

29 March 2019

BY EMAIL ONLY to:

Elaine Atkinson
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Reference: 19/0331/VARY

Section 73 application to vary condition No.13 (Noise) of planning approval 18/2082/FUL - Application for a gas fired generating facility (GFGF) for the generation of 49.99MW electricity to facilitate regional distribution during generation shortfall and to meet peak supply demands. Land To The East Of Cowpen Bewley Road Saltholme

Location: Land to the east Of Cowpen Bewley Road, Saltholme

Dear Elaine

Thank you for further consulting the RSPB regarding the above detailed application.

We understand that the application to vary condition 13 (noise) has arisen from design changes to the proposed development which will result in an increase in noise levels during operation. The RSPB's response is focused upon the potential impacts of this increase upon the following adjacent designated sites:

- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Special Protection Area (SPA) and proposed SPA (pSPA),
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Ramsar
- Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

We have had the opportunity to view the submitted document: *Report JAT10500 – REPT-07-R1 – Noise Assessment for Peaking Plant Facility*

We note that the document does not include an assessment of the potential for noise impacts to ecological receptors, however, we have had the benefit of a separate assessment undertaken by the applicant, which considers the potential impacts to the above detailed protected sites. This concludes

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that the combined **predicted** noise level (arising from both facilities) at the above detailed designated sites does not exceed 55dB. Therefore, we consider the predicted amended noise levels to be just within acceptable limits and agree that adverse effects upon the designated sites are unlikely. However, should actual noise levels exceed 55dB, noise impacts cannot be ruled out.

We are not clear whether the applicant is proposing a noise management and monitoring plan. In particular, we consider it necessary to monitor and record conditions at (and impacts to) the designated sites and their qualifying/notified features. The monitoring programme should include detail of (and triggers for) any necessary remedial actions to be undertaken should previously unanticipated impacts occur.

We hope you find the above information of use. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information or discussion.

Yours sincerely



Christina Taylor
Conservation Officer – North East England