

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Venue:
Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date:
12 January 2012

Meeting time:
09:15

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

Alun Davidson
Committee Clerk
029 2089 8639
ES.comm@wales.gov.uk

Agenda

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2. Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales – Evidence session on TAN 8 (09.15 – 11.15)

Peter Ogden, Director, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 1

John Day, lead petitioner, P-04-024 Say No to TAN 8 – Windfarms and High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 2

Neville Thomas QC, Shropshire and mid Wales Alliance

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 3

Huw Morgan, Montgomeryshire Against Pylons

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 4

John Morgan, Cambrian Mountains Society

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 5

3. Papers to note (Pages 1 – 2)

Minutes of the meetings held on 1 December

E&S(4)-10-11 minutes

E&S(4)-11-11 minutes

Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales – Additional written

information

The Planning Inspectorate
E&S(4)-01-12 paper 6

Countryside Council for Wales
E&S(4)-01-12 paper 7

Letter from the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes – Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
E&S(4)-01-12 paper 8

Letter from the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes – UK 'Fisheries Concordat'
E&S(4)-01-12 paper 9

- 4. Motion under Standing Order 17.42(vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for items 5 & 6 (11.15)**
- 5. Inquiry into proposed reforms to the Common Agricultural Policy – Draft report of the Common Agricultural Policy Task and Finish Group (11.15 – 11.30)**
- 6. Inquiry into the Business Case for the Single Environmental Body – Agreement of terms of reference and appointment of expert advisers (11.30 – 12.00)**

Environment and Sustainability Committee

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 1

Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales – Evidence from Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

Ymgyrch Diogelu Cymru Wledig Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales



Cadeirydd Chairman Dr Jean Rosenfeld
Cyfarwyddwr Director Peter Ogden

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
CARDIFF

September 23rd 2011

Dear Lord Elis-Thomas,
**Environment and Sustainability Committee's Inquiry into
"Energy policy and planning in Wales"**

Submission by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)

As Wales' foremost countryside charity, CPRW welcomes the opportunity to submit its observations to the Committee on this important issue.

We trust that in highlighting a number of critical issues which we feel should be addressed our submission will assist the Committee to make recommendations which will ensure that the Planning system in Wales delivers a democratically and environmental sound approach to the implementation of a fair energy agenda which accounts for the landscape importance and the interests of all those who which live and work in the rural areas of Wales.

We believe that the current approaches do not achieve this and changes must be introduced to remedy the specific deficiencies we identify in our submission. CPRW therefore hopes that its submission will lead to the changes we suggest and we look forward with your support to them adopted by the Welsh Government.

CPRW confirms that it is content for the details of this submission to be made publically available. Likewise should there be any matters upon

which the Committee requires further clarification, I will gladly do so upon their request, either in writing or in their presence.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Ogden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right from the end of the name.

Peter Ogden
Director

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Inquiry into “Energy Policy and Planning in Wales”

Submission of evidence by
Peter A. Ogden. BSc. MRTPI.
Director

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
September 2011

1. Executive Summary

1.1 CPRW welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to this important Inquiry given that the issues under consideration are of direct relevance to the organisation’s primary aims. We trust that its outcomes will help ensure that through responsible planning the energy needs of Wales are achieved in a more coordinated and responsible manner and at the same time the individual quality and collective diversity of all Welsh landscapes and the communities which depend upon them, are safeguarded. Our evidence is therefore limited to those issues which are of direct relevance to these specific matters

1.2 We likewise trust that the Committee’s recommendations will help ensure that the forthcoming Planning Bill gears up and refines the current planning system in Wales, to deliver a more balanced, fairer and responsible agenda to meet the country’s future energy needs in ways which are also locally acceptable.

1.3 The key issues we wish to highlight and trust that the Committee will agree with and act upon are

1. The importance of having a robust planning and decision making system in Wales which operates in a democratically equitable, transparent and consistent manner, and which is capable of delivering an environmentally realistic energy ambition.

2. The need for the current dislocation between policy formulation and decision making (in relation to Energy issues) to be remedied so that the complete range of planning powers is devolved to and vested in the Welsh Government, to enable it to deliver the above aim.

3. The need to independently test and validate the spatial approach currently being promoted by TAN 8 to ensure that it reflects all the

relevant current circumstances and can be demonstrated to be truly environmentally and socially fit for purpose.

4. To recognise that if it is not, an alternative approach which is not dependent on industrial scale on shore wind schemes is required to meet the Welsh Government's renewable energy targets.

1.4 Our submission that follows therefore explores why we believe these matters are of significance and makes proposals as to those which we believe should feature prominently in the Committee's eventual recommendations to the Minister and subsequently to the Welsh Government.

Submission by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)

1. Introduction

1.1 As Wales' foremost landscape charity, CPRW welcomes the opportunity to submit evidence to this important Inquiry. We are pleased that this investigation is taking place early in the life of the new Welsh Government's term of office, as its theme and hopefully its outcomes will provide not only an informed direction for the Welsh Government's current energy policy and ambitions, but more importantly ensure that these fully reflect the importance and future well being of rural Wales and the range and quality of those benefits and services the resources of these areas provide.

1.2 We similarly trust that this Committee's deliberations and subsequent recommendations will have a significant influence on how the Welsh Government gears up and refines the planning system in Wales, in the light of the forthcoming Planning Bill, to enable it to help deliver a more balanced, fairer and responsible agenda to meet the country's future energy needs.

1.3 Given the wide ranging scope of this Inquiry, this submission is limited to those themes which relate primarily to CPRW's core interests namely:

- Whether the relationships which dictate current energy policy and guide the decision making process for energy proposals are appropriate and in the best interests of Wales.
- Whether current renewable energy policy is in need of a reality check to ensure that it is sound.
- Whether the current TAN 8 approach is legitimate and fit for purpose, given the current circumstances which now prevail.

1.4 As appropriate our submission will also address any of the other issues which form part of this Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

2. Context

2.1 By way of introduction, CPRW wishes members of the Committee to note that as an organisation it is supportive in principle of the desire to increase the amount of energy produced in Wales especially from renewable sources. Notwithstanding this however, the organisation believes that to do so, there is a need for a clear, consistent and publically acceptable policy approach supported by a sound and democratic planning system which provides an effective means to deliver these ambitions within the context of sound environmental context.

2.2 For this to be the case, the Planning system in Wales must be self determined, strategically structured, internally consistent in its interpretation of the term sustainable development and able to operate in a equitable, relevant and integrated manner. We contend that this is currently not the case in respect of Energy policy and hence there is a need to revisit the Welsh Government current policy aims and future ambitions and to synchronise the current range of different delivery mechanisms more effectively. To do this, improvements not only to the policy approach but also the legislation and decision making processes are required.

2.3 Our concerns with regard to the disorderly nature of the current arrangements are based on the fact that:

- The existing mechanisms which link planning policy and decision making in respect of Renewable Energy in Wales are at worst disjointed and illogical and at best publically confusing.
- The current decision making processes lead to frustration on the part of all those stakeholders with an interest in energy issues, as they create uncertainty as to which body is responsible for decisions and ambiguity as to whose authority prevails in circumstances where policy differences arise.
- The current procedures are undemocratic given that the full range of planning responsibilities for the planning and delivery of Wales's Energy agenda, in particular renewable energy is not currently a constituent part of the Planning settlement devolved to the Welsh Government.
- The existing arrangements do not recognise nor allow for the coordinated planning and integrated management of the nation's natural resources either on land or at sea. We find it worrying that these two territorial realms both of which rely on and are connected to each other and should be managed as one, are still subject to completely different administrative, planning and decision making processes and procedures.
- The current decision making processes used to judge the acceptability of major renewable energy installations, is administratively and democratically segmented and operates in manner which is vastly different to the normal regulatory mechanisms which govern the consenting procedures for other forms of major developments in Wales. More crucially the current decision making approach for major energy developments is dictated by a set of policies which are different from those which have been defined through the Welsh Government's own processes and procedures.
- It is illogical that the consent regime for energy generating schemes is completely independent of the mechanisms which govern the permitting procedures associated with the infrastructure necessary to connect and transmit the power generated by these plants into either local or national grid networks. The fact that the assessment of the consequences and impacts of the latter do not form part of the evaluation of the impacts of the former is clearly unsound.
- Because of these differences, a major democratic deficit exists which stakeholders must overcome if they are to first understand and thereafter effectively engage in the process of influencing policy and / or respond and in some instances challenge the legitimacy of major energy proposals.

This deficit stems from the distorted arrangements which currently require major energy proposals to be determined by the currently non accountable Infrastructure Planning Commission. We are concerned that these circumstances will remain even when the successor arrangements soon come into being and that crucial decision making powers will continue to reside with the relevant UK Minister who will remain unaccountable to the Welsh Government for decisions which affect the use of Wales's environment and natural assets.

- The Welsh Government and to an even greater extent the National Assembly members, despite having devolved responsibilities to plan the use of land and the environment of Wales, have no ultimate control for the manner in which they can fulfil these responsibilities, given that policy relating to any major Energy proposals and their associated infrastructure in Wales can be both formulated or discharged independently of them.
- It remains totally unclear how the ambitions and approaches adopted by the Welsh Government in Planning Policy Wales relate to or prevail over those being promoted by and included within the UK Government's recently issued National Policy Statements for Renewable Energy and Energy infrastructure. Given these circumstances, we consider it absurd that expensive and prolonged legal case law may ultimately be required to resolve these differences.

2.4 In summary therefore and in response to Question 1

What are the implications for Wales if responsibility for consenting major onshore and offshore energy infrastructure projects remains a matter that is reserved by the UK Government?

2.5 CPRW believes that the current arrangements are not dissimilar to a person attempting to drive a car from the passenger's seat, in that they:

- Prevent the formulation and implementation of a rational Energy policy for Wales by the body best placed to fulfil this role, namely the Welsh Government
- Create confusion as to the status of different strategic policy approaches on the same issue.
- Lead to misunderstanding as to the scope and roles of the different decision making bodies and uncertainty as to the respective primacy of each.
- Potentially undermine the ability of the Welsh Government to achieve its sustainability objectives and the management of its natural assets in a coherent, integrated and consistent manner.
- Result in the process of decision making being more remote from those most affected by the impacts of any proposals.
- Make it democratically more difficult for those parties with a direct interest in energy proposals to engage in the decision making process in a realistic manner.

Q2 How does this affect the achievement of the Welsh Government's aspirations for various forms of renewable and low carbon energy as set out in the Energy Policy statement?

2.6 For the reasons set out above, it is clear that the democratically disjointed arrangements which currently exist not only directly hinder but also undermine the ability of the Welsh Government to achieve not only its

Energy policy aims but similarly compromise the manner in which its devolved planning responsibilities can operate effectively. We also believe that the current arrangements have significant implications on the ability of the WG to pursue its environmental objectives in the sustainable manner it is seeking.

3. The need for integration and the redefinition of policy and decision making primacy

3.1 The above circumstances therefore demonstrate in our view the clear need for a different and more integrated approach which links the planning of Wales' future energy needs to a process of decision making based both of which should be focussed on local determination.

3.2 Given the significant influence that the proposed new Planning Bill will have in gearing up the planning system to deliver a renewable energy agenda in the future, we believe that in fulfilling its stated sustainability obligations, it is crucial that the outcomes of this Inquiry

- Reaffirm the vital role that sound and up to date Welsh Planning policy, (as expressed through Planning Policy Wales and through Local Development Plans), has in relation to energy policy, in particular renewable energy issues in Wales.
- Confirm the current Regulatory role and status of Welsh Planning policy as the primary means of ensuring that appropriate forms of energy provision are directed to places where their impacts can be demonstrated to be environmentally acceptable and socially beneficial.
- Maintain democratically clear, open and transparent decision making processes to ensure that every proposal is assessed on its individual merits rather than being predetermined by assumptions which have not been demonstrated to be either environmentally sound or have been defined by other policy external prerequisites.
- Ensure that current planning policy is supported by and subject to a comprehensive and up to date rural validation process which ensures that all energy policy is environmentally sound, social equitable and does not disadvantage those in rural areas.
- Confirm that the environment of rural Wales will be safeguarded and the continued well being of those communities which live, work and depend on these areas, is taken fully into account when energy proposals are implemented.

4. The extent that existing Energy policy and Planning advice in TAN 8 meets these requirements

4.1 As members of this Committee will no doubt be aware, TAN 8 was approved by the former Welsh Assembly Government in July 2005 only days before the statutory Regulations requiring it to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment came in to force. That being so, the appropriateness and robustness of the approach and guidance it contains (which now drives the agenda for renewable energy generation in Wales and the energy industries activities), has never been subject to proper independent scrutiny nor to any form of validation, as is now mandatorily required for any contemporary Welsh Government policy.

4.2 Given that over six years has now passed since this TAN 8 was introduced and despite the commitment by the last Government to review

its appropriateness, an assessment of its soundness and the extent to which it is “fit for purpose” has still not taken place.

4.3 We believe at the very least the credentials and environmental soundness of TAN 8’s advice (in particular in respect of on shore wind generation) should be subject to independent and comprehensive scrutiny and proper validation. This we believe is wholly justified given:

- The current TAN 8 approach when it was adopted did not fully account for all the relevant and material considerations nor publicly justify why these were not taken into account during the relevant decision making processes. In particular the true landscape values of the SSA areas were not properly accounted for, nor were the impacts of the transmission of power from these sites, or the wider infrastructure implications of transport accessing these areas, fully considered.
- The adopted TAN 8 guidance was not open to full public scrutiny and challenge and therefore does not conform to the Welsh Government’s own accepted Codes of Practice.
- The changing scale and nature of all the renewable technologies over the last five years and the speed at which they continue to change, means that the latest generation of onshore wind farm schemes in particular, have vastly different individual and cumulative impacts on the environment and amenity of rural areas than those which existed or could have been anticipated when TAN 8 was first adopted.
- The increased importance that the Welsh Government’s Natural Environment Framework agenda seeks to place on maintaining the integrity of all of Wales’ landscapes and ecosystems is not taken into account by TAN 8. Effectively the Welsh Government’s recognition of the need to maintain a complete range of natural and cultural assets and not just a selection of them to ensure that our environment remains resilient yet adaptable does not form part of the current TAN 8 logic.
- An increased acceptance that the greater the range of quality landscapes which exist in rural areas of Wales, the greater the capacity of the environment in these areas to provide the range of services and benefits which will contribute to the future prosperity of the Welsh economy, to the quality of life and to the personal and collective well being of the Welsh public has not been considered
- The growing recognition and public disquiet regarding the harm caused by the industrialisation of the countryside by major infrastructure developments and their direct consequences on the well being of rural communities, is being dismissed.
- The fact that the TAN 8’s promotion of industrial scale on shore wind schemes has little if any public or community buy in and has become the single most important and overpoweringly negative issue affecting the lives of many in rural Wales.

- The impasse that the current TAN 8 approach has created in neither protecting the Welsh environment effectively against excessive and unacceptable industrialisation nor to delivering the expectations of the energy industry.

4.4 CPRW therefore contends that in the light of all the above, it is totally unacceptable and democratically unreasonable that the spatial advice in the current version of TAN 8, in particular its inbuilt presumption in favour of industrial scale wind farm development in seven Strategic Search Areas, remains effectively untested or can be truthfully validated against these contemporary benchmarks.

4.5 We maintain that information compiled by the Countryside Council for Wales' LANDMAP process along with the huge range of environmental information assembled as part of the Natural Environment Framework work, now provides a more sophisticated level of understanding of the value and sensitivity of our natural assets than existed six years ago and should be used to re test the robustness and logic which underpins the TAN8 approach.

4.6 We likewise believe that this new information base will demonstrate that a number of the assumptions in the current TAN 8 approach are flawed and its existing conclusions therefore fail to recognise the true environmental and amenity importance of many non designated landscapes. To ignore the landscape, amenity and eco systems values of these areas when planning how Wales's future energy needs should be delivered, is both short-sighted, inappropriate and should be redressed.

4.7 We therefore suggest the Committee should at the very least reassure itself that the existing principles which underpin the current TAN 8 approach remain valid and can be demonstrated to be objectively environmentally justified and are strategically sound.

4.8 Accordingly we encourage this Committee to recommend that the evidence upon which TAN 8 was originally based should be

- Made fully and publicly available.
- Subject to and objectively reassessed through appropriate scrutiny and thorough independent public examination, to ensure that given the significant changes that have occurred in the development of the technologies and the experiences associated with the delivery of large scale onshore wind in the last 6 years, its assumptions and conclusions are unequivocally proven to be sound.
- Tested to ensure that they fulfil the obligations of all the relevant European legislation and Directives including the principles of the European Landscape Convention.
- Shown to be capable of delivering the full range of environmental services and public benefits sought by the Welsh Government agenda through its Natural Environment Framework.
- Able to deliver demonstrable and positive benefits to rural communities and improve the well being of those who live, depend on or enjoy rural areas.

4.9 CPRW believes that if such a validation exercise is undertaken, it will expose the shortcomings of the current TAN 8 approach and highlight the

fact that the continued deployment of industrial scale on shore wind generation scheme in the uplands of Wales is no longer defensible, not cost effective, not publically acceptable and hence not desirable anywhere in rural Wales.

4.10 Our doubts about the integrity of TAN 8 are reinforced still further by the recommendations of this Committee's predecessor, the Rural Development Committee, when it too considered issues associated with the soundness of TAN 8.

4.11 We take this opportunity to remind Committee Members of two of the important recommendations that their report in 2010 entitled "Future of the Uplands" highlighted. Firstly in relation to the impact of renewable energy developments on carbon storage and the management of this resource in the uplands of Wales and secondly in respect of the effects of the Assembly Government's current programme of forestry and wind farms, on these invaluable carbon resources.

4.12 That Committee's findings are set out as follows;

Recommendation 9

The Committee calls on the Welsh Government to carry out an assessment of the impact of the forest estate wind farm programme on carbon storage and for carbon soil management to be a central consideration in the review of TAN8

Recommendation 10

The Committee calls on the Welsh Government to review its planning guidance to local authorities so that there is a presumption against wind farm development on deep peat.

4.13 We believe that these Recommendations provide a valuable contribution to this Committee's deliberations, given that they demonstrate the important role that the responsible planning and management of the uplands of Wales must have in the conservation and management of Wales's crucial carbon resources.

4.14 Equally we also believe that these recommendations highlight how this delicate balance can so easily be disrupted or compromised by the development of inappropriately located renewable energy schemes of any kind, but in particular when industrial scale on shore wind schemes are deployed in sensitive upland areas.

4.15 We also remind the Committee that Land Use Consultants on behalf of the last Welsh Assembly Government, completed draft advice to the Minister regarding the "Planning Implications of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in Wales". Their conclusions highlighted exactly the same point namely

"Where priority peat-related habitats have been identified, best practice suggests that efforts should be made to locate wind farm components (turbines, tracks, compounds etc) outside of peatland habitats where possible."

4.16 Although this guidance was subsequently confirmed in a Practice Guidance note published by the Welsh Assembly Government in February 2011, TAN 8 has not been amended to account for this important consideration and hence this principle is not official Welsh Government policy. Not surprisingly therefore the legitimacy of the geographical

location of all of the existing SSAs have never been assessed or tested against this important principle.

4.17 So far as the future stewardship of the Welsh uplands is concerned therefore, CPRW concurs with the previous Rural Development Committee's conclusions and advocates as a matter of urgency that the principles underpinning the justification and delineation of all the existing Strategic Search Areas in TAN 8 should be fundamentally tested so that it can be unequivocally demonstrated that they are fit for purpose

4.18 Until such a validation exercise is completed and the spatial interpretation of TAN 8 is shown to be sound, CPRW believes that this Committee should recommend to the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development that he adopts the accepted "Precautionary Principle" and uses his powers to

- Introduce a moratorium on any future industrial scale on shore wind farm developments within an existing SSA in upland Wales where important carbon resources are known to exist.
- Revise Planning Policy Wales to ensure that the impacts of renewable energy proposals on existing sequestered carbon resources become an integral part of TAN 8 and thereafter a material planning consideration in determining the overall acceptability of any renewable energy proposal which affects any such resources.
- Include a presumption against any onshore wind schemes located on known areas of deep peat or in any other area coinciding with important resources of sequestered carbon fixed for instance in areas where woodland cover prevails.
- Require all outstanding and future proposals for renewable energy schemes to include an independent assessment of the nature, extent and impact of the proposed scheme on the carbon resources of the development site and its surroundings. (Such an assessment should be a mandatory component of the Environmental Impact Regulations and hence any Environmental Statement which accompanies any such application requiring planning consent.)
- Require a standard methodology to be developed by WG and used by all developers to assess the individual and cumulative impact of any scheme(s) on the status of any carbon resource affected by any proposed scheme, (particularly large on shore wind schemes in upland locations).
- Require the Environmental Statement of any renewable energy scheme to objectively demonstrate that the development will not compromise the integrity of any existing resources of sequestered carbon.

4.19 In suggesting these recommendations we find it anomalous that those seeking planning consent for domestic or residential developments are increasingly required to demonstrate the carbon credentials of their proposals, whilst those developing significant renewable energy schemes with their associated infrastructure, are not required to assess the impacts of their proposals in the same way.

4.20 Our concerns regarding the current soundness of TAN are further compounded by the scant attention and regard given in the existing Advice, to the planning issues and impacts associated with the transmission of electricity, in particular that required to link major renewable energy schemes to the Grid. As a result, a "dysfunctional

relationship” exists in the consent regime between the responsibilities of Local Planning Authorities, the Welsh Government and the powers vested in the UK Government.

4.21 In the absence of a National Resource Strategy and an Infrastructure Strategy for Wales no national strategy to guide the manner in which the transmission of this power generated from TAN 8 areas exists. The consequences of this have been highlighted in Mid Wales and this same scenario could well be repeated when further onshore, offshore energy or nuclear generating plant is developed.

4.22 Accordingly, the current version of TAN 8 should therefore be revised to address this matter and it and Planning Policy Wales used to define how and where Wales’ future energy generation and transmission needs should be planned and how they can both be delivered in an environmentally responsible way. We believe that local people through their Local Planning Authorities should have a role in planning the provision of these facilities. In so doing, Local Authorities should be encouraged to

- Evaluate the scope for renewable energy in their areas, and work with the Power distribution companies to identify and plan how to provide the necessary transmission capacity to serve this expected future need.
- Include in their respective Development Plans any proposals for additional transmission schemes so that their routing and means of construction are subject to rigorous public scrutiny before any new renewable energy schemes relying on these networks are approved.

4.23 In addition CPRW also believes that TAN 8 must fully and properly reflect the Welsh Government’s own acknowledged “Proximity principle”. Its Planning advice should make it clear that priority should be given to those renewable energy schemes which are located closest to points where power is consumed and include a presumption against those where energy generation is remote from an existing grid or which rely on long transmission connections to link such schemes to an available grid.

5. Conclusion

5.1 Our submission we trust highlights a number of key deficiencies and weakness in the present arrangements for the planning of energy in Wales. In particular we contend that not only is the present system disjointed but more importantly it fails to recognise the full landscape and social consequences of using the resources of rural Wales. In addition we further believe that it not only underestimates but also misjudges the significant impact that industrial scale renewable energy schemes have on the integrity of the Welsh uplands.

5.2 We therefore believe that changes to the present planning guidance and the various approaches currently being implemented in Wales are necessary. We note however this should be done in a way which relaxes the current strategic restrictions for the promotion of on shore wind farms so that any new approach simply spread the problems which exist in some parts of Wales to others.

5.3 We agree that a planned strategic approach to energy provision is necessary but believe that this must be done in a manner which reflects

and fully accounts for all the relevant modern day circumstances. If these are accounted for as we suggest, we contend that power generation from industrial scale on shore wind installations as is currently being promoted through TAN 8 will be shown to be incompatible with the Welsh Government's desire to maintain the quality, diversity and environmental value of the range of landscapes which exist across the whole of Wales.

5.4 We trust that this Committee will agree with our perspectives and recommend to the Minister that TAN 8 in its present form is unsound because it is neither environmentally nor technically justified. In particular, we trust that you will agree that this unpopular and divisive guidance should be revised to remove the presumption in favour of large scale on shore wind schemes in any upland area in Wales.

Peter Ogden
Director
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

The Clerk
Environment Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

21st September 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like your committee to consider the attached information in addition to the e-Petition that I raised earlier this year on the Welsh Assembly web site "Say No to Tan 8 – Wind farms & High Voltage Power Lines Spoiling our Community" Details of which I believe you already have for consideration by your committee.

Additional information for the committee to consider

1.0 Out of date information

Planning guidelines in TAN 8 are out of date, based upon information that is over seven years old. During the past few years there have been great technical advances in wind turbine development and a huge increase in physical size and generating capacity. We now have the benefit of recent research and a better understanding of many of the issues surrounding the building of wind farms and their associated transmission lines and sub-stations. These advances were not envisaged when the original planning policy was formulated, therefore I urge the Welsh Assembly government to undertake a major review of TAN 8.

2.0 Cumulative Effect

Consideration must be given to the "cumulative effect" in all planning guidelines of these huge turbines and their associated structures (Pylons, transmission lines and substations) this must be of paramount importance.

3.0 Human Health - The Draper study

Matches grid references of childhood cancer cases with the locations of power lines and the magnetic fields calculated from them.

The study was funded by the UK Department of Health. It was conducted by the Childhood Cancer Research Group (CCRG) at the University of Oxford with input from National Grid. There are four authors, three from CCRG (Gerald Draper, Honorary Senior Research Fellow, Tim Vincent, Research Officer, Mary Kroll, Statistician) and one from National Grid (John Swanson, Scientific Advisor).

The study concerns nearly 33,000 cases of childhood cancer born in England and Wales between 1962 and 1995 and diagnosed over the same period. This study

concerns overhead power lines forming the National Grid in England and Wales, i.e. all 275 and 400 kV overhead lines (the highest voltages used), plus a small fraction of 132 kV lines, about 7,000 route km altogether. The grid references of all 21,800 pylons concerned were obtained from the records of National Grid. Using the postcode of domicile at birth subjects within 1 km of a transmission line were identified.

Conclusions

There is an association between childhood leukaemia and proximity of home address at birth to high voltage power lines, and the apparent risk extends to a greater distance than would have been expected from previous studies. About 4% of children in England and Wales live within 600 m of high voltage lines at birth. If the association is causal, about 1% of childhood leukaemia in England and Wales would be attributable to these lines, though this estimate has considerable statistical uncertainty.

4.0 Further Health Risks - VAD Vibro-Acoustic Disease

Industrial Wind Turbines, Infrasound and (VAD) Authors:-

Professor Mariana Alves-Pereira, School of Health Sciences (ERISA), Lusofona

University, Portugal, and Department of Environmental Sciences & Engineering, New University of Lisbon, Portugal

Nuno Castelo Branco, MD, Surgical Pathologist, President, Scientific Board, Center for Human Performance (CPH)

Excessive exposure to infrasound and low frequency noise (ILFN, defined as all acoustical phenomena occurring at or below the frequency bands of 500 Hz) can cause vibro-acoustic disease (VAD). Research into VAD has been ongoing since 1980, conducted by a multidisciplinary team of scientists led by pathologist Nuno Castelo Branco, MD. In March 2007, for the first time, the Portuguese National Center for Occupational Diseases gave 100% professional disability to a male who had been diagnosed with VAD since 2001.

The results irrefutably demonstrate that wind turbines in the proximity of residential areas produce acoustical environments that can lead to the development of VAD in nearby home-dwellers. As sound can travel great distances depending on wind direction and frequencies can mix to create beat frequencies, there must be further in depth studies of the cumulative effects of wind farm noise before further large turbines are installed.

5.0 Aviation

Montgomeryshire has a high proportion of low flying military aircraft. Together with low flying activity based around Welshpool airport which includes a flying school and base for the Mid Wales air ambulance. Wind turbines, pylons and cables pose

danger to aviation and an obstruction to the ability to operate military aircraft and helicopters at low level which is an essential part of ensuring operational success. Low flying training in the UK enables this vital capability. Low flying remains an essential skill for military aircrew. As wind turbines increase in size and number their potential impact on aviation operations increases correspondingly. Interactions between wind turbines and aviation activity are potentially complex.

Masking & Shadow Affecting Aviation

The masking of real aircraft can happen in two ways: by reflecting or deflecting the radar such that aircraft flying in the "shadow" of the turbines are not detected. By presenting such a large number of returns from the towers and the blades that the returns from actual aircraft are lost in the "clutter". While shadowing will only affect returns from aircraft flying at low altitudes and will thus normally only have a small effect, the effects of radar clutter will have an impact on all aircraft flying at all altitudes over the area affected and is more critical. The effects of clutter on flight safety are always potentially extremely serious. In practice, the effects of clutter will impair the radars' detection performance in certain sectors and it may be insidious in nature.

There do not appear to be any studies on the cumulative effect of wind farms with high capacity output on the dangers to aviation.

6.0 The recently published views of the leading Industrial professionals must be taken into account in a major review of TAN 8.

I bring your attention to two recently published documents-

Dr Nigel Burton, President of The IET (Institution of Engineering and Technology previously known as the IEE the Institution of Electrical Engineering)

In his inaugural speech, he says some technologies "are a serious misallocation of resources if the principal objective is cost-effective emissions reduction. Early enthusiasm for domestic wind turbines has waned as it has become clear that in general these have no economic value and in some cases consume more electricity than they produce."

The cost of maintaining security of supply with intermittent generation on the system.

Colin M Gibson CEng FIEE Power Network Director, National Grid Group 1993-97

Because intermittent generation has a much lower probability of generating at times of system peak demand than thermal generation, there is a requirement for back-up thermal generation to contain the risk to security of supply to an acceptable level. The consensus view is that about 90MW of back-up is required for every 100MW of wind generation. For a true comparison, the capital charges for this plant should be added to the cost of intermittent generation.

7.0 Local Transport Considerations

Most roads and bridges in Mid Wales are not capable of taking the huge heavy and wide loads. There will be frequent major disruption to our towns and villages, which will have an adverse effect on the local economy.

8.0 More emphasis on alternative energy sources

Shale gas in particular, produces some 45% less carbon greenhouse gases and fewer particulates than oil or coal fired power stations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Selley, R C 1987. British shale gas potential scrutinized. Oil & Gas JI. June 15. 62-64.

Selley, R C 2005. UK shale-gas resources. In: Doré, A.G. & Vining, B. A. (eds.) Petroleum geology of NW Europe & Global perspectives. Proc. 6th Petroleum Geology Conference. Geological Society. London. 707-714.

9.0 Domestic Energy Efficiency

Increase awareness, education and incentives for Welsh households to be more energy efficient

10.0 Business, Public Sector and Industrial

Energy efficiency needs to be better promoted within the above sectors

Fitting an inverter and 22kw permanent magnet motor for a water pump or fan to an old existing installation could have energy saving of approximately £7000 per year (see carbon trust web site)

Increased usage of such energy efficient inverters to control various industrial processes would create extra employment in Mid Wales

Inverters are manufactured in Mid Wales by Invertek Drives Ltd.

Offa's Dyke Business Park, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8JF

Control Techniques Limited, Worldwide Headquarters . The Gro, Newtown, Powys, SY16 3BE

11.0 The "WALES OFFICE BUSINESS PLAN 2011-15"

In the introduction of the above document it states: "The Wales Office exists to serve Wales and its people. Our vision is for a more prosperous, ambitious and fairer Wales for all. We will take action to showcase Wales both within Government and beyond as an attractive place to live, visit, work and do business, and be the conduit through which the people of Wales can have their voices heard at the centre of Government"

How will anyone be able to promote Mid Wales as an attractive place to live, visit, work and do business, when the beautiful landscape is spoiled with hundreds

of huge pylons, wind turbines, sub-stations and transmission cables? I am extremely concerned about the potential lost of jobs in the tourism industry due to the desecration of our wonderful landscape. The loss of key tourism can hardly be described as prosperous.

There appears to be a major blockage in the conduit through which the people of Wales can have their voices heard at the centre of Government.

I am former Chairman of MANGO (Montgomeryshire Alliance of Neurological Groups and Organisations)
Currently Chairman of Parkinson's UK, Montgomeryshire Branch,
Many of our members have expressed profound concerns about the effects the proposed huge wind turbines, pylons and sub stations will have upon health, the community, employment and local economy.

I am grateful for the opportunity to express my opinions and put various facts before the Committee, I ask that you impress upon all concerned for the need for a major review of TAN 8.

Yours faithfully

John Day

Shropshire and mid Wales alliance – Joint submission. 22.9.11

Environment and Sustainability Committee of the Welsh Government

Response to Committee paper dated 2nd August 2011

This is a response of to the Committee's inquiry paper. It is directed, in particular, at the Welsh Government's aspirations for on-shore wind energy generation as embodied in Technical Advice Note No. 8 and submitted by the following bodies:

Conservation of Upland Powys, STOP Windfarms and Pylons, Montgomeryshire Against Pylons and windfarms, CPRE Shropshire, Rhiwycynon Against Pylons, Abermule Action Group, Mochdre Action Group, Llansantffraid Action Group, GALAR - Gwirfoddolwyr Abergorlech Llansawel a Rhydcymerau, Shropshire North Against Pylons, Cambrian Mountains Society, Country Guardian, Artists Against Windfarms, The Rainbow Trails Project Dyfnant Forest Llangadfan and Trefeglwys Against Power Plans

The single most important factor in the entire debate over wind energy is the European Directive on Environmental Assessment ("the Directive") embodied into Welsh law by Statutory Instrument S.I.1656 (W170 of 2004). This changed fundamentally the balance of powers and duties in circumstances where conflict arises between development on the one hand and environmental protection on the other.

It is a matter for surprise that the Committee's paper of 2nd August makes no mention of the Directive and the impact it may have on Welsh planning policy. This strange failure to acknowledge the presence of the elephant in the room necessitates a reminder of the Directive's salient features:

- (1) **It binds** all responsible authorities, including central and local government. That, of course, also includes the Welsh Assembly Government.
- (2) **It applies to** any plan or programme concerning, inter alia, energy, transport, town and country planning and land use.
- (3) **It demands** that the responsible authority should carry out an environmental assessment before the relevant plan or programme is adopted if it is likely to have significant environmental effects
- (4) **It identifies** interested parties as the named statutory consultees and those elements of the general public likely to be affected by the plan or programmes.
- (5) **It prescribes** the criteria to be taken into account when determining the likely significance of environmental effects

(Schedules 1 and 2).

The last of the above carries momentous consequences. The criteria listed in Schedule 2 are much more specific, more exacting and more stringent than the guidelines seen elsewhere in environmental legislation.

Schedules 1 and 2 of S.I.1656 are attached hereto as Appendix A. It will be seen that 13 detailed criteria, (a)-(m), are laid out and the impact of any plan or programme must be tested against those criteria both individually and collectively. The authority responsible for the plan or programme must also state:

- (i) the environmental protection objectives relevant to the plan or programme and the environmental considerations taken into account during its preparation (Sch.2 para.5)
- (ii) the likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects (Sch.2, para.6)
- (iii) the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment (Sch.2, para.7)
- (iv) the measures envisaged concerning, monitoring of the effects (Sch.2, para.9)

Nowhere in the Directive do we find a “save and except” provision. Nowhere do we find an over-riding imperative to the effect that none of this applies (or only some of it applies) where the industrial development envisaged, though damaging to the environment, is aimed at creating renewable energy. That objective is accorded no special status. It is not a trump card of any kind. There is not even a presumption in favour of it. The Directive provides a level playing field for the contest between development and environmental damage regardless of the nature of the development. This is not a chance oversight. The Directive does, indeed, cast its eye over renewable energy but only to the extent of listing “Climatic factors” in Schedule 2 of S.I. 1656 as one of the 13 criteria to be addressed. No question of primacy – just one out of 13 equally important considerations.

Against that background it is difficult to understand why TAN 8 was not strangled at birth, because it is self-evident that a thousand or more towering wind turbines scattered over the forests and the pristine hills of Wales (together with associated infrastructure and delivery systems) would contradict nearly all the 13 criteria in Schedule 2. Explanation of this oddity is to be found in the timing of

the Assembly's business over the summer of 2004. The sequence of events was:

- (a) January 2004: S.I.1656 appears on Assembly's legislative calendar
- (b) 12th July 2004: S.I.1656 comes into force but, by its own terms, applies only to plans and programmes started after 20th July 2004 or, if started earlier, which are not adopted until after 21 July 2006).
- (c) 13th July 2004: draft TAN 8 circulated for comment
- (d) 13th July 2005: TAN 8 adopted

The dates at (b) above, compared with that at (c), show how TAN 8 was slotted into the Assembly's programme at a point where it escaped the need for scrutiny under the Directive (=S.I.1656).

