

Klein, Debby

From: Symons, Bridgit
Sent: 03 September 2012 10:24
To: Klein, Debby
Subject: Pentwyn Farm, Dorstone S121643/F

Dear Debby,

Further to my email of the 8th August, I visited the site last week. I have seen the comments from objectors to this application voicing concerns about the ecological assessment of the site as well as the impact of the wind turbine on the local ecology. I have also seen the response of Dr Knight to the concerns raised.

I offer the following further comments:

The ecological survey was undertaken at an appropriate time of year by Dr John Knight, who is an experienced and competent ecologist. Further surveys for great crested newts would have been required if any ponds and/or hedgerows (or other suitable great crested newt terrestrial habitats) were to be affected by these proposals. As this is not the case, it would be unreasonable to expect additional survey information. If dormice are present in any of the hedgerows, again they will not be affected as no hedgerow disturbance is proposed. The bat survey information gathered in May indicates a low level of use of the site by a common species. The turbine is to be sited in accordance with NE guidance, away from hedgerow corridors that provide suitable foraging and/or commuting habitat; NE recommends that surveys are not required if this guidance can be complied with.

If this application is to be approved, it may be appropriate to impose a planning condition for habitat enhancement. This could include:

- gapping up of hedgerows away from the proposed turbine field to improve habitat connectivity
- installation of stock-proof fencing on some hedgerows to protect from sheep-grazing
- removal of some of the shade from the ponds to increase light levels reaching the water

The application would then be in accordance with UDP Policies NC1, NC6 and NC7.

I hope this is of help – let me know if you need anything further.

Bridgit

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