

From: [Felicity Margolis](#)
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: New Proposals for Solar and Wind farms in Mid Wales.
Date: 06 November 2019 16:15:48
Attachments: [Witness statement for inspector revised after Terrys comments nov 13.docx](#)

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing following the proposals that have been outlined in a letter from Russell George A.M.

I have submitted evidence and spoken at at least two Public Inquiries that have taken place regarding wind farms in our area. Please see attached submission. I stand by all these comments.

The infrastructure won't stand it, our roads are very narrow. Parts and extra traffic cause havoc. Many people in this area depends on tourism. You will be desecrating ancient landscape. s The windmills, that we can already see, are often not turning. It doesn't make sense.

In this area development of this sort stands the chance of destroying upland peat and for those of us who depend on private water supplies it is a huge worry.

Please do not inflict further misery and worry upon those of us who live and work in Mid Wales.

We are sick of continually battling, but this is such an important issue.

Yours exhaustedly. Felicity Margolis (Mrs)



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Statement for Inspector

30th November 2013

Sir,

In 1981 we visited [REDACTED] and fell in love with our 18th C house - [REDACTED]. We bought the ruined barn, with no roof and walls that were falling down and a derelict house that hadn't been lived in for 16 years. Neither had a water or sewage supply, or were connected to the electricity system. We lived in a caravan whilst we worked hard to make the house habitable again and then turned our attention into making the Barn into a holiday destination - which is our livelihood.

Apart from the time and energy we have given, we have invested approximately £300,000 over the years. We continue investing as much as possible back into Barlings Barn to make it a popular and thriving business and we have had many return guests as a result. Who will compensate us for that if trade drops off, the value of all property inevitably drops and we cannot pay our mortgage?

We are utterly committed to [REDACTED] Montgomeryshire, Wales. I am very concerned that our future livelihood, and all we have worked for, invested in and sacrificed for over 32 years is in jeopardy. I believe that these plans will have a huge impact on TOURISM generally and are very fearful that it will have a huge negative impact on Barlings Barn specifically.

Our guests travel to us from all over the country. We cannot see exactly how they are going to get to us without encountering huge traffic jams and hold ups. They may visit us once but will they come again if they encounter huge hassle. We've already had guests complaining about the 'hell of Newtown traffic!' The whole point of [REDACTED] to offer relaxing holidays in a beautiful and peaceful location. All of that is now under severe threat. Who will compensate us for that?

A good percentage of our business is as a result of repeat business or personal recommendation from previous guests. Currently we estimate the 15% to 20% of our visitors are repeat guests. Our turnover has gone up significantly in the last four years as more and more people seek solace in this peaceful countryside.

Our Unique Selling Point is that we are located in a very quiet, tranquil spot with glorious views of open, unspoilt countryside with low traffic numbers and therefore low engine emissions. This peaceful tranquillity will be severely compromised if people have to battle through huge traffic queues to get to us and then find we are enduring noise, dust and disruption whilst the building of the roads and turbines takes place. Subsequently our 'glorious views' will be ruined by the enormous turbines which will dominate this valley.

People do NOT come on holiday to view an industrial landscape which is what they will be faced with in this area where in EVERY direction there will be turbines. Guest, after guest, comments to us on the beauty of the valley. Words like 'idyllic', 'tranquil', 'beautiful', 'unspoilt' crop up time after time in our visitors book. I have brought it with me??? Attached are a sample of just some of the comments from our visitors book I don't expect to read it out but I wanted you to get a feel for the flavour of the comments) but I think this one sums them up very well: ".....***One of the most enjoyable, relaxing and memorable holidays I've ever had! Thank you so much for a foretaste of heaven!***"

In a world of noise, overcrowding, pollution what we offer here is a shrinking commodity. Why are we prepared to throw it away? We should not even have to be discussing this. Media coverage of the wind farm applications and all the ensuing chaos must have a negative impact on the tourism industry. One of our guests arrived here, got out of his car told me how beautiful it all was and then said ***'it isn't going to look very good when the turbines are on that hill above you is it?'***

We estimate that over 20,000 visitors have come to [REDACTED] over the last 30 years. We are busy all year round, which brings trade to the area all year round, and keeps people in employment all year. Our visitors spend money in the pubs, village shops, with caterers, and restaurants in the area. Who will compensate those people who will lose all our guests' trade?

Visitors travel to the sea, visit historic monuments such as the 3,000 year old standing stones, they run, cycle, walk (we estimate 40% of our guests walk) and enjoy Glyndwrs Way, and at least 25% take part in other outdoor activities. They ALL relax and revel in the sheer blissfulness of this area. They are ALL trying to escape the noise and pollution of their urban lives. They travel a long way to enjoy this. They won't bother if we are not less noisy or polluted than where they live will they?

For 32 years we have employed many local people; builders, electricians, plumbers, people to help us run [REDACTED]; cleaners, admin, grounds people, the horse logger and people who process our wood for us. We currently employ nine people on a regular part time basis – in these difficult economic times where jobs are hard to find they will not be able to get alternative employment. If you multiply this by all the other traders, hotels, pubs, shops and restaurants, etc., that will lose trade as custom dries up because of the horrendous road congestion difficulties you are looking at an economic disaster in this area.

