

## **STATEMENTS RE TOURISM IN THE AREA**

FOUR WELLS RAMBLERS

CHAMBER OF TRADE AND TOURISM, LLANDRINDOD WELLS & AREA

FFOREST FIELDS CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITE

STATELY RIDES EQUINE TOURISM BUSINESS

GLANOER HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

CWMFILLO BED AND BREAKFAST AND BHS HORSES ARE WELCOME

LITTLE WERN HOLIDAY COTTAGE

## **FOUR WELLS RAMBLERS**

I wish to elaborate on the comments already made by Powys Ramblers that the “turbines would blight a beautiful area and harm views from the Byway Open to all Traffic and two bridleways that cross the site”. Powys Ramblers do not oppose all wind farm developments but consider applications individually on their merits. In this case we are opposed and there are three further points to make:

One of the most spectacular views for motorists coming to this part of mid Wales gradually unfolds when the hairpin bends on the A44, east of Llandegley, have been successfully negotiated. The proposed turbines would ruin this view which visitors coming to our area find so breathtaking.

For the many people who use the bridleways and the byway open to all traffic at the proposed development site, their enjoyment of this quiet, peaceful area will be significantly reduced. Not only will the views be spoiled but users will also have to negotiate their way round the large turbines. This has been the experience of walkers where other wind farm developments have interfered with rights of way.

The long term effect of this will be that less walkers will use the rights of way, not just at the proposed development site but in the surrounding area where the views will be blighted by the turbines. This goes very much against the Council’s Well Being plans to encourage more use of the right of way network by local residents and to make the area more attractive for adventure tourism.

Graham Taylor  
Deputy Footpath Secretary, Powys Ramblers  
<http://powysramblers.org.uk/>

Registered Charity in England and Wales No 1093577

c/o Highland Moors,  
Wellington Road,  
Llandrindod Wells  
LD1 5ND

7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Inspector Jones,

As the Chamber of Trade & Tourism for Llandrindod Wells & Area, we are acutely aware of the importance of our beautiful countryside to the tourism trade. Unlike beach resorts, our countryside is our attraction and tourists come to this area to enjoy cycling, mountain biking, walking, bird watching and fishing. Many visitors come to see and photograph the indigenous red kites which have been brought back from the brink of extinction by centres such as the Red Kite Centre in Rhayader, and to experience other wildlife 'events' such as the starling murmurations at Llandegley Rhos. The Chamber seeks to promote local tourism, which is very important to the local economy. This year for example in June the Llandrindod Wells Audax cycling event will attract in hundreds of cyclists across the UK to ride distances off-road from 100-600 km. When we have rally events, many hundreds of spectators come from all over the UK to enjoy the event in the rural landscape, again mostly off main roads.

Whilst we are in principle in support of renewable energy appropriately sited and scaled according to requirements, the proposed Hendy Wind Farm is sited with little regard for landscape, nature or tourism. The area around Llandegley Rocks is a popular walking area, and a favourite with local walking festivals.

Thousands of visitors travel along the A44 from the Midlands to Mid Wales and we would suspect that this is the busiest route into the area. A wind farm just off to the side of the A44 just as visitors come into Wales is an inappropriate welcome to our beautiful country. The Chamber strongly objects to this development on this environmentally sensitive site. We feel the huge and harmful impacts on landscape and local communities must outweigh any public benefit from electricity generated. The large number of objections to both the application and the appeal show that very many local people are vehemently opposed to this proposal.

The Chamber of Trade and Tourism continues to object and respectfully requests the Inspector to dismiss the appeal.

Yours Sincerely

Sue Green  
Chair, Llandrindod Wells Chamber of Trade & Tourism

**Fforest Fields Caravan and Camping Site**

Hundred House  
Llandrindod Wells  
Powys LD1 5RT  
01982 570406

29<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

We are a leading tourist accommodation provider in mid Wales. We have 120 pitches which during high season are filled. Starting as a farm diversification, our family owned business has encouraged people to visit this part of Wales for the last thirty years on the promise of wonderful landscape, peace and quiet from their busy lives, walking and mountain biking. Our ethos is to encourage the natural environment and enhance it wherever possible. Few holiday in this part of Wales for anything other than the scenery the environment and the wildlife. It is known and greatly loved just for that. The response we have had has been interesting. Most people thought the erection of seven 110m high turbines, in this part of the country was an abomination, that they would be in sight of the upper ground of the campsite upset them as the view from here to Llandegley and beyond is unspoilt with hardly even a building to see. They were greatly disappointed and surprised that the application had gone in and were concerned for the despoliation of the pristine landscape. The effect on the wildlife was often mentioned. As was the effect to an important tributary of the River Wye, the Edw which rises in the wet ground of the Llandegley area.

A number of our visitors have objected directly to Powys County Council and we have passed on other views in our own objections.

Fforest Fields is a Professor David Bellamy Gold Award winning site for over twenty years, with two Special Awards for Outstanding Environmental Conservation.

We were the AA Campsite of the Year for Wales in 2017

Katie Barstow  
Partner, Fforest Fields Caravan and Camping Site  
Hundred House

<https://fforestfields.co.uk/>

\*AA\* Campsite of the Year, Wales 2017

Stately Rides

c/o Upper Noyadde  
Clyro  
HR3 5JS

8<sup>th</sup> February 2018

For the attention of Inspector Jones

In 2009 we started a small business taking clients on upmarket riding holidays across the countryside on horseback. Riding from house to house clients stayed in private homes and enjoyed the beauty of the countryside and the hospitality of their hosts. Originally the rides were based in the Cotswolds.

Three years ago we decided to expand our business to the Welsh Borders. This was partly because one of us moved to the area but mainly because Wales has arguably the most magnificent riding country in the UK.

Sadly, a great deal of England is now busy and built up. There is more and more traffic on the roads and access to bridleways and open countryside is becoming difficult.

By contrast, Wales still has some areas of true wilderness. It is possible to walk and ride for hours, even days over the wild open hills, through woods and valleys without seeing a road or a car, to experience a landscape that is still rich in wildlife with habitats that are abundant with fawn and flora.

We currently have four different rides in Wales ranging from two to five days. Our Radnor Forest Ride takes us directly over the Llandegley Rocks. Clients have often marvelled at the beauty of this particular area. Another ride takes us over the top of the Llandegley Rocks. The five guests that came last year from the USA on this ride have rebooked again for this year and are also sending two groups of friends to do the same ride.

For the last three years we have taken clients from England, USA, Canada, France and Germany on rides across the Welsh Hills. What is clear is that every one of the clients has been blown away by the beauty of the countryside they have ridden through. Most of them, seasoned riders, who in many cases have enjoyed riding holidays all over the world say that Wales is probably the best riding experience they have had. We do not find this surprising for the landscape, with its magnificent rolling hills, its wild open commons, its gurgling streams and ancient woods, enable people to escape from their busy lives and connect with something deep within themselves.

Along the way our clients enjoy the hospitality of the local B&B's, small hotels and pubs. The tourist business is doing well in mid Wales. We have met people who have come from far and wide to open B&B's in the area. They are proud of what they do.

What is clear is that if outsiders can appreciate how unique the landscape of mid Wales is then so should we. If industrial scale turbines are allowed to be built on our finest landscapes it will have a devastating effect on many small businesses like mine.

Nature and our relationship to it is finally being recognised as an important part of our wellbeing. Perhaps it is time therefore to recognise this unique landscape as the asset it is and give it the respect it deserves.

Zara Colchester and Charlotte Sainsbury Plaice

[www.statelystrides.co.uk](http://www.statelystrides.co.uk)

07921220155

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[www.glanoer.co.uk](http://www.glanoer.co.uk)

Statement for Inspector      6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

As owners of a small tourist business, *The Barn at Glanoer* (holiday accommodation), we alone bring in to the local area revenue in the region of £30,000 each year which is spent in local shops, pubs and attractions. All of our guest comments – our guest book is available for inspection – mention peace, quiet and tranquillity, but include also mention of wildlife, starling murmurations, birds watching and so forth. We are just one of many small tourist businesses operating in this immediate area, indeed it is a growing sector. Account should be taken of the total income that is brought in between us and the value of the tourist pound. If a wind farm is allowed to be developed, it will be the first thing our guests see and the last as they leave. All it takes is one negative comment to have a real impact on the core attraction of our business. Who would want to holiday next to a windfarm, would you? We would have no redress.

Noise amplification has not been tested. The sound would be amplified and run down the valley and affect our property and our business, less than 2,000m from the windfarm. I would also like to mention that we have taken a loan based upon our income from tourism to run for a further seven year period. The severe negative impact of a windfarm will affect our business, our income and our ability to pay our loan.

