



Energiekontor UK Ltd

Garcrogo Wind Farm

PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

May 2024

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1 INTRODUCTION

Introduction

- 1.1 This Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) relates to a proposal by Energiekontor UK Ltd for the development of a wind farm of up to seven wind turbines, including associated development such as crane pads, access tracks, a substation and temporary construction compound ("the Proposed Development") at Garcrogo, Corsock ("the Site" as illustrated on the Location Plan drawing at Appendix 1). Assessment of the technical, environmental and commercial constraints of the Site is currently ongoing and will inform the final design of the wind farm.
- 1.2 The purpose of this PAN is to outline our approach to consultation during the pre-application stage in order to comply with the requirements for meaningful community engagement.

Project Description

- 1.3 As set out in the Schedule of Regulations 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Development) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, Garcrogo Wind Farm is defined as a 'Major Development', as the capacity would be, or would exceed, 20 megawatts (MW).
- 1.4 The Proposed Development at Garcrogo would consist of:
- **Wind turbines** – It is proposed to erect up to seven wind turbines on the Site. The turbines would be of a typical modern design comprising a three bladed rotor hub mounted on a rotatable nacelle (containing a gearbox and a generator), tower and foundation. Final turbine selection would be made following the grant of planning permission following a tendering and procurement exercise. The EIA will therefore be undertaken on the basis of a candidate turbine design consisting of:
 - Horizontal axis type with a rotor diameter consisting of three blades, each up to approximately 85m in length;
 - The maximum height to vertical blade tip is yet to be determined, but could be up to 200m;
 - Turbines would generate power for all wind speeds between 4m/s and 25m/s; and
 - At wind speeds greater than 25m/s (gale force) the turbines would shut down for self-protection.

- **Turbine foundations** – the foundations of the turbines could be either reinforced concrete gravity structures or piled foundations. This would be dependent on the ground and hydrological conditions at the proposed turbine location which would also determine the overall size of the support structure.
- **Site tracks** – to provide access for construction and maintenance vehicles from the public road to the substation and wind turbines. These would be constructed at the commencement of the construction phase and would remain until the end of the decommissioning phase. They would have a running width of circa 4.5 m, the final width dependant on turbine supplier requirements. The tracks would feature local widening on corners and would be surfaced with coarse aggregate
- **High voltage and control cables** – to form power and control circuits linking each turbine to the on-site substation, cables would be placed in trenches (dimensions to be determined by ground conditions but typically 0.5m wide x 1m deep) routed alongside the tracks.
- **Substation / switchgear housing building** – a single story substation building would house the switchgear and control equipment, in addition to acting as a secure storage space and site welfare.
- **Site access** – it is proposed that two site accesses would be used onto the A712 for the delivery of wind turbine components, general construction traffic and operational traffic. One of these accesses would be new and the other would be an existing forestry access. Both access points would be maintained for future access, maintenance, and decommissioning.
- **Temporary construction compound / storage area** – to facilitate the upgrading of the existing track, and to establish the main construction compound. Located to the south of the Proposed Development adjacent to an existing track, this area would also provide a security and entry/exit registration point during the construction and decommissioning stages but would not be in use during the operational phase.
- **Crane hardstandings** – to provide a level and firm base for the cranes at the location of each turbine. Each would be a maximum of 45m x 25m and surfaced with coarse aggregate.
- **Transformer housings** – the transformers to step up the voltage exported from each turbine (from 690V to 33kV) would either be placed within the wind turbines themselves, or in a small secure external transformer housing placed next to each wind turbine tower, depending on the final turbine choice.

Energiekontor UK Ltd

- 1.5 Energiekontor UK Ltd is a wind energy development company with offices in Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh. The company was formed in 1999 and develops onshore wind farms throughout the United Kingdom. The company has built eleven wind farms in the

UK, including three subsidy-free wind farms in Scotland, with many more in the development process.

- 1.6 Energiekontor UK Ltd is part of the Energiekontor Group. The parent company, Energiekontor AG, was established in 1990 in Bremerhaven in Northern Germany. It has since grown to become one of the leading wind energy companies in Europe, having built more than 100 wind farms across the continent.

