

10 Cultural Heritage

10.1 Introduction

This section considers the effects on cultural heritage resources arising from the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm at Woodlane. The assessment has been informed by discussion with and information received from North Yorkshire County Council, Selby District Council and English Heritage. The impact of the proposal on listed buildings and their settings, on conservation areas and on scheduled ancient monuments within a study area of 6km from the centre of the wind farm has been assessed by one of North Energy's qualified planners. In addition, a desk-based archaeological assessment and a site walkover of the Woodlane site was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (FAS), of York, followed by a geophysical evaluation of a 100m square around the centre of each proposed turbine by Wessex Archaeology. In total an area of seven hectares was surveyed and included sections of track and hardstanding. The results of the archaeological work appear in the preceding chapter.

For the purpose of this statement cultural heritage resources include the following:

- World Heritage Sites
- Conservation areas
- Listed buildings
- Scheduled ancient monuments
- Registered historic parks and gardens
- Historic battlefields
- Historic parks and gardens of local importance.

The purpose of this section is to:

- Identify the cultural heritage baseline
- Assess the Woodlane proposal in relation to possible direct and indirect impacts on cultural heritage and archaeological resources
- Consider the potential effects of construction, operation and decommissioning of the turbine on the cultural heritage resources within the study area
- Propose measures, where appropriate, to mitigate any predicted significant adverse effects.

10.2 Methodology

10.2.1 *Review of relevant guidance*

The assessment has been conducted with reference to relevant guidance concerning cultural heritage and the effect of wind farms, in particular:

- *PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment*
- *PPG16 Archaeology and Planning*
- *PPS22 Renewable Energy*, and its companion guide¹

¹ ODPM(1994) *PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment*, ODPM(1990) *PPG16 Archaeology and Planning* ODPM(2004) *PPS22 Renewable Energy*, ODPM(2004) *PSS22 Planning for renewable energy - The Companion Guide*

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- English Heritage guidance on *Wind Energy and the Historic Environment*, and the more general *Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*².
- Scottish Planning Advice Note - *Renewable Energy Technologies, PAN 45, Revised 2002*³

As will be noted later in this chapter, the proposal would not give rise to any direct impacts on any cultural heritage resources. There would, however, be indirect effects on settings. Guidance on how to assess the extent of a setting and how a wind farm may affect a setting has been drawn from the above documents.

PPG15 paragraph 2.16 states:

Sections 16 and 66 of the act require authorities considering applications for planning permission or listed building consent for works that affect a listed building to have special regard to certain matters, including the desirability of preserving the setting of the building. The setting is often an essential part of the building's character, especially if a garden or grounds have been laid out to complement its design or function.

PPG15 paragraph 2.17 states:

Local planning authorities are required... to publish a notice of all applications... which, in their opinion, affects the setting of a listed building. This provision should not be interpreted too narrowly: the setting of a listed building may be limited to obviously ancillary land, but may include land at some distance from it... The setting of individual listed buildings very often owes its character to the harmony produced by a particular grouping of buildings (not necessarily all of great merit) and to the quality of the spaces created between them. Such areas require careful consideration... A proposed high or bulky building might also affect the setting of a listed building some distance away, or alter views of a historic skyline. In some cases, setting can only be defined by a historic assessment of a building's surroundings...

PPG16 paragraph 8 states:

Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not, and their settings, are affected by proposed development there should be a presumption in favour of their physical preservation.

PPS22 paragraph 11 states:

In sites with nationally recognised designations (scheduled ancient monuments, conservation areas, listed buildings...) planning permission for renewable energy projects should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will not be

² English Heritage (2005) *Wind Energy and the Historic Environment*, October 2005 & English Heritage (2008) *Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the sustainable management of the historic environment*"

³ Scottish Executive (2002) *Scottish Planning Advice Note - Renewable Energy Technologies, PAN 45, Revised 2002*

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compromised by the development, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.

PPS22 Companion Guide Section 8 Wind Technical Annex paragraph 48 states:

Special care will be needed if proposed sites for wind turbines should happen to be near listed buildings or conservation areas. Paragraph 80 dealing with archaeology states: “Where nationally important remains and their settings are affected by proposed development they should normally be physically preserved. A desktop study, and a site walkover may be required, and a condition of planning permission for an archaeologist to hold a watching brief during construction may be considered.”

The English Heritage document *Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* sets out six principles which should guide the approach to the historic environment. The fifth is entitled “Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent”.

Paragraph 5.3 states:

Potential conflict between sustaining heritage values of a place and other important public interests should be minimised by seeking the least harmful ways of accommodating those interests.

Paragraph 5.4 states:

If conflict cannot be avoided, the weight given to heritage values in making the decision should be proportionate to the significance of the place and the impact of the proposed change on that significance.

In the same document paragraphs 76 and 77 consider the contribution made by setting and context. Paragraph 76 states:

Setting is an established concept that relates to the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape. Definition of the setting of a significant place will normally be guided by the extent to which material change within it could effect (enhance or diminish) the place’s significance.

Paragraph 77 states:

Context embraces any relationship between a place and other places. It can be, for example, cultural, intellectual, spatial, or functional, so any one place can have a multi-layered context. The range of contextual relationships of a place will normally emerge from an understanding of its origins and evolution. Understanding context is particularly relevant to assessing whether a place has greater value for being part of a greater entity, or sharing characteristics with other places.

The same document also provides a definition of the term setting as “the surroundings in which a place is experienced, its local context, embracing present and past relationships to the adjacent landscape.”

The English Heritage document *Wind Energy and the Historic Environment* on page 8 lists particular factors which “should be borne in mind when assessing the acceptability of wind developments within the setting of historic site”:

- **“Visual dominance:** Wind turbines are far greater in vertical scale than most historic features. Where an historic feature (such as a hill top monument or fortification, a church spire, or a plantation) is the most visually dominant feature in the surrounding landscape, adjacent construction of turbines may be inappropriate.
- **Scale:** The extent of a wind farm and the number, density and disposition of its turbines will also contribute to its visual impact.
- **Intervisibility:** Certain archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from other historic sites. Construction of wind turbines should respect this intervisibility.
- **Vistas and sight-lines:** Designed landscapes invariably involve key vistas, prospects, panoramas and sight lines, or the use of topography to add drama. Location of turbines within key views, which may often extend beyond any designated area, should be avoided.
- **Movement, sound or light effects:** The movement associated with wind turbines as well as their scale may be a significant issue in certain historic settings. Adequate distance should always be provided between important historic sites and wind turbine developments to avoid being overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.
- **Unaltered settings:** The setting of some historic sites may be little changed from the period when the site was first constructed, used or abandoned. Largely unaltered settings for certain types of sites, particularly more ancient sites, may be rare survivals and especially vulnerable to modern intrusions such as wind turbines. This may be a particular issue in certain upland areas.”

PAN 45⁴ has been referred to, in considering the visual effects of the proposal on cultural heritage resources. It notes that “visual effects will be dependent on the distance over which a wind farm may be viewed, whether the turbines can be viewed adjacent to other features, different weather conditions, the character of the development and the landscape and nature of the visibility”. In Figure 8 it provides some definition of the relationship between distance and the prominence of a wind farm in an open landscape:

- “Within an area of 2km from a wind farm it will be a prominent feature
- Within an area between 2-5km from a wind farm it will be relatively prominent
- Between 5-15km, a wind farm will only be prominent in clear visibility and as part of the wider landscape; and
- Between 15-30km turbines will only be seen in very clear visibility and then as a minor element in the landscape.”

⁴ Scottish Executive (2002) PAN45, *Planning Advice Note PAN45 Renewable Energy Technologies* Fig 8

10.3 Guidance - overview

The above guidance provides a helpful context for assessing the impact of the proposal on the settings of cultural heritage resources, and can be summarised as follows:

- The setting of an historic site comprises its surroundings, context and relationship to the adjacent landscape
- Settings are very case specific
- Wind turbines give rise to specific types of impact on the settings of historic sites
- It must be demonstrated that the objectives of designation are not compromised by wind development
- Prominence is related to distance
- If conflict cannot be avoided, the weight given to heritage values in making the decision should be proportionate to the significance of the place and the impact of the proposed change on that significance.

10.4 Assessment of significance of effects on settings

The assessment took into account both the sensitivity of the cultural heritage resource and the significance of the expected effect. The following tables provide a generalised structure for the assessment.

Sensitivity has been assessed in relation to the designation status of the resource as indicated in Figure 10.1 below.

| Degree of Sensitivity | Designation Status |
|-----------------------|---|
| Very High | World Heritage Sites |
| High | Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), Grade I Listed Buildings, Registered Historic Battlefields, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens |
| Medium | Grade II* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas |
| Low | Grade II Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Significance |

Figure 10.1 Sensitivity

The severity of effects on settings has been considered in relation to the distance between the cultural heritage resource and the nearest turbine taking into account the guidance in *PAN 45* quoted in section 10.2 above.

| Level of Magnitude | Definition |
|--------------------|--|
| Very high | Presence within or immediately adjacent to the wind farm site |
| High | Extensive change to the setting of a SAM, WHS, Historic Park and Garden, Grade I, II* Listed Building within 2km of the wind farm site |
| Medium | Changes to settings of cultural heritage resources within 2-5km of the wind farm site |
| Low | Minor changes to settings of cultural heritage resources within 5-15km of the wind farm site |

Figure 10.2 Severity

The significance of the potential effect can be derived by combining the above tables as follows in Figure 10.3 below:

| Sensitivity | Very high | High | Medium | Low |
|-------------|-----------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Severity | | | | |
| Very high | major | major | moderate | minor |
| High | major | major | moderate | minor |
| Medium | moderate | moderate | moderate | minor |
| Low | minor | minor | minor | not significant |

Figure 10.3 Significance

While the approach above provides a systematic way of assessing significance with reference to the status of the cultural heritage resource and distance from the wind farm, local aspects of siting and screening, provided by vegetation and buildings noted during site inspection, are also important in drawing conclusions on the potential effect of the proposal on settings.

10.5 Data collection and consultation

In order to collect base information on the cultural heritage resources within the study area defined in section 10.6 below, the following steps were undertaken:

- Selby District Council, in a letter dated 18th December 2007, identified listed buildings that it wished to be considered in the assessment of the proposal

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- Information was received from the English Heritage Records of Ancient Monuments in the form of a summary report on scheduled ancient monuments within 6km of the centre of the site
- Further, more detailed, descriptions of the scheduled ancient monuments were obtained from the National Monuments Record
- Information was obtained by FAS from North Yorkshire County Council's Heritage Record Service on more local items of history associated with the site
- Discussions have taken place by telephone and email, and in person, with English Heritage, North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council on heritage issues. A draft of this chapter of the environmental statement was circulated to English Heritage during February 2009 and comments made have been reflected in the findings and conclusions.

Selby District Council requested that the assessment should include the following listed buildings:

- Birkin Grange, Birkin Lane, Birkin
- Birkin House, off Haddlesey Road, Birkin
- St Mary's Church, Birkin
- Gateforth Hall
- The Coach House, Gateforth Hall
- West Lodge, off Hillam Road, near Gateforth Hall
- Various buildings around Hillam Hall, Hillam
- Garth House, 25 Chapel Street, Hambleton

Selby District Council did not identify any conservation areas, SAMs or other archaeological features for inclusion in the assessment.

An archaeological desk based study of the proposal site and its surrounding area was undertaken by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd (FAS), based in York. This study covered the Woodlane proposal site, together with an additional wind farm proposal at Bishopwood to the north of Hambleton, also being brought forward for planning approval by Prowind GmbH. The FAS desk study is included within Volume 4, (Part A), Appendix 9.1 and includes a baseline assessment covering distinct periods from the Palaeolithic to the present, an assessment of significance and potential, an assessment of impact, and recommendations.

