



LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

FOR

Proposed Installation of One Micro Scale Wind Turbine

AT

**Cheese Bottom Farm,
Cheese Bottom,
Thurgoland,
Sheffield,
S35 7AH.**

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PREPARED BY

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- **Introduction**

The proposed development consists of the installation and operation of three micro wind turbines mounted on towers, 15m to hub height, 18m to blade tip.

The site is located approximately 106m to the south of the B6462 Thurgoland Bank. The turbine will be located to the east of the building complex associated with Cheese Bottom Farm on land currently utilised as an area of grazing pasture. It is an open site with little trees or vegetation in the immediate vicinity. The site is accessed from the main access drive to the farm off Thurgoland Bank.

- **Landscape Character**

This document has been prepared with reference to the *“Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment”* published in May 2002. The site lies within landscape character area B2: Wooded Don River Valley.

The key characteristics of the local landscape include:

- Narrow and steeply incised valley providing a strong sense of enclosure and framed views.
- River Don runs a strongly meandering course.
- Large mixed woodland plantations with smaller deciduous woodland belts.
- Largely undeveloped character, with pasture occurring on the valley sides and floor up to the water's edge.

- **Landscape Sensitivities**

The sensitivity of the Don River Valleys character area is determined as ‘high’. The strong landform and high woodland cover create a strong sense of enclosure and “hidden” character. This suggests that visual sensitivity is low and there is some capacity for accommodating some development without loss of character. The largely undeveloped quality of the landscape results in high sensitivity.

Visual Amenity

The Design and Access Statement identifies visual sensitivities and designated sites in the immediate surrounding area. The nearest neighbour at Valley House lies approximately 104m to the southwest and the nearest road lies approximately 106m to the north; due to the intervening distance and the small size of the proposed development, we conclude that there will be little adverse impact on these sensitivities.

The consideration of landscape impact which follows takes account of views from public viewpoints. The following viewpoints, taken from the immediate surroundings at distances between 80 and 400m, are indicative of the landscape impact.



Viewpoint 1 is from the entrance to the two fields to the southeast looking northwest. This is also a public footpath approximately 72 metres from the proposed site. The trees restrict views of the turbine from this public viewpoint. There are also existing electricity poles which have introduced vertical elements into the landscape.



Viewpoint 2 is taken from the field to the south of Cheese Bottom Farm looking northeast. Approximate distance to the trees is 71 metres and the proposed turbine is 180m from this point. As with viewpoint 1, the trees provide partial mitigation of this view.



Viewpoint 3 is from the B6462 road to the north looking south. Approximate distance to proposed site is 96 metres. As the road is in an elevated position and the turbine proposed is small scale, it does not break the skyline. In addition, existing electricity pylons are on the horizon line.



Viewpoint 4 is from the field to the northwest looking southeast on the southern side of Thurgoland Bank (B6462). Approximate distance to the turbine location is 216 metres. Existing electricity poles have already introduced vertical elements into the landscape.



Due to the undulating landscape and vegetation, views of the proposed turbine are restricted from surrounding viewpoints. In most instances, the turbine does not break the skyline and where it does, there are other existing vertical elements which detract from this impact. Overall therefore, the siting has effectively restricted any substantive adverse impact on public viewpoints to the client's property.

Conclusion

As a small turbine, the HY5 will not be visible from distant viewpoints. As the turbine stands just 17.27m to blade tip, careful siting ensures that its impact is partly mitigated by design in a wooded and enclosed landscape.

The proposed turbine does not adversely affect views from any sensitive receptors such as listed buildings.

The proposal has been sited on the lea of a hill, rather than at the top (where wind speeds would likely be higher) in order to ensure that the small turbine is usually viewed below the skyline and in the context of both the building that it serves and other vertical elements in the landscape.

The turbine itself has a grey mast as it is usually viewed below the horizon, and the blades are coloured white to minimise the impact from viewpoints where it breaks the horizon.

Having regard to the National Planning Policy Framework that encourages positive strategies to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources where impacts are mitigated and supports the contribution from small scale projects, it is considered that the proposed development sited in the proposed location, has an acceptable landscape impact.