

From: [Laura Garth](#)
To: [Laura Garth](#)
Subject: FW: 16NP0126 - Planning application for biomass boiler at Grindon Farm
Date: 13 January 2017 09:48:19

From: Robert Mayhew
Sent: 12 January 2017 17:07
To: Rebecca Adams
Cc: Susannah Buyla
Subject: RE: 16NP0126 - Planning application for biomass boiler at Grindon Farm

Dear Rebecca,

Application 16NP0126 - Siting of a Biomass Boiler incorporating 8m high flue and Drying Room. Creation of an associated area of hardstanding and new access at Land North of Grindon Farm, Haydon Bridge, Hexham, Northumberland, NE47 6NQ

Thank you for consulting me on the above application. I would like to make the following observations with respect to the possible landscape, Dark Sky Park and Tree/hedgerow implications of this application within the National Park.

From a landscape perspective the proposal to construct the biomass boiler, drying room and associated hard standing is set within an existing Scots Pine copse and adjacent to what looks like a redundant silage clamp. Whilst at the periphery of the farmstead, I would regard the proposal as being associated with the curtilage of the existing farmstead. The site is set within the Tyne Gap and Hadrian's Wall National Character Area and more specifically, Grindon Common Landscape Character Area and as such, one of the factors for consideration relates to possible cluttering of the sky line.

Grindon Farm is set atop one of the cuesta ridges found running parallel to and to the south of the Whin Sill outcrop. When viewed from the north say from the Military Road, a key receptor site used by numerous tourists throughout the year, the proposed development would largely be screened by the existing conifer shelterbelt located immediately to the north. However, it is worth remembering that this shelter belt would need to be felled at some point in the future else it would be prone to windthrow so the screening effect of this shelterbelt will only be temporary. The proposed 8 metre high flue is likely to be the most visually prominent feature of this development and will almost certainly break the sky line when viewed from receptor sites to the north, west and south but irrespective of whether the existing woodland shelterbelt remains in situ or is felled, would sit alongside the wooden poles of an existing electricity line that stand approximately seven meters high themselves. On balance, I therefore conclude that the proposed development would not have a significant detrimental effect upon the landscape character or views of this part of the National Park. However, I do believe that it is reasonable to presume that the adjacent conifer shelter belt is likely to be felled during the lifetime of this proposed development and as such would recommend that the boiler and drying room are painted an olive green or earthy brown colour rather than the blue depicted within the manufactures broacher. This would minimise the visual effect of this development when viewed from the adjacent public road as and when the existing woodland screen is felled.

With respect to the impact upon the Dark Sky Park status of the National Park, I note that the

lighting question within the application form has been left blank. I do not believe that there would be any implications with respect to possible external lighting arising from the boiler or the drying room itself but was wondering whether the associated hard standing might acquire some external flood lighting to permit the intended use, especially during the winter months. I only mention this due to the presence of an existing flood light being used to light the adjacent silage clamp area that does not meet the requirements set out within the National Park Lighting Master Plan. I would recommend including a condition that ensures any future need for external lighting associated with this development is Dark Skies compliant given the sensitive nature of this location.

Finally, with respect to the tree implications of this application, whilst an area of woodland is proposed to be felled to enable this development to take place, I do not regard the Scots pine affected to be significant or notable in nature. Good practice would suggest that an equivalent area of trees lost as a result of this application should be replanted elsewhere on the farm but I understand that this is not a matter that can be stipulated under planning law.

In summary, I do not intend to object to this application but would request that the colour and possible future erection of external lighting associated with this development are addressed by use of appropriate conditions should this development be given approval.

If you have any questions with respect to the comments made above please do not hesitate to get back in touch.

regards

From: Rebecca Adams
Sent: 03 January 2017 14:00
To: Robert Mayhew
Subject: 16NP0126 - Planning application for biomass boiler at Grindon Farm

Hi Rob,

We have received a planning application for a biomass boiler and drying container at Grindon Farm, Haydon Bridge (see website for info here:- <http://nnpa.planning-register.co.uk/plaPlanningAppDisplay.aspx?AppNo=16NP0126>) which I have consulted with you on because of the proposed 8m high boiler flue and the location of the site within the Hadrian's Wall WHS. I appreciate that the consultation period largely ran over the Christmas holidays however I would greatly appreciate your comments asap in order to get a steer on the acceptability of the scheme.

I also recall that you borrowed a yellow hard hat from us before Christmas- if you're done with it please could you return it.

Thanks,

Rebecca

Rebecca Adams, Planning Officer
Tel: 01434 611552 (x278)

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Robert Mayhew, Landscape and Forestry Officer
Tel: 01434 611539 (x277)

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Rebecca Adams, Planning Officer
Tel: 01434 611552 (x278)

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Laura Garth, Planning Technical Officer
Tel: 01434 611545 (x229)

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