

Mr Richard Cooper,
South Norfolk Council,
South Norfolk House,
Swan Lane,
Long Stratton,
Norfolk, NR15 2XE

20.09.2006

**Request for Scoping Opinion: Proposed Wind Farm Site at
Hempnall**

Dear Mr Cooper,

Further to our meeting of the 19/09/2006 Enertrag are proposing to apply for planning consent to construct 7 wind turbines at a site to the north east of Hempnall. The location and indicative position of the turbines is shown in the attached drawing. Enertrag UK have reviewed the proposed development, the findings of which are set out in this letter.

Environmental Impact Assessment

It is intended that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposals will be undertaken in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, and that an Environmental Statement (ES) will be submitted with the planning application.

Scoping Opinion

As part of the EIA process, and as required by the Regulations, we are requesting from the Council a "Scoping Opinion" on the impacts and issues that the EIA should address. We have set out below the areas that we propose to be included in the ES along with the anticipated work requirements. We would be grateful if, as part of your Scoping Opinion you can indicate to us your acceptance or otherwise of the issues discussed, or areas where you may think more or less work is required.

Brief Description of the Wind Farm Development

It is anticipated that seven 2-3 megawatt (MW) turbines will be constructed on the site. Each turbine has a hub height of up to 85m and a rotor diameter of up to 90m. The maximum height of the structures is in the order of 125m with a 20m diameter concrete base. In order to work safely and efficiently, a distance of 500m in the predominant wind direction and 350m in a lateral direction is required between turbines. The approximate locations of the turbines are illustrated in the attached figure.

The connection to the grid would be buried and pick up at an existing 33kV line at Hapton Primary, the site. Discussions regarding the connection are ongoing with the DNO (District Network Operator), EDF Energy.

Key Potential Environmental Impacts

The key potential environmental issues/impacts associated with the proposed wind farm on a range of environmental parameters is discussed below, each of which will be considered in the EIA. Where particular studies are required in order to describe the impact more fully or provide quantification of the magnitude of the impact, these are described.

Landscape and Visual Character

The site is characterised by open arable farmland interspersed with field margins, hedgerows and mature trees. There are a number of residences, which are 700m or more away from the individual turbines. Views of the site will be possible from the outskirts of Hempnall and from surrounding isolated farms and properties, as well as the local road network and local footpaths.

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment will be undertaken including characterisation of the surrounding countryside with reference to the Countryside Agency's Landscape Character Assessment Guidance. Sensitive visual receptors will be identified and a Zone of Visual Influence provided. Discussions will take place with the Council on the number and location of any necessary photomontages.

Land Use and Planning

Most of the area is currently under arable farmland with the exception of the small areas of woodland. Negotiations with the two landowners are complete and both have entered into a contract with Enertrag to allow the site to be developed should a planning consent be obtained. Once the wind farm is operational agricultural use will continue. The impacts during the construction phase on the land use and landowners/tenants will be considered in the EIA.

Bird Interests

English Nature has advised that the site is not in close proximity to any statutory nature conservation site with bird interest features and that there is little existing knowledge regarding bird species present in the area.

Consultation with English Nature will continue to ensure that their interests are addressed.

Terrestrial Ecology

A Phase 1 Habitat Survey will be undertaken of the area, to identify any habitats or species of nature conservation interest. This will include signs of protected species, e.g. badgers, bats, reptiles etc.

Traffic and Access

Consultation will be undertaken with the local highway authority to agree the most suitable routes for construction plant and materials. Full consideration will be given to potential disruption during the construction phase (anticipated to be 5-6 months). It is not intended that any specific studies will be undertaken, but appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended to ensure safety and minimal local traffic disruption.

Aircraft Routes and Airspace

Consultation will take place with the Civil Aviation Authority and Defence Estates and no issues have been identified.

Electromagnetic Interference and Shadow Flicker

The turbines have been located 700m from the nearest household in order to avoid any adverse electromagnetic effects or shadow flicker. These areas will be discussed in the EIA.

