



Graeme Thorpe
Planning
Ribbles Valley Borough Council

Email: ecology@lancashire.gov.uk
Your ref: 03/2012/0539
Our ref: 03/12/0539/ASM/ASP/RS
Date: 24th July 2012

Dear Graeme Thorpe,

Ecological comments

Planning Application No: **3/2012/0539**

Proposals: **Proposed installation of three endurance 50kw wind turbines 46m in overall height**

Location: **Carr Hall Garden Centre**

District: **Ribbles Valley**

Thank you for your consultation in respect of the above planning application.

The main ecological issues arising from the proposal include potential impacts on:

- Protected species (bats and nesting birds).
- Birds, including breeding Lapwing and Curlew (Species of Principal Importance), owls, such as Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl, and raptors.
- Semi-natural grassland.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following matters will need to be addressed before the application is determined:

- Further surveys are required in order to assess likely impacts on bats. The field within which the turbines are to be sited has potential to be of value to foraging bats (para 3.3, ecology report) and therefore bats may be impacted by the installation of turbines. Bat activity surveys should be carried out in order to assess the use of this field by bats and to assess the likely impacts on bats. If impacts are likely, then mitigation measures should be submitted and the Ribbles Valley Borough Council will need to have regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive in reaching the planning decision.

- The ecology report does not mention any assessment of potential impacts on owls or raptors. Confirmation should be given that potential impacts on these species have been considered.

Until the above matters have been addressed it is not possible for me to comment on other ecological impacts as there may be conflicts in the requirements of mitigation/compensation measures. Other issues that would need to be addressed include:

- Mitigation/compensation for impacts on breeding waders
- Mitigation/compensation for impacts on semi-natural grassland
- Avoidance of impacts on nesting birds during construction works

I will comment on all these matters on receipt of the additional information requested above.

The above comments are based on a review of documents submitted with the planning application as well as a review of ecological records, maps and aerial photographs accessible to Lancashire County Council.

The above comments represent the professional opinion of an ecologist and do not constitute professional legal advice. You may wish to seek professional legal interpretation of the relevant wildlife legislation cited above.

I hope these comments are helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Stevens
Ecologist
Lancashire County Council