GREENBELT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF 1 N0 SMALL SCALE EVOCO 10KW WIND TURBINE ON A 15M MAST

CARRIED OUT BY:

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ON BEHALF OF:

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DATE CREATED 25/01/11

Investment Renewables Ltd

1.0 PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

1.1 The site is located outside any settlement and within the greenbelt. National planning policies relevant to the proposal are contained within Planning Policy guidance note 2 *Green Belts*, Planning Policy Statement 22 *Renewable Energy*. We assess the proposal in terms of these policies below.

1.2A PPG2 sets out that development which is considered to be appropriate in Green Belt locations. Whilst wind turbines are not listed in paragraph 3.4 in the types of Development considered to be appropriate we are of the view that nevertheless there should not be an automatic policy presumption against such developments.

1.3 As the development is associated with an existing dwelling with land, the wind turbine can be considered appropriate under paragraph 3.12, which covers other development. The turbine can fall within the "engineering and other operations" mentioned and is not therefore inappropriate development provided the openness of the Green Belt is maintained and there is no conflict with the purposes of land in the green Belt. This also ties in with BMBC – GS7, GS8 & GS9.

1.4 Taken from PPS22 Green Belt, paragraph 13 it states, '*such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources*'. Hey Slack Farm uses a high amount of oil on site approx £1,500.00 / Annum with a gross usage of approximately 2,142 litres/Annum, which is greatly damaging to our environment. The local area also receives an excellent wind resource making good sense to use this abundant element harnessing it for the production of clean, Green energy.

The potential for the generation of electricity is excellent on site with a optimum wind speed of 7.2m/s 10m agl and would reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 18 tonnes /annum, 360 tonnes in 20 years helping to drive Barnsley towards their goals of their UDP Policies and towards the National & Regional goals.

Around 20% of the electricity generated by the turbine would be used on site lowering the properties carbon footprint considerably, with the surplus being sold as additional green electricity used by many local homes and properties across the county.

1.5 After evaluation of the proposed project in conjunction with the Policies ES12, ES12A, ES12B, GS7, GS8 & GS9 we are satisfied that wind turbines can be appropriate development in the Green Belt. This is confirmed by the presence of small scale turbines at over five properties in the local vicinity as well as the wind farm along Blackstone Edge.

The turbines to the South East are clearly in a very exposed location, with far higher visual impact on the surrounding landscape. Due to the proposed turbines' lower position and exceptional average wind speed it is believed that this location demonstrates good justification for the proposed installation.

2 CONCLUSION

It is believed that the merits of this proposal far outweigh the implications of siting the turbines on Green Belt. The above paragraphs demonstrate good reasoning and provide support for the installation to be approved.

The proposed development is associated with an existing dwelling with land allowing it to be considered as other development. The turbine can fall within, 'Engineering and Operations' as it is believed that there is no conflict with the purpose of the land.

The sensitive siting allows the turbines to blend in with the woods to the East and its visual impact is no more detrimental than the larger turbines found in close vicinity to the property. The turbine is located lower than many of the other turbines in close proximity with the hills acting as a backdrop for vehicles travelling from the West.

Although the site has a modest annual electricity usage it is believed that the sites ability to produce an exceptionally high annual yield warrants this proposal. The turbine is set to greatly increase the efficiency on the farm whilst producing a high yield of clean electricity for resale back to the national grid. This would significantly help towards Barnsley's' UDP Policies.