

10. Impact on ecology – Ornithology

With reference to the information “*Note on consultee responses to the Environmental Statement ornithology chapter*” from Dr Steve Percival dated 25th Sept 2014, clearly issues are still outstanding as noted below:

- It is indicated that a desk study will be undertaken to provide the information required by Natural England for the Swan Management Scheme. As far as we are aware this study has not yet been completed.
- It is not clear if the suggested meeting with Natural England, RSPB and WWT to discuss the Swan Management Scheme has taken place and if it has occurred what the proposed outcomes are.

11. Impact on highways

We note the additional highways information from the applicant and the comments from the Highways Authority, however the following points we believe are still issues unresolved:

- Construction traffic will leave the A14 at junction 26 and proceed to the site via the A1096 and A1123. This will involve skirting around St Ives and passing directly through the villages of Bluntisham and Earith. All the roads, apart from the section from the A14 to Needingworth, are narrow rural roads and the introduction of a considerable number of HGV vehicles and in particular the abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) associated with the turbine machinery will cause disruption to traffic locally.

12. Impact on residential amenity - Noise

An independent review of the Applicant's Noise Assessment was commissioned by East Cambs District Council to appraise the Applicant's submission. There are many issues, questions that have been raised a few of which are highlighted below:

- The overall integrity of the Applicant's background noise assessment has been independently questioned.
- The process of choosing monitoring sites was not transparent and the choice of sites was questioned. In particular TNEI considered that Parkes Farm should have been a monitoring location.
- The suitability of the placement of monitoring equipment at two of the three sites was questioned.
- The background noise monitoring location at 56 High Street was positioned adjacent to a watercourse, which rendered it unsuitable to be used as a proxy to determine background noise levels at other assessment areas.
- The main section of the TNEI report concludes with a number of recommendations to clarify data and assumptions made in the Applicant's Noise Assessment, including the selection of appropriate study receptors and data transparency.

As a minimum these recommendations must be completed prior to any Planning Decision to provide a solid and reliable assessment of the noise impacts of the development on the residents or that the noise data/details provided is clearly errored and therefore impacts the planning balance.

13. Impact on residential amenity – Wind data

Planning approval was given for an anemometer mast up to 61.5 metres (202 feet) in height, for a temporary period of 24 months in July 2014, however the mast erection was not started until the 28th March 2015 over a period of 15 days. However what was stated by the planning officer at the time of the approval of the mast was that ‘The proposed mast would provide measurements for the site to inform the design, output figures and CO2 saving for wind turbines that may be proposed at Berry Fen. Planning Practice Guidance states such information should form part of the consideration in determining applications for wind energy’. Clearly if the wind data from the mast is provided it will be for a minimal period.

14. Impact on residential amenity – living conditions – NPA Report

The council has noted the many issues/errors advised by NPA regarding the LUC report and would specifically highlight the following: