

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

AWEL Y MOR OFFSHORE WINDFARM LIMITED.

PROJECT REF: EN010112
MY REF: AYMO-AFP095

The full extent of the cumulative impact on Cefn Meiriadog has not been conveyed in this report. With the exception of one reference to Elwy Solar Farm (which was rejected by Welsh Government Ministers but which I believe is now subject to a judicial review) Awel y Mor only refers to its relationship and cumulative impact with Mona. This fails to disclose the sheer magnitude of the existing offshore and onshore windfarm infrastructure already in existence at Cefn Meiriadog and the enormity of the combined cumulative effect with these existing developments Awel y Mor and Mona will have.

Existing developments since 2011 include

1. The National Grid Bodelwyddan Substation sited at Cefn Meiriadog .
2. The St Asaph Scottish Power Energy Network Substation at Cwttir Lane.
3. The Gwynt y Mor Offshore Windfarm Substation at Cefn Meiriadog with underground cable route.
4. The Burbo Bank/ DONG Energy Substation with underground cabling and infrastructure. Originally this was meant to feed into the National Grid Network at either Birkenhead or Deeside. It was brought to Cefn Meiriadog at the suggestion of National Grid.
5. The overhead pylon route with additional buried cabling connecting Clocaenog Onshore AYMO-AFP095 to the St Asaph Substation .
6. The STOR Power Station on the former Pilkington Site at Cwttir Lane.

Imminent plans include:

1. National Grid: Bodelwyddan Substation Expansion at Cefn Meiriadog 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 land.

3. A 31 acre Substation for the Mona Windfarm 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 currently in the Planning Process

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a connection agreement with National Grid through their proposed Onshore Windfarm at Moelfre Uchaf which was recently withdrawn.

The increasing numbers and scale of these developments are out of control. Cefn Meiriadog is a small, rural, agricultural community of historic and archaeological importance in Wales and beyond. No amounts of landscaping mitigation can screen the devastating impact of either Awel y Mor, Mona and the National Grid Substation Expansion. The view from 'The Bryn', the limestone ridge which forms the backbone of Cefn Meiriadog will be dominated by a sea of substations. Awel y Mor is to be built on flat open countryside, alongside Glascoed Road, a Roman Road. To the north there are uninterrupted views of the sea and Rhuddlan Castle. The Substation will stand in front. It will be close to the road and to listed buildings and homes. Its location will destroy the character and presence of the place and its surroundings. It will turn the area into an Industrial Zone.

It is extremely difficult to live with the stress caused by these impending developments. We are being disrupted by endless cable corridors being dug and redug and site visits investigating routes for further cable

corridors, haul roads and yet more developments. The possibility of a haul road (possibly permanent) for Mona on top of a cable route for Awel y Mor has been mentioned as a possibility across my land. Cable corridors mean that existing hedgerows and mature trees in their wake are removed. Glascoed Road will be changed by huge visibility splays where mature hedges will be taken down to reveal this industrial site to all of us who live here causing substantial visual harm. It is still unclear where exactly the entrance is going to be. Some fields in Cefn are now not only full of underground cables but are also criss crossed by overground pylons and power lines. This cannot be acceptable or safe. The impact of the extension to the new National Grid Substation is huge yet it seems the plans have been kept hidden until now. Without these changes Awel y Mor cannot be built but the decisions regarding the Awel y Mor Windfarm seem to be preceding those of the National Grid Extension. These facts are played down and not even mentioned in this report. The consequence of these developments are minimised, The report does not in any way reveal the devastating impact on farmers and landowners who are facing enormous challenges, losing land for up to four years, possibly more. Some landowners are being impacted by up to three overlapping projects: Awel y Mor, National Grid Extension and Mona as well as the overhead line alterations. The report suggests that the overall effect of the building of the Awel y Mor Substation and infrastructure in this community will be minimal. This clearly is not right.

Lois Oldfield Williams

