

**Application Ref: NP/11/319**

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Application Type</b> | GDO Part 24                                       |
| <b>Grid Ref:</b>        | SN07593816  |
| <b>Applicant</b>        | BT Openreach                                      |
| <b>Agent</b>            |   |
| <b>Proposal</b>         | Replacement poles                                 |
| <b>Site Location</b>    | Gamallt, Nevern, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 0NA |
| <b>Case Officer</b>     | 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

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**

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.

### **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 Gamallt 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 foot path 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 Gamallt. The new poles and over-head lines will be largely hidden from walkers on the public foot path 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 metres 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**

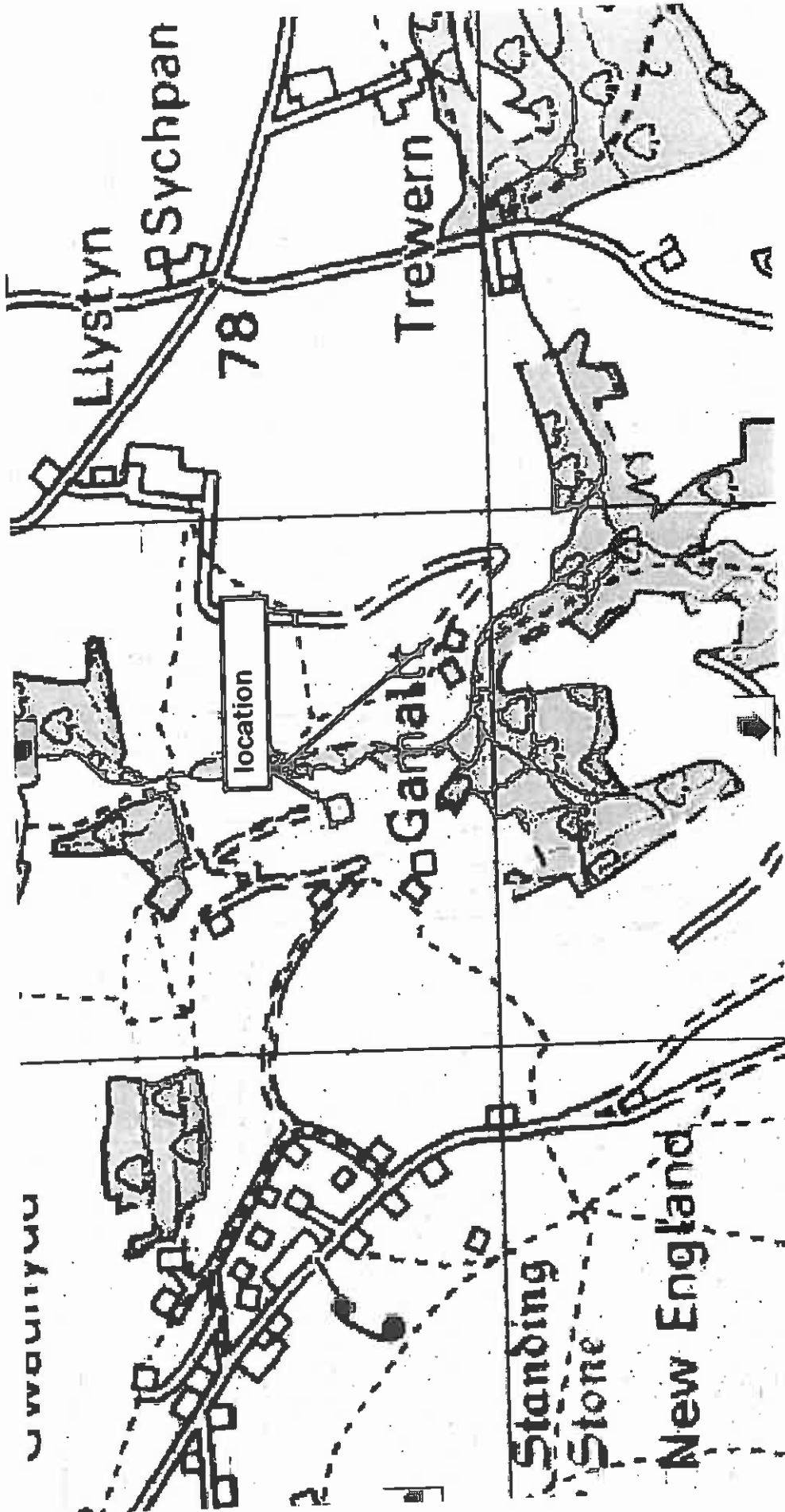
001, 002, 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 008

**Photos**

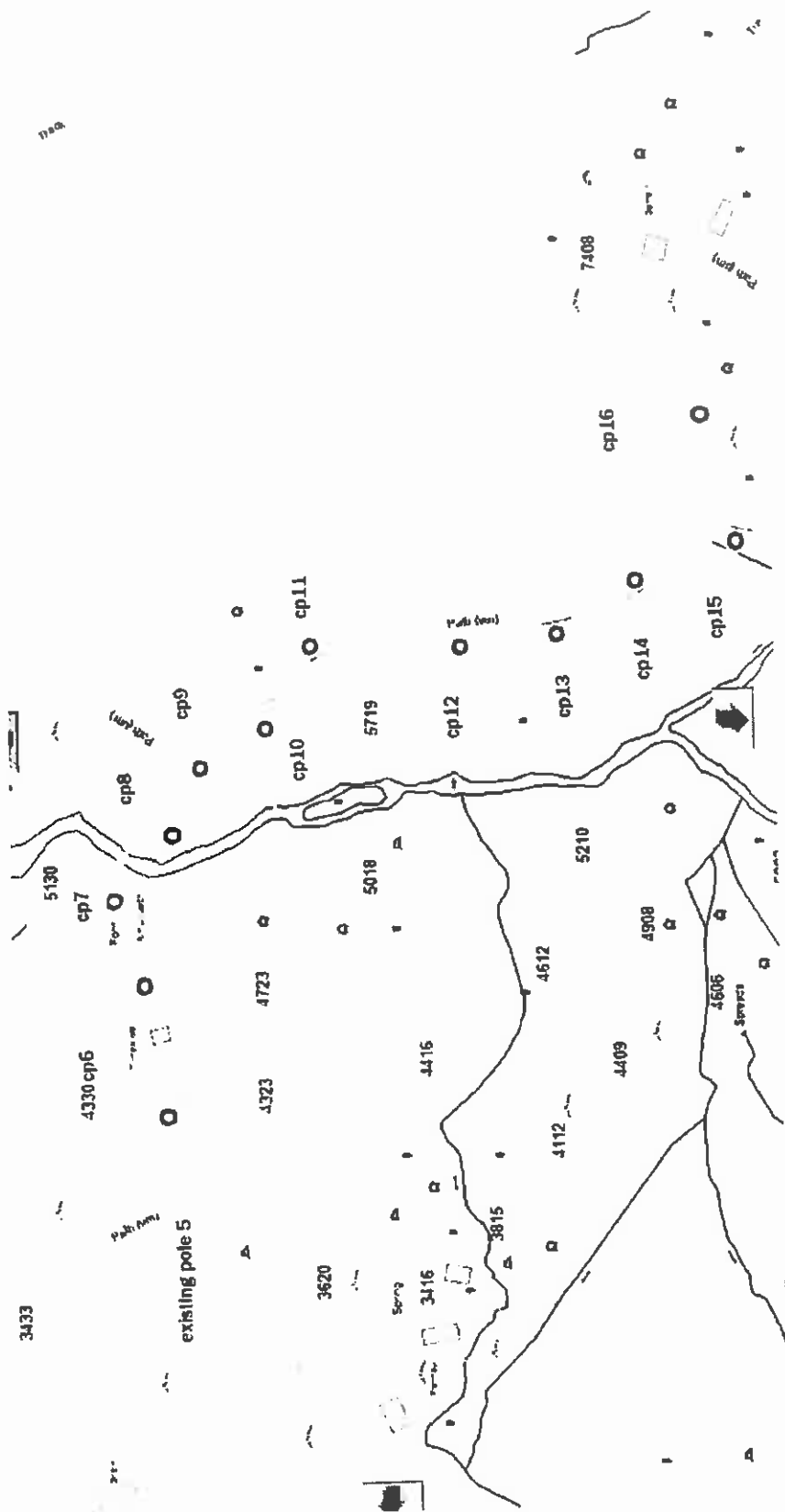
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# General Contents

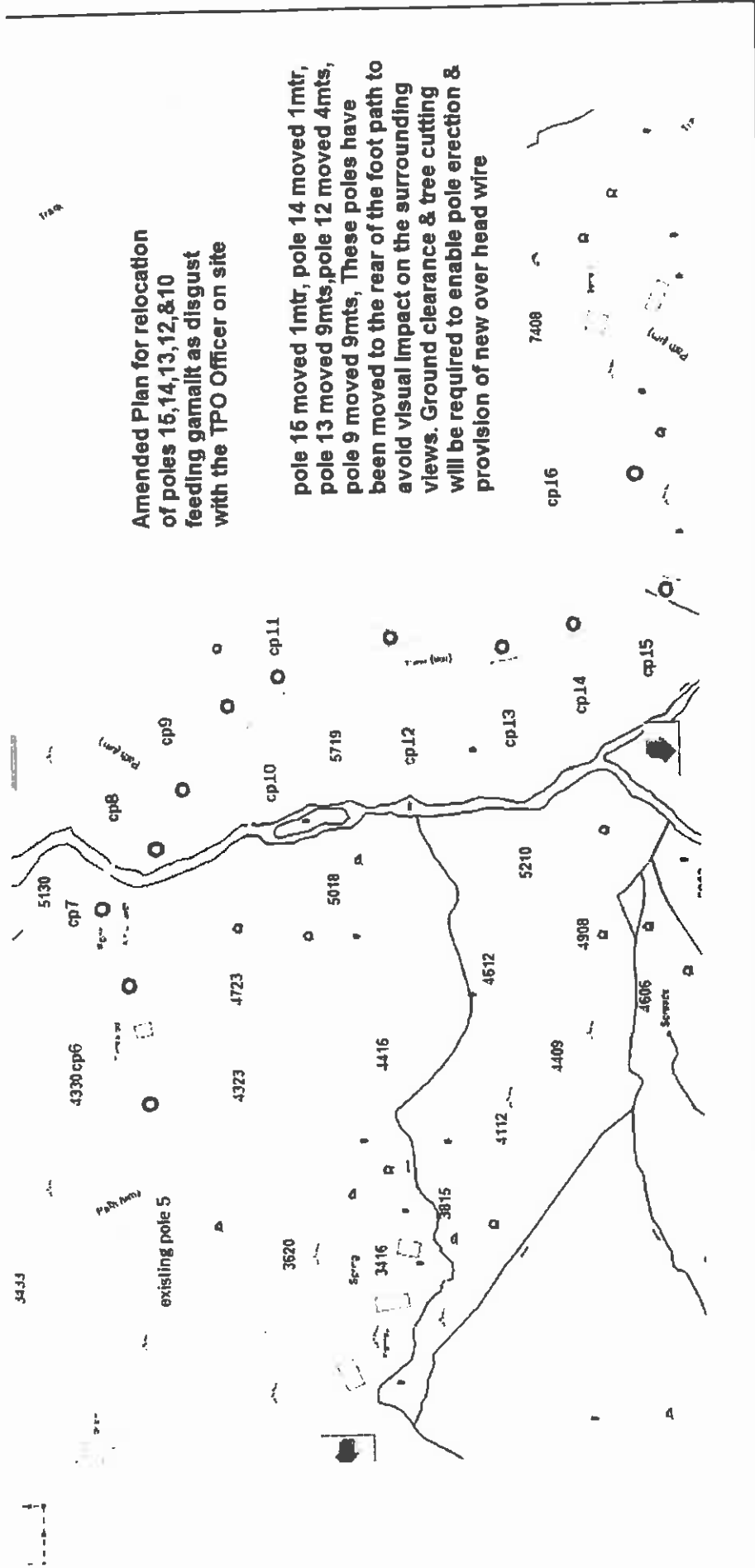
|  |                                 |   |                         |   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |
|--|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--|------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Exchange Area</b><br>NEWPORT  | <b>CSS Job No</b><br>5000260254 | <b>Name: BT</b><br>Contact No: 00<br>Temp Service Given: N<br>Customer OOS: N | <b>Customer Details</b> | <b>Engineers Details</b><br>Name: JOHN HOLDCROFT<br>Contact No: 07802788286<br>ID: SWJXH90<br>OUC: BCRF46<br>EIN: 802800433 | <b>Requirement</b><br>Agreed by: COACH | <b>Survey Req'd: N</b> | <b>Underground Cable</b><br>Renewal: N | <b>Overhead Work</b><br>(Incl A/C): N | <b>Underground Civil</b><br>Works: N |
| <b>Date:</b> 14/03/2011  |                                 | <b>Map Ref:</b> 207604,238194   |                         | <b>Estimate No:</b>   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |
| <b>Location:</b> GAMALLT NEVERN NEWPORT SA420NA  |                                 |   |                         |   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |
| <b>Title:</b> RENEW POLES WAYLEAVES SAI76074-8 POLES & SAI76075-3 POLES  |                                 |   |                         |   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b>Renew 11 poles feeding Gamallt from cp6 at Allt Clydach to Gamallt</b></p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; text-align: right;"> <p><b>Job Summary</b></p> <p>RENEW 11 POLES IN WOODED AREA FEEDING GAMALLT AS AGREED WITH U.S.I.L SUPERVISOR. PROVIDE 1 SPAN OF 10PR A/C FIT BT19A. &amp; 2X BT66 PROVIDE 10 SPANS OF CAD55 RECOVER 14 SPANS OF A/C &amp; 580MTS OF TEMPORARY CABLE ON THE GROUND RECOVER 14 POLES &amp; 1 STAY ANCHOR TREE CUT 6 SPANS. RENEW CP6 IN NEW POSITION WITH 9M STOUT RENEW CP7 IN SUITE WITH 9L RENEW CP8 &amp; 9 WITH 7L RENEW CP10,11,12,13,14,15,16, WITH 6L ALL POLE POSITIONS PEGGED &amp; MARKED WITH GPS POISSON'S. RUN 1 SPAN OF 10PR A/C FROM EXISTING CP5 TO NEW CP6 FIT BT19A &amp; RE ROUTE 2X D/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.</p> </div> </div> |                                 |   |                         |   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |
|  |                                 |   |                         |   |  |                        |  |                                       |                                      |



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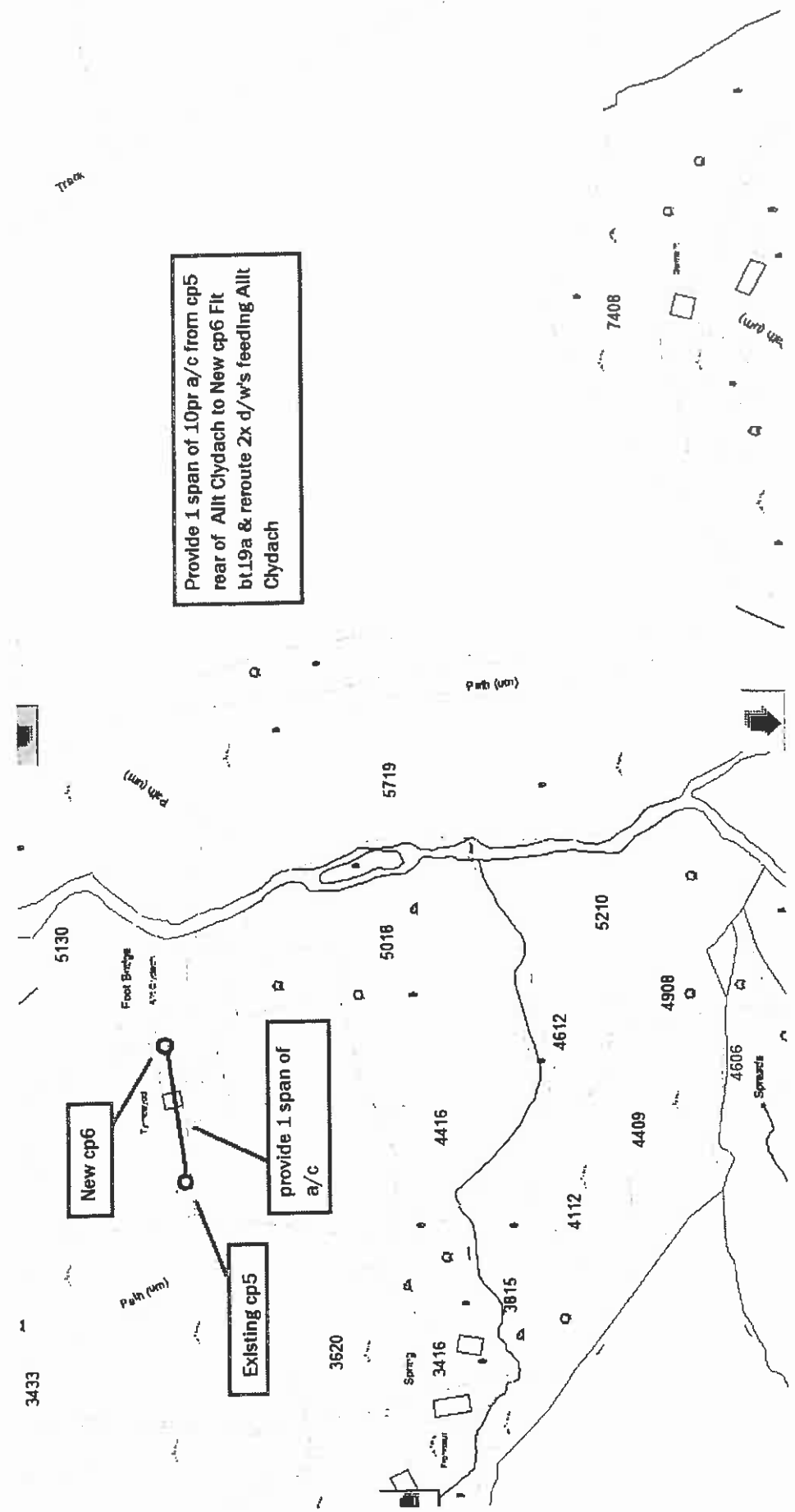


