

Interested Part Response to Examining Authority Questions

Response to Examining Authority's Question 0.1: We would like the Panel to view the proposed pole locations from the residential properties of 'Plas Cefn Maen/Cefn Maen Uchaf/Cefn y Marial', near the village of Saron. The proposed route passes within 100-150m of these properties and directly through 3 fields belonging to the family farm (Cefn Maen Uchaf). The effect on the land and the view from these properties will be significant, and the current 'Viewpoints' used by SP Manweb do not reflect the impact at this location. As this site is located near the beginning of the proposed overhead pylon route, the cumulative impacts upon the residential properties, and the businesses operating from them, are overwhelming, particularly when considering their proximity to the existing windfarm, the consented North Wales WindFarm development, proposed substation, and proposed overhead line.

Response to Examining Authority Question 5.3: The overhead line passes directly through 3 fields belonging to our family farming business (Cefn Maen). To preserve the value and future use of this land, and to allow the family business to adequately forward plan, it is imperative that there be an end date to the proposed scheme and a requirement that the land be restored to its current quality and use.

Response to Examining Authority Question 8.1: We believe that the long term (25 year life span) negative impact (both visually and economically upon our business) of the proposed line on our land (at Cefn Maen) will far outweigh the relatively short-term inconvenience of undergrounding the connection.

As the proposed overhead line route would be passing over predominantly open agricultural land (in our section of the route) the potential impact on habitats of any undergrounding will be minimal. Furthermore, as the land is predominantly grass land, the impact on ground cover will also be minimal, as this ground cover will recover, within a relatively short period of time. From the perspective of land use/management, the overhead line will have a long term negative impact on the use of our agricultural land, affecting our business over a 25 year period. While placing the line underground will cause some short-term disruption, we feel that the economic and visual impact upon ourselves will be significantly less.

Response to Examining Authority Question 8.2: We deem the viewpoints in our section of the proposed route alignment to be inadequate. They do not show the true visual impact of the route, when viewed from the area surrounding Saron/Peniel towards the Clwydian Range. The Viewpoints also do not reflect the true expanse of the proposed route alignment across the relatively open landscape in this section. In order to take account of the above, we suggest the Panel considers viewpoints from the minor road running parallel to the ridge of Moel Ytta, just south of Saron Village. Also, a viewpoint from the minor road at the ridge near Tan yr Allt residential property, which shows the proposed route travelling through the focal points of several local residential properties in the area. It also shows it extremely close proximity to the property at Tan yr Allt.

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Response to Examining Authority Question 1.4: We do not consider the proposed wooden poles a good design. The supporting stays in agricultural fields are hazardous to farmers and take a large area of land. As the poles are placed through the middle of several fields, there will be significant, negative long term disruption which will affect local agricultural businesses. For example, growing crops, treating the land and the use of farm machinery.

Response to Examining Authority Question 3.19: The network of roads used in the Llanrhaeadr yng Nghinmeirch section are predominantly B roads and unclassified roads. We have safety concerns for other road users both residents, tourists and businesses as well as residential properties and buildings that are close to the roadside where heavy vehicles and machinery will be passing. If the proposed overhead line goes ahead, it is imperative that the development makes good any damage or wear of the local road network and properties.

Response to Examining Authority Question 4.17: We do not agree with the applicant's summary conclusion. Despite the EMF effects being classed as 'minimal', the community council still has grave concerns of the effects of such exposure over a long period of time, particularly for those residential properties within close proximity to the line. For example, Hafod Olygfa, Bryn Golau, properties at Cefn Maen, properties at Saron village, Tyn y Ffrith, Tan yr Allt, Bwlch, on to properties at Peniel village, Foel, Garnedd Ucha, College and other local properties

Response to Examining Authority Question 8.11. *See Document 6.20.1 ES Chapter 7 Landscape and visual technical appendix 7.1 Page 4&5 ref.15:* The description in the referenced document is misleading. It downplays the impact of the proposed line on our properties. There is no reference to the views our properties have towards the Clwydian Range and Vale of Clwyd and the fact that the proposed line would cut across this with no other visual obstruction. The negative visual effects would be significant.

The overhead line and poles would not be in the lower end of the field, as requested, but on more elevated ground, running through the middle of our fields. Therefore, their positioning would be highly visible, scarring the uninterrupted view we currently have of the Clwydian Range and the Vale of Clwyd. Scottish Power's photomontages and descriptions are misleading and do not show the extent of the negative impact the poles and overhead lines would have on our properties and views. Not only the views from inside our properties but also the area outside .

Response to Examining Authority Question 10.1 There are several tourism businesses in Saron and Peniel which are within a close proximity to the proposed overhead line. We intend to convert our outbuilding to a self catering accommodation for tourists as there is a demand in the local area. We currently have spectacular views of the Vale of Clwyd and the Clwydian Range. However, the proposed development has cast doubt on future business development as the overhead lines would run through the panoramic view that would be a unique selling point. The negative long term impact on local businesses as well as future businesses and development will be significant.