

Bullet points for correspondence with the National Grid

1. Inefficiency and inappropriateness of wind turbines

- Mid Wales wind turbines function at only 18% efficiency in 2010 and will require back up from other forms of energy.
- The turbines do not work when there is too much or too little wind
- Onshore wind energy is outdated and inefficient. There are better more effective ways of renewable energy which are not being invested in for the sake of continuing a political agenda in respect of wind energy.
- Wind turbines are destroying the environment they are supposed to be helping to save!
- They are a “white elephant” scarring the landscape of upland areas of Wales which require ever increasing numbers of lines and pylons to make them even viable.
- It has been proved in an Australian study that those living close by wind farms will be more likely to suffer with depression.
- The location at Cefn Coch for a substation is ill thought out in that access is poor and impossible in winter.
- **Wind farms rely on subsidies to be built and to run. We the consumer are paying for this through higher energy bills**

2. Environmental cost

- The RSPB have already spoken out against wind farms and the negative impact they have on birdlife. One of the sites being considered for additional turbines and a substation is close to a designated curlew nesting site. The curlew is a protected species.
- The Vyrnwy valley has a protected area in relation to the breeding of bats
- Lorries will have to bring parts for turbines, substations and pylons into this area which will impact on the environment for years to come as construction proceeds. The roads are not suitable for the construction traffic.
- This is an area rich in flora and fauna which should be protected.

3. Economic cost

- Tourism will be adversely affected by powerlines and pylons which will have a detrimental effect to pubs, shops, restaurants, B&B's caravan sites and tourist attractions in the area.
- Walkers and naturalists will no longer visit the area which will have a detrimental effect for tourism. This area is an oasis for city dwellers to seek peace and serenity. The local economy depends on this.
- A National Trail – the Glyndwr Way – passes directly through the Vyrnwy valley.

4. Cultural significance

- The area is one of extreme beauty. Montgomeryshire is famed for being “Powys Paradwys Cymru” -the Paradise of Wales and “Mwynder Maldwyn” – the softness of the landscape of Montgomeryshire. This is being destroyed by pylons and turbines.
- Meifod is a royal burial ground for several of the Welsh Princes of Powys. The church is the Winchester Cathedral or Westminster Abbey for this large ancient kingdom of Wales.
- The village of Meifod is a conservation area.
- The church is of Norman origin with a more ancient foundation being the seat of the Welsh saints Gwyddfarch and Tysilio. The foundation is 1500 years old. It is part of the newly created “Living Stones” trail of North Montgomeryshire.
- There is an ancient monastic site close to the village.
- Mathrafal is an important historical site being the castle belonging to the Princes of Powys. Such is its cultural and historical significance it was a major reason for the Welsh National Eisteddfod being sited close by in 2003. It has been mentioned in books of historical fiction as well as numerous important histories of Wales.
- Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr (Cynddelw the Great Poet) is regarded as one of the most important Welsh bards of the 12th Century. He was the Court poet to Madog ap Maredudd Prince of Powys and was based at Mathrafal. His output is prodigious and of immense significance in Welsh literature. He described in his poetry the Meifod Valley as “the most fair”.