

Our ref: HWOU-1-4
Your ref: EN070007
Date: 17 April 2023

National Infrastructure Planning

BY EMAIL

hynetco2pipeline@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Dear Madam/ Sir

**HyNet Carbon Dioxide Pipeline
Written Representation**

We write on behalf of our clients:

Stephen Oultram 1199_1096409002_03382_0012
Catherine Oultram 1199_1096409002_03439_0022

Our clients take no issue with the principle of the proposal and have no comment to make on its merit in planning terms, its compliance with policy nor on whether it is capable of achieving its planned objectives.

Our clients' interest is in the detail of the proposed route and implication of the project, on which subjects our clients have already made representations through Fisher German LLP. We note that the Examining Authority has already put questions to the Applicant on the proposed methodology for dealing with compensation claims and its comments on farm severance. We welcome those interventions of the ExA and await the Applicant's responses.

Our clients are aware of a number of badger setts which are very close to the proposed route. These setts will presumably need to be relocated and the animals disbursed, relocated or culled. The ExA will be well aware of the on-going concerns over interactions between badgers and cattle. We would welcome further detail on the intentions with respect to badgers. There can be a particular risk with empty setts, which are vulnerable to re-occupation by individuals with a lower health status, thus increasing the risk to the farm stock.

It is presently the intention that, from 2025, if a farm in Wales wishes to apply for subsidies it will be a requirement to have 10% of land hosting woodland. The farm operated by our clients currently meet this requirement but not by a wide margin. They might find their farm ineligible for subsidies depending on how much woodland is removed. This ought to be a consideration for the proposed route and otherwise the loss of subsidies will need to be a factor in the calculation of compensation.

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Our clients understand that the local Community Council has been informed that the choice of location for the construction compound will be left to the (yet to be appointed) contractor. We have already indicated the ExA that the proposed location of the construction compound ought to be included on the ASI and have expressed concerns, repeated here, that that land is incredibly valuable to the operation of the herd and the production of silage and that the loss of this land (even for a temporary period) would require either or both a reduction in herd numbers and/ or a fundamental change in farming practices requiring the acquisition of additional equipment. Our clients will lose that area as a valuable source of silage and grazing land and the proposed access to the compound will severely disrupt if not completely prevent access to the remaining grazing land for their milking herd, making the dairy business unviable from that point of initial disruption.

Given the length of time the 'temporary' compound is expected to be in use, there is no possibility that the dairy business could be put into statis for that period and revived. It will either need to continue as it has done or be abandoned and compensated.

Yours faithfully,

Duncan Tilney
Partner
For and on behalf of STEPHENS SCOWN LLP

