

Withdrawal of Carnedd Wen Wind Farm Application

Wales, February 2020

innogy has [today] decided to withdraw its current application for the Carnedd Wen Wind Farm and Habitat Restoration Project.

Carnedd Wen is a proposed 50 turbine onshore wind farm located north of Llanbrynmair, Powys, Mid Wales.

The onshore wind industry has seen many changes since the application was originally submitted in 2008 and innogy is keen to review its plans with a view to potentially resubmitting an application for a revised scheme to the Welsh Government in due course.

ENDS

Q&A material

innogy submitted an application under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (now the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)) in December 2008. Following Powys County Council's objection to Carnedd Wen, and other wind farms in the county, a conjoined Public Inquiry was held from June 2013 to May 2014. Despite a positive recommendation from the Planning Inspector in his report issued in December 2014, the Secretary of State refused consent for the project in September 2015. innogy was successful in challenging this refusal and the Secretary of State's decision was subsequently quashed with a view to being redetermined.

There are no statutory timescales within which BEIS has to re-determine the application and innogy has withdrawn the Section 36 application and will progress detailed feasibility studies for a potential revised layout.

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Since the application was submitted government financial support mechanisms have been removed and new onshore wind projects generally require taller turbines to be economically viable without subsidy. Wind speed increases with height and larger rotor machines are capable of capturing more energy. Smaller turbines with lower tip heights and shorter blades, such as those originally proposed at Carnedd Wen, are being phased out by the manufacturers and these are unlikely to be available in the near future. These considerations need to be taken into account going forward.

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