ENVIRONMENT
& HEALTH

Planning Department
Dumfries & Galloway Council
Kirkbank,
English Street,
Dumfries,
DG1 2HS

Dear Sir/Madam,

Date 06/02/2023

Construction of access and erection of meteorological mast Artfield Forest, Dumfries and Galloway. Easting: 223640 – Northing: 568306

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On behalf of our client, Artfield Forest Wind Farm Ltd, I am pleased to enclose a planning application for a Meteorological Mast and ancillary infrastructure to be erected at the site as noted above for a period of three years. Artfield Forest Wind Farm Ltd is wholly owned by Statkraft UK Ltd.

Figure 1 provides a site location plan. The site layout is illustrated in Figure 2. The application site boundary includes two incontiguous areas as follows:

- Area 1 – includes the proposed mast, hardstanding and an area of woodland removal to fell woodland back to a 'wind firm' edge. The area of development proposed is 12,198 m^2;
- Area 2 – includes a section of new access track construction, over a distance of 718 m. The track would have a running width of up to 5 m and therefore the area of development proposed is 3,590 m^2.

The requirement for the proposed meteorological mast is to gather meteorological data to inform the consideration of the potential development of a wind farm on the site. The proposal involves the installation of a standard specification mast, up to 140m in height, with a triangular lattice structure to be constructed of steel located on a concrete foundation. Figure 2 provides a site layout drawing showing the centre point. The met mast would have a hardstanding area of level, crushed stone of up to 625 m^2 for safe erection, maintenance and decommissioning. Please note that we propose that the met mast location and the geometry, area and position of hardstanding is subject to change and micro-siting within the application site boundary (outlined in red in Figure 2) and within the overall limit of 625 m^2. The micro-siting would be used to optimise the location of mast structure and crane position during

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construction/decommissioning to take account of local ground conditions, access and any other technical or environmental constraints identified following detailed site investigation. The site would be accessed using existing public roads and forestry tracks (Option 1) (upgraded where necessary), as shown in Figure 2. A secondary access route option (Option 2) is proposed and shown in Figure 2, which would be used in the event of any disruption occurring to the primary track. The secondary track is located approximately 1.5 8km east of the existing proposed track. There is a small section of new track that will need to be constructed in order to complete the proposed secondary access option. This is annotated as area 2 in Figure 2 with a red line boundary encircling the location.

The land within the site is currently part of a wider productive conifer plantation forest. The location has been selected to be close to the existing forest track network and to avoid known environmental constraints, including being located greater than 50 m from watercourses and in an area with no peat recorded during peat probing surveys. Given the current land-use, the area is of very low ecological sensitivity. Vegetation and tree clearance will be required around the met mast tower. Direct felling required would be limited to the area for the hardstanding (0.0625ha). The entire area within the site boundary will be felled back to windfirm edges, to ensure that adjacent trees do not fall onto the met mast. Replanting of the felled areas is expected to take place after decommissioning, or sooner for areas not required for decommissioning but necessary for construction.

Up to seven booms with measurement equipment (including anemometers) will project from the mast, located in accordance with International Standard (IEC 61400-12-1:2017). Booms would be separated by at least 20 m with no booms below 30 m. Booms may be fixed on either side or in some cases only on one side of the mast. The orientation of the booms is likely to be 90 degrees to the predominant wind direction (i.e., south-westerly). A typical arrangement drawing/elevation drawing is provided in Figure 4. Windvanes, thermometers, barometers and other meteorological equipment may also be used for measurements.

In addition to measurement equipment there will be a lightning rod at the top of the mast and earthing gear throughout the mast protecting equipment. There will also be a data logger and power supply / solar cell.

The online submission comprises the following:

- Location Plan
- Site Layout Plan
- Drawing showing general arrangement of met mast.
- Planning Cover Letter

A total payment of £8000.000 is submitted to Dumfries and Galloway council which includes for the planning fee. We will await confirmation of the relevant advertisement fees.

We entrust the enclosed is sufficient for the purposes of registration of this application, please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Peter Bruce