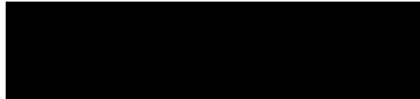




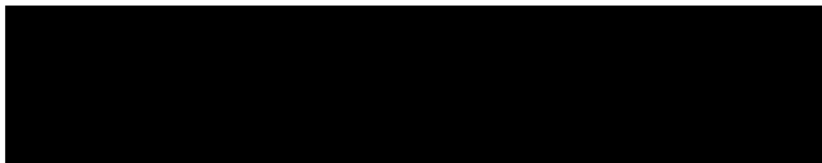
Ein cyf/Our ref: qA1320857



8

November 2018

Dear



**Hendy Wind Farm Appeal Decision**

Further to our meeting on 1 November concerning the grant of planning permission to erect 7 wind turbines on land south of Llandegley, near Llandrindod Wells, Powys, I undertook to provide you with reasons for my decision. I provide below extracts from the decision letter which fully explain the reasoning behind the conclusions reached.

“The Welsh Government is committed to renewable and low carbon energy generation and Planning Policy Wales sets out the need to take into account the wider environmental, social and economic benefits and opportunities from renewable and low carbon energy development as part of the Government’s overall commitment to tackle climate change. In this case I am satisfied the Inspector has considered the relevant issues in full, however, I do not agree with the conclusions of his balancing exercise and his resulting conclusion.

PPW notes in the short to medium term, wind energy continues to offer the greatest potential for delivering renewable energy and the need for wind energy is a key part of the Welsh Government’s vision for future renewable electricity production. This should be taken into account by decision makers when determining such applications.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400  
[Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The Inspector notes the contribution the proposal would make towards meeting the need for national energy targets is considered to weigh in favour of the development. The proposal will generate up to 17.5MW and would provide a valuable source of renewable energy which should be afforded significant weight. As the Inspector recognises, whether planning permission should be granted for the proposal rests on the balance between the benefits of generating electricity from renewable onshore wind and the identified impacts of the scheme on landscape and visual amenity, the setting of the SAMs and other matters raised in evidence.

In terms of landscape and visual amenity, the Inspector states the scheme would have a substantially detrimental effect on the visual character of the landscape. I note the proposed wind turbines would be located outside the Strategic Search Areas and Technical Advice Note (TAN): 8 states outside SSAs there is a balance to be struck between the desirability of renewable energy and landscape protection. Whilst I acknowledge the Inspector's conclusions on this issue, I note the site does not located within a nationally designated landscape and the proposal would not impact on any national landscape designation.

In this context, I consider the benefits of the proposal in terms of delivering renewable energy are material considerations which are sufficient to outweigh the identified impacts of the scheme on landscape and visual amenity and the balance, therefore, weighs in favour of the appeal.

With regard to historic assets, the Inspector concludes the extent to which the setting of the scheduled monuments would be altered by the large and moving structures would represent a significantly damaging effect, in terms of paragraph 6.5.5 of PPW. Paragraph 6.5.5 of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) states "It will only be in exceptional circumstances that planning permission will be granted if development would result in an adverse impact on a scheduled monument (or an archaeological site shown to be of national importance) or has a significantly damaging effect upon its setting."

Whilst I do not disagree with the Inspector's conclusion the proposal will have a significant impact on the setting of historic assets, however, I consider in this case, the need for development which produces renewable energy outweighs the presumption against grant of permission in relation to the impact on the setting of SAMs. Paragraph 6.2.3 of PPW states "the public benefit of taking action to reduce carbon emissions, or to adapt to the impact of climate change, should be weighed against any harm to the significance of historic assets." I am of the view, in this case, the proposal's contribution to renewable energy targets constitutes an exceptional circumstance for the purpose of paragraph 6.5.5 of PPW, particularly as the identified harm is reversible and the setting of the scheduled monuments will revert back to their present state once the scheme is decommissioned.

Therefore, I disagree with the Inspector's recommendation."

I am unable to provide any further explanation beyond that which is contained in my decision letter as a decision on an appeal made by the Welsh Minsters is final. The decision may be subject to legal challenge and any further comment may prejudice the Welsh Government's position should a challenge be made. I attach a copy of my decision letter.

Regards

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

**Lesley Griffiths AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig  
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs