

GREEN GEN TOWY TEIFI

PHASE ONE CONSULTATION
SPRING 2024

FEEDBACK SUMMARY



GREEN GEN CYMRU'S PROPOSALS:

Green GEN Cymru is working to connect the renewable energy generated by Bute Energy's energy parks to the national grid.

We're acting now to build and operate a green energy network that will make sure 100% renewable energy can flow to communities in Wales.

We're proposing a new 132kV overhead line to connect Lan Fawr Energy Park in West Wales to a new National Grid substation in Carmarthen. The Towy Teifi connection will be approximately 52km in length and will use pylons with a standard height of 27m.

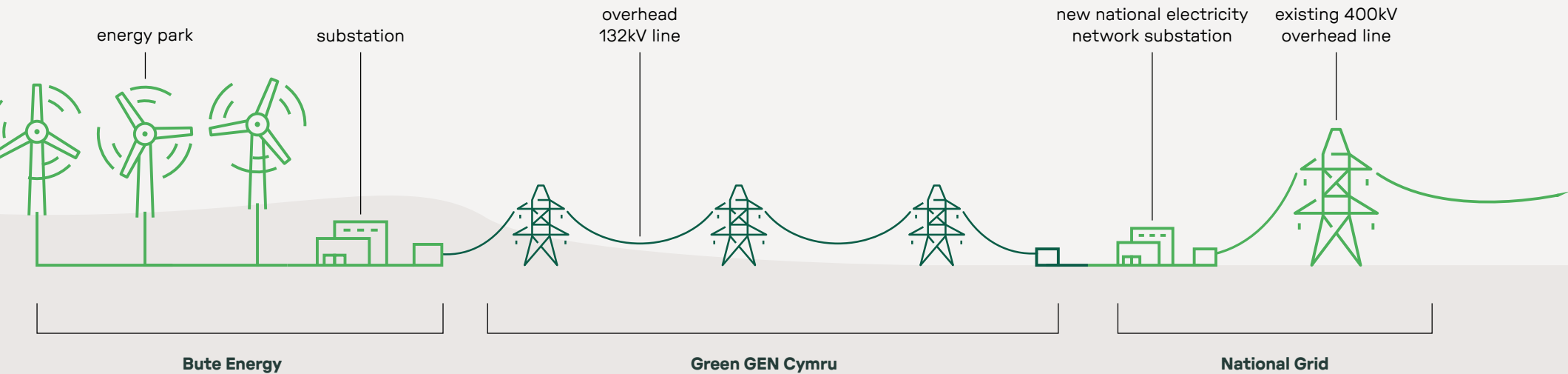
This new connection will help address the climate emergency that is affecting our livelihoods, landscapes, and wildlife by providing the necessary infrastructure to connect green energy to the grid, ready to supply homes and businesses.

We were pleased to share our proposals with stakeholders and communities during our first consultation in early 2024. We would like to thank everyone who attended events, provided feedback, and took part in the consultation.

We value the feedback provided by stakeholders and communities throughout the consultation process. Your insights and concerns are helping us understand the potential impacts of the proposals on the local community, environment, and economy.

We do recognise there are concerns about the potential effects of our proposals. It's clear you want us to carefully consider the visual effects of an overhead line, including on landscape, communities, local business and landowners.

This feedback summary gives an overview of the key questions and themes raised by you during our phase one consultation and outlines our approach to addressing your feedback as we move forward with the project.



