Design & Access Statement

Introduction

This Design and Access Statement will consider the seven areas highlighted by the CABE guidance. Some of these topic areas are not be applicable to this proposal, such as issues linked to building design, but other issues have been addressed.

Assessment

The proposed location of the turbine was chosen to benefit from the on site wind resource, the availability of space on site, and there is an adequate separation distance from public roads, public rights of way, and domestic buildings. Given the overall scale of the turbine (15 metres in height with a rotor radius of 2.78m) it is suited to the location. Given its location about 0.5 km from the public highway and set against the backdrop of the hillside and nearby large trees it has a minimal impact on the countryside. Viewed from other than on the privately owned fields to which there is no public access there will be few places from which the turbine will be seen against the skyline. It has minimal impact on the residential amenity of the nearby houses of which the closest lie 350m to the east and 450m to the south.

Physical

The planning application is for one 6 kilowatt Proven wind turbine on a 15m tilt-up, self supporting mast set in a concrete base to be installed within the present ground level.

Social

The proposal will provide on-site energy from a renewable source. It adds to a number of other similar small domestic turbines that have been erected and will encourage people to think about green issues and action to reduce the carbon footprint such as renewable energy, recycling and energy saving measures. It will also be of benefit to other neighbouring residents by inputting to the electricity grid thus enabling a local reduction of the higher than normal voltage that is presently maintained to compensate for insufficient electric power in this remote location (presently causing nuisance voltage fluctuations with consequential increased frequency of blowing of light bulbs and tripping of protection devices).

Economic

The proposal is of benefit to the environment whilst simultaneously reducing energy costs for the residents at Roger Royd Farm. Although the one turbine will provide a small contribution to climate change and renewable targets, PPS22 makes it clear that such benefits, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining planning applications.

Planning policy

National policy considerations:

The relevant policy is Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22).
Its scope is specific to the consideration of planning issues relating to renewable energy projects rather than broader issues.

The objective of PPS22 is to provide a clear, up to date Statement of national Planning Policy for renewable energy in England; to ensure that the planning system plays its part in delivering Government policy on energy as set out in the Energy White Paper.
Under Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22):
• The financial viability of the project should not form part of the decision.
• 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.
• 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.
• Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should not make assumptions about the technical feasibility of renewable energy projects.
• 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.
• Small-scale developments should be permitted within areas such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts provided that there is no serious environmental detriment to the area concerned.

Local policy considerations:
The proposal satisfies the local Council policies for wind power developments, EP 28 and EP30, to permit an individual turbine, specifically:

i. the environmental benefits of the scheme in meeting local, regional and national energy needs and reducing global pollution outweigh any adverse impact;
ii. the development does not cause significant harm to the visual quality or character of the landscape, to the local environment or to the recreational/tourist use of the area;
iii. the development would not significantly harm designated sites of nature conservation value or sites of archaeological or historic importance;
iv. the development would not adversely affect Listed Buildings or their settings;
v. the development does not detrimentally affect the amenity of local residents;
vi. the siting, number, design, materials and colour of the turbine minimise its visual impact;
vii. access for construction traffic would not give rise to highway danger or permanent damage to the environment;
viii. the developer undertakes the removal of structures and full restoration of the site, to the satisfaction of the Council, should the whole, or part of the site become inoperative for power generation purposes; and
ix. the development would not significantly harm surface water, drainage, groundwater or water supply.

Involvement

Due to the scale of the development it was not considered necessary to consult.

Evaluation

At the time of submission no constraints to development have been identified. The development and turbine selection have been specifically designed so as to maximise energy output and minimise any visual impact.

USE

- What the buildings and spaces would be used for and where different uses will be placed on the site.
- How will the development contribute to the character and image of the development.
- How different uses in the development will work together.

The proposal is for one turbine with a maximum installed capacity of 6kW with the proposed location chosen to benefit from south westerly winds, distance from residential properties, and public rights of way.
The proposed turbine is located in a predominantly rural locality. The site currently forms part of a field presently used for grazing and exercising horses and ponies belonging to the applicants. The proposed development would not have an unacceptable impact on residential amenity in terms of noise or visual amenity. The particular turbine is a very low noise design having no gearbox and is one of the quietest turbines on the market. The proposed development would have a positive contribution by promoting the provision of energy from wind, a renewable source. It will encourage people to think about green issues such as renewable energy, recycling, and energy saving measures and all actions to lower the carbon footprint. It will add to the beneficial impact of other small domestic wind turbines that have been installed in the area to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to increase the production of energy from renewable sources.

Amount

- The statement should explain and justify the amount of development planned. The statement needs to explain why this is an appropriate amount.
- Is the density appropriate.

One turbine was deemed suitable for the site; the turbine will have a maximum installed capacity of 6 kW. The base to the turbine will only be approximately 3 square metres. The proposed development is very small.
The effects of climate change are now being experienced at all levels- global, national, regional and local with the Supporting Statement giving a brief overview of the planning Policy Context and the UK renewable energy policy and therefore justifies the need for the development.
The proposal would contribute and show a commitment to reaching the UK target of 10% of electricity supply from renewable energy by 2010.

Layout

- Will the place be easy to understand, maintain and adapt and is the space accessible?
- Does the layout use spaces to their best advantage?
- Will public spaces be safe, overlooked and convenient?

These questions are not applicable to this development, however the location of the proposed turbine has regard to site characteristics .These included:

- Proximity to surrounding adopted highways (i.e. the turbine's topple distance): the location is about 0.5 km from any adopted highways
- Proximity to surrounding residential uses: the location is some distance from residential uses. It is located more than 350m from any dwelling.
- Proximity to public rights of way: the location is appropriately distant from public rights of way. It is at 100 metres (over 6 times it's height) away from a footpath, which is the only relevant nearby public right of way.

Scale

- *The statement should explain and justify:*
- *The height, width and length of buildings*
- *The size of spaces in relation to each other and their surroundings, and*
- *The size of parts of a building or its details*
- *The statement should provide clear evidence that the planned scale has been influenced by the existing character of the local area or, where relevant, opportunities to improve that character.*

This section of the Design and Access statement primarily relates to building design and scale. The wind turbine development proposal is for one 6Kw turbine with an overall height of about 17.78 metres.
The scale of development proposed is well related to its surroundings in terms of scale, context and form. Although it is acknowledged that the proposed turbine would be visible its height, scale and colour would not have any significant detrimental impact to adjacent uses or buildings or on the surrounding landscape character. It has the support of the neighbouring residents.
The size and scale of the turbine proposed will maximise the potential for this site development to extract energy from the wind.

Landscaping

- *The statement should justify and explain the hard and soft landscaping of private and public spaces. It should explain the purpose of landscaping and its relationship to the surrounding area. The landscaping strategy, as set out in the statement, should show how the development responds to opportunities to improve the landscape character of the site.*

This section does not relate to this development as the turbine is proposed to be located in the existing and no additional hard or soft landscaping is proposed. The landscape is well able to accommodate such a turbine.

Appearance

- *The statement should explain and justify the appearance of buildings and spaces, and show how they relate to their surroundings. It should cover architecture, materials, decoration, lighting, colour and texture. The best designs link all the parts of a scheme, and the statement should show how decisions on appearance related to all other aspects of the scheme, reinforcing the main design.*

The proposed turbine has a matt black turbine head with dull grey tower and hence it will not be particularly dominant in the location.

Access

- The statement covers two connected issues one is the general movement to and through the site and its buildings and the other is how all members of society will be able to use the site.

The proposed turbine is located within an existing privately owned field and would take up approximately 3 square metres. The turbine would not result in any change to access. In terms of any impact on the general public the statement in paragraph 49 of the companion guide to PPS22 should be noted and which states:

'Experience indicates that properly designed and maintained wind turbines are a safe technology. The very few accidents that have occurred involving injury to humans have been caused by failure to observe manufacturers' and operators' instructions for the operation of the machines. There has been no example of injury to a member of the public'.

The site is not in a public area and does not impact on the public in terms of use of the site.

In terms of access, the site is adequately accessed across the field to enable its construction, annual servicing and occasional maintenance.