

South Pool Parish Council

Comments on Application 43/2567/13/F

Erection of Wind Turbine at Winslade Farm Frogmore

South Pool Parish Council does not support this application. The reasons for this decision are as shown below:

1 Development within the AONB

Current legislation and guidance clearly shows that the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be protected from inappropriate development. Reference is made to:

- **National Planning Policy Framework**
 - **Paragraph 115.** *(Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty.....)*
 - **Paragraph 116.** *(Planning permission should be refused for major developments in these designated areas except in exceptional circumstances.....)*
- **Devon County Structure Plan Policy C03** *(In designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the conservation and enhancement of their natural beauty will be given priority over other considerations....)*
- **SHDC Core Policies CS9** *(In designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty their conservation and enhancement will be given great weight.....)*
- **SHDC LDF DP2 – Landscape Character** *(Development proposals will need to demonstrate how they conserve and / or enhance the South Hams landscape character.....)*
- **AONB Management Plan P4** *(The character of skylines and open views into, within and out of the AONB will be protected. A rigorous approach will be taken to the siting of proposed skyline installations and industrial scale renewable energy installations. Whenever possible, development of this form should be located outside and away from the AONB boundary and sites designated for their nature conservation importance.....)*

It is therefore clear that at every level of Government, (National, County and District) special provisions have been made for the protection of the AONB and therefore SHDC have a strong basis for refusal of this application.

2 Implications for South Pool Parish

The Zone of Theoretical Visibility demonstrates that the turbine will be visible over a large area, including the majority of the A379, and from important parts of the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Estuary – in particular the “Bag” and in Frogmore Creek. It will also be visible from many areas of South Pool Parish, in particular the Ridgeway, areas of North Pool, Wilton and the areas towards Cousins Cross.

The Photomontage V.P 02 shows the scale of the proposed turbine from the road to South Pool – one which is travelled by all South Pool Residents, visitors and tourists on a frequent basis. The intrusion of a large industrial structure into a landscape which has been formed by centuries of traditional farming methods, and is specifically protected as an AONB makes this proposal quite unacceptable.

3 Specific Points on the Application

- The proposed turbine is not adjacent to the farm buildings and certainly cannot be seen from any surrounding view point as being part of the farm development. It is in a field a considerable distance from and considerably higher than the farm being sited approximately on the 90 meter contour at the base whereas the farm buildings are sited approximately on the 60 meter contour.
- The original Appeal Decision for the Planning Application for A Replacement Agricultural Dwelling at Winslade Farm, dated 31 August 2000 (43/1735/99/0) confirms that the farm building is built so as to be hidden from public view:

In his conclusion the Inspector said: ***"As this is a lovely Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the appearance of the countryside must take priority."*** In granting the appeal he therefore said in Para 15 that the dwelling should be: ***"excavated about 6m below natural ground level, enclosed by a bund and concealed from the village below by a natural fold in the slope. It would be screened by planting from the lane above."***

It is clear from the above that the farm buildings and wind turbine would not be seen in conjunction and therefore the turbine would not be seen as part of the farm development.

- The Application in 5 Visual Impact states that "it is now accepted that wind turbines are becoming part of the agricultural landscape along with large scale barns....". We do not accept this statement. Our experience is that wind turbines on farms are wholly exceptional (particularly in the AONB), and are strongly opposed by a substantial section of the community affected. By their nature – being necessarily sited in a prominent position and in continuous movement, they are in a quite different category from barns, silos, poly tunnels etc.

4 Precedent and Cumulative Impact

- SHDC has previously advised that there are no precedents in planning, and all applications are considered on their merits. Therefore all arguments based on "precedent" in the application should be ignored.
- PPS22 states that Cumulative Visual and Landscape impacts should be considered. In order to consider this, the potential number of wind turbines which have already been approved by SHDC in the area needs to be understood. SHDC must assume that all applications for wind turbines which have been approved will ultimately be built. The full list is:

Reference	Number	Status	Height (to tip)	Location
53/1084/08/F	1	Erected	18 metres	Chillington
10/2824/11/F	1	Erected	26 Metres	Chivelstone (in AONB)
53/2994/11/F	2	Erected	24.8 metres	Chillington
10/0777/12/F	2	Conditional Approval	18.5 Metres	Chivelstone (in AONB)
43/0434/12/F	1	Conditional Approval	24.8 metres	Sherford
43/2567/13/F	1	Subject application	34.2 metres	Frogmore (in AONB)

- There are therefore a total of 7 actual or approved wind turbines in the area. The approval of the subject application, for an eighth wind turbine, of height over 30% higher than the largest existing one, is surely unacceptable on the grounds of cumulative impact.

Yours sincerely,

Janet Green

Clerk, South Pool Parish Council.