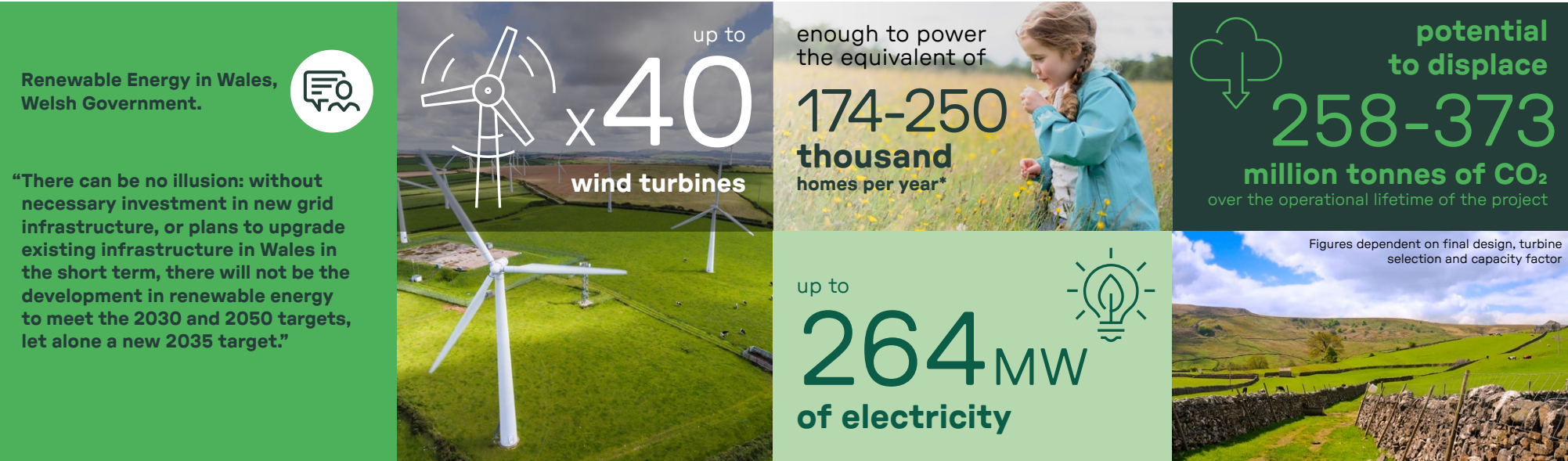
WHY WE NEED A NEW CONNECTION

Climate change is threatening our livelihoods, landscapes and wildlife.

The challenges of climate change are well recognised by the Welsh Government and local authorities in Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion. Both councils have declared climate emergencies and the effects of climate change are already being seen in the counties. We know that people have differing views on new infrastructure, and we recognise people have concerns about pylons featuring in the landscape. Delivering the infrastructure needed to address climate change requires a careful balance. We are focused on causing the least disturbance to the environment and those who live, work, and enjoy recreation close to our proposals.

The Welsh Government wants to accelerate the development of renewable energy as part of plans to address the climate emergency. As we move away from fossil fuels, new energy generation will be located where it can capture sustainable sources like wind, tidal and solar.

Meeting these challenges and delivering on these opportunities will result in a significant change in how energy is generated and connected in Wales.



*Average UK household consumption taken from RenewableUK
www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained/Statistics-Explained.htm

HOW WE'RE ADDRESSING THESE CHALLENGES

Generating more energy from renewable sources and reducing the use of fossil fuels is a key aim in addressing the climate emergency.

Renewable energy is being developed in new areas and the electricity grid will need to change to connect it to homes and businesses.

One of these new developments is Bute Energy's Lan Fawr Energy Park, which could potentially generate over 260MW of clean, green energy, enough to power the equivalent of between 174,000 and 250,000 homes.*

Green GEN Cymru's Towy Teifi project will connect Lan Fawr Energy Park to a newly proposed National Grid substation in Carmarthen. As the demand

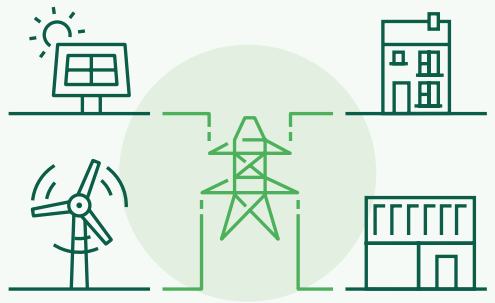
for low carbon energy continues to grow over the coming years, the Towy Teifi connection could be used to connect other local renewable energy projects to the grid in future.

