

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**

**CAITHNESS, SUTHERLAND & EASTER ROSS PLANNING  
APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE – 26 April 2011**

Agenda Item	<b>4.6</b>
Report No	PLC/020/11

**10/04839/FUL: The Highland Council  
Castletown Primary School, Castletown, Thurso KW14 8UA**

**Report by Area Planning and Building Standards Manager**

**SUMMARY**

**Description:** Installation of 5Kw wind turbine at Castletown Primary School, Castletown, Thurso

**Recommendation: GRANT**

**Ward:** Ward 4 – Landward Caithness

**Development category:** Local Development

**Pre-determination hearing:** N/A

**Reason referred to Committee:** Application submitted by the Council.

**1. PROPOSAL**

- 1.1 Erection of a 5Kw wind turbine measuring 15.4 metres to the centre point of the hub. The turbine has a rotor diameter of 5.5 metres and consists of a dark grey turbine head with matching dark grey composite blades supported on a galvanised steel tower which is a tilt up/down type with hinge at base plate.

**2. SITE DESCRIPTION**

- 2.1 Castletown Primary School is located on the south-east approach to the village of Castletown being situated on the turn-off from the B876 Wick to Castletown road on the unclassified road from Castletown to Olig. The cluster of school buildings has evolved from the imposing central stone built, slate roofed original school building, constructed circa 1875. Mid twentieth century additions to the school were initially flat roofed with recent works employed to replace these with roofs of a pitched construction, finished in slate. The school is located with excellent access around the school buildings within substantial school grounds on a generally flat site, set apart from neighbouring properties.

The proposed wind turbine location is to be within the school grounds at approximately the mid point adjacent to the western boundary of the site. The proposed location of the wind turbine will be visually allied to the structure of the Primary School when viewed from the nearest neighbouring residential properties at Clett Cottages being situated in proximity to the north west quadrant of the Primary School.

### **3. PLANNING HISTORY**

- 3.1 Planning Application 10/01178/FUL Re-roofing of flat roofed buildings to pitched roof construction. Conditional Permission granted 14 June 2010.

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 4.1 Advertised: Neighbour Notification  
Representation deadline: 13 Jan 2011  
Timeous representations: None  
Late representations: None

### **5. CONSULTATIONS**

- 5.1 **Scottish Natural Heritage:** No objections.

The wind turbine is unlikely to raise natural heritage issues of national interest. General advice provided in relation to the siting of the turbines in respect of bats and birds. These points are relayed in the form of informatives.

- 5.2 **TECS – Environmental Health:** No objections subject to an appropriate noise condition being imposed.

### **6. POLICY**

- 6.1 The proposed development complies with Development Plan policy. There are no policy implications arising from this proposal.

### **7. PLANNING APPRAISAL**

- 7.1 Section 25 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 requires planning applications to be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

- 7.2 This is a straightforward application involving a minor development and is referred to Committee because it is a development in which the Council has an interest and is landowner. There are no policy implications and no third party comments have been received. There are no technical or consultee objections.

- 7.3 The proposal is therefore recommended for grant of planning permission.

## 8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The proposal complies with Structure Plan policy E2, which states that wind energy developments should be supported provided that impacts are shown not to be significantly detrimental. The proposals also comply with national policy and guidance which encourage Planning Authorities to support the development of a diverse range of renewable energy technologies, including small scale projects. There are not considered to be any significant impacts on the visual qualities of the area or the amenity of the nearby residential areas. Therefore, the recommendation is to grant permission subject to the conditions below.

### RECOMMENDATION

<b>Action required before decision issued</b>	N
Notification to Scottish Ministers	N
Notification to Historic Scotland	N
Conclusion of Section 75 Agreement	N
Revocation of previous permission	N

**Reason :** N/A

**Subject to the above,** it is recommended the application be **Granted** subject to the following conditions and reasons / notes to applicant:

1. No development shall start on site until the completed Notice of Initiation of Development (NID) form attached to this planning permission has been submitted to and acknowledged by the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** *In order to accord with the statutory requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts.*

2. Upon completion of the development the completed Notice of Completion form attached to this decision notice shall be submitted to the Planning Authority.

