

Hi,

Please accept my comments as being against this development.

This development is too large for this area. An existing solar farm is in-situ nearby and, adding this particular development beside it will only be detrimental to the cultural, economic and environmental fabric of the area.

Brynryd Solar Farm will do little to ensure the Welsh Government's commitments to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity, its commitment to planting more trees, and its agreement with Plaid Cymru to ensure food is created locally. The developers recognise themselves that biodiversity could increase with appropriate grazing and management. Natural Resources Wales have also recently highlighted the importance of maintaining biodiversity.

This area of Wales is prone to many days of dull skies and rain. For example, I have kept a record of the weather here daily, and for the past ten years, and as such, I can confirm that 2021 has had over 70% of its weather has either dull or containing precipitation. Additionally, we are seeing record rainfall each year (May 2021 saw Wales have over 150% of its average rainfall). How would a solar farm be efficient in this area?

In regards to rainfall and due to its climate, the proposed area has the potential to be earmarked for reforestation as a way to increase the Celtic Rainforest.

In regards to the detrimental effect on the cultural and economic fabric of the area, you are essentially taking away opportunities for local people to utilise this land. As a farm, it can continue to provide Wales with food, as well as provide opportunities for the community, should they themselves have the opportunity to acquire the land, to diversify the area which could include forests, and/or other enterprises which could increase job opportunities i.e. glamping, timber creation etc.

After all, the developers mention that after the solar farm's creation, there will only be five net additional jobs in all of Carmarthenshire. Moreover, they state that this development will '...allow the South West region (of England) to reduce their GHG emissions...'. This proves its limited benefit to the local area and Wales as a whole. Wales is not England's industrial estate, and as such Wales's communities should not pay the price by having land taken over for half a century by a development that will create minimal job opportunities for local people, and will bring little economic, environmental and social benefits to the local and national communities and economies. The Welsh Government should concentrate on devolving the relevant powers on, for example, crown estate so that there are a number of options for renewable development.

The Welsh Government's Assessment of Onshore Wind and Solar Energy (2019) report states that consideration should be given to the proximity of developments on sensory and visual elements. As such, this proposed development will be detrimental to these elements due to the close proximity of already created large electrical pylons, wind farms (Mynydd y Gwair & Mynydd y Betws) and Clawdd Du solar farm, in the area. Additionally, with more

people taking interest in the surrounding areas for walking and the like, i.e. part The Heart of Wales Walking Trail is opposite the site, it would be a shame to put people off visiting the area due to the development's desecration of the environment, and its OTT and negative impact on sensory and visual elements.

To conclude, this development will do little to improve the livelihoods of local communities and will only improve the wallets of the developer. If the Welsh Government are true to their word in wanting to improve the cultural, economic and environmental credentials of Wales and its communities, then this development should not go ahead. The area should be allowed to stay within the community for it to enhance the opportunities for residents, visitors and the national ethos of biodiversity enhancement, jobs creation and wellbeing.

Many thanks

Craig Hughes