

Howardian Hills



Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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Contact: Paul Jackson

My Reference: 3.1

Your Reference: 09/02339/FUL

Date: 22nd September 2009

Dear Sir

Construction of a wind turbine (tower 18.3m); North Moor Lane, Yearsley

I am responding on behalf of the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Joint Advisory Committee to your consultation regarding the above proposal.

This application involves the erection of a wind turbine close to the highest point of the AONB.

I visited the site on 16th September and have the following comments to make:

- There are no direct impacts on nature conservation value or recreational activity. The development site will not impact directly upon the Scheduled Monument (long barrow) to the north of Dale Plantation House and therefore the main issue to consider will be the impact on the landscape.
- I consider that the main visual impact of the development will be when it is approached from the west. There are however a number of substantial hedges, and a newly-planted roadside hedge with individual trees, that would help to interrupt views of the turbine tower.
- The views from the B1363 to both the north and south of the proposed development will be interrupted by roadside hedges, individual field trees and the undulating landform, such that I do not consider that there would be a significant impact.
- Objective D5.2 of the newly-revised AONB Management Plan indicates that the AONB Joint Advisory Committee will support renewable energy installations that do not have an adverse impact on the special qualities of the AONB. They should however be the right technology, at the right scale, in the right place and of the right design. These four aspects are considered in the paragraphs below.
- Technology – as indicated above, the property is at the highest point of the AONB and is a location that I had expected would be put forward for a wind turbine development.
- Scale – Whilst some designs I have seen use a 15m tower, I do not consider an 18.3m tower to be an issue at this location.

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- Place – The proposed site is in a small dip within the landscape, which would help to ‘lower’ the apparent height of the tower by perhaps 2m when compared to the adjacent farm house and buildings. This site is also connected visually to the existing house and yard development, when viewed from the principal westerly viewpoint. The consultants have put forward an alternative location further east but this is on higher ground, less visually-connected to the farm buildings, and would not be preferable in my view.
- Design – There appears to be some confusion between applicant and consultant as to whether the tower is tubular galvanized steel or lattice-work. Because this turbine will be sited at the highest point of the AONB, the backdrop to it will principally be the sky and therefore I would much prefer to see a lattice tower. A lattice tower, combined with the grey colour of the nacelle and turbine blades, would I believe be the most appropriate design to minimise visual impact in this location.
- Should the development be Approved, a Condition requiring removal at the end of its working life should be imposed.

In conclusion, the AONB Committee does not object to the proposed development, although it should consist of a lattice tower rather than a tubular one.

Yours sincerely

PAUL JACKSON
AONB Manager
Howardian Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee