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**Head of Regulatory Services**

Date : 12 November 2013

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James A Davis  
Aspire Planning  
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BS22 6AR

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Screening Opinion, Manor House Farm  
Quixhill Lane  
Prestwood  
Staffordshire  
ST14 5DD**

I refer to your request for a Screening Opinion relating to the above site, which was received on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

I confirm that the Local Planning Authority has considered the information submitted, and in accordance with Regulation (5) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 has concluded that the development does not constitute EIA development and as such a formal Environmental Statement will not be required in this instance.

Please note and act upon as necessary the attached comments from the Council's Environmental Health Division.

Yours faithfully

*Jim Malkin*

Jim Malkin  
Interim Principal Planner  
Planning Delivery



**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  
Manor House Farm, Prestwood**

**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:**

**Schedule 2:**

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.**

**Circular 2/99:**

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.

Paragraph 33 of Circular 02/99 indicates that the Secretary of State's view is that, in general, EIA will be needed for Schedule 2 developments in three main types of case:

- a. for major developments which are of more than local importance (e.g. wide ranging environmental effects);
- b. for developments which are proposed for particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations (paragraphs 36-40); and
- c. for developments with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects.

Circular 02/99 Annex A comments on indicative thresholds and criteria for identifying Schedule 2 development requiring an Environmental Statement:

**Wind Farms**

**A14.** The likelihood of significant effects will generally depend upon the scale of the development, and its visual impact, as well as potential noise impacts. EIA is more likely to be required for commercial developments of five or more turbines, or more than 5MW of new generating capacity.

**Assessment:**

The proposed turbine is small to medium scale, having a hub height of 40 metres and a tip height of 67 metres. A turbine of this scale would have a relatively small generating capacity and would not contribute significantly to the National Grid. The capacity would fall significantly short of the 5MW capacity set out in Circular 02/99 beyond which an Environmental statement is 'more likely' to be required.

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 Regulation 2 of the Regulations.

The area immediately surrounding the site is relatively sparsely populated, and as such it is not considered that the proposal will result in sufficiently significant or complex noise impacts to warrant an Environmental Statement.

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.

The proposed turbine is to replace the existing structure on site. There are no existing turbines sufficiently close to the site for the proposal to have unusually significant 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**

31/10/17

**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 .**

**Date ..... 4/11/13 .....**