**Amended Plan for relocation of poles 15,14,13,12,&10 feeding gamalit as disgust with the TPO Officer on site**

**pole 15 moved 1mtr, pole 14 moved 1mtr, pole 13 moved 9mts, pole 12 moved 4mts, 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**

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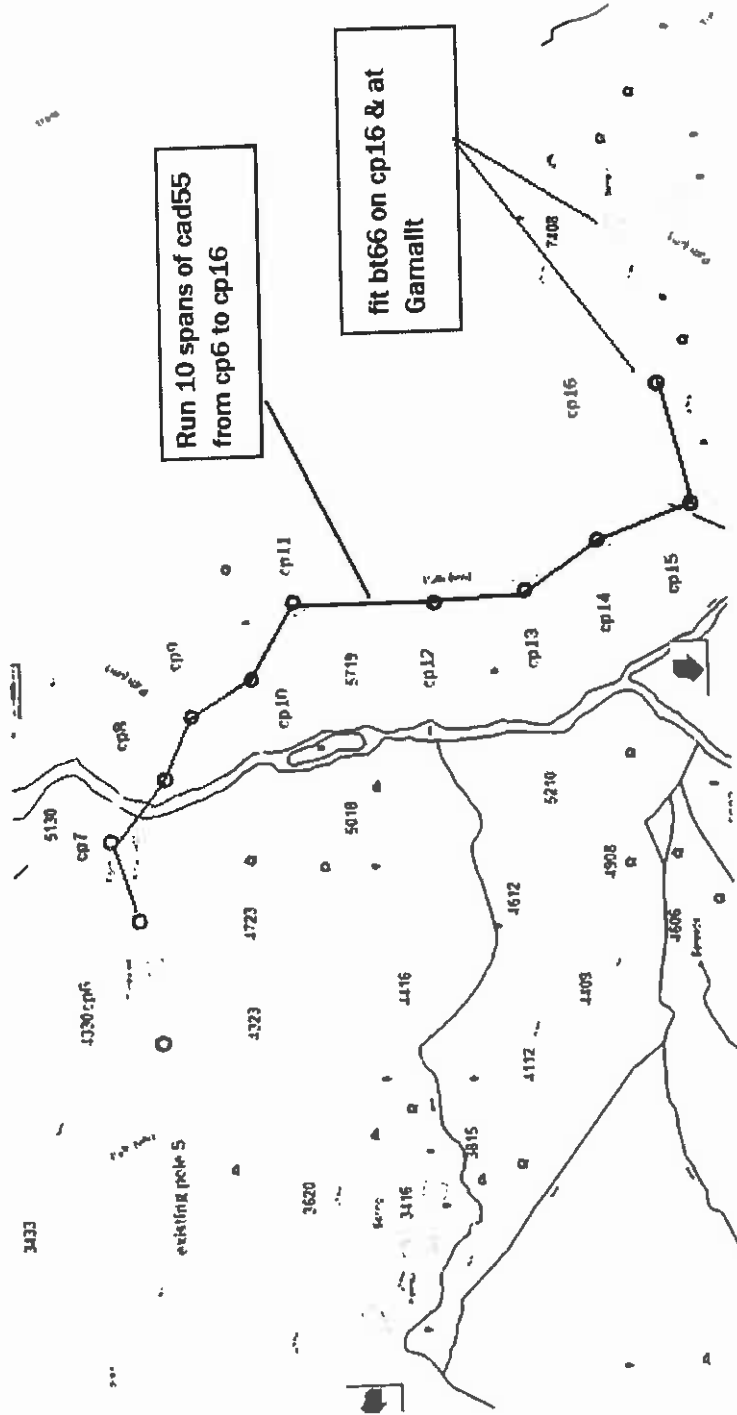
Provide 1 span of 10pr a/c from cp5 rear of Allt Cldach to New cp6 Ft bt 19a & reroute 2x d/w's feeding Allt Cldach

New cp6

provide 1 span of a/c

Existing cp5

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Run 10 spans of cad55  
from cp6 to cp16

