

REPORT (Energy Development)

From:
Sent: 30 July 2016 00:28
To: National Infrastructure Consents
Subject: Mid Wales con-joined public enquiry

Dear Sirs,

We would like to draw to your attention two major ecological reasons for objecting to the proposed pylon route from Cefn Coch.

Our family have farmed Gelli Gethin for over 200 years. We have been protecting and preserving the land and wildlife here for generations. The proposed pylon route has been poorly planned and whilst it may have been positioned to affect as few of the general public as possible, the route from hub through our farm is mostly across peat upland and peat bogs.

Destruction of this delicate wetland ecosystem will be irreversible. The farm, with 9 of our neighbours, has been involved in a long running conservation project, funded by the National Assembly, and has been visited by Prince Charles, MPs and numerous Assembly Members.

The Imperial College, London, University of Nottingham and Bangor University have studied soil hydrology on all 10 farms, looking into soil structure and water retention. Research shows that peat soil can harbour up to 97g water per 100cm³ soil (Farnham and Finney, 1965); extrapolated, this is **equivalent to 24,250 tonnes of water per kilometre** (assuming 25m working width) **which will end up flooding towns further downstream from these hills.**

Of further concern to us is the huge carbon release that will be initiated by soil disturbance as work takes place. The average carbon store of peat soil is 181,000 kg C ha⁻¹ (Zerva et al. 2005). For every hectare of land disturbed, the carbon release could be up to 181 tonnes. We feel that a carbon survey by Imperial College or University of Nottingham is a necessity and will pursue this with all our power!

With regards

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