A further geophysical study undertaken by Wessex Archaeology was carried out in February/March 2009. It is described and discussed in Chapter 9 and the full report appears as Appendix 9.2 in Volume 4, (Part A).

10.6 Definition of a study area

The listed buildings identified by Selby District Council to be considered when assessing the impact of proposal fall within an area approximately 4.5 km from the edge of the proposal site and are included in the gazetteer in Volume 4 (Part A), Appendix 10.1 and shown on a map within Appendix 21, Volume 4, (Part A). As noted above PAN45 advises that at a distance of up to 2km in open landscape a wind farm is "likely to be a prominent feature," between 2-5km it would be "relatively prominent" and beyond 5km it would "only be prominent in clear visibility - seen as part of the wider

landscape.” In the context of this guidance a study area extending 4-5km from the perimeter of the proposal site was considered sufficient for the assessment of impact on settings of historic sites.

Data from English Heritage on historic sites can only be provided for regular shaped study areas. As the proposal site is irregular in form it was decided to obtain data for a circular area within 6km of the centre of the wind farm in order to capture the sites identified by Selby District Council and others within 4-5km of the edge of the proposal site.

A desk study was carried out which included the following:

- An assessment of the data obtained from English Heritage on the location of listed buildings and SAMs within the study area.
- Consideration of the archaeological desk based assessment prepared by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd.
- Reference to wireframe and photomontage visualisations illustrating the proposed turbines from the viewpoints agreed with Selby District Council.
- Reference to Photomontage 16b from Viewpoint 16, specifically showing the proposed turbines in relation to St Mary’s Church, Birkin.

Field work undertaken on 17th December 2008 included a visit to each of the historic sites identified by Selby District Council, and other historic sites within the study area. Light conditions and visibility were good when the fieldwork was undertaken.

A map of the study area showing cultural heritage resources appears in Volume 4, (Part A), Appendix 21.

10.7 Applying the English Heritage guidance of impact on settings and visual amenity

Some general conclusions were drawn regarding the applicability of two of the factors included in the English Heritage guidance on assessing the impact of wind energy on the historic environment quoted in section 10.2 above.

- **“Intervisibility”** - work undertaken within the study area has not identified any “archaeological or historic landscape features which were intended to be seen from other historic sites”.
- **“Unaltered settings”** - the study area and its wider surroundings have been progressively developed over many centuries and include significant large scale 20th Century structures - notably three major coal fired power stations and their associated grid infrastructure, a Ministry of Defence airfield, and a deep coal mine, now disused. In addition, railways and A class roads cross the study area and many of its villages have been expanded by the addition of new housing estates. It is concluded that therefore there are no “unaltered settings” within the study area, of the kind described in the English Heritage guidance.

Given the above conclusions the above two factors are not considered to be relevant to the following assessments, whereas the remaining four factors set out in the English Heritage Guidance namely - visual dominance, vistas and sight-lines, scale and movement, sound or light effects - are considered to be applicable and have been

taken into account and are referred to in the remainder of this chapter as the four relevant English Heritage factors.

A significant number of listed buildings in the study area are located within the two conservation areas considered below. It is generally concluded that their settings are provided by the conservation area in which they are located, they have therefore been assessed as a group as part of their conservation area and not separately building by building.

10.8 Baseline conditions

10.8.1 *Cultural heritage sites within the proposal site*

There are no designated sites within the proposal site.

10.8.2 *Cultural heritage sites within the EIA study area*

The study area includes the following cultural heritage sites which are listed in the gazetteer in Volume 4, (Part A), Appendix 10:

- Conservation areas at Monk Fryston and Hillam
- Total listed buildings entries: three Grade I, three Grade II* and 63 Grade II
- Three scheduled ancient monuments
- Each of these sites are identified in the schedule in Volume 4, (Part A), Appendix 10.1
- There are two Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Importance identified in Selby District Local Plan Appendix 8: Byram Hall and Monk Fryston Hall.

There are no World Heritage Sites, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, or Registered Historic Battlefields within the study area.

10.8.3 *Cultural heritage sites outside the study area*

World Heritage Sites (WHS):

- The nearest WHS to the proposal site is Studley Royal Park, including the remains of Fountains Abbey, which is located over 40km to the north west.

Registered Historic Battlefields:

- The nearest Registered Historic Battlefield to the proposal site is Towton Battlefield (1461), a key battlefield dating from the Wars of the Roses, located about 12km to the north of the proposal site.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens:

- The nearest Registered Historic Parks and Gardens to the proposal site are Nun Appleton Park, about 11km to the north, and Moreby Hall, about 16km to the north.

Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Importance

- There are six Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Importance identified in Selby District Local Plan Appendix 8 outside the study area: Carlton Towers about 10km to the south east, Grimston Hall about 13km to the north west, Hazelwood Castle about 15km to the north west, Newton Kyme Hall about 18km to the north, Queen Margaret's School about 16km to the north east and Scarthingwell Park about 9km to the north west.

10.9 Assessment - direct effects

There are no direct effects on any designated area, site or building of cultural heritage significance or scheduled ancient monuments arising from the proposal.

10.10 Assessment - indirect effects on conservation areas

10.10.1 *Monk Fryston Conservation Area*

The village of Monk Fryston is located about 3km to the north west of the proposal site. The busy A63 linking Selby to the A1 passes through the centre of the village. A number of listed buildings are clustered in the historic centre of the village including the Church of St Wilfred (Grade I), Monk Fryston Hall and Prebenadal House (Grade II*). The development pattern within the village is typical of a medieval agricultural settlement with properties facing one another across the main and side streets, together with some larger properties, of which Monk Fryston Hall is the most significant example, set within their own grounds planted with mature trees. The historic properties tend to look inwards into the village rather than outwards. The village is situated on slightly higher ground than land to the east in the direction of the proposed wind farm site.

