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Andrew Richards
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Llanion Park
Pembroke Dock
Pembrokeshire
SA72 6DY

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Dear Andrew Richards

NP/17/0599 Pont y Meddyg

We would like to comment on the above application to demolish and rebuild Pont y Meddyg above Aberbach. Schemes of this type to demolish and rebuild houses in spectacular coastal locations are increasingly popular. Although they may involve just one dwelling the potential visual impact on a whole stretch of coast, including the coast path, can be dramatic and overwhelming. They certainly require the very highest standard of design and planning consideration if they are to be an addition to the National Park.

The valley has the hunkered down feeling typical of some of the best corners of the National Park. As you round the headland on the coast path it is real pleasure to come across the small beach, stream and woodland. The existing buildings include Hescwm Mill (GradeII* Listed) as well as Pont Y Meddyg and the two of them are obviously very different. However, the mill and the associated group of Listed Buildings has been recognised as the significant historic feature in this quiet valley and any new scheme for Pont y Meddyg should improve this relationship and attempt to absorb the new house into the wider setting. This proposed scheme fails to achieve this. The existing range of planning policies would seem to provide all of the guidance necessary to protect historic landscapes, to encourage harmonised design and to minimise visual intrusion, both on land and from the water.

The proposed building seems to have no thoughtful relationship to the landscape surrounding it or the other buildings in the valley. The proportions, scale and materials appear visually complex. It seems to be imposing and has a “coastal executive” style borrowed from other similar buildings but without responding to the particular environment that surrounds it, both built and natural.

The remote nature of this location and the particular set of characteristics that exist here with the small cove, stream, historic working buildings, woodland and the coastal setting make it a very special spot, one that deserves a more sensitive treatment than that proposed in this scheme.

Yours sincerely

Gus Stott

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