

Statement of Common Ground on Session 4 Landscape and Visual Issues between Vattenfall and Powys County Council.

INTRODUCTION

This is a Statement of Common Ground (SOCG) between Vattenfall and Powys County Council (Powys CC) concerning an application made to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989.

The Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change has given notice that a combined inquiry (Inquiry) will be held under Section 62(3) and Schedule 8 of the Electricity Act 1989 into Llanbadarn Fynydd Wind farm, in addition to four other Section 36 wind farm applications and one Section 37 Grid Connection application.

This SOCG has been produced and the statements within it are agreed by both parties (unless indicated to the contrary) in connection with session 4 of the Inquiry and is specific to Vattenfall's application for the Llanbadarn Fynydd Wind Farm only.

This SOCG concerns the topic of landscape and visual impacts.

BASELINE & METHODOLOGY

The details of the baseline and methodology remain as described in the Statement of Common Ground for Session 1 produced in August 2013.

ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS –LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

With regard to the landscape and visual issues that are relevant to Session 4 it is agreed between Powys County Council and Vattenfall that:

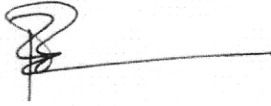
1) Potential Cumulative Effects arising between SSA B and SSA C. The five wind farm developers and the Council do not consider that unacceptable in-combination cumulative landscape effects would occur between the wind farm schemes before the Inquiry in SSA B and C (over and above those in-combination cumulative landscape effects that would occur separately with the SSA B and C schemes and on the basis of an existing baseline which includes those wind farms which are currently operational and consented). The Council declares that from a few locations, in particular weather conditions, there is the potential for additional significant visual effects (over and above those in-combination cumulative visual effects that would occur separately with the SSA B and C schemes) and that the area likely to be affected would be in parts of the landscape between SSA B and C where the sole visual effects of either would not be significant but together they would be significant. The five wind farm developers and the Council agree that, if there are significant visual effects as described by the Council, they are limited in extent, and do not render any or all of the schemes unacceptable.

With regard to the potential for significant sequential cumulative visual effects between the transport works required to facilitate use of the A483 by construction vehicles and the construction and operation of Llanbadarn Fynydd Wind Farm, it is agreed between Powys County Council and Vattenfall that:

2) As set out in Section 10 of Powys County Council's Session 4 Proof on Landscape and Visual Matters the Council accepts that there may be requirements for localised highway improvements. The Council considers that the landscape and visual effects of these works may be acceptable subject to detail design and appropriate mitigation. No significant sequential cumulative visual effects will arise between the minor highways works on the section of the A483 between Newtown and Llanbadarn Fynydd (including those potentially required at either the Mochdre Industrial Estate or Hoel Treowen)

and the construction and operation of the proposed Llanbadarn Fynydd Wind Farm. This agreement would be subject to Powys County Council's approval of the proposed restoration works at the sites of the proposed highway works.

For Powys County Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'P' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

PG Russell-Vick
Date: 15th March 2013

For Vattenfall

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'I' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

I Gates
Date: