Fferm Wynt
Foel Fach
Wind Farm

Pre-application Consultation

A young person's guide

Scan the QR code to find out more.

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Coriolis Energy

ESB energy

Welcome

How Foel Fach Wind Farm could look from Cae'r Garreg

Welcome to our consultation on the proposed Foel Fach Wind Farm.

You may have heard about our plans for Foel Fach Wind Farm already. At the end of 2024 we shared our early plans for the wind farm with local people and asked what they thought. Lots of people have spoken to us and told us useful information.

Since then, we have been developing our plans and we're nearly ready to apply for planning permission to build the wind farm. Before we apply for planning permission, we need to speak to local people again, this is called a Pre-application Consultation.

Between **15 December 2025 and 9 February 2026** we're asking people to tell us what they think of our plans.

Read this booklet to learn more.

Who are we?

This project is being developed by Coriolis Energy and ESB in partnership.

Coriolis Energy is an experienced, professional wind energy developer, which has delivered projects around the UK which are bringing benefits to both communities and the environment.

ESB is Ireland's main energy company and is a leading power generator in the UK.

Since we started our assessments, we have made changes to our plans because of what we've learned:

The number of turbines has **reduced** from 11 to 10.

One turbine has been **moved** to reduce the potential visual impact from Bala.

Four turbines have been **reduced in height** from 220m to 200m to minimise potential visual impact from Eryri National Park.

About the consultation

Meet us

We want to help you to understand about renewable energy and our plans for Foel Fach Wind Farm.

We may come to your school and talk to your class. We are holding community exhibitions where anyone living in the area can come and find out more, see a digital model of what the wind farm could look like, ask us about our plans and tell us what they think.

You can also see the information on our website and fill in a feedback form online.

The exhibition events will be held at:

3pm – 7pm 15 January 2026
Neuadd Mynach Cwmtirmynach, Bala LL23 7EB

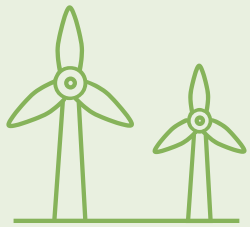
3pm – 7pm 16 January 2026
Canolfan Henblas 22-24 High St, Bala LL23 7AG

10am – 2pm 17 January 2026
Neuadd Sarnau Bala LL23 7LG

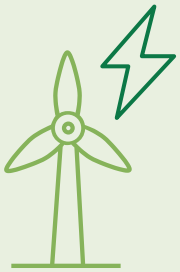
Why is this important to me?

We should all be Global citizens. Global citizens are informed about things which affect their local and global community, take action and work with others.

Key facts



Up to 10 turbines



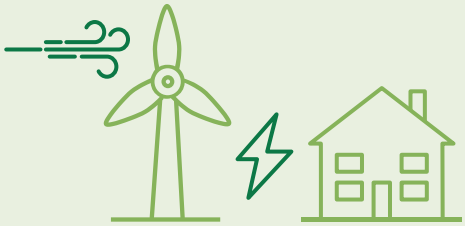
Up to **72 MW** of renewable electricity

Enough to power **over 68,700 homes**.[1]

Up to **£576,000** Community Benefit Funding every year

Community shares with Community Energy Wales

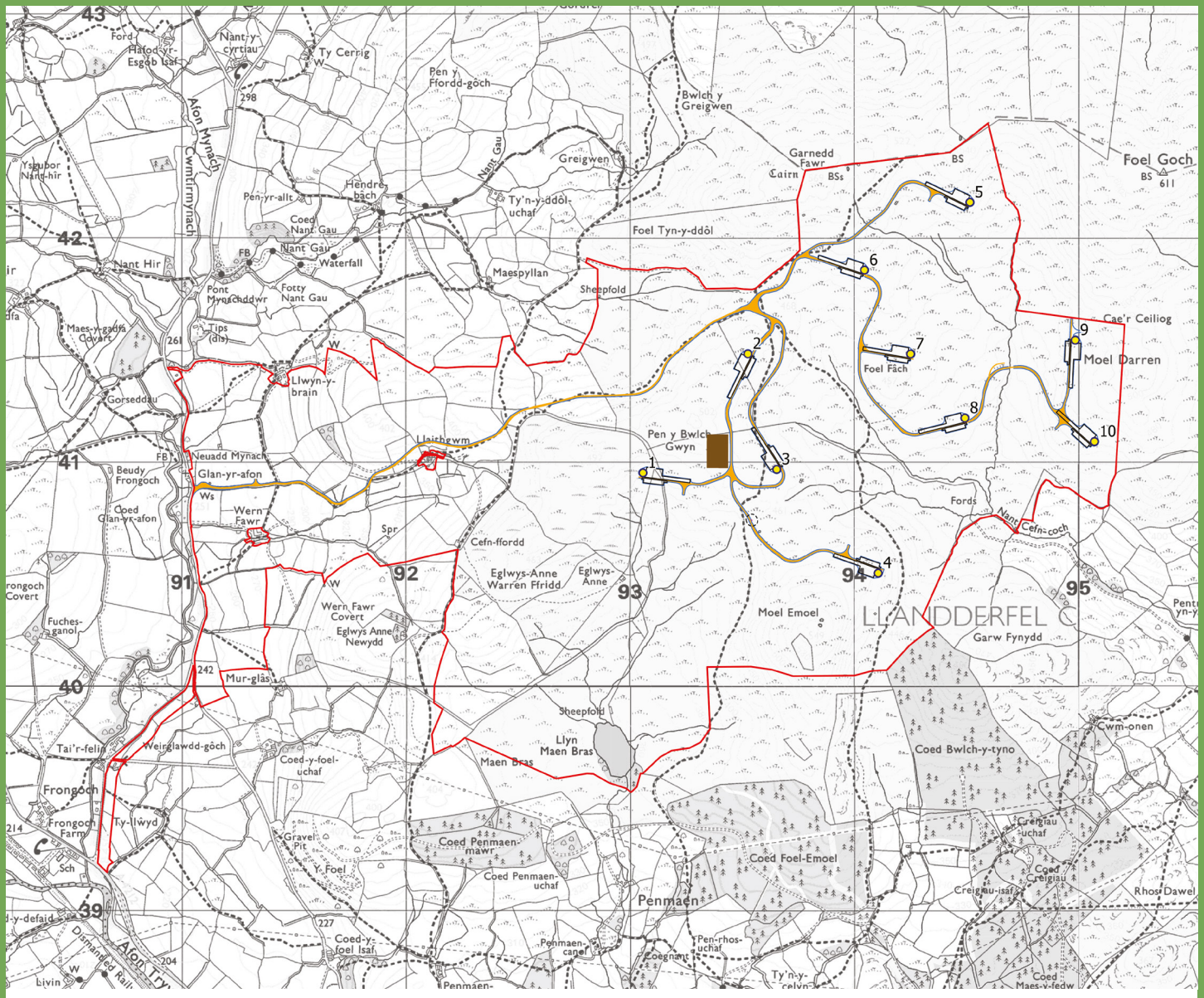
Habitat management and biodiversity improvements



40 year lifetime

[1] See www.foelfach.cymru/en

The site for **Foel Fach Wind Farm** is about 3.5 km north of Y Bala.



Legend

- *Turbine*
- *Site boundary*
- *LiDAR Compound*
- *Hardstands*
- *Tracks*
- *Verges*
- *Substation and BESS*

Community benefits

Community Benefit Fund

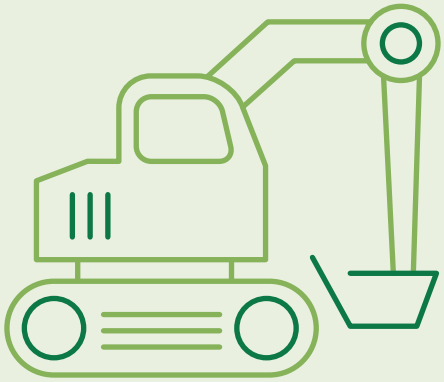
When we build a wind farm, the local community receives money. This is called a Community Benefit Fund.

We are excited to offer a Community Benefit Fund of **£8,000 per MW** per year. This would be £567,000 per year which can be spent on local good causes. We are already working with local people who would decide how best to spend the money. It could go on clubs, parks, activities, or improving buildings.

Local businesses

Lots of businesses are needed to help build a wind farm, from diggers, cranes, engineers and fencing, to hotels for people who are working on the site and even portaloos!

If our planning application is successful, we will be looking for local companies to help build the wind farm.



Shared ownership

The Welsh Government wants all new energy projects to be shared with local organisations.

We are pleased to be working in partnership with **Community Energy Wales** with the aim to develop a community ownership model where local residents, businesses and community groups would be able to buy shares in the wind farm and **receive a return on their investment**.

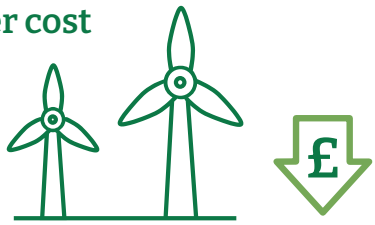
Ynni Cymunedol Cymru
Community Energy Wales

Why do we need wind energy?

We need more electricity!

The demand for electricity is increasing fast. By 2050, in Wales we will need nearly three times more electricity than we use today.[2] This is because we are using more and more electricity for things like heating and electric vehicles, and datacentres to support AI and our online lifestyles.

It's lower cost



Onshore wind energy is one of the fastest and cheapest methods of generating electricity.

Much of the electricity we rely on in the UK is generated using gas which is imported from other countries. The price of the gas is set globally, and is out of our control.

Increasing the amount of electricity generation in the UK reduces our reliance on imported energy.

Recent research by University College London has shown that in recent years, wind power has indeed led to lower electricity prices for consumers.

Reliable supply of electricity

We need a variety of energy sources across the UK to provide us with a reliable supply of electricity. That means having an 'energy mix' of electricity generated from lots of different sources, such as onshore wind (wind turbines on the land), offshore wind (wind turbines out at sea), solar, nuclear, hydrogen, gas, wave and tidal.

Government targets

The Welsh Government has a target to meet 100% of Welsh electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2035. Foel Fach Wind Farm would directly contribute to these targets.

Cyngor Gwynedd has declared a climate and nature emergency and aims to be a net zero council by 2030.

In December 2025, 43.1% of the energy generated in Great Britain came from wind*

*www.energydashboard.co.uk/live

[2] Welsh Government. 2025. Energy Generation in Wales 2023.

Climate change

Climate change describes the process of our planet heating up.

Summer 2025 was the warmest summer on record in the UK.[3] Record-breaking temperatures and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, with devastating effects for farming, nature and people.

The Met Office states one of the main causes of the changing weather is human-induced climate change caused by greenhouse gases, such as CO_2, which are released into the atmosphere when we burn fossil fuels.

Renewable energy generation does not create the harmful greenhouse gases that cause climate change. Renewable energy comes from natural sources such as wind, sun, waves and tides. These sources of energy will never run out. Technology is being improved, making the electricity cheaper to produce.

We need to quickly give up fossil fuels by investing in renewable energy and other low carbon technologies.

What are fossil fuels?

Fossil fuels are natural sources of energy like coal, oil, and natural gas. They were formed in the earth millions of years ago from the remains of plants and animals. Over time, heat and pressure turned these remains into fuels we can burn to make energy.

Over its operational lifetime, Foel Fach Wind Farm is expected to save over 2,632,967 tonnes of CO_2 equivalent, when compared against electricity generated using fossil fuels.

Did you know?

Humans have used wind power for hundreds of years to sail ships, and turn the blades of windmills to grind grain and pump water.

Discuss in class

1. What is climate change?
2. What causes climate change?
3. What impacts is climate change having around the world? Who do you think is most impacted by climate change?
4. What do you think about renewable energy?
5. If you were the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change, what would you do?

[3] Met Office https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/news-and-media/media-centre/weather-and-climate-news/2025/summer-2025-is-the-warmest-on-record-for-the-uk

How Foel Fach Wind Farm could look from Cae'r Garreg

The Draft Environmental Statement

We have to ask the Welsh Government for permission to build the wind farm. There are strict rules about the information we need to give them so they can make a decision.

The planning application will be made to a department of Welsh Government called Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW). PEDW appoints a Planning Inspector who examines the application and makes a recommendation to the Welsh Ministers, who take the final decision on whether to grant planning permission.

We have completed lots of surveys and assessments to gather the information we need to give to the Welsh Government. We have also been speaking to expert organisations like Cyngor Gwynedd, Natural Resources Wales, Eryri National Park Authority and Cadw.

We have written up our findings in a document called the Draft Environmental Statement.

The Draft Environmental Statement assesses potential effects the wind farm could have, such as:

- Where the turbines will work best
- How close people live to the site
- What the wind farm could look like
- Other wind farms in the area
- Ecology – plants, animals, insects and trees
- Ornithology – birds
- Hydrology and geology – water, soil and rocks
- Cultural heritage – historic features and archaeological remains

Timeline

Spring/Summer 2024
Project development, start surveys and speaking to local people.

Autumn 2024
Community consultation on early-stage plans.

Late 2024 – 2025
Review feedback, more studies, refine our design.

We are here – Winter 2025
Pre-application consultation.

Early 2026
Review feedback and finalise our planning application.

Spring 2026
Submit planning application to PEDW.

2026-2027
PEDW examine the application and the Welsh Ministers make a decision.

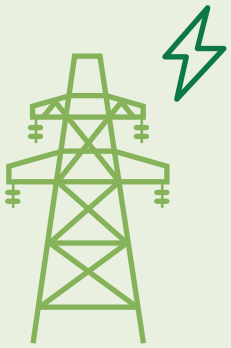
The future
If we get planning permission, Foel Fach Wind Farm will be constructed and connected to the National Grid.

What is the National Grid?

The National Grid network is made up of high-voltage power lines that distribute electricity around the UK.

The **transmission** network is the equivalent of the motorway network, carrying electricity a long distance across the country on cables held by large steel towers, or pylons.

The **distribution** network is the equivalent of the A and B road network. This network carries lower voltage electricity suitable for local use, on cables held by smaller pylons or wooden poles.



Ecology and ornithology

Red Kite

We want to do as little harm to the wildlife on the site as possible.

Our surveys have found bats on site and so we have increased the distance between turbines and bat habitats as a precaution.

Ornithological studies show that the site and surrounding area is used by several species of birds, such as kestrel, curlew and red grouse. We have located turbines away from areas most frequently used by these species.

We have written a Habitat Management Plan about what we will do to improve the habitat and biodiversity for wildlife. We plan to:

- Create a pond for amphibians
- Improve wetland habitats for wading birds
- Plant more trees and hedgerows
- Install bat and bird boxes

Landscape and visual impact

When we plan where the turbines will go, we think carefully about what the wind farm might look like. We also consider other wind farms and structures nearby, including wind farms that other companies are thinking of building in the future.

The turbines will be as far away from homes as possible. The turbines will need lights so that aircraft can see them at night.

We have created pictures, like the one above, to help people see what the area could look like when the wind farm is built. You can see more of these pictures on our website, or at the public exhibitions.

Noise

There are strict rules about noise levels. We've studied the noise levels in the area and compared it with the noise we think there will be when Foel Fach Wind Farm is working, to make sure we don't go above the noise limit.

Land, soil and water

Hydrology is the study of water.

Building on land can affect water on the site, so we have undertaken a hydrology survey which has looked at the potential impact of Foel Fach Wind Farm on water features, including ponds and streams, water quality and flood risk.

The survey results helped us decide where to put the turbines, and where we need to take extra care.

Our surveys show that most of the peat on the site is in poor condition. We avoid areas of peat soil where possible and will carefully manage peat on site.

General View of the Site, Looking East from the Entrance to the Access Road off the B4501

Cultural heritage

When plans are being made to dig up parts of an area for construction, it's a fantastic opportunity to learn about the history of what has happened on the site.

We have studied an area of approximately 10km around the site. We have undertaken site visits, desk research, and used satellite imagery and geophysical surveys to determine important features above and below ground.

This provides a clear understanding of all the historic assets on the site so we can design the wind farm in a way that minimises any physical impacts on these features.

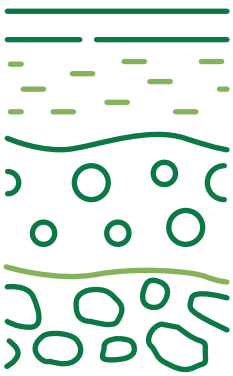
Eryri National Park is approximately 2km to the west of the nearest proposed turbine.

Cae'r Garreg

Garnedd Fawr cairn

What is peat?

Peat is a substance like soil. It's made when plants rot down under special conditions. Peat is very helpful for the environment because it absorbs harmful CO_2.



Public footpaths

We know that people enjoy walking on the public footpaths across the site. We may need to temporarily close paths during construction, to ensure people's safety.

Common land

Some of the site is 'common land'. People who have 'commons rights' have permission to graze animals like sheep or cows on the land.

Construction, traffic and transport

It will take us around two years to build the wind farm. While the wind farm is being built, we'll:

- Display signs so that everybody knows what is going on
- Ensure there are no long delays to drivers; and
- Make sure everybody is safe

How do we transport wind turbines?

A lot of planning goes into how we will get the turbine parts to the site in a way that is safe and causes the least problem for traffic.

