

TO: DEBBY KLEIN, DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
FROM: JULIAN COTTON, ARCHAEOLOGY



PFM Rec Cond
**Herefordshire
Council**

DEVELOPMENT DETAILS

APPLICATION NO: **S121643/F**
DESCRIPTION: **50 kw wind turbine**
SITE: **Pentwyn Farm, Dorstone, Herefordshire HR3 6AD**
PARISH: **Dorstone**
GRID REF: **OS 329153 242256**
MEMO REF: **b121643s1**
DATE OF MEMO: **09/08/12**

APPRAISAL OF PROPOSAL AND SITE

The development will involve the construction of a single medium-sized turbine and associated infrastructure, based downslope from Pentwyn Hill.

The development site is clearly within a *broad area* of archaeological sensitivity. A number of significant prehistoric remains, some still upstanding, are present in the surrounding landscape. The most celebrated of these, Arthur's Stone Neolithic monument, is c..2.5 km distant to the east. There is also medieval interest in this area, with (for instance) the sites of Dorstone castle and Mynyddbrydd / Nant-y-Bar mottes within some 2 km of the proposed development.

However, it is my view that the nature and siting of this particular turbine and its associated works is acceptable, and can be mitigated. The positioning of the turbine avoids obvious impacts on the historic environment, and the associated works are located in areas of comparatively low potential. I do not therefore consider that the development is likely to lead to substantial harm to Arthur's Stone, Dorstone Castle, or indeed other significant heritage assets with archaeological interest.

For future reference it should be emphasised that whilst this specific application may on balance be regarded as allowable in archaeological terms, larger, less appropriately sited wind power developments in the region may not be.

ADVICE REGARDING PROPOSAL

Having regard to relevant policy and best practice (in particular but not limited to **Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012 [NPPF]**) and 'saved' policies in **Section 9 of the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan 2007**, I would therefore advise the following:

The proposal is broadly permissible, but the developers should nevertheless be required by standard condition to record and advance understanding of the significance of *any* heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make their evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. This requirement would be by means of a precautionary archaeological watching brief during any development ground-works.

In this regard, I would advise Herefordshire Council's **standard archaeological condition E01**

JC

JULIAN COTTON, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISOR, HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL