

BARNSLEY PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING

DEARNE ADVANCED LEARNING CENTRE:

WIND TURBINE DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING STATEMENT

DECEMBER 2009

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction and Background	1
2.	Wind Turbines and BSF in Barnsley	3
3.	Site Description and Context	4
4.	The Proposals	5
5.	Pre-application Discussion	6
6.	Relevant Planning Policy	7
7.	Relevant Planning History	14
8.	Material Considerations and Technical Matters	15
9.	Summary and Conclusions	20

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Screening Opinion Response

Appendix 2 – Construction Impacts Methodology

Appendix 3 – TV / Radio Interference Search Results

Appendix 4 Responses from Consultees Regarding Air Safety

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Date of Issue: December 2009

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This Planning Statement is submitted in support of a Full Planning Application by Barnsley Partnership for learning for wind turbine development at Dearne Advanced Learning Centre (ALC).
- 1.2 This proposal should also be considered within the context of the Outline Planning Permission (reference 2006/1024) and Reserved Matters Approval (reference 2008/1819) currently being implemented on the site for the construction of a new ALC. The proposals that this statement considers are a component part of the wider ALC construction programme. The applications should therefore be viewed in that context.

The Submission

- 1.3 The application is also supported by the following technical documents:
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment;
 - Design and Access Statement;
 - Noise Impact Assessment.

Assessment of the Proposals

- 1.4 The findings of this statement and the accompanying documents submitted as part of the planning application, demonstrate that the development proposals meet all of the relevant criteria.

This Document

- 1.5 This planning statement sets out the relevant planning policy and material considerations associated with the type of development proposed. The statement then continues to set out why the proposals are acceptable and planning permission should be granted.
- 1.6 The remainder of this document is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 sets out the background to the development;
 - Chapter 3 describes the application site and surrounding context;
 - Chapter 4 describes the proposals;

- Chapter 5 outlines the pre-application discussions that have been held with Barnsley Council;
- Chapter 6 sets out the relevant planning policies as they apply to the site;
- Chapter 7 presents the relevant planning history;
- Chapter 8 discusses the other material considerations and technical matters; and
- Chapter 9 provides the summary and conclusions.

2. Wind Turbines and BSF in Barnsley

Barnsley BSF

- 2.1 In response to the continued economic decline of Barnsley Borough since the 1980's, ambitious plans were drawn up for the regeneration of the Borough which is known as Remaking Barnsley. In association with this, there is Education Vision which underpins the regeneration of the Borough. This has become known as Remaking Learning. Remaking Learning is a radical programme of transformation that will provide the highest quality learning opportunities for every child, young person and adult. A key tool in the delivery of this agenda is the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, within which Barnsley is a Wave 3 Authority.
- 2.2 The Council's broad strategy for delivering the BSF programme rests on improving the quality of teaching, support to teaching and the experience the school can offer. The design, environment, equipment and servicing of school buildings are central to these strategies and this has clear linkages with providing appropriate facilities that are fit for purpose. The current building stock has suffered through lack of investment and this has had a detrimental effect on attainment levels in Barnsley. There are serious suitability, condition and sufficiency issues to be addressed.
- 2.3 To address these issues and to achieve the educational vision highlighted above (together with condition and suitability issues), the complete reorganisation of the secondary school stock resulting in the creation of a smaller number of new Advanced Learning Centres (ALCs) is the most appropriate solution and this is to be delivered through the BSF programme. As part of the new development programme is the delivery of cutting edge sustainability features and this includes the generation of a proportion of the energy consumed from renewable sources on site.
- 2.4 Upon completion the BSF programme will deliver state of the art facilities providing access to high quality learning environments for all learners aged 11+ fit for the 21st Century.

3. Site Description and Context

- 3.1 The application site boundary for the proposals is shown outlined in red on plan reference BP4L_DEA_AWP_DR_94_BW_LL_16P02. However it should be noted that this is a component part of a wider site where construction for a new ALC is currently ongoing. However the area where construction of the wind turbines is to take place makes up part of the approved playing field provision

Site

- 3.2 The site lies to the south of the main urban area of Goldthorpe and is allocated under saved UDP Policy DE21 as an existing community facility.
- 3.3 The proposed wind turbines are located on the existing school playing fields which are to be retained and enhanced as a result of the ALC construction programme.

Surroundings

- 3.4 The site lies to the south of Goldthorpe and is surrounded by a variety of land uses:
- Allotments are situated to the west;
 - Residential development lies to the north;
 - The existing school lies to the east of the proposed turbines. It is understood that this is to be sold for development following the completion of the ALC; and
 - The existing school playing fields to the south.
- 3.5 Once the construction of the ALC is complete, the wind turbines will lie to the east of the school buildings, with playing fields lying to the south of the turbines.
- 3.6 The nearest residential property lies approximately 175 metres to the north and west of the location of the proposed wind turbines.

4. The Proposals

- 4.1 The proposals are to construct 2 wind turbines at a hub height of 15 metres at locations identified on plan reference BP4L_DEA_AWP_DR_94_BW_LL_16 P02 as shown on the map below:
- 4.2 The purpose of the wind turbines is to help ensure that a proportion of the ALC's energy requirement is provided from renewable sources of energy. The proposed turbine model is the Proven 15 Model with a power output of 15 kw each.
- 4.3 The location of the wind turbines have been determined following consideration of the acoustic impacts on the surrounding residential properties.
- 4.4 Wind turbines were considered to be the most appropriate source of renewable energy as it is the most financially viable source which takes advantage of the local climate and will therefore be the most effective source of renewable energy.
- 4.5 The proposals were screened on the need for an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in line with the requirements of Circular 2/99, where it was concluded that EIA was not required. The letter attached at Appendix 1 is confirmation from Barnsley Metropolitan District Council that an EIA is not required for these proposals.

5. Pre-application Discussion

- 5.1 In drawing up the proposals under consideration, there has been extensive dialogue and discussion with the Council, the school and other consultees. This is outlined below.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)

- 5.2 Pre application discussions have been held with officers at BMBC regarding the proposed development. Initial discussions were held in February 2009 where the key issues were identified. In this respect the Council requested that due consideration be given to noise, landscape and visual impact and other matters such as shadow flicker and highways impact.
- 5.3 Further dialogue was held with the Council where proposed locations of the turbines were considered. Indicative location plans were submitted as part of a Screening request submitted under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) regulations.
- 5.4 The proposals were screened on the need for EIA where it was concluded that this was not necessary.

Engagement with the school

- 5.5 As part of the ongoing BSF programme, extensive engagement was held with the school during the design process where the location of the proposed turbines was discussed and agreed. This engagement is ongoing.

Other consultees

- 5.6 As part of the wider approach to pre-application engagement, the following consultees were also consulted:
- Civil Aviation Authority
 - Ministry of Defence Estates
 - National Air Traffic Service (NATS)
- 5.7 At the time of writing no adverse comment has been received from any of the above consultees.

6. Relevant Planning Policy

Statutory Context

- 6.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that planning applications must be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 6.2 The Development Plan of consideration for the application proposal comprises the adopted Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for Yorkshire and Humber (2008) and the Barnsley Metropolitan Council Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2000).
- 6.3 Other documents which should be afforded appropriate material weight in the determination of the planning application include the following:
- Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005);
 - Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007);
 - Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2004);
 - Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Development Framework (LDF).

National Planning Policy

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005)

- 6.4 PPS1 outlines the Government's vision for the planning system and the key policy principles which should underpin it. Principles include taking a spatial planning approach, promoting good design and actively seeking to support sustainable development through the development plan system.
- 6.5 A key principle of PPS1 is the requirement for development plans and decisions to contribute towards global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impacts of climate change. This should be secured through policies which reduce energy use, reduce emissions, promote the development of renewable energy resources and take climate change impacts into account in the location and design of new development.

- 6.6 The prudent use of natural resources is a key aim of PPS1 (Paragraph 4) and a key principle of the Statement is the promotion of the development of renewable energy resources (Paragraph 5). Development plan policies and decisions should seek to minimise the need to consume new resources over the lifetime of the development by seeking to promote the use of renewable resources to encourage energy efficient developments.
- 6.7 Paragraph 13 promotes the development of renewable energy and paragraph 22 encourages the use of renewable energy schemes in developments.

Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 (2007)

- 6.8 The Supplement to PPS1 sets out how planning should contribute towards reducing emissions, stabilising climate change and securing the highest viable resource and energy efficiency by securing sustainable patterns of development.
- 6.9 Consideration of the environmental performance of a proposed development, particularly the climate that the development is expected to experience of its projected lifetime, is encouraged as a key part of the planning process.
- 6.10 The Supplement requires that opportunities for renewable and low carbon sources of energy supply and supporting infrastructure are maximised through regional and local plans. Regional targets for renewable energy generation should be set in line with PPS22 and should require that a proportion of the energy supply of new development is secured from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources.
- 6.11 In particular, paragraph 20 of the Supplement states that planning authorities should not require applicants for energy development to:
- ‘...demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy and its distribution, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for such development must be sited in a particular location’.*
- 6.12 The effects of the proposal on existing and proposed development in close proximity should also be taken into consideration.

