DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Dated 20th February 2012

Applicant:	Mr M Lonsdale & Mrs K Lonsdale
Proposed Development:	Installation of a single small scale Evance R9000 5Kw wind turbine on a 12m monopole mast
Site Address:	Land at Hey Slack Farm, Hey Slack Lane, Cumberworth, Huddersfield HD8 8YD

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Appendix – Policy Background

1 Introduction

1.1 This Statement has been prepared and submitted as a requirement of Section 62 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act as amended by Section 42 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

1.2 It has been prepared in accordance with "Guidance on the Requirements of Validation" March 2010 published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and incorporates the overarching principles set out in PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development.

2 Proposal

2.1 Full planning consent is sought to erect and install a single, small scale domestic wind turbine at Hey Slack Farm, Hey Slack Lane, Cumberworth.

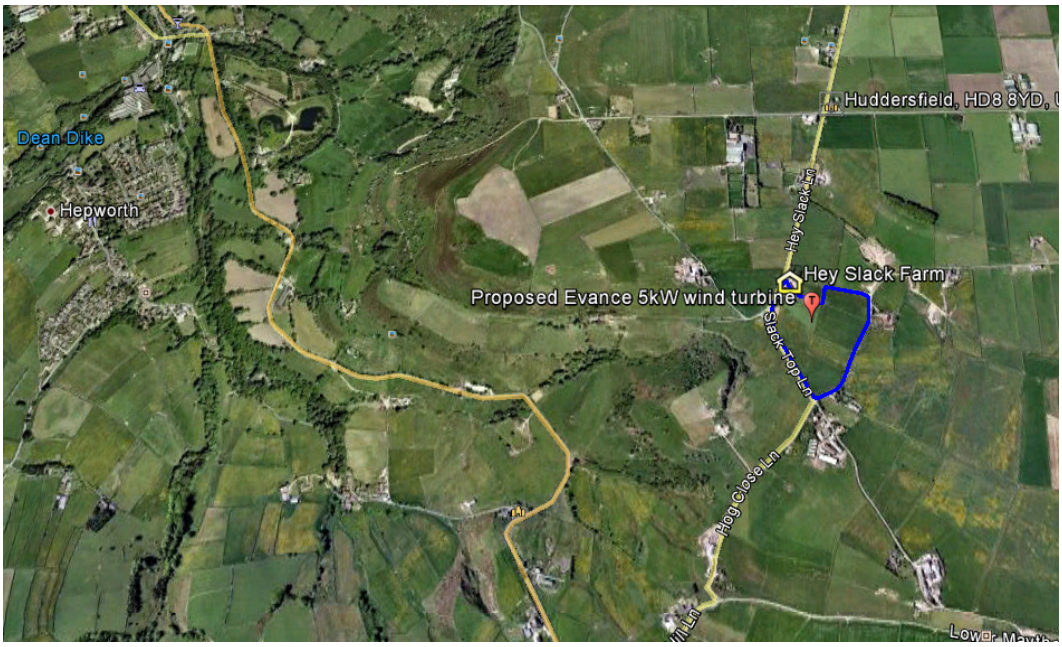

Figure 1: Proposed site and surrounding area. Image courtesy of Google Earth

2.2 The proposed development will comprise of the following: -

- Construction of a concrete foundation base measuring 9m².
- Erection of an Evance R9000 5 kW wind turbine (Evance R9000 for short) on a 12m monopole mast. This is a horizontal axis type with a rotor consisting of 3 blades in a diameter (i.e. blade sweep) of 5.5m. The blades will be mounted to a wind turbine hub and nacelle, at a height of 12m above ground. The

turbine will be fixed to the concrete base and in total it will stand 15.05m from ground to blade tip.

- The digging of a trench and the laying of a cable 85m in length, at a depth of 0.6m, to connect the turbine to a new meter point (and the national grid) in a detached garage adjacent to Hey Slack Farm and approximately 60m to connect the two adjacent cottages to the new supply and two-way meter.

2.3 The Proposed Evance R9000 will be sited in a field on level ground, approximately 90m to the south-east of Hey Slack Farm. Land ownership of the applicant is outlined in blue on the proposed location plan in figure 1 above and figure 2 below.

3 Purpose of Development

3.1 The development is proposed for the following reasons: -

- To provide a cheap and secure electricity supply for 2 tenanted residential properties attached to Hey Slack Farm
- To reduce energy bills and make financial savings
- To make each property almost carbon neutral
- To generate renewable Energy for the National Grid through surpluses to help meet the Government's renewable energy targets and obligations.
- To use income generated to support and invest in a rural enterprise.

