

Comment from Applicant dated 20 May 2014

From: Paul Houghton <paul@houghtonplanning.co.uk>  
Sent: 20 May 2014 08:11  
To: McCallum, Fiona  
Cc: Bain, Peter (Planning)  
Subject: Notice of Review Ref: 14/0002/LRB (Planning Ref: 13/02164/PP) - Land  
North East of Arivore Farm, Whitehouse, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XR  
Attachments: 140325 Local Review Statement Addendum Arivore.pdf

Dear Fiona,

The applicant wishes to express concern at the attempt to add a further reason for refusal at this stage, when cumulative impact of the proposed Arivore turbine, in combination with the proposed Freasdail Windfarm, was a matter clearly addressed in the Cumulative Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment, submitted with the planning application, and must surely have been in the mind of the case officer in determining the application.

It is accepted practice that, in considering planning applications, cumulative impact involves assessing not only existing and consented turbines, but also those pending. However, in this case it seems to be suggested in the further statement from the Development Manager that the Freasdail turbines were not taken into account in this case, despite being known about by the case officer. This is concerning to the applicant, given that they have submitted their application in good faith, included an analysis of cumulative impact, and expected it to have been determined by the case officer in an appropriate fashion.

Notwithstanding that, the applicant accepts that there will be a low to medium level of cumulative visual impact in terms of certain views, where the Arivore turbine and those at Freasdail will be seen in combination, but this will mainly be for motorists on short stretches of the A83 and B8024, where gaps in the vegetation will allow views. However, even in these limited views it will be clear that this single turbine is in no way related to the Freasdail Windfarm, and is certainly not the 'outlier' suggested in the further statement. Motorists will so fleetingly see the turbines in combination that to suggest that this will "confuse the viewer's perspective of the wider landscape" seems hardly credible. For those not moving through the landscape at speed, there will be greater opportunity to understand, and reflect upon, the Arivore/Freasdail relationship, and even less likelihood that they will see the smaller Arivore turbine as in any way related to those at Freasdail.

The other matters raised in the further statement have already been addressed in the applicant's addendum statement, a further copy of which is attached.

In view of the above, the LRB is asked to give little weight to the further statement from the Development Manager, and to grant planning permission for what is a modest renewable energy development, which will be of great benefit to the landowner, Mrs Dewar, helping her pay for repairs to her farm and aid its continued financial viability.

Yours sincerely

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Paul Houghton  
Director  
Houghton Planning