PPS22: Renewable Energy (2004)

- 6.13 PPS22 sets out the Government's planning policy on renewable energy. The key objectives are the promotion and development of renewable energy and improvements to energy efficiency in order to mitigate climate change.
- 6.14 The document states that the wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, irrespective of scale, should be treated as a material consideration that will be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission.
- 6.15 Paragraph 8 requires the on-site generation of renewable energy to only be applied to developments where the installation of renewable energy generation equipment is feasible given the type of development proposed, its location, and design and the policy should not be framed in such a way as to place an undue burden on developers, such as specifying that all energy to be used in a development should come from on site renewable generation.
- 6.16 Paragraph 18 requires that local planning authorities and developers consider the opportunity for incorporating renewable energy projects in all new developments. Small scale renewable energy schemes, such as wind turbines, can be incorporated into new developments and some existing buildings. PPS22 requires that local planning authorities should encourage such schemes through positively expressed policies in local development documents.
- 6.17 Paragraphs 19 and 20 relate to the impacts of renewable energy schemes on the landscape and visual amenity, and ambient noise levels. Appropriate siting, design and landscaping schemes are emphasised as a means of minimising the impacts of the proposed renewable energy development.

Companion Guide to PPS22 (2004)

- 6.18 The Companion Guide to PPS22 sets out practical advice as to how the renewable energy policies set out in PPS22 can be implemented in practise.
- 6.19 The Companion Guide requires that where a renewable energy proposal is promoted, it should be demonstrated that the project:
- Meets the requirements of applicable development plan policies;
 - Does not compromise the reasons behind any relevant area designation, or if it does, the proposal provides sufficient justification of the

environmental, economic and social benefits which outweigh any harm;
and

- Addresses the issues of visual impact, and cumulative visual impact, where appropriate.

- 6.20 Technical Annex 8 of the Companion Guide provides detailed information relating to development proposals for wind turbines. Key issues associated with such development may include impacts upon ambient noise levels, landscape and visual amenity, listed buildings and conservation areas and ecology.

The Development Plan

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber (2008)

- 6.21 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for Yorkshire and the Humber was published in May 2008 and sets out the broad development strategy for the Region.
- 6.22 Policy ENV5 specifies that local authorities and developers should seek to increase renewable energy capacity and energy efficiency in prospective and existing developments. In specific reference to new non-residential developments over 1000m², Policy ENV5B states that 10% of energy should be from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources, unless due to the type or design of the development this is not feasible or viable.

Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (2000)

- 6.23 The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (2000) and is the Council's statutory development plan whilst the Local Development Framework (LDF) is under preparation. Only the Local Plan policies which were 'saved' by the Secretary of State in September 2007 have been considered as part of this appraisal.
- 6.24 The site is allocated under Policy DE21 as an existing community facility. Policy DE21, which is aligned with Policy CF2, requires that the existing community facility (school) should be protected against other forms of development.
- 6.25 Policy PE20, which is aligned with Policy CF2, requires that the existing community facility (school) should be protected against other forms of development.

6.26 Policy ES12 sets out the Council's requirements for proposals that seek to develop wind energy generation. Such proposals will be assessed with regard to the following factors:

- Effect both individually and cumulatively upon landscape and the visual amenity of the area;
- The impact on residential amenity with reference to noise, visual outlook, shadow flicker and flashing from the turbine blades;
- Provision of satisfactory access to the highway network having regard to visual amenity, highway capacity and safety;
- Effect on wildlife, ecology and archaeology;
- Effect on agricultural land uses;
- Electro-magnetic effects;
- The provision for connection to the electricity transmission and supply system;
- The effect of shadow flicker or flashing from turbine blades.

6.27 Policy ES12A outlines the importance of using appropriate technology and design for all wind generator proposals. Policy ES1C states that the Council will control development in the vicinity of existing wind generation installations so as to safeguard these from a reduction in local wind speeds.

6.28 Policy BE6 sets out design standards for all development. Proposals will be assessed in terms of:

- The quality of layout and the suitability of the scale of the development;
- The use, quality, design and landscape treatment of open land within the site and the area around buildings;
- The standard of detailed design and facing materials of proposed buildings;
- The suitability of the whole development for its proposed context and its relationship with adjoining land uses.

