

OBJ/977/001 Ms Caroline Johnson

I am really distressed that every part of the wind farm/power line issue is being looked at separately. I understood that there is an EU Directive that requires all the components of a project to be addressed as one entity.

For the layperson like myself, it is impossible to know what is happening. I have been voicing my strong opposition to National Grid but then discover that really they are not the people who decide if the project is to go ahead. I have written to the Welsh Government only to be told to contact the Parliament in Westminster. The people in Westminster seem to think it is nothing to do with them.

What rights do we have to stop National Grid coming on to our land and ruining our homes and lives? It seems that we have none. We are trapped in a Kafkaesque nightmare with no end in sight. Every day is filled with stress-pylons-stress-pylons and even the night gives no reprieve as I wake up worrying about what is to happen to our home. Sometimes I want to scream, sometimes I want to shout, but mostly I want to cry. I cannot believe that this can happen to us. Please stop this nightmare.

Unlike many urban areas where people often move, people in Mid-Wales move rarely. We live and breathe our land. We love its every nook and cranny. Whilst the current drive to centralize services sees doctor surgeries, schools and hospitals close, we stay here because we love it. We aren't here for the theatres, cinemas, shops and clubs. We are here because it is beautiful countryside, it is a community, it is our home.

The following is the statement I have previously submitted to the first part of the enquiry:

My parents have lived at Lower Trewylan for over 50 years, taking over the tenancy from my Grandfather when they married. Years of hard work saw them in a position to be able to buy the farm when the landlord decided to sell it and even harder work saw them be able to hang on to it when interest rates rose to record levels just after the purchase and money, as my Dad used to say, was going out faster than it was coming in. Trewylan was Dad's life and it could be said, his death, for he died three years ago from pulmonary fibrosis, probably brought about by the dust from years of harvesting.

When farming became unviable, my Dad turned the farm buildings into cottages and a thriving community now exists on the farm. Several of the residents were frequent visitors to the area from the Midlands and have moved to Llansantffraid to get away from the built up, urban environment. For these people in particular, but for all of them, the idea that they might find they have power lines overhead and pylons in front of their windows is very distressing.

Similarly, the moat around Plas yn Dinas and the Vyrnwy River is used by the Prince Albert fishing club and is a haven for fishermen because of its idyllic setting. Not only would power lines and pylons spoil the environment for them, they would be a high-risk danger.

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I am also concerned at the impact on Plas yn Dinas itself. This ancient monument is a very special place and should be preserved in a natural environment.

Having power lines along such an amazing natural feature as the River Vyrnwy is beyond my comprehension. This is a natural resource for future generations. I simply cannot believe that anyone would consider spoiling such an important recreational area. The visual impact on Llansantffraid would be terrible, especially from the church.

The impact of power lines and pylons on Lower Trewylan farm would be extreme. The loss of value of the house, the loss of income from fishing and decreased rents and possible vacant cottages would place a heavy financial burden on my Mother. This however is as nothing to all of us as to the upset caused as we all promised my Father that we would take care of the farm and we would be letting him down by letting it be marred by pylons.

On a personal level, I am a spiritual person who feels connected to the land in the same way that the Australian Indigenous Peoples are connected to theirs and the whole idea of the land being marred in this way is causing me deep distress. I feel that the strong connections felt by people to their land is totally ignored by those who have never felt such a connection.

The stress the issue is causing is also ongoing. Having not suffered with IBS for several years, it has now come back and I am having trouble sleeping.