



02/11/19

NDF Team
Planning Policy Branch
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Sirs

Consultation – Draft National Development Framework

I have contributed to responses from some other organisations, but I wish to add a personal observation.

It seems to me ironic that the recent Glover Report in England has recommended that the Chiltern Hills should be 'elevated' from an AONB to a National Park (amongst other regions), while at the same time the Welsh Government is proposing to spoil countryside of equal merit by designating many areas as Priority Areas for Solar and Wind Energy.

The Chiltern Hills, which I know, are without doubt a beautiful area of England; but they are crossed by a motorway, they have intrusive railway lines running through them, and they are a busy commuter belt for London. Yet Glover thinks they are worthy of National Park status.

The hills of North West Denbighshire and East Conwy County, contained in your Area 3 in the map on page 42 of your report, are by contrast, isolated, with not much traffic, without railway lines, with very pretty hills, small fields, cared-for hedgerows, and they surely deserve special protection.

These hills present a picture of mixed agriculture and hill farming, with most of the residents Welsh speaking and people who have lived there for generations. Lots of cynefin hereabouts – but that's not a planning consideration.

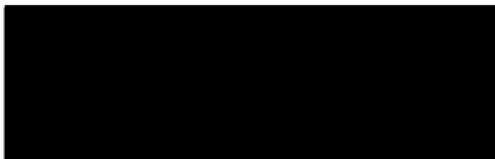
To a layman like me, it seems decidedly odd that in England they want no more onshore wind turbines, while over the invisible border the Government is pressing ahead with plans to double or triple these industrial structures. ***Both policies cannot be right to achieve a zero-carbon economy.***

I am concerned also about your proposal to increase the size of SSA A in TAN8. Anyone who has seen the jumble of turbines comprising Brenig, Tir Mostyn/Foel Goch and now Clocaenog, will know that the landscape cannot 'accommodate' all those turbines – let alone adding more into this already degraded place.

If your Areas 3 and 15 are fully exploited, the views of turbines from the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB will stretch ***from Corwen in the south to the coast in the north.*** So-called "Views Out", although a planning consideration, are sometimes shrugged off by decision makers. I would like to make the point that views out are not trivial. The ridge of the Clwydian Range is popular (with its national trail) because of the views. That is why people come, from Liverpool and Chester, to walk the uplands and take in the views. Who would come if these hills were covered in a coniferous forest so that the views were obscured? Surely nobody. Views are one of the mainstays of the tourism industry in Wales, and planners need to be aware of that.

I do hope you will not spoil these hills for the generations coming after me.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Michael Skuse.

Michael Skuse
(CPRW, Partnership CR&DV AONB, etc)