

**(Energy Development)**

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**From:**  
**Sent:** 28 July 2016 21:54  
**To:** deccnic@decc.qsi.gov.uk  
**Subject:** URGENT! OPPOSITION RE LLANBRYNMAIR AND CARNEDD WEN WINDFARMS PROPOSALS MID WALES!!  
  
**Importance:** High

To: deccnic@decc.qsi.gov.uk

Energy Infrastructure Planning Team,  
Department of Energy and Climate Change,  
Area C 4<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
3 Whitehall Place,  
London, SW1A 2AW.

28<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed windfarms at Llanbrynmair and Carnedd Wen, Mid Wales

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL.

PLEASE DO NOT AGREE TO THE PROPOSALS TO BULD YET MORE WINDFARMS IN THIS AREA. This constant battling, over many years is so wearisome but the outcome of your decision is so frightening for those of us living in Llanbrynmair and environs that we cannot remain silent. The area that we love is in jeopardy from the windfarm proposals. These will cause the industrialisation of the landscape and the ruination of our roads and transport systems.

Our future livelihood and all we have worked for, invested in, and sacrificed for over 34 years is in jeopardy. We are already experiencing disruption and delaysm when travelling, from the work going on near Cefn Coch. With hundreds of thousands of journeys involved in creating these proposed monstrosities

moving on small country lanes this whole area could grind to a standstill gridlocked by the flood of windfarm lorries carrying these obscene giant structures.

We believe that these plans will have a huge impact on TOURISM generally in the whole area, 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. The whole point of Barlings Barn is 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. Do take a look at our Trip Advisor reviews.

In 1981 we visited Llanbrynmair and fell in love with our house 'Caeau Gleision'. We bought a ruined barn with no roof and walls that were falling down and a derelict house that hadn't been lived in for 16 years prior to our arrival. Neither had a water or sewage supply or were connected to the electricity supply. We lived in a caravan whilst we made the house habitable again.

We invested everything we had and have continued to do so ever since, neither of us taking a wage but investing as much as possible back into the business to make it a popular and thriving business and we have had many return guests.

We are utterly committed to Llanbrynmair, Montgomeryshire, Wales. Huge investment has taken place.

***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 vision of 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 totally 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 we will view turbines.

Guest after 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???

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.

News of the windfarm 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 have spent hundreds of thousands of pounds on our business. Who will compensate us for that when trade drops off, the value of our property inevitably drops and we cannot pay our mortgage? Negative equity will blight this area.

We estimate that 40,000 visitors have come to Barlings Barn over the last 32 years. We are busy all year which brings trade to the area all year and keeps people in employment all year. Our visitors spend money in the pubs, village shops, with caterers, and restaurants in the area. They travel to the sea, visit historic monuments such as the 3,000 year old standing stones. They run, cycle, walk and just enjoy 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?

WITH PUBS/RESTAURANTS, CATERERS, FRUIT AND VEG SUPPLIERS, VILLAGE SHOPS, ETC. Who will compensate those people who will lose all that trade? This area will die.

For 32 years we have employed many local people; builders, electricians, plumbers, people to help us run Barlings, cleaners, admin, grounds people, the horse loggers, and people who help in the woodland. We currently employ 11 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, caterers, hotels, pubs, shops and restaurants, etc., patronised by our guests, who will lose trade as custom dries up because of the horrendous road congestion difficulties, plus the many other tourism related businesses, you are looking at an economic disaster in this area.

WATER SUPPLIES – We cannot have mains water as we are too far up the hill. We are therefore VERY concerned that our private water supply (which has also cost us thousands to put in) will be compromised as our water must be filtering down through the centuries old peat on the tops of the hills. Our water is soft and 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!!!!

Eleven years ago we purchased 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, Barbara Hadrell of Carnog Horses, to use her two Welsh cobs to harvest the fallen timber thus cutting the need to use heavy plant and machinery within the wood.

We were thrilled when Barbara won Horse Logger of the year 2013 for the work she is doing in our peaceful wood!! One of the judges was the Woodland Manager for ***HRH The Prince of Wales***. The judge visited our woodland and commended us for being 'enlightened owners' as 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.

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 but are on the brink of changing their minds because of the threat to the area from wind farms.

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 hives of honey bees will be under threat from pollution.

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 Barlings Barn 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 a place where we raised our children and want to spend the rest of our lives. I too 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 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, the windfarms will do in the space of a few short years. This area will be changed forever and there should be a national outcry.

These are just a small sample of the comments from our visitors books:

"Dear I , 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 Talylyn 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 Barlings Barn. The house is just lovely and the surroundings are beautiful”.

“.....One of the most enjoyable, relaxing and memorable holidays I’ve ever had! Thank you so much for a foretaste of heaven!”

“... all had a wonderful time! Enjoyed the woods, duck races down stream, making dens, sing-song around the fire pit, 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”

This is just a tiny sample of comments from people who have discovered Mid Wales and who have loved what they have found.

The Minister for Heritage and Culture emphasised the importance of embracing our unique heritage and taking every opportunity to increase its economic value to tourism. This requires sensitivity and ‘sense of place’, not just the noting of sites to be preserved as archive.

We need to help people appreciate the historic environment and ‘read the landscape’ – not just the obvious elements such as castles and chapels, but also the pattern of quarries, ancient trackways, field systems and cairns. The rewards are not simply personal satisfaction for individuals. The historic environment creates our ‘sense of place’ and therefore our sense of shared belonging and of roots. Nurturing a living sense of what is to be a citizen of Wales is a key priority for the Assembly Government and citizenship cannot be a theoretical concept. It is about emotional ties and imagined community....

The whole threat of wind turbines rumbling on and on is very worrying. We already have too many of them in this beautiful part of the country.

When we moved here 30 years ago, and restored our ruined barn and farmhouse and set up our holiday business, we were always offering a rural retreat from the outside world.

Our livelihood is now threatened because the beaurocrats cannot understand that there are other ways to create the savings in energy production. We have personally managed to reduce our carbon imprint hugely without impacting negatively on anyone, by installing a biomass boiler which runs on logs from our woodland to heat our guests, ourselves and all the hot water we need. We also installed a solar hot water heating system some years ago on the barn roof and this year have put solar pv panels next to them to generate electricity. None of these cause offence or difficulty to anyone else living in the area or visiting the area.

We are not 'nimbys' and are insulted by this term. If you visited our area you would see that there are already too many wind turbines blighting the glorious previously unspoilt hillsides. Building more is going to seriously damage the infrastructure - tiny winding lanes are not conducive for moving huge wind turbine parts - and the resulting traffic chaos will further damage business in this very rural location which relies on tourism to bring jobs and much needed revenue to the area. The miles of ugly pylons will pose a further threat to livelihoods and health.

The proposed schemes do not make sense. It causes much disharmony amongst the communities setting neighbour agains neighbour. These proposals will destroy our communities, businesses, lives. I urge you to highlight these genuine concerns and take them **SERIOUSLY**. I wait to hear that you have turned down the ludicrous proposals and put a stop to it once and for all.

Yours faithfully,

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