2 THE SITE AND ITS CONTEXT

The Site

- 2.1 The Site comprises approximately 1,000 hectares and is located approximately 3.5km north west of Corsock, within an area of upland forestry. Topography within the site ranges from approximately 220m AOD on the northern and western edges of the site, to 180-238m AOD (near the summit of Barmark Hill). The site is characteristic of a simple upland landscape comprising established coniferous plantation forestry.
- 2.2 The surrounding area is fairly sparsely settled, characterised by scattered farmsteads and isolated dwellings adjoining the A712 and in the wider area. Corsock is the only village settlement within 5km.

Context

- 2.3 There are a number of existing, consented and proposed wind energy developments in the surrounding area. Most notably, these comprise the operational Black Craig (2.5km to the north); the consented developments of Fell (2km north), Knockman Hill (6.5km north west), and Margree (7km north west); and the proposed Divot Hill application (6km north west).

Planning History

- 2.4 There have been two recent planning applications for a wind farm on the Site. The first application (Dumfries and Galloway Council planning reference 21/0371/FUL; and DPEA reference PPA-170-2156) was refused at appeal in August 2022 for up to nine turbines with an overall height from base to tip of 200 metres, together with associated infrastructure. The eventual appeal was dismissed on landscape and visual grounds, principally due to the perceived height of the turbines.
- 2.5 The second application (Dumfries and Galloway Council planning reference: 22/1754/FUL; and DPEA reference PPA-170-2172) consisted of up to nine wind turbines reduced in height to 180 metres, together with associated infrastructure. Post-submission, two turbines were removed from the scheme, meaning the decision was based on a scheme of up to seven turbines with an overall height from base to tip of 180 metres.
- 2.6 The second application was dismissed at appeal in March 2024 due to a lack of sufficient information relating to two additional requirements from recently updated national planning policy (NPF4). These related to peat disturbance and biodiversity enhancements respectively. On all other grounds, the application was considered to be acceptable.

3 APPROACH TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Introduction

- 3.1 Energiekontor UK Ltd is an experienced wind developer that places community and stakeholder consultation at the heart of the development process. As a responsible developer we recognise the need for early and transparent engagement and believe we have an obligation to create an engagement process which captures local concerns at an early stage so that they can be fed into the design process. This section describes the approach to consultation and methods that will be undertaken as part of the pre-application process for Garcrogo Wind Farm.

Engagement Approach

- 3.2 As Garcrogo Wind Farm represents a Major Development, Energiekontor UK Ltd is obliged to carry out Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) with the local community and submit a PAC summary report as part of any future planning application. As a prerequisite, an applicant must provide a PAN setting out how it intends to carry out consultation and engage with the community local to its proposed development. The provision of this PAN fulfils this requirement.
- 3.3 Best practice guidance exists in Scotland on community engagement, in particular *PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement* which highlights the need for individual developments to have a tailor-made approach to community consultation. PAN 3/2010 sets out 10 'National Standards' for community engagement to plan, monitor and evaluate engagement. These are:
1. **Involvement** – Identify and involved the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of engagement.
 2. **Support** – Identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.
 3. **Planning** – Gather evidence of need and resources to agree purpose, scope and actions.
 4. **Methods** – Agree and use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose.
 5. **Working Together** – Agree and use clear procedures that enable participants to work together effectively and efficiently.
 6. **Sharing Information** – Ensure necessary information is communicated between the participants.
 7. **Working with Others** – Work effectively with others with an interest.
 8. **Improvement** – Develop skills, knowledge and confidence of the participants.

9. **Feedback** – Feed results back to the wider community and agencies affected.

10. **Monitoring and Evaluation** – Monitor and evaluate whether engagement achieves its purpose and meets the national standard for community engagement.

3.4 In addition, Energiekontor UK Ltd will draw on the SP=EED (Successful Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery) approach devised and produced by Planning Aid Scotland to effectively audit the consultation process and to describe it in the PAC Report.

