



Onshore Wind

A sustainable source of renewable energy

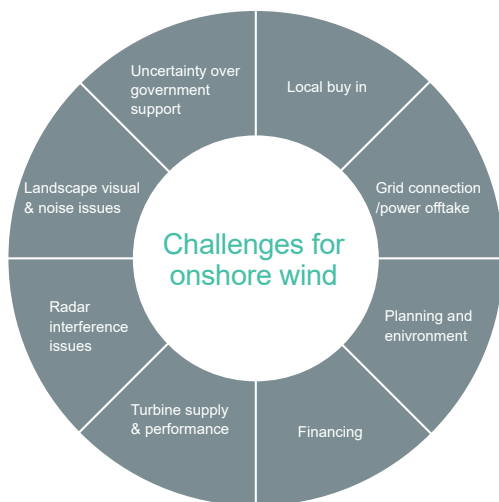
In July 2012, according to DECC's Renewable Energy Planning Database, there were approximately 5GW of onshore wind farms in operation in the United Kingdom. An additional 6GW of onshore wind had received planning consent and was awaiting construction with a further 7GW in the planning system.

The Government's ambition for onshore wind, during this decade, is set out in the Renewable Energy Roadmap which shows that up to 13 GW of capacity is expected as part of our renewable energy mix by 2020. This could generate 24-32TWh of electricity per annum equivalent to 20-30% of renewable electricity generation. This could be enough electricity to power 7.7 million homes in the United Kingdom.

Challenges for the onshore wind farm sector

Although onshore wind farms have been developed commercially in the United Kingdom for over 20 years there are still a number of challenges that developers face. Planning is still one of the greatest obstacles for onshore wind farms, with only about half of all planning applications receiving approval. Grid connection for a number of sites still remains challenging. In addition,

following Ed Davey's recent comments, developers may now have to be responsible for gaining local buy-in and also have to qualify the benefits to the local community. Regulatory uncertainty continues to be a challenge for those in the sector.



“Onshore wind has an important role to play in a diverse energy mix that is secure, low carbon and affordable. We know that two-thirds of people support the growth of onshore wind. But far too often, host communities have seen the wind farms but not the windfall.”
Energy Secretary, Edward Davey

HOW CAN WE HELP

Walker Morris is one of the country's leading law firms advising on renewable energy projects, including onshore wind. Our Renewables, Energy & Resources Group is a multi-disciplinary team advising wind farm developers on all aspects of project development, from site acquisition and planning, turbine supply, power purchase and grid connection through to decommissioning. Walker Morris provides a 'cradle to grave' approach over the life of the project. Members of our team have been advising developers, contractors, energy suppliers and funders for a number of years, on both onshore and offshore developments. We have seen the market evolve from turbine suppliers offering an EPC wrap to the current market of a multi-contracting and hybrid approach. We are currently instructed on a number of projects across the United Kingdom.



“The one thing you can always say about this firm is that the quality of the lawyers is top-notch.” - Chambers

We are a full service commercial law firm advising from our single centre of excellence in Leeds, which leads a timely and efficient service for our clients. Our recent experience includes the following:

Planning / environmental

- advising in respect of various wind farm projects and reviewing numerous draft Environmental Statements and planning applications.
- currently advising in respect of radar mitigation schemes as a result of a number of wind farm developments in the North East.

Property / site acquisition

- advising developers on land option and leases (subject to planning and permitting) for wind farms and power stations and land assembly for wind farms.

Project delivery (turbine supply, balance of plant and operation and maintenance)

- supporting a wind farm developer and landowner on their wind farm portfolio totalling 80MW on a number of sites around the United Kingdom including, turbine supply agreement, maintenance contracts and balance of plant contracts.
- advising a developer on a number of contracts, including professional appointments for technical advisors.

Grid connection & power purchase

- advising a wind farm developer on various grid connection issues, including advice on the relevant DNO's interactivity process for connection applications and drafting a novel grid connection sharing agreement with the occupier of a neighbouring site to ensure a robust yet cheaper grid connection.
- advising a large licensed energy supplier on various power purchase agreements with wind farm developers and operators.

Corporate

- acting for a major wind farm developer on its joint venture arrangements.

WALKER MORRIS

“A distinctive law firm valued by its clients for consistently delivering excellent results.”

We offer our clients a full service commercial law firm focused on providing a wide range of clients, nationally and internationally, with partner led high quality advice. The national centre of excellence in Leeds that we have built offers significant advantages in terms of developing a strong team-based culture within the Firm, with the inherent value and cost effectiveness that a Leeds base brings.

The success of our model is reflected by our clients, which are drawn from a broad range of sectors. We are recognised for our strong multi-disciplinary teamwork and straight forward advice. Both the Firm and our lawyers are recognised as leaders in their fields with 96 per cent of our partners recommended in either Chambers or Legal 500 for their expertise.

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