

Conservation Team Advice

Date: 3rd August 2026
Application Ref: SMD/2026/0326
Site Address: Padwick Farm, Bradshaw Lane, Ipstones
Proposal: Request for EIA Scoping Opinion - for the proposed development of a wind farm comprising eight turbines.

Conservation Advice

Assessment and Impact

The proposed scoping opinion would be situated to the southeast of Coombes Valley Nature Reserve.

Cultural Heritage – Scoping Methodology

The following heritage assets would be situated within the site location boundary:

- Padwick Farm – Grade II (listing ref: 1374610)
- Outfarm (field barn) – possible non-designated heritage asset (HER ref: MST17094)

The following heritage assets would be situated within close proximity of the boundary site:

- Milepost at SK029515 – Grade II (listing ref: 1374635)
- Sharpecliffe Hall – Grade II* (listing ref: 1374611)
- Gates, piers and entrance yard to SE of Sharpecliffe Hall – Grade II (listing ref: 1189003)
- Terrace Garden Walls to SW of Sharpecliffe Hall – Grade II (listing ref: 1038066)
- Clough Meadow Cottage – Grade II (listing ref: 1038047)
- Brown Edge Farmhouse – Grade II (listing ref: 1188969)
- Lower Lady Meadows Farmhouse – Grade II (listing ref: 1374610)
- Barn approx. 15m NE of Lower Lady Farmhouse – Grade II (listing ref: 1188993)
- Gazebo approx. 20m W of Whitehough – Grade II* (listing ref: 1374612)
- Sundial approx. 10m S of garden front of Whitehough – Grade II (listing ref: 1038068)
- Former stables 40m north of Whitehough – Grade II (listing ref: 1267827)
- Pigsties and bull pen adj to NW side of Whitehough – Grade II (listing ref: 1189017)
- Whitehough – Grade II* (listing ref: 1189010)
- Barn approx. 30m NE of Whitehough – Grade II (listing ref: 1038067)

The assessment scoping methodology for designated and non-designated heritage assets is outlined in par.4.5.18 - 4.5.21 in the 'Padwick Wind Farm – EIA Scoping Report'. Overall, we agree with the proposed scoping methodology of impacts on heritage assets, but will draw attention to Staffordshire Moorlands 'Local Heritage Register' which should also be taken into account in the desk-based assessment stage for non-designated heritage assets. The register will be updated on the Council's webpage: [Other 'heritage assets' within the Moorlands - Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#)

It is noted that possible heritage mitigation measures and residual effects are included in par.4.5.11 – 4.5.15, but consider it is not relevant to include this at this stage as the level of impact on heritage assets has not been assessed nor determined.

Visual Impact Assessment

The visual impact of the proposed development on the setting and significance of the designated and non-designated heritage assets will be a key consideration as part of any forthcoming proposed development. We, therefore, encourage a thorough visual impact assessment accompanies any forthcoming application.

Fig.4.3 outlines the zones of theoretical visibility and proposed viewpoint assessments for the proposed development. However, due to the large scale of the map included it is difficult to determine the precise locations of the proposed viewpoints for the visual impact assessment. Photographs of the viewpoints are included as an appendix to the Scoping Report (pg.116 onwards). Nevertheless, it would be suggested that a clearer and more detailed map is provided of these suggested viewpoints to ensure that a robust visual assessment is conducted.

Summary

In summary, we agree with the proposed scoping methodology for heritage assets outlined in the Scoping Report, however, suggest also consideration of the local heritage register as part of the desk-based assessment stage. As noted above, clearer information on the proposed Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and proposed viewpoint assessments would be required as the scale of mapping is too large to clearly illustrate viewpoint locations in relation to the site.

Conservation Officer: Megan Atkinson