Arriving in Monk Fryston having travelled across the relatively flat landscape to the east there is a sense of being in a place with its own distinctive historic character. From within the village views towards the proposal site are very limited or non-existent because of the grain and density of development and the presence of mature trees. Only when leaving the village along roads leading to the east - Fryston Common Lane and the A63, would the wind farm begin to become apparent.

Although St Wilfred's Church is on slightly higher ground within the village it is very unlikely that the proposed wind farm would be visible to those visiting the building. The church has a square tower which is a localised landmark rather than being a dominant feature either within the village or the surrounding countryside. The proposal would not be seen in relation to the church tower from within the conservation area.

Photomontage Viewpoint 6 (Volume 3) is located between Monk Fryston and Hillam on a footpath at Lumby Hill. Photomontage 6b illustrates the appearance of the wind farm which would be seen as a compact group of turbines occupying about 15 degrees of view.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of Monk Fryston Conservation Area is assessed to be **moderate**, for the Grade I listed St Wilfred's Church and for the two Grade II* listed buildings the significance is assessed to be **moderate**, and for the Grade II listed buildings the significance is assessed to be **minor**. At a distance of about 3km from the proposal site, the turbines would be a relatively prominent feature when viewed from the edge of the village. However the movement of the blades, sound or light effects would not be an issue at this distance. On leaving the village and heading west along the A63 the proposal would become increasingly prominent, in the same way as the existing power stations and pylon lines come in and out of view in journeys to and from the village. This does not however have any bearing or impact on the character, setting or purpose of the conservation area.

Monk Fryston Conservation Area provides its own setting and that of the listed buildings located within it. The essential character of Monk Fryston - a village cluster of historic buildings focused along the main street, urban in character and looking inward, complimented by mature trees in the grounds of its Hall and elsewhere, will not be affected by the proposal. Similarly it is concluded that the settings of Monk Fryston's listed buildings are provided by the buildings and spaces of the conservation area as a whole, and this would not be affected by the proposal.

10.10.2 *Hillam Conservation Area*

The village of Hillam is located less than 1km to the south of Monk Fryston and is just over 2km from the proposal site. Hillam is physically joined to Monk Fryston but is a smaller, quieter village focused on minor local roads. The conservation area shares many of the built form characteristics of Monk Fryston - clustered development which looks inward towards the village streets and largely turns its back on the surrounding countryside. The majority of listed buildings are located in Chapel Lane and Hillam Hall Lane in the south east part of the village. Hillam Hall is listed Grade II and is surrounded by mature trees within its own grounds and other properties. There are a number of other Grade II listed buildings within the conservation area.

At a distance of just over 2km from the proposal site, the turbines would be a relatively prominent feature when viewed from the edge of the village. On leaving the village and heading west along Hillam Common Lane, the proposal would become increasingly prominent, in the same way as the existing power stations and pylon lines come in and out of view in journeys to and from the village.

Photomontage Viewpoint 6 (Volume 3) is located between Monk Fryston and Hillam on a footpath at Lumby Hill. Photomontage 6b illustrates the appearance of the wind farm which would be seen as a compact group occupying about 15 degrees of view.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of Hillam Conservation Area is assessed to be **moderate**, and for its Grade II listed buildings the significance is assessed to be **minor**. At a distance of just over 2km from the proposal site the turbines would be a relatively prominent feature when viewed from the edge of the village.

Conclusions regarding the impact of the proposal on Hillam Conservation Area are essentially the same as those drawn in respect of Monk Fryston. The built form of the village provides the setting for its listed buildings and conservation area as a whole, which would not be affected by the proposal.

10.11 **Assessment - indirect effects on specific listed buildings**

10.11.1 *Birkin Grange, Birkin Lane, Birkin*

Birkin Grange is listed Grade II and is located within the village of Birkin just over 1km from the proposal site. The house faces south east and is located in the centre of this small village. The proposal site is about 1km from Birkin Grange.

The immediate setting of Birkin Grange is provided by the village streets and nearby properties, the wider setting includes the open farmland that surrounds Birkin. At a

distance of just over 1km from the proposal site the turbines would be a prominent feature when viewed from the grounds of Birkin Grange.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and while it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance, the property would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of Birkin Grange is assessed to be **minor**. The proposal will affect the wider setting of Birkin Grange because of its proximity. However, the immediate setting of the house within the village street will not be affected by the proposal.

10.11.2 *Birkin House, off Haddlesey Road, Birkin*

Birkin House is listed Grade II and is located about 0.9km from the proposal site to the north. The principle elevation of the house faces south into its immediate grounds which contain mature trees and provide its setting. There are other smaller properties and agricultural buildings to the north east side in the direction of the proposal site. The wider setting is provided by the flat agricultural fields and a line of 400kV pylons to the north.

At a distance of about 0.9km from the proposal site the turbines would be a prominent feature when viewed from the grounds of Birkin House.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance. It is possible that there may be some shadow flicker effects (see Volume 2, Chapter 12), but the property would not be overshadowed.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of Birkin House is assessed to be **minor**. The wider setting of Birkin House and in particular views of the house and its grounds on the approaches from Haddlesey Road and Wood Lane would include the proposed turbines as a backdrop in the middle distance. The proposal will affect the wider setting of Birkin House because of its proximity to the site. However, the immediate setting of the house which stands in grounds surrounded by trees will not be affected by the proposal.

10.11.3 *St Mary's Church, Birkin*

St Mary's Church is located about 1.4km from the proposal site. It is listed Grade I and is described by Pevsner⁵ as "one of the most impressive Norman churches in Yorkshire." It is located at the southern end of the village on slightly rising ground adjacent to Old Eye Bridge. It has a square tower which can be seen from some distance across the flat countryside - for example, it is visible from the churchyard at St Edmund's church near Kellington, about 2.5km away.

There are two other listed "buildings" close to St Mary's Church - a Roman coffin and gate piers to Birkin Hall, both listed Grade II.

The immediate setting of the church is provided by its walled churchyard which includes some mature trees, village housing and the Old Eye drainage channel. The

⁵ Pevsner N (1995), *Buildings of England, Yorkshire, York and East Riding* (revised), Yale University Press

wider setting is provided by the surrounding flat, open agricultural land. Unlike many other historic churches in the wider area, St Mary's is not closely surrounded by the development typical of a larger village. It stands somewhat separate from Birkin which is a very small settlement. The roads passing through the village are lightly used by local traffic.

The wider setting includes views of Eggborough and Drax power stations and electricity pylon infrastructure.

Due to the importance of St Mary's Church and its particularly open setting close to the proposal, wireframe visualisation 16a and photomontage 16b from Viewpoint 16, immediately south-west of the Church have been prepared to show the effect of the proposal. Visualisations and wireframes are to be found in Volume 3.

In the early stages of the development of the proposal the inclusion of a total of 24 turbines was considered. As seen from Viewpoint 16 that scale of development would have spread across nearly 110 degrees of view over the churchyard to the north and east of the church and then over open country across Old Eye towards Eggborough Power Station. Eight turbines which formed an eastern group when seen from Viewpoint 16 have been removed from the proposal for a number of reasons including the Church, impact on the Green Belt, ecological and flood risk considerations.

The removal of eight proposed turbines has significantly reduced the effect of the proposal on the setting of St Mary's Church. The revised 14 turbine layout has no turbines to the east of the churchyard when seen from Viewpoint 16 and the arc of view within which turbines can be seen had been reduced from 110 degrees to 70 degrees.

Photomontage 16b from Viewpoint 16 shows that while some of the proposed turbines would be clearly visible to the north east of the church their impact would be softened to some extent by trees and bushes within and close to the churchyard.

Taking each of the English Heritage four relevant factors concerning impact on settings in turn:

- **Visual dominance:** The tower of St Mary's Church exercises a degree of visual dominance over its immediate surroundings and is a landmark within the wider area. Photomontage 16b from Viewpoint 16 demonstrates that while at a distance of about 1.4km the proposed turbines would be clearly visible within the backdrop to the churchyard, the main body of the church building and the tower would retain their visual dominance within their immediate setting and more widely within the village of Birkin. The visual dominance of St Mary's church would not be compromised by the proposal.
- **Scale:** As noted above the number of turbines proposed means that they can be seen across a 70 degree arc of view from Viewpoint 16. The scale of the development has been reduced and this has had the effect of reducing the effect on the setting of St Mary's Church.
- **Vistas and sight-lines:** There are no designed vistas and sight lines from or converging upon St Mary's Church. There is no effect arising from the proposal as far as this factor is concerned.

- Movement, sound or light effects: At a distance of about 1.4km from the nearest turbine it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines. However St Mary's Church would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of St Mary's Church, Birkin is assessed to be **major** because of its Grade I listed status and its proximity to the proposed wind farm. However it has been demonstrated above that while the proposed turbines will be clearly visible in the wider setting of the church they will not detract from its visual dominance, and their impact will be softened by trees and other vegetation. It is clear that the effect is not such as to compromise the reasons for designating St Mary's as a Grade I listed building.

10.11.4 *Gateforth Hall, the Coach House, West Lodge off Hillam Road*

These properties form a single group, the hall being listed Grade II* while the Coach House and West Lodge - which stand at the entrance to the grounds - are Grade II. In addition there are a number of other listed structures within this group - gates and piers, a ha-ha and Church Lodge. Gateforth Hall is about 1.7km from the nearest turbine and stands on rising ground just to the south of Hambleton Hough, a small wooded hill to the south of Hambleton. The main aspect of the house is towards the south west - looking directly towards Drax Power Station, views to the south extend over the proposal site with Gateforth Wood screening views of part of the proposal site.

Gateforth Hall is not situated within a designed landscape; its setting is provided by its immediate grounds, its surrounding buildings and the adjacent agricultural fields. The wider view from the front elevation of the Hall and longer distance views of the Hall from the surrounding area include coal fired power stations and associated grid infrastructure.

At a distance of about 1.7km the proposed turbines would be relatively prominent, but their visibility from Gateforth Hall, its associated buildings and its grounds would be limited to some extent by the intervening presence of Gateforth and Staker Woods. Photomontage viewpoint 3 is located about 1km to the south of Gateforth Hall. Wireframe Visualisation 3a and Photomontage 3b illustrate the screening effect of Staker Wood, in particular in views from Gateforth village.

The addition of the proposed turbines as a backdrop to some of the more distant views of Gateforth Hall will not significantly affect a wider setting that already includes a number of large scale industrial structures. The immediate setting will not be changed by the proposal.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and while it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance, Gateforth Hall and its associated listed buildings would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect of the proposed wind farm on the setting of Gateforth Hall is assessed to be **moderate** because of its Grade II* listed status and its proximity to the proposed wind farm. However it has been demonstrated that the setting of the Hall is provided largely by its immediate grounds which would not be affected by the proposal. The significance of the effect on the Grade II listed buildings and structures associated with Gateforth Hall, is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.5 *Various buildings around Hillam Hall and within HILLAM*

The setting of HILLAM Hall, other listed buildings in HILLAM and HILLAM Conservation Area are considered in section 10.10.2 above.

The significance of the effect on the settings of the Grade II listed buildings and structures within HILLAM Conservation Area is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.6 *Garth House, Walmsley House, The Old Vicarage, 22 Main Street, Hambleton*

These four Grade II listed buildings are about 2.6 - 2.8km from the proposal site, and are situated within the village of Hambleton. At this distance the proposed turbines are likely to be a relatively prominent feature in the middle distance but seen over the roofs of other village properties. The setting of these listed buildings is that of the immediate village streets and other development and not the adjacent open countryside.

Photomontage Viewpoint 5 is located on Westcroft Lane which forms the southern boundary of Hambleton. Photomontage 5b illustrates the view from this part of the village but without the screening effect that would be provided by buildings between the four listed buildings and the open countryside.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and while it is possible that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines, these properties would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect on the settings of the Grade II listed buildings within Hambleton is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.7 *Thorpe Hall and range of agricultural buildings, Thorpe Willoughby*

Thorpe Hall is listed Grade II and is built on the site of a scheduled ancient monument which was a moated grange linked to Selby Abbey. The position of the moat can still be traced on site and the monument is regarded as a well preserved example of its type.

Dam Lane, which links Thorpe Willoughby to Cawood, passes close to Thorpe Hall and the Selby to Leeds railway line passes just a short distance to the south. On the opposite side of Dam Lane a range of currently disused farm buildings are also listed Grade II.

The immediate setting of Thorpe Hall is provided principally by the mature trees within its surrounding grounds on the east side of Dam Lane. Thorpe Hall is located about 4.5km from the proposal site (and would have restricted views of the wind farm by reason of topography and tree cover).

The setting of currently disused listed range of agricultural buildings on the west side of Dam Lane is currently provided by the open agricultural land extending to the west and Dam Lane to the east. These buildings do not have any other immediate setting or surrounding trees as is the case at Thorpe Hall.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect on the setting of Thorpe Hall and the opposite range of agricultural buildings as a Grade II listed buildings is assessed to be **minor**. The significance of the effect on the setting of Thorpe Hall as a scheduled ancient monument is assessed to be **moderate** because of the status of the SAM. However at a distance of about 4.5km the proposed Woodlane wind farm would not be prominent and would not affect the setting of Thorpe Hall or the scheduled ancient monument.

10.11.8 *Barff Farmhouse, Thorpe Willoughby*

This property is listed Grade II and located in the south eastern corner of Thorpe Willoughby on rising ground just below Brayton Barff, about 4km from the proposal site. Housing development and the refurbishment of existing buildings was taking place within the grounds of the farmhouse at the time of the site visit.

The setting of Barff Farmhouse is provided primarily by the adjacent wooded hillside of Brayton Barff and the adjacent suburban housing development in Thorpe Willoughby. At a distance of about 4km the proposed turbines will not be a prominent feature and will not affect the setting of the property which is provided by its immediate local context. The movement of the blades, sound and light effects will not have any effect on its setting at this distance.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect on the setting of Barff Farmhouse as a Grade II listed building is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.9 *St Edmund's Church, near Kellington*

St Edmund's church is located about 2.8km from the proposal site. It is listed Grade I and its gate piers and churchyard cross are listed Grade II. It stands on relatively elevated ground about 400m to the west of Kellington Village. The setting of the church is provided by its walled churchyard and the adjacent open farmland. It is isolated from other development and the village it serves and commands extensive views to the north in the direction of the proposal site.

The wider setting includes views of nearby pylon lines to the south and north, Eggborough Power Station about 2.5km to the east and large scale industrial structures in Knottingley 4km to the west. While the immediate setting of the church is rural in character the wider setting includes large scale industrial structures.

At a distance of about 2.8km the proposal would be relatively prominent when seen from the churchyard, however at this distance it would not have an effect on the setting of the church which is provided by the adjacent fields and the nearby village of Kellington.

Taking each of the English Heritage four relevant factors concerning impact on settings in turn:

- Visual dominance: The tower of St Edmund's Church exercises a degree of visual dominance over its immediate surroundings and is a landmark within the wider area, standing as it does on slightly higher ground than the surrounding flood

plain. At a distance of about 2.8km the visual dominance of St Edmunds Church would not be compromised by the proposal.

- **Scale:** As noted in relation to St Mary's Church, Birkin in section 10.11.3 above the number of turbines proposed has been reduced from 24 to 14. This has reduced the potential visual impact of the proposal as viewed from St Edmund's Church. The Visualisation from Viewpoint 4 at the River Aire bridge in Beal shows the wind farm from a similar albeit slightly closer distance (2.2km) and gives an impression of the scale of turbines as viewed from St Edmunds.
- **Vistas and sight-lines:** There are no designed vistas and sight lines from or converging upon St Edmund's Church. There is no effect arising from the proposal as far as this factor is concerned.
- **Movement, sound or light effects:** At a distance of about 2.8km from the nearest turbine it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines; however St Edmund's Church would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect on the setting of St Edmund's Church, Kellington as a Grade I listed building is assessed to be **moderate**. However it has been demonstrated that while the proposal would be clearly visible in views from the churchyard the setting of the church is primarily provided by the surrounding fields and the nearby village of Kellington which would not be affected by the proposal.

10.11.10 *Kellington Windmill*

This is an historic Grade II listed corn mill that has been converted into a dwelling, there are other more recent buildings nearby. It is located on the south side of the A645 about 3.2km south of the proposal site. As befits a former windmill it stands on relatively high ground. Its immediate setting is provided by the adjacent fields and buildings and the busy A645. The wider setting is similar to that of nearby St Edmund's Church and includes large industrial structures and pylon lines.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect on the setting of Kellington Windmill as a Grade II listed building is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.11 *Listed buildings and structures within Byram Park*

The Service Wing of Byram Hall and its associated listed Grade II farm and other buildings and structures stand within a designed parkland landscape about 4km west of the proposal site. Only part of the Hall appears to survive and the site is not a Registered Historic Park and Garden. The principal landscape features are a lake fringed with mature woodland, and plantations around the perimeter of the park at a distance of about 1-2km from the site of the Hall. The park is not fully encircled by woodland; there is a gap to the east in the direction of the proposal site. Between the Hall and its adjacent lake and the perimeter plantations the park is divided into large fields used for arable farming.

