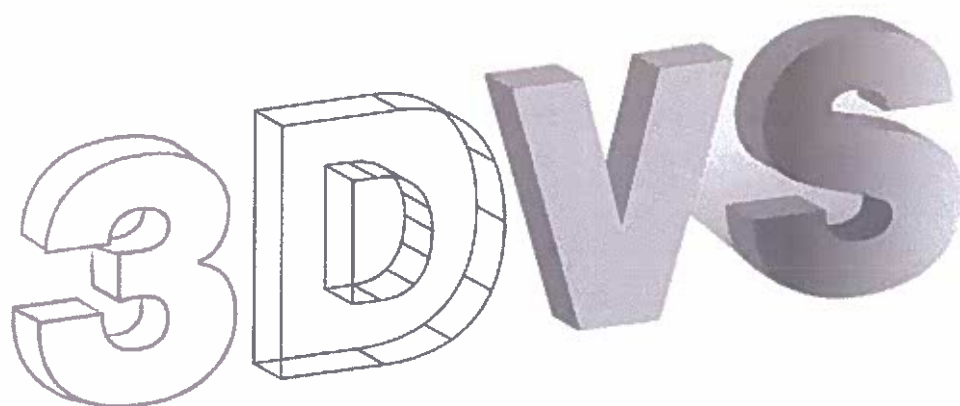




VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FIELD REPORT

LAND AT TENTER HOUSE FARM

PENISTON

REPORT COMPLETED 26TH MARCH 2013

THIS REPORT IS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GUIDELINES IN 'GUIDELINES FOR LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT. PUBLISHED BY THE LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE & THE INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & ASSESSMENT' & 'VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF WINDFARMS: GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE'. PUBLISHED BY SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE.

2. Site Context.

Grid Reference of Turbine/s	
Lat/Lon:	53 30.203 – 001 36.166
OSGB:	SE 26446 00819
Landscape Description & Use	Agriculture
Green Belt	Yes
National Park	No
A.O.N.B	No
Planning Authority	Barnsley
Distance from site to nearest residential property owned by customer.	369m
Distance to nearest property not owned by customer.	328m.
Distance from nearest commercial property.	461m.
Centres of residence	Oxspring,
Public Highways	Local Roads
Public Footpaths/Bridleways etc.	Trans Pennine Trail, Local footpaths.

3. Existing Environment & Scope.

A desktop study was undertaken to gather information on the existing baseline landscape conditions, location of visual receptors and geographical context to establish the area over which the wind turbine development may have a visual impact. In addition to the desktop study, site survey work was undertaken to verify the findings of the data collection, to identify specific landscape features and to undertake a detailed visual analysis. Photographs were taken from viewpoints from potential visual receptors.

During this assessment 3DVS identifies locations where there may be visual impact. 3DVS cannot access the land or curtilage of private properties, if there are properties identified during the desktop study that may be affected, then 3DVS will try to identify a locality nearby from which a photomontage can be produced to show a possible representation of views nearby. The survey area extends over a radius of approximately 5km, at this distance a turbine of this profile and height will be barely discernable in the landscape due in the main to changes in topography and elevation.

4. Terrain, Landscape, Location & Boundaries

The Landscape Character is defined as F2: Penistone Upland Farmland. Its key Characteristics are:

Stepped landform rising to 364m at Hartcliffe Hill.
Fields of pasture comprising small to medium geometric field units strongly defined by distinctive stone walls.
Linear or circular beech plantations stand out on the skyline, sometimes enclosed by stone walls.
Unimproved pasture with scrub on steeper slopes.
Scattered farmsteads of local light coloured stone.
Penistone is the largest settlement in the area, lying on the edge of the Don Valley. Isolated trees form silhouettes against the skyline.
Pylons and power lines are visually prominent on the skyline.
Single lane rural roads criss-cross the open countryside, bounded by stone walls.
Disused industrial quarries, shafts and mines indicate the historical importance of the area for the extraction of coal and stone.
Panoramic views over adjacent river valleys and towards the open moorland of the Peak.
The western boundary of the area is defined by the open Moorland of character area <i>Thurstone and Langsett Unenclosed Moorland</i> .
The underlying solid geology of this area is formed by complex beds of the Lower Carboniferous, comprising bedded sandstones, shale's and mudstones with intermittent coal seams. The area has an upland character which is enhanced by its proximity to and views across unenclosed Moorland.

For example:

The proposed site may be in a National Park, by definition a high sensitivity landscape. However the site from a particular viewpoint, say a road or footpath may be masked or hidden by trees, from a 'visual' reception point of view this would be classed as 'slight' as the turbine is not in full view to the 'visual' receptor. The same criteria are applied to any properties that may have visual reception to the site.

Issues on the physical change to the landscape (as above) should be addressed by other reports.

Table 2. Magnitude Classification.

Magnitude of Change	
Substantial change in landscape characteristics over an extensive area, ranging to very intensive change over a limited area. Permanent, long term.	High
Moderate change in landscape component over a wide area and/or moderate change in localised area.	Moderate
Discernable but slight change in any landscape component or short term, temporary	Slight
Virtually imperceptible change. Insignificant scale to affect the integrity of the landscape component	Negligible

Table 3 Impact Significance

	Low Sensitivity	Medium Sensitivity	High Sensitivity
Substantial Magnitude	Moderate Impact	Substantial Impact	Substantial Impact
Moderate Magnitude	Slight Impact	Moderate Impact	Substantial Impact
Slight Magnitude	Slight Impact	Slight Impact	Moderate Impact
Negligible Magnitude	Negligible Impact	Slight Impact	Slight Impact

Table 5 Predicted Visual Impacts Upon Completion of Construction.

Activity	Effect upon Visual Impact	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Significance of visual impact.
Increased visibility of the site due to the operation of the single wind turbine	Near distance views.			
	Location 1	Medium	Medium	Moderate
	Location 3	Low	Low	Slight
	Location 4	Low	Low	Slight
	Middle Distance Views.			
	Location 2	Low	Low	Slight
	Far distant views			
	Non-Assessed.			

Table 6 Sensitivity of Visual Receptors.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptor.	
Residential properties less than 1 km from the development with direct views from ground floor and first floor windows towards the development. Public Rights of Way less than 1 km from the development with direct views.	HIGH
Residential properties over 1 km from the development or with more restricted views towards the development. Public Rights of Way more than 1 km from the development, or with restricted views. Local side roads and lanes. Sporting and recreational facilities, allotments.	Medium
Offices, commercial developments and industrial sites. Main roads and rail routes.	Low

Table 7 Classification of Magnitude of Visual Receptors.

Magnitude of Impact (Scale).	
The majority of viewers affected/major changes over a large proportion of the view.	Substantial
Many of the potential viewers affected/ major changes over a smaller proportion of the view/moderate change in view/partial view.	Moderate
Few viewers affected / minor change in view/glimpsed view.	Slight
Indiscernible change in the view.	Negligible

A total of 4 visual receptors were chosen and photographs taken looking towards the site of the Turbine for assessment on how they might be visually affected by the erection of the proposed turbines.

The receptors are situated between 636m & 1733m away from the site; all photographs were taken from publicly accessible viewpoints.

Photo locations are shown on the Google Earth Image.

Near Distance Views (< 1000m)	Distance	Latitude/Longitude	OSGB	Bearing From Turbine Site
Location 1	910m	53 30.693 – 001 36.123	SE26488 - 01726	2 deg
Location 3	636m	53 30.322 – 001 36.700	SE25854 - 01035	66 deg
Location 4	915m	53 30.060 – 001 36.700	SE25575 - 00548	253 deg

Middle Distance Views (1000M to 2500m)	Distance	Latitude/Longitude	OSGB	Bearing From Turbine Site
Location 2	1733m	53 30.108 – 001 37.088	SE25427 - 00635	100 deg

Far Distance Views (2500m =>5000m)	Distance	Latitude/Longitude	OSGB	Bearing From Turbine Site
Non Assessed				

9. Predicted Visual Impacts.

A summary of the visual impacts from the above receptors, using the methodology described in Section 6 is summarised in Section 11. The receptor locations are shown in Part 2 of this report. (GIS Image & Shaded relief OS Map). Terrain Cross Profiles with a vertical exaggeration of approx X2 are also supplied in Part 2 of this report.

