



**BOWLER
ENERGY**

Badger Farm, Willowpit Lane
Hilton, Derby DE65 5FN

t 01283 736615

f: 01283 733576

e: info@bowlerenergy.co.uk

w: www.bowlerenergy.co.uk

**Design and Access Statement and Planning Statement for the
siting of 2 x 11kW Wind Turbines
at**

**Bird Lane House Farm
Bird Lane
Oxspring
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S36 8YD**

Applicant

**Mr Mark Warttig
t/a Eastfield Turkeys**

**Birkfield Green
Hopping Lane
Thurgoland
South Yorkshire
S35 7AZ**

**Anthony Lee
Solicitor LLB (Hons) LLM (Env. Law)
tony@johnbowler.co.uk**

1. The Applicant

The Applicant is Mr Mark Warttig of Birkfield Green, Hopping Lane, Thurgoland, Sheffield, S35 7AZ.

The application site, Bird Lane House Farm consists of 32 acres which is used for rearing 120 cattle for beef, and 3,000 turkeys for the Christmas trade.

2. Proposed Development

The development proposed is a small scale renewable energy project consisting of the construction of 2 x11kW Wind Turbines at Bird Lane House Farm. Each turbine would have a mast height of 18m and be 24.5 meters to the tip of the blades at their highest point.

The proposed wind turbines will use wind to generate electricity. The UK has the best wind resource in Europe and therefore wind energy is an important element in achieving the UK Government's commitment to achieve 30% of the nation's electrical requirements from renewable sources by 2020.

The development proposed will help to move towards these targets.

The current energy consumption of the farm is approximately 30,000 kWh per year.

The turbines will generate approximately 65,000 kWh per year. The excess energy will be fed back to the national grid, providing a wider community benefit.

The Governments commitment to renewable energy has recently been repeated in the Governments Document 'UK Renewable Energy Roadmap' published July 2011:-

"1.2 Our goal is to ensure that 15% of our energy demand is met from renewable sources by 2020 in the most cost effective way. Ambition is equally strong across all areas of the UK, where the Devolved Administrations have set themselves challenging domestic targets for both the level of renewable electricity and heat consumption by 2020."

The 'UK Renewable Energy Roadmap' goes on to state:-

"3.27 The Government will shortly consult on a new National Planning Policy Framework for England, to consolidate existing planning policy (including for energy projects below 50MW) into a single document. The framework will include a new presumption in favour of sustainable development."

In addition the 'Draft National Planning Policy Framework' published in July 2011 provides:-

"153. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the presumption in favour of sustainable development and:

- not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy and also recognise that even small-scale*

projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and

• approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once opportunity areas for renewable and low-carbon energy have been mapped in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meet the criteria used in identifying opportunity areas.”

3. History

This application is a resubmission of application number 2011/1213 (Original Application).

The Original Application was also for permission to construct 2 x 11kw wind turbines at Bird Lane House Farm.

The Original application was withdrawn on the 24th November 2011 to allow the Applicant time to obtain additional reports and information requested by the Local Authority.

Those Reports and Information have now been obtained and are submitted with this application.

4. National Planning Policy – Renewable Energy

National Planning Policy Guidance

National Planning Policy Guidance on Renewable Energy is contained, primarily, in

(1) Planning Policy Statement: Planning Policy and Climate Change
Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1 Supplement)

(2) Planning Policy Statement 22: Planning for Renewable Energy (PPS22)

Planning for Renewable Energy:
A Companion Guide to PPS22 (PPS22 Companion Guide)

(3) Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS7)

(1) Planning Policy Statement: Planning Policy and Climate Change Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1 Supplement)

PPS1 Supplement begins with a section ‘Climate Change and Planning’ which begins:-

“1. There is a compelling scientific consensus that human activity is changing the world’s climate. The evidence that climate change is happening, and that man-made emissions are its main cause, is strong and indisputable. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change highlights that we are already experiencing the effects of climate change and if these changes deepen and intensify, as they will without the right responses locally and globally, we will see even more extreme impacts.”

The same section at Paragraph 8 continues:-

“8. The planning system needs to support the delivery of the timetable for reducing carbon emissions from domestic and non-domestic buildings. Building a Greener Future⁷ sets out a progressive tightening of Building Regulations to require major reductions in carbon emissions from new homes to get to zero carbon by 2016. There are similar ambitions to cut carbon emissions from new non-domestic buildings. This PPS sets out how regional and local planning can best support achievement of the zero-carbon targets alongside meeting community needs for economic and housing development.”

To assist Planning Authority’s PPS1 Supplement sets out ‘Key Planning Objectives’

“9. To deliver sustainable development, and in doing so a full and appropriate response on climate change, regional planning bodies and all planning authorities should prepare, and manage the delivery of, spatial strategies that:

- make a full contribution to delivering the Government’s Climate Change Programme and energy policies, and in doing so contribute to global sustainability;*
- in providing for the homes, jobs, services and infrastructure needed by communities, and in renewing and shaping the places where they live and work, secure the highest viable resource and energy efficiency and reduction in emissions;*
- deliver patterns of urban growth and sustainable rural developments that help secure the fullest possible use of sustainable transport for moving freight, public transport, cycling and walking; and, which overall, reduce the need to travel, especially by car;*
- secure new development and shape places that minimise vulnerability, and provide resilience, to climate change; and in ways that are consistent with social cohesion and inclusion;*
- conserve and enhance biodiversity, recognising that the distribution of habitats and species will be affected by climate change;*
- reflect the development needs and interests of communities and enable them to contribute effectively to tackling climate change; and*
- respond to the concerns of business and encourage competitiveness and technological innovation in mitigating and adapting to climate change.”*

(2) Planning Policy Statement 22: Planning for Renewable Energy (PPS22)

PPS22 sets out ‘Key Principles’ to which Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities should adhere in their approach to planning for renewable energy:-

- (i) Renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.*
- (ii) Regional spatial strategies and local development documents should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and the potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards.*
- (iii) At the local level, planning authorities should set out the criteria that will be applied in assessing applications for planning permission for renewable energy projects. Planning policies that rule out or place constraints on the development of all, or specific types of, renewable energy technologies should not be included in regional spatial strategies or local development documents without sufficient*

reasoned justification. The Government may intervene in the plan making process where it considers that the constraints being proposed by local authorities are too great or have been poorly justified.

(iv) The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.

(v) Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should not make assumptions about the technical and commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects (e.g. identifying generalised locations for development based on mean wind speeds). Technological change can mean that sites currently excluded as locations for particular types of renewable energy development may in future be suitable.

(vi) Small-scale projects can provide a limited but valuable contribution to overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs both locally and nationally. Planning authorities should not therefore reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small.

(vii) Local planning authorities, regional stakeholders and Local Strategic Partnerships should foster community involvement in renewable energy projects and seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy developments that are appropriately located. Developers of renewable energy projects should engage in active consultation and discussion with local communities at an early stage in the planning process, and before any planning application is formally submitted.