Ferrybridge Power Station is located about 2km to the south west of Byram Hall and Knottingley about 2km to the south.

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The setting, of the Grade II listed buildings and features within Byram Park, is provided by the designed framework of plantations around the perimeter of the park and the lake. Although this is a designed landscape it appears to be one which is largely dependant on views which include the lake. The use of plantations around most of the perimeter of the park suggests an approach to design which is more inward looking than dependant upon key sight lines looking outwards.

At a distance of about 4km from the Hall and about 3.2km from Byram Farmhouse to the east, the wind farm proposal would be a relatively prominent feature seen through the gap in the park's perimeter plantations. However at this distance the proposal would not significantly affect the setting of this group of listed buildings. The design of the park already provides a distinctive setting for its listed buildings, in spite of the proximity of Ferrybridge Power Station and large scale industrial structures in Knottingley.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect on the settings of the Grade II listed buildings within Byram Park is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.12 *Poole Manor and Range to the north of Poole Manor*

Poole is a small cluster of dwellings located to the north of Byram Park and just over 4km from the Proposal site. Poole Manor and Range are listed Grade II, their setting is provided by the Poole Belt of woodland which encloses the northern edge of Byram Park.

At a distance of about 4km the proposal would be relatively prominent in views not screened by the woodland adjacent to the listed buildings; it would not, however, have any affect on their setting.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and there are no conflicts with their guidance.

The significance of the effect on the settings of the Grade II listed buildings in Poole is assessed to be **minor**.

10.11.13 *Other listed structures - milestones, and bridges*

A number of listed milestones and canal bridges are located within the study area. Their location was examined on a map and they were considered not to be affected by the proposal.

10.12 **Assessment - indirect effects on scheduled ancient monuments (SAM)**

10.12.1 *Thorpe Hall, site of Moated Grange linked to Selby Abbey*

This SAM is dealt with in section 10.11.7 above.

10.12.2 *World War II Bombing Decoy Control Centre, Carr Lane, south of Scalm Park Farm*

This SAM comprises the remains of a control room for a WWII dummy aerodrome. Its primary purpose was to divert enemy aircraft from attacking the nearby RAF station at Church Fenton. Very few decoy stations still survive, making the Carr Lane structure nationally important.

The Decoy Control Centre is about 5km from the proposal site. At this distance, although the wind farm may be viewed from the SAM, the setting of this monument will not be affected by the proposal.

The significance of the effect on the setting of the Decoy Centre is assessed to be **minor**.

10.12.3 *Roman Fort at Roall, north of Eggborough*

This SAM was a small auxiliary fort thought to be of Agricolaan date located to command the River Aire. The fort is located about 2.2km south east of the proposal site. The site is used as farmland and is fringed to the north and east by trees following the line taken by the River Aire at the time the fort was constructed. There are a number of industrial and farm buildings between the site of the fort and Roall Lane.

There are no obvious indications of the presence of the fort when seen from the industrial buildings to the south.

The setting of this monument is provided by the surrounding agricultural land, the trees to the north and east and the industrial buildings to the south. The wider setting includes Eggborough Power Station about 1km to the east and the line of pylons to the north in the direction of the proposal site.

The four relevant English Heritage factors have been considered and while it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance, the site of this monument would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.

The significance of the effect on the setting of the Roman Fort is assessed to be **moderate**. At a distance of about 2.2km the proposed turbines would be relatively prominent when the site of the fort is viewed from Ings Lane to the south. However, the setting of the fort is provided by the surrounding fields, industrial buildings and Eggborough power station which will not be affected by the proposal.

10.13 **Assessment - indirect effects on historic parks and gardens of local importance**

10.13.1 *Byram Hall and Park*

Section 10.11.11 describes the parkland setting of Byram Hall and its associated listed buildings and structures. The proposal would be a relatively prominent feature particularly when viewed through the gap in surrounding woodland on the east side of the parkland. The lake at the centre of the parkland is about 3.5km from the nearest proposed turbine.

The significance of the effect on the setting of the park and garden is assessed to be **minor**.

10.13.2 *Monk Fryston Hall*

Section 10.10.1 describes the Monk Fryston Conservation Area which includes Monk Fryston Hall and its grounds which are included within the Selby District Local Plan Appendix 8 list of Locally Important Historic Parks and Gardens. The Hall is about 3km from the nearest turbine.

The significance of the effect on the setting of the park and garden is assessed to be **minor**. Because of the built form of the village and the presence of mature trees the proposal is very unlikely to be seen from the grounds of Monk Fryston Hall and therefore will not affect its setting.

10.14 Assessment - no effects

10.14.1 *World Heritage Sites (WHS)*

Given the 40km distance between the nearest WHS, Studley Royal and Fountains Abbey, and the proposal site, it is considered that there will be no effects on the WHS as a result of the proposed development.

10.14.2 *Registered Historic Battlefield at Towton*

This Battlefield site is located at a distance of about 9km from the proposal site. Although this resource is considered to be highly sensitive, it is sufficiently far from the proposal site to have predicted effects of **minor** significance. For this reason it has not been considered in any further detail, and it was not considered necessary to prepare a photomontage visualisation.

10.14.3 *Registered Historic Parks and Gardens*

The nearest Registered Historic Parks and Gardens to the proposal site are Nun Appleton Park, about 11km to the north, and Moreby Hall about 16km to the north. Although these resources are considered to be highly sensitive they are sufficiently far from the proposal site to have predicted effects of **minor** significance. They have not been considered in any further detail.

10.14.4 *Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Importance*

There are six Historic Parks and Gardens of Local Importance identified in Selby District Local Plan Appendix 8 outside the study area: Carlton Towers about 10km to the south east, Grimston Hall about 13km to the north west, Hazelwood Castle about 15km to the north west, Newton Kyme Hall about 18km to the north, Queen Margaret's School about 16km to the north east and Scarthingwell Park about 9km to the north west.

