer y rhai sy'n methu â dod i'r arddangosfa. Cynhelir hyn:

Nos Mawrth 12 Gorffennaf 2022, rhwng 7pm ac 8pm
Nos Iau 14 Gorffennaf 2022, rhwng 7pm ac 8pm

Gweminar Zoom - Cysylltwch i roi gwybod os byddwch am ymuno drwy lenwi'r ffurflen gysylltu isod

Yma byddwn ni'n arddangos ein cynlluniau yn fwy manwl ac yn rhoi cyfle i chi ofyn cwestiynau ac i ddweud eich dweud.

O'r cam hwnnw, ein nod yw ystyried adborth cymunedol, mireinio ein cynigion, a gwneud cais cynllunio i Gyngor Rhondda Cynon Taf tua mis Hydref 2022.

Ar ôl ei gyflwyno, bydd y Cyngor yn ystyried ein cynlluniau ac yn pennu a ddylent roi caniatâd cynllunio. Mae'n anodd amcangyfrif pa mor hir bydd hyn yn ei gymryd, ond rydyn ni'n disgwyl iddo gymryd tua pedwar mis.

Os rhoddir caniatâd cynllunio, rydyn ni'n anelu i fod ar y safle ymhen 12 mis, a bydd y gwaith adeiladu yn cymryd tua 12 i 16 wythnos i'w gwblhau. Os yw'n llwyddiannus, disgwylwn fod yn cynhyrchu ynni glân erbyn 2024.

Cwestiynau Cyffredin

Faint o drydan fydd y cynllun yn ei gynhyrchu bob blwyddyn?

Byddai'r prosiect 9MW yn cynhyrchu tua 10,000 MWh y flwyddyn, sy'n ddigon i bweru mwy na 2,700 o dai. (Ffynhonnell: Modelu PVsyst a Defnydd ynni cartrefi cyfartalog | Statista)

A fydd storfa fatri ar y safle?

Er ein bod ni'n ystyried storfa fatri ar safleoedd eraill, pennwyd na fydd un ar y safle hwn.

Pa mor fawr yw'r safle?

Mae'r safle llinell goch yn 16 erw, ond ni fydd paneli solar yn cael eu gosod ar yr ardal gyfan. Bydd y safle hefyd yn cynnwys ardal bori i ddefaid a gwelliannau bioamrywiaeth.

Pam ddewiswyd y safle hwn yn y Rhigos?

Mae gan Regener8 broses ofalus ar gyfer dewis safleoedd, ac rydyn ni'n credu bod hwn yn lleoliad delfrydol am y rhesymau canlynol:

- Mae gwerth amaethyddol isel i'r tir
- Mae'r tir wedi'i guddio'n dda, heb lawer o effaith weledol
- Mae'n agos at gysylltiad grid, sy'n eithaf anghyffredin
- Mae'r safle wedi'i gategoreiddio fel Parth Llifogydd 1, sef y risg isaf

Pam fod angen mwy o ynni solar?

Mae'r Llywodraeth wedi gosod targed sy'n gyfreithiol rwyml i Brydain gyrraedd allyriadau sero net erbyn 2050 ac adeiladu'n ôl yn fwy gwyrdd o'r coronafeirws. Mae ynni mwy adnewyddadwy, fel solar, yn ffurfio rhan fawr o'r strategaeth i gyrraedd sero net, ac yn gwneud cyflenwad ynni Prydain yn fwy sicr.

Faint o garbon fydd y prosiect hwn yn ei arbed?

Wrth gynhyrchu ynni solar yn y Rhigos yn lle ddefnyddio nwy, bydd yn arbed tua 2,300 tonnell o garbon deuocsid bob blwyddyn. (Ffynhonnell: ffactorau allyriadau BEIS 2020).

Ydych chi'n gweithio gyda datblygwyr Fferm Solar Bryngolwg?

Do, buon ni'n cydweithio gyda nhw yn gynharach yn y broses, ond yn y pen draw rydyn ni wedi bwrw ati gyda phrosiect ar wahân.

A fydd y prosiect yn dibynnu ar gymorthdaliadau'r Llywodraeth er mwyn bod yn ariannol hyfyw?

Na fydd, dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, mae newidiadau mewn effeithlonrwydd ac economïau yn golygu bod ffermydd solar yn ariannol hyfyw heb gymhorthdal gan y Llywodraeth. Fesul MW, mae ynni solar yn llawer mwy economaidd i'w gynhyrchu na dewisiadau amgen fel niwclear a glo.

Alla i fuddsoddi yn y fferm solar?

Bydd mwy o wybodaeth ar gael ar y wefan hon am sut gall y gymuned fuddsoddi yn y prosiect.

Beth allwch chi ei ddweud wrtha i am y gwaith adeiladu?

Mae'r gwaith adeiladu yn debygol o bara tua chwe mis, gyda mynediad oddi ar Heol y Rhigos.

Bydd lefel y traffig yn amrywio yn ystod y cyfnod adeiladu, ond rydyn ni'n amcangyfrif y byddai tua 5 - 10 cludiant y dydd, neu tua un cerbyd yr awr.

Er mwyn lleihau'r effaith ar y Rhigos a'r ardal gyfagos, rydyn ni'n cynnig:

- Cyfyngu ar ddanfoniadau ar adegau prysur.
- Datblygu cynllun rheoli traffig a chadw ato.
- Bod â system rheoli mwd a golchi olwynion lem.

Pam fod angen ffens ar baneli solar?

Mae angen gosod ffens o gwmpas ffermydd solar am resymau diogelwch ac yswiriant, a bydd ffens geirw 2m o uchder gyda bwlch bach ar waelod y ffens er mwyn caniatáu i fywyd gwyllt bach fynd i mewn ac allan o'r fferm solar. Bydd camerau teledu cylch cyfng yn wynebu am i mewn.

A yw ffermydd solar yn swnllyd?

Mae sŵn y gwrthdroyddion yn isel, ac fel arfer nid yw'n uwch na'r sŵn cefndirol o'u hamgylch. Fydd y rhain ddim yn cael eu gosod yn agos i gartrefi.

Pa fanteision fydd i'r gymuned?

Ar gyfer ein holl brosiectau, mae Regener8 Power yn awyddus iawn i ymgysylltu â rhanddeiliaid lleol i weld a oes prosiectau neu fentrau y gallwn eu cefnogi, yn enwedig rhai sy'n seiliedig ar ynni adnewyddadwy, ynni cymunedol, neu oresgyn tloidi tanwydd.

Beth fydd yr effaith weledol ar y safle?

Gan fod y safle ymhell o'r ffordd, a gan fod bwnd ar hyd ffin ogleddol y safle, mae'r effaith weledol yn debygol o fod yn fach, ond bydd ffotogyfosodiadau ac astudiaethau o effaith weledol yn cael eu cynnal i archwilio graddau'r effaith weledol. Yn ogystal, bydd gwrychoedd newydd yn cael eu plannu i lenwi bylchau ar hyd ffin y de-ddwyrain.

Dweud eich dweud

Os hoffech ragor o wybodaeth am Regener8 neu ein cynigion, neu os hoffech gael dweud eich dweud, cysylltwch â Simon Schofield drwy Simon@Cadence-PR.uk a byddwn ni'n falch iawn o siarad gyda chi.

Gallwch hefyd ddweud eich dweud drwy ddefnyddio'r ffurflen hon:

Enw Cyntaf *

Cyfenw *

E-bost *

Eich sylwadau *

Cyflwyno

8.4 Feedback Form

Feedback Form

Rhigos Solar Farm

11th July 2022



We value the views of the community so please take a few minutes to give your feedback. If you need more space, please continue onto the reverse.

1. Overall, what do you like about the proposals and why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Overall, does anything concern you about the proposals, and, if so, why?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3. Are there any ways you think we could improve the plans?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

4. Would you like to be kept up to date with the proposals? Yes ☐ No ☐

Name	
Address	
Telephone	Postcode
Email.....	

Thank you for your feedback. For further information:
Visit: www.Regener8Rhigos.com, Email: Simon@Cadence-PR.com

Cadence PR is collecting this information on behalf of Regener8 Power solely in regard to the above proposals. Your feedback will be used to inform the plans and your details to keep you updated as the proposals progress. Your feedback and comments will be anonymously collated and aggregated and fed back to the Council at the time of the planning application. If you do not want us to update you on the plans, then either do not supply your contact information or email us at Simon@cadence-pr.uk and we will delete this information from our records.

8.5 Community Council Presentation



Regener8 Rhigos

Integrating nature and solar energy

Regener8 Power Limited
July 2022

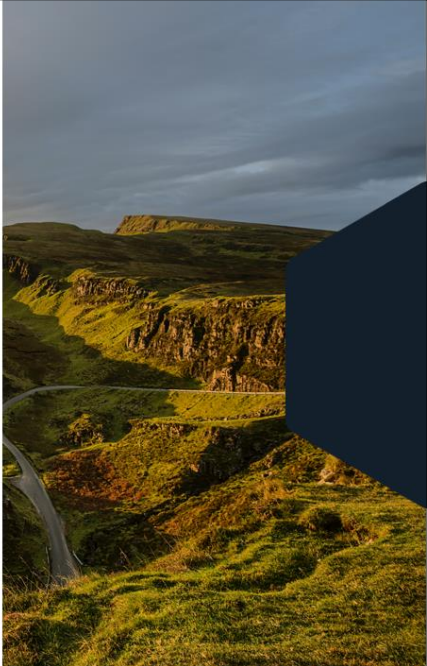


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Introducing Regener8 Power

- Regener8 Power Limited is a clean energy development and regeneration company, focussed on high-impact multi-purpose projects
- The company was founded in 2018 by a highly experienced team of renewable energy professionals and are headquartered in Guildford, UK
- Specialising in the financing and development of renewable energy projects across the globe
- Team has a proven track record of delivering large scale energy projects



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Overview of the Proposal

- Regener8 Power is proposing to develop a 9MWp solar farm on up to 21 hectares (52 acres) of land at Rhigos
- The modules are expected to stand no more than 3m high
- The solar farm would generate approximately 10,000 MWh of clean renewable electricity per year
- Enough clean electricity to meet the energy needs of around 2,700 homes
- Retention of sheep grazing
- Avoid circa 2,300 tonnes of CO2 in the first year of operation
- The Rhigos Rd solar farm is anticipated to have a lifespan of at least 40 years
- Once it ceases operation, the equipment will be removed

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How does Solar PV work?

