

About the project

RES is currently consulting on its plans for a proposed wind farm & energy storage project located within the county boundary of Bridgend, neighbouring the boundaries of Neath Port Talbot and Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Over the previous few months we have continued to refine the design of the wind farm based on your feedback and further environmental information. RES is now proposing a seven turbine wind farm at Upper Ogmore, revised down from eight, and it is anticipated that the site could be capable of generating approximately 25 megawatts (MW) of clean, green and renewable electricity – enough to power approximately 21,000 homes*.

Our plans at Upper Ogmore also include an energy storage facility. We are currently undertaking further site survey work and will continue to engage and consult with the relevant statutory bodies, organisations and local community on the proposal.

Submission of the planning application is scheduled later this autumn.

*The homes equivalent figure has been calculated by taking the predicted annual electricity generation of the site (based on RES studies Upper Ogmore has a predicted capacity factor of approximately 40%) and dividing this by the annual average electricity consumption figures from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy 2018 (3,781 kWh)

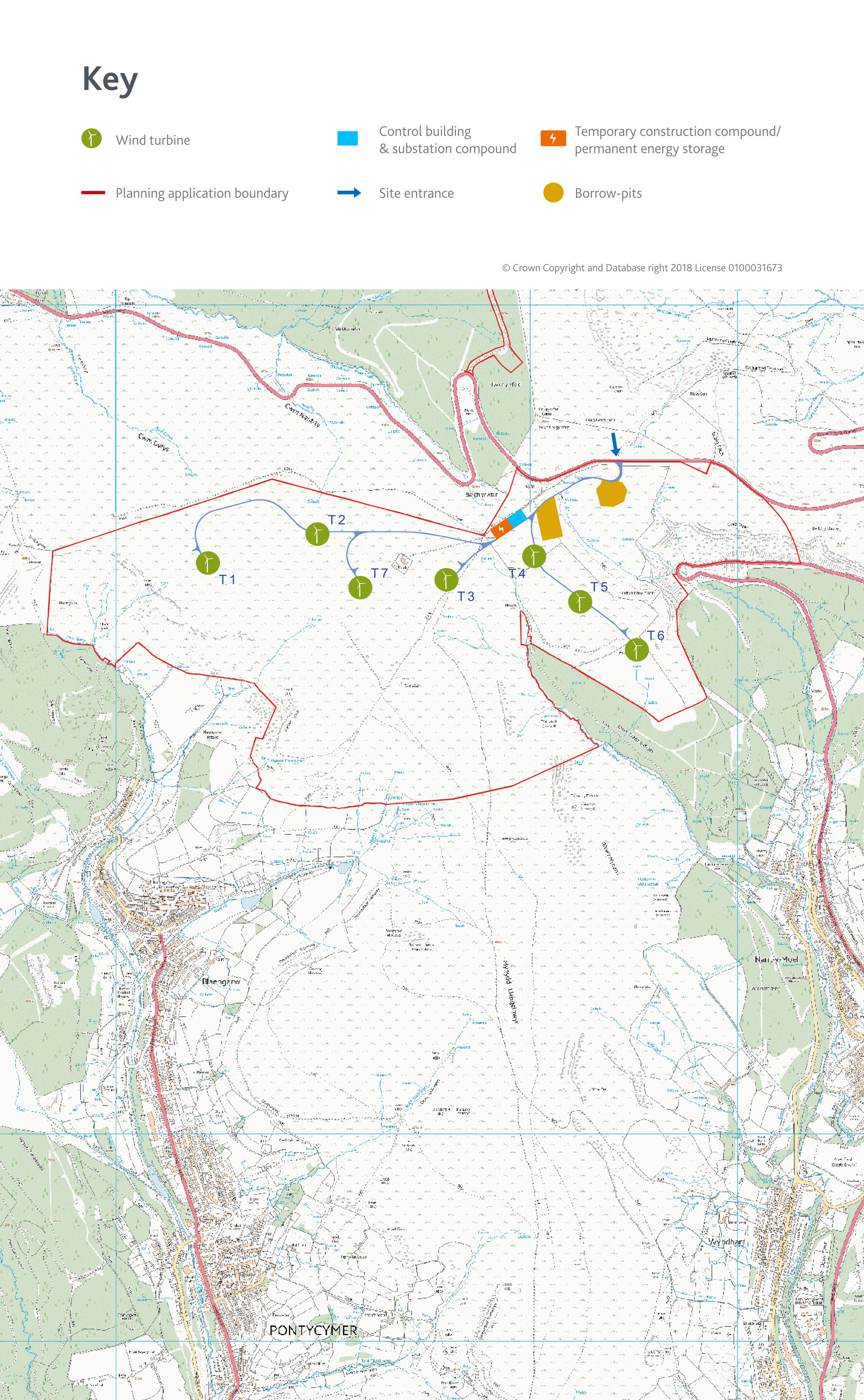




Site Layout

The map below shows the location of the Upper Ogmore project and layout of the proposed seven turbines and energy storage facility.

