



Communities and Local Government
Committee
Clerk of the Committee
House of Commons
7 Millbank
London
SW1P 3JA

July 11, 2007

Dear Sir

**THE ORDNANCE SURVEY INQUIRY (HC481) FOLLOW-UP
MEMORANDUM BY GREEN AMPS LIMITED
ABRIDGED VERSION TO COMPLY WITH SUB-JUDICE REGULATIONS**

- 1 Green Amps Limited ("GAL") wishes to submit this letter by way of inquiry consultation submission into the exercise being conducted by the CLG Committee constituting follow-up to the inquiry conducted in 2001-02 reported in HC481.
- 2 GAL is a small privately owned company engaged in the deployment of mid-size wind turbines for the generation of renewable energy. Each project comprises a pair of grid-connected 300 kW turbines deployed on farmers' land bringing together (i) renewable energy generation (ii) SME development and (iii) agricultural diversification in the form of rental income to the farmers. Each project provides enough energy for approximately 600 homes and is deployed with a minimum requirement for new grid deployment.
- 3 GAL currently has 14 sites in Gloucestershire for which Planning pre-clearance has been achieved, and a pipeline of 35 additional Gloucestershire sites that have been proposed by their hosts.
- 4 These sites, in aggregate, more than achieve, single handedly, the target for 2010 encapsulated in the Gloucestershire Renewable Energy Action Plan adopted by each of the District Councils of Gloucestershire.
- 5 GAL has developed a Geographic Information System (the GAL "Mapping Tool") within which different mapping layers are used to represent the interests and assets of the different key stakeholders involved in planning pre-consultation under PPS22 (statutory and non-statutory Consultees as referred to by s.54 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). It should be noted that the backdrop for the Mapping Tool requires (in order to make sense) the 1:25,000 or 1:50,000 OS UK-wide map tile data-set.

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- 6 One element of the Mapping Tool is the ability to (i) assess and avoid the paths of all UK (private and public sector) telecommunications microwave links and (ii) assess and mitigate the effects of interaction with civil and military primary radars. This part of the Mapping Tool requires the OS "Panorama Profile" Digital Terrain Map.
- 7 GAL has for some years advocated and lobbied for the streamlining of the planning system to make the task of securing planning consent for these projects easier. GAL has since 2000 also challenged Government policy on renewables deployment, arguing that unless the planning system was substantially overhauled the targets for 2010 would not be achieved. GAL has now been vindicated in making this challenge unless substantial mitigating action is taken.
- 8 The Director of Renewables at the DTI observed in 2005 that GAL "was the furthest ahead in the UK as a developer in seeking to streamline the planning system in this way and that the Mapping Tool should be made available to a wider market rather than being confined to use by GAL alone". GAL has sought to achieve this by (i) in 2005 conducting a privately-funded study of how the Mapping Tool could be handed over (free-of-charge) to a public sector organisation (ii) filed a concluding report with the DTI detailing the results of that study and (iii) engaged with the Planning Portal to discuss how it could host a web-based version of the Mapping Tool.
- 9 The Director General of the Planning Portal and Deputy Director General Planning at the ODPM (as was) observed that "Green Amps has been monitored for some time in its endeavours and that support for its approach goes to the very top of Government". Considerable support was pledged (and extended) by the ODPM in relation to finding ways to streamline planning assist GAL in delivering these projects.
- 10 Stern has now declared that lives are at risk as a consequence of Climate Change. The officers of GAL are such individuals. The deployment of renewable energy assets is not simply a matter of supporting Government policy on climate change but is also taking a mitigating stance and thus ameliorating that risk to human life.
- 11 GAL has found the process of properly licensing the OS mapping products referred to as grossly onerous. OS raised a challenge against GAL of the most forceful nature in April 2006 and a significant and protracted dispute between OS and GAL has ensued.



12 This matter is now the subject of judicial proceedings instigated by OS, adjoining HMSO, in the High Court. As such, following the sub-judice regulations, this report has been abridged. A complete version has been made available to and accepted by the Committee Office for submission to the Select Committee.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Brown".

Nick Brown
CEO