**Reason:** *In order to accord with the statutory requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Acts.*

3. Noise arising from the wind turbine shall not exceed an LA90, 10min of 35 dB at the nearest neighbouring noise sensitive property. This shall apply at wind speeds not exceeding 10 m/s, as measured at a height of 10m above ground level at the wind turbine. In the event of audible tones being generated by the wind turbine a 5dB(A) penalty for tonal noise shall be added to the measurable noise level. Any measurement and assessment of noise from the wind turbine shall be carried out in accordance with the Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms (ETSU-R-97) – available from ETSU, Hartwell, Oxfordshire OX11 0R.

In the event of noise levels exceeding the permitted level the turbine shall be shut down and not operated again until mitigation measures to reduce the noise levels to below the permitted level have been submitted by the developer, agreed in writing by the Planning Authority and thereafter implemented by the developer.

**Reason:** *In the interests of amenity.*

4. Within six months of the turbine ceasing to be used or by virtue of the turbine being inoperable the reinstatement of the site shall be completed to return the site to amenity use. At such time all machinery and infrastructure related to the turbine shall be cleared from site and disposed of in accordance with best waste management practice.

**Reason:** *To clarify the terms of the permission hereby granted and to allow the Planning Authority to retain effective control over the development.*

### **Notes to Applicant**

**Please note:** Your attention is drawn to the conditions attached to this permission. Any pre-conditions (those requiring certain works, submissions etc. prior to commencement of development) must be fulfilled prior to work starting on site. Failure to meet these conditions may invalidate your permission or result in formal enforcement action.

### **TIME LIMIT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLANNING PERMISSION**

In accordance with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended), the development to which this planning permission relates must commence within THREE YEARS of the date of this decision notice. If development has not commenced within this period, then this planning permission shall lapse.

**European Protected Species (EPS) – Bats:** Your attention is drawn to the fact that it is the developers' responsibility to determine whether bats are present and use this area as a commuting / forage route thus ensuring an offence is not committed under Regulation 39 of the Habitats Regulations 1994 (as amended). The onus is on the applicants to satisfy themselves in this respect.

**Breeding Birds:** Any construction works carried out between the period April to July inclusive should ensure there is no disturbance to nesting birds.

