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Your ref: PP-02400083
Our ref: 13/00753/FULLN
Date: 20th June 2014

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, ORDERS AND REGULATIONS

NOTICE OF REFUSAL

APPLICATION NO: 13/00753/FULLN
PROPOSAL: Construction of a wind farm development comprising of Test Valley Borough Council (case no.13/00753/FULLN) for 3 wind turbines up to 126.5m in height to blade tip, ancillary equipment, external transformers, foundations, crane hardstandings, access tracks, cable trenches, in conjunction with planning applications to Winchester City Council (case no.13/00800/FUL) for 7 wind turbines, ancillary equipment, site access, external transformers, foundations, crane hardstandings, access tracks, cable trenches, anemometry mast, control building and temporary construction compound, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (case no. 13/00046/FUL) for 4 wind turbines, ancillary equipment, external transformers, foundations, crane hardstandings, access tracks, cable trenches, as part of a single wind farm of 14 wind turbines for an operational period of 25 years
LOCATION: Land At Bullington Cross , Upper Norton Farm, Sutton Scotney, Hampshire
DATE REGISTERED: 25.04.2013

In pursuance of its powers under the above mentioned Act the Council, as local planning authority, hereby refuses to grant planning permission for the above development.

Refused Plans:

Details - Plan Ref no. SEI VOL 2A FIGURES PT 1 - 29/11/13

Details - Plan Ref no. SEI VOL 2A FIGURES PT 2 - 29/11/13

Details - Plan Ref no. SEI VOL 2B APPENDICES PT 2 - 29/11/13

Details - Plan Ref no. ADDITIONAL UPDATED PLANNING STAT - 29/11/13

Details - Plan Ref no. ADDITIONAL ECOLOGY INFO SLR - Version REV 2 JUNE 2014 - 10/06/14
Details - Plan Ref no. DRAINAGE STRATEGY - 04/07/13
Details - Plan Ref no. PLANNING STATEMENT - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. STATEMENT OF RESIDENTIAL AMENITY - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. ES, VOLUME 1 NON-TECHNICAL - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. ES, VOLUME 2 MAIN REPORT - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. ES, VOLUME 3A FIGURES - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. ES, VOLUME 3B APPENDICES, PART 1 - 08/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. ES, VOLUME 3B, APPENDICES, PART 2 - 08/04/13
Site Location Plan - Plan Ref no. 31097/35939.0 - 10/04/13
Composite Plan - Plan Ref no. FIGURE_3.4A - 11/04/13
Details - Plan Ref no. FIGURE_3.3A - 11/04/13
Proposed Elevations - Plan Ref no. FIGURE_3.1A - 11/04/13
Site Layout - Plan Ref no. 701 - 25/04/13
Site Layout - Plan Ref no. 700 - 25/04/13

The local planning authority has refused the application for the following reason(s):

01. The proposed development would result in the introduction of an extremely tall, incongruous and industrial presence into the countryside. Along with the tall height of the structures, the rotating blades would create visual disturbance into this largely undeveloped countryside which also contributes positively to the setting of a number of designated and undesignated heritage assets and would result in these major structures dominating the view from many points in Test Valley having a detrimental impact to both visual amenity and landscape character in views from the PROW network and the highway network within Test Valley. Therefore the proposals are contrary to Chapter 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework; National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3 and Policy DES 01 of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan 2006. Additionally, as the development has an impact on land outside the district Saved Policies E1, E6 and A6 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2006 - 2011) and policies CP19 and CP20 of the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 2013.
02. The proposed development would result in unacceptable harm to the purposes and special qualities of the North Wessex Downs AONB. The proposals would not conserve or enhance the particular qualities of these areas and would have a detrimental impact on the landscape setting of these areas and on the views out from these areas. In addition, and for the same reasons, the development would result in an unacceptable cumulative impact when taking into account the wind turbine proposals at Woodmancott. The development is therefore considered as contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework paragraphs 113 and 115, National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3 and policy DES01 and ENV07 of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan. Additionally, as the development has an impact on land outside the district Saved Policies E1, E6 and A6 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2006 - 2011) and policies CP19 and CP20 of the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 2013.

