Planning and energy transitions – demand management with infrastructure

• Planning’s role in adapting spatial structures, over the medium and long term.
• And new urban areas to be planned in completely new ways in energy terms.
• Demand reduction linked to micro generation and new energy models in buildings and transport.
• Implications of electric based transport systems.
• So new geographies of energy and urban functioning.
New infrastructure for energy?

- Yes, however much demand management and efficiency is successful.
- At the micro / meso scales, retrofitting needed.
- And major infrastructure? - new renewables generation, and associated transmission and storage.
- Other elements?? - here major disagreements.
The role of planning in major infrastructure

- Moderately important, or quite critical, depending on how the overall policy field is framed.
- An ESRC funded study of varied European practice on planning major infrastructure.
- Here three dimensions:
  A  Overall political deciding and steering.
  B  The strategic planning side.
  C  The project level.
A Overall steering of energy policy

- The political management of conflict and consensus at the highest level is critical to all subsequent policy and decision making.
- Each country tackles within their political culture.
- Conflict is the norm, but there are many ways this is worked through.
Top level policy directions

- Netherlands normally by slowly reached and durable consensus, with high level strategies.

- Germany and Spain by political negotiation through federal or semi-federal system, though in Spain also some state leadership from the top to set transmission / transport system frameworks. Renewables generation from states level, or lower.

- France by mix of top level political agreement on a few dimensions (nuclear, oil), and developed consensus building techniques – Grenelle.
Grenelle de l’environnement

• Post 2007 approach to environment by French government.
• Grenelle is an ongoing collaborative debating system, based on five “colleges”, including government, local/regional authorities, business, workers, NGOs.
• Implementation underway since 2008 – measures on building energy efficiency, national transport scheme, green taxes etc.
B The strategic planning side – European cases

• Three models to steer transmission/transport systems:
  • State led, as in France and Spain, directing the gas and electricity companies for transport and transmission.
  • More market oriented system in Germany, with state intelligence role (DENA), but to be negotiated with the powerful energy corporations. But set within a continuous public debate on energy policy as a whole.
  • Negotiated but with strong state role, and firmly linked to national spatial planning processes – the Netherlands.
Nota Ruimte 2005 – National Spatial Strategy (NSS)
National Spatial Strategy 2005 Infrastructure
Delta commission 2008

School of the Built Environment
The strategic planning side – UK

- Numerous institutional formulas, which encompass spatial planning, regulation (prices, environment etc) and financing.
- In England no coordinated approach to these, but now National Policy Statements of 2009-2011, and first National Infrastructure Plan in 2010.
- But these so far a very mixed bag, with only Nuclear NPS having a spatial approach – what goes where.
- Electricity Networks Strategy Group work of value, but not full public policy authority.
ENSG Transmission network to 2020 (2009)
C The project level

- Key area of state and corporation interest in last decade, leading to reforms.
- 2008 Planning Act system for England and Wales – NPSs, and Infrastructure Planning Commission.
- Scottish National Planning Framework 2009 and national designations for major projects within that.
- National laws to ease permits process in Germany and the Netherlands.
- Collaborative early stage public debates system since mid 1990s in France – CNDP.
CNDP - Public Debates in France

- Commission Nationale du Debat Public.
- Since 1995, to deal with unmanageable controversies over major road, rail etc schemes.
- Now a valued institution.
- Maximum 4 months for debate, with non decision making report afterwards, and response of developer within 3 months.
Scotland NPF2 2009 strategy diagram
Scotland national designations (NPF2 2009)
EU level proposed reforms

- EU reforms of TEN-E processes and guidance expected in late 2011, to identify projects of European interest, which may gain new procedures to speed up / ease permits or decision process.
- Also ENTSO bodies for electricity and gas working on more strategic approach to planning internationally.
- Plus long term work to 2050, with possible European electricity super grid.
What really sets how we imagine our energy futures?

- Each country has an idea of its realities and geography.
- This is constructed over the long term, but in the relatively short run it can be modified – e.g. Scottish approach to energy since devolution.
- There is added value in conscious national spatial thinking
  - by a spatial strategy as in the Netherlands, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and in the federal states / autonomous communities of Germany and Spain;
  - or by continuous research and intelligence (Germany) and a tradition of national and regional territorial management and public debate (France).
Imagining England’s energy futures (or the UK’s)

- England lacks a tradition and the instruments to construct such a general imaginary, and the place of energy futures within this.
- Will the NPSs or the NIP start such a tradition?
- Seems unlikely – need much stronger research and intelligent institutionalisation – an Energy Agency, national spatial strategising - bringing geography into the National Infrastructure Plan.
Energy Infrastructure Planning

- Thanks - questions and comments.
- Any later thoughts welcomed to tmarshall @brookes.ac.uk
- An ESRC funded fellowship 2008-2010.
- Much more available at http://www.brookes.ac.uk/schools/be/about/planning/projects/tmarshall.html