Susan & David Stone  
The Barn at Glanoer



My B&B business is directed at a niche market consisting mostly of equestrians but also walkers, cyclists, mountain bikers, bird watchers, photographers and artists. All of my visitors come in search of what this truly stunning, unique and treasured landscape offers, along with its diversity of historic landscape, ecology, flora and fauna. It is clear from the entries in the visitors' book that this is so. Visitors have a propensity to 'fall in love' with Radnorshire and this fact is reflected by the amount of return bookings. I enjoy helping my guests gain the most from their stay. Guests dine out at local pubs, visit local towns, support local shows, not forgetting the Royal Welsh Show.

Folk with their equine chums are provided with human and horse B&B! The horses have a choice of stabling or pasture turnout. In addition to my own visitors I am also a provider for other small equine trail type businesses, Free Rein and the Radnorshire Loop, and am an approved member of the BHS Horses Welcome Scheme. The collaboration between numbers of small businesses has developed over a number of years, but one element is common to all: the overwhelming dependence upon the environment and Radnorshire landscape. To coin a phrase, landscape sells holidays. The landscape is our asset and many local livings are and will be in the future based on Radnorshire's ability to attract visitors. This part of Radnorshire possesses the very highest rating on LANDMAP which emphasises the need to protect it from industrialisation and to protect for the present and future enjoyment of both residents and our guests and what is an increasingly rare resource – a landscape of extraordinary beauty which is also remarkably unspoiled.

Julie Leggett

Cwmfillo

<http://www.cwmfillo.co.uk/>

February 2018

Extracts taken from 'Visitors Books' at a Bed and Breakfast Establishment for 'Horses and Humans'. 2014-2017

#### **Opening 'Mission Statement':-**

**“Cwmfillo' with its twelve acres 'rests' in Rhulen; a 'fold' in the magical, tranquil Radnorshire Hills, a natural amphitheatre in the very heart of the Welsh Marches. It is a place of ancient peace and beauty with hidden secrets to be discovered and shared.”**



‘Thank you so much for welcoming us and looking after us so well in this idyllic setting.’  
(Faye)

‘What a unique place! Secret valleys and huge, pristine, open hills’. (Sandy and Colin)

‘Fabulous location and such beautiful scenery.’ (Audrey and Bill)

‘A lovely stay in a fantastic valley. Treated to a lovely sunset, so peaceful. Looking forward to the return ride over the hill’ (Jenny and ‘Shadow’)

‘Many thanks for a lovely time, we’re absolutely set up for more adventures in the hills with the horses.’ (Gary, Sarah and Emma)

‘Totally blown away with the beautiful scenery. We slept like logs and woke up to the wonderful views with rolling mist, just stunning’. (Nikki and Caroline)

‘Beautiful setting and fantastic dinner outside enjoying the scenery’. (Mandy Andy, Julie, Michelle and Andy)

‘This area has got to be the best in Britain for Horse Riding – a unique combination of stunning scenery – hills big enough but not too big you can’t ride over a few in a day – loads of rideable and accessible paths and tracks and places to stay for horse and rider’. (Suzanne, Ali, Isabel)

‘The routes were just perfect for these 4 special horses and we could see for miles from the top of the hills’. (Sue, Lesley, Tracy and Jane)

‘The area around Rhulen is so beautiful with unspoilt scenery and riding to die for! It has been a pleasure to stay here, to share your way of life and also to experience the breathtaking views. (John and Jane. Organisers of the BHS Endurance Red Dragon Event)

‘The riding is heaven! It has been a perfect place to stay for Norwich Schools first riding trip to Wales’. (Alex)

Tourists are attracted to visit all sorts of locations for all sorts of reasons.

A major factor drawing visitors from near and far to this part of the UK is its wealth of **Natural** Resources. This is paramount ingredient for many types of Outdoor Activities, but, especially true for Equestrians.

This is one of the last remaining Wild Open Access Areas in England and Wales with **the** most fantastic Network of Public Rights of Ways linking breathtaking Open Hilltops and Moors with ‘Secret, Hidden’ Valley’s, Farmsteads, Ancient Churches and Woodlands.

Wales is renowned for its rainfall!

It is not the weather that ‘draws’ folk to visit this part of the World, it is its **Landscape, Vista’s, Peace, Tranquility, and Sense of ‘Remoteness.**

Radnorshire is ‘Totally Unique’ in its ‘Character’.

The Radnorshire Landscape '**must and deserves' to be Protected** from 'Industrialisation' and to remain '**Set Apart**' in '**Set Aside Status**' for the Wellbeing and Recreation for future generations.

J.A Leggett. 10/02/2018

Little Wern, Bettws, LD1 5RP

Like many of our neighbours, our main source of income comes from tourism by way of a holiday cottage. Many of our guests say they make return bookings as the cottage is in such a stunning location which is beautiful, relaxing and peaceful. They love the variety of birds and other wild life found in this unique environment. Extracts from our visitors book are included below, just examples of why guests return to us year on year.

