

ACKRON WIND FARM ABNORMAL LOAD ROUTE ASSESSMENT

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Prepared By:

Arcus Consultancy Services

7th Floor 144 West George Street Glasgow G2 2HG

T +44 (0)141 221 9997 I E info@arcusconsulting.co.uk www.arcusconsulting.co.uk

Registered in England & Wales No. 5644976



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1 INTRODUCTION

Ackron Wind Farm is a proposed wind farm located south of the A836 west of Thurso in the Scottish Highlands. This Abnormal Load Route Assessment (ALRA) provides an assessment of land based routes to the wind farm site for the delivery of wind turbine components.

2 METHODOLOGY

This ALRA is a desk based study which uses publically available Ordinance Survey (OS) mapping to conduct swept path analysis of pinch points on the proposed delivery route. Swept path analysis is conducted in AutoCAD using the Vehicle Tracking software and a bespoke set of delivery vehicles developed for this ALRA.

2.1 Mapping

OS Mastermap was used to conduct swept path analysis along the proposed delivery route. This mapping is two-dimensional; and therefore, the assessment only considers the horizontal geometry of points of constraint (PCs) on the route. Topographical surveys may be required in order to undertake an assessment of vertical constraints.

2.2 Delivery Vehicle Specifications

This assessment is based upon a Vestas V136 candidate turbine. The vehicle data sheet is included in Appendix A. Dimensions of the blade and corresponding delivery vehicle specifications are provided in the following tables.

Table 2.1: Turbine Blade Data

	Data Used in Assessment
Blade	Length 66.66m

Table 2.2: Assumed delivery vehicles for Turbine Blade

	Data	Source
Blade Trailer	Vehicle length - 62.62m Blade overhang - 8.8m	Volvo Cab / Nooteboom Superwing Trailer

2.3 Route to Site

Wind turbine components will be delivered to the Port of Scrabster for onward overland delivery to the Wind Farm Site. The route for turbine components will be as follows:

- Leave Port of Scrabster southbound on A9;
- Turn right onto A836;
- Turn left onto A897; and
- Turn left into Site Entrance.

Figure 1, included in Appendix B, indicates the assessed abnormal load route from the Port of Scrabster.



2.4 Site Entrance Location

The Site Entrance will be located off the A897 approximately 200 m south of its junction with the A836 and north of the settlement at Ackron and Golval. This location is indicated on Figure 1 of Appendix A.

2.5 Assumptions

In order to keep the results of assessment as concise as possible, the following assumptions have been made at each PC:

- During transit, delivery vehicles will be accompanied by an escort vehicle and a police escort if required;
- At all locations where the delivery vehicle occupies the full road width, or is required
 to contraflow a junction, appropriate traffic management procedures will be
 implemented by the escort. This will usually involve temporary closure of the road or
 junction whilst the vehicle passes; and
- A detailed traffic management plan will be prepared prior to delivery to inform all relevant stakeholders of road closures and other procedures to be implemented during delivery.

2.6 Categorisation of Risk

Risk has been categorised according to the following criteria:

- High Risk PCs which require third party land either for oversail or overrun;
- Medium Risk PCs which may require third party land depending on confirmation of the exact positioning of land boundaries and fences or those which do not require third party land but do require the construction of overrun areas within the road verge; and
- Low Risk PCs which do not require third party land and do not require construction of overrun areas.

3 RESULTS OF ASSESSMENT

Based on swept path analysis of all PCs identified on the proposed delivery route, outcomes and mitigation requirements have been defined and are detailed in Table 3.1.



