



Renewable Energy Systems Limited
Beaufort Court, Egg Farm Lane, Kings Langley
Hertfordshire WD4 8LR, United Kingdom
T +44 (0)1923 299 200 F +44 (0)1923 299 299
E info@res-group.com www.res-group.com

Gary Housden
Head of Planning and Housing
Ryedale District Council
Ryedale House,
Old Malton Road,
Malton,
North Yorkshire,
YO17 7HH
ryedaleplan@ryedale.gov.uk

Our Ref: 02249-011387

9th December 2015

Dear Mr Housden,

Re: Ryedale District Council Local Plan Sites Consultation

I am pleased to submit a response to the Local Plan Sites Consultation from RES Limited ("RES"). RES is one of the oldest and largest developers of onshore wind projects in the UK. A British company, we have been involved in delivering renewable energy projects since the inception of wind and solar generation, and have successfully delivered a significant number of high quality projects across the UK and Ireland and throughout the world. RES remains at the forefront of the renewable energy sector in the UK, and we are committed to meeting the UK's decarbonisation and energy requirements through projects that are both subsidy free and that sit within local plan site allocations and secure local support.

National planning policy directs local planning authorities to "have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources...", and "...design their policies to maximise renewable development..." (NPPF, Paragraph 97, Bullets 1 and 2). The NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development confirms that when making plans, local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area (NPPF, Paragraph 14, Bullet 1).

This principle applies to all types of development, including renewable energy infrastructure. The NPPF encourages the use of renewable resources (NPPF, Paragraph 17, Bullet 6) and explains that local planning authorities should:

- "...adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change" (Paragraph 94)
- "...recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources (Paragraph 97)
- "have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and local carbon sources" (Paragraph 97, Bullet 1)
- "design their policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development..." (Paragraph 97, Bullet 2)

- "consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources..."(Paragraph 97, Bullet 3)

As you will be aware, the DCLG announcement of 18th June 2015 regarding renewable energy policies represents a substantial change in planning policy, placing increased importance on the identification of sites suitable for wind energy. The Written Ministerial Statement states that:

"When determining planning applications for wind energy development involving one or more wind turbines, local planning authorities should only grant planning permission if:

- the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a local or neighbourhood plan; and
- following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing."

The Ryedale Local Plan Sites Consultation document does not identify any areas suitable for onshore wind. The omission of potential onshore wind areas will have the effect of imposing a moratorium against all wind energy development in the district of Ryedale. This approach is not a proactive or positive strategy to promote energy generation from renewable sources; nor will it provide an effective strategy to maximise renewable energy development in Ryedale. RES considers that the Ryedale Local Plans Sites Plan is neither positively prepared nor effective, and therefore is not sound.

By way of context, RES note that Rotherham Borough's Council has recently published their draft Sites & Policies Plan, which identifies areas that are suitable for wind energy development. The approach they have taken is quick and efficient, and heavily reliant on policy criteria. RES supports their approach as an effective method of identifying suitable areas and meeting the requirements of the Written Ministerial Statement.

Although we are not currently promoting any specific sites within the Ryedale District, we believe that there is significant potential to work with your council and to take a partnership approach to identifying suitable sites for onshore renewable energy projects. We also believe that there is significant support RES could provide to your planning team, given our expertise of onshore wind site selection. RES is happy to provide support to the Council and provide data to inform the identification of suitable areas for wind energy development.

I have attached a map of a broad area in Ryedale with potential for onshore wind. We would be happy to produce more detailed, refined site maps taking into account housing buffers and other constraints, to assist with the identification of sites suitable for onshore wind. RES recommend that existing onshore wind sites should also be included in the map identifying areas suitable for onshore wind to enable any required repowering.

Please add my contact details to your database and notify me of any future consultations. Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss or clarify any matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Randall
Development Manager, England and Wales

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KEY
 POTENTIAL ONSHORE WIND AREA
 RYEDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL BOUNDARY

1	LM	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
2	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
3	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
4	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
5	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
6	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
7	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
8	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
9	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
10	CD	201115	RM	07/15	FIRST ISSUE
DRAWING NUMBER: 02249D6924-01					
COORDS: British National Grid					
PURPOSE: OTHER					
SCALE: 1:200,000 ORIGINAL PLOT SIZE: A3					
PROJECT TITLE: RYEDALE POTENTIAL ONSHORE WIND AREAS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION					

DRAWING TITLE
RYEDALE POTENTIAL ONSHORE WIND AREAS LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

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