

APPLICATION NO	WF/2011/0734
APPLICANT	RWE Npower Renewables Ltd
DEVELOPMENT	Planning permission to erect 18 wind turbines and associated infrastructure and services including 3 anemometry masts, site roads, crane pads, site office and grid connection building and temporary construction compounds
LOCATION	Land west of Brigg Road, Horkstow
PARISH	HORKSTOW
WARD	Brigg and Wolds
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	Refuse permission
REASONS FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE	<p>Applicant request to address the committee</p> <p>Third party request to address the committee</p> <p>Significant public interest</p> <p>Member 'call in' (Councillor Waltham – significant public interest)</p>

BACKGROUND

This application was received as valid during June 2011 and proposes the construction of eighteen wind turbines with associated infrastructure including foundations, transformers, access tracks, site compounds and associated structures, underground power cables and three wind monitoring masts on a site to the east of Horkstow, Saxby and Bonby, west of the A15 and north of Elsham and Worlaby on land that is currently in agricultural use.

The site itself has no dwelling within it nor are there any dwellings directly adjoining the site.

The nearest non-involved dwelling is at Northwold Farm approximately 800 metres to the north-east of the nearest turbine.

Each turbine would have a rated capacity of 2 to 2.5 megawatts and therefore the installed capacity of the array is approximately 36 to 45 megawatts. Each turbine would have a maximum height of up to 125 metres to the blade tip with a maximum tower height of 80 metres giving a blade diameter of approximately 90 metres.

At 45 megawatts installed capacity the development is below that required by BERR (the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) to determine the application and therefore the decision in respect of whether this development is acceptable or not lies with the local planning authority.

The design life of the development would be 25 years from when it first produced electricity: at the end of the 25 years a decision to refurbish, remove or replace the turbines would be taken. If the turbines were to be removed the land would be reinstated to agricultural use.

A significant number of consultations have been carried out, receipt of the application has been advertised in the local press and site notices posted, and individual letters have been sent out to those properties closest to the application site. This method of public consultation is in line with the council's policy and is considered to be appropriate and adequate.

During the consultation exercise a significant number of responses have been received: some from those statutory and non-statutory consultees that the council would normally consult on an application of this type, and also over five hundred letters of representation.

The application is accompanied by a full environmental impact assessment and this has been available for people to view both in the Planning office and also on the council's website since the application was received.

The application needs to be considered against and in the light of national, regional and local policies, guidance and advice.

NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY GUIDANCE AND ADVICE

National policy

Since entering into the Kyoto protocol the Government has been committed to reducing greenhouse emissions by 12.5% below 1990 levels by 2012.

In the 2007 Energy White Paper, the Government proposed that 10% of electricity generation should be from renewable sources by 2010, 20% by 2020 and an aspiration for 60% by 2050.

However Government guidance is still conscious of the need to protect the environment, including the landscape, from unacceptable development.

The UK's energy policy, including renewable energy, is set out in the Energy White Paper. Through various iterations this White Paper and its principles have been enshrined by the Energy Act being given Royal Assent in November 2008.

The Renewable Energy Strategy was published in July 2009 and states that:

'We need to radically increase our use of renewable electricity, heat and transport. This Strategy explains how and why we will do so. It sets out the path for us to meet our legally-binding target to ensure 15% of our energy comes from renewable sources by 2020: almost a seven-fold increase in the share of renewables in scarcely more than a decade.

This Strategy will help us tackle climate change, reducing the UK's emissions of carbon dioxide by over 750 million tonnes between now and 2030. It will also promote the security of our energy supply, reducing our overall fossil fuel demand by around 10% and gas imports by 20-30% against what they would have been in 2020. And it will provide outstanding opportunities for the UK economy with the potential to create up to half a million more jobs in the UK renewable energy sector resulting from around £100 billion of new investment. In parallel with energy saving, nuclear and carbon capture and storage, this is a key element of our overall transition plan for setting the UK on the path to achieve a low-carbon, sustainable future that helps address dangerous climate change.'

The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out action for planning for delivering higher levels of renewable energy development. It describes the balance of fuels and technologies likely to achieve the Government's goals, the strategic role of Government and the specific actions it intends to take. It also sets out the opportunity for all in society to harness renewable energy and contribute towards action against climate change. The strategy sets out the path for the country to meet its legally binding target of 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

However the document is still conscious of the need to protect the environment, including the landscape, from unacceptable development. Paragraphs 4.9 and 4.10 of the document set out this balance of considerations:

'4.9 The planning system plays a central role in delivering the infrastructure we need to reduce our carbon emissions and ensure continued security of energy supply. Equally the planning system plays a vital role in safeguarding our landscape and natural heritage and allowing communities and individuals the opportunity to shape where they live and work.

We therefore need to ensure that the planning system properly reflects the range of interests in land use, applies existing safeguards to protect areas where development may not be appropriate, but delivers swift, consistent and effective decisions in areas where development is appropriate.'

This is reflected by the planning policy cascade from national through to regional and local policies detailed below:

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) and Planning and Climate Change, Supplement to PPS1 (2007)

PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. It explains that the Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment, in both rural and urban areas. A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes (paragraph 17):

'The Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment, in both rural and urban areas. Planning policies should seek to protect and enhance quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole.'

At paragraph 18 it notes that: 'the condition of our surroundings has a direct impact on the quality of life and the conservation and improvement of the natural and built environment brings social and economic benefit for local communities.'

The section adds that planning authorities should seek to enhance the environment as part of development proposals and that significant adverse impacts on the environment should be avoided and alternative options which might reduce or eliminate those impacts pursued.

Paragraph 20 recognises the need to consider both the effects of climate change and the protection of the wider countryside. In particular:

'- mitigation of the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the use of renewable energy; air quality and pollution;

land contamination; the protection of groundwater from contamination; and noise and light pollution;

- the protection of the wider countryside and the impact of development on landscape quality; the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats and the promotion of biodiversity; the need to improve the built and natural environment in and around urban areas and rural settlements...'

At the same time it calls for a prudent use of natural resources and requires development plans to seek to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the use of renewable resources (paragraph 22).

The supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change (2007) – sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences. It advises that it does not seek to assemble all national planning policy relevant or applicable to climate change and should be read alongside the national PPS series. Where there is any difference in emphasis on climate change between the policies in this PPS and others in the national series, this is intentional and this PPS takes precedence.

PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)

The key principle PPS7 expresses is:

'(i) Decisions on development proposals should be based on sustainable development principles, ensuring an integrated approach to the consideration of:

- social inclusion, recognising the needs of everyone;
- effective protection and enhancement of the environment;
- prudent use of natural resources; and
- maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.'

The PPS requires regional spatial strategies (RSSs) to recognise the environmental, economic and social value of the countryside that is of national or, where appropriate, sub-regional significance. Policies in RSSs and LDDs (local development documents) should seek to maintain and enhance these values, so enabling the countryside to remain an important natural resource, contribute to national and regional prosperity and be enjoyed by all (paragraph 14).

At paragraph 15 it states that:

'Planning authorities should continue to ensure that the quality and character of the wider countryside is protected and, where possible, enhanced. They should have particular regard to any areas that have been given a statutory designation for their landscape, wildlife or historic qualities where greater priority should be given to restraint of potentially damaging development.'

Paragraph 16 goes on to state that:

'When preparing Local Development Documents and determining planning applications for development in the countryside, planning authorities should:

- (iv) provide for the sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources in accordance with the policies set out in PPS22; and
- (v) conserve specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value, in accordance with statutory designations.'

At paragraph 24 the PPS explains that the Government recognises and accepts that there are areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas that are particularly highly valued locally. It advises that these should be capable of being protected by carefully drafted criteria-based policies utilising tools such as landscape character assessments. In compiling LDDs where local designations are retained, such designations should be based on a formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned.

PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009)

This PPS supersedes some of the provisions of PPS7 which have now been cancelled. The relevant policy is EC6: Planning for Economic Development in Rural Areas which states at EC6.1 that:

'Local planning authorities should ensure that the countryside is protected for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all.'

And at EC6.2:

'In rural areas, local planning authorities should:

- a. strictly control economic development in open countryside away from existing settlements, or outside areas allocated for development in development plans'

PPG17: Planning for Open Space, sport and recreation

The main planning aims raised by this PPG are:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives.

Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17

This guide reflects the Government's policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17.

PPS24: Planning and Noise

Paragraph 10 of PPG24 indicates that the planning system should not place unjustifiable obstacles in the way of essential infrastructure development. It also refers to the need to prevent an unacceptable degree of disturbance. Paragraph 11 specifies that:

'Noise characteristics and levels can vary substantially according to their source and the type of activity involved. In the case of industrial development, for example, the character of the noise should be taken into account as well as its level. Sudden impulses, irregular noise or noise which contains a distinguishable continuous tone will require special consideration.'

PPS22: Renewable Energy (2004)

The Government published a revised PPS on renewable energy in 2004, together with a companion guide which sets out practical advice on how policies for renewable energy can be implemented. These documents reinforce the overall regional role for renewable energy in helping to deliver national energy targets for energy generation and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The PPS explains that it follows on from the Energy White Paper 'Our energy future – creating a low carbon economy' (2003) whose aim was to put the UK on the path to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by 2050 with real progress by 2020.

The PPS sets out eight key principles to be followed by regional planning bodies and local planning authorities. In particular:

- Key principle (i) explains that renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily;
- Key principle (ii) explains that regional spatial strategies and local development documents should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and the potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards;
- Key principle (iii) explains that at the local level, planning authorities should set out the criteria that will be applied in assessing applications for planning permission for renewable energy projects;
- Key principle (iv) explains that the wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations and should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission; and
- Key principle (viii) requires development proposals to demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

The PPS sets out the principles for regional targets, policies in regional spatial strategies and local development documents, locational considerations and a range of other considerations relating to scale, landscape and visual effects, noise, odour and types of renewable energy, eg biomass and energy crops, and wind turbines.

Paragraph 3 states that:

'Targets should be expressed as the minimum amount of installed capacity for renewable energy in the region, expressed in megawatts...Targets should be reviewed on a regular basis and revised upwards (if they are met) subject to the region's renewable energy resource potential and the capacity of the environment in the region for further renewable energy developments.'

At paragraph 15 the PPS states that local landscape and local nature conservation designations should not be used in themselves to refuse planning permission for renewable energy developments. Planning applications for renewable energy developments in such areas should be assessed against criteria-based policies set out in local development documents, including any criteria that are specific to the type of area concerned.

In paragraphs 19 to 21 the PPS gives guidance on the landscape and visual effects of renewable energy developments. In particular it states that these effects will vary on a case by case basis according to the type of development, its location and the landscape setting of the proposed development (paragraph 19); that of all renewable technologies, wind turbines are likely to have the greatest visual and landscape effects, but that these impacts may be temporary if decommissioning conditions are attached (paragraph 20); and that planning authorities should take account of the cumulative impact of wind generation projects in particular areas.

At paragraph 22 the PPS specifies that:

'Local planning authorities should ensure that renewable energy developments have been located and designed in such a way to minimise increases in ambient noise levels.'

The Companion Guide to PPS22

At paragraph 5.10 the Companion Guide sets out what planning authorities must assess for each project and thereby come to an objective view:

- the extent to which the project is in conformity with the development plan, in particular criteria-based policies and any 'broad area' policies in RSSs
- the extent to which the reasons for any area-based designations may be compromised
- the extent of any positive or negative impacts, and the means by which they may be mitigated, if negative
- the contribution towards meeting the regional target, but recognising that a small contribution cannot, in itself, be a reason for refusal of permission.

PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment

Policy HE1, Heritage Assets and Climate Change, recognises the potential conflict between protecting sensitive sites from modern development and the need to meet the challenges of climate change, including the provision of renewable energy capacity:

'HE1.1 Local Planning Authorities should identify opportunities to mitigate, and adapt to, the effects of climate change when devising policies and making decisions

relating to heritage assets so as to reduce carbon emissions and secure sustainable development.'

The Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and The Humber (2008)

The RSS at Section 2 (Spatial vision and core approach), in Table 2.1 (Spatial vision and headline outcomes), at outcome 7 says, 'Environmental quality has been raised, resource demands from development minimised, and the region is responding proactively to the global and local effects of climate change' and countryside quality and installed renewable energy capacity are quoted as two of the headline indicators for this outcome.

Policy YH1 (Overall approach and key spatial priorities) states at B that plans, strategies investment decisions and programmes should aim to:

- '6. Protect and enhance the region's environmental resources, including areas of international and national importance, and the character and qualities of the Region's coast and countryside including for economic and social development.'

The explanatory text accompanying the policy explains that a good quality environment is critical to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the region. It acknowledges that pressure on environmental assets and resources is likely to increase with the demands for growth (paragraph 2.9).

Policy YH2 (Climate change and resource use) sets out seven areas where plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should help meet the RSS target in relation to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the seventh of which is increasing renewable energy capacity.

Policy YH3 (Working together) states that 'plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should be based on:

A Effective collaboration between areas within the region, particularly to:

6. Achieve effective environmental management and enhancement and address climate change.'

In delivering the RSS's core approach, paragraph 2.76 explains that 'Change needs to be managed realistically and sensitively in the Region. The pace and degree of change must be handled in a way that is responsive to objectives such as urban regeneration, housing market renewal and rural renaissance and is reflective of local conditions, whilst ensuring the benefits of change and growth are delivered in a sustainable way as soon as possible.' Table 2.2 (Delivering the core approach over 15-20 years) sets out how this change might be achieved through different policy approaches during early, mid and later years. In the area of the environment, the increased generation of renewable energy, mostly from wind turbines, is seen as being important, as is the protection of important landscapes and habitats. Policy ENV5 (Energy) states that 'The region will maximise improvements to energy efficiency by increases in renewable energy capacity. Plans, strategies, investments, decisions and programmes should:

A reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve energy efficiency and maximise the efficient use of power sources by:

- (1) requiring the orientation and layout of development to maximise passive solar heating;
- (2) ensuring that publicly funded housing and Yorkshire Forward supported developments meet high energy efficiency standards;
- (3) maximising the use of combined heat and power, particularly for developments within energy demands over 2 megawatts, and incorporating renewable sources of energy where possible;
- (4) ensuring that development takes advantage of community heating opportunities wherever they arise in the region, including at Immingham and near Selby;
- (5) providing for new efficient energy generation and transmission infrastructure in keeping with local amenity and areas of demand;
- (6) supporting the use of clean coal technologies and abatement measures;

B maximise renewable energy capacity by:

- (1) delivering at least the following regional and sub-regional targets for installed grid connected renewable energy capacity:

	2010	2021
Humber	124 megawatts	350 megawatts
North Yorkshire	209 megawatts	428 megawatts
South Yorkshire	47 megawatts	160 megawatts
West Yorkshire	88 megawatts	295 megawatts
Offshore	240 megawatts	630 megawatts
Total	708 megawatts	1862 megawatts

- (2) monitoring annually planning permissions and developments against the indicative local authority targets for 2010 and 2021 set out in Table 10.2 and taking action accordingly to ensure the regional and sub-regional targets are exceeded
- (3) promoting and securing greater use of decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy in new development, including through development plan documents (DPDs) setting ambitious but viable proportions of the energy supply for new developments to be required to come from such sources. In advance of local targets being set in DPDs, new developments of more than 10 dwellings or 1,000 square metres of non-residential floor space should secure at least 10% of their energy from decentralised and renewable or low-

carbon sources, unless, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, this is not feasible or viable.'

