

15th December 2015

Ms. Katherine King
The Planning Inspectorate,
3 / 18 Eagle Wing,
Temple Quay House,
2 The Square,
Bristol.
BS1 6PN.

Dear Katherine

BRECHFA FOREST CONNECTION

Following the meetings and the site visit held during week commencing 30th November 2015, we would like to submit the following comments for deadline 3.

We are in receipt of the accompanied site inspections booklet, Day One of the Site Visit, which we received on the morning of 1st December 2015 at the meeting point at the Quinn's Rugby Club pavilion. Following inspection of the plan from viewpoint 25, we have identified a number of concerns.

A meeting was held on 30th September 2014, present were Tony Jackson B.A., overhead line engineer, from LSTC, his assistant, Bernadette, Mr Iwan Jones, BJP and Avril Davies. Mr Jackson informed us that we would only have one single post approx. 120 meters from the dwelling and it would be down in the dip and only the top of the post would be visible. He also stated that the existing overhead 11kva cables would go underground. In view of this we were happy to agree to the proposals although we would prefer undergrounding of the proposed 132kva line. Mr Jones asked for a copy of the plan or sketch but was refused.

Upon receipt of the Heads of Terms the new proposals shows two H poles (153 & 154) with pole 153 being approx. 100 meters, on the skyline and in full view from the dwelling. The revised procedure is not acceptable as we have not been engaged in the new proposals.

The new proposed access route to the easement strip between 'H' pole 153 and 'H' pole 154 runs over the source of the water spring that provides drinking water for our animals whilst grazing the lower fields. This spring is also our emergency water supply to our holding should our existing gravity supply run low or encounter any problems. Before this route can be used we need a Hydrologist report to identify the source of the spring. We were not aware of this route until we received a copy of the site visit booklet on the 1st December 2015. The proposed route is using a gate between two of our fields which is only suitable for the movement of stock and is not suitable to be used by construction plant, equipment or vehicles.

We were not informed that 'H' pole 154 was going to be relocated on to our property. The easement strip runs over several mature trees and bushes. One of these trees, an Alder, was identified, during the bat survey on 30th September 2014, carried out by a Senior Arboricultural Consultant and a Arboricultural Technician employed by RSK to have traces of bat activity. They did not climb the tree to see if there were any traces of bats in the upper branches. No bat boxes were installed for further investigation. As far as we are aware no surveys have been carried out on the proposed easement strip to check for the great crested newts, slow worms, reptiles, door mice or any other species of wildlife.

The proposed route to the location of 'H' pole 154 runs through two fields that lie within the scenic Llanpumpsaint to Alltwalis glazer valley which consists of pockets of ancient peat, pockets of blue clay and underground natural water pockets. These pockets should not be disturbed or destroyed. As far as we are aware, no surveys have been carried out on these two fields.

We are also very concerned with the contents of the Heads of Terms. All the clauses in the HoT's reflects the constraints and conditions WPD place on the landowner. As far as we can see and understand, the landowner cannot place any conditions or constraints on WPD which in our opinion is very unfair and one sided. We were told during the meeting on 30th September 2014 with Mr Tony Jackson that we would only have one single pole with no stays on our land. We were not informed at any time by WPD / Freedom that this pole would be changed to a H pole (153), with 4 stays, and would be in a different location on our land. In addition, were never consulted that an extra H pole, (154), would be constructed on our property. We were not aware of the change of poles until we received the Heads of Terms document on the 13th November 2015. We therefore request that pole 153 be replaced by a single pole and returned to its original position as per our meeting on 30th September 2014 and that pole 154 be removed as per pre stage 3 consultation. In view of this and due to the lack of engagement by WPD / Freedom, we are not able sign the Heads of Terms in their current form.

We again strongly reiterate that the proposed scheme goes against the principles of the Holford rules. I would like to draw the Inspectorate's attention to articles 2.8.4, 2.8.5, 2.8.6 and 2.8.7 in the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure and it is clear that WPD is clearly ignoring the guidelines stated therein.

Nonetheless we put our trust and faith in the Inspector that he will take into account our concerns during the investigation process and arrives at a fair and transparent decision that will benefit all the landowners.

Yours sincerely

Avril and Bryan Davies.