



Environmental Appraisal Report

Woolfords Wind Farm - Tip Height Increase

Annex 9-1-1: Assessment Scope and Criteria

Woolfords Wind Energy Ltd

wind2

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1. Assessment Scope and Criteria

1.1 Scope of the Assessment

This report details the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and aims to identify and map the nature of the heritage resource within the site and surrounding study area. Where possible, the assessment will evaluate the likely impact from Proposed Development, upon the known and potential heritage resource.

This report will include recommendations for mitigation measures and/or further archaeological works; where the archaeological potential of the site warrants, or where additional information on the site is required.

Further works could include additional research, monitoring of geotechnical investigations, programmes of archaeological surveying and / or field evaluation. The results of any further studies can be used to inform the nature of any subsequent mitigation measures (if required) and provide advice upon the scope and design of the Proposed Development.

The assessment has used the sources listed in the main text to identify and map heritage assets and other relevant find spots or evidence within the site and defined study area. Heritage assets are defined in national planning guidance and can include designated assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings etc.), standing, buried or submerged remains, historic buildings and structures, parks and gardens and areas, sites and landscapes - whether designated or not.

1.2 Assessment Criteria

The potential for surviving archaeological evidence of past activity within the site is expressed in the report as ranging between the scales of:

- High – The available evidence suggests a high likelihood for past activity within the site and a strong potential for archaeological evidence to survive intact or reasonably intact;
- Medium – The available evidence suggests a reasonable likelihood for past activity within the site and consequently there is a potential that archaeological evidence could survive.
- Low – The available evidence suggests archaeological evidence of activity is unlikely to survive within the site, although some minor land-use may have occurred.
- Uncertain - Insufficient information to assess.

Buried archaeological evidence is, by its very nature, an unknown quantity which can never be 100% identified during a desk-based assessment. The assessed potential is based on available evidence but the physical nature and extent of any archaeological resource surviving within the site cannot be confirmed without detailed information on the below ground deposits or results of on-site fieldwork.

Where known heritage assets are identified, the heritage significance of such assets is determined by reference to existing designations where available. For previously unidentified sites where no designation has been assigned, an estimate has been made of the likely historic, artistic, or archaeological importance of that resource based on professional knowledge and judgement.

Adjustments to the classification (Table 1, below) are occasionally made, where appropriate; for some types of finds or sites where there is no consistent value, and the importance may vary from local to national. Levels of importance for any such areas are generally assigned on an individual basis, based on professional judgement and advice.

Table 1: Assessing the Importance of a Heritage Assets

IMPORTANCE OF HERITAGE ASSET	
HIGH	Assets of high importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a national level., e.g. Scheduled Monuments (or non-designated assets of schedulable quality and importance), Category A Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes and Inventory Battlefields. Well preserved historic landscape, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s)
MEDIUM	Assets of medium or high importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a regional level. Designated or non-designated assets including Category B and C Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas; well preserved structures or buildings of historical significance, historic landscapes or assets of a reasonably defined extent and significance, or reasonable evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity etc. Examples may include burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads and dense scatter of finds.
LOW	Assets of low or medium importance and rarity and those considered to be important at a local level. Locally listed buildings or non-designated assets with some evidence of human activity which have the potential to contribute to local research objectives, structures or buildings of potential historical merit. Examples include assets such as historic field systems and boundaries, agricultural features such as ridge and furrow, etc.
NEGLIGIBLE	Assets of very low importance which are common. Heritage assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest or buildings and landscapes of no historical significance. Examples include destroyed antiquities, buildings of no architectural merit, or relatively modern landscape features such as quarries, field boundaries, drains and ponds etc.
UNKNOWN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

The likely magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development works is determined by identifying the level of change from the Proposed Development upon the 'baseline' conditions of the site and the heritage resource identified in the assessment. This effect can be either adverse (negative) or beneficial (positive). The criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact are set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Magnitude of Impact Criteria

LEVEL OF MAGNITUDE	DEFINITION
ADVERSE	
HIGH	Considerable impacts fundamentally changing the baseline condition of the receptor, leading to total or considerable alteration of character or setting – e.g. complete or almost complete destruction of the archaeological resource; dramatic visual intrusion into a historic landscape element; adverse change to the setting or visual amenity of the feature/asset; significant increase in noise or changes in sound quality; extensive changes to use or access. Considerable impacts to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, notably Scheduled Monuments, Protected Wreck Sites, Inventory Battlefields, Listed Buildings, Inventory Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and World Heritage Sites.
MEDIUM	Impacts changing the baseline condition of the receptor materially but not entirely, leading to partial alteration of character or setting – e.g. a large proportion of the archaeological resource damaged or destroyed; visual intrusion into key aspects of the historic landscape; and changes in noise levels or use of an asset that would result in detrimental changes to character.
LOW	Detectable impacts which alter the baseline condition of the receptor to a small degree – e.g. a small proportion of the surviving archaeological resource is damaged or destroyed; minor severance, change to the setting or structure or increase in noise; and limited encroachment into character of a historic landscape.

LEVEL OF MAGNITUDE	DEFINITION
NEGLECTIBLE	Barely distinguishable adverse change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable impact on a known asset, possibly because of distance from the development, method of construction or landscape or ecological planting, that are thought to have no long term effect on the historic value of a resource.
BENEFICIAL	
NEGLECTIBLE	Barely distinguishable beneficial change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable effect on a known asset and little long term effect on the historic value of a resource.
LOW	Minimal enhancement to key historic landscape elements, parcels or components, such as limited visual improvements or reduction in severance; slight changes in noise or sound quality; minor changes to use or access; resulting in a small improvement in historic landscape character.
MEDIUM	Changes to key historic elements resulting in welcome changes to historic landscape character. For example, a major reduction of severance or substantial reductions in noise or disturbance such that the value of known assets would be enhanced.
HIGH	Positive changes to most or all key historic landscape elements, parcels or components; visual changes to many key aspects of the historic landscape; significant decrease in noise or changes in sound quality; changes to use or access; resulting in considerable welcome changes to historic landscape character.

In certain cases, it is not possible to confirm the magnitude of impact upon a heritage resource, especially where anticipated buried deposits exist. In such circumstances a professional judgement as to the scale of such impacts is applied.