

Visualisation | Blackshaw Head Existing



Landscape Character Assessment

Higher Hawks Stones Farm is an isolated farm with 2 micro wind turbines sited on 4 acres of land located 7 kilometres east of Hebden Bridge outside the small village of Blackshaw Head. It is situated high upon Heptonstall Moor which forms part of the south Pennines. The landscape is very rugged and open with traditional stone walls defining field boundaries. Where walls have deteriorated post and wire fencing is present. It is sparsely populated with traditional stone houses and farmsteads scattered within the landscape. A number of houses and outbuildings sprawl out into the landscape. Tuft grass and heathers dominate the wild landscape with a few small areas of deciduous and conifer plantations. Many footpaths cross the landscape providing good access to the moors. The existing micro wind turbines sit on the hillside above the farm.

Visual Impact Assessment

There are extensive panoramic views across the moors to the south and west. Large overhead power lines cross the skyline on the moors to the west. The two micro wind turbines are within 64 metres of Keba's road and clearly visible from the road. The road winds along the undulating landscape helping to minimise the turbines' visibility to the short section of road below the turbines. Very small glimpses of the turbines can be seen further along the road. The moors rise up away from the turbines helping to disguise views of the turbines from the north. The open aspect of the site to the south leads to greater visibility however due to the rural location there are very few houses facing the site.

Visualisation | Blackshaw Head Potential



Ability to Accommodate Change

The photomontage above shows the affect of increased wind turbine installations on the landscape at this site. The skyline is clearly broken by the structures, and any modern new structures within this type of landscape will be an obtrusive feature. The traditional field boundaries and stone housing serve as a reminder of the areas heritage and the wide open landscape gives a dramatic sense of natural wilderness making it vulnerable to change.

This landscape has undergone change in more recent years from increased pressure for more housing, modern technology and renewable energy. Although there are minimal views of any settlements, the overhead power lines cutting through the landscape, housing and deteriorating field

boundaries are all features that detract from the natural beauty of this area.

The undulating landscape at Blackshaw Head provides localised inlets concealing the existing micro wind turbines from long distance views. This type of undulating landscape provides the opportunity for micro wind turbines if they are sited appropriately within the landscape and do not become a prominent landmark clearly visible to those coming to enjoy this landscape. If micro wind turbines are placed in a consistent fashion such as the above photomontage there runs the risk of them becoming too dominant such as that of pylons, and would cause yet more changes to this valued landscape.