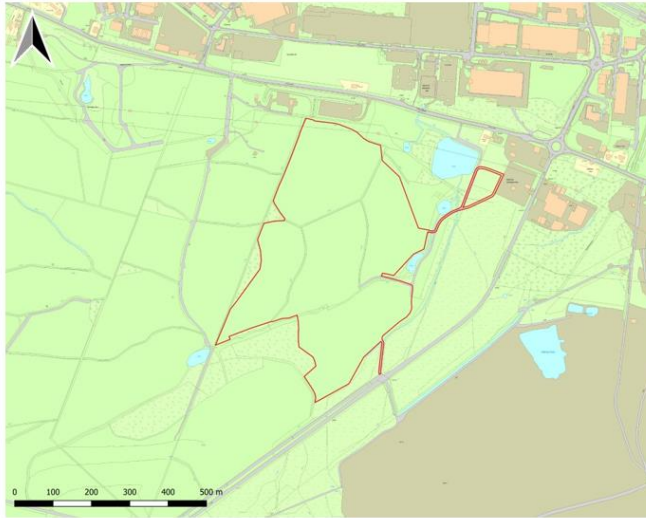
Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems use cells to convert sunlight into electricity. The PV cell consists of one or two layers of a semi-conducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers causing electricity to flow.



The greater the intensity of the light, the greater the flow of electricity. A PV system does not need bright sunshine to operate, it can also generate electricity on cloudy days. We also plan to use a type of panel that can generate electricity from both sides.

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Location – Regener8 Rhigos



- Hirwaun Industrial Estate to the north
- Bund alongside southern section of Rhigos rd blocking view of site from the road
- Connection to the distribution network shown in upper right hand corner
- Site access shown to the southeast
- Disused mineshaft

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Location – Bryngolwg site



- 30 acre site which could supply electricity to up 3500 homes
- Submitted their planning application in the spring
- Our project will be assessed by the LPA for cumulative impacts with it and the existing solar farm
- Community benefits offered

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Why Rhigos?

- 1** It is close to a grid connection point that has capacity for renewable energy to connect, which is a relatively rare situation.
- 2** Once built, the site will be visually discreet. The site is well-screened by the Rhigos Road bund and topography.
- 3** The land was formerly an open-cast mine and is rated 5 on the Agricultural Land Classification scale, which is the lowest grade on the scale.
- 4** Solar generation can continue with sheep grazing
- 5** Has good access for construction vehicles.
- 6** The site is categorised as Flood Zone 1, which is the lowest risk.



Policy Context

The UK government has set a legally binding target for the UK to reach net zero emissions by 2050 and build back greener from the coronavirus.

Increasing electrification

In 2019 the Welsh Senedd declared a climate emergency

RCT Borough Council has set targets to be a Carbon Neutral Council and County Borough by 2030 and are pursuing their own £7m solar farm.

More renewable energy, such as solar, forms a major part of the strategy to reach net zero.

The Rhigos solar farm would contribute to the UK's energy security.





Land Use

- Provisions are in place for the site to allow sheep grazing to continue
- A solar farm does not damage the land as the uprights supporting the tables are piled into the ground.
- Sufficient sunlight and rainfall can fall between the panels to maintain plant life.
- If designed correctly, solar farms can provide habitat for wildlife to flourish.
- Solar farms can increase the diversity of broad-leaved plants, grasses, butterflies, bumblebees and birds.
- A landscaping plan will be submitted with our planning application.

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Planning Application Process

- 1 Environmental Impact Assessment Screening
- 2 Pre Application Advice
- 3 Site specific studies, including ecology, flood risk, visual impact, traffic management
- 4 Preliminary scheme design
- 5 Public exhibition and community consultation
- 6 Final scheme design, incorporating feedback
- 7 Submission of the planning application





Community Engagement Pre-application consultation:

- 1 Letter sent to 1,287 local residents and businesses
- 2 Two webinars offered
- 3 Dedicated public website with more information – regener8rhigos.com
- 4 Email for enquiries
- 5 Public exhibition and community consultation
- 6 Engagement with local elected officials



Impact Mitigation Measures

VISUAL.

A landscape and visual impact assessment is being undertaken.

Measures such as modifications to layout, screening and additional planting will reduce potential visual impact from the site.

We will consult directly with the Brecon Beacons National Park.

TRAFFIC. The number of daily Heavy Goods Vehicle trips and the path to the site will be examined as part of the planning application

The scheme will need very little maintenance and thus generate little traffic once construction is completed.

NOISE. During construction, the noise will be from delivery vehicles and piling. During operation there is very little noise generated.

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Construction

- Construction of the solar farm will take 12-16 weeks
- Modules are attached to a mounting system on pilings
- The substation and compound are built on a concrete base
- Proposed access is via lay-by along the south east border of the site (exact route to site is still to be confirmed)

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Community Benefits

- Regener8 Power is very keen to engage with local stakeholders to learn about projects we can support
- We are interested in supporting local initiatives for renewable energy, community energy or combatting fuel poverty
- Annual support over the lifetime of the solar project
- Quantifiable and local results
- Shared ownership model being explored

Next Steps

All comments will be reviewed and taken into account while the planning application is being developed

The planning application is expected to be submitted in October 2022

Once submitted, the application will be subjected to further public consultation organised by the local authority

The application will then be discussed at a future Planning Committee meeting where a decision will be made



8.6 Site Notices (English and Welsh)

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION BEFORE APPLYING FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLES 2C and 2D

Purpose of this notice: this notice provides the opportunity to comment directly to the developer on a proposed development prior to the submission of a planning application to the local planning authority (“LPA”). Any subsequent planning application will be publicised by the relevant LPA; any comments provided in response to this notice will not prejudice your ability to make representations to the LPA on any related planning application. You should note that any comments submitted may be placed on the public file.

Proposed development at Land to the west of Rhigos Road (A4061), Rhigos, CF44 9HX

I give notice that Regener8 Power is intending to apply for planning permission for the:

Development of a solar farm and associated infrastructure.

You may inspect copies of the proposed application, the plans, and other supporting documents online at www.regener8rhigos.com.

And computer facilities are available to view the information online at Hirwaun Library, High Street, Hirwaun, CF44 9SW between the hours of Tues 9:00-6:30pm, Wed 9:00-5:00pm, Thurs 9:00-1:00pm, Fri 9:00-6:00pm, Sat 9:00-1:00pm. The library is closed 1:00 – 2:00 Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this proposed development must write to the applicant at cherie@regener8power.com or Regener8 Power Ltd, Surrey Technology Centre, The Surrey Research Park Guildford, Surrey GU2 7YG by **20 January 2023**.

Gorchymyn Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Gweithdrefn Rheoli Datblygu) (Cymru) 2012
CYHOEDDUSRWYDD AC YMGYNGHORI CYN GWNEUD CAIS AM GANIATÂD CYNLLUNIO
HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGLAU 2C A 2D

Diben yr hysbysiad hwn: mae'r hysbysiad hwn yn rhoi cyfle i wneud sylwadau yn uniongyrchol i'r datblygwr ynglŷn â datblygiad arfaethedig cyn cyflwyno cais am ganiatâd cynllunio i'r awdurdod cynllunio lleol ("ACLI"). Bydd unrhyw gais cynllunio dilynol yn cael ei hysbysebu gan yr ACLI perthnasol; ni fydd unrhyw sylwadau a ddarperir gennych wrth ymateb i'r hysbysiad hwn yn lleihau dim ar eich gallu i gyflwyno sylwadau i'r ACLI ar unrhyw gais cynllunio cysylltiedig. Dylech nodi y gellir gosod unrhyw sylwadau a gyflwynir gennych yn y ffeil gyhoeddus.

Datblygiad arfaethedig ar y tir i'r gorllewin o Heol y Rhigos (A4061), y Rhigos, CF44 9HX

Rwyf yn hysbysu bod Regener8 Power yn bwriadu gwneud cais am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer:

Datblygu fferm solar a seilwaith cysylltiedig.

Gallwch archwilio copiâu o'r cais arfaethedig, y cynlluniau, a dogfennau ategol eraill ar-lein drwy www.regener8rhigos.com.

Mae cyfleusterau cyfrifiadur ar gael i archwilio'r wybodaeth hon ar-lein yn Llyfrgell Hirwaun, y Stryd Fawr, Hirwaun, CF44 9SW ddydd Mawrth 9:00-6:30pm, dydd Mercher 9:00-5:00pm, dydd Iau 9:00-1:00pm, dydd Gwener 9:00-6:00pm, dydd Sadwrn 9:00-1:00pm. Mae'r llyfrgell ar gau 1:00 – 2:00 dydd Mawrth, dydd Mercher a dydd Gwener.

Mae'n rhaid i unrhyw un sy'n dymuno gwneud sylwadau ynglŷn â'r datblygiad arfaethedig hwn ysgrifennu at ceisydd drwy cherie@regener8power.com neu Regener8 Power Ltd, Surrey Technology Centre, The Surrey Research Park Guildford, Surrey GU2 7YG erbyn **20 Ionawr 2023**.