Noise and Vibration

Modern turbines are inherently quiet, but in addition, the turbines have been located at a distance, which will negate any adverse effects from noise or vibration on sensitive receptors such as residents. These areas will, however be discussed in the EIA, which will cover potential effects during construction and operation. Due to the distances from sensitive receptors it is not intended that any quantitative noise studies will be undertaken.

Consultation

As best practice, consultation will be undertaken with the following bodies, in order to ascertain their interests and any particular concerns. These will be addressed fully in the EIA and where necessary mitigation measures will be recommended. Please advise of any other interests that you think should be included.

- South Norfolk District Council (Planning Control Department, Policy Unit, Environmental Services Department)
- Hempnall Parish Council
- Saxlingham Nethergate Parish Council

- Shotesham Parish Council
- Norfolk County Council (Highways)
- Environment Agency
- English Nature
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- English Heritage.

As part of the EIA and consultation process public walk in exhibitions will be held to inform local people about the proposals, explain the development and the likely effects. We would like to work in association with South Norfolk Council on this issue and would be keen to discuss the most effective way of undertaking the public consultation in your district.

Proposed Contents List

Set out below is the proposed contents list of the ES.

Non Technical Summary

Section 1 Background

This section will set the scene for the Environmental Statement, describing and illustrating the background to, and characteristics of, the proposed works. A Statement of Need will include a brief discussion of the alternative locations and the benefits of the development. It will also outline the methodology for impact assessment and the process of consultation.

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Definition of study area
- 1.3 Brief description of the proposed wind farm
- 1.4 Statement of need
- 1.5 Legislative requirement for EIA
- 1.6 The impact assessment process
- 1.7 Consultation
- 1.8 Report structure

Section 2 Description of the Proposed Scheme

This section will describe the operations associated with the construction phase of the scheme and details of the operational phase.

Section 3 Existing Environment

This section will describe the existing environment of the proposed site. The information and data presented constitutes the baseline conditions against which the assessment of potential change/impact associated with development is made.

- 3.1 Introduction / Planning context
- 3.2 Terrestrial Ecology
- 3.3 Ornithology
- 3.4 Geology
- 3.5 Landscape and visual context
- 3.6 Land Use, Land Quality and Local Community
- 3.7 Traffic and Access
- 3.8 Noise, Dust and Air Quality
- 3.9 Electromagnetic and Shadow Flicker
- 3.10 Aircraft Routes and Airspace
- 3.11 Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Section 5 Potential Effects of the Proposed Wind Farm

The potential effects of the construction and operation of the wind farm on the existing environment and local community will be assessed and details of where agencies or the public's concerns have been addressed will be covered. Where necessary mitigation measures will be recommended in order to avoid, reduce or minimise effects and any requirement for monitoring will be outlined.

