Proposed wind turbine at LAND AT RINGSTONE HILL FARM, SOUTHMOOR ROAD, BRIERLEY, BARNSLEY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE Application No. 2012/0288
Prepared by Castle Heritage, June 2012

The following text is in response to comments made by English Heritage and the West Yorkshire Archaeological service and is informed by additional visual and photomontage assessment.

South Kirkby Camp Scheduled Ancient Monument

South Kirkby Camp consists of the remains of a prehistoric enclosed settlement approximately 1km south of the turbine site. The monument consists of an uncultivated field with some undulations adjacent to the urban fringe of South Kirkby. The monument is defined by the remains of a bank, about 1m in height with accompanying ditch on the south west and east sides. The ditch is up to 10m wide and up to 1.5m deep. The feature is eroded and less pronounced elsewhere around the monument. The monument does not occupy a prominent or elevated location within the landscape. The physical remains of the monument both above ground and its potential below ground provide evidential and historical value and form the main significance of the monument. The aesthetic value of the site is limited to its immediate environs and is relative to the visitor's understanding of its context. Communal value is also limited due to the defined historic period of the monument.

As the site of a prehistoric settlement the setting of the monument is clearly compromised by the proximity of recent residential development, and other modern features. These include street lighting within the urban fringe to the east and along the Homsley Lane, overhead electricity wires and the telecommunication mast at Brierley Gap.

The initial assessment of the impact of the turbine on the significance of the monument indicated that at a distance of 1km it would be possible that the turbine would be visible to the west beyond the belt of mature woodland surrounding the redundant Robin Hood Free House at Brierley Gap (including radio telecommunications mast). Further studies including a wireline and photomontage image confirm that the upper section of the proposed turbine, hub and blades would be visible above the trees at Brierley Gap. Although it is confirmed that the rotors and hub would be visible it is not anticipated that views of the turbine would be dominant or unduly distracting within the surroundings in which the monument is experienced. In this respect it is not considered that the proposed turbine would impact upon the significance of the monument and its setting.