

Date: 11 November 2013  
Our ref: 102309  
Your ref: WSCC/083/13/KD



James Neave  
West Sussex County Council

Customer Services  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

T 0300 060 3900

Dear James

**Planning consultation: The installation of a well and associated infrastructure.  
Location: Land south of Boxal Bridge, Northup Field, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, RH14  
0DD**

Thank you for your consultation on the above. This response replaces our previous comments.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The application site is close to 'The Mens' Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which is part of 'The Mens' Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Barbastelle bats are a qualifying feature of the SAC and the application site is in close proximity to the barbastelle's flight path. Lighting is considered to be the main concern regarding potential impacts on the SAC and on the functional habitat for barbastelle bats.

Natural England advises that there is currently not enough information to rule out the likelihood of significant effects. Natural England therefore advises that your authority should not grant planning permission at this stage. Natural England advises that the information and evidence gaps could potentially be resolved with additional information formally submitted by the applicant in order to amend the proposal.

It should be noted that in order to screen a project out from the need for an appropriate assessment, any information gaps should be filled upfront by the formal submission of information, so that the project, as formally submitted with all information and measures to avoid the likelihood of significant effects, can be screened out. Your authority should not use conditions, restrictions or legal obligations to fill any information gaps necessary to screen the project out from further assessment. In some circumstances, such restrictions may be necessary to give greater certainty of avoidance, once all necessary information has been submitted.

Natural England advises that the following information should be requested from the applicant, and we would be happy to assist further once the information is received:

- A clear statement/drawing as to how lighting on the site will be shielded and cowled.
- An assessment of the impact of the lighting from the application site on bats. This should

include a lux contour map to identify light spill.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 0300 060 4050. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Yours sincerely

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