8.7 Coal Authority Responses

For the Attention of: Cherie Gregoire
Business and Project Development Lead
Regener8 Power

[By Email: cherie@regener8power.com]

09 January 2023

Dear Ms Gregoire

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

PUBLICITY AND CONSULTATION BEFORE APPLYING FOR PLANNING PERMISSION NOTICE UNDER ARTICLES 2C and 2D

Proposed Development (solar farm and associated infrastructure) at Land to the West of Rhigos Road (A4061), Rhigos, CF44 9HX

Thank you for your notification of 23 December 2022 seeking the views of the Coal Authority on the above pre-application consultation.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. As a statutory consultee, the Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

I have checked the location plan and I can confirm that the site falls within the Development High Risk Area as defined by the Coal Authority. Our records indicates that the site lies within an area of recorded shallow coal mining; coal seams of workable

thickness infer to outcrop at or close to the surface of the site and surrounding area that may have been historically worked at shallow depths; and a recorded on-site mine entry (CA shaft ref: 293205-019). In addition, the site is within the boundary of a site from which coal has been removed by surface mining (opencast) operations.

The Coal Authority is of the opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped, in line with our adopted policy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries> Accordingly, we would expect this part of the site (position of the mine entry, any potential reporting error (departure) and a calculated zone of influence based on available sources of information)) to be zoned off from any development taking place and for this to be identified on all site layout plans.

In accordance with the approach agreed with the Local Planning Authority, the applicant will need to provide a Coal Mining Risk Assessment Report to accompany any formal planning application for the above development.

The Coal Mining Risk Assessment (CMRA) should be prepared by a “competent body”. Links to the relevant professional institutions of competent bodies can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/planning-applications-coal-mining-risk-assessments>

As per our Exemptions List: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-applications-coal-mining-risk-assessments> solar arrays (flexible structures / minimal ground disturbance required) are exempt from requiring the submission of a Coal Mining Risk Assessment even when located within the Development High Risk Area. However, where built development is proposed to support the solar farm, including masonry structures, and/or large kiosks with substantial foundations, a CMRA should be provided to the LPA.

It is noted that the pre-application enquiry is accompanied by a Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment (315223 R02 (01) October 2022) prepared for a solar farm at this site by RSK Environment Limited.

As this Report has been prepared by a competent body who has identified and assessed the risks of the solar farm from former coal mining activity at this site, the

Report is relevant / appropriate for the applicant to submit as part of their formal planning application. Whilst we have not reviewed the Report in detail, we note that the report author has identified a safety and stability risk from former coal mining activity and recommends that targeted intrusive ground investigations are considered necessary in order to confirm the ground conditions present and fully assess (and mitigate) the potential risks.

Subject to the above Report being submitted as part of any formal planning application including proposed layout plan that illustrates the position of the recorded mine entry, it is unlikely that the Coal Authority would object to the proposed development. This would be subject to the LPA imposing a suitably worded condition to secure the undertaking of intrusive ground investigations, prior to commencement of development.

We hope that the above is helpful, however please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

D Roberts

Deb Roberts *M.Sc. MRTPI*

Planning & Development Manager

General Information

Any form of development over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry can be dangerous and raises significant safety and engineering risks and exposes all parties to potential financial liabilities. As a general precautionary principle, the Coal Authority considers that the building over or within the influencing distance of a mine entry should wherever possible be avoided. In exceptional circumstance where this is unavoidable, expert advice must be sought to ensure that a suitable engineering design is developed and agreed with regulatory bodies which takes into account of all the relevant safety and environmental risk factors, including gas and mine-water. Your attention is drawn to the Coal Authority Policy in relation to new development and mine entries available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries>

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

For the Attention of: Mr S Langer – Associate Planner

[By Email: stuart.langer@landuse.co.uk]

17th August 2023

Dear Mr Langer

RE: PRE-APPLICATION - Proposed development of a solar farm and associated infrastructure; Rhigos Road, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Thank you for your notification received on the 31st July 2023 in respect of the above.

The Coal Authority is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. As a statutory consultee, The Coal Authority has a duty to respond to planning applications and development plans in order to protect the public and the environment in mining areas.

Our records indicate that there is a mine entry, and its resultant zone of influence within the site, and areas of coal mine workings. The site is also within the boundary of a site from which coal has been removed by surface mining methods. These may pose a potential risk to surface stability and public safety.

We note that the submission is supported by a Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment, dated April 2023 and prepared by RSK Geosciences. This report has been informed by a range of sources of information and acknowledges the coal mining legacy features present. It also appears that the layout avoids panels or structures being located over the mine entry.

The Coal Authority is of the opinion that building over the top of, or in close proximity to, mine entries should be avoided wherever possible, even after they have been capped, in line with our adopted policy:

1

Protecting the public and the environment in mining areas

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-on-or-within-the-influencing-distance-of-mine-entries>

The information currently submitted, in respect of the Preliminary Coal Mining Risk Assessment, should be provided to support any formal application submitted for this solar farm development.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely



Melanie Lindsley *BA (Hons), DipEH, DipURP, MA, PGCertUD, PGCertSP, MRTPI*
Principal Planning & Development Manager

Disclaimer

The above consultation response is provided by The Coal Authority as a Statutory Consultee and is based upon the latest available data on the date of the response, and electronic consultation records held by The Coal Authority since 1 April 2013. The comments made are also based upon only the information provided to The Coal Authority by the Local Planning Authority and/or has been published on the Council's website for consultation purposes in relation to this specific planning application. The views and conclusions contained in this response may be subject to review and amendment by The Coal Authority if additional or new data/information (such as a revised Coal Mining Risk Assessment) is provided by the Local Planning Authority or the Applicant for consultation purposes.

In formulating this response The Coal Authority has taken full account of the professional conclusions reached by the competent person who has prepared the Coal Mining Risk Assessment or other similar report. In the event that any future claim for liability arises in relation to this development The Coal Authority will take full account of the views, conclusions and mitigation previously expressed by the professional advisers for this development in relation to ground conditions and the acceptability of development.

8.8 Highways Authority Response

To/At :	Planning – Sardis House 2 nd Floor FAO : REGENR8Power.	My Ref/Fy Nghyf :	S3/PPE/01/A
		Tel. Ext/Est. Ffôn :	4884 P.Smith
		Your Ref/Eich Cyf :	SOLAR FARM RHIGOPS
From/Odd Wrth :	Highways Development Control Sardis House 5 th Floor	Date/Dyddiad :	16 th January 2023

OBSERVATIONS OF THE HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION SECTION IN RESPECT OF DEVELOPMENT AFFECTING PRESENT OR PROPOSED HIGHWAYS

1. APPLICANT

Regener8 Power

2. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Development of a solar farm and associated infrastructure.

Proposed development at Land to the west of Rhigos Road (A4061), Rhigos, CF44 9HX

3. Application Details

A solar farm and associated infrastructure will be constructed on the existing 16Ha of grazing land. The proposals will consist of ground mounted photovoltaic panels and associated infrastructure, with the farm expected to be operational for up to 40 years. The proposal will have a total generating capacity of up to 9MW when fully operational. Once the photovoltaic panels are removed the site will be virtually unchanged from its existing state.

4. Highway Assessment

It is proposed that the site is accessed from the south via the existing farm track accessed off the A4061 Rhigos Road. At this location the A4061 is straight, flat, and subject to a **30mph speed limit**, therefore no visibility or safety issues are anticipated.

The speed limit on the A4061 at this location is 60Mph requiring vision splays of 2.4m x 215 in accordance with TAN 18 therefore the above statement and vision splay plan Figure 2.2 are incorrect.

The 30Mph speed limit signage in the vicinity of the site relates to the private access road running parallel to the A4061.

The proposed access is off the A4061 via a right hand turning lane and access to the proposed is via an existing farm access gate. The proposal will require provision of stone access tracks within the site for access and future maintenance after construction.

Swept Path analysis shall be provided for the largest anticipated load access/ egressing the site.

Construction Traffic.

The construction period for the solar farm is expected to last for 16 weeks. During this time, there will be in the order of 694 HGV movements (i.e. to and from each site). There is expected to be a maximum of 13 daily average HGV movements to and from the site. In addition, there will be a number of light goods vehicle (including cars and vans) movements during this period.

Total (All Vehicles)	535	501	294	466	1797
Total (HGV only)	322	288	81	45	694
Average Total Traffic per Day*	22	21	12	19	
Average HGV Traffic per Day*	13	12	3	2	

It is expected that the operational phase of the site will generate 10-15 trips by LGV for servicing and maintenance of the solar farm equipment per year.

Conclusion

The proposed access arrangements off Rhigos Road A4061 are acceptable in principle with minimal impact on the existing highway network in terms of capacity with a limited 16-week construction period. Vision splays should accord with TAN 18 2.4m x 215m for a 60Mph speed limit.

Swept Path analysis should be undertaken for the largest anticipated vehicle access / egressing the site.

Details have been submitted within the Construction Traffic Management Plan which indicate off-street car parking for staff, deliveries and visitors, welfare facilities, storage facilities and wheel wash facilities which is acceptable in principle. Details of such facilities shall be submitted with the planning application.

Highways Development Control and Adoptions Manager

8.9 South Wales Fire and Rescue Response

Marshall, Sean <s-marshall@southwales-fire.gov.uk>

Tue 08/08/2023 14:24

To: Stuart Langer <Stuart.Langer@landuse.co.uk>

Cc: Fire Safety (External) <firesafety@southwales-fire.gov.uk>

Good Afternoon,

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service have looked at the application and agree with the application.

Further comment will be made at full planning application stage.

Kind Regards,

Sean.

Sean Marshall

Rheolwr Gorsaf Diogelwch Tân i Fusnesau

Diogelwch Tân i Fusnesau

Pencadlys Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub De
Cymru

Parc Busnes Forest View
Llantrisant.

CF72 8LX

Sean Marshall

Station Manager Business Fire Safety

Business Fire Safety

South Wales Fire and Rescue
Service Headquarters

Forest View Business Park
Llantrisant.

CF72 8LX

8.10 Welsh Water Response

Mr Stuart Langer
LUC
12th Floor, Beacon Tower,
Colston Street,
Bristol
BS1 4XE

Date: 11/08/2023
Our Ref:
PPA0008131

Dear Mr Langer

Grid Ref: 293444 205695

Site Address: Rhigos Road, RCT

Development: 2D - Development of a Solar Farm and Associated Infrastructure at Rhigos Road, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Firstly, we note that the proposal relates to a Solar Farm and acknowledge that the application site falls within an area identified as a coal resource on the local plan policies map. We would advise there is no objection to the proposed development and offer the following standing advice which should be taken into account within any future planning application for the Rhigos Road Solar Farm.