By their letter of 13th July 2004 the Assembly circulated the TAN 8 document among various agencies and organisations. The letter did not identify the policy or practice under which this was done but its wording is strictly neutral.... "Your comments are requested"... and gives no hint that, only 8 days later on 21st July any plan or programme such as TAN 8 would be captured and sterilized by the Directive.

Whether the timing of TAN 8 was only a matter of chance or a duplicitous manoeuvre to save it from death at the hands of the Directive makes no difference to the outcome 7 years later. The Directive still retains its fatal potency because it applies just as much to local government as to regional and central government. In July 2011 Powys County Council ("PCC") issued for consultation its Local Development Plan ("LDP") recognizing, as it was obliged to do, that the plan must meet the requirements of the Directive (otherwise described as the SEA – Strategic Environmental Assessment). For detailed reasons laid out in Appendix B hereto it is almost inconceivable that the TAN 8 proposals could find acceptance in this LDP. The first obligation of County Councillors is to obey the law and that means applying the Directive. If, mistakenly, PCC accorded some kind of precedence to TAN 8 or failed to give full and proper effect to the Directive the error could swiftly be put right on Judicial Review. With an open door to statutory appeal beyond that point if required. It cannot be over-emphasised that the Directive is paramount in the matter of environmental impact resulting from any plan or programme. TAN 8 is nothing more than a government policy, liable like any other policy to be bent or broken by the dictates of legislation. It does not deserve the prominence which it has been accorded. (It might be noted in passing that TAN 8 is exclusively the creature of the Welsh Assembly Government who should realise that, where legislation clashes with policy, a cry of "we will not budge" is futile).

If current intransigence persists in Cardiff the only result will be a plague of litigation stretching down over the years. It will not be a single battle which settles the argument once and for all time. TAN 8 is a failed policy: every time it comes up against the Directive, whether at local planning level or in a court of law, TAN 8 will be knocked out by the Directive. By luck or devious manipulation it was saved from testing at its birth. Seven years later it is no better equipped for survival.

APPENDIX A

Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a)

SCHEDULE 1

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF
EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—

- (a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;
- (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;
- (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;
- (d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and
- (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment.

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to the—

- (a) probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
- (b) cumulative nature of the effects;
- (c) transboundary nature of the effects;
- (d) risks to human health or the environment;
- (e) magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- (f) value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to —
 - (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
 - (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
 - (iii) intensive land-use; and
- (g) effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

SCHEDULE 2

INFORMATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

- 1.** An outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship (if any) with other relevant plans and programmes.
- 2.** The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme.
- 3.** The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected.
- 4.** Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive [79/409/EEC](#) on the conservation of wild birds⁽¹⁾ and the Habitats Directive.
- 5.** The environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.
- 6.** The likely significant effects on the environment, including short, medium and long-term effects, permanent and temporary effects, positive and negative effects, and secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects, on issues including—
 - (a) biodiversity;
 - (b) population;
 - (c) human health;
 - (d) fauna;
 - (e) flora;
 - (f) soil;
 - (g) water;
 - (h) air;
 - (i) climatic factors;
 - (j) material assets;
 - (k) cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological heritage;

- (l) landscape; and
- (m) the inter-relationship between the issues referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (l).

7. The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme.

8. An outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties encountered in compiling the required information.

9. A description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring in accordance with regulation 17.

10. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 9.

(1) O.J. No. L 103/1 25.4.79.

APPENDIX B

This appendix takes each of the criteria prescribed by Schedule 2 of S.I.1656 and offers reasons by the TAN 8 proposals would be offensive to and incompatible with the environmental protection

(a) Biodiversity

The Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust, Radnorshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust have expertise in this area. All have called for a review of TAN 8. Not even the most ardent propagandist in the vast wind-power industry has suggested that turbines and pylons are good for biodiversity.

(b) Population

The Directive (Reg.13 of S.I.1656) demands that the views of the local population should be taken into account – not just those of statutory consultees. The Assembly will know from multiple petitions and polls that the local population is overwhelmingly opposed to TAN 8. Then, there is tourism which is a vital stream of revenue for hotels, guest houses, caravan parks and B & B farmhouses throughout Powys. More than 10% of the population of Powys are employed in tourism. Extensive wind farm development would destroy that employment sector: “Visit our magic panorama of 200 meter high wind turbines” hardly looks like a winner. And what about the 40% loss of value inflicted on housing that falls in the path of those towering pylons? Moreover property values, already reduced by about 20%, are affecting the ability of local business owners to raise collateral to expand, develop and offer further employment.

(c) Human health

Mass wind farm development is not an obvious way of promoting good health. The magnificent walking country of the Welsh uplands and valleys will no longer attract the rambler, the angler or the rider. Who would wish to brush shoulders with those mighty turbine blades? Who would be attracted to the land of the marching pylons? World Health Organisation concerns over the noise, infrasound, sleep and strobic effects of wind farms have never been addressed by the Assembly. And it is a notorious fact that the resonance of whirling blades (noise and infrasound) drives people out of their homes. The health issue is highlighted by the Bill recently presented to the House of Lords by Lord Reay which aims to ban wind farms within 2km of housing. Finally, the requirement to undertake a Strategic Health Assessment still remains outstanding.

(d) Fauna

The adverse impact of wind farms on fauna is almost universally accepted even by the developers themselves. The Nuon developer (active in SSA B & C) have said: “If red kites are not displaced from wind farm areas then it is apparent that they will be at risk of collision with turbines” and deaths have, indeed been reported in Germany, Wales and Scotland. So much for one of the cherished icons of mid-Wales. The isolated (but highly visible) areas designated as suitable for wind turbines will assuredly see an acceleration in the decline of ground-nesting birds. The reclusive pine marten still hangs on in the Dyfnant forest but will be doomed as that forest is itself destroyed.

(e) Flora

The short point is made that flora on access routes to and on the site of any wind farm will be replaced by hardcore, tarmac and concrete.

(f) Soil

Powys enjoys the presence of vast areas of peat land – Europe’s equivalent of tropical rain forest and a vital component of the planet’s natural protection against excessive CO2 in the atmosphere. Peat can be in layers up to 20 metres thick, storing 20 times more carbon per hectare than other ecosystems. How compatible is that with pouring thousands of tons of concrete into the peat bed? According to the Assembly’s own document issued as recently as March 2010, “The future of the Uplands”, this ground constitutes an important carbon store holding an estimate 410 mega tonnes of carbon. Nearly half of this (196 mega tonnes) lies in organic soils. A loss of only 1% of soil carbon would increase Wales’ carbon emissions by 25%. How green is this picture? How can TAN 8 survive as the creature of the same body that recognized these facts?

(g) Water

The declared planning objective for water would conventionally be protection and improvement of quality for water resources and habitats. Also the prevention of flooding as recognized in the Sustainable Urban Drainage Strategy. Wind farm development is inimical to these objectives. Replacing absorbent bog, peat and marshland with non-absorbent concrete is destruction of habitat and conducive to greater flood risk.

(h) Air

Air quality in mid-Wales is pretty good but, with TAN 8 on the agenda that won’t last much longer. The wind farm developers themselves estimate 1,000 traffic movement per turbine – and that does not include scoping, maintenance or repairs. Neither does it include infrastructure. The vehicles involved, of course, are not small motor cars but in many cases, transport units of

a size so vast that their like has never previously been seen in Wales.

(i) Climatic factors

This is the one and only criterion where the proponents of TAN 8 might seek to find comfort. But, as pointed out earlier, this criterion in the Directive stands equal in rank to the other 12 and no more than that. The combined negative weight of all the other criteria makes for an unequal contest. This does not mean that the desirability of wind power as a source of green energy is acknowledged. There is increasing appreciation world-wide that the environmental destructiveness of large scale wind farms represents more pain than gain. It is worth recalling the words of another European Directive, that on Renewable Energy (Directive 2001/77/EC: “Steps to increase use of electricity must be in proportion to the objective to be obtained.”

(j) Material assets

The implicit but undeclared objective under this criterion must be to protect the relevant asset from harm. A complete inventory of material assets in Powys would number hundreds of sites. For illustrative purposes a few of the more prominent in the mid-Wales area:

Broneirion – Girl Guide Centre for Wales
Powis Castle
Gregynog – historic and tourist attraction
Glansevern – Historic and tourist attraction Grade II*
listed building with 100 acre park registered with
CADW as a historic environment. Also the location
of the annual Welsh Food Festival
Lake Vyrnwy
Hay Festival
Glyndwr Way
Kerry Ridgway
Offa’s Dyke
Dyfnant Forest
Stiperstones

It cannot seriously be contended that wind farms with their associated hubs and pylons (or even taken on their own) are compatible with safeguarding these (and other) assets or, in particular, that they are compatible with the good health of the tourist industry sustained by these assets.

(k) Cultural heritage

The Pevsner Architectural Guide for Montgomeryshire identifies 98 locations of historical/cultural importance. Of this

number, 76 will be significantly affected by wind farm development. Those conducting this review are invited to verify this assertion by indentifying the Pevsner locations and relating them to the wind farm/pylon/hub proposals. Alternatively, the 76 affected locations can be supplied on request.

(l) Landscape

The natural and historic landscape of Powys is under threat from TAN 8. The industrialisation of uplands and valleys would be the very antithesis of landscape protection. It is not felt necessary to expand on this point. To suggest that a mass invasion of turbines and pylons would enhance the landscape could only invite derision. In 2001, three years before TAN 8 came on stage, a public inquiry (Inspector David Wilks) into the cumulative effect of wind farms at Carno, Adfa and Llanbrynmair concluded that their impact on the visual and Recreational quality of these uplands would be unacceptable. These conclusions were adopted by the Assembly. But the same Assembly felt able to ignore this inconvenience when it rushed to publish TAN 8 ahead of a second inconvenience looming up in the shape of the Directive.

(m) Inter-relationship

The observations recorded under 11 out of the first 12 of the above headings demonstrate conclusively that the effects of an unmodified TAN 8 on Powys would be not merely “significant” (the wording of the Directive) but also calamitous.

Every single fact and feature associated with TAN 8 inspires both distrust and distaste. It must urgently be reviewed in order to:

- (1) restore public confidence in the processes of government.**
- (2) preserve the planning system from long-term acrimony, disruption and litigation.**

Environment and Sustainability Committee
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

21st September 2011

Dear Sirs,

In response to your letter dated 2nd August 2011, this submission is on behalf of a community group called Montgomeryshire Against Pylons (MAP). As the group name suggests, this group was initially formed as a response to National Grid (NG) and Scottish Power (SP) proposals, however as the campaign has evolved the issue surrounding on shore wind energy has become a focal point. MAP has been fundamental in keeping the local communities informed on Government, Powys County Council (PCC), NG, SP and wind farm industry proposals.

The strength of public opinion in Montgomeryshire and surrounding areas is unprecedented.

The energy policy and planning in Wales is an extensive subject and this submission is by no means exhaustive.

The contents of this submission are

1. On Shore Wind Energy Production
 2. Devolution and Democratic Deficit
 3. Policy
 4. TAN 8
 5. Infrastructure & Transport Issues
 6. Socio Economic Impact on the Local Communities
 7. Carbon Reduction
- Conclusion

Members from MAP intend to give oral evidence if invited.

How can saving the planet mean the destruction of our local environment?

A confirmation of receipt would be appreciated, as would a date for the publication of the committee findings.

Yours faithfully,

On behalf of Montgomeryshire Against Pylons

1. On Shore Wind Energy Production

1.1 The efficiency and cost effectiveness of on shore wind energy production is the subject of much debate. Dependent on your source of information, wind turbines can be ‘clean green energy generators’ or that wind turbines are neither, clean, green nor generate a reliable source of energy. Following this extensive research, MAP has come to the conclusion that the difficulties and costs associated with on shore wind energy production greatly outweigh the benefits.

1.2 Stuart Young Consulting studied wind power generation over a 3 year period in Scotland. (It should be noted that the wind resource in Scotland is greater than that of Wales).

“During the study period, wind generation was:

- **below 20% of capacity more than half the time.**
- **below 10% of capacity over one third of the time.**
- **below 2.5% capacity for the equivalent of one day in twelve.**
- **below 1.25% capacity for the equivalent of just under one day a month.**

The discovery that for one third of the time wind output was less than 10% of capacity, and often significantly less than 10%, was an unexpected result of the analysis. (Stuart Young Consulting, Analysis of UK Wind Power Generation, March 2011).

This low level of power generation cannot justify the expense to the economy and local environment.

1.3 In order to provide any substantial amount of power, wind turbines would have to be built over the entire land surface of the UK (Professor MacKay, *Sustainable Energy – without the hot air*, 2008).

1.4 In the UK we require around 60Gw of power at peak demand times. 35Gw is the base load, this is the load on the system that is always required.

Wind generation is unable to provide this base load because of its intermittent nature. The remaining 25-30Gw of power we require at peak times cannot be provided reliably by wind as the peak demand may occur when there is a low output from wind generation.

It will be seen therefore that wind power **cannot** provide any energy security for Wales or the UK (http://www.bmreports.com/bsp/bsp_home.htm)

1.5 The ROC subsidy was introduced to encourage renewable deployment; as a consequence, a wind turbine generates more in subsidies than in actual energy produced.

We believe that renewable deployment should be encouraged but the ROC should be adjusted so the payments are based not solely on the power produced but an emphasis given to when the power is produced.

This would encourage renewables that provide security of supply and power when it is required. This view is endorsed by Low Carbon Revolution, Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement, Annex 5:

‘Energy security of supply – since without this our civilisation is at risk’

1.6 Meeting the energy needs of Wales will require all wind power generation to have a back up supply, such as gas, coal or nuclear power generation. (S. Laidlaw, <http://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/article-2008055/Energy-giants-want-billions-windfarms.html#ixzz1XuNiQ88M>)

This back up power, which is constantly being switched on and off, represents a highly inefficient use of resources.

Back-up will be required to be running all the time, Combined Cycle Gas Turbines (CCGT) are at least 60% efficient and produce 340 - 400kg CO² / Mwh.

Open Cycle Gas Turbines (OCGT) can be switched on and off but the produce around 575kgCO² / Mwh and are 35% efficient and therefore cost twice as much to run. (www.etsap.org)

The NG has noted that the gas piping system supplying gas power stations will be unable to cope with the constant pressure fluctuations arising from back up requirements to wind energy generation. (*Professor Michael Laughton, Wind Farm Conference, Cheshire 2011*)

It ultimately needs to be remembered that the wind turbines will not turn if there is no wind; no improvements in technology can alter this fact.

2. Devolution and Democratic Deficit

2.1 Following the referendum in 2011, it is now beyond doubt that the people of Wales wish further powers to be devolved to the Welsh Government. Energy policy is currently somewhat of a political football with decisions on energy matters being made both in Cardiff and in Westminster.

MAP has no position on where these decisions should be made but it is essential that the voices of local people are heard with regard to the future of their own communities.

It is a matter of grave concern that a situation may arise where the Westminster government localism agenda might protect communities in Shropshire from the blight associated with large scale electricity infrastructure whilst no such protection was available to residents of mid Wales.

The petitions presented to the Welsh Government relating to TAN8 and transport issue arising from wind farm development show the strength of local feeling. It is important for the gulf between people and policy makers to be bridged.

2.2 A comment from Dyfed Powys Police in relation to the proposed wind farm development at Dyfnant forest states:

‘Two other areas which we cannot ignore are the potential for an increase in crime levels in the area, and the risk of disorder and disquiet amongst residents of the areas where the farm will be sited, as well as those persons who live along or who use the anticipated access routes. The potential for public protest is growing; we are already seeing emerging themes and this should not be underestimated.’ (IPC Dyfnant Forest Scoping Opinion, June 2011).

In this atmosphere it is very urgent to resolve this uncertainty and to provide clarity on the decision making process.

The excuses of Westminster blaming Cardiff and visa versa, has caused nothing but dependency and cynicism amongst local constituents.

If the politicians in London and Cardiff cannot decide on who is accountable then the local communities are willing to assist.

3. Policy

3.1 Energy policy in Wales, as elsewhere in the EU is driven by the need to reduce carbon emissions. The question arises as to how these challenging targets are best achieved.

3.2 Too much government support is focused on expensive and still experimental, clean energy technologies which cannot provide large quantities of scaleable, secure, predictable and dispatchable power – in particular on shore wind. In comparison, more secure sources such as large hydro, Severn tidal barrage / tidal lagoons, geo-thermal etc. have been underfunded.

3.3 There has been very little emphasis on community energy generation projects, local energy for local needs. Current onshore wind development plans in Wales are arousing wide spread and intense local opposition. The lack of local input in to power generation schemes renders these schemes unacceptable

Planning policy Wales states 3.1.8 "When determining planning applications local planning authorities must take into account any relevant view on planning matters expressed by neighbouring occupiers, local residents and any other third parties. While the substance of local views must be considered, the duty is to decide each case on its planning merits. The Courts have held that perceived fears of the public are a material planning consideration that should be taken into account in determining whether a proposed development would affect the amenity of an area and could amount to a good reason for a refusal of planning permission."

3.4 Research forming a major new independent report – the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA), reveals that nature is worth billions of pounds to the UK economy. The report strengthens the arguments for protecting and enhancing the environment and will be used by the government to direct policy in future.

- The benefits that inland wetlands bring to water quality are worth up to £1.5billion per year to the UK;
- Pollinators are worth £430million per year to British agriculture;
- The amenity benefits of living close to rivers, coasts and other wetlands is worth up to £1.3billion per year to the UK; and
- The health benefits of living with a view of a green space are worth up to £300 per person per year.

Source <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2011/06/02/hidden-value-of-nature-revealed>

4. TAN 8

TAN 8 impacts hugely on local communities and overrides established planning policy. Local opinion is ignored.

- 4.1 TAN 8 was issued in July 2005 with the stated aim of increasing renewable energy production whilst preserving the beauty of the Welsh landscape. To this end, Strategic Search Areas (SSA) were designated across Wales where it was deemed suitable for onshore wind farm development.
- 4.2 At this early stage, however, it was noted that concentration of turbines would effectively create turbine landscapes. This was based on the assumption that the turbines would be 110m tall. Current plans include 184m high turbines, totally out of scale to the landscapes of mid Wales.
- 4.3 TAN 8 was also issued when it was assumed that wind would be a much more efficient energy source than has proved to be the case, (see section 1 above).
- 4.4 Large scale infrastructure development (transformers and pylons) in mid Wales was not anticipated but with 3 out of the 7 SSA's in being concentrated in this area, such an industrial scale development is inevitable.
- 4.5 TAN 8 has not been subject to an environmental impact assessment which contradicts many EU and government policies, for example:
- EU Directive on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (2001/42/EC) (the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive).*
- It was stated in the document 'One Wales 2007' that such assessments would be undertaken.
- 4.6 There is no mention in TAN8 of the fire risk imposed by wind turbines. This could equally be applied to forestry areas and dry moorland. Wind turbines have on occasion ignited, risking surrounding areas. (See Exhibit 1, attached).
- 4.7 Of particular concern are the cumulative impacts of **ALL** the proposed developments, (wind turbines, substations and pylons as a collective).