RES is currently consulting on this layout and as such it is subject to change.



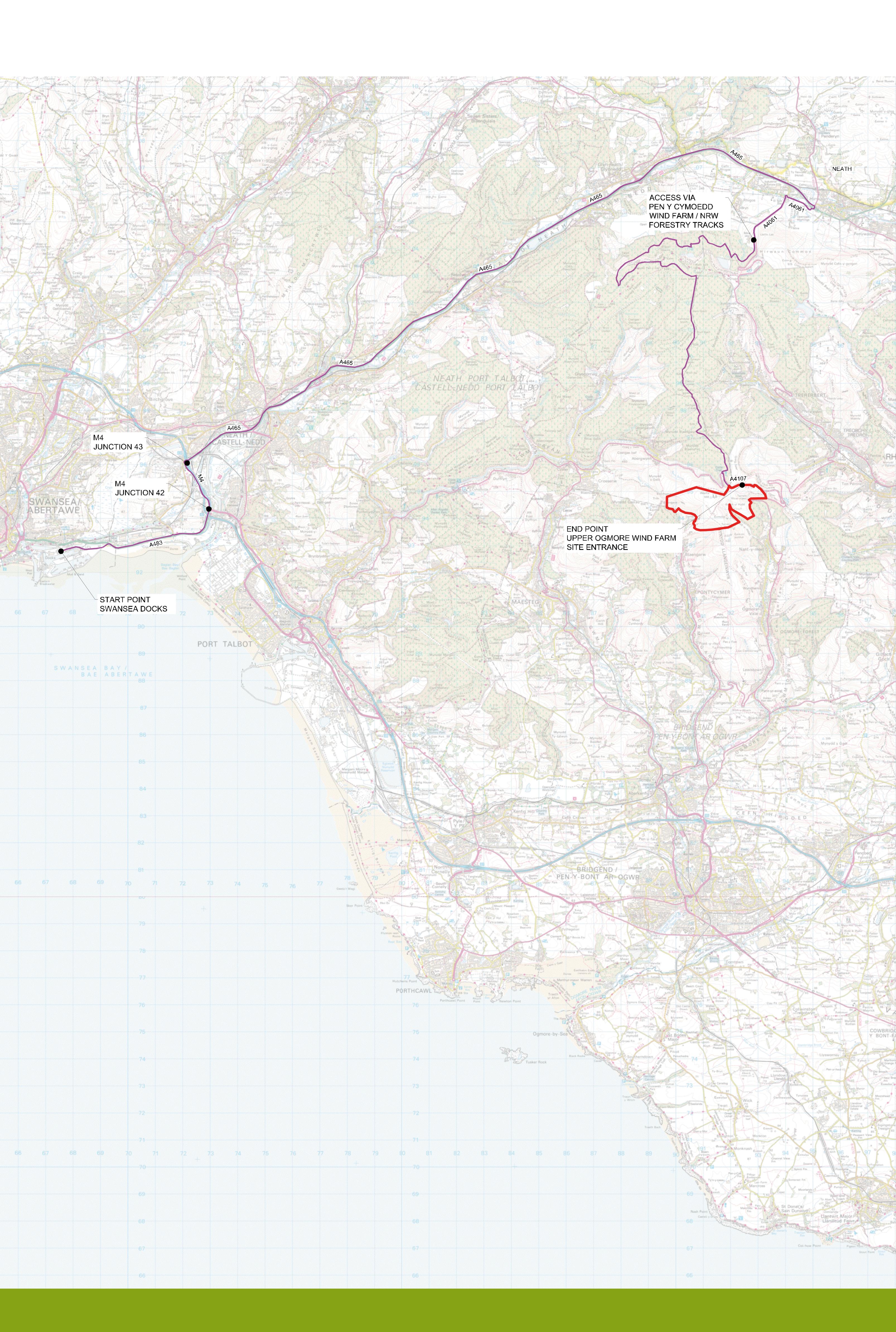


Transport and access

Access is one of the key considerations when selecting a potential wind farm site.

The proposed access route would be from Swansea Docks along the M4 and the A465 to Hirwaun and then south on the A4061 to the recently constructed Penycymoedd Wind Farm. The access route would then follow tracks through Penycymoedd Wind Farm before travelling along a short stretch of the A4107 to the Upper Ogmore site (see image below).

