

April 2011

Dear Sirs,

Ref: the proposed pylon route through the Meifod Valley and Cefn Coch substation site.

I am writing to express my grave concern about the proposed destruction of one of Wales' most treasured heritage sites which appears to have escaped your attention in the consultation over the proposed pylon routes from the Cefn Coch substation site.

The Meifod area is one of extreme beauty. Montgomeryshire is famed for being "Powys Paradvys Cymru" -the Paradise of Wales and "Mwynder Maldwyn" – the softness of the landscape of Montgomeryshire. This area, preserved from industrialisation by local people would be destroyed by pylons and turbines.

Meifod is a royal burial ground for several of the Welsh Princes of Powys. The Grade 1 listed church is the Winchester Cathedral or Westminster Abbey for this large ancient kingdom of Wales. The suggested routes will run next to this site, I doubt that you would consider doing this to an English site of this importance. Indeed doing so shows a distinct lack of care and respect for our treasured cultural heritage.

The church is of Norman origin with a more ancient foundation being the seat of the Welsh saints Gwyddfarch and Tysilio. The foundation is 1500 years old. It is part of the newly created "Living Stones" trail of North Montgomeryshire and is part of a recognised conservation area.

There is an ancient monastic site close to the village which has been preserved for hundreds of years, your cables will travel over this site.

Mathrafal is an important historical site being the castle belonging to the Princes of Powys. Such is its cultural and historical significance it was a major reason for the Welsh National Eisteddfod being sited close by in 2003. It has been mentioned in books of historical fiction as well as numerous important histories of Wales. We feel that to erect a pylon on this site or even close to it would be an act of desecration.

Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr (Cynddelw the Great Poet) is regarded as one the most important Welsh bards of the 12th Century. He was the Court poet to Madog ap Maredudd Prince of Powys and was based at Mathrafal. His output is prodigious and of immense significance in Welsh literature. He described in his poetry the Meifod Valley as "the most fair", the beauty of our valley has been noted throughout history, it would be wrong to be so cavalier about its importance now.

The valley is not only home to a proud community, but also to a variety of protected species, including several recorded colonies of Lesser Horseshoe Bats, Great Crested Newts and Curlews. I wonder how you propose to reconcile the building of these pylons with the legal rules regarding their protection.

I await your reply.

Yours faithfully