

## **APPENDIX 4**

### **SEA Screening for**

#### **Assessment of the Landscape Sensitivity to Onshore Wind Energy Developments in Teignbridge District**

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 require that environmental assessment is undertaken for a plan or programme that is (a) “required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions”, and (b) “sets the framework for future development consent”. Teignbridge District Council considers that, firstly, this evidence on Landscape Sensitivity to Onshore Wind Energy Developments in Teignbridge District is not required by any of the provisions mentioned above; and secondly, that the framework for decisions on planning applications is provided by the Local Plan Policies (S6 Resilience, S7 Carbon Emission Targets, EN2A Landscape Protection and Enhancement, S2 Quality Development, S22 Countryside, and EN2 Undeveloped Coast) which have been subject to environmental assessment, with the SPD providing guidance on the implementation of that Policy. It is therefore considered that environmental assessment under the provisions of the 2004 Regulations is not required.

However, it is seen as prudent to prepare a screening statement, see annex 1 below and invite Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency to comment.

While section 19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires sustainability appraisal to be undertaken for development plan documents, there is no such requirement for evidence.

Anyone disagreeing with Teignbridge District Council’s screening opinions given above is entitled to state this in their consultation response and provide the reasons for their view.

#### **What Happens Next?**

Following the end of the consultation period, Teignbridge District Council will consider all submitted representations and, having made any necessary amendments to reflect consultation responses, proceed to adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document. The adopted Supplementary Planning Document will be published on Teignbridge District Council’s website together with an Adoption Statement.

## **ANNEX 1 SCREENING AND SCOPING STATEMENT**

### **PLAN/POLICY/ PROGRAMME**

An Assessment of the Landscape Sensitivity to Onshore Wind Energy Developments in Teignbridge District

## SCREENING

*The determination of whether implementation of a plan, policy or programme is likely to have significant environmental effects.*

<b>Task</b>	Is SEA required?
<b>Output</b>	No, the assessment will provide guidance and further clarity with which to make planning judgement, it is not a plan, policy or programme and therefore a SEA is judged not to be necessary.

## SCOPE

*The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and contents of the Environmental Report.*

Scoping is judged not to be required, however, should it be decided that scoping is necessary the following issues should be considered.

- **Impact on landscape**

The assessment has a strong positive score for landscape as the policy is intended to ensure that the sensitivity of the district's landscape is given consideration. The assessment does not stop development of turbines in areas of high sensitivity, however there is the likelihood that development will be directed to the least sensitive locations and be designed in the most appropriate way to have least harm on landscape. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Coast**

The assessment is likely to score positively for the coast. Although the coast is not specifically referenced, any renewable energy proposals on the coast would need to be assessed in accordance with the policy, including impacts on landscape. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Air Quality and Water Resources**

A positive score is likely to be given in relation to air quality and water resources, as renewable energy from wind turbines would reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and this policy seeks to enable appropriate scale wind turbines. The assessment does not specifically refer to impacts on air or water quality, although it is unlikely that individual wind turbines would have significant implications for these resources. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Housing**

The assessment is likely to be considered to be positive in supporting sustainable housing through the promotion of renewable energy technologies which will provide alternative sources of electricity for

households and potentially help address fuel poverty, particularly with the rising costs of fossil fuels. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Transport**

The assessment is likely to score positively for transport. The implications of renewable energy proposals for transport are identified and the supporting text requires proposals to assess impacts of the turbine along with any required infrastructure including road access during construction to ensure that access to the site can be provided without damage to rural roads or historic bridges. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Climate Change Mitigation and Energy**

In relation to climate change mitigation and energy, the assessment is likely to have a mixed score as there are both positive and negative implications. The assessment is aimed at mitigating climate change through promoting renewable energy. However, it suggests that the landscape has a moderate to high sensitivity to medium, large and very large turbines and this is likely to significantly reduce the opportunities for the generation of renewable energy from wind, and therefore reduce the potential carbon savings. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Community and Wellbeing and Economy and Employment.**

The assessment does not consider practical issues associated with wind turbines such as shadow flicker, noise or public safety that would have a direct impact on people's lives or the economy. However, the guidance tends to restrict potential renewable energy technologies, particularly their size and scale, and is likely to limit economic opportunities and would also exclude potential community schemes as wind turbines would have to be larger to be viable. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Climate Change and Adaptation to Flood Risk.** The assessment is primarily about climate change mitigation and does not specifically relate to climate change and adaptation to flood risk, so a neutral score is likely to be given. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Land.** Wind turbines require minimal land take. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure**

The assessment does not relate directly to this issue. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

- **Impact on Historic Environment**

The assessment takes account of the historic landscape and heritage assets that have landscape impact. It has not taken account of the wider historic environment record and does not directly to this issue. Further assessment is not considered necessary.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

It is judged that SEA is not necessary however the scope of what would form a SEA has been considered. The assessment is judged to score favourably against the environmental factors and further assessment is not considered necessary.

The consultation process that forms part of the endorsement procedure will invite consultation responses from Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency and will provide the opportunity for feedback and amendment.

Anyone disagreeing with Teignbridge District Council's screening opinions given above is entitled to state this in their consultation response and provide the reasons for their view.