HPC/20131069O

HERITAGE STATEMENT

POST ROOM
REC'D 19 FEB 2014

Applicant: Mr W Ash

Dated 5th Feb 2014

Proposed Development: Installation of 1 No very small scale 5kW Evance R9000 wind turbine on a 15m monopole mast

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared to assist the local planning authority determine an application for the erection of one very small scale wind turbine in a field 565m to the north-west of the Roman Road (Ref : Heritage No 3531)

Site Address:
Lower Eaves Farm, Chapel-En-Le-Frith, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 9UA.

1.2 Our report has been prepared in accordance with Section 12 of the NPPF: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment. It provides a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance. It also assesses the potential impact of the proposed turbine on the heritage asset and its setting.

2 Proposed Development

2.1 It is proposed to erect one Evance 5kW turbine on a 15m monopole mast. The total height of the structures from base to blade tip will be 17.75m.

2.2 The turbine hub and nacelle will be matt gray and the mast will be galvanized, which in a short space of time will dull down to a matt gray colour.

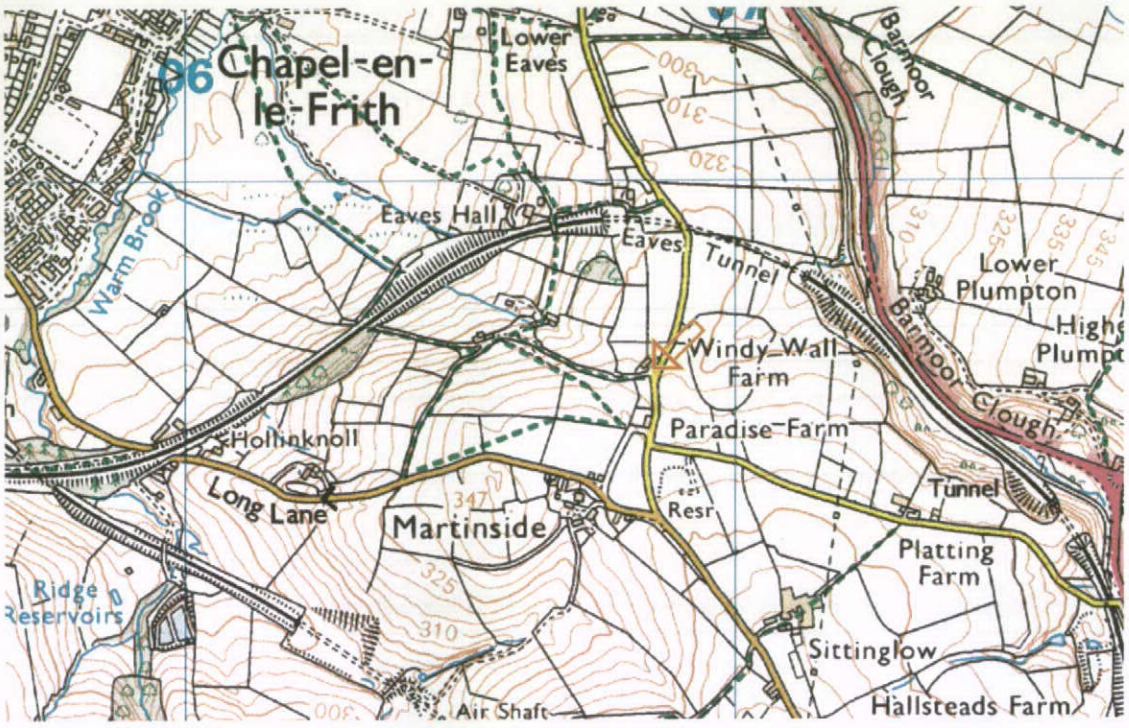


Figure 1: Location map for the site (Street Maps)



Figure 2: Image showing Turbine & Roman Road, elevation & separation distance

3 Character Analysis

3.1 SK 0675 8000: Roman Road: The line of the Buxton - Glossop Roman road in Chapel-en-le-Frith parish. (1,2).

3.2 The above description is taken from the Heritage Gateway, it is brief with little description about the road, its history or aesthetic qualities. As shown in the above image, the road is located 565m away from the proposed turbine location. This is a significant separation distance and one that will diminish the impact caused by the turbines erection.

4 Policy Context

4.1 The main Government text to guide development within sensitive historic areas is **NPPF Section 12**: **Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment** and paragraphs 128-136 are particularly relevant to applications for development in close proximity to a listed building. It requires developers to describe the significance of any heritage asset affected, including any contribution made to their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact on their significance. Significance is described as the value of the heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance not only derives from the asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.
Important questions and considerations are:

What is the significance of the heritage asset?

What is the potential impact on the proximal listed buildings?

Does the development harm the setting of the listed buildings?

Where loss of setting cannot be avoided, is the harm outweighed by wider public benefits?

Does the development preserve or in any way affect those elements that contribute positively to the heritage asset?

Would an alternative siting improve any injurious effects created by the development?

Supplementary guidance on wind turbine development within historically sensitive areas is provided by English Heritage in their document **"Wind Energy and the Historic Environment"** (2005).

4.3 This document seeks to strike a balance between the potentially harmful effects of renewable wind energy development and the wider environmental benefits provided by the development. The document deems development inappropriate under the following circumstances:
(i) The turbine would become the most dominant structure within the visual amenity of a historic feature.
(ii) The turbine is disproportionate in scale
(iii) The development would interrupt indivisibly between historic features that were intended to be seen from other historic sites
(iv) The noise and movement generated by the turbine would be detrimental to the historic feature.

5 Significance of the Heritage Assets

5.1 The proposed turbine is to be sited in an open field 977m to the South East of Chapel-En-Le-Frith Town Centre and at 565m to the North West of the Roman Road. The Road by its nature holds a low profile and can not be seen from long distance views. The road can only be seen when walked or driven on. The road is enclosed by trees and dry stone walls and holds a varying altitude, along its length, with a height of 330m at Grid Location – SK 068 796. It is narrow in width and cannot be seen in direct conjunction with the turbine, which sites at a much lower altitude of 289m (a difference of 41m).

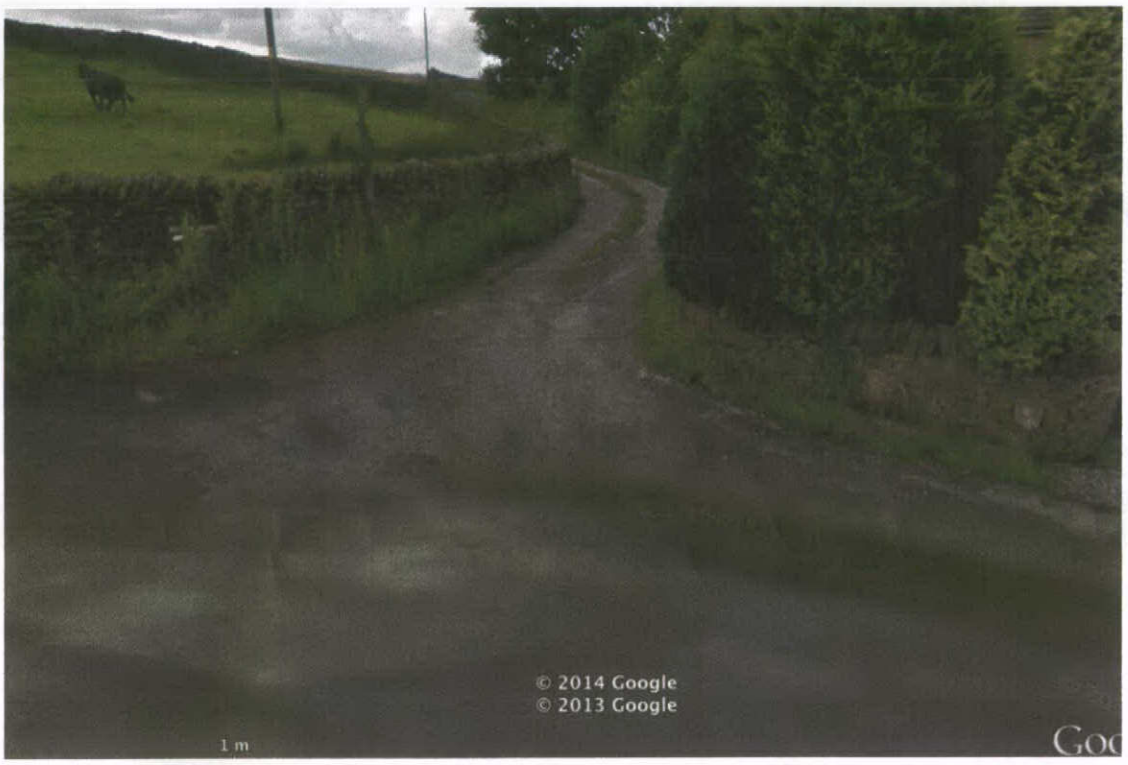


Figure 3: Image shows the Roman Road

5.2 The road is narrow in width with a gravelly affect to it. There is a small strip of grass running down the middle where cars have not driven over it. It is well enclosed with a wall and trees.

5.3 The significance of a Heritage Asset must be evaluated carefully within the context of the surrounding area. Roads, hedges, walls etc, which all make up the visual aesthetic of an area. The road must be evaluated in this context.

6 Assessing Impact

6.1 The site of the proposed turbine has been chosen following an in-depth site selection process and a previous application attempt. This assesses the potential impact of the turbine on the local landscape, ecology, historic environment and neighbouring properties and tries to minimise any impact through careful design and appropriate siting.

6.2 The proposed turbine is to be located approximately 565m to the North West of the

Roman Road. After walking around the area, a series of photos were taken near to the road. Due to the altitude difference between the turbine and the road, the turbine would not be visible in conjunction with the road. We have therefore, not imposed any images onto the photos as the turbine would not be seen.

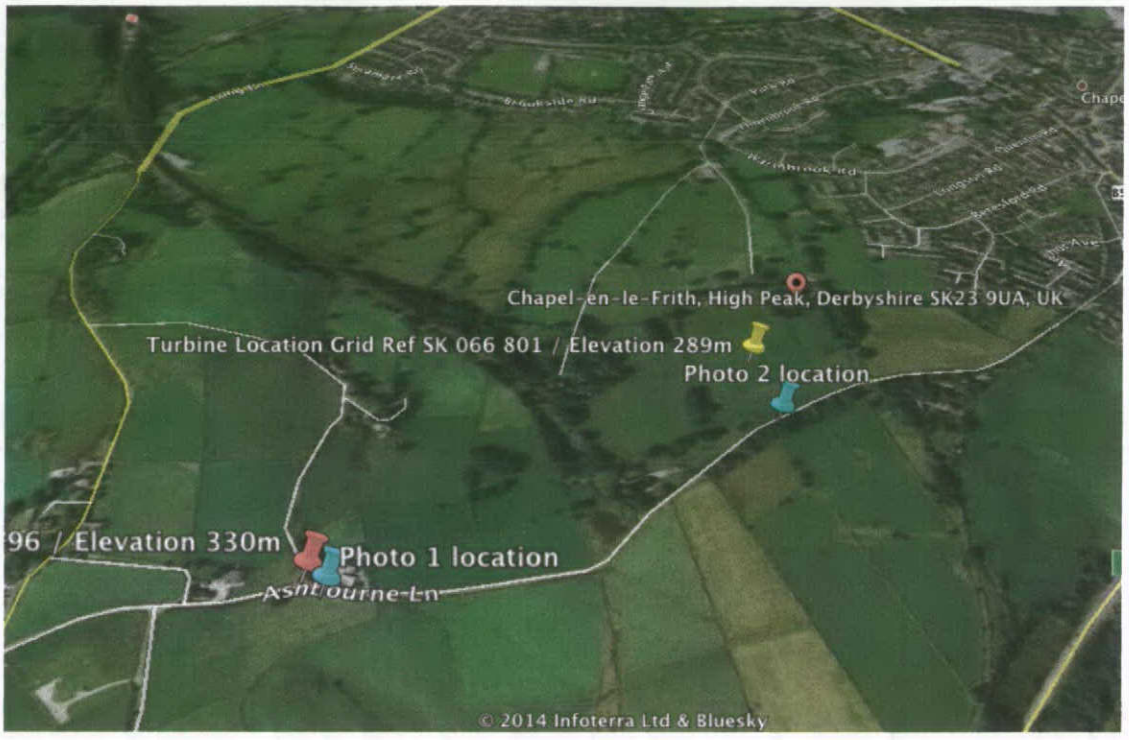


Figure 4: Photo locations



Figure 5: Photo 1 location



Figure 6: Photo location 2

7 Conclusion

7.1 The proposed turbine is very modest in scale and given the distance and the change in elevation between the turbine site and the road, the turbine will not be seen. There proximity to one and other is distant and even if any views were to be made, the turbine would be seen as a very small structure.

By the fact that the turbine is not visible from the Roman road, this proposed development will not have a adverse effect, allowing walkers and other visitors to the area to continue to enjoy the road and the surrounding views.

7.2 The most important element in our opinion when comparing the road to the turbine site is the impact the turbine could have on the road and the surrounding views.

7.3 As the turbine will not be visible from the road or heard due to the elevation and great separation distance, it is our opinion that this turbine can be installed in the chosen location without any impact on the Heritage Asset.