

Graeme Thorpe

From: Brereton, Steven [Steven.Brereton@lancashire.gov.uk]

Sent: 10 December 2012 18:22

To: Graeme Thorpe

Subject: RE: Request for Consultation Responses

Hi Graeme

Hope you are well.

Regarding the application for a 27.1m high wind turbine at Lower Gazegill, Cross Hill Lane, Rimington, application nr 3/2012/0954, I cannot yet complete my assessment of likely impacts on the setting of the Forest of Bowland AONB as I need to see copies of the original visualisations submitted by the applicant. One of your colleagues has very kindly offered to send me a disc with the images loaded on.

In the meantime, I would like to draw attention to the following significant weaknesses and omissions of the applicant's Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment:

- a) the assessment appears not to have been carried out in accordance with a recognised methodology such as that produced by the Landscape Institute.
 - b) the applicant considers that *"Effects identified as Major/Moderate – Moderate or less are not considered to be significant"*. It has been established for many years that landscape and visual impacts identified as such are an **important material consideration**. It is predicted impacts below the 'moderate' threshold which are generally not considered to be significant.
 - c) No zone of theoretical visibility mapping has been provided. This is an essential tool for use in conjunction with photomontages to determine the likely significance of landscape and visual impacts.
 - d) There are no viewpoints within the Forest of Bowland AONB. A viewpoint has been provided which is near to the boundary but, unhelpfully, the wind turbine could not be seen from that location.
 - e) No details of the methodology for the production of the wireframes or photomontages has been provided.
 - f) No instructions have been given for using the photomontages, e.g. image size and viewing distance.
 - g) The photomontages lack key information such as what camera was used, lens focal length, camera height, date, time, etc.
- Note: e), f) and g) are essential so that the photomontages can be verified as being fit for purpose and accurately conveying the proposed wind turbine's scale.*
- h) A photomontage produced from a single frame image taken with a 75mm lens focal length should be produced for viewpoints 1 and 2.
 - i) the wireframe drawings have a very compressed vertical scale. This needs to be taken into account when assessing likely landscape and visual impacts.

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- j) there is no assessment of the landscape's sensitivity to wind energy.
- k) the effects on specific visual receptors are in the main not described or assessed.
- l) there is little consideration of mitigating likely landscape and visual impacts.
- m) there is an inadequate assessment of impacts on the area's landscape character. No reference is made to published landscape character assessments which cover the application site and wider landscape.
- o) the viewpoint location plan is at such a small scale that it is difficult to determine the exact location of the viewpoints. Coordinates are provided for the viewpoints but a more usable map would have been very helpful.

Regards

Steve

Steven Brereton
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From: Graeme Thorpe [mailto:Graeme.Thorpe@ribblevalley.gov.uk]

Sent: 06 December 2012 09:30

To: Brereton, Steven

Subject: Request for Consultation Responses

Importance: High

Morning Steve,

Hope you are well?

I am just e-mailing to request your views on the following applications that we have requested a formal consultation response on. In order of preference for response...

3/2012/0954/P - Lower Gazegill, Cross Lane, Rimington (27.1m to tip)

3/2012/1021/P - The Hills Farm, Higher Road, Longridge (34.5m to tip)

Thanks in advance,

Graeme

Graeme Thorpe BA (Hons) Dip TP MRTPI |

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