

WENTLOOGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Brian Miles

Clerk: Mrs Maria Mulcahy

Peterstone Village Hall

Peterstone

Wentlooge

CF3 2TR

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MOR HAFREN BIO POWER PLANT

Dear Sir

We take the protection of our environment very seriously especially due to the details below and the area being of Green belt/Green Wedge. With this in mind we forward our objection to the siting and construction of the Mor Hafren Bio Power Plant.

The area of Peterstone St Brides is open countryside, a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Cadw/ICOMOS UK Registered Landscape of Outstanding Historic Interest, an Archaeologically Sensitive Area, adjacent to the new Wales Coastal Path and to the internationally important RAMSAR site of the Severn Estuary.

The Levels are a Special Landscape Area (SLA) is recognised nationally and internationally (NCC LDP Policies SP5 and 8).

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 10 sets out that “planning authorities must seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. This means that development should not cause any significant loss of habitats or populations of species, locally or nationally and must provide a net benefit for biodiversity” (para 6.4.5 refers). This policy and subsequent policies in Chapter 6 of PPW 10 respond to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016*.

It is important that biodiversity and ecosystem resilience considerations are considered at an early stage in development plan preparation and when proposing or considering development proposals. Planning authorities should be proactive and embed appropriate policies into local development plans to protect against biodiversity loss and secure enhancement.

The attributes of ecosystem resilience (PPW para 6.4.9 refers) should be used to assess the current resilience of a site, and this must be maintained and enhanced post development. If this cannot be achieved, permission for the development should be refused.

The effects from the plant’s emissions would be felt over the area of the Wentlooge levels when the wind direction from the area of the plant is coming from the west sending the cloud east. This would cover the area of the Green Belt and Green Wedge and 3 villages.

The area of the Wentlooge Levels has seen a revival in species of recent years which has been helped by the Living Levels project. An example of which has been an increase in the sightings of one of the U.K’s rarest bees the Shrill Carder Bee, a significant rise in

the swan population together with many other nesting and migrating birds, water vole and dive beetle just to list a few.

The fear is that the wildlife and its habitat will be greatly affected by the emissions covering the area from the plant.

Residents of the villages of Peterstone, Marshfield and St Brides have raised grave concerns of the effect to health the output of the plant emissions could bring. The fear of cancer of a prolonged period seems to be the most prevalent.

We would also like to raise the issue of vehicle movement to and from the plant as we have detailed knowledge and experience on this matter. The proposed traffic management plan is like those of other businesses in the same area, but the conditions can only be levied on the vehicles under the plants control. Over the years we have seen this issue many times and the B4239 travelling to the area in question is not suitable for heavy goods traffic yet contractors who deliver to businesses in that location use it as the shortest route. This would be the case of waste being taken to this facility by road with the volumes declared at the public presentations being up to 80 vehicles a day. This could easily lead to 160 movements along a road and 2 villages which are in no way suitable for a fraction of this volume of traffic. This again would bring further pollution, traffic issue, noise, and effects of people's wellbeing.

We would ask the inspector to consider the facts and location of the position of this plant are unacceptable and move to refuse permission for its construction.

**Brian Miles
Chair Wentlooge Community Council**