

Our ref: A108663

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**Mr Chris Harrison**

Planning and Development Services  
Copeland Borough Council  
Catherine Street  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria  
CA13 0QT

Dear Mr Harrison,

**Planning Permission 4/98/0486/0 – Erection of seven wind turbines, construction of access tracks, switch gear house, monitoring mast and site sign. Park House Farm, Lowca, Whitehaven**

**Section 73 Planning Application – variation of condition no.2 of the existing planning permission to enable an extension of the operational life of the existing Park House Wind Farm for a further ten years.**

I refer to the above planning permission, which was granted on appeal on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 1999.

Cannock Wind Farm Services Limited, on behalf of the wind farm owners, is applying to Copeland Borough Council to vary condition no.2 of the planning permission to extend the life of the existing seven Vestas wind turbines and associated infrastructure on site for another ten years until the end of March 2030. There are no physical changes proposed, the wind farm would simply continue to operate as it does currently supported by the owner's commitment to continuing investment in the efficient and environmentally acceptable operation of the wind farm.

This application follows formal pre-application consultation with the Council and consultation with Natural England. These consultations have advised the scope of

Lakeland Business Park, Lamplugh Road, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 0QT  
Tel: +44 (0)1900 898 600 Fax: +44 (0)1900 826 324  
Email: [info@wyg.com](mailto:info@wyg.com) Website: [www.wyg.com](http://www.wyg.com)

WYG Environment Planning Transport Limited. Registered in England & Wales Number: 03050297  
Registered Office: 3 Sovereign Square, Sovereign Street, Leeds, LS1 4ER



ecological and landscape and visual assessments that have been produced to support the application which assess the enduring impacts of the wind farm for the proposed extended period of operation.

As requested by the Council the application submission includes a copy of the Environmental Statement that was submitted with the original wind farm application in 1998 and plans (map and aerial) showing the location and layout of the operational Park House Farm Wind Farm.

I would also draw your attention to the EIA Screening Opinion Report that was submitted in September 2019, which summarises the other likely impacts of the wind farm continuing in operation.

The Planning Statement supporting the application notes the support given to wind farm re-powering proposals (which include life extension) in the National Planning Policy Framework. It also notes that normal convention with modern wind farm consents is to grant a minimum of 25 years operation. Park House Farm Wind Farm was only granted 20 years consent in 1998 and my client's technical and viability assessments have demonstrated that the wind farm can be efficiently and sustainably operated for a further period of 10 years.

Extending the wind farm operation to for 10 years will generate circa 12,000 MWh of electricity per year, sufficient to supply about 3,500 local households, and save around 3,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Accordingly this wind farm will continue to provide an important contribution to the Government's drive to deliver its Zero Net Carbon Economy by 2050. Approving the proposed extension of life would also be consistent with the Council's commitment to tackle climate change and would form a key foundation of the Council's plans announced at the end of 2019 to produce a climate charter and associated action plan.

The proposals have been demonstrated by the assessments undertaken to be in accordance with the Development Plan and importantly supported by key material considerations including national policy and other government policy and targets. No material considerations are identified which weigh significantly against the proposed extension of life. In addition, the extant conditions of planning permission 4/98/0486/0 will continue to apply, giving Copeland Borough Council appropriate control over the continuing operation of the wind farm and it's end of life decommissioning and restoration. For these reasons we encourage the Council to approve the application at its earliest convenience.

Should you wish to discuss this application please contact me on the telephone number below or by the email address [graham.hale@wyg.com](mailto:graham.hale@wyg.com). My colleague Adrian French is also available at [adrian.french@wyg.com](mailto:adrian.french@wyg.com).

Yours sincerely,

*Graham Hale*

**Graham Hale**

**Associate**

WYG Planning

cc Mike Tracey, Cannock Wind Farm Services Limited  
Adrian French, WYG

Enc Planning application submitted via the Planning Portal