

ENERTRAG UK Ltd, Suite H Diss Business Park Hopper Way, Diss IP224GT

Chief Planning Officer,
 Planning Services, South Norfolk District Council,
 South Norfolk House,
 Swan Lane,
 Long Stratton,
 NR15 2XE.

Date

11/02/2008

Reference

ENUK/016/LET/DL/034

Copy

Contact

Dear Sir,

Request for Scoping Opinion:
Proposed Wind Farm Site at Tivetshall St Mary

Enertrag UK Ltd is proposing to apply for planning consent to construct 6 wind turbines South of Tivetshall St Mary, South Norfolk. The location and indicative position of the turbines is shown in the attached drawing. Enertrag UK Ltd has 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' based on the impacts and issues that the EIA should address. We have set out below the areas which we propose to include in the ES along with the anticipated work requirements. We would be grateful if, as part of your Scoping Opinion you could indicate to us your acceptance or otherwise of the issues addressed, or areas where you may think more or less work is required.

ENERTRAG UK Limited

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Brief Description of the Wind Farm Development

It is anticipated that six 2.0 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 20m diameter concrete base.

The connection to the grid would be buried and terminate at an existing 33 kV sub-station. Discussions regarding the connection are ongoing with the DNO (District Network Operator).

Key Potential Environmental Impacts

The key potential environmental issues/impacts associated with the proposed wind farm, covering a range of environmental parameters are discussed below. Each will be considered in the EIA. Where 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 undulating arable farmland interspersed with field margins, hedgerows and mature trees. There are a number of residences surrounding the site, each of which are 700m or more away from the individual turbines. Views of the site will be possible from the outskirts of Tivetshall St Mary and from surrounding isolated farms and properties, as well as from the local road network, public footpaths and bridleways.

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 Guide. 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

The area is predominantly arable farmland. There are some small areas of woodland adjacent to the proposed site. Negotiations with the land owner are complete and a contract has been entered into with Enertrag UK Ltd to allow the site to be developed should 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 the landowner/tenants will be considered in the EIA.

- Bird Interests

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

Consultation with Natural England 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 and reptiles etc.

- Traffic and Access

Consultation will be undertaken with the 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 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 any issues 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 issues 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 concerns. These will be addressed fully in the EIA or supplementary planning information and where necessary mitigation measures will be recommended. Please advise us of any other interests that you think should be included.

- Norfolk County Council (Highways)
- South Norfolk Council (Planning Control Department, Policy Unit, Environmental Services Department)
- Tivetshall St Mary Parish Council
- Tivetshall St Margaret Parish Council
- Aslacton Parish Council
- Brockdish Parish Council
- Burston and Shimpling Parish Council
- Dickleburgh and Rushall Parish Council
- Diss Parish Council
- Gissing Parish Council
- Great Moulton Parish Council
- Pulham Market Parish Council
- Pulham St Mary Parish Council
- Scole Parish Council
- Shelfhanger Parish Council
- The Heywood Parish Council
- Tibenham Parish Council
- Windfarthing Parish Council
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Norfolk Wildlife Trust
- English Heritage
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Defence Estates (MOD)
- British Horse Society
- National Grid
- Ofcom
- BT
- Orange/Vodafone/T-Mobile/O2 UK/3G
- BBC
- Cable and Wireless
- The Joint Radio Company
- Anglia Water
- British Gas
- National Air Traffic Services
- Norfolk Landscape Archaeology
- The Ramblers Association

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.

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 us. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss the project proposals in more detail if appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

David Linley,
Manager of Projects.
For and on behalf of Enertrag UK Ltd.

Proposed Turbine Layout for Tivetshall St Mary