fit bt66 on cp16 & at  
Garmallt

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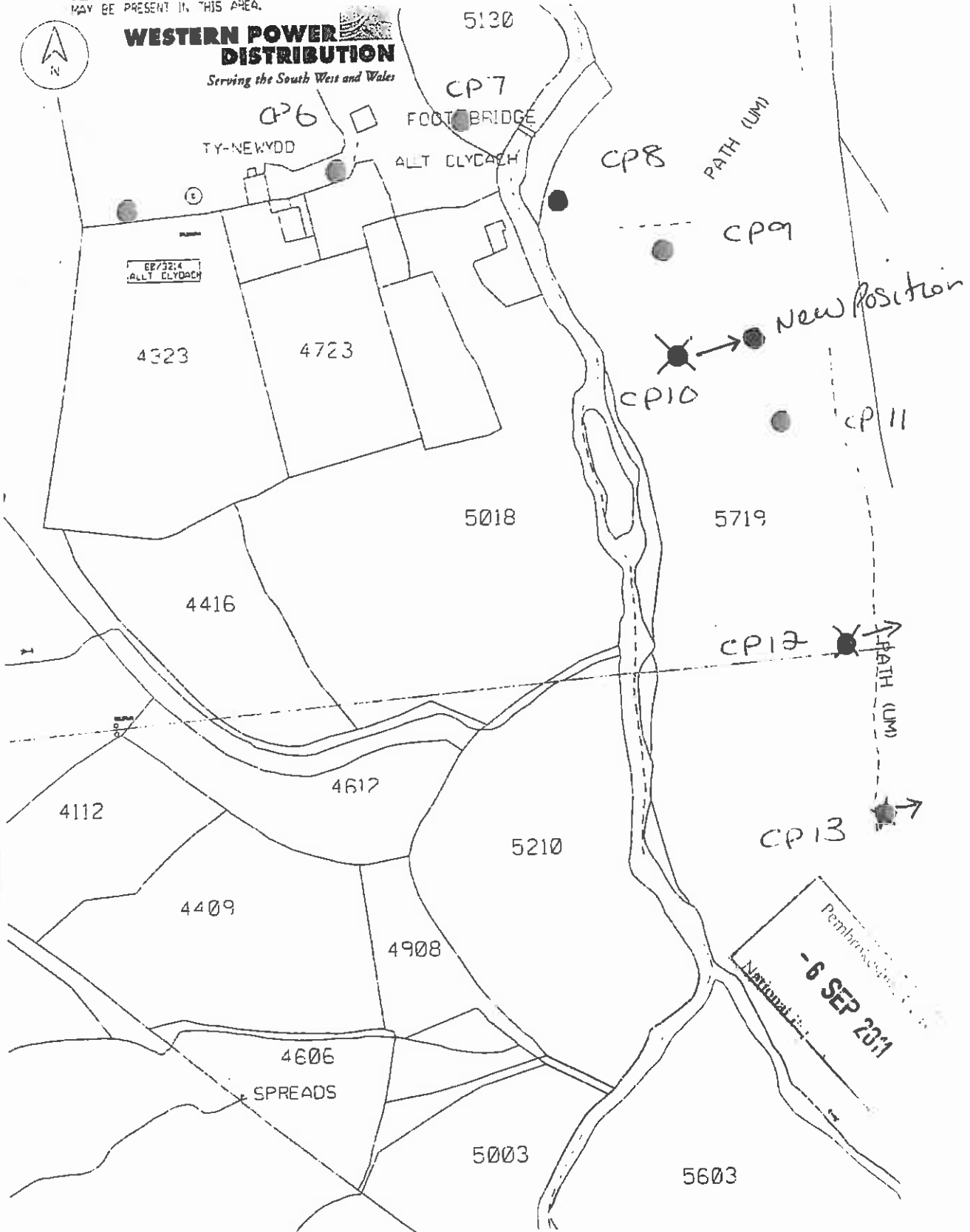
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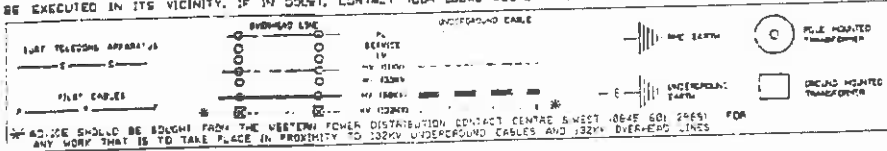
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TITLE: 5000260254  
PLOT CENTRE: 207498.238160

