



Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru is a renewable energy developer wholly owned by the Welsh Government, with a mission to unlock the renewable energy potential of Wales, and deliver benefits to our society, our environment and our economy, for everyone living and working in Wales today and for future generations.

Welcome



Adam Dempsey
Clocaenog Dau project manager

Hello, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in our first public events, held at the end of 2025, which shared the very early designs of the proposed Clocaenog Dau Wind Farm.

Those of you who looked at the information we provided on the environmental considerations we consider when planning a wind farm, will appreciate how complex the design process is.

There are technical matters to think about, too, like what types of turbine equipment will deliver the best yield considering the local topography and wind patterns, as well as economic factors, to ensure the project is viable and delivers the best returns for Wales, while also delivering benefits for people and nature locally.

That complexity is why the planning process needs to evolve with input from all kinds of experts – be they local people or environmental and technical specialists.

We ask these relevant experts and local voices to give us their views and advice on the considerations we take into account.

We review their guidance and opinions, and think how our designs respond to that, and whether there are changes we can make to improve the design. We then share any revisions and ask for further review and feedback. Or, if it is not possible to make certain changes, we explain why that is the case.

A lot of you asked for data that we are still in the process of gathering. We have submitted our

scoping report, which lists all the studies and methodologies we will use to gather data, about the area now, and model any potential changes the project could make.

We expect to receive a response later this year, and this will contain guidance and advice from statutory consultees. These are bodies whose legal duty it is to protect aspects of our land and lives, while also ensuring that appropriate development can take place, according to our democratic processes.

In the meantime, work doesn't stop. We will undertake certain surveys for birds, mammals, and invertebrates, we will talk to landowners adjacent to the project to agree access rights, and we are also talking to other types of environmental organisations including the Clocaenog Red Squirrels Trust, so that we can learn from them and work with them.

Later this year, we will provide another update on our progress, keeping you posted on the evolution of our design.

Thanks again, and I hope you find information from consultation events, summarised in this newsletter, as interesting and informative as we have.

Valuable consultation with the local community

Our mission is to unlock the renewable energy potential of Wales, and deliver benefits to our society, our environment, and our economy, for everyone living and working in the country today and for future generations.

With that in mind, we are initially working on three proposed sites, which are:

-  Clocaenog Dau Wind Farm
Conwy, Denbighshire (up to 132MW)
-  Glyn Cothi Wind Farm
Carmarthenshire (up to 162MW)
-  Carreg Wen Wind Farm
Rhondda Cynon Taf (up to 108MW)



The first round of consultations for the proposed Clocaenog Dau Wind Farm has now ended, and we're excited to share some of the initial feedback and topics of discussion.

We staged a trio of drop-in events in October at Denbighshire's Canolfan Cae Cymro and Nantglyn Church House and Conwy's Ysgol Cerrigydrudion.

Trydan team members and EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) consultants were on hand to answer queries, gather feedback, and inform people about the early-stage plans for the 22-turbine development, which was launched last summer.

For those unable to attend the in-person events, Trydan launched a virtual exhibition on its website, whilst responses to the first set of consultations were invited via an online form until Saturday 15 November 2025.

Clocaenog Dau Wind Farm project manager Adam Dempsey said:

"The in-person sessions and the subsequent feedback we've received, both face-to-face and via email or our online form, will help shape the development.

We appreciate the opportunity to start building relationships with those in the local community by showing them our early design, including using a sophisticated, interactive 3D digital model.

This really helps people 'see' what the project could look like in the local landscape, including from their homes, schools, businesses, regular walking areas and so on, asking for their reflections and listening to what they have to say."



Our communication with you



We have used multiple communication channels to ensure an inclusive and accessible consultation.

Activities included press releases to local media, organic and paid social media across Facebook and Instagram, 1,900 print newsletters posted to properties in the primary consultation zone, emails to those signed up for updates, and encouraging key stakeholders such as councillors and politicians to share with their networks.



If you would like to sign up to receive regular project updates, please email: croeso@clocaenogdau.wales

In-person and virtual consultation



Three in-person informal consultation events were held, where we welcomed more than 100 members of the local community.

