

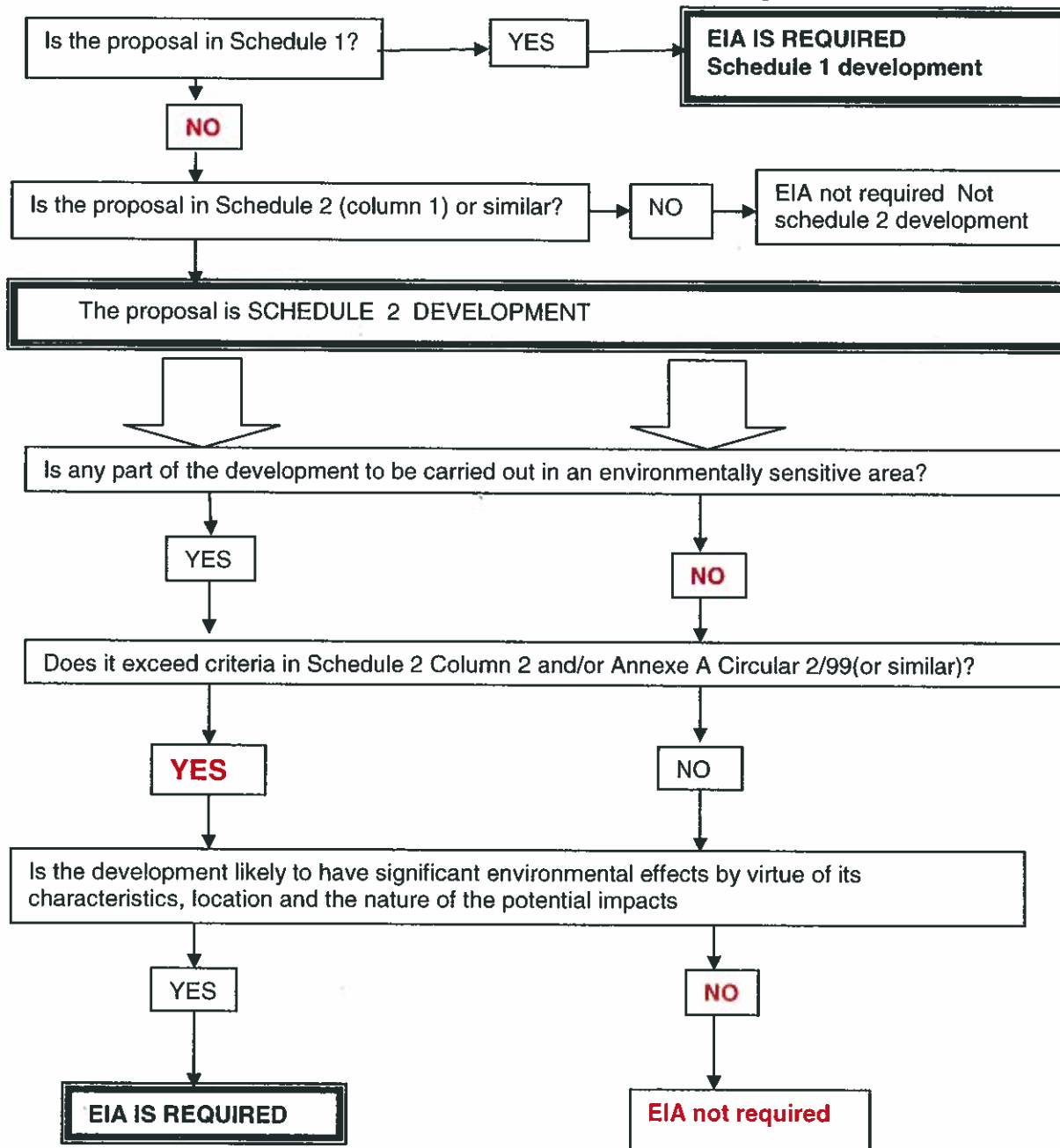
Screening Opinion

APPLICATION No:2012/0237

LOCATION: Sycamore Farm, Roughbitchworth, Oxspring, Sheffield

Proposal: Erection of 2x 11kW Wind Turbines.

A copy of the screening opinion must be placed on the Part 1 Register



SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT AS SET OUT IN
SCHEDULE 3 OF THE REGULATIONS AND CIRCULAR 2/99

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Characteristics of the development

Does the development ie within a sensitive area as defined by Regulation 2(1)

Size of the development.

Does it exceed thresholds in schedule 2 column 2?

Yes it exceeds criteria in
schedule 2 para 3 (i) and (ii)

Does it exceed guidance thresholds in Annex a of Circular 02/99

The cumulation with other development.

Will the proposal be undertaken in conjunction with other
Development?

Will there be any cumulative impact?

Proposal is associated with a
farming enterprise.

Use of natural resources.

Will any natural resources be lost?

If so, will the loss be significant?

No

Production of waste.

Will the proposal generate waste?

Will this be significant in terms of impact on the site?

Will this be significant in terms of off-site impacts?

Limited waste based on
excavation of foundations

Pollution and nuisances;

Will the proposal cause any pollution/nuisance?

Will it be short term(eg during construction)?

