

From: [Linda Griffiths](#)
To: [AwelyMor](#)
Subject: Awel y Mor - updated environmental assessment- comments by 29/8/23deadline
Date: 29 August 2023 11:50:33

THE INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING (EXAMINATION PROCEDURE) SECRETARY OF STATE CONSULTATION.

AWEL Y MOR OFFSHORE WINDFARM LIMITED.

PROJECT REF: EN010112
MY REF: AYMO-AFP511

It is difficult as a local resident and recipient of multiple huge NSIP's in my locality to express concern adequately.

The report only seems to mention cumulative impacts in relation to Mona offshore windfarm with mention also of the rejected (?) Elwy Solar Farm.

There are multiple existing infrastructures already in Cefn Meiriadog/St Asaph and also many more plans already underway, than this document would allow us to believe. These are highlighted below:

- 1. The National Grid Bodelwyddan Substation sited at Cefn Meiriadog/St Asaph .*
- 2. The St Asaph Scottish Power Energy Network Substation on Cwttir Lane.*
- 3. The Gwynt y Mor Offshore Windfarm Substation at Cefn Meiriadog adjacent to NG Bodelwyddan substation with onshore underground cables.*
- 4. The Burbo Bank Extension / DONG Energy Substation (now Ørsted) with underground cables. Originally this was meant to feed into the National Grid Network at either Birkenhead or Deeside. Brought to Cefn Meiriadog at the suggestion of National Grid.*
- 5. The overhead pylon route with additional underground cables connecting Clocaenog Onshore windfarm to the St Asaph Substation .*
- 6. The STOR 16MW Gas fired Power Plant on the former Pilkington Site at Cwttir Lane backing up "Green Energy".*

Existing plans include:

- 1. National Grid: Bodelwyddan Substation Expansion and Overhead Line Alterations to accommodate the additional generation. The existing substation will increase in size by 1623sq metres and will require doubling the line by 'removing one pylon and two gantries and replacing them with four pylons'.*
- 2. A 13.5 acre Substation for the Awel y Mor Windfarm to be sited on Faenol Bropor Farm. Awel y Mor are acquiring 83 acres of freehold agricultural land.*
- 3. A 31 acre Substation for the Mona Windfarm (location now confirmed by BP/EnBW) which was initially intended to connect to Wylfa.*
- 4. A 15 acre Conversion Substation for MaresConnect Interconnector project linking the UK and Irish electricity Grids to the National Grid substation at Cefn Meiriadog. This connection was initially meant to connect to Connah's Quay but was changed to Cefn Meiriadog on the instruction of National Grid.*
- 5. An 80 acre St Asaph Solar Farm located at Cefn Meiriadog which is also currently in the Planning*

Process -NOT ELWY SOLAR FARM!

6. *Battery storage: SSE Renewables have received a generating licence in April from Ofgem and have an agreement with National Grid for a connection with Bodelwyddan Substation at Cefn Meiriadog in respect of 600MW Solar Power and Battery Storage.*

7. *Bute Energy also have a connection agreement with National Grid through their proposed Onshore Windfarm at Moelfre Uchaf which was recently withdrawn.*

RWE/Awel y Mor have failed to indicate the complete cumulative impact on the small rural area of Cefn Meiriadog. To my view this is indicating a choice on their part to lack transparency to improve their prospects.

The presence of the St Asaph Business Park allows developers to latch onto a widely considered idea within developers mindsets that Cefn Meiriadog is not “rural”. It is definitely rural, but soon will not be if all these developments come to fruition. Lots of farming/green land has already been taken for existing infrastructures. Current infrastructures are imposing without doubt, but have managed to utilise existing natural mitigations to at least minimise their blot on a beautiful area. However, increasing numbers and sizes of substations etc as detailed above, mean more open/prominent positions are being taken, not hidden, and certainly will not be mitigated against by tree planting for many tens of years to come.

This area cannot sustain the scale of proposed developments and certainly the cumulative impacts of the projects all taking place concurrently is too much to bear for local residents. Farmers, I have known all my life and grown up with, are absolutely at their wits end with land being utilised, as if they can just go out and buy a few more cows when this is all over! People sitting at desks are making plans that are taking peoples communities away from them, livelihoods away from them. Cefn Meiriadog cannot sustain this scale of development without bearing a huge disproportionate price mentally, physically and economically. The UK is already heading into a Food supply crisis and yet green farmland is being taken for “green energy” over and above brownfield sites. National Grid are making huge developments of scale to accommodate the grid improvements yet local people are being railroaded. Yes, we see Public Consultations, we are fed data and information as though we are ignorant. I have attended Consultations, asked relatively straightforward questions that have been unable to be answered by representatives. We are treated like ‘tyre kickers’ at a car showroom.

We are to believe a global climate crisis, this is a very grave matter for humanity, yet the Crown Estate live maps for offshore windfarms daily show very low percentages of energy production per windfarm out of the maximum capacity. Why so? Why do we need more offshore energy and more onshore infrastructure when wind farms are regularly producing only 5-30% of maximum output??

Why, despite a climate crisis are developers driven by greed/profit? Why is there not a better system for development within the UK, one that is better regulated and managed? There are better options for infrastructure requiring less onshore developments. Adequately described in the paper “Crossed Wires” by Ed Birkett. Offshore substations MOGs etc etc

Who decides if a noise impact/ transport impact/ wildlife impact/farming impact etc etc is low, medium or high risk? Who sets the goalposts without actually talking to locals, visiting areas, listening etc? So, if RWE decide there is a minimal impact for a specific risk, then everyone is to believe it without proof? Surely not?

Why are local residents termed “receptors”? I cannot help but believe that this term is designed to dehumanise the local people? Easier to swallow the impact as a designer, perhaps?

Cefn Meiriadog/St Asaph boundary is a small area as you hopefully know. We have had large transmission overhead pylons all my life within about 200 hundred yards of my home.

I understand cancer is prevalent in society generally, but these people all died young and all were surrounded by electricity infrastructure. Now, the plan is to

**massively further increase the infrastructure in Cefn Meiriadog.
AT WHAT CUMULATIVE COST FOR RESIDENTS OF CEFN MEIRIADOG??**

Please do not allow our area/lives/livelihoods to be destroyed any further.

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Griffiths, 