(viii) Development proposals should demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

PPS22 also sets out considerations to be taken into account by Planning Authorities applicable to new and existing developments:

National Designations Small-scale

12. “Developments should be permitted within areas such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts provided that there is no significant environmental detriment to the area concerned

Small Scale Renewable Energy Developments

18. Local planning authorities and developers should consider the opportunity for incorporating renewable energy projects in all new developments. Small scale renewable energy schemes utilising technologies such as solar panels, Biomass heating, small scale wind turbines, photovoltaic cells and combined heat and power schemes can be incorporated both into new developments and some existing buildings. Local planning authorities should specifically encourage such schemes through positively expressed policies in local development documents.

Landscape and Visual Effects of Renewable Energy Developments

19. The landscape and visual effects of particular renewable energy developments will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development. Some of these effects may be minimised through appropriate siting, design and landscaping schemes, depending on

the size and type of development proposed. Proposed developments should be assessed using objective descriptive material and analysis wherever possible even though the final decision on the visual and landscape effects will be, to some extent, one made by professional judgement. Policies in local development documents should address the minimisation of visual effects (e.g. on the siting, layout, landscaping, design and colour of schemes).

20. Of all renewable technologies, wind turbines are likely to have the greatest visual and landscape effects. However, in assessing planning applications, local authorities should recognise that the impact of turbines on the landscape will vary according to the size and number of turbines and the type of landscape involved, and that these impacts may be temporary if conditions are attached to planning permissions which require the future decommissioning of turbines.

(3) PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS7)

PPS7 draws attention to the Government's objectives for the countryside and sets out the 'Key Principles' of raising the quality of life in rural areas, encouraging more sustainable use of land, and to diversify and promote growth in rural areas.

Two of the 'Key Principles' are

“(i) To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of:

- thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, ensuring people have decent places to live by improving the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods;*
- sustainable economic growth and diversification;*
- good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside; and*
- continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources.*

(iv) To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where farming achieves high environmental standards, minimising impact on natural resources, and manages valued landscapes and biodiversity; contributes both directly and indirectly to rural economic diversity; is itself competitive and profitable; and provides high quality products that the public wants.”

Guidance is also provided in PPS7 para. 16 to Planning Authorities when determining applications for development in the Countryside

“16. When preparing policies for LDDs and determining planning applications for development in the countryside, local planning authorities should:

- (i) support development that delivers diverse and sustainable farming enterprises;*
- (ii) support other countryside-based enterprises and activities which contribute to rural economies, and/or promote recreation in and the enjoyment of the countryside;*
- (iii) take account of the need to protect natural resources;*
- (iv) provide for the sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources in accordance with the policies set out in PPS22; and*
- (v) conserve specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural*

value, in accordance with statutory designations”

The proposed site is with a ‘Green Belt’ and the following National Planning Policies are also relevant:-

(1) PPS 22

Green Belts

*13. Policy on development in the green belt is set out in PPG2. When located in the green belt, developments of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development, which may impact on the openness of the green belt. Careful consideration will therefore need to be given to the visual impact of projects, and developers will need to demonstrate very special circumstances that clearly outweigh any harm by reason of inappropriateness and any other harm if projects are to proceed. **Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources.***

(2) PPS22 Companion Guide

3.27 PPS22 identifies several types of location where specific policies may be appropriate at the regional level:

- internationally designated sites (nature or heritage conservation);*
- nationally designated areas (nature conservation or landscape reasons);*
- locally designated areas (nature conservation or landscape reasons); and,*
- green belts.*

In this regard, regional spatial strategies should apply the policies set out in PPS22 paragraphs 9-13. The appropriate treatment of these areas will vary according to the reasons for designation, and may be related to specific landscape, visual or nature conservation characteristics. Authorities may also wish to identify where the submission of “special circumstances” cases would be appropriate, for example in green belt areas.

(3) PPS7

Farm diversification

30. Recognising that diversification into non-agricultural activities is vital to the continuing viability of many farm enterprises, local planning authorities should:

- (i) set out in their LDDs the criteria to be applied to planning applications for farm diversification projects;*
- (ii) be supportive of well-conceived farm diversification schemes for business purposes that contribute to sustainable development objectives and help to sustain the agricultural*

enterprise, and are consistent in their scale with their rural location. This applies equally to farm diversification schemes around the fringes of urban areas; and

*(iii) where relevant, give favourable consideration to proposals for diversification in Green Belts where the development preserves the openness of the Green Belt and does not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. **(Where farm diversification proposals in the Green Belt would result in inappropriate development in terms of PPG2, any wider benefits of the diversification may contribute to the ‘very special circumstances’ required by PPG2 for a development to be granted planning permission).***

(B) Local Planning Policy Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council UPD.

WIND ENERGY GENERATION

Policy ES12

Proposals for wind energy generation will be assessed with regard to the following factors:

- a) the effect both individually and cumulatively on landscape and visual amenity of the area.*
- b) the impact on residential amenity with particular reference to noise, visual outlook, and shadow flicker and flashing from Turbine blades.*
- c) the provision of a satisfactory access to the highway network having regard to visual amenity and the safety of road users and the effect of the proposals on road users including likely Distraction to motorists*
- d) the effect on wildlife, ecology and archaeology of the immediate area*
- e) the effect on agricultural land uses*
- f) electro-magnetic effects*
- g) the provisions for connection to the electricity transmission and supply system*
- H) the effect of shadow flicker or flashing from the turbine blades*

The council will expect a detailed statement which has regard to these issues, to accompany any application for wind power development proposals, where such an appraisal is deemed necessary in view of the implications of the proposal.

Policy ES12A

The use of appropriate technology and design will be required on new wind generator proposals, together with the use of an appropriate coloration which shall be agreed in writing with the local planning authority. Advertisements or lettering on turbines will not be permitted.

Policy ES12B

Within a period of one year following the cessation of active use of a wind power generator, all surface plant equipment, buildings, foundations, roads or other developments shall be removed from the site, and the area shall be restored to as near its original condition as is practicable, to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.

Policy ES12C

The council will control development in the vicinity of existing wind energy generation installations so as to safeguard them from a reduction in local wind speeds.

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE GREEN BELT

Policy GS7

Without prejudice and subject to the application of policies gs8, gs8a, gs8b, gs8c, gs8d, gs8e and gs9 in this plan, development within the green belt will not be permitted unless it maintains the openness of, and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in, the green belt.

VISUAL AMENITY

Policy GS9

Development within the green belt, or conspicuous from it, should not by reason of its siting, materials or design result in significant harm to the visual amenity of the green belt.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Policy GS12

The best and most versatile agricultural land is a national resource for the future. Considerable weight will be given to protecting such land from development.

5. Scale and Appearance

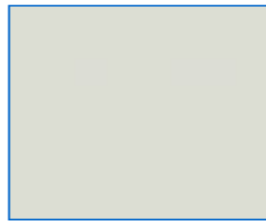
The turbines proposed will have an 18m galvanised steel lattice mast, and are twin bladed. Each blade is 6.5m in length giving the turbine a maximum height of 24.5m.

There is in the Appendix to this Statement an 'Illustration of Comparative Heights' together with two drawings showing a front and profile view of the turbine.

The masts would be coloured grey as the colour in the sample panel below



The colour of the blade and nacelle would be pale grey/ off white (RAL 9002) as shown on the colour sample below.



