



BARNSELY

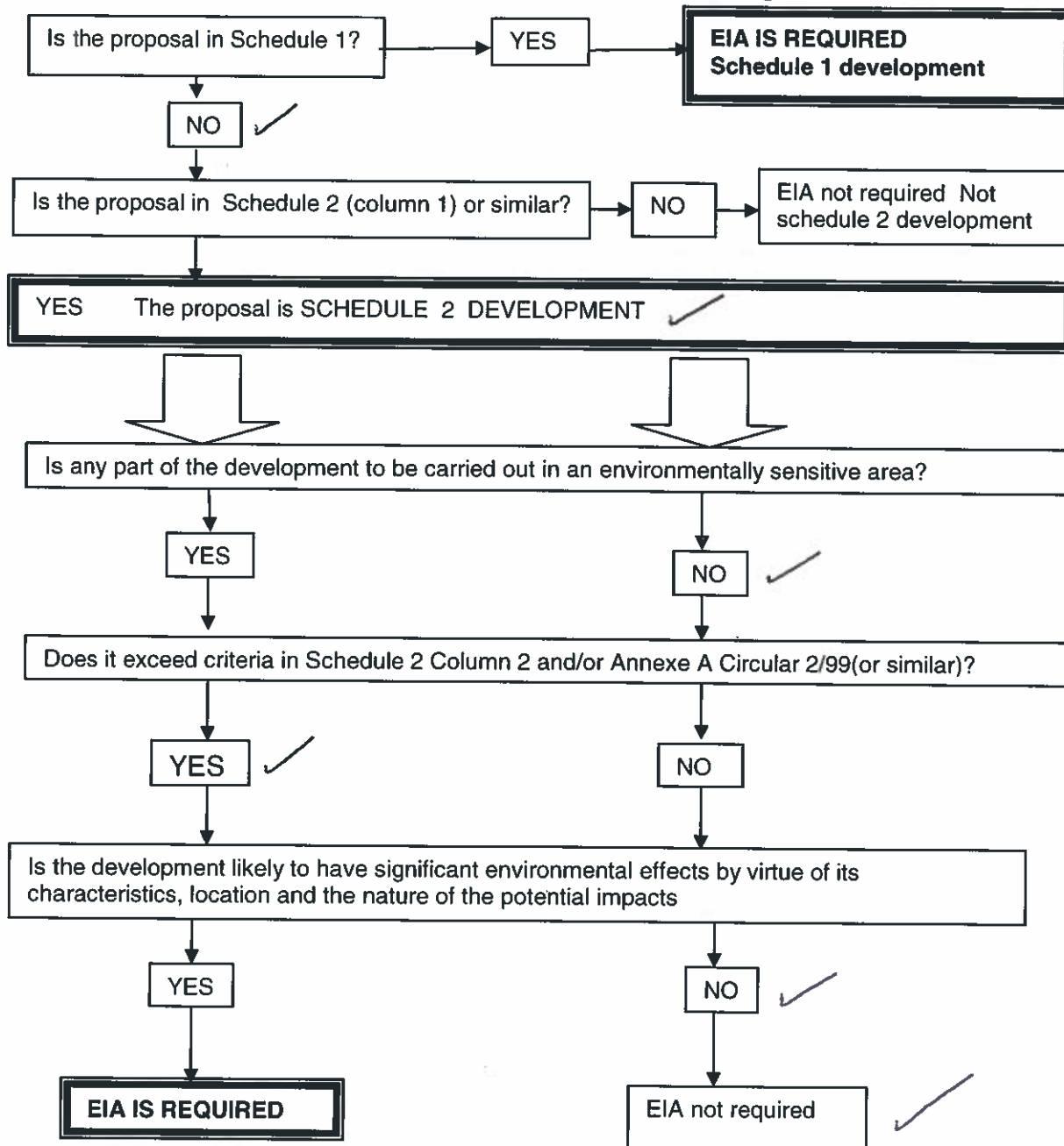
Metropolitan Borough Council

**The Town and Country Planning
(Environmental Impact Assessment)
Regulations 2011.**

Screening Opinion

APPLICATION No: 2012/0395 VALIDATION DATE: 30/5/12
LOCATION: Installation of wind turbine (24.6m high to hub)
PROPOSAL: Bull Haw Hall Farm, Barnsley Road
Silkstone, Barnsley S75 4NS

A copy of the screening opinion must be placed on the Part 1 Register



**Planning and Transportation Service
Development Control Section**
PO BOX 604, S70 9FE
Tel: (01226) 770770 Fax: (01226) 772599

Screening Opinion

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SCREENING SCHEDULE 2 DEVELOPMENT AS SET OUT IN
SCHEDULE 3 OF THE REGULATIONS AND CIRCULAR 2/99

Characteristics of the development

Does the development ie within a sensitive area as defined by Regulation 2(1) **NO**

Size of the development.

Does it exceed thresholds in schedule 2 column 2?

Yes

Does it exceed guidance thresholds in Annex a of Circular 02/99

No

The cumulation with other development.

Will the proposal be undertaken in conjunction with other
Development?

Will there be any cumulative impact?

Potentially but
additional impact not
considered significant

Use of natural resources.

Will any natural resources be lost?

If so, will the loss be significant?

No

Production of waste.

Will the proposal generate waste?

Will this be significant in terms of impact on the site?

Will this be significant in terms of off-site impacts?

Minimal

Pollution and nuisances;

Will the proposal cause any pollution/nuisance?

Will it be short term(eg during construction)?

Will it be medium term (eg for the first 12 months of use)?

Will it be longer term?

Are the impacts significant?

Potential noise
but unlikely to be
significant

Risk of Accidents

Is there higher than average risk of accidents during construction?

Is there higher than average risk of accidents during operation?

No

Location of development

The environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by development

Existing land use

Does the site have an existing landuse, if yes, what is it?

Agriculture

Is there an abundance of natural resources in the area?

Are they of high quality?

Do they have regenerative qualities?

No

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Can the environment absorb the proposal having regard to wetlands, (coastal zones (not in Barnsley), forests, nature reserves, parks, protected areas, densely populated areas and historic/archaeological areas)?

Characteristics of the potential impact

The potential significant effects of development must be considered in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in particular to:

Extent of the impact

How far will the impacts extend beyond the site?
What size of population will be affected?

Localised

Transfrontier impact

Any impacts beyond national boundary?
If so, what are they?

No

Magnitude and complexity of the impact

Are impacts of greater scale/complexity than other applications?
If so what are they?

No

Probability of the impacts

Are the impacts likely to occur (100%)?
Less likely to occur (50%)?
Limited chance (25%)?
Which impacts are unlikely to occur and why?

Some localised visual
impact, potential noise

Duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.

Will impacts last beyond construction phase?
Will the impacts be frequent?
Which impacts are reversible?
Which impacts are irreversible?

Yes - impacts reversible
in longer term

Additional Notes

Conclusion

EIA not required

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It is considered that the proposal **will/will not** have significant environmental impacts within the meaning set out in The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999 as amended.

OFFICER SIGNATURE

K L Pell

DATE 6/6/12

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Development Control Section**

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The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011.

Screening Opinion

Planning Proposal – Erection of a single wind turbine, 24.6m to hub height.

Bull Haw Farm, Barnsley Road, Silkstone, Barnsley, S75 4NJ.

1. Having examined Schedule 1 of The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, the proposal clearly does not fall within any of the descriptions of development.
2. The proposal does fall however under description of development 3i (column 1), 'Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms)' of Schedule 2. No part of the proposed development however, is located wholly or in part in a sensitive area as defined in regulation 2(1). Whilst the proposed development does not involve the installation of more than two turbines, the hub height of 24.6m exceeds the applicable threshold (15m) in column 2 of Schedule 2. The proposed development therefore is Schedule 2 development and potentially requires an EIA.
3. The question is therefore, is the proposed development likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of its characteristics, location and the nature of the potential impacts? Government guidance in Circular 02/99: Environmental Impact Assessment, states that, in general, EIA will be needed for Schedule 2 developments in three main types of case:
 - a) For major developments which are of more than local importance;
 - b) For developments which are proposed for particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations; and
 - c) For projects with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects.

For wind farms, Circular 02/99 (Annex A) advises that the likelihood of significant effects will generally depend upon the scale of the development, and its visual impact, as well as potential noise impacts. EIA is more likely to be required for commercial developments of five or more turbines, or more than 5MW of new generating capacity. However, it should not be presumed that developments falling below these thresholds could never give rise to significant effects, especially where the development is in an environmentally sensitive location.

The Circular notes that the relationship between a proposed development and its location is a crucial consideration. For any given development proposal, the more environmentally sensitive the location, the more likely it is that the effects will be significant and will require

EIA. Furthermore, in certain cases other statutory and non-statutory designations which are not included in the definition of 'sensitive areas', but which are nonetheless environmentally sensitive, may also be relevant in determining whether EIA is required. Where relevant, Local Biodiversity Action Plans will be of assistance in determining the sensitivity of a location.

The Circular at paragraphs 45 and 46 states respectively that 'in general, each application (or request for an opinion) should be considered for EIA on its own merits. The development should be judged on the basis of what is proposed by the developer' and 'however, in judging whether the effects of a development are likely to be significant, local planning authorities should always have regard to the possible cumulative effect with any existing or approved development. There are occasions where the existence of other development may be particularly relevant in determining whether significant effects are likely, or even where more than one application for development should be considered together to determine whether or not EIA is required'.

With regard to the characteristics of the development, with a hub height of 24.6m (compared to a hub height of 35m – Royd Moor turbines and 60m - Spicer Hill turbines) and being one turbine its scale is relatively small and it is less likely therefore to have significant effects or visual impact. The generating capacity of the turbine is less than 1MW. The development on its own is considered to be mainly of local importance only.

There are two existing wind farms (Royd Moor – 13 turbines – 54m to blade tip and Hazlehead – 3 turbines – 101m to blade tip), and two consented wind farms (Blackstone Edge – 3 turbines – 101m to blade tip and Spicer Hill – 3 turbines – up to 95m to blade tip) and a small wind farm at Bullhouse Mill but these are well over 6km from the site. More locally, a 15m wind turbine was granted in 2009 at Roger Royd just to the north of the proposal site. It is understood that the turbine has not been erected and the permission expires on the 20 October 2012. Should the turbine be installed however, it is considered that in view of the relatively small scale of the proposed development and the size and location (close to existing buildings) of the approved turbine, cumulative effects are unlikely to be significant.

Whilst there is also the potential for temporary cumulative impacts during the construction period in terms of vehicular movements (concrete deliveries for foundations, delivery of the turbine parts etc) and other amenity impacts in respect of general noise and disturbance these again are not considered to be significant in view of the relatively small scale of the proposed and approved developments and could be managed.

Whilst the proposal would generate some waste (i.e. from foundation excavation), this is unlikely to be removed from the site as it is normal for it to be used for backfilling and the remainder stored for the future restoration of the site. The development is also unlikely to generate any form of pollution other than noise.

It is considered that there is no higher risk than average of accidents during construction and operations. Modern turbines are a safe technology. There has been no example of injury to a member of the public. Blade failure is unlikely since many are composite structures with no bolts or other separate components and most turbines undergo test certification procedures which must conform to guidelines laid down by the International Electro-technical Commission. The build up of ice on turbine blades is unlikely to present problems on the majority of sites in England. For ice to build up, particular weather conditions are required, that in England occur for less than one day per year.

In terms of location, as previously noted, the site is not in a sensitive area as defined in regulation 2(1), although there is a listed barn 425m to the north east, Pye Flatts SSSI 250m to the south and a number of adjacent public footpaths. The site in general lies in open countryside (Green Belt) where agricultural uses predominate although mineral extraction is also present (Banks Wood Quarry to the north). The nearest residential property to the development appears to be approximately 160m away. Being in Green Belt, very special circumstances will need to be demonstrated for this inappropriate development.

In consideration of all of the above, the proposal overall is of local importance only is unlikely to have significant effects on the environment and an EIA is therefore not required.

