

Windfarm development in conjunction with



Have you considered a wind farm?

Many people within the local community and beyond can benefit from wind farm development, through clean air, energy supply, creation of jobs in construction and maintenance and community benefit schemes. Landowners are in a position to also benefit more directly.

However many potential sites go uninvestigated due to an underestimation by land owners of the resource they possess, namely the belief that their site lacks the required wind resource that would make a wind farm viable. With the modern technology now in use in wind turbine manufacture this is no longer the case and areas traditionally classified as having lower wind speeds are accommodating wind farms and producing very satisfactory energy yields.

As a land owner it can be economically beneficial to host a wind farm. Most importantly it is a guaranteed income from the land it occupies for the life cycle of the turbines (25 years), with no costs or responsibilities falling to the land owner. It also aids in diversifying land uses, and allows you to continue to participate in contemporary farming practices right up to the base of the turbines!

What we look for in a wind farm.

When assessing whether an area of land is suitable for development there are number of considerations we must take into account.

We must ascertain that the area of land we are analysing is of a scale that will allow a development of viable size. The exact dimensions of the land are subject to other considerations such as the distance from the site to the nearest grid access point or sub station; the closer the distance the smaller the scale of development needs to be in order to become viable.

We have to ensure that the proposed site has sufficient separation from residences to allow a 700m parameter around turbines, although this figure may vary slightly due to other features, for example a location near a busy road would require less separation due to the already increased background noise.

We try to avoid any areas of land with environmental classifications, or sites designated as having a high landscape value by the council. The topography of a site can affect its virtue as a wind farm, for instance on top of a hill facing the prevailing wind would be an ideal placing for wind turbines compared to a dip, however there are certain effects such as the 'valley effect' which create a situation suitable for wind energy in areas that would normally not be expected to have the required wind speeds.

If you feel that you may have land with development potential then please do not hesitate to contact us at Enertrag (contact details on back page) and we will be happy to look into it for you.

Time scale for the development, construction and decommissioning

Once an agreement has been reached between Enertrag and the land owner it usually takes about a year before planning permission is sought. In this time we will carry out the various surveys and consultations that have been deemed necessary by the council in their scoping report. These survey results and other data are collated into an Environmental statement which is a fundamental document in the planning process.

Once planning permission has been granted we would expect the construction phase to begin as soon as possible, as long as this is not contrary to any mitigation agreed with the council.

Construction of a medium sized development of between 6-8 turbines would be expected to take in the region of 8 months. Construction consists of:

- upgrading access tracks, where possible existing tracks are used but the details of this will be agreed between developer and landowner prior to construction
- foundations for the turbines will be dug
- creation of a hard pad for the crane
- erection of the turbines
- creation of a small sub-station building, conveniently placed, again agreed prior to construction
- laying of the electricity cables, where possible these will be laid along existing tracks and placed at a depth lower than normal agricultural excavations

Once construction is completed the foundations and hard pads can be back filled and resown to minimise crop loss or grazing potential of an area. It has been shown that a negligible amount of the landowner's holding is lost.

Planning permission is sought for a term of 25 years which is the expected working life of modern turbines. At the end of this period there are two options, firstly the site can be completely decommissioned and returned to its predeveloped state (one of the advantages of wind farm development is this process is reversible) or there may be an opportunity for the wind farm to continue.

The Company

Enertrag UK is jointly owned by Enertrag AG (Germany) and Prokon Nord (Germany), who have installed over 500 turbines throughout Europe and are currently operating several biomass power stations in Germany, with several more in development process. Prokon Nord currently has two prototype offshore turbines on trial in Northern Germany. These turbines have a 5MW capacity. The company's mission is the development of renewable energy projects.

Enertrag UK's first site was at North Pickenham near Swaffham in Norfolk. This eight-turbine project was completed in October 2006 and in the first two months following commissioning produced 9000MWh of electricity. Four other sites at Guestwick in Norfolk, Baumber in Lincolnshire, Hempnall in Norfolk and Linton in Cambridgeshire are at various stages within the planning system.

Why choose Enertrag UK?

Enertrag is in a unique position in that it has the expertise and capital to offer you the experience generally associated with extremely large companies such as the utilities and yet is small enough to give you a personal and dedicated service.

You can be sure that any sites which we decide to develop will be followed up both promptly and diligently and that all possible avenues to create a successful development will be followed, we also aim to make each development as easy and straightforward for the land owner as possible.

Contact

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