

Outline Statement

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OUTLINE STATEMENT FOR COMBINED MID WALES WIND FARMS PUBLIC INQUIRY

The principal issues my evidence will focus on are as follows:

The cumulative effect the wind farms will have on our property-namely the noise impact of Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen Wind farms, the visual impact of the Llanbrynmair, Carnedd Wen and Llandinam wind farms on our property. The existing/planned and already consented wind farms have to be taken into account as well-these being Carno, Tirgwynt, ECOCAS, Rhyd Ddu and Neuadd Goch wind farms. Our property will be completely surrounded by Wind Farms and also new power lines are planned either side of our property for new wind farms.

The cumulative traffic impact these wind farms will have on the county, including abnormal loads and the building of multiple passing bays and destruction of hedgerows and the building of new access roads and roads across moor land. The sheer volume of construction traffic over a 10 year period (at least) throughout the county.

The impact of the wind farms on peat deposits and on wildlife including many protected birds such as Curlew, Red Kite, Goshawk, Black Grouse, Hen Harrier.

My evidence will mainly consist of comments on three of the wind farm applications most relevant to myself.

Carnedd Wen Wind Farm

- Impact on some of the best examples of blanket bog and dwarf shrub heather in Wales
- Numerous footpaths and Glyndwr's way remain running through the site and turbines remain close to rights of way and will impact national trail and tourism
- Tree felling will take 7 years and cost carbon-this has not been quantified
- Two abnormal loads per day will run between Welshpool and SSA B in quarters 14 and 15 of construction. There is no evidence presented in the planning application as to what the impact will be on other road users and the delays involved whilst negotiating roundabouts and bends etc. Have any physical road improvements required been factored into the carbon cost? Llandrinio Council note how the road is too narrow between Oswestry and Arddleen, all traffic will have to be stopped both ways.
Traffic management plan is biased as proposed by wind farm companies and will impact all other business' except theirs throughout Powys and Shropshire and is not realistic. This revealing of the transport management plan shows that no EA has been done on the routes, they don't own the land for access, route via Caersws has major difficulties for developers and needs major work for access to SSA B.

"The relevant authority to determine the appropriateness of a Grampian Condition (to

effect transport management of AILs from port to site) is DECC. It is noted from the information included within a letter from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister that such a condition is not appropriate where the developer has no powers to carry out work where consent or authorisation is required from a third party. The sTMP includes land outside the highway. It also includes works that will require the consent of Highways Agency and possibly some English Local Authorities"

- Assessments of noise impact at individual dwellings do not agree. Taking the first property that they have both assessed 'Ysgybor Cannon', the developers disagree by up to 4dB the cumulative impact at this property. A noise condition has therefore been formulated for the Carnedd Wen Site only that will satisfactorily address noise issues that might be generated by this site alone. There is no noise impact assessment that takes into account all the proposed and working wind farms. This will have a direct bearing on our property as it is only 2km from Carnedd Wen turbines. We have noise issues from Carno wind farm and that is 3.5km from our property.
- Impact on Snowdonia National Park-the authority considers the development to be contrary to National Policy as set out in TAN 8 and Planning Policy Wales (2002) which affords National Parks and AONBs
"the highest status of protection from inappropriate developmentswhether these lie within or outside the designated area"

DECC has a duty under Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 which requires public bodies to have regard to National Park purposes when exercising your functions in relation to or affecting land within a National Park. The statutory purposes of National Parks are conservation and enhancement of natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and promoting opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of its special qualities.

- Peatland habitats at Carnedd Wen are of at least national value¹ and that much of the site is on deep peat. The SEI has acknowledged that at least 80% of the application site is on deep peat greater than 0.5m in depth with much of the shallower peat being on the steeper slopes around the periphery of the site and the deeper peat deposits being on the main plateau coinciding with areas suitable for wind farm development. This alone should be grounds for refusing this application
- The emergent wind farm landscape would remain a significant landscape feature in respect of Llanbrynmair and Llangadfan. However, at both locations the effects would form part of a wider cumulative wind farm landscape with the Llanbrynmair wind farm prominent together with a lesser presence formed by the emerging Mynydd Waun Fawr and Dyfnant Forest wind farms
- Construction would be over a period of 4 - 5 years! The proposal does not meet requirements of Planning Policy Wales (February 2011) in respect of transport implications (Section 8.7) the effects on the safety and convenience of other users of the transport network.
- Capita Symonds reported that

Turbines along the southern edge that are visible from Llanbrynmair should be relocated or removed to protect the setting and visual amenity of Llanbrynmair. A similar approach will need to be applied to the adjacent Llanbrynmair wind farm development

There is no change in effects with regard to the location of turbines visible from Llanbrynmair"

"Views from Llangadfan to the north (i.e. viewpoint U) demonstrate that the turbines will be seen as a concentrated mass to the west of a more dispersed arrangement at

