

25 JUL 2012

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FOR THE
ENTION OF



Graeme Thorpe
Ribbles Valley Borough Council

Email: ecology@lancashire.gov.uk

Your ref: 3/2012/0526

Our ref: 03/12/0526/ASM/ASP/SM

Date: July 25th 2012

Dear Graeme,

Application: 3/2012/0526

**Proposals: Proposed installation of a 15kW Micro Wind Turbine on a 20m
monopole for business use**

Location: Laneside Farm Pendleton Lancashire BB7 1PU

Thank you for your consultation in respect of the above planning application. As you know, I commented on the earlier application (3/2011/0361) to the effect that the ecology report provided a reasonably thorough assessment of impacts, and implementation of the recommendations should be secured by planning condition to ensure compliance with relevant biodiversity legislation, planning policy and guidance.

The applicant has submitted the same ecology report (Simply Ecology Limited, September 2011. *Lane at Laneside Farm, nr Clitheroe. Ecological Surveys*) in support of the current application. However, as the proposed turbine location has been amended, the assessment of impacts (and associated recommendations) contained within the ecology report does not relate to the currently proposed turbine location.

The proposed location now appears to be in close proximity to a field boundary. Aerial photographs contained with the ecology report suggest that there may be a hedgerow at this location which may be suitable to be used by bats. As bats are known to be present in this area, it needs to be ensured that the turbine is located to maintain a 50m buffer between the turbine blades and potential bat foraging or commuting habitat. If a 50m buffer cannot be maintained, then the proposals could potentially result in impacts upon bats (killing or injuring) and the proposals would therefore be contrary to the requirements of relevant biodiversity legislation, planning policy or guidance.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah

Dr Sarah Manchester
Senior Planning Officer (Ecology)

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