



Planning • Heritage

Specialist & Independent Advisors to the Property Industry

Mynydd y Betws Wind Farm

Client

Cambrian Renewable Energy Ltd

Location

Ammanford, Carmarthenshire,
Wales

Services Provided

Historic Buildings

Date of Completion

June 2009

Key Issues

Review of Environmental
Statement and SEI

Expert Witness at Appeal



CgMs provided expert witness at appeal in respect of cultural heritage and archaeological matters on behalf of Cambrian Renewable Energy Ltd. A 16 turbine scheme with associated plant and infrastructure was proposed. CgMs was approached in relation to the public inquiry in February 2008. The Environmental Statement and associated SEI was reviewed and further to onsite analysis, historical background research and consideration of local and national planning policy and guidance, CgMs felt satisfied in principle that the proposed windfarm would not have an unacceptable impact on the historic environment and agreed to defend the scheme at appeal.

A variety of issues were tackled including the impact on the setting of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the importance of views between Carreg Cennen Castle (over 8km north of the proposal site) and Penlle'r Castel, a castle ruin on the proposal site. CgMs argued that there would be negligible harm to the historic environment arising from the wind farm and that the positive impacts arising from the proposals outweighed any, limited, adverse effects.

The appeal was granted and the Inspector found, in respect of Carreg Cennen Castle, that 'the turbines might be a distraction in the view, but they would not prevent a person perceiving the nature of the view from the castle across the open hillside prior to the erection of the turbines'. He also concluded that 'the existence of the turbines on the site does not prevent views between the turbines of other features in the landscape. To that extent the effect on the inter-visibility of one monument to another would not be significantly harmed'.

It was concluded that the proposal should be granted permission subject to conditions mitigating any harm that might arise.

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