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DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
Proposed development of 9.7 m wind turbine

**Green Acres
Bedding Edge Road
Hepworth
Holmfirth
HD9 1TP**

November 2008

Introduction

The application is for the proposed development of one 9.7 metre wind turbine to be built on agricultural land belonging to Green Acres, Bedding Edge Road, Hepworth, Holmfirth.

Physical Context

Surrounding Uses

The site lies to the south east of Green Acres house.

Buildings/Character

The site lies within an isolated location with an adjoining farm house and agricultural buildings. Beyond this are similar farm houses of some age and established character.

Spaces

The housing developments are sparsely spread in pockets around the surrounding area. However some of these pockets of residential developments are fairly dense, primarily in the centres of Hepworth and Holmfirth.

Access Routes

Bedding Edge Road links to Penistone Road (B6106)

Special Designation

The site lies within the designated Green Belt.

Site Uses

The site is currently used for agricultural purposes (open field)

Buildings/character

The presence of the existing house and stables on site will serve to lessen the visual impact of the wind turbine has on the landscape.

Spaces within the Site

The site has a large amount of open space surrounding it, with stables to the side

Access through the site

Access to the wind turbine can be achieved via the field

Natural Features (tree/hedge/water features)

There are no notable natural features on the site and no particular evidence of wildlife that would be significantly disturbed by the construction of a turbine here. Mature trees to the south of the site will help to screen views from the property immediately to the south of Green Acres.

Topography/gradients

The site lies on a level gradient

Social Context

Potential Overlooking/Overshadowing from the site

The turbine has been sited to maximise the potential wind power available at this site.

Planning Policies

National Policies

The guidelines in Policies PPS22, PPS23 and PPG 24 are the principle documents with which to set out the development parameter for this site.

PPS22 states that the wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted permission. Local Planning Authorities should not make any assumptions about the technical feasibility of projects nor should its financial viability form part of the decision. Furthermore Regional Stakeholders and Local Planning Authorities should seek to promote knowledge of and greater acceptance by the public of prospective renewable energy developments that are appropriately located.

Regional Policies

The 2008 regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humber outlines within its core approach that in the next 15 to 20 years will require "increased generation of renewable energy, but mostly from wind turbines"

Policy LCR1 of the RSS states that we should "Use the opportunities provided by increased development in urban areas to maximise renewable energy generation and energy efficiency " The proposal represent an opportunity to maximise renewable energy generation in an area without creating any significant detrimental impact on its surroundings.

Local Policies

Having considered the following policies in the assessment of the site, it is clear that development of a wind turbine for domestic use can be supported and that a scheme can be prepared that takes into account the requirements of the policies.

Policy GS7 Development within the Green Belt

The proposed siting for the wind turbine is within the green Belt, in an agricultural field at Green Acres. Policy GS7 states that there is a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green belt. And that development should not detract from the visual amenity of the Green Belt by reason of siting, materials or design"

Whilst the site is located on an exposed part of the landscape the proposed wind turbine is to be sited close to the existing buildings, making it appear part of the existing built environment . This will minimise its impact on its wider surroundings, Similarly the colours chosen have been done so in order to blend the wind turbine in to the landscape, minimising the visual impact further still.

As such it is felt that sufficient measures have been taken to ensure that this proposal does not contradict policy GS7 and should not be refused on these grounds.

Due to the natural gradient of the site, the wind turbine itself will not extend to the skyline, the existing buildings adjacent to the proposed site will ensure the wind turbine does not appear isolated, allowing it to blend in with established built structures.

The siting of the proposal is approximately 64 m from the nearest dwelling and as such will not be affected by the noise generated from the wind turbine. In addition the turbine is produced without a gearbox inside the nacelle (Head) as such any additional gearbox noise associated with large scale turbines are not applicable to this proposal. The turbine blade rotates at a low 'maximum ' rpm to further reduce noise levels 200 rpm.

Furthermore this proposal has considered

Policy ES12 Wind Energy Generation

Policy ES12 of the UDP outlines the specific parameters within which a wind farm development must fit. In terms of the impact on the visual quality of the area, the turbine itself is coloured appropriately for it not to be intrusive on the landscape. The use of a matte rather than polished material should further reduce this intrusion. It is felt that a domestic turbine on long established agricultural land such as this will not have too negative an impact on the local wildlife. In terms of local residents amenity the proposal is sited a considerable distance from the settlements and will be sited alongside existing agricultural buildings. As such it is not felt that its visual impact will be minimised on the surrounding built environment.

As stated above the materials and colours will be chosen to minimise the visual impact of the wind turbine and as such the proposal not be significantly obtrusive. Finally given the siting of the turbine

and its domestic scale, there will be no impact on surface water, drainage or water supply as a result of the development.

Involvement of Community Members

The proposal will be advertised as per standard procedure for a planning application and interested parties will have the opportunity to comment at the appropriate stage.

Evaluation

Some constraints on the development may have been perceived in relation to the physical context of the site with respect to the impact the turbine has on the wider area, however this issue has been overcome through the detailed design of the scheme and careful consideration of the location.

Constraint from any relevant policies identified

The scheme has been designed appropriately for the context of the site and therefore there should be no further constraints placed upon the development from any other policies. In particular there is specific wind turbine policy in relation to the site which has been addressed by this purpose.

Scheme Design

Use

The site is ideally suited to locate a wind turbine as it is located in such a place as to be exposed to necessary levels of wind energy.

There is a stable block immediately adjacent to the proposed mast location, ensuring that the wind turbine does not appear to be isolated and exposed by making use of the existing structures presence.

Justification in terms of land use Policies

The site is designated as Green Belt and Special Landscape Area. The proposed wind turbine would not conflict with the principles of designating land as Green belt as the design and siting ensure that it will not compromise the openness or visual amenity of the area.

As shown the Council has set a precedent for approving wind turbines in areas designated as Greenbelt, for example the approved wind turbine at Land adjacent Stable Yard, off Brown's Edge Road, Hepworth (2008/0301) and other similar turbines in the area. It is felt that this proposal has been designed to ensure the impact on the openness of the Green belt is kept to a minimum and as such, this proposal should be deemed acceptable on these grounds.

Amount

The proposal will be no taller than a standard wind turbine, measuring 9.6 m to the mast and 5.5 m blade length. This size is sufficient to achieve a significant amount of electricity production.

Layout

The mast will be located to the south east of Green acres ensuring the turbine is obscured from the views from Bedding Edge Road.

The turbine will be tied in to the existing landscape by way of its close proximity to the existing buildings at Green acres.

Due to the presence of large mature trees to the south and the group of existing buildings immediately adjacent to the site, the wind turbine will not become overbearing on the landscape.

Appearance

This will be a standard wind turbine, see specification for details

Materials

The colours chosen for the wind turbine have been chosen to minimise the visual impact on the surrounding area.