You are also advised that some public sewers and lateral drains may not be recorded on our maps of public sewers because they were originally privately owned and were transferred into public ownership by nature of the Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011. The presence of such assets may affect the proposal. In order to assist you may contact Dwr Cymru Welsh Water on 0800 085 3968 to establish the location and status of the apparatus in and around your site. Please be mindful that under the Water Industry Act 1991 Dwr Cymru Welsh Water has rights of access to its apparatus at all times.

It appears the application does not propose to connect to the public sewerage system, and therefore Dwr Cymru Welsh Water has no objections in principle. However, should circumstances change and a connection to the public sewerage system/public sewage treatment works is preferred we must be re-consulted on this application.

However, as of 07/01/2019, this proposed development is subject to Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The development therefore requires approval of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features, in accordance with the 'Statutory standards for sustainable drainage systems – designing, constructing, operating and maintaining surface water drainage systems'. As highlighted in these standards, the developer is required to explore and fully exhaust all surface water drainage options in accordance with a hierarchy which states that discharge to a combined sewer shall only be made as a last resort. Disposal should be made through the hierarchical approach, preferring infiltration and, where infiltration is not possible, disposal to a surface water drainage body in liaison with the Land Drainage Authority and/or Natural Resources Wales.

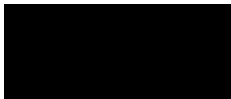
Please note that no highway or land drainage run-off will be permitted to discharge directly or indirectly into the public sewerage system.

I trust the above information is helpful and will assist you in forming water and drainage strategies that should accompany any future planning application.

Please note that our response is based on the information provided in your enquiry and should the information change we reserve the right to make a new representation. Should you have any queries or wish to discuss any aspect of our response please do not hesitate to contact our dedicated team of planning officers, either on 0800 917 2652 or via email at developer.services@dwrcymru.com

Please quote our reference number in all communications and correspondence.

Yours faithfully,



Owain George
Planning Liaison Manager
Developer Services

Please Note that demands upon the water and sewerage systems change continually; consequently, the information given above should be regarded as reliable for a maximum period of 12 months from the date of this letter.

8.11 Public Health Response



Public Health, Protection & Community
Services
Tŷ Elai
Dinas Isaf East
Williamstown
Tonypandy
CF40 1NY
Tel: 01443 425001

Gwasanaethau Iechyd a Diogelwch y
Cyhoedd, a'r Gymuned
Tŷ Elai
Dinas Isaf Dwyrain
Williamstown
Tonypandy
CF40 1NY
Ffôn: 01443 425001

To: Service Director Development
Control
Sardis House, Pontypridd

From: Environmental Services Group
Public Health, Protection &
Community Services
Environment Team

Your Ref:

My Ref: 707331

Date: 15 August 2023

Proposal: Proposed development of a solar farm and associated infrastructure

Location: Rhigos Road, Hirwaun

I refer to the above pre-planning application and wish to make the following comments.

Hours of Operation

During the construction phase of the development the hours of work shall be restricted to the following.

Monday to Friday	08.00 to 18.00 hours
Saturday	08.00 to 13.00 hours
Sunday and Bank Holidays	Not At All

Noise

The issue of noise is primarily dealt with by the control of the working hours on the site. The developer should, however, ensure that at all times they are employing best practice to minimise noise on the site.

Dust

The developer must ensure that adequate provision is made for the suppression of dust on the site during construction. Adequate provision must also be made for the removal of dirt/dust on the access road to the site and adjacent highway as a result of the ingress and egress of vehicles.

Waste

The developer must ensure that all waste arising from the site is disposed of at a site licensed for its reception. Under no circumstances shall waste be burnt on site.

Contaminated Land

A. Site Investigation Condition

Comment

A search of our records relating to potentially contaminating past land uses has shown that *a stockpile formerly occupied the application site and the site is also within 250m of a landfill*. This Department therefore considers that there is a potential for contamination to exist on site. As a result I would advise as follows: -

Condition

The development hereby permitted shall not begin until a scheme to deal with contamination has been submitted and approved in writing by the LPA. The scheme shall include all of the following measures unless the LPA dispenses with any such requirement specifically and in writing.

1. A desk-top study carried out by a competent person to identify and evaluate all potential sources and impacts of contamination relevant to the site. The desk top study should contain a conceptual site model.
2. A site investigation shall be carried out by a competent person to fully and effectively characterise the nature and extent of any contamination and its implications. The site investigation shall not be commenced until a desk-top study has been completed satisfying the requirements of paragraph (1) above.
3. A written method statement for the remediation of contamination affecting the site shall be agreed in writing with the LPA prior to commencement and all requirements shall be implemented and completed to the satisfaction of the LPA by a competent person. No deviation shall be made from this scheme without the express written agreement of the LPA.

AND

B. Validation Condition

The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied and/or operated until the measures approved in the scheme (referred to in Condition *[insert number]*) have been implemented and a suitable validation report of the proposed scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA. Any validation report shall be carried out by a competent person.

AND

C. Contamination Found During Development

If during development works any contamination should be encountered which was not previously identified and is derived from a different source and/or of a different type to those included in the contamination proposals then work shall cease and revised contamination proposals shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA prior to the work recommencing. Any revised contamination proposals shall be carried out by a competent person.

D. Importation of Soils

Any topsoil [natural or manufactured], or subsoil, to be imported shall be assessed by a competent person for chemical or other potential contaminants in accordance with a scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority in advance of its importation. Subject to approval of the scheme of investigation, sampling of the material received at the development site to verify that the imported soil is free from contamination shall be undertaken by a competent person in accordance with a scheme and timescale to be agreed in writing by the LPA. Only material approved by the Local Planning Authority shall be imported.

Guidance for Site Investigations

The applicant is advised that guidance on Site Investigations has been produced by the WLGA: Welsh Developers' Guide to Contaminated Land. The document can be downloaded from the Council's website
<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/relateddocuments/publications/environmentproject/wlgaawguidefordevelopersmay2012final.pdf>.

Guidance for Imported Topsoil / Subsoil

Any scheme to import topsoil [natural or manufactured], or subsoil shall be undertaken in accordance with WLGA guidance: Imported Materials Guidance Notes
<http://www.rctdoc.gov.uk/en/relateddocuments/publications/environmentproject/wlgaimportedmaterialsvalidationmay2013.pdf> unless otherwise agreed in writing with the LPA.



Bethan Evans
Environmental Health Officer
Public Health, Protection & Community Services

8.12 Cadw Response



Welsh Government
Ty'r Afon,
Heol Bedwas/ Bedwas Road
Caerffili/ Caerphilly
CF83 8WT
0300 025 6000
cadw@gov.wales/cadw@yw.cymru
www.cadw.gov.wales

Stuart Langer
LUC

By email

Eich cyfeirnod
Your reference

Ein cyfeirnod
Our reference

Dyddiad
Date

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

E-bost
Email:

LC

16 August 2023

0300 0256004

cadwplanning@gov.wales

Dear Sir

Pre-Planning Application - New photovoltaic solar array and associated infrastructure, Rhigos Road, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Thank you for your letter of 31 July inviting our comments on the pre-planning application consultation for the proposed development described above.

Advice

The following comments are based on information made available to us as part of the pre-application consultation and we will review our comments when we are consulted on the final planning application. Our assessment of the pre-application is given below.

Having carefully considered the information provided, we have no objection to the proposed development in regards to the scheduled monuments listed in our assessment of the application below.

The national policy and Cadw's role in the planning process is set out in Annex A.

Assessment

Scheduled Monuments

BR157 Site of Hirwaun Ironworks
BR178 Craig y Ddinas Hillfort
BR229 Dinas Silica Mine
BR230 Glynneath Gunpowder Works
GM118 Ffos Toncenglau cross ridge dyke
GM564 Craig y Bwlch round cairn
GM565 Tarren y Bwlch round cairn

Mae Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru (Cadw) yn hyrwyddo gwaith cadwraeth ar gyfer amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru a gwerthfawrogiad ohono.

The Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw) promotes the conservation and appreciation of Wales's historic environment.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



This pre-planning application is for a Photovoltaic Solar array and associated infrastructure at Rhigos Road, Hirwaun.

The above designated historic assets are located inside 3km of the proposed development.

The pre-application is accompanied by a Historic Environment assessment produced by Land Use Consultants Ltd that considers the potential effect on the settings of the above designated historic assets. This concludes that none of the above scheduled monuments will be inter-visible with the proposal and the consequently there will be no effect on their settings. We concur with this conclusion; the proposed development will have no impact on the settings of above scheduled monuments.

Finally, there may also be undesignated historic assets that could be affected by the proposed development and, if you have not already done so, we would advise that you consult the Historic Environment Record held by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust www.ggat.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Laura Cooper
Casework Officer

Annex A

Our role

Our statutory role in the planning process is to provide the local planning authority with an assessment concerned with the likely impact that the proposal will have on scheduled monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, registered historic landscapes where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required and development likely to have an impact on the outstanding universal value of a World Heritage Site. We do not provide an assessment of the likely impact of the development on listed buildings or conservation areas, as these are matters for the local authority.

It is for the local planning authority to weigh our assessment against all the other material considerations in determining whether to approve planning permission.

National Policy

Applications for planning permission are considered in light of the Welsh Government's land use planning policy and guidance contained in Planning Policy Wales (PPW), Technical Advice Notes and related guidance.

PPW [planning-policy-wales-edition-11.pdf](#) explains that it is important that the planning system looks to protect, conserve and enhance the significance of historic assets. This will include consideration of the setting of an historic asset which might extend beyond its curtilage. Any change that impacts on an historic asset or its setting should be managed in a sensitive and sustainable way.

