

10/01/2022

Dear Inspector,

I am writing to you to object to Rhoscrowther wind farm, reference number DNS/3261355

The developers state in their Environmental Statement Chapter 8 - Heritage Page 293 Para 8.33 that "the three turbines remain in locations proposed in 2014". As the turbines proposed now are 35 metres taller than before and with a longer blade length I do not think the developer has amended or improved the project enough for it to be acceptable this time either. I feel that this wind farm will have an even bigger impact than that which was identified previously not just because of the bigger turbines but because of other changes to the area since the refusal of 2018, for example the increased awareness and appreciation of the cultural heritage of Rhoscrowther and the surrounding area and the nation-wide increase in visitors to, and appreciation of, the National Parks.

The parishes of Rhoscrowther and Pwllcrochan have long been joined as one as 'Rhoscrowther with Pwllcrochan'. Rhoscrowther with Pwllcrochan (Rhoscrowther) covers a very large area and has individual houses, small groups of houses and farmsteads. Many people have a Rhoscrowther postcode and I feel that the ongoing sale and conversion of old farm barns and buildings means that the number of Rhoscrowther properties will grow. Rhoscrowther also has a large group of workers who commute to and work in the area every day. St Decuman's church is an important and much loved place and is somewhat of a focal point not just for the local community but also for the wider community and entries in the visitors' book show that visitors come from not only Europe but as far away as Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA. The church is open every day of the year and is the nearest church for many of the residents of Rhoscrowther and it is the nearest church for the workers at Valero too. It is a quiet and beautiful place that you can visit, relax and appreciate even if you have no Christian beliefs or any religious beliefs at all. An objection letter submitted to you on behalf of the Friends of St Decuman highlights not only the importance of the Grade I listed St Decuman's church but also some of the work that is being undertaken to promote Decuman and the church much more widely. Their letter also highlights some of the concerns that the Friends of St Decuman have about the impact Rhoscrowther wind farm could have. St Decuman's church takes part in the annual Cadw Open Doors event and was mentioned in several newspaper articles for last year's event. It has also appeared on different threads on the Friends of Friendless Churches Twitter account and just before the first Covid lockdown it appeared in a Wales Online article. St Decuman's church is also popular with photographers and artists (such as fotofacade) and many of their images and articles can be found online. The church has also been used recently by young bell-ringers, children from school choirs and the church organ is regularly played. Previous inspectors have noted that St Decuman's church is well-screened from the refinery and that it is secluded but it has views above the trees to the valley in the east. This is the direction where the proposed wind turbines would be and the fact that they would be seen when looking easterly from the churchyard seems all the more concerning. In Christianity it is important for the dead to face east (head to the west and feet to the east) and for the living to face east (most churches are aligned east to west with the altar in the eastern part) and scriptural references to the resurrection refer to Christ coming from the east. But views towards the east are not just important in Christianity they are important in other religions and in beliefs based on the sun and the sunrise too. I feel that the introduction of very tall,

modern, rotating structures such as these turbines into the easterly views from St Decuman's churchyard will have a detrimental effect on people's experience and appreciation of the churchyard.

As the turbines are so much taller this time I am concerned they would also have a greater impact than the previous turbines on other important heritage features in the area such as Eastington Manor.

Last year marked 50 years since the death of the Welsh language poet Waldo Williams who was inspired by the landscape and sunset around Rhoscrowther to write one of his most famous poems called 'Cofio'. There is a plaque dedicated to Waldo in Rhoscrowther which was unveiled by the late former first minister of Wales Rhodri Morgan and his brother Prys Morgan at a televised event. To mark the 50 year anniversary lines from Waldo's poems were written on 'leaves' and hung on trees around the UK and Europe and some of these were hung in Rhoscrowther next to the plaque. Waldo is considered a poet of international significance and therefore this will attract visitors from around the world. Waldo was inspired by the views and landscape around Rhoscrowther at sunset looking towards Angle and Kilpaison which is the landscape view which I feel is under threat of being damaged by this wind farm. The introduction of these large turbines into the view which inspired Waldo and the possibility of the turbines being there for 35 years I feel will damage an important Welsh cultural view for visitors for a considerable length of time. The siting of a turbine in an inspirational landscape was something that was not allowed to happen when a turbine was planned opposite Laugharne on the landscape that inspired Dylan Thomas, and that was for a single and considerably smaller turbine. Rhoscrowther's connection to Waldo has encouraged local primary school pupils on the peninsula to engage with their culture in the Welsh language and so I think it is important to preserve this landscape and the Welsh culture it has inspired. This will help promote the Welsh language and encourage Welsh speakers which is especially important for future generations of Wales and for the survival and growth of the Welsh language. A guest speaker from the Waldo Williams Society visited the Peninsula school for Diwrnod Waldo (Waldo's Day) last year. This visit is described on the Waldo Williams Society's website as a "joyous occasion" and I think it is important that Waldo's Rhoscrowther landscape, the landscape that inspired Wales' most important Welsh language poet, is protected and preserved for the children of today and for future generations.

