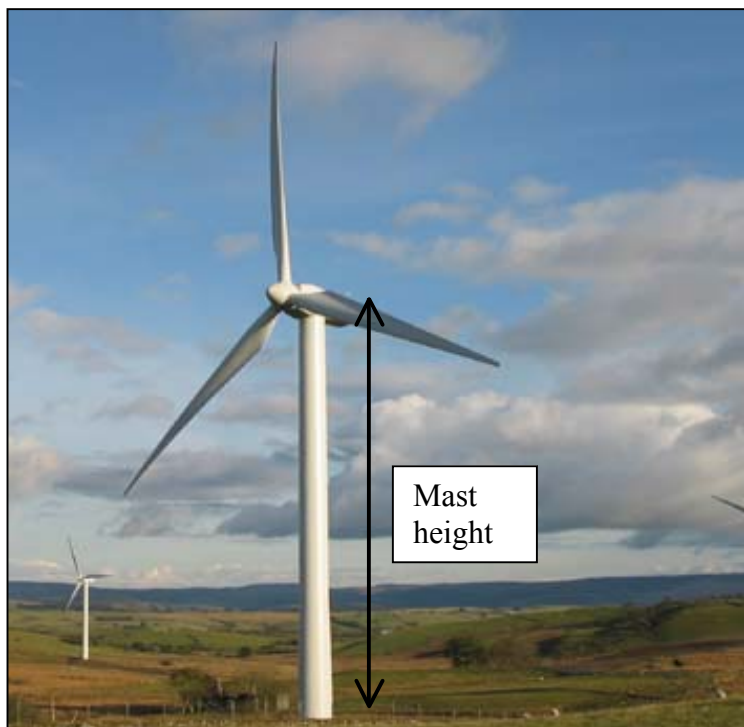


DRAFT

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SITING OF WIND TURBINES CLOSE TO HIGH PRESSURE PIPELINES

Pipeline Operators are receiving increasing numbers of applications from developers to site wind turbines in the vicinity of high pressure pipelines. In response to this, a detailed technical study has been undertaken to identify the potential risks to these pipelines from wind turbines.

The study was based on data collected for wind farms in the UK and used a methodology that has been developed in the Netherlands. The study assessed all the potential failure modes that could be a potential threat to the integrity of a pipeline, including blade failure; fall of the nacelle or rotor and toppling of the mast.



Based on the study, the appropriate exclusion zone (distance from base of the wind turbine mast to the edge of the pipeline) has been identified as 1.5 times the turbine mast height.

Further work is ongoing to provide recommendations on precautions that a developer could take to protect high pressure pipelines in order to reduce this exclusion zone. Until this work is completed, the 1.5 m exclusion zone should be observed.