

Andrew Richards
Development Management
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Llanion Park
Pembroke Dock

23 March 2015

Edward Holdaway
Chairman of the Policy Sub-Committee
Friends of Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Sŵn y Coed,
Plas y Fron,
Fishguard
SA65 9LR
Tel 01348 875389

Dear Mr Richards

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 15/086 AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS AT VELINDRE ST NICHOLAS

You will recall that the Friends of the National Park expressed their opposition to the proposed development of additional farm buildings and a slurry lagoon at Velindre, St Nicholas. Along with many local people we were greatly relieved that your Committee decided to refuse permission for the development.

It was with great dismay therefore that we learned that the applicant has now lodged two separate applications for the same development, with the slurry lagoon just across the Park boundary. In your consideration of the case we would urge you to take into account the effect of the whole development – one simply cannot separate the two parts, which are operationally dependent upon each other.

It is for this reason that the Friends remain resolutely opposed to the development. Notwithstanding the fact that the slurry lagoon is located in a less obvious position, the basic facts of the development remain the same as do its impact. The applications do not overcome:

- the increasing cumulative impact on the Park of “industrial scale” farm buildings and activities and the fact that they have gradually reached this “scale” over a number of years, as in this case;
- the siting of such buildings and associated slurry lagoon and traffic as being totally out of scale and character in an area renowned for its sense of remoteness and tranquillity – it is their very presence that is the issue and not whether they can be hidden and therefore considered as “out of sight out of mind”
- the loss of amenity for local people and visitors ; and
- the need to set the modest employment benefits of the proposal against the impact on the tourist industry which depends on the visitors enjoying the very remoteness and tranquillity.

Furthermore, the location of the slurry lagoon in such close proximity to the stream that runs down to Aberbach would appear to increase the risk of pollution, which would affect not only wildlife but also visitors enjoyment of swimming at the beach.

The Friends would urge you to maintain your opposition to the development. We will be writing in a similar vein to the County Council, stressing the fact just because it is outside the park [only just] they are statutorily obliged to take into account the impact of the whole development on the Park.

Yours sincerely

