

DECC Statement

Montgomeryshire is an outstandingly beautiful county, rightly part of an area known as Powys Paradwys Cymru (Powys the Paradise of Wales) which until recently has remained largely unspoilt. Plans are now in place to put 800 large wind turbines, each up to 415ft high and visible over hundreds of square miles, on the ruggedly beautiful uplands. Each of these turbines would need transporting through our country roads and lanes – a nightmare in itself! Each would need a huge concrete base which would replace a huge piece of earth presently teeming with the natural life of local animals birds and plants; and the concrete would need to be transported too; another night mare. Added to that are the plans to “upgrade” the National Grid connections into Shropshire; this would mean building a vast substation and the erection of a long line of 50m pylons through our beautiful valleys and on into Shropshire. Each of the pylons would also need to be on a huge concrete base, and the further transportation issues are another nightmare. The laying-waste of such natural beauty and resources can be deemed nothing other than rape of the country. The devastation to the lives and livelihoods of local people could likewise be called rape. All of this would have a huge impact on the well-being of the local population, causing a negative impact on the local economy with loss of tourism income and local jobs. The vast quantities of concrete involved would also probably lead to greater flooding.

Onshore wind power development is well known to be costly and inefficient and will not mean that further power stations will not be needed; wind-power can only give back-up power. Also, in focussing all sights on onshore wind, we’re not even looking at any alternatives. The proposed development doesn’t even make economic sense and will be enormously costly, not just in the ways outlined so far, but in financial terms, costing, I understand, in the region of £2 billion overall and then about £120 million a year in subsidy; it would seem that the only “winners” are the developers.

This situation has partly come about because of WAG’s TAN 8, in which 3 of the 7 areas in Wales designated for alternative energy production have been allocated to Montgomeryshire. I understand that TAN8 was due to be reviewed in 2010 and that this has not happened.

I recognise the need to produce electricity from renewable sources but the proposals for these windfarms suggest wholesale devastation of our natural resources.

Help us all to save our beautiful countryside – here in Montgomeryshire and nation-wide - from the mindless destruction planned.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Evans (Mrs) and Peter Evans (Rev)

