

Our ref: 40b – Planning Conformity/Final Responses/Hambleton, Erection of 4 wind turbines, Northallerton, Feb 09

1 February 2009

Jonathan Saddington  
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Dear Jonathan

**Planning Application Number: 08/04984/FUL**

**Siting of 4 no. 130M high wind turbines, associated works and a new vehicular access at Land South of A684 Northallerton North 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 North Yorkshire a target of at least 209MW by 2010 and 428MW by 2021 for installed grid connected renewable capacity. Table 10.2 recommends a renewable energy target in Hambleton of 40MW to 2010 and 97MW to 2021.

Based on information collected for the RSS Annual Monitoring Report (2007) the region installed additional renewable energy capacity from on-shore wind farms in the Region between 2006-2007 of 0.0075 MW. In North Yorkshire the total renewable energy capacity installed by onshore wind development was 0.006 MW between 2006-2007. However, this indicator was not monitored in Hambleton. It is important for the region that we improve our performance on the delivery of additional renewable energy capacity.

Information provided by the applicant states that there are currently 2 onshore wind farms operating in North Yorkshire with the installed capacity of 17.2MW. One further wind farm has been granted permission in North Yorkshire but this is not yet constructed or under construction. This would raise the installed capacity in North Yorkshire to 41.2 MW.

### *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 there would not be any significant effects on landscape character during the construction stage of the wind farm. This assessment established that significant landscape effects may arise within parts of: the Intensively Farmed Lowland (Varied Topography) Landscape Character Type (LCT), lying within Bullamoor Wind Farm; parts of the Intensively Farmed Lowland (Simple Topography) LCT and parts of the Cod Beck at the H6 Linear River Landscapes LCT within 3 km; and parts of the Isolated Minor Landform LCT within 4 km of the site. Elsewhere, no significant effects on landscape character are predicted.

The assessment also concluded that significant cumulative landscape effects are predicted for some of the more open parts of the north facing fringes of the North York Moors National Park, including a limited section of the Cleveland Way. The development is unlikely to have any significant effect on the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Howardian Hills and the Nidderdale Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Policy ENV10 of RSS (2008) states that the Region will safeguard and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive character of Yorkshire and Humber: Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should safeguard and enhance the following landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance such as the Yorkshire Dales, the North York Moors National Park, the Nidderdale and the Howardian Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Policy VTL1 of RSS (2008) provides for the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity and landscape character of the Vales and Tees Links area. The supporting text, paragraph 7.7 of RSS (2008) states that the Vale and Tees Links sub area generally has good potential for more wind energy development, although this needs to be balanced by other considerations such as landscape character.

## **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



Jenny Poxon  
Head of Service Planning Delivery and Conformity