

Prepared for Planning Submission
Date: 10th May 2026

EIA Scoping Request

Proposed Replacement Wind Turbine (Enercon E82)

Slate House Farm, Staffordshire Moorlands

1. Introduction

This document has been prepared to request a formal EIA Scoping Opinion from [Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#) under Regulation 15 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.

The proposed development comprises the replacement of an existing 50kW wind turbine at Slate House Farm with a single **Enercon E82 wind turbine** of greater scale. It is moderate in scale compared to utility type wind turbines currently being proposed as onshore wind developments throughout the UK. Most UK wind turbine modern developments typically have wind blade tip heights in excess of 220m. Hope Moor wind farm is an example of this trend, many more examples can be given if required.

A Screening Direction issued by the Secretary of State (27 June 2025) confirms that the development constitutes Schedule 2 development and that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. The need for EIA arises solely due to potential **landscape and visual impacts**, including cumulative effects.

2. Site and Surroundings

The site is located within a rural moorland setting in Staffordshire Moorlands, at an elevated position of approximately 375m AOD.

The site lies approximately 150m from the boundary of the [Peak District National Park](#), with the surrounding area characterised by open moorland and agricultural land of limited quality.

The landscape is identified as part of the **Gritstone Highland Fringe Landscape Character Type**, which is recognised as highly sensitive to change. The site occupies a prominent ridge-edge position and is widely visible from

the surrounding area.

Receptors include:

- Users of roads (including Blakelow Road, A523, and B5053)
 - A limited network of Public Rights of Way (PROWs), including routes within the National Park
 - Recreational users of access land
 - Isolated farmsteads within the surrounding area
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3. Description of the Proposed Development

The proposal comprises the installation of a single **Enercon E82 wind turbine** or similar to replace the existing end of life wind turbine on site.

The proposed wind turbine would have a maximum blade tip height of 119m and a maximum hub height of 78m. The maximum rotor diameter would be 82m. The proposal is the largest wind turbine scenario given that there is only a second hand market available for this scale of wind turbine. Being a class 1 wind site determines the size of tower, a class 1 wind turbine requires a larger tower. The 78m tower is the shortest tower height for a class 1 site for an E82 model wind turbine. This wind turbine has a maximum output of 3000kw or 3mw.

The Enercon E70 has a rotor diameter of 71m and a variety of suitable hub heights for a class 1 site, 54m, 64m and 75m. The blade tip height possibilities therefore are 90m, 100m and 111m. The maximum output of an Enercon E70 is 2300kw or 2.3mw. The second hand market has limited amount of wind turbines and an exact determination on availability of size is therefore impossible to predict and is dwindling month by month. The second hand market may not have any E70 wind turbines available of any size for example by the time this application gets approved.

Whilst every attempt will be made to procure the smaller wind turbine, extreme flexibility is required. Giving a specific size of wind turbine for a planning application could lock in a wind turbine size which is no longer available preventing installation and requiring a fresh planning application which is not practicable as the process could get repeated time and time again.

Planning for a wind turbine up to a maximum blade tip height and maximum hub height is a practical way of being able to secure a suitable second hand wind turbine from a limited market, but allowing some flexibility when planning permission is granted. Given this scale of wind turbine are no longer being manufactured availability is limited and when they are gone there is no alternative except a much larger size.

Enercon have only recently stopped manufacturing the E82 model, and in previous recent years the E70 model which is why these are considered favourable along with the gear-less direct drive design making them exceptionally quiet operationally. These Enercon models are quieter than the existing 50kw Endurance wind turbine despite being upto x60 the generation capacity, and are not proportionally larger. These wind turbines which have only recently stopped being manufactured are only being explored as the company is still operational and making parts.

Planning for a brand new wind turbine is not being proposed as a new wind turbine starts with a 150m blade tip height, 30m higher than the proposed maximum blade tip height of this planning proposal.

As there is only a limited second hand market of wind turbines at this scale, it is impossible to specify an exact model and size because market forces determine what wind turbines sizes are available. The Enercon range is only being considered due to them still being an operational company, direct drive, build quality, design quality, and strength as market leader in wind turbines, along with continued operation as a functioning business offering long term support.

Enercon have only recently stopped manufacturing these models (E82, E70) because there is no demand for what is now considered small scale wind turbines, this means there is still access to parts and consumables giving long term security and durability.

The power generated by the E82 and E70 would be between 2.3mw and 3mw. The power would meet all the electrical energy needs for Slate House Farm and provide renewable energy for thousands of homes. Slate House Farm was hoping to sleeve some cheaper renewable electrical energy to support the failing pottery industry and other local business.

To guarantee a specific size and model of wind turbine would mean the purchase of a brand new wind turbine with a rotor diameter of 138m and minimum blade tip height of 150m.