The turbines are transported in the smallest sections possible, some are still very large. These are called Abnormal Indivisible Loads.

A very large lorry will transport the turbine equipment. Police officers, usually on motorcycles, travel in front of, and behind, and sometimes alongside to keep the convoy safe and protect others using the road.

Turbine on low loader

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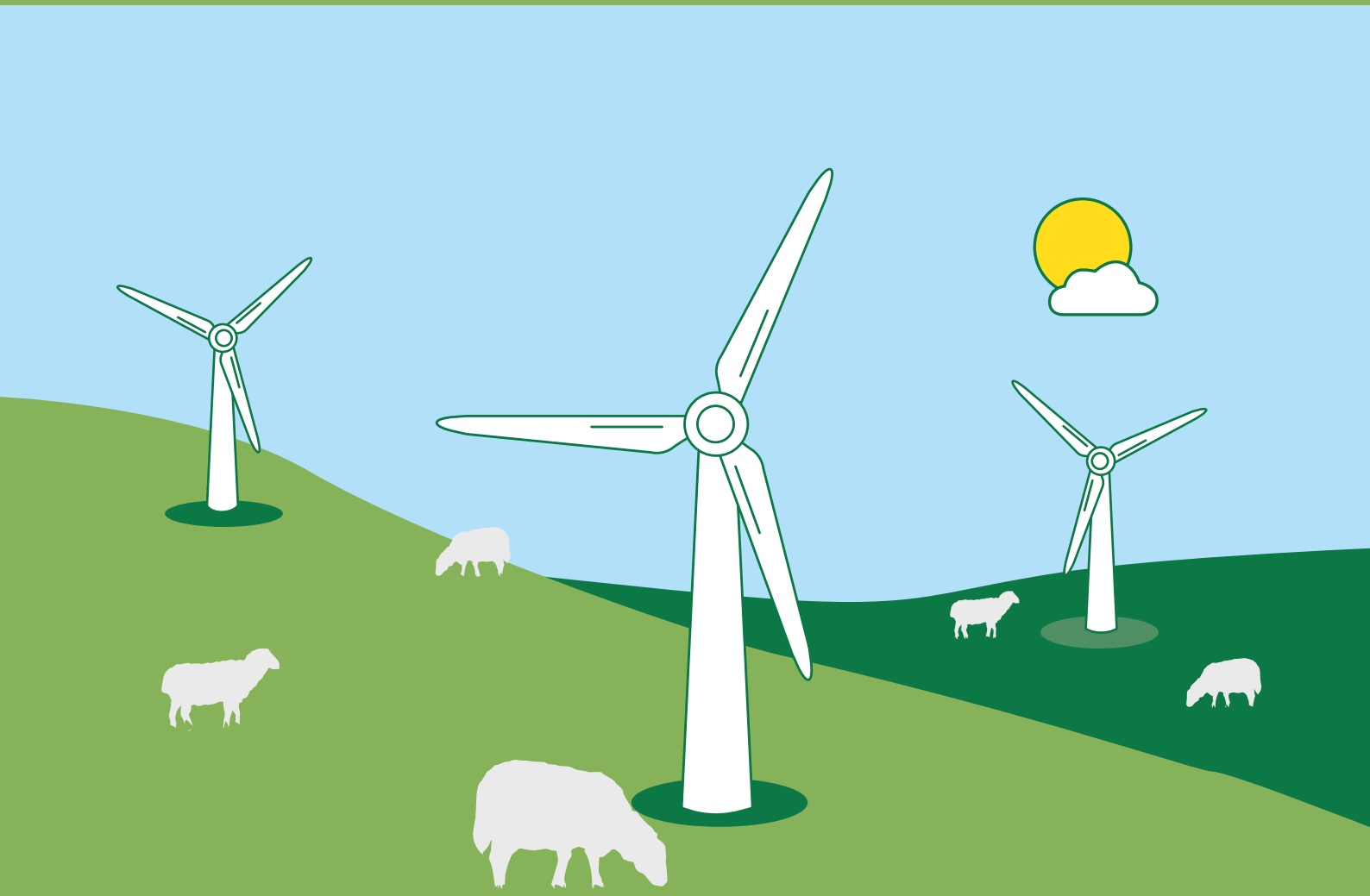

Thank you for taking the time to read this leaflet.

Tell us what you think about the plans by:

Completing a **feedback forms** at an event

Online at www.foelfach.cymru

By email croeso@foelfach.cymru

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