3.2 The Evance R9000 will generate approximately **18,000 kWh** of renewable electricity per annum at an estimated annual average wind speed of 7.2m/s and an estimated **10%** net of this will be fed into the grid. The proposed development will help 2 residential properties adjacent to Hey Slack Farm become almost carbon neutral.

4 Policy Context

4.1 Consideration has been given to national, regional and local policy guidance in the preparation of our development proposal. A summary of relevant policy considerations are contained in Appendix 1 – Policy Background.

5 Design Principles

5.1 Our **key aim** is to design a wind turbine development that satisfies both technical and environmental factors and balances these, making compromises where necessary, to achieve a scheme that optimises the benefits of renewable energy

production and minimises potential economic, environmental and social impacts through thoughtful design and careful site selection.

5.2 **Turbine design** has been influenced by the following principles: -

- To choose a product fit for purpose
- To choose a design of elegant and slender proportions
- To select a turbine or turbine (s) of the appropriate height and scale relative to the sensitivity of the landscape, its key characteristics and local site conditions
- To select colours and finishes that will provide an appropriate contrast with the background landscape and sky and help reduce visual and landscape impact.
- To develop a proposal that will provide sufficient energy to power 2 residential properties attached to Hey Slack Farm
- To select a reliable turbine that is known to perform well in the unpredictable British climate, is suitable for a relatively high wind speed site and offers best value for money.

5.3 An Evance R9000 wind turbine (previously called the Evance Iscra) was recently installed at Hey Slack Farm following approval in October 2011. This existing turbine provides renewable energy for Hey Slack Farm. However, the power generated for this turbine alone is not sufficient to supply the two attached cottages (Hey Slack Barn and Hey Slack Cottage) which are tenanted and fall within the same ownership as the farm. Initially planning consent was obtained for a much larger Evoco 10 Kw turbine to supply sufficient for all 3 properties and feed any surplus into the National Grid. However, the applicant decided against the installation of one single Evoco 10Kw wind turbine and in favour of two Evance R9000 turbines for the following reasons: -

- Hey Slack Farm needs to generate its own electricity independently. The two tenanted cottages require a second wind turbine to provide their own source of renewable energy and thus enable these 2 properties to be sold off separately at some time in the future.
- The Evance R9000 wind turbine is more reliable. If there is a mechanical fault with one of the turbines and it needs to be switched off, the other will continue to generate electricity.
- The Evance R9000 wind turbine is smaller than the Evoco and is a much quieter.

5.4 **Site selection** has been influenced by the following principles: -

- To develop a proposal that will provide sufficient energy to power Hey Slack Barn and Hey Slack Cottage and feed any surplus into the National Grid.
- To maximise annual average wind speed and minimise interference from obstacles that may affect performance or increase maintenance/repair liabilities
- To mitigate visual and landscape impacts
- To minimise potential impacts on heritage assets, protected species, local footpaths/ bridleways, tourist attractions, residential properties or businesses
- To minimise and/or eliminate noise disturbance and shadow flicker
- To avoid impact or interference with transportation routes, power infrastructure or underground services, aviation systems or communication signals
- To enable a practical and viable connection to the cottages and National Grid.

6 Development Appraisal – Our approach and methodology

6.1 Our appraisal was undertaken in three stages. These are outlined as follows: -

Stage 1: Needs Assessment

6.2 This assessment was undertaken to in order to formulate a clear development brief. It was focused on determining the actual energy needs of the two cottages and the client's additional requirement to generate income from any surpluses (however small) to help maintain the farm and their land holding. The assessment explored alternative forms of electricity generation recommending that wind technology offered the most viable and cost effective solution.

6.3 It was determined that a second small scale wind turbine would ideally be required to generate approximately 20,000 kWh per year in order to meet the specific needs of the applicant. This would provide enough electricity to: -

- Meet the energy demand at Hey Slack Barn and Hey Slack Cottage (approximately 16,000kWh per annum)
- Supply surplus energy (i.e. that generated during the night) to the National Grid and generate the necessary additional income to maintain the farm buildings and surrounding land holding
- Enable the two cottages to become almost carbon neutral
- Significantly reduce energy bills

Stage 2: Feasibility Study

6.4 A feasibility study was carried out to collect and map the necessary background information required to assess the sensitivity and suitability of the area to wind turbine development. This information was then used to help identify the most suitable geographical location for the turbine and influence turbine appearance, size, number and height.

