

First Minister of Wales

Welsh Government

5th Floor

Tŷ Hywel

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1SN

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Dear First Minister Rt Hon Elund Morgan MS,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of Qualitas Energy regarding the proposed Heolddu Solar Farm, a 40MW fixed panel solar farm on land between Ferryside and Llandyfaelog, in Carmarthenshire. Further information about the project is available on the project website: [Home - Heolddu Solar Farm](#)

In light of the recent [motion](#) passed by Carmarthenshire County Council (see attached), we wish to reassure the Welsh Government that the concerns raised in that motion do not reflect the detailed evidence explaining the Heolddu Solar Farm proposal.

The project has been carefully designed, thoroughly assessed, and influenced through ongoing engagement with Carmarthenshire County Council officers, Welsh Government statutory bodies and the local community. We believe it is important to clearly differentiate the Heolddu Solar Farm from the issues raised in the motion, and to confirm that the scheme represents a responsible and strategically considered renewable energy development for Carmarthenshire and Wales.

Urgent Need for Energy Generation Capacity

We firmly believe this is not the time to pause the delivery of new renewable generation. Additional clean, secure, and affordable energy capacity is needed to contribute towards Wales's transition to a low carbon economy, and this project will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with local, national, and international targets, including the legally binding commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050.

No New Overhead Lines or Transmission Infrastructure

The Heolddu Solar Farm project does not require any new overhead lines. The scheme will connect directly into existing pylons, enabling energy export without such additional transmission infrastructure.

Assessment of Cumulative Effects

Each topic chapter of the Environmental Statement (Chapter 5 to Chapter 10) includes an assessment of the cumulative effects of the Heolddu Solar Farm together with the other cumulative developments that have been identified. No significant cumulative effects are identified in any of the topic chapters.

Biodiversity and Habitat Considerations:

A comprehensive range of ecological surveys were undertaken across the site, including assessments for habitats, bats (both aerial and ground-level), badgers, hazel dormice, otters, water voles, and breeding and wintering birds. These findings informed a Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme, developed in collaboration with Carmarthenshire Council's landscape, ecology, and access officers.

Our Environmental Impact Assessment concludes that the project will not result in significant landscape or habitat damage. Instead, it will deliver long-term ecological enhancement, including:

- Hedgerows: A net gain of 3 km new, native species-rich hedgerows will be created, and enhancement of more than 12 km of the site's existing hedgerows. This is considerably greater than the 1:3 tree replacement benchmark set in Section 6 of *Planning Policy Wales 12*.
- Habitat Restoration: Over 50 hectares (ha) of the site will benefit from habitat restoration and enhancement measures.
- Grassland: There will be a net increase of 15 ha in species-rich grassland.
- Woodland and Shrub Areas: A net gain of 1.3 ha through woodland meadow creation, shrub/grassland mosaics, and woodland edge planting.
- Wetlands: 0.2 ha of wetland vegetation will be restored.
- Under Solar Arrays: 38ha of existing grassland beneath proposed photovoltaic (solar) arrays will be enhanced to increase species richness.
- Water Habitats: More than 140 meters of ditches and watercourses will be restored or enhanced.
- Wildlife Features: Installation of wildlife boxes in existing wooded areas and trees.

The creation, restoration and enhancement proposals bring together grassland, woodland, hedgerow and aquatic features, supporting more diverse habitats and making ecosystems more resilient, aligning with both local and national biodiversity policies and Welsh legislation.

Common Land:

The site is entirely on private land and does not affect any designated common land.

Scenic Areas (Brechfa Forest, Towy Valley)

The visual effects of the scheme are mitigated through sensitive siting, screening and landscape design. The project does not encroach on or significantly affect prominent scenic areas such as Brechfa Forest or the Towy Valley.

Noise and Light:

There would be no increase in audible noise levels as a result of this project, including at night times. The Noise Impact Assessment we conducted assumes a worst-case scenario, where all equipment is running at once and sound travels toward every noise-sensitive receiver (NSR).

Even under these conditions, the results show that the facility can operate without disturbing the nearest residential NSRs during either day or night.

Lighting will be installed within the substation compound but will only be used infrequently either in the event of an emergency or associated with the undertaking of routine maintenance activities which typically would be carried out in daylight hours. During standard operation, there is no requirement for the Heolddu Solar Farm to be lit. The scheme therefore, will not cause light pollution.

Agricultural Land

The site where Heolddu Solar Farm is proposed contains a mix of good quality agricultural land (Grade 3a) and moderate agricultural land (Grade 3b). Higher-quality (Grade 3a) land has been avoided as far as practicable; less than 1 hectare of Grade 3a land would have built infrastructure on it. The wider land under solar panels would remain in agricultural use through biodiversity-led grazing and the whole project would be decommissioned at the end of 40 years, solar generation cease and the remaining use would continue to be agriculture.

Community Benefits

Heolddu Solar Farm would offer important community benefits, including establishing a Community Benefit Fund to provide financial support for activities or projects local to the scheme following the construction and energisation of the project.

As well as this, the existing Public Rights of Way will be enhanced with the existing footpath running through Solar Area West to be diverted to improve countryside access, and funding would be given to CCC to enhance other nearby off-site public footpaths.

We hope this summary clearly differentiates the Heolddu Solar Farm from the issues raised in the recent Council motion. We remain committed to delivering a sensitively designed, environmentally responsible project that contributes meaningfully to Wales's renewable energy ambitions and provides lasting benefits to the local communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Ness'.

Rachel Ness,

Director of Planning

Qualitas Energy