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**To:** [NDE](#)  
**Subject:** Consultation Response - draft NDF  
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I am writing to express my objections as a Powys resident 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 the majority of the county’s unspoilt and tranquil uplands both within the “Priority Areas” and “Outside the Priority Areas” are in identified as being set for industrialisation by large scale wind turbines and unlimited 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”. It is not possible to site large wind turbines up to 600 feet tall without such deleterious impacts. The document does not say who will judge whether such impacts are adverse or not. Presumably 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”. 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, 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 only those who own the land siting the schemes and can have very negative impacts on those who live nearby, including the ability of other local people to derive an impact from tourism, let alone visual and

audible impacts. The significant monetary benefits for a minority of 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 very 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, tranquility 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 at least legally required to fully meet this cost via some sort of substantial financial bond. Otherwise, it will be the residents of the area being despoiled by these developments who will be paying for their removal, as the developer may either refuse or they may no longer exist and so any costs would fall to whom?

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 impacting negatively and dramatically across an otherwise unspoiled rural landscape.

A S Mackintosh