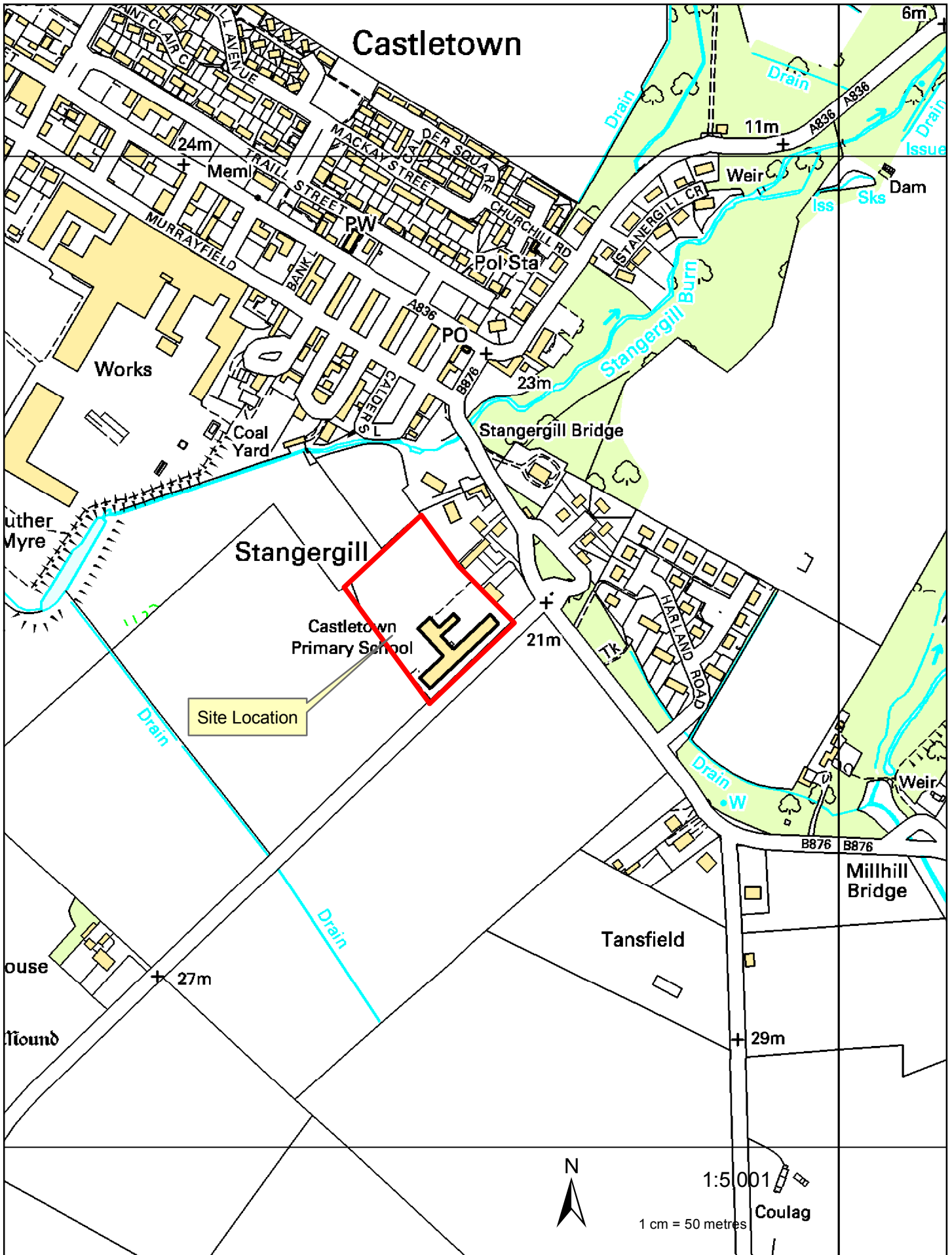
Signature: Allan J Todd

Designation: Area Planning & Building Standards Manager  
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross

Case Officer: David Barclay

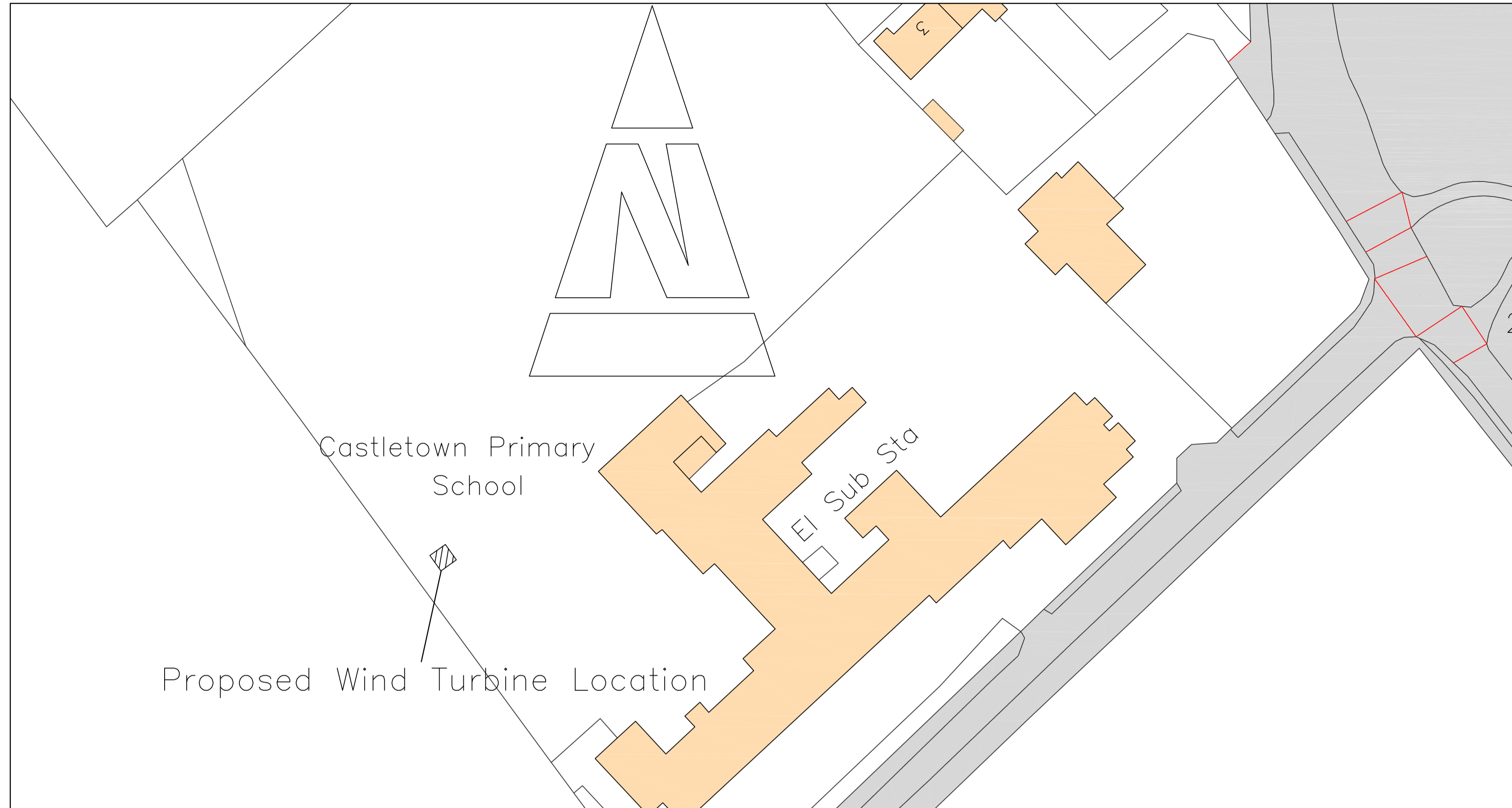
Background Papers: Highland Structure Plan; Caithness Local Plan; Supporting Document for the Installation of a Wind Turbine at Castletown Primary School for Highland Council produced by cdmm (UK) Ltd; Evance Iskra R9000 Acoustic Noise Assessment according to BWEA Performance and Safety Standard – Summary - issue 4.

Relevant Plans: Plan 1 – 000001 Location/site plan  
Plan 2 – 10038/60/E03 General/Block/Elevations

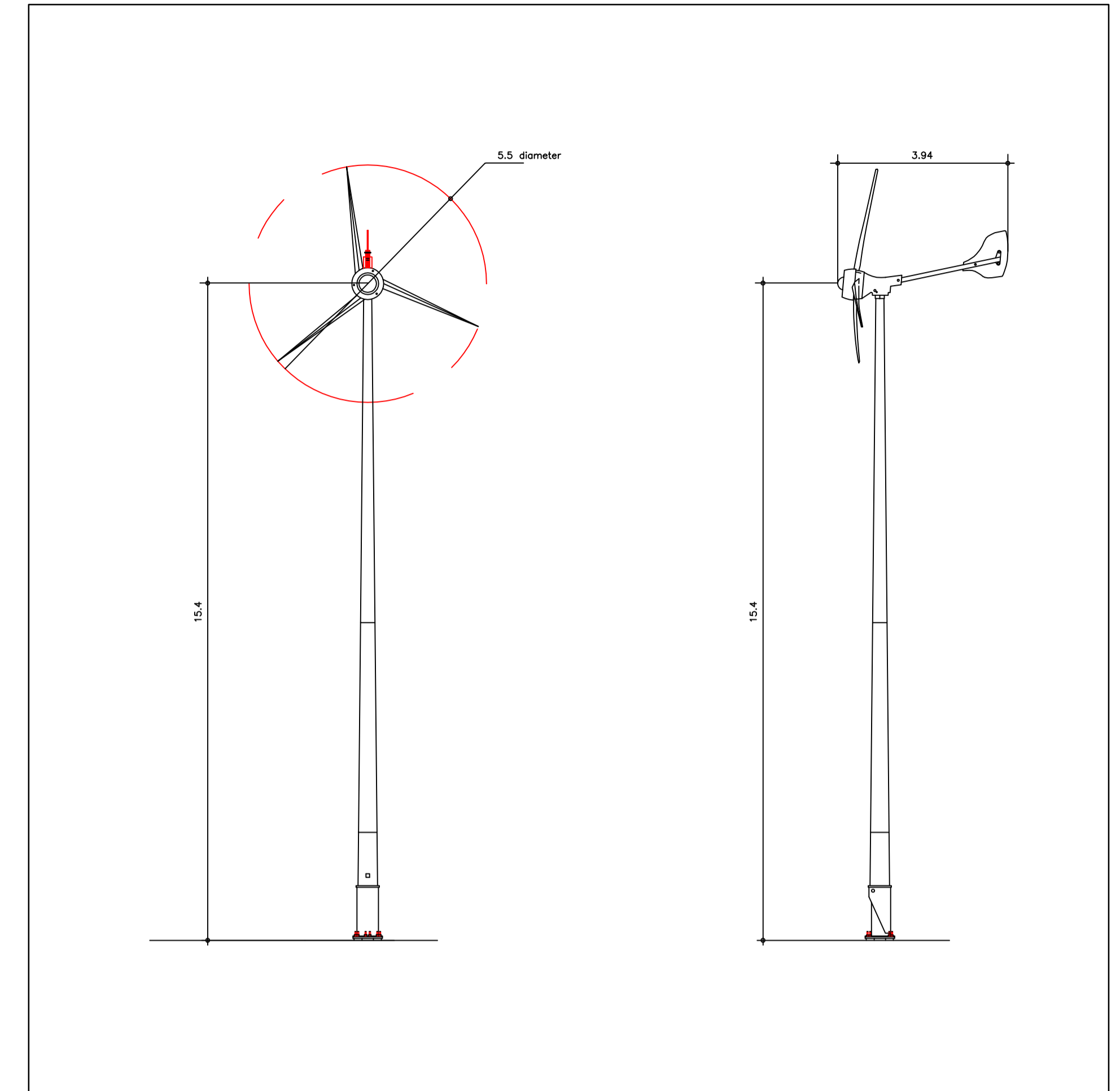


10/04839/FUL  
 Erection of 5 Kw wind turbine on a 15m column at  
 Castletown Primary School  
 Castletown  
 Thurso