WATER SUPPLIES – we are very concerned that our private water supply (which has also cost us £10,000 to put in) will be compromised, and may be polluted, as our water must be filtering down through the centuries old peat on the tops of the hills before being carried in fissures in the rock. Our water is soft, clean and pure. That is an ***irreplaceable*** commodity. We have had guests whose psoriasis/eczema has totally cleared up whilst they have been staying with us because of the beautiful quality of the water. Nobody can compensate us for that!!!!

Nine years ago we invested in purchasing the neighbouring 20 acre forest. Our forest is a Plantation of Ancient Woodland site - PAWS. Oaks have been growing there since 1600s with goshawks, red kite, moths, bluebells, fungi and rare lichen on the trees, etc. We are not clear felling but are sensitively halo thinning around the native species, To minimise destruction and pollution of this forest we are employing the horse logger, [REDACTED] to use her two Welsh cobs to harvest the fallen timber thus reducing the use of heavy plant and machinery within the wood

We are trying to *preserve* a thing of tremendous beauty and environmental value. One of our guests commented on the '*deep, spiritual, peace*' he found within the wood - where all that can be heard is the quiet rustling of the trees and the burbling of the stream and the view is green and timeless. Nobody can compensate us for the loss of that.

We have worked with nature allowing wildflowers to proliferate. The sensitive thinning in the wood has enabled bluebells to proliferate once more. We are constantly told that we must protect the environment. The wind farms' proposals do the exact opposite of this. Our guests are blown away by the sheer beauty of the place. As one remarked 'God must have smiled on the day he made Mid Wales!' I don't think God had acre after acre of concrete, gigantic turbines and power lines in mind that day. Do you?

Some of our guests had thought of settling in the area as they just fell in love with the place, but are on the brink of changing their minds because of the threat to the area from wind farms

As a beekeeper I am concerned that our hives of honey bees will be under possible threat from noise, vibration and airborne pollution. This is tragic when Britain has lost SO many hives already.

We are not "NIMBYS" We are in favour of energy savings and installed a biomass boiler which is run from the timber from our woodland. We also have solar voltaic panels on our roof to give us electricity and hot water. So we know that at [REDACTED] we are doing our bit to reduce fuel miles, etc. However, NONE of these measures are detrimental to the area, or the environment, as are the proposed wind farm schemes which will desecrate these ancient hills.

We have given 32 years of our lives, gladly and willingly to the place we love; where we raised our children and want to spend the rest of our lives. I have Welsh ancestors and they must all be spinning in their graves at the thought of all they worked for being destroyed in such a short space of time - for 30 pieces of silver and a flawed plan of action!

What the Romans failed to do when they invaded hundreds of years ago and what the Germans failed to do when they jettisoned their bombs over Talerddig during the 2nd World War, the wind farms WILL do in the space of a few short years. This area will be irrevocably changed forever and there should be a national outcry. Thank you for listening. I hope you will take into account these sincerely held views.

Felicity Margolis – [REDACTED]

Sample Comments from our visitors book:

“Dear Fliss and Terry, thanks for all your hard work providing this wonderful retreat from which to explore this beautiful country. Each year we scour the internet to find a base for our family holiday and we’ve always found somewhere great. However, Barlings tops everywhere we’ve stayed.”

“.. this wonderful retreat in this wonderful country”

“the soft warm water and lack of over-chlorination was miles better than anywhere else we’ve been”

“wonderful setting”

“wonderful weekend in a beautiful spot”

“stunning location”

“beautiful surroundings”

“brilliant surroundings”

“truly amazing place, for the wonderful welcome to the beautiful landscape!”

“great house – lovely setting”

“great accommodation – great surroundings”

“a memorable holiday in lovely surroundings”

“loved the location”

“we’ve had a great family get-together/birthday break. We’ve done so much – climbed Snowdon, Go Ape, cycled and walked at Coed y Brenin. Plus the fabulous beach at Aberdovey and Lake Glaslyn. Walked and walked....”

“We have all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves in this beautiful countryside... We all enjoyed our ride on the Talyllyn Railway, our day on the beach at Aberdovey and our day at Lake Vyrnwy”

“Barlings Barn – a little piece of heaven!”

“O.M.G. what can I say? Great place, loved every minute”

“We loved exploring the local area; the sweeping landscapes and pretty towns were great”

“Facilities and location FABULOUS”

“lovely weekend in great surroundings”

“loved the woods and all the space. Thank you”

“We had a fantastic time at [REDACTED] The house is just lovely and the surroundings are beautiful”.

“... all had a wonderful time! Enjoyed the woods, duck races down-stream, making dens, sing-song around the fire pit with guitars. The children have loved the freedom to make their own fun. Thank you”

“We’ve had the most beautiful time in the most perfect setting”

“Even the downpour of rain couldn’t dampen the feeling of peace”

“Amazing place, fantastic views”

“absolutely lovely holiday. Very peaceful, gorgeous views and walks”

“I have never felt so comfortable and relaxed”

“Had a wonderful weekend in the perfect surroundings, so peaceful! Nice to see the stars at night.”

“Thank you for a wonderful stay. One of our children described this place as ‘paradise’ – they have a point!”

“Thank you for an amazing week. A beautiful spot and great facilities. We all relaxed, it felt like home from home”

“thank you we have a great time loved the gorgeous surroundings”