

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009  
Our ref: WM281 & WM542  
Your ref: DCNW2008/1289/F



Mr P Mullineux  
Herefordshire Council  
PO Box 230  
Hereford  
HR1 2ZB

Block B  
Government Buildings  
Whittington Road  
WORCESTER  
WR5 2LQ

Dear Mr Mullineux,

**Planning application: DCNW2008/1289/F**

**Description: Proposed erection and operation of 4 wind turbines and associated access track, hardstanding and substation building.**

**Location: Reeves Hill, Reeves Lane, near Knighton, Herefordshire.**

Natural England is the statutory body set up to conserve, enhance and manage the natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations. We work for people, places and nature, to enhance biodiversity, geology, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promote access, recreation and public well-being; and contribute to the way natural resources are managed so that they can be enjoyed now and in the future.

As you are aware, Natural England had objected to this application due to the unmitigated and uncompensated significant impact on the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, as identified in the Environmental Statement accompanying this application.

The *Town and County Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1999* to which this application is subject requires an Environmental Statement to include “*A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment*”. It was our considered opinion that this requirement had not been met.

Given the nature of wind turbines, mitigating (preventing and reducing) their impacts on the landscape is clearly not possible. However, taking into account the spatially limited extent of significant impacts upon the AONB it is our opinion that in this particular case, compensation to offset impacts would be appropriate. We therefore suggested in our responses dated 25/07/2008 and 13/11/2008 that the applicant considered ways to compensate for this impact.

We understand from your email correspondence dated 22/01/2009 that the applicant has agreed to pay the sum of £10,000 per annum for ten years and £5000 for a further four years into a landscape enhancement fund. Local groups within the area experiencing the identified significant impact on landscape could apply for grants to carry out landscape enhancement works, thus compensating for the impact.

We therefore conclude that our reason for objection has been dealt with and we now **withdraw our objection**.

Should you wish to discuss this further with Natural England, please contact our local officer responsible for this case, Hayley Pankhurst on tel: 01905 362923 or email: [hayley.pankhurst@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:hayley.pankhurst@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

**Rob Williams**

Manager: Regional Advocacy and Partnerships Team

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Natural England is here to conserve and enhance the natural environment, for its intrinsic value, the well-being and enjoyment of people and the economic prosperity that it brings.