

# GREEN GEN TOWY TEIFI

## Frequently Asked Questions

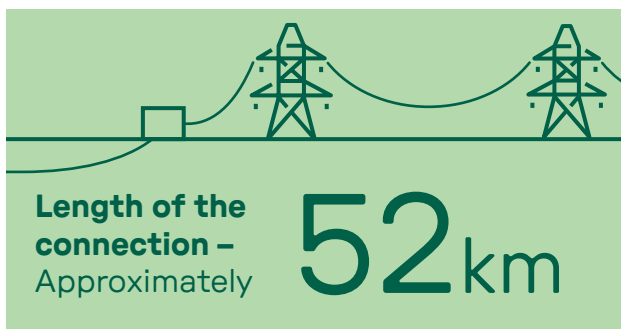
Green GEN Cymru is proposing a new overhead line through the Teifi Valley to connect clean, green energy to the existing electricity network near Carmarthen.

In order to address the climate emergency, we need new grid infrastructure that is able to connect renewable energy projects to homes and businesses across Wales and England. This is needed urgently to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

We are committed to minimising any potential impacts on the local community and surrounding area. Below you can find some frequently asked questions and answers on the project to provide further information on our proposals.

**Q** How long will the overhead line be and how many pylons will you use?

**A** We expect the total length of the overhead line to be approximately 52 kilometres, which is roughly 31 miles. We anticipate that we'll need to use around four pylons per kilometre. We are at an early stage of project development and our proposals are still open to change following consultation feedback, stakeholder guidance and our own further assessments. We expect to have more information, including details of where pylons would be located, at our second consultation in 2025.



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

**A** Pylons feature in many areas in Wales where landscape, agriculture and tourism are thriving parts of the local economy – electrical infrastructure and these activities co-exist in lots of places. Underground cables are typically between 6 and 10 times more expensive than overhead lines. Underground cables require more land and create more ground disturbance during construction, which has the potential to produce more significant ecological and archaeological impacts. Overhead lines can also be developed more quickly – and providing the new connection quickly is key if we're to bring low carbon energy to homes and businesses as soon as possible. We know that people have differing views on new infrastructure, and we recognise people have concerns about pylons featuring in the landscape. We will continue to develop our proposals carefully to keep any visual effects as low as we can.

**Q Could you use wood poles for the connection instead?**

**A** To provide sufficient capacity for all of the low carbon energy proposed we need two 132kV circuits. Wood poles can only carry a single circuit so using wood poles would require multiple connections to connect the same amount of electricity. This could create visual effects over a larger area.

**Q Are you considering alternative routes?**

**A** We believe that the preferred route we have identified is the best option based on the information we have available. We looked at different route options based on the location of the proposed new energy park and where we need to connect to the existing electricity network. We assessed all the options and compared them to one another to identify which option on balance had the overall least effects. We will continue to assess effects carefully as we develop a connection design, including where pylons and other equipment could sit in the local landscape. This will include surveys and consultation with landowners, communities and specialist bodies. You can read more about the options we considered and how we assessed them in our Routeing and Consultation report on our website.

**Q How wide is the preferred route**

**A** The preferred route is approximately 200 metres wide. The width of pylons is significantly less than this – approximately seven metres – so there is a lot of flexibility in where we place the pylons when seeking to keep effects as low as we can.

**Q How will the project benefit and impact the local economy?**

**A** Bute Energy is committed to investing in the communities closest to their projects and will be extending the fund to those who live close to the grid connections for their energy parks, including Towy Teifi. We are still at an early stage of project development, but we will be providing opportunities to Welsh supply chains wherever possible. As part of our planning application, we will also assess the project's impact on business and employment. This will include a socio-economic and community report, which will consider how the project could affect these areas and whether any mitigation is required and how this will be delivered.

**Q How will the project be funded?**

**A** The Towy Teifi connection will be 100% funded by the Bute Energy Group. There will be no public funds used.

**Q Who will benefit from the energy that is provided?**

**A** The Towy Teifi connection will take power from where it is generated, to the transmission network in Carmarthen where it can then be distributed via the national grid, locally and nationally.

**Q How will the project impact the environment and biodiversity?**

**A** A changing climate is having a dramatic effect on plants and animals – protecting biodiversity is one of the key drivers for moving away from fossil fuels. Meeting the needs of the natural world with the infrastructure we need to address climate change requires careful balance. Developing large infrastructure will always have effects on the environment, but it can also be an opportunity to invest in and enhance biodiversity. We will seek to keep any effects on biodiversity as low as we can in the decisions we make. We will comply with current guidelines in Wales on achieving a net benefit for biodiversity within the area. By working closely with the relevant stakeholders, we will work to deliver an environmental benefit that goes above and beyond these requirements – we are committed to achieving at least 10% net gain in biodiversity compared to today.

**Q How will you manage the environmental impact of the project?**

**A** We are committed to keeping the environmental impact of our proposals as low as we can. The project's environmental impact will be assessed as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on our final design for the overhead line and substation. This will investigate 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 will also work closely with specialist bodies, local environment groups, landowners and local communities to discuss our findings and consult on our recommendations for how best to manage any potential impacts.

**Q How do you plan to manage construction traffic on local roads and what transport routes do you intend to use?**

**A** We are committed to causing the least disturbance we can to those living and working in the areas affected by our proposals. We will take advice from technical stakeholders and consider the project's impact on local roads as part of a traffic and transport assessment, which is a requirement of the process we will follow to submit a planning application. This will include how we plan to manage construction traffic, including any potential impacts. We recognise the importance of maintaining connectivity between nearby towns and villages and we will ensure that our work does not make it difficult for those living and working in the area.

**Q Will the overhead line emit any noise?**

**A** High-voltage overhead lines can sometimes generate noise, under certain conditions. This often sounds like either a crackle or humming sound and occurs mainly during wet weather. Noise may also arise as a result of wind blowing past the line or pylons. Any potential noise impacts will be considered as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). We will always ensure that the design of the overhead line and substation carefully considers any impacts on the local community.

**Q What are electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) and are they safe?**

**A** Electric Magnetic Fields (EMFs) are produced whenever electricity is used or transmitted. Household wiring, appliances and electricity supply are all sources. So, they are around us all the time in modern life. Overhead lines are a source, but just one of many. The maximum possible exposure under the overhead line is 38.9 microtesla, which is similar to what you would expect from using a hairdryer or walking close to a microwave when it's cooking. There are limits in place to protect us all against EMF exposure. These limits have been based on careful reviews of the science by independent experts, who recommend safe levels of exposure for the public. The exposure limit for members of the public is 360 microtesla, so even if you are standing 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. More information is available at [www.emfs.info](http://www.emfs.info)

**Q How will you support those that are likely to be directly impacted by the project?**

**A** The preferred route does cross through areas of agricultural land and there are individual properties nearby. We understand that those affected by our current proposals including homeowners and landowners could have concerns. We're committed to ensuring that any impacts are mitigated as much as possible and are keen for those most affected to give us their feedback. Our lands team are available to meet with homeowner and landowners. If you have an interest in land affected by our proposals and have not yet been contacted by our land team, please get in touch.



enough to power  
the equivalent of

**174-250**  
**thousand**  
**homes per year**

**Q How will you compensate landowners that have equipment on their land?**





**A** We are at an early stage of development on this project and no final decisions have been made on where the overhead line or pylons will go within the preferred route. This is our first round of consultation, and we are asking for feedback on the work we have done to date and how we should further develop our proposals. It is important that people respond to this consultation and tell us their concerns so we can work to reduce the effects on communities and individual properties. Once we have refined our proposals, we will work with landowners affected to discuss how we can support them. We will work hard to reduce impacts on individual properties but if the final design does impact your property, we will discuss what compensation is available to you in line with current legislation.

**Q When will the project be completed?**

**A** We are at a very early stage of the project, but if we are granted planning permission, we anticipate that the line will be operational by 2028.

**Q What is Green Gen Cymru's plan at the National Grid substation?**

**A** Green Gen Cymru is proposing a new 132kV collector substation at the Llandyfaelog location near Carmarthen, which will connect to a new National Grid 400kV substation. The exact location for the Green Gen Cymru substation has not yet been decided. The plans for this substation will be included in the DNS application for the Towy Usk grid connection project. We hope to share more details, including the location at the second round of consultation.

<p><b>standard height of pylons</b></p> <p><b>27<sub>m</sub></b></p> 	<p><b>Width of preferred route</b></p> <p><b>200<sub>m</sub></b></p> 
<p><b>enough to power up to <b>264</b> MW of electricity</b></p> 	<p><b>Length of construction period – Approximately <b>2</b> years</b></p> 

	<a href="http://www.greengen.towyteifi.com">www.greengen.towyteifi.com</a>		<a href="mailto:info@greengen.towyteifi.com">info@greengen.towyteifi.com</a>		0800 915 2496		FREEPOST Green GEN Cymru TT
--	--	--	--	--	---------------	--	-----------------------------------

