



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE WEST MIDLANDS



Mr P Mullineux
Herefordshire Council
Blueschool House
Blueschool Street
HEREFORD
HR1 2ZB

Your Ref: DCNW2008/1289F
Our Ref: GOWM/PLN/F1800/90579

5 March 2009

**Sustainable Futures Directorate
(Planning)**

5 St. Philip's Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Tel: 0121 352 5050
Direct Line: 0121 352 5150
Email: WMPPlanning@gowm.gov.uk
Website: www.gowm.gov.uk

Dear Mr Mullineux

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER
1995
PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF 4 WIND TURBINES, ASSOCIATED
ACCESS TRACKS, HARDSTANDING AND SUB-STATION AT REEVES HILL, REEVES
HILL LANE, NEAR KNIGHTON, HEREFORDSHIRE. APPLICATION: DCNW2008/1289F**

I refer to the Government Office's letter dated 11 February 2009 issuing an Article 14 Direction in order to allow more time for the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider the planning application for wind turbines at Reeves Hill Herefordshire.

As you know, the Secretary of State's general approach is not to interfere with the jurisdiction of local planning authorities unless it is necessary to do so. Parliament has entrusted them with responsibility for day-to-day planning control in their areas. Local planning authorities are normally best placed to make decisions relating to their areas and it is right that, in general, they should be free to carry out their duties responsibly, with the minimum of interference.

There will be occasions, however, when the Secretary of State may consider it necessary to call in a planning application to determine herself, instead of leaving it to the local planning authority. Her policy is to be very selective about calling in planning applications. She will, in general, only take this step if planning issues of more than local importance are involved and if those issues need to be decided by the Secretary of State rather than at a local level. Each case is, however, considered on its own facts.



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The Secretary of State has carefully considered all the matters raised about this application. The issue before her is not whether the application should be granted planning permission but whether or not she should call it in for her own determination. The Secretary of State considers that the main matters relevant to her consideration in this case are her policies set out in:-

Planning Policy Statement 1 (PPS1): 'Delivering Sustainable Development' which

- seek to address the causes and potential impacts of climate change by reducing energy use and emissions, promoting the development of renewable energy resources, and taking climate change impacts into account in the location and design of development;

Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7): 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas' which

- provide the highest level of protection of the countryside and its features in National Parks (and areas with equal status) and AONBs, avoiding major developments in these areas (save in exceptional circumstances); and
- achieve good quality development which is well designed, in keeping and scale with its location and sensitive to the character of the countryside and local distinctiveness;

Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22): 'Renewable Energy' which

- support Government's targets for renewable energy;
- promote and encourage renewable energy developments in regional and local plans;
- ensure development control decisions are taken efficiently and are consistent with national and international climate change policy commitments and obligations; and
- meet national and international obligations to protect designated areas, species and habitats of natural heritage interests and the historic environment from inappropriate forms of development.

Having carefully considered these and other relevant planning issues raised by this proposal, together with many representations from third parties, the Secretary of State has concluded that her intervention would not be justified. The Secretary of State is satisfied that the issues raised would not be more appropriately decided by her rather than the local planning authority. She has therefore concluded that the application should be decided by Herefordshire Council.



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The Article 14 Direction issued pursuant to the Secretary of State's letter of 11 February 2009 is hereby withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

Martyn Hunt

MARTYN HUNT
Authorised by the Secretary of State
to sign in that behalf