

TO THE FIRST MINISTER

RESPONSE TO WELSH GOVERNMENT DRAFT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FRAMEWORK

WIND AND SOLAR PRIORITY AREAS

I write as an expatriate senior Welshman.

Mae'n werth troe'n alltyd ambell dro

A mynd o Gymru fach ymhell

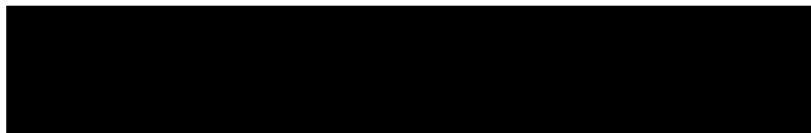
Er mwyn cael dôd i Cymru'n ol

A medru caru Cymru'n well

To misquote Ceiriog:-

Ond Mae 'nghalon yny dyfroedd

Eto'r cae a'r adar mân



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Y DYFROEDD TAWEL?

Here we go again!

The proposals of the Welsh Assembly Government are well-intentioned but misguided:-

1. The arguments in favour of on-shore wind installations are persuasive and indeed to some extent substantiated :-
 - 'Renewable energy outperforms fossil fuels for a whole quarter' ¹ The Times 14/10/19.
 - off-shore wind installations are being expanded
 - zero-carbon generation is gathering pace.
2. Nevertheless back-up capacity will always be necessary: wind does not blow all the time and it is impossible to store electricity:- there is no space for more hydro schemes and electricity is impossible to store except in very small quantities.

BUT

3. Wales has already suffered the depredations caused by its providing energy (coal) to England and the rest of the world. What the WAG is proposing to develop throughout Wales (except for the relatively small area of the National Parks) is a repeat of what has happened before - exploitation, destruction and future dereliction.
4. England has used the resources of Wales to support its objectives elsewhere: what income is derived from the Elan Valley dams?
5. It may be that such developments will generate money - some money perhaps, but whatever Welsh turbines will generate will not provide anything other than relatively modest sums. Wales will not become El Dorado.
6. Is it worth destroying landscapes for meagre returns?
AND
7. Wales's principal asset is its landscape, not just in the National Parks, but everywhere else. Wind generation imposes itself on the landscapes, not just the turbines, but the attendant roadways and electrical installations. The concrete foundations are not helpful to the ecology. Turbines are industrial installations.
8. Britain - certainly England and Wales - is increasingly urbanised, trying to contain a rapidly growing population, becoming increasingly mechanised and increasingly (over) busy. We must retain a sense of humanity and tranquillity.
9. It is therefore increasingly important to retain areas where people can wander freely, to encounter fields and meadows, woods and glades, even the forest planted by the Forestry Commission.
10. This becomes increasingly important as populations expand and ecological constraints restrict foreign tourism. People have got to have somewhere to 'get away from it all'.
11. And it is so easy to destroy, not so easy to preserve. The Welsh Government's destructive policy must be reversed.
12. The Welsh Government's proposals must therefore be rejected.

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¹ To what extent was hydro-electric generation included?