

Carreghofa Community Council
Cyngor Cymuned Carreghofa

REP11[CCC]

Please reply to

**RE-DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR WIND TURBINE GENERATING STATIONS IN POWYS,
MID-WALES (LLANBRYNMAIR AND CARNEDD WEN)**

REPRESENTATION FROM CARREGHOFA COMMUNITY COUNCIL
(Authorised in full Council 26 July 2016)

The Secretary of State will already be aware that a survey of residents of Carreghofa carried out in February 2013, with the unusually high response rate of 49%, revealed that 90% of those responding were concerned about National Grid's proposal to site overhead lines through the environmentally and archaeologically significant Vyrnwy Valley and close to the tourist village of Llanymynech. National Grid subsequently attended a joint meeting of Carreghofa, Pant and Llanymynech Councils in December 2013 and sent a PR firm to conduct a "consultation event" at Llanymynech Village Hall in December 2014 in order to reassure us that the impact of the pylons could be minimised by using the backdrop of the hills, or by burying the pipeline for short distances. The Secretary of State will also be aware that National Grid have subsequently ignored their own advice and propose to site an overhead line, not against the backdrop of the hills, but down the centre of the Vyrnwy flood plain, crossing the river nine times in less than 10 km between the proposed East sealing end compound and Llanymynech village.

In addition to the points raised in our submissions dated Feb 2014 and Jan 2015" there are three recent developments that we believe should be taken into account in re-determining the need for overhead lines down the middle of the Vyrnwy Valley.

1. With reference to paragraph 3 of your document, National Grid make much of their decision to bury part of the proposed line in the Meifod valley in response to the concerns of local walkers along Glyndwr's Way. Walkers along Offa's Dyke, which passes through Llanymynech and, like Glyndwr's Way, is designated as a National Trail, come from all over the world and spend money along the whole of the Welsh-English border and not just in Montgomeryshire or Shropshire. They have not been part of any of the consultation events for obvious reasons. Their views are still to be ascertained and given appropriate weight.
2. With reference to paragraph 8 of your document, National Grid's Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report dated May 2014 records a single sighting of a peregrine falcon over Aston. The peregrine falcon is designated by Natural England as a Schedule 1 species, with the added legal protection that goes with that. National Grid are apparently

unaware that, according to the records of the Shropshire Peregrine Group, an affiliate of the British Trust for Ornithology, Llanymynech Rocks has been one of the most consistently successful peregrine nest sites out of fewer than 20 in Shropshire, with 20 successful breeding years producing 45 fully fledged chicks in the 27 years between 1988 and 2015. The risks of this fastest and most iconic of British raptors colliding with overhead wires while hunting the Vyrnwy Valley are evident and must be mitigated.

3. With reference to paragraph 9 of your document, a trial run of construction traffic required for the Tyrgwynt Wind Farm was carried out by Wind Prospect Ltd with the co-operation of the Police on 30 June 2016. It revealed that oncoming traffic would have to be held for ten minutes to allow convoys to enter Llanymynech from the North; that there were 41 vehicles stacked up behind the trial convoy by the time it reached Four Crosses; and that the Grade 2* bridge over the River Vyrnwy at Llanymynech may have to be strengthened. Current plans are for two convoys a day six days a week from August-October 2016, which obviously includes part of the school holidays. Given the poor and on-going record of road maintenance, particularly in respect of drains and verges, on the A483 between Oswestry and Llanymynech, Carreghofa Community Council does not believe the extra weight of traffic proposed to be viable, even in the short term. Approval of the two wind farms under review would incur significantly greater volumes of unsustainable traffic for significantly longer.

Chair

Carreghofa Community Council