6.5 The following methods were used: -

- Site Survey
- Desk Top Mapping
- Consultation with Experts
- Consultation with Statutory bodies and interested parties

6.6 The following information was considered: -

- The extent of land ownership of the client
- The potential for grid connection
- Areas with clean air flow open to prevailing SW winds. A minimum wind speeds of 6.5 m/s at 10m or above
- Landscape character and appearance
- Green Belt status
- Visual Impact
- Proximity to visible major transport routes and telecommunications.
- National or international designations such as National Parks, SSSI's, AONB's World Heritage sites
- Proximity to Scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas and other heritage assets
- Tourist attractions and recreational sites including footpaths and bridleways
- Areas with special local status such as High Landscape Value, Wildlife areas or other protected areas.

6.7 This exercise resulted in a preferred geographical zone being identified. However, given the relatively small landownership and the relatively short grid connection required for a development of this scale the preferred zone is relatively small. This is illustrated below in red.



Figure 2: Stage 1 Feasibility – Preferred Geographical Zone. Image courtesy of Google Earth

6.8 The preferred location was chosen because of its close proximity to Hey Slack Farm and the two adjacent cottages and in a position that offers excellent, uninterrupted wind speed (approximately 7.2 m/s at 10m above GL) in an area of relatively low environmental sensitivity. Siting further to the west or south of the Farm would result in the turbine being located closer to Birds Nest Farm and Martin's Nest Farm which have a more direct view across towards the proposed turbine. Therefore, this was avoided. A detailed assessment of potential environmental impacts are contained in section 9.

6.10 It was decided to opt for a single Evance R9000 turbine on a 12m mast rather than a larger turbine such as an Evoco 10 kW. This is because the Evance R9000 is a smaller and quieter machine and is more suited to a contained site. In design terms it will also complement the existing turbine which is an identical machine. As well as being more practical and economically viable, a single slender Evance R9000 will cause less harm to the openness of the Green Belt than a larger turbine.

6.11 The Evance R9000 turbine was also chosen because it is an aesthetically pleasing turbine with clean following lines. It has three short, slim blades in comparison to other turbines (particularly two bladed machines) whose blades are usually 40-50% longer and normally stand several meters higher from ground to blade tip. It stands on a mast of slender proportions.

6.9 <u>Stage 3: Micro-siting</u>

A further survey was carried out to examine localised site factors and determine the exact siting of the prosed turbine. The following factors were considered: -

- A close and viable grid connection
- Suitable access for installation and maintenance
- Minimum stand- off distances from trees, hedgerows, watercourses and other potential habitats as recommended by our ecologist
- Localised flooding and ground conditions
- Minimum distances from buildings, trees or other physical obstacles that may affect turbine performance
- Safe fall distances away from footpaths, accessways and power lines.
- Acceptable distances from neighbouring properties to prevent noise disturbance or shadow flicker.
- Local landscape features and conditions that may help to mitigate visual and landscape impacts and where possible help screen the turbine from view, reduce its presence or assimilate into the background view.



Figure 3: Chosen Site following 'Micro-siting' Exercise

7 Consultation

7.1 Discussions have taken place with the Local Planning Authority regarding this proposal and two previous planning applications have been submitted and approved (Application 2011/0980 and 2011/0102). Consultation has also taken place with the following groups to assist development process, particularly with regard to site selection, turbine design and product choice.

- Specialist consultants - 3DVS (Landscape and Visual Impact) and Ahern Ecology
- Investment Renewables – an independent wind turbine supplier and installer

7.2 Consultation influenced the design and site selection process and this is discussed in more detail in section 6.

8 Access

8.1 Access is required for construction of the concrete foundation slab, the erection of the wind turbine and its connection to the grid. Access will also be required for routine maintenance once the turbine is operational.

8.2 Access to the proposed site is via a field gate directly from Slack Top Lane (an adopted highway) giving immediate access to the A616 Sheffield Road.



Figure 4: Proposed access route. Image courtesy of Google Earth

8.3 There is an existing access track and hard standing immediately off Slack Top Lane which was created for the delivery and unloading of the existing turbine. It is proposed that this same access point shall be re-used for the installation of the second turbine. The proposed access route has been identified in conjunction with the landowner and having regard to the size and frequency of transport and construction vehicles required and giving due regard to health and safety regulations. The proposed access route is shown above.

8.4 The construction period for a single, relatively small turbine such as the proposed Evance R9000 is short, normally 7-10 working days, spread over a period of 2-3 weeks. Firstly, a trench is dug using a standard excavator to carry the cable to connect the turbine to the Grid. In the case of this proposal the trench will be 145m

long and dug to a minimum depth of 600mm. Once the cable is laid the trench is back-filled with sub soil and re-instated.