Barnsley Local Development Framework

- 6.29 In accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), the Council is currently preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF).
- 6.30 The Core Strategy will constitute the key Development Plan Document, which will sets out the proposed policies, spatial options and strategic objectives for the future development of the Barnsley Borough to 2026.
- 6.31 The Core Strategy Preferred Options document was published in October 2005. This was updated by the Core Strategy Revised Preferred Options, published in June 2009.
- 6.32 The Revised Preferred Options document sets out strategic options; site specific allocations will be issued following the publication of the Core Strategy. Strategic Objective 6 requires that all new development is suitably designed and built to the highest standards, whilst Strategic Objective 8 seeks to minimise energy consumption and to support renewable energy facilities in the Borough.
- 6.33 Draft Policies CSP38 and CSP45 supports Strategic Objectives 6 and 8 by promoting efficient and prudent use of resources in new developments, including reduced energy consumption and promotion of sources that utilise renewable energy.
- 6.34 Draft Policy CSP48 further promotes the use of renewable sources of energy, stating that:
- 'All development (either new build or extension) of 10 or more dwellings or exceeding 1000 sq m of non-residential floorspace must provide a minimum of 10% of predicted energy needs from decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy sources'.*
- 6.35 The Policy states further, that where it is not appropriate to incorporate such provisions within a development, an off-site contribution may be required.
- 6.36 Draft Policy CSP49 specifies however that proposals for renewable energy will only be permitted where there is no detrimental impact upon the character of the landscape and appearance of the area, residential amenity, biodiversity and any historical and cultural features.

Barnsley Education Sites DPD (2009)

- 6.37 The Council adopted the Education Sites DPD in January 2009. The DPD sets out the planned sites for secondary schools across the borough in accordance with the Government's Building Schools for the Future development programme.
- 6.38 The DPD sets out the Council's intention to create nine advanced learning centres in the borough, to replace the thirteen existing secondary schools.

7. Relevant Planning History

7.1 Table 5.1 outlines the planning history of relevance to the site and the application proposal.

Application Number	Proposal	Decision	Decision Date
2006/1024	Erection of an Advanced Learning Centre (Outline)	Approved	06/10/2006
2008/1819	Erection of an Advanced Learning Centre, car park and sports pitches (Reserved Matters)	Approved	12/03/2009
2009/0015	Change of use vacant agricultural land to school playing field and open space	Approved	11/03/2009
2009/0020	Variation of condition 24 relating to submission of Community Use Agreement on previous permission 2006/1024 dated 21 November 2006 for erection of Advanced Learning Centre, Dearne High School	Approved	11/03/2009

Table 5.1: Planning History

8. Material Considerations and Technical Matters

- 8.1 Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) refers to the Development Plan as a whole and states that:

'if regard is to be had to the Development Plan for the purposes of any determination to be made under the Planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise'

- 8.2 The key material planning considerations raised by the proposed wind turbine at Dearne ALC and to be taken into account in the decision making process are therefore:

- Impact on the landscape and visual amenity of the area;
- Impact on noise levels;
- The impact of shadow flicker;
- Impact on ecology / ornithology;
- Impact of the wind turbines surrounding footpaths / highways;
- Impact of construction on the highway;
- Television / telecommunications interference; and
- Impact on Air Safety.

- 8.3 These are discussed in more detail below.

- 8.4 This application is supported by a number of accompanying reports which set out specific details relating to landscape and visual impact and noise. The assessment of shadow flicker, ecology / ornithology and TV / telecommunications will also be considered in this chapter. All of these matters should be considered as material to the determination of the application.

Principle of Development

- 8.5 National, regional and local planning policy supports the development of renewable sources of energy to support sustainable development objectives.

- 8.6 The proposals are for the generation of energy from renewable sources of energy. This is supported by adopted and emerging national, regional and local planning policy, namely:
- PPS1 and its supplement;
 - PPS22 and the Companion Guide to PPS22;
 - RSS Policy ENV5; and
 - Draft Core Strategy Policy CSP48.
- 8.7 The objective of PPS1 is the promotion of sustainable development and identifies the prudent use of natural resources as one of the key principles. Similarly, the key objective of PPS22 is the promotion and development of renewable energy in order to mitigate against climate change.
- 8.8 Policy ENV5 of the RSS requires developers to increase renewable energy capacity and energy efficiency in all developments and states that 10% of energy should be from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources.
- 8.9 This is also reflected in emerging policy. Strategic Objective 8 of the Core Strategy Preferred Options seeks to minimise energy consumption and supports the development of renewable energy sources. Draft Core Strategy Policy CSP48 seeks the provision of a minimum of 10% of the energy requirements of all new developments to be provided from decentralised, renewable or low carbon sources.
- 8.10 Wind turbines are considered to be the most appropriate source of renewable energy in this location as they will take advantage of the local climatic conditions and will be the most financially viable source.
- 8.11 The development of wind turbines in this location is therefore considered to be acceptable.
- 8.12 In summary, the wind turbines are considered to be ancillary to Dearne ALC and are the most appropriate source of renewable energy in this location. The development will ensure the ALC will adhere to the requirements of the statutory development plan and national planning policy. The principle of the development of wind turbines in this location is therefore considered to be acceptable.