The Towy Teifi project will help deliver our priorities – connecting clean energy quickly and efficiently to homes and businesses to help address the climate emergency.

The infrastructure we need to transition to a low carbon economy can also bring many benefits. It has the potential to create new skills and jobs, nationally and locally. And it will support the adoption of low carbon technologies in our homes and businesses.



Increasing renewable generation, reducing use of fossil fuels



New grid infrastructure to connect renewables to homes and businesses



Acting fast and delivering projects efficiently

*Average UK household consumption taken from RenewableUK www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained/Statistics-Explained.htm

OUR CONSULTATION

Our phase one consultation took place between 24 January – 6 March 2024. We continued to accept feedback until 13 March 2024.

The consultation asked for feedback on:

- Any factors you felt hadn't been considered in our work to date, including the identification of the preferred route.
- Any factors you wanted us to consider when developing our proposals for the preferred route.

We held stakeholder briefings, and public events in each of the five sections along the proposed route to speak with communities closest to the project.

It was a good opportunity to engage with numerous members of the community, providing us with a valuable opportunity to listen to your perspectives on our proposals.

During the consultation, we gathered useful feedback which will play an important role in shaping the project as it progresses.

Local knowledge is invaluable in helping us understand and mitigate any potential impacts of the project.



Event attendees

1206



Feedback submissions

995

To find out more, visit our website: www.greengentowyteifi.com

YOUR FEEDBACK

We want to thank everyone who submitted feedback to our phase one consultation. Your input helps us identify important factors to consider and influences the project’s evolution.

- We received feedback on a range of key issues. These include, but are not limited to, the potential visual impacts of an overhead line, Green GEN Cymru’s exploration of undergrounding options, potential impacts on tourism and the local economy.
- To give an overview of feedback submitted, we have provided a series of questions and answers, along with key themes that are currently under consideration.
- We will publish a comprehensive consultation report detailing all feedback received, outlining how each comment has been considered by our project team. This report will be accessible at our next consultation in 2025.

Q Why are you choosing to use pylons and an overhead line and not underground cables?

A We understand there are many differing opinions on pylons. There are areas all over Wales where landscape, agriculture, and tourism co-exist with pylons to create a thriving local economy.

There were concerns raised about the broader impacts of an overhead connection. Our investigations show that underground cables require more land and create more ground disturbance during construction. This could also lead to longer term ecological and environmental impacts. Using pylons will allow us to provide a new connection quickly, with minimal disruption to the land, allowing us to fight back against climate change as soon as we can.

We understand that people have different views on any new infrastructure projects. We will continue to develop our proposals carefully, looking to minimise visual impacts in communities where possible.

Q Why are you not proposing to deliver this project underground using a cable plough?

A We recognise the current interest in cable ploughing and continue to investigate its feasibility and cost.

We are working with industry experts to determine an accurate cost analysis for cable ploughing. So far, this has indicated the cost of cable ploughing the route is higher than an overhead line, mainly due to the additional complexity and construction requirements of underground cables.

While cable ploughing remains under consideration, we believe an overhead line offers the most viable and cost-effective option at this stage for delivering a connection quickly. Providing a new connection quickly is key if we’re to bring low carbon energy to homes and businesses as soon as possible.

Q How are you considering the social and economic impacts, particularly regarding tourism and recreation, associated with the overhead line proposal?

A We recognise the important role tourism and recreation play in the Teifi Valley and remain fully committed to delivering a proposal that minimises potential impacts on those who live, work and enjoy the local area.

Feedback collected during our phase one consultation is shaping the project through strengthening our understanding of the local area, highlighting any potential impacts on businesses and local communities.

To support our application for planning consent we will assess the social and economic impacts of the project, clearly detailing our plans for reducing any potential impacts.

Q What measures are in place to address concerns about the impact of the project on individual properties and communities?

A We have thoroughly reviewed all feedback submitted during the first consultation. We will use this to strengthen our understanding of the local area and seek to reduce any potential impacts on individual properties or communities.

Following thorough feedback analysis, we will publish a Consultation Report for the Towy Teifi Project. This report will provide details of the feedback received during the first round of consultation, showing how we have considered the issues raised. Publication of the Towy Teifi Consultation Report is planned for 2025.

In 2025 stakeholders and communities will have a further opportunity to provide feedback on our updated proposals at our second non statutory consultation.

Q How were visual impacts and community effects considered when determining the preferred route for the new connection in the Towy Teifi project?

A We carefully assessed options for the new connection with qualified landscape architects carrying out site visits in the local area to determine a preferred route that limited visual and community impacts as much as possible.

Our route selection assessments follow the Holford Rules, the established principles used for routeing overhead lines. This has assisted us in choosing a route that utilises natural backgrounds rather than sky backgrounds, using open valleys with wooded areas rather than areas of higher ground.

In line with these principles and balancing the other factors such as cultural heritage, ecology and cost, we feel the best option is to connect to a point near Carmarthen, with a route through the Teifi Valley, resulting in a total route length of approximately 52km.

Throughout the preferred route selection process, we have placed considerable emphasis on the importance of minimising visual impacts and effects on local communities within the Teifi Valley and beyond. This remains a key focus when analysing feedback.

Q Who are Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru?

A Green Generation Energy Networks Cymru (Green GEN Cymru) is a renewable energy business, aiming to promote, consent, and develop new grid infrastructure to distribute green energy. We’re playing a pivotal role in providing a reliable and robust distribution network that will tackle the energy crisis, climate crisis, as well as the cost-of-living crisis. We’re committed to empowering rural communities through investment, jobs, and skills, enabling communities to live modern electric lives.

Q How will the project be funded?

A There will be no public funds used. The Towy Teifi project will be wholly funded by Green GEN Cymru and its investors.

We have partnered with Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), whose long-term investment will allow us to accelerate the development of our portfolio and bring significant supply chain, certainty, and economic benefits to Wales. CIP globally manages over €16bn of energy infrastructure funds, focusing on the renewables sector.

KEY THEMES

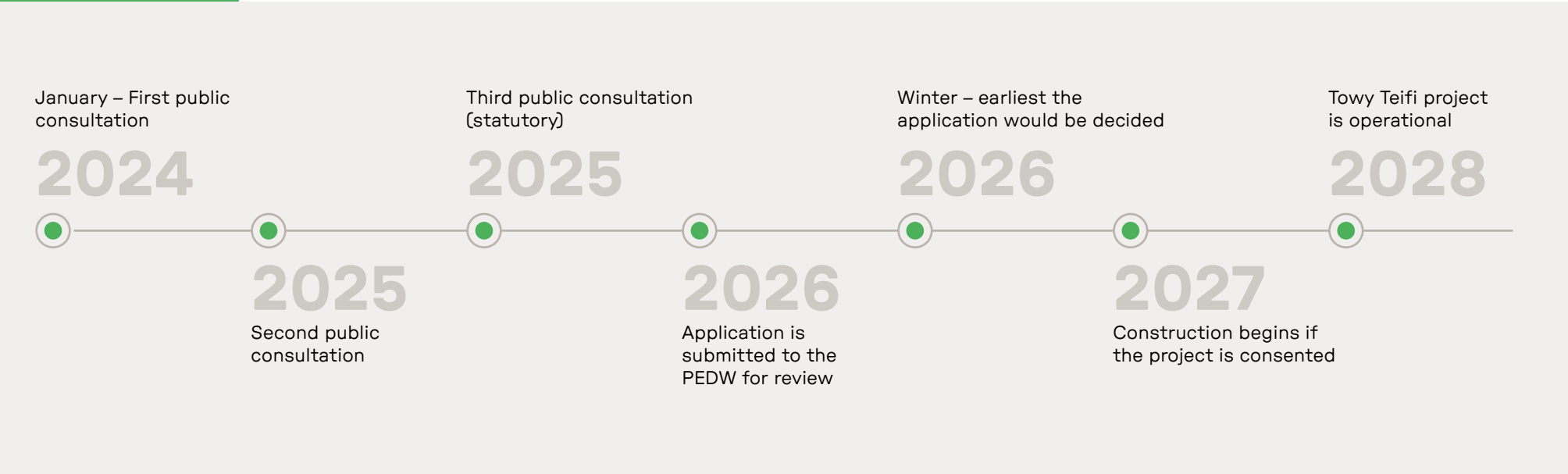
Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4	Section 5
Lan Fawr to Lampeter	Lampeter to Llanllwni	Llanllwni to Alltwalis	Alltwalis to Rhydargaeau	Rhydargaeau to Llandyfaelog

