



## Planning Supporting Statement

**Proposed Replacement Wind Turbine at Quarry House Farm, Penistone Road, High Flatts, Denby Dale, Huddersfield, HD8 8XY.**

### **1. Introduction**

This statement is submitted in support of a planning application for the replacement of an existing wind turbine at Quarry House Farm, Penistone Road, High Flatts, Denby Dale, Huddersfield. The proposed development seeks to replace the existing Endurance E-3120 wind turbine, rated at 50kW, with a Vestas V29 turbine rated at 225kW. The new turbine will be sited in the same position as the current turbine. The applicant, David Jones, operates an established agricultural business at Quarry House Farm. Electricity generated by the turbine is used to support the farm's operations, with any surplus exported to the national grid.

The replacement turbine will increase the farm's renewable energy capacity, supporting its long-term sustainability. The proposal does not involve any change of use or additional land take, and will not introduce any new visual or environmental impacts beyond those already associated with the existing turbine.

### **2. Site Context**

The site is located in a rural area of Kirklees, West Yorkshire, within the Green Belt. The turbine is situated on agricultural land associated with Quarry House Farm, surrounded by open farmland. The nearest settlement is the village of Upper Denby, situated to the east. The site is accessed via Penistone Road, a classified highway serving the farmstead and surrounding area.

The current turbine was installed under planning permission reference 2011/62/92410/E, granted by Kirklees Council on 23 March 2012 for the erection of a single wind turbine with a hub height of 24.6 metres. The turbine has been operational since installation without any

recorded adverse impacts on local amenity or the surrounding environment. The site benefits from established access arrangements, and the delivery of the replacement turbine will be managed by Collett & Sons Ltd, a specialist haulier, who have prepared a detailed transport statement submitted as part of this application.

### **3. Description of Proposed Development**

The proposed development involves the removal of the existing Endurance E-3120 wind turbine and the installation of a Vestas V29 turbine in the same location. The existing turbine has a hub height of 24.6 metres and a blade tip height of approximately 34 metres. The replacement turbine will have a hub height of 31.5 metres and a blade tip height of 46 metres, with a rotor diameter of 29 metres. While the new turbine is taller and produces a slightly higher acoustic output, it remains consistent with the existing scale and rural character of the site.

The Vestas V29 is a well-proven turbine with an established operational track record worldwide. It is a three-bladed, upwind machine with a rated output of 225kW. The increase in power output from 50kW to 225kW reflects advancements in turbine technology and will significantly enhance the farm's ability to meet its energy needs through renewable generation. The proposal constitutes a straightforward repowering project and represents an efficient use of an already-approved site for renewable energy production.

### **4. Planning Policy Context**

The proposed development is assessed in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024) and the Kirklees Local Plan (adopted February 2019).

At the national level, Paragraph 168 of the NPPF encourages the repowering of existing renewable energy developments. It requires local planning authorities, when determining applications for renewable and low carbon energy developments, to give significant weight to the benefits associated with renewable and low carbon energy generation and the proposal's contribution to a net zero future. In the case of applications for the repowering and life-extension of existing renewable sites, Paragraph 168(c) directs that significant weight should be given to the benefits of utilising an established site. This proposal aligns directly with that objective. It involves the upgrade of an existing wind turbine in the same location, using

modern technology to increase efficiency and output without introducing any new land use or intensifying the development.

Regarding the Green Belt, Paragraph 160 of the NPPF acknowledges that elements of many renewable energy projects will comprise inappropriate development in the Green Belt, but clarifies that the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources can constitute the very special circumstances necessary to justify such development. When the existing turbine was granted planning permission in 2012, Kirklees Council accepted that the contribution to renewable energy targets constituted very special circumstances which outweighed the harm to the openness of the Green Belt. The same principle applies to the proposed replacement, which seeks only to upgrade the existing installation to a more efficient model on the same site, with no additional land take or material change in the impact on Green Belt openness.

At the local level, Policy LP26 of the Kirklees Local Plan supports renewable and low carbon energy proposals where they do not have an unacceptable impact on landscape character, visual appearance, protected species, designated biodiversity sites, or heritage assets, and where noise and other impacts are mitigated so as not to cause unacceptable detriment to local amenity. The Kirklees Local Plan identifies the entire Kirklees planning authority boundary as suitable for some scale of wind turbine development, subject to the consideration of relevant evidence and other plan policies. This proposal satisfies the criteria of Policy LP26. As a replacement for an existing turbine on an established site, it introduces no additional cumulative impact. The character and visual appearance of the site will remain largely unchanged, and the turbine's position within the open countryside ensures that effects on landscape and residential amenity are minimal and acceptable.

In terms of transport, a professional transport statement has been prepared by Collett & Sons Ltd, confirming that the delivery and installation of the replacement turbine can be carried out safely using existing highway infrastructure, without requiring road upgrades or generating significant disruption. The route assessment identifies that all key locations along the delivery route can be navigated by the loaded transport vehicles using manual steering, with a pilot car required to assist with traffic control.

## 5. Assessment of Impacts

The visual and landscape effects of the proposed turbine are considered acceptable. Although the replacement turbine is taller, the increase in height is modest and will not result in any material change to the existing visual baseline. The rural context, the undulating topography of the surrounding landscape, and the distance to the nearest settlements ensure that the turbine will not have an overbearing or intrusive presence. The existing planning permission established the principle that a wind turbine at this location is acceptable in landscape and visual terms; the replacement turbine does not depart materially from that established position.

In terms of noise, a noise impact assessment has been completed by Matrix Acoustics which concluded that the noise emissions from the proposed replacement wind turbine will be acceptable.

Access and delivery arrangements are robust. The transport statement prepared by Collett & Sons Ltd demonstrates that all components – blades, tower sections, and nacelle – can be delivered to the site via the assessed route from Goole. The blade components will be transported on vehicles with an overall length of 18.04 metres, tower components on vehicles of 19.45 metres overall length, and the nacelle on a vehicle of 18.04 metres overall length. All identified route constraints, including nine key locations along the delivery route, can be negotiated with manual steering and pilot car escort.

With regard to the Green Belt, the proposed replacement turbine will not result in any greater harm to the openness of the Green Belt than the existing installation. The turbine occupies the same footprint and the modest increase in height does not materially alter its impact on the purposes of the Green Belt. The very special circumstances which justified the original grant of planning permission – namely the contribution to renewable energy generation – are significantly strengthened by the increased output of the replacement turbine and the enhanced policy support for renewable energy repowering in the NPPF.

## 6. Conclusion

The proposed replacement of the existing wind turbine at Quarry House Farm represents a positive and policy-compliant development. It aligns with national policy in Paragraph 168 of the NPPF, which actively supports the repowering of renewable energy infrastructure and requires that significant weight be given to the benefits of renewable energy generation and the utilisation of established sites. It also meets the requirements of Policy LP26 of the Kirklees Local Plan by demonstrating that any impacts are limited and outweighed by the clear environmental and operational benefits of increased renewable energy generation.

Whilst the site lies within the Green Belt, the principle of a wind turbine at this location has been firmly established by the existing planning permission. The wider environmental benefits of increased renewable energy production, combined with the strong national policy support for repowering, constitute very special circumstances which clearly outweigh any limited harm to the openness of the Green Belt.

The proposal supports the continued sustainability of an active rural business, contributes to the wider transition to low-carbon energy, and makes efficient use of an established renewable energy site. In this context, we respectfully request that planning permission be granted for the proposed replacement wind turbine.

**Jack Thompson | Planning Consultant, April 2026**