In the developers' Figure 5.10 National Trails, Access Land and Visitor Attractions it shows the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Wales Coast Path and Sustrans National Cycle Routes but there are many other trails and routes in the area which I feel are important to mention. Pembrokeshire is very popular with cyclists and there are numerous cycling trails that pass through or around Rhoscrowther including Ironman Wales, the Cycle Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast Trail and the Long Course Weekend Wales route. The Heritage Coast Trail passes along Cheveralton Valley and through Rhoscrowther where it would overlook the Waldo Williams' landscape and the proposed wind farm (I have attached a screenshot from the Pembrokeshire County Council website showing the Rhoscrowther part of this route at the end of this letter). In addition to the nearby Wales Coast Path and Pembrokeshire Coast Path there are also numerous other paths including those from the Ramblers, Ordnance Survey and Outdoor Active and St Decuman's church is one of the locations on the Priors and Pilgrims south west Pembrokeshire Heritage Trail. This trail was created almost 20 years ago and was designed to be "a pilgrimage of discovery and enjoyment" and work is underway to expand on this Heritage Trail and enhance the connections that South Pembrokeshire has with the South-west of England and the Republic of Ireland, and this work has been mentioned in the submission sent to you from the Friends of St Decuman. The area is also popular with horse riders who regularly use Vine Cottage Lane, which runs along Cheveralton Valley, as a route between Hundleton Riding School and Kilpaison Bay.

This area is very popular not just with local people but with tourists, cyclists, walkers and riders. It also has important connections with Welsh cultural heritage in the form of Waldo and St Decuman amongst others. In the Environmental Statement Chapter 3 - Project Description on page 37 Table 3.1 (there are two tables labelled 3.1 in this document) titled Expected Annual Variation of Turbine Performance it shows that for between 85% to 90% of the time the turbines will be either 'parked', 'idling' (and not connected to the grid) or operating at an 'under rated power'. The table shows that it is only for between 10-15% of the time that the turbines would be 'Operational at rated power'. I appreciate that there is a balance to be struck between the harm to the landscape and heritage that a wind farm may cause and the contribution it may make towards renewable energy, but as the developers' table 3.1 shows that the turbines will only be operational at their rated power for between 10-15% of the time I feel that any benefit from this project would be greatly outweighed by the harm it will cause.

Along with Rhoscrowther Heritage Group, the Friends of St Decuman and others I am involved in some of the work and projects that are happening in the area and I would like to ask if I could speak at any hearing or inquiry you may have in order to more fully explain the work and projects to you, especially the ones that I think may be affected by the wind farm. I hope you recommend this wind farm is refused.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs J Lewis

Screenshot of Heritage Coast Cycle Route through Rhoscrowther:

Heritage Coast Trail

Overview

The South Pembrokeshire Heritage Coast extends from Caldey Island west to Angle Bay. Whilst some of this coastline is inaccessible by bicycle because of steep gradients, precipitous cliffs and a large military range, as much of it as possible is visited on the trail. A number of spur links are included to provide direct access to the coast or to locations with expansive views of the coastline. The landscape is spectacular with rugged cliffs, headlands, golden sandy bays, dunes and wind-sculptured heath land. The trail begins and finishes at Pembroke, close to the Norman fortress that's the only castle in Wales never to have succumbed to an attack and the birthplace of Henry Tudor

