Application Ref: NP/11/319

Application Type: GDO Part 24
Grid Ref: SN07593816
Applicant: BT Openreach
Agent: 
Proposal: Replacement poles
Site Location: Gamallt, Nevern, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 0NA
Case Officer: Andrew Richards

Summary

The application is put before members due to recent concerns raised with the installation of telegraph poles within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Gamallt is a detached dwelling located within the valley below Carn Ingli on the outskirts of Newport, the property is accessed off a farm track which passes Llystyn Farm. A public footpath stretches from Gamallt along the valley to the next property known as Ty-Newydd with several existing telegraph poles sited along this route to provide telecommunications to Gamallt. Recently several areas of this run have become unsafe as the overhead wires are now lying along the ground. The proposal seeks prior notification to replace the existing 14 poles along this valley with 11 new shorter poles. The new poles will be re-sited to minimise any impact on the trees located within this valley. The remaining 71 metres adjacent to Gamallt will be laid underground, given the extensive tree canopy restricting any new overhead lines.

Officers consider the replacement telegraph poles in a reduced number and height, provided in locations along the public footpath to maintain the important views of Carn Ingli with minimal disturbance on the landscape setting to be acceptable in this instance. As such, the application is supported by officers and recommended for approval.

Consultee Response

Newport Town Council: Approve

Public Response

The application has been appropriately advertised, and no responses have been received at the time of this report.

Policies considered

LDP Policy 01 - National Park purposes and duty
LDP Policy 07 - Countryside
LDP Policy 08 - Special Qualities
LDP Policy 13 - Historic Landscapes Parks and Gardens
LDP Policy 15 - Conservation of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Development Management Committee – 21st September 2011
Item 6 - Report on Planning Applications

LDP Policy 29 - Sustainable Design
LDP Policy 30 - Amenity
LDP Policy 34 - Flooding and Coastal Inundation
LDP Policy 53 - Impacts on traffic
LDP Policy 56 - Telecommunications
PPW4 Chapter 04 - Planning for Sustainability
PPW4 Chapter 05 - Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast
PPW4 Chapter 06 - Conserving the Historic Environment
PPW4 Chapter 13 - Minimising and Managing Environmental Risks and Pollution
SPG03 - Sustainable Design
SPG08 - Validation of Planning Applications
TAN 05 - Nature Conservation and Planning
TAN 12 - Design
TAN 19 - Telecommunications

Officer's Appraisal

The application is put before members due to recent concerns raised with the installation of telegraph poles within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park.

Background & Description
Gamalit is a detached dwelling located within the valley below Carn Ingli on the outskirts of Newport, the property is accessed off a farm track which passes Llystyn Farm. A public footpath stretches from Gamalit along the valley to the next property known as Ty-Newydd with several existing telegraph poles sited along this route to provide telecommunications to Gamalit. Recently several areas of this run have become unsafe as the overhead wires are now lying along the ground.

Current proposal
The proposal seeks prior notification to replace the existing 14 poles along this valley stretch of some 470 metres with 11 new shorter poles to reduce the impact on the overhead lines from tree growth. The new poles will be re-sited to minimise any impact on the trees located within this valley. The remaining 71 metres adjacent to Gamalit will be laid underground, given the extensive tree canopy restricting any new overhead lines.

Key Issues
The application raises the following planning matters:-
- Siting, Design and Access
- Amenity and Landscaping
- Biodiversity

The proposal is to replace the existing 14 poles along this stretch with 11 new poles that measure between 7.6 metres and 4.8 metres above ground. The new poles are all shorter than those they are to replace. The applicant has gone through the pre-application process, however upon further consideration
by several officers the proposed siting has now been amended to relocate several of the poles within the tree line to avoid spoiling the important open vistas along the public footpath of Carn Ingli. These relocated poles will also ensure that access along the footpath will be maintained and adequately managed whilst maintaining the provision of telecommunication to Gamalit. The new poles and over-head lines will be largely hidden from walkers on the public footpath by mature trees and thick scrub.

