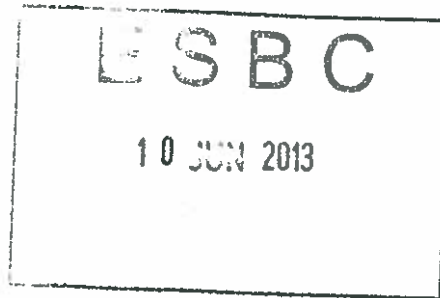


P/2013/00684



Renewables First  
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GL5 2TH

P O Box 8045  
Planning Services  
Burton Upon Trent  
Staffordshire  
DE14 9JG



7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)  
(ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2011**

**REQUEST FOR AN EIA SCREENING OPINION FOR THE ERECTION OF TWO WIND  
TURBINES ON LAND AT WREDON QUARRY, RUE HILL, STOKE ON TRENT**

Renewables First Ltd are proposing to submit a planning application for two wind turbines, each up to 800kW capacity, on agricultural land at **Wreddon Quarry, Rue Hill, Stoke on Trent, ST10 3HA**. I am writing to request a formal screening opinion for the above site to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required for the proposal which will have a maximum blade tip height of 100 metres. A copy has also been sent to Staffordshire Moorlands Council as the councils Boundary straddles the site. The following information has been enclosed:

- Site Location Plan (Appendix 1)

The proposed wind turbine development location is on land formerly used as a quarry and now as a tractor testing site, it lies approximately 9.3km north east of Cheadle and 9.1km west of Ashbourne. The proposed turbine locations are:

Turbine	Easting	Northing
1	408844	346857
2	408374	347067



TRANSITIONAL INSTALLER



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## 1. The Development

The proposal is to install two wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height of 100 metres (76m hub height) and be of a three blade rotor design. The exact turbine model has not yet been chosen. Additional elements include a permanent switch gear housing unit (approx. 5mx3m), access track, underground cabling, two crane hard standings and temporary construction compound. The development lies near to the top of Rue Hill at the start of the Pennines south of the A52 road. The site is not located on any designated site or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or National Park.

### 1.1 Installation

Delivery of the turbine components will be by articulated HGV and brought onto site via the access track. The construction and installation period will last up to 18 weeks. The crane hard standing and access track will be made up of crushed aggregate and once installation is complete will be allowed to grass over. The transformer and electrical switch gear will be contained in a waterproof GRP housing on the site in order to allow connection to the local electrical grid. Underground cabling will be used where practical.

### 1.2 Decommissioning

The turbine is designed to have an operational life of up to 25 years, after which the turbine will be decommissioned. Once the turbine has been removed, the site will be reinstated to a condition agreed with Local Planning Authority.

## 2. Screening Request

The request is made with reference to the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 and Circular 02/99 "Environmental Impact Assessment" of the regulations which provides further guidance on threshold criteria. This guidance being; *"The likelihood of significance 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."*

The proposal is considered to be a schedule 2 development as the tower heights exceed 15 metres, however it does not exceed the other criteria of 5 megawatts of generation or 5 turbines in number. The development is therefore not considered to trigger the requirement for an EIA, as the proposal is for one wind turbine and is only a fraction of the scale and output of that suggested by the criteria to require an EIA.

### 3. Potential Impact

Title	Title
Delivery	Minor road modifications may be necessary including temporary removal of street furniture to facilitate access to site – limited impact
Landscape (site constraints)	Over 140m from nearest footpath and 1000m from the nearest bridleway; 700m from nearest road; over 150m from nearest overhead cables; over 500m from microwave and fixed links; 54m blade clearance from nearest hedge; over 500m from nearest residential property; 250m from nearest tree; at least 1000m from nearest watercourse.
Flood Risk	Flood risk zone 1 – minimal risk
Cultural Heritage	From our initial assessment there are 33 round barrows within 5km of the site, though there are non within the site boundary. There is a moated archaeological site 0.9km from site at Ribden and Bunbury Hill Fort lies 4km to the south in the grounds of the Alton Towers amusement park. Alton Castle, which is a medieval ruin and lies 4.6km. Appropriate assessment will be conducted to assess the potential impact of the scheme at any sensitive sites
Aviation and Communications	Consultation with the MOD and any nearby aviation concerns will be conducted but from our initial assessments there does not appear to be any operations the turbines could interfere with. We will follow the

	guidance provided CAA CAP 764.
Noise and Shadow Flicker	From our technical assessment a noise monitoring assessment will not be required at all non involved residential properties are over 500m from the turbine location and are unlikely to be affected by noise following the guidance set out by ETSU-R-97, National Policy Statement EN3 – Renewable Energy. Therefore a simplified noise limit of 35dB will be applied. No residential properties are close enough to be affected by shadow flicker.
Cumulative Impact	There are no similar operational wind turbines or wind farms within a 5km radius of the proposed site. .

Subject to the outcome of this request a full planning application will be made to the Local Planning Authority being either Staffordshire Moorlands or East Staffordshire Council. Bearing in mind the majority of the title and the access lies within Staffordshire Moorlands, this is most likely to be the determining authority. Pre-application advice will also be sought from the Local Planning Authority to agree the scope of the assessments for the application. The assessments that will be covered by the application will be:

- Planning context
- Ecology and Ornithology
- Landscape and visual impact
- Cultural Heritage
- Noise
- Hydrology
- Miscellaneous (Telecommunications, Aviation, Shadow Flicker, Transport & Access and Public Safety)

The size and nature of the development would be modest, its impact would not place undue pressure on natural resources, and the risk of pollution, nuisance or accidents would be minimal. It is outside of a protected landscape area and areas of ecological and archaeological importance. The cumulative impact of a two turbine project, even if others are approved in the area is unlikely to be significant. Any impact would be local and the site would be reinstated to