RAL 9002

Grey and metal colours blend in better than green, brown and black against a rural background (trees, hedges, leaves etc) and also against the skyline (generally Grey in this country).

This is the reason why similar objects such as lamp posts, pylons, aerials, masts and signage posts are grey.

A photograph of an actual turbine identical to the turbines being proposed is shown in the Appendix attached to this statement.

The above colours are widely accepted by planners across the UK and no turbines have been installed in any other combination of colours.

6. Location

The Applicants land is located in the Green Belt just under one mile to the east of the village of Oxspring.

The Google Earth image below outlines in blue the Applicants land.



There are 2 Turbines proposed at Bird Lane House Farm.

The 'Google Earth' image below shows the proposed location of the Turbines on the Applicant's land.



(A) **Turbine 1**

Turbine 1 is located 240m to the south of the Farmhouse at Bird Lane House Farm.

The closest residential property beyond the Applicants land to the site proposed for Turbine 1 is 'Highfield Farm' which is north west at distance of 250m.

A drawing is with this application showing the proximity of each neighbouring property to each Turbine location.

Turbine 1 would be would be 250m from the eastern field boundary, 40m from the western field boundary and 290m from the northern field boundary.

(B) Turbine 2

Turbine 2 is 100m to the south east of Turbine 1.

The closest residential property beyond the Applicants land to the site proposed for Turbine 2 is 'Pule Hill Hall' 340m to the south east.

Turbine 2 would be approximately 150m from the eastern field boundary, 60m from the western field boundary and 330m from the northern field boundary.

7. Issues to be Considered PPS22 Companion Guide

PPS22 Companion Guide sets out specific issues to be considered when determining an application for planning permission to construct a wind turbine.

(A) Landscape and Visual Impact

The site proposed is within Green Belt.

The Applicants do not seek to argue that the construction of 2 wind turbines at Bird Lane House Farm would not have an impact on the landscape. The site, design, colour and materials for the turbines has however been chosen to minimise these impacts as far as possible, and, in line with National Planning Policies these impacts are not significant and, are outweighed by the environment and the economic benefits.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council when considering this application, are asked to bear in mind the provisions of PPS22, Key Principle (iv) which provides:

(iv) The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.

An 11KW Turbine model was chosen because the form of this turbine is considered to best suited to this landscape setting and the purpose for which it is intended. The mast design, which tapers towards the top, and the colour which is proven to blend in with the sky and surrounding landscape, result in reduced visibility over both mid and long range distances.

The nacelle of the turbine is small which reduces the bulk of this section of the turbine and helps again to minimise its impact on the landscape.

The Turbine is a twin bladed turbine, which has a fixed rotational speed of 56rpm, which is much slower than some small turbines of a similar power rating which often spin at around 300rpm. The blades are slim in nature, coloured pale grey and are manufactured as a single composite unit.

The design of the Turbine is such that it can be easily absorbed into most landscapes. Since the turbine does not require any additional ground based equipment housing or compound fencing, it is considered to have a non-material impact on the character, fabric and quality of the landscape.

An 18m mast has been chosen for the turbine after taking into account the existing landscape characteristics as well as the energy generating capacity and efficient functioning of the turbine.

On a higher mast the turbine would produce more energy but could be considered to be too prominent in this location.

The Turbines are proposed on land approximately 250m from the A629. The photograph below (Fig. 1) is taken looking north east from the A629 toward the application site. The Turbines would be visible from the A629 but any views would in the main be from vehicles travelling along the A629 and would therefore be short in time duration.



The two photographs below (Figs 2 and 3) are taken looking in a westerly direction from the A629.

Any views of the Turbines from this direction would be long distance views and the small scale and design together with the colour of the Turbines would minimise any visual impact. Any impact that does exist must be viewed in the context of the electricity pylons and poles in the landscape.

(Fig. 2)



(Fig. 3)



Hopping Lane/Bird Lane runs to the north of the site proposed at a distance of approximately 400m.

The photograph below (Fig 4) is taken from the point where Hopping Lane becomes Bird Lane, looking south toward the site proposed. There are very limited views of the site from these public highways. From this view point one of the Turbines would be obscured by trees and a very short term view at a distance of 400m would be available through this field gate.



At the junction of Hopping Lane and Eastfields Lane there would be views available of the Turbines, but these would be at a distance of over 700m. The photograph below (Fig. 5) is taken from that junction. The site proposed has been indicated.



There would also be occasional views of the Turbines from Coates Lane (B6449). Although, again these would be distant views. The photograph below (Fig. 6) is taken from Coates Lane, looking south west toward the site proposed at a distance of approximately 800m. The position of the Turbines has been indicated. They would be beyond the trees shown and obscured by them from this view point.



The photograph below (Fig. 7) is taken from the junction of Coates Lane and Pinfold Lane looking west toward the site proposed (indicated) at a distance of approximately 700m.

Again this is a long distance view which would be obscured by trees in the landscape and viewed in the context of the existing electricity poles in the landscape.



The public views of the Turbines, other than that from a public footpath (discussed below) would be distant views and short in terms of time duration.

There is with this application a Photomontage Report with representative images of the Turbines in situ.

Due to the siting and scale of the turbines they would have only a minimal visual impact on landscape quality that would be mitigated by the great positive effects the turbines would have on the environment, such as the reduction in CO₂ emissions discussed below.

Taking the above factors into account, the proposal would not represent a prominent or visually intrusive feature in the surrounding rural landscape; the turbine's modest scale would only result in very modest impacts on the fabric, character and quality of this area, resulting in no harmful change to its overall character. In conclusion, as outlined above, the proposed turbines will not result in unacceptable harm to the visual amenity of the locality, nor will it have a detrimental effect on the character and functioning of this area.

PPS22, as one of its 'Key Principles' provides:-

(iv) The wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.

The environmental and economic benefits are set out below.

(B) Environmental Benefits

The Applicant feels that to use this technology correctly, they should opt for the most efficient turbine possible in order to achieve the greatest possible energy generation and carbon saving.

The energy production from an 18m mast makes the wind turbine economically viable and environmentally sound in this location.

The Turbines would together produce in the region of 65,000 kWh per year, of the electricity used on the farm.

The farm consumes approximately 30,000 KWh per annum.

The consumption and production of electricity expressed as kilo watt hours (kWh)

As a combined figure for the various types of power station in the UK using fossil fuels (coal, gas and oil), each kWh (kilo Watt hour) of electricity produces 430g CO₂.

The electricity required for the farm produces 12,900 of CO₂ per year.

The 2 Turbines together are calculated to generate 65,000 kWh electricity every year.

The CO₂ produced by the generation of 65,000kWh from fossil fuels is 27,950 CO₂.

(C) Economic and Social Benefits

The Companion Guide to PPS22 in Section 2 identifies relevant local economic benefits of renewable energy generation, both direct and indirect. The benefits identified in 'PPS22 - Companion Guide' relevant to this application are:-

- (1) Bird Lane House Farm will produce the majority of its own electricity. As electricity will not be bought in, the profitability of the farming business will increase which will lead to the recirculation of wealth in the local economy.
- (2) The fuel bills at Bird Lane House Farm will be less
- (3) The localised generation means that less electricity supplied to other properties will be wasted in transmission over long distances and reduce the risk of interference with supplies to neighbouring properties in rural areas.

