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1 May 2013

Secretary of State
c/o Robert Pridham
National Infrastructure Consent Team,
DECC
Area A
3rd Floor,
3 Whitehall Place
London
SW1A 2AW

Dear Sir

Llandinam Windfarm 2013 SEI – Cultural Heritage

Further to our previous correspondence relating to the Cultural Heritage sections of the original 2008 ES and the 2011 SEI I now include our response to the 2013 SEI.

We note that there are no new direct or indirect impacts to any of the 82 archaeological sites identified within the development site. The mitigation outlined in 10.0.4 – 10.0.7 of the 2013 NTS for previously unidentified sites, which may be revealed during construction, is agreed and should to be taken forward via appropriate conditions.

We note the deletion of the T19, T20, T21, T25, and T26 turbines from the north west extreme of the layout and their associated tracks. In addition the reduction of turbines T29, T30 and T42 by 10 metres in height is also welcomed.

We would agree with the findings of the SEI that the deletion and reduction in height of these turbines has effectively removed the significant impact of the northernmost turbines on the skyline of the Caersws Basin historic landscape. The overall significance of the impact of the development on the historic landscapes at Caersws and Clywedog is Moderate. From VP1 in the floor of the Caersws Basin only partial turbine blades will be visible on the distant horizon. The visibility inevitably increases as you move upslope to the north and out of the Caersws Basin, but this was anticipated and the existing Llandinam windfarm, together with other active windfarms, is already visible from these elevated positions. The primary goal of reducing the impact of the turbines on the skyline as viewed from within the basin floor has been achieved in our opinion and we would have no objection to the 2013 layout in this respect.

With regard to Appendix A-10-3 and the desk-based assessment of the Wye Valley Crossing we note the broad conclusions in relation to the archaeological potential of the valley. If a preferred location for the bridge crossing and any associated new road corridor adjustments is announced, further detailed archaeological assessment of those locations should be carried out. Appropriate mitigation should then be recommended and completed prior to, and during, subsequent construction.

Rec 0/3/

In summary then, we agree with the findings of the 2013 SEI in relation to the various potential impacts on the cultural heritage and we have no objection to the revised layout being taken forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Walters', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Walters
Development Control Archaeologist, Curatorial Section.