

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 15 December 2014 17:56
To: DC Consultation
Subject: RE: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0094 Linacres, Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3DP

Chris,

14NP0094 - Proposed installation of a single solar tracker with 36 no. photovoltaic panels to generate electricity at Linacres, Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3DP.

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 Wark Byway Open to All Traffic 63, Wark bridleways 53, 93, and Wark Footpath 55. Wark forest, managed by the Forestry Commission lies just over 400 metres to the west and has been designated as 'Access Land'. Of these receptor sites, Wark footpath 55 forms part of the Pennine Way National Trail and lies 250 metres to the south east.

My main concern with respect to this proposed development is that at 8 metres high and 9 metres wide, the solar tracking array is a large piece of infrastructure that is out of keeping with the agricultural farmland setting that has been identified for this project. The proposed location is set out with the curtilage of the farm buildings and it will be visually prominent in the landscape for users of Bridleway 93 that passes less than 10 metres from the proposed structure. Whilst there is a large agricultural shed located at Linacres farm, the array is not in keeping with the landscape character of this area. Views of the structure would also be gained by users of bridleway 53 that runs along the forest edge to the west although it is accepted that views from the east from BOAT 63 and the Pennine Way will largely be screened by the existing agricultural buildings and nearby trees.

On balance I believe that this proposed development will have a significant effect upon the landscape character and 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 that the proposed development will not directly affect any trees. However, a site visit ascertained that whilst the PV array will not affect nearby trees, the line of the proposed cable run lies outside but within the root protection zone of a group of trees within a woodland to the south of the application site. I would advocate that, should permission be granted, the cable trench should either be hand dug around any significant roots encountered in this area or that the line of the cable is moved out with the root protection zone of these trees so that no damage is sustained.

I can confirm that I do object to this application for the reasons identified but if you have any questions in relation to the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

regards

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

From: DC Consultation

Sent: 10 November 2014 17:29

To: Robert Mayhew

Subject: Planning Application Consultation 14NP0094 Linacres, Wark, Hexham, Northumberland, NE48 3DP

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=14NP0094>

DC Consultation, Development Control Consultation

Tel: (x)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer

Tel: [REDACTED]

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