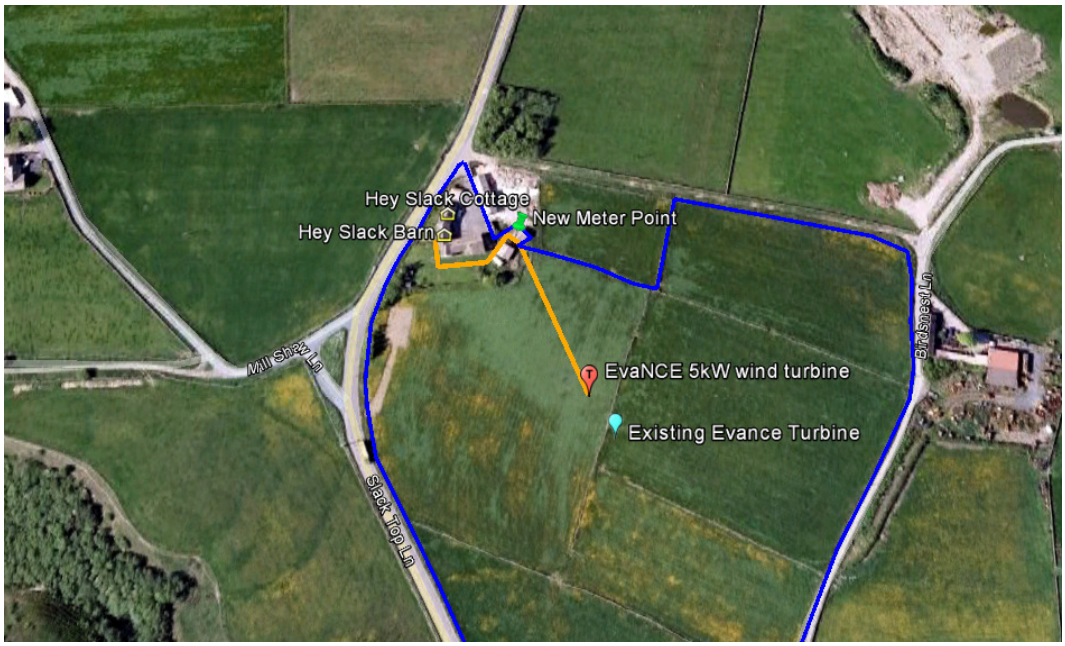

Figure5: Proposed connection and trench route. Image courtesy of Google Earth

8.5 On the following week the concrete foundation will be constructed and the turbine mast, hub, nacelle and rotor delivered to site in on the back of a low loader. In week 3 the mast sections will be fitted together, the blades and rotor fixed and then bolted firmly to its concrete base. The foundations will be backfilled with subsoil/ topsoil and the electrical installations completed to connect the turbine to the farm and grid.

8.6 The installation will require the use of an excavator and tele-handler and the turbine will be delivered to site on the back of a HGV trailer. It is estimated the plant will generate a maximum of 10 vehicle movements and the delivery 2 (one access and 1 egress). Light commercial vehicles will be required by the electrical and ground works contractors. This will generate an estimated 16 movements over a 3 week period. It is proposed to erect the turbine during the spring in dry weather conditions.

8.7 Maintenance inspections will be made every 12 months following installation. Additional visits may be required for unexpected repairs.

Environmental Assessment

Background

9.1 PPS22 Renewable Energy states that "renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily." It requires developers to give careful consideration to the visual impact of projects and acknowledges that the landscape and visual effects of certain developments will vary according to the type of development, its location and landscape setting. It also stresses that such effects "may be minimised through appropriate siting, design and landscape schemes, depending on the size and type of development proposed" and it requires local authorities, when assessing planning applications, to recognise that the impact of turbines will vary according to the size and number of turbines and the type of landscape involved.

9.2 The development proposed at Hey Slack Farm is modest in scale. It is not located in an area with a nationally recognised designation but it is proposed to be sited in open countryside on land designated as Green Belt where special provisions apply. Special care has been taken to ensure the turbine is designed and sited to balance technical factors as well as environmental considerations; and to mitigate potential impact upon the openness of the Green Belt as well as ensure that potential impacts to landscape character, local ecology, the historic environment and visual amenity are minimised. This process has been carried out in with due consideration to the advice and guidance contained in the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment 2002 and with due regard to the relevant local policies and guidance detailed in the attached Appendix – Policy Background.

EIA Screening Opinion

9.3 A formal Screening Opinion was not requested from the Local Planning Authority as the proposed hub height of the turbine does not exceed the height threshold of 15m or more to hub height as detailed in Schedule 2. Therefore, this is not an EIA Development.

