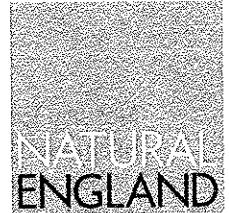
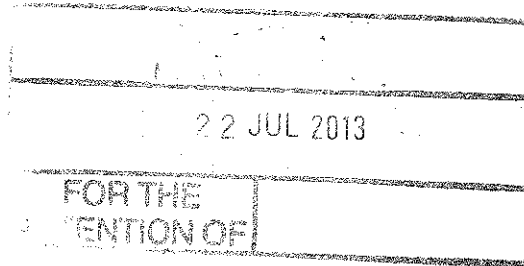


Date: 22 July 2013  
Our ref: 90224  
Your ref: 3/2013/0357



Mr Graeme Thorpe  
Ribble Valley Borough Council  
Council Offices  
Church Walk  
Clitheroe  
Lancashire  
BB7 2RA



Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

**BY EMAIL ONLY** [planning @ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk)

Dear Mr Thorpe

**Planning consultation:** Proposed Windturbine at Huntroyde Farm  
**Location:** Land north of Huntroyde Home Farm, Huntroyde West, Whins Lane, Simonstone.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 27 June 2013 which was received by Natural England on 27 June 2013.

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.

#### **WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (AS AMENDED)**

##### Designated Landscapes

This proposal is approximately 400 metres from the southern boundary of the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Following the response from the applicant to Natural England's earlier advice, reference 85446 , we have the following comments to make:.

##### a) the chosen viewpoints

The comments referring to a number of Local Authorities having adopted a 7km radius for visual impact does not provide us with sufficient evidence that this study area size is adequate to assess the visual impact of the turbine on the Forest of Bowland Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is important to note that applications in different locations will have different impacts due to topography, landscape character, levels of visibility, landscape tranquillity etc. Such a small radius means that the visual impact on elevated areas to the north and north west of the site, which have iconic viewpoints from the AONB and are a key characteristic of the protected landscape, is not being properly assessed. The limited radius used in the LVIA therefore fails to demonstrate that the visual effects of the development will not cause harm to the character of the AONB and its special qualities.

In relation to the statement 'the ZTVs clearly indicate that potential visibility to the north is limited, screened by the ridge of high land to the north of Sabden and Pendle Hill ' Natural England would like to see more evidence that this is the case. More viewpoints taken from a more northerly location would be appropriate in order to capture the true extent of the turbine's visual impact, as highlighted in our earlier response, dated 28 May 2013.

##### b) Addition of viewpoint 2a

Natural England welcomes the revision to the ZTV to include viewpoint 2a. We agree that the turbine would be partly screened by the coniferous woodland; however we are still concerned that further viewpoints have not been chosen further north and upslope from the turbine from which views will not be screened by the coniferous woodland.

c) Pendle Hill

Natural England still disagrees with the statement 'the ZTVs indicate limited visibility from the south-western faces of the hill' due to insufficient evidence to prove there is no possibility of the proposed turbine having a significant impact on views from Pendle Hill as outlined in our earlier response( reference 85446)

d) Viewpoint 3

Natural England are still of the same view that we consider the magnitude of change at VP3 to be 'medium' not low.

e) Character of the AONB

With regards to the comment 'the proposed turbine is located outside of the AONB', the proposed wind turbine is just approximately 400m outside of the AONB. Whilst the application lies outside of the AONB, it is within an area which forms part of the setting to the AONB. Natural England cannot support the conclusion 'the erection of a single turbine at Huntroyde Farm would not have a significant impact on the character of the AONB'. This is as a result of the shortcomings from the (LVIA) submitted with the application, as highlighted in our earlier response( reference 85446), with particular reference to the lack of further viewpoints not being chosen further north and upslope of the propose wind turbine and the true extent of the turbine's visual impact not being captured. It is also important to note that the cumulative impact of the proposed single wind turbine needs to be considered alongside the other existing and proposed wind turbines within its setting ie Copthurst and Hameldon Hil etc. when consider the impact on the character on the AONB.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Sally Maguire on 03000602110. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto: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

Sally Maguire  
Land Use Operations