

198/0486/0F1
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10. RECREATION

10.1 There are a number of minor roads, tracks, and rights-of-way within the area, including the *Cumbria Coastal Way* and the *Cumbria Cycle Way*, which both currently pass through Lowca. The West Coast railway hugs the foot of the cliffs some 50 metres below the windcluster site

10.2 The proposed windcluster would not directly affect any rights of way or permissive paths in informal use, other than possible temporary impacts within the construction period.

10.3 Passengers on the West Coast railway line, which hugs the foot of the cliffs, are unlikely to experience significant close-range views of the windcluster, and impacts on cyclists on the *Cumbria Cycle Way* would be limited, particularly on its amended alignment.

10.4 In cases where the wind turbines do detract from some people's enjoyment of the coast, they would not be prominent elements in the view for very far, and the area within which high levels of visual impact may occur would be limited.

11. NOISE

11.1 A survey of ambient noise levels was undertaken in and about the proposed wind farm site. Automatic monitoring of noise levels was undertaken for correlation with measurements of the wind speed.

11.2 Predictions of the likely future noise emissions were made in accordance with standard guidelines. A computer based programme was used for all predictive work.

11.3 The predictions show that under the prevailing south westerly wind, the maximum excess noise level (L_{A90}) over the background level due to noise from the cumulative operation of all wind turbines will not exceed 4dB at any of the locations. For the majority of wind speeds and directions, residential properties in the locality will only experience noise from the wind farm which is at or below the existing ambient levels. For much of the time, the wind farm will therefore be barely audible.

11.4 This development satisfies the criteria given in "The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms", ETSU 1996 and the essentially similar conditions proposed by Copeland Borough Council for other sites. It is concluded that no noise nuisance is likely to result from the development of the site, and there will be no grounds for justifiable complaint.

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ACT 1990
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12. ELECTRO-MAGNETIC SIGNALS

12.1 No potential impacts on microwave or rebroadcast links have been identified.

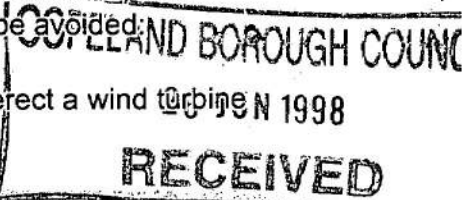
12.2 There is no predicted risk of degradation of TV transmission signals in the area.

13. AIR QUALITY

13.1 The wind turbines proposed for the Lowca site would generate approximately 16,000 megawatt hours per year. If it is assumed that this replaces the output from conventional

coal fired plant, then emissions of approximately 16,000 tonnes of carbon-dioxide, 250 tonnes of sulphur dioxides and and 60 tonnes of nitrogen oxides would be avoided.

13.2 It is estimated that the energy input required to manufacture and erect a wind turbine would be recovered from its output in approximately 6 months.



14. SOCIO-ECONOMIC ISSUES

14.1 The economy of West Cumbria, which generally relies on a combination of agriculture and manufacturing industry, has experienced recent uncertainty, due largely to economic depression, and to reforms in the European Community's Common Agricultural Policy. In order to counter this, the local planning authority seeks to encourage diversification and growth of the local economy.

14.2 The development of the Lowca windcluster would be consistent with this policy, and would result in a number of socio-economic effects on the local economy which would be largely beneficial. These include:

- Enhanced agricultural viability of Park House Farm through rental income from the windcluster.
- Local employment in both the construction of the windcluster, and in its subsequent maintenance, which would be to the value of approximately £600,000.
- Income to the local authority through liability for rates.
- Benefits of the windcluster as an educational resource for local schools.

15. CONSTRUCTION

15.1 The construction of the windcluster would be completed within a period of approximately 28 weeks

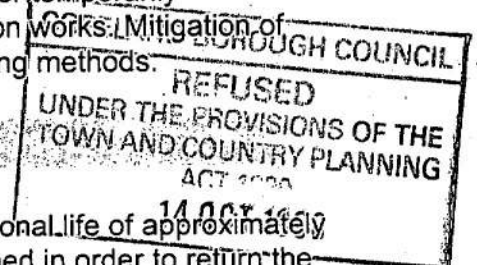
15.2 Noise during construction would be reduced as far as possible through the use of standard acoustic shielding on compressors etc., and further measures are unlikely to be required.

