

THE MID WALES (POWYS) COMBINED WIND FARMS PUBLIC INQUIRY JUNE 2013

RADNORSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST STATEMENT OF POSITION

1. Great Crested Newt

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust would like all data relating to the Great Crested Newt populations at Llanbadarn Fynydd to be made available. We believe the proposed wind farm site may be worthy of designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and may merit international designation through the European Union Habitats Directive. This has yet to adequately addressed by any of the environmental assessments.

2. Curlew

Individually and cumulatively the proposals appear to have a significantly negative impact on populations of breeding 'Radnorshire cuckoo' (curlew). It is known that the construction of wind farms disturbs and displaces curlew.

This iconic species of the wild uplands of Mid Wales is rapidly declining as a breeding bird in counties like Radnorshire and Montgomeryshire and may disappear entirely unless sufficient protection is given.

3. Peatland

Construction of wind farms can disturb peatland habitats, including areas of deep peat. Creation and restoration of these important habitats is possible, but Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (RWT) asked the Welsh Government to provide successful examples of such restoration / creation when RWT objected to the implementation of TAN 8 – no answer or reply was ever received. RWT has little faith in effective habitat creation or restoration schemes resulting from these applications.