The conservation of archaeological remains and their settings is a material consideration in determining a planning application, whether those remains are a scheduled monument or not. Where nationally important archaeological remains are likely to be affected by proposed development, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical protection in situ. It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in a direct adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance)

[Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment](#) elaborates by explaining that when considering development proposals that affect scheduled monuments or other nationally important archaeological remains, there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation in situ, i.e. a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration or cause damage, or would have a significant adverse impact causing harm within the setting of the remains.

Historic Parks and Gardens

PPW also explains that local authorities should value, protect, conserve and enhance the special interests of parks and gardens and their settings included on the register of historic parks and gardens in Wales and that the effect of a proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting should be a material consideration in the determination of a planning application.

8.13 Bannau Brycheiniog Response



AWDURDOD PARC CENEDLAETHOL BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Stuart Langer
LUC
12th Floor, Beacon Tower
Colston Street
Bristol
BS1 4XE

Date: 15 August 2023
Officer: Christopher O'Brien
Your Ref:
Our Ref: 23/22207/FRI

Dear Mr. Langer,

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Proposal: "Proposed development of a solar farm and associated infrastructure"
Address: Rhigos Road, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Thank you for your consultation notice, dated 31 July 2023 regarding the above and note the duty for specialist consultees to provide a substantive response within 28 days.

It is not clear that the National Park Authority, as local planning authority, is a specialist consultee in this instance; the proposed development site, at its nearest point, being more than 700m from the National Park boundary (and therefore is not likely to affect land within the area of the Brecon Beacons National Park).

Nevertheless, we welcome opportunity to comment on the document, "*Regener8 Power. Rhigos Road Solar Farm. Landscape and Visual Appraisal. Draft report Prepared by LUC. June 2023*" ("the draft report") which provides an assessment of the likely visual impacts of the development from within the National Park.

We have some concerns with the draft report, which we consider may helpfully be addressed enabling due consideration of the likely impact of the proposed development as follows:

1. We welcome the inclusion of viewpoint 7 from Moel Penderyn, however would have also welcomed inclusion of a viewpoint from Mynydd y Glog (noted as viewpoint 11), which is considered to be of cultural significance as a Landscape of Special Historic Interest in Wales (East Fforest Fawr and Mynydd-y-Glog; Ref HLW 3, and with many cairns also Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Cross-reference with the Historic Environment Assessment would also be



Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7HP
Telephone: (01874) 620431
E-mail: planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk
Website: www.bannau.wales
Chief Executive: Catherine Mealing-Jones

The Authority welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English

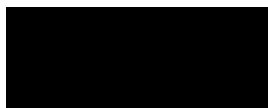
Awdurdod Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog
Plas y Ffynnon, Ffordd Cambrian, Aberhonddu, Powys, LD3 7HP
Ffôn: (01874) 620431
E-bost: planning.enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk
Safle ar y we: www.bannau.cymru
Prif Weithredwr: Catherine Mealing-Jones

Mae'r Awdurdod yn croeso i gyswrtu golyddiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg

beneficial (Plate 1 being a photograph from this location), and an assessment of impact on setting of Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the historic landscape having been included.

2. In section 7.35, we consider a conclusion should be drawn as to the nature and significance of the likely visual effects, when viewed from within the National Park.
3. In section 7.45, some mention should be given to the screening out of any cumulative effects with the ongoing works to the A465: [A465: section 5 and 6 Dowlais Top to Hirwaun | GOV.WALES](#).
4. We welcome consideration of the Landscape Character Assessment | Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority ([beacons-mpa.gov.uk](#)) within Table 5.4, but are concerned it is not highlighted as being of relevance earlier in the report (in section 3.11).
5. The relevant Management Plan is now "The Management Plan For Bannau Brycheiniog National Park 2023-2028. Dyfodol Y Bannau The Future: [Future Bannau - Brecon SMP](#)" (This being a Plan of National Significance).
6. If the narrative regarding pre-application discussions in section 2.3 is to be retained, it should also be stated that the reason a further response was not provided by the Authority was because no fee was received for providing such advice.

Yours faithfully,



Gareth Jones
Director, Planning and Place

Yr ydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Bydd unrhyw ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg yn cael ei ateb yn y Gymraeg a ni fydd unrhyw gyswllt trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi yn y mater sy'n cael ei drin.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in the matter being dealt with.

8.14 Neath Port Talbot Council Response



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

Date Dyddied	21st August 2023
Direct line Rhif ffôn	01639 686776
Email Ebost	m.griffiths5@npt.gov.uk
Contact Cyswllt	Matthew Griffiths
Your ref Eich cyf	
Our ref Ein cyf	P2023/0597

Stuart Langer
LUC
12th Floor, Beacon Tower
Colston Street
Bristol
BS1 4XE

Dear Sir/Madam

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

PROPOSAL: Neighbouring Authority Consultation: Proposed Rhigos Road solar farm (developer consultation on PAC)
LOCATION Rhigos Road Hirwaun Rhondda Cynon Taf
APPLICANTS Regener8 Rhigos Ltd & Enviromena Developments UK Ltd
NAME/ADDR:

I write further to the above proposal. From reviewing the submission, it states that this is a consultation to this Authority under Schedule 1C of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012. It appears that this Authority has been consulted under these regulations as a specialist consultee prior to the submission of a planning application to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.

Our Authority has **No Objection** to the proposal in relation to its likely impact within our boundary. We have taken this view based on the following considerations.

We note that the site of development is some distance (over 2 kilometres) from the nearest part of the county boundary to Neath Port Talbot (NPT). There is also considerable intervening development such as the settlement of Rhigos and extensive woodland. The supporting information to the application in particular the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) shown in Figure 2 of the supporting Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) shows that there are limited areas within NPT where the site would

be theoretically visible. There are no viewpoints within the LVA from within in NPT. Viewpoint 5 is the closest viewpoint to NPT (and is closer to the site than any part of NPT) this viewpoint does illustrate the likely effects of vegetation in obscuring views of the site. Similar effects are likely from viewpoints in NPT which would also be more distant from the proposed solar farm. The Authority has noted that cumulative effects have also been considered with the Hendrefawr solar farms to the east of the site identified, this solar farm is on the boundary of RCT with NPT. Based on the landscape and visual impact information submitted and in respect to impacts on Neath Port Talbot only; it is considered that there are unlikely to be unacceptable cumulative effects with this solar farm due to the intervening distance, landform, vegetation and existing development.

The site is reasonably well served by the highway network and use of roads in NPT seems likely to be limited to use of the strategic road network in NPT. In respect to other matters, the site is sufficiently separated from NPT that we would not anticipate any other likely significant impacts.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Matthew Griffiths on the case officer number above.

Yours faithfully

Ceri Morris
HEAD OF PLANNING & PUBLIC PROTECTION

If you require this information in larger print, or in an alternative format, please contact the above named officer.

8.15 Natural Resources Wales Response



Ein cyf/Our ref: CAS-235621-D4H3
Eich cyf/Your ref: -

Stuart Langer
LUC
12th Floor, Beacon Tower
Colston Street
Bristol
BS1 4XE

stuart.langer@landuse.co.uk

Dyddiad/Date: 25 September 2023

Annwyl Syr/Madam/Dear Sir/Madam,

STATUTORY PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION – TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (WALES) ORDER 2012 AS AMENDED

BWRIAD/PROPOSAL: NEW PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR ARRAY AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE.

LLEOLIAD/LOCATION: RHIGOS ROAD, HIRWAUN, RHONNDA CYNON TAF

Thank you for providing a requisite notice to us under Article 2D of the above Order. We received a copy of your proposed application on 25 August 2023.

We have concerns with the application as proposed because inadequate information has been provided. To overcome these concerns, you should provide further information in your planning application regarding landscape. If this information is not provided, we may object to the planning application when formally consulted by the planning authority. Further details are provided below.

We also advise that based on the information submitted to date, we would ask the planning authority to include a condition regarding protected sites and pollution control (a construction environmental management plan) on any planning permission granted. Without the inclusion of this condition by the planning authority we would be likely to object to the planning application.

Landscape

Our landscape advice relates to the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNP). The site is located approximately 700m south of the National Park, within its setting, where the statutory duty to have regard to the purposes of its designation applies.

We have reviewed the following documents:

- Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) Draft Report Prepared by LUC, June 2023
- Landscape Proposals Plan (LPP) Drawing No. 12057-LD-PLN-100 Rev P03
- Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) Final Report Prepared by LUC, April 2023
- Solar Photovoltaic Glint and Glare Study, April 2023

Effects on BBNP Landscape

The LVA does not provide a conclusion with regards to the level of effect on the BBNP but considers 'implications' on the BBNP at Table 5.4 and paragraphs 7.34-7.35. It concludes *'the proposed development will not prejudice the values or integrity of this designated landscape by adversely impacting on the special qualities for which it was designated'*.

The LVA quotes relevant special qualities at Table 5.4 and concludes that the development would not affect these qualities. Regarding mitigation, the LVA states at Table 5.4 that the appearance of the proposals from BBNP was a key design consideration, including views from the summit of Moel Penderyn (LVA Viewpoint (Vp) 7). It states that *'Proposed hedgerow planting with a small number of low growing hedgerow trees, adjacent to the northern edge of the solar panels array and enhancement of the existing hedgerows **will filter views of the proposed development from the BBNP and minimise its visual impact**'* (our emphasis).

We advise it is unlikely the proposed mitigation planting shown on the LPP would filter views of the development from the BBNP nor minimise its visual impact. This is because the proposed planting, which primarily consists of a hedgerow, is unlikely to be tall enough to filter views from elevated viewpoints in the BBNP.

We advise moderate adverse visual impacts - both individually and cumulatively with the consented PV development at Bryngolwg - such as those reported in the LVA and discussed below, may harm scenic qualities of the BBNP.

Effects on Views From BBNP

The LVA includes one assessment viewpoint within the BBNP (LVA Vp 7 Moel Penderyn). The LVA reports that during the operational phases (Year 1 and Year 10), the effects would be moderate adverse but of 'lesser importance' (Table 6.8).

