Blackstone Edge Wind Farm

1.1 Supplementary Landscape and Visual Information

Introduction

1.1.1 Entec UK Ltd has completed this supplementary landscape and visual report for Blackstone Edge Wind Farm in response to comments by Barnsley Metropolitan Council in relation to the Environmental Statement submitted in January 2008. **Appendix A** of the report includes the drawings and illustrations that accompany this supplementary text. The report contains information which responds to the following comments from the local authority:

- Visualizations in the ES;
- Supplementary viewpoint at Millhouse Green;
- Capacity and design issues in relation to existing scheme at Royd Moor; and
- Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment (CLVIA).

Visualizations

1.1.2 The visualisations that were produced in the ES have been produced in accordance with Scottish Natural Heritage – *Visual Representation of Wind Farms Good Practice*, Horner and Maclennan and Envision March 2006. The photomontages have been checked for accuracy and are the best that than can be produced within the limitation of the Resoft software technology

Supplementary Viewpoint Assessment

1.1.3 **Figure 2** illustrates the photomontages from the B6106 near Millhouse Green. This viewpoint location was requested by Barnsley Metropolitan Council and assessment from this viewpoint is provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1 - Viewpoint 1

Figure 2	**Viewpoint 1: B6106**
Description	The viewpoint is located south east of the proposed site and the existing turbines at Royd Moor, at ~2594m from the nearest turbine. The viewpoint is located on a B road to west of Millhouse Green viewing across Inburchworth Upland Farmland local landscape towards the wind farm site. Visible within the view are scattered farmsteads and rough pasture with scattered trees and drystone walls which are representative of this local landscape and wider Yorkshire Southern Fringe Landscape Type.

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Figure 2	**Viewpoint 1: B6106**	
Sensitivity	The viewpoint is located off a minor road near Millhouse Green and would be experienced by road users and cyclists and is also within the Area of Borough Landscape Value (ABLV), and as such represents a landscape of medium sensitivity.	
Magnitude of Change and Type of Effect	The proposed wind farm would be visible on the horizon, affecting a small proportion of the view with two turbine blades visible against the sky. The magnitude of change as a result of the proposed turbines is likely to be medium. Visibility of construction activity is also likely to be low, with potential views of cranes during the erection of the turbines.	
Mitigation	The turbines would be pale grey in colour to reduce their contrast with the background sky under most conditions.	
Cumulative Existing, under construction and consented submitted and scoped	There would be simultaneous visibility of the existing wind farm at Royd Moor (~1.3km), also visible would be the consented wind farm at Hazelhead (~3.3km). There would also be views of the submitted scheme at Spicer Hill (1.7km) which would be visible within the Royd Moor turbines. Cumulatively the four wind farms appear as new features in the landscape. The combine magnitude of change would be high.	
Assessment	*Sensitivity*	*Medium*
	Magnitude	*Medium (zero increasing to Medium during construction)*
	Type of Effect	*Long term (reversible), direct and cumulative with Royd Moor, Hazelhead Wind Farms.*
	Level of Effect	***Moderate***

Landscape Capacity

1.1.4 The nature of the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape and Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe Landscape Type has capacity to accommodate wind farm development due to its medium large scale upland/upland fringe characteristics. Barnsnley Council have also stated in correspondence in relation to the ES that '*a concentration of wind farms in the vicinity of the Crow Edge/Royd Moor area is generally positive as a more dispersed distribution would significantly increase the actual and perceived physical extent/impact of wind farming in the region*'. The key will be to develop design continuity between the different wind farms in this locality to achieve a coherent balanced visual relationship with the landscape.

Design Guidance from Scottish Natural Heritage

'Guidelines on the Environmental Impacts of Wind farms and Small Scale Hydroelectric Schemes' published by Scottish Natural Heritage provides detailed advice on design, and general advice on relating scale of wind farm and turbine size to the existing landscape scale and character aiming to achieve a sensitive, sculptural and simple image that appears rational to the landscape setting. In the case of cumulative effects, a simple image may be retained by all of the developments retaining a similar image and relationship in the landscape.

In relation to Blackstone Edge wind farm it was concluded that a turbine of a similar height to the proposed turbines at Hazelhead Wind Farm presented as a best fit visually within the landscape, and the elevated upland landscape could accommodate the scale of the turbines at

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100m blade tip without potential adverse scale effects with the neighbouring Royd Moor Wind Farm at~50m height to blade tip.

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Assessment

1.1.5 The consideration of cumulative impacts has used guidance used in Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage's '*Guidance for the Assessment of Cumulative Landscape and Visual Impacts Arising from Wind farm Developments – Version 2* April 2005. The CLVIA is however, not a substitute for individual wind farm landscape and visual impact assessment.

1.1.6 Existing, operating wind farms form part of the baseline assessment and have been considered as part of the LVIA. Other wind farms which have been consented or may be in the planning process have also been considered.

1.1.7 The probability of cumulative effects is variable and those effects related to existing wind farms and those under construction are considered as certain whereas development with planning consent is considered as likely. Wind farm sites for which there is a submitted planning application are considered as uncertain and other wind farms for which no planning application has been made are considered as uncertain/unknown, as the level of uncertainty would be greater.

Types of Cumulative Effect

Three types of cumulative effect are possible, relating to viewpoints and other areas of visibility, and are defined as follows:

- *Cumulative Landscape Effects*: Where more than one wind farm may have an effect on a landscape designation or particular area of landscape character;
- *Static Cumulative Visual Effects*: Where more than one wind farm may be visible simultaneously[1] or successively[2] from a fixed viewpoint; and
- *Sequential Cumulative Visual Effects*: Where more than one wind farm may be visible from particular routes through the landscape, such as main transport roads or a popular footpath.

As with the main LVIA, the effects may be positive, neutral or negative.

Predicting Cumulative Landscape Effects

The assessment considers the extent to which the proposed development, in combination with others, may change landscape character through either incremental effect on characteristic elements, landscape patterns and quality, or by the cumulative addition of new features. Identified cumulative landscape effects are described in relation to each individual Landscape

[1] A simultaneous view is where more than one wind farm is viewed in the same "view" – that is without turning around for example.

[2] A successive view requires the viewer to move or turnaround at a viewpoint in order to see different wind farms – they would not be visible in a single view (assuming an approximate 90 degree field of view as a normal single view).

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Character Area and for any designated areas (e.g. Areas of Great Landscape Value) that exist within the LVIA Study Area.

Predicting Cumulative Visual Effects

The cumulative visibility of existing wind farm developments is established in the first instance using the computer programme to identify areas where wind farm developments are theoretically visible. The potential visibility of other consented developments is then incorporated to establish a level of visibility within which the additional contribution of the proposed development can be assessed. Cumulative visibility maps are analysed to identify the residential and recreational locations and travel routes where cumulative visual effects on receptors (people) may occur as a result of the proposed development.

The extent of the ZTV in each case has been compared to the ZTV pattern for the Blackstone Edge Wind farm to indicate areas of cumulative simultaneous and successive visibility as well as sequential visibility.

Wind Farms Included Within the Landscape and Visual Assessment

Wind farms included or referred to in this assessment are listed in **Table 2** and illustrated on a plan **Figure 3** and includes al known wind farms out to a distance of 60km.

Table 2 - Wind Farms Included in the Cumulative Assessment Within a 60km Radius

Wind Farm Site	Details					Layout Comments
	No.	BT	HH	RD	Distance	
Existing Wind Farms						
Royd Moor	13	54	35	38	3km	Pennistone, South Yorkshire.
*Longley Farm	1	-	-	-	~5km	A single turbine situated north west of the site, in Kirklees District.
*Bull House, Ecklands Farm	1	-	-	-	~3km	A single turbine currently not used, situated south east of Blackstone Edge, south of Thurlstone.
Ovenden	23	48	31	34	30km	Halifax, Yorkshire.
Coal Clough	24	49	32	34	35km	Located at Burnley in Lancashire.
Chelker Reservoir	4	45	33	25	52km	Draughton, Yorkshire.
Hameldon Hill	3				48km	Located to south west of Burnely.

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Wind Farm Site	Details					Layout Comments
	No.	BT	HH	RD	Distance	
Consented Wind Farms						
Loscar Farm	3	95	60		36km	Loscar Farm, Harthill, near Sheffield.
Hazelhead	3	100	60	80	1.7km	Near Barnsley.
Existing Wind Farms						
Tween Bridge Moor	22	120	80	80	52km	Located near Thorne, Doncaster.
Goole Fields	16	125	80	90	56km	Located to south east of Goole, East Riding, Yorkshire.
Rusholme	12	100	60	80	57km	2km to south of Drax near village of Airmyn..
Knabs Ridge	8				52km	Nidderdale, Harrogate, Yorkshire.
Loftsome Bridge	2				56km	
Marr	4	125	80	90	31km	Near Pontefract.
Proposed Wind Farms with Planning Application Submitted						
Westfield Lane	6		80	90	32km	Located to south-east of Pontefract.
Spicer Hill	5	84			1.5km	
Sheephouse Heights	5	125	80	90	7km	North west of Stocksbridge in South Yorkshire.
Aire and Calder	15	125	80	90	49km	
Todmorden Moor	12	125	80	90	35km	land near Wardle and Littleborough in east Lancashire.
Crook Hill	12	120			31km	On the 30km boundary north-west of the proposed site.
Hook Moor	No information on layouts.				40km	
Princes Soft Drinks	No information on layouts.				27km	
Proposed Wind Farms Scoping Opinion Requested						
Chelkner Reservoir	No information on layouts.				52km	
Champion Wind farm	No information on layouts.				53km	
Midhopestones	No information on layouts.				6km	
Craven	No information on layouts.				59km	

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Wind Farm Site	Details					Layout Comments
	No.	BT	HH	RD	Distance	
Proposed Wind Farms Scoping Opinion Requested						
Moorcrook Hill Wind farm	No information on layouts.				34km	
Hampole	No information on layouts.				30km	

Key:		**HH**	Hub Height (m)
No.	Number of turbines proposed (m)	**RD**	Rotor Diameter (m)
BT	Blade Tip (m)	**Distance**	Distance from the wind farm site centre.

Note 1: This information has been collected from Planning and Developer / LPA sources land may be subject to change.

*Single turbine schemes have been eliminated from the assessment.

Predicted Cumulative Landscape Effects

1.1.8 Royd Moor is the only existing wind farm within the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape (Yorkshire Southern Pennine Fringe) and in addition there is a consented development at Hazelhead, ~3km south west of Blackstone Edge. The cumulative direct effects on the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape would be low.

1.1.9 Considering the Blackstone Edge turbine cluster in combination with Royd Moor turbines the change or indirect effects on the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape would be low.

1.1.10 Considering the Blackstone Edge turbine cluster in combination with Hazelhead wind farm, there would be some increase in the level of indirect effect on the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape, but will not result in any significant effects.

1.1.11 There are no other existing or consented wind farms within 30km of Blackstone Edge.

1.1.12 There is one proposed development within on the Ingbirchworth Upland Farmland Local Landscape at Spicer Hill and the probability and magnitude of effects of this development with Blackstone Edge is uncertain (project is not approved).

Predicted Cumulative Visual Effects

Two or more wind farms are required for the occurrence of a cumulative visual effect. This assessment has therefore considered the development of the Blackstone Edge Wind Farm in addition to the other wind farm sites in the landscape in order to test the landscape capacity of the area and provide conclusions for the (CLVIA) relevant to this proposal.

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Existing Wind Farm Sites

1.1.13 The cumulative assessment includes all known wind farms, for which sufficient information was publicly available at the date of this assessment (such as a scoping report, containing details of size, location and number of turbines). The list of other wind farm sites to be included in the assessment has been compiled from known wind farm planning applications and formal requests for scoping opinions held either by the local planning authorities within 60km of the wind farm site centre.

1.1.14 **Figure 3** illustrates the location of all of the wind farms within a 60km radius of Blackstone Edge Wind farm site centre. Wind farms, which will form the cumulative baseline for assessment purposes, are those, which exist in the landscape at present and those that are consented or under construction. For the purposes of this assessment consented wind farms are also assumed to form part of the baseline are as follows:

- Royd Moor;
- Ovendon Moor;
- Longley Farm and Bull House, Eckland;
- Coal Clough;
- Hameldon Hill;
- Chelker Reservoir; and
- Hazelhead.

