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Dr Lillian Harrison Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors The Planning Inspectorate [By Email]	Eich cyfeirnod Your reference	EN020014
	Ein cyfeirnod Our reference	
	Dyddiad Date	21 January 2016
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Dear Dr Harrison

Application by SPMANWEB for an Order Granting Development Consent for the North Wales Wind Farm Connection

Thank you for your letter of 14 December requesting further information under Rule 17 of the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010 in relation to the above project.

The role of the Welsh Government's Historic Environment Service (Cadw) in responding to applications for planning or development consent is to provide the determining body with an assessment concerned with the likely impact that the proposal will have on scheduled monuments or registered historic parks and gardens. It is normally a matter for the local planning authority to provide an assessment concerned with the likely impact on listed buildings and conservation areas. The relevant Archaeological Trust should also be consulted regarding any undesignated historic assets that could be affected by the proposed development.

Our response to your request for further information is as follows;

- 1. Has Cadw visited the proposed route of the electric line including Berain or was the response (to the first round of ExA questions) based on a desk top assessment?**

Our response was based on desk based information.

- 2. Please could Cadw provide a copy of their comments on the results and findings of the Applicant's heritage assessment that were used to inform their response to the ExA's first written question (9.1), with particular reference to Berain and Eriviat Hall.**

We contributed to the Welsh Government's letter of 25 June 2014 responding to the applicant's final round of public consultation (please see copy attached). Under the heading Heritage/ Historic Environment, the letter states, "In Cadw's

Mae'r Gwasanaeth Amgylchedd Hanesyddol Llywodraeth Cymru (Cadw) yn hyrwyddo gwaith cadwraeth ar gyfer amgylchedd hanesyddol Cymru a gwerthfawrogiad ohono.

The Welsh Government Historic Environment Service (Cadw) promotes the conservation and appreciation of Wales's historic environment.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg ac yn Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh.



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opinion the chosen route corridor now appears to avoid all of the impacts on any designated archaeology / historic landscapes although there is still some potential for setting / indirect impacts on some of the sites and particularly on the Lower Elwy Valley historic landscape. However, the impacts are likely to be reduced due to the overhead line being only a low height timber pole construction rather than lattice towers. That being the case, there is potential for undesignated assets to be affected and the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust development control archaeologist should be consulted”.

Having viewed the documents submitted by the applicant in the spring of 2015, including the draft environmental statement, we had no further comments to make.

3. Please could Cadw confirm that they have assessed the effect of the proposal on the setting of the four listed buildings at Berain and if they haven't, would they still agree with the Applicant's heritage assessment and confirm that they have no particular concerns regarding the proposal with particular reference to the parkland to the south of Berain.

Our comments to date have not included an assessment of the effect of the proposal on the setting of the four listed buildings at Berain or the parkland to the south of Berain, as listed buildings and unregistered parkland do not fall under our remit as a statutory consultee. Any potential impact on the setting of a listed building is properly a matter for the local planning authority, in this case Conwy County Council. We have no record of the parkland to the south of Berain having been considered for inclusion in the Register of Parks and Gardens.

Following your request for comments on the impact of the proposal on the listed buildings, and having considered the independent assessment of the potential effects on the historic environment at Berain and at the Written Representations submitted by Conwy County Borough Council we have the following desk-based observations;

There is no doubt that the proposed overhead line will have an impact on this important group of buildings, and in particular, an effect on their setting. The independent assessor concludes that this impact is only moderate, and that any harm to the significance of the group would be small. The reasoning behind this conclusion includes an analysis of significance according to the 4 heritage values set out in Conservation Principles, and suggests that although the aesthetic value of the group will be affected by the development, the impact that this would have is less than the damage already inflicted on the group by the modern agricultural buildings that are immediately adjacent to it. In its written representations, the Council reaches a different conclusion, pointing out that the position, roof profiles and colour of the modern agricultural buildings mitigate their impact, whereas the overhead line would be distinctly visible as it runs almost in parallel to the historic buildings and above them.

There is only one relevant view-point submitted with the environmental statement, and the chosen angle of view makes it difficult to assess the impact of the overhead line on more direct views of the farmstead group. However, given the proximity of the overhead line, its positioning above and almost directly behind the buildings, we consider that it is likely that there would be a harmful visual impact on their setting. In our view, the rarity and exceptional interest of this group of buildings would make this a cause for concern.

4. **At the point of making comment, did Cadw have sight of Conwy County Borough Council's comments regarding the setting of Berain in the Local Impact Report and Final Written Representation [LIR-002] and [REP1-008]?**

Please see our answer to question 3 above.

5. **Please could Cadw provide details of the numbers of Grade 1, Grade 2* and Grade 2 listed buildings in (i) Wales and (ii) in the Conwy County Borough Council area?**

Our records show that there are approximately 30, 000 listed buildings in Wales, 1,735 of which are located in the Conwy County Borough Council area.

6. **Please could Cadw also provide information for the ExA on the significance of the cluster of listed buildings at Berain, as this cluster includes two Grade 2* and two Grade 2 listed buildings within one farmstead.**

There is no doubt about the significance of this group of buildings ; the house and one of its associated farm buildings are listed grade II*, and the other associated buildings are grade II. The house itself is an important early Tudor gentry house, and was the home of Katherine of Berain. The associated farm buildings include a large and unusual timber-framed sixteenth century barn, and other buildings that together form a particularly coherent and well-preserved group.

7. **At a recent Open Floor Hearing it was brought to the ExA's attention that Cadw had visited Eriviat Hall and indicated that the Hall may be worthy of listing. Could Cadw confirm if they have assessed the Hall and if they have/are considering listing the building?**

Our records show that Eriviat Hall was considered as a possible candidate for listing in 2006, and was visited by an Inspector of Historic Buildings in October of that year. The Inspector concluded that the building did not meet the criteria required to be listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

Eriviat Hall is sited within formal parkland, which has previously been assessed by the Countryside Council for Wales as parkland in the Tir Gofal all Wales agrienvironment scheme. Can Cadw advise if they have assessed the parkland for inclusion on the Register of Parks and Formal Gardens? If not, given its previous recognition as parkland, whether they consider it should be included on the register?

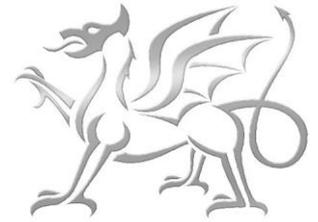
Whilst our records concerning the assessment of the parkland at Eriviat Hall for inclusion in the Register of Parks and Gardens are inconclusive, we understand that the parkland was considered for inclusion in the register in the 1990s, during the compilation of the original Register. As it was not included in the register, it would appear that it was not considered at that time to have met the criteria for registration.

However, the earlier decision could now be reviewed. An initial examination of historic maps and aerial photographs suggests that the parkland could be a potential candidate for addition to the register. The parkland's suitability would

however need to be formally assessed by our Assistant Inspector of Historic Areas.

Yours sincerely

Helen May
Diogelu a Pholisi/ Protection and Policy



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

North Wales Wind Farms
Connection Project

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25 June 2014

Welsh Government response to final round of public consultation

I am writing on behalf of Welsh Government in respect of your statutory public consultation on the construction of a new 132kV overhead line connection (the Project), including the preferred route alignment(s), together with the required accesses, construction laydown and other integral work.

Under the Government of Wales Act 2006 the Welsh Government has responsibilities in respect of Wales for a range of environmental and related issues. The proposed development has the potential to affect the environment in Wales.

As a general comment, the proposed development should be in accordance with the policies set out within the Welsh Government's Planning Policy Wales with particular reference to Technical Advice Note (TAN) 8: Planning for Renewable Energy
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/policy/tans/tan8/?lang=en>

You will also wish to note the First Minister's preferred option for undergrounding of cables wherever possible.

Conservation/Nature

Provided the views of NRW are given due regard, colleagues have little to add. Colleagues would also favour undergrounding the power line as the area can be overflowed by migratory geese. If the overground alternative were to be considered, an Appropriate Assessment would be needed in respect of the Dyfi Estuary SPA and its overwintering population of Greenland White-fronted Geese, plus other overwintering goose populations to the south.

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Heritage/Historic Environment

In Cadw's opinion the chosen route corridor now appears to avoid all of the impacts on any designated archaeology / historic landscapes although there is still some potential for setting / indirect impacts on some of the sites and particularly on the Lower Elwy Valley historic landscape. However, the impacts are likely to be reduced due to the overhead line being only a low height timber pole construction rather than lattice towers. That being the case, there is potential for undesignated assets to be affected and the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust development control archaeologist should be consulted.

Transport

Transport Division colleagues have commented as highway authority for the Welsh trunk road network. Please note there may be potential transportation impacts where the Welsh Government is not the highway authority. It is assumed SP Manweb will liaise directly with all relevant highway authorities, regarding the potential transportation impacts.

The sizes of components for the proposed development may qualify as Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs). If AILs are necessary then we will require a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) detailing how the loads will be moved from the port of entry to the site whilst minimising delay to other traffic. I attach a letter from the Welsh Government to Flintshire setting out the requirements of such a TMP in detail. Welsh Government Transport Division will require details of how other traffic will be safely managed during the deliveries and construction phase, in accordance with the scope set out in the attached letter.

In addition to the TMP, the Transport Division will also require full details, drawings and specifications of any new accesses or modifications to existing accesses off the trunk road network, which must be constructed to the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).

Colleagues are happy to discuss the required scope of the TMP and details of accesses for this scheme in more detail if that would be helpful.

We trust you will carefully consider these comments.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Nicholas
Energy Wales
Energy, Water and Flood Division