

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: Consultation Response - draft NDF
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I am writing to express my and my partner's disquiet as Powys residents at significant aspects of the National Development Framework for Wales under policy 10 and Policy 11 concerning large scale wind and solar renewable energy projects both inside and outside of "Priority Areas". Powys, despite its outstandingly beautiful upland landscapes, has three large "Priority Areas" – all three designated for both large scale onshore wind and solar energy development. As Powys includes only one national park (Brecon Beacons) and a very small area designated an AONB (part of the Shropshire Hills AONB) the majority of the county's unspoilt and tranquil uplands both within the "Priority Areas" and "Outside the Priority Areas" are in danger of being industrialised by large scale wind turbines and ranks of solar arrays. Within the "Priority Areas" the National Development Framework for Wales under Policy 11 states that "Planning applications must demonstrate how social, economic and environmental benefits have been maximised and that there are no unacceptable adverse effects". Policy 11 mentions "landscape and visual impacts". How is it possible to site large wind turbines up to 600 feet tall without such impacts. The document does not say who will judge whether such impacts are adverse or not. I presume it is the Welsh Assembly rather than Powys County Council. This is certainly not local democracy as those least likely to be affected by any "unacceptable adverse effects" will be making the decision about whether these developments go ahead or not. "Outside the Priority Areas" "applications will be determined based on the merits of the individual proposal". Once again I presume the merits of the application will not be judged locally by people who know and live in the area.

Policy 13 refers to ensuring that "there is no significant unacceptable impact" of renewable energy technologies other than wind and solar but seems not to be concerned about destruction to the environment, including wildlife habitats when developing onshore wind. This includes building access tracks, widening rural lanes, tearing up hedgerows and digging for and pouring the massive concrete bases for wind turbines. In Policy 13 there is reference to large scale renewable energy schemes generating "direct social and economic benefit to local communities across the country". there may be some small renewable energy schemes that do; however, most large scale wind developments disproportionately financially enrich those who already own large areas of land. The significant monetary benefits for a minority of large landowners further widens the gap between the more prosperous members of the community and those whose lives are impacted, and in some cases blighted, by large scale solar arrays or towering wind turbines. Unfortunately they do not have the resources to move away from the noise or visual disturbance - unlike those directly benefitting from such schemes. As tourism makes a significant contribution to the local economy in Powys, large scale wind and solar with their very minimal number of jobs once installed is likely to result in fewer jobs overall and less economic prosperity for the area. Tourists visit the countryside for its peace and beauty not to look at or listen to large industrial structures.

Policy 11 mentions developers having plans in place for "the end of the development's lifetime". This sounds rather vague. Where these developments are granted permission I believe the developer should be required to contribute to this cost via some sort of financial bond. Otherwise it will be the residents of the area being despoiled by these developments who will be paying for their removal.

Nowhere in these documents do I see reference to how these developments are to be connected to the National Grid and how many other areas in Powys and beyond will be blighted with 100 foot metal pylons marching across an otherwise unspoiled rural landscape.

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