

**PROPOSED RE-LOCATION OF AN EXISTING KINGSPAN KW6 WIND TURBINE AT
USWAYFORD FARM HARBOTTLE MORPETH NORTHUMBERLAND NE65 7BU
FOR USWAYFORD FARM LTD
26 August 2014**

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

National Planning Policy Framework – March 2012

Paragraph 94 states that:

Local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations.

Paragraph 97 outlines how local planning authorities should determine planning applications for renewable energy. To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. They should:

- Have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources;
- Design their policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts;
- Consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources;
- Support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside such areas being taken forward through neighbourhood planning;
- Identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

Paragraph 98 states that when determining planning applications, local planning Authorities should:

- Not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and also recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and
- Approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.

1. USE

Uswayford Farm is situated in an 'off grid' location and electricity has to be generated on site for the farm and house. The application relates to the dismantling of an existing domestic Kingspan KW6 wind turbine and re-installing in a new location. The re-siting of

the existing wind turbine has been instigated to alleviate the current issues on performance which is not satisfactory due to wind turbulence which has wind shading effects making the turbine inefficient and therefore does not generate enough electricity for the property, please refer to attached graph showing wind speeds at the existing wind turbine location and the proposed wind turbine location. Uswayford is located in the heart of the Cheviot Hills which forms part of the Northumberland National Park however as the existing wind turbine was granted planning permission the re-locating of the turbine will have little affect on the landscape and will form a vital part of the farm steading.

2. AMOUNT

The planning application only refers to the proposed wind turbine **no** access roads or tracks will be constructed for the installation or maintenance of the turbine.

3. LAYOUT

The layout is dictated to by the standard design of the wind turbine as shown on the drawings and planning pack supplied by the manufacturers. The location of the turbine is shown on the Location Plan (scale 1:2500) and detailed Block Plan (scale 1:1000). Planning Policy Statement 22 for renewable energy is seen as relevant to this application.

The grid reference for the proposed turbine is 388718-614815

The grid reference of the existing wind turbine is 388718 - 614615

4. SCALE AND TYPE

The wind turbine is a Kingspan KW6 which will be mounted to the existing 15m tower it has a rotor diameter of 5.60m, total height to tip 17.80m. This type has a down wind Self regulating rotor, direct drive with permanent magnet generator, 6KW rated power manufactured by Kingspan Wind.

5. LANDSCAPING AND WILDLIFE

The general advice from the United Kingdom Bat Conservation Trust and the Wildlife Trust is that a small turbine of this type should be sited to avoid close proximity to buildings that could be used as bat roosts, or groups of mature trees, and water bodies such as ponds and lakes, which could be used as foraging and commuting routes. They recommend siting of domestic scale turbines should be 50m away any such feature. This advice is backed up by English Nature in their 2009 publication Technical Advice note TON051. A further study into small wind turbines <50kw by Stirling University can be viewed at www.sbes.stir.ac.uk/research/ecology/micro-tubines.html which suggests that small turbines can be sited 20m from these features.

Guidance published by the BWEA (RenewableUK www.bwea.com) in conjunction with English Nature, RSPB and WWF-UK indicates that bats species in the UK are unlikely to come into contact with blades during their normal movements. There is no published evidence of turbines of this size interfering with echo-location calls or causing injuries as a result of atmospheric pressure drop at wind turbine blades, and these problems are more commonly associated with large megawatt generators or wind farms and not micro generators as proposed at this location. No bat casualties or other casualties have been observed from a turbine positioned 25m from a bat foraging route.

As shown on the block plan the proposed wind turbine at Uswayford Farm has a 50m clear zone from any such features described.

Any ground disturbed by the construction of the foundations and turbine will be reinstated back to agricultural meadow grass.

6. APPEARANCE

The proposed wind turbine will be fixed to a concrete pad foundation, the bulk of the foundations are buried with earth. The turbine is mounted on a grey galvanised steel tower, the rotor and covers are dark grey. All electricity cables will be underground.

7. ACCESS

Access is over agricultural land, it does not affect any pedestrians.

Brian Newman
Agent