Llandinam Wind Farm

- Forms southern skyline from our property. Existing wind farm is small in size of individual turbines and although visible is not too damaging. New wind farm will be 3 x as big and will extend north filling whole skyline. Virtually the whole of Montgomeryshire and the Shropshire AONB will be affected to some extent with the increased turbine height to 120m (almost 3X current height) and positioning on a very prominent ridge. They will be a dominant feature in many landscape views e.g. the view from A489/470 Newtown to Llandinam, which is a major tourist route and beautiful entry to upland Mid Wales, will be completely dominated by turbines (the present wind farm cannot be seen on this section)
- The effect upon the Caersws Historic Landscape will be severe (ES)-this is protected landscape
- The affect on the settlements of Dolfor, Mochdre and Pentre will be major (ES)
- The visual amenity of the Kerry Ridgeway (especially near Two Tumps) will be severely affected. Ruination of an ancient historic landscape with listed ancient monuments and nationally important ancient trackway
- Severn Way national path will have views of the wind farm from the source as far as Abermule (about 20kms).
- Glyndwr's Way national trail is severely affected (as shown in ES)
- National Cycle Route 81 would have major views of the wind farm from Llangurig to Abermule.
- ES states a major impact on the Registered Historic Gardens of Plas Dinam
- Photomontages are not representative and misleading e.g. view from Dolfor where proposed turbines cannot be seen against the sky although affect stated in ES as 'major'.
- ZTV for cumulative impact is not representative as it only shows 3 wind farms at a time. It is impossible to visualise the devastating affect of all the wind farms and it is not representative.
- There will obviously be severe cumulative impact on transport, tourism, flood risk and noise.
- Likely impact on tourism given all the above is severe.
- May be some temporary jobs in construction but UK wide experience shows this is not necessarily the case and there is a major problem when temporary jobs distort the local economy).
- Affect upon the Caersws and Clywedog Historical Landscape Areas not fully assessed
- Setting of the Kerry Ridgeway will be dramatically affected, area with numerous 'outstanding' LANDMAP cultural and historical classifications.
- Extensive bridleways and footpaths on the site. One turbine is only 79m from a bridleway (BHS recommendation is 200m and there are already issues for horse riders due to existing wind farm)
- Site is predominantly access land (CROW Act 2000) but little regard is paid to this.
- Many turbines, 3 borrow pits, contractors' compound and miles of access tracks are on common and access land.
- Proposed pylon route severely affects the Kerry Ridgeway Cultural / Historical LANDMAP areas including the 'Outstanding' Upper Mule Historical Area.
- This development is outside the original TAN8 SSA.

Llanbrynmair Wind Farm

- Nearest turbine to our property is 2km-we are extremely worried about noise problems especially as this wind farm will interact with Carnedd Wen and Carno and Tirgwynt all within 3.5km. This could well lead to continual and illegal noise levels. Some 250 properties within 3kms of the scheme. Noise measurements at several properties border on recognised acceptability and will be over limits with cumulative wind farm assessments. Cumulatively the area faces many years of unacceptable and major disruption and construction noise
- Peat is acknowledged as a fragile resource in Wales and upland peat protection is a major priority for climate change mitigation. Llanbrynmair proposal will site 5 turbines in a seriously important active blanket bog area of European and possibly of International significance
- Will affect 20 ha of bog by access tracks, crane pads, infrastructure and turbine bases. 13.5 ha of UK designated mire habitat will be lost
- RES will not do a full peat survey until construction starts
- Destroy large areas of long established hedgerows and mixed woodland with high species rich value to create access and considerably widen roads
Proposals for mitigating effect by habitat management is completely inadequate doing little more than existing Glas Tir schemes with no additional funding identified.
- landscapes not currently characterised by wind farms but are noted for their big, undeveloped rural aspects-will be industrialised
- No account taken of impact of steel pylon transmission line from sub-station.
- 13 turbines removed from original proposal but still high visual impact due to prominence and movement with Major or Significant effect on Llan, Dolfach, Carno and Talerddig with many turbines visible at hub or blade height
- so prominent in landscape that all 30 turbines will be seen as far away as Llanfihangel yng Ngwynfa (14kms)
- Significant affect on popular tourist route railway line to coast
- Snowdonia NP is only 5.5kms away. Powys UDP states 'development should not adversely affect the setting of Snowdonia NP' and Snowdonia National Park should be protected
- Landmap classifications show High and Outstanding areas at or adjacent to site on Geological, Habitat, Cultural, Visual and Sensory and Historical criteria
- Seriously affects Llanerfyl Mosaic Farmlands Character Area considered of very high value with Outstanding scenic quality and 'very limited intrusion of modern development'
- Substantial visual 'stacking' at Talerddig and Llan
- Carnedd Wen and Llanbrynmair together will completely cover 40sq kms of upland plateau creating a total wind farm landscape
- considered a nationally important breeding bird site
- 8 species present highly sensitive to wind farm development including Black Grouse and Curlew.
- important area for turbine sensitive Pipistrelle and Noctule bats

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- Important salmon habitats in Afon Gam and Afon Cannon. Salmon are very sensitive to the silt which will be inevitable during the construction phase.
- Major Impact on Glyndwr's Way -2 days of walking the Trail will be through or adjacent to turbines or in predominant sight of them. RES vastly underestimate impact
- RES state: that 1 part time job created for weekly inspection and possible temporary unskilled construction work, likely job losses though reduced tourism and years of road chaos. Huge economic cost to the county of Powys
- Impacts arising from this development would vastly outweigh any benefits from renewable energy in contravention of Powys Planning Policies.
- RES used poor photomontages in an attempt to hide the impact of the development-this was noted and criticised by Powys CC

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