



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
HAMPSHIRE

CPRE Hampshire
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Mr Andrew Pegram
Development Control Manager
Isle of Wight Council
Seaclose Offices,
Fairlee Road
Newport,
Isle of Wight
PO30 2QS.

19 July 2006

Dear Mr Pegram,

TCP/27774 – P/01400/06

Land south of Wellow/east of Holmfield avenue/west of Stoneovers and off Broad Lane, Shalcombe, Yarmouth: proposed wind turbine generating station comprising 4 turbines 59m hub height and 100m overall height (tip height) and 2 turbines 68.5m hub height and 109.5m overall height (tip height) (total of 6 turbines) with associated infrastructure to include 59m high (approx) meteorological mast, crane pads, switching station, underground cables, temporary construction compound, parking bay and new access off Broad Lane.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) exists to promote a beautiful, tranquil and diverse countryside that everyone can value and enjoy: a working countryside that contributes to quality of life, as well as providing us with crucial natural resources, including food. We wish to see the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country. The countryside, including its villages and towns is ever changing, but we strive to ensure that change and development respect the character of England's natural and built landscapes, enhancing the environment for the enjoyment and benefit of all.

CPRE Hampshire is one of 43 County Branches of national CPRE. It applies national CPRE aims, objectives, policy and campaigns within the geographical county of Hampshire. CPRE Hampshire is an autonomous charity, with nearly 2000 members and over 100 active volunteers.

CPRE Hampshire has an Executive Committee of Trustees made up of two representatives from each of seven District Groups, and a Branch Planning group made up of one representative from each District Group specialising in planning matters. Consultation on the above planning application has taken place within the Executive Committee and the Branch Planning Group.

CPRE Position on Onshore Wind Turbines

CPRE believes that climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions is a major threat to the global environment and to the character and quality of England's countryside. We therefore campaign for urgent reductions in energy consumption. We recognise too the

the need for improved energy efficiency and the need to exploit the potential of a range of renewable resources, including wind power, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

However, the visual impact of large wind turbines can be a form of pollution that damages the landscape. Decisions on the location and scale of wind power development should therefore avoid damaging valued rural landscapes, and not only those that are designated National Parks or AONBs. We will strongly resist those that damage the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of the English countryside.

Landscape impact of the proposal

The landscape of the West Wight is one of the most valued features of the area, well away from industrial and commercial developments elsewhere on the Island. It is clearly visible from the western Solent, New Forest coastline, parts of the New Forest National Park, and some of the high ground behind Fareham and Portsmouth. From these viewpoints the very largely unspoilt aspect of the Isle of Wight is an essential part of the beauty and tranquillity of the scene, and much enjoyed by residents of Hampshire in these areas, visitors to these areas, and those making recreational use of the Western Solent.

The sheer quality and sensitivity of the coast and countryside of the West Wight peninsular, which is the essential element of the unspoilt aspect of the Isle of Wight from Hampshire and the Solent already referred to, is very well illustrated by the fact that it includes large Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Tennyson Heritage Coast, the Newtown National Nature Reserve, the Hamstead Heritage Coast, the Western Yar Estuary, and the Needles headland. Crucially, the application site at Wellow is bounded by AONB on three sides, including the visually important ridge of East Afton Down and Shalcombe Down, which, from the Tennyson Trail, looks directly across the site at Wellow to the Solent and the Hampshire coast beyond.

Attracted by the high scenic and landscape qualities, many residents of Hampshire use the West Wight peninsular for informal and quiet recreation, and the Solent and West Wight coastline for recreational sailing.

The introduction into this highly sensitive area of the proposed structures (including the proposed meteorological lattice tower) would have a very significant adverse visual impact on views within the countryside of the West Wight peninsular (including from the AONBs and the nationally treasured Tennyson Trail) and from the waters of the western Solent (which is a proposed Maritime National Park).

On views from southern Hampshire, whilst the scale of visual impact would be less significant due to the greater distance, these man made and essentially urban structures would introduce a highly intrusive feature into an essentially tranquil outlook over the Isle of Wight; and so would have an adverse visual impact on these views beyond that implied by their height and scale, and an adverse impact on the New Forest National Park contrary to the statutory purposes of a national park.

Accordingly, CPRE Hampshire strongly OBJECTS to the application on grounds of visual impact on views from southern Hampshire and parts of the New Forest National Park, and visual impact on the western Solent and the Western Wight peninsular

Yours sincerely



Christopher Napier

CPRE Hampshire Planning Group