

Annette Prince , Footpath Secretary  
Cyngor Rhanbarth/Powys Area  
Welshpool Group

Dear Sir,

Outline Statement of Case in respect of the following:-

The Mid-Wales Conjoined Wind Farms Public Inquiry

Application by SP Manweb plc for consent under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 to install and keep installed a 132 KV overhead electric line connection from the proposed Llandinam Wind Farm to Welshpool Substation .

I am submitting this SoC on behalf of Powys Area Ramblers who are recognised consultees and already registered with the Inquiry . We have considerable concern on the high to medium visual sensitivity impact this overhead line would have on a section of the Regional Kerry Ridgeway Trail and adjacent rights of way. The section includes the Black Gate [ 310703 – 285336 ] where a bridleway and footpath intersect the B4355 , the designated public carpark at the start of the Ridgeway Trail further south on the B4355 and a point about 500 m along the trail route [ 311146-284722 ] . Within this section walkers , pedal cyclists and horse riders can enjoy superb views down to the Severn Valley and the uplands beyond as far as the Cambrian Mountains .

The Kerry Ridgeway , the oldest road in Wales dating back before the Dark Ages , is 15 miles long and stays over 1,000 ft . It is an area rich in archaeological sites . In more recent history it was an important Drover's road .

Powys County Council commissioned a “ Landscape Character Assessment “ in which the section outlined above is described as “ ..broad open expanse of upland grazing with dominant open skies and a high degree of wind exposure “. Such landscapes make the spirits soar and are to be treasured !

In the updated ES [ 29<sup>th</sup> Oct 2013 ] SP Manweb describe two viewpoints [ P130 viewpoint 70 and P132 viewpoint 71 ] which are relevant to the section above of concern to the Powys Ramblers . Viewpoint 70 at 310703-285336 is the intersection of a public footpath and bridleway at the Black Gate . The ES states that the overhead line would be visible over 125 m to the south east and have a high to medium visual sensitivity for PROW and road users here . Viewpoint 71 at 311146-284722 a short distance [ 500m ? ] along the Kerry Ridgeway would have a high visual sensitivity for users , making a noticeable man-made feature about 630 m away . This is supported in the Draft Statement of Common Ground by 'the parties' [3.Landscape and Visual ] on page 8 where It is agreed that the overhead line [ during operation ] is likely to have “ moderate [ significant ] adverse effects on the landscape ... including the open hillside below the Kerry Ridgeway Regional Trail “ Viewpoints 70 and 71 are said to be “ typically viewpoints where the proposed overhead line would be in the foreground/or skylined “.

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RamblersCymru policy on renewable energy development has already been submitted to the Inquiry [ OBJ/649/PLA/SOC/APPI] . In Point 7 Page 2 it states that Ramblers Cymru “ will object to schemes that would have a detrimental impact on the Welsh landscape and walking environment such as to outweigh any carbon reductions or other benefits “. Page 1 Point 1 “The walking environment includes areas visible from rights of way , permissive footpaths , access land and the National Trails of Wales “.

In the section described above the overhead line would cross the line of vision roughly E-W . It would introduce a strident man-made feature into that wide open vista . Ramblers suggest that in this section the overhead line should be put underground for the relatively short distance involved .

In making our case we will refer to the following documents and those already mentioned .

Policy E3 Powys County Council UDP  
Outline Statement Powys Ramblers Area Council {OBJ/649/OSOC}  
Energy and Planning Policy: Powys Ramblers Area Council [ OBJ/649/002}

Annette R Prince . Footpath Secretary Welshpool Ramblers Group.  
Dated November 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 .