Event features included:

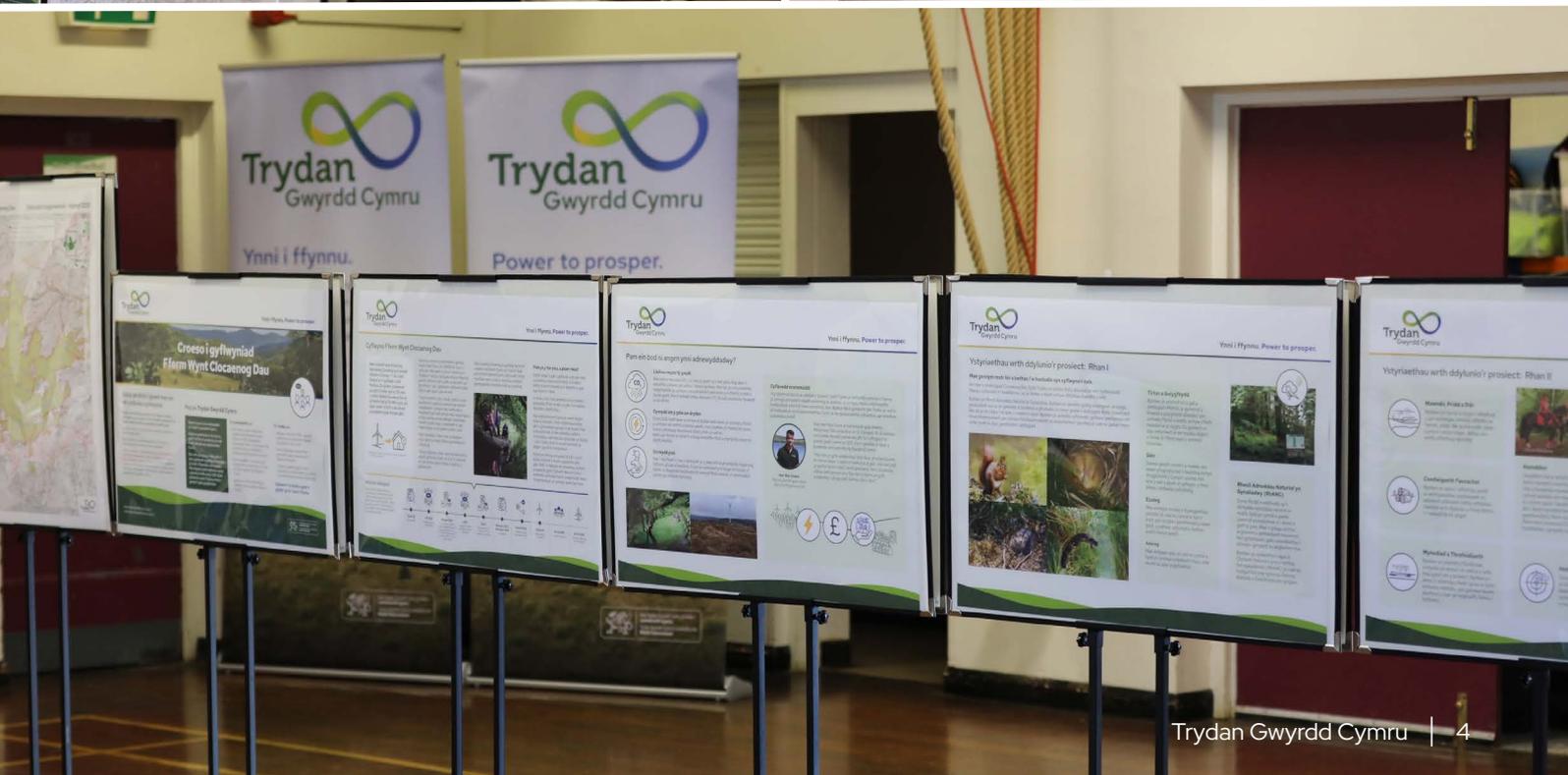
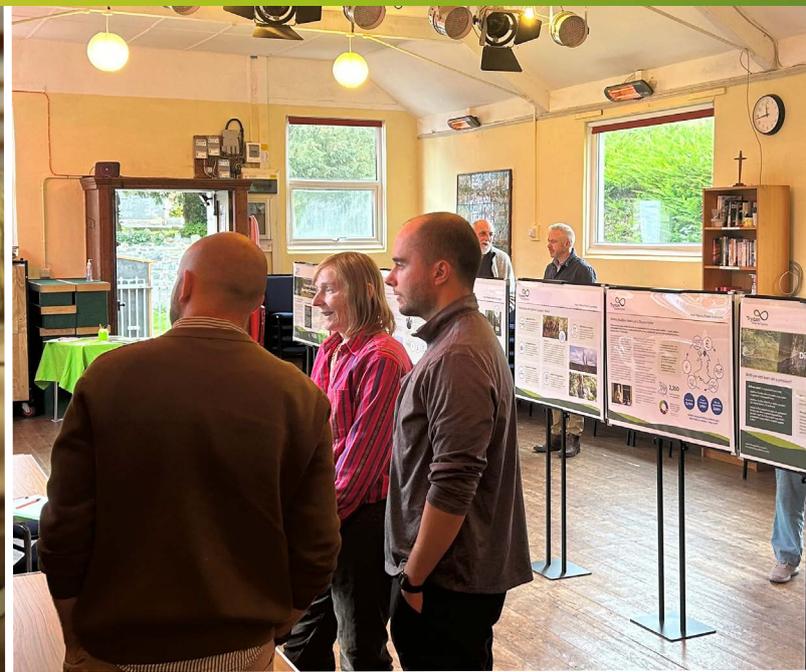
- Exhibition panels and maps illustrating the proposed development
- Interactive digital 3D model to visualise the scheme
- One-to-one conversations with the project team
- Written and verbal feedback opportunities