Landscape and Visual Impact

- 8.13 In terms of landscape and visual impact, the photomontages submitted with the application show that in terms of impact views of the turbines from the north and south will be limited, when looked at from the agreed viewpoint. See Drawing Dearne ALC1 and ALC2.
- 8.14 From the south the view of the turbine is more prominent where a good proportion of the mast and rotor will be visible. This is however an isolated feature within the wider landscape and is set within the context of urban development in the distance. The accompanying landscape and visual impact assessment provides more detail on this. However the proposal is considered to be acceptable.

Noise

- 8.15 The detailed noise report has been prepared by SRL and has been submitted as part of this application package.
- 8.16 The assessment concludes that the measured data indicate that ETSU criteria for the acceptability of wind turbine noise are likely to be met at all wind speeds during both the daytime and the night time. In terms of noise impact, the proposed wind turbines are therefore considered to be acceptable.
- 8.17 The location of the wind turbines within the ALC site has been carefully considered to ensure that the surrounding residential properties experience minimal disturbance.

Shadow flicker

- 8.18 The Companion Guide to PPS 22 Planning for Renewable Energy, Technical Annex: Wind states:

“Under certain combinations of geographical position and time of day, the sun may pass behind the rotor of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate, the shadow flicks on and off; the effect is known as 'shadow flicker'. It only occurs inside buildings where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening.”

- 8.19 Shadow flicker is not a common occurrence and has been proven to occur only within ten rotor diameters of properties within 130 degrees either side of north. In terms of assessing the potential effect of Shadow Flicker the first assessment that

should be made is the proximity of sensitive receptors that lie within 10 rotor blade diameters of the proposed turbine. In this case given a rotor diameter of 9 metres the potential effect may only be assessed within 90 metres of the proposed turbines. At Dearne it should be noted that the nearest sensitive receptor is some 175 metres from the proposed turbines and this is clearly in excess of the distance prescribed set out in the companion guide. As this is the case, shadow flicker is not an issue that is likely to be experienced as a result of the development.

Ecology/Ornithology

- 8.20 The application site does not contain designated sites of ecological importance nor are they located within 3 kilometres of such a site. There is, therefore, no impact on issues of acknowledged ecological importance.
- 8.21 The proposals are a necessary adjunct to the wider construction of the ALC and construction impacts upon ecology are considered below. Nonetheless these matters will have been considered when planning permission was granted and will not differ as a result of construction of the turbines.

Surrounding footpaths/highways

- 8.22 In terms of surrounding public rights of way and highways, the nearest footpath/bridleway is approximately 100 metres from the closest turbine to the east whilst the nearest highway is approximately 200 away to the west. In terms of potential effects on safety for users of the surrounding the distance of the turbine exceeds the fall over distance of the turbine. Therefore in the event of a catastrophic failure/collapse of the turbine

Construction effects on highways

- 8.23 In terms of the effects of construction on surrounding highways, it should be noted that at Carlton ALC, construction is ongoing and there is in place existing infrastructure to enable access to the site.
- 8.24 This has been agreed by the Council as part of the discharge of conditions attached to planning permission 2008/1024. In this regard. The construction effects report submitted with the application sets out that in terms of additional vehicle movements as a result of proposals these are minimal. Given that there is already a construction access on site, along with associated traffic generation and management measures, the impact of the additional vehicle movements is

considered minimal. As this is the case the construction effects on highways are minimal. A construction impacts assessment for all sites is attached at Appendix 2.

TV/Telecommunications interference

- 8.25 As part of preparing the proposals an assessment of the potential for interference to television and radio signals was undertaken using a web based tool provided by the BBC. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 3. The outcome of this assessment is there is a potential for 663 receptors to be affected where there is no alternative off air service and a further 7784 homes where an alternative off-air service may be available.
- 8.26 The web based tool does not consider the precise location, number or height of proposed turbines. Therefore as part of the assessment as the extent of impact (if any) will only be known once the turbines are constructed and operational.
- 8.27 When compared to commercial windfarms, the proposals are modest in scale and operation and the issue in hand clearly relates to establishing mechanisms for mitigating impact should it be proven to occur as a result of construction of the turbines. As this is the case, and accepting the potential for an impact, we are prepared to accept a planning condition to a planning permission in this regard.