Will it be medium term (eg for the first 12 months of use)?

Will it be longer term?

Are the impacts significant?

Short term nuisance during
construction. Some noise
will be generated in operation
but impact is not considered
to be significant due to
distance from receptors

Risk of Accidents

Is there higher than average risk of accidents during construction?

Is there higher than average risk of accidents during operation?

No

Location of development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development

Existing land use

Does the site have an existing landuse, if yes, what is it?

Agricultural land located within
the Green Belt.

Is there an abundance of natural resources in the area?

Are they of high quality?

Do they have regenerative qualities?

No.

Can the environment absorb the proposal having regard to wetlands, (coastal zones (not in Barnsley), forests, nature reserves, parks, protected areas, densely populated areas and historic/archaeological areas)?

No statutorily or locally protected areas on the site or adjacent although the site does lie within the Green Belt.

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Characteristics of the potential impact

The potential significant effects of development must be considered in relation to criteria set t under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

Extent of the impact

How far will the impacts extend beyond the site?
What size of population will be affected?

Local impacts only. Mainly visual impacts, potential noise.

Transfrontier impact

Any impacts beyond national boundary?
If so, what are they?

No

Magnitude and complexity of the impact

Are impacts of greater scale/complexity than other applications?
If so what are they?

Impacts are not considered to be significantly complex.

Probability of the impacts

Are the impacts likely to occur (100%)?
Less likely to occur (50%)?
Limited chance (25%)?
Which impacts are unlikely to occur and why?

n/a

Duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

Will impacts last beyond construction phase?
Will the impacts be frequent?
Which impacts are reversible?
Which impacts are irreversible?

Turbines likely to be temporary therefore visual effects reversible.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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Having examined Schedule 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011, the proposal clearly does not fall within any of the descriptions of development.

Interpreting Schedule 2 widely, the proposal falls under description of development (column 1) 3 (i) Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)

No part of the proposed development is located wholly or in part in a sensitive area as defined in regulation 2(1).

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Conclusion

In coming to this decision the authority has taken into account whether the proposed development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its characteristics, location and the nature of the potential impacts.

Government guidance in Circular 02/99: Environmental Impact Assessment, states that, in general, EIA will be needed for Schedule 2 developments in three main types of case:

- a) For major developments which are of more than local importance;
- b) For developments which are proposed for particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations; and
- c) For projects with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects.

In this case, the site lies within the Green Belt and due to the elevated and open nature of the site there is the potential for landscape and visual impacts within the local area. The Peak District National Park lies approximately 4.5km to the south but due to the distance from the site and the size of the turbines proposed it is not considered the development would give rise to significant environmental effects in respect of the National Park. The proposal is in excess of 3km from any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are no Natural Heritage Sites or Nature Conservation Sites within or close to the site area.

The proposal falls within Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2011 regulations and depending on a virtue of factors including size, nature and location, may require an EIA. Furthermore, Schedule 2 outlines the following applicable thresholds for wind energy proposals:

- *The development involves the installation of 2 or more turbines;*
- *The hub height of any turbine or structure exceeds 15 metres.*

The proposal exceeds both these criteria. However, the indicative thresholds and criteria also highlight the following:

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

As the proposal is less than 5 turbines and less than 5MW (it is just 22kW), the determining factors are primarily those of visual impact, noise and

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highways. There is a clearly a distinction to be drawn between the turbines hereby proposed and the larger commercial turbines commonly associated with large wind farms. The latter often require an EIA because of the potential visual impact, noise, ecology, TV interference, air safety issues, vehicular movements as well as the impacts of the ancillary infrastructure

I would not anticipate a proposal on this scale to give rise to the same level of environmental effects. The site lies within the Green Belt and whilst there are potential visual impacts, the turbines are not of the same magnitude as those on larger wind farms. With regards to noise, the size and number of the turbines and the location nearby receptors means that it is not considered to be significant enough to warrant an EIA. The proposal is not considered to have significant effects on the environment based on factors including the nature, size and location.

It is considered that the application **will not** have significant environmental impacts within the meaning set out in The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(England and Wales) Regulations 2011 for the following reasons:

Reasons:

1 Characteristics

There are cumulative impacts that need to be taken into account in respect of domestic turbines nearby. However, these are not considered to construe significant environmental effects.

The proposals are not of unusual nature or type and the site is not unusually contaminated or of challenging landform. It is considered that there is no higher risk than average of accidents during construction and operations.

2 Location

In terms of location, as previously noted, the site is not in a sensitive area as defined in regulation 2(1).

Therefore, it is considered that the local environment can absorb the proposal.

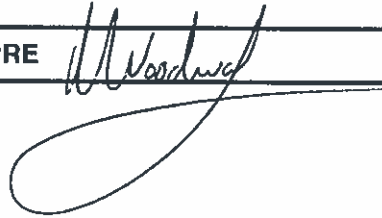
3 Scale Of Impacts

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The impact of the proposed development is likely to be limited to the local area. The impacts are not considered to be unduly complex or of a significant scale following the construction period.

The proposal is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and an EIA **is not** therefore required.

OFFICER SIGNATURE



DATE 15/03/2012