

Town & Country Planning (EIA) Regulations 2011
Secretary of State Screening Direction – Written Statement

Application name:	Croft House Farm, Dovenby, Cockermouth
SoS case reference:	NPCU/EIASCR/R0905/75750
Schedule and category of development:	3(i) Wind power for energy production

Summary of likeliness of significant environmental impacts

Reasons for direction as required by 4 (5) (a) of amended EIA Regulations

Characteristics of development

The proposed development is a single wind turbine with a hub height of approximately 50m and to tip of approximately 77m with a three blade rotor design and associated works.

Location of development

The site is in a predominantly rural location surrounded by agricultural land. The applicant states that the site is 1.2km north of Little Broughton and 1.3km west of Dovenby though the screening opinion states it is only 0.6km away from Little Broughton. The closest dwellings to the turbine site are West End 850m east, Glen and Rose Cottages, both located 950m southwest and Railway Cottages located 1km north. The staggered border of Lake District National Park (LDNP) is around 4.74km away from the site and there is one SSSI and one site designated as a SSSI, Ramsar, SAC and SPA (Upper Solway Flats and Marshes) within close proximity.

Characteristics of potential impact

Natural England were consulted by Allerdale Council and concluded that the proposal was not likely to significantly affect the interest features for which the SSSIs, Ramsar, SAC and SPA sites were notified. The Council also considers that distant views of the LDNP fells can be seen from the site, however, given the distance of the site from the LDNP it is not considered that the proposed development would adversely impact on it. The third party disputes this finding and considers that it is inconsistent with other screening opinions issued for similar developments in the vicinity. No LVIA has been provided, however a ZTV indicates that the areas within the LDNP where the proposal will be visible are likely to be limited. I would conclude from the information available that the proposal is unlikely to result in significant effects on areas protected for their landscape, cultural or other value.

The screening direction request also considers that the proposal should be EIA on the basis of cumulative impacts associated with other similar developments in the locality. The Council has not referred to the effect of cumulative impacts in the screening opinion. The applicant has not provided an LVIA though they have stated that they consider there are only a small number of other turbines approved in the area. Further information was requested from the Council and a review of information available on the Council website indicates a number of existing, pending or planned developments in the vicinity of the site. There has been no supporting information that provides evidence that there will be no significant effects as a result of cumulative impacts with other existing, pending or planned developments in the vicinity of the site. I consider that it is not possible to reasonably conclude that there is no likelihood of significant effects. For this reason I would conclude that in the particular circumstances of this case EIA is required.

Is an Environmental Statement required?	Yes
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Name	Liz Hardy
Date	28 July 2015