

Cefn Meiriadog and Glascoed Road Residents and Users Group

Registration identification number 10031184

NWWFC EN020014

Re: Nominations for site inspections

All the nominated locations may be inspected unaccompanied, all are to sites which have public access, and none require any safety measures.

They are presented in an order which will enable inspections to be carried out sequentially in a quick and easy manner.

The reasons behind nominating these locations are given in full in the Group's written representation and are summarised here.

1. Groesffordd Marli to Cefn Meiriadog Road

- i. Starting at Tan-y-Graig Farm (SPM Viewpoint 34) and driving approx. 500m northwest to the next property, Ysgubor Newydd.

The view from Tan-y-Graig Farm to the upper slopes of western side of the Elwy Valley presents the finest view to be had from any publicly accessible location in Cefn Meiriadog. From this viewpoint the panorama stretches from the northwest to the southwest over a distance of 12-15 miles. SPM's ES acknowledges that the significance on the visual effect on Viewpoint 34 is 'Significant', but in fact this open panorama is seen continuously from all points along the road as far as Ysgubor Newydd. The proposed connection will be highly visible across the valley for a distance of 5-6 miles.

- ii. Proceeding from Ysgubor Newydd to Plas Newydd

Driving along this section of the road will allow an idea to be formed of the impact of the proposed line on the landscape as it comes north from the River Elwy, oversails the road between Maes and Plas Hafod and 'skylines' as it goes over the Cefn Meiriadog limestone ridge to the terminal pole just over the ridge. It will also allow an assessment of the line in relation to the Grade 2* listed building Plas Newydd.

2. Lane opposite Plas Hafod on the Groesffordd Marli to Cefn Meiriadog Road

This ancient way, known locally as 'the Old Lane' and/or more recently as 'the Bridle Path', is discussed at length in the Group's written representation. After oversailing the Groesffordd Marli to Cefn Meiriadog Road, poles 215 and 216 will run alongside it and, after cresting the limestone ridge, poles 217 and 218 (the terminal pole), will be immediately adjacent to it. The Applicant also seeks works access from the lane and the removal of 200m of hedgerow.

- i. This is the finest extant section of an ancient way which ran from Rhuddlan when it was a port to Llanefydd and beyond, before the roads now used to get to Llanefydd, etc., were constructed. It is an integral part of the historical landscape of Cefn Meiriadog, has fine views in all directions, is used by walkers and horseriders, and in landscape terms would be greatly damaged by the proposed line.

- ii. It will be noted that a 33kV line already runs alongside the lane and crosses it, and in fact compromises it in landscape terms. The Applicant proposes to underground this line in order to allow his 132kV line to follow its proposed route. Visualisation of the difference in scale of the two lines will give an idea of the damage which will be inflicted on this particular part of the historical landscape if the 132kV line is allowed to go ahead as proposed here rather than being undergrounded in place of the 33kV line.
- iii. The Applicant appears to be proposing to use the lane for access. The most cursory inspection will reveal its utter unsuitability for providing access to works vehicles, and the impossibility of ever reinstating it to anything remotely resembling its present state, which is precisely what is perceived and experienced by local residents as giving it its landscape value.
- iv. In his documentation the Applicant describes this road as 'Private Road Assumed)' and 'Unnamed Highway'. This is erroneous – the lane has been used by the public for generations, indeed since it was used as the road to Llanefydd as described above and in the Group's WR.

3. Groesffordd Marli to Glascoed Road

Starting at Cefn Meiriadog C P School and driving east along this road and, without following the road left, going straight ahead at the T-junction, passing the chapel (left), Cae Cogau (left), Tyddyn Eos (right) and then, on the left, Groesffordd Farm, Trebanog and other properties.

- i. The issue of works traffic affecting the school can be visualised taking into account that there is no off-road parking for parents dropping off or collecting their children, and that even as it stands there is daily a difficult situation created at school starting and finishing times.
- ii. Continuing down the road the build-up of poles and wires will be noted, which intensifies after the T-junction to an extent which is unusual for such a rural area. To the left will then be seen a 400kV line, two 132 kV lines, a crematorium under construction, a 'forest' of wind turbines out at sea and glimpses of three large substations to the east, two completed and one under construction. The great majority of this development has come in the past five years and the community perceives itself as being deeply harmed by it. The terminal pole and other poles of the proposed line would be visible on the right, adding further to the cumulative effect.
- iii. As the road drops down between Tyddyn Eos on the right and the group of properties beginning with Groesffordd Farm and Trebanog on the left, it becomes very narrow. Works traffic using it and turning into the lane at the bottom will create quite major problems for residents and the farm traffic which uses it.

4. Lane opposite Trebanog on the Groesffordd Marli to Glascoed Road

This is the northern end of the portion of ancient way described under 2 above.

From this northern end it appears that the Applicant is planning to use it for access to the terminal pole and the underground section of the connection which will run alongside the lane. Again, the least inspection will show this to be wholly unsuited vehicle traffic – even normal tractors are unable to use it to cut the hedges on either side. In effect using it for works access would entail destroying it, and as stated above it is valued as an integral part of the local landscape.

5. B5381 Glascoed Road: at any point at or within 250m east of the location of the crematorium which is currently under construction. (The crematorium is located approx. 250m west of the western edge of St Asaph Business Park on the B5381)

As described in the Group's WR, the Applicant's Viewpoint 40 on the B5381 appears to have been chosen purely on the grounds of there being an inset farm gate providing a parking refuge on a road where otherwise there are no safe parking places. Driving a further 30 or 40 metres east in the direction of St Asaph Business park will reveal an open view to the right of the Cefn Meiriadog limestone ridge to enable visualisation of the 'skylining' effect of the proposed connection coming over the ridge. This view is open for around 250-300m in total and the cumulative effects of passing through a landscape of electricity lines (400kV and 132kV), crematorium, will be noted, with new developments to come on the Business Park.

Martin Barlow

Chair

On behalf of 182 members of the

Cefn Meiriadog and Glascoed Road Residents and Users Group

31.8.15