In addition, a virtual exhibition launched on **7 October**, making all project materials available online in a virtual exhibition room.



Our events have been held at:

-  Nantglyn Church House
-  Ysgol Cerrigydrudion
-  Canolfan Cae Cymro



School engagement

Youngsters were also given a glimpse into the wind farm proposals, with more than 20 year five and six pupils from Ysgol Cerrigydrudion joining a range of fun, interactive activities.

From group discussions about energy usage in everyday life, to discovering which animals call Clocaenog Forest home, the afternoon session was action-packed.

The children were also treated to a short video introducing Trydan's clean energy plans, as well as the opportunity to interact with a virtual model of the proposed wind farm.

A lively quiz to test what was learned rounded up the event, with the school and two pupils receiving book tokens from Siop Elfair to purchase reading materials.

Dr Catrin Ellis Jones, Trydan head of public involvement, said: "It's been brilliant to engage with the children and to learn what they know already about our atmosphere and man-made climate change.

"Some of the pupils were learning about the Victorian era, and the industrial revolution. We noted how scientists of that time, like Joseph Fourier and John Tyndal, began talking about what we now call greenhouse effects, and how burning coal raised concentrations of greenhouses gases in the atmosphere.

"We also talked about the many ways we all use electricity every day, and how it can be generated from renewable sources

both in Wales and in their local area more specifically. It was a lively chat.

"The children proved how appealing and easily accessible data can be, especially when displayed using the 3D digital model. They asked lots of questions and were prompted by different features of the model, noticing how the turbines respond to different wind directions to optimise power output.

"They were very perceptive, and it was a pleasure to hear their observations, ideas, and questions."



Feedback and initial responses

We actively encouraged local experts, including residents and community groups, to provide their feedback.

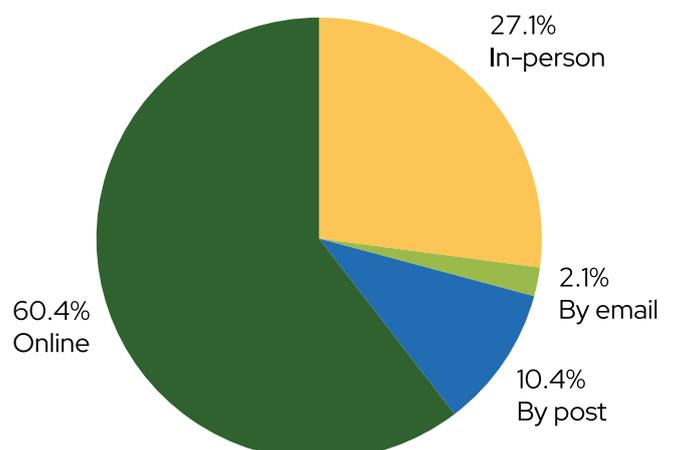
This helps us design a project which better fits into the local environment and offers more opportunities to deliver ecological enhancements as well as local socio-economic opportunities.

The feedback form included space for free text to allow stakeholders to provide details on their thoughts, comments, and queries.

We have grouped questions and comments, summarising similar responses, together into themes.

See below for a summary of topics that were raised frequently during in-person conversations and via submitted feedback forms, as well as our comments and responses.

