

DM/25/00991/FPA

Installation and operation of a single wind turbine generator (of up to 140m blade tip height and with an installed generating capacity of up to 2.3 megawatts) and associated infrastructure

MME3 Plot DC1 Integra 61 Bowburn DH6 5NP

Dear Mr France

The City of Durham Trust has some concerns about the possible impact of this proposed development on views to and from Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site. The *Initial Landscape and Visual Appraisal* document indicates that the County Council also had some concerns: “The LPA had some concerns about the turbine's potential impact on views of and from the Durham Cathedral and Castle World Heritage Site.” (p.36)

That same document continues: “Development of the ZTV and subsequent site survey were unable to fully confirm any intervisibility.” (p.36) Further detail was given a little earlier:

“The ZTV does not confirm one way or another whether views of the development would be possible from the Durham Cathedral Tower or upper parts of the Castle which are a designated World Heritage Site (WHS). It was also not possible to determine from the site visit whether the turbine would be visible. Views toward the WHS framed within its landscape setting are also important in contributing to its value, and there is a low risk that the turbine could still potentially interrupt these views. In addition, the ZTV suggests limited views may be possible from the designated Areas of High Landscape Value within Wharton Park and Aykley Heads. Again, the site visit could not confirm if the turbine would be visible. A winter site visit, plus production and use of visualisations in accordance with Landscape Institute Guidance, would be required to further assist in identifying any potential visibility of the proposal from both the Cathedral and Wharton Park.” (pp.32-33)

Despite such hesitation about any potential visibility of the proposal, the *Heritage Statement* concludes roundly: “It is concluded that the proposed wind turbine has no potential to adversely affect the setting of the WHS and the WHS is not therefore considered further.” (4.28)

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

The Trust considers that such a definitive judgement is not warranted in the light of the doubts expressed as set out above. We would very much appreciate a definitive analysis and assessment of this important issue, as required by Policy 45 of the County Durham Plan.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe
Chair, City of Durham Trust