

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011

Request for a "Screening Opinion" in respect of the following development:

Proposed Development:

**Installation of a Wind Turbine
Newton Manor Farm, Manor Lane, Newton**

Introduction:

The Council has been requested to adopt a screening opinion as to whether the above development is EIA development requiring the submission of an Environmental Statement.

Schedule 1:

No

Schedule 2:

Yes

The development proposed does not fall within Schedule 1 of the Regulations where an assessment is mandatory. However, the development falls within Schedule 2, Category 3 (i) as an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production. The proposal falls below the 2 or more wind turbine threshold, but exceeds the 15 metre turbine height threshold laid down by the above regulations beyond which an Environmental Statement may be required.

Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011

In respect of Schedule 2 development, an assessment will only be required if the development is likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location. Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 require regard to be had to Schedule 3 of the Regulations when considering whether an Assessment should be required.

1. Characteristics of the development – size of the development, cumulative effects with other development, use of natural resources, production of waste, pollution and nuisances, risk of accidents with regard to substances or technologies utilised.
2. Location of the development: the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected must be considered, in particular
 - the existing land use,
 - the relative abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural

resources,

- the absorption capacity of the natural environment, with particular emphasis to the following areas:
 - (i) wetlands
 - (ii) coastal zones
 - (iii) mountain and forest areas
 - (iv) nature reserves and parks
 - (v) areas designated by Member states
 - (vi) where environmental quality standards have been laid down in Community legislation and have been exceeded
 - (vii) densely populated areas
 - (viii) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological importance.
3. Characteristics of the potential impact, with regard to :
- The extent of the impact
 - Transfrontier nature of the impact
 - Magnitude and complexity of the impact
 - Probability of the impact
 - Duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact

In assessing whether an Environmental Assessment will be required, Column 2 adds that in the case of changes or extensions to development listed in paragraphs 1 to 12 an EIA is more likely to be required if the development as changed or extended may have significant adverse effects on the environment: or in relation to development of a description mentioned in column 1 of this table, the thresholds and criteria in the corresponding part of column 2 of this table applied to the change or extension are met or exceeded.

Assessment:

The proposed turbine is medium scale, having a hub height of 50 metres and a tip height of 74 metres.

The site is set within undulating countryside. Although the landscape is of quality, the site is not set within a particularly sensitive area as identified in Schedule 3 of the Regulations. The site lies approximately 1km from Blithfield Reservoir SSSI. However, it is considered that the impact of the proposal upon ecology could be adequately assessed through an ecological survey in this instance.

The area immediately surrounding the site is relatively sparsely populated, and as such it is not considered that the proposal will result in significant noise impacts. It is considered that the impact of the proposal is limited in extent and readily reversible. The impact would be localised rather than transfrontier.

It is not considered that the is proposal would generate complex or unusually hazardous environmental effects

There are no other turbines in the locality and it is not therefore considered that there would be any unacceptable cumulative effects.

In conclusion, the proposed development is relatively small scale and would not involve unusually complex or hazardous environmental effects. The Council is of the view that the development is not likely to have significant effects on the environment in this area, and therefore a formal Environmental Statement will not be required.

Recommendation:

A formal screening opinion be adopted that Environmental Assessment will not be required

jeu 2/8/12

Team Leader comments:

The following decision is made by the undersigned in accordance with powers delegated to the undersigned under the provision of S101 of the Local Government Act 1972.

A formal Environmental Statement is not required in respect of the development as proposed.

TL Signature *[Signature]* Date *2/8/12*