(D) Noise

The PPS22 Companion Guide Technical Annex- Wind correctly identifies noise as a specific issue to be considered when determining an application for planning permission.

The Wind Technical Annex discusses the source of noise generated by wind turbines:-

“42. There are two quite distinct types of noise source within a wind turbine. The mechanical noise produced by the gearbox, generator and other parts of the drive train; and the aerodynamic noise produced by the passage of the blades through the air. Since the early 1990s there has been a significant reduction in the mechanical noise generated by wind turbines and it is now usually less than, or of a similar level to, the aerodynamic noise. Aerodynamic noise from wind turbines is generally unobtrusive – it is broad-band in nature and in this respect is similar to, for example, the noise of wind in trees.

43. Wind-generated background noise increases with wind speed, and at a faster rate than the wind turbine noise increases with wind speed. The difference between the noise of the wind farm and the background noise is therefore liable to be greatest at low wind speeds. Varying the speed of the turbines in such conditions can, if necessary, reduce the sound output from modern turbines.

44. The report, ‘The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms’ (ETSU-R-97), describes a framework for the measurement of wind farm noise and gives indicative noise levels calculated to offer a reasonable degree of protection to wind farm neighbours, without placing unreasonable restrictions on wind farm development or adding unduly to the costs and administrative burdens on wind farm developers or planning authorities. The report presents the findings of a cross-interest Noise Working Group and makes a series of recommendations that can be regarded as relevant guidance on good practice. This methodology overcomes some of the disadvantages of BS 4142 when assessing the noise effects of wind farms, and should be used by planning authorities when assessing and rating noise from wind energy developments.”

PPS22, paragraph 22 make it clear that ETSU should be used to assess and rate noise from wind turbines:

“22. Renewable technologies may generate small increases in noise levels (whether from machinery such as aerodynamic noise from wind turbines, or from associated sources – for example, traffic). Local planning authorities should ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels. Plans may include criteria that set out the minimum separation distances between different types of renewable energy projects and existing developments. The 1997 report by ETSU for the Department of Trade and Industry should be used to assess and rate noise from wind energy development. ”

The Wind Technical Annex to PPS22 recites the ‘Recommended Good Practice on Controlling Noise from Wind Turbines From ‘The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms’ (ETSU for DTI 1997)’:-

The current practice on controlling wind farm noise by the application of noise limits at the nearest noise-sensitive properties is the most appropriate approach.

Noise limits should be applied to external locations and should apply only to those areas frequently used for relaxation or activities for which a quiet environment is highly desirable.

Noise limits set relative to the background noise are more appropriate in the majority of cases. Generally, the noise limits should be set relative to the existing background noise at the nearest noise-sensitive properties and the limits should reflect the variation in both turbine source noise and background noise with wind speed.

It is not necessary to use a margin above background noise levels in particularly quiet areas. This would unduly restrict developments that are recognised as having wider national and global benefits. Such low limits are, in any event, not necessary in order to offer a reasonable degree of protection to wind farm neighbours.

Separate noise limits should apply for day-time and for night-time as during the night the protection of external amenity becomes less important and the emphasis should be on preventing sleep disturbance.

Absolute noise limits and margins above background should relate to the cumulative effect of all wind turbines in the area contributing to the noise received at the properties in question. Any existing turbines should not be considered as part of the prevailing background noise.

Noise from the wind farm should be limited to 5 dB(A) above background for both day and night time, remembering that the background level of each period may be different.

The LA_{90,10min} descriptor should be used for both the background noise and the wind farm noise, and when setting limits it should be borne in mind that the LA_{90,10min} of the wind farm is likely to be about 1.5-2.5 dB(A) less than the LAeq measured over the same period. The use of the LA_{90,10 min} descriptor for wind farm noise allows reliable measurements to be made without corruption from relatively loud, transitory noise events from other sources.

A fixed limit of 43 dB(A) is recommended for night-time. This is based on a sleep disturbance criteria of 35 dB(A) with an allowance of 10 dB(A) for attenuation through an open window (free field to internal) and 2 dB(A) subtracted to account for the use of LA_{90,10min} rather than LAeq,10min.

Both day- and night-time lower fixed limits can be increased to 45 dB(A) to increase the permissible margin above background where the occupier of the property has some financial interest in the wind farm.

In low noise environments the day-time level of the LA_{90,10min} of the wind farm noise should be limited to an absolute level within the range of 35-40 dB(A). The actual value chosen within this range should depend upon: the number of dwellings in the neighbourhood of the wind farm, the effect of noise limits on the number of kWh generated, and the duration of the level of exposure.

For single turbines or wind farms with very large separation distances between the turbines and the nearest properties, a simplified noise condition may be suitable. If the noise is limited to a LA_{90,10min} of 35 dB(A) up to wind speeds of 10 m/s at 10 m height, then this condition alone would offer sufficient protection of amenity, and background noise surveys would be unnecessary.

Turbine 1 is 240m from the closest residential property.

There is with this pre-application a Noise Impact Report for the Turbine proposed. The Noise data is based upon a wind speed of 10 metres per second.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change hold a database known as NOABL (Numerical Objective Analysis of Boundary Layer). The data is for a 1km area.

This database contains estimates of the annual mean wind speed throughout the UK based upon 1km square areas.

The data on 'The Department of Energy and Climate Change' database for the 1km square in which the Applicants land is located provides the following wind speeds:

WINDSPEED DATABASE QUERY RESULTS		
FOR THE 1KM GRID SQUARE 428 402 (SE2802)		
Wind speed at 45m agl (in m/s)		
6.5	6.2	6.1
6.5	6.5	6.3
6.3	6.5	6.6
Wind speed at 25m agl (in m/s)		
6.1	5.7	5.6
6.1	6.1	5.7
5.7	6.1	6.1
Wind speed at 10m agl (in m/s)		
5.4	4.9	4.8
5.4	5.4	5
4.9	5.4	5.4
Blank squares indicate areas outside the land area of the UK - i.e. areas at sea or of neighbouring countries. agl = above ground level. Squares surrounding the central square correspond to wind speeds for surrounding grid squares		

At a hub height of 18m the average wind speed for the Applicant's land is 6m per second.

At a distance of 240m the noise at a receptor site from the turbine would be 32dB (A). This is based upon a wind speed of 10 meters per second and not the 6m per second at the Applicants property.

ETSU recommends that in low noise environments the noise should be limited during the day time to between 35 – 40 dB (A).

ETSU goes on to provide:-

It is not necessary to use a margin above background noise levels in particularly quiet areas. This would unduly restrict developments that are recognised as having wider national and global benefits. Such low limits are, in any event, not necessary in order to offer a reasonable degree of protection to wind farm neighbours.

A turbine in the daytime, in a rural area must not exceed a noise level at the closest receptor site of between 35-40 dB (A).

The Turbine proposed would generate noise at the receptor site below the lower recommended day time level of 35 dB (A).

ETSU recommends that in most cases the fixed noise limit for night time of 43 dB (A) is acceptable.

The property at a distance of 240m, showing an impact of 32dB (A), is well below the recommended 43 dB (A). Again this is based upon a wind speed of 10 meters per second and not the 6m per second at the Applicants property.

