

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 (Sections 36, 37, 62(3) & Schedule 8)**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (Section 90)**  
**The Electricity Generating Stations and Overhead Lines (Inquiries Procedure) (England and Wales) Rules 2007**

**THE MID-WALES (POWYS) CONJOINED WIND FARMS PUBLIC INQUIRY**  
**SESSION 2 - STRATEGIC SEARCH AREA B**

(Application by RES UK & Ireland Limited dated 27 March 2009 for consent to construct and operate a 100 MW Wind Turbine Generating Station in Powys, Mid- Wales ("Llanbrynmair"))

(Application by RWE Npower Renewables Limited dated 11 December 2008 for consent to construct and operate a 130-250MW Wind Turbine Generating Station in Powys, Mid-Wales ("Carnedd Wen"))

**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

on

**LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY**

between

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**&**

**NATURAL RESOURCES WALES**

**FINAL**

This Statement of Common Ground has been agreed between Cyngor Sir Powys County Council ("The Council") and Natural Resources Wales ("NRW") to assist the running of Session 2 of the Mid-Wales Conjoined Wind Farms Public Inquiry.

Session 2 deals with the proposals for two adjoining sites in Strategic Search Area B known as Carnedd Wen and Llanbrynmair. The respective applicants are RWE Npower/Npower Renewables Limited (NRL) and Renewable Energy Systems Limited (RES).

In session 2 the Council is providing evidence as to the unacceptability of the access proposed by Llanbrynmair along the Llanerfyl to Talerddig road, and arguing that impact could be avoided by sharing access with Carnedd Wen. The Council's and NRW's case on this aspect of the proposals is largely complementary, and to this end both parties are seeking to avoid unnecessary replication of evidence and/or use of time resources by setting out matters of common ground, in the hope that this will assist the running of the inquiry.

Both parties have considered the statements below and have confirmed agreement that they represent a common position. The statements are as follows:

#### **Shared access as a means to avoid or reduce impacts**

1. The Council and NRW are of the shared opinion that insufficient effort has been expended by Llanbrynmair to seek to avoid or reduce landscape and ecological impacts arising from the current separate access proposals, and that they have therefore failed to comply with related and applicable statutory and policy obligations.
2. Independently of the applicants, the Council has carried out a feasibility study into options for an alternative, shared access, arrangement, and the results have been the subject of discussions and joint site visits with Council and NRW representatives during September 2013.
3. The Council and NRW agree that the Council's feasibility study demonstrates an in-principle means to interlink the two schemes via two new sections of additional track, totalling some 700 metres of wholly new track construction and some 600 metres that can be constructed by upgrading existing forestry tracks.
4. The Council and NRW are of the shared opinion there is no landscape or ecological basis for discounting a shared access solution.

#### **Adequacy of EIA material**

5. The Council and NRW are of the shared opinion that the environmental information submitted by RES in support of the proposed highways works to the Llanerfyl to Talerddig Road does not form a robust basis for decision making.

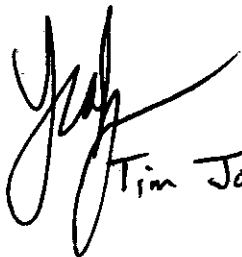
6. In particular, the Council and NRW agree that there are significant concerns over the methodology, scope and presentation of the protected species survey information, with respect to the European Protected Species dormouse.
7. The Council and NRW also share concerns that the submitted environmental information does not address uncertainties concerning the landtake required for construction, and the type, level and significance of any ecological and landscape impacts arising from that unquantified additional landtake.
8. The Council and NRW share the opinion that the environmental impacts of the proposed highways improvements have been inadequately assessed, and may be higher than indicated in the submitted environmental information.

**Evidence to the Inquiry**

9. Natural Resources Wales supports the broad substance of the proof of evidence presented to the inquiry by the Council's ecology witness Dominic Woodfield.
10. Natural Resources Wales shares the broad substance of the concerns about the EIA information for the access road that have been raised by the Council in correspondence from their solicitors to the inspector dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013.

The signatures below indicate formal agreement to the statements above:

Signed:

  
Name: Tim JONES

Name:

Signed



Name: DOMINIC WOODFIELD

For and on behalf of NRW

For and on behalf of Powys County Council

