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19/03/09

"South Peak
Raptor Study
Group"

RECEIVED

Reps Cst.

The Planning Officer,
North East Derbyshire District Council,
Saltergate,
CHESTERFIELD,
Derbys.,

76 Hawksley Avenue,
CHESTERFIELD,
Derbys., S40 4TL.

17 March, 2009..

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED WIND FARM AT MATLOCK MOOR.

Having read the Ornithological Assessment, (Chapter Eight, Matlock Moor Wind Farm Environmental Statement), we feel there are several raptor species which, for whatever reason, appear to have been underestimated on the surveys, which, given the relatively few visits to the site is possibly understandable.

As a group we have records going back many years and would offer the following observations and additions to the data provided in the assessment:-

1. Goshawk There are at least two pairs, (possibly three), breeding within 3km of the site, not one as stated, and over the years there are many records of Goshawks hunting in the area, and therefore they must be considered a high risk species at the site.
2. Buzzard No mention is made of this species in the section dealing with potential conservation concern. There are at least five pairs of Buzzard breeding within 3km of the site, and they regularly hunt over Matlock Moor. These large, slow flying raptors are considered at very high risk from wind turbines.
3. Merlin Two pairs regularly breed within 3km of the site and use Matlock Moor for hunting, and while a fast, low flying species like Merlin are not considered high risk, they would still be vulnerable to some extent.
4. Hobby This species' range is rapidly extending northwards, and Matlock Moor is a highly likely future breeding site. Breeding birds would then be considered very high risk.
5. Peregrine Some pairs breed in nearby quarries and would be at high risk hunting the open spaces adjacent to the proposed wind farm site.

In view of these facts, and the obvious detrimental effects on both local breeding, and itinerant hunting birds of prey, we must strongly oppose the construction of a wind farm at the proposed site.

Yours Faithfully,

M. E. Taylor (Chair)