Topic	What you said	What we're doing
Section 1	You expressed concerns about the visual impact an overhead line would have on this section of the route and the potential effects on individual dwellings.	We understand people have concerns about the potential visual impacts of an overhead line on this section of the route. We are committed to delivering a proposal that reduces effects for all who live, work and enjoy the local area. When developing our initial proposals, we attempted to keep visual impacts as low as possible. This was done through selecting natural backgrounds rather than sky backgrounds and open valleys with wooded areas rather than areas of higher ground. Where possible, we will use screening from the valley and existing woodland to further reduce visual effects. No final decisions have been made on the preferred route or the position of pylons. We will continue to develop our plans using local feedback and further discussions with routeing experts to keep visual effects as low as we can.
Section 2	You wanted to know how the overhead line will interact with areas of historical importance in the area, especially All Saints' Church in Cellan and a nearby Bronze Age burial site.	When developing our proposals we actively seek to avoid areas of historical importance where possible. We recognise All Saints' Church and a nearby Bronze Age burial site both sit within our current route corridor as it passes through Cellan and nearby Pentrefelin. We understand the historical importance of these sites and their significance to many in the local community. We will continue to develop our proposals sensitively, looking to route away from these areas where possible.
Section 2	The feedback made clear that people in the area are worried about the potential impact an overhead line would have on tourism and the local economy in this section of the route.	We understand tourism plays a huge role in the local economy of the Teifi Valley and we understand people's concerns regarding our proposals. We are committed to delivering a connection that can coexist alongside the Teifi Valley's thriving tourism industry. During our first round of consultation, we received feedback from local businesses, including many within the tourism industry. This feedback is helping to strengthen our understanding of the local area as we continue to develop our proposals. When developing our proposals we actively seek to avoid tourist locations. As we develop our proposals, we will carefully consider where pylons are located to try and reduce visual impacts as much as possible.
Section 3	Some have suggested rerouting this section to the west of the A455 and the village of Alltwalis, to reduce potential visual impacts.	We are at an early stage of the project and no final decisions have been made on our preferred route. We are carefully considering feedback from our phase one consultation which will play an important role in developing our plans. We are carefully reviewing how Section 3 of the proposed route best compares with alternative routes identified by our Environmental and Technical team and are committed to identifying a preferred route that minimises visual impacts on local communities. Further details on updates to the preferred route will be provided at our next consultation in 2025.