Air Safety

- 8.28 As part of pre-application engagement with a number of consultees confirmation has been received from the following bodies that the proposals will not impact upon air safety:
- Civil Aviation Authority
 - Defence Estates.
- 8.29 A response has also been received from Robin Hood Airport: Doncaster Sheffield and can be found at Appendix 4. This response confirms that the proposed wind turbines are unlikely to be visible to the Airfield Radar System.

9. Summary and Conclusions

- 9.1 This Planning Statement has been prepared to support the Planning Application for 2 wind turbines at Dearne ALC to provide a proportion of the schools energy requirements.
- 9.2 There is an overriding need to provide additional facilities for the generation of renewable energy sources and this is supported by national, regional and local planning policy. Therefore, the proposed wind turbines will satisfy some of this need.
- 9.3 There are no technical constraints on the propose development in this location.
- 9.4 It is therefore considered that the proposal is fully compliant with national guidance and all of the relevant planning policy objectives of the development plan and local guidance, and that planning consent should be granted for this important and extremely beneficial development. Therefore, we respectfully request that the application be permitted.

Appendix 1 – Screening Opinion Response



BARNSELY

Planning and Development Control Section

Assistant Director: Stephen Moralee BA (Hons) MBA

Development Control Section

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My ref – MW/ALC/DEARNE

Your ref – LAIY2024

Date: 06/10/09

Enquiries to: Matthew Woodward

Dial Direct 01226 772587

Dear Sir,

I write to provide both a response to a formal screening request (regulation 5 (1)) and guidance on the proposal outlined in your letter dated 16th September 2009.

The proposal involves two wind turbines with a tower (hub) height of 15m and a blade diameter of 9m (total height of approximately 19.5m from base to blade tip). The turbines would be located to the east of the proposed Dearne ALC in an area which is intended to be playing fields. Currently the land comprises fields located quite close to an area of Green Belt.

The proposal falls outside Schedule 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 1999 regulations (as amended) as the applicable thresholds in respect of wind turbine proposals are as follows:

- Development involving the installation of more than 2 wind turbines;;
- The hub height of any turbine or structure exceeds 15 metres.

Furthermore, the indicative thresholds and criteria also highlight the following:

"The likelihood of significant environmental effects will depend on the scale of the development, and its visual impact, as well as noise impacts. EIA is more likely to be required for commercial developments of 5 or more turbines, or more than 5 MW of new generating capacity".

As well as falling outside the applicable and indicative thresholds, the small scale nature of the proposal and the likelihood of significant environmental effects arising from the proposal are considered to be minimal. Furthermore, the proposal does not fall within an environmentally sensitive area. It is therefore not considered that the proposal requires an EIA.

FAO Matthew Collins
Turley Associates
33 Park Place
Leeds
LS1 2RY

Please address all correspondence to the Development Control Manager



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You need to comprehensively address the following issues in any subsequent planning application:

- Landscape and Visual Impact (including cumulative effects)
- Noise/Shadow Flicker
- Ecology/Ornithology
- Highways Impacts
- Proximity of highway/footpaths
- Interference to TV/telecommunications
- Impact on air safety

I trust this clarifies the Council's opinion and provides you with the necessary information to be considered in any subsequent planning application. I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely


For and on behalf of Martin Winnard,
Development Control Manager



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Appendix 2 – Construction Impacts Methodology

From: Mills, Peter <pmills@laingorourke.com>
To: Matthew Collins
Cc: Mills, Peter <pmills@laingorourke.com>
Sent: Wed Dec 02 08:49:39 2009
Subject: method statement for installation of wind turbines

Scope of works.

To install two wind turbines at each school to achieve 10 % of the schools renewable energy target.
The location of the wind turbines have been determined by acoustic consideration to the surrounding neighbours which generally requires the location to be atleast 175m from residential properties.

Method statement.

Foundations

The bearing pad size for a 15kw Proven wind turbine is 4m x 4m x 2m deep*

Excavate an area on plan of 5m x 5m with battered sides at 45 degree slopes. Use JCB 3B Backacter excavator to excavate.

Soil removed from the excavation to be redistributed on site via a small dump truck.

Blind the formation with 50mm 15N/mm2 concrete

Install timber formwork to form the sides of the bearing pad

Install reinforcement bars

Set free issue holding down bolts in the centre of the form work

Place 35 N/mm2 concrete into form work by pouring directly from the back of the concrete wagon into form work.

There will be 6 deliveries of concrete to complete the 32m3 pour.

Trowel the concrete surface and allow to set.

