

We live in the Radnor Valley, very close to Radnor Forest which has enormous importance to us as a place of natural beauty and wildness and as a walking place. As you know it has value to a very large number of people outside of the farming community, both residents of the borders as well as visitors and tourists from all over the country and beyond.

We are exceedingly puzzled and concerned to learn that landowners with grazing land up on the moorland are being signed up for the development of wind farms on the Radnor Forest and on Aberedw Hill - another moorland of exceptional historic and environmental importance - both of which, as I understand it, fall OUTSIDE the 'Assessed Areas' defined in the National Development Framework.

These are environments that are far too important and valuable a natural resource for the survival of wildlife and for the health and wellbeing of the increasingly confined population seeking tranquility and exercise and the therapeutic effects of being outdoors to spoil. As is becoming increasingly known, such experience is essential to peoples' mental as well as physical health, now and in future generations.

It is surely? land that SHOULD NOT EVER be used for industrial development. It needs to be protected in law, the 'lines on the map' respected as fixed not fluid; that is to say, not to be moved according to developers' and individual farmers' wishes.

We are certainly not against the development of renewable/sustainable energy but have always considered it should be done with the following points in mind:

1. With recognition of the absolute need for sensitivity to the environment and to the people who live in and use these areas for recreation and health; consultation should be seen to be genuine exercise in working alongside the people and their needs.
2. With regard to the obvious reality that Wales is surrounded on three sides by sea and offers a great resource of suitable and effective sites for the development of off-shore sustainable generation.
3. There are brownfield sites such as the big space in the centre of Prestiegne, (empty ex-factory land,) which should and could be used first, possibly for solar power.
4. It would be a healthier and more socially beneficial option if the local parishes and communities were involved in planning for local sustainable power as is done already in many parts of the UK and is often a cheaper source of heat and light than what is currently available.

I am copying in a number of Welsh Assembly members to this letter and would hope and expect that the will of the Welsh Government be used for the benefit of the population as a whole, to protect us from such self-evidently unsuitable and undesirable developments, not just 'in our backyard' but throughout the beautiful country of Wales.