Topic	What you said	What we're doing
Section 4	People are concerned about the potential impact this section of the route could have on a Marsh Fritillary priority habitat area.	We are aware of the presence of Marsh Fritillary butterfly habitats in this section of the route and aim to minimise environmental impacts where possible, while also looking to support biodiversity throughout the lifetime of the project. The project's environmental impact will be assessed as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). This will assess the potential environmental impacts of our proposals, together with how we plan to reduce or limit these impacts. This will be reported in the Environmental Statement that is submitted as part of our application for planning permission. We are working closely with specialist bodies, local environment groups, landowners and local communities to discuss our findings and consult on how best to manage any potential impacts.
Section 5	There are concerns about the potential visual impacts of pylons on this area of the route, especially between Rhydargaeau and White Mill.	We understand some have concerns about the visual impact of our proposals in Section 5 of the route. We are committed to delivering a preferred route that works for all and where possible, we will try to balance the effects on individual properties, using screening from the valley and existing woodland. We are talking to industry experts and local communities and will use feedback to help identify an option in Section 5 that reduces visual effects on individual properties where possible.
EMFs	You have concerns about Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) associated with being near an 132kV overhead line.	There are strict limits in place to protect us all against exposure from EMFs. These limits are based on careful scientific reviews conducted by independent experts, who recommend safe levels of exposure for the public and workers. The exposure limit for members of the public is 360 microtesla, so even directly underneath the overhead line the levels are just a small fraction of the limit. After many decades of research and hundreds of millions of pounds spent investigating the issue, there are no established health effects below the exposure limits. For further information on EMFs please visit. www.emfs.info
Routeing requests	Many of you suggested alternatives to the route at various sections.	Thank you to those who made alternative suggestions to parts of the route. All alternative route suggestions will be considered by our routeing team against the Holford rules, visual effects, environmental features, technical feasibility, and cost. Feedback received will also be considered to inform an alignment for the pylons.
Undergrounding	Many expressed a preference for part or the whole of the proposed route to be undergrounded.	We are currently proposing an overhead line for the Towy Teifi project. Overhead lines are a proven, reliable method for developing connection projects quickly – this is key if we're to bring low carbon energy to homes and businesses as soon as possible. As we continue to review project feedback, we will assess if any part of the connection needs to be placed underground, for example in highly constrained or particularly sensitive areas.

Topic	What you said	What we're doing
Low carbon energy	<i>In your feedback you expressed concerns about the need for low carbon technology.</i>	Climate change is already being felt in Wales and we are fully committed to working with the Welsh Government to accelerate the development of renewable energy and its associated infrastructure. As we move away from fossil fuels, new energy generation will be located where it can capture sustainable sources like wind, tidal and solar. If consented, our proposals will aid Lan Fawr Energy Park in delivering 264MW of electricity into the local energy grid, enough to power the equivalent of 174,000 – 251,000* homes per year. We feel investment in low carbon infrastructure is crucial to tackling climate change, modernising the electricity grid whilst making a significant contribution to the UK and Welsh Government's aspirations for Net Zero by 2050.
Construction	<i>You asked us if we could provide further details of our proposals at consultation, including visualisations of how the pylons may look in the landscape.</i>	We are at a very early stage of our proposals for the Towy Teifi connection. Our initial consultation helped gather feedback to inform the project. We will share further details of the route, alongside proposed pylon locations, and information about construction at the next phase of consultation. Thank you to those who provided feedback on what they would like to see at consultation. We will take these suggestions into consideration and see how these can be included at our next consultation in 2025.

Project timeline



*Average UK household consumption taken from RenewableUK www.renewableuk.com/page/UKWEExplained/Statistics-Explained.htm

NEXT STEPS

Your feedback on the consultation has given us lots of valuable information which will all be considered as we develop the project.



Working with landowners

Our dedicated lands team is currently collaborating with landowners directly impacted by the proposals. We will maintain ongoing engagement with landowners leading up to the next consultation in 2025.

If you are a landowner who has not yet been contacted by our lands team, please reach out using the contact details provided on the back page.



Consultation report

We will compile a comprehensive consultation report detailing all the feedback we have received and how each comment is being considered. This report will be accessible during our next consultation.



Stakeholder engagement

We will maintain close collaboration with our stakeholders throughout the project, providing regular updates on its progress.



Routeing and pylon placement

We will proceed with refining the routeing, taking into account all of the feedback we have received. Additionally, we have commenced the process of determining suitable locations for the pylons. Further details on both aspects will be provided during the next consultation.



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