

Developments of National Significance Annual Report. December 2022 – December 2023.

Background

1. Developments of National Significance (“DNS”) comprise infrastructure projects of national importance. As required by section 62D of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the Planning Act”), DNS planning applications are made to the Welsh Ministers.
2. Section 62L (2) of the Planning Act requires the Welsh Ministers to determine DNS planning applications before the end of the prescribed determination period, which is 36 weeks beginning with the date on which the DNS application is accepted by the Welsh Ministers.
3. Section 62L (5) of the Planning Act provides the Welsh Ministers with the power to issue a notice to (a) suspend the running of the determination period in a particular case for a period specified in the notice and (b) terminate, reduce or extend an existing period of suspension.
4. Section 62L (8) of the Planning Act requires the Welsh Ministers to lay before the National Assembly for Wales (now Senedd Cymru) an annual report on their compliance with the duty imposed by section 62L (2) and the exercise of their functions under section 62L (5).
5. This report comprises the annual report required by section 62L (8) of the Planning Act.
6. The Welsh Ministers determined 5 DNS planning applications between December 2022 and December 2023. All applications were decided within the statutory determination period. Suspension powers were used for each of the applications. Details are provided in the attached Annex.
7. The Welsh Ministers also issued decisions to refuse 2 solar farm schemes (“Wentlooge Solar Farm” - CAS-01772-Z5P5D2 and “Rush Wall Solar Farm”- DNS/3220457). However, these decisions were quashed by the courts and the applications will need to be redetermined by the Welsh Ministers.

Annex

DNS Determinations, December 2022 – December 2023.

DNS planning application	Decision	Decision made within 36 week determination period?	Total no. of weeks taken to determine (excluding any suspension period)	Suspension powers used?	Reason for suspension
Penpergwm Solar Farm	Granted – 16/01/2023	Yes	35 weeks 4 days	Yes	To allow submission and consultation on additional information.
Rhoscrowther Wind Farm	Granted – 16/01/2023	Yes	36 weeks	Yes	To allow submission and consultation on additional information.
Parc Solar Anglesey	Granted – 17/03/2023	Yes	36 weeks	Yes	To allow submission and consultation on additional information. To allow further time to consider the Inspector's report.
Bretton Hall Solar Farm	Granted – 19/12/2023	Yes	36 weeks	Yes	To allow further time to consider the Inspector's report.

Maesmawr Solar Farm – land between Church Village and Treforest Ind. Est.	Granted – 21/12/2023	Yes	35 weeks 5 days	Yes	To allow submission and consultation on additional information. To allow further time to consider the Inspector's report.
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