

RenewableUK Regional Planning Seminar

Wind Farm Development
&
Site Selection

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Wind resource:

- Probably greater than 6m/sec AMWS
- Not excessively turbulent

Turbine size:

- Optimum economics from 2MW size turbines currently

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- Site separations:

Min distance from dwellings:

from third party dwellings

from financially involved parties

Min separation between turbines

- Is the site of a suitable size?
- Forestry clearance needed or other obstacles?

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Visual Impact etc:

- Is the area nationally or locally designated?
- Will there be major cumulative impact
- Is the area such that the impact is likely to preclude a wind farm?

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Site characteristics:

- landowner(s) willing – then negotiate option & Lease.
- terrain suitable for construction access
- geotechnical ok for foundations etc
- hydrology ok – flooding or construction impacts
- archeology

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Site Access:

- Can 45m long blades reach site?
- Can long, heavy, & wide tower sections reach site?
- Will construction traffic volumes be ok on local roads?

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Other siting influencers:

- Proximity to local roads or railway
- Proximity to buried services or pylon lines
- Public footpaths and bridleways etc
- Telecomms links across the site
- Impact on local TV reception, or other EMI interference
- Siting reference its security

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Grid Connection:

Is there an economic grid connection at a suitable voltage?

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Aviation:

- separated from airports/airfields
- impact on civilian aircraft control radar
- Impact on military aircraft control radar

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Environmental:

- Ornithology
- Other fauna
- Flora
- Bats

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Institutional:

- Planning policies
- Political environment
- No noise nuisance

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If no show stoppers:

- Prepare EIA & Planning Application
- Prove wind regime
- Optimise turbine layout & modify as constraints arise
- Consult with statutory bodies and local residents
- Prove economics
- Gain Planning Permission & construct

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