

The Towers,  
Betws-y-Coed,  
LL24 0DR

12<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Reference number: GRPS- AFP125

As a local education authority run outdoor education Centre in North West Wales we at Towers have a vested interest in what happens at Llyn Padarn in Llanberis. We regularly use Llyn Padarn to introduce young people to the sports of canoeing and kayaking. We visit the lake sometimes 5 days of the week but often 3 days a week and stay there for the whole day. Over a calendar year we will take approximately 1500 young people to this venue.

We use canoeing to teach a wide range of life skills to school pupils aged from 8 upwards. We drive to the car park, by the area known locally as the lagoons, in a minibus towing a canoe trailer. Llyn Padarn is a very special site that has unique advantages for this kind of work due to the extremely sheltered nature of the lagoons. Inevitably with this sort of activity children end up at times swimming in the lake so the quality of the water is extremely important to our organisation. There is no alternative site in the region that offers this type of environment which means that if it is lost or altered in any significant way we will be deprived of a unique teaching environment.

Disturbance to the lagoons during construction phase is also a factor that concerns us. In particular impact on the resource in regard to term time use by outdoor providers. ES states that there will be a reduction in construction during key school holidays. However, the majority of outdoor providers, particularly the centres, operate during school term time periods with school groups.

As a centre we spend in the region of £350,000 per year in the local area. Some of this money goes on renting minibuses from a local firm, buying local produce and paying our yearly fees to Gwynedd Council to contribute to the upkeep of the facilities at Lyn Padarn such as the toilets and car parking area. The water quality and beauty of the lake as well as its unique sheltered nature is essential for our business to operate.

As a centre we are also concerned about the visual impact of connection to the grid. There is a recognition that the intention is to connect through underground cables however it is noted that the offer from SP Manweb is a proposed one and that it is un-finalised. The concern is that there is no definitive assurance and overarching 'holding to account' of SP Manweb should they decide, once the development is underway or nearing completion, that the connection is to be made above ground with associated visual impact to the area. This is a particular concern due to the fact that SPH consider the matter to be outside their proposal and therefore not their concern.

Yours Faithfully,

The Towers Team