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**PROOF OF EVIDENCE OF  
PROFESSOR TERRY MARSDEN**

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**ON BEHALF OF  
  
GWENT WILDLIFE TRUST**

**In the matter of:**

**PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY INTO THE M4 RELIEF ROAD AROUND  
NEWPORT:**

**THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROPOSED 'M4 RELIEF ROAD'**

**February 2017**

## Witnesses Information

1. I am Professor Terry Marsden and I currently hold the established chair of Environmental Policy and Planning in the School of Geography and Planning at Cardiff University. I am the Director of the [Sustainable Places Research Institute](#) at Cardiff.
2. I was Co-Director of the UK Economic and Social Research Council's Research Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) at Cardiff University for 12 years and I was also Dean of the University Graduate College. With more than 25 years' experience working in the field of sustainability, I have a broad range of research and policy advisory experience based around the themes of international rural development, sustainability, sustainable land management and the rural environment. As Director of PLACE I am involved in funded projects concerning: constructing sustainable communities, food security and food networks in rural areas, the multi-level governance of the rural environment, and the theory and practice of sustainable place-making.
3. I am a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the Learned Society of Wales, and Academician of the Social Sciences.
4. Over the past 20 years I have been awarded a series of almost continuous UK ESRC research grants which have been associated either with individual or joint standard grants, special research initiatives, or research centre grants. Total research council grants for which I have been a Principal Investigator constitute £11 million since 1989. I have also been in receipt of a series of EU grants, totalling 500K; and research grants from policy making bodies, totalling

500K. I have acted as an external examiner for 30 PhDs in the UK, the Netherlands and Australasia.

5. A full biography and publication list are supplied in Annex 1.

#### **Is the M4 Sustainable?**

1. Unfortunately, I have been unable to produce a detailed proof of evidence. As such, I have highlighted my main concerns below which I can explore in greater details at the Inquiry.
2. Wales has a leading international position and reputation in developing environmental and sustainable development policy both through the enactment of the Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Environment Act (2015), and the climate emissions and change obligations associated with the PARIS COP21 process.
3. I regard the proposed M4 scheme as a legacy proposal in the sense that it was conceived in earlier periods when carbonised solutions still held legitimacy both in the transport sector and in the wider economy. This is no longer the case. The proposal in my view is thus seriously out of date, and not commensurate with the obligations Wales is making to developing a post-carbonised transition for existing and future generations. This entails now, to adopt and implement both the seven well-being goals, and the five ways of working embedded in the Future Generations Act as a central part of economic and spatial development planning in Wales. All public bodies must follow these principles.
4. Among a raft of more standard environmental negative impacts which have been well documented by others, I would like to concentrate upon the issue of sustainable and appropriate/ inclusive economic growth- a feature of the first well-being goal in the Future

Generations Act. Much of the evidence and policy direction in Europe is now pointing in the direction of re-investing in more integrated public transport systems, to encourage modal shifts both in commuter and commercial traffic, and the shifts in car use to more electric vehicles. In addition Welsh economic strategy, in my view, needs to embody these goals by adopting the principles of a low carbon/no-carbon 'circular economy' whereby economic, ecological and bio-sensitive systems replace waste inducing systems with all their current environmental and health externalities (see for instance, EU, 2015<sup>1</sup>; Ellen McArthur Foundation Report, 2016<sup>2</sup>). This is also a more 'distributed' as opposed to concentrated economy which places a strong priority in , not least reducing journey times and spatial differences in access to travel and basic facilities. Carbonised road building does the opposite, it concentrates functions in particular places and then exacerbates the traffic needed between them such that they can prosper. Hence this proposal needs to be seen as part of an outdated spatial economic model.