10. Cumulative Impact

Cumulative Impact

Cumulative Impact	In respect of visual impacts, there are (at least) four types of cumulative effects in this context:
a) <i>in combination</i>	where two or more features are seen together at the same time from the same place, in the same (arc of) view where their visual effects are combined
b) <i>in succession</i>	where two or more features are present in views from the same place (viewpoint) but cannot be seen at the same time, together because they are not in the same arc of view - the observer has to turn to see new sectors of view whereupon the other features unfold in succession
c) <i>in sequence</i>	where two or more features are not present in views from the same place (viewpoint) and cannot, therefore, ever be seen at the same time, even if the observer moved round the arc of view, the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see the second or more of them, so they will then appear in sequence. The frequency of occurrence in the sequence may be highly variable, ranging from frequently sequential when the features keep appearing regularly and with short time lapses between (clearly speed of travel influences this as well as distance between the viewpoints) down to occasionally sequential where there may be long time lapses between appearances, because the observer is moving very slowly and / or there are large distances between the viewpoints (even if not between the features)
d) <i>perceived</i>	where two or more features are present but one or more is never seen by the observer, for example, because they are screened, or the Observer is unable or unwilling to attend a viewpoint from where they would be seen. However, the observer is aware that others are there because, for example, they may have read or heard about them or seen signs to them; this is an apprehended or perceived effect but can be strongly felt; it could also, nevertheless, be mistaken because the observer's information or interpretation of it is wrong.

3DVS holds records for a number of turbines in the area either in planning or constructed. Cumulative Impact is determined for each photo location and then a general assessment over the area. In conjunction with the proposed turbine the following are considered for cumulative impact:

Whilst there are a number of proposed turbines nearby and one already in operation the construction of this proposal will not significantly increase cumulative impact to the local area. This is due mainly to its position in relation to a number of power lines and pylons that are nearby and they will break up the overall profile of the proposed construction.

The proposed turbine will be seen in combination with the existing Endurance at 53 29.911 – 001 36.595 and in combination with other established features in the landscape e.g. Power lines and Pylons.

11 Visual Impact & Conclusion

- A. This visual impact assessment has been undertaken to determine the likely visual impact effects arising from a single Endurance Wind Turbine on land adjacent to Tenter House Farm, Penistone.
- B. The proposed site for this turbine is located at 53 30.203 – 001 36.166 at an elevation of 268m, 876'. It is 2km southeast of Penistone, 1.2km southwest of Oxspring and 2.2km west of Thurgoland. The site sits on agricultural land, in isolation from the main farm buildings. Land in the area is agricultural.
- C. The site sits within the boundary of Barnsley Council.
- D. The local landscape is that of agricultural land with wooded areas and a network of dry stone walls and sheep pens.
- E. The landscape character is defined as F2: Penistone Upland Farmland (section 4 discusses the key features).
- F. The proposed turbine would have a direct effect on the fabric and an indirect effect on the landscape character. The site will have a modest footprint; the direct effects on the fabric will be negligible.
- G. The erection of this turbine will have an effect on the local landscape character as a new vertical structure in the area.
- H. The level of visual impact or effect falls within the near and middle distance classifications.
- I. Very little settlement exists within the area. Photomontage locations were chosen to represent the range of possible impacts; such as footpaths etc. Table 5 discusses the various impacts.
- J. An assessment of cumulative impact has been carried out. There is one turbine built, with 3 others in planning. No significant cumulative effects are expected.
- K. There are many other established vertical structures in the area. These being power lines and pylons which dominate the close vicinity of the site reducing overall visual impact
- L. There are no views from Penistone with moderate views from Fields End, Oxspring.
- M. There is a slight visual impact anticipated to properties in parts Thurgoland.
- N. There are a number of blocking features which reduce visual impact from the site over the near distance areas; these are in the main woodland.
- O. Visual Impact is defined as Slight/Moderate.