15.3 Construction traffic would be routed away from Lowca village.

15.4 All drains disrupted by construction works would be diverted, or temporarily maintained prior to reinstatement after completion of the construction works. Mitigation of impact on acidic grassland would be achieved by appropriate working methods.

16. DE-COMMISSIONING

16.1 The Lowca windcluster would be expected to have an operational life of approximately 20 years. After this time, the development would be de-commissioned in order to return the site to its former use as grazing land. All such decommissioning work would be the responsibility of the developer.



June 1998

Application Site

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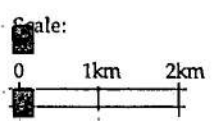
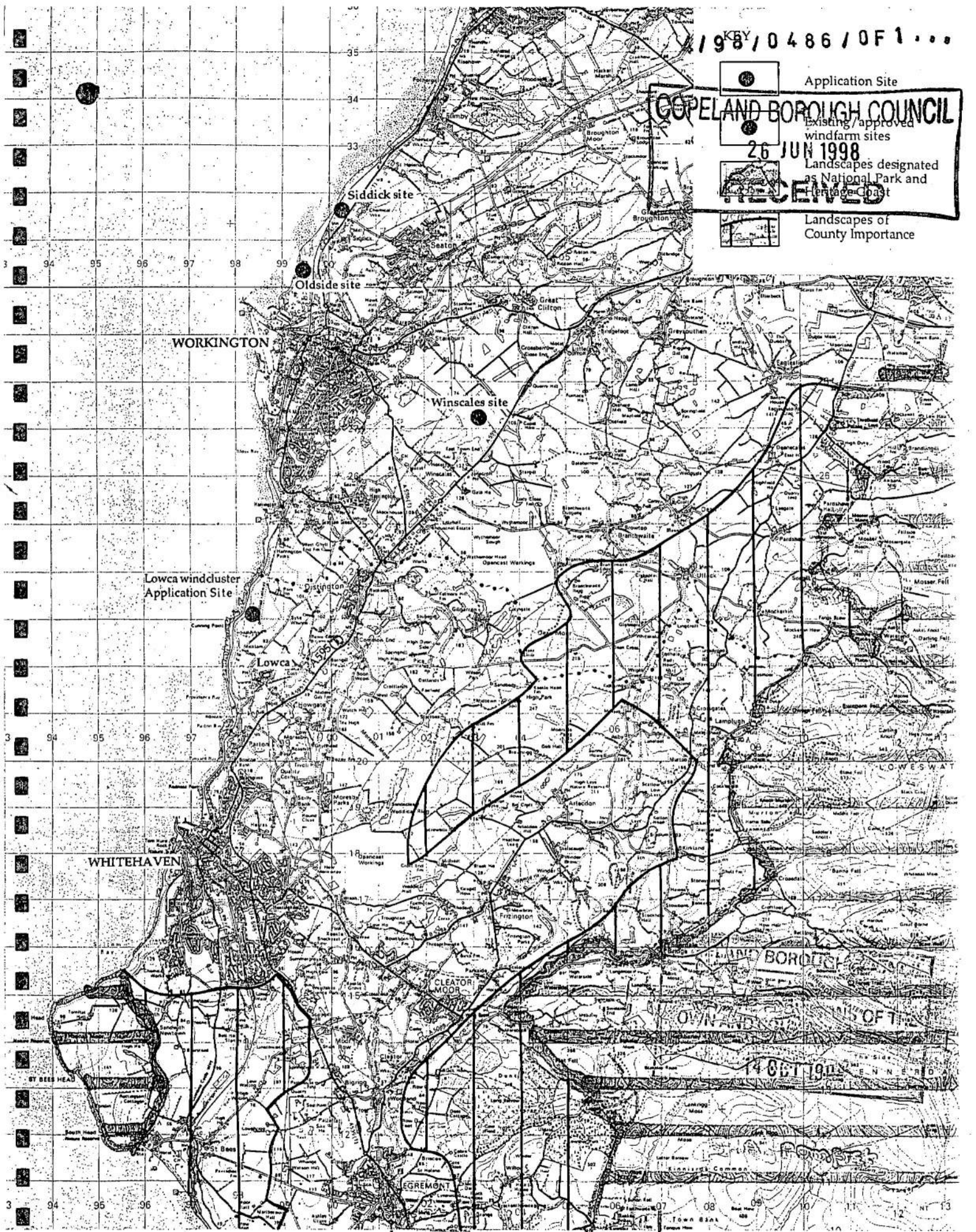
Existing / approved windfarm sites

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Landscapes designated as National Park and Heritage Coast

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Landscapes of County Importance



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COUNTRYSIDE
ACT 1968

OF THE
PLANNING
ACT 1990

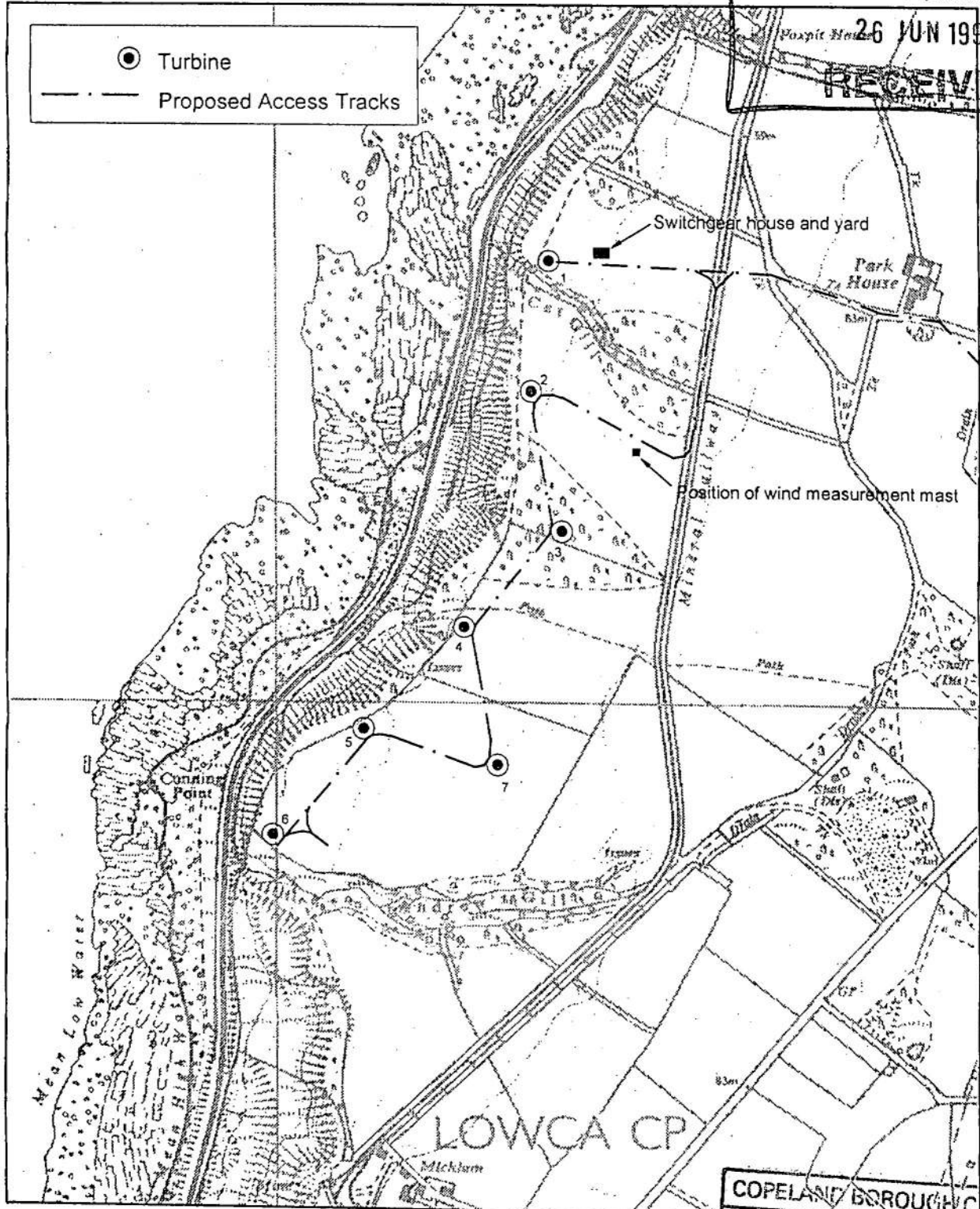
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Figure 1
LOWCA WINDCLUSTER
for Powergen Renewables
Site Location & Regional Context

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Scale 500 m

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J. A. Pomfret

Figure 6
 LOWCA WINDCLUSTER
 for Powergen Renewables
 Site Development Proposals