

RHOSSILI COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ATLANTIC ARRAY – PROPOSED OFFSHORE WIND FARM BETWEEN US AND LUNDY



Rhossili Community Council has received a Statement of Community Consultation from RWE npower renewables concerning the Atlantic Array Offshore Wind Farm. This is a proposed 1,500MW farm (enough to supply 1.1 million households) in the Bristol Channel, set 13km from Lundy and 16km from the Welsh coast. It will comprise up to 417 turbines up to 220 metres high (higher than Lundy) and associated paraphernalia that will be visible from Rhossili, Carmarthen Bay and much of Gower, especially the scenic South Gower coast. Formal public consultation started on 10 September and ends on 10 November 2011. A planning application will be made in autumn 2012.

Dates have just been announced of public exhibition events in Wales, where everyone can see details and sketches of the proposal, ask questions, and gather information.

Date	Time	Venue
Wednesday 21st September	12pm to 8pm	The Grand Pavilion, The Esplanade, Porthcawl CF36 3YW
Thursday 22nd September	12pm to 8pm	Fourwinds Hotel, Princess Margaret Way, Port Talbot SA12 6QW
Friday 23rd September	12pm to 8pm	North Gower Hotel, Llanrhidian, North Gower, SA3 1EE
Saturday 24th September	10am to 5pm	Civic Centre, Oystermouth Rd, Swansea, SA1 9SD
Tuesday 27th September	12pm to 8pm	Stradey Park Hotel, Furnace, Llanelli SA15 4HA
Wednesday 28th September	12pm to 8pm	Fourcroft Hotel, North Beach, Tenby, SA70 8AP
Thursday 29th September	12pm to 8pm	Cleddau Bridge Hotel, Essex Road, Pembroke Dock SA72 6EG

Following the exhibition, the Community Council has arranged a special meeting for the village to discuss and debate the proposal before it makes any formal response by the end of the consultation period.

Date	Time	Venue
Tuesday 4th October	7.15pm	Village Hall, Rhossili

Information should be available in hardcopy at the public exhibitions; also at Oystermouth and Pennard libraries; by post from Atlantic Array OWF, RWE npower renewables, Auckland House, Lydiard Fields, Great Western Way, Swindon, SN5 8ZT; or phone 01793 474100; or look online at www.npower-renewables.com/atlanticarray

A page will be set up on www.gowercc.org.uk to provide us locally with links and more information. Please check for latest details there, or email the Clerk on rhossilicc@gmail.com. We will try to gather displays and information to make available at the Village Hall.

We look forward to discussing with you at the Village Hall meeting on 4th October.

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Project details extracted from the Consultation Guide:

The Atlantic Array project is made up of the following components:

- construction of between 188 and 417 offshore wind turbines and their foundations
- construction of up to 5 offshore electricity substations
- construction of up to 5 offshore meteorological monitoring masts and their foundations. The masts collect information such as wind speeds and wind direction at the site
- construction of up to 3 offshore accommodation platforms for operations and maintenance personnel
- cables buried in the sea bed to link the wind turbines and the offshore substations
- up to 10 sub-sea export cables linking the offshore substations to the onshore infrastructure at Cornborough Range west of Bideford, approximately 2km from Westward Ho!
- construction of an onshore electricity substation near Alverdiscott, Bideford, and up to 10 underground onshore cables to connect from Cornborough Range to Alverdiscott
- construction of an extension to the existing National Grid 400kV substation near Alverdiscott, Bideford. This will be constructed, owned and operated by National Grid.

All turbines and associated offshore structures will be located within the site boundary (Fig.1)

The exact number of wind turbines which will be installed will not be decided until after the proposal is awarded consent. Currently being considered are wind turbines which range from 3.6MW to 8MW. The blade tip height of the turbines currently being considered is in the range of 165 to 220 metres above Lowest Astronomical Tide (LAT). Up to 417 of the smallest turbines would be required to produce the maximum 1,500 MW, up to 188 of the largest would be required to produce the maximum 1,500 MW. The wind farm design will need to be flexible as we [they] do not know which wind turbines will be available to purchase when we [they] come to construct the wind farm, if we [they] gain planning permission.

If consent is granted, offshore construction will take up to 72 months to complete. Construction of the onshore cable route will be carried out in one phase but the Atlantic Array onshore substation may be constructed in up to three phases to fit in with the offshore construction timetable. The construction phases may not be continuous.

The wind farm will be designed with an operational life of 25 years. At the end of this period, the wind farm may be decommissioned and the turbines removed from the site. Alternatively we [they] may seek a new planning permission to replace the turbines and infrastructure. This would be subject to further consultation, in line with the requirements of the planning regime in effect at the time



SECURITY UPDATE FOR RHOSSILI RESIDENTS

You may have seen the poster on the Community Council noticeboards warning about thieving in and around Rhossili during the summer months. This is mostly opportunistic, targeting cars, caravan parks, money boxes and outbuildings, and has not been in homes. At the last Community Council meeting we discussed ways to combat crime and to ensure we have adequate policing.

Please help to reduce the opportunity for crime and keep Rhossili safe:

- Make sure you lock your car, and safeguard valuable items
- If you see something suspicious, record car details and registration numbers
- Report all crime to the police so that they know how much activity there is – dial 101

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