

James Wright
South Lanarkshire Council
Via email

Dear James

Our reference

11138

Date

15 July 2020

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Mill Rig Wind Farm App Ref (P/18/1345): Confirmation of Scoping Opinion

I am writing on behalf of Mill Rig Wind Farm LLP, a partnership between Banks Renewables and Wilson Forestry Products (hereafter 'the developer'), to respond to and further clarify, the contents of the Scoping Opinion issued by South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impacts Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 on 18th January 2019.

Mill Rig Wind Farm LLP intends to apply for planning permission under the Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006 (the 2006 Act) for the proposed development of the Mill Rig Wind Farm (the "proposed development").

The proposed Mill Rig Wind Farm Site is located approximately 10km north-west Muirkirk and 6km south-east of Darvel, adjacent to the operational Bank End Rig Wind Farm and consented¹ Extension. The Site falls within the administrative boundaries of both SLC (turbines and associated infrastructure) and East Ayrshire Council (EAC) (access track only). As such, planning applications will be submitted to both SLC and EAC. An application will be submitted to SLC for the proposed wind turbines, associated infrastructure and a potential energy storage facility while an application will be submitted to EAC for the proposed access track.

An initial 18 turbine design was proposed by the developer in September 2018 based on likely tip heights of up to 220m with rotor diameters being in the range of 110m up to 150m, informed by early technical feasibility and environmental information. The design had a potential generating capacity of <50MW and was presented in a Scoping Report submitted to SLC and EAC on 7th September 2018 to accompany a request for a Scoping Opinion. The 2018 red line application boundary and turbine layout is shown in **Figure SR04**. A Scoping Opinion was received from SLC on 18th January 2019 (Ref P/18/1345) and a consultation response received from EAC on 26th October 2018 and 27th November 2018.

Informed by the detailed Statutory Consultee responses to Scoping, ongoing environmental survey work, advances in technology and changes to the landholding, the developer has modified the proposed development and is proposing to further refine the scope of the EIA and associated EIA-Report accordingly. The modifications to the development ensure that wind

¹ subject to S75 agreement

availability and energy capture are maximised without notably increasing likely significant environmental effects.

As noted in the Scoping Opinion, Regulation 5(3) of the EIA Regulations states that “*where a scoping opinion is issued, the EIA report must be based on that scoping opinion and include the information that may reasonably be required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment.*”

To ensure compliance with Regulation 5(3), and to ensure all parties are in agreement with the scope of the EIA upon which the associated EIA Report will be based, taking a proportionate approach this letter and accompanying information has been prepared to seek confirmation from SLC that the extant Scoping Opinion remains valid, subject to the updates set out. The content of this letter presents the following:

- Modifications to the proposed development boundary and proposed development specification from that previously submitted on 7th September 2018 upon which the extant 2019 Scoping Opinion is based.
- Emerging findings of the ongoing environmental surveys, to further inform the refinement of the scope of the EIA.
- Provide updated clarification of the proposed methodologies for the EIA (where relevant) and scope of the EIA-Report.

The modifications to the development proposal presented in September 2018, comprise a reduction in turbines from 18 to 10 and an increase in maximum tip height from 220m to 250m. The current proposed red line boundary and indicative turbine layout are shown on **Figure SR02**. No further modifications to the development proposals as presented in September 2018 are proposed, therefore the current development comprises:

- Wind turbines: The proposed development will comprise a wind farm of up to 10 turbines with a maximum generation capacity of <50 MW. Turbines will be 3 bladed horizontal axis machines. The likely tip heights of the turbines will be up to 250m with likely rotor diameters being in the range of 150m;
- Anemometer mast (if required). Alternatively the use of a Lidar may be more appropriate given the height of the turbines proposed;
- Site control building and compound: the control building will comprise a single storey building with an associated electrical compound for any outside transformers and switchgear (if required);
- Underground cables from the wind turbines to the control building compound: electrical connections on site between the wind turbines and the control building will be underground, with cables being laid in trenches directly adjacent to the access tracks;
- Borrow pit(s);
- Hardstand areas: access roads, crane pads, fences and other associated infrastructure; and
- Energy storage (if required).

Reflecting the detailed responses received from the Statutory Consultees, and overarching key issues raised in the 2019 Scoping Opinion, the enclosed table sets out the developers proposed refined scope of works for the EIA and resultant EIA-Report, in accordance with the extant Scoping Opinion.

Table 1 sets out where relevant the implications of the modifications to the proposed development and presents an overview of the findings of the environmental survey work undertaken to date (including that undertaken since the Scoping Report was produced in 2018). The table also sets out the actions proposed to be undertaken through the EIA, and

presented in the EIA Report, in response to the 2019 Scoping Opinion issued by SLC and additional comments raised by consultees.

I trust that the information provided within this letter is sufficient for SLC to confirm the scope proposed within the 2018 Scoping Report, with further updates within this letter, reflects the intended scope of the extant Scoping Opinion and that this remains valid for the modified proposed development. Our specialist teams will continue to liaise with SLC's internal specialist teams and external consultees (including Scottish Forestry), to inform the design and refine the scope of the EIA as it progresses.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or require further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed in a thin black rectangular box. The signature appears to read 'Sarah Cane-Ritchie'.

Sarah Cane- Ritchie
Principal Environmental Planner
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