

**From:** Robert Mayhew  
**Sent:** 15 December 2014 17:11  
**To:** DC Consultation  
**Subject:** RE: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0096 Cottonshope Farm, Otterburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE19 1TF

Chris,

14NP0096 - Erection of 6KW Kingspan Wind Turbine on 9 metre mast at Cottonshope Farm, Otterburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE19 1TF.

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I wish to make the following comments on the potential landscape, lighting and tree implications associated with this proposed development.

- o From a landscape perspective the nearest publically accessible receptor sites for this proposed development are Rochester public bridleway 8, Rochester Footpaths 5, 32 and 41. It should also be noted that permissive public use of the Cottonshope road through to Chew Green exists on non firing days and this is managed by the MoD. Of these receptor sites, Rochester footpath 32 forms part of the Pennine Way National Trail but lies just over a kilometre to the north west. It is significantly higher than the application site therefore looks down on to the Cottonshope farmstead with the current and proposed turbines being set against a landscape backdrop rather than breaking the skyline. Bridleway 8 and footpath 41 lie within the MoD Otterburn Ranges and are subject to the Otterburn Byelaws that restrict public use during firing times for approximately 290 days a year. Footpath 41 again is approximately 1 kilometre away to the south west but bridleway 8 co-exists with the MOD maintained road and passes within 10 metres of the application site.

My main concern with respect to this proposed development is that the location for the turbine lies on the corner of two long stretched of road and users of the Cottonshope road will have their eye drawn to the structure as it would lie directly in line of sight. However, due to the location, for most of the time, particularly at distance, the turbine would be set against a landscape backdrop rather than breaking the skyline. The exception to this is when driving in a northerly direction and on crossing a cattle grid approximately 300 metres south of the application site, the turbine would break the skyline directly in front of you as the road climbs to the farm entrance.

I believe that from a landscape perspective, the turbine would have less of an effect upon the landscape character and views if it were set in the field just to the east of the farmhouse. It would be less likely to catch the eye and less likely to break the unfettered skyline. However, considering the application provided, I note the proposal to use the lowest tower available for this turbine type, the proposal to paint the tower green and also the turbine's proximity to both adjacent farm buildings, silage store and presence of an existing turbine at Cottonshope farm.

On balance, I do not believe that this proposed development will have a significant effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park.

- o I understand from the application form that the proposed development does not require any new external lighting thus the dark skies status of the National Park should not be threatened by an increase in light pollution as a result of this application.

- o The applicant has indicated and a site visit confirmed that the proposed development will not directly affect any trees and as such I do not believe that a tree survey and tree protection measures are required in this case.

I have no objections to application, however, I would like to make the following recommendation.

**Recommendation:** Should this structure be non-functional or cease to operate for a continuous period of 6 months or more, it should be removed from the landscape along with all the ancillary equipment and structures.

If you have any questions in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

regards

-----Original Message-----

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 19 November 2014 09:40

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0096 Cottonshope Farm, Otterburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE19 1TF

Please see the attached consultation regarding a planning application which has been received by Northumberland National Park Authority. Full details can be viewed at <http://nnpa.planning-register.co.uk/planningAppDisplay.aspx?AppNo=14NP0096>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

Tel: (x)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer

Tel: [REDACTED]

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