

This statement is made by me Robert David Radcliffe Corser

1 I have been most concerned at the enormity of the impact that the proposed windfarm developments will have on Montgomeryshire ever since the proposals were first promulgated. Quite apart from the merits or otherwise of the economic benefits which are highly questionable in my view, the visual impact of wind turbines in a rural setting is unacceptable. Because wind turbines are moving objects on skylines they inevitably draw attention to themselves to the detriment of ones appreciation of the landscape.

2 Montgomeryshire and Mid Wales in the future will have to increasingly rely on tourism for its economic wellbeing and this necessarily means capitalising on its main asset-- peace and quiet. The recent success of the opening of the Welsh Coastal Path and the trade it is bringing is important evidence of the widening appreciation of this. The path network needs to be augmented by creation and better publicity of paths that are already in place (The Glyndwr Way is a good example)

3 'Peace and Quiet' does demand a large canvass. The Snowdonia National Park is fast becoming in danger of being overcrowded which will as a consequence destroy the very attraction of that area. Criteria that leads to an automatic bar to any windfarm development proposals in the Park area should in the view of most farsighted and thinking people equally apply to Montgomeryshire situate as it is astride the Park area. The landscape is of equal merit, and indeed there were serious moves in the 1970's to extend the Snowdonia National Park in this way, only deterred by opposition at the time by the farming community. The increasing prosperity brought about by National Park status in Snowdonia has resulted in a marked change in attitude by many of the more progressive farmers who see the benefits brought about as a result.

4 Increasing pressures from our cities and urban areas makes it more and more important that the tranquillity of Wales' rural landscape is left largely undisturbed. The tourist industry can then have an assured and sustainable future resulting in better inward investment and enhancement of local employment. Erection of massive wind turbine structures plus associated pylons and roadways being carved into and over hillsides will prove a major deterrent to tourists contemplating a visit to the area. By their very nature wind turbines need to be built on hilltops visible as a consequence for miles around. Furthermore, being moving objects in an otherwise static landscape, they draw immediate attention to themselves, so destroying in an instant that 'peace and quiet' and sense of remoteness that is so appealing. Dislocation of local road networks both during construction and for maintenance afterwards will also deter those wishing to travel in the area.

5 Disturbance on moorlands of peat deposits is of serious concern, increasing the risk of more serious flooding in the Vyrnwy and Severn river valleys. Construction of massive concrete foundations for turbines and pylons, drainage channels and roadways seems a strange 'bedfellow' to 'sustainable green energy', when such wind energy is at best intermittent, expensive and unreliable. Power generation surely needs to be reliable and nearer consumers, not miles away in mountain uplands that necessitate miles and miles of pylon lines which makes for inefficiency, expensive maintenance and disfigurement of the landscape.