1.1.15 Longley Farm and Bull's House (single turbine) have been eliminated from the ZTV analysis as they are small single turbine schemes, and Chelker and Hameldon Wind farms have been eliminated from the ZTV analysis as they are located at distances greater than 40km from Blackstone Edge.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Existing Wind Farm Sites

1.1.16 Royd Moor Wind Farm is located adjacent to Blackstone Edge at ~0.7km distance and Ovendon Wind Farm is located ~30km to the north west and Coal Clough is located at ~35km. **Figure 4a** illustrates the ZTV for Royd Moor, Ovendon and Coal Clough. **Figure 4b** illustrates the cumulative ZTV for the three wind farms with Blackstone Edge. Visibility of Royd Moor is widespread throughout the northern half of the study area and the visibility of Ovendon is concentrated in the north-west. The visibility of Coal Clough wind farm is confined to small areas within the north west of the study area at distances between ~10km and 30km.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Consented Wind Farm Sites

1.1.17 Hazelhead Wind Farm is the closest consented site to Blackstone Edge Wind Farm ~1.7km to south west and the other consented wind farms are located beyond 20km. **Figure 5a** illustrated the cumulative ZTVs for Hazelhead, Loscar (36km) and Marr (30km) wind farms. The visibility in relation Hazelhead Wind Farm would be widespread throughout the north and north west of the study area. The visibility of

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Loscar and Marr Wind Farms would occur in the east and south east of the study area respectively.

1.1.18 **Figure 5b** illustrates the ZTVs of Hazelhead. Loscar and Marr Wind Farms with Blackstone Edge. The cumulative visibility of Hazelhead and Blackstone Edge would be widespread in the north, north-west and north-east of the study area, the proximity of both wind farms to each other will result in simultaneous visibility of both developments. The cumulative visibility of Blackstone Edge and Marr Wind Farm would be extremely dispersed and confined to eastern areas and cumulative visibility of Blackstone Edge and Loscar would be extremely negligible.

Cumulative ZTV Analysis: Submitted Wind Farm Sites

1.1.19 **Figure 6a** illustrates the ZTVs for Spicer Hill (~1.5km) and Sheephouse Heights (~7km) wind farms with visibility of both wind farms concentrated within the north and east of the study area. **Figure 6b** illustrates the ZTVs of these two wind farms with Blackstone Edge which would be predominantly concentrated within 10km and becoming more dispersed at greater distances and mainly covering the north and eastern parts of study area. Cumulative visibility of Spicer Hill and Blackstone Edge would be simultaneous and views of Sheephouse with Blackstone Edge would be predominantly sequential.

Cumulative Assessment of Transport Routes and Footpaths

1.1.20 A cumulative assessment of routes are provided in the ES and **Tables 3.1** and **3.2** provides supplementary cumulative assessment which includes proposed wind farms with a planning application submitted.

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Table 3.1 - Cumulative Assessment: Routes Within the Study Area

Route	Cumulative Assessment			Overall Cumulative
	Potential visibility of *Blackstone Edge Wind* farm	**Existing and Consented Wind *farms***	**Proposed wind farms (In *Planning Process and to be* submitted)**	
A629				
The A629 road runs from High Green in the north of the study area to Thurgoland in the south east of the study area for a length of ~19kms, of which ~11km of the roads lies within the ZTV.	Road users along this road are considered to be of a medium sensitivity when travelling and appreciating the landscape within the Area of Borough Landscape Value. Outwith this area in Barnsley (to the north of Ingbirchworth) road users are of a low sensitivity within an undesignated landscape. *The magnitude of change* arising from the proposed turbines from this road varies *from negligible to medium*, resulting in a moderate visual effect on road users, which reduces to slight/negligible with increased distance from the turbines. This is a long term (reversible), direct and *not significant visual effect.t*	The existing wind farm at Royd Moor would be visible along the road at distances of between ~3km and ~15km. The close proximity of Royd Moor to Blackstone Edge will result in simultaneous visibility predominantly on the section of road between Holmfirth and A61 The consented wind farm at Hazelhead which is located ~4km *to south west of Blackstone Edge* would be visible at distances ~5km and 12km. *Low Magnitude*	The proposed wind farm at Spicer Hill would be visible at distances of between ~4km and ~13km. Visibility would be simultaneous and intermittent at these distances. The proposed wind farm at Sheephouse Heights is located ~8km to south west of Blackstone Edge. Visibility would be *sequential and at distances of* between ~3km and ~10km. *Low Magnitude*	The Blackstone Edge turbines would have a medium contribution to the overall levels of cumulative effect. The overall level of cumulative effect (taking into account simultaneous and sequential visibility) on the route overall would be Slight/*Moderate* and not significant.