Table 3.1: Assessment of Constraints

Ref	Location	Assessment Outcome	Mitigation	Risk
PC/01	Port of Scrabster Bend after Exit	Load to oversail inside of the bend into third party land area, will conflict with fence and lighting column.	Lighting columns to be removed from oversail area on inside bend. Height of load above fence to be checked, fence to be removed if necessary. Third party oversail permissions to be sought.	High
PC/02	A9/A836 Junction	Vehicle to use existing overrun area. Blade to oversail northeast junction over wall into third party land area.	Third party oversail permissions to be sought. No further mitigation required.	High
PC/03	A836 Bend Northwest of Scrabster Lodge	Load to oversail the inside of the bend within road verge.	No mitigation required.	Low
PC04	A836 Bend Before Bridge of Forss	Vehicle required to overrun into layby area at Forss Mill conflicting with trees on verge and chevron signpost. Landownership status of layby unknown.	Landownership search to be undertaken. Trees to be removed from verge between road and layby. Chevron signpost to be temporarily removed during delivery.	Medium
PC/05	A836 Bend after Bridge of Forss	Load to oversail inside of the bend above fence into third party land.	Clearance height of load above fence to be checked. Third party oversail permissions to be sought.	High
PC/06	A836 Bend at Forss Business Park Entrance	Vehicle to overrun outside of bend within road verge in order to minimise risk of third party oversail on the inside of the bend. However, despite this, clearance to third party oversail is below the factor of safety (0.75m).	A topographical survey is recommended to establish the exact road constrains and to establish if the indicated overrun area will allow vehicle to pass without third party oversail, alternatively if third party oversail permissions can be sought for the inside bend then construction of overrun area will not be required.	Medium



Ref	Location	Assessment Outcome	Mitigation	Risk
PC/07	A836 Bend after Buldoo	Load to oversail inside of bend near to residential propoerty. Clearance to property was assessed at less that the factor of safety.	Dry run or topographical survey recommended to establish if clearance is sufficient.	Medium
PC/08	A836 Bridge of Isauld	Load and trailer to oversail inside of bend beyond bridge above stone wall into third party land conflicting with telegraph post. Blade tip to oversail outside of bend into third party land and conflict with telegraph post.	Clearance height of load and trailer above stone wall on inside bend to be checked. Third party oversail permissions to be sought. Telegraph posts to be relocated.	High
PC/09	A836 Reay	Minor oversail of load within road verge whilst passing through village. No conflict identified.	No mitigation required.	Low
PC/10	A836 Bridge over Sandside Burn, Reay	Load and trailer to oversail inside bend and blade tip to oversail outside bend. Location of fence on mapping does not correspond to online mapping observations.	Location of fence and third party land boundary to be confirmed. Third party oversail permissions may need to be sought.	Medium
PC/11	A836 Bend at Creagan Loisgte	Vehicle required to overrun northwest of bend in order to avoid third party oversail on inside bend. However clearance to third party land on inside bend remains below factor of safety.	Topographical survey recommended to establish location of fences and landowership search recommended to establish extents of road verge. Load bearing surface to be constructed in verge to the northwest of bend.	Medium
PC/12	A836/A897 Bend	Vehicle to overrun and oversail inside bend of junction within road verge. Ground slopes up from road edge, possible conflict with load and trailer oversail.	Load bearing surface to be laid on overrun area on inside bend. Clearance height of trailer above sloping verge to be established.	Medium
PC/13	Site Entrance Junction	New access junction to be constructed.	Refer to access junction design.	Low



4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary

This ALRA identified 13 PCs on the route to site and undertook swept path analysis at each. Following completion of the assessement four of the PCs were classified as high risk, where third party land permissions would need to be acquired. Six PCs were classified as medium risk, where third party land may be required dependant on establishing the exact location of land boundaries or where construction works outwith third party land are required. The remaining three PCs were classified as low risk where no construction works or third party land permissions are required.

4.2 Recommendations for Further Work

Structural surveys may need to be undertaken at structures along the route in order to establish weight limits. An abnormal indivisible loads application should be submitted to the relevant authority which will initiate consultations with all relevant parties and identify areas where further review is required.

At a number of locations identified it is not clear from the mapping exactly where the extent of public road verge terminates. At these locations a topographical survey has been recommended in order to establish these limit. Landownership searches should be undertaken at these locations and at all locations where the need for third party land has been identified.

APPENDIX A - VEHICLE DATA SHEET

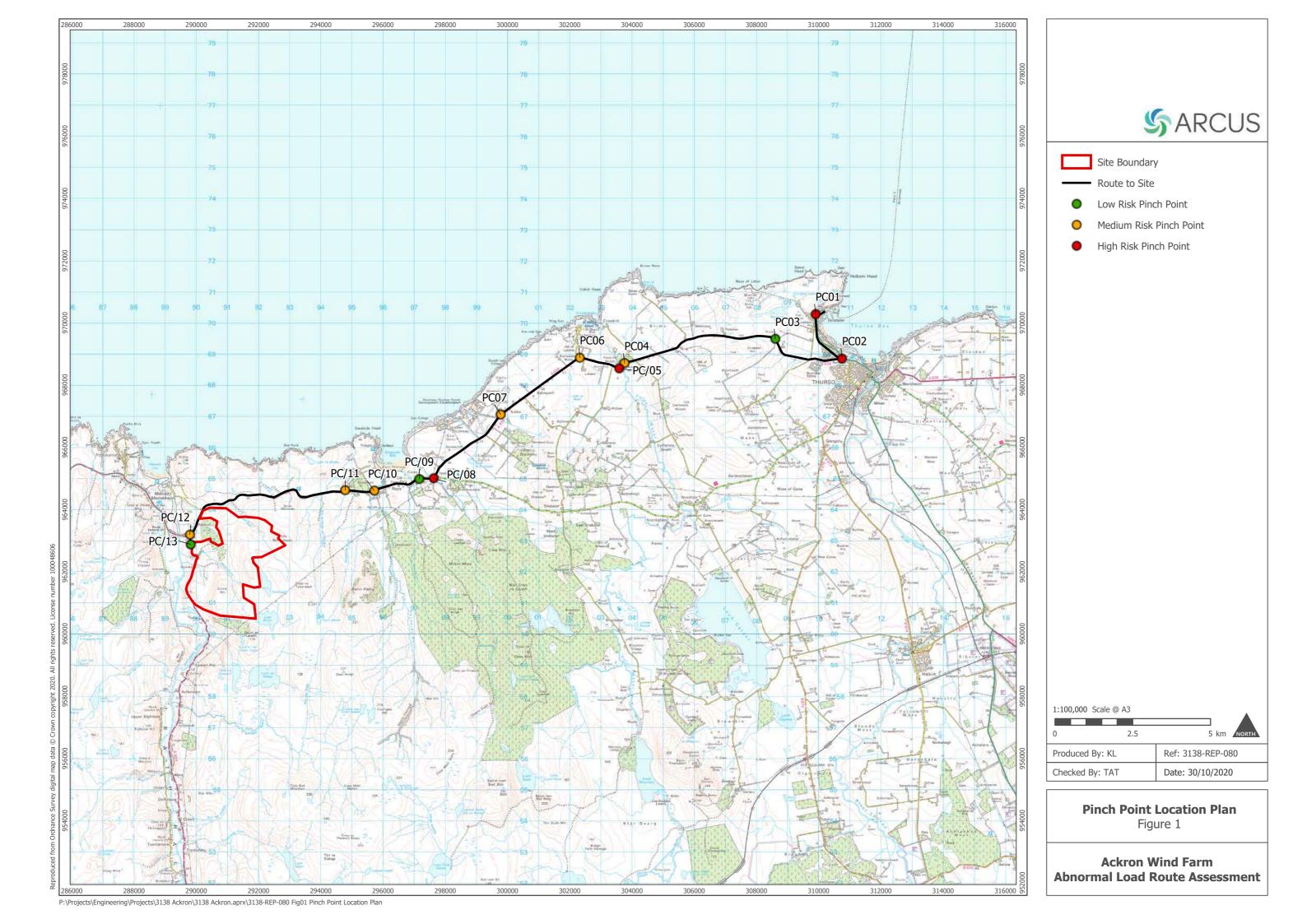
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APPENDIX B - ROUTE TO SITE



APPENDIX C - SWEPT PATH ANALYSIS DRAWING

