



DESIGN  
COMMISSION  
FOR WALES  
COMISIWN  
DYLUNIO  
CYMRU

17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

[info@ybryn-windfarm.cymru](mailto:info@ybryn-windfarm.cymru)

Dear Mr Heal,

Re: Y Bryn Wind Farm

Thank you for consulting the Design Commission for Wales. We have considered the proposal and have the following comments.

The proposal is for a large wind farm development in a highly 'engineered landscape', which is considered appropriate for this type of transformation to the new energy generation landscape in Wales.

The proposal is based on a conventional engineering and environmental science design approach, which is responsive to the planning policy context and to the community consultation process. The Design Commission recognises how the scheme seeks to reduce the visual and other impacts where possible; mitigate any negative impacts; provide environmental improvements to biodiversity in several important areas; and promote social and community benefits through the establishment of the Awel y Bryn Co-op.

The Design Commission for Wales is updating its guidance on renewable energy in Wales and recently consulted on its new draft guidance on *Designing for Renewable Energy in Wales*. The draft guidance emphasises that on-shore wind farm developments are a landscape design challenge. The guidance promotes a design-led, rather than mitigation-led, approach which emphasises landscape design and the response to landscape as being a guiding consideration. This goes beyond the 'visualisation' of landscape capabilities that the proposal provides. The proposals mitigation approach assumes that not visible is better than visible. The draft DCFW guidance does not make that assumption.

Overall, based on the material made available to us and without the benefit of formal consultation via our specialist Design Review Service, this proposal appears to be a sound conventional approach. However, based on our emerging DCFW design guidance, we encourage a more assertive design-led approach for future wind farm projects.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CADAVIES', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Carole-Anne Davies

Prif Weithredwr Chief Executive

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Ar gyfer ac ar ran y Bwrdd Cyfarwyddwyr - For and on behalf of the Board of Directors