

REP 91 [OBJ]

3/10/16

Energy Infrastructure Planning Team  
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Dear Sir

Secretary of State: Re-determine applications for Llanbrynmair & Carnedd Wen Wind Farms

With reference to re-determinations of both wind farms, I wish to object. I have also been asked, how to view the applications - when considering the impact of these proposals, the decision should weigh up the accumulative impact of both projects under consideration, as well as other wind farms in the vicinity.

Transition lines from one windfarm to another should also be considered, as if either be approved, all would need to link up. Any new transmission line to Shropshire would also need to be thought about, and the impact that would also have.

In the documents submitted by the developers, they refer to their "mitigation" for proposed actions, suggesting that one "value" cancels another "value" out. How can a developer ever really "mitigate" the pumping in of concrete blocks in our hillsides or the falling of ancient woodlands to site a line?

The uplands of Montgomeryshire are not industrialised and remain largely intact. There have been some changes in agriculture and what is now considered acceptable on our uplands. We have seen farming practice reverse from the cultivating of hillsides, to policies

now shifting to preserve and value them. Can any developer truly "mitigate" all they are proposing for our hills?

Do developers really know what the effect is of changing the composition on our mountains, marshes and bogs? Can developers really justify the impact on wildlife and animals displaced – can they ever truly "mitigate" to this scale? Also, how we view this landscape and its value, changes too. If there are turbines, pylons, webbed transmission lines, concrete pads, roads – the industrialisation really begins – so what's the argument to save the rest of it??

Lengthy transmission lines would be erected through fields and woods involving the removal of thousands of trees along the way. Ancient woodland can't be "mitigated" as such. These woodlands have gained their recognised status as they have had continuous tree cover since the earliest reliable records began. The Woodland trust states that "*One of the most important aspects of ancient woodland is its undisturbed soil. As soon as the soil is disturbed then the ancient woodland is irreparably damaged and therefore lost. Woods planted or growing up today will not become ancient woods in 400 years' time because the soils on which they have developed have been modified by modern agriculture or industry.*" Removing the tree cover (even for the life of the line) destroys that ancient woodland. With only 2% of ancient woodland remaining in the UK – can a developer ever really "mitigate" this? I don't think so.

In a time of hard decisions and real energy poverty, I feel that the British public's money is being thrown away on wind farm subsidies, for a form of energy which is not economically viable, as it's highly inefficient. In the relentless pursuit of these subsidies, the nation is left with what remains of the countryside scarred in Shropshire and Montgomeryshire.

I appreciate that progress often involves changes (and that not all changes are popular) but if we are to make changes, it must not be detrimental to what remains of our least disturbed habitat.

I hope that these windfarms will NOT be approved.

Yours faithfully