Table 10.2 sets indicative local targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy in 2010 and 2021. For North Lincolnshire this is 54 megawatts and 112 megawatts respectively.

Policy ENV10 (Landscape) states that the 'region will safeguard and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive character of Yorkshire and the Humber. Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should safeguard and enhance certain identified landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance.'

Policy E7 (Rural Economy) states that 'Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should help diversify and strengthen the rural economy by facilitating the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in a way that:...

5. Supports and protects an attractive and high quality rural environment.'

The North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (adopted June 2011)

The core strategy was adopted on 28 June 2011. The most relevant policy in the core strategy is CS18 (Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change) – the council will actively promote development that utilises natural resources as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

Renewable Energy Supplementary Policy Document (2011)

1.1 On-Shore Wind

On-shore wind energy development has been the mainstay of proposals for renewable energy development in North Lincolnshire. This is due to the area being identified as having significant potential for wind development in the 2004 study 'Planning for Renewable Energy Targets in Yorkshire & Humber'. This study provided the basis for the regional targets set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). The RSS targets for North Lincolnshire were limited to ensure the area did not have to bear too disproportionate a burden for on-shore wind energy compared to other local authorities in the region. The study also highlighted that other renewable technologies, for example biomass, will provide significant opportunity for North Lincolnshire to supplement its power supply.

Over recent years, seven proposals for on-shore wind energy development have been put forward in North Lincolnshire. These have been considered by either the council or the Government. Three have received planning permission at Bagmoor, Keadby and Tween Bridge which, between them, will generate 110MW of electricity, whilst two applications at Flixborough and Saxby are being considered through the appeal process and have the potential to generate a further 59MW of electricity. A further application is under consideration for four turbines generating 10MW of electricity at Winterton.

An application was refused by the council at Elsham Wold for 15 turbines generating 30MW of electricity due to its impact on the operation of Humberside Airport and was finally dismissed on appeal in 2006.

There are also a number of proposals or consented wind energy developments in neighbouring local authority areas – at Tween Bridge (Doncaster); Goole Fields, Twin

Rivers and Sixpenny Wood (East Riding of Yorkshire); and Stallingborough (North East Lincolnshire).

Renewable Energy Technologies

2.1.1 Wind Energy

Wind energy development is the most prevalent form of renewable energy generation technology in the United Kingdom. Recent years have seen large numbers of on-shore wind turbines being constructed across the country, with more beginning to be developed off-shore. In the coming years, a number of large-scale off-shore wind farms will be constructed around the country's coastline.

Wind turbines use the movement of the wind to generate mechanical power for the generation of electricity, via single turbines or groups of turbines (a wind farm). The level of electricity that a wind turbine produces is dependent on the wind speed and the area swept by the rotor blades. A wind turbine consists of a steel tower which supports a nacelle for a gearbox, alternator and the 'yaw mechanism' which allows the machine to turn itself towards the prevailing wind. A turbine can have a varying number of blades. There are essentially two types of wind turbine: vertical and horizontal axis machines. Within each type there are various technical differences such as the number of blades.

In recent years wind turbine technology has continued to advance significantly. Larger wind turbines, which are more energy dense, are being deployed and are capable of operating at lower average mean wind speeds (AMWS). This has increased the area of potential future deployment across Yorkshire and the Humber. This will help to meet national and regional targets for renewable energy generation. However, this advance in technology will mean there is the potential for greater impact on the landscape.

The table below outlines the key planning issues for each specific renewable energy technology.

Technology	Key planning issues
On-shore wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on landscape and visual amenity • Impact on biodiversity • Impact on local communities • Noise from operational turbines • Shadow flicker and reflected light from operational turbines • Impact on aircraft/radar and telecommunications • Impact on highway networks • Impact on heritage assets

2.1.2 Targets for renewable energy development

In order to meet the Government's aim to increase the amount of energy generated from renewable sources, each of the nine English regions were required to include targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy capacity in their Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). In the case of North Lincolnshire, the Yorkshire and Humber RSS (May 2008) provided targets for the provision of installed grid-connected renewable energy of 54MW by 2010 and 112MW by 2021.

The targets were derived from work undertaken during the preparation of the RSS in 2004/2005. The 2004 study Planning for Renewable Energy Targets in Yorkshire and Humber was commissioned by the former Regional Assembly and Government Office for Yorkshire and Humber to examine the region's potential for renewable energy generation. This shows that North Lincolnshire would have the potential to accommodate 11.7% and 13.8% of the region's potential wind energy development by 2010 and 2021 respectively. When compared against the fact that North Lincolnshire only covers 7.5% of the region's landmass, this appears to be disproportionate and represents a significant concentration of wind energy development.

Broadly, the council consider the targets in the RSS to be challenging but achievable. However, North Lincolnshire Council is keen to ensure that all local authorities within the region contribute towards meeting their targets and prevent an over-concentration of such development in North Lincolnshire. In reviewing any targets for North Lincolnshire, should the 2021 target be reached, account will be taken of progress elsewhere in the region.

The area already has some 50MW of installed capacity including the Bagmoor wind farm, which is just short of the 2010 target. However, it is anticipated that the 2021 targets will be easily met when the consented schemes at Tween Bridge and Keadby wind farms and Heron Renewable Energy Plant come on stream over the next few years.

It should be kept in mind that meeting the overall renewable energy target is of the greatest importance, not the method of renewable energy used to reach it. The development of a variety of renewable energy sources is encouraged, as the achievement of a greater diversity in our energy mix is vital to ensuring security and continuity of supply, in a climate where fossil fuels continue to be depleted.

Targets – North Lincolnshire will meet its 2021 targets for the generation of energy from renewable sources and will support the use of a range of technologies to do so. Any revision of this target will be subject to progress elsewhere in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

2.2 Environmental Impacts

Renewable energy schemes can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases, helping to reduce climate change and its impacts. They can also have potential impacts on biodiversity and nature conservation, landscape and heritage assets. North Lincolnshire has a high quality historic, natural and built environment, the enhancement and protection of these is fundamental to sustainable development.

2.2.3 Landscape

North Lincolnshire's landscape is a fundamental part of the area's character and provides an attractive backdrop for residents, visitors and investors to live and work. The area is

characterised by a variety of landscapes, significant changes to which have resulted following the extraction of minerals where semi-natural landscapes, such as Barton Clay Pits, Messingham Gravel Pits and the Ironstone Gulleys, have been created, and also from the development of large-scale industry such as at Killingholme at the mouth of the Humber Estuary. The southern part of the Isle of Axholme has the most extensive surviving examples of a medieval landscape in England, notably the medieval open strip fields and Turbaries, both of which are of considerable national importance. These attributes, together with enclosed land and the overall settlement pattern of the area, make it unique in the country. Planning policy in the areas aims to protect and enhance such attributes, where appropriate.

It is the area's rolling landscapes, lack of national designations such as National Parks and relatively consistent wind resource that make it attractive to wind energy developers. It is likely that proposals for renewable energy development, depending on their location, will have some degree of impact on the landscape as well as visual amenity due to their size and appearance. Therefore, it is important that developers, when preparing schemes for renewable energy development, take account of any impacts on the area's landscapes. Careful consideration should be given to the character and quality of the landscape, the extent of physical change involved, and the ability of the landscape to accommodate this change. All these factors should be taken into account in scheme design.

In relation to landscape character and design, the council have approved Supplementary Planning Guidance, North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment & Guidelines (1999) and North Lincolnshire Countryside Design Summary (1999). These documents provide a comprehensive assessment of the area's landscape character and suggest guidelines for future development. The landscape character assessment splits North Lincolnshire into six basic landscape types: the Trent Levels, the Lincolnshire Edge, the Ancholme Valley, the Lincolnshire Wolds, the Lincolnshire Drift and the Humber Estuary. Accordingly, developers should consult these documents alongside current planning policies on landscape and conservation set out in the adopted Core Strategy and the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.

As previously stated, North Lincolnshire does not have any nationally designated areas of landscape importance such as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, the lack of such designations does not mean that landscape is any less important a consideration in determining proposals for renewable energy development.

A number of Areas of High Landscape Value identified in successive local plans were removed with the introduction Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 7. The importance of these areas was established against landscape criteria issued by the then Countryside Commission. These areas included the Lincoln Edge Cliff (between Whitton and Flixborough), the Lincoln Edge Woodland and Heathland areas (east of Scunthorpe and extending south to Kirton in Lindsey), and the Wolds Villages Scarp Slope. Other areas were proposed at Deepdale (near Barton upon Humber), Barton Claypits and areas of woodland at Kirmington. The purpose of these designations was to safeguard the natural beauty, distinctiveness and diversity of the best and most highly valued of North Lincolnshire's landscapes. Therefore it is important that these areas of high landscape value are protected from inappropriate development. It should be noted that this Draft Supplementary Planning Document cannot reinstate these designations. These will be considered in the emerging General Policies Development Plan Document.

The council are also in discussions with Lincolnshire County Council to look at amending the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to include land up to the Humber Estuary. The potential expansion area is identified on the constraints map in Appendix 3.

These areas are prominent features in North Lincolnshire's landscape and contribute to the area's distinctiveness; they form part of the area's critical environmental capital. It is important to ensure the integrity and setting of these places is not adversely affected by inappropriate development. Any proposals which affect these areas of high landscape value should be assessed against the council's existing Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

If required by the EIA Regulations the impact of any development upon the landscape as a visual and cultural asset should be assessed as part of an Environmental Statement. If potential impacts are identified a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should be undertaken. Before commencing an LVIA, developers should discuss its contents with the council. Depending on the type of renewable energy development, an LVIA could include the following:

- diagrams showing the potential zones of visual influence (ZVI) of the proposed scheme: these will be of assistance in identifying the resources (e.g. designated areas, landscape units) and the locations of visual receptors (e.g. settlements, public access land and popular viewpoints), which may be affected by the proposal
- photomontages and/or computer-generated wire-frame views: these should be prepared at an appropriate scale and resolution
- scale drawings to illustrate the physical appearance of the proposed renewable energy scheme: some authorities are likely to be less familiar with specific technologies (e.g. biomass or energy from waste plants)
- in areas where there are existing renewable energy schemes, it may be appropriate to consider the cumulative impact of further schemes.

Further information is available in Planning for Renewable Energy - A Companion Guide to PPS22.

Environmental Impacts

6.8 Renewable energy schemes can contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases, helping to reduce climate change and its impacts. They can also have potential impacts on biodiversity and nature conservation, landscape and heritage assets. North Lincolnshire has a high quality historic, natural and built environment, the enhancement and protection of these is fundamental to sustainable development.

Biodiversity

6.9 North Lincolnshire's landscapes are rich in biological and geological diversity. This is reflected in the range of international, national and local nature conservation designations which includes one Ramsar site, two Special Areas of Conservation and two Special Protection Areas on the Humber Estuary, River Trent, Thorne Moor and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, 29 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 10 Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), approximately 200 Local Wildlife Sites (Sites of Importance

to Nature Conservation – SINCs) and 22 Local Geological Sites (Regionally Important Geological Site).

- 6.10 It is important that the natural assets of North Lincolnshire are protected from inappropriate development, including renewable energy development. For International sites and any features they support, new development will need to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect their conservation value. Development should not cause harm to habitats and species outside the designated site that may adversely affect the integrity of the site, or cause a significant decline in the size, distribution, structure or function of a population of a species for which a site was designated. In accordance with the Habitat Regulations an assessment needs to be carried out for each new development to determine if it would have a likely significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on sites or features associated with international designations. If likely significant effects are identified developers are expected to provide relevant information to the council to enable it to carry out a Habitat Regulations Assessment.
- 6.11 For National sites, developers will need to demonstrate that any renewable energy development will not have an adverse effect on SSSIs. Measures will be taken to ensure that harmful effects on SSSIs are avoided or mitigated against. Exceptions will only be made where the benefits clearly outweigh the impacts on the interest of the SSSI and its contribution to the national network of SSSIs. More guidance can be obtained in OPDM Circular 06/2005, PPS9 and PPS22.
- 6.12 In addition to the international and national site designations there are a number of plant and animal species within England that are subject to special protection under the Habitat Regulations, the Wildlife and Countryside Act and their own legislation. Any renewable energy development will need to demonstrate that these are protected from adverse effect through the adoption of appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures.
- 6.13 Local Geological and Local Wildlife Sites also need to be considered when assessing renewable energy development. Any development sited within or close to or adjacent to such sites should not cause significant harm to these nature conservation interests.
- 6.14 Developers also need to consider the effects of development on non-designated sites and species. Government policy seeks to protect priority habitats and species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and any additionally identified in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan. Many of these habitats and species extend outside of designated sites and consideration must be given to the potential impacts when developing any schemes. Effects on biodiversity can take place during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases of wind energy schemes.
- 6.16 Past experience of wind energy development elsewhere in the county has shown the main adverse effects on nature conservation to be direct habitat loss for feeding, roosting and breeding; habitat damage; interference with geological processes; and disturbance to, displacement of and collision with mobile species. However, it should be noted all these adverse effects can be mitigated to some extent.

Bats and Birds

- 6.17 The impact of bats and birds is a particular interest for wind energy development. All bats and some birds are protected species that need to be considered when developing a wind energy scheme. In areas where bat activity is likely, work will need to be carried out to establish roosts, flight lines, feeding areas, hibernation or swarming sites in the vicinity of a proposal as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The results of the EIA should assist to identify the appropriateness of the scheme, its design and layout by looking in detail at the nature conservation both on and off site and the potential impact of the development. If a negative impact is identified then mitigation measures would be expected to be provided within the locality to reduce the potential harm. Also time to establish new habitats needs to be taken into consideration. Any work carried out should be in accordance with the Bat Mitigation Guidelines, England Nature 2005 and Bat Survey Guidelines, Bat Conservation Trust April 2007.
- 6.18 The cumulative impact of bats and birds must also be assessed in relation to other proposed, approved or operational wind energy development.

Policy 1 - Biodiversity

Developers should assess the effects of potential renewable energy developments, alone or cumulatively on biodiversity sites, habitats and species and identify measures to avoid or mitigate harm to them and secure their conservation and enhancement.

If a scheme, alone and/or in combination with other plans and projects, could have an impact on an internationally designated site developers must submit all relevant information to the council for them to carry out an assessment of the likely significant effects of the scheme in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.

Developers should also pay attention to assessing the effects of renewable energy developments, alone or in combination with other development on bats, birds and other mobile species within and around the site. Measures should be identified to avoid or mitigate the harm to these species and secure their conservation and enhancement.

Landscape

- 6.19 North Lincolnshire's landscape is a fundamental part of the area's character and provides an attractive backdrop for residents, visitors and investors to live and work. The area is characterised by a variety of landscapes, significant changes to which have resulted following the extraction of minerals where semi-natural landscapes, such as Barton Clay Pits, Messingham Gravel Pits and the Ironstone Gulleys, have been created.

Policy 2 - Landscape

Developers should consider the landscape impacts of their proposal for renewable energy development. Consideration should be given at the earliest stage in the design process to the character and quality of the landscape, the extent of the physical change involved, and the ability of the landscape to accommodate the change.

Proposals in areas of high landscape value or which affect their setting will be rigorously assessed in relation to their impacts on these important landscapes. If adverse impacts are

identified these should be avoided or mitigated. Should this prove impossible the proposal will be refused.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which must be agreed with the council, should be prepared and submitted alongside any planning application. Developers should also consult the council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

Visual effects

Renewable energy development can have significant visual impacts on its surroundings. This is dependent on their size, appearance and location. Accordingly it makes sense to select locations which minimise the area from which a proposed development would be visible. It is also important to consider the relative sensitivity of different viewpoints or receptors, and to use this understanding to influence the layout and design of the scheme.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) should be provided as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for proposed renewable energy development. Before commencing an LVIA, developers should discuss its contents with the council. This could involve an assessment of the visual relationship between the site and the surrounding area.

North Lincolnshire's experience is primarily with wind energy developments. Wind turbines are likely to be tall, frequently located in open land and therefore likely to be highly visible. Domestic wind turbines are likely to be smaller and it will normally be realistic to seek to conceal them. Developers are encouraged to ensure that the visual impacts are minimised and appropriate to the location of the wind farm development. In the case of North Lincolnshire, in particular the Trent Floodplain area, the landscape is fairly flat and uniform, therefore the visual impact of wind energy development will be substantial.

The visual effect of a wind farm will be dependent on:

- the distance over which it may be viewed;
- whether the turbines can be viewed adjacent to other features;
- different weather conditions;
- the design and layout of the development; and
- the landscape and nature of the visibility.

The following is a general guide to the effect distance has on the perception of the development in an open landscape. However, it should be noted that each proposal and its associated visual effects will be treated on its own merits when being assessed against this guidance and other planning policy.

General perception of a wind farm in an open landscape	
Up to 2kms	Likely to be a prominent feature
2-5kms	Relatively prominent
5-15kms	Prominent in clear visibility - seen as part of the wider landscape
15-30kms	Only seen in very clear visibility - a minor element in the landscape

Taken from Best Practice Guidance to Planning Policy Statement

18 - Renewable Energy produced by the Department of Environment (Northern Ireland) (August 2009)

The visual impacts of renewable energy developments will be affected by their siting and layout in relation to local land form and landscape characteristics, and the qualities of the specific site, as well as by the size and number of turbines and/or buildings. Different layouts will be appropriate in different circumstances. For example, grouped turbines can normally appear acceptable as a single, isolated feature in an open, undeveloped landscape, while rows of turbines may be more appropriate in an agricultural landscape with formal field boundaries.

Although renewable energy developments may be complex, they should not appear confusing in relation to the character of the landscape. Ideally they should be separate from surrounding features to create a simple image. The design of each development must be appropriate to its site.

Policy 3 - Visual effects

The impact on visual amenity is a key consideration for developers in preparing schemes for renewable energy development. The size and appearance of the development should be taken into account from the earliest stage in the design process.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which must be agreed with the council, should be prepared and submitted alongside any planning application. Developers should consult the council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

Where negative impacts on visual amenity are identified, developers should ensure that they are avoided or mitigated. If this cannot be done, the development will be refused.

Policy 4 - Heritage assets

Developers should consider the impact of their proposal for renewable energy development, both during and after construction on heritage and the historic environment.

Developers need to demonstrate that the objectives of the designation of the area or individual assets will not be compromised by the development, and that any significant adverse effects on the on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

2.3 Cumulative Impacts

As the number of renewable energy developments across the country has increased, and proposals for such development continue to be drawn up, the issue of their cumulative impacts is becoming an increasingly important, and contentious, issue to be addressed in the planning process. North Lincolnshire has already experienced a number of proposals for renewable energy developments, some of which have received planning consent and are now operational or under construction. Proposals continue to be put forward. Given this it is likely that increasing significance will be attached to the cumulative impacts of these developments. Cumulative impacts can relate to landscape and visual amenity, bird populations and other wildlife, the historic environment, the local economy or any other matter.

The cumulative impacts of proposals for renewable energy development will be considered on a case-by-case basis, in the light of existing baseline conditions, accurate descriptions and visualisations of effects on key receptors, and relationships with other developments. The council will determine each proposal based on full and careful consideration of the information. Cumulative effects will also be considered in terms of impact on adjacent neighbouring areas across the boundary from North Lincolnshire.

Policy 10 – Cumulative effects

In preparing proposals for renewable energy development, developers should address the cumulative impact that the scheme could have on North Lincolnshire, taking into account operational and approved developments, any extensions to operational or approved proposals, and other proposals being advanced through the planning system. Any assessments should address cumulative visual and landscape impacts, as well as hydrology, hydrogeology, ecology, traffic and transport, aviation and radar, recreation and local amenity impacts.

Highways - Rights of Way

The highways considerations associated with renewable energy development are largely similar to those considered for other development. However, certain types of renewable energy development, such as wind turbines and photovoltaic arrays, are likely to have a significant impact on the local network of roads. In all cases site access is an important consideration to ensure that the local network of roads can accommodate the vehicles required to transport the renewable energy components. Any scheme will need to satisfy the Highway Authority that it is acceptable and recommended proposals should be discussed with the Highway Authority at the earliest possible opportunity.

An assessment of the full route to be used, including the site access, needs to be carried out in order to ensure that the road network can accommodate the loads and, where necessary, identify any measures that might be required. When examining such measures from a highway point of view consideration should also be given to any nature conservation interest on the route, and landscape and visual effects. In relation to public rights of way, access routes to developments, in particular wind turbines, should not be used unless there are no alternative options.

With regard to most types of renewable energy developments it should generally be possible to integrate existing public rights of way into schemes. However, in the case of wind turbines care should be taken to ensure an adequate distance is provided between public rights of way and turbines. At present there is no statutory separation distance between wind turbines and public rights of way (PROW) and PPS22 states that 'not

oversailing public rights of way' is the minimum separation distance and the recommended fall over distance is considered adequate. The importance of existing and planned rights of way will need to be taken into consideration. Natural England recommends that separation distances for national trails should be 4 x the height of the turbine and for other bridleways 3 x the height. Impacts of wind turbines on PROW and national trails should be included as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. The British Horse Society has recently issued new guidelines for bridleways that developers should take into account in any discussions.

Where renewable energy developments adversely affect the public rights of way network and/or landscape, provision should be made, where possible, to include the dedication of new public rights of way to help offset the disadvantages to the public.

Policy 13 - Highways & Rights of Way

Developers should consider access to proposed sites for renewable energy development from the earliest stages in putting together proposals. All proposals should be accompanied by an assessment of the full access route to the site, which should meet the requirements of the Highway Authority. Where appropriate, mitigation measures should be identified.

Developers should also consider the impact of their proposals on existing and proposed Public Rights of Way as part of any Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted with any planning application. Particular attention should be given to Natural England's and the British Horse Society's advice on minimum distance between Public Rights of Way/bridleways and wind turbines.

Where developments adversely affect PROWs and/or landscapes, new PROWs should be provided where possible to offset any disadvantages to the public.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan

Policy DS21 (Renewable Energy) states that proposals for the generation of energy from renewable resources will be permitted provided that:

- (i) any detrimental effect on features and interests of acknowledged importance, including local character and amenity, is outweighed by environmental benefits; and
- (ii) proposals include details of associated developments including access roads and other ancillary buildings and their likely impact upon the environment.

Where appropriate, conditions will be imposed requiring the restoration of the site to its original condition or the implementation of an agreed scheme of after-use and restoration.

Policy DS1 (General Requirements) is applied to all development proposals. It requires a high standard of design in all developments irrespective of location. Proposals for poorly designed development will be refused. All proposals must be considered against several criteria. In the case of this proposal the criteria are considered to be:

- (i) The design and external appearance of the proposal should reflect or enhance the character, appearance and setting of the immediate area.
- (ii) The design and layout should respect, and where possible retain and/or enhance, the existing landform of the site.

- (iii) No unacceptable loss of amenity to neighbouring land uses should result in terms of noise, smell, fumes, dust or other nuisance, or through the effects of overlooking or overshadowing.
- (vi) There should not be an adverse effect on features of acknowledged importance on or surrounding the site, including species of plants and animals of nature conservation value (particularly species protected by Schedules 1, 5 and 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981), scheduled ancient monuments, archaeological remains, listed buildings and conservation areas, or trees and woodland covered by tree preservation orders.

Policy DS11 (Polluting Activities) states that planning permission for development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the levels of potentially polluting noise does not create adverse environmental conditions likely to affect nearby developments and adjacent areas.

Policy RD2 sets out the council's overall development control policy for development within the open countryside. It aims to balance the needs and benefits of economic activity with maintaining and/or enhancing the quality of the countryside. It specifies that development in the open countryside will be strictly controlled and sets out six provisos:

- (a) the open countryside is the only appropriate location and development cannot reasonably be accommodated within defined development boundaries
- (b) the proposed development accords with the specific requirements set out in the relevant policies of this chapter and elsewhere in this local plan
- (c) the development would not be detrimental to the character or appearance of the open countryside or a nearby settlement in terms of siting, scale, massing, design and use of materials
- (d) the development would not be detrimental to residential amenity or highway safety
- (e) account is taken of whether the site is capable of being served by public transport
- (f) the development is sited to make the best use of existing and new landscaping.

Policy LC5 (Species Protection) covers the impact of development on badgers or species protected under Schedules 1, 5 or 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

Policy LC7 (Landscape Protection) states that where development is permitted within rural settlements or within the open countryside, special attention will be given to the protection of the scenic quality and distinctive local character of the landscape.

Development which does not respect the character of the local landscape will not be permitted.

Policy LC12 (Protection of Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows) requires all new development proposals, where possible, to ensure the retention of trees, woodland and hedgerows.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 13: Wind Energy Development (March 2005)

As well as outlining national and regional policies and guidance, the SPG sets out local policies against which North Lincolnshire Council will assess proposals for electricity production by wind power in North Lincolnshire. It does so in WIND1 by referring to targets and locational and environmental criteria that were set out in Regional Policy Guidance (RPG) 12. It then refers to the particular local plan policy relating to renewable energy (DS21) and then sets out in more detail in WIND2 to WIND9 those issues it will have regard to (based on the RPG and PPS22 criteria).

These are set out below:

WIND1 sets out the then RPG 12 targets for energy to be generated from renewable resources for the Humber sub-region of at least 146 megawatts for 2010. North Lincolnshire's target to meet its contribution from wind energy development was 40 megawatts for 2010 and a further 100 megawatts for 2021. These have been superseded by the RSS figures set out in Table 10.2. It then states that:

'Proposals for wind energy development to meet these targets must:

- (i) minimise the visual and physical impacts of wind energy developments on the surrounding area;
- (ii) minimise the cumulative impact on the area of other existing, and permitted wind developments as well as those which are the subject of submitted planning applications;
- (iii) minimise the impact of the proposed development on the landscape;
- (iv) minimise the ecological impact of any development.'

The policy states that the 'Council will review its 2010 target when met whilst having regard to progress elsewhere in Yorkshire and the Humber.'

WIND2 relates to the planning implications of a proposal and states that:

'The key issues that North Lincolnshire Council will assess in relation to planning applications for wind energy developments are:

- visual effects
- cumulative impact
- noise
- amenity impacts
- landscape impact
- nature conservation and ecology interests
- archaeology and the built environment'

The explanatory text provides more detail about each issue and provides a clarifying policy in relation to each one as follows:

WIND3: 'North Lincolnshire Council will consider the following matters when assessing the visual impact of wind energy proposals:

- distance from which it can be seen
- landscape characteristics
- siting and layout
- design of the turbine
- impact of ancillary elements
- potential after-use of wind farm site.'

WIND4: 'North Lincolnshire Council will consider the following matters when assessing the cumulative impact of wind energy proposals:

- the proximity of existing, and permitted wind energy developments
- the impact on the surrounding zone of visibility
- the impact of development ancillary to the development
- the nature, character and landscape of the location in which the proposal is sited
- the impact on nature conservation and ecology interests
- the impact of noise'

WIND5: 'In assessing the implications of noise from wind energy development, developers and the council should have regard to:

- proximity of settlements and buildings
- the framework for assessing noise set out in the ETSU report
- the topography and local environmental conditions surrounding the proposed development'

WIND6: 'In siting wind energy developments, developers should consider the following:

- minimising disturbance to residential amenity by means of noise, shadow flicker, visual and cumulative impacts
- how the proposed development will be accessed for construction, servicing and maintenance purposes and how any disturbance can be mitigated
- the impact on informal recreation sites and public rights of way, and
- liaising closely with local communities regarding the impact of the development'

WIND7: 'In assessing the landscape impacts of wind energy development, the council will consider the following matters:

- ability of the landscape to accommodate the development
- impact on areas of landscape protection and enhancement, and nature conservation importance.

Developers should also provide an assessment of their proposals against the council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

Proposals for wind energy development must also comply with relevant landscape and conservation policies in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan.'

WIND8: 'In assessing the implications for ecology and nature conservation for wind energy development North Lincolnshire Council will assess the following issues:

- effect on designated sites for nature conservation
- effect on protected species of plants and animals
- effect on cited bird species from designated sites feeding or roosting in areas adjacent or inland
- effect on migratory routes for birds, especially large, less manoeuvrable birds such as swans and geese
- assessment of cumulative effects in relation to other wind farms and other developments
- effects on nesting birds, especially during construction
- adequacy of mitigation measures'

WIND9: 'Developers should consider the impact of their proposals for wind energy development, both during and after construction, on archaeology and cultural heritage, and the historic landscape, including designated conservation areas, scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings, and other non-designated sites and remains.

Developers will need to demonstrate that the objectives of the designation of the area will not be compromised by the development, and that any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.'

CONSULTATIONS

Anglian Water: No objections or comments.

Historic Environment Officer: Recommends conditions and a Section 106 agreement.

Environmental Protection Officer: Advises refusal.

Public Rights of Way: Advises refusal.

Highways Agency: No objection.

JRC/YED Links: Object due to the potential for the development to interfere with radio systems.

Humberside Airport: Recommends conditions.

Ministry of Defence: Recommends conditions.

RSPB: Objects due to the potential for adverse impacts on important populations of pink-footed geese. Further objection following submission of additional information.

Natural England: Objects to this application with regard to issues in relation to designated sites (pink-footed geese).

NATS: No objection. No further comments following amended information.

CAA: Comments on procedural matters.

Robin Hood Airport: Unlikely to affect operations.

Environment Agency: Recommends conditions. No further comments following amended information.

Highways: Requested further information, not yet forthcoming.

Ofcom: Refused to comment.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE): Objects on the grounds that: Nothing has changed since the previous refusal; the site is located at the highest point in North Lincolnshire and will have a profound impact on its visual and aesthetic attractiveness; each of the turbines would be higher than the Humber Bridge; introducing semi-industrialisation to open countryside; detrimental impact upon Deepdale; impact upon the Viking Way; cumulative impact, targets reached and no more should be granted until a review of policy carried out; noise; application identical to previous one to all intents and purposes, within the council's remit to refuse to accept application.

Humberside Fire Brigade: Make a general comment that both access for the Fire Brigade and water supplies for fire-fighting should be made available for every development proposal. No specific reference is made to this application being for a wind farm.

English Heritage: The wind farm would have an adverse impact upon the settings of nationally important heritage assets. Does not object to the proposals. Recommends relocation/omission of most prominent turbines (1 and 3), further recommends issues are weighed by the local authority.

PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS

Barton Town Council: Objects strongly – detailed reasons for objection given including: ES open to mis-interpretation; no consultation exercise; land restoration; hedgerows of great importance to the area; turbines would be higher than the Humber Bridge and very

visible; ornithology; resubmitted application does not address the original grounds for refusal; impact on farming, tourism, wildlife and nature; noise; tv interference. *Restated objection following consultation on the amended Environmental Statement information.

Elsham Parish Council: Object – the reasons for refusal of WF/2009/0657 have not been addressed and noise and visual impact are still a great concern.

Worlaby Parish Council: Objects on the following grounds: Visual impact, wildlife impact, noise impact.

Wootton Parish Council: Objects for the following reasons:

- Adverse visual impact: The Lincolnshire Wolds are our local area of natural beauty and the size of the turbines would ruin the area visually for everyone.
- Loss of public amenity: This area is criss-crossed with public footpaths and bridleways. The famous Viking Way brings many tourists into the area. All these footpaths and bridleways are used regularly for recreation and to enjoy the wildlife and peace of the area. The building of a wind farm would ruin this amenity for both people and wildlife.
- Cumulative effect: North Lincolnshire, along with North East Lincolnshire, has a huge amount of large industry already. We must not allow this industrial development to advance into the countryside and set a precedent.

Thornton Curtis Parish Council: Objects on grounds of: adverse visual impact; noise; amenity; nature conservation. *Restated objection following consultation on the amended Environmental Statement information – visual impact, noise, amenity and nature conservation.

Winterton Town Council: Object – adverse effect on the Viking Way; danger to pink-footed geese; adverse visual impact on Winterton.

Saxby-All-Saints Parish Council: Objects on the grounds of visual impact; cumulative impact; noise; amenity impacts; landscape impact and industrialisation; nature conservation and ecology interests; hydrology and hydrogeology; archaeology. *Restated objection following consultation on the amended Environmental Statement information.

Bonby Parish Council: Objects on the grounds of adverse visual impact; close proximity to the Viking Way; adverse impact on wildlife; road safety; safety of road access to the proposed site.

PUBLICITY

Receipt of the application has been advertised in the press and a number of site notices posted around the application site. Nearby residential properties have been consulted by individual letter and as a result the council has received a considerable number of representations, the vast majority of which raise objections to the proposal. Each letter has been read individually and following these opening paragraphs is a résumé of the broad headings under which the objections have been made.

In total about 599 pieces of correspondence have been received.

Approximately, 561 letters are objections and 38 are in favour of the wind farm. 34 of the support documents are proformas sent on to the council by the developer and many are people from places such as Goole, Hull and Waddingham.

Some of the objections are pro-forma style letters with a signature attached and some are letters and emails that emanate from the same family at the same address, so in this number there is an element of duplication. It has not been possible to itemise or quantify the amount of duplication. A number of letters of objection state that the amended plans submitted make no difference to their objections.

OBJECTIONS

- horrific impact wind turbines would have on this beautiful area
- a total landscape disaster
- these monstrous turbines would dwarf a world-renowned engineering achievement in the Humber Bridge
- the landscape and visual representations are misleading computer generations which do not show a true reflection of what would be seen by the naked eye
- the sheer height and number of these turbines is a cause of great concern
- the turbines would stand higher than Nelson's column, and would be seen and heard for miles around
- would spoil the view for many miles around
- would be visible from Beverley to Market Rasen and would dominate villages east of the Ancholme and west of the A15
- severe visual impact on what was/is classed as an area of high value visual amenity
- further industrialisation of this rural area
- would blot this beautiful landscape for generations to come
- the wind turbines that can be seen from the A1077 on approach to Scunthorpe are an eyesore and adversely dominate the landscape
- pylons are also unsightly but pale into insignificance compared to the dominating aspect of wind turbines
- the Environmental Statement is a self-serving document which adopts a flawed methodology in its attempts to negate the blindingly obvious destruction of the area of natural beauty
- visual intrusion of ancillary infrastructure
- should beware of turning our beautiful countryside into a scene from a science fiction horror story

- the beautiful Lincolnshire Wolds are already blighted by inefficient turbines near Scunthorpe/Winterton
- the Wolds in Lincolnshire enjoy protection as an area of outstanding natural beauty; the Saxby area is the same geology and is equally attractive
- this small area of land surrounded by roads is a landlocked island with its own identity and far too small to be overpowered by a huge industrial development such as the one proposed
- would be unable to walk or cycle without the visual and noise pollution of these huge turbines
- the applicant has failed to include in their assessment any viewpoints from the floor of the Ancholme valley where the visual impact would be the greatest apart from viewpoint 11 which is close to the M180 which the developer uses to reduce the sensitivity from high to medium; the conclusions are misleading, the M180 would not be in people's line of sight when looking towards the turbines
- would have an adverse impact not only on the Lincolnshire Wolds but also on the whole of the Ancholme valley
- cumulative ZTV map 5,15c confirms that the turbines would be visible to more than half the population of the county
- objector says that the reason they moved to the area was unspoilt countryside – they believe it would be hard to attract highly qualified people to the area if the wind farm goes ahead, referencing policies DS1 and DS21, LC7 and LC8-3, the Elsham appeal and the Institute of Chemical Engineers
- if other wind farms are in low-lying areas why should Saxby have them high on the Wold?
- the entire area is at risk of being visually infested by turbines that will be visible wherever you look
- an objector has been told by a power company employee that the turbines are set back from the ridge because of turbulence, not because of landscape considerations, 'How much more of this report has twisted truths?'
- would destroy jobs, livelihoods and tourism – Brigg and Barton would not be able to attract people because of this monstrosity; the local authorities and MPs have won a campaign to get tolls reduced on the Humber Bridge to attract people from East and North Yorkshire – this wind farm would put them off
- huge loss of public amenity
- contrary to policies LC5, LC7, LC9, LC10 , PPS5, PPG24 and PPG9
- the council has a legal duty to preserve/enhance the conservation area
- damage to agriculture

- pointless monsters spoiling what we have left of our countryside
- cumulative impact – our area would be swamped with turbines
- the Croda turbine at Hull is an example of what a blight these turbines are, it grabs your attention instead of looking at the view
- the wind farm will dominate the area
- the existing power lines do not move and do not significantly stand out
- the low villages do not have the amenities of Barton, the Wolds are the only amenity residents have
- visually the existing countryside landscape would be destroyed; trees would be lost, as would mature hedgerows and other wildlife habitat
- too close to residential areas, the resultant noise issue has not been properly investigated or even acknowledged
- any noise pollution at all is unacceptable
- would have to stay indoors with windows and doors closed; would not be able to leave windows open at night
- would destroy the peace and tranquillity of this beautiful area forever
- it has been scientifically proven that the noise they emit is detrimental to health
- noise at night disturbing sleep
- relentless hum and noise of turbines while people are trying to relax in their gardens
- not only the noise but also vibrations which cause long-term health problems
- will cause mental grief
- is there a case for Tort of negligence against RWE, landowners or Lincolnshire County Council, or a private or statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990?
- what would the turbines do to health of young children
- the population of North Lincolnshire are being offered up as human guinea pigs, until more is known about the long-term effects on health; general annoyance and environmental pollution; should be erected away from populated villages, towns and cities
- low frequency noise
- details of wind farm, heights, nominal power rating etc are vague – suggests a larger turbine than the MM82 so would question how – with so many apparent unknowns – noise transmission can be modelled with any confidence?

- and, more importantly, how would potential real world noise problems be controlled?
- objector has health problems which are relevant to this application, some of which are sensitive to noise – ME, headaches, earaches, hyperacusis, sleep disturbance, tinnitus. needs to keep the bedroom window open at night for health reasons
- objector suffers from vertigo and cannot drive to Scunthorpe via Dragonby due to Bagmoor, would not be able to drive anywhere, would have to stay in behind curtains
- reference to paper GP Van der Berg wrote about ‘Effects of the wind profile at night on wind turbine sound’
- quote from Richard Bowler who resigned from the original working group for ETSU who said that ‘The science in ETSU is laughable...it is so poor technically that the conclusions have to be queried. It is put together through unfounded assertions’
- what would the months of construction with lorries rumbling by do to property foundations?
- notoriously the figures from noise studies carried out by the developers of wind farms are distorted and differ to what would happen in the real world – what assurances do residents have if theoretical figures differ from actual levels?
- the case at Deeping St Nicholas has been cited as an example of the harm from noise
- incessant thud of energy pulses known as Amplitude Modulation
- it has been in the press about families being driven out of their homes by noise from turbines and successfully winning out-of-court settlements; this surely proves there is a problem with noise
- noise travels 10 times the distance at night
- objector’s home is closer to the proposed turbines than European guidelines permit
- the applicants follow the ETSU R 97 recommendation to characterise background noise levels, however their regression analysis is incorrect, background noise data should have been declared inadmissible, failing to present AM noise is not very reassuring for local residents, failing to present AM noise assessment for the proposed installation is misleading
- article from Moller and Pedersen submitted
- article from Julian Boswall
- noise always rolls down the hill and there will be no escaping it day or night
- effect on sleep patterns
- a wind farm which caused serious noise problems in Scotland had to be shut down

- there are occasions which have led to legal action against various bodies, should this application be successful the objector will take legal action...as it is known that noise or nuisance from the turbines does exist and can and do harm and damage to the public
- a school for autism exists in the area and it is well known that sufferers of autism are deeply affected by even minor changes in their routine and environment
- shadow flicker causing danger to motorists and stress
- danger to road users, distraction, ice throw, lightening strikes
- cost and strain on local emergency services
- pollution during construction and in case of fire
- strobe effects
- effect on chalk aquifer
- contrary to SPD on renewable energy
- has North Lincolnshire not already met its targets for renewable energy?
- loss of public amenity due to loss of public footpaths, public rights of way disturbed
- a total of 5.8km of new tracks is required, up to 34,800 square metres is not their idea of 'minimal', particularly as no archaeology has been done; the area is part of a rare extensive and important Iron Age culture
- underground cables will destroy archaeology
- putting a wind turbine next to a bridleway is a bad idea
- the bridleways in this area would be unusable for most horse riders because of the need to travel too close to the turbines, the loss of a route would not be compensated for, would have nowhere to ride at all if the application was granted because the risk of an accident would be too high
- flashing/flickering and noise will dangerously distract even the most seasoned horse
- many people, including children, exercise their horses and ponies along Middlegate Lane, the appeal of these routes would be severely affected, the noise of turbines may muffle the sound of traffic, and the flicker effect may also pose a danger here
- loss of rural pursuits, amenities and heritage
- the turbines look alien like out of Dr Who, do not even consider trying to camouflage them, they are too tall and ugly
- careful planning of villages, not fitting UPVC etc, it would be a monumental tragedy to industrialise this part of our county

- worst fear is that the area would gradually degenerate to the state that some mining villages have been reduced to
- will be destroying the historical Viking Way, a popular historical walk used by many ramblers throughout each year
- would utterly spoil the enjoyment of the Viking Way
- local roads are totally inadequate for the size of vehicles, disturbance to local residences and farms would be intolerable
- the land on the Wolds is friable and natural springs will be disturbed resulting in water run-off and flooding in the villages
- archaeology will be destroyed
- loss of historical integrity of the villages
- the fundamental environmental issues on which previous applications have been refused have not changed
- damage to the historically important Roman road
- will give the 'green light' to other developers
- setting a precedent to build turbines along the length of the Wolds
- part of the Wolds is an area of outstanding natural beauty
- North Lincolnshire has met its 2020 targets
- would use a huge amount of land
- can and would cause physical and mental damage to those persons living in proximity
- potential hazard to motorists using B1218, B1204 and may even be seen by motorists using the A15, huge and impossible for drivers to ignore, the probability of accidents is consequently very high
- roads around the location are single track roads – difficult to pass a bike in a car never mind attempt to drive lorries
- what assurances are there that the site would be decommissioned and dismantled, especially if the developer were to go bankrupt
- wildlife would be affected – the harm imposed, particularly on birds, would take years to recover from, if ever
- the safety of migratory birds would be threatened, damage to flight paths
- with so many proposed or operational wind farms in the so-called study area it seems inevitable that the loss of life to migrating bird populations will be far greater than the

study suggests...in a worse case scenario we could even see the complete decimation of the bird populations within the life of the wind farms

- blades can travel at 150mph, birds have one second to avoid next blade
- owls would die from loss of hearing affecting their ability to hunt
- the location of the site relative to the Humber Estuary and all the associated status areas – SAC, SSSI etc
- what practical measures will they put in place to inform the pink-footed geese not to use their regular winter feeding grounds and divert them to an alternative site they do not and would not normally choose?
- the SSSI in Barton would lose its effectiveness
- bird and bat populations would be affected
- on Saturday 5 November and Sunday 6 November a steady stream of tens of thousands of pink-footed geese flew at low altitude through the proposed development area
- impact upon bats, deer, foxes, badgers and birds including golden plover, owls, geese, skylarks, buzzards, kites, osprey, common crane
- close to various sites of ecological importance
- traffic movements
- the cumulative impact of three wind farms built, consented or proposed is just too great an imposition on North Lincolnshire
- areas of outstanding beauty in Scotland have been savaged by these turbines
- as seen on recent news reports they can catch fire in adverse weather conditions
- turbines can blow over
- air safety could be compromised for military and Kirmington traffic
- RAF air corridor
- Lincolnshire is designated as an area of intense aircraft activity also refer to the redesignation of the Wash area regarding aircraft operations and safety
- danger to private pilots – area used for sightseeing and training, may result in aircraft carrying out manoeuvres closer to dwellings
- Lincolnshire has the finest agricultural land in the country; to use it for any other purpose is the height of lunacy, to use it for a purpose backed by ideology and bogus science is a crime
- Saxby Wold is sandwiched between two conservation areas

- developer's surveys appear to be out of date
- listed buildings being converted at Chapel Farm House, the wind farm would result in deterioration
- other applications have been refused in the area
- the developer has made claims that the development would introduce significant employment and local business opportunities to the region, these claims are unsubstantiated and cannot be substantiated
- additional radar structures would be required
- never more than one or two sentences on decommissioning, perhaps decommissioning will be replaced with upgrades!!
- contrary to local planning guidelines
- unsafe for child to use the area to learn to ride a bike
- Saxby All Saints Conservation Area Appraisal referenced

An open letter from the Leader of Cumbria County Council has been submitted with a letter of objection. An extract of an article from the Daily Telegraph regarding Deeping St Nicholas has also been submitted. An extract from an article from the Daily Express has been submitted.

Saxby Wold Against Turbines (SWAT) have sent letters of representation which object on the following grounds: landscape; cumulative impact; residential amenity; public amenity; highways/rights of way; effects on wildlife; conservation area (due to the need for satellite dishes); noise, including amplitude modulation; biodiversity; need. SWAT has also submitted their own landscape assessment carried out by a consultant, and several recent appeal decisions relating to neighbour amenity.

SWAT refer to SPG13 and state that the proposals are contrary to policies Wind1 – Wind9.

Winterton Against Inappropriate Turbines (WAIT) has sent a letter of representation objecting to cumulative impact, impact on protected bird species and impact on footpaths and bridleways.

There were also non-material objections:

- properties in the vicinity would be immediately devalued
- should be built out at sea
- there will be no benefit to local employment
- detrimental impact upon local housing market
- many more sites available that would be less offensive, industrial areas or off-shore

- these monster turbines can only produce intermittent power and cannot replace nuclear, gas or coal generators, cannot control the wind
- not proven they are cost effective
- wind turbines inefficient and uneconomic, total British output less than 20% of capacity and when power was most needed last winter it was 5%
- pay council tax each year for scenery, peace and birdsong
- distortion of environmental benefits due to the amount of construction materials
- the developer is to inject cash into the local community – loss of house prices and business revenue would far outweigh this
- what subsidies are going to these wind farms which ultimately cost each household?
- should be looking at tidal energy
- would not object to a nuclear power station in the area
- should be new nuclear power stations at existing sites
- should urgently proceed with shale gas
- when they wanted to move to the area 15 years ago there was not one house for sale in Saxby, now there is half a dozen – wonder why?
- why can't they site them on the north bank or would the backlash from upmarket property owners in North Ferriby and Swanland cause more problems?
- solar panels would be a more positive way forward
- in Scotland there is a minimum distance of 2km between wind turbines and habitation
- it wouldn't happen at Stonehenge, Gatcombe park or Highgrove
- the proposal has driven a wedge through a close-knit community creating a feeling of unease and hostility
- this area has already constructed the Government's quota for wind farms

Support

- clean green energy and job creation in North Lincolnshire by building a renewables industry for long-term local prosperity
- feel we are lagging behind other countries, fiddling while Rome burns, more support among younger neighbours, would like to see benefits in public transport
- well-designed and substantial positive green contribution to the national power supply, there is minimal impact on housing and the landscape is already compromised by

numerous pylons and nearby industry, the footpaths are to be substantially improved, all in all an excellent scheme which has our full support

ASSESSMENT

This application is a re-submission of the previously refused application WF/2009/0657 which was refused planning permission for the following reasons:

1.

The proposed development would introduce very substantial industrial structures into an area of significant natural beauty, which is largely unspoilt, on the highest and most prominent point in North Lincolnshire, where the landscape is characterised by gently rolling agricultural land within the Wolds. In this area vertical structures of the size and scale proposed would be particularly harmful to the visual amenity of wide areas of North Lincolnshire and beyond. The proposals are therefore contrary to policy LC7 (Landscape Protection) of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and policy ENV10 (Landscape) of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

2.

The proposals would lead to significant disruption to users of the Viking Way, a nationally important network of footpaths and bridleways, both during construction of the wind farm and long term, due to the fact the proposal includes laying access roads over the line of the Viking Way itself. Furthermore, the proposals would be visually detrimental to users of the Viking Way due to the introduction of industrial structures close to the public rights of way which would disrupt important views and create an intimidating and overbearing environment for walkers and riders. The proposals are therefore contrary to policies DS1 and DS21 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and PPS22, PPS7 and PPS18.

The developers appealed against this decision and a Public Inquiry was scheduled for December 2010, the developers also re-submitted the application in order to 'twin-track' the proposals. Following a Low Villages Forum where it was made clear to the developers that local residents felt strongly that it was unfairly onerous to have to deal with an appeal and a new application at the same time the developer has withdrawn the appeal.

The new application is virtually identical to the one previously refused, one building has been omitted but this is of negligible difference to the scheme and the considerations are the same as previously, although a significant development is the adoption by North Lincolnshire Council of a Supplementary Planning Document giving detailed guidance on assessing planning applications for renewable energy. The proposals have now been assessed against this new policy guidance.

The developer has offered to delete two turbines from the scheme (turbines 17 and 18). This is intended to overcome the council's concerns on noise and Public Rights of Way issues, and also to meet the concerns of English Heritage who had advised it would be beneficial to relocate turbines (1 and 3) to reduce the impact upon a Scheduled Ancient Monument at Horkstow. The developer has also offered to run access tracks alongside the Viking Way instead of over it, except at one point, and has offered new stretches of Public Rights of Way to improve the route of the Viking Way. The application is, however, being determined as submitted.

A set of amended assessments on both landscape and ornithological issues, to account for the proposed wind farm at Winterton and the cumulative impacts, has been submitted but these have not materially altered the conclusions of this report.

The developers had said that a 'Planning Statement' explaining the new application including a proposed package of investment for the area would be submitted but this has not been forthcoming.

The determining issues in this case are:

- the national and local policy framework;
- whether the impact upon the Viking Way is outweighed by the benefits of providing renewable energy;
- whether the impact upon protected species is outweighed by the benefits of providing renewable energy;
- whether the impact on the landscape and the visual impact of the development is outweighed by the benefits of providing renewable energy;
- whether the noise produced by the turbines is within acceptable limits or can be mitigated by conditions; and
- whether any other issues, such as aviation, archaeology, cultural heritage or other issues of accepted importance, are harmed.

Policy

By making reference to the policy section of this report it is clear that it is a primary concern of the UK to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emission levels to levels that will slow down the impacts of climate change.

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development (2005) and Planning and Climate Change, Supplement to PPS1 (2007)

PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies on the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. It explains that the Government is committed to protecting and enhancing the quality of the natural and historic environment, in both rural and urban areas. A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes (paragraph 17).

At paragraph 18 it notes that: 'the condition of our surroundings has a direct impact on the quality of life and the conservation and improvement of the natural and built environment brings social and economic benefit for local communities.'

The proposals are clearly contrary to this PPS as the demonstrable harm that this development would cause in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species, means that it is clear that the local environment is not capable of absorbing this large-scale industrial development without unacceptable harm occurring and the proposals are contrary to this policy.

The supplement to PPS1 – Planning and Climate Change (2007)

This sets out how planning should contribute to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change and take into account the unavoidable consequences. It advises that it does not seek to assemble all national planning policy relevant or applicable to climate change and should be read alongside the national PPS series. Where there is any difference in emphasis on climate change between the policies in this PPS and others in the national series, this is intentional and this PPS takes precedence.

PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004)

The key principle PPS7 expresses is:

- (i) Decisions on development proposals should be based on sustainable development principles, ensuring an integrated approach to the consideration of:
 - social inclusion, recognising the needs of everyone;
 - effective protection and enhancement of the environment;
 - prudent use of natural resources; and
 - maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

At paragraph 24 the PPS explains that the Government recognises and accepts that there are areas of landscape outside nationally designated areas that are particularly highly valued locally. It advises that these should be capable of being protected by carefully drafted criteria-based policies utilising tools such as landscape character assessments. In compiling LDDs where local designations are retained, such designations should be based on a formal and robust assessment of the qualities of the landscape concerned.

PPS7 makes it clear that landscapes which are not nationally designated can still be highly valued locally.

PPS4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth (2009)

This PPS supersedes some of the provisions of PPS7 which have now been cancelled. The relevant policy is EC6: Planning for Economic Development in Rural Areas which states at EC6.1 that:

‘Local planning authorities should ensure that the countryside is protected for the sake of its intrinsic character and beauty, the diversity of its landscapes, heritage and wildlife, the wealth of its natural resources and to ensure it may be enjoyed by all.’

PPG17: Planning for Open Space, sport and recreation

The main planning aims raised by this PPG are:

Open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. Well designed and implemented planning policies for open space, sport and recreation are therefore fundamental to delivering broader Government objectives. These include:

- supporting an urban renaissance

- supporting a rural renewal
- promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion
- health and well being
- promoting more sustainable development

Assessing needs and opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17

This Guide reflects the Government's policy objectives for open space, sport and recreation, as set out in PPG17. PPG17 makes clear that the Government is firmly of the view that achieving these outcomes depends on planning authorities first undertaking local assessments of need and audits of provision. This Companion Guide therefore sets out one way in which they can do so. However, other approaches are also possible and may be equally acceptable. Accordingly, authorities should not feel constrained from developing an alternative approach of their own, provided it complies with the policy requirements of PPG17.

The proposals are contrary to the PPG and its Companion Guide as the proposals are in direct conflict with the aims and objectives of those documents.

PPS22: Renewable Energy (2004)

The Government published a revised PPS on renewable energy in 2004, together with a companion guide which sets out practical advice on how policies for renewable energy can be implemented. These documents reinforce the overall regional role for renewable energy in helping to deliver national energy targets for energy generation and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The PPS sets out eight key principles to be followed by regional planning bodies and local planning authorities. In particular:

- Key principle (i) explains that renewable energy developments should be capable of being accommodated throughout England in locations where the technology is viable and environmental, economic, and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily;
- Key principle (ii) explains that regional spatial strategies and local development documents should contain policies designed to promote and encourage, rather than restrict, the development of renewable energy resources. Regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should recognise the full range of renewable energy sources, their differing characteristics, locational requirements and the potential for exploiting them subject to appropriate environmental safeguards;
- Key principle (iii) explains that at the local level, planning authorities should set out the criteria that will be applied in assessing applications for planning permission for renewable energy projects;
- Key principle (iv) explains that the wider environmental and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations and should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission; and

- Key principle (viii) requires development proposals to demonstrate any environmental, economic and social benefits as well as how any environmental and social impacts have been minimised through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.

The Companion Guide to PPS22

At paragraph 5.10 the Companion Guide sets out what planning authorities must assess for each project and thereby come to an objective view:

- the extent to which the project is in conformity with the development plan, in particular criteria-based policies and any 'broad area' policies in RSSs
- the extent to which the reasons for any area-based designations may be compromised
- the extent of any positive or negative impacts, and the means by which they may be mitigated, if negative
- the contribution towards meeting the regional target, but recognising that a small contribution cannot, in itself, be a reason for refusal of permission.

With regard to PPS22 and its companion guide, the proposals are clearly contrary to these PPSs. The proposals have completely failed to mitigate against the environmental and social impacts that would result from this development in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species.

The Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and The Humber (2008)

Policy YH1 (Overall approach and key spatial priorities) states at B that plans, strategies investment decisions and programmes should aim to:

- '6. Protect and enhance the region's environmental resources, including areas of international and national importance, and the character and qualities of the Region's coast and countryside including for economic and social development.'

The explanatory text accompanying the policy explains that a good quality environment is critical to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the region. It acknowledges that pressure on environmental assets and resources are likely to increase with the demands for growth (paragraph 2.9).

Table 10.2 sets indicative local targets for installed grid-connected renewable energy in 2010 and 2021. For North Lincolnshire this is 54 megawatts and 112 megawatts respectively.

Policy ENV10 (Landscape) states that the:

'region will safeguard and enhance landscapes that contribute to the distinctive character of Yorkshire and the Humber. Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should safeguard and enhance certain identified landscapes and related assets of regional, sub-regional and local importance.'

Policy E7 (Rural Economy) states that ‘Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should help diversify and strengthen the rural economy by facilitating the development of rural industries, businesses and enterprises in a way that:...

5. Supports and protects an attractive and high quality rural environment.’

With regard to targets, whilst the council recognises the advice in PPS22 on targets, North Lincolnshire has virtually met its target for 2010 which is 54MW (currently 53.02MW) and has in place permissions which massively exceed the target for 2021. It is virtually inconceivable that the permissions in the ‘pipeline’ will not deliver the required target of implemented schemes. The target for 2021 is 112MW. There are already in place operational renewable energy schemes and consents for a total of 441.9MW. This is so far in excess of the target set for North Lincolnshire in the statutory development plan that it affords consideration of giving greater weight to the harm that would be caused by the proposals. Indeed, given the obvious contribution the borough has conspicuously made to the provision and the grant of permission to renewable energy schemes, the harm which a further such development in such an unacceptable location as this would cause is significantly magnified by North Lincolnshire exceeding its targets.

The current state of play with regard to renewable energy in North Lincolnshire is:

Table A

Site location	Type of renewable	MW produced (nominal installed capacity (variable))	Status	Progress on development?
Bagmoor WF/2005/0067	Wind	26 (8 turbines)	Operational	
Saxby Wold WF/2009/0657	Wind	36-45 (18 turbines)	Appeal – Withdrawn	
Saxby Wold W/F/2011/0734	Wind	36-45 (18 turbines)	Under consideration	
WRG Winterton WF/2011/0528	Wind	10 (4 turbines)	Under consideration	
Flixborough WF/2008/0900	Wind	14 (7 turbines)	Appeal (dismissed)	
Flixborough WF/2010/1242	Wind	14 (7 turbines)	Appeal – Hearing	
Keadby WF/2003/1630	Wind	85 (34 turbines)	Consented	
Tweenbridge	Wind	7.5 (3 turbines)	Consented	
Flixborough	Biomass	13.5	Operational	
Drax PA/2009/1269	Biomass	290	Approved by Central Government (DECC)	

Site location	Type of renewable	MW produced (nominal installed capacity (variable))	Status	Progress on development?
Brigg PA/2009/0334	Biomass	40	Allowed at Appeal	
Singleton Birch	Waste/biomass	5.75	Approved	
EnergyfromWaste, Melton Ross	Waste/biomass	5.75	Approved	
Roxby, Winterton Road	Landfill gas to energy	8.52	Operational	This is in North Lincs and is a separate site to Winterton landfill
Winterton landfill	Green/landfill gas	3 (originally)	Operational	
Killingholme landfill	Green/landfill gas	2 (originally)	Operational	
Yaddlethorpe	Sewage sludge	0.63	Consented	

Important: These figures are correct to the best of the knowledge of North Lincolnshire Council but cannot be guaranteed to be correct and should be taken to be indicative

NB: These are potential capacities

The North Lincolnshire Core Strategy Adopted June 2011

The Core Strategy was adopted on 28 June 2011. Further, more detailed management policies will be set out in the emerging 'General Policies Development Plan Document' which will eventually form part of the Local Development Framework.

The most relevant policy in the Core Strategy is CS18.

CS18: Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change

The council will actively promote development that utilises natural resources as efficiently and sustainably as possible.

The proposals are contrary to Core Strategy policy CS18 as this is not an appropriate location in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species, and the proposals are contrary to this policy.

North Lincolnshire Local Plan

Policy DS21 (Renewable Energy) states that proposals for the generation of energy from renewable resources will be permitted provided that:

- (i) any detrimental effect on features and interests of acknowledged importance, including local character and amenity, is outweighed by environmental benefits; and

- (ii) proposals include details of associated developments including access roads and other ancillary buildings and their likely impact upon the environment.

Where appropriate, conditions will be imposed requiring the restoration of the site to its original condition or the implementation of an agreed scheme of after-use and restoration.

The proposals are clearly contrary to this policy in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species.

Policy DS1 (General Requirements) is applied to all development proposals. It requires a high standard of design in all developments irrespective of location. Proposals for poorly designed development will be refused.