3.5 Furthermore, Energiekontor UK Ltd is cognisant of recent guidance on the procedures governing applications for planning permission (*Planning circular 3/2022: development management procedures*), which includes useful considerations for both prospective applicants and communities at the pre-application stage of a proposed development.

3.6 Energiekontor UK Ltd will work closely with Dumfries and Galloway Council to identify local community stakeholders, drawing on their knowledge to build of a good understanding of the community. We will ensure that all sectors of the community are involved in the process, identifying any hard to reach individuals or groups with particular requirements.

3.7 Energiekontor UK Ltd is also working closely with statutory consultees and other technical stakeholders as part of the range of environmental studies required to identify the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development.

Consultation Process

3.8 As set out in The Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006; the minimum consultation activity (Regulation 7 of the Development Management (Scotland) Regulations 2013) states that an applicant must consult with community councils and hold at least two physical public events. Prospective applicants must provide the public with feedback at the final event on the views obtained through the PAC process.

3.9 Prospective applicants are also required to publish a local newspaper notice for each public event indicating how to engage with the pre-application process. Each public event must be held at least 7 days after the relevant local newspaper notice is circulated.

Our aims

3.10 The aims of Energiekontor UK Ltd in undertaken pre-application consultation are to:

- To widely inform the local community about the Proposed Development, its potential effects and the associated benefits.
- To receive feedback from the community early in the process and make full use of opportunities to address concerns through design or mitigation.

- To improve the quality of the final planning application by tailoring it to local circumstances.
- To work with the community to define the structure of community benefits offered as part of the Proposed Development.

Who will be consulted

- 3.11 The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 provide that applicants should consult with every community council whose area is within or adjoins the land where the proposed development is situated, and in doing so to give a copy of the PAN to such community councils.
- 3.12 The PAN will be served on the following community councils:
- Corsock & Kirkpatrick Durham;
 - Balmaclellan; and
 - Parton.
- 3.13 Other key stakeholders at the district and regional level include:
- Local ward Councillors
 - MSPs and MPs
 - Statutory and non-statutory consultees
 - Local media

Consultation methods

- 3.14 Energiekontor UK Ltd will use the following methods of consultation:

1.	Two physical public events	
	Stakeholders	All.
	Rationale	To present information on the Proposed Development in an accessible way, to receive direct feedback from the community and to discuss any potential concerns.
	Further Information	Energiekontor UK Ltd will provide exhibition material relating to the proposed development at two events which are likely to be held in mid-June and mid-July respectively. The exact dates will be communicated to stakeholders once they are known. The events will include a facility to send feedback and ask questions as well as contact information for the proposals to be discussed further. A public notice will be placed in the local press at least one

		week prior to the exhibition opening which will include the following details: - A description of the proposed development and its location; - How (including by what electronic means) further information may be obtained concerning the proposed development; - Date, time and place of the event(s); - Statement explaining how and by when comments to Energiekontor UK Ltd on the proposal should be made; and - Statement that comments made to Energiekontor UK Ltd are not representations to the planning authority and that these can be made once a planning application has been submitted.
2.	Method	Mail drops / emails / letters
	Stakeholders	Residents living closest to Garcrogo Wind Farm site; Community Councils
	Rationale	To keep those residents living closest to Garcrogo Wind Farm site updated with the timescale the project and disseminate key information in a meaningful way. To provide a point of contact within Energiekontor UK Ltd for local residents. To keep interested parties updated as the project progresses.
	Further Information	Mail drops will be sent out to those houses and businesses that are located the closest to Garcrogo Wind Farm site. Energiekontor UK Ltd will keep a database of those wishing to be kept informed of the Proposed Development in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

3.15 Energiekontor UK Ltd will summarise the above methods of consultation and provide detailed findings within the PAC report submitted with a future planning application.