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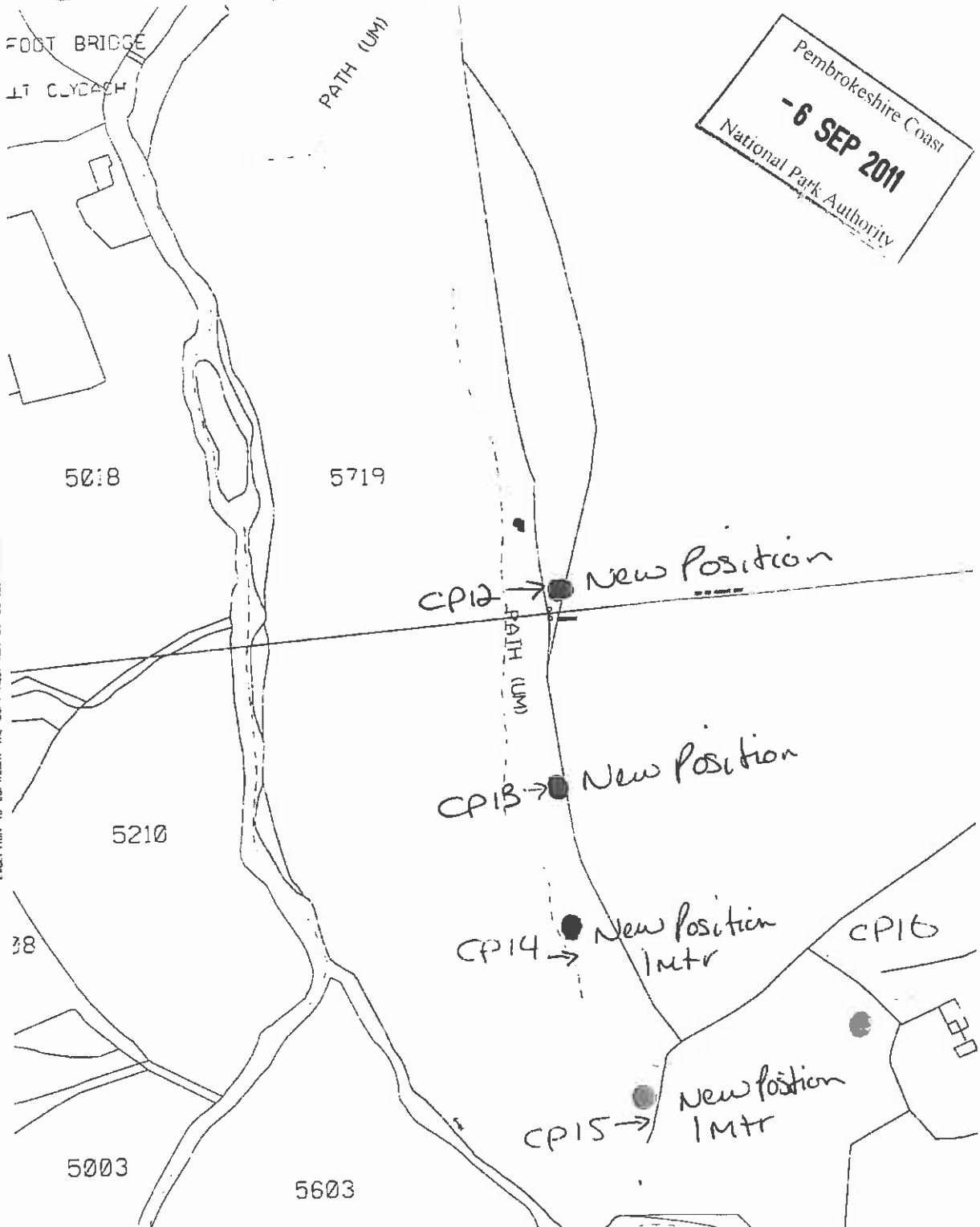
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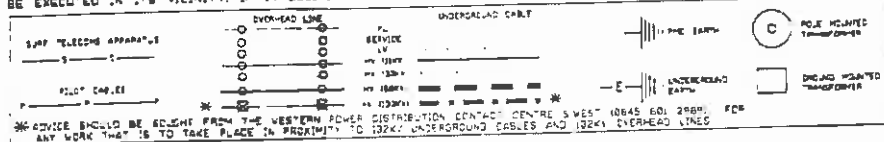
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