

Note to: Simon Kerrison (SLP Energy)
From: Stephen Faulkner (Principal Planner – Norfolk County Council)

Proposed Wind Farm Between Hemsby & Ormesby¹:

Potential Requirements for inclusion in an Environmental Statement / Environmental Impact Assessment

Scoping Report (March 2006)

Thank you for consulting the County Council on the above pre-application proposal. The officer-level comments below are made without prejudice and as such the County Council reserves the right to make further comments on any potential application that may be brought forward on the above site/s.

I would suggest the following areas ought to be addressed/covered in an Environmental Statement (ES) / Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):

Landscape and Visual Assessment

The ES/EIA would need to provide:

- An assessment of the impact of the development on the landscape character;
- An assessment of the visual intrusion caused by the development which should include the preparation of a Zone of Visual Intrusion plan/map;
- photomontages illustrating the impact of the development (See also Grid Connection Issues below); and
- An assessment of the cumulative impact of this development taken together with the other operational turbines in the area.

The ES/EIA would need to consider the impact on the Broads Authority Area, the wider landscape and seascape.

It would be useful if the scoping study could set out criteria for judging visual impact and impact on the landscape character.

The ES/EIA will need to have particular regard to Adopted Norfolk Structure Plan Policies ENV.1 – ENV.4 (Landscape Protection Policies).

Landscape/Transport

The ES/EIA will need to evaluate the impact on the landscape of upgrading existing roads and creating new access routes in the construction and operational phase of the project (including enhanced signage) as all of this can sub-urbanise a rural landscape. It will also need to consider how these should be mitigated, perhaps through removal and reinstatement at the end of the project.

¹ S/fulkner/letters/general/wind Scoping response march 2006

Grid Connection and Landscape Issues

The ES/EIA will need to indicate whether there will need to be any up-grading of any of the existing overhead power lines arising from the Wind Farm. The ES/EIA will need to address whether the existing overhead lines and substation are sufficient to be able to cope with the Wind Farm.

The ES/EIA should also address the cumulative impact on the GRID Network arising from the existing Wind Farm (West Somerton) and Wind Turbine (Martham) in the area.

In the event that new power lines are needed (or existing power lines up-graded) or any other infrastructure needs up-grading (e.g. sub-station) there would need to be an assessment of their impact (e.g. photomontages etc).

For Further Information I would suggest you contact Judith Cantell (Senior Landscape Architect) on 01603 222768.

Ecology

The ES/EIA will need to address the potential impact on the local environment particularly on designated sites e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Area for Conservation (SAC), County Wildlife Sites (CWS) etc. Impact on Bird life will need to be addressed in any ES/EIA. The ES/EIA will need to have regard to Structure Plan Policies ENV.6 – 9 (Nature Conservation).

Noise - This is a local amenity issue and will need to be discussed with Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology - These issues ought to be discussed with Norfolk Landscape Archaeology (Andy Hutchinson) 01362 – 869275.

Water Quality and Drainage and Flood Risk - These Issues will again need to be discussed with the Borough Council.

Access and Traffic - I understand that you have consulted the County Council's Highways Engineer separately on this proposal and have received his comments.

Socio-economic - It would be helpful if the ES/EIA could provide accurate figures of those likely to be employed both during construction and once the Wind Farm is fully operational.

If you have any queries with any of the above comments please call or email on 01603 222752 (stephen.faulkner@norfolk.gov.uk).