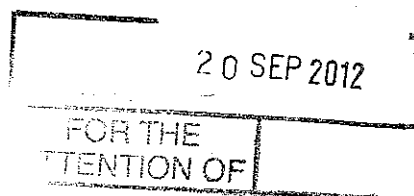


Date: 20 September 2012
Our ref: 63315
Your ref: 3/2012/0402



NATURAL
ENGLAND

Jane Tucker
Ribble Valley Borough Council
Council Offices, Church Walk
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BB7 2RA

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BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Tucker

Planning consultation: Erection of 50kw, 34.2m height turbine
Location: Mason House Farm, Clitheroe Road, Bashall Eaves

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 31 August 2012.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Protected landscapes

This application falls within the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) which is a statutorily protected landscape.

Natural England has no specific comments to make on this proposal as we do not believe that this development is likely to impact on the purposes of designation of the AONB.

We note that the proposed site falls within an area identified¹ as having high sensitivity to wind energy development, but which also may have the potential to accommodate development provided the scale of the landscape within the immediate area is considered.

Consequently, given the location of the development the local planning authority should seek the views of the AONB Partnership where relevant, prior to determining this planning application, as they may have comments to make on the location, nature or design of this development.

Protected Species

It is essential that the presence or otherwise of protected species, and the extent that they may be affected by the proposed development, is established, otherwise the Authority may not have addressed all relevant material considerations before determining the application.

Within the design and access statement (page 3) the conclusion is made that 'no specialist ecology species or ornithological species have been found to deter the proposal progressing.' This may be true, however a minimum of a desk-top assessment should be submitted to support this conclusion.

Natural England has now adopted standing advice for protected species. It provides a consistent level of basic advice which can be applied to any planning application that could affect protected species. It also includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

Our standing advice is a material consideration in the determination of any development, in the same way as any individual response received from Natural England.

The decision tree within our standing advice lists features and habitats likely to be used by protected species and should be used to determine the need for ecological surveys. Local species records, to support a desk-top assessment, can be obtained from:

Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre
Tullie House Museum
Castle Street
Carlisle CA3 8TP

info@cbdc.org.uk
www.cbdc.org.uk
Data Centre Manager 01228 618732
Data Officer 01228 618770

The Authority should therefore satisfy itself that our standing advice has been fully considered before determining this application.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on the number below. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Kate Berry
Adviser
Land Use Operations Team
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Email: kate.berry@naturalengland.org.uk

1 - Landscape Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development in Lancashire