If the wind farm is approved, a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be agreed with the highway authorities and the police. Wherever reasonably practicable we will use stone available on site and source construction materials locally in order to help reduce traffic movements.





Environmental studies

As part of the planning process RES is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The purpose of an EIA is to investigate any significant potential effects of a development on the natural, physical and human environment.

The scope of this assessment work includes plants, animals, soil, water, air, climate, landscape, archaeology, noise and hydrology. The interaction between these factors and the development is examined, their significance assessed and where applicable mitigation measures identified to eliminate or reduce potential effects.

A variety of surveys and assessments have been completed, including ornithology, hydrology, peat, noise, landscape and visual impact and cultural heritage. The results of these surveys will be included in the Environmental Statement which will form part of the planning application when it is submitted. Copies of the Environmental Statement will be made available to read locally as well as on the project website.





Commitment to excellence

RES, a UK company, is one of the world's leading independent renewable energy project developers with operations across Europe, the Americas and Asia-Pacific. At the forefront of renewable energy development for over 35 years, RES has developed and/or built more than 16,000MW of renewable energy capacity worldwide. In the UK alone, RES currently has more than 1,000MW of projects either constructed, under construction or consented.

RES is active in a range of renewable energy technologies including both onshore and offshore wind, solar as well as enabling technologies such as energy storage.

Drawing on decades of experience in the renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality. We work closely with communities, local authorities and independent experts to ensure our wind farms are built to the highest standards.

We want to be a good neighbour and will listen to any questions or concerns that you may have and try our best to address them.

Projects in Wales that have been developed, constructed and/or operated by RES.





We believe in meaningful and effective consultation

The aims of our consultation process are to:

- Engage early and throughout the development process with the local community to facilitate a constructive consultation process to help identify and understand concerns.
- » Assist the local community in understanding the benefits and potential impacts of the proposed wind farm.
- » Add value and improve the quality of our proposal through meaningful and productive consultation.

Before we submit a planning application we will create a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) Report, that documents the community engagement process and any steps we have taken to adapt our proposal. At this stage we are inviting you to submit comments directly to RES. Once an application is submitted there will be the opportunity to submit representations to the Determining Authority, which for this project is the Planning Inspectorate based in Cardiff. Listening to what the local and wider community have to say about our proposals is an integral part of the consultation process and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

We are keen to understand your views on the proposal and the information available at this exhibition.

Please take a few minutes to fill out a feedback form with your comments.



Photo: Shutterstock image - for illustrative purposes

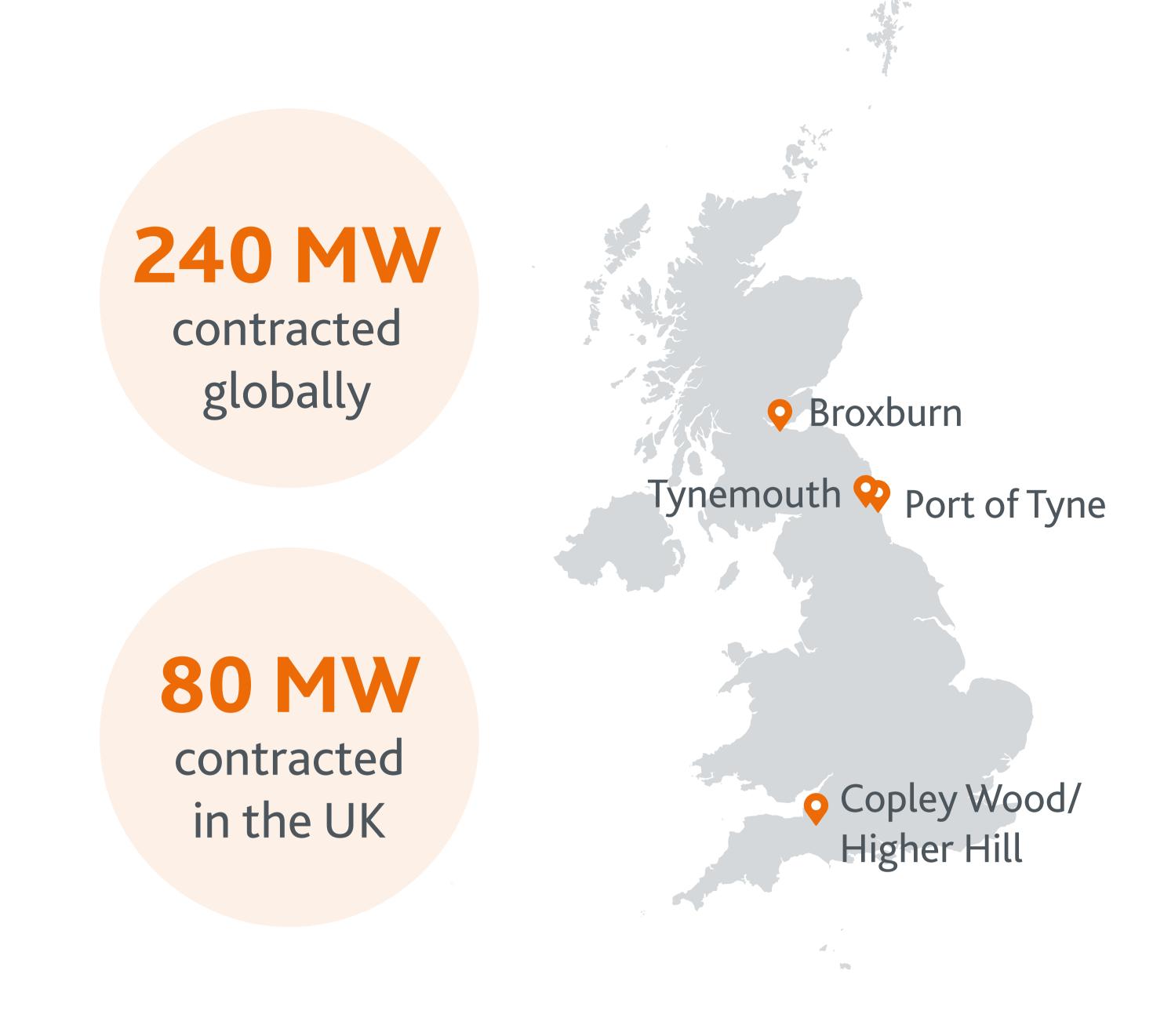


Energy Storage

As a basic concept energy storage enables electricity to be stored and used later when it is needed.

Energy storage is a safe and proven technology and it provides the opportunity to create a more stable and secure electricity system leading to cost benefits for all consumers.

At Upper Ogmore we are proposing to include energy storage capabilities. The energy storage containers will be positioned onsite adjacent to the substation. It is proposed that the facility will help to balance the grid.







Why choose this site?

- Onshore wind is now the cheapest source of electricity generation bar none. This makes onshore wind developments not only beneficial for the environment but also for bill payers*.
- » It is anticipated that more than £1.9 million would be invested in the local economy through construction and first year of operation. However, we consider this to be a minimum figure and as we progress through the development of this site we are keen to hear from local businesses that have the skills and experience to help deliver this project, if consented.
- » The proposals mean incorporate the existing infrastructure at Penycymoedd and site itself is outside designated ecological areas.
- » The site has a high average wind speed, meaning that the wind farm will make a significant contribution towards Wales' renewable electricity targets.





Common Land

The proposed project is located on rough grazing land, some of which is designated Common Land (green hatched area).

You will see from the plan below that some land will need to be taken out of the common designation (magenta hatched area) to allow the proposed development of four turbines, hardstands and access tracks.

