

GREEN GEN CYMRU Green GEN Vyrnwy Frankton

Introduction

An initial approach has been made to the Council to seek their views (as a statutory consultee) regarding the power lines required to support the renewable energy schemes proposed for locations to the west and south west of Llanfair Caereinion.

The basic information

The basic information describing the scheme is set out here.

1.1 This document has been prepared by LUC on behalf of Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru Limited (Green GEN Cymru). It relates to proposals to construct and operate a new 132 kilovolt (kV) grid connection which at this stage is proposed to comprise an overhead line (OHL) **supported on 'L7' steel lattice towers** as well as a collector substation and a cable sealing end compound located in close proximity to the Llyn Lort Energy Park. This Project will be known as the Green GEN Vyrnwy Frankton Project (hereafter 'the Project').

1.2 The OHL will provide a connection between the proposed Llyn Lort Energy Park in Powys, Wales, (under development by Llyn Lort Energy Park Limited, a subsidiary of Bute Energy) and the existing National Grid 400kV electricity network in Shropshire, England. A new substation will be required to facilitate connection of the overhead line into the existing network and this will be subject to its own application and consent (via National Grid).

As well as connecting the proposed Llyn Lort Energy Park into the electricity network, it will also provide the key infrastructure to enable other future renewable energy generation to be connected into the National Electricity Transmissions System (NETS), including a number of additional energy parks being developed by Bute Energy.

1.3 The location of the Llyn Lort Energy Park and the location of the area where the connection into the NETS in Shropshire (hereafter referred to as ‘the National Grid substation search area’) could be made. This substation will be consented by National Grid and therefore does not form part of the Project.

1.4 This report accompanies Green GEN Cymru’s request for a Scoping Opinion which ~~is~~ is being sought from the Planning Inspectorate which will examine the request and make recommendations to the Secretary of State (SoS) at the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, in accordance with The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017¹ (‘the EIA Regulations’).

1.5 Scoping is an early step in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, ensuring the assessment process focuses on the likely significant effects associated with a project. Scoping also provides an opportunity for consultees to comment on the proposed methodologies, identify sources of baseline information and raise any specific issues that they consider require assessment.

The Route

The approximate route is shown on the plan attached.

The transmission line could move slightly to either side of the route shown.

Llanfair Caereinion Town Plan

The approved Town Plan policy is set out here:

Policy I.4 Renewable Energy Policy

The Town Council will support renewable energy schemes in the local area whilst seeking to minimising the effect on the environment including the provision of a 400kv power line. Large scale windfarms or solar panel farms will be resisted except in special circumstances

Recent Council decision on renewable energy and transmission lines (Minutes September 2023) The Council has in the recent past responded to renewable energy schemes as follows:

The meeting considered the notice to provide a 132kv power line from Cefn Coch via Meifod to Frankton near Shrewsbury (connection to the National Grid). The meeting understood the following:

- a) The Welsh Government strategic plan regarding the provision of on shore windfarms in the area.
- b) The need to provide a more robust grid network.

After discussion the meeting agreed to make the following observations: i) To seek underground cabling rather than pylon lines.

ii) If pylons are to be put in place they should be sensitively placed. iii) Consideration be given to the effect on local businesses individually. iv) Consideration be given to the sensitivity of the landscape when designing the scheme. v) The council would like to discuss community benefit for the area from the scheme.

The Community Benefit being sought is the construction of the Cwm Golau section of road (laid for wind farm traffic previously) to adoptable standard to be used for lorry traffic to bypass Llanfair Caereinion Town Centre. A weight limit of 7.5 tons to then apply to the Town Centre.

Robert Robinson
Town Clerk
26th January 2024

