

[REDACTED]

The Planning Inspectorate
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

31 August 2015

Dear Sir

N Wales Wind farms Connection

Please find attached my written representation and my replies to the Examining Authorities Questions below.

Yours faithfully

Durand Hotham
Registration No 10031299.

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Replies to Examining Authorities Questions

0.1

I would be grateful for an accompanied visit to Plas Newydd, Cefn Meiriadog. The reason for this request is that PlasNewydd sits high above the affected Elwy Valley commanding a ringside seat of the proposed 132kV overhead line. Despite being shown as only 180 metres from the proposed line and designated as a Visual Receptor no evaluation has been made by the applicant from the site of Plas Newydd itself which has caused their assessment of the impact upon the Grade II Star property and its setting to be erroneous.

1.4

I am of the opinion that the applicant has not considered “good design”. particularly with regard to Plas Newydd, Cefn Meiriadog. The setting of an historic asset is a vital attribute of its environment and this has not been taken into account. The close view of modern industrial, steel gantried, double wooden pylons with their associated metal and glass furniture, magnified by their disproportionate size is the antithesis of aesthetic in the foreground of the beautiful pastoral setting of the Elwy Valley.

3.19

With regard to traffic I would like to raise the matter of the proposed use of the ancient track between Plas Newydd and Plas Hafod for construction access. Running just behind Plas Hafod this ancient way was

for centuries the route used from the port of Rhuddlan, on the River Clwyd, to Llanefydd and this section is only now occasionally used by horses. It now has no firm base, it is narrow, steeply sunk and its banks wooded with venerable cover. It is stated in the regulations that a minimum access width of 5 metres is required and on that criteria alone it is disqualified for use. This ancient section needs preservation as opposed to inevitable permanent destruction by heavy machinery.

8.1

There is no restriction from habitats, ground cover, land management or unknown archaeology which would limit undergrounding the 132kV cable up from the River Elwy to the ridge at Groesfford Marli. The land is used principally for grazing sheep, cattle and dairy cows with some arable and the soil is deep and easily workable. Once away from the valley floor and escarpment it is of high quality where the considerable agricultural constraints of the proposed 14 sets of pylons (negating an area nearly the equivalent of a full sized football pitch) would be obviated. However the greatest benefit would be to the landscape where there would be virtually no sign of the cables and the applicant's requirement under Section 38 and schedule 9 of the 1989 Act, would be fulfilled:

“To have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest.” and “Do what it reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects”.

8.2

Please see 0.1 above. Plas Newydd, Cefn Meiradog should have been a Viewpoint on account of its elevated position above the proposed pylon route.

I ask that an accompanied visit be made to the field to the north of Coed yr Accar (Grid reference 012718) as from the distance of 2 km the prominent perspective of Plas Newydd dominating this part of the upper Elwy valley is illustrated.