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**To:** [NDE](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NDF - Ynys Mon and Renewable Energy  
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To whom it may concern

I have read the NDF and wish to register my serious concern regarding the proposal to designate Ynys Mon as a Priority Area for Expansion of Wind and Solar Power Generation.

After 46 yrs residency in this area with both a professional as well as life long interest in its natural history, ecology and landscape I am appalled at the insensitive and ill-informed nature of the present proposals.

250m high wind turbines will be far too dominant and will significantly compromise the outstanding landscape of Ynys Mon whose highest point is naturally only 220m . They would dominate the general landscape in all directions on the island and likewise dominate all views north from Snowdonia National Park. I imagine that the vast majority of residents and visitors to Anglesey would find this unacceptable. For those living close by it is likely that there would be a significant and potentially damaging noise impact. At 250m high the recommendations are for no habitations within 3km of each turbine which is simply unattainable with the island's population density.

Wind turbines are known to cause wildlife mortality through blade collision though the scale of mortality is widely disputed. It is likely to be significant on Anglesey, which, being coastal, sees large numbers of migratory birds flying through its air space. Additionally predatory birds such as Marsh and Hen Harrier are prone to collision due to their hunting technique and the close proximity of these proposed turbines to the habitats they frequent. Both species have a tenuous hold on Anglesey and are nationally rare. Bat fatalities are regarded as one of the great unknowns when it comes to turbine operation and in the past the perceived threat to Noctule Bat has been a significant factor in refusing planning permission locally. This situation has not changed and indeed with larger turbines now being proposed the threat will likely be higher.

The 250m turbines will require deep, voluminous footings involving significant local excavation and disturbance, insertion of large volumes of concrete and the construction of access and service infrastructure in rural situations - another source of visual intrusion but also potential significant ecological injury. The hydrology of central eastern Anglesey is complex and unusual resulting in high water tables feeding natural basins to create wetlands which have national ecological significance recognised by their designations (National Nature Reserve, Special Area of Conservation, Important Plant Area). These wetlands support a notable biodiversity including many nationally rare and scarce species of plants and animals. Construction of large wind turbines anywhere near these sites will jeopardise their hydrological integrity physically or chemically, perhaps both. Their

designation for conservation is a legal one at national and European Level and embraces a precautionary principle preventing any operation which may compromise them. Such wetlands also act as important carbon sinks and it would be ironic indeed if, in an attempt to cut carbon emissions, the NDF undermined the ability of these wetlands to provide such an essential ecological service.

No one doubts the importance of reducing carbon emissions but what is in very serious doubt is whether the construction of such large scale turbines on land represents an ecological and cost-effective answer. When you compare the carbon foot-print involved with the construction and installation of large turbines, examine their life time output, examine their negative influence on residents and wildlife, on habitats and existing ecological services as well as their physical erosion of the Sense of Place which Ynys Mon offers to islanders and visitors alike then one cannot but conclude that the losses far outweigh the gains.

I urge the Welsh Government to embrace new technologies (tidal generation, modular reactors amongst others) which have so much promise and without the collateral environmental damage which large turbines threaten. Anglesey is prepared to adopt these new technologies and play its part in helping them grow - it is far more than a piece of spare ground for Wales to set aside for ill-founded industrial scale energy generation so that the nation can tick a green box.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Brown, 

**Mae croeso i chi gysylltu gyda'r Brifysgol yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg**

**You are welcome to contact the University in Welsh or English**

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