We note in relation to the effects described at Vp 7, the LVA states *'there is unlikely to be a noticeable change from Year 1 to Year 10'* and that despite the inclusion of mitigation planting on the northern and western boundaries, *'this is unlikely to provide significant additional screening from this location, as planting will consist of shorter tree species and hedgerow infills which are **unlikely to form enough of a vertical element to provide additional screening or filtering**'* (our emphasis).

Whilst we agree with this conclusion, we note that it differs from the conclusion reached in relation to the effects on views from the BBNP reported in Table 5.4 (see our comments above). We advise this discrepancy should be rectified in the final LVA.

We note the proposed mitigation planting in the northern part of the site consists of a hedge with hedgerow trees. As shown on the LPP, this hedge does not appear to relate to any existing or proposed features on the ground but is located to avoid existing overhead power lines in the northernmost part of the site. It is not clear, however, why this planting could not

extend further south up to the proposed security fence. We advise additional planting in this gap would enable a greater depth and potentially height of planting to establish which may provide additional screening or filtering in views from the BBNP. We advise opportunities to extend this planting should be explored prior to a planning application being submitted.

Effects on Views Towards BBNP

The LVA includes two viewpoints south of the site which look towards the BBNP (Vps 1 and 6). Visualisations from these viewpoints are included as LVA Figure 9 (Vp 1) and LVA Figure 13 (Vp 6).

Vp 1 is the closest LVA viewpoint to the site. It is located approximately 250m south of the site on the A4061 (Rhigos Road). At Vp 1 expansive upland areas and hill summits within the BBNP are visible looking north. Scenic qualities of the BBNP are easily appreciable. Although high voltage transmission lines and pylons are visible these features are not prominent. Fields within the site form a coherent component of the view and contribute positively to the prevailing rural character and amenity of views looking towards the BBNP.

The visual effects reported in the LVA at this location are 'minor adverse lesser importance' at Years 1 and 10 of operation (Table 6.1). In relation to the mitigation of impacts at Vp 1, the LVA refers to the hedgerow planting with trees along the northern boundary of the site and infill planting within internal hedgerows within the site. It states that this vegetation will *'provide additional screening and filtering of views of the proposed development'* (Table 6.1) but then states that *'owing to the elevated nature of views it is unlikely to provide any appreciable screening/filtering of views towards the development'*. This discrepancy should be addressed in the final LVA.

We advise the PV development would form a prominent and incongruous feature in views towards the BBNP and detract from an appreciation of its scenic qualities at this location. The mitigation planting within the northern part of the site will not filter or screen views of the proposed development from elevated locations to the south, such as Vps 1 and 6.

No mitigation planting is proposed along the southern edge of the development. Whilst the panels will face south and overshadowing will need to be avoided, we advise there is sufficient space within the applicant's land ownership to extend existing woodland vegetation on the south western edge of the site along the southern boundary. Woodland planting along this boundary would soften the impact of the development on views towards the BBNP.

Vp 6 is located at the advertised Rhigos Viewpoint (Craig y Llyn). At this location views of the BBNP are spectacular, and their scenic qualities are easily appreciable. The visual effects reported in the LVA at this location are 'moderate adverse but lesser importance' at Years 1 and 10 of operation (Table 6.7). However, cumulative effects with the consented PV development at Bryngolwg are reported to be 'moderate adverse and higher importance'. In relation to the mitigation of impacts at Vp 6, the LVA considers the proposals for planting are 'unlikely to change the overall magnitude of change due to the elevation and direction of the views' (Table 6.7).

We agree with the LVA that the current mitigation proposals will not be effective, primarily due to the elevation of the viewpoint relative to the site. However, in relation to views from elsewhere on Hirwaun Common, it is also because no mitigation planting is proposed along the southern boundary.

We note no viewpoint from the Hirwaun Common Special Landscape Area is included in the LVA, but Vp 6 is intended to be representative of people visiting the Common. The Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) (LVA Figure 2) shows visibility of the development is expected across the north facing slopes of the Common which is Open Access Land and from here a greater amount of the development would be seen than at Vp 6. We advise the inclusion of mitigation planting described above in relation to Vp 1 is also likely to assist in softening the impact of the development at other locations south of the site such as Hirwaun Common.

We agree with the LVA that the development would result in moderate adverse effects on views from and towards the BBNP and advise that these effects are likely to detract from an appreciation of its scenic qualities. These effects would be exacerbated by the cumulative impact of the proposals in combination with the consented PV development at Bryngolwg.

Mitigation

We advise opportunities for additional mitigation in the form of planting south and north of the PV development should be explored in order to reduce the potential impact on views from and towards the BBNP.

Additionally, we note the LVA relies on existing vegetation within and adjacent to the site to help screen the proposed development (Paragraph 4.5, 5th bullet). It states this vegetation '*will be retained as far as possible*'. We advise, given the importance of existing vegetation adjacent to the site in filtering/screening visibility of the development, greater certainty should be provided in terms of its retention and long-term management. We advise existing tree groups along the site boundaries should be identified within the LEMP to ensure they are protected and managed for screening. This may require an update to the site boundary to include these areas of vegetation.

Summary

We have concerns regarding the potential impact of the development on the setting of the BBNP and its potential cumulative impacts with PV development at Bryngolwg. These concerns relate to the impact of the proposals on views from and towards the BBNP and the impacts on an appreciation of its scenic qualities. We advise opportunities for additional mitigation should be explored in order to reduce these impacts, including:

- Increasing the extent of planting in the northern part of the site to provide additional screening / filtering in views from BBNP and additional contextual planting when viewed from the south e.g. Hirwaun Common.
- Extending existing woodland planting along the southern site boundary to soften the impact of development in views towards the BBNP from the south. This planting is also expected to assist in integrating the proposals when viewed from the BBNP, e.g. at Vp 7.
- Including measures to safeguard and manage existing vegetation adjacent to the site. Vegetation subject to retention and management should be identified on a plan and management measures relative to the screening/filtering function of this planting described in the LEMP.

In finalising the LVA, we advise:

- Discrepancies concerning the effectiveness of mitigation planting should be rectified (e.g., between Table 5.4 (BBNP) and Table 6.8 (Viewpoint 7)).
- Viewpoints should be added to LVA Figure 4: Designated Landscape.
- Viewpoint photography and visualisations should be prepared in accordance with LI TGN 06/19. It is not appropriate to rely on 90 degree panoramas presented at A3 as these inevitably underestimate scale. Single frames presented at A3 with panoramas for context are acceptable.

Protected Sites

Coedydd Nedd a Mellt Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dyffrynnoedd Nedd a Mellt, a Moel Penderyn SSSI are located approximately 1.7km to the northwest of the development and should not be affected by the development.

Blaen Cynon SAC, designated in part for a meta-population of marsh fritillary butterfly and encompassing both Woodland Park and Pontbren SSSI and Cors Bryn-y-Gaer SSSI, are situated close to the development, with the latter being only approximately 800m away and to the north-east of the development site boundary.

We have concerns as there is a potential for airborne pollution from the site preparation and construction phases of the development to impact Cors Bryn-y-Gaer and Woodland Park and Pontbren SSSIs, due to the proposed development site being at a higher elevation and lying close to the SAC/SSSI. We advise that a CEMP (detailed below), secured through a condition, would manage and mitigate any pollution impacts arising from the development.

The development site is within an important and functioning landscape for marsh fritillary butterfly, with records of this species recorded within 700m of the site boundary and a breeding population recorded annually within the Blaen Cynon SAC. Due to the proximity of the site to Blaen Cynon SAC and the potential for it impacting its designated features, a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will be required, as already identified by the local planning authority.

In addition, the 'Ecological Assessment' has identified that the site itself comprises poor, semi-improved grassland with little potential for supporting marsh fritillary butterfly. However, in section 3.47, the assessment identified, *"More suitable habitat for marsh fritillary was present beyond the Site boundary, within the same land ownership, in the form of tussocky and marshy grassland to the north and particularly to the east."* It goes on to state, *"The marshy grassland appeared to be primarily cattle-grazed and formed part of the Hirwaun Common SINC, which stretched further east beyond the A4061. One marsh fritillary butterfly has been recorded within this SINC, though information on the exact location of this record was not available (most likely further east within land that has public access). It is therefore possible that marsh fritillary may be present in low numbers within the land to the north and east of the Site"*.

The Landscape and Ecological Management Plan states that the "the grassland which is outside of the proposed solar farm footprint will also be retained, protected and enhanced". We support a commitment to enhancement of the 'off-site' areas and to their suitable long-term management to benefit the local marsh fritillary butterfly meta-population. This could include continuation of suitable, low intensity cattle grazing of the marshy grassland habitat and we would encourage plug-planting of locally sourced and grown, devil's bit scabious as larval foodplants for this species.

The proposed sheep grazing of the on-site, enhanced grassland habitats, as set out within the 'Landscape and Ecological Management Plan', although not normally ideal for conservation grasslands, is understandable given the nature of the development and we would be comfortable with the low intensity grazing approach being suggested, if the proposed inclusion of a 3-month, no-grazing, "rest period" over the summer months is followed through.

As part of the mitigation proposals the Ecological Assessment states that *"the poor semi-improved grassland will be replaced with species-rich grassland, created through the use of a locally sourced wildflower meadow seed mix, comprised of species suitable for the Site (commercially available seed mixes will be avoided and opportunities to use local green hay will be explored where possible)".* The approach not to use commercially available seed mixes but to utilise locally sourced seed is appropriate here and we support this.

Pollution Prevention

The proposed plan shows a change in land use from grazing land to a 16 acre solar farm, with associated infrastructure such as transformer stations and boundary fencing. There are several minor watercourses that run through the proposed site and into a series of ponds north-east of the proposed development area. There is potential for pollutants to enter the watercourse during both the construction and operational lifetime of the site which could negatively impact water quality.

As such we request the submission of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prior to commencement of the development. and If this is not submitted as part of the planning application, we would advise the Local Authority that it is a condition attached to any planning permission issued.

