

**Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)
(England and Wales) Regulations 1999**

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

Proposed Development:

**Installation of a Wind Turbine
Stud Farm, Needwood**

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 (b) as an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production. The proposal equals the 2 or more wind turbine threshold, and the 15 metre turbine height threshold laid down by the above regulations beyond which an Environmental Statement may be required.

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:

In assessing the proposal in the context of the above, the Council's view is that it is not a major development of more than local importance. The proposed turbine is relatively small, having a hub height of 18.3 metres and a tip height of 25 metres. The proposed turbine has a relatively small generating capacity and would not contribute significantly to the National Grid.

The area surrounding the site is relatively sparsely populated, and as such it is not considered that the proposal will result in significant noise impacts.

The site falls outside the definition of a "sensitive area" as set out by Regulation 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999.

Taking the above into account, it is considered that the proposal is of local importance only and is unlikely to generate complex or unusually hazardous environmental effects

The site is situated in the vicinity of the National Football Centre currently being constructed and an operational airfield. However, these and the proposal are distinctly different types of development and it is not therefore considered that their cumulative impact would be significant.

Paragraph A14 of Circular 02/99 Annex A states that "EIA is more likely to be required for commercial developments of five or more turbines, or more than 5MW of new generating capacity". The proposal involves the installation of a single turbine with a generating capacity of 11KW. The proposal is therefore significantly below the threshold above which Circular 02/99 suggests an Environmental statement is more likely to be required.

In conclusion, the proposed development is not of more than local importance, does not affect a sensitive area and would not involve unusually complex or hazardous environmental effects. Having considered the proposal against the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and Circular 02/1999, it is not considered that an Environmental Statement will be required in this instance.

Recommendation:

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

Team Leader/Chief Planning Officer 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.

DELETE AS NECESSARY

A formal Environmental Statement is required in respect of the development as proposed.

TL/CPO Signature  **Date**

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

TL/CPO Signature  **Date ...**  **...**

