

From: [Elspeth Wagstaff](#)
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: Response to the draft National Development Framework
Date: 12 November 2019 21:44:54

Draft National Development Framework

Policy 10 Wind and Solar Energy in Priority Areas

I write to take issue with the proposal for Priority Areas being designated for Wind and Solar Energy as the most appropriate locations to accommodate landscape change. It is a breath-taking concept that ANY landscape change is acceptable in terms of the imposition of huge, industrial-scale wind turbines and solar farms. How can you claim to mitigate climate change (which is debateable in itself) by ruining the very environment you should be preserving?

1. With virtually no exclusions, the Priority Areas are all located in rural areas of great beauty, why?
2. Wind turbines have been shown over and over again to be a significant intrusion on the landscape where the environmental value loss is much greater than the limited, unreliable energy gain.
3. Isolated wind and solar energy projects in rural areas have to be connected to the National Grid and therefore require other structures such as sub-stations, power lines and pylons – adding to the industrialisation of the landscape.
4. The rural nature of all the Priority Areas means that access is limited to narrow tracks and roads. Additional intrusive infrastructure will be needed for the construction of wind and solar farms.
5. Wales is already dotted with wind turbines and solar farms. The cumulative impact was once a planning consideration with the recommendation that there should be no inter-visibility between developments. On Anglesey it is already possible to see 4 or 5 separate developments at one glance. The Priority Areas will make inter-visibility frequent and inevitable.
6. There have been many detailed surveys identifying the detrimental effects of wind turbines in particular on the environment. Bird strikes, migration routes and bat feeding sites being affected, noise levels are but a few of the negative impacts now well documented.
7. The rural communities of Wales rely heavily, sometimes almost entirely, on tourism. What is the appeal of Wales? It is the peace, tranquillity, rural, undulating landscapes of great beauty – not an industrialised vision of huge, noisy, monolith turbines. Many surveys have highlighted the importance to mental health of places of calm, natural and visually-appealing countryside.
8. With virtually no exclusions the Priority Areas are all located in locations which did not vote for Labour so that a cynic might argue no votes will be lost here. Indeed it might be argued that small, rural communities will have no collective voice to raise in opposition to energy developments foisted on them unlike the more numerous city dwellers.
9. Why has no consideration been given to siting wind turbines and solar panels on the vast number of domestic and industrial buildings in areas that are already urbanised? Local energy hot spots could be created for immediate use.

Yours faithfully, E. Wagstaff (Mrs.)