

From: [Richard Eaves](#)
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: National Development Framework Consultation
Date: 15 November 2019 13:05:49

Dear Sir or Madam,

Having read the National Development Framework document proposing a vision for meeting the key needs of Wales between 2020 and 2040, we write, as residents of Montgomeryshire, to express our strong concern and absolute opposition to the proposal to develop further large scale wind farms over vast swathes of upland countryside in Montgomeryshire and neighbouring Radnorshire. Whilst accepting that the ways in which Wales as a nation produces energy needs to change quickly in order to respond to the effects of climate change, we believe that schemes to develop renewable energy need to be distributed evenly and fairly across the country as a whole, with due regard to the visual impact on the landscape and character of rural Wales, which you rightly claim are amongst the country's assets, and also the physical impact they will have on people's quality of life. By ensuring fair distribution across Wales as a whole, both on-shore and off-shore, you will best help minimise the visual impact of renewable energy schemes, which, you claim, is of importance.

The map contained within the National Development Framework document, highlighting priority areas for the large-scale development of renewable energy schemes, does not demonstrate fair distribution in our view, which, worryingly, will result in the over-intensive construction of wind farms in rural areas, leading to the destruction of landscapes and natural habitats previously undamaged by human activity. It is wrong and reckless of the Welsh government to assume that, because an area is sparsely populated or uninhabited, it is acceptable to damage or destroy it. Your proposals as they stand will lead to further landscape destruction in Montgomeryshire which, we believe, already shoulders considerable responsibility for the development of renewable energy through large and frankly unsightly wind farms already in operation in the Newtown and Carno areas.

Given a history of natural resources in Wales being plundered and rural communities being displaced in order to meet the needs of neighbouring England, the Welsh government needs also to give assurances, not sufficiently clear in the framework document, that wind farm and solar energy developments in Wales will be constructed to meet the anticipated energy needs of the Welsh population only and not the needs of other areas of the United Kingdom. To permit wind farm development in Wales and consequent damage to our magnificent landscapes in order to meet the energy requirements of other countries in the United Kingdom would be wholly unacceptable in our view, given the moral obligation and need for those countries to have their own strategies in place to respond to their specific needs through use of their own natural resources.

In the National Development Framework document it is stated that "Proposals for large scale energy development are classed as Developments of National Significance and are determined by Welsh Ministers" and " There is a presumption in favour of large scale on-shore wind and solar energy development in these [priority] areas [to include] an acceptance of landscape change ..." We believe that

these statements made by the Welsh government are both arrogant and undemocratic as they strongly imply an unwillingness on the part of ministers to listen to and make planning decisions in accordance with the views and concerns of local people once they (local people) have more specific knowledge of particular wind farm or solar energy development schemes. As the exact locations of proposed large scale renewable energy schemes in Montgomeryshire in particular and in Powys as a whole have not yet been specified, it is totally unacceptable to expect local people to permit the Welsh government to carry out the destruction and virtual industrialisation of often very precious local landscapes, without knowing whether or not the immediate area in which they have chosen to invest money in homes and businesses and bring up families will be affected.

Given that the predominantly rural region of Powys will be absorbed for the purpose of the National Development Framework into the new 'super-region' of Mid and South West Wales, parts of which are very urban or industrialised and therefore wholly dissimilar to Powys, it concerns us that this in itself will lead to the views of the residents of Montgomeryshire, Radnorshire and Brecknockshire not being adequately listened to or used to inform planning decisions, particularly if large scale renewable energy schemes are to be determined by government ministers in distant Cardiff, as stated in the National Framework Document.

In summary, the landscapes and rural communities of Montgomeryshire and Powys as a whole, often wild and remote, are extremely beautiful and deserve to be respected in their current state rather than being mutilated as you will be choosing to do if your proposals are implemented. It is interesting to note from the consultation document that developers submitting plans for wind farms outside priority areas will have to demonstrate that the proposed development will not be visually detrimental to the area. In the interest of fairness and respect for the people living in all parts of Wales, this principle should be applied to all proposed wind farm developments in all parts of the country. We would urge you to reconsider the environmentally damaging proposals you are making and, if you haven't already visited Montgomeryshire, to visit the area as a means of appreciating why we are so concerned.

Although we have written this e-mail together, we are voicing our opposition separately, hence the fact that you will receive the comments above twice, albeit from two different e-mail addresses.

Yours faithfully,

Barry Lord and Richard Eaves,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signatures of Barry Lord and Richard Eaves.