The effects of

- Draining upland moorland on flooding
- Regional displacements of populations of birds and bats
- Noise impacts in the form of resonance between wind farms
- Overall visual impact and effect on visual amenity
- Overall Impact on ecology - this view is echoed by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust (MWT) 'Trusts have long been concerned about the cumulative effect of large-scale wind farm development and with many upland areas of Mid-Wales already covered with wind farms, the impact of hundreds more turbines is likely to be significant. To date, there has also been widespread failure of the mitigation measures connected with large-scale wind farms to compensate for the loss of key species and habitats' (MWT, Position statement 2011, <http://www.montwt.co.uk/images/user/Position%20statement%20-%20Large%20windfarms.pdf>)

The MWT is also concerned about the implications of TAN8.

The Trusts question the wisdom of:

- concentrating wind farms into defined areas that are remote from sources of demand
- locating large-scale wind farms in areas not served by, or in proximity to, existing infrastructure
- so great an emphasis being placed on wind power as the primary form of renewable energy

4.8 It would appear that TAN8, 2.5 is open to misinterpretation by developers allowing over development in SSA's and surrounding areas.

'There may be practical, technical and or environmental reasons why the capacity may be more or less than that indicated'

4.9 TAN8 2.10 *'The de-commissioning of wind farm development and the restoration of the site at the end of its life and ensuring that sufficient finance is available to implement these requirements'* is part of policy. Please could the committee ensure that the same requirements cover the infrastructure and detail how this would be enforced.

In light of the above points, it will be seen that this policy of concentrating industrial scale turbine development in certain areas of Wales has failed and TAN8 should therefore be urgently reviewed.

5. Infrastructure and Transport Issues

5.1 To facilitate the proposed wind farm developments, a network of high voltage lines, pylons and substations, some 20 acres in size will have to be built. The construction of this infrastructure would materially alter the fabric of the mid Wales landscape.

5.2 The value of this landscape to the economy of the area will be discussed in the following section; there is wide-spread local discontent at the prospect of so far-reaching a change taking place without local consent.

5.3 With regards to the transport issues, the current road network is incapable of accommodating the traffic associated with the proposed developments. A study commissioned by PCC stated an increase of 401,633 HGV movements plus over 3,000 abnormal loads (Capita Symonds, Powys Wind Farms, Construction and Use HGV's Study, 2011).

Although the initial phase of development would create the greatest disruption, maintenance, repowering and decommissioning would have implications for traffic flow over a greater period of time.

Restrictions in the local road network due to the various works arising from the wind farm developments would seriously impede local businesses. Again this is referred to in the following section.

6. Socio Economic Impact on the Local Communities

6.1 The economy of mid Wales contains few large employers and is heavily dependent on tourism.

Mid Wales is unique because it is located between two national parks, this situation has led to the development of a thriving holiday and touring park sector in mid Wales. Tourism generates £615 million per year, employing 6300 people, 10% of the population (Powys County Council, 2009).

The fragile but sustainable economy of mid Wales is heavily reliant on tourism.

Tourism is a key provider of local jobs for local people, therefore helping to sustain local services, such as schools within rural communities.

Some wind farm developers are keen to promote 'turbine tourism', however the main asset of mid Wales is the unspoiled countryside. Industrialization of mid Wales with pylons, substations and large scale wind turbine developments would damage the natural beauty of the area resulting in damage to the local economy.

6.2 The British Holiday & Home Parks Association are extremely concerned regarding the scale and intensity of the proposed development;

'Intensive development of an industrial nature in countryside that is attractive to holidaymakers will impact on the economic, social and environmental contribution of Holiday and Touring Parks. This contribution may not be fully recognised and it is important that the detrimental impact is taken into consideration alongside any benefit anticipated from a development proposal.'

'The attractions of the countryside are the single most important driver in bringing park customers to any area. 81% of park customers enjoy walking, 61% spending

time in the countryside, 29% watching wildlife. Any development of an intense, industrial nature, which blights the very rural aspect of the countryside, will therefore greatly reduce the attractiveness of a park and a region to tourists. Therefore, any impact assessment considering proposals for development needs to take account of the loss of parks' very real contribution to the local economy and community.'
(Full report Attached, see Appendix A)

6.3 Visit Wales celebrates in 'Explore mid Wales and the Brecon Beacons' long distance paths through out mid Wales, including Glyndwr's Way and Offa's Dyke. These popular walks will be littered with pylons and turbines.

6.4 Some of the proposed wind farms are very close to the National Parks and their visual impact also needs to be considered, (see Snowdonia National Park Authority Contribution to IPC Scoping Opinion 2011).

6.5 Statements from One Wales document include:

'Through our Sustainable Tourism Framework, we will ensure that tourism maintains and strengthens the quality of life in local communities, through engaging and empowering local communities in planning and decision-making. We will aim to maximize the contribution of tourism to the sustainable economic prosperity of the host destination, including the proportion of visitor spending that is retained locally'
(One Wales p 64)

'We wish to see the historic environment well protected, enjoyed and valued by the people of Wales. We want to see fewer historic buildings and sites 'at risk', with more heritage assets in stable or improving condition. We will continue to consider heritage assets for protection and promote the historic environment as a strand of regeneration and sustainable development, by promoting best practice in urban and landscape characterization and the reuse of redundant historic buildings. We will also expand our advice and policy guidance and target grants to promote sustainable conservation and heritage-led regeneration. Through our Strategic Capital Investment Fund, we will fund improved access and presentation of historic sites to stimulate local pride and cultural tourism, as part of our Welsh Cultural Heritage Initiative.' (Page 71 One Wales).

Planning Policy Wales 11.1.7

'In rural areas, tourism related development is an essential element in providing for a healthy, diverse, local and national economy.'

How will industrial scale development contribute towards these aspirations?

6.6 The threat of high voltage overhead lines has broader implications than just tourism. For example, small village schools will struggle to remain open if they are in close proximity to 400Kv lines due to the perceived health risks associated with them. Many of these small village schools are strongholds of the Welsh language: their closure would have a seriously detrimental impact on the traditional culture.

6.7 Children with Leukaemia Society argues that there should be a minimum distance from high voltage lines: The Draper Report of 2005 shows a 69% increase in childhood leukaemia within 200m of high voltage lines. (G. Draper et al., BMJ, 2005, ‘Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: a case-control study’)

6.8 Recently, the Council of Europe produced a report into the health aspects of electromagnetic radiation:

‘The potential health effects of the very low frequency of electromagnetic fields surrounding power lines and electrical devices are the subject of ongoing research and a significant amount of public debate. According to the World Health Organisation, electromagnetic fields of all frequencies represent one of the most common and fastest growing environmental influences, about which anxiety and speculation are spreading.’

‘The Assembly regrets that, despite calls for the respect of the precautionary principle and despite all the recommendations, declarations and a number of statutory and legislative advances, there is still a lack of reaction to known or emerging environmental and health risks and virtually systematic delays in adopting and implementing effective preventive measures’.

<http://assembly.coe.int/main.asp?Link=/documents/workingdocs/doc11/edoc12608.htm>

6.9 Another consideration for the local communities is noise. The only assessment of wind turbine generated noise is based on a 14year old study (ETSU-R 1997) that requires the turbine manufactures to supply their own data for the environmental impact assessment and when wind turbines were significantly smaller than today.

6.10 TAN8 recommends a distance of 500m between wind turbines and homes but then advises that this could altered, i.e. lowered. The House of Lords are currently trying to pass a Bill to resolve this issue which would lead to turbines in mid Wales being sited over 3km from a dwelling.

6.11 There will also be devaluation of domestic and business properties which will leave many residents in a negative equity situation. This will have a knock-on effect on the wider business sector as asset devaluation decreases capital available for investment.

6.12 The suggested employment benefits from large scale wind farm development in mid Wales are very uncertain.

A study last year by the Juan Carlos University came to the conclusion that for every ‘green’ job that was created there would be a net loss of at least 2.2 jobs, i.e. for every 4 jobs created there would be a loss of 9 jobs in the general economy. (<http://www.juandemariana.org/pdf/090327-employment-public-aid-renewable.pdf>)

Similarly, Dr G Hughes, Professor of Economics at Edinburgh University has demonstrated that the inability of this sector to create jobs.

(http://www.thegwfp.org/images/stories/gwfp-reports/hughes-green_jobs.pdf)

6.13 Increased fuel poverty seems to be inevitable when heavily subsidising on shore wind energy generation.

Wind Power stations have the net effect of transferring money from the poor to the rich. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/8713128/The-aristocrats-cashing-in-on-Britains-wind-farm-subsidies.html>).

A few landowners and international power companies benefit from the installation of wind farms, whereas the vast majority of the population pay. There is no community benefit for the people who have to suffer the intrusion of huge steel pylons or substations.

The cost of the electricity generated by the wind power stations is an extra 4.8p/Kwh on top of the normal unit price. This renewable policy is estimated to cost the UK £6.5 - 9 billion per year by 2020. (*ROC subsidy DECC passim*)

This is the money paid by the consumer to the landowners and power companies. By forcing up electricity prices and fuelling inflation, it will also reduce the amount of disposable income in the average household, resulting in less spending in the general economy.

In July 2011 DECC survey showed 5.5million homes currently are suffering fuel poverty.

6.14 Ironically constraint payments for switching off wind turbines when they produce too much electricity will only add additional costs to electric bills. (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/energy/windpower/8770937/Wind-farm-paid-1.2-million-to-produce-no-electricity.html>).

6.15 The subsidy in the year April 2009 to March 2010 amounted to £57,000 per wind power employee, which is greatly in excess of the average earnings in the public (£29,000) or private (£25,000) sectors. (*Constable, The Green Mirage, 2011*)

6.16 Further costs are incurred by the consumer due to the installation of new infrastructure in remote areas far from the point of use.

6.17 Wales has less than 5% of population of the UK but produces nearly 17% of the UK power needs we have installed capacity of 10,2GW (Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement-Technical annex 1). It would seem reasonable to say that there is an unfair burden on Wales for power generation.

6.18 Local truly community based power generation would elevate the need for additional infrastructure and therefore reduce costs to the consumer

7. Carbon Reduction

7.1 The driver behind renewable energy sources is carbon reduction which begs the question how effective is large scale on shore wind farm development in reducing carbon emissions?

7.2 The felling of large areas of woodland to site turbines would seem to be counter productive in this aim as trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere.

7.3 The new generation of larger wind turbines present particular problems when located in upland areas. In order to remain upright on boggy sites, extensive draining is required leading to wide spread degradation of carbon storing peat and dark soils.

7.4 Wind turbines are currently part of a global trading system with material and components travelling 1000's of miles to reach erection sites. This is clearly carbon intensive.

7.5 The figures relating to CO² emission reduction using wind turbines have been provided by Renewable UK. These figures, however, have been halved from their initial estimates. The amount of carbon they save has been downgraded from 0.86tonne CO²/Mwh to 0.43tonne CO²/Mwh.

7.6 The UK currently produces around 500 million tonnes per annum from a global 30 Billion tonnes (DECC).

Wales's reduction of CO² gases was 23% in 2009. Emissions totalled 42.6Mt of CO² (WAG).

This is 8.2% of the UK emissions and 0.14% of the worlds CO².

A reduction of 3% of CO² per year over the next 10years would reduce the CO² savings to 6.2% of the UK emissions and 0.12% of the worlds CO².

7.7 As wind turbines only generate electricity for 75-80% of the time the remaining 20% of the time they are consuming electricity around 70Kw for a 3Mw machine (General Specification, Vestas V90 3MW pdf., p34 9.11) this must be taken into account when assessing possible CO₂ savings. In fact the central range of 13Gw of onshore wind by 2020

(UK renewable energy roadmap,

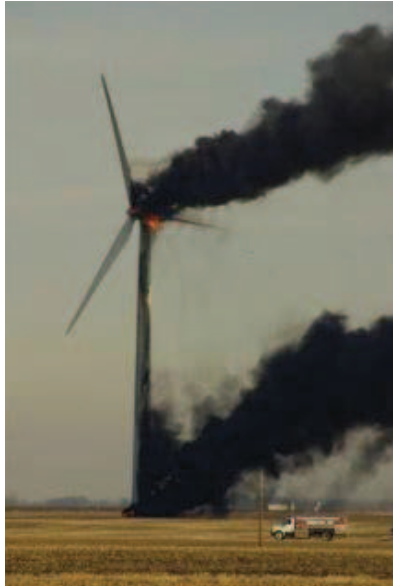
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/meeting_energy/renewable_ener/re_roadmap/re_roadmap.aspx) would suggest a power consumption for the whole on shore fleet at around 300Mw- the size of a small gas fired power station. This fact must be taken into account when deciding how much CO₂ is saved by Wind Turbines.

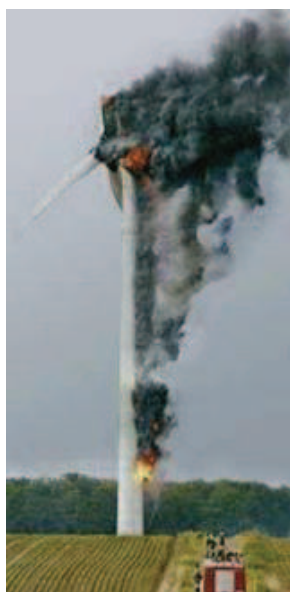
Conclusion

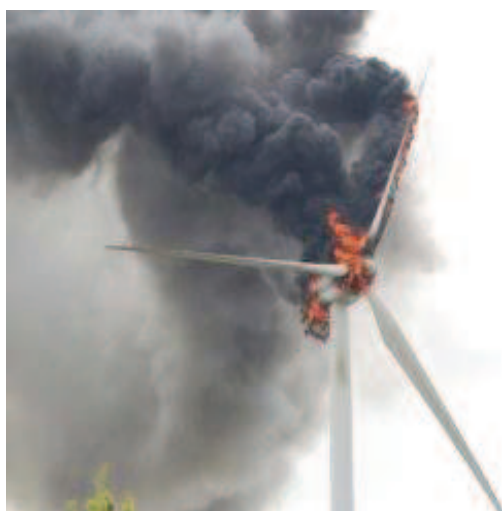
The people of Montgomeryshire do not accept the large scale industrialisation of their landscape for no good purpose, recognising the following deleterious consequences of such policies:

- Destruction of a beautiful landscape which is an economic asset
- Generation of small amounts of unreliable energy
- Massive cost both to the general economy and to consumers – more fuel poverty
- UK government subsidies going to large international companies and wealthy British land owners
- Negligible carbon savings
- Deleterious impact on local flora and fauna, especially birds and bats
- Increased flooding risks
- Devaluation of property and businesses
- Unacceptable impact on rural communities, including schools and Welsh language
- Reduction in the visual amenity leading to reduction in tourism visitors to the area
- Widespread disruption to the local transport network leading to disinvestment, economic stagnation and unemployment

Exhibit 1







*The representative body of the parks industry including
caravans, chalets, lodges, park homes, tents and
all types of self catering accommodation.*



BRITISH HOLIDAY & HOME PARKS ASSOCIATION LTD

Chichester House, 6 Pullman Court,
Great Western Road, Gloucester GL1 3ND

Telephone: (01452) 526911
Facsimile: (01452) 508508

Email: enquiries@bhHPA.org.uk
BH&HPA Members' Web: www.bhHPA.org.uk
Consumers' Web: www.ukparks.com

Richard Rhodes
Director, BH&HPA Mid Wales Branch
Solstar
Dolguog Estates
Machynlleth
Powys SY20 8UJ

19 August 2011

Dear Richard,

Rural Development Contribution of Holiday and Touring Parks

The BH&HPA Board of Directors was concerned by your report of the proposals for intensive wind farm development in Montgomeryshire, to include not only turbines, but also pylons, overhead cables and sub-stations to distribute the energy generated.

Intensive development of an industrial nature in countryside that is attractive to holidaymakers will impact on the economic, social and environmental contribution of Holiday and Touring Parks. This contribution may not be fully recognised and it is important that the detrimental impact is taken into consideration alongside any benefit anticipated from a development proposal.

A Holiday or Touring Park's contribution will be economic, social and environmental. It will include:

- jobs that are sustained, both directly in the park business and indirectly in the locality
- the market created for local goods and services thereby supporting local businesses (shops, pub houses, attractions. ... even bus services) which remain viable through the patronage of park customers
- trade (and employment) for local businesses that work on parks (tradesmen, suppliers, plumbers and electricians: all who trade with the park)
- on-park facilities, such as a shop or swimming pool, which are available for local users and whose absence would be sorely missed
- conservation and biodiversity work on the park and in its surroundings
- involvement in local causes and educational projects
- the wellbeing of park customers and its important role in reinforcing family life
- maintenance of environmental assets, such as footpaths and beaches.

Park owners have a proven track record of protecting and enhancing the natural environment and, equally importantly, they provide a market for local goods and services and facilities that are often extended to their host communities. Parks create jobs in rural communities and their customers' patronage is often fundamental to the viability of marginal local businesses.



President:
David Bellamy OBE

Director General:
Ros Pritchard OBE
MBA, BA(Hons), DipM, MTS



Member, European Federation
of Campsite Organisations
& Holiday Park Association

It is important that these essential contributions are taken into consideration by the planning authorities. The following pages provide some facts and figures (and their sources) which it is important that BH&HPA Mid Wales members whose park businesses will be blighted communicate in the consultation on the proposed development.

The attractions of the countryside are the single most important driver in bringing park customers to any area¹. 81% of park customers enjoy walking, 61% spending time in the countryside, 29% watching wildlife. Any development of an intense, industrial nature which blights the very rural aspect of the countryside will therefore greatly reduce the attractiveness of a park and a region to tourists. Therefore, any impact assessment considering proposals for development needs to take account of the loss of parks' very real contribution to the local economy and community.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ros Pritchard', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ros Pritchard OBE
Director General

Contribution of Holiday and Touring Parks

Tourist Statistics

Over 50% of the British population take a park holiday in their lifetimeⁱⁱ.

Tourism data are gathered by the United Kingdom Tourism Survey (UKTSⁱⁱⁱ) which recorded that in 2010, the parks industry accounted for:

- 15% of all UK tourism trips (18.1m)
- 21% of all UK tourism nights (77.2m)
- 13% of all tourist spend (£2.674b).

Economic Contribution

Caravan Holiday Homes

A study in Wales indicates that each caravan holiday home generates spending of between £6,721 and £19,138 each year into the local economy^{iv}.

2010 research^v amongst caravan holiday home consumers who participate in the BH&HPA rate-this-park consumer panel indicate that the average spend per night for an occupied caravan holiday home pitch is between £78.62 and £122.42. (The study asked consumers about their spend on items such as accommodation, travel, car parking, groceries, eating and drinking out, activities, attractions, capital items and other shopping.)

The annual economic contribution can be calculated if pitch occupancy is considered:

	Annual economic contribution per caravan holiday home pitch	
Annual pitch occupancy	From £	To £
20 weeks	£11,007	£17,138
25 weeks	£13,759	£21,424
30 weeks	£16,510	£25,708

Touring Caravans

The Camping & Caravanning Club places the average daily spend in the local community per touring pitch, **excluding** site fees, as £31.91^{vi}.

2010 research^{vii} amongst touring consumers who participate in the BH&HPA rate-this-park consumer panel indicates that the average spend per night for an occupied touring pitch is £72.17. (The study asked holidaymakers about their spend on items such as accommodation, travel, car parking, groceries, eating and drinking out, activities, attractions, capital items and other shopping.) The annual economic contribution can be calculated if pitch occupancy is considered.

	Annual economic contribution per touring pitch
Pitch occupancy	£
20 weeks	£10,104
25 weeks	£12,630
30 weeks	£15,156

Direct Employment

Considering employment across the industry, a 2010 report prepared by Oxford Economics for the British Hospitality Association, 'Economic contribution of UK hospitality industry'^{viii}, provided an assessment of the economic contribution of the core UK hospitality industry to the country's wider economy.

Two statistical classifications are particularly relevant to the parks industry:

SIC 2007 – 5530 - Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks – defined as '*provision of accommodation in campgrounds, trailer parks, recreational camps and fishing and hunting camps for short stay visitors, provision of space and facilities for recreational vehicles and accommodation provided by protective shelters or plain bivouac facilities for placing tents and/or sleeping bags*'.

SIC 2007 – 5520 - Holiday and other short-stay accommodation – defined as: '*This includes the provision of accommodation, typically on a daily or weekly basis, principally for short stays by visitors, in self-contained space consisting of complete furnished rooms or areas for living/dining and sleeping, with cooking facilities or fully equipped kitchens. This may take the form of apartments or flats in small free-standing multi storey buildings or clusters of buildings, or single storey bungalows, chalets, cottages and cabins. Very minimal complementary services, if any, are provided.*'

'Economic contribution of UK hospitality industry' reported direct UK employment in these classifications as follows:

	Direct employment 1998	Direct employment 2010	% change 1998 to 2010
Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks	19,000	29,000	+53%
Holiday and other short stay accommodation	45,000	50,000	+11%

Of particular note is the 53% rise in direct employment on holiday parks over the 12 years to 2010.

Research carried out in Wales^{ix} has resonance across the UK. Key findings of this research included that average number of staff employed on parks is 20 in low season, with this figure more than doubling in high season

Indirect Employment

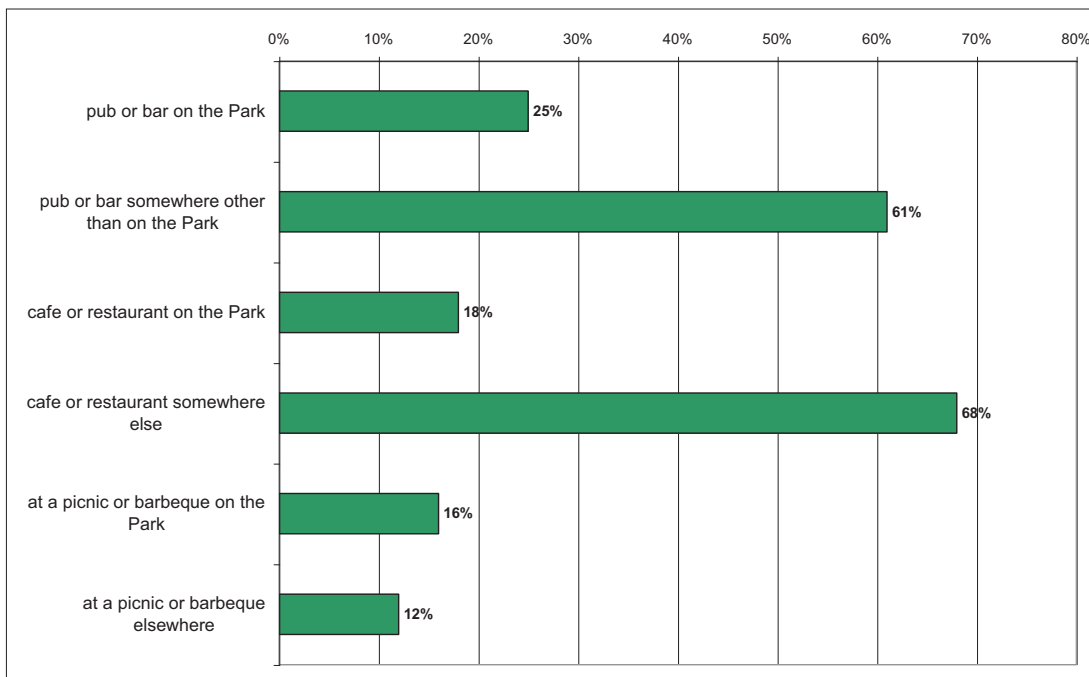
A 2001 study reported that every two caravan holiday home pitches account for one tourism job^x.

The Camping and Caravanning Club research^{xi} confirmed the wide range of activities pursued by visitors surveyed. These included:

- visiting the local pub (58%)
- eating in local restaurants (52%)
- visiting other tourist attractions (68%).

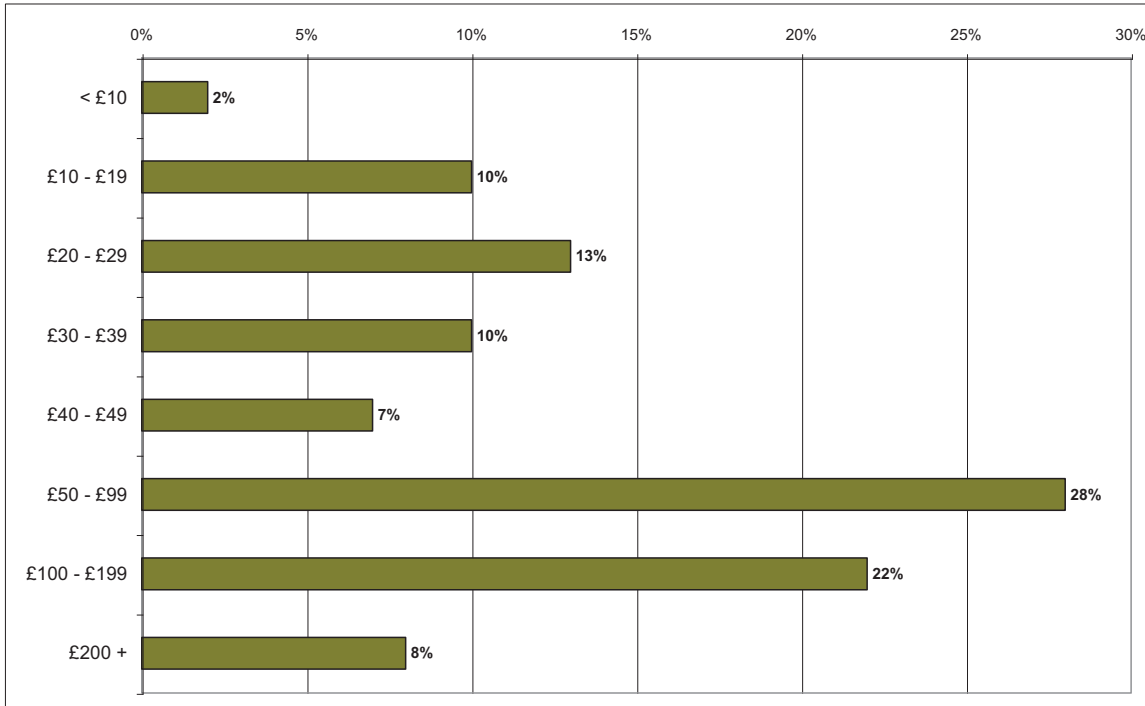
Park customers eating out

Park consumers who participated in the BH&HPA Consumer Panel in 2010^{xii} were asked if they ate out during their park holiday; the majority (68%) had purchased meals from restaurants in the area local to the park.

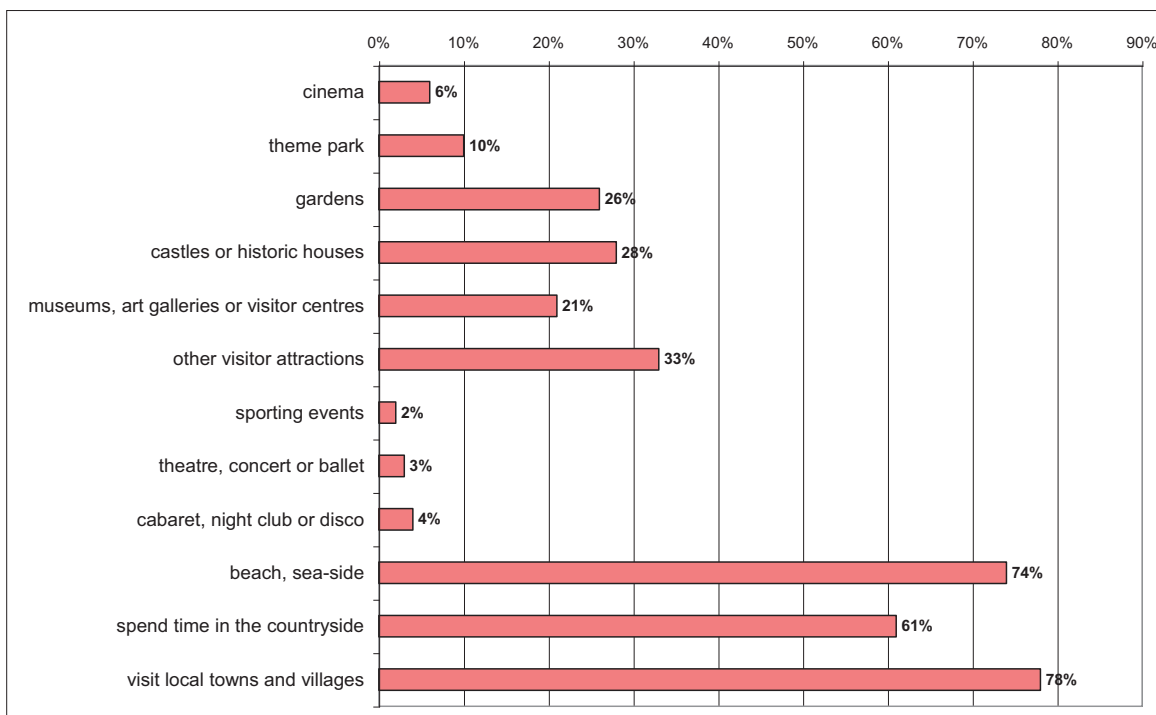


Spend by park customers on non-food shopping

Nearly two-thirds of park holidaymakers who participated in the BH&HPA Consumer Panel said that they spent money buying clothes, gifts or other shopping during their holiday. Items such as clothes or gifts accounted on average for nearly £45 of each park holiday group's expenditure.



The same study highlighted park customers' support of local attractions.



In addition to park customers' support of local attractions, hospitality and retail businesses, parks employ numerous tradesmen and local businesses to support their work, from plumbers and electricians to construction and horticultural companies, waste contractors to accountants and IT providers.

Caravans: a UK manufacturing industry

It is not only the direct and indirect tourist spend that sustains local economies; caravan holiday home and touring caravan manufacturing businesses, their suppliers and service providers are also important job and wealth creators.

With so few manufacturing industries having survived the economic tribulations of the last 50 years, it is important to emphasize that the parks industry sustains this important manufacturing sector. The overwhelming majority of lodges, caravan holiday homes, touring caravans and motorhomes sold on the domestic market are of UK manufacture.

The National Caravan Council publishes industry production figures from manufacturers' data, confirming production totals for the last three years as follows^{xiii}:

UK touring caravan sales

2008-2009	20,992
2009-2010	24,464
2010-2011	24,548

UK caravan holiday home sales

2008-2009	13,064
2009-2010	17,063
2010-2011	16,319

UK motorhome registrations

2008-2009	8,533
2009-2010	7,163
2010-2011	7,630

Sources

ⁱ 'Economic Contribution' December 2010, BH&HPA Research Report for the Rate-this-park consumer panel

ⁱⁱ 59.5% of the UK population stated that they had 'ever spent' a camping/caravanning holiday. 'Camping & Caravanning' research conducted for the European Commission by GFK Marktforschung GMBH & Co.kg (1989)

ⁱⁱⁱ United Kingdom Tourist Statistics 2010. www.visitengland.org

TRIPS		
	%	No.
Holiday camp/village self-catering	1.24	1,480,000
Camping	3.91	4,670,000
Touring caravan/motorhome	3.98	4,750,000
CHH Letting	3.21	3,830,000
CHH privately owned	2.83	3,380,000
TOTAL	15.16	18,110,000

NIGHTS		
	%	No.
Holiday camp/village self-catering	1.70	6,350,000
Camping	4.26	15,900,000
Touring caravan/motorhome	5.78	21,580,000
CHH Letting	5.18	19,350,000
CHH privately owned	3.76	14,040,000
TOTAL	20.68	77,220,000

SPEND		
	UK	
	%	£
Holiday camp/village self-catering	1.58	330,000,000
Camping	2.63	548,000,000
Touring caravan/motorhome	3.15	656,000,000
CHH Letting	3.87	806,000,000
CHH privately owned	1.60	334,000,000
TOTAL	12.83	2,674,000,000

^{iv} RPI from October 2003 to October 2009 applied to figures derived from 'Caravan Holiday Homes in Wales', The Tourism Company 2003, Wales Tourist Board and BH&HPA

^v December 2010, BH&HPA Research amongst the Rate-this-park consumer panel

^{vi} RPI from October 2007 to October 2009 applied to figures derived from 'Spend in the Local Community Summary Report', Camping and Caravanning Club - Easter and Summer Results 2007

-
- vii December 2010, BH&HPA Research amongst the Rate-this-park consumer panel
- viii *'Economic Contribution of UK hospitality industry'*, Oxford Economics, September 2010 www.bha.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/BHA-Economic-Contribution-of-UK-Hospitality-Industry-Final-.pdf
- ix *'Caravan Holiday Homes in Wales'*, The Tourism Company 2003, Wales Tourist Board and BH&HPA
- x *'Holiday Parks - Your value to the local community'*, Ian Butter, BH&HPA Journal, March-April 2001
- xi *'Spend in the Local Community - Summary Report'*, Camping and Caravanning Club - Easter and Summer Results 2007
- xii *'Economic Contribution'* December 2010, BH&HPA Research Report for the Rate-this-park consumer panel
- xiii *'The Business'*, National Caravan Council, Autumn 2011

Environment and Sustainability Committee

E&S(4)-01-12 paper 5

Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales – Evidence from The Cambrian Mountains Society

The Cambrian Mountains Society is a charitable body whose aims are :

(1) To promote, for the benefit of local communities, and of the wider public, measures which will sustain or enhance the landscape, natural beauty, biodiversity, archaeology, scientific interest, and cultural heritage of the Cambrian Mountains.

(2) To advance the education of the public in the landscape, natural beauty, biodiversity, archaeology, scientific nature, cultural heritage and geodiversity of the Cambrian Mountains.

Introduction

1. When it was published in its final version in 2005 the Welsh Government's Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN8) represented a new and highly significant land use and planning policy. The document has the potential to have a highly significant impact on the uplands of Wales..
2. The application of TAN8 has given rise to a great deal of opposition. The intensity of that opposition is evidenced by the protest gathering at the National Assembly in Summer 2011. This was said to have had the largest public attendance of any such meeting in the Assembly's forecourt. Though Mid Wales was well represented on this occasion similar events can be expected when the people in the valleys of South Wales appreciate the size of the turbine developments which threaten to dominate the rural surroundings of many an erstwhile mining community.
3. It is the view of the Cambrian Mountains Society that TAN8 as a document has significant weaknesses of which some are inherent in the Welsh Government's brief to the international consultants who went on to designate the turbine development areas (the SSAs). The weaknesses were subsequently exacerbated by the Welsh Government treading lightly, if at all, on some important technical issues to which their attentions had been drawn before the publication of the final TAN8.
4. The Welsh Government took no account of the large majority of responders who opposed TAN8 in whole or part in the consultation exercise on the draft.
5. The Society offers constructive comments on proceeding with a review of TAN8

The Welsh Government's Approach to TAN8 and its targets.

6. The sequence of events which decided the extent of the wind generating capacity to be provided by TAN8 rested on a total Wales renewable electricity generation of 4 terawatt hours. That total was arrived at from general and political perspectives. Of that total the Welsh Government allocated a minimum 800 MW installed capacity requirement from wind generation. Onshore wind was regarded as the only commercial renewable energy technology within the market place.
7. For the TAN8 exercise the consultants' brief was to identify sufficient land to provide that 800 MW minimum of wind energy capacity. Having been given this approach the consultants themselves acknowledged that their designated areas for turbine development (known as SSAs) would create what they called 'turbine landscapes' as a set of 'least worse' solutions in localities most would regard as attractive. This one sided targeted approach is dated and out of step with the much more wholistic 'ecosystem' framework outlined in the Welsh Government's draft Green Paper 'Sustaining a Living Wales'
8. Even at the inception of the TAN8 project the more normal and objective approach would have been to take account of the different kind of values which society at large may attribute to the countryside and non carbon wind energy respectively , then arriving at an optimal allocation of land to wind turbine development.. This would at least allow a more convincing assessment of where the 'public good' might lie in balancing land allocation between turbine development and other land uses. This is in effect the economist's 'cost benefit' analysis and is similar to that recommended by the UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) which itself seems to be a means of implementing the 'Living Wales' procedures.
9. The approach taken in deriving TAN8 is dated as it has few of the characteristics found in the Living Wales or UK NASE approach.. It leaves out important inputs, it has led to sometimes incongruous results, public unease and a lack of confidence in Welsh Government decisions..

