

## Christopher Lee

---

**From:** Andrew Martin  
**Sent:** 15 December 2014 09:06  
**To:** Process Team  
**Subject:** FW: Rampisham Down Transmitting Station  
**Attachments:** Buglife comments Rampisham Down Transmitting Station July 2014.pdf  
  
**Categories:** Chris

---

**From:** Alice Farr [<mailto:Alice.Farr@buglife.org.uk>]  
**Sent:** 12 December 2014 11:48  
**To:** Andrew Martin  
**Subject:** Rampisham Down Transmitting Station

Dear Mr Martin,

**Re: application ref 1/D/12/001664**

Buglife has reviewed the additional reports - Rampisham Shade Report, Environmental Data Report: Autumn 2014 and Rampisham Down Shading Experiments Layman's summary of the latest scientific information. We maintain our existing objection (attached to this email for reference) as we do not believe that the additional information addresses our concerns.

There is no evidence to suggest that the solar panels do not affect the grassland vegetation so it is not possible to conclude there will be no negative impact on Rampisham Down Site of Special Scientific Interest. The Environmental Data report indicates that under the solar panels that soil moisture increases and temperature and light levels decrease. This will have an impact on the plant community as species that are more suited to the changed conditions become more dominant. This could be a gradual change but it would have a direct impact on the features of the SSSI and its associated wildlife.

There is still no information on the impact of this development on invertebrates. Acid grassland is very important for a wide range of invertebrates such as solitary bees and wasps, grasshoppers and butterflies. Areas of grassland that contain both tussocks of vegetation and patches of bare ground tend to support the greatest number of invertebrates. Many species that occur in acid grassland have particular requirements and are not able to occur in other types of grassland. Many have specialist needs, requiring several specific habitat features to complete their lifecycle - such as a certain food plant. What appears to be a relatively small loss of habitat or change in plant composition (e.g. due to changing light or moisture levels) can have a disproportionately large impact on a population of invertebrates, particularly if it results in the loss of a crucial lifecycle element. It can lead to the loss of that species at a site.

The National Planning Policy Framework is clear in its protection of SSSIs. Whilst it does not give absolute protection it does indicate that development within or outside a SSSI likely to have an adverse effect on a SSSI...should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development, at this site, clearly outweigh the impact that it is likely to have on the features of the site. We do not feel that this over-riding need has been demonstrated.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information on any of the points raised.

Best wishes  
Alice

**Alice Farr**  
**Planning Manager**

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust  
Bug House, Ham Lane, Peterborough, PE2 5UU

T 01733 201210 M 0788 031 6031

[www.buglife.org.uk](http://www.buglife.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter [@buzz\\_dont\\_tweet](#) and 'like' us on [Facebook](#) and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#)



*Saving the small things that run the planet*

Company no. 4132695 Registered charity no. 1092293 Scottish charity no. SC040004

Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee, Registered in England at Bug House, Ham Lane, Orton Waterville, Peterborough, PE2 5UU