Erection of mast and turbine

Locate 20 tonne crane adjacent to the foundation

Manouver the trailer carrying the 25m high mast adjacent to the crane and using a quick release web sling attach the crane to the mast.

Lift and slew the mast into place securing the bolts to the base plate

Release the slings

Lift the turbine section into position, carefully locate the turbine onto the mast fixing bolts. This is done by locating a mobile work platform (Genie 3TS or similar) and manouvering the working platform adjacent to the turbine motor.

Once the turbine is fixed then each of the 3 blades are lifted and securely bolted into place.

Remove the craned and mobile work platform from site.

Vehicle movements

1. delivery of JCB
2. delivery of mobile platform
3. delivery of crane
4. delivery of wind turbine on low loader articulated vehicle.
5. Delivery of 6 concrete wagons

Programme

Forming foundation = 1 week

Installation of wind turbine = 2 days.

* subject to bearing pressure testing of the excavated ground.

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Appendix 3 – TV / Radio Interference Search Results

The BBC Windfarms Tool Your query results.
From: Windfarms [windfarm.Tool@bbc.co.uk]
Sent: 01 December 2009 12:02
To: Matthew Collins
Subject: [The BBC Windfarms Tool] Your query results.

If you were to place turbines in the following locations:

SE463037

You would be likely to affect 663 homes for whom there is no alternative off-air service.

In addition, you may affect up to 7784 homes for whom there may be an alternative off-air service.

The transmitters likely to be affected are:

EMLEY MOOR CH5
SHEFFIELD CH5
BELMONT
EMLEY MOOR

This information is provided for the guidance of wind Farm developers. The results of this query are a rough estimate of populations that may suffer interference from wind farms built at the locations specified. The information is not intended to be a substitute for an on-site survey where the potential for disruption to television services may more accurately be assessed.

The BBC does not accept liability for the consequence of any use of the information provided by this web site. All television reception difficulties caused by the erection of wind turbines are the responsibility of the wind farm developer.

This email was automatically generated in response to a query at the BBC Windfarms Tool website. Please do not reply to this address.

If you wish to contact the BBC, please visit:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/feedback/>

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The BBC accepts no responsibility for this email. This email is generated by a request on the BBC webserver. If you were not expecting this email, please contact webweaver@bbc.co.uk including all headers from the email.

Appendix 4 Responses from Consultees Regarding Air Safety

Dearne WindFarm

From: Pope DelphaL [DelphaL.Pope@caa.co.uk]

Sent: 16 November 2009 16:04

To: Matthew Collins

Subject: Dearne WindFarm

Our Ref: DAP/Wind/Dearne\1484

Your Ref: LAIY2024

Dear Mr Collins

Wind Farm Proposal – Dearne

Thank you for notification of the title proposal. This Directorate has the following observation(s):

This development might affect the following aeronautical site(s), the licensee/operator of which should be consulted:

Robinhood Airport Doncaster Sheffield

Ms J Green

Doncaster Sheffield Airport Ltd

Robin Hood Airport

Heyford House

First Avenue

Doncaster

DN9 3RH

Phone Number: 01302 801017

Fax Number: 01302 801011

Email: jgreen@robinhoodairport.com

It is in your interests to contact the persons or organisations identified above, as recommended in the Wind Energy and Aviation Interim Guidelines. By so doing you should ensure that there are no unexpected aviation objections when you reach the stage of applying for planning permission. You are also advised that the appropriate Local Planning Authority should be able to provide information relating to safeguarding requirements of local aerodromes.

There may be issues related to en route navigational facilities. Accordingly details of your proposal have been copied to National Air Traffic Services for any comment. If you do not hear from NATS or wish to contact them, they can be contacted at:

National Air Traffic Services Ltd

Navigation Spectrum & Surveillance

Corporate and Technical Centre

4000 Parkway, Whiteley

Fareham

Hampshire, PO15 7FL

Email: nerlsafeguarding@nats.co.uk

For completeness it would also be sensible to establish the related viewpoint of local emergency services air support units. This is because of the unique nature of their operations in respect of operating altitudes and potentially unusual landing sites.

In respect of any aviation need to increase the conspicuity of the turbines, developers should be aware that there may be a need to install aviation obstruction lighting to some or all of the associated wind turbines should this development be progressed. This comment is made specifically if there were concerns expressed by other elements of the aviation industry; ie the operators. For example, if the Ministry of Defence or a local aerodrome had suggested such a need, we the Civil Aviation Authority (sponsor of policy for aviation obstruction lighting) would wish, in generic terms, to support such a claim. We would do so if it could reasonably be argued that the structure(s), by virtue of their location and nature, could be considered a significant navigational hazard. That said, if the claim was clearly outside credible limits (ie the proposed turbine(s) was/were many miles away from an any aerodrome or it/they were of a height that was unlikely to effect even military low flying) the Authority would play an 'honest-broker' role.