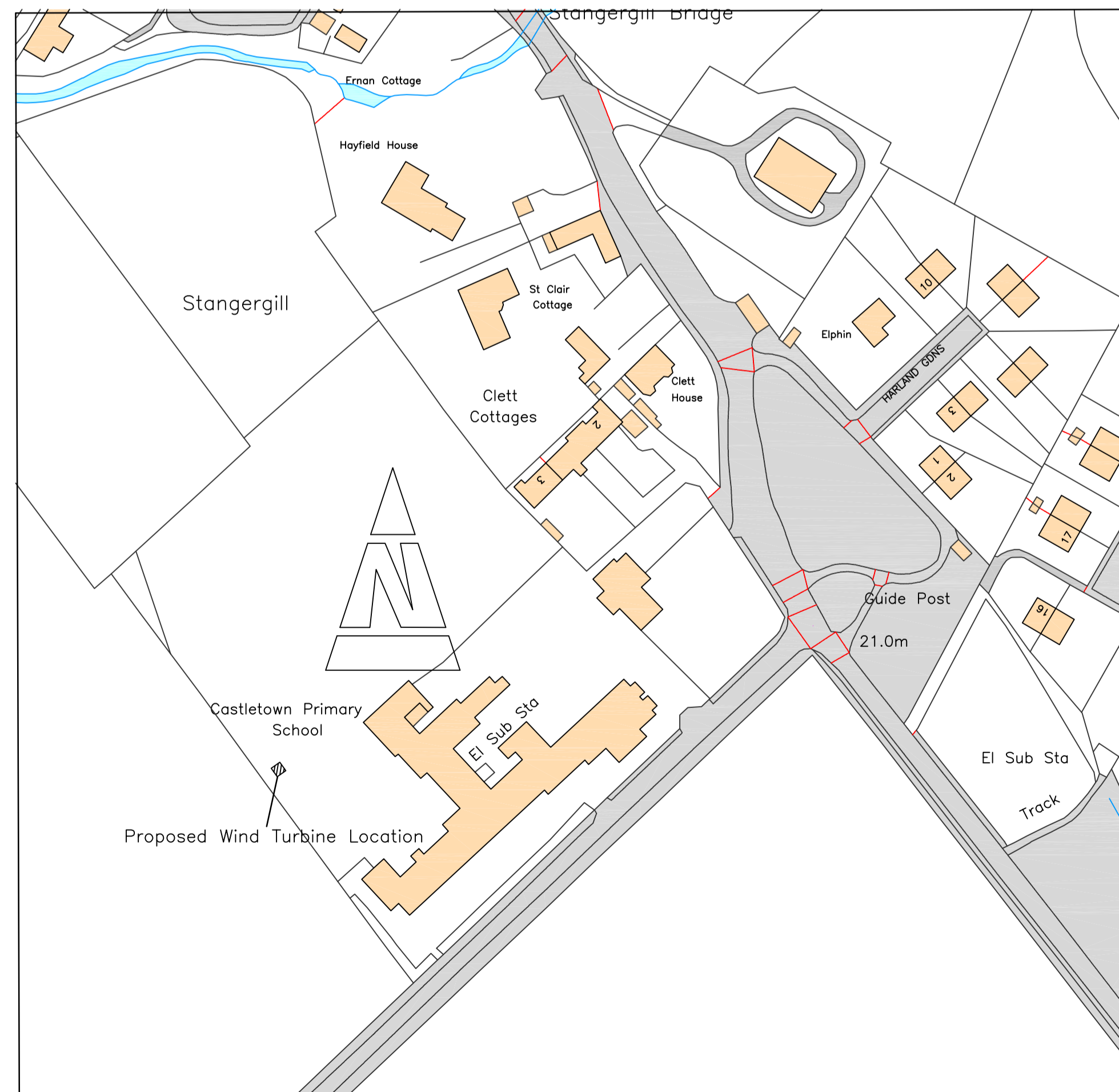
The Highland Council  
 per Cdmm (UK) Ltd  
 36 Longman Drive  
 Inverness



SITE PLAN (1:500)



ELEVATIONS OF PROPOSED TURBINE  
AND COLUMN (1:100)



LOCATION PLAN (1:1250)

**Specs/Colours**


Blades: Dark Squirrel Grey RAL No. 7000

Turbine Head: Dark Squirrel Grey RAL No. 7000

Tower: Galvanised to BSEN1461

Tower is a tilt up/down type with hinge at base plate

Note: Drawing should be read in conjunction with the supporting information document.

Rev.	Description	Date	By	Chkd.
Project Title:				
Wind Generation Installations 10/11				
Client:				
Highland Council				
				
Drawing Title:				
Castletown Primary School Wind Turbine Installation				
Issue:				
PLANNING SUBMISSION				
Drawing No.	Scale	Drawn	Date	Revision
10038/60/ED3	Various	AH	Nov 2010	-

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