

# Onshore Wind Farms in Wales

## Planning Decisions and Trends

Julian Boswall

Partner

Eversheds LLP, Cardiff

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# TAN 8 (1)

- July 2004 draft
- July 2005 new version adopted; along with MIPPS 2005
- July 2008 – full coverage of refined areas not in place
- Early/mid 2009 – TAN 8 review

## TAN 8 (2)

- TAN 8 is about delivery of targets
  - 800MW onshore wind operational by 2010
- TAN 8 update review October 2007
  - 800MW target “could be met by 2011/12”
  - Industry view more like 2015 (mid Wales grid)
- Hitting targets = granting permission + building
- RES: 40% renewable electricity by 2020

# Unlocking progress

- FCW areas
  - the award of the options
  - very large projects
- Non-FCW areas
  - the refinement process
  - greater certainty of outcome?
- Positive approach by LPAs?
- Resourcing of LPA + consultees
- Mid Wales grid
  - Need to “compensate” in meantime

# Consenting Schemes within SSAs (1)

- Schemes inside SSA, but early in refinement process
  - Blaengwen (30MW; approved) (Carmarthenshire)
  - Maesgwen (39MW; approved) (NPT)
- Schemes inside SSA and inside refined area
  - Brenig (40MW; approved) (Denbighshire)
  - Gorsedd Bran (39MW; refused) (Denbighshire)
- Schemes inside SSA and part inside, part outside refined area
  - No decisions yet

## Consenting Schemes Within SSAs (2)

- Schemes inside SSA but outside refined area
  - Llanbach (32MW; refused) (Conwy)
- Schemes part inside SSA and part (just) outside
  - Wern Ddu (6.5MW; granted on appeal)
- Schemes (just) outside SSA
  - Mynydd y Betws (resolution to grant; called in) (Carmarthenshire)
- Schemes below 25MW inside SSA
  - Glycorrwg (12MW; refused) (Neath Port Talbot)
  - Wern Ddu (6.5MW; granted) (Denbighshire)

# Consenting Schemes Outside SSAs (1)

- Mynydd y Gwrhyd I (11MW; refused; legal challenge unsuccessful) (NPT)
- Mynydd y Gwrhyd II (4MW; refused) (NPT)
- Rhos Garn (23MW; refused; legal challenge successful) (Ceredigion)
- No automatic bar to schemes outside SSA
- Bar set higher in terms of impact
- Rhos Garn refused despite no CCW objection

# Consenting Schemes Outside SSAs (2)

- Extensions outside SSAs
  - Pendine (extension to Parc Cynog) (7.2MW; approved) (Carmarthenshire)
  - Blaen Bowi extension (3.9MW; refused)
  - Mynydd Portref (Taff Ely extension) (11.9MW)
  - Clear support in TAN 8, subject to environmental impact
  - Ought to be easier to consent than new stand alone scheme

## Weight to be given to SPG/IPG inside SSAs (1)

- Denbighshire Interim Planning Guidance
- SSA A Clocaenog Forest (140MW)
- January 2006 public consultation on draft IPG
- February 2007 adoption of IPG
- April 2007 Wern Ddu public inquiry (4 x 90m turbines)

## Weight to be given to SPG/IPG inside SSAs (2)

- June 2007 Wern Ddu granted on appeal
  - Critical of methodology of refinement study and IPG
  - Did not accept capacity of refined area
  - Reduction of 65% is not a “minor adjustment” of SSA
- April 2008 Llyn Brenig granted; Gorsedd Bran refused
- June 2008 IPG deleted/withdrawn due to expected losses at appeal and costs awards

# Cumulative landscape/visual impact inside SSAs

- Assumptions to make re baseline
- Approach at Mynydd y Betws inquiry re landscape/visual
- Requirements of EIA
- Threshold of acceptability given concentration intended by SSA approach

# Planning Bill (1)

- Will create an Infrastructure Planning Commission
- Decisions made by IPC, not Ministers
- Review after two years
- Decisions in accordance with National Policy Statement
- NPS will be scrutinised in Parliament

## Planning Bill (2)

- Electricity projects above 50MW in Wales
- MOU between DBERR and Welsh Ministers
- NPS and Planning Policy Wales + TAN 8
- Opposition in House of Lords
- Opposition by Conservative Party
- Transfer of power to Wales?



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