

**Application 00909/2014 - Proposed wind turbine at Cardwell Farm, Long Cross
Scope of Environmental Impact Assessment**

Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Council considers that the scope of the EIA to be carried out in relation to this proposed development should include the following factors:

• Landscape and Visual Issues

The proposed turbine would be located within 500 metres of residential properties and within sight of Brentor Church and Dartmoor National Park. It would be sited in an area previously designated as being of Great Landscape Value. The EIA should therefore include a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment capable of properly demonstrating the effect of the proposed turbine on the above elements and on any settlements within a ZTV generated at turbine tip height.

One of the most practical methods of illustrating the visual impact of the proposed turbine would be to deploy a balloon over the site at blade tip height. A suitable balloon is available locally and we commend this to the applicants as being in the interests of all parties concerned.

• Noise

Using the 2013 guidance by the Institute of Acoustics on the application of ETSU-R97, or other current methodology, there should be an on-site evaluation of the noise impact of the proposed turbine, rather than a desk-top study using manufacturer's data, in order to obtain an accurate assessment having regard to relevant ambient noise levels.

• Ecology

Although the site of the proposed turbine is not in a SSSI or nature reserve, the degree to which it impinges on wildlife corridors in the area, used by bats and birds, should be evaluated. Studies by the University of Wisconsin and the University of Calgary show that 90% of bats found at the base of turbines had died because their lungs ruptured after encountering sudden changes in air pressure around turbine blades.

Generally, bats forage for about a couple of kilometres from their roost, and at about 100m from the hedgerows they follow, at a height of up to 50-60m. Any potential for this turbine to adversely affect bat populations *enroute* between habitats, or during regular hunting, should therefore be fully understood.

• Aviation

Chillaton is regularly overflowed by RN helicopters and RAF aircraft, all operating below civil air traffic corridors, with some at what appears to be a very low level. The position of the proposed turbine and its overall height above AOD should be reviewed by the MOD, to ensure the safety of those aircraft.

• Archaeology and Heritage

There are a number of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Listed Buildings within a 5km radius of the turbine, together with several ancient monuments. The visual impact of the proposed turbine should be

assessed to determine whether the Council's policies regarding the protection of historic buildings/monuments and particularly their settings, would be complied with.

- Cumulative effect

There has been a significant increase in the number of turbines in the area between the DNP and the Tamar Valley AONB that have either already been erected, have got permission, or are at various stages in the planning process. A careful evaluation of the cumulative effect of all these turbines, approved or not, should be carried out. That evaluation should have regard to both the quality of the landscape and to the proximity of the DNP and the AONB and the adverse effect that either 'a landscape with turbines' or a 'turbine landscape' has on the economic value of tourism in this area.