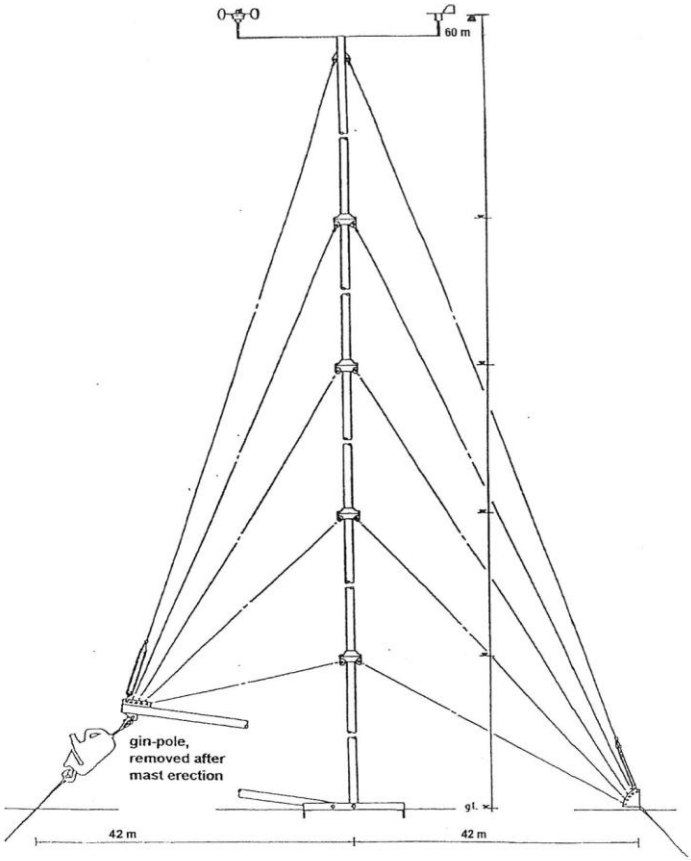
Spring Brook Met Mast

Design and Access Statement

July 2013



the energy workshop

1 Design and Access Statement

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Design and Access Statement (DAS) accompanies a planning application submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) by The Energy Workshop Limited (TEW) on behalf of John Darwin and Family for a meteorological mast (met mast) at 'Spring Brook', to the east of Sheephouse Farm. The location of the application site is identified in **Figure 1**.

1.1.2 This DAS explains the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development and how issues relating to access have been dealt with. It has been produced in accordance with Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (as amended) and takes into account guidance in the Department of Communities and Local Government Circular 01/2006 [1] and from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)[2].

1.1.3 The scope and structure of the DAS follows the requirements and advice in the above Circular and CABE guidance. Namely, that it should:

- illustrate, in a short report, the process that has led to the development proposal, explain and justify the proposal in a structured way.
- show that the application is based on a good understanding of local character and circumstances.

1.2 Design

1.2.1 The purpose of the proposed temporary meteorological mast at Spring Brook is to gather wind data to enable a better understanding of the wind resource at this location.

1.2.2 BMBC granted planning consent[3] for a temporary 70m high met mast close to this location on 24th July 2008, and agreed[4] to extend the time limit for a further 12 months on 14th January 2009. The associated Sheephouse Heights proposal (for five 125m wind turbines)[5] was refused planning permission on 16th December 2009 due to the site being in the Green Belt, the proposal's visual impact on Midhopestones conservation area, proximity to dwellings (300-400m), and visual impact on the Peak District National Park.

1.2.3 Following the refusal of the Sheephouse Heights proposal, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process was used to explore options for the site. This

[1] DCLG (2006) Circular 01/2006: Guidance on Changes to the Development Control System

[2] CABE (2006) Design and access statements: How to read, write and use them

[3] Planning application reference 2008/0784

[4] Planning application reference 2008/1667

[5] Planning application reference 2008/0838

included appraising the context of relevant planning policies and local sensitivities, and discussions with key stakeholders. A proposal for a single turbine emerged from this process and a planning application was submitted to BMBC for a single wind turbine and met mast in June 2013. However, following submission, BMBC requested the met mast component of the project be submitted in a separate planning application. The evidence provided in this application for the proposed met mast does not detail the full process undertaken as part of the EIA for the wind turbine proposal, although the siting of the met mast has been informed by the EIA process. The evidence presented should however be sufficient for the planning authority to assess the proposal's compliance with development plan policy and other material considerations.

Characteristics of the proposed development

1.2.4 The total area of the application site is 0.09 hectares (Ha). However, the mast and supporting guy wires will occupy a small proportion of the site, as illustrated in the submitted Figures.

1.2.5 The met mast will be located at 424825, 400304 (Easting, Northing). It will be a maximum of 60 meters tall, and its guy wires will extend out to a distance of 42 meters from the mast, arranged in a cross shape.

1.2.6 The mast would be constructed of tubular steel with steel cable guy wires attached to secure ground anchors. An indicative photograph of how the met mast appears is included as Figure 8. No landscaping is proposed as part of this temporary project. All project components will be removed from site after the 24 month temporary permission has expired.

1.2.7 The development plan identifies the site as lying within the Green Belt. Such areas should retain a permanently open character. As acknowledged in the National Planning Policy Framework, some elements of renewable energy projects will not be appropriate in the Green Belt, and will therefore have to demonstrate very special circumstances (such as the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources). The met mast itself will not produce renewable energy, but accurate wind data is a prerequisite for wind turbine selection and maximising the benefits of the available wind resource. BMBC's Core Strategy states that effects on the Green Belt will be weighed in the balance with a proposal's environmental social and economic benefits.

1.2.8 BMBC's Core Strategy also supports the sustainable diversification of the rural economy, providing development does not harm the countryside, biodiversity, Green Belt, landscape or local character of the area.

1.2.9 As indicated in Figure 7, the guy wires will be fitted with bird diverters at intervals of 5 meters or less. In line with Natural England guidance in TIN051[6], the mast has been sited over 50m from trees and linear habitat features in the surrounding

[6] Natural England Technical Information Note TIN051: Bats and onshore wind turbines Interim guidance, http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/490077

area to avoid potential adverse impacts on bats. This is shown in Figure 3 (Site Constraints).

1.3 Access

1.3.1 Figure 5 illustrates how the met mast would be delivered to site. The 4x4 vehicle and trailer is smaller than some of the agricultural vehicles that regularly access the field where the site is located, therefore no alterations are proposed to the existing access. The erection of the mast will take place over a two day period.

1.4 List of Documents

Planning Application Form and Ownership Certificate

Design and Access Statement (this document)

Figure 1 – Location Plan

Figure 2 – Site Plan

Figure 3 – Constraints Plan

Figure 4 – 60m Met Mast Elevation

Figure 5 - Vehicle for road transport of dissembled mast

Figures 6 A-B – Procedure for assembly and erection of mast

Figure 7 - Scheme for the marking of guy lines

Figure 8 - Indicative photograph of an anemometry mast