

Mid Moile Wind Farm

Additional Information

January 2024

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Introduction

- 1.1 In January 2022, Energiekontor UK Ltd (EK, “the Applicant”) submitted an application to the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) of the Scottish Government under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 in respect of a proposed wind farm on land approximately 2.5km east of Cairnryan and approximately 9.2km north of Stranraer in Dumfries and Galloway. The proposed wind farm comprised 15 turbines of up to 200/230m to blade tip along with associated infrastructure and is hereafter referred to as ‘the Proposed Development’.
- 1.2 The application was accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA Report) prepared in line with the Electricity Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations) which covered associated environmental assessment across 15 chapters, setting out the findings of the environmental impact assessment carried out.
- 1.3 Since the submission of the consent application and subsequent consultation period, consultation responses have been received from stakeholders and discussions have been held with the ECU, Historic Environment Scotland and SEPA among others, regarding technical aspects of the Proposed Development. These consultation responses and subsequent conversations resulted in alterations to the Proposed Development which were required to be considered within revised information as per Regulation 19 of the EIA Regulations. These Proposed Development changes were submitted in July 2023 (the “Additional Information July 2023”) and in summary comprised:
- A reduction in tip height of one turbine from 230m to 200m;
 - Amended turbine locations; and
 - Alterations in the position, alignment and orientation of ancillary infrastructure such as access tracks and crane pad and laydown infrastructure.
- 1.4 Following consultation on the above changes further clarification has been requested by SEPA and Ironside Farrar in relation to peat disturbance. New Additional Information has therefore been prepared to address those consultee requests and is set out within this report and its associated appendices. The Additional Information comprises:
- A further written response to address the objection to the Proposed Development raised by SEPA in their response dated 13 September 2023 (Appendix 1); and
 - A revision to the Peat Slide Risk Assessment report providing additional peat survey coverage and updates to the peat depth mapping and risk assignments (Appendix 2).

Potential for Additional Design Mitigation

- 1.5 In addition to the further clarification provided in relation to peat disturbance outlined above, following consultation with ECU and Dumfries and Galloway Council (DGC) in

relation to landscape and visual issues the Applicant also proposes wording for planning conditions which could provide for additional design mitigation to be applied to the Proposed Development. The EIA undertaken demonstrates that the Proposed Development is compliant with the relevant policies contained within National Planning Framework 4; however, in the event that Scottish Ministers are not minded to grant consent for the Proposed Development as applied for, the Applicant proposes that planning conditions could be imposed to require the following additional design mitigation to be applied to the scheme:

- Restricting all turbine tip heights to 200m;
- Removal of turbine 15; and
- Provision of a landscape mitigation scheme to mitigate adverse landscape effects and enhance the amenity value of the site.

1.6 A suite of wirelines from key viewpoints has been prepared (Appendix 3) which compares the 'mitigation layout' (removal of T15 and tip height reduction to 200m) to the as applied for layout (as amended).

1.7 Suggested wording for a planning condition to restrict turbine tip height to 200m is as follows:

"The vertical blade tip height of wind turbines must not exceed 200 metres above ground level.

Reason: In the interests of landscape and visual amenity of the area."

1.8 Suggested wording for a planning condition to remove turbine 15 is as follows:

"That no permission is hereby granted for turbine 15 and any associated infrastructure required solely in connection with that turbine.

Reason: In the interests of landscape and visual amenity of the area."

1.9 Suggested wording for a planning condition to provide a landscape mitigation scheme is as follows:

"That no development in respect of this planning permission shall take place unless a compensatory landscape mitigation scheme has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority in consultation with Historic Environment Scotland. The scheme shall have the primary aim of mitigating adverse landscape effects of the wind farm infrastructure and enhancing amenity value within the site and include the following:

- a. *Details of proposals to enhance Core Path 376 within the site boundary;*
- b. *Details of proposals to provide a recreational link between Core Path 376 and the Loch Ryan Coastal Path;*
- c. *Details of planting and landscaping proposals to enhance the setting of Claywarnies, Cairn (SM6890) and Brockloch Cairn, Cairn Hill (SM1919);*

- d. Details of the timing of the implementation of the scheme; and
- e. Details of the long term maintenance.

Thereafter, the compensatory landscaping scheme shall be implemented in full accordance with the details submitted and approved, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Planning Authority."

- 1.10 These suggested planning conditions could be applied by Scottish Ministers, either individually or collectively, to reduce the residual landscape and visual effects associated with the Proposed Development, should Scottish Ministers consider it necessary to do so.

Contact for Further Information

- 1.11 Copies of the Additional Information and the application are available for public inspection in person, free of charge at Dumfries and Galloway Council. The address is:

Council HQ,
English Street,
Dumfries,
DG1 2DD

- 1.12 For additional copies, a charge of £15 will be made for a full electronic copy of this Additional Information on CD or memory stick. Hard copies can be made available for a £50 charge.

- 1.13 Requests for copies should be made to:

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