

Case study Longpark Wind Farm



Project design

Wind Prospect strives to ensure that the best possible wind farm design is put forward for planning permission and an ability to demonstrate this is crucial to our outstanding planning success rate.

At Longpark Wind Farm, near Stow in the Scottish Borders, the two landowners provided important input to the project design, ensuring that the operational wind farm and construction programme has minimal impact upon their farming activities. Simple solutions, such as aligning tracks along field boundaries and maintaining well managed construction compounds protects the agricultural assets of the farms. Construction material was quarried from on-site borrow pits which were landscaped upon completion and woodland was protected to retain the natural character of the area as much as possible. The main access track into the site followed the route of an existing track which was in a very poor, degraded state but now provides good quality vehicular access into the farm from the main road.



Landmark development

Wind Prospect constructed the wind farm on time and to budget. Now that it is operational and supplying electricity to the national grid, our trust fund initiative sees considerable funds made available for community projects in the local area each year.

The completion of Longpark Wind Farm marked a major milestone in the history of UK wind energy by bringing the total installed capacity to 4 gigawatts - enough to supply 2.3 million homes, the equivalent of every household in Scotland.

Development timeline

Following a detailed assessment of the potential environmental impacts of developing a wind farm at Longpark, Wind Prospect submitted a planning application to Scottish Borders Council in February 2004. This followed extensive consultation with the Council, Scottish Natural Heritage and the local community.

Good communications

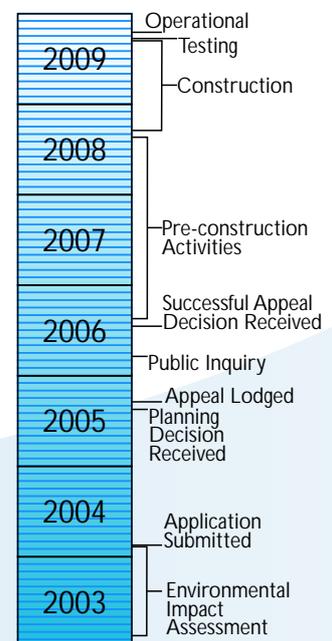
Wind Prospect operates a policy of nominating a single development manager to oversee the entire process of designing and developing the wind farm through to construction. This person remains the main point of contact for all aspects of the development and is available to answer all queries that landowners have throughout the process. At Longpark, the development manager kept the landowners informed of all upcoming activities and project progress and excellent relationships were fostered.

Stakeholder relationships

Wind Prospect also worked closely with the local authority and Scottish Natural Heritage to design a wind farm that minimises visual impacts upon neighbouring residences and communities as well as effects upon the surrounding wildlife and ecosystems. This working relationship paid dividends when no objections were received from any of the statutory consultees (SNH, SEPA, Historic Scotland).

The application for planning permission was initially refused consent by Scottish Borders Council in August 2005. However, Wind Prospect appealed to the Scottish Government which resulted in the holding of a public inquiry in March 2006. The appeal was successful and the Scottish Government granted planning permission in July 2006. Construction of the wind farm was completed in September 2009 and it started supplying electricity to the national grid in October 2009.

For further details of any of Wind Prospect's activities in Scotland, please contact our Edinburgh office on 0131 225 8545 or by writing to Wind Prospect, 13 Rutland Street, Edinburgh, EH1 2AE.



KEY FACTS

- 38 MW of generators
- Providing power for the equivalent of 22,748 typical homes
- Saving 42,942 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions each year



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