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From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

[REDACTED]

Application Reference No. : SMD/2026/0326 Site Address: Padwick Farm Bradshaw Lane Ipstones Staffordshire ST13 7NN Leek Comments by: Gregory Coppenhall Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
From:

Stockwell Street
Staffordshire Moorlands
Leek

ST13 6HQ

Phone:

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Submission: Neither

Comments: There is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Combs Valley and ancient woodland located on the western boundary of the site, parts of the ancient woodland fall within the red edge boundary. It is unclear if the layout has been informed by existing arboricultural constraints and it is not possible to determine from the information available to me if the 15m buffer to the ancient woodland has been achieved in sitings that are close to the woodland. It appears that turbines WTG-03 and WTG-06 would not meet that buffer requirement.

The design should demonstrate that opportunities to avoid or reduce arboricultural impacts have been considered at the layout stage, including the selective positioning of wind turbines and associated infrastructure to avoid unnecessary tree and hedgerow removal and minimise encroachment into Root Protection Areas. It appears that WTG-03, WTG-06 and WTG-01 sitings would require the removal of a significant number of trees or would significantly compromise the root protection areas of woodlands surrounding them. It is appreciated that the layout may be informed from the perspective of reducing visual impact and whilst that is an important consideration, it may create an impact that would be arboricultural unacceptable.

Where ancient woodland is present within or adjacent to the site, the assessment should also consider the potential direct and indirect effects upon the woodland and its associated soils and rooting environment. A minimum 15 m buffer should be maintained between ancient woodland and development, with a greater stand-off considered where necessary having regard to the potential impacts due to nature and scale of the proposal.

Due to the presence of trees within and adjacent to the site it is necessary for the applicant to provide an Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement to support any future application.

An Arboricultural Impact Assessment should be submitted to demonstrate how the proposed development will affect existing trees and identify if any tree removal is required to facilitate the development.

For retained trees at the site, an Arboricultural Method Statement should also be provided to detail the measures and working methods required to protect and preserve retained trees on site.

Without these it is not possible to adequately assess the impact of the proposal on existing trees or determine whether appropriate mitigation against the harm of trees on site can be secured.

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