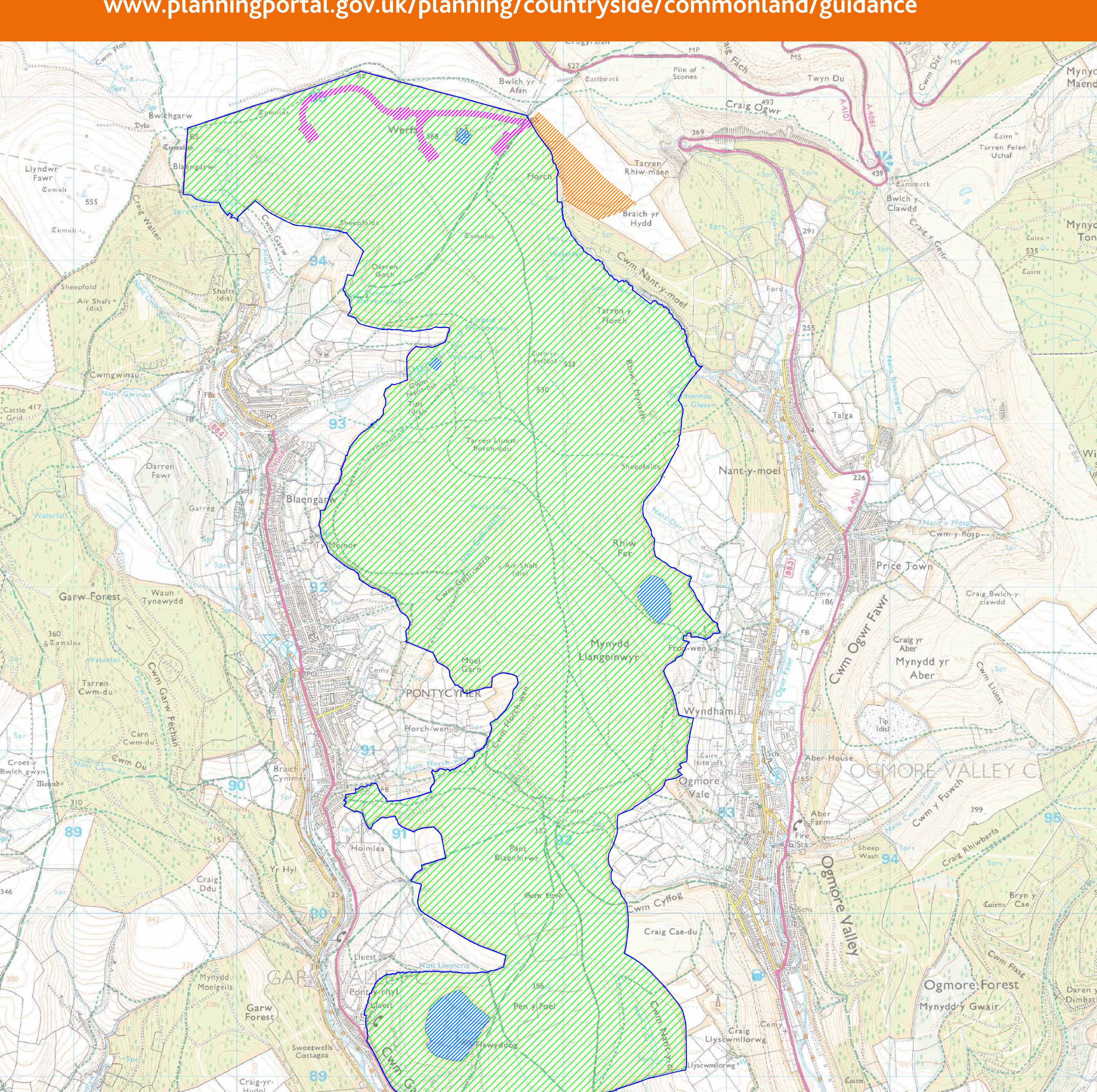
To mitigate the de-registration of common land, a larger area of land (within the orange hatched area) is being offered to off-set for this loss and to ensure that the overall amount of common land does not diminish as a result of this project.

We will seek consent for this exchange under s16 Commons Act 2006.

RES will also apply for additional consents from Welsh Ministers under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 to permit the works on the common. Section 38 applications are required for works which are for the management, improvement or protection (or to the negligible detriment) of the common or are otherwise consistent with the traditional uses of the common (e.g. grazing, public recreation).

RES expects to submit applications under Sections 38 and 16 of the Commons Act 2006 in relation to the development of a wind farm and energy storage project at Upper Ogmore as part of the application for a development of national significance to the Planning Inspectorate Wales later this year. A formal 28 day consultation on the application will follow the submission of the application.

More information with regard to submitting applications can be found at www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/countryside/commonland/guidance





Common Act

Prior to submitting applications to the Planning Inspectorate Wales RES is required to undertake pre-application consultation.

The purpose of the consultation is:

- » to inform people living, working or otherwise using the land in the vicinity of the proposed site about our proposals;
- to provide access to information about the proposed de-registration and subsequent registration in an inclusive way, to all people within the community;
- » to provide an opportunity for people living, working or otherwise using the land in the vicinity of the common to put forward their ideas and have a role in developing proposals where they can have an influence; and
- » to create and deliver a process through which people living, working or otherwise using the land in the vicinity of the proposed site can comment on the formal proposals.

We hope that you will take this opportunity to engage with us regarding our proposals at Upper Ogmore so that we can understand your interests in the Common. In addition, if you have common rights and actively use those rights, but have not been contacted directly by or on behalf of RES, we would like to hear from you.





Eight to seven turbines

Following the feedback from last November's exhibitions and further environmental and engineering studies, we have refined the layout of the project.

Most notably we have reduced the number of turbines in the project from eight to seven. Reasons for this include:

- Comments received about the visibility of turbines T3 (moved north) and T6 (reduced in height);
- » New information received on EMI links at the Werfa transmission masts;
- » Further ground investigation, including peat survey;
- » A detailed landscape and visual assessment that allowed us to refine the design from key viewpoints.