It is felt that the amended scheme minimises visual intrusion within the landscape. The amended route will require the removal of three small Blackthorn bushes and the removal of two young Rowan trees to facilitate the preferred locations. This tree work will have an impact on the site in the short term, but in the long term these areas will re-colonise with trees and would be an acceptable loss to retain uninterrupted views of Carn Ingli from the path.

The provision of undergrounding the entire line has been carefully considered as the contractors carrying out the works have to abide by The National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) guidelines. These prevent any excavations within 1 metre from the trunk of any tree and only hand digging within the canopy zone, these restrictions when considered in the context of this site would be deemed not viable along the entire length of site. If this option was chosen a mechanical digger would need to be used and swathes of trees would need to be removed along the route to facilitate access; the impact of this on the amenity and character of this area would be significantly detrimental to the landscape character of the area.

In respect of the potential impact on protected species, the site is located within an area where bats may be present. Given that the proposal involves the provision of replacement telegraph poles along a stretch of public footpath where proposed works to existing trees will be carried out by a utility arboricultural contractor who will work to approved guidelines; it is not considered reasonable to request a full bat survey. However, officers consider a precautionary approach would be appropriate in this respect and a note will be added on any planning consent that may be granted to inform the applicant of their duty in respect of protected species if found on the site.

Conclusion
The replacement of the existing telegraph poles in a reduced number and height is considered to be an improvement over the existing situation in terms of this impact on the area. They are provided in locations along the public footpath so as to maintain the important views of Carn Ingli with minimal disturbance on the landscape. As such, the application is supported by officers and recommended for approval.

Recommendation
That the application be approved subject to conditions relating to time, compliance with plans and a note highlighting the applicant's duty in respect of protected species.
Additional Material

Detailed Plans
001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008
Photos
N/A
**General Contents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exchange Area</th>
<th>CSS Job No</th>
<th>Customer Details</th>
<th>Engineers Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEWPORT</td>
<td>5000260254</td>
<td>Name: BT</td>
<td>Name: JOHN HOLDCROFT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Contact No: 00</td>
<td>Contact No: 07802788286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Temp Service Given: N</td>
<td>ID: SWJXH90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Customer OOS: N</td>
<td>OUC: BCRF46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agreed by: COACH</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Location:** GAMALLT NEVERN NEWPORT SA420NA  
**Title:** RENEW POLES WAYLEAVES SA176074-8 POLES & SA176075-3 POLES  
**Map Ref:** 207604.238194  
**Job Summary:**

RENUEW 11 POLES IN WOODED AREA FEEDING GAMALLT AS AGREED WITH U.S.L SUPERVISOR. PROVIDE 1 SPAN OF 10PR A/C FIT BT19A & 2X BT66 PROVIDE 10 SPANS OF CAD55 RECOVER 14 SPANS OF A/C & 580MTS OF TEMPORARY CABLE ON THE GROUND RECOVER 14 POLES & 1 STAY ANCHOR TREE CUT 6 SPANS. RENEW CP6 IN NEW POSITION WITH 9M STOUT RENEW CP7 IN SUITE WITH 9L RENEW CP8 & 9 WITH 7L RENEW CP10,11,12,13,14,15,16, WITH 6L ALL POLE POSITIONS PEGGED & MARKED WITH GPS POISSON'S. RUN 1 SPAN OF 10PR A/C FROM EXISTING CP5 TO NEW CP6 FIT BT19A & RE ROUTE 2X B/W'S FEEDING ALLT CLYDACH RUN 10 SPANS OF CAD55 FROM CP6 TO CP16 GAMALLT. A RISK. ASSESSMENT WILL BE REQ FOR ALL WORKS BY NATIONAL PARKS.
Amended Plan for relocation of poles 15,14,13,12, & 10 feeding gamma as disgust with the TPO Officer on site.

pole 16 moved 1mtr, pole 14 moved 1mtr, pole 13 moved 9mts, pole 12 moved 4mtr, pole 9 moved 9mts. These poles have been moved to the rear of the foot path to avoid visual impact on the surrounding views. Ground clearance & tree cutting will be required to enable pole erection & provision of new over head wire.
Provide 1 span of 10pr a/c from cp5 rear of Alt Clydach to New cp6 Flt bt19a & reroute 2x d/w's feeding Alt Clydach