Thorn, Steve

From: Roberts, David
Sent: 06 May 2011 08:39
To: _planningadvice
Subject: FW: Treading Wind Farm ecology response
Attachments: 20110427 SHDC reponse final.docx
4 scanning pl

From: Eve Browning [mailto:eve.b@engena.co.uk]
Sent: 05 May 2011 15:25
To: Roberts, David
Cc: Robert Yaxley
Subject: Treading Wind Farm ecology response

Dear David,

Engena has noted the comments made by Mr. Jeff Goodley, Nature Conservation Officer at South Holland District Council about the Treading Wind Farm planning application and have asked Wild Frontier Ecology to provide a response. Please find it attached.

Regards,
Eve

Eve Browning
Project Manager

eve.b@engena.co.uk

Engena Limited
The Old Stables
Bosmere Hall
CREETING ST MARY
IP6 8LL

t: 01449 723205
f: 01449 723205
m: 07872 542065

w: http://www.engena.co.uk

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- 6 MAY 2011

Engena Limited Registered in England and Wales, Number: 5382184, registered address The Old Stables, Bosmere Hall, CREETING ST MARY, IP6 8LL

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE | Silver

engena

This email has been scanned by the MessageLabs Email Security System.

WILD FRONTIER ECOLOGY
Independent Ecological Consultants

Wild Frontier Ecology
Unit 2 Cold Blow Farm, New Road
Great Snoring, Fakenham, Norfolk
NR21 0HF

t: 01328 864633
w: wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk
e: info@wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk

Formatted: Left: 2.54 cm, Right: 2.54 cm, Header distance from edge: 0 cm, Footer distance from edge: 0 cm, Different first page

Date: 27th April 2011
Your Ref:
Our Ref:

Eve Browning
Engena Ltd
By email

Dear Eve,

TREADING WIND FARM

Thank you for forwarding the response from South Holland District Council's Nature Conservation Officer regarding the above site. The concerns raised in his letter I think can be effectively distilled into the following bullets:

- Cumulative displacement effects on foraging birds of prey.
- Cumulative barrier effects on migrating golden plovers.

Regarding cumulative displacement effects on birds of prey, the ornithology report shows that Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel, Peregrine, and Merlin were recorded using the site. The available scientific evidence suggests that birds of prey are not, in general, vulnerable to displacement from foraging areas by wind turbines e.g.[1,2] . I do not have access to reporting for the Red House Farm monitoring cited by Mr Goodley, so I am unable to independently assess whether displacement of birds of prey has occurred at that wind farm. If he has any reporting to pass on, we would be glad to receive and review it.

Foraging displacement distances, where they do occur for bird species, have been in the order of up to 600 metres from turbines. If this figure is used as a precautionary distance, the displacement effect caused by this and other wind farms in the area would nevertheless form a very small part of the available habitat in Fenland as a whole, and even at a district level. The nearest operational or consented wind farm is Nutsgrove Farm, which is at a distance of over 7km from Treading Wind Farm. So while some

[1] Madders M.and Whitfield D.P. (2006) Upland raptors and the assessment of wind farm impacts. Ibis 148: 43-56.

[2] Whitfield D.P. and Madders M. (2006a) A review of the impacts of wind farms on hen harriers *Circus cyaneus* and an estimation of collision avoidance rates. Natural Research Information Note.

cumulative impacts on foraging birds of prey are possible, these are nevertheless predicted to be minor in magnitude and not significant in terms of local populations.
With regard to barrier effects on migrating golden plover, Mr Goodley's summary of golden plover migration is an over-simplification of the complex movements of this species. Large numbers winter in the East of England, originating mainly from Scandinavia[3]. There is no clear evidence of a migration flight path from the "East Coast" through the Fens to the north-west of the UK. If there were a migration route through the Fens, or even across the proposal site, there was no evidence of this from our extensive surveys. In any case, there is no documented evidence for a barrier effect on wader species (where they are unable to pass around or over wind farms), though there is some evidence to suggest that flight patterns are altered on approach to wind farms (i.e. they take avoiding action)[4].

My conclusion is that these effects would not significantly affect the golden plovers' ability neither to access good foraging areas nor to undertake local or wider migration movements, since they are strong fliers that could easily fly over or around turbine clusters. The accumulated effect of a number of clusters would not in my opinion amount to a significant effect, unless these clusters formed a continuous line.

It seems that Mr Goodley's views regarding golden plover also shifts into the area of displacement, as he fears that golden plover may eventually avoid the area altogether. My response here would be similar to that for birds of prey, albeit with a reduced potential displacement figure, in that golden plovers have been shown to avoid wind farms by a median figure of 275 metres[5]. Cumulatively, such avoidance would still leave vast areas in between wind turbine clusters suitable for use by golden plover, and would not amount to a significant effect.

I hope this clarifies these particular issues.

Yours sincerely



Formatted: Font: Trebuchet MS, 11 pt, Do not check spelling or grammar

Robert Yaxley
Director, Wild Frontier Ecology

[3] Wernham C., Toms M., Marchant J., Clark J., Siriwardena G. and Baillie S. (eds.) (2002) The Migration Atlas: movements of the birds of Britain and Ireland. T. & A.D. Poyser, London.

[4] Hötker H., Thomsen K.-M., and Jeromin H. (2006) Impacts on biodiversity of exploitation of renewable energy resources: the example of birds and bats, Michael-Otto-Institut im NABU, Bergenhusen.

[5] Whitfield D.P. (2007) The effects of Wind Farms on Shorebirds (Waders; Charadrii) Especially with Regard to Wintering Golden Plovers, Report to Your Energy.