Applying the criteria required by PPS22, the Turbines would not have a noise impact upon neighbouring properties.

(E) Shadow Flicker

PPS22 Companion Guide Technical Annex 8 describes this as:-

“73. Under certain combinations of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate, the shadow flicks on and off; the effect is known as ‘shadow flicker’. It only occurs inside buildings where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening. Only properties within 130 degrees either side of north, relative to the turbines can be affected at these latitudes in the UK – turbines do not cast long shadows on their southern side.”

PPS22 Companion Guide Technical Annex 8 goes on to say

76. Shadow flicker can be mitigated by siting wind turbines at sufficient distance from residences likely to be affected. Flicker effects have been proven to occur only within ten rotor diameters of a turbine. Therefore if the turbine has 80m diameter blades, the potential shadow flicker effect could be felt up to 800m from a turbine.

The turbine has a blade diameter of 13m. Consequently the potential for shadow flicker effect could be felt up to 130m from the turbine.

There are no protected properties which are within 130 degrees either side or north of the turbine and within 130m of the turbine.

(F) Construction and Operational Disturbance

The installation of the Turbines would be completed in two stages.

The foundations take half a day to complete and must then be left for around three weeks to set. The erection of the Turbines would take a further 2 days.

The foundations are 5m x 5m x 0.5m.

Excavations for the foundation and cable trenches will be carried out by a small, tracked mini-digger. The mini- digger would be delivered to site on a low loader vehicle.

This photograph shows the foundation base and the type of digger which would be used.



The excavation of the bases will involve the removal of approximately 45 tonnes of soil. Any surplus soil will be put back on the Applicants land.

The Turbines would be delivered to site on a flat bed articulated lorry.



One crane is used to construct the Turbine. The crane is a road worthy vehicle.

The construction of the Turbines would involve in the region of 5 HGV movements.

Vehicles of the size and number being proposed can be accommodated on the public highway.

(G) Interference with Electromagnetic Transmissions

PPS22 Companion Guide Technical Annex 8 provides:-

64. A wind turbine can interfere with electromagnetic transmissions in two ways – by emitting an electromagnetic signal itself, and by interfering with other electromagnetic signals. The nature of the interference depends on the size of the structure relative to the wave-length of the radiation. Provided careful attention is paid to siting, wind turbines should not cause any significant problems of electromagnetic interference, i.e. adverse effects on communication systems which use electromagnetic waves as the transmission medium (e.g. television, radio or microwave links).

The proposed wind turbines use a permanent magnet brushless alternator and thereby avoids one main source of potential electromagnetic interference, worn brushes. The other common source of electromagnetic interference is the switching circuitry used in the controller and inverter to adjust the turbine's loading. This equipment will be fully tested to ensure full compliance with industry standards.

Scattering of signal is a phenomenon that very occasionally may affect large utility scale turbines. It is not considered to be relevant to turbines as small as that proposed in this case. Furthermore between the years of 2008 and 2012 the government is planning to update the UK's transmission network and provide digital viewing for all.

Once this takes place, television signal interference will no longer be of concern as digital signals will not be subject to electromagnetic interference. The Digital Switchover for the area in which the application site falls will occur in 2011.

A developer's pro-forma outlining the scheme has been completed and sent to the OFCOM, the Ministry of Defence and the CAA on the 28 June 2011.

The response from Ofcom was received on the 4th July 2011 which identified the following consultees:

Atkins Global, JRC, Radio Networks BT and the BBC.

The response received from the identified consultees are:

Consultee	Date contacted	Date Replied	Comments
Atkins Global	6/9/11	8/9/11	No Objection
JRC	6/9/11	12/9/11	No Objection
Radio Networks BT	6/9/11	7/9/11	No Objection

(H) Aviation

A developer pro-forma outlining the scheme has been completed and sent to the Ministry of Defence on 28th June for comment.

Their response has not yet been received.

(I) Ecology and Ornithology

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, together with Conservation of Species and Habitats regulations 2010 require a local authority to consider the impact of a development upon biodiversity and geological interests.

Sites of Biodiversity and Geological Conservation value are identified in PPS9 as being:-

- (a) International Sites such as Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Areas (SPAs) or Special Areas of Conservation (SACs);
- (b) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's);
- (c) Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest
- (d) Ancient Woodland and Other Important Natural Habitats

A desk top survey has been conducted and within a 2km radius of the application site. There are no Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Special Areas of Conservation, Important Bird Areas, RSPB Reserves or SSSI's.

A copy of the desk top survey MAGIC map is with this application, together with the 2km analysis.

The Turbines proposed would be constructed on improved grassland.

PPS9 also provides for consideration of the impact of a development on protected species. Natural England provide 'Standing Advice' to Planning Authorities to enable them to consider the impact of a development upon protected species. The most recent version of this 'Standing Advice' was issued in February 2011.

Consideration of the impact of the proposal upon protected species has been undertaken using the Natural England 'Standing Advice', 'Species and Planning Flowchart' and the 'Habitats and Features Decision Tree'.

Natural England has produced 'Interim Guidance on 'Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines' (TIN051). The Guidance Note was prepared for the purposes of assessing applications for planning permission to construct large commercial wind turbines.

The Guidance Note recommends that turbines of the size proposed should be sited approximately 50m from any woodland area.

The Turbines have been sited in accordance with the standing advice.

PPS22 Companion Guide Technical Annex 8 provides:-

“60. Experience indicates that bird species and their habitats are rarely affected by wind turbine developments and the impact of an appropriately designed and located wind farm on the local bird life should, in many cases, be minimal. To date, the most common concern has been the risk of ‘bird strike’ i.e. birds flying through the area swept by the blades and being hit, causing injury or death. This is most likely to occur if a wind turbine is erected directly in a migration path, or where there are high concentrations of particular species (i.e birds feeding).”

The view of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on wind turbines and renewable energy is set out on there web site:-

“.....the RSPB favours a broad mix of renewables, including solar, wind, and marine power, wherever they are used in ways that minimise unnecessary damage to wildlife and the natural environment. We particularly support solutions that enable individuals and communities to generate their own power close their homes and businesses.

Switching to renewable energy now, rather than in ten or twenty years time, is essential if we are to stabilise levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at safe levels. Wind power is the most advanced renewable technology available at a large scale during this time period. For this reason, the RSPB supports a significant growth in offshore and onshore wind power generation in the UK.

We believe that this growth can be achieved in harmony with, rather than at the expense of, the natural environment. We will therefore continue to require that wind farms are sited, designed and managed so that there are no significant adverse impacts on important bird populations or their habitats.

Renewables targets can be achieved without endangering sensitive wildlife areas, with the right level of appropriate planning, and with good co-operation between developers and conservationists.

The available evidence suggests that wind farms can harm birds in three possible ways – disturbance, habitat loss or damage (both direct or indirect), and collision. Poorly sited wind farms have caused some major bird casualties, particularly in Tarifa and Navarra in Spain, and the Altamont Pass in California. At these sites, planners failed to consider adequately the likely impact of putting hundreds, or even thousands, of turbines in areas that are important for birds of prey. Tragically, killing many hundreds of birds as a result.

If wind farms are located away from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas of those bird species known or suspected to be at risk, there is a strong possibility that they will have minimal impact on wildlife”.

These comments on direct impact between birds and Turbines, are directed toward large wind farms rather than developments on the scale being proposed. There is no data to suggest that turbines of the scale being proposed would have an impact upon birds.

The Turbines have however been located away from “*major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas*” and as a consequence would have a minimal impact upon birds.

The turbines are proposed on agricultural grassland. The construction will not require the removal of any hedgerows. Consequently the turbines will not result in any loss of habitat.

An extended Phase 1 Habitat and Bird Reconnaissance Report (November 2011) carried out by Keystone Environment is with this application.

The Report was submitted to the Local Authority for comment prior to resubmission of this application. The Local Authority’s ecologist commented on the 4th January 2012 clarifying points raised as follows.

“I have only skim-read the report, so if I have missed something the consultants can rest assured, I will pick it up with the final, submitted version.

It's a big improvement, especially with regards their own surveys and some of the data searches.

Still no sign of the author and/ or surveyor's relevant qualifications and relevant experience.”

The authors need to clarify whether they used the Barnsley Biological Records Centre (other Local Records Centres do cover parts of Barnsley). The section on each group of species needs to refer to an appropriate records search to put their own survey into context. eg birds, badgers, bats, etc - I don't think I can clearly see this at present.

Normal search area is 2km radius yet for some searches they have only used 0.5km. This is inadequate.

Bird records - only the Records Centre has been contacted yet I stated 'AND other local recorders' which has not been done. They need to consult Barnsley Bird Study Group on 01226 286282 or 384694 - they can comment on migration routes as well.

This response was passed on to the Ecologist instructed by the Applicant, Keystone Environmental, who replied as follows:-

“We don’t normally include individual surveyor details as all Keystone staff are Seniors and experienced consultants. However in this case, the survey/report was undertaken by myself. I have been a full time, professional consultant for 11 years and involved in the wider conservation sector for an additional 3 years. I am a full member of the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (since 2001), have held English and Scottish scientific

licences for Bats (all species) since 2001, I also hold Natural England and SNH scientific licences for great crested newt. I am an experienced ornithologist with an interest in birds stretching back from my childhood. I have also contributed to more than 50 sub EIA and 15+ EIA wind energy schemes, across the UK.

I can confirm that the data search included records from the Barnsley Biodiversity Trust, sourced from the Barnsley Biological Records Centre (stated in the report paragraph 2.1)

The search radii are indicated in Table 1.

On the contrary, I would propose that for a scheme of this nature a blanket search radii of 2Km is inadequate, and it's my personal view that the consultancy sector as a whole needs to tighten up on the way data searches contribute towards assessments.

*Keystones approach is to integrate the data search results fully within the assessment, to do this we need to tightly define our search parameters. BCT Guidelines (2011) for example, state that for sensitive bat species (Noctule, Leisler's and Nathusius' Pipistrelle) records should be sought for up to 10Km from the application site. For birds, it is also common practise to include at least a 10Km search radius, so that impacts to more distant sites of importance for birds can be assessed and to allow for potential gaps in data provision at/close to the application site. The searches are reduced to 0.5Km for other (terrestrial) protected species and habitats, and all other sites **not** designated for bats and birds to avoid irrelevant assessments. For example, Natural England guidance refers to the need to assess impacts to terrestrial habitats for great crested newt within 500m of potentially suitable waterbodies; so to assess potential impacts to GCN populations beyond 500m would be contrary to established guidance, with the risk of potential impacts at greater distances (from ponds) being commensurately small and not significant. Similarly to include an assessment of potential effects to a stand of ancient woodland more than 500m from the proposed turbine would be a waste of time as there clearly would be no significant effect – this applies to all other species/taxa with 0.5Km search radii. More mobile and potentially sensitive taxa/species (such as bats and birds) are therefore given priority in the searches and subsequent discussions.*

Our data search radii differ depending on the nature of the scheme/impacts and wherever possible seek to follow standard national guidelines. I would strongly refute any suggestion that the validity of the assessments are compromised by the data search parameters adopted in this case.

The Barnsley Bird Study Group data was added to the database on the 14th of November so your search did include this.

(J) Environmental Impact Assessment

This Application is not a project listed in Schedule 2.3(i) The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 (SI 293 No. 1999) and an Environmental Impact Assessment is not required.

A development requiring an EIA is defined in Reg 2 of SI 293 of 1993 as
"EIA development" means development which is either -

- (a) Schedule 1 development; or
- (b) Schedule 2 development likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location;

If a Development falls within Sch 1 it will always require an EIA.

If a development falls within Sch 2 it will only require an EIA if it is "likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location".

To assess if a development is "likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location" regard is first had to the threshold criteria in Sch 2. of SI 293 of 1993.

In the case of 'Wind Farms' the criteria are stated as being

- (i) The development involves the installation of more than 2 turbines; or
- (ii) the hub height of any turbine or height of any other structure exceeds 15 metres.

The current application would be caught under both criteria as a Sch. 2 development because the hub height exceeds 15m. This however does not mean an EIA is automatically required.

Once a development is categorised as a Sch. 2 development the provisions of Reg. 2 are applicable i.e the development is "likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location"

Guidance is provided in Circular 2/99. This provides:-

"Wind farms A15. The likelihood of significant effects will generally depend upon the scale of the development, and its visual impact, as well as potential noise impacts. EIA is more likely to be required for commercial developments of five or more turbines, or more than 5 MW of new generating capacity."

This development would be for 2 x 11kw Turbines and would fall well below the threshold criteria "likely to have significant effects on the environment".

A Mega Watt is 1,000kw. Each turbine being proposed would have a capacity of 11kw.

(K) Historic Environment and Heritage Assets

As provided in Planning Policy Statement 5– Planning for the Historic Environment, the impact of a development upon Historic Assets is a relevant planning consideration.

A search for all Historic Environment Heritage Assets within a radius of 2km from the site proposed for the Turbines has been conducted using the Natural England web-site and the Government mapping facility, MAGIC.

The search has revealed there are 20 Heritage sites within a 2km radius of the Application site, 6 of which are within 1km.

The 6 identified are Far Coates Cottage (East), Far Coates Cottage (West), Far Coates Farmhouse, Thurgoland Bridge, Thurgoland Bridge Bank and Pule Hill Hall.

(a) Far Coates Cottage (East) List Entry Number 1314697

Far Coates Cottage (East) is 840m north west of the Application site

The list entry description is as follows:

Cottage. Late C17, C19 alterations and C20 restoration. Coursed squared rubble. Stone slate roof. Two storeys, two bays. Quoins. Inserted central doorway. Large later 2-light window to right. To far right original door (blocked) with stepped chamfer to lintel and quoined surround. To left is a 3-light window and, to 1st floor, two 2-light windows, all double-chamfered but with mullions removed. C20 casements. Brick end stacks. Continuous outshut to rear, of two builds.

