

**SECTION 36 AND SCHEDULE 8 ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
SECTION 90(2) TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990**

**ELECTRICITY GENERATING STATIONS AND OVERHEAD LINES (INQUIRIES
PROCEDURE) RULES 2007**

**APPLICATION BY STEADINGS WINDFARM LIMITED FOR CONSENT TO ERECT A 66MW
WIND GENERATING STATION AT KIRKWHELPINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND**

**NOTE TO THE INQUIRY REGARDING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SWFL AND REVEREND
JOHN WYLAM**

This note is submitted with particular reference to the Outline Statement of Case and the Statement of Case submitted to the Inquiry by Reverend John Wylam. This note is submitted in the hope of clarifying what appears to be a misunderstanding. The particular reference is noted below;

Note; The Environmental Statement Section 11, Para 11.55: the vicar and churchwarden did not enter into any agreement whatsoever.

For ease of reference the paragraph from the ES referenced above is repeated below:

The Grade II Listed building called The Church of St Aidan (Site 239546) would lie 1km from the nearest turbine and would be inter-visible with 21-22 turbines. Key views from the church were agreed between the Church Reverend and a representative of the applicant. These key views which occur from the lay-by on the B6342 to the south, and also from the minor road approaching the site, were then factored into the design of the wind farm. As a result of this embedded design, the predicted visual impact of the wind farm on this nationally important site is considered to be of low magnitude and moderate significance and not significant according to the methodology presented. The visibility and the visual effect of the proposed development from this site is also considered further in Section 6, which considers Landscape and Visual Impacts.*

The following paragraphs of this note set out the sequence of events as the applicant's representative, referred to above (Mr Robert Williams), understands them; the intention of is to clear up any misunderstanding between the parties;

Mr Williams met with Rev John Wylam and Mr Graham Bell of the Parochial Church Council (the latter is also a resident of Great Bavington) at the New Vicarage in Chollerton on the evening of Wednesday 21 September 2005 to discuss the draft proposals SWFL had on the table at that stage. At the meeting there was discussion of the concerns raised by Mr Wylam over the perceived impact on the Church. It was noted that, while he felt all views of the Church were important, SWFL needed to be able to define and agree some key views on which to design the site. The key views in respect of the Church for these purposes were the ones which he and Mr Bell most strongly sought to preserve, and being the ones which they felt best showed the character of the Church in its elevated position.

Two views were identified, and Mr Williams agreed Banks would consider these in the design process as set out in paragraph 11.55 from the ES repeated above. Both of these views formed part of the consideration throughout the design process. The view from the B6342 was included in the Regulation 13 submission as Viewpoint 2. A number of views from the west of the Church were included in the recent SEI submission, a key view Mr Wylam noted from the minor road being SEI 4.

The Regulation 13 submission and the SEI have also included a number of additional viewpoints to allow wider consideration of other views of the Church.

Mr William's letter to Mr Wylam dated 6 March 2006 also notes the content of the meeting and the key views that were agreed. A copy is attached for reference.

Our Ref

RobW/KAM RE/N/639/COM/Pr

6 March 2006

Rev John Wylam
New Vicarage
Chollerton
Hexham
Northumberland

Dear John,

STEADINGS WIND FARM PROPOSALS

Thank you for attending the exhibition last week. I am writing to confirm our discussion there in respect of the photomontages.

When I met you and Graham Bell at the Vicarage late last year we discussed the key views of the church at Thockrington from nearby roads and footpaths. As you rightly point out the silhouette of the church on the skyline is a key element, and I noted that we would design the wind farm so that a turbine did not appear directly behind the church from the two key views we agreed.

The key views from the lay-by on the B6342 to the south, and also from the minor road approaching the church from the west have been considered and factored into the design.

As we discussed on the phone and at the exhibition, you are still concerned about the impact of the wind farm proposals on the setting of the church. As agreed I will prepare two photomontages, one from each viewpoint, to demonstrate how the view would appear if we were to get planning permission. I will prepare these during April and send them to you for your consideration.

Please contact me if you have any queries about this matter or any other aspect of these proposals.

Yours sincerely

Robert Williams
Project Manager

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