

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN RES UK AND IRELAND
LIMITED AND CADW**

CULTURAL HERITAGE

**IN RELATION TO AN APPLICATION BY RES UK & IRELAND LIMITED
DATED**

27 MARCH 2009

**FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE A WIND TURBINE
GENERATING STATION**

IN

POWYS, MID-WALES

APPLICATION HISTORY

9. In March 2009, a section 36 consent application under the Electricity Act 1989 was submitted by RES to the Department of Energy and Climate Change ('DECC') for a wind energy development of up to 43 turbines on land between the villages of Llanbrynmair and Llanerfyl in Powys. An Environmental Statement ('ES') accompanied the Section 36 consent application.
10. Between April 2010 and August 2012, five Supplementary Environmental Information ('SEI') documents were submitted in response to further requests for information made by PCC and Countryside Council for Wales, (now Natural Resources Wales).
11. In August 2013, in line with the Inspector's timetable, RES submitted a Consolidated Environmental Statement ('CES'). The CES provides an updated assessment of all of the potential environmental effects of the Development. A further SEI assessing the cumulative effects of the Development in combination with the four other wind farm applications and the proposed grid connection, will be submitted in advance of Inquiry Session 4 (Cumulative Session).

POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

12. The Statement of Common Ground identifies the relevant national, regional and local policy and legislation relating to cultural heritage as applicable to the Development. They are:
 - i. Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
 - ii. National Policy Statements for Energy (EN-1) and Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)
 - iii. Planning Policy Wales (5th Edition, November 2012)
 - iv. Technical Advice Note 8: Renewable Energy
 - v. Welsh Office Circular 60/96 (Planning and the Historic Environment – Archaeology)
 - vi. Powys County Council UDP 2001-2016, including the following policies which are of particular relevance:

Record or the National Monuments Record of Wales. A further 38 assets (listed in Table 7.5 of the CES) were recorded during the course of surveys for this Development. There are some examples of prehistoric funerary monuments but the majority of assets are post-medieval agricultural features with a few farm buildings and numerous examples of sheepfolds, boundaries, clearance cairns and small quarries.

- v. There are 50 Scheduled Monuments within 10km of the proposed windfarm (listed in Table 7.6 of the CES). 35 of these assets are prehistoric ritual and funerary sites of Neolithic and Bronze Age date but prehistoric settlement sites and medieval assets are also represented.
- vi. There are no examples of Grade I Listed Buildings within 10km of the proposed windfarm but there are five Grade II* assets, comprising three houses and two medieval churches (listed in Table 7.7 of the CES). There are 43 Grade II Listed Buildings within 5km of the proposed windfarm (listed in Table 7.8 of the CES). The majority of these assets are examples of houses and outbuildings, primarily on farms. Other asset types represented include milestones, churches, inns and bridges.
- vii. There are two Conservation Areas within 5km of the proposed windfarm, in the villages of Llan and Pont Dolgadfan, both 5km south-west of the Development.
- viii. There are no examples of either Registered Landscapes of Historic Interest or Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest within 10km of the proposed windfarm.

POTENTIAL EFFECTS

16. An assessment of the potential effects of the Development on cultural heritage assets, is set out in Section 7.7 of Chapter 7 in the CES.
17. The parties to this Statement of Common Ground are in agreement that:
 - i. Potential effects of the proposed development on the cultural heritage resource can be described in two categories:
 - Direct physical effects; and

significance of historic assets through visual change in setting, but only for assets where the wider landscape makes a substantive contribution to their heritage significance. Other environmental impacts of the proposed development have been considered as potential causes of effects on setting but have been discounted.

- vii. Operation of the windfarm would affect the heritage significance of three historic assets through visual change in their settings. There would be adverse effects of Minor Significance on a hillfort at Moel Ddolwen (Scheduled Monument), the Church of St Mary, Llan (Listed Building Grade II*) and Llan Conservation Area. Operation of the windfarm would also affect the character of the historic landscape surrounding the windfarm, leading to a moderate visual impact on the historic landscape.
- viii. All of these effects due to visual change in setting would be fully reversed when the windfarm was decommissioned.
- ix. Change in setting due to the off-site highway works would not lead to any adverse effects on the significance of heritage assets.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

- 18. An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Development on the cultural heritage resource], is set out in Section 7.10 of Chapter 7 of the CES. It should be noted that a further Statement of Common Ground with respect to the cumulative effects of the Development in combination with the other proposed developments, in SSA B and SSA C, will be issued in advance of Inquiry Session 4.

ON-SITE/OFF-SITE MITIGATION MEASURES

- 19. Proposals for a programme of archaeological works intended to offset damage to historic assets during construction and decommissioning works are set out in Section 7.8 of Chapter 7 of the CES. Other mitigation is embedded in the design of the Development. The parties to this Statement of Common Ground are in agreement that:
 - i. Where the exact location, extent and character of a historic asset was known, the turbine and infrastructure layout for the windfarm has avoided

- viii. Removal of these turbines increased the minimum distance of a turbine to round barrow MG314 from 250m up to 1km. This is the only Scheduled Monument within the windfarm site. Removal of the same western turbines also considerably reduced the level of visual change for Listed Buildings in and around the village of Llanbrynmair. As a result all of the Listed Buildings close to the windfarm in this area would experience little or no visual change in their settings from the current 30 turbine layout

This Statement has been agreed by:

Signed

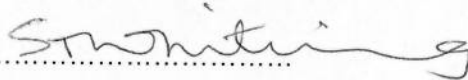


On behalf of RES UK and Ireland Ltd

Date 29/10/2013

This Statement has been agreed by:

Signed.....



On behalf of Cadw

Date..... 29/10/2013 .