(b) Far Coates Cottage (West) List Entry Number 1192137

Far Coates Cottage (West) is 850m north west of the Application site

The list entry description is as follows:

Cottage. Late C17, C20 restoration. Coursed squared rubble. Stone slate roof. Two storeys. Two bays. Quoins. Original doorway to right with very deep lintel and quoined surround (part-blocked). Inserted central door. one 3-light double-chamfered window to left and right, both floors, all with mullions removed and C20 casements. Ground-floor drip mould rising above original door. Brick end stacks. Rear: outshut to right with two small chamfered lights. Small fire-window to left and one 2-light double-chamfered window, both with drip mould. 3-light double-chamfered window to 1st floor.

(c) Far Coates Farmhouse (West) List Entry Number 1286758

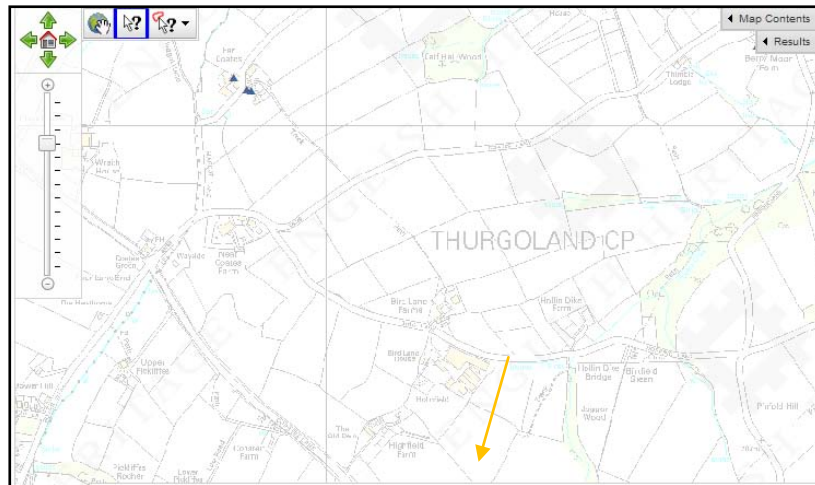
Far Coates Farmhouse is 870m north west of the Application site

The list entry description is as follows:

Farmhouse. Housebody mid C17 with slightly later cross-wing, altered. Coursed, squared stone. Stone slate roof. Two storeys and attic. Housebody with rear outshut and cross-wing. Housebody: a former 7-light double-chamfered window with king mullion, now of 3 lights. Entrance to right in C20 porch. Round-arched fire-window to 1st floor left and a 3-light double-chamfered window to right (mullions removed). The cross-wing has a large altered ground-floor window with continuous drip mould above. To 1st floor is a 3-light double-chamfered window with concrete lintel and no mullions. Hood mould over. 2-light flat-faced mullion window to attic. Hollow-chamfered gable copings on cut kneelers. Brick stacks.

Far Coates Cottage East, Far Coates Cottage West and Far Coates Farmhouse are shown blue on the plan below.

The Application site is marked with an arrow.



The proposed Turbines will not affect Far Coates Cottages or Far Coates Farmhouse.

(d) Thurgoland Bridge List Entry Number 1286687

Far Coates Farmhouse is 870m south west of the Application site

The list entry description is as follows:

Bridge. Early to mid C19. Deeply-coursed tooled sandstone except west end which is rock-faced stone. One segmental arch flanked by square piers. Similar piers at each end. Band at base of parapet which has triangular coping raised over the piers. The bridge spans the River Don and is partly in the parish of Hunshelf.

(e) Thurgoland Bridge Bank List Entry Number 1315035

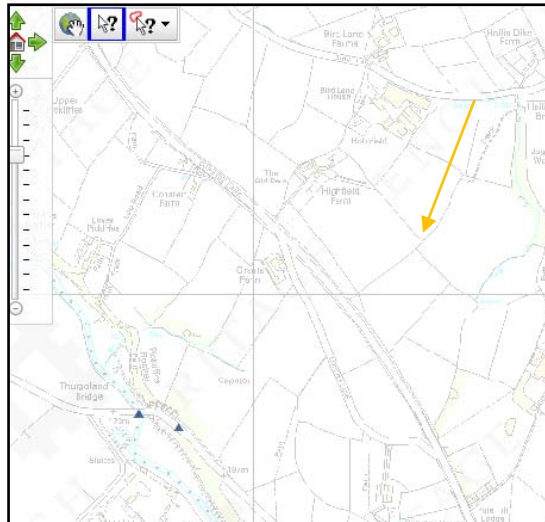
Thurgoland Bridge Bank is 890m south west of the Application site

The list entry description is as follows:

Bridge. Early to mid C19. Deeply-coursed tooled sandstone except east end which is of rock-faced stone. One segmental arch flanked by square piers. Similar piers at each end. Band at base and parapet which has triangular coping which is raised over piers. The bridge spans the River Don and is partly in the parish of Thurgoland.

Thurgoland Bridge and Bank are shown blue on the plan below.

The Application site is marked with an arrow.



The proposed Turbines will not affect Thurgoland Bridge and Bank.

(f) Pule Hill Hall List Entry Number 1192182

Pule Hill Hall is 660m south east of the Application site.

The list entry description is as follows:

II House and adjoining cottage. Probably late C18, altered, restored late C20; cottage dated 1671, with C18 alterations. Rendered rear, coursed dressed stone to garden front. Concrete tile roof, stone slates to cottage. Two storeys. Each of 3 bays. House: garden front: central doorway, possibly altered, blocked openings to each side. Plaque with shield support and helm, and a 3-light flat-faced mullion window to 1st floor (altered or reset). Square 2-storey added bay to each side with large ground-floor windows and 3-light window to 1st floor as before, possibly reset. Plain elevation to cottage. Concrete gable copings on cut kneelers. Brick end stacks. Rear: 2 bays of flat-faced mullion windows of 3 and 2 lights to left with inserted doorway between. Round-arched staircase window and a further 2-light window to right. Cottage, on left, has moulded doorway to right with inscribed lintel: "TA 1671" One 3-light window with chamfered mullions to each floor. Other openings probably inserted, except a 2-light double-chamfere& window (mullion removed) to 1st floor left. Central rendered stack.

Pule Hill Hall is shown blue on the plan below.

The Application site is marked with an arrow.



The views from the footpath would be close up and relatively short in terms of time duration.

There are already a number of electricity poles and large structures in the landscape against which any impact of the Turbines should be considered.

The photograph below (Fig. 9) looks from the site proposed toward the location for Fig. 8 (indicated).

The extent of the electricity poles in the landscape visible from the public footpath is illustrated.



There would be minimal views of the Turbines from the footpath to the west of the site proposed (No. 39). The footpath is little used.

The photograph below is taken looking east toward the site proposed from the point where the footpath meets the A629.



The photograph below is taken from footpath 39 looking south east, adjacent to 'Holmefield'.



The photograph below is taken looking east toward the site proposed from footpath 39.



The undulating topography of the area would prevent long term and distant views of the Turbines from the public footpaths and the Turbines would not significantly detract from enjoyment of the public rights of way in the area.

8. Issues to be Considered - Rural Development – PPS7

This proposal is development on agricultural land in the countryside. It is an on farm diversification, consequently PPS7 is applicable and supportive.