Policy R5 (Recreational Paths Network)

The creation of a strategic network of recreational paths to provide linkages from the built-up areas of North Lincolnshire to open spaces, woodland, riverside and water areas and the wider countryside will actively be pursued. Additional footpath links are to be created over the local plan period. In determining planning applications where development may either have implications for the maintenance of the recreational paths network, or offer opportunities to expand this network the following factors will be taken into account:

- (i) favourable consideration will be given to development proposals which provide additional links to the recreational network;
- (ii) the council will seek to negotiate additional linkages to the recreational paths network, where appropriate;
- (iii) favourable consideration will be given to development proposals which will improve the condition and appearance of existing links in the network;
- (iv) existing rights of way will be protected from development that would remove or restrict the right of way;
- (v) permission will not be granted for any development which would prejudice public access onto and through the recreational path network, unless specific arrangements are made for suitable alternative linkages;
- (vi) where necessary, the diversion of footpaths will be required.

The proposals are clearly contrary to this policy.

Policy RD2 sets out the council's overall development control policy for development within the open countryside. It aims to balance the needs and benefits of economic activity with maintaining and/or enhancing the quality of the countryside.

The proposals are clearly contrary to the requirements of policies DS21, DS1 and RD2 due to the demonstrable harm that the development would cause in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species.

SPG5a North Lincolnshire Countryside Design Summary and SPG5b North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Policies LC7 and SPG13 are underpinned by the findings of a landscape assessment conducted by landscape architect consultants (Estell Warren) on behalf of the council. This assessment has been adopted by the council as SPG5b.

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 13: Wind Energy Development (March 2005)

As well as outlining national and regional policies and guidance, the SPG sets out local policies against which North Lincolnshire Council will assess proposals for electricity production by wind power in North Lincolnshire. It does so in WIND1 by referring to targets and locational and environmental criteria that were set out in Regional Policy Guidance (RPG) 12. It then refers to the particular local plan policy relating to renewable energy (DS21) and then sets out in more detail in WIND2 to WIND9 those issues it will have regard to (based on the RPG and PPS22 criteria).

The proposals are clearly contrary to this SPG due to the demonstrable harm that this development would cause in terms of impact on the amenity of neighbours due to noise disturbance, the adverse impact on the Viking Way and the potential harm to protected species.

Renewable Energy Supplementary Policy Document (2011)

Policy 1 - Biodiversity

Developers should assess the effects of potential renewable energy developments, alone or cumulatively on biodiversity sites, habitats and species and identify measures to avoid or mitigate harm to them and secure their conservation and enhancement. If a scheme, alone and/or in combination with other plans and projects, could have an impact on an internationally designated site developers must submit all relevant information to the council for them to carry out an assessment of the likely significant effects of the scheme in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.

Developers should also pay attention to assessing the effects of renewable energy developments, alone or in combination with other development on bats, birds and other mobile species within and around the site. Measures should be identified to avoid or mitigate the harm to these species and secure their conservation and enhancement.

The proposals are contrary to this policy due to the significant harm that would be done to a protected species, pink-footed geese.

Policy 2 – Landscape

Developers should consider the landscape impacts of their proposal for renewable energy development. Consideration should be given at the earliest stage in the design process to the character and quality of the landscape, the extent of the physical change involved, and the ability of the landscape to accommodate the change.

Proposals in areas of high landscape value or which affect their setting will be rigorously assessed in relation to their impacts on these important landscapes. If adverse impacts are

identified these should be avoided or mitigated. Should this prove impossible the proposal will be refused.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which must be agreed with the council, should be prepared and submitted alongside any planning application. Developers should also consult the council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

Policy 3 – Visual effects

The impact on visual amenity is a key consideration for developers in preparing schemes for renewable energy development. The size and appearance of the development should be taken into account from the earliest stage in the design process.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), which must be agreed with the council, should be prepared and submitted alongside any planning application. Developers should consult the council's approved Supplementary Planning Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines, and Countryside Design Summary.

Where negative impacts on visual amenity are identified, developers should ensure that they are avoided or mitigated. If this cannot be done, the development will be refused.

Policy 4 – Heritage assets

Developers should consider the impact of their proposal for renewable energy development, both during and after construction on heritage and the historic environment.

Developers need to demonstrate that the objectives of the designation of the area or individual assets will not be compromised by the development, and that any significant adverse effects on the on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

2.17.10 Policy 10 – Cumulative effects

In preparing proposals for renewable energy development, developers should address the cumulative impact that the scheme could have on North Lincolnshire, taking into account operational and approved developments, any extensions to operational or approved proposals, and other proposals being advanced through the planning system. Any assessments should address cumulative visual and landscape impacts, as well as hydrology, hydrogeology, ecology, traffic and transport, aviation and radar, recreation and local amenity impacts.

2.17.13 Policy 13 – Highways & Rights of Way

Developers should consider access to proposed sites for renewable energy development from the earliest stages in putting together proposals. All proposals should be accompanied by an assessment of the full access route to the site, which should meet the requirements of the Highway Authority. Where appropriate, mitigation measures should be identified.

Developers should also consider the impact of their proposals on existing and proposed Public Rights of Way as part of any Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted with any planning application. Particular attention should be given to Natural England's and

the British Horse Society's advice on minimum distance between Public Rights of Way/bridleways and wind turbines.

Where developments adversely affect PROWs and/or landscapes, new PROWs should be provided where possible to offset any disadvantages to the public.

This application is contrary to the advice in this SPD and if permission were to be granted then the impact upon the amenity of the area and the impacts felt by the residents of the most affected settlements would be unjust. These concerns are very significant and are very much magnified by the high level of renewable energy projects coming forward in North Lincolnshire.

SPG5a North Lincolnshire Countryside Design Summary and SPG5b North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines

Policies LC7 and SPG13 are underpinned by the findings of a landscape assessment conducted by landscape architect consultants (Estell Warren) on behalf of the council. This assessment has been adopted by the council as SPG5b.

Landscape and visual impact

The site is on the back slope of the Lincolnshire Wolds to the east of the spring line settlements of Saxby All Saints and Horkstow situated at the base of the scarp slope and a minor road called Middlegate Lane which, for much of its length, marks the transition to scarp slope. The site is approximately 2.5 kilometres in extent north to south and is within 5 kilometres of the Humber Estuary to the north.

The assessment has considered and assessed the landscape characterisation and visual impact of the proposed development comprising a circle with a radius of 35 kilometres giving an area of some 3,846 hectares of land centered on the development site. This study area encompasses several local authority administrative areas and established landscape assessments. In so doing, this approach identifies that the majority of the significant landscape and visual impacts will arise within 15 kilometres of the proposal.

The author has, in conjunction with representatives of the local planning authority, identified and made assessments for 20 viewpoints that are representative of views from within a number of landscape characterisation areas within the study area. These are mainly contained within a 15 kilometre circle centred on the proposed development site. These viewpoints are considered to give a fair representation of available views within the study area.

The scope of the landscape and visual assessment is extensive, reflecting and representing the extent of the indivisibility of the proposed site within the wider landscape of the chosen study area on both the north and south banks of the River Humber and including lands where it meets the Trent and Ouse to the west. Within the 35 kilometre study area the compiler estimates that there are 120 character areas subject to potential views of the development.

Following from the above, this has resulted in consideration of 43 landscape character types with potential views of the development being identified. These are comprised in the administrative areas of The East Riding, North Lincolnshire, North East Lincolnshire and West Lindsey. Of these, 20 landscapes are assessed as being highly sensitive to changes in views resulting from the type of development proposed, 20 with a medium sensitivity, and

3 with a low sensitivity. Of the landscape character areas within which potential views may exist, therefore, most will be affected in some way by the proposal. Of these character areas 15 are within North Lincolnshire, of which views within 7 would be potentially highly sensitive to change, 5 having a medium sensitivity, and 3 a low sensitivity.

The compiler provides a detailed assessment of receptors' visibility whilst undertaking various activities from various locations. This section also introduces a measure of a receptor's sensitivity to change in the landscape (high – high/medium – medium etc). The assessment overall is backed by an assessment of the 'zone of visibility' of the wind farm assessed at the height of a blade tip and another taken at hub height. Visibility is such, however, that there is little predicted difference between the theoretical visibility between hub height (80 metres) and tip height (125 metres), again confirming the high intervisibility of the proposed site with other landscape areas and thus further confirming a considerable potential for the development to impact upon established landscape character across large parts of the study area within 15 kilometres of the site, including the landscapes of North Lincolnshire. The compiler's analysis of actual effects, however, emphasises that in practice visibility from settlements of various sizes and from transport routes, road, rail and public rights of way would be much more restricted due to the nature of the topography and the presence of intervening structural elements within the existing landscape, buildings, hedges, road and railway cuttings etc.

In the main, views from settlements closest to the proposal would be masked by the scarp slope of the Wolds and views from settlements indivisible with the site would in general be mitigated by distance. More extensive and expansive views would be available from various transport routes crossing the area of North Lincolnshire and from elsewhere in the study area. Again, however, the detail of available views is more complex, although it does appear that views from recreational routes such as the Viking Way and National Cycle Way Route 1, where receptor sensitivity is considered high, would be extensive for long sections of these routes.

Views from the Lincolnshire Wolds area of natural beauty would be mitigated by distance (21 kilometres), however areas of North Lincolnshire previously designated as of high landscape value would, in part, be subject to views of the wind farm array, as would parts of other high quality landscape designations in West Lindsey and East Yorkshire.

With respect to the 20 representative viewpoints, and the effect upon visual amenity as assessed, this gives a rating of the effect upon visual amenity as major – major/moderate – moderate – moderate/minor etc. For North Lincolnshire most of the assessments fall within the major to major/moderate range, again emphasising the potential for change in character and perceptions of amenity that the proposed development would have.

The assessment follows a similar pattern in assessing cumulative impacts. The methodology adopted is then applied to the character areas as referred to above and an assessment is also made from the 20 viewpoints selected as representative of views within the study area. The outcome of this is to confirm the potential sensitivity of character areas in North Lincolnshire and elsewhere to cumulative visual impacts. There is a potential for a cumulative effect of a conjunction of wind farms upon the landscapes of North Lincolnshire.

The submitted assessment recognises the Wolds as one of two significant landscape features having a strongly characterising effect upon the landscapes of North Lincolnshire and imparting distinctiveness to the area. This assessment is in line with the findings of existing National and Local Landscape Characterisations. Existing planning policy provision

(national and local) seeks to promote a balance between the benefits of renewable energy projects and the protection of valued landscapes from development likely to be harmful to that character.

Cumulatively, however, the potential for existing or proposed wind farms to be seen from one of the representative viewpoints is assessed as limited due to the distance of existing/proposed wind farms one from another. The orientation of those arrays relative to each other and the Saxby proposal, and intervening features, including scarp slopes, means that the potential impact upon landscape character and/or a perception of amenity is lower. In other words, in any given view there is likely not to be a wind farm and if there is, any others are not likely to be seen or to be seen as prominent within that view.

Receptors using recreational routes, it appears however, would still experience major impacts.

The site lies within the Lincolnshire Wolds natural character area, the northern part of which is continuous with the Lincolnshire Wolds landscape character area as described in the North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines. The submitted landscape assessment correctly identifies the indivisibility of the site from vantage points within the Wolds landscape and other landscape character areas across North Lincolnshire in terms of the submitted 'zone of theoretical visibility' (ZTV) information. Upon assessment, however, the conclusions of the compiler of the LVIA (landscape and visual impact assessment) are broadly correct in that:

- (a) The characterising effects of the development and impacts upon visual amenity arising should be judged against existing development associated with development found along the Humber which is central to the landscape study area. The urbanising form and character of this development is said to extend into and have a characterising effect upon the northern part of the Wolds.
- (b) For North Lincolnshire and elsewhere, actual indivisibility, as distinct to that predicted by the ZTV information, is significantly modified by the landscape topology (scarp slopes) and intervening elements of landscape structure – hedges, trees, buildings etc. Thus, both within the northern part of the Wolds adjacent the Humber and elsewhere throughout the area, analysis of views from the agreed representative viewpoints indicates that overall significant impacts within the context established by the Environmental Impact Regulations will be confined to within 9 kilometres of the site and could, therefore, be considered acceptable in the sense of it lacking in environmental significance.
- (c) Cumulative impacts (again, because of topology and because most other wind farms would be a long way from the site) are considered slight with impacts being recorded in only 5 of the 20 views considered.

Central Government planning advice places a high premium upon development considered sustainable within the context of the continued environmental degradation of natural systems and currently within the context established by the apparent warming of the atmosphere and the forecast consequences of this. Sustainable development is both the goal and thrust of Central Government planning policy, however sustainable development also takes into consideration and asks that due regard be paid to the protection of landscapes which have a strong characterising effect such that they lend identity to place.

This balance between the benefits of energy generation resources seen as sustainable and what has been described as 'sense of place' is referred to in particular in PPS22 and in PPS7. Whilst these documents were published after the adoption of the current North Lincolnshire Local Plan, policy LC7 expresses the need to protect scenic value and local distinctiveness in landscapes and this policy consideration is expressed in guidance contained in North Lincolnshire's Landscape Character Assessment and Guidelines.

The application clearly identifies that the proposed development would be seen within the landscape from many vantage points forming the study area. It also establishes that many of the landscape character areas, the character of which is likely to be affected, are highly sensitive to change, both within North Lincolnshire and elsewhere.

In the main, aside from at the northern end of the Ancholme, the site is not really viewed as intervisible with the Humber within the context of development on the Humber providing a strong characterising influence upon the Wolds landscape. In general development on the Humber is seen at some distance from the site from within an essentially rural landscape. There are, for example, sweeping views down towards Hull and its environs to the north-east of the proposed site. The bridge towers are evident and Killingholme can be made out in the far distance to the east but the landscapes of the site are primarily those of the Wolds and the central vale, ie rural landscapes with little, other than development of an agricultural scale, within them.

Aside from industrial development at Killingholme on the remote periphery of the LVIA study area, the cement works at South Ferriby and the Humber Bridge, it is not correct that the south bank of the Humber is characteristically developed with tall upright structures. Most development that appears along the bank, including the Kimberly Clark building, is set below the level of the south bank skyline as viewed from the north bank.

The Wolds is the most significant landscape feature in North Lincolnshire. It runs in a huge whale back above the central vale of the area formed by the Ancholme valley and the extensive back slope to the Lincoln Edge escarpment. Aside from the quarrying and cement works at the northern end, it is essentially undeveloped until Wrawby is reached in the south of the area.

Power lines crossing the Wolds and north of the application site are prominent but otherwise this is a rural landscape of great scenic quality with clear and distinct character forming a strong sense of place both within the Wolds landscape area itself and when viewed from the central vale.

It is accepted that wind farms have an adverse visual impact upon the landscapes in which they are sited. Whilst this development will have a limited impact upon residential receptors, and the main impacts upon receptors in terms of amenity will be those associated with the use of recreational footways and cycle routes, the main concern is that harm will be caused to a significant landscape that has a strong characterising effect over a wide area.

The wind farm would be the dominant feature of the Wolds landscape identified as sensitive to the siting of tall structures because of its simple rolling form. The development would not be contained within the landscape but would break the skyline to the detriment of the current sweeping form, particularly as viewed from the central vale area. In addition and more extensively, the wind farm would visually dominate a number of landscape areas found in the 'central vale' of North Lincolnshire. It will stand above the Wolds breaking the skyline in a similar manner to existing power lines that it would be set against and which

have been specifically identified as significant detractors in the existing landscape. This is to the detriment of the existing character and appearance of the Wolds landscape. The wind farm would do nothing to mitigate this existing harmful impact, indeed it would add to and consolidate that existing effect, extending it visually well south of the existing detractor into an otherwise largely unspoiled area of the open countryside which has important characterising effects as a landscape feature across a large part of the local area.