Key elements include:

- A turbine approximately three times larger than the existing structure, but will generate x60 the amount of renewable energy. This is in line with Staffordshire Moorlands own renewable energy policy and targets.
- Reinforced concrete foundation
(approximately 20.4m diameter)
- Excavation, concrete pour, and curing period of approximately 4–6 weeks
- Use of existing site access tracks for construction and operation
- Temporary construction works of short duration

The overall footprint of the development is limited, and the proposal represents a replacement rather than a new wind energy site. Government policy on this issue is to favour such proposals.

4. EIA Legislative Context

The development falls within **Schedule 2, Part 3(i)** of the EIA Regulations (industrial installations for the production of electricity), exceeding the applicable threshold.

In accordance with the Secretary of State's Screening Direction, EIA is required as it is not possible to exclude the potential for **likely significant environmental effects**, specifically in relation to:

- Landscape and visual impacts
- Cumulative landscape and visual impacts

All other environmental topics have been assessed at the screening stage and found **unlikely to give rise to significant effects**.

5. Proposed Scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment

5.1 Topics Scoped IN (Full EIA Assessment)

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA)

The Environmental Statement will include a full assessment of:

- Effects on landscape character and quality
- Impacts arising from the scale and height of the turbine
- Visual effects from key receptors, including:
 - Road users
 - PROWs and access land
 - Users within the [Peak District National Park](#)
- Effects associated with the elevated ridge-top location
- Assessment of visibility across the wider landscape

Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects

The assessment will also consider cumulative effects arising from:

- Existing wind turbines in the locality
- Potential nearby proposals (including Garstones Farm, where relevant)

It is acknowledged that, due to the scale of the proposed turbine and the sensitivity of the receiving landscape, **significant residual effects cannot**

be ruled out.

5.2 Topics Scoped OUT of Full EIA (To be Addressed Proportionately)

The following topics have been identified by the Secretary of State as **not likely to result in significant environmental effects** and are therefore proposed to be scoped out of the Environmental Statement. These matters will be addressed through proportionate supporting assessments submitted with the planning application.

Noise and Shadow Flicker

- Construction noise: temporary and short-term
- Operational noise: limited due to:
 - single turbine scale
 - gearless turbine design
 - low receptor density

Shadow flicker effects are not considered significant and can be mitigated through planning controls.

Traffic and Highways

- Construction traffic: limited and temporary
- Operational traffic: negligible (maintenance only)
- No significant impacts on congestion, safety, or air quality anticipated

Routing and management measures can be secured through the planning process.

Ecology and Biodiversity

- No significant effects on designated sites due to separation distances
 - No evidence of likely significant impacts on habitats or protected areas
 - Potential bird interactions to be assessed through standard surveys
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Heritage and Archaeology

- Limited ground disturbance reduces archaeological risk
 - No significant effects anticipated on heritage assets
 - Any minor effects on setting will be addressed within the LVIA
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Land Use, Hydrology and Natural Resources

- No significant impacts associated with:
 - land take
 - resource use
 - waste generation

The site is not within a sensitive environmental designation for these matters.

Cumulative Effects (Non-Landscape Topics)

No significant cumulative effects are anticipated in relation to:

- Traffic
- Noise
- Ecology

These will be addressed proportionately where necessary.

6. Assessment Methodology (Landscape and Visual)

The LVIA will be undertaken in accordance with established best practice and will include:

- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping
 - Selection of representative viewpoints
 - Photomontages and visualisations
 - Assessment of effects on landscape character
 - Assessment of visual effects on receptors
 - Cumulative assessment of other relevant developments
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7. Supporting Technical Reports (Non-EIA)

In line with local validation requirements of [Staffordshire Moorlands District Council](#), the planning application will be supported by proportionate technical documentation, including:

- Noise Assessment
- Shadow Flicker Assessment

- Ecological Appraisal
- Transport Statement / Construction Traffic Management Plan
- Heritage Statement

These documents will address matters not requiring full EIA.

8. Consultation

This scoping request is submitted to enable consultation with relevant statutory consultees, including Natural England and other stakeholders as appropriate.

9. Conclusion and Request for Scoping Opinion

This request reflects the findings of the Secretary of State's Screening Direction, which concludes that:

- The only environmental topic with potential for likely significant effects is **landscape and visual impact**, including cumulative effects
- All other environmental effects are unlikely to be significant

Accordingly, it is proposed that:

1. The Environmental Statement is **limited to Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**, including cumulative effects; and
2. All other environmental topics are **scoped out of full EIA** and addressed through proportionate supporting information.

The applicant respectfully requests confirmation from the Local Planning Authority that the proposed scope is appropriate.