All parties should be aware that international aviation regulatory documentation requires that the rotor blades, nacelle and upper 2/3 of the supporting mast of wind turbines that are deemed to be an aviation obstruction should be painted white, unless otherwise indicated by an aeronautical study. It follows that the CAA advice on the colour of wind turbines would align with these international criteria.

The number of pre-planning enquiries associated with windfarm developments has been significant. It is possible that the proliferation of wind turbines in any particular area might potentially result in difficulties for aviation that a single development

file:///I:/Jobs/LAIY2024 - Dearne Wind turbines/Documents/Incoming Documents/pre app responses/D... 15/12/2009

Dearne WindFarm

would not have generated. It is, therefore, not necessarily the case that, because a generic area was not objected to by the aviation industry, future, similarly located potential developments would receive the same positive response.

Developers are advised that there is a civil aviation requirement in the UK for all structures over 300 feet high to be charted on civil aviation maps (I understand that the ministry of defence utilises a lower threshold height). Should this proposed wind turbine development progress and the 300 feet height be breached, to achieve this civil aviation charting requirement, developers will need to provide details of the development to:

Defence Geographic Centre

AIS Information Centre

Jervis Building

Elmwood Avenue

Feltham

Middlesex

TW13 7AH

Telephone: 020 8818 2708 (This number is for Defence Geographic, not the undersigned.)

An amendable version of the proforma is available electronically at http://www.bwea.com/docs/developers_proforma.doc and can be E-mailed to windfarms@caa.co.uk when submitting preplanning information.

Please be aware that due to the rationalisation of CAA Email addresses the windfarms Email address is now windfarms@caa.co.uk, the previous address windfarms@dap.caa.co.uk will no longer work.

Regards

Delpha

Mrs Delpha L Pope

S&SM Administration Officer

Civil Aviation Authority

Surveillance and Spectrum Management, K6G6, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6TE

Tel 020 7453 6557 Fax 020 7543 6556 Email DelphaL.Pope@caa.co.uk

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Thank you.

Please note that all e-mail messages sent to the Civil Aviation Authority are subject to monitoring / interception for lawful business

From: DE Ops North-LMS7a2a2 (Maisey Richard Mr) [Richard.Maisey@de.mod.uk]
Sent: 19 October 2009 16:14
To: Matthew Collins
Subject: Proposed Wind Farm Development - DE Reference Number: 8447; Location: Dearne

Importance: High

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PROPOSED WINDFARM DEVELOPMENT

DE REFERENCE NUMBER: 8447

LOCATION: Dearne

Thank you for submitting the above windfarm proposal.

Your proforma has been distributed to all relevant technical advisors who will evaluate the proposal accordingly.

Should you have any queries, or you do not hear anything further within 3 months, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Safeguarding Windfarms team on 0121 311 2025, 0121 311 3847, 0121 311 2195, 0121 311 3810 or 0121 311 3714.

Yours sincerely

Safeguarding Windfarms
Defence Estates

Sent by: R Maisey

Our ref: DSASG0012



02nd December 2009

Matthew Collins
Barnsley Partnership for Learning (BP4L)
C/o Turley Associates
33 Park Place
Leeds
LS1 2RY

Direct Line: 0151 907 1627
Direct Fax: 0151 907 1700

RECEIVED

- 7 DEC 2009

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal: Up to 2 x Wind Turbines (Approx. 19m each in height)

Developers Ref: LAIY2024

With reference to the above proposal regarding the proposed wind turbine development, Robin Hood Airport Doncaster Sheffield (RHADS) has been informed of this proposal by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

RHADS would therefore like to offer the following feedback.

We have assessed the details and our calculations show that, at the given positions and heights, the wind turbine development of up to 2 x Wind Turbines (approx. 19m each in height) is unlikely to be visible to the Airfield Radar System. To confirm this we would advise that as part of the planning application put through to the Local Planning Authority a radar line of sight survey be carried out in respect to the proposed wind turbine development being visible to RHADS' radar.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Hepworth
LJLA Airport Planner
Peel Airports Group

BELFAST	028 9089 7400
BIRMINGHAM	0121 233 0902
BRISTOL	0117 989 7000
EDINBURGH	0131 557 1099
GLASGOW	0141 248 9233
LEEDS	0113 386 3800
LONDON	020 7851 4010
MANCHESTER	0161 831 1300
SOUTHAMPTON	023 8072 4888

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