It is considered, therefore, that some harm would be caused to the landscape character. The landscape is identified as vulnerable to upright features and there is little doubt that harm to character would be caused. The landscape environmental statement confirms this insofar as it refers to significant impacts up to 9 kilometres from the site and this is the area within which adverse impacts upon the character of landscapes are likely.

Planning Policy Statement 7 states quite clearly at paragraph 24 that the Government *recognises and accepts* that there are landscapes outside of national designations that are *particularly highly valued locally*. Government advice is, however, too often interpreted within the context of a top-down hierarchy such that local landscapes, being at the bottom, are seen as somehow less important and are therefore to be given less protection. In reality the advice is premised upon research by Natural England which values *all* landscapes:

'Landscape is important, not just as scenery but because it links culture with nature, and the past with the present. It has many values, not all of them tangible (such as sense of place); and it matters to people – it is people who create and value landscape.'

'Landscapes should be managed, planned and, where appropriate, protected to deliver a full range of ecosystem goods and services. Natural England advocates the use of a landscape character approach, which can be used to underpin local, regional and national policies and actions, ensuring that landscapes remain distinctive and highly valued.'
(Natural England website)

In essence then, locally important landscapes, being the most prevalent in the UK, form the basis of landscape importance in which *additional* protection is given to certain categories of special landscapes such as AONB and National Parks.

For Saxby/Horkstow there is ample evidence on file of concerns local to the Horkstow Wold site that this is a particularly highly valued landscape. These people also use their landscape by going up on Middlegate and down to the Ancholme. This is a landscape which the Government states can be adequately protected by means of carefully drafted criteria based policies in Local Development Documents such as the current SPD which relies upon tools such as landscape character assessment to inform its outcomes.

Careful consideration needs to be given in striking the planning balance between the harm in terms of landscape character and the acknowledged benefits of renewable energy.

Saxby Wold Against Turbines (SWAT) have submitted an independent Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment carried out by Landscape Science Consultancy Ltd. This has been noted but does not materially alter the officer recommendation.

The developer has offered to delete two turbines from the scheme (turbines 17 and 18). This is intended to overcome the council's concerns on noise and Public Rights of Way issues and English Heritage's concerns on the Scheduled Ancient Monument at Horkstow. This would have only a negligible impact upon the landscape considerations.

Noise

Whilst the information submitted by the applicant would suggest that the proposed development will comply with the ETSU-R-97 guidance; which is the recommended guidance for the assessment and rating of noise from wind energy developments; at one assessment location the applicant has predicted that turbine noise levels will breach the ETSU-R-97 noise limit at particular wind speeds. Furthermore, at several assessment locations and wind speeds the noise limits predicted for the Saxby Wold wind farm development are only 1dB or less below the respective ETSU-R-97 noise limits.

Both the breach of, and marginal compliance with, the ETSU-R-97 noise limits must be considered in context with regard to the following:

- the accuracy of noise predictions (as commented on by the Planning Inspector in the Bradford appeal)
- the inherent error in the precision of monitoring equipment
- the uncertainty involved in the statistical treatment of data and subsequent prediction of background noise levels.

Although a relatively small margin for error, the resulting potential for these limits to be exceeded, or further exceeded, once the development is operational gives much cause for concern. This is a similar scenario to the Matlock Moor appeal (ref: APP/R1038/A/09/2107667) where the Inspector expressed concern that a variation in turbine sound power level, or unexpected atmospheric conditions, could result in a breach of the narrow margins between predicted noise levels and noise limits.

Compliance with other noise standards

Whilst ETSU-R-97 is the recommended guidance for the assessment and rating of noise from wind energy developments, any other development close to residential development would be assessed against other recognised standards/guidance to determine the impact of these developments.

An appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a single turbine development in Bradford (ref: APP/W4705/A/09/2114165) considered the use of BS4142:1997 and World Health Organisation criteria to assess the potential impact of the development on nearby residents.

Despite the application demonstrating compliance with ETSU-R-97 guidance the Inspector in this case commented "*...it should be remembered that ETSU-R-97 is only guidance and should not be used inflexibly. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to consider relevant parts of other noise guidance.*" The limits between predicted noise levels and ETSU-R-97 limits were noted as being marginal in some instances, and the Inspector noted that "*The methodologies employed are only designed to predict noise levels and cannot precisely state what the actual noise environments would be at any particular locations.*" The Inspector found that the application of BS4142:1997 and WHO criteria demonstrated that nearby residents may be subjected to serious annoyance and sleep disturbance. The decision in this instance was to dismiss the appeal.

BS4142:1997 is the British Standard used to assess industrial noise and to determine the likelihood of complaints in respect of such noise. An excess of 10dB between the source

noise (measured as a $L_{Aeq, T}$) and the background noise (measured as a $L_{A90, T}$) is considered likely to give rise to complaints, whereas an excess of 5dB is considered to be of marginal significance. A penalty of +5dB to the source noise level is awarded where the noise in question displays tonal or impulsive characteristics.

Predicted turbine noise levels for the Saxby Wold wind farm are in excess of between 5dB to 7dB above the measured background noise levels at the majority of assessment locations and across a variety of wind speeds, particularly during the night-time period.

An approximate conversion of the predicted turbine noise levels for this development from L_{A90} to L_{Aeq} values can be achieved by adding 2dB, with an additional 5dB penalty added to achieve a rating level.

The subsequent predicted turbine noise levels for the Saxby Wold wind farm are found to exceed the measured background noise level across a variety of wind speeds by between 10dB to 14dB at most of the assessment locations during the night-time period, and by 10dB at several of the assessment locations during the daytime period. Using the BS4142 criteria these results would indicate that noise from the proposed development would be likely to give rise to complaints from residents.

The proposed Saxby Wold wind farm development will be a totally new noise source located in a quiet rural area. Whilst in principle the applicant can demonstrate compliance with ETSU-R-97, the use of other standards demonstrates that the site may give rise to an undue noise impact on nearby residents.

The developers have offered to remove turbines 17 and 18 from the north end of the development. This would impact on the noise emission from the wind farm as a whole, with the greatest impact on those receptors nearest to the location of these turbines (e.g. Horkstow receptors, Manor Wold Farm and North Wold Farm). However, the likely effect on receptors to the southern end of the wind farm (e.g. Saxby, Bonby, Bonby Lodge etc) would be minimal at best and would not reverse the 10dB or more excess over current background levels that the BS4142 assessment has shown.

Taking into account the location of the two turbines proposed for removal, the number of turbines which would remain in the development, the location of receptors and the results of the BS4142 assessment which has been undertaken, this amendment would not overcome the issues which lead to the recommendation of refusal on noise.

An objector has provided a technical critique of the statistical analysis, specifically the regression analysis, used in the ES and stated that it does not allow for error analysis and is flawed, leading to a possibility of noise levels breaching acceptable levels. An outside consultant has commented that this line of analysis does not really apply to wind farm assessments and does not impact upon the results of the noise information.

Aviation

There are no objections from the MOD, NATS or the CAA. The MOD and Humberside Airport request that conditions be imposed.

Ecology

The site is close to the Ramsar site which is the Humber Estuary and a number of other protected wildlife habitats.

The species most affected would be the pink-footed goose which would suffer fatalities due to the site being within their seasonal feeding grounds. The developer proposes to overcome this issue by providing land by way of a Section 106 legal agreement which would compensate for the loss of this site.

However, Natural England are not satisfied with the details put forward by the applicants and as such the proposals are unacceptable as a protected species would be adversely affected with no satisfactory mitigation in place.

The RSPB strongly objects to the proposals, following the submission of additional Environmental Statement information including ornithological information. The RSPB questions various matters including why other data was not included. They contest the cumulative collision risk figures and state that the scientific evidence does not exist for the figures given by the developer. They also feel there is not an adequate scheme for mitigation for pink-footed geese.

Public Rights of Way

The developer has offered to delete two turbines from the scheme (turbines 17 and 18) and to run the access tracks alongside the Viking Way not over it, with only one crossing point. They have also offered new Public Rights of Way to re-route part of the Viking Way. This is intended to overcome the council's concerns on Public Rights of Way issues, however this amendment has not been formalised and does not overcome the reasons for refusal in any case. The council's adopted SPD Planning for Renewable Energy clearly states that particular attention should be given to Natural England's and the British Horse Society's advice on minimum distance between Public Rights of Way/bridleways and wind turbines. For at least two of the turbines, even if turbines 17 and 18 were deleted from the scheme, the scheme would fail against the SPD. The distance recommended is three times the height of the turbines and the distance between the Viking Way and turbines in this scheme would be well within that recommended distance.

The application site runs close to the Viking Way, a nationally known route which is well used. The turbines would significantly impact upon users of the public rights of way as the turbines and associated development would dramatically change the way users would experience the Viking Way for considerable distances.

The Environment Team wished for improvements to the Viking Way to be offered by the developer, which would have been secured by a Section 106 legal agreement to adequately compensate for the impact of the wind farm, however this has not happened.

The Environment Team objected on the grounds of site access, surfacing of the site access, the potential for new public rights of way and the distance of the turbines from the bridleways. The guidance in the Companion Guide to PPS22 refers to an Advisory Statement by the British Horse Society which urges developers and planners to recognise a 200 metre exclusion zone around bridleways. For turbines T12 and T15 the distance is about 190 metres.

- 1.1 Four public rights of way are affected: three bridleways BW34 north, BW34 south and BW147) and one footpath (FP332). Because two of the bridleways (BW147 and BW34 south) are used by The Viking Way – a 140-mile long distance walk between Barton upon Humber and Oakham, Rutland – these cannot be regarded as merely local paths. Any adverse impact will be suffered by visitors from across the country,

and possibly abroad, attracted by the publicity given to this long-distance route by the Ordnance Survey, There are four key issues: (1) site access, (2) surfacing of the site access, (3) the potential for new public rights of way and (4) the distance of the turbines from the bridleways.

- (1) Thirteen of the 18 turbines are to be accessed via either public footpath or public bridleway. (The five that are not are T1, T5, T10, T14 and T15.) Use of footpaths and bridleways by mechanically propelled vehicles is undesirable as far as the public are concerned. There is a risk of collision and horses can shy and throw their riders. Also, the noise from vehicles and having them pass by at close quarters makes for a less rewarding experience, especially as the reason most people use public rights of way is to enjoy the tranquillity of the countryside away from motorised traffic.

“In relation to public rights of way, access routes to developments, in particular wind turbines, should not be used unless there are no alternative options” (North Lincolnshire Council “Planning for Renewable Energy Development” Supplementary Planning Document, paragraph 6.76)

- (2) Surfacing of the site accesses

It is not acceptable for these popular, heavily used footpaths and bridleways to be altered to carry heavy vehicles, material and machinery.

There is ample alternative land within the application site to create access roads over. The applicants should look at alternatives first and not unacceptably alter the public rights of way. In its present form, the application makes no concession to the public whatsoever.

Drawing number eight in RWE Npower Renewables Ltd’s application shows how the public rights of way would be transformed from rural tracks into virtual roads six metres wide. The visual impact would be adverse and immense. And allowing this to happen to the Viking Way would be contrary to North Lincolnshire Council policy. Urbanising the character of our most prestigious long-distance route and making walkers, horse riders and cyclists share it with motor vehicles would cause significant harm to the public’s enjoyment of the Viking Way.

The proposals are contrary to Planning Policy Guidance 17. At paragraph 10: “Existing open space...should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space...to be surplus to requirements”. (NB *open space* as used in PPG17 includes public rights of way – see Definitions at paragraph 2iii.) Also, at paragraph 17:

“Local authorities should avoid any erosion of recreational function and maintain or enhance the character of open spaces; and ensure that open spaces do not suffer from increased traffic flows or other encroachments.” And at paragraph 32: “Rights of way are an important recreational facility, which local authorities should protect and enhance”. Finally, under Definitions, paragraph 3iii: “Local authorities should take account of the various functions of open space, including promoting health and well-being: providing

opportunities to people of all ages for informal recreation, or to walk, cycle or ride within parks and open spaces or along paths, bridleways and canal banks.”

Proposing to use a bridleway for access to the wind farm is almost certain to make the bridleways unattractive to horse riders. Paragraph nine of the British Horse Society Advisory Statement Number 20 reads: “Developers have been known to wish to use bridleways or byways for access to the wind farm site during the construction phase. The Society is opposed to such use. The Society fears that heavy vehicle use of unsurfaced routes may result in irreversible damage and planning authorities are asked to take this into account.”

The wind farm threatens to significantly diminish the public’s use and enjoyment of the public paths that run through the application site, the developers have failed to provide acceptable re-routing of the Viking Way.

“Where developments adversely affect public rights of way and/or landscapes, new public rights of way should be provided where possible to offset any disadvantages to the public” (North Lincolnshire Council “Planning for Renewable Energy Development” Supplementary Planning Document, Policy 13)

(3) The distance of the turbines from the bridleways

Paragraph 56 in the “Technical Annex: Chapter 8 Wind” section of “Planning for Renewable Energy: A Companion Guide to PPS22, issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government, draws attention to the British Horse Society’s Advisory Statement Number 20. This refers to a 200-metre exclusion zone around bridleways where the siting of wind turbines is concerned. In paragraph eight of the latter, “the Society urges that all developers and planners recognise a 200-metre safety margin as being the absolute minimum for limiting the potential impact on equestrian interests.”

Turbines T12 and T15 are about 190 metres away from BW34 south and BW147 respectively. Where turbines are not sited at least the minimum distances away from bridleways the potential problems are made clear in paragraphs three and four of British Horse Society Advice Statement 20: “The horse and rider unfamiliar with the area may react in a potentially dangerous manner to any of the following characteristics which can arise from the operation of a wind turbine: sudden appearance in the horse’s sight-line of turning blades; the low frequency noise emitted by the turbines, punctuated by the “whoomph” as the blades pass the nadir point and sometimes said to be felt rather than heard; shadows sweeping the ground or bushes/trees in sunny weather; and the unexpected starting up of the turbine if the wind builds up as the horse approaches. In addition to these particulars, all of which would be affected by the weather conditions at the time, there could be dangers which would arise from equipment failure or from the build up of ice on the blades, but no matter the *kind* of danger perceived or faced, the likely risks can be significantly reduced simply by ensuring turbines are installed at a safe distance from the equestrian routes”.

Indeed, since the publication of the above-mentioned companion guide to PPS22 in 2004, the burgeoning size of new turbines has prompted the British Horse Society to amend their guidance thus: “That, as a starting point when assessing a site and its potential layout, a separation distance of four times the overall height should be the target for National Trails and Ride UK routes, as these are likely to be used by equestrians unfamiliar with turbines, and a distance of three times overall height from all other routes, including roads, with the 200 metres recommended in the Technical Guidance to PPS22 being seen as the minimum, where it is shown in a particular case that this would be acceptable. The negotiation process recommended in PPS22 should indicate whether, in the particular circumstances of each site, these guidelines can be relaxed or need strengthening to minimise or eliminate the potential difficulties.”

“In the case of wind turbines, care should taken to ensure an adequate distance is provided between public rights of way and turbines...The importance of existing and planned rights of way will need to be taken into consideration. Natural England recommends that separation distances for National Trails should be four times the height of the turbine and for other bridleways three times the height...The British Horse Society has recently issued new guidelines for bridleways that developers should take into account in any discussions” (North Lincolnshire Council “Planning for Renewable Energy Development” Supplementary Planning Document, paragraph 6.77)”

In conclusion, the use of the three bridleways and one footpath as accesses appears to be expedient rather than necessary; the public’s use and enjoyment of the bridleways and footpath would be significantly diminished because of the required resurfacing and their having to share the routes with motor vehicles. The latter also compromises the public’s safety; the application does not offer the public anything in return; and the developers have not taken into account the separation distances recommended by Natural England and the British Horse Society as required by North Lincolnshire Council’s SPD.

The applicant has submitted a further email to counter the concerns regarding Public Rights of Way but this does not alter the assessment made that the proposals are unacceptable and contrary to the relevant policies. The applicant talks about micro-siting and states that the British Horse Society advice is guidance only, however several of the turbines would be too close to bridleways and would create an unsafe environment for horse riders and significantly harm the enjoyment of the route for walkers. The harm to the physical structure of the rights of way cannot be mitigated against and the council very much doubts whether any improvements to, or creation of new bridleways/footpaths, can be delivered by the developer even if conditions were imposed. The applicant concedes in their email that the proposals do not comply with the published guidance of the British Horse Society in the case of turbines 12, 13, 14 and 15. They also confirm that there would be up to six points where wind farm traffic would cross Bridleways 34 and 147, in addition the route of a footpath linking the Brigg Road with Bridleway 34 would also be shared.

Archaeology

A considerable amount of information has been provided to the Sites and Monuments Records Officer and dialogue has taken place between the applicants’ archaeological consultants and the council’s officers and this has resulted in a request that conditions be

applied to any planning permission granted relating to a programme of archaeological work being undertaken before development commences. Backup conditions are then requested should any archaeological finds be made.

Cultural heritage

Horkstow Jacobean Manor House and gardens site represents the site of a large 17th century mansion and its accompanying formal gardens. The historic site is more extensive than the scheduled area (which is focused on the upstanding earthworks at the centre of the site): the historic gardens extended west of the mansion site into the lower land now part of an arable field, and extended eastwards up the slope of the Wolds escarpment. The site was abandoned in the 18th century and consequently did not undergo the rebuilding and landscaping that affected the majority of English gentry houses, making it a regionally and nationally rare example of its type, distinguished by the high quality and legibility of the surviving features, which consist of extensive buried remains, prominent earthworks and survivals of historic tree planting in the gardens.

The setting of the site is of high heritage significance due to several factors. The manor house and garden site is a deliberately constructed landscape feature, visible and recognisable from the immediately adjacent area and from a distance extending beyond Horkstow. The grounds were laid out in such a way that they spread down the escarpment and onto the flatter land at the scarp foot, with some substantial platforms and terraces providing views into the park and gardens and out into the surrounding landscape. At the same time, the house and garden features are themselves visible from the surrounding landscape by virtue of their earthworks and their vegetation, including mature specimen trees, such as the limes in the field south of the parish church.

The important visual aspects and relationships which are an important element of the heritage significance of the historic manor house and gardens site are also particularly sensitive to intrusion, especially visual intrusion of new development.

The relationship of the manor house site with the grade I listed parish church of St Maurice is also historically significant, and the church, and manor house and gardens site, form a historic group of high heritage significance. The rarity and good preservation of the Horkstow Manor House and gardens site, with very little modern development around it and in close association with the parish church, enhances its regional and national heritage significance and increases its sensitivity, and makes it all the more important to avoid damaging impacts from new development.

Originally English Heritage advised that a major intrusion of wind turbines on key views of the historic site of the manor house and gardens would result in significant harm to its heritage significance.

Whilst the proposal will have some impact upon the setting of the ancient monument this is, in the main, as viewed at a distance from within the Ancholme Valley, that distance being from which it is possible to discern the monument.

The monument forms part of and is viewed from the valley as part of the large-scale structure of the Wolds scarp and the turbines would be set to the east away from the scarp face. Thus, whilst there is an impact upon setting, this is limited in extent and, importantly, does not damage views out from within the monument, or views close to it. The historic setting, as part of the scarp slope, is therefore modified in certain distant views; however

the relationship of the monument to the scarp is still clear and the historic reason for developing the garden in this location remains clear also.

English Heritage have advised that, 'Whilst these impacts on the setting of the group of heritage assets at Horkstow can be regarded as resulting in a degree of harm to their heritage significance, our assessment is that (in terms of PPS5) the potential harm to the heritage assets is less than substantial.'

With regard to the potential impact of the wind farm on the setting of Saxby All Saints conservation area, the wind turbines will not be visible within the main body of the village but, in wider views, the maps indicate that one or two turbines will be visible from the western side of Saxby village (including the park associated with the listed Hall), and many more turbines will be visible in longer views of the village from the west, which are arguably the key views of Saxby village in its landscape context.

English Heritage have advised that turbines one and three should be moved/omitted to reduce the impact upon the heritage assets.

However, on balance, the impact of the development on the setting of the monument and Saxby conservation area is not sufficient to warrant a refusal of permission on this ground.

The developer has offered to delete two turbines from the scheme (turbines 17 and 18). This is intended to overcome the council's concerns on noise and Public Rights of Way issues and English Heritage's concerns, however these are not the turbines that English Heritage refer to and this does not materially alter this part of the assessment.

Other matters

The potential for shadow flicker can be calculated and at paragraph 73 of the Companion Guide to PPS22 this issue of shadow flicker and reflected light is addressed. Under certain combinations of geographical position and time of day the sun may pass behind the rotors of a wind turbine and cast a shadow over neighbouring properties. When the blades rotate the shadow flicks on and off. The effect is known as shadow flicker. It only occurs inside buildings where the flicker appears through a narrow window opening. The seasonal duration of this effect can be calculated from the geometry of the machine and the latitude of the site. Although problems caused by shadow flicker are rare, applicants for planning permission for wind turbine installations should provide an analysis to quantify the effect. A single window in a single building is likely to be affected for a few minutes at certain times of the day during short periods of the year. The likelihood of this occurring, the duration and effect depends upon:

- the direction of the residence relative to the turbines
- the distance from the turbines
- the turbine hub height and the rotor diameter
- the time of year
- the proportion of daylight hours in which the turbines operate
- the frequency of bright sunshine and cloudless skies

- the prevailing wind direction

Only properties within 130 degrees either side of north relative to the turbines can be affected at these latitudes in the UK. Turbines do not cast long shadows on their southern side.

The further the observer is from the turbine, the less pronounced the effect will be. There are several reasons for this:

- there are fewer times when the sun is low enough to cast a long shadow;
- when the sun is low it is more likely to be obscured by either cloud on the horizon or intervening buildings and vegetation; and
- the centre of the rotor's shadow passes more quickly over the land reducing the duration of the effect.

At distance the blades do not cover the sun but only partly mask it, substantially weakening the shadow. This effect occurs first with the shadow from the blade tip, the tips being thinner in section than the rest of the blade. The shadows from the tips extend the furthest and so only a very weak effect is observed at distance from the turbines.

Shadow flicker can be mitigated by siting wind turbines at sufficient distance from residences likely to be affected. Flicker effects have been proven to occur only within 10 rotor diameters of a turbine. Therefore, if a turbine has 90 metre diameter blades, the potential shadow flicker effect could be felt up to 900 metres from a turbine.

Around 0.5 per cent of the population are epileptic and of these around 5 per cent are photosensitive. Of photosensitive epileptics, less than 5 per cent are sensitive to lowest frequencies of 2.5 to 3 hertz, the remainder are sensitive only to higher frequencies. The flicker caused by wind turbines is equal to the blade passing frequency. A fast-moving three-bladed machine will give rise to the highest levels of flicker frequency. These levels are well below 2 hertz. The new generation of wind turbines is known to operate at levels below 1 hertz.

With regard to this specific scheme, flicker may occur for very limited periods of time to a small number of properties and the developer states in the Environmental Statement that this could be controlled by turbine shut-down or by screen planting or the use of blinds if the occupier was willing to use this method to avoid the flicker.

Turbines can also cause flashes of reflective light which can be visible for some distance. It is possible to ameliorate the flashing but it is not possible to eliminate it. Careful choice of blade colour and surface finish can help reduce the effect. Light grey, semi-matt finishes are often used for this.

The CO₂ savings are questioned by objectors. If wind power is compared to generation of electricity by coal, a higher saving is being made than if it is compared to power being produced by gas. If the comparison is made to nuclear or hydro-generated power the saving will be even smaller. Nevertheless, as outlined in the national policy section of this report, it is the UK's prerogative to encourage the production of electricity from renewable sources. Wind is one of those sources and therefore the savings made are incidental to the debate because it is the UK's intention to reduce our emissions to levels of former generations to slow down the process of global warming. Similarly, the level of electricity

produced, whilst being small, looking at individual turbines, compared to the large fossil fuel-fed power stations, a start has to be made somewhere and wind energy is seen as being a major player in making that start of reducing CO₂ to slow down the process of global warming on an international scale.

Conclusion

The proposed scheme is of major significance for North Lincolnshire and would have major impacts, particularly in terms of landscape, loss of amenity through noise disturbance, visual impact and the experience of people using the Viking Way and other roads, footpaths and bridleways and the impact upon protected species (pink-footed geese).

In making a full and proper planning balance, the benefits of the proposed development, in terms of the significant level of power which would be produced, must be taken into account, with the resultant CO₂ savings which are a national imperative to meet the UK's role in tackling climate change.

A balance must be made between the positive benefits of renewable energy which is a national priority and the harmful impacts of the scheme.

However, the impacts will, to a large degree, be unacceptably harmful, particularly in terms of impact upon local residents, and will change the character of a large part of North Lincolnshire. The planning balance, in this case, falls against the development and permission should be refused.

RECOMMENDATION Refuse permission for the following reasons:

1.

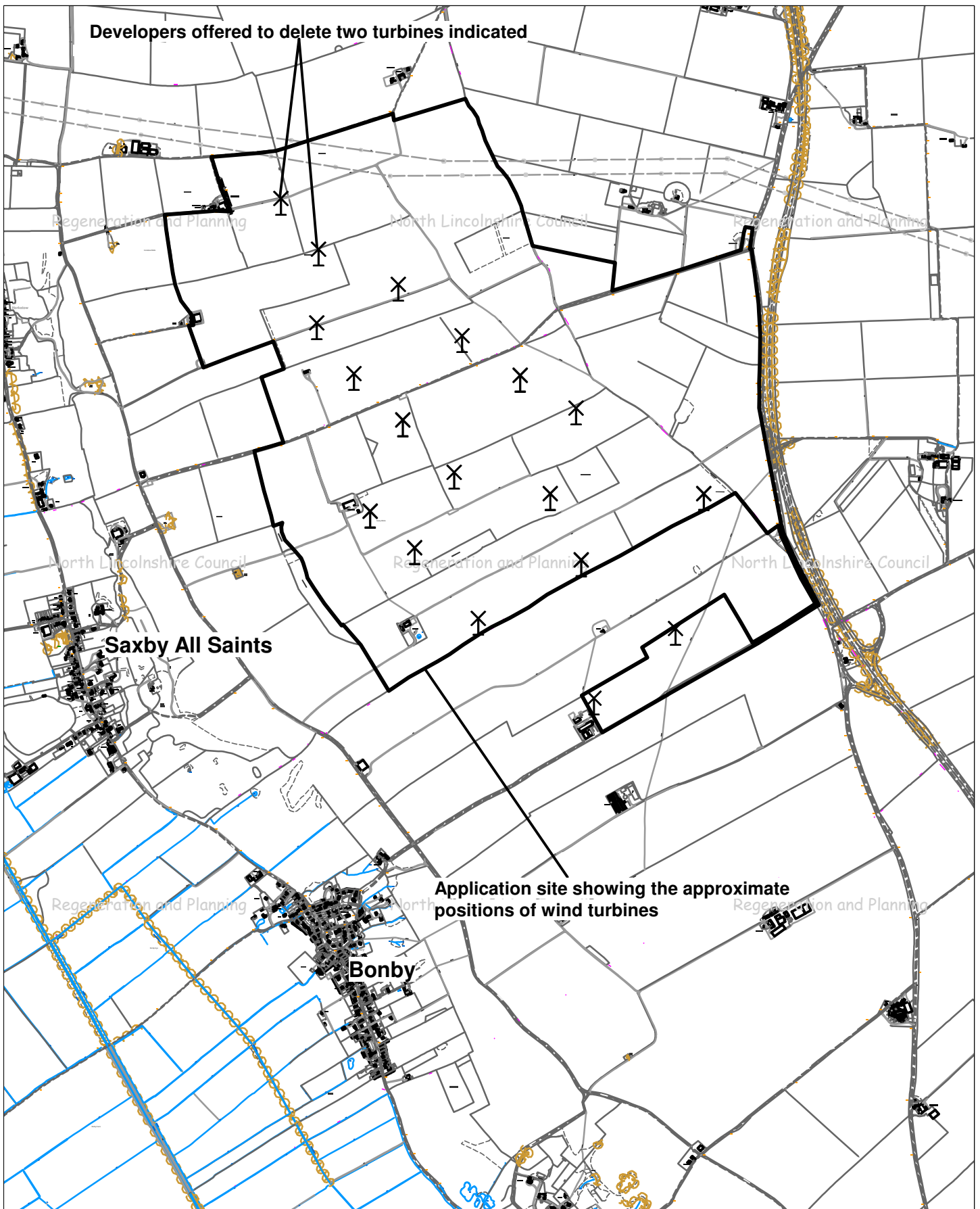
The proposals would lead to significant disruption to users of the Viking Way, a nationally important network of footpaths and bridleways, both during construction of the wind farm and long term, due to the fact the proposal includes laying access roads over the line of the Viking Way itself. Furthermore, the proposals would be visually detrimental to users of the Viking Way due to the introduction of industrial structures close to the public rights of way which would disrupt important views and create an intimidating and overbearing environment for walkers and riders. The proposals are therefore contrary to policy CS18 of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy, policy 13 of the Supplementary Planning Document Planning for Renewable Energy, policies R5, DS1 and DS21 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and PPS22, PPS7, PPS18 and PPG17.

2.

The proposed wind farm development will be a totally new noise source located in a quiet rural area and the predicted turbine noise levels would exceed the measured background noise level across a variety of wind speeds by between 10dB to 14dB at most of the assessment locations during the night-time period, and by 10dB at several of the assessment locations during the daytime period. The proposed development would therefore be likely to cause loss of amenity to residents of nearby properties due to undue noise impact. The proposals are therefore contrary to policy CS18 of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy, Policy 8 of the Supplementary Planning Document Planning for Renewable Energy, policies DS1 and DS21 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and PPS22.

3.

It is predicted that the proposed wind farm would lead to the death of a significant number of pink-footed geese, a protected species, and the applicants have failed to provide a satisfactory scheme for mitigating against those losses. The proposals are therefore contrary to policy CS18 of the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy, policy 1 of the Supplementary Planning Document Planning for Renewable Energy, policies DS1 and DS21 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan and PPS22.



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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL 0100023560 2011



Regeneration and Planning

Head,

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