These resources are considered to be located sufficiently far from the proposal site to have predicted effects of **minor** significance. They have not been considered in any further detail.

10.15 Mitigation measures

10.15.1 *Construction phase - listed buildings*

There are no direct affects of the proposal on any listed building, although the construction traffic route will pass a small number of individual listed buildings on the A19 and in Hambleton on the A63. The number of vehicle movements will increase on a limited number of days during the construction period as described in Volume 2, Chapter 15, but the vehicles will not be any heavier than other traffic regularly using these roads. In these circumstances mitigation measures are not required.

10.15.2 *Construction phase - conservation areas*

There are no direct affects of the proposal on any conservation area and there are no construction routes through any conservation areas. In these circumstances mitigation measures are not required.

10.15.3 *Construction phase - SAMs and archaeology*

The layout of roads and tracks on the proposal site has been designed to avoid impact on known areas of archaeological interest and it is intended that an archaeologist will be appointed to carry out a watching brief during construction of tracks and other hard surfaced areas and during excavation for the turbine foundations.

Care will be taken to avoid areas of archaeological interest during construction and protection proposals will be incorporated in the Construction Management Plan and agreed with the County Historic Environment Record Officer before work starts on site.

10.15.4 *Operational phase*

There are no turbine operational issues that require mitigation measures in relation to listed buildings, conservation areas, SAMs or archaeology.

10.15.5 *Decommissioning*

No specific decommissioning requirements have been identified other than protection for areas of interest in a similar way to those implemented during construction.

10.16 **Residual impacts**

There are no turbine related residual impacts in relation to listed buildings, conservation areas, SAMs or archaeology.

10.17 **Summary and conclusions**

This assessment of the potential impact of the proposal on cultural heritage has demonstrated the following:

- Advice contained in the English Heritage publication *Wind Energy and the Historic Environment* puts forward six factors which should be borne in mind when assessing the acceptability of developments within the setting of historic sites. Two of these factors are considered not to be applicable within the proposal study area. The remaining four have been taken into account in assessing potential impact on settings.
- Selby District Council provided a list of listed buildings that it wished to be considered in this assessment. A study area with radius of 6km from the centre of the proposal site has been adopted which captures these areas and properties together with a significant number of others, which have been assessed.
- There would be no direct impacts on any listed building, conservation area, or SAM arising from the Woodlane wind farm proposal.
- The significance of the effect on the setting of St Mary's Church, Birkin is assessed to be **major** because of its Grade I listed status and its proximity to the proposed wind farm. However it has been demonstrated that while the proposed turbines will be clearly visible within the wider setting of St Mary's Church they would not detract from its visual dominance and their impact would be softened by trees and other vegetation. While it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance, the church would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects.
- The significance of the effect on the setting of Monk Fryston and Hillam Conservation Areas is assessed to be **moderate** because of the status of this designation and the proximity of the proposal. However the settings of these

conservation areas and the listed buildings they contain are provided largely by the internal village environment which would not be affected by the proposal. The same is true for St Wilfred's Church in Monk Fryston, where the assessed effect is of **moderate** significance.

- The significance of the effect on the setting of Gateforth Hall is assessed to be **moderate** because of its designation and the proximity of the proposal. While it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines Gateforth Hall and its associated listed buildings would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects. It has been demonstrated that the setting of the Hall is provided largely by its immediate grounds which would not be affected by the proposal.
- The significance of the effect on the setting of St Edmund's Church, Kellington, is assessed to be **moderate** because of its designation and the proximity of the proposal. It is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines; however St Edmund's Church would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects. It has been demonstrated that while the proposal would be visible from the churchyard the setting of the church is primarily provided by the surrounding fields and the nearby village of Kellington and this immediate setting would not be affected by the proposal.
- The significance of the effect on the setting of the Roman Fort at Roall is assessed to be **moderate** because of its designation and the proximity of the proposal. While it is likely that blade movement would draw attention to the turbines at this distance, the site of this monument would not be overshadowed or affected by noise and shadow flicker effects. The setting of the fort is provided by the surrounding fields, industrial buildings and Eggborough power station and will not be affected by the proposal.
- The significance of the effect on the setting of the Thorpe Hall SAM is assessed to be **moderate** because of its designation, however at a distance of about 4.5km the proposal would not be prominent and may not be visible at all, due to tree cover and other buildings. It is not considered that the proposal would affect the setting of Thorpe Hall (the listed building) or the SAM.
- All the remaining effects on the settings of cultural heritage resources are assessed to be **minor**.
- All the predicted effects can be considered to be temporary and reversible at the end of 25 years when the proposed wind farm will be decommissioned.

The English Heritage document *Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* referred to in section 10.2.1 above sets out six principles which could guide the approach to the historic environment. The fifth is entitled *Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent*. Paragraph 5.4 states:

If conflict cannot be avoided, the weight given to heritage values in making the decision should be proportionate to the significance of the place and the impact of the proposed change on that significance.

The effect on the setting of St Mary's Church, Birkin is assessed to be potentially major. However it has been demonstrated that while the proposed turbines will be clearly visible within the wider setting of St Mary's Church they would not detract from

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its visual dominance and their impact would be softened by trees and other vegetation. The effect of the proposal on the setting of St Mary's is not such that it could be considered to compromise the reasons for designation of the Church as a Grade I listed building.

The significance of a number of effects on the settings of conservation areas, Grade I and II* listed buildings, and two SAMs has been assessed to be potentially moderate. However the use of photomontages and fieldwork inspection have demonstrated that, in practice, settings would be largely unaffected by the proposal.

In the light of the above assessment it is concluded that the design of the proposed wind farm at Woodlane has minimised its potential impact on the settings of cultural heritage resources within the study area and that significant effects will be limited. The conclusion is therefore that the proposal is acceptable and as such it complies with the requirements of planning policy.