Format of submission and answers



Topic: Environmental impact assessment (EIA): natural habitats and species



This is a central element of planning ecology and ornithology requirements. Because we consulted with the public whilst in the early stages of these processes, many of the EIA discussions and comments centred around the current level of information:

“I would like to see the reports on wildlife and habitats to be convinced that Trydan is investigating thoroughly.”

We are still in the process of collecting all the relevant data and will share more information about our findings and provide clear and transparent updates as part of the pre-application consultation.

Another popular theme was that of potential harm to habitats, with one comment stating:

“I have reservations about the ability to build wind turbines without adversely affecting our protected species in the forest, specifically the Red Squirrel and dormice.”

Ecological surveys for all protected species restart in early 2026. Once we have this baseline data, we will be looking at the scheme design to ensure that the species, the breeding habitats, and the important connective areas within the forest are protected from adverse impacts.

We will be looking at a wide range of measures to improve the habitat composition and connectivity for Red Squirrel within the forest through our Habitat Management Plan.

We don't have the specifics of this yet, but we will be working with ecologists and Red Squirrel experts, including members of local groups to ensure that our enhancement work is appropriately targeted for Red Squirrel on site.

A further request focused on ornithology:

“I would like to see more consideration given to how the new wind farm will affect Nightjar and Goshawk, both of which are species of national importance.”

We have been carrying out baseline breeding bird surveys and raptor surveys for more than 12 months on site.

The results of these surveys will be used to inform design changes, should important areas for Nightjar or Goshawk be identified where infrastructure is currently planned.



Following discussions at our informal consultation event, we have held subsequent meetings with the Clocaenog Red Squirrels Trust where we have taken its views and opinions on board. We will continue to have frequent and open liaison with the organisation as we navigate our next steps.



Topics: The consultation process



We were pleased to see a lot of engagement with the consultation process itself. The popularity of the 3D digital tool, as well as requests for more school engagement sessions and tweaks to the maps to help identify turbine locations more clearly, will help us shape future community engagement.

A common and understandable concern raised by some local residents was historic engagement on previous wind farms developed by other firms.

Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru cannot answer for other energy companies, but because we are working on behalf of the people of Wales, we sincerely hope and intend to undertake engagement that you consider excellent.

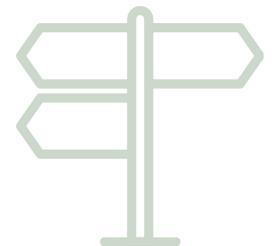
If you want to offer ideas, help us include and involve more people in constructive dialogue or have other input that will lead to the best possible project, we'd love to hear from you.



Likewise, if you are part of a local group that would like a guest speaker to tell you more about our project and begin conversations about what kinds of community benefits you'd like to see the scheme deliver, please email: croeso@clocaenogdau.wales



Topic: The proposed development



The locations and proposed height of the turbines were frequently discussed at the consultation events and in feedback forms. Questions included:

"Why are some turbines very close to existing turbines?"

"Why are these extra turbines being placed over such a large area of forest rather than near the existing turbines at a similar density to those erected at Tir Mostyn?"

"What are the facts and figures that show the different outputs of 150m turbines compared to 230m?"

The modelling in our scoping design has taken turbines at existing wind farms into account. Further on-site wind monitoring has started in February, and this will give us a greater understanding of any potential effects of the proposed turbines on the ones currently situated within the forest.

In addition, the size of the turbines dictates the density of turbines to avoid wake effects. For example, Tir Mostyn turbines are very small (75m), so can be closer together.

With regards to the size of the proposed turbines, the existing Clocaenog Wind Farm provides the best comparison, given the tip height is 145m. This provides 3.6MW per turbine. In contrast, 230m tip height turbines provide 6MW each.

A further point raised on location of turbines was:

"Turbine 11 is far too close to Pincyn Lllys, a historical monument."

Rest assured, we are continuously reviewing turbine locations, including consulting with Cadw on the design of this project to ensure that all turbines are an appropriate distance from all historic monuments.

Topic: Hydrology



“Our property, like many others in the area, runs off private spring water. What measures are in place to ensure our supply will not be impacted throughout the lifespan of the project?”

We are aware that many properties have a private source of water. That will be a key consideration as part of our preparation works and procurement of suppliers to deliver the scheme.

Topic: Landscape and visual amenity



Another frequently raised topic was visual aspects of the proposed project:

“I don’t think we should destroy the beauty of our landscape to generate our own energy for Wales.”

Trydan is considering how the development may affect landscape character and key views and exploring ways to mitigate adverse visual effects.

Please look at our initial digital modelling and images of what the wind farm could look like from selected viewpoints.

This can be found at: <https://trydanclocaenogdau.wales/how-to-get-involved/>

“The new proposed turbines are even taller and will ruin the countryside setting.”

The varied topography of the land means that all turbines, regardless of which development, will look similar in height. This was evident when attendees at our informal events were able to use the 3D digital model to see any changes to their current view.



Topic: Community benefits

Naturally, queries around whether the scheme could provide cheaper energy to the local community were popular.

Local Energy Discount Schemes are offered by some developers, and they work best when the available funding is to be shared among only a limited number of local residents, i.e. those living close to wind farm projects in remote, sparsely populated areas.

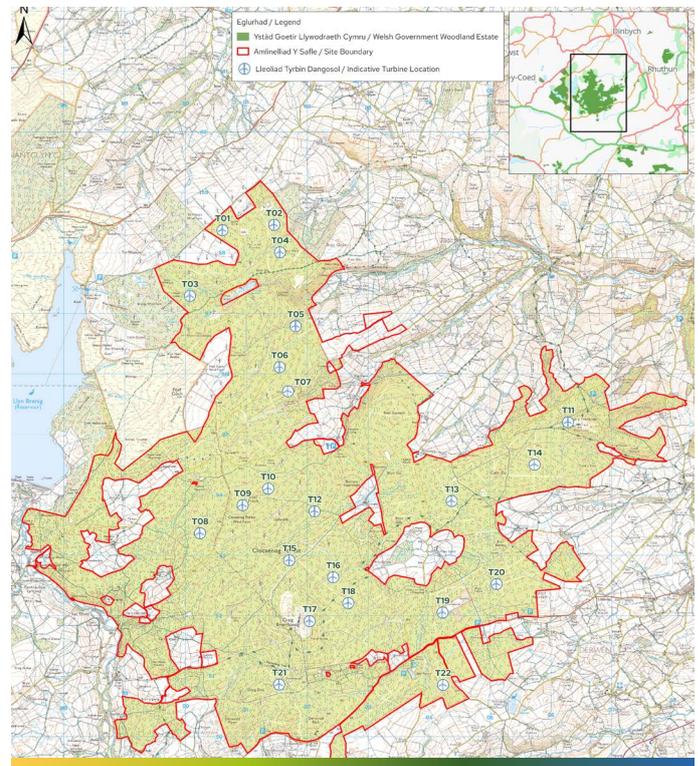
Trydan is looking forward to exploring options with local communities that offer benefits which contribute to local sustainability, resilience, and prosperity. There will be more local conversations on this topic at future consultation events.

"If funds are part of the benefit package, it shouldn't all be spent by open calls, with some strategic thinking about priorities of local communities required and ability for longer term investments."

Community benefit funding usually starts to flow when the wind farm is running and delivering energy into the grid.

There is a lot to think about when it comes to how best to utilise locally responsive funding, and no one area is the same.

We'll come up with a bespoke plan for the Clocaenog Dau project, with local groups and local people telling us what's important for them.



If you have ideas, we want to hear them, and we hope to organise discussions with local groups in the coming months, please get in touch.



What happens next?

The Trydan project team will look at all the feedback provided to us, particularly the more specific and detailed feedback, and consider it alongside the growing body of evidence that we are gathering to inform the evolution of our design. We will keep you updated on our progress via the project website and other channels.

We're also going to begin gathering ideas about community benefits – as noted above, if you are a part of a local group, like a youth club, Merched y Wawr, a walking group, or for example are active in supporting local schools or certain local facilities and services, like community buildings or community transport, then please do get in touch with us.

We will also look to finalise a date for the formal consultation process. This will provide an opportunity to consult on the next iteration of the project's design, which will aim to reflect key points raised by the public during last autumn's consultation, along with scoping opinions from statutory consultees.

The Trydan Team will be attending:

GradCon Wrexham:
31 March

Urdd Eisteddfod
23-29 May
(Trydan attending 28-29 May)

National Eisteddfod:
1-8 August
(Trydan attending 6-7 August)



Dr Catrin Ellis Jones
Head of public involvement

We value every person's feedback and will be providing project updates on a regular basis between now and the next events.

Diolch yn fawr – a big thank you to everyone who took an interest in the information we presented, came to talk to us, and provided feedback.

We hope those who have started on this journey to shape the scheme with us will continue to be involved, and we invite others to join the process at any stage.



[Click here](#) to visit our website

[Click here](#) to view the virtual exhibition



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