

Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/Final Responses/East Riding, Erection of 5 wind turbines, Sancton, Feb 09

13 February 2009

Pete Ashcroft
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County Hall
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Dear Pete

Planning Application Number: DC/08/05723/STPLFE/STRAT/HCOLD

Erection of 5 Wind Turbines with ancillary control room/substation, cabling, access and associated works at Land East of Sancton Hill Beverley Lane Sancton East Riding of Yorkshire.

Thank you for consulting the Assembly on the above. I am pleased to forward the following officer comments to you, based on the current RSS.

The Assembly is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this proposed development. The Assembly, as the Regional Planning Body, has been asked to comment on this development as its nature and location mean that it could have an effect on the implementation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The current RSS - The Yorkshire and Humber Plan was issued by the Secretary of State in May 2008. The RSS has the status of a Development Plan Document and forms part of the framework for decisions taken under section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), which means that decisions on all applications have to be taken in accordance with the Development Plan unless other material considerations indicate otherwise.

Regional Planning Context

Climate Change & Renewable Energy

Policy YH2 of RSS deals with the issue of climate change and resource use. It states that plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should increase

renewable energy capacity and carbon capture. In line with these policies, the proposed development will assist in reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the region.

Renewable Energy Targets

Policy ENV5 of RSS (2008) sets Humber a target of at least 124MW by 2010 and 350MW by 2021 for installed grid connected renewable capacity. Table 10.2 recommends a renewable energy target in East Riding of 41MW to 2010 and 148MW to 2021. Policy HE1C emphasises the need to develop the Humber sub area's renewable energy generation.

The East Riding Draft Interim Planning Document Renewable Energy (IPD) states that there was by early August 2008 existing developed capacity, or planning approval for, 71 MW of renewable energy to be generated from wind farm developments. Based on information collected for the RSS Annual Monitoring Report (2007) the region installed additional renewable energy capacity from on-shore wind farms between 2006-2007 of 0.0075 MW. In East Riding the total renewable energy capacity installed by onshore wind development was 0.0015 MW between 2006-2007. Information collected for draft AMR (2008) highlights that this has significantly increased. In East Riding the installed additional renewable energy capacity from on-shore wind farms between 2007-2008 was 34.3 MW. Talks with officers at the East Riding have also established that several large wind farm developments have recently been granted planning approval. It should also be noted that the RSS targets are not "ceiling" figures.

Location

RSS (2008) states that local authorities have an important role to promote renewable energy development, ideally with other authorities on a sub regional basis, and provide supplementary locational and environmental criteria to be used in assessing such development as needed.

The Landscape and Visual Impact Study carried out by the applicant concluded that the proposal would result in significant effects on the character of the site itself and the immediate surroundings.

Conclusion

Given the issues set out above, it is concluded that:

- This development is supported in principle by the Assembly as helping to implement the RSS by providing renewable energy generation.
- Local landscape assessments will have to be taken into account by the local authority in reaching its decision.

If you have any queries about this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Poxon', written in a cursive style.

Jenny Poxon
Head of Service Planning Delivery and Conformity