Landscape and Visual Impact

9.4 Hey Slack Farm is a small farmstead comprising a traditional farmhouse, 2 cottages, outbuildings and approximately 6 hectares of rough grazing land located on high ground 2 km to the east of Hepworth.

9.5 The land is relatively open with tree cover limited to a number of small plantations of shelter planting around farmsteads and on lower ground along field boundaries and watercourses. The farm is divided into several regular shaped fields by dry stone walls. The whole site is surrounded on 3 sides by public roads. There are several other large farmsteads in the area and some of these have their own wind turbines. There are 2 wind farms (Hazelhead and Royd Moor) approximately 2.5km to the south and south-east of the site.

9.6 The site is situated on the boundary between Barnsley District and Kirklees. In January 2011 a joint study was carried out by 6 local authorities bordering the South Pennines. There is no comparable document for Barnsley. The study, entitled 'Landscape Capacity Study for Wind Energy Developments in the South Pennines' (2011) has been adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document and assesses landscape character types and examines the most suitable locations for wind developments across the South Pennines – but excludes Barnsley. However, Hey Slack Farm sits on the boundary of Capacity Area 8 – Huddersfield and the Dark Peak Fringes and the landscape character here is described as Moorland Fringes/Upland Pastures. This landscape type continues into the Barnsley District. The report identifies a broad area around Park Head and Low Common (i.e. the area around Hey Slack Farm) as suitable for further wind development because the land here is elevated, flat and expansive with large simple enclosures; and any development here either as individual or clusters of turbines would be viewed in close association with operational and consented developments such as those at Royd Moor. It also suggests that the landscape could, if sited appropriately accommodate a medium or large wind farm.

9.7 The proposed turbine at Hey Slack Farm will be located in an open field close to the farm buildings and cottages. The turbine is small scale and can be classified as a 'very small turbine' i.e. less than 25m from ground to blade tip. It will stand on a slender mast and occupy a footprint of 9 sqm. It will only be visible at near distant view and will not be seen against the skyline – except in glimpses when viewed from the east where its hub and blades break the horizon. In the main the turbine will be viewed against a busy landscape back-drop characterised by scattered developments, the criss-cross pattern of dry stone walls, small blocks of woodland planting and a myriad of timber pylons, telegraph poles and wooden posts along with the occasional wind turbine and communications mast. The proposed turbine is viewed in context with the farm buildings and the other vertical features act as detractors. In certain views the proposed turbine is partially obscured from by buildings and trees.

9.6 The proposed site is not protected as an area of high or special landscape. It has no national or international designation and there are no such areas in the immediate vicinity that may be materially affected. It is, however, designated Green Belt and as

such the development will introduce a vertical structure that will have an effect on openness. However, given its modest scale it will be seen as a new marginal feature and will not block the expansive view. Impact upon openness will therefore be modest.

Visual Impact

9.7 A comprehensive Environmental Impact Visualisation Report has been prepared by 3DVS to assess the potential impact of the chosen site on visual amenity and the surrounding landscape. A copy of this report is included within the application. The study examines existing baseline landscape conditions, location of visual receptors and geographical context to establish the area over which the turbine development may have a visual impact. Photographic images and individual assessments are made for 6 publicly accessible visual receptor at near distance and none at middle or far distant views. This is because the visual envelope is small and because of the terrain the proposed turbine will not be seen beyond a distance of 1km.

9.8 The study found that the significance of visual impact for locations 2,3,4, and 5 (views form the north, south and west) to be ***slight****;* and at locations 1 and 6 (a very close view from Slack Top Lane looking north and a view from Birds Nest Lane looking west) to be ***moderate****,* and the middle view aggregation (1km to 2.5km) and distant view aggregation (2.5km to 5km) to be ***zero****.*

9.9 The report states the "Fundamental change at the site will result from the erection of the turbine as a new vertical structure in the landscape. Whilst the site sits in a broad landscape, with land gently sloping to the east with sharp drops to the west. The site is hidden from wider views because of the 'bowl' like effect of the local topography. There are other turbines in the vicinity.

9.10 The report concludes that:

1. This is an application for a single wind turbine.
2. There are other existing turbines in the area.
3. Views are limited to near distance views (less than 1000m) because of local terrain.
4. There are numerous power lines and poles within the survey area which will detract from the overall impact of this additional turbine.
5. Visual impact will be moderate slight.

It is felt that the erection of this turbine will not create any significant change in cumulative impact, as this is outweighed by the numerous other vertical structures nearby.

Ecology

9.11 The proposed turbine is sited more than 100m away from existing farm buildings and there are no trees or hedgerows in the immediate vicinity of the site. It is therefore not considered that the proposed turbine will be no risk to local bats. No ecological issues were raised prior to the approval of our two previous planning and therefore the site is considered acceptable in ecological terms. This was confirmed by consultation with our independent ecologist.

Heritage Assets

9.12 A desk top survey was conducted to identify potential heritage assets that may be affected by the proposed development. A 1km search of the immediate area around the proposed turbine revealed 5 entries on English Heritage's statutory register – all are Grade II listed buildings. Two entries are Ward boundary posts, one entry a milepost and two farmhouses – Lower Wood Royd Farm and Upper Wood Royd Farm. Neither of these farmhouses is in close proximity to the site and given the modest scale of the proposed development, the topography and the distances involved their historic settings (that are limited to their immediate building group/ surroundings) will not be adversely affected. There will be no effect on the boundary stones and milepost which relate directly to the relevant boundary and highway. There are no entries recorded on the local HER register.

Flood Risk

9.13 The site does not fall in a river flood zone as identified on the Environment Agency's register.

Ground Conditions and Contamination

9.14 There is no record and no knowledge of any ground contamination, any quarrying or mine workings at the immediate site.

Noise Disturbance

9.15 The turbine has been sited more than 100m from the nearest residential property (The Stable) not owned by the applicants. This property is occupied by Mr and Mrs Walkden who have been consulted and support this application. The proposed turbine also lies 170m from Birds Nest Farm and 205m from Martin's Nest Farm – a greater distance than the existing turbine. It must also be pointed out that the site benefits from an unexpired planning consent for the erection of an Evoco wind turbine on the site of the existing Evance R9000 turbine. The noise emissions from 2 Evance R9000 are considerably less of that of a single Evoco 10KW turbine.

Transport

9.16 There are no major roads or railway lines close to the site. The nearest airport is Manchester Airport over 40km to the west. The nearest operational railway line is 8.5km away at Denby Dale/ Clayton West. It is not anticipated the proposed turbine will affect aviation radar systems given its location and modest height. No objections were received from the MOD or Civil Aviation Authority to the erection of the existing turbine.

Communications

9.17 No objections were received from telecommunication operators to the erection of the existing turbine.

9.18 There are no overhead power lines crossing the site and no underground services that will be affected.

Shadow Flicker

9.19 Shadow flicker in normally a problem for large scale wind turbines. This proposal is for a small turbine with a short blade diameter of 5.5m. PPS22 and subsequent guidance from the Department of Energy and Climate Change require a minimum separation distance equivalent to 10 diameters from the nearest occupied property. In this case this is 55m. The nearest residential property (not occupied by the applicant) is more than a 100m to the north-east and does not have a direct line of sight. Therefore, there will be no impact from Shadow Flicker.

Footpaths and Bridleways

9.20 The Barnsley Boundary Walk appears to follow the line of the farm track about 110m to the north of the proposed turbine. The turbine has been sited to comfortably exceed the required fall distance (i.e. a minimum of 16.5m in the case of this particular turbine) from this public right of way and will not materially affect the recreational use of this path. There are no recorded bridleways or other public rights of way in the immediate vicinity of the site



Figure 6: Streetmap indicating routes of footpaths and bridleways (1:25,000 scale)

APPENDIX – POLICY BACKGROUND

Introduction

A1 The Statutory Development Plan is indicated to be of paramount importance under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In terms of this proposal, Barnsley's current Statutory Development Plan consists of the Core Strategy (adopted 2011) and the remaining saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan along with other Development Plan Documents (DPDs) .The Core Strategy and DPDs both form part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) that will gradually replace the UDP and related Supplementary Planning Guidance as the Statutory Development Plan. The Regional Spatial Strategy, published 2008 (RSS) for Yorkshire and Humberside remains part of the statutory development plan for the district following a recent ruling by the High Court and despite its earlier revocation on 6th July 2010 by Rt. Hon, Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. It will continue in force for the time being until such time that it is legally revoked under new legislation. Material contained in the RSS in particular policies relating to renewable energy targets and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions are important material planning considerations and local planning authorities should continue to attach significant weight to these matters when considering planning application

A.2 The most relevant national planning policy and guidance is ***PPS22 "Renewable Energy"*** and its companion guide, "Planning for Renewable Energy". However, consideration has also been given to other policy and guidance that is relevant to certain aspects of this proposal. This includes:

- PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development;
- PPS1 Supplement – Planning and Climate Change;
- PPG2 Green Belts;
- PPS4 Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth;
- PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment;
- PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas;
- PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation;
- PPS23 Planning and Pollution Control;
- PPG24 Planning and Noise

Energy Policy

A3 It is also important to stress that there are also other material policy considerations relevant to this application found in various national energy policy documents. These indicate a strong positive policy favouring wind power and other forms of renewable energy in the UK. This is largely motivated by the Government's international agreements on the reduction in the emissions of greenhouse gases, and the national and local targets that have been identified for achievement by 2010 and 2020.

A4 The Energy White Paper (2007) confirms the requirement for 10% of UK electricity to come from renewable energy by 2010 with an aspiration to double this by 2020. The new PPS 1 supplement on Climate Change builds on this and challenged Regional Spatial Strategies to set targets for renewable energy capacity in line with national targets (see paragraph 2.3.3 below).

A5 In April 2011 the Renewable Energy Foundation published a report entitled Renewable Output in 2010. The report uses data provided by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and data made available as part of Ofgem's reporting of subsidy claims under the Renewable Obligation. It concludes that the UK failed to reach its 10% renewable electricity target for 2010 producing only 6.5% of electricity from renewable sources – a major shortfall of 35% and putting extreme pressure on the delivery of targets for 2021.

A6 In 2009 the British Wind Energy Association (BEWA) compiled a detailed review of the state of progress towards the 2010 renewable energy targets adopted by the English regions and the aggregate 'English' target. It found that with the exception of London all the English regions were unlikely to meet their onshore wind targets by 2010.In fact at the time the report was completed in April 2009 only half of the aggregate onshore target had been achieved. This failure to meet the 2010 target puts great pressure on all parties concerned including electricity generating companies, landowners and developers, Central Government and Local Planning Authorities to deliver more renewable capacity more effectively and more efficiently.

A7 Wind energy has the potential to be delivered in a shorter timescale than other forms of clean or renewable energy such as biomass, hydroelectric and combined heat and power. Traditionally, these have a much longer lead in time and as such are unlikely to have a significant impact on reducing emissions in the short term. Therefore it is of paramount importance that every opportunity is taken to accelerate the development of wind energy projects over the next few years to maximise benefits and help ease the pressure on the delivery of the 2020 targets.

A8 Delivery of these targets will lead to wider economic and environmental benefits, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, provision of a secure and diverse energy supply for businesses and residents and reduced instances of fuel poverty.

A9 On 1st April 2010 the Government introduced new Feed in Tariffs (FITS) to encourage more individuals and small business to invest in small to medium scale renewable technologies such as wind turbines and solar electricity. The aim being to accelerate the delivery of energy from renewable sources and speed up the delivery of national and regional targets.

Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and Humberside May 2008 (RSS)

A10 Currently the regions energy needs are predominantly met by burning fossil fuels. However, the Yorkshire and Humberside Region has some of the most extensive possibilities for renewable energy generation in the UK, including electricity generation from wind power

A11 The Region has a history of providing power and although there is a limited installed renewable energy supply, Policy ENV5 (Energy) of the RSS states that it has the potential to generate more and that most of this renewable energy targeted at regional, sub regional and Local Authority level would come from wind turbines and biomass for co-firing in the power stations. The purpose of policy EN5 is to increase energy efficiency through passive design, better use of existing power sources and other measures and to increase installed renewable energy in the Region so that renewable energy supplies contribute to the Government targets for energy generation from these sources. These targets include installed renewable energy capacity and their delivery will lead to wider economic and environmental benefits, such as reduced greenhouse gas emissions, provision of a scarce and diverse energy supply for business and residents and reduced instances of fuel poverty.

A12 The regional and local targets for onshore renewable energy are as follows:

	2010			**2021**
	Target	**Actual*1**	**%**	**Target**
YH Region	468MW	183MW	39.10%	1862MW
Barnsley	15MW	n/a	n/a	34MW

Table1 : RSS Onshore Renewable Energy Targets Note 1: Actual figures at are at April 2009 from BEWA's England Regional Renewable Energy Targets: Progress Report.

Regional Economic Strategy (RES)

A13 The Regional Economic Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber 2006-2015 provides strong support for the development of renewable energy and has set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It specifically promotes "energy security and reduced fossil fuel dependency by more energy efficiency and clean and renewable energy generation." It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20-25% by 2015 promoting and supporting a wide range of initiatives including increasing the regions capacity for generating electricity from wind and biomass. It is anticipated that the regional renewable energy targets contained in the RSS shall continue to be viewed as a material planning consideration when determining planning applications.

