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Development Management
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

17/07/2026

Section 73 Application to Amend Condition 3 of Application 2009/0572 to Extend the Operational Life of Spicer Hill Wind Farm

Dear Sir/Madam,

We write on behalf of the Applicant (Spicer Hill Wind Farm Ltd) to seek a variation to Condition 3 attached to planning consent 2009/0572 for Spicer Hill Wind Farm as illustrated on **Figure 1**.

The current wording of the condition restricts the operational life to 25 years from the date of commissioning; however, we respectfully request that this be amended to allow for a 40 year operational life of the wind farm.

Justification for the Proposed Amendment

Wind energy generation provides an essential and immediate contribution to mitigating the effects of climate change. It is known that wind turbines are able to operate effectively for longer periods than was previously expected, as such, the proposed extension to operational life of the wind farm would ensure that the productive use of the site is maximised and is able to continue to produce energy and contribute to targets.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council declared a climate change emergency in 2019, adopting 2040 target for council operations to be net zero and to support the wider borough to be net zero by 2045. Maximising renewable energy generation from existing sites is an essential component in being able to meet such targets, as it ensures that a wind energy generation site with proven viability, can continue to produce clean energy for a longer period of time, with no additional environmental impacts.

Importantly, the proposed amendment would not alter, the description of the development, the application boundary, the physical characteristics of the existing development, layout, operational parameters, or approved mitigation measures. The development would continue to operate in accordance with all other planning conditions and environmental protections attached to the consent.

With the regular maintenance, wind turbines are known to be able to operate effectively for an extended lifespan, as such, operational life extensions in the vicinity of 40 years and beyond are becoming increasingly common within the UK renewable energy sector and are consistent with evolving industry standards and policy support for maximising renewable energy generation from existing sites.

Such support is noted through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Policy under Paragraph 168 (c) where it states:

c) in the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site.

Additionally, the proposed extension to operational life would be supported through Barnsley Local Plan Policies CC1:

Promoting and supporting the delivery of renewable and low carbon energy

And RE1:

We will allow development that produces renewable energy as long as there is no material harm upon:

- *The character of the landscape and appearance of the area;*
- *Living conditions;*
- *Biodiversity, Geodiversity and water quality;*
- *Heritage assets, their settings and cultural features and areas;*
- *Key views of, from or to scenic landmarks or landscape features;*
- *Highway safety, or*
- *Infrastructure including radar.*

As life extension would not create any new impacts, it would therefore not result in any material harm.

Proposed Condition Wording

As such, it is requested that the wording of Condition 3 is varied to read as follows:

Decommissioning of the wind farm shall take place within 40 years of the date of commissioning. The LPA shall be notified in writing of the date of commissioning and the date of decommissioning of the wind farm within one month of the appropriate date.

Reason: To establish the dates of commissioning and decommissioning of the wind farm and to assist in effective monitoring of the site.

It is requested that Green Cat Renewables Ltd and the Applicant are given the opportunity to review any new condition wording proposed by the Local Planning Authority prior to determination of the application.

We trust that this request will be viewed favourably in light of the above justification. Should you require any further information in support of this application, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,



Isla Ferguson

Senior EIA Manager – Green Cat Renewables Ltd.