Gordonbush wind farm - proposed extension

The proposal

Background

The existing operational Gordonbush wind farm comprises 35 turbines each with a 2.05MW capacity, creating a total installed site capacity of 71.75MW. The wind farm received planning consent in 2008 and the main construction work started in Autumn 2010.

The site took roughly a year and a half to build and became fully commissioned and operational in June 2012. Since then it has generated enough renewable energy each year to power over 60,000 homes (based on OFGEM's typical annual domestic household consumption of 3,200 kWh a year).

Since 2013 we have been exploring the potential for an extension to Gordonbush wind farm. We have mainly focused on landscape and visual considerations to ensure that any proposed extension blends in well with the existing site, however, we have also had to consider technical and environmental constraints too. In addition we have tried to make best use of the existing infrastructure on site.

Wind farm infrastructure

Our Section 36 application for the proposed extension will seek consent for the following:

- 13 wind turbines at 130m tip height;
- 3 wind turbines at 115m tip height;
- Crane hardstanding at each wind turbine location;
- Site access tracks and passing bays (of which 7.6km are new access tracks and 11km are upgrades to existing tracks);
- A permanent meteorological mast;
- Modifications to the existing operations building /substation to accommodate additional cables, etc;
- A new welfare building;
- A network of underground cabling;
- A temporary construction compound and storage area;
- A temporary concrete batching plant;
- Temporary telecoms infrastructure;
- Re-use of 2 existing borrow pits to provide stone for construction; and
- Any other additional associated works.

Gordonbush wind farm - existing site

The Gordonbush timeline

| 2008 Consented | 2012 Fully commissioned and operational | Potential extension explored | We are here · 2015 Preparing S36 submission | Await decision | Proceed to construction (if consented) |