infinis

BLACKSTONE EDGE WIND FARM

RESTORATION PLAN

REV 2

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

EoN obtained Planning Consent to erect 3 No. wind turbines with associated access roadways, hardstandings, underground cabling and substation in 2009.

The site has subsequently been acquired by Infinis who intend constructing the development commencing in Spring 2012.

This plan outlines the proposed restoration of the site following commissioning.

1.2 PLANNING CONDITIONS

This Restoration Plan is intended to enable the discharge of planning conditions imposed by the Local Authority in respect of the planning consent for the wind farm. The document will form part of the specification and contract for the works that Infinis will impose on their contractor's as contractual obligations for the restoration of the site of the wind farm following commissioning.

The Planning Condition applicable to site restoration;

Prior to the commencement of development, a detailed scheme (including timescale(s)) for the reinstatement of all areas of hardstanding and for the land occupied by the temporary site compound, and for the partial reinstatement of access tracks, following the installation of the turbines shall be submitted to, and approved in writing with the LPA. The development thereafter shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme.

1.3 GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The restoration of the wind farm will comprise of the following works:

Temporary Site Compound

During construction of the temporary site compound the existing topsoil will be stripped, appropriately stored and managed, near to the site compound but away from/with suitable buffers from watercourses and other sensitive receptors.

Topsoil will be stripped to a thickness defined by depth below the surface and/or a distinct colour change and will subsequently be stored in temporary stockpiles to minimise the surface area occupied, and to prevent damage from the weather and other construction activities.

Depending on the condition of the soil during stockpiling, stockpiles shall be no greater than 2m. Following compaction the stockpile will be bladed off and sealed to protect the surface from weathering. During prolonged dry periods the stockpile shall be sprayed to prevent dust migration.

Management of weeds that do appear shall be undertaken during the summer months, either by spraying to kill them or by mowing or strimming to prevent their seeds being shed.

With a maximum programme period of 6 months from mobilisation date to completion seeding of the stockpile is not anticipated.

On completion of the works, the materials used for the construction of the site compound (as detailed on Dwg BEWF008 Rev B1 – refer to response to Condition 12) shall be removed off site to a licensed waste site or recycled where applicable.

The previously stored topsoil shall be spread over the affected area, profiled to suit existing ground levels. Any reseeding required will be with a Local Planning Authority approved seed mix. Any turves removed during the initial strip shall be replaced on the track verge encouraging quicker restoration.

Track Verges

During construction of site access tracks the existing topsoil will be stripped, appropriately stored and managed, near to the site compound but away from/with suitable buffers from watercourses and other sensitive receptors.

Soil stockpiles shall be formed and managed as previously detailed.

Once the track running surface has been placed, verges will be reinstated. Previously stripped soils shall be brought back over the verges within as short a time period as reasonably possible, giving any seed bank and vegetation the best chance of an early regeneration. Any turves removed during the initial strip shall be replaced on the track verge encouraging quicker restoration. Any reseeding required will be with a Local Planning Authority approved seed mix.

On straight sections of road, road widths shall be reduced to 4.5m. To allow for the transportation and delivery of large components to turbine locations during the life of the development, bends on access roads will be maintained at their constructed widths.

Foundations

During construction of the turbine foundations the different excavated materials encountered during the excavation shall be kept separate and appropriately stored and managed away from/with suitable buffers from watercourses and other sensitive receptors.

Stockpiles shall be formed and managed as previously detailed.

On completion of the construction of the foundation the excavation shall be backfilled with the stockpiled materials with top soil being placed last, any excess shall be used to profile the area adjacent to the foundation.

Previously separated topsoil shall be brought back over the backfilled areas within as short a time period as reasonably possible, giving any seed bank and vegetation the best chance of an early regeneration. Any turves removed during the initial strip shall be replaced over the area encouraging quicker restoration. Any reseeding required will be with a Local Planning Authority approved seed mix.

Turning Hammerheads

Temporary turning hammerheads shall be treated in a similar manner to the tracked verges.

HV Cable Trenches

Following the excavation and installation of the HV cable the trench will be backfilled with selected stone free material. Topsoil stripped during the excavation works will be stored separately and used to dress of the excavation.

Any turves stripped during the initial excavation will be replaced to encourage re-growth.

Crane Hardstandings

During construction of the temporary crane hardstands the existing topsoil will be stripped, appropriately stored and managed, near to the hard stand but away from/with suitable buffers from watercourses and other sensitive receptors.

Stockpiles shall be formed and managed as previously detailed.

Once the crane hardstanding surface has been placed, verges will be reinstated. Previously stripped soils shall be brought back over the verges within as short a time period as reasonably possible, giving any seed bank and vegetation the best chance of an early regeneration. Any turves removed during the initial strip shall be replaced on the track verge encouraging quicker restoration. Any reseeding required will be with a Local Planning Authority approved seed mix.

The crane hardstandings will be maintained to allow for the off loading and erection of large components to turbine locations during the life of the development.

1.4 TIMING OF WORKS

Commencement of restoration will vary for each of the areas describe above. The following gives an indication of when restoration will commence for each of the areas:

Temporary Construction Compound	*Restoration will not commence until the site has been* commissioned and the Works have been substantially completed and the site compound decommissioned.
Track Verges	On installation of the final surfacing layer restoration of track verges may commence. With a site of this size it is anticipated that restoration will commence following completion of the surfacing of all site roads rather than a phased restoration which would be more applicable to a larger development.
Foundations	Following removal of the shutters and allowing sufficient time for the concrete to cure, the foundations will be backfilled and restoration works will commence.
Turning Hammerheads	Restoration of hammerheads will not commence until turbines have been erected.
HV Cable Tracks	Will be treated the same as tracked verges.
Crane Hardstandings	Once the crane hardstanding surface has been placed, restoration of the may commence. With a site of this size it is anticipated that restoration will commence following completion of the crane hardstandings.