

Air Quality

No objection

Cultural Heritage

Cwm Cynfal is one of the wildest and most inspiring landscapes within Eryri and indeed the UK. Towering waterfalls cascade from the bleak beauty of the Migneint Special Area of Conservation into the Afon Cynfal Site of Special Scientific Interest. This unique place has a history of inspiring those that visit from the ancient tales of the Mabinogi to the contemporary walkers of the Snowdonia Slate Trail. Physical modification of the site should be kept to a minimum, and large scale construction such as the construction of the proposed hydroscheme has no place.

Ecology and Nature

There are significant risks of damage to the downstream SSSI, damage to the ecology of the river and bog area around the river crossing, impact on bryophyte and lower plant life in the waterfalls due to reduction of natural flow and humidity.

Geology and Soil

The required minimum working corridor is significantly wider than the width of the track under which the pipeline is proposed to be laid requiring a significant permanent alteration of the landscape.

Noise and Vibration

Construction noise will be significant to walkers enjoying the area of the waterfalls. After construction, both the artificial noise of the turbine house and the artificially reduced noise from the dewatered waterfalls will change the aural landscape that has existed for thousands of years.

Community Assets

The recently completed Slate Trail is a huge asset to the immediate local community and the wider community of Eryri National Park. The development will require both the closure of this path during construction and will significantly alter its appearance within the landscape after. The loss of value of a community asset with no community return.

Traffic Generation

The narrow nature of the round access to the development site means that construction traffic, however well managed will have a significant negative affect on both local and tourist traffic.

Drainage and Water

There is a significant risk of existing small watercourses diverting into the pipeline trench during construction and causing sediment pollution to the watercourse and downstream SSSI.

Water Quality

The current status of Afon Cynfal is “Moderate” in terms of Cycle 2 Water Framework Directive assessment. The basis of WFD is that authorities must work towards all rivers (except in exceptional circumstances) achieving “Good” status. The proposed development is likely to lead to further deterioration under WFD rules due to a decline in its geomorphological status caused by the building of a barrier to sediment.

Other Reason

The proposed development should be rejected as the low level of power produced does little to offset the impact to both the ecology and aesthetic of this culturally important landscape and to compensate for the fragmenting of one of the UKs last remaining free-flowing rivers.