

<b>07/01453/FRI</b>	N:211407 E:315735	Chart Branch (EV) Ltd for Proposed retain development (Fringe Application) at Land at Rhyd Y Blew, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent	Fringe Comments	31 January 2008	Fringe Comments
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We have no major concerns regarding the proposed development. However, I can clarify the statutory purposes of National Parks and how these effect you as a local authority.

The statutory purposes of National Parks are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks;
- to promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks.

Any relevant authority shall have regard to National Park purposes when performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park. Relevant authorities include public bodies, government departments, local authorities and statutory undertakers. The NPA have no further comments or objections in relation to these proposals.

<b>07/01463/FRI</b>	N:	Monmouthshire County Council for conversion of redundant barns to provide two holiday cottages and one single dwelling (Fringe Application) at Great House Farm Barns, Goytre, Pontypool	Fringe Comments	31 January 2008	Fringe Comments
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The NPA have no further comments or objections in relation to these proposals.

<b>07/01475/FRI</b>	N:206600 E:276800	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council for Wind Farm (Fringe Application) at Land South of Ystalyfera, Neath	Fringe Comments	31 January 2008	Fringe Comments
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The Environment Act (1995)

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**Policy Context**

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) (2002) recognises that natural heritage issues are not confined by administrative boundaries and that the duty to have regard to National Park purposes applies to activities affecting these areas, whether those activities lie within or outside the designated area. Paragraph 5.3.4 of PPW states,

“The statutory purposes of National Parks are to conserve and enhance their natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage and to promote opportunities for public understanding and enjoyment of their special qualities”

The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) Management Plan defines the special qualities of the Park as:

- The landscape and natural beauty
- Peace and tranquillity
- Opportunities for walking and access to open country
- Open spaces and qualities of remoteness
- Traditionally managed farmland
- Wildlife

Paragraph 2.2 of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Approved Unitary Development Plan (April 2007) (UDP) states,

“If the special qualities of the National Park are to be protected, careful control needs to be exercised over development that straddles the Park boundary or is conspicuous from within the Park. The National Park Authority is consulted by neighbouring planning authorities on applications likely to affect the Park. The National Park Authority is also consulted by neighbouring planning authorities in the production of their development plans. In responding to these consultations the National Park Authority will seek to ensure that such proposals or policies are in accordance with this UDP and will therefore use this document to formulate consultation responses”.

The Ministerial Interim Planning Policy Statement 01/2005: Planning for Renewable Energy acknowledges in paragraph 12.8.6 that,

“Renewable energy projects should generally be supported by local planning authorities provided environmental impacts are avoided or minimised, and nationally and internationally designated areas are not compromised.”

Further policy guidance relating to renewable energy is provided in Technical Advice Note 8: Planning for Renewable Energy (TAN 8). The importance of National Parks is recognised in paragraph 2.7 of TAN 8 and paragraph 6.4 of Annex D describes that identifies National Parks as “visual sensitive receptors” and paragraph 8.4 states,

“There is an implicit objective in TAN 8 to maintain the integrity and quality of the landscape within National Parks...i.e no change in landscape character from wind turbine development.”

**Impact of the Proposal on the National Park**

The National Park purposes need to be taken into consideration in the development of such proposals. In accordance with this, I would suggest that any application be accompanied by photo montages and wireframes. These should illustrate the view points from a minimum of 6 locations within the National Park. Such view-points need to be located within 20 km from the proposed wind farm and have good lines of sight with the proposed development.

Meanwhile I trust that you will ensure that a visual and sensory impact assessment will be submitted as part of a wider Environmental Impact Assessment.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<b>07/01495/FRI</b>	N;	Torfaen County Borough Council for Construction of 26 residential units (Fringe Application) at Former Cottages at Fairmount and Fairview Terrace, Garn Road, Garn-y-Erw	Fringe Comments	31 January 2008	Fringe Comments
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We have no major concerns regarding the proposed development. However, I can clarify the statutory purposes of National Parks and how these effect you as a local authority.

The statutory purposes of National Parks are:

- to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks;
- to promote opportunities for the public understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Parks.

Any relevant authority shall have regard to National Park purposes when performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park. Relevant authorities include public bodies, government departments, local authorities and statutory undertakers.

Finally, please note that our UDP Policy Q9: Blaenavon Industrial Landscape states:

Development which directly or indirectly, either alone or in combination, affects the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape World Heritage Site will only be permitted if the proposal maintains or enhances the visual, architectural, cultural and historic and natural character of the site and its setting and protects the integrity of the inscription.

The NPA have no further comments or objections in relation to these proposals.