



Owenstown

On-site electricity generation



Wind Energy, Direct to Owenstown

Wind Direct are delighted to be associated with the development, construction and operation of the three Owenstown wind turbines, supplying clean, green energy direct to homes and industry.

Robert Owen powered the New Lanark Mill back in the 18th Century, utilising the natural power of the Clyde, so it is fitting that a town in his name should be looking to provide energy from a contemporary source of renewable power generation.

The Owenstown turbines will be positioned to the southern edge of the town with one situated to the far north east, connecting to the town's private wire network and supplying houses and industry via a specially formed energy supply company (ESCO). They will be an iconic symbol of Owenstown's overall energy strategy for 'net zero' carbon status.

The elevated nature of the Owenstown site and evidence from nearby wind turbine sites suggest that this is an ideal location for the wind turbines.

Wind Direct's unique approach means that the turbines will provide Owenstown with low cost, green energy at a stable price - independent of the global activities that can bring about erratic fuel prices.

The turbines will be installed during the very early stages of the Owenstown project, so that the carbon emissions of the town's construction can be offset immediately.



● Location of Owenstown turbines



As a responsible developer we care for our environment and take great steps to ensure the safety of wildlife and fauna.



Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland.
Photograph courtesy of Larry Staudt.

About Wind Energy and the Environment

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Appearance

Wind Turbines are already part of the Lanarkshire landscape and we will liaise closely with communities, landowners and planners, conducting comprehensive studies to work out the best site layout. Sophisticated computer modelling will be carried out from many viewpoints to provide realistic photomontages.

Initial plans for the Owenstown project demonstrate that the turbines would not have any significant visual impact on the surrounding environment.

Sound levels

Modern turbines are far quieter than their predecessors and with a suitable set-back distance from the residential housing of Owenstown, there will not be any noise nuisance. Even if you were to stand at the base of a wind turbine, a normal conversation can be conducted without effort.

Protecting the environment

Wind power does not produce greenhouse gases or hazardous waste. The naturally blowing wind is harnessed to produce electricity whilst offering a clean energy source that is safe, secure and reliable.

A comprehensive planning application, which may include an Environmental Impact Assessment, would be determined by South Lanarkshire Council and detailed studies will be undertaken to determine the effects of the project, including potential effects on ecology, archaeology, landscape and telecommunication transmission. As part of the flora and fauna analysis, we will consult with relevant bodies such as, Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB.

Birds are rarely affected by wind turbines. A recent scientific study found no evidence to suggest that farmland birds

avoided areas close to wind turbines¹ and in 2009 an RSPB-commissioned report from the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) found that the UK could greatly increase the number of onshore wind projects it builds, without harming wildlife².

Possible effects are examined in depth, with studies taking place to ascertain whether the proposed wind energy project would have any effect on bird activity at the site, including their migratory routes or breeding habits. It is our experience that grazing animals and horses are largely oblivious to the presence of the turbines.



Working with Communities

About Wind Direct

Wind Direct is part of Wind Prospect Group, a company with more than 10 years' experience in developing wind energy projects. Like Wind Prospect, Wind Direct is owned and operated by its employees, and has a culture built upon trust.

The group has now consented 1,000MW of wind energy projects worldwide and won 75 construction contracts, giving it unrivalled global experience.

Wind Direct:

- Has attracted backing from HgCapital, who have Europe's largest fund for renewable energy projects.
- Is a quality supplier, certified with the quality standard ISO 9001:2000; the Environmental Management Standard ISO 14001 and the Health & Safety Standard OHSAS.
- Has exclusive agreements with a range of industrial and commercial organisations which, if all proceed successfully, will result in nearly 100MW of wind energy being installed (around 5% of the UK's currently installed wind energy).



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¹ Devereux, C.L., Denny, M.J.H. & Whittingham, M.J. (2008) Minimal effects of wind turbines on the distribution of wintering farmland birds, *Journal of Applied Ecology*, 45, 1689-1694

² Bowyer C, Baldock D, Tucker G, Valsecchi C, Lewis M, Hjerp P, Gantioler S (2009) Positive Planning for Onshore Wind - A Report by the Institute for European Environmental Policy Commissioned by the RSPB