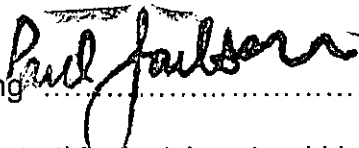
03. The proposed development by virtue of its design, scale and location would fail to preserve the architectural and historic setting of designated heritage assets within Test Valley. The closest and most affected designated heritage assets are Bullington House (Grade II), Firgo Farm (Grade II), St. Michaels Church, Bullington (Grade II*), Barton Stacey Conservation Area and Tidbury Ring (SAM). The proposed development would have an adverse impact on their settings which are an aspect of their significance. As such the proposals do not comply with S.66 and S.72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 or with policy ENV17 of the Test Valley Borough Local Plan and contrary to Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework.
04. Insufficient information has been provided to enable the Local Planning Authority to properly assess the impacts of the proposal on European protected species (bats and hazel dormouse) and their breeding and resting places, or to demonstrate that measures to be implemented to avoid, mitigate or compensate for impacts are appropriate to the impacts and deliverable. Insufficient information has been provided to assess impacts to priority habitats, or to demonstrate that measures to avoid, mitigate or compensate for impacts to such habitats are appropriate to the impacts and deliverable. The application is therefore contrary to policies ENV01 and ENV05 of the Test Valley Local Plan, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) As the development has an impact on land outside the borough Policy CP16 of the Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 2013 and Saved Policy E7 of the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan (2006 - 2011).
05. The proposed wind farm by reason of its location, number and height of turbines would pose an unacceptable additional hazard to military aircraft, particularly helicopters, within an area of relatively congested aviation activity which is a designated MOD low flying training area where regular low level restricted landing manoeuvres are practiced by Chinook and other rotary wing aircraft. Relocation of such training facilities within the area, so as to avoid the wind farm, is not practicable due to other restrictions and the development would thus undesirably prejudice aviation safety or continued use of such operational training facilities contrary to national interests and guidance in National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.
06. The proposed wind farm by reason of its location, number and height of turbines would be likely to adversely impact the operations of the Chilbolton Observatory Advanced Meteorological Radar which supports national meteorological research, including in regard to climate change and extreme weather event prediction. The turbines would partially encroach into the radar scan view leading to data corruption prejudicial to the observatory's provision of data for national academic research. The development would therefore be contrary to national and local planning objectives for the safeguarding of nationally important infrastructure in National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.
07. Insufficient information has been provided to demonstrate that there will be an acceptable impact on the safety of operations at Lasham Airfield from the proposed development or that mitigation can create an acceptable impact. As such the application is considered contrary to National Policy Statements EN-1 and EN-3.

Note(s) to applicant:

01. The Local Planning Authorities have taken account of the following development plan policies and proposals:-
Winchester District Local Plan Part 1 (Adopted 20 March 2013):
DS1; MTRA4, CP12; CP16; CP19; CP20;
Winchester District Local Plan Review 2006 (Saved Policies):
DP3; DP4; DP11; T2;
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Local Plan Review 1996-2011 (Saved Policies)
Test Valley Borough Local Plan 2006 (Saved Policies) SET03, HAZ06, ENV17, ESN32, ENV01, ENV05, AME04.
02. In accordance with paragraphs 186 and 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in dealing with this application, the Council's have worked with the applicant in the following positive and proactive manner:-
offering a pre-application advice;
working collaboratively with colleagues in adjoining authorities;
seeking further information following receipt of the application;
considering the imposition of conditions and or the completion of a s.106 legal agreement.
In this instance:
the applicant was updated of any issues through meetings and emails;
In such ways the Council's have demonstrated a positive and proactive manner in seeking solutions to problems arising in relation to the planning application.

Paul Jackson

Head of Planning and Building



20 JUN 2014

Date:

All enquiries relating to this decision should be made to the above address.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are strongly advised to carefully read the attached notes.