

Date: 04 November 2013
Our ref: 97863
Your ref: 132364



R Jenman
Herefordshire Council

BY EMAIL ONLY

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

T 0300 060 3900

Dear R Jenman

Planning consultation: Installation of a 3 kWp solar photovoltaic micro-generator system mounted onto 3 steel frames with 4 panels on each frame

Location: Biblins Lodge, The Doward, Whitchurch, HR9 6DX

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 September 2013 which was received by Natural England on the same date, and for undertaking a Habitat Regulations Assessment screening which was received by Natural England on 29 October 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.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

No objection

This application is adjacent to the Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and in close proximity to the River Wye SAC. Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has screened the proposal to check for the likelihood of significant effects. Your assessment concludes that the proposal can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)

No objection – no conditions requested

This application is in close proximity to Upper Wye Gorge SSSI and the River Wye SSSI. Natural England is satisfied that the proposed development being carried out in strict accordance with the details of the application, as submitted, will not damage or destroy the interest features for which the site has been notified. We therefore advise your authority that this SSSI does not represent a constraint in determining this application. Should the details of this application change, Natural England draws your attention to Section 28(1) of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), requiring your authority to re-consult Natural England.

Protected species

If the LPA is aware of, or representations from other parties highlight the possible presence of a protected or priority species on the site, the authority should request survey information from the

applicant before determining the application. The Government has provided advice¹ on priority and protected species and their consideration in the planning system.

[Natural England Standing Advice for Protected Species](#) is available on our website to help local planning authorities better understand the impact of development on protected or priority species should they be identified as an issue at particular developments. This also sets out when, following receipt of survey information, the authority should undertake further consultation with Natural England.

Other advice

We would expect the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to assess and consider the other possible impacts resulting from this proposal on the following when determining this application:

- local sites (biodiversity and geodiversity)
- local landscape character
- local or national biodiversity priority habitats and species.

Natural England does not hold locally specific information relating to the above. These remain material considerations in the determination of this planning application and we recommend that you seek further information from the appropriate bodies (which may include the local records centre, your local wildlife trust, local geoconservation group or other recording society and a local landscape characterisation) in order to ensure the LPA has sufficient information to fully understand the impact of the proposal before it determines the application. A more comprehensive list of local groups can be found at [Wildlife and Countryside link](#).

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 Hayley Fleming on 0300 060 1594. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to 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

Hayley Fleming
Land Use Operations (Worcester)

¹ Paragraph 98 and 99 of ODPM Circular 06/2005