

Dear Tina,

APP/16/00313 | Erection of 4No. 18m high small scale free standing columns mounted vertical axis wind turbines. | 4 Penner Road, Havant, PO9 1QH 16.0700

Thank you for consulting me on this application. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you. In summary, insufficient information has been provided to allow a robust assessment of the ecological impacts.

The submitted Environmental Impact Statement (SSE, May 2016) has clearly not been compiled using expert ecological advice and as such falls far short of what is to be expected. The land immediately adjacent to the proposed turbines regularly supports numbers of several wintering bird species associated with the nearby European designated sites (Chichester & Langstone Harbours SPA/Ramsar) and as such there is clearly potential for impacts to those bird species (primarily through bird strike but also general disturbance) and, by default, the European sites.

Overall, the potential ecological constraints have not been addressed in a robust manner and therefore further information is required. I would strongly recommend that the applicant seeks professional ecological advice. I note that Natural England, the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the RSPB have also raised concerns.

NPPF, Circular 06/2005 and Natural England Standing Advice on Protected Species, require that planning decisions are based on full, up-to-date ecological information and it is essential that all necessary survey, assessment and mitigation information is available to the LPA prior to determination, particularly in the case of protected habitats and species, which are a material planning consideration. This will enable the LPA to determine the application on the basis of full knowledge about the ecological impacts of the proposal and to ensure that any impacts can and will be mitigated, and are acceptable.

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

**Senior Ecologist
Ecology Team**

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