

From: [Peter Ashcroft](#)
To: [NDE](#)
Subject: Draft National Development Framework
Date: 29 October 2019 15:45:17
Attachments: [Draft National Development Framework.docx](#)

Please see attached Word document.

Regards,
Peter Ashcroft,



Draft National Development Framework

I have a number of observations regarding Government proposals.

First, it cannot be acceptable that Government is prepared to ride roughshod over the wishes of local communities. Rural mid-Wales depends on the scenic landscapes to drive the local economy and piecemeal destruction of the landscape will have devastating effects on local businesses. The development of bigger windmills will result in the impact of intrusive windfarms expanding progressively as new windfarms are permitted and older installations renewed. Current plans mean that it will never be possible to enjoy the wild upper landscapes except under the imposing windmills. Why destroy one of Wales' most important assets for tourists and residents alike?

The damage is not limited to the windfarms themselves. They need to be connected to the National Grid under current practice. This will lead to additional damage to landscape from the uplands to the valleys. I would make mention here of conditions in California where the above ground power lines have become such a risk under changing weather patterns that whole regions have power turned off during bad weather. Perhaps a bit of planning for the future would ensure all new power lines are made underground. Wales could lead the way in future-proofing power supply and distribution.

Currently windfarms are operated as investments, this must cease. They should be considered industrial energy plant and operated to produce the maximum power **not** maximum return. My local windfarm can frequently be seen with a number of units out of commission, this is not acceptable! Payment to windfarms must be tied to 100% operation. Any inactive units should impact the rate paid to the installation as a whole. In that way the existing installations will be operated more efficiently and require less land to be consumed.

No applications should be accepted or development permitted without secured funds for decommissioning at end-of-life (determined independently). Suitable financial instruments should be put in place to cover existing and planned windfarms. Without this we will end up with rotting installations in years to come – similar to the problem of redundant quarries.

The current practice of allowing power producers to turn off supply when there is oversupply must cease. All windfarms should have suitable outlets to either use or store excess energy to ensure all energy plant is operated at as close to 100% as possible. The power could be made available at zero cost (the producers are already paid for the unwanted power) to local community groups who could create suitable businesses (plastic recycling / recovery, electrolysis for hydrogen production....) or suitable energy storage to provide supplementary heating for community facilities, schools, homes, village halls etc.

Some years ago, a local windmill collapsed, I have yet to find out what caused the failure – how can that be acceptable? All aspects of windfarm operation should be open to local communities and transparent so that there can be confidence in their management. Most are already operated for the benefit of foreign investors, not local communities who are expected to accept industrial plant imposed on their collective doorsteps.

From:

Peter Ashcroft,