4 CONTACT DETAILS

4.1 For further information please contact:

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Appendix 1.1
Location Plan

Garcrogo Wind Farm

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11 Somerset Place
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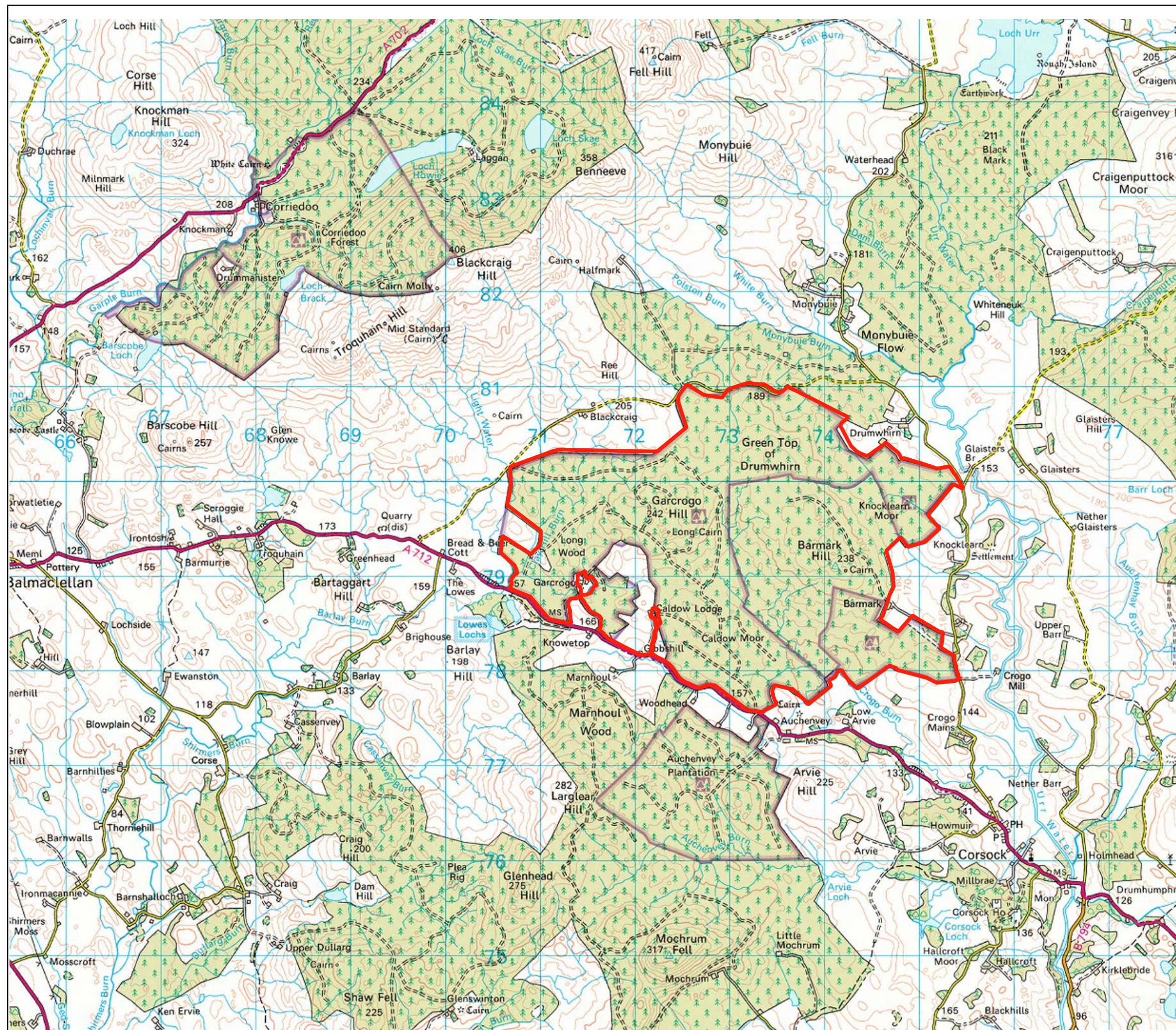
T: +44 (0)141 354 6544

www.energiekontor.co.uk

Figure 1.1c Location Plan

Key:

 Planning Application Area



0 125 250 375 500 m



Drawn by: DT Scale: 1:40,000 @ A3 Date: 31/08/2022

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