The Lack of an Adequate Treatment of Landscape Quality in TAN8

10. In the setting up of objectives in the early stages of TAN8 the most casual of approaches should have allowed landscape quality to be a factor for consideration even if only to meet expressed public concern. Yet outside the National Parks and the AONB's landscape was not a consideration for designating areas (SSA's) for turbine developments.
11. What is surprising is the lack of involvement of the Countryside Council for Wales. They were asked for comment only at the public consultation stage at which time the Welsh Government were not likely to reverse anything significant. Neither did the consultants use CCW's LANMAP as a guide. Thus they arrived at the anomalous position of designating for turbine

development areas that CCW, the Welsh Government's own statutory advisors on landscape issues, have classified as of outstanding landscape quality.

12. In the final version of TAN8 the following statement had been added to the original draft in respect of the designated turbine development areas (that is the Strategic Search Areas):

"Within (and immediately adjacent) to the SSA's the implicit objective is to accept landscape change i.e. a significant change in landscape character from wind turbine development."

This *carte blanche* statement does not fit well into what purports to be a strategic document. Taken at face value it would appear to remove even the ability to object on landscape grounds to any turbine development in a SSA or close to it.

13. The high value attached to Welsh landscapes is explicit in other policies of the Welsh Government. The Society feels it is completely unacceptable to ignore landscape quality in designating areas for turbine development.

Dealing with Technical Matters in TAN8

14. The indifferent level of planning in TAN8 has led to public disquiet not only on landscape. The problems which are current were foreseen at the time it was in draft.
15. Even in the public consultation Dulas Engineering, leading consultants to developers, expressed unease about turbines being proposed 'very close to the nationally acclaimed Pumlumon range'. The British Wind Energy Association said *'the assessments failed to include some key technical criteria 'as well as expressing doubt about the Nant y moch SSA below Pumlumon.* Developers stated concerns that public road access was not taken into account. National Grid Transco expressed particular concern that it had not been considered in the drafting of TAN8.
16. TAN8 did not deal with these problems. Disquiet by the public owing to the very many long loads disrupting traffic for extensive periods over a difficult rural road network was underestimated. Though the consultants seemed to recognize possible transmission problems in Mid Wales, the Welsh Government having no powers in this respect, the TAN8 response was only to recognize the restricted transmission capacity and to support 'in principle' further grid lines.
17. Other than the actual designating of areas for turbine development there does not seem to have been any integrated approach to possible turbine development. Transmission, public road access, site access over the hills being examples.

The Public Consultation

18. The draft TAN8 went out for public consultation in July 2004. That consultation received something around 1700 responses which we believe to be the largest response to any Welsh Government consultation exercise. The Cambrian Mountains Society has carried out a comprehensive analysis of the responses (ref(1)). It showed only 10% of responders partly or wholly supported TAN8 and this total included the responses from developers with clear vested interest in supporting the draft.
19. There were close to 1500 responses from individual people, couples and what appeared to be family groups. Of these 94% were against Tan 8 wholly or in part. Many of these provided careful arguments against TAN8 based on the well known problems of wind power and often on landscape quality.
20. These responses were given short shrift. Within the 44 pages comprising the Welsh Government's response to the TAN8 consultation it took barely two lines to dismiss some 1300 responders who for the most part questioned the use of wind power. There was no reasoned argument in response, the Government merely saying that wind is 'is rooted in government policy'. This is difficult to equate with good government.
21. The Welsh Government's response to the public consultation gives no clue as to the extent of opposing views received.
22. This approach to a declared exercise in public consultation seems to us to be an affront to our democracy.

The Speed of Events

23. The Arup consultants were appointed to their contract to draw up the designated turbine areas in April 2004 and the draft TAN8 was published for consultation on 13th July 2004. Even allowing for the fact that significant work had been done previously it is an impressively speedy piece of work by Arup and a quick reaction by the Welsh Government. The timing of the consultation was criticized by some organization type responders who regarded the period of 13th-July-8th October as too short given that it was over the summer holidays.
24. The consultants, probably realizing the significance of what they were proposing, made a recommendation that there should be a series of 'road shows' to inform the public of what was going on.. This recommendation was not implemented by the Welsh Government.
25. In July 2004 the Welsh Government approved the European Directive on Environmental Assessment. This required an Environmental Assessment to be undertaken by the Welsh Government itself on new planning and land use policies. It was formally enacted by the Welsh Government on 12th July 2004

to be applied to all policies brought into being from 20th July. The draft TAN8 was published on 13th July evading by just seven days the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment which the Welsh Government itself had promulgated. A call for the document to be subject to the Directive was not answered.

26. The charge is that the Welsh Government moved with haste in order to evade the legislation it itself had enacted. At the very least the ethics of the matter are questionable.

Conclusions on the Development of TAN8

27. The issues raised above show that there were significant weaknesses in the way TAN8 was developed enough to make it a flawed document. They also provide the case that in devising a new and highly significant planning and land use policy the Welsh Government's attitude was to push it through quickly taking into account only lightly, if at all, some important technical considerations. It disregarded the massively adverse public opinion expressed in the responses to its own consultation and acted with the haste required to evade its own environmental legislation.

The Need for a Review of TAN8

28. Since TAN8 was drafted in 2004 turbine heights have increased from around 50 metres to around 145 metres, public perceptions have developed on the wind issue and other technologies have developed too as well as the UK government's energy policy. Problems have arisen on transmission and other matters. The work underpinning TAN8 was undertaken by international consultants Arup who considered it would apply for 5–7 years from 2004.

29. The Cambrian Mountains Society therefore calls for the Welsh Government to instigate a formal review of the application of Tan 8.

30. The overall methodology and framework of TAN8 is dated. A review should be based on the framework now being described in the green paper "Sustaining a Living Wales" and the recommendations of the UK National Ecosystem Assessment. The latter states

'that the methods developed for conducting economic analyses of ecosystem services are capable of delivering decision relevant information to policy makers'

'A Living Wales' describes itself as

'A strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promote nature conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way'

and

'the ecosystem approach provides a framework within which the relationship of protected areas to the wider landscape and seascape can be understood and the goods and services flowing from ecosystems can be valued.'

It is these frameworks that should underpin a review of TAN8.

31. The experience of the last ten years will allow the achievable renewable total generation required to be based on less arbitrary figures than the TAN8 assumptions. Similarly the allocation of generation capacities to the different renewable energy technologies can be put on a sounder footing..
32. Within the approach there needs to be a further assessment of the comparative advantages of the 'strategic' approach as in TAN8 and a more criteria based approach in determining suitable turbine areas. It can be noted that neither England nor Scotland have adopted the strategic approach.
33. Where other forms of non carbon generation come into being there needs to be some credit taken for them in summing up Wales' contribution to a low carbon energy policy.
34. A rational and studied approach to the issues using the new ecosystem framework approach offers the best hope of winning over the Society and people generally and renewing at the same time their faith in decision makers at Welsh Government level.

5th January 2012

The Cambrian Mountains Society

Ref (1) The details of the analysis of the responses to the Tan8 public consultation on the draft TAN8 can be viewed at
<http://www.tan8.woodlander.eu>

Agenda Item 3

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Thursday, 1 December 2011**

Meeting time: **09:30 – 12:00**

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400000_01_12_2011&t=0&l=en

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Chair)
Mark Drakeford (In place of Julie James)
Mick Antoniw
Rebecca Evans
Russell George
Vaughan Gething
William Powell
David Rees
Antoinette Sandbach

Witnesses:

Llewelyn Rhys, RenewableUK Cymru
Gerry Jewson, West Coast Energy
Steve Salt, West Coast Energy
Martin Murphy, Tidal Energy

Committee Staff:

Virginia Hawkins (Clerk)
Catherine Hunt (Deputy Clerk)
Graham Winter (Researcher)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 Apologies were received from Llyr Huws Gruffydd and Julie James. Mark Drakeford attended as a substitute for Julie James.

2. Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales – Evidence from Renewable UK Cymru, Tidal Energy Ltd and West Coast Energy Ltd

2.1 The witnesses responded to questions from members of the Committee on energy policy and planning in Wales.

2.2 Mr Jewson agreed to provide written information on the consenting of the Tir Gwynt development and on West Coast Energy's experiences of consenting arrangements in Scotland and mainland Europe.

3. Election of Temporary Chair for 1 December afternoon meeting under Standing Order 17.22

3.1 The Committee elected William Powell as Temporary Chair for the afternoon meeting on 1 December.

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Thursday, 1 December 2011**

Meeting time: **13:15 – 15:00**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400002_01_12_2011&t=0&l=en

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

**Mick Antoniw
Rebecca Evans
Russell George
Vaughan Gething
Julie James
William Powell
Antoinette Sandbach
Rhodri Glyn Thomas (In place of Llyr Huws Gruffydd)**

Witnesses:

**Craig Mitchell, Welsh Local Government Association
Cllr Graham Brown, Powys County Council
Alan Southerby, Powys County Council
Steve Packer, Powys County Council
Cllr David Lewis, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Geoff White, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**

Committee Staff:

**Virginia Hawkins (Clerk)
Catherine Hunt (Deputy Clerk)
Graham Winter (Researcher)**

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 Apologies were received from Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Llyr Huws Gruffydd and David Rees. Rhodri Glyn Thomas attended as a substitute for Llyr Huws Gruffydd.

2. Inquiry into energy policy and planning in Wales – Evidence from the Welsh Local Government Association and local authorities

2.1 The witnesses responded to questions from members of the Committee on energy policy and planning in Wales.

2.2 Mr Mitchell agreed to provide a note on the Welsh Local Government Association's views on the transport issues relating to wind farm development and further information on the case on noise from wind turbines referred to.

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref MB/JG/7702/11
Ein cyf/Our ref

Lord Dafydd Ellis Thomas,
Chair,
Sustainable Development
Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay.

22 December 2011

Dear Dafydd,

I refer to your question to Peter Burley, Director for Planning Inspectorate Wales, on 23rd November about whether local development plans are being developed in line with Welsh national energy policy. He said he would provide a note for you on this issue. Given the Welsh Government's role in the development plan process, the information you sought is outlined below.

The Welsh Government is a statutory consultee in respect of all Local Development Plans (LDPs), which means that at both the preferred strategy and deposit stage my officials scrutinise plans and policies to ensure they comply with national planning policy. Crucial to this process is the evidence submitted by local planning authorities to support their conclusions. In addition, the Welsh Government appears at the public examination of LDPs, to outline national policy and the plan's compliance or not with it, to the independent Inspector as appropriate.

I can confirm that adopted LDPs do comply with our national planning policy for energy. Currently there are five adopted LDPs (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Caerphilly, Rhonda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil and Snowdonia National Park) which have all been subject to such scrutiny. All these plans incorporate a policy framework on energy matters which is aligned with national policy. The combination of LDP policies and national planning policy facilitates the delivery of the Welsh Government's energy policy. Such an approach will be replicated for the remaining LDPs coming forward across Wales.

Best wishes

John Griffiths AC / AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence: John.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Printed on 100% recycled paper



Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru Countryside Council for Wales

CADEIRYDD/CHAIRMAN: MORGAN PARRY • PRIF WEITHREDWR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE: ROGER THOMAS

Anfonwch eich ateb at/Please reply to: Mr Morgan Parry, Cadeirydd/Chairman
Cyfeiriad Isod/Address Below
Llinell Union/Direct Dial: (01248) 387141; Ffacs/Fax: (01248) 385506
Ebostr/Email: n.sanpher@ccw.gov.uk

The Rt Hon Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Chair
Environment & Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

12 December 2011

Annwyl Dafydd

ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE INQUIRY: ENERGY POLICY AND PLANNING IN WALES

The Countryside Council for Wales champions the environment and landscapes of Wales and its coastal waters as sources of natural and cultural riches, as a foundation for economic and social activity, and as a place for leisure and learning opportunities. We aim to make the environment a valued part of everyone's life in Wales.

Thank you for giving CCW the opportunity to provide oral evidence at this inquiry. In the session on Wednesday, 23 November 2011, we agreed to provide some additional information following up some of the points raised. We also want to use this opportunity to clarify some of the points from our evidence session and to draw your attention to issues arising from other sessions picked up from our regular review of Senedd TV. This letter, and the attachments referred to, provide this.

The additional information and clarification:-

1. Energy and landscape

The CCW Council paper on energy and protected landscapes [reference CCW P 11 23 (c)] requested during our oral evidence session is attached to this letter.

2. Energy consultations received by CCW

Please find attached additional detail on the number of energy related consultations received by CCW between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2011. This report describes the trends in the volume of energy consultations received by CCW, proportional representation by energy sector, power output (ie above or below 50MW), regional distribution and our response performance.



Gofalu am natur Cymru - ar y tir ac yn y môr • Caring for our natural heritage - on land and in the sea

Prif Swyddfa/Headquarters
MAES-Y-FFYNNON, PENRHOSGARNEDD, BANGOR LL57 2DW; FFÔN/TEL: 01248 385500; FFACS/FAX: 01248 355782

<http://www.ccw.gov.uk>

3. CCW powers to grant authorisations, licenses and consents

We wish to clarify a point made by Mr Burley, Director, Planning Inspectorate Wales earlier in the session on Wednesday, 23 November 2011, in relation to environmental permitting and species licences. The Countryside Council for Wales has power to grant authorisations, licenses and consents under a number of enactments relating to nature conservation in Wales but these are mainly for conservation, scientific or educational purposes. It is Welsh Government (WG) that issue licenses in the context of developments, and CCW is a statutory advisor to WG in that context. In addition, legislation places a requirement on owner occupiers of SSSI to give notice and receive consent from CCW prior to carrying out certain damaging activities. Competent authorities also have to consult CCW prior to carrying out works within a SSSI or affecting a SSSI. Such consultations (and CCW's response to them) may be termed 'assents', eg an assent under Section 28i of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended.

4. Question asked by Llŷr Huws Gruffydd on the energy and environment sector panel

We would like to clarify the response we made to the question from Llŷr Huws Gruffydd on the energy and environment sector panel (paragraphs [186] and [188] in the transcript of our evidence session) as there was a confusion resulting from the translation of the question in the oral session. CCW is aware of the energy and environment sector panel which was established in March 2011 but have not been involved in this group or the scope of it. We feel that a Welsh Government led renewable energy delivery board or forum which membership included developers, CCW, EA, LPA and others to work constructively to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy more effectively in Wales would be beneficial.

5. Anaerobic Digestion

We committed to providing additional information about the extent of our involvement in the Welsh Government planning committee on Anaerobic Digestion. I can confirm that CCW was involved in this group which met approximately bi-monthly over around 18 months, and for the last time in December 2010. CCW was represented on the group by Karen Maddock-Jones, Senior Planning Advisor. This group successfully brought together a number of the key organisations enabling a sharing and understanding of the issues required for the consideration and consenting of these developments for the key bodies involved. A task and finish format was used to try and deliver some specific targets including the drafting of guidance for applicants. This identification and sharing of common issues was useful for WG Waste Division to gain an understanding of the various issues involved in delivering projects and a model which could be used for other sectors. However, the tasks assigned to the group in a task and finish format, including the drafting of specific guidance, were too challenging to deliver without additional support.

6. Evidence provided by others

CCW use the service provided by Senedd TV to follow and scrutinise committee sessions as a matter of course. West Coast Energy (WCE) gave oral evidence on Thursday, 1 December, as part of the Energy & Planning Inquiry and referred to CCW's involvement in the proposed Tir Gwynt windfarm. By means of a follow up to this session, we would like to draw your attention to the attached letter from WCE expressing their thanks

to us, and particularly for our advice to Powys County Council (Steve Packer, Chief Planning Officer at Powys County Council). This was received by our case officer Carol Fielding (Montgomeryshire Team Leader) after WCE received consent for the Tir Gwynt windfarm.

I hope you find this additional information helpful. If you would like to discuss any of the points we have raised, please contact Keith Davies (k.davies@ccw.gov.uk) in the first instance.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Morgan Parry', written in a cursive style.

Morgan Parry
Chairman

Enc

ENERGY & PLANNING INQUIRY - ENERGY CASEWORK REPORT

Contact: Gareth McIlquham, Planning Casework Officer, CCW South & East Region.

PURPOSE

1. This report provides an overview of energy consultations received by CCW. The results presented are:
 - a. energy casework between 1st April 2008 and 31st March 2011;
 - b. energy casework in 2010 / 2011.

INTRODUCTION

2. In 2008 / 2009 CCW received 302 energy consultations, 267 in 2009 / 2010 and 485 in 2010 / 2011 (latter figure updated since oral evidence session).
3. CCW work closely with regulators and developers on major energy cases to ensure the best environmental outcome for a development. Consequently, CCW rarely object to energy developments and have done so in only 1% of cases in 2010 / 2011.
4. In many cases we received several consultations per application. In particular, we were consulted at each stage of an environmental impact assessment or assessment under the 'Habitats' Regulations. Therefore, the energy consultations for each financial year relate to somewhat fewer applications; however, several responses may be required for each consultation.
5. CCW is a statutory consultee for regulatory authorities considering consents for development that may affect SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar sites, protected species or landscape protected areas (e.g. AONB and National Park).
6. The deadline for consultations is normally 21 days from the date of the letter, but some authorities set a 14 day deadline. Deadlines for other consultations range from a few days to a month or more. We still received many consultations in hard copy, taking up to 4 days to reach us; however, the Planning Portal and e-mail consultations are beginning to speed up the process.
7. The information behind this brief comes from CCW's casework database. Energy Consultations are recorded under the following 'Primary Proposal Types':
 - Non-Renewable Power Station;
 - Offshore Oil & Gas;
 - Energy – Other;
 - Powerline / Grid Infrastructure;
 - Renewable – Biomass;
 - Renewable – Hydro Electric;
 - Renewable – Marine;
 - Renewable – Other;
 - Renewable – Solar Farm;
 - Wind Turbine – Offshore;
 - Wind Turbine – Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW;
 - Wind Turbine – Small-Scale Onshore <1.5MW.

RESULTS

Energy Casework 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

8. Quarterly Summary - Figure 1, Table 1

Until Q1 of 2010 / 2011 energy consultations were generally constant at around 70 consultations per quarter. In 2010 / 2011 a dramatic rise in energy consultations occurred equating to an 82% increase on 2009 / 2010 (Table 2). This follows a 12% drop in energy consultations in 2009 / 2010 from 2008 / 2009.

9. Annual Change in Energy Sector - Figure 2, Table 3

The rise in 2010 / 2011 energy consultations is attributed to the rapid growth of the renewables sector; particularly smaller schemes: hydropower, solar, other renewables and small-scale wind. Grid Connection consultations have declined over the period in line with Onshore Windfarms; many of these are still ongoing cases.

10. Energy Consultations >50MW – Tables 6 & 7

13% of energy consultations in 2008 / 2009 were for projects >50MW, 8% in 2009 / 2010 and 9% in 2010 / 2011. These were recorded for Non-Renewable Power Stations, Powerline / Grid Infrastructure, Renewable – Biomass and Wind Turbine – Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW.

The greatest proportion of >50MW consultations are recorded for Non-Renewable Power Stations and Onshore Windfarms; 43% and 24% respectively in 2010 / 2011.

Caveat – The Casework Recording System is not designed to split consultations by power output. The split has been derived using consultations attributed to the Electricity Act s.36 consents or the Infrastructure Planning Commission; this may not determine all consultations for projects >50MW. Both s.36 and IPC consultations relate to applications over 50MW, below this threshold consultations are recorded under the Town & Country Planning Act.

Energy Casework 2010 / 2011

11. Regional Casework Volume - Figure 3 (& 4), Table 4

44% of energy consultations in 2010 / 2011 were received in South & East Region, 33% in North Region and 23% in West Region. Small-Scale Onshore Wind attributed the most consultations in North Region and West Region (26% for each) whilst Onshore Windfarms provided 25% of South & East Region energy casework.

The bulk of some energy sectors are region specific. North Region responded to 100% of all Offshore Oil & Gas and Offshore Wind consultations and nearly two-thirds (63%) of Marine – Renewable consultations. South & East Region: 81% of Non-Renewable Power Stations, 62% of Energy Other and 59% of Renewable – Biomass. West Region's highest contributions are from Solar and Renewable – Marine at 59% and 38% respectively.

12. CCW Involvement by Energy Sector - Figure 4, Table 4

Almost half (43%) of all energy consultations received in 2010 / 2011 related to onshore wind developments – 22% Small-Scale Wind and 21% Onshore Windfarms. Grid Connection accounts for 10% of 2010 / 2011 energy consultations with the remaining categories each representing less than 10% of 2010 / 2011 energy consultations.

13. **Response Performance** - Figure 5 / Table 5

We are obliged to report on and increase our response performance through a Welsh Government target set out in the 2009 / 2010 remit letter.

In 2010 / 2011 we increased our response performance despite receiving more energy consultations. We met deadlines for 70% of energy consultations and responded to 85% within 7 days of the deadline. The 8% reduction in energy consultations over 7 days late is particularly encouraging.

The response performance reflects minimum achievements due to the way in which the data is recorded; it is likely our performance exceeds these figures.

DISCUSSION

14. The volume of CCW's energy casework rose by 82% in 2010 / 2011 to 485 consultations in the financial year.
15. This growth is generally attributed to the smaller renewables sector: hydropower, solar and small-scale wind.
16. 76% of energy projects >50MW were attributed to Onshore Windfarms, 16% to Non-Renewable Power Stations. These equate to 24% (n=79) and 27% (n=17) of >50MW consultations for these sectors respectively.
17. Onshore wind is the biggest contributor to energy casework, 43% of energy casework in 2010 / 2011 was for onshore wind developments (small and large scale) and contributed the biggest proportion of energy casework across each region.
18. We continue to improve on our response performance, which summarises for energy consultations as 84% within 7 days of deadlines. We achieved a significant improvement despite handling more consultations with fewer staff.
19. Many consultations sent to us do not include enough information to support adequate assessment. We often have to contact applicants and planning officers informally to get the necessary information before we can respond. This can delay our response to more benign developments that lack detail about elements that may affect natural heritage interests, depending on design.
20. The revision of our Operational Procedure Notice for Casework will help further improve clarity and efficiency in our responses.
21. MoUs that we have with some sectors, such as that signed with RenewablesUK, will also help streamline the handling of assessments and advice.

ANNEX 1: FIGURES

Figure 1 - Quarterly Summary: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

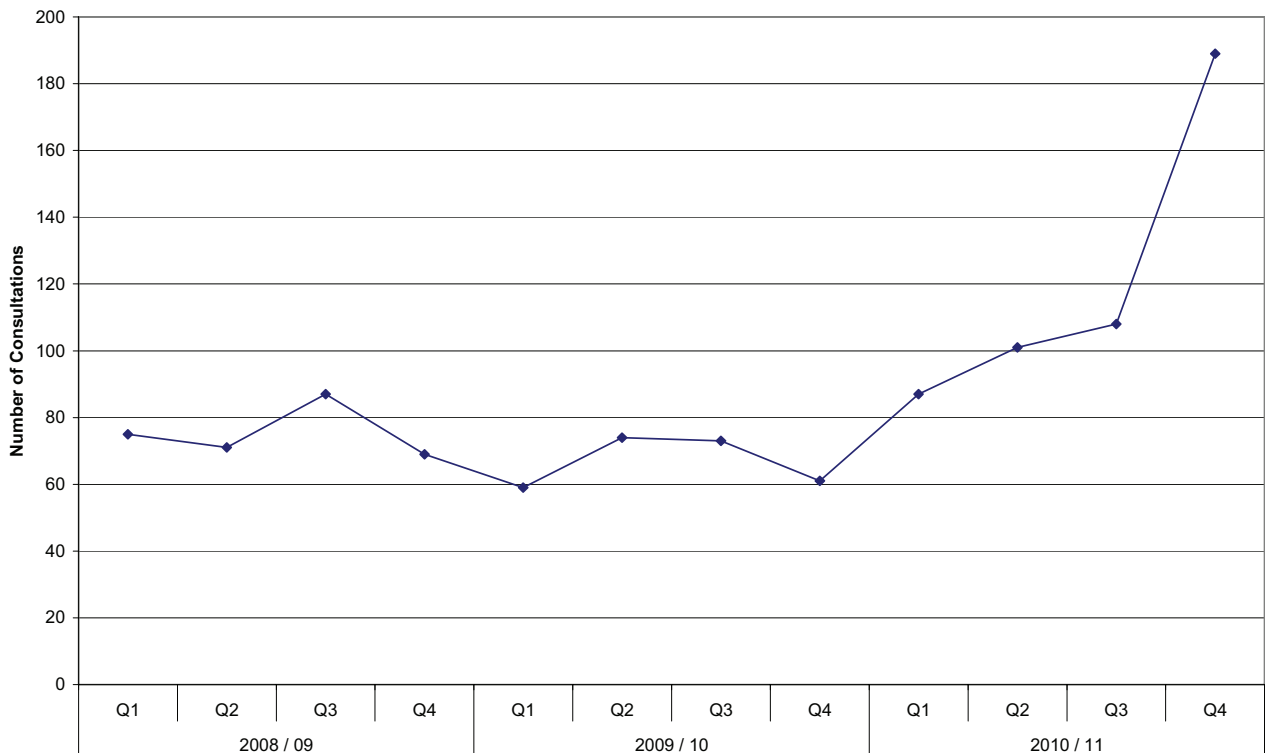


Figure 2 - Annual Change in Energy Sector: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

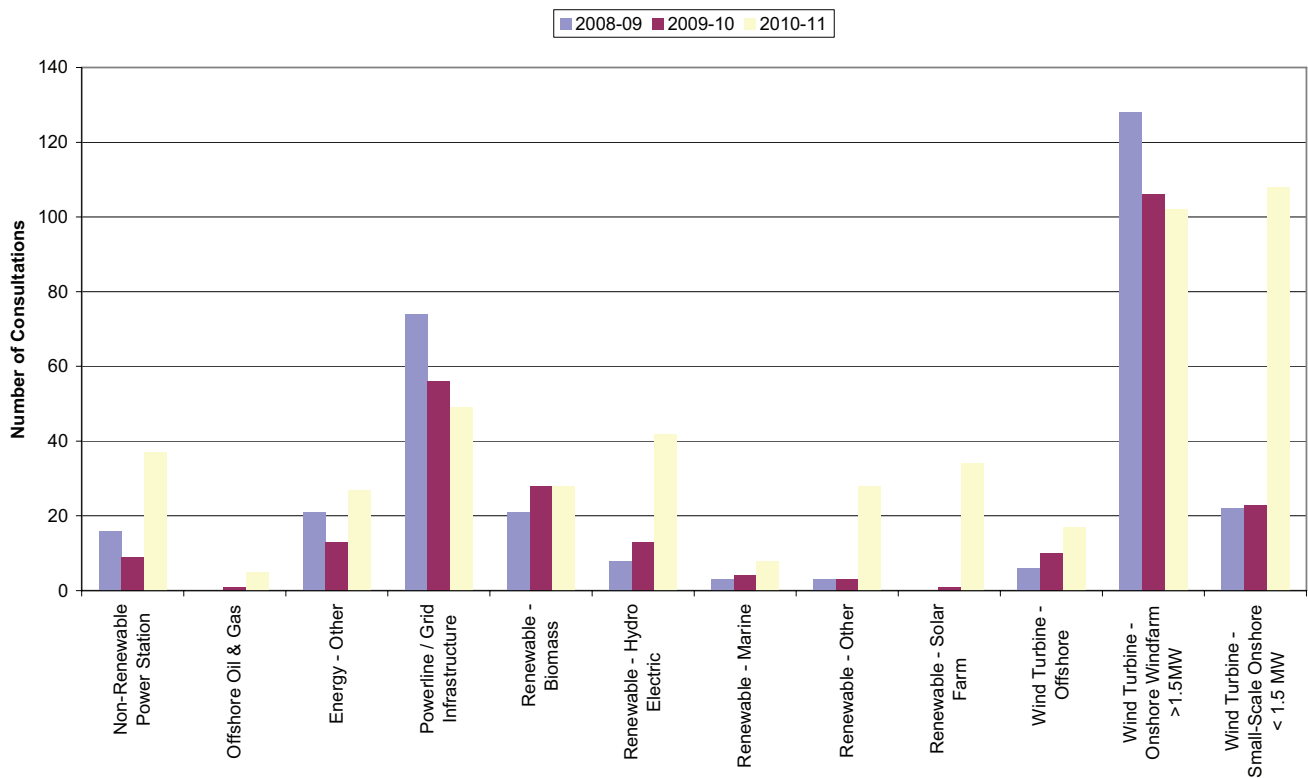


Figure 3 - Regional Casework Volume: 2010 / 2011

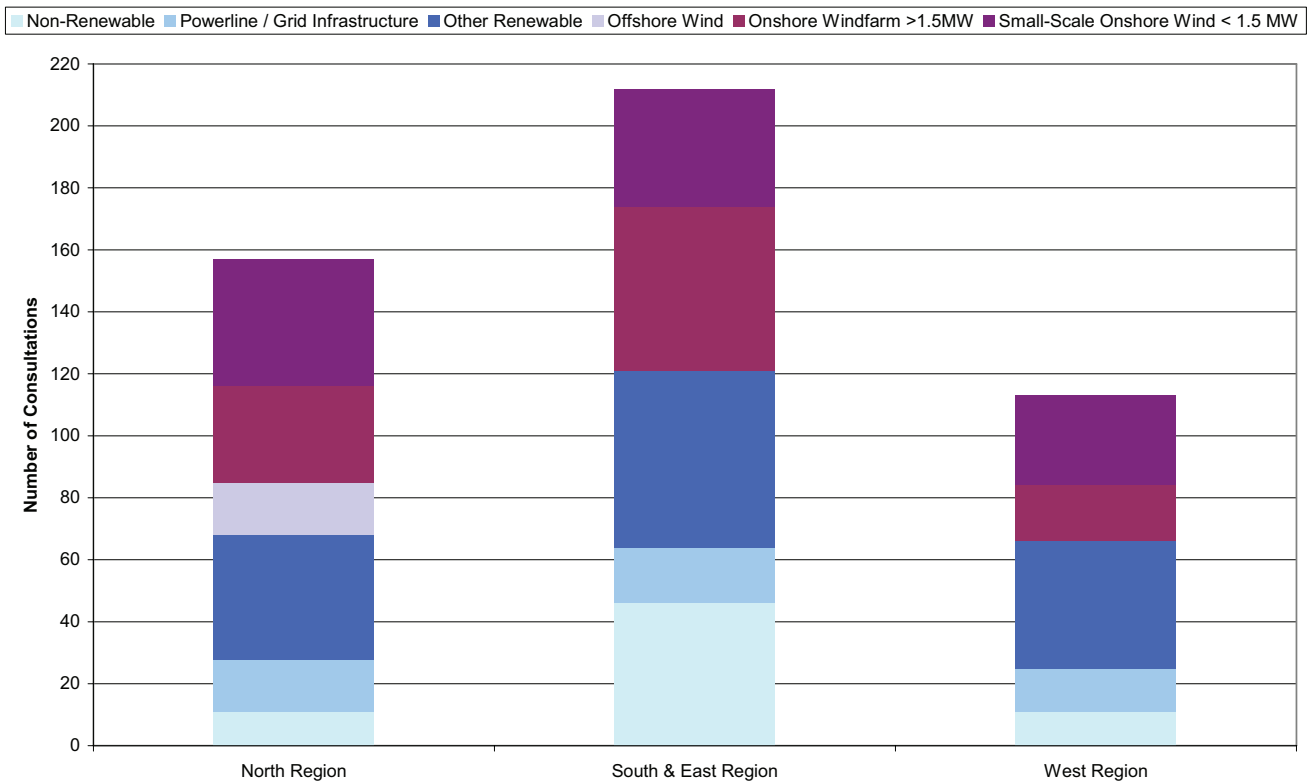


Figure 4 - Regional Involvement by Energy Sector: 2010 / 2011

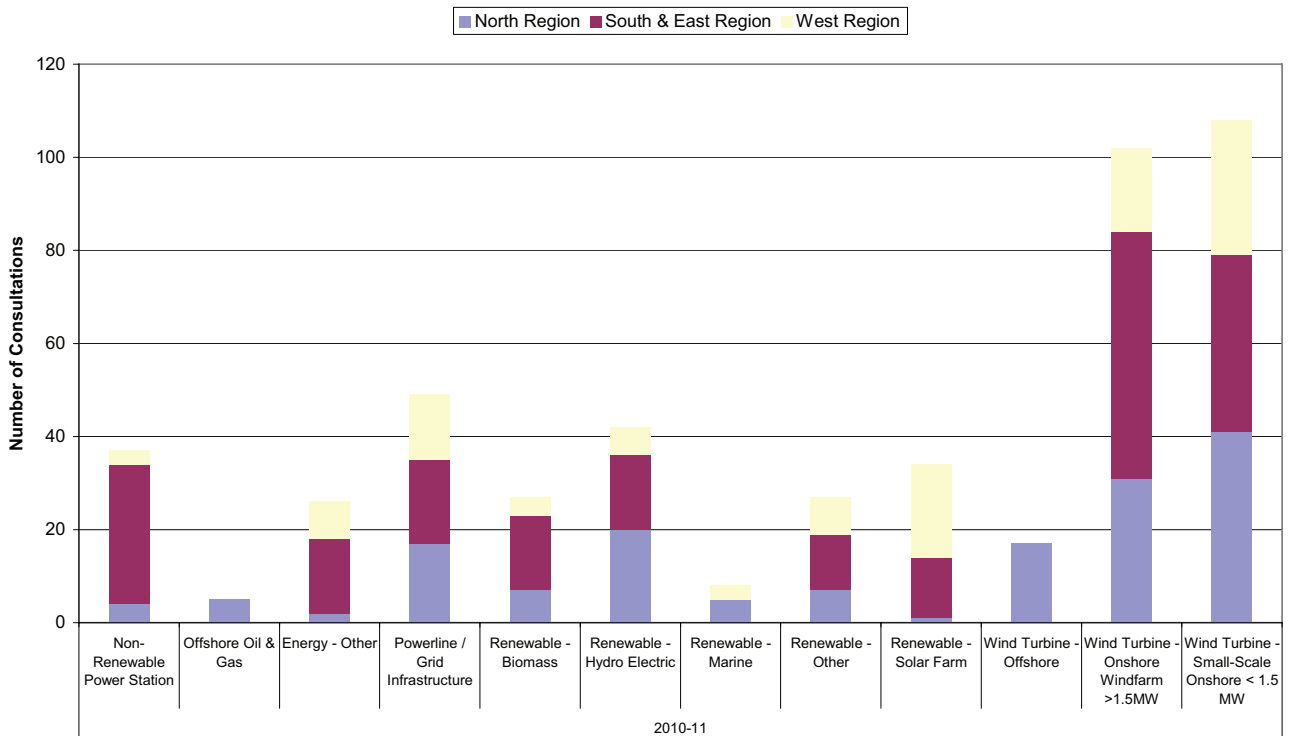
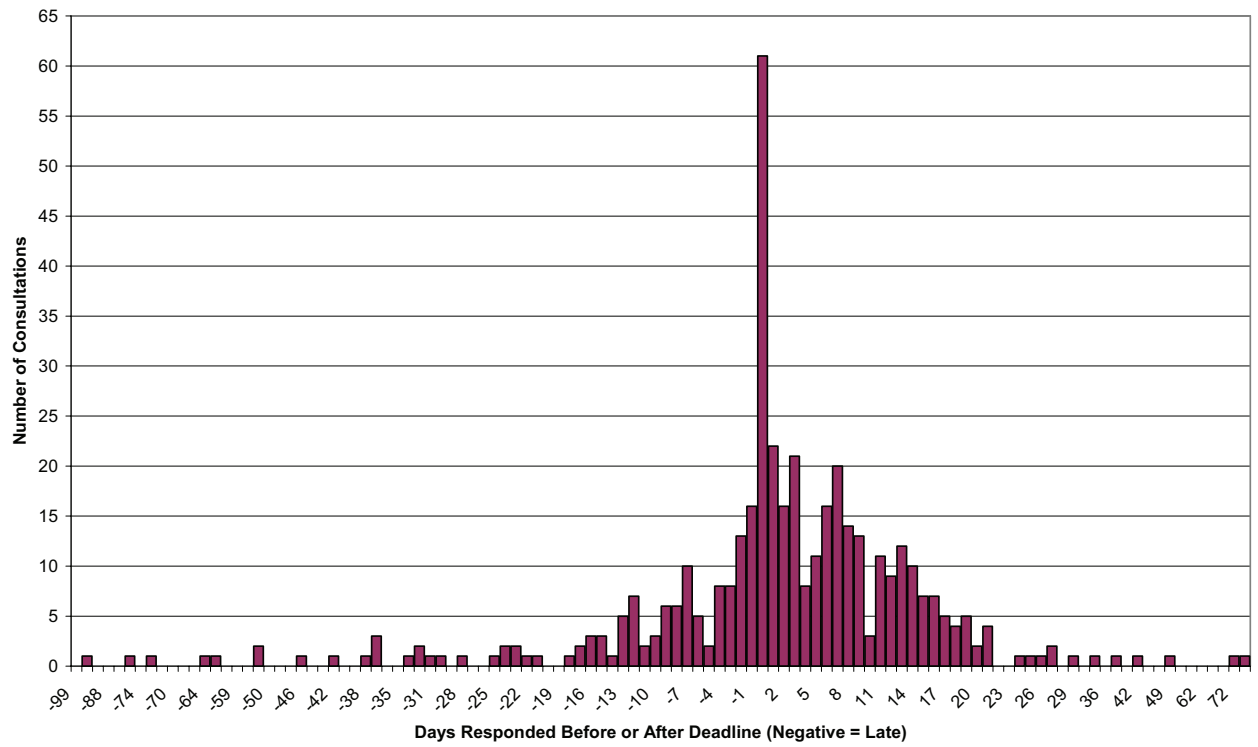