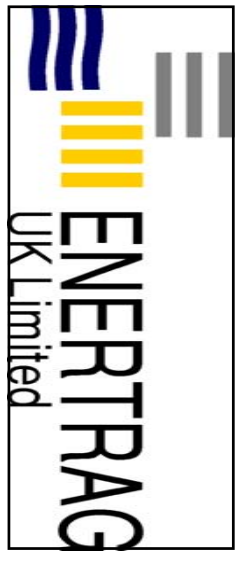
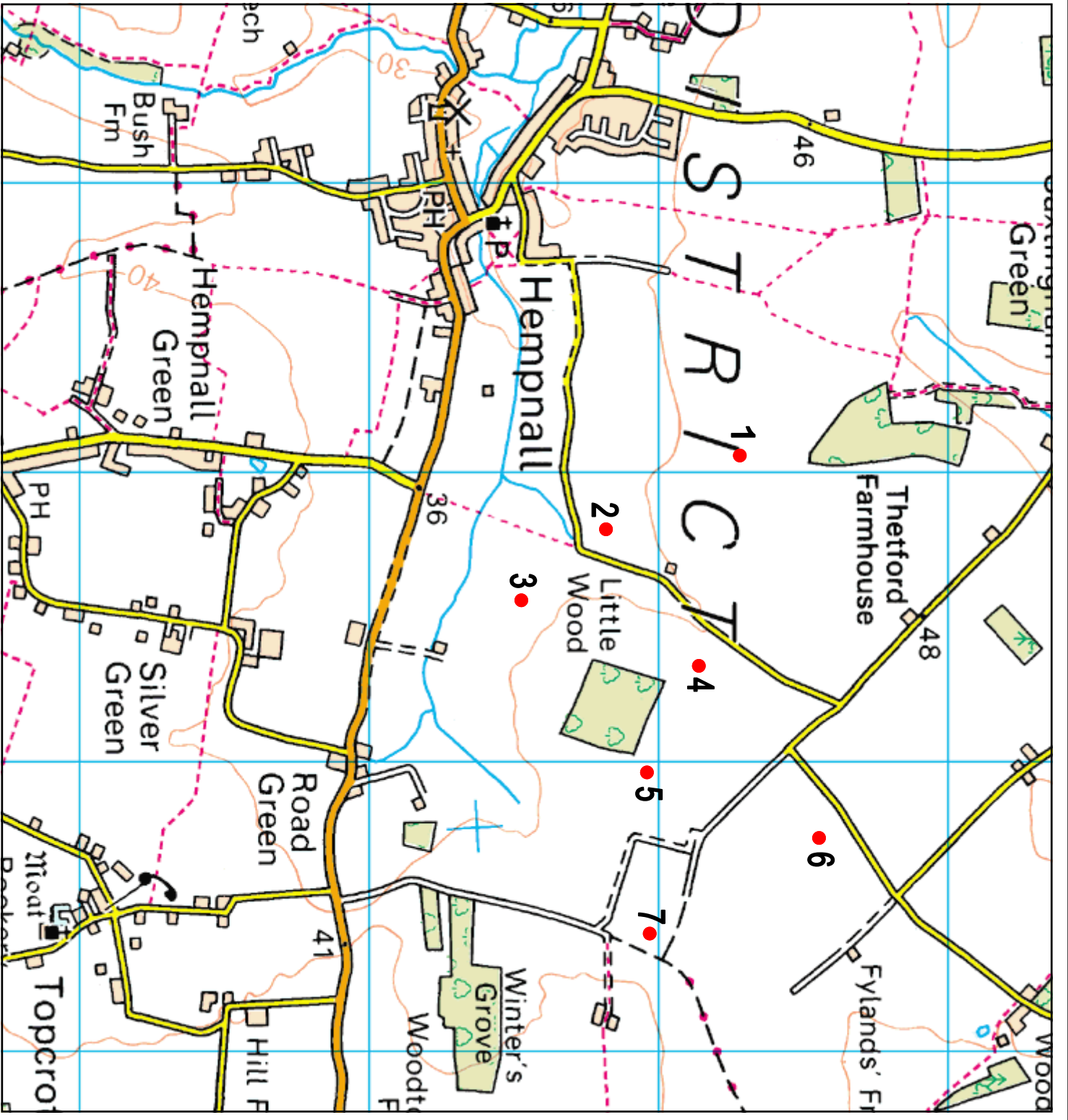
Section 6 Summary of Effects and Mitigation Measures

A summary of the key potential effects of the wind farm and any required mitigation measures will be provided.

We trust you find the information helpful in providing us with a "Scoping Opinion", however if you have any queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We would also be happy to meet with you to discuss the project proposals in more detail if appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Terry Chapelhow
For and on behalf of Enertrag UK Ltd



Legend:-

As Ordnance survey 1:50000
Not to scale

● 6 :- Proposed turbine positions

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Site:-
Hempnall, Norfolk

Title:-
**Proposed Turbine
Locations**

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Revision

Rev	Date	Drawn	Checked
0	15.08.06	TC	DL