PLANNING, DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Planning Application: Erection of Small Scale Wind Turbine



Liley Farm

Liley Lane, Penistone, Sheffield
S36 9FG

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Kew Cottage, Spofforth, North Yorkshire HG3 1BQ

1.0 Introduction

1.1 We Earthmill Ltd act for Marsdens Ltd and have been instructed to provide advice and submit a planning application for the erection of a small scale wind turbine to provide renewable energy to serve Liley Farms electrical power demand.

1.2 This document assesses the planning policy and detailed design issues relevant to the proposal. It should be read in conjunction with the supporting information submitted with the planning application.

2.0 Assessment

2.1 The site

2.1.1 Liley Farm is located 1km south of Millhouse and 3 km's to the west of Penistone.

2.1.2 The application site for the wind turbine is on the edge of a field to the South West of the main farm buildings. Approximately 40 metres from the nearest farm building, as shown on the enclosed location plan.

2.1.3 The site forms part of our clients' agricultural holding. The proposed sitting of the turbine is based on balancing optimum output with minimal disruption to the surrounding landscape or environment.

2.2 The Proposal

2.2.1 The Proposal is for a Proven WT15000 wind turbine to be erected to provide renewable energy in the form of electricity for the farm. The turbine is classed as a small scale wind turbine. Its blades measure 4.8 metres and can be mounted on 15, 25 or 30 metre high masts. This installation proposes the lowest 15 metre height option to ensure minimum impact on the visual amenity.

2.3 Planning Policy Considerations

Planning Policy Guidance Note 2: Green Belts

2.3.1 PPG2 sets out that development which is considered appropriate in Green Belt locations. Whilst wind turbines are not listed in paragraph 3.4 in the types of development considered to be appropriate we are of the view that nevertheless there should be an automatic policy assumption for such developments.

2.3.2 As development associated with an existing dwelling and agricultural business the wind turbine can be considered appropriate development in association with agriculture. It could also be considered under paragraph 3.12, which covers other development. We would argue that the turbine can fall within the ”engineering and operations” mentioned and is not therefore inappropriate development, provided the openness of the land in the Green Belt is maintained and there is no conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt.

2.3.3 We are therefore satisfied that wind turbines can be an appropriate development in the Green Belt. This is confirmed by the presence of a similar small scale turbine on a nearby property within Green Belt.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas

2.3.4 PPS7 is supportive of the exploitation of renewable energy sources in rural areas. It encourages support for agricultural operations to be sustainable and environmentally friendly. The proposed turbines will help our client achieve this aim by providing the majority of their energy from a renewable source.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy

2.3.5 PPS22 advises a positive approach should be taken to proposals for renewable energy where the technology is viable and environmental and social impacts can be satisfactorily addressed.

2.3.6 Small-scale projects are advised to provide a limited but valuable contribution to the overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs locally and nationally. Every such application helps to reduce our reliance upon fossil fuels and should be viewed in a positive manner.

3.0 **Design**

The proposed turbine

3.1 The proposed turbine is a Proven WT15000. A planning pack is enclosed from Proven, which details the technical specifications of the turbine and provides detailed information on noise, visual impact, ornithological issues and examples where such turbines have been determined to be acceptable in similar landscape areas.

3.2 In addition to the planning pack a Noise Emission Report is also provided. This indicates that the level of noise emitted from a Proven WT15000 turbine is so low it is not considered to harm the amenity of neighbouring dwellings, being on a similar level to the sound of talking.

3.3 The size of the turbine has been carefully chosen to match the predicted output to the needs of Liley Farm.

3.4 This model turbine will start producing power at winds of 2.5 metres per second. The Government's BERR computer models gives an annual average wind speed reading of between 5.3 and 6m/s for the 1km grid square around the proposed location which means if optimally sited the turbine would annually produce >30,000 kWh of renewable energy in the form of electricity, generating an annual C02 saving of 17,556kg.

Justification for the location

3.5 The distance between the turbine and the nearest dwelling is sufficient to ensure there will be no harm to the residential amenity due to noise emissions.

3.6 The proposed location has been selected to ensure the turbine remains within the immediate area of the farmstead. This will minimize any potential impact to the visual amenity whilst allowing the turbine to efficiently harvest prevailing winds.

Effects on the landscape

3.7 Special consideration for the location was given to ensure the turbine would not be visible from key areas

3.8 Outside of the immediate vicinity the turbine will be obscured by the surrounding mature trees and farm buildings.

3.9 The turbine is mounted on a dull grey slim mast, which will blend in with the background environment. The lower 15m mast option has been proposed rather than the larger 25m and 30m mast options. This will ensure the Turbine is not visible above the surrounding tree line. There will be no other buildings associated with the turbine. Connection to the farm will be via underground cable. The distribution box, meter and inverters will be located within a barn with the existing incoming supply from the grid. Impact on the landscape is therefore minimised.

3.10 The turbine will not have any detrimental impact upon wildlife, ecology or archaeology in the area, impact upon the ability of our clients to continue to farm their land, have any electro-magnetic effects or cause shadow flicker or flashing from the blades. Being small-scale turbine and remotely located there will be no potential visual distraction caused to passing traffic.

4.0 **Access**

4.1 Access to the highway network is only required at the time of installation and this can be provided via the farm yard. The proposed location of the turbine would allow easy access for delivery and installation. There will be no harm to the safety of road users in the vicinity.

4.2 Pedestrian access is available directly through the farmyard.

4.3 Any servicing and maintenance requirements will be arranged via our Client through the farmyard and will not impact upon local road users.

5.0 **Conclusion**

5.1 It is considered, on balance, that the proposed turbine will have no adverse impact upon the immediate area or wider landscape. The provision for alternative, renewable energy sources is strongly supported by Government policy to help meet the UK's targets for cutting carbon emissions, however large or small are important to contribute towards these targets. Our Clients' proposal will enable all of the farms electricity requirements to be served by renewable energy, reducing the demand on the National Grid and creating an annual emissions reduction of over 17.5 Tonnes of CO_2 emissions per annum.

5.2 The proposal satisfies all relevant national and local planning policies.

Earthmill Ltd
December, 2009