

Annex C

The Examining Authority's Initial Assessment of Principal Issues

This is the initial assessment of the principal issues arising from the consideration by the ExA of the application documents and relevant representations received regarding the proposed Clocaenog Forest Onshore Wind Farm. In identifying the principal issues, some detailed matters are identified which are likely to be the subject of further clarification or debate. These include matters on which the applicant may commence preparation prior to the preliminary meeting.

The annex is not a comprehensive or exclusive list. All important and relevant matters will be taken into account in writing the report and making a recommendation to the Secretary of State after the examination is concluded.

1 Development Consent Order

A number of matters require clarification or possible amendment in relation to:

- Description of the authorised development and ancillary development.
- The conformity of the Order with the project and the works plans.
- The Book of Reference including whether all the persons or bodies with an interest in land or rights to be acquired have been identified in the Book of Reference.
- Compulsory acquisition (CA) powers re private rights, highways land, Crown land, and new rights.
- Acquisition of Statutory Undertakers' land having regard to S127 of the PA 2008.
- Consistency with the Environmental Statement.

2 Policy Issues

- Compliance with National Policy Statements EN1 and EN3.
- The status of TAN 8 and Minister's letter of July 2011.
- Whether the scheme together with consented and operational wind farms would exceed the capacity of SSA(A) as identified in the 2005 Garrad Hassan "Energy Assessment of TAN8 wind energy Strategic Search Areas".

3 The Environment

- The extent to which the design and layout of the scheme reflects landform, topography and valued landscape features; and relates appropriately to other existing and proposed wind turbines in the vicinity.
- Landscape and visual impact: including the identification of the key/most relevant locations for the ExA to visit in order to understand the likely impact.
- Impact on tranquillity: including the potential use of Tranquillity Mapping.
- Impact on historic assets: including the identification of the key/most relevant locations for the ExA to visit in order to understand the likely impact.
- Impact of construction phase and operation of the wind turbines on recreation and tourism.
- Impact of construction phase and operation of the wind turbines on non-avian and avian ecology.
- Impact on residential and visitor amenity during construction phase in terms of noise, dust, water supply and traffic; and during operational phase in

terms of noise and vibration, and shadow flicker.

4 Health and Safety

- Provision for protection of the public during tree felling, construction and operation.
- Fire hazards arising during construction and operation.
- Whether there would be any impact on air quality arising from the construction phase, in particular on ecology or residents.

5 Mitigation and Requirements

The ExA requests a schedule of all matters for which a requirement for mitigation has been identified in the Environmental Statement (ES) and any other documents, with cross references to the document in which it is identified, and to the corresponding provisions in the draft DCO delivering that mitigation.

- The extent to which matters identified in the Environmental Statement and any other documents which require mitigation are covered by the proposed requirements such that they would be implemented and enforced.
- The extent to which the proposed mitigation measures would reduce or eliminate impacts.