

Justification Statement in support of the application for a Wind Turbine at Pule Hill Farm, Rag Lane, Thurgoland (Ref: 2013/1096)

This addendum is in respect of the planning application for a wind turbine at Pule Hill Farm, Thurgoland. The information provided below outlines the justification for the proposed development in the Green Belt area.

It is acknowledged that under strict Green Belt guidance, a wind turbine is considered inappropriate development except in very special circumstances, where potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

Benefits

The following benefits demonstrate that this development should be considered as having very special circumstances. The benefits of the wind turbine significantly outweigh the harm to the openness and character of the Green Belt:

- The proposed turbine will produce approximately 160,000-180,000kWh of electricity per year.
- The turbine will result in a carbon emissions saving of 90,700Kg/CO₂ per year.
- The development will be supporting the existing needs of a local farm business.
- The income from the turbine will enable expansion of the business.
- The landowner will be able to protect the existing jobs at the farm and also consider employing at least one more full-time worker.
- The investment into the farm business will support the local community. In addition to local employment, local business will be supported as the landowner uses local suppliers and contractors and also supplies produce to a number of local businesses and butchers.
- The turbine will enable the landowner to protect the farmland, which will protect the landscape character.

Pule Hill Farm is a mixed farm of some 280 acres, consisting of 300 cattle and 400 sheep. Corn is also grown and milled on the farm, 52 weeks of the year. The landowner has run the farm for the past 30 years and currently employs 4 members of staff. Towards the end of each year, the farm also rears 1,000 turkeys and an additional 6 members of staff are employed throughout the month of December. The farm has a high energy demand, including heating and lighting for the outbuildings and a cold store, running the mill equipment and heating the turkey outbuildings during season, 24 hours a day.

APPROVED INSTALLER



Marston House, Walkers Court, Audby Lane, Wetherby, LS22 7FD

Tel: 01937 581011 Fax: 01937 584739

info@earthmill.co.uk www.earthmill.co.uk

Company Reg: 6845511 VAT Reg: 177 7241 80



The landowner has just secured an additional 130 acres of land adjoining Pule Hill Farm. The extra land will be used to grow more corn and rear more livestock; approximately 50% more stock than at Pule Hill Farm. The proposed turbine will help provide additional support to the existing farm business at Pule Hill, but crucially, it will contribute heavily to the expansion of the business at the new site. The income from the energy produced by the turbine will be offset against the energy demands of both sites. The turbine will enable the landowner to expand the business, in terms of purchasing new stock and buying necessary equipment. The landowner is also hoping to build an additional outbuilding and employ at least one new member of staff at the new site. The farm currently supplies produce to a number of local businesses and butchers. The turbine will enable diversification at the farm, provide security for the business and will also benefit the local community.

Material Considerations

This application is a re-submission of a previous application for a 36m high turbine. This has been reduced to a 24m tower, 12 meters lower than the original application. Historically, the site has already had two turbines approved, a 15kW and an 11kW. The 11kW was installed and is approximately 400m to the east of the proposed site. The 11kW contributes to approximately 50% of the energy requirements at Pule Hill Farm. The proposed turbine will contribute to the remaining energy requirements at the farm and also the new energy demands of the recently acquired land adjoining Pule Hill Farm.

In terms of structure, the turbine is has a slim design and will have a limited effect on the landscape. The turbine would be positioned in context with other vertical structures in the vicinity, such as telegraph poles, trees and the farm buildings. The turbine will be partially-screened by shelterbelts to the south, east and west.

Additional photos have been submitted to the council to support the justification of the turbine (Rev 2, Pule Hill Farm, E3120 24m.pdf). Views from Thurgoland will be limited, as demonstrated in photomontages 1 and 6. Although the turbine will be more visible from the northwest at Penistone, the views are interspersed with trees, buildings and pylons. In context with these vertical structures, the turbine will not dominate, or detract from the character of the landscape. There is also an extensive shelterbelt between the proposed site and Penistone, and the turbine is also a significant distance from Penistone, which further reduces any impact.

Along the A629, the turbine will clearly be visible, but views will be limited to a small section of the road on the approach into Thurgoland. The turbine is approximately 80m from the road and will be viewed in context with the farm buildings and the shelterbelt directly behind the site. Harm to the A629 will be limited as any vehicles travelling along this main road will only have a fleeting view of the turbine whilst travelling past.

In conclusion, the proposed development is considered to have very special circumstances. It is clear that there is a case for the turbine and that the benefits significantly outweigh any harm to the character of the Green Belt. There is an economic need for the turbine for the farm business and an environmental benefit in the form of a reduction in carbon emissions. In terms of harm to the Green Belt, the general landscape in the area is of gently undulating hills with a combination of rural and urban areas, including housing and industry. The turbine would also be

viewed in relation to other vertical structures in the landscape. Set in this context, the scale of turbine would be appropriate for this site. During consideration of this proposal, as well as the clear benefits to the farm business, considerable weight should be given to the wider economic and environmental benefits and the scheme's contributions towards meeting national targets for renewable energy.



Earthmill Ltd

APPROVED INSTALLER



Marston House, Walkers Court, Audby Lane, Wetherby, LS22 7FD
Tel: 01937 581011 Fax: 01937 584739
info@earthmill.co.uk www.earthmill.co.uk
Company Reg: 6845511 VAT Reg: 177 7241 80