Two of the ‘Key Principles’ are

“(i) To raise the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through the promotion of:

- thriving, inclusive and sustainable rural communities, ensuring people have decent places to live by improving the quality and sustainability of local environments and neighbourhoods;*
- sustainable economic growth and diversification;*
- good quality, sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside; and*
- continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources.*

(iv) To promote sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors where farming achieves high environmental standards, minimising impact on natural resources, and manages valued landscapes and biodiversity; contributes both directly and indirectly to rural economic diversity; is itself competitive and profitable; and provides high quality products that the public wants.”

Guidance is also provided to Planning Authorities when determining applications for development in the Countryside

“16. When preparing policies for LDDs and determining planning applications for development in the countryside, local planning authorities should:

- (i) support development that delivers diverse and sustainable farming enterprises;*
- (ii) support other countryside-based enterprises and activities which contribute to rural economies, and/or promote recreation in and the enjoyment of the countryside;*
- (iii) take account of the need to protect natural resources;*
- (iv) provide for the sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources in accordance with the policies set out in PPS22; and*
- (v) conserve specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value, in accordance with statutory designations”*

This diversification :-

- (i) will support other country-side based enterprises and contribute to the rural economy through the recirculation of wealth;*
- (ii) will protect natural resources;*
- (iii) is a sensitive exploitation of renewable energy resources.*

9. Local Planning Policy Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council UPD.

WIND ENERGY GENERATION

Policy ES12

Proposals for wind energy generation will be assessed with regard to the following factors:

- a) the effect both individually and cumulatively on landscape and visual amenity of the area.*
- b) the impact on residential amenity with particular reference to noise, visual outlook, and shadow flicker and flashing from Turbine blades.*
- c) the provision of a satisfactory access to the highway network having regard to visual amenity and the safety of road users And the effect of the proposals on road users including likely Distraction to motorists*
- d) the effect on wildlife, ecology and archaeology of the immediate area*
- e) the effect on agricultural land uses*
- f) electro-magnetic effects*
- g) the provisions for connection to the electricity transmission and supply system*
- H) the effect of shadow flicker or flashing from the turbine blades*

The council will expect a detailed statement which has regard to these issues, to accompany any application for wind power development proposals, where such an appraisal is deemed necessary in view of the implications of the proposal.

Policy ES12A

The use of appropriate technology and design will be required on new wind generator proposals, together with the use of an appropriate coloration which shall be agreed in writing with the local planning authority. Advertisements or lettering on turbines will not be permitted.

Policy ES12B

Within a period of one year following the cessation of active use of a wind power generator, all surface plant equipment, buildings, foundations, roads or other developments shall be removed from the site, and the area shall be restored to as near its original condition as is practicable, to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.

Policy ES12C

The council will control development in the vicinity of existing wind energy generation installations so as to safeguard them from a reduction in local wind speeds.

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE GREEN BELT

Policy GS7

Without prejudice and subject to the application of policies gs8, gs8a, gs8b, gs8c, gs8d, gs8e and gs9 in this plan, development within the green belt will not be permitted unless it maintains the openness of, and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in, the green belt.

VISUAL AMENITY

Policy GS9

Development within the green belt, or conspicuous from it, should not by reason of its siting, materials or design result in significant harm to the visual amenity of the green belt.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL LAND

Policy GS12

The best and most versatile agricultural land is a national resource for the future. Considerable weight will be given to protecting such land from development.

10. Conclusion

The application site is within a Green Belt.

PPG2 : Green Belts provides:-

Presumption against inappropriate development

3.1 *The general policies controlling development in the countryside apply with equal force in Green Belts but there is, in addition, a general presumption against inappropriate development within them. Such development should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. See paragraphs 3.4, 3.8, 3.11 and 3.12 below as to development which is inappropriate.*

3.2 *Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt. It is for the applicant to show why permission should be granted. Very special circumstances to justify inappropriate development will not exist unless the harm by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations. In view of the presumption against inappropriate development, the Secretary of State will attach substantial weight to the harm to the Green Belt when considering any planning application or appeal concerning such development.*

PPS22 provides :-

“Such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources.”

In PPS7 it is provided:-

Where farm diversification proposals in the Green Belt would result in inappropriate development in terms of PPG2, any wider benefits of the diversification may contribute to the ‘very special circumstances’ required by PPG2 for a development to be granted planning permission).

The wider benefits required by PPS7 are the environmental benefits as provided in PPS22.

The Local Planning Policy on Development within the Green Belt is in Policies GS7:-

Policy GS7

Without prejudice and subject to the application of policies gs8, gs8a, gs8b, gs8c, gs8d, gs8e and gs9 in this plan, development within the green belt will not be permitted unless it maintains the openness of, and does not conflict with the purposes of including land in, the green belt.

Barnsley MBC has already granted planning permission for Turbines in the Greenbelt of sizes both larger and smaller than those now being proposed:-

- (i) Application Ref: 2011/0397 1 x 225kW Wind Turbine 46m to blade tip. Approved 7th June 2011
- (ii) Application Ref: 2011/0398 1 x 225kW Wind Turbine 46m to blade tip. Approved 9th June 2011
- (iii) Application Ref: 2011/0403 1 x 225kW Wind Turbine 46m to blade tip. Approved 7th June 2011
- (iv) Application Ref: 2011/0470 1 x 15kw wind turbine 15m mast and 19.8m to tip of the blade. Approved 7th September, 2011.

The Application ref:- 2011/0470 is on land at Pule Hill Hall Farm, Rag Lane, Thurgoland. The land at Pule Hill Hall Farm adjoins the Applicants land.

The Local Planning Policy on wind energy generation is in Policy ES12:-

“Proposals for wind energy generation will be assessed with regard to the following factors:

a) the effect both individually and cumulatively on landscape and visual amenity of the area.

b) the impact on residential amenity with particular reference to noise, visual outlook, and shadow flicker and flashing from Turbine blades.

c) the provision of a satisfactory access to the highway network having regard to visual amenity and the safety of road users And the effect of the proposals on road users including likely Distraction to motorists

d) the effect on wildlife, ecology and archaeology of the immediate area

e) the effect on agricultural land uses

f) electro-magnetic effects

g) the provisions for connection to the electricity transmission and supply system

H) the effect of shadow flicker or flashing from the turbine blades

The council will expect a detailed statement which has regard to these issues, to accompany any application for wind power development proposals, where such an appraisal is deemed necessary in view of the implications of the proposal.”

The criteria in ES12 have been addressed in this Design and Access Statement.

Where the Turbines are distinguishable from beyond the Applicants land the design, scale, form and appearance selected ensures the construction and operation on the proposed site will not be intrusive on the landscape. Any intrusion in the landscape would be minimal and far outweighed by the economic, social and environmental benefits of the proposal outlined above.

The Turbines have been sited a significant distance from residential properties to ensure that there are no issues associated with noise, shadow flicker or safety. Although the Turbines will be visible from nearby roads, this does not render the scheme demonstrably harmful.

It is submitted that any adverse impact is offset by the wider economic and environmental benefit of renewable energy and this proposal will, in the long term, help to maintain the viability of the landscape by reducing carbon emissions.

Consequently it is submitted that this development is appropriate for the location proposed and complies with Government Objectives together with Local and National Planning Policy

February 2012.