

Our visit to Pen Y Cymoedd Wind Farm

A small group of our Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth group visited Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm on the 26 September 2025. We wanted to find out about the peat restoration work that is going on at the wind farm, and also more generally learn about the site.

The wind farm has 76 wind turbines and at peak output can generate up to 228 MW - enough electricity to meet the domestic needs of 188,000 homes per annum. This is about 15% of the electricity demand from Wales' households. The site is at the moment the largest and highest wind farm in both England and Wales.

The site is located on land managed by Natural Resources Wales within Rhondda Cynon Taf and Neath Port Talbot. Vattenfall, the company running the site, agreed to contribute £1.8m annually to a community fund and to invest £3m in a habitat restoration scheme. The community fund is independent and decides how to spend the money for the local area: <https://penycymoeddcic.cymru/home/>.

We were very lucky to get a guided tour from Gareth from NRW who leads the habitat work. He explained how some of the Sitka Spruce plantation has been felled, and how the work is progressing to restore peatland habitat. For this the drainage channels need to be blocked up, and the stumps need to be taken out, and inserted back into the ground upside down. The ground is then flattened to allow for moisture to build up, and after a few years the sphagnum mosses and other plants forming the peat start growing. We saw some sites that looked very promising already, and some where the work had just started. One challenge within the next few years will be to restrict the regrowth of spruce as well as the growth of other trees, and NRW is considering conservation grazing for this.

We also learned about the wind turbines, and how favourable the site is with sufficient wind, good connectivity and buy in from the local communities. The site started operating in 2017 and has planning permission to operate for 25 years. Hopefully it will be possible to extend the life span of the wind farm.

It was very impressive to walk amongst the turbines, and listen to the gentle hum of the wind against the blades. We felt the site to be very peaceful, and full of wildlife. We saw lots of buzzards and kestrels, as well as a number of peat plants and wild flowers. The site has numerous water voles.