02/10/15 3NTS	HARRY + HILLY SURREY.	(Oh and loved seeing the variety of birds) WE HAVE STAYED IN NUMEROUS TYPES OF HOLIDAY ACCOMM IN THE UK, BUT NOTHING COMPARES TO THE TRANQUIL AND HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT AS LITTLE WERN. AT A CROSSROADS IN OUR LIVES WITH MANY DECISIONS TO MAKE, THIS EXPERIENCE HAS LEFT US WITH ONLY POSITIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT AN "ESCAPE TO THE COUNTRY". A BIG THANKYOU TO MAGGIE AND MIKE FOR HAVING US AT SHORT NOTICE, OUR RETURN VISIT TO THIS NEAT AND CLEAN LITTLE COTTAGE WILL BE BETTER PLANNED. A WONDERFUL MINI-BREAK! X COULDN'T RESIST ANOTHER STAY AT THIS CHARMING PLACE TO PREPARE US FOR THE HEGTIC, MANIC LIFE THIS WINTER WILL HOLD. AMAZING LOCATION AND A REAL LITTLE GEM. ENJOYED OUR MINI MILLIE WALKS (SHE ALWAYS LOOKED AFTER US)
12/10/15 4NTS	HARRY + HILLY SURREY.	

11/1/17	Alan & Tia	A Stunning location and Beautiful cottage Had Alot of fun finding fossils And Spending Time With The Animals Mike & Maggie Are Perfect Hosts and A Great Help. We Came for 1 Week & Stayed for 2 We loved It That Much Will Be Back Soon. Thank-you x TIA + ALAN.
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		we could only visit once but will return soon. Thank you again! 😊
平成 25年 4月 27日(土) ~ 28日(日) 27 ~ 28 April, 2013	松井 祥高 松井 智洋 Yoshitak MATSUI Tomoe MATSUI	大変お世話になりました。お礼に感謝致します。 We had a wonderful time. Thank you for your warm hospitality!

THE PRES FAMILY - BAZINTON	we really enjoyed our stay at the cottage. calm and relaxing. beautiful surroundings. splendid view. spectacular views. friendly hosts. in one sentence "AMAZING STAY".	
Paul & Elizabeth Hawley. Sun Matthew, daughter Catherine & her husband.	Very enjoyable few days. lovely cottage, lovely hosts. Magnificent countryside. Navy Charles. Thanks for the Tolobise	nb food at Great in Bwlth - v.v. good food at Humble House

05 Gail & Andy Moore Surrey	lovely place, great walking, where can you go for a day and hardly see a person and with 'rent a dog' so peaceful & quiet lots of fossils to add to my collection, well abused our NT cards, Brockhampton Estate our favourite. A lovely Rest.
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27 Oct - 2nd Nov. 13.	Ian, Ken & Theo Holiday.	we have had a lovely time here at little Wern. The cottage is lovely - cosy and in such a beautiful & peaceful location. we have spent a couple of days exploring the Elan valley - totally stunning! lots of nature reserves, walks & beautiful scenery - perfect for us! Thank you & hope to come back again
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JULY TO JULY 2013	GEORGE & CHRISTINE	WONDERFUL HOSTS - A LOVELY HIDDEN GEM OF A COTTAGE, LOVELY SCENERY, WONDERFUL DRIVES (ESPECIALLY THE 6 MILE SHORT CUT FROM HUNDRED HOUSE TO/FROM LLANBRINDOD WELLS) A PERFECT AND UNDISTURBED WALK OF "CHILLING OUT" AND "SWITCHING OFF". MAGGIE AND MIKE HAVE BEEN GOOD TO US AND OFFERED VERY USEFUL LOCAL INFORMATION ENJOYED PLAYING FOOTBALL WITH TOBY AND MILLIE ... TWO VERY WELL BEHAVIOURED DOGS. WE HAVE HAD A GREAT TIME - HOPE TO BE BACK --- SOON !!
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We have visitors to the cottage from all over the world including Japan, France, India, Holland, Belgium, Canada. Tourism is healthy and growing in this area, thereby boosting the local economy.

If Hendy wind farm were allowed to go ahead, the construction and ongoing operation would demolish our unique landscape and ruin tourism in the area. Once gone, this unique landscape would be lost for ever and local income would most certainly be drastically reduced.

Maggie Ballard  
31<sup>st</sup> January 2018