Condition: Construction Environmental Management Plan

No development, including site clearance, shall commence until a site wide Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The CEMP shall include:

- Construction methods: details of materials, how waste generated will be managed.
- General Site Management: details of the construction programme including timetable, details of site clearance; details of site construction drainage, containments areas, appropriately sized buffer zones between storage areas (of spoil, oils, fuels, concrete mixing and washing areas) and any watercourse or surface drain.
- Biodiversity Management: details of tree and hedgerow protection; invasive species management; species and habitats protection, avoidance and mitigation measures.
- Soil Management: details of topsoil strip, storage and amelioration for re-use.
- Control of Nuisances: details of restrictions to be applied during construction including timing, duration and frequency of works; details of dust control measures; measures to control light spill.
- Resource Management: details of fuel and chemical storage and containment.
- Traffic Management: details of site deliveries, plant on site, wheel wash facilities
- Pollution Prevention: demonstrate how relevant Guidelines for Pollution Prevention and best practice will be implemented, including details of emergency spill procedures and incident response plan.
- Details of the persons and bodies responsible for activities associated with the CEMP and emergency contact details
- Landscape/ecological clerk of works to ensure construction compliance with approved plans and environmental regulations.

The CEMP shall be implemented as approved during the site preparation and construction phases of the development.

Justification: A CEMP should be submitted to ensure necessary management measures are agreed prior to commencement of development or phase of development or specified activity and implemented for the protection of the environment during construction.

Further Pollution Prevention Advice

Appropriate pollution prevention measures must also be employed to protect the water quality during the operation of the solar farm. There may be potential for cleaning and maintenance of the panels, through the use of chemicals, to impact on water quality. Runoff from the cleaning and maintenance of the panels should not be allowed to enter the watercourses.

Due to the proximity of the site to watercourses, all works at the site must be carried out in accordance with Guidance for Pollution Prevention 5: Works and maintenance in or near water, and Pollution Prevention Guidelines 6: Working at construction and demolition sites, which are available on the [NetRegs website](#).

Protected Species

Protected Species – Legislation and policy

Dormouse and bats are European Protected Species, legally protected under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Legal protection relates to the animals themselves and the places they use to rest and breed.

Where a European Protected Species is present and a development proposal is likely to contravene the legal protection they are afforded, the development may only proceed under licence issued by Natural Resources Wales, having satisfied the three requirements set out in the legislation. A licence may only be authorised if:

- The development works to be authorised are for the purpose of preserving public health or safety, or for other imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment;
- There is no satisfactory alternative; and
- The action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in its natural range.

These requirements are translated into planning policy through Planning Policy Wales (PPW) February 2021, and Technical Advice Note (TAN) 5, Nature Conservation and Planning (September 2009). The planning authority should take them into account when considering development proposals where a European Protected Species is present.

Water voles are fully protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Advice on the proposal

The development is for 21.43 hectare solar photovoltaic electricity generating station (solar farm), including underground cable to WPD substation 200m east of site, Inverter cabinets, SNO and power transformer, 2.5 paladin fence or post and wire deer fence on site boundary and security cameras.

The Ecological Assessment identifies habitat on site or bordering the site suitable to support dormouse and bats. Bats are assumed to be foraging and commuting along hedgerows, woodland and boundary feature habitats and 2 trees adjacent to the site were identified as having low potential roost features. Habitats immediately adjacent to the site were deemed to be suitable to support dormice.

The report states that all hedgerows and trees on the site will be retained, and access to the site will be by pre-existing access routes, and as such no potential dormice habitat will need to be removed and bat flightlines would be retained.

No evidence of water vole or otter was identified on the site, and ditches running within the site boundary were not considered suitable for water vole and were unlikely to be used by otter. However, the assessment did not rule out water vole presence in suitable habitat adjacent to the site, but it would not be directly impacted by the proposals.

We note that 11 waterbodies were identified within 500m of the site, and that where permission were received the ponds underwent a Habitat suitability Index (HSI) assessment and eDNA testing for presence of GCN. The 4 ponds closest to the site were tested and were negative for GCN.

We welcome submission of a LEMP and the habitat enhancement and creation proposals which include hedgerow creation, enhancement and long term management. The LEMP also confirmed that solar panel and security fencing would be kept at least 3m from sensitive features such as watercourses, hedgerows and boundary vegetation. The report also states that no lighting is proposed on the site during construction or operation.

Based on the information provided, we consider that there should not be a detriment to the maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the species present.

Please be aware, we will update our protected species advice at planning application stage in response to the submission of updated/new documents, including the need for conditions to protect hedgerow and trees.

In addition, we advise that the validity of ecological surveys diminishes over time and as such updated surveys may be required depending on the timing of the submission of a planning application.

Birds

We refer you to the Local Authority's ecologist regarding advice in relation to birds.

Land Contamination

We consider that the controlled waters at this site are not of the highest environmental sensitivity, therefore we will not be providing detailed site-specific advice or comments with regards to land contamination issues for this site.

It is recommended that the requirements of Planning Policy Wales and the [Land Contamination Risk Management \(LCRM\)](#) guidance should be followed.

These comments are based on our assumption that gross contamination is not present at this location. If, during development, gross contamination is found to be present at the site the Local Planning Authority may wish to re-consult Natural Resources Wales.

It is not clear from the consultation documents whether or not cables are to be fluid filled. This should be clarified at planning application stage. If so we refer you to position statement [C5 Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection](#).

Other Matters

Please note, if further information is prepared to support an application, it may be necessary for us to change our advice in line with the new information.

Our comments above only relate specifically to matters included on our checklist, *Development Planning Advisory Service: Consultation Topics* (September 2018), which is published on our [website](#). We have not considered potential effects on other matters and do not rule out the potential for the proposed development to affect other interests.

In addition to planning permission, you are advised to ensure all other permits/consents/licences relevant to the development are secured. Please refer to our [website](#) for further details.

Further advice on the above matters could be provided prior to your planning application being submitted, however there would be a charge for this service. Additional details are available on our [website](#).

If you have any queries on the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yn gywir / Yours faithfully

Annabelle Evans

Cynghorydd - Cynllunio Datblygu/Advisor - Development Planning
Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru/Natural Resources Wales

E-bost/E-mail: southeastplanning@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
Ffôn/Phone: 03000 65 5027

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a byddwn yn ymateb yn Gymraeg, heb i hynny arwain at oedi./Correspondence in Welsh is welcomed, and we will respond in Welsh without it leading to a delay.

8.16 Consultation Declaration

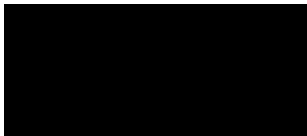
Accordance with Regulations Declaration

Regener8 Power Ltd,
Surrey Technology Centre,
The Surrey Research Park,
Guildford,
Surrey GU2 7YG

29th September 2023

Pre Application Consultation: Accordance with Regulations Declaration

This Declaration confirms that the Pre-Application Community Consultation has been carried out in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2016 and the guidance document: Pre-application Community Consultation: Best Practice Guidance for Developers November 2017.



Tim Maurant

Regener8 Power Ltd

GIS & Development Manager UK

8.17 Site Notices Declaration

Site Notice Declaration

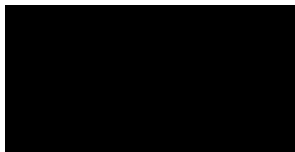
Regener8 Power Ltd,
Surrey Technology Centre,
The Surrey Research Park,
Guildford,
Surrey GU2 7YG

29th September 2023

Pre Application Consultation: Site Notice Declaration

As required by Article 2F(2)(b) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(Wales) Amendment Order 2016, this Declaration confirms that the statutory notices required under Article 2C(l)(a)(i) were erected on 22nd of December 2022 and displayed in accordance with the requirements of that Article, for a period of at least 28 days.

No notices required replacement during this period. Locations of the site notices erected and their content (in both English and Welsh) are provided as appendices to the Statement of Community Involvement document.



Tim Maurant
Regener8 Power Ltd
GIS & Development Manager UK

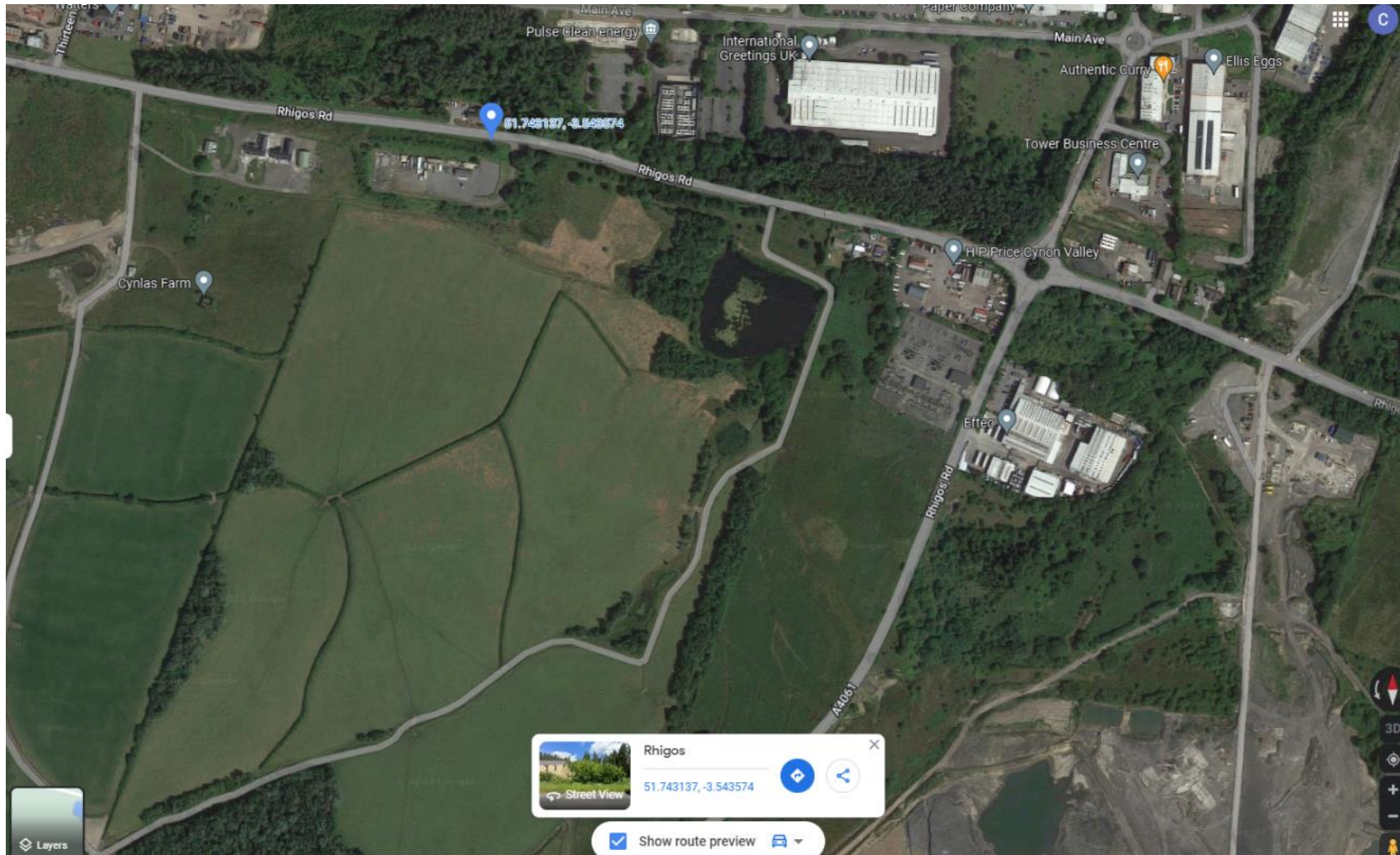
8.18 Site Notice Locations

Location of Site Notices

Location Plan of Site:

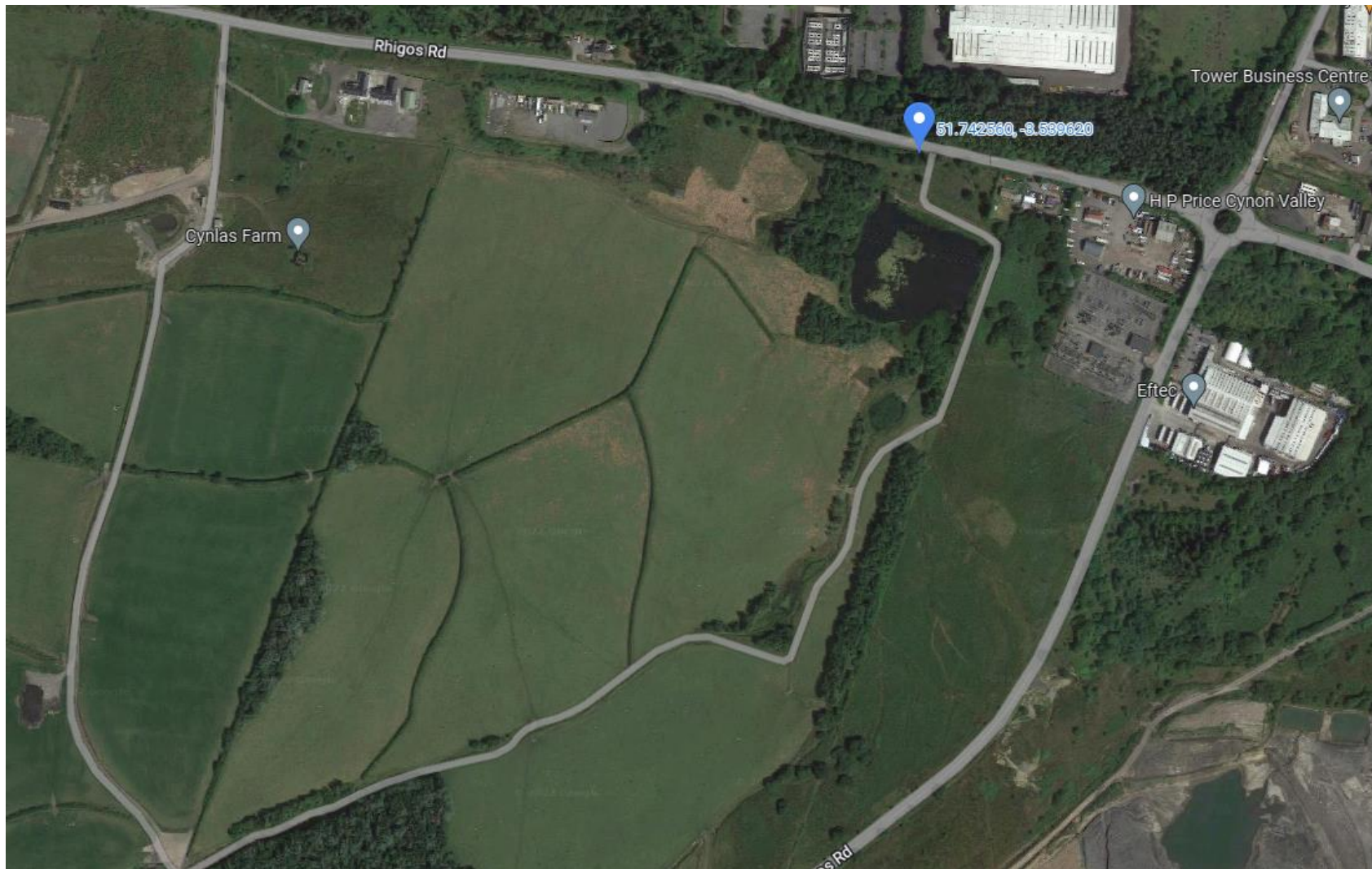


Notice 1: Telegraph Pole (next “The Fairways” access)



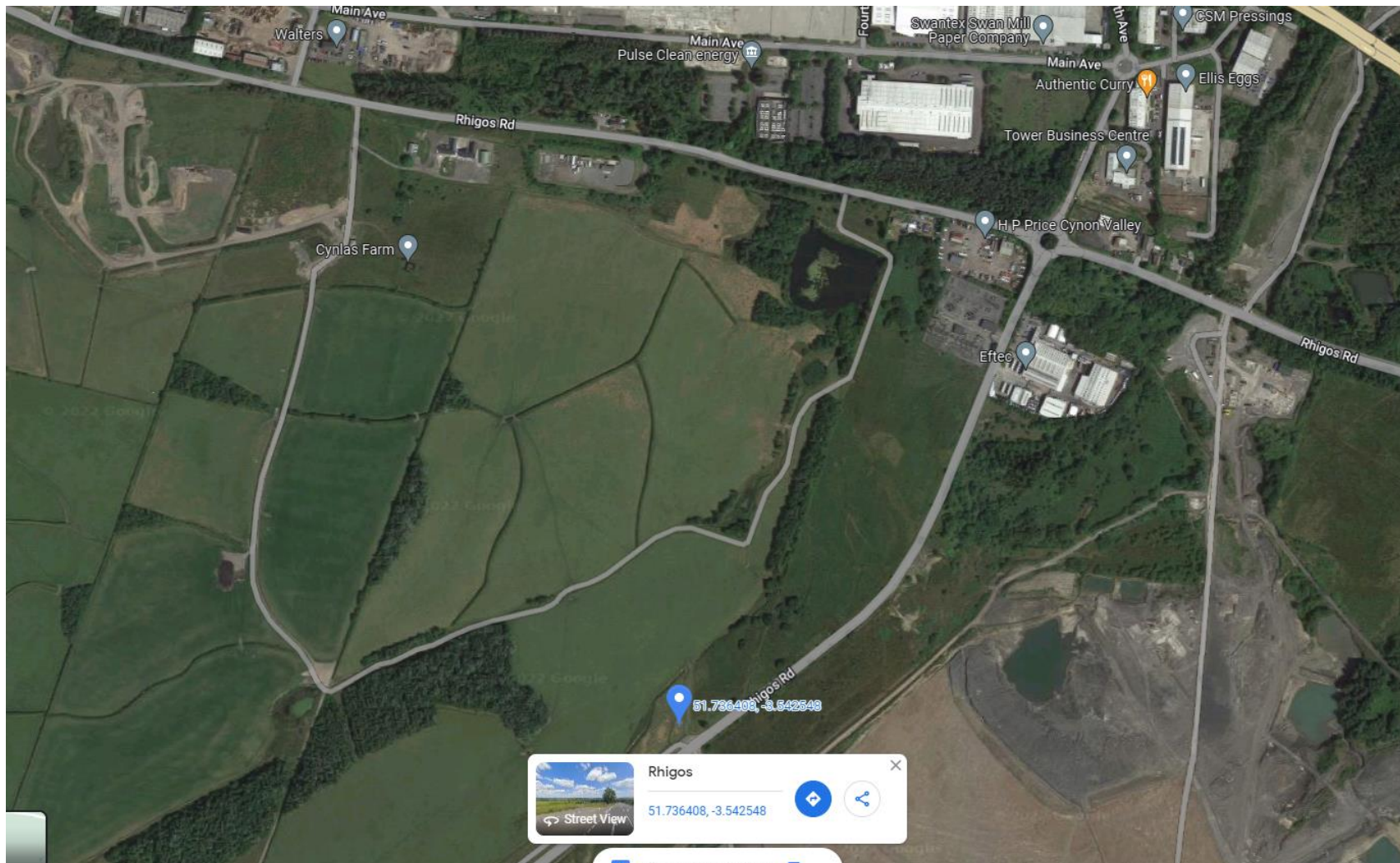


Notice 2: Site entrance (Gate/fence)





Notice 3: Site Entrance 2 (gate next to give way sign)





Notice 4 Public footpath sign (on landowner's road parallel to A4061)

