

## BHS Responses 3<sup>rd</sup> Deadline MYG

Noise: The consultant baldly states that “Noise levels relative to bridal [sic] paths are not considered to be significant.” No qualification or equestrian experience are given for the consultant holding this opinion. If he doesn't know his bridle from his bridal I think that he should give way to myself. I have owned a number of horses and work them daily. With a turbine as close as 111m from a bridleway on a windy day I would hesitate to pass even though my logging horse, a cold blood, will tolerate a chainsaw or a saw mill. It would be a lot to ask of my Welsh Cob, a native breed well suited to use in the hills and many riders reckon to do themselves better than that with Arabs, Thoroughbreds and warm bloods. The horse is a flight animal, given time they will do a lot for you. If a horse is to be accustomed to something new it is best to start early and spend as much time as it takes, ending on a positive note even if the lesson needs to be repeated and enhanced. The further end of a ride, which this site is likely to be, is not the best place to undertake such an exercise. This application makes no concessions in the form of alternative routes with more generous separation distances. Riders are in at the deep end and as noted by the applicant they may already have had to deal with rally cars and shooting. The more a horse is challenged the more likely it is to react.

I do not agree that because the site is already degraded by rallying and shooting activities it should be further trashed with the indiscriminate positioning of turbines. Rather there should be greater consideration of the public interest when further applications are made. The level of activity makes the BHS recommendation all the more pertinent but far from paying heed the applicant chooses to ignore even the less demanding advice of PCC, topple height separation, and does not even consider parallel TAN 8 advice at Annex C, para 2.25 of that document.

At no point does the applicant consider the needs of PRoW users, in one instance placing a turbine at 10m from a footpath, but take the line that this is what we need and this is what we will have. Anything getting in the way of that is wrong be it SSA or TAN8 guidance.

This does not make for a safe environment. Turbines do still go wrong, mostly recently in December a machine spinning out of control to collapse in moderate winds in N. Ireland. The more considered advice is ignored the greater the likelihood of an injury accident. Observing sound practice will help maintain the industry's enviable safety record.

On page 268 of the WR the applicant quotes Forestry Visitor Data. I will depart from my BHS Access Officer role to comment on it as a member of the walking public.

This table is part of a much larger Visitor Numbers report and in no way compares like with like. A parallel is drawn by the applicant between Nant y Arian and the Hafren Source of Severn Walk. The former is a visitor centre on a major road with a cafe attracting in excess of 100,000 visitors p.a. The user figures are the total of all users of four trails including a bike trail and lake side walk. The latter is the actual tread on a stile on a single trail some 4.5km from a car park off a very minor road 10km from Llanidloes.

What the figures do show is that most years at least 4000 people, in one year 6386, choose to take a days walk onto the Pumlumon ridge. The figure is a minimum since there is an alternative unmonitored exit at the Met Station leading to Pumlumon Arwystli which must bleed off many of those heading for the summit there and at Pumlumon Fawr. These people would be quite dedicated walkers interested in the mountains for their intrinsic qualities. The clear fell to the south of the Met Station is not to be replanted, being left to become ungrazed Rowan scrub, so turbines will be in view for much of the time from the upper part

of the Hafren and after leaving the forestry.

In no way could these thousands of people be described as “very few visitors” as per MYG  
WR page 135 para. 7.36.

PEDESTRIAN COUNTERS BY SITE GROUP												
SITE	AFAN	ALWEN/ BRENIG	CANASTON	COED Y BRENIN	CWMCARN CCTBS	DINAS ROCK	HAFREN HASOSS	HAFOD ESTATE	MOEL FAMAU	N.ARIAN PATHS	NEWBORO PATHS	TOTAL
Jan-14	858	646	n/a	693	634	1586	129	693	4716	1641	2394	13989
Feb-14	772	614	n/a	858	507	1556	155	834	4955	1685	3878	15812
Mar-14	1006	1495	n/a	1366	1377	2714	259	1080	6430	3085	4498	23310
Apr-14	1191	2206	n/a	3196	1922	3954	475	1578	8352	5572	9560	38005
May-14	1534	1979	n/a	2915	2127	5884	663	1469	6966	5271	8058	36866
Jun-14	1929	1690	n/a	2799	1497	6070	650	1558	5348	4435	6727	32702
Jul-14	2549	2744	337	3526	1715	5028	470	2210	5289	6737	8325	38929
Aug-14	2787	2199	1245	2389	1808	4170	763	2592	7487	7214	11651	44304
Sep-14	2279	1746	1169	1095	1123	3642	462	1485	5317	5231	7067	30615
Oct-14	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nov-14	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dec-14	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y2014	14905	15317		18837	12709	34604	4026	13499	54860	40869	62157	274531
Y2013	AFAN	AL/BREN	CANASTON	CBPATHS	CCTBS	DRFF	HAFREN	HAFOD	M.FAMAU	N.ARIAN	NEWBORO	TOTAL
Y2013	22621	22735	n/a	32406	13720	39007	3516	13781	56656	49761	112802	367003
Y2012	20623	17783	n/a	29389	14942	43174	4252	12707	54352	45948	n/a	243169
Y2011	12592	20350	n/a	n/a	16454	n/a	4284	8466	28637	1441	n/a	111503
Y2010	12015	2274	n/a	n/a	15634	n/a	3314	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	45357
Y2009	12934	n/a	n/a	n/a	15476	n/a	5696	3150	n/a	n/a	n/a	51512
Y2008	12231	n/a	n/a	18926	11764	n/a	6386	7295	n/a	n/a	n/a	56601
Y2007	12947	n/a	n/a	20941	13876	n/a	5145	11213	n/a	n/a	n/a	64122
Y2006	11616	n/a	n/a	n/a	13145	n/a	4891	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29652
Y2005	9011	n/a	n/a	n/a	9902	n/a	6156	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	25068