

Isle of Wight AONB Partnership - Development Control & Planning Work Group
Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 14th April 2004,
9.30am, Seaclose Offices, Newport

In Attendance

Tony Tutton	IW AONB Steering Committee Chairman
Denis Russell	IW AONB Steering Committee Vice-Chairman/Community & Parish Portfolio
Vicky Basford	IW AONB Steering Committee Historic Environment Portfolio
David Court	IW AONB Steering Committee Coastal Portfolio
Dennis Russell	CPRE
John Brownscombe	AONB Officer
Fiona Hanna	AONB Planning & Information Assistant

1. Apologies

Richard Grogan	IW AONB Steering Committee Nature Conservation Portfolio (Chair)
Marijke Ransom	AONB Planning & Information Officer (Maternity)

It was agreed that TT would chair the meeting in RG absence.

There was no agenda, as only item was planned to be discussed, and this was the Scoping Document submitted by West Wight Technology Park. JB confirmed that he had copied this document to all work group members and additionally to mainland AONB's for information.

TT reported that the National Trust had not been included as a consultee.

The letter from Glen Hepburn (GH) IWC Planning Officer, that accompanied the document, was read out to the group.

The Document and request for suggestions for EIA considerations were discussed with the following points of note.

Members were pleased that the document already accepted the requirement of AONB considerations and landscape issues, thereby saving any initial justifications for these considerations.

A need to put forward a wish list to GH.

Photo montages will definitely be required.

Suggestion of 3D model of the area.

Terms of Reference for meeting -

It was agreed that the work group would concentrate on the visual impact of this development on the AONB. Although it was felt that the setting of AONB landscapes was important, the development is outside the designation and planning policy is clear on the AONB boundary as a prime factor, particularly in new legislation. Additionally JB was unsure of how much weight would be given to an AONB response, if the response was clouded with considerations other than that of the development's direct impact to the AONB.

All agreed that the development would impact on the AONB and that standpoints can be subjective as to whether development is detrimental or non-detrimental – the final judgement will have a large element of subjectivity.

Concerns were raised as to the scale and suitability of wind farms in the IW landscape, which is relatively intimate.

It was questioned that the development would be a draw for Tourism.

Would be a need to check the scientific analysis.

Conflicts of desirability : reduce dependence on fossil fuels or impact on protected landscapes.

Highlights a need for partnership to also consider overall position in relation to personal ownership schemes i.e. householder applications for small single wind turbines/mills.

Choice of name 'West Wight Technology Park was considered an interesting choice of name, felt to be fundamentally urban – concerns that this could imply other development could be attracted to the site.

Suggestion was made that during consultation process balloons could be floated at the height of the tip of the blade, to give people a visual representation.

It was felt that views to the AONB were as important as views from, as could potentially change the character i.e From Solent looking North towards the downland. All agreed that various viewpoints would need to be considered.

Noise factors were questioned and any knock on effect to the appreciation of the landscape (quiet enjoyment), this could possibly be clarified with decibel figures.

AONB Requests for EIA inclusions

Study Area – to be 25km to ensure coverage of whole Island as Culver, Forelands within AONB.

Viewpoints – Work Group Members identified on map of Island, viewpoints that they felt should be included within the EIA. To include Photo-montages from these areas.

References – It was agreed that these would include the AONB Management Plan, Landscape Character Assessment for Isle of Wight and Landcape Character Assessment Good Practice Guidance.

Other requests -

3d model of West Wight area.

More Information regarding noise/light

Prove benefits/dis-benefits to Tourism

Consider open access existing and proposed in assessment.

Bring into consideration culmulative impact

It was agreed that JB would forward a copy of the response to GH to all members

Action: *JB to forward response include above considerations and copy to all DCPWG members.*

The work group considered whether it was necessary to bring in a consultant on AONB behalf to test robustness of EIA when it is submitted, or whether to do in-house. JB confirmed he was happy to do the work, however, there would be major implications on resources. JB reported that he would liase with CA on this occasion to ensure that we are aware of their views.

The letters in the County Press were discussed and it was agreed that it was unfortunate that the distribution of the newsletter clashed with the Wind Farm being front page news. JB confirmed that he would be writing directly to the individuals concerned as their addresses included within the paper. The letters have highlighted that at some point we will need to make our independent status more clear, and additionally that we may have to produce a position statement.