

Appendix no. 2

**Tree Protection Officer's consultation response to Planning Application
no: 10/00039/FUL**

Knagg, Maxine

From: Knagg, Maxine
Sent: 12 February 2010 12:54
To: dcoconsultation; Rehman, Jennifer
Subject: 10/00039/FUL - Lancaster University Wind farm

Application No. 10/00039/FUL
Site: Lancaster University, Bailrigg, Lancaster
Proposal; Erection of two wind turbines, access roads and associated buildings

I have reviewed the development proposals in relation to trees and my comments are as follows:

There are currently no TPO's of conservation area constraints affecting trees within or around the proposed development area.

The site in question is a long hilltop ridge approximately 23.5 hectares of farmland, including three old estate woodlands. The woodlands consist of two belts on either side of the ridge, together with a small hilltop copse to the northern boundary. There are also long stretches of mixed species hedgerow and individual field grown trees.

Motorway Wood (1.8 hectares); mixed species deciduous semi-ancient woodland, including oak, ash, wild cherry beech and silver birch.

Beck Wood (2.2 hectares); semi-natural woodland established along the course of the beck and understood to be growing on a former ancient woodland site. The woodland includes of sycamore, oak, ash, silver birch, hawthorn, blackthorn and alder.

North Copse (0.3 hectares approx.); established outside development site. Planted around an old pond site on a mound, includes veteran oak trees, ash, beech, sycamore, Scots pine and silver birch.

Mixed species hedgerow trees and 7x individual field grown trees; with the exception of T5 these trees are in remarkably good condition, many are large specimens and importantly are of veteran or potential veteran status. They have significant arboriculture and historic importance within the landscape.

The three woodland areas are important historic landscape, and arboriculture features. The trees are in good overall condition and include a number of important veteran trees. Clearly the woodlands are also important in ecological terms however, the ecology of the site will be considered in detail by Lancashire County Council Ecologist and Natural England.

The woodlands, hedgerows and field trees are by and large clearly visible landscape features. Trees and woodlands within the site and immediately 'off site' have important amenity value and as such should be retained and protected. It is the intention of Lancaster City Council to serve these woodland areas, and important field trees with respective tree preservation orders ensuring their protection in the short term.

T7 to the northern boundary of the site has been identified as of 'special interest'; it is a notable ancient tree with significant aesthetic and historic value.

The development proposals require the following tree removals:

To accommodate development of Turbine no.1 requires:

- i. removal of veteran/potential veteran field tree T3;
- ii. removal of 150m of veteran/potential veteran hedgerow trees, mixed species.

To accommodate development of Turbine no.2 requires:

- i. removal of 0.36 hectares Beck Wood; 271 trees, 5x holly bushes and 120 hedging; includes many veteran trees and hedges
- ii. removal of veteran/potential veteran field trees T1 & T2;

The location of Turbine 2 has the most severe implications for trees/hedgerow/woodland. It would require an amendment in its present location to eliminate these serious issues.

Recommendation

1. **Objection** - It is my view that the development proposals would result in the unacceptable loss of important mixed species woodland, hedgerows and field grown trees that have significant historic, and arboriculture value; value that if removed cannot be replaced within a single generation. The development proposal in its current format would adversely impact on the existing value of trees, woodlands and hedgerows and the wider landscape.
2. A tree protection plan must be agreed in writing in relation to trees/hedgerows/woodlands and in compliance to BS5837 (2005) Trees in relation to construction.
3. New planting would of course be an essential requirement with regard to any site development; a scheme would have to be submitted and agreed in writing to include quantity trees, species, size at planting, support systems and maintenance regime for a minimum period of 10 years post planting.

If you have any comments with regard to my comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards, Maxine

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