

Greystone Knowe Scoping Opinion: Section 36 Application Wind Farm Application

Response by Heriot Community Council

In response to the request by the Energy Consents Unit, Scottish Government for comments on the scoping report submitted by RSK Environment Ltd, Heriot Community Council has considered the report, and had brief informal discussion with Coriolis Energy. The comments made below were discussed with Coriolis, who indicated they were pleased to receive feedback from our community.

Community Consultation. Coriolis need to undertake a consultation process as part of preparing the EIA for their application. They originally hoped to have an exhibition in the community in September. When they submitted the scoping report, they felt that was unlikely to be possible, but it was agreed that now it appears that it may well be possible by then. Heriot CC agreed with Coriolis to keep in touch on this, and hopefully avoid the need for attempting anything “virtual” or online as suggested might be tried in their letter accompanying the report. Clearly an exhibition in the village hall, even with strict social distancing, would be the preferable outcome.

It was noted that the scoping report suggests additional turbines at the north of the scheme to the initial plan circulated previously. This has brought the proposed turbines closer to residential properties in Heriot. Coriolis may wish to reconsider whether these turbines should be included in the formal application.

Viewpoints. Coriolis indicated they wished to hear suggestions of Viewpoints from the community for their consideration. The small settlement of some 20 houses at Nettlingflat, to the east of the A7 and just north of Heriot Station is an obvious suggestion. It is much higher than the Heriot Station area and has extensive views of the proposed turbines. This site was used as a Viewpoint for the Wull Muir wind farm application, now at appeal.

A further site for consideration is the Crookston area, due east of the northernmost turbines and also of the A7 and the railway. It is another elevated site with direct views of the site. Some properties have trees obscuring the proposed turbines, but close to Crookston South Mains (now residential properties) and Crookston Old House there are suitable sites.

It was noted that Corsehope Rings (an historic site on Corsehope Farm) had been used as a Viewpoint for Wull Muir. Local people frequently walk there. Viewpoint 1 on the footpath behind Heriot Mill might be regarded as an alternative but is further away from the site. Some concern was raised about the proposed Viewpoint 3 at Heriot Station being so close to an area with no visibility according to the supplied ZTV. It was agreed by Coriolis that this would be checked to ensure an appropriate point was chosen.

Noise. It was agreed that Coriolis would keep in touch with Heriot CC to discuss and agree

- a) suitable locations for background noise readings. It was noted that several locations near the turbines such as Corsehope, Halltree are working farms — and also there is noise from the A7 and the railway near to several nearby properties.
- b) discuss a list of properties that should be included in the actual assessment.

Heriot CC has access to expert assistance on turbine noise, and ETSU-R-97 guidance. We are familiar with best practice in this regard and would welcome early inclusion in discussions to assist in ensuring correct assessment of this difficult subject.

Residential Amenity (RAA). The scoping report proposal is to assess all properties within 2km of the nearest turbine. That seems reasonable to Heriot CC, provided noise impacts on these properties is properly assessed as well as visual amenity, as suggested above. It was agreed

that a list will be shared with Heriot CC for feedback to ensure agreement on the properties concerned.

It can be seen from this response that there was considerable agreement concerning the environmental impacts on Heriot that will require careful consideration in the EIA. Heriot CC trusts that full consideration to further consultation with the community will be maintained.