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GREENBELT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF 1 SMALL SCALE EVANCE R9000 5KW WIND TURBINE ON A 12M MAST

CARRIED OUT BY:

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ON BEHALF OF:

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HEY SLACK FARM
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1.0 PLANNING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

1.3 As the development is associated with an existing dwelling with land, the wind turbine can be considered appropriate under paragraph 3.12, which covers other development. The turbine can fall within the "engineering and other operations" mentioned and is not therefore inappropriate development provided the openness of the Green Belt is maintained and there is no conflict with the purposes of land in the green Belt. This is achieved at the proposed site by utilizing the Evance R9000, a slender wind turbine with little bulk in the head and tower. The turbine is also located at a lower point within the applicants land.

The turbines impact is very much on a local scale and due to its ability to produce a high yield of electricity, via a very small unit, the impact, in our opinion, on the Green Belt has been outweighed. This is further aided by the rolling topography of the land, which sees the land rise above the height of the turbine in the North, South, East and West directions, suppressing long distance views.

A clear example of other small scale turbines can be seen around the local area. All are far bulkier than the newly proposed turbine, which is a replacement proposal for the already approved Evoco 10kW onsite.

1.4 Taken from PPS22 Green Belt, paragraph 13 it states, '*such very special circumstances may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources'.* Hey Slack Farm and the group of properties all owned by the applicant use 26,000 kWh of electricity per annum, which is greatly damaging to our environment.

The applicant uses large quantities of oil onsite, and is aware of the great damage this causes to our environment, as well as the rising costs of purchasing the oil.

The local area receives an excellent wind resource making good sense to use this abundant element, harnessing it for the production of clean and Green energy.

The potential for the generation of electricity is excellent on site with a optimum wind speed of 7.2 m/s 10m agl and would reduce carbon emissions by a minimum of 8 tonnes /annum, 160 tonnes in 20 years helping to drive Kirkless MBC towards their goals of their Local policies and towards the National & Regional goals.

Approximately 60% - 80% of the electricity generated by the turbine would be used on site lowering the properties carbon footprint considerably.

By siting the turbines close to the main property the turbines are clearly associated with the dwelling that they will serve. The wind turbines are classed as Domestic small-scale turbines and cannot be likened to the large utility turbines found in large wind farms, such as those found towards the Southeast. The turbines are sized appropriately for the given application, and have been carefully chosen in line with the sites usage.

2 CONCLUSION

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

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

The sensitive siting clearly shows that the turbine is attached to Hey Slack Farm to which it serves. The undulation of the land means that the turbine will not be seen for great distances, and the dense wooded areas that surround the proposed location would offer great camouflage. Due to the grey colouring and smaller scale, the Evance generally blends very well into the background, especially in more prominent locations.

The group of properties have a high annual usage giving a clear reason for the installation of the Evance R9000.

The abundant available wind in and around the Cumberworth area offers a great opportunity to utilise this free energy source, and greatly reduce the properties reliance on fossil fuels.

Investment Renewables believes that the benefits of this proposal have very clearly been demonstrated and for a relatively low impact the potential generation on site, will play a small but significant role in our battle against climate change, far outweighing the small impact on this local area of Green Belt.