Figure 5 - Trend in Time between CCW's Response and the Deadline; Energy Consultations Only: 2010 / 2011



ANNEX 2: TABLES

Table 1 – Quarterly Summary: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

2008 / 09				2009 / 10				2010 / 11			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
75	71	87	69	59	74	73	61	87	101	108	189
1156	1368	1302	1272	1101	1164	1204	1145	1292	1563	1459	1393

Table 2 - Number of Energy Consultations per Financial Year: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011
Number of Energy Consultations	302	267	485
Increase on Previous Year	-	- 12 %	82 %

Table 3 - Annual Change in Energy Sector: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

Primary Proposal Type	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	Grand Total
Non-Renewable Power Station	16	9	37	62
Offshore Oil & Gas	0	1	5	6
Energy - Other	21	13	27	61
Powerline / Grid Infrastructure	74	56	49	179
Renewable - Biomass	21	28	28	77
Renewable - Hydro Electric	8	13	42	63
Renewable - Marine	3	4	8	15
Renewable - Other	3	3	28	34
Renewable - Solar Farm	0	1	34	35
Wind Turbine - Offshore	6	10	17	33
Wind Turbine - Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW	128	106	102	336
Wind Turbine - Small-Scale Onshore < 1.5 MW	22	23	108	153
Grand Total	302	267	485	1054

Table 4 - Generic Regional Casework Volume & Regional Involvement by Energy Sector: 2010 / 2011

Primary Proposal Type	North Region	South & East Region	West Region	Grand Total
Non-Renewable Power Station	4	30	3	37
Offshore Oil & Gas	5	0	0	5
Energy - Other	2	16	8	26
Powerline / Grid Infrastructure	17	18	14	49
Renewable - Biomass	7	16	4	27
Renewable - Hydro Electric	20	16	6	42
Renewable - Marine	5	0	3	8
Renewable - Other	7	12	8	27
Renewable - Solar Farm	1	13	20	34
Wind Turbine - Offshore	17	0	0	17
Wind Turbine - Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW	31	53	18	102
Wind Turbine - Small-Scale Onshore < 1.5 MW	41	38	29	108
Grand Total	157	212	113	482

Table 5 - Trend in Time between CCW's Response and the Deadline; Energy Consultations Only: 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2011

	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011
Number of Energy Consultations	302	267	485
Before the Deadline	60 %	67 %	70 %
Late, But Within 7 Days of the Deadline	14 %	10 %	15 %
After 7 Days Late	26 %	23 %	15 %

Table 6 – Consultations for Projects over 50MW, derived by Electricity Act s.36 consents or Infrastructure Planning Commission related consultations.

	2008 / 2009		2009 / 2010		2010 / 2011		TOTAL
	s.36	IPC	s.36	IPC	s.36	IPC	
Non-Renewable Power Station	1	0	0	0	0	16	17
Powerline / Grid Infrastructure	2	0	3	0	1	0	6
Renewable – Biomass	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Wind Turbine - Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW	37	0	18	0	23	1	79
TOTAL	40	0	22	0	25	17	104
	40		22		42		

Table 7 – Proportional Representation of Energy Sectors with >50MW Projects.

	2008 / 2009		2009 / 2010		2010 / 2011	
	<50MW	>50MW	<50MW	>50MW	<50MW	>50MW
Non-Renewable Power Station	94%	6%	100%	0%	57%	43%
Powerline / Grid Infrastructure	97%	3%	95%	5%	98%	2%
Renewable – Biomass	100%	0%	96%	4%	96%	4%
Wind Turbine - Onshore Windfarm >1.5MW	71%	29%	83%	17%	76%	24%

IN CONFIDENCE

DEPLOYMENT OF ENERGY PROJECTS ADJACENT TO PROTECTED LANDSCAPES

Recommendation

Council is asked to offer a steer on the issues set out in section 7 below and consider the proposed way forward as set out in section 8.

1. INTRODUCTION

Addressing climate change, ensuring security of energy supply and economic regeneration are central to the policy agenda of Government in Wales and Westminster as expressed in the Welsh Assembly Government Energy Policy Statement 'A Low Carbon Revolution' (March 2010) and DECC National Policy Statements (2011). Government also has a range of duties, obligations and priorities in relation to conserving and enhancing the natural heritage and natural resources of Wales within the overall context of sustainable development as the central organising principle of public service delivery.

In Wales the First Minister has overall responsibility for energy policy, reflecting its importance politically.

2. NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

The land use planning system is central to the implementation of sustainable development and sets the framework for the development and use of land in the public interest.

The National Planning Policy Framework in Wales comprises Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Notes and procedural guidance such as circulars and is an important delivery mechanism for WG policy including climate change, renewable energy and economic renewal whilst ensuring Wales meets European and International environmental obligations.

A fundamental principle of the planning system is that the majority of decisions which impact on local communities are taken by the 25 Local Planning Authorities in Wales in the context of adopted local development plans which interpret national policy and express it locally. An exception is the consenting regime for energy projects over 50 MW on land and 100 MW at sea, which remains non-devolved.

3. PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

The planning policy framework in Wales is set out in:

- Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and related Technical Advice Notes provide the mechanisms to provide guidance on national planning policy, which should be taken into account in the preparation of local development plans. They are material to decisions on individual planning applications and are to be taken into account by Welsh Ministers and the Planning Inspectorate in the determination of called-in applications and appeals.
- Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy which seeks to restrict the proliferation of large scale wind farms across the whole of Wales and focus on seven Strategic Search Areas.
- Edition 4 of PPW was published in February 2011 to reflect “A Low Carbon Revolution: Wales’s Energy Policy Statement” and to help facilitate the energy aspirations outlined in WG’s Energy Policy Statement. The document also sets out factual and legislative updates to TAN 8 to reflect the energy policy statement. The main substantive change amends the targets in paragraph 1.4 of TAN 8 (2005) to optimise the use of Strategic Search Areas (SSAs) to reflect the energy aspirations of WG as set out in “A Low Carbon Revolution Wales”. This raised the target from 1.1GW by 2010 to 2GW by 2015. John Griffiths subsequently wrote to Local Planning Authorities in July 2011 to provide clarity on the issue of maximum installation capacities within the SSA’s.
- National Policy in relation to National Parks is set out in ‘Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales’(WAG 2007). There is no equivalent statement for AONBs.

4. CCW’S ROLE

CCW has numerous roles as an advisor to Government on energy policy and planning as far as that relates to the natural heritage of Wales and as a statutory advisor to licensing authorities responsible for the development of energy in Wales.

In the context of energy generation, CCW’s role is to provide independent, evidence based advice to the Welsh and UK Governments, Local Planning Authorities, the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC), developers and others on the potential impact of strategic policy, plans and programmes and individual developments on the natural heritage of Wales. We are a statutory consultee under a number of Acts and Regulations in relation to casework and are a consultation body and relevant authority in relation to the SEA and HRA processes. Advice is provided at both a project and plan/programme (strategic) level under these arrangements.

CCW aims to provide clear, evidence based and consistent advice to the Welsh Government, UK Government, developers and others, including the IPC, in fulfilling its statutory duties in relation to energy developments. This advice focuses on the **impact** of a particular development in interests of acknowledged importance relating to the natural heritage of Wales. Our aim is to ensure the decision making process is informed by the best available evidence and advice.

In common with other developments, on and offshore wind energy projects can have impacts upon the biodiversity, geodiversity, the character of landscape and seascape, historic features, soils, water resources, access and recreation and other components of the terrestrial and marine environment. These effects arise not only as a result of the wind turbines themselves, but also through their ancillary infrastructure

requirements, such as grid connections, access roads, sub-stations and concrete foundations.

5. CCW'S POSITION

In 2008, CCW issued 'Energy and Natural Heritage'. This position statement acknowledged that climate change represents the most serious long term threat to the natural environment and that there is an urgent need to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and that there is a need to move to a low carbon economy to address climate change. This shift will require significantly more efficient use of energy and a substantial investment in low carbon, renewable energy for electricity generation, heat and transport. The position statement sets out the need for a strategically planned approach, seeking to lower overall environmental impacts of energy generation, through:

- demand management measures;
- energy efficiency;
- expanding renewable energy by getting the right technology in the right place; and
- lowering pollution from fossil fuel generation.

CCW also sets set out its support for initiatives which expand generation from lower carbon sources to reduce the long term risk to the natural environment from climate change while minimising unnecessary impacts on natural heritage. To accommodate this imperative, CCW recognises that it will often be necessary to reconcile the need to accept some local impacts on our natural heritage in the short term in order to secure a lowering of emissions from energy generation, whilst ensuring that the legal requirements to protect the environment are upheld.

6. STRATEGIC/OVERARCHING ENERGY WORK

CCW has seen a significant increase in its strategic energy related work reflecting the priority given by Government to the deployment of energy.

Number of Consultations received each Financial Year

Financial Year	2007/08(5 months)	2008 / 2009	2009 / 2010	2010 / 2011	2011 – 23 May 2011
No. Energy consultations	91	302	267	475	57

The growth and diversification of energy development has the potential to represent a significant pressure on natural heritage and our support for renewable energy creates challenges to CCW at both strategic and operational levels, especially given the often contested nature of the debate. Work has commenced on a strategic stocktake of our engagement with energy to ensure that sufficient resource is available for energy related work and that efficient use is made of existing resources. This will involve –

- Heading off issues early by engaging at a strategic level.
- Seeking external funds for energy work to relieve pressure elsewhere.

- Prioritisation of effort on significant energy related work where there are greatest potential for impacts.
- Ensuring that strategic links with policy makers and planners are maintained.
- Learning from experience in Wales and elsewhere and communicating widely.

A key aspect will be to review CCW's position on energy - CCW's Energy & Natural Heritage Position Statement. This identifies the need to accept local impacts in order to accommodate the need for renewable energy to combat the effects of climate change. However, an acceptable level of impact has not yet been defined and this is difficult to operationalise given the strict level of protection of natural heritage features and the need to address issues on a case by case basis. We will review the position statement to clarify what 'local impacts' we may be willing to accept. This is particularly relevant in relation to development within SSA's adjacent to statutory protected landscapes.

7. DEVELOPMENT IN SSAs ADJACENT TO NATIONAL PARKS AND AONBs

Planning Policy Wales sets the context for sustainable land use planning policy taking full account of economic, social and environmental issues including conserving and improving natural heritage and energy within an overall sustainable development context.

It confirms national policy towards National Parks and AONBs, namely that they must be afforded the highest status of protection from inappropriate development and that the duty to have regard to National Park and AONB purposes applies to activities affecting these areas, whether those activities lie within or outside the designated areas.

TAN 8 provides technical guidance to inform deployment of renewable energy within the overall context of government objectives for the environment.

TAN 8, and the work on which it is based, considered cumulative landscape and visual impacts at an all-Wales level to help identify seven Strategic Search Areas to resist the proliferation of large scale wind farms in other parts of Wales. The strategy adopted is a means of concentrating the impact of wind turbines in a relatively small proportion of the country in areas that are, on balance, technically, practically and environmentally, better able to accommodate such impacts than other parts of Wales.

TAN 8 (Annex D, section 8.4) states that:

- **Within (and immediately adjacent) to the SSAs, the implicit objective is to accept landscape change i.e. a significant change in landscape character from wind turbine development.**
- **There is an implicit objective in TAN 8 to maintain the integrity and quality of the landscape within the National Parks/AONBs of Wales i.e. no change in landscape character from wind turbine development.**

- **In the rest of Wales outside the SSAs, the implicit objective is to maintain the landscape character i.e. no significant change in landscape character from wind turbine development.**

The National Park Policy Statement further states that, in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on major developments within the Welsh National Parks, there should be no **significant change** in landscape character as a result of wind turbine development within National Parks (or the AONBs). **This is subtly different to the wording in TAN 8 and implies that a degree of change would be acceptable.**

This conflict between national policy objectives and the divergence of interpretation between TAN 8 and the National Park Policy Statement is problematic when advising on the potential impact of specific proposals.

A steer on this issue is requested from Council at this stage to help inform our revision of the Energy Position Statement, our submission to the NAW Sustainability Committee Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales, our input into the Revision of the National Park Policy Statement and to inform staff engaged with casework.

8. TOWARDS A WAY FORWARD

CCW believes that strategic spatial planning for renewable energy – based on rigorous evidence and assessment – is necessary to reduce both the environmental and consenting risks associated with energy development.

CCW assisted the Welsh Government in developing its strategic approach to the development of renewable energy as described in Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8, Planning for Renewable Energy. Our aim was then, and remains, to ensure that energy developments are located and constructed in a way that safeguards nationally acknowledged natural heritage designations. These designations are held in high regard by the Welsh Government and CCW has a statutory duty on its behalf to advise on how they can be safeguarded and promoted.

TAN 8 continues to provide a strategic spatial process and framework to help identify positive solutions, the right type of development in the most appropriate locations, thereby helping achieve Government renewable energy targets whilst minimising impacts on the environment. We believe that the decisions to date under the current TAN 8 policy framework have led to consistent decisions, upholding the intention to concentrate development strategically in SSA's and discouraging schemes outside SSAs.

The alternative, a criteria led approach, would result in inappropriate proposals in inappropriate locations with potential greater adverse impact on interests of acknowledged landscape and wildlife interests and introduce further delay to the process of deployment of renewable energy in Wales.

CCW should continue to support the principles behind a strategic and spatial planning approach for the deployment of renewable energy as expressed in TAN 8.

However we also need to acknowledge that development in SSAs adjacent to protected landscapes may continue to impact on the character of these areas. The range of impact will be variable and will depend on topography and intervisibility, landscape character and the scale of proposed development. We will continue to work proactively with developers to provide advice on how to avoid significant change in landscape character as a result of wind turbine development adjacent to National Parks and AONBs.

We will also work with WG to provide guidance on this issue to inform the current review of the National Park Policy Statement the outcome of which is likely to result in a joint policy statement on National Parks and AONBs.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Deployment of low carbon energy will continue to be a priority for the UK and Welsh Government. Providing policy and casework advice on deploying the right development in the right place will remain a strategic priority for CCW (and any future Single Environmental Body) but will prove challenging with respect to capacity given the volume and complexity of projects and plans.

10. COMPLIANCE

CCW is the statutory advisor to UK and Welsh Government on natural heritage in Wales and a statutory consultee under a number of Acts and Regulations to the IPC and Local Planning Authorities.

11. WELSH LANGUAGE

No issues have been identified.

12. SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Deployment of the right development in the right location can help avoid impact on biodiversity and landscape whilst also contributing to deployment of low carbon energy with potential positive implications for reducing carbon emissions.

13. RISK ASSESSMENT

Failure to advise on policy and casework may have potentially significant adverse impact on natural heritage and also reputational risks to CCW with respect to being a perceived barrier to the deployment of low carbon energy.

Dr David Parker
Director Evidence and Advice

This paper has been prepared by Keith Davies, Head Strategic Planning Group

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a
Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and
European Programmes



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: SF\AD-17047\211

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AC / AM
Chair of Environment and
Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

8 December 2011

Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG)

Thank you for your letter dated 21 November 2011. My officials have been in discussions over recent weeks with Dr Glenda Thomas of FWAG, about her plans to establish FWAG Cymru as a separate legal entity in Wales. The hope is that if and when established, FWAG Cymru would deliver to customers in Wales the services FWAG UK have until recently delivered, including environmental advice under Farming Connect.

My officials have consulted with colleagues in other parts of the Welsh Government and are providing advice to Dr Glenda Thomas on the support that might be available in the form of start-up packages and restructuring funding that could potentially assist in establishing FWAG Cymru as a separate, new entity.

Any new company to emerge from the old will need to be approved by the Welsh Government before it could be authorised to deliver subsidised Farming Connect services and my officials are talking to Dr Thomas about this aspect also.

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.Alun.Davies@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Alun Davies AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a
Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and
European Programmes



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/AD-/6927/11

Julie James AM,

Chair of the E&S Committee Task
and Finish Group on Common
Fisheries Policy Reform

6 December 2011

Update on Discussion with the UK Minister on the UK 'Fisheries Concordat'

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present evidence to the task and finish group on CFP reform back on the 3 November. At that meeting I undertook to provide an update to you on my discussions with the UK Minister Richard Benyon MP, regarding the UK Fisheries Concordat.

As you are aware I was unwilling to agree to the concordat while I believed it would be detrimental to the Welsh industry. I am glad to say that we have now reached an agreement for the issue of splitting the pool of quota for vessels under 10 meters in length to be stepped out of the agreement. This issue will now be given the proper consideration it deserves and an equitable solution will be found.

This will allow the other important work streams to begin and I will be working closely on those with the other UK Fisheries Ministers to ensure maximum benefit for the Welsh Industry.

I also undertook to provide the committee with a copy of the Impact Assessment on the removal of domestic historic fishing rights. This will be completed after the closure of the consultation period and I will ensure a copy is sent to you once it is available.

I hope this short update is helpful, if you require any further information on anything I covered in my evidence or anything else related to the fishing industry in Wales please don't hesitate to write to me again.

Best wishes
Alun

Alun Davies AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Amaethyddiaeth, Bwyd, Pysgodfeydd a Rhaglenni Ewropeaidd
Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and European Programmes