5. There are thus also significant opportunity costs to these proposals involving the need and priority to invest public funding in more distributed ways which will benefit wider (non-mobile) parts of the population, increasing access and, indeed reducing congestion by improved traffic planning and modal shift. On grounds of public financial efficiency this proposal is no longer 'fit for purpose'.
6. I have also read the other Proofs of Evidence and/or Written Statements from
  - local communities,
  - respected organisations such as the Wildlife Trusts, Woodland Trusts, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
  - the Future Generations Commissioner

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<sup>1</sup>EU Circular on the Circular Economy [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-15-6203\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-6203_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Intelligent Assets: Unlocking the circular economy potential  
<https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/publications/intelligent-assets>

- respected experts such as
  - a) Professor Sir John Lawton – Impact on Sites of Special Scientific Interest
  - b) Professor John Altringham – Impact upon European Projected Species: Bats
  - c) Professor Calvin Jones – Economic Impacts
  - d) Professor Kevin Anderson and Professor Lorraine Whitmarsh – Climate Change
  - e) Professor John Whitelegg, Professor Stuart Cole and Dr Steve Melia – Transport

7. As such, I am convinced that the Scheme does not adhere to the spirit, principles, ways of working or goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **ANNEX 1 –**

### **PROFESSOR TERRY MARSDEN BIOGRAPHY AND PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Key Appointments**

- Director of the Sustainable Places Research Institute, Cardiff University (2010-)
- Dean of Graduate Studies and the Graduate College, Cardiff University (2008-)
- Deputy Pro Vice Chancellor (Research), Cardiff University (2005-10)
- Head of School of City and Regional Planning (1999-2009)
- Professor of Environmental Policy and Planning (1995-)
- Co-director of the Economic and Social Research Council's Research Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (2002-2012)
- Director of the Research and Graduate School in the Social Sciences, Cardiff University (2001-02)
- Member of the Board of The Regeneration Institute, Cardiff University (2002-)
- Reader in Human Geography, University of Hull (1993)
- Co-Director of the Rural Studies Research Centre and the ESRC Countryside Change Centre, University College London (1988-1993)
- Senior and Principal Lecturer in Planning, South Bank Polytechnic (1983-91)
- Tutor and Temporary Lecturer in Human Geography and Social Policy, University College, Swansea (1979-83)

#### **Main Qualifications**

- 1976: BA (Hons), First class, University of Hull - Geography and Sociology
- 1980: PhD, University of Hull
- 1980: Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute (MRTPI)
- 2008: Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS)
- 2008: Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)
- 2010: Fellow of the Learned Society of Wales (FLSW)
- 2012: Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS)




#### **External Advisory Activities**

A key aspect of my scholarly work involves critical engagement with aspects of environmental and rural policy-making and related research advisory boards and evaluation committees. This has involved influencing emerging policy developments at the EU, UK and devolved administrative levels (both Wales and Scotland). For example, I have recently contributed and completed policy and advisory reports for the EU, UK Govt Strategy Unit; UK Sustainable Development Commission, Scottish Executive, and the National Assembly of Wales and Welsh Government. I have held appointed advisory roles with the National Assembly Rural Affairs Committee, and Sustainability Committees and the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee. I have been cited in Who's Who from 2003.

- Rural Adviser to the Welsh Local Government Association
- Member of DETR Planning Research Advisory Group
- Member of ESRC Planning Research Training Panel
- 1990 Visiting Professor, Department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1990)
- Co-editor of the Journal of Environmental Policy and Planning (Taylor and Francis)

- 1993, 1995, 2003 Visiting Professor, Economics and Sociology, University of Pernambuco, Recife, Brazil
- Special Adviser on the Welsh Affairs Select Committee (1997-98, 2001-02, 2008)
- Special Adviser on rural affairs for the National Assembly of Wales (2000-1, 2008)
- Visiting International Readership in European rural development, Swedish School of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland (2001-)
- Member of the Wales Rural Partnership
- Member of the ESRC's Sustainable Technologies Research Programme Commissioning Panel (2002-4)
- Chair of ESRC's Postgraduate Training Panel for Planning, Housing and Environmental Studies 2004, 2007
- Member of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit advisory team working on the commercialisation of GM crops
- Member of the ESRC/NERC/BBSRC Strategic Advisory Committee for the Land Use and Rural Economy Research Programme
- Co-Director of the Welsh Government, Wales Rural Observatory
- Member of RAE sub panel (2008) Geography and Environmental Studies
- Member of National Assembly for Wales Food, Farming and Countryside Strategy Group (2008-)
- Special Advisor for the National Assembly of Wales, Sustainable Development Committee, 2012.
- Member of the HEFCE Research Excellence Framework 2011- Sub panel: Geography, Environmental Studies and Archaeology.
- Member UK National Environmental Assessment Expert Panel. 2012-

## Articles

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