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Route	Cumulative Assessment			Overall Cumulative
	Potential Visibility of Blackstone Edge Wind Farm	Existing and Consented Wind Farms	**Proposed Wind Farms (In Planning Process and to be Submitted)**	
A628 (T)				
The A628 road runs west – to east through the study area for a distance of ~20km, and lies ~3.5km south of the proposed site at its nearest point, of which ~11km lies within the ZTV.	Road users along this road are considered to be of a medium sensitivity when travelling and appreciating the landscape within the Area of Borough Landscape Value. Outwith this area in Barnsley (to the north of Ingbirchworth) road users are of a low sensitivity within an undesignated landscape. The magnitude of change arising from the proposed turbines from this road varies from negligible to medium, resulting in a moderate visual effect on road users, which reduces to slight/negligible with increased distance from the turbines. This is a long term (reversible), direct and not significant visual effect.	The existing wind farm at Royd Moor would be visible along the road at distances of between ~4km and ~30km. The close proximity of Royd Moor to Blackstone Edge will result in simultaneous visibility predominantly concentrated on section of road between Salter's Brook Bridge and Barnsley. The consented wind farm at Hazelhead would be visible at distances ~5km and 12km. *Low Magnitude*	The proposed wind farm at Spicer Hill would be visible at distances of between ~4km and ~28km. Visibility would be simultaneous with Blackstone Edge and intermittent over these distances. The Visibility of Sheephouse Heights would be sequential and at distances of between ~4km and ~20km. *Low Magnitude*	The Blackstone Edge turbines would have a medium contribution to the overall levels of cumulative effect. The overall level of cumulative effect (taking into account simultaneous and sequential visibility) would be *Moderate* and not significant.

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Route	Cumulative Assessment			Overall Cumulative
	Potential Visibility of Blackstone Edge Wind Farm	*Existing and Consented Wind Farms*	**Proposed Wind Farms (In Planning Process and to be Submitted)**	
A616				
The A616 road runs from the southern suburbs of Huddersfield in the north west of the study area, to Stocksbridge in the south east of the study area, over a distance of ~21km, *of which ~15km of* the road lies within the ZTV.	Road users along this road are considered to be of a medium sensitivity when travelling and appreciating the landscape within the Area of Borough Landscape Value. The magnitude of change arising from the proposed turbines from this road varies from negligible to low, *resulting in a slight* - moderate visual effect on road users, which reduces to slight- negligible with increased distance from the turbines. This is a long term (reversible), direct and not significant visual effect.	The existing wind farm at Royd Moor would be visible along the road at distances of between 2km and ~8KM. The close proximity of Royd Moor to Blackstone Edge will result in simultaneous visibility predominantly concentrated on section of road between Holmirth and A628. The consented wind farm at Hazelhead would be visible at close range at distances ~1km and 6km. The magnitude of change for a ~5km section of the road is predicted to be ***high***, with direct and oblique views of the three sites near Victoria and Hazelhead. This would result in ***moderate/substantial*** and significant cumulative visual effects for a short section of the overall route, which would reduce to ***slight- moderate*** and slight (not significant) with distance from the site. *Overall Low Magnitude*	The proposed wind farm at Spicer Hill would be visible at distances of between ~2km and ~6km. Visibility would be simultaneous with Blackstone Edge and intermittent over these distances. The Visibility of Sheephouse Heights would be sequential and at distances of between ~1km and ~10km. *Low Magnitude*	The Blackstone Edge turbines would have a medium contribution to the overall levels of cumulative effect. The overall level of cumulative effect (taking into account simultaneous and sequential visibility) would overall be Slight/*Moderate* and not significant.

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Table 3.2 - Cumulative Assessment: Footpaths Within the Study Area

Route	Cumulative Assessment			Overall Cumulative
	Potential Visibility of Blackstone Edge Wind Farm	**Existing and Consented Wind Farms**	**Proposed wind farms (In Planning Process and to be Submitted)**	
Local Footpath / Bridleway Routes / Locally Promoted Routes e.g. Barnsley Boundary Walk				
There is a network of public footpaths and bridleways within proximity of the proposed site, notably the Barnsley Boundary Walk situated north and east of the site (at ~1.6km distance), a bridlepath / footpath ~500m west of the site, and a bridlepath / footpath ~1.2km east of the site.	The predicted magnitude of change would high due to close proximity of the routes to the proposed turbines. The overall visual effects on recreational receptors using the public footpath / bridleway network would be moderate – substantial, and significant.	The turbines at Royd Moor would visible in conjunction Blackstone Edge for most of the route. There would be sequential visibility of the consented scheme at Hazelhead at relatively close range. *High Magnitude*	There would be simultaneous views of Spicer Hill with Blackstone Edge in large sections of the route. There would be sequential views of the Sheephouse Heights scheme at distances of between ~5km and ~15km. *High Magnitude*	The Blackstone Edge turbines would contribute a high magnitude of change to the overall levels of cumulative effect. The overall level of cumulative effect (taking into account simultaneous and sequential visibility) would be Moderate/Substantial and significant.

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Route	Cumulative Assessment			Overall Cumulative
	Potential Visibility of Blackstone Edge Wind Farm	Existing and Consented Wind Farms	Proposed Wind Farms (in Planning Process and to be Submitted)	
The Trans Pennine Trail (National Cycle Route 62)				
The Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) is a nationally promoted recreational route which links the Irish and North Seas and runs through the Pennines. it runs west – east within the study area. The route is for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.	The overall visual effects on recreational receptors using the public footpath / bridleway network would be moderate to slight - moderate and not significant, with potential moderate – substantial visual effects on those sections of the route between 2.5 – 5km distances due to the high sensitivity of the receptors along the route.	The turbines at Royd Moor would visible in conjunction Blackstone Edge at distances of between ~3km and ~18km. There would be a combination of sequential and simultaneous visibility of the consented scheme at Hazelhead at distances of between ~25km ~2km. Medium Magnitude	There would be simultaneous views of Spicer Hill with Blackstone Edge at distances of between ~3km and ~18km. There would be intermittent sequential views of the Sheephouse Heights scheme over snort sections of the route. Medium Magnitude	The Blackstone Edge turbines would contribute a medium magnitude of change to the overall levels of cumulative effect. The overall level of cumulative effect (taking into account simultaneous and sequential visibility) would be Moderate and significant.

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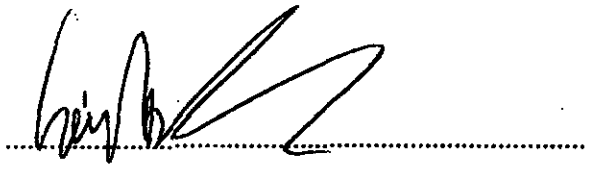
Conclusions

1.1.21 The conclusions set out in the ES states that there would be significant static and sequential cumulative visual effects with Blackstone Edge Wind Cluster and the existing and consented turbines within 2.5km radius of the proposed site, which would reduce to not significant with increased distance from the site. Generally the cumulative visibility within 10km of Blackstone Edge Wind Cluster is likely to be sequential along the recreational and road routes within the area. There is a predicted sequential and static cumulative visibility from the Trans Pennine Trail / A628(T) / A629 / A616 roads and the local public footpath / bridleway network, with potential significant cumulative visual effects when the route passes in close proximity to the site boundary (<2km). This effect reduces to moderate at 2 - 5km from the site and to low beyond 5kms.

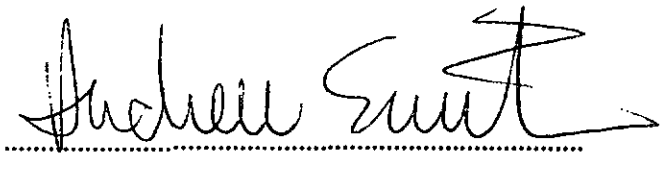
1.1.22 Taken together the analysis indicates substantial inter visibility between the three sites with submitted applications with much of this comprising of simultaneous views in relation to Blackstone Edge, Royd Moor, Hazelhead and Spicer Hill. There would be no significant cumulative visual effects associated with other existing schemes at Coal Clough and Ovendon Wind Farms.

1.1.23 The addition of the submitted developments at Spicer Hill and Sheephouse Heights Wind Farms would add to overall cumulative effects within 10km. Although the probability of cumulative visual effects as a result of submitted planning application sites is considered to be uncertain as it is not known which of these would proceed to construction and operation. The addition of Blackstone Edge wind farm to the overall cumulative effects would not be significant.

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