

## **“WindWorks” Environmental Assessment and Project Design for Small Wind Farms National Wind Power**

The “WindWorks” scheme operated by National Wind Power (NWP) encourages agricultural diversification into wind farming – an initiative to deliver sustainability, greenhouse gas reduction and rural diversification. Under this scheme, NWP teams up with a farmer and commissions the environmental assessment and project design work. These assessments accompany the farmer’s planning application for small ‘clusters’ of wind turbines on his land. By encouraging the farmer to support the process, WindWorks projects ensure local involvement and an economical development strategy. NWP requires qualified companies to provide specialist assistance to WindWorks throughout the regions of the UK.

Entec’s comprehensive team of specialists provided the ideal structure to deliver the concise assessments required for WindWorks. NWP commissioned Entec to undertake assessments for an ongoing series of proposed schemes in Scotland and the North of England.

Entec has completed assessment reports for two sites near Eaglesham in Central Scotland, and one site near Penrith in Cumbria. These included:

- project design review with regard to technical constraints such as construction access, local infrastructure, wind resource and turbine efficiency; and
- specialist environmental assessments, including ecology, archaeology and cultural heritage, landscape and visual assessment, noise and electromagnetic interference.

The environmental reports, typically 50 to 100 pages, also contain standard chapters on wind energy, the national policy environment and health and safety. Entec also reviews the national and local planning framework to inform the development of the site.

Although the standard WindWorks approach is robust, specific projects have particular requirements that Entec has responded to. For example, a civil engineer from our team reviewed access routes to one of the steeper sites in Scotland and an enhanced landscape assessment was undertaken for the site in Cumbria, which is adjacent to a scenic National Park area.

The report produced by Entec details the background to the projects, the benefits of wind energy, the local policy context, the details of the proposed wind clusters and the methodology and findings of the individual assessments.

Entec also provides project summary leaflets for public distribution and if the

planning authority requests changes, Entec can revise projects for resubmission.

Entec’s WindWorks reports are produced for a fraction of the cost of a full EIA, but are to a high standard, and are presented in one coherent, high quality document. Our project managers co-ordinate the input of the various specialists and ensure the report paints a unified picture of the proposed wind project.

Entec’s reports have been well received by local planning authorities. NWP and the farmers await planning decisions on their applications with confidence.

*Concise assessment for  
wind cluster projects*



WindWorks projects are small wind farms known as ‘wind clusters’

