

Hearing Session 15A &15B

Errata to the Powys Renewable Energy Assessment 2017

In response to Action Point 2, the following corrections have been made:

Deletions are shown ~~thus~~

Additions are shown thus

Pages 26-27

5 Biomass Energy Resource

5.2 Constraints to biomass energy resource

“...., consideration has be~~en~~en given to the spatial constraints.....”

5.3 Energy Crops

5.3.1 Usable land and crop yield

“The principal constraint to harvesting energy crops across the Powys local planning authority area is the availability of suitable agricultural land. ~~So as not to conflict with the growing of food crops, t~~This study has assumed that energy crops can only be potentially grown on agricultural land of Grade 4, and which is not constrained by environmental or historical protected areas.

The majority (95%) of agricultural land across the Powys LPA area is classified as either Grade 4 or 5, the latter likely being unsuitable for growing energy crops. ~~The exclusion of ALC Grade 5 land means there is reduced likelihood of overlap with other uses such as for Solar PV farms (for which we have assumed only ALC Grade 5 land is used).~~

Based on the above constraints.....[no edits]

For this assessment it is then assumed that only 10% of the suitable land area identified for energy crops could actually be planted with energy crops. This reflects a range of factors including, for example, competition with other crops, livestock grazing, solar PV farms as well as unsuitable topography. Therefore the total usable area of land for energy crops across Powys LPA area is 198.93km².

AECOM comment:

As it is assumed that only 10% of the suitable land area identified will be utilised for energy crops, we believe it to be a reasonable assumption that this will not overlap with the area of land that might come forward for solar PV farm development: therefore the contributions, maps and policies are unaffected.

Whilst it is noted in Table 8 that there is potential to grow enough energy crop to generate 39.79MWe, you may wish to note that, due to there being no sufficiently large or viable demand for heat identified, and the assumption that energy crops would be utilised in biomass CHP units, Tables 31 and 32 state no additional contribution from energy crops within the Plan period: the contributions cannot therefore be affected by any changes to generation from solar PV farms.

NB. Footnotes are not shown in this Errata

8 Solar PV Farms

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8.2.3 Step 3

Map Reference & Title: S3 – Solar PV Farm Resource Available

At this stage of the assessment, land slivers, fire breaks and tracks, ~~as well as~~ *are treated as* parcels of land insufficient to support a solar PV farm of 5MW or more *and* are removed from the maps. Land of *Agricultural* Grades 1 *and 2* -4 has been constrained and only land of *Agricultural* Grades 3, 4 and 5, ~~Agricultural Land Classification~~ *has been* considered for use for solar PV farms.

'Stand-alone' PV farms >5MW must be appropriately sited. However, with the large number of potential sites and areas of *relatively* low grade land within the Powys local planning authority, the aim of this constraint is to protect the best and most versatile agricultural land (*Grades 1 and 2*).

AECOM Comment:

The correction of the text of the REA in relation to Step 3 means the REA text now aligns with the mapping methodology which was undertaken and therefore there is no change to the evidence base as presented by Solar Maps S1 – S9.

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8.2.9 Step 9

Map Reference & Title: S9 – Solar PV Farm Cumulative Impact

Utilising the prioritised sites, a theoretical build out exercise has been undertaken by AECOM. *Considering only the technology and* ~~S~~ starting with the largest Priority 1 site, a 3.5km buffer has been applied to each new *theoretical* solar PV farm to avoid cumulative impact. The exercise continues using the next highest priority site until all sites are 'theoretically developed'. Maps show the remaining *solar PV farm* ~~wind development sites~~ *search areas* on completion of the exercise.

Table 1: Maximum potential solar PV farm resource (~~G~~*MWh* per degree of *landscape* sensitivity) for the Powys LPA area.

Appendix B: Biomass Energy Resource Methodology

The detailed data sources and assumptions can be found in the table below:

AECOM Comment: only relevant part of Table shown

Constraint Category	Constraints
Environmental and Heritage	Grades 1, 2, 3a & 5 Agricultural Land
	National Forest
	Scheduled Monuments [CADW]
	National Nature Reserves
	Special Areas of Conservation [SAC]
	Special Protection Areas [SPA]
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]

Appendix D: Solar PV Farms

The detailed data sources and assumptions can be found in the table below:

AECOM Comment: only relevant part of Table shown

Constraint Category	Constraints	Buffer for LSA (m)	Constraint Dataset	Source	Date of Publication	Comment
Environmental	National Nature Reserves					
	RAMSAR Sites					
	Special Areas of Conservation [SAC]					
	Special Protection Areas [SPA]					
	Sites of Special Scientific Interest [SSSI]					
	Broad Leaved Woodland [based on National Forest Inventory]					
	Local Nature Reserves					
	<u>Land of Agricultural Land Classification Grades 1 & 2</u>	<u>Extent only</u>	<u>Provisional ALC 250k</u>	<u>WG</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>Welsh Government Cartographics</u>

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