

From: Poletti Lau [mailto:]
Sent: 17 September 2015 11:40
To: North Wales Wind Farm Connection
Subject: Re: Responses to the Examining Authority's written questions - North Wales Wind Farms Connection

Dear Mr Coombes

Re: Comments on the responses to the Examination Authority's written questions

Reference number: 10031310

Please find below my comments on responses received by the Examination Authority.

Yours sincerely
JP Hughes

In its responses to the Examination Authority's first written questions, SP Manweb (on page 347, paragraph 2.2.6 and page 348, paragraph 2.2.7), state that the route in the short section between Eriviat and Llechryd will impose (i) moderate significant visual effects, (ii) moderate adverse significant effects on ancient woodland, (iii) moderate significant effect on a local business, (iv) moderate adverse significant effects on a Local Wildlife Site, and (v) Moderate slight effects on the Historic Environment.

There is no mention of the cumulative effects – several moderate significant impacts would surely add up to being a major significant impact; or impacts on nearby properties, including Llys Hedydd and Pen Parc Llwyd – the latter reputedly being the birthplace of Twm or Nant.

Conwy County Borough Council notes that there are no significant visual effects from the B5382, near Hafod Farm and Pen Parc Llwyd, west of Henllan (<http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/projects/EN020014/Events/Deadline%201%20-%201%20September%202015/Conwy%20County%20Borough%20Council.pdf>)

I dispute this downgrading of the significance to Llys Hedydd. The pylons will have significant impact on the character and appearance of the area.

Landscape effects of the proposed development will be of major significance on the basis of the sensitivity of this particular shallow valley, and that the magnitude of change, in relation to the current landscape, would be high. This is an open area in highly rural landscape with few trees, where there is less potential to assimilate an overhead line. The impact on attractive rural landscape facing south from the B5382 and views from the road leading out of Henllan are a major dis-benefit. There are no other man made elements in this area, barring scattered low voltage lines, which are on a much smaller scale than what is being proposed. The area therefore has a strong and distinctive sense of tranquillity, remoteness, and the feeling of being an ancient landscape. The proposed HDWP OHL would be an

uncharacteristic feature when set within the context of the landscape of this area, this would represent a major detrimental change to the attributes of the landscape in this section of the route. Where hedgerow and tree felling is stated to be required, the presence of small clumps and gaps in the tree belts would draw attention to the presence of the proposed OHL and thus heighten its landscape and visual effects.

Visual effects will be significant from Llys Hedydd. Views from the living areas of this property would be focussed towards the proposed OHL. Views from the office within this property would be focussed towards the proposed OHL. This will impact directly and adversely on the working and leisure times of its occupants. The proposed OHL would be an obvious man-made feature in the view, skylining towards the north-west direction of Hafod. The effect on amenity will be major and significant. The scenic quality of the area to the West (towards Moel Fodiar) and South of Llys Hedydd are particularly high. The HDWP OHL would represent a dominant linear feature stretching out into the distance, and across 180 degrees of view. The visual impact of the OHL from Llys Hedydd would be a major adverse; it would draw the eye and detract from the long and dramatic rural views and the scenic quality. Consequently, Llys Hedydd would become unattractive and thus unsatisfactory place in which to live.