

CPRW BRECON & RADNOR PoE ECOLOGY & SAC

HENDY WIND FARM – SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLE APPLICATION DOCUMENTS (ECOLOGY) & SUMMARY OF MAIN ELEMENTS OF DEVELOPMENT

There is a strong relation between the ecological and hydrological impacts of the proposal although there are possible hydrological impacts on additional receptors and the operating turbines have ecological impacts independent of hydrological changes.

The impacts result from:

1. disturbance during construction of the extensive infrastructure, including turbine bases, including earthworks, quarrying, culvert construction, vehicle movements.
2. the impacts of the extensive infrastructure through land-take, loss of habitat and possible altered hydrological regimes
3. the impacts of the operating turbines, particularly on birds and bats.

The documents

The developer provided an Environmental Statement including:

Non-Technical Summary

Section 3 Project Description

Section 7 Ecology

Section 10 Hydrology

Technical Appendices

7.1 Ecological Evaluation Criteria

7.2 Ecology Desk Study

7.3 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Target Notes

7.4 Vantage Point Recording Sheet Summary

7.4 Bat Survey Report

7.5 Great Crested Newt Habitat Suitability Index

There is no Technical Appendix 10 on Hydrology available.

The principle Ecological objections were from:

PCC Ecologist (Hannah Powell)

Natural Resources Wales (Caroline Moscrop)

Radnorshire Wildlife Trust (Julian Jones, Director, and Katie Gaisford)

County Bird Recorder, author of Birds of Radnorshire (Peter Jennings)

The developer's agent wrote 23.3.15 in response (AP135) and submitted:

Appendix A: revised Birds VP summary (AP136)

Appendix B: reptile survey area map (AP137)

Appendix C: HRA screening report (AP138)

Responses confirming withdrawal of objections:

NRW (Angharad Wyn Crump: 18.12.15)

PCC Ecologist (Rachel Probert)

PCC response to HRA screening for Wye SAC (7.4.17)

re various objections raised by Hannah Powell (7.4.17)

re SSSIs not included in ES (17.4.17)

re golden plover (19.4.17)

Late objections prior to Planning Committee Meeting on 27.4.17:

Brecon and Radnor Branch of CPRW (24.4.17)

RWT (Director Julian Jones 25.4.18)

Summary of the Development

The Development requires:

Turbines (30m micrositing sought)

7 x 110m, 69m hub height, turbines at specified OS locations (but 30m micrositing sought).

Over 5km electrical cables buried 0.8m to 1.2m, deep adjacent to tracks where possible.

7 x 16m diameter turbine foundations

Access (20m micro-siting sought)

new entrance off A44 and track to U1574 Pye Corner (length unknown: 250m?)

track from Pye corner westwards along BOAT upgraded for turbine transport (approx. 1km)

Modification to U1574

new entrance off A44 opposite Larch Grove using existing track for commoners (which crosses a bridleway) upgraded for construction related traffic (approx. 1.7km)

Tracks to turbines on site, minimum 4.5m wide, (approx. 3.3km.)

existing track to quarry: presumably needs upgrading (and culverts) for transport of approx. 23,530m³ stone.

main culverts x 6 (excluding track to quarry which should require additional culverting)

Other Infrastructure

Electrical substation (40x20m) and control building (10x25m)

together in a fenced compound with welfare facilities for staff during operation, floodlights, and parking area (no dimensions given)

construction works compound (20x30m)

turning places (no dimensions)

crane pads (circa 28 x 40m) ES 3.3.5

grid connection

new overhead 66Kv line from site to S of Llandrindod Wells.

Fig1.2.1 shows the site is far from flat with the steepest gradient between T4 and T5 requiring a cut below existing ground level of 10 to 14m. Other areas require major cut or fill and some of the turbines, turning places and crane pads are not at ground level (e.g.T1 below, T7 above). The extent of cut and fill, and the impact this will have on the surrounding terrain and hydrology regime is difficult to appreciate from ES Figs 1.2.1 to 1.2.9 (one of which is upside down). This is particularly so because the chainage diagrams are of a different scale from the matchline sections above and so cannot be read off directly. It is impossible to know which

bits of hardstanding are referred to because there are turbine bases, crane pads, junctions and turning areas.

The culvert near T5 appears to be approx. 50m long. The culvert between T3 and T4 contains Nant Brook which flows into the further downstream at the limit of the Wye SAC 1km south of the site. Further south, Nant Brook is exposed to heavy traffic since there is a river crossing, probably involving side-streams, on the track to the quarry, marked as “ford” on the OS map. This may be a culvert which will require upgrading. There is no information about this track in the ES but AP143 shows that it has been offered on “Off-site Obligation Land” as a part of a more extensive recreational route. Most of the “alternative route” is designed to wiggle between the swept areas of the wind turbines but this southern extension is not connected to the rest. As far as we can make out from the red lines (because “*application areas*” cannot be distinguished from “*Alternative bridleway route*”), it rather bizarrely emanates from T3 and ends up in the quarry:

Plan attached to 106 correspondence (AP143)