A14 The RES also supports the development and diversification of the rural economy and recognises that a strong rural economy can only be achieved through targeted investment and by "helping rural businesses to prosper and grow". Investment in renewable energy is an important part of this process. The introduction of successful initiatives such as the Low Carbon Building Programme and the Farm Resource Efficiency Programme show the region's commitment in this respect.

National Planning Policy and Guidance

A15 PPS22 is the key national policy document to be taken into account in the consideration of this proposed development. Indeed, together with its companion guide, "Planning for Renewable Energy", PPS22 sets out clearly the Government's approach to renewable energy.

A16 It represents the Governments most recent guide on renewable energy and provides considerable support to the greater harnessing of renewable energy sources, particularly wind energy, indicating that it is vital to facilitating the delivery of the Government's international commitments on both climate change and renewable energy. Considerable emphasis is placed on the need for renewable energy development and in most cases this national need should take precedence over local factors that may weigh against a proposal.

A17 Paragraph 1 of PPS22 identifies the key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities are expected to adhere to in their approach to planning for renewable energy:

- Renewable energy development should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and the environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.
- 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 planning permission.
- Regional planning bodies and Local Planning Authorities should not make assumptions about the technical and commercial viability of renewable energy projects. Development proposals should demonstrate that any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental, economic or social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

Ministerial Guidance

A18 On 23rd March 2011 the Rt Hon Greg Clark MP issued a ministerial statement entitled 'Planning for Growth'. The statement outlines the Government's proposal to reform the planning system to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs. It

introduces a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development and requires local planning authorities to plan positively for new development and to deal promptly and favourably with planning applications that comply with up to date national planning policy. When determining applications local planning authorities are obliged to have regard to all relevant considerations to support economic recovery including energy, environmental, transport and heritage consents. They should support enterprise and give appropriate weight to economic, environmental and social benefits of proposals; including long term or indirect benefits such as increased consumer choice, more viable communities and more robust economies (which may where relevant include matters such as job creation and business productivity. This statement is highly relevant to renewable energy developments.

Local Development Plan

A19 The Core Strategy (adopted September 2011) forms part of The Local Development Plan. This sets out the council's vision for the future development of Barnsley over the next 15 to 20 years and is the principal,overarching document in the LDF. with particularly relevance to renewable energy. CSP 1(Cimate Change) states that development will be expected to reduce and mitigate the impact of growth on the environment and carbon emissions through sustainable construction techniiques and the use of renewable energy.

A20 CSP6(Development that Produces Renewable Energy) states that the council will allow development that produces renewable energy as long as there is no significantly harmful effect on biodiversity,geodiversity and water quality;historical and cultural features and areas; infrastructure including radar; highway safety and the character of the landscape and appearance of the area. Undulating landscapes,such as those in the West of the Borough, can increase the prominence of turbines.Careful consideration will need to be given to the capacity of the landscape to accommodate turbines,the ability to mitigate visual intrusion and the cumulative impacts of individual sites when they are grouped rather than dispersed.

A21 CSP21 (Rural Economy) will encourage a viable rural economy by allowing development in rural areas if this supports the sustainable diversification and development of the rural economy; or results in the growth and support of existing businesses.Development in these rural areas will be expected to be of a scale proportionate to the size and role of the settlement and not have a harmful impact on the countryside, biodiversity, green belt, landscape or local character of the area.

A22 CSP29 (Design) states that high quality development will be expected that respects topography, Green infrastructure network, important habitats and other natural features such as views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways into Barnsley town centre development.This policy sets design principles to ensure that development is appropriate to its context and that good design can play a vital role in supporting economic and physical regeneration.

A23 CSP34 (Protection of Green Belt) adheres to national policy guidance PPG2 that requires very special circumstances to justify setting aside local and national policy

A24 CSP36 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) expects developments to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the Borough by protecting habitats,species,sites of ecological value and geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and sites of international and national and local significance , ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance . Development that may harm a biodiversity or geological feature will not be permitted unless effective mitigation measures can be ensured

A25 CSP37. (Landscape Character). Development will be expected to retain the character and distinctiveness of the individual landscape character area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002) All new development should be in keeping with the surrounding landscape and reflect the character,materials and details of the local area.Particular attention will be paid to development in prominent positions, for example, by waterside locations,within Conservation Areas and on the edge of towns and villages where it is important to maintain a clear distinction between urban area and the countryside and to ensure that development is not obtrusive in the skyline.

A26 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are currently being prepared to supplement some of the Core strategy policies and provide guidance for planning applications.