

Jane Bent
West Winds
Wallaston Cross
Pembroke
SA71 5TH

5 January 2022

Crown Buildings
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

APPLICATION BY RHOSCROWTHER WIND FARM LIMITED
LAND OFF REFINERY ROAD, HUNDLETON, PEMBROKESHIRE, SA71 5SWJ

Please find under, my objection to the proposed application as above, for consideration as per your ref: DNS/3261355 dated 22.11.21.

WILDLIFE

Bats:

The location of the nearest proposed turbine is approx. 800m from our residence and we see bats in abundance all-year round. It has been accepted that there are 7 species of bats in this area and I would strongly disagree with the statement from RWF that there would be no 'apparent' danger to bats from turbines situated on the proposed site. It has been proven that bats DO collide with wind turbines and as a protected species we should do all in our power to ensure that we do not add to the decline in their numbers by erecting these huge turbines.

Nesting Birds:

The admission of the existence of birds, notably the Linnet and Yellowhammer, which are birds of conservation concern, breeding in close proximity at the proposed site is deeply worrying. The fact that the site is seen as very poor for birds of conservation concern, will certainly not be improved for these existing birds if these 3 turbines are constructed. Also, why has the full methodology requirement of the CBC for 10 survey visits to a study area for accurate assessment of breeding birds not been followed – it would seem an easy way out of doing an in-depth study, purely on the 'advice' of NRW?

Otters and Badgers:

On our property we have numerous sightings and evidence of Badgers and have seen evidence of Otters. As there were 4 badger setts identified within the core study area in 2020, a further, more up-to-date study would provide an analysis to establish if more setts have been established since that time.

Other Notable Species:

From the 'desk study' of 'recorded records', RWF have noted that species, such as stoat, common toad, common frog, common lizard, grass snake and slow worm are not recorded within the core study area. I disagree with this statement – at our residence, and as one of the closest residential properties at approx. 800m distance from the turbines, we have seen all of the above mentioned species.

Endangered Bird Species, Raptors and Other Birds:

The RSPB note that birds on the endangered lists (red and amber), include Starlings, House and Tree Sparrows, Snipe and Wrens. There are regular sightings of all these species at our residence. The installation of the proposed turbines will have a negative impact on the protection of these species and add to their already declining numbers.

We also see a number of raptors and water fowl in and around our residence, such as Sparrow Hawk, Red Kites, Buzzards, Swans, Curlews, Snipe and Canada Geese – all these birds would be at risk of colliding with these wind turbines,

NOISE AND VISUAL AMENITY:

Noise:

RWF state on their website that they will undertake a noise assessment to meet all guidelines set in place by the Local Authority. However, in their documentation submitted as part of their application, they state that the last noise survey was carried out in 2013. They also state that the results of this survey are considered to still be relevant.

I have 2 queries – was the noise survey assessed on RWF's original application, which was for turbines at a height of 100m? Also, will a noise assessment be made on the cumulative noise output from both Valero and the proposed wind turbines?

Visual Amenity:

I understand that there is no limit on separation distances between residential dwellings and wind turbines currently in place, however the Welsh Government has responded to the Petitions Committee (June 2012) that, although this is so, a case-by-case evaluation on the subject of wind turbines be considered on issues including 'important considerations of visual and cumulative impacts' and the need for noise limitation.

Being in such close proximity (approx. 800m) and at a height of 135m, these turbines, especially turbine 3, would have a severe detrimental impact on our visual amenity.

TOURISM

If these huge turbines are constructed it will seriously blight an area which is visited by an ever increasing number of tourists; not only to one of the many beautiful beaches we have in Pembrokeshire at Freshwater West and other local beaches, but also to visitors holidaying at caravan parks in the area and visitors to two churches of historic interest.

Ramblers who regularly use the National Park trails and horse-riders, both of whom frequently use the lane from Wallaston Cross towards Rhoscrowther, walkers and cyclists, will also be subjected to the sight and sound of the turbines.

CONCLUSION:

This quiet, rural area, which already includes the Valero refinery, Pembroke Power Station and fields of solar panels would, with the construction of these turbines, have a serious impact on the environment, which has already been impacted upon by existing installations. Should permission be given, these turbines will yet again disturb and disrupt the ecology and affect tourism within this small rural area.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Bent