

From: [REDACTED]
To: [North Wales Wind Farm Connection](#)
Subject: RE NORTH WALES WIND FARM CONNECTIONS
Date: 01 September 2015 07:21:41

As the owner of Groesffordd Farm, Marli, Abergele LL22 9DR situated very close to the Terminal Pole I object to the proposal on the following grounds. My registration Number is 10031292.

The installation of the 17 kilometre pylon line will cause irreparable physical and visual damage to our landscape across the entirety of its route. SP Manweb minimises the extent of this harm by employing assessment criteria which downplay the negative side-effects this development will have on our landscape and our enjoyment of it. Undergrounding is dismissed on cost grounds but the cost differential across the lifetime connection is much less than initially maintained. As there are plans to bury the existing 33 kV line, undergrounding of this new line must be a feasible realistic option.

In terms of local community and local impact here I speak in the main of Cefn Meiriadog and Groesffordd Marli where the long term environmental and visual impact will forever change its character. We need to be environmentally responsible and should be preserving our cultural heritage. Pylons are being constructed close to some of the oldest and finest houses in Wales. Berain, a 2* listed building is a medieval gentry house, home of Katherine (Tudor) of Berain, The Mother of Wales and Plas Newydd, a 2* listed building is one of the finest and best preserved examples of Elizabethan regional gentry houses. Both will look out at pylons.

Pylons will be crossing the Elwy Valley, a place of enormous beauty and of archaeological, environmental and historical significance. It is a landscape which has inspired poets, writers and artists including Gerard Manley Hopkins. The Elwy Valley is named as one of the Top 10 Poet Walks in the UK . These sites were nominated as being a 'walk in the footsteps of some of Britain's greatest poets and explore(ing) the landscape that inspired their famous verses'. The Elwy Valley, Denbighshire is the only site nominated in Wales, it is small, remarkably contained and a joy to visit.

The Cefn Meiriadog Ridge, 'The Bryn' as it is known to locals is visible for miles, it can be seen from Bodelwyddan Hospital, the Marble Church, Rhuddlan Castle, Cwm Mountain, Rhyl, Dyserth and many other places including many major roads. The pylons will break the skyline as they come over the ridge to the terminal pole. This permanent eyesore should not be allowed to happen to such a highly visible landmark which is described as 'part of the area's fascination'.

The pylons will also be highly visible from Mynydd y Gaer, the pre Roman Hill Fort near LLannefydd where there are spectacular views of Snowdonia, the north Wales coast and the Clwydian Range. Many tourists, locals, hillwalkers, cyclists visit this site and enjoy it and perceive it to be a special place.

SP Manweb refer to the 'track' at Groesffordd Marli, where the terminal pole is located, as if it has no local significance. History shows otherwise; this is an old road shown on the tithe map of 1846. The entrance they plan to use lies to the right of my home at Groesffordd Farm. This point is the site of the original crossroads/groesffordd that gives this settlement its name. The barn opposite at Groesffordd Farm is the site of a tithe barn. The 'old lane' is of local, regional and national historic interest and southbound from this point climbs over the ridge and down to the right of Plas Hafod house. Beyond there it drops down to the Elwy Valley. It then climbs up the other side of the valley between Bodysgaw and Mofoniog where it follows the present road to LLannefydd and eventually leads to Bryn Rhyd yr Arian. On the northside from the point at Groesffordd Marli crossroads, the lane passes through Groesffordd Farm and winds through Faenol Propor, Tyddyn Isaf and Pengwern eventually leading to the bank of the river at Rhuddlan where there was once a port. This port was the most important in Wales serving the Vale of Clwyd.

This particular stretch of the 'old lane' that SP Manweb are planning to use is the most preserved section of that old historic route. It is narrow, has high fern-lined banks and high hedges. It is natural and unspoilt. It cannot accommodate heavy, wide vehicles and machinery. Its character and history will be destroyed. It is enjoyed by so many people and is a very popular route with walkers, dog walkers and horseriders and at its peak the view opens out over the Cefn Meiriadog Ridge to give spectacular panoramas in all directions: towards Llanefydd and Cefn Berain in one direction and towards the Vale of Clwyd, Rhyl and the sea in the other. My major concern is that its importance and value to the community has been overlooked by SP Manweb who see it simply as a track, a means of access to erect the terminal pole and then an easy access route to carry out maintenance work. They also intend to take up a substantial stretch of hedge to enable this work. This cannot be allowed to happen.

In terms of visual intrusion created by energy generation and its infrastructure we have suffered greatly in Cefn Meiriadog and Groesffordd Marli. SP Manweb ignore this. No mention is made of the cumulative effect of the terminal pole and the other pylons coming over the north side of the Cefn Meiriadog Ridge. No mention is made of the National Grid and RWE substations serving the Gwynt y Mor offshore wind farm or the Dong Energy substation currently under construction collecting power for the Burbo Bank Extension. These enormous and highly visible industrial developments with their power lines and pylons are totally out of proportion with the scale of the settlement, yet they are all in Cefn Meiriadog. In addition we already have a 400kV pylon line, a 33kV line with steel pylons, a Business Park which has taken over twenty years of planting to shield and a much contested crematorium under construction. Glascoed Road is fast becoming a major eyesore. Having pylons coming over the ridge compounds the situation even more and makes living here intolerable.

In addition to the above points I am very concerned about the following issues

1. The impact of large heavy vehicles on the fabric of the narrow road leading from Marli Chapel to the entrance of the 'old lane' at Groesffordd Marli crossroads. The road is surrounded by high banks and hedges and not built to take such heavy and wide traffic.

2. I am worried about the noise and disruption of the industrial traffic on such a narrow lane between the hours of 7am until daylight ends seven days a week.

3. I am very concerned that the industrial vehicles when using the 'old lane' will be turning their vehicles in my stackyard entrance in order to make the turn.

4. I am very concerned about the proposal to remove a substantial amount of hedge opposite Bryn Arian and Trebanog for enabling works needed to bury the cable underground. It is necessary to remove such a large area of hedge?

5 It would be helpful if residents affected by the proposals could be kept informed of any changes by SP Manweb. Many residents are still unsure of the route that the underground cable will take and what developments there will be at Cwttir Lane substation.

6. Regarding the Visual Amenity Effects on Properties, last Tuesday, August 25th 2015, Gillespies acting on instructions from the SP Manweb were taking photographs on the road to the left of my house. Clearly these images were being taken to assess the visual effects of the terminal pole and pylons on my property and the two neighbouring properties. The camera was positioned opposite the entrance to the 'old lane'. The photograph minimises to the point of obscurity the actual positioning of the pole. As I live in a dip I will see it from my house, my garden, my yard, my stackyard and orchard. This photographic exercise bears no relation to the impact of the terminal pole and pylons on my property.

I have lived in Cefn Meiriadog all my life and feel powerless to fight against such a huge development. The fact that pylons already exist on the north side is used to justify adding more. In addition to this development Scottish Power have declared their intention to add poles to an existing line on the north side of my home. When I objected I was told by a representative of Scottish Power 'Well, you do live near a sub station'. Living in a house which has been in my family for over 50 years, and though not listed is one of the oldest cottages in the settlement, this was really quite insulting.

I feel surrounded by poles and pylons. In truth no one wants to live near an electricity pylon or buy a house near one. Unfortunately I have a 400kV steel tower approximately 100 metres from my house, and am now faced with the prospect of a 4-pole terminal pole with stays being placed 175 metres from it on the other side. Our properties are being continually devalued by this industrialisation of this very beautiful and historic part of Wales.

Lois Williams

This email was scanned by the Government Secure Intranet anti-virus service supplied by Vodafone in partnership with Symantec. (CCTM Certificate Number 2009/09/0052.) In case of problems, please call your organisations IT Helpdesk. Communications via the GSi may be automatically logged, monitored and/or recorded for legal purposes.