

Faced with a Public Inquiry into the Dorcas Lane wind farm, Force 9 Energy with EDF Renewables used 3DW's powerful and innovative graphical representation to show that their proposed wind farm did not create a hazard to aviation.



Exceptional Interactive 3D Solutions

Working with EDF Renewables, Force 9 Energy identified the opportunity to build the Dorcas Lane wind farm, west of Stoke Hammond. The proposed wind farm would consist of 4 turbines, each a maximum of 125m high to blade tip.

Following the refusal of the planning application by Aylesbury Vale District Council an 8-day Public Inquiry took place during July 2014. The local group which opposed the wind farm cited aviation safety as a key determining issue for the development and evidence was heard by the inspector charged with making a recommendation to the Secretary of State on the subject matter.

3DW used 3D modelling techniques to illustrate 3D volumes above the wind farm site which clearly and accurately illustrated aviation constraints above and around the site, for example areas of controlled airspace, airfield landing approaches, buffers over residential areas and other land based obstacles such as telecommunications masts and pylons and other areas of restricted airspace.

This innovative use of a 3D model at the public inquiry enabled Marcus Trinick QC and aviation expert Malcolm Spaven of Aviatica to clearly illustrate, in non-technical manner, to the planning inspector how the turbines interacted with existing aviation constraints, in such a way that they posed no additional risks to pilots operating in the area.

The 3D model proved to be a simple and very effective means of addressing aviation issues at the public inquiry. The planning inspector was very complimentary about the 3D model and commented on how clearly it illustrated the points being made.

Whilst the application was ultimately dismissed, the evidence on aviation based in part of the 3D model proved persuasive, The Secretary of State "agreed with the inspector's detailed assessment relating to aviation issues and with her conclusion that the proposed development would not pose such a danger as to weigh heavily against granting permission".



Andrew Smith, Head of Planning and Development Force 9

"3DW were very responsive to our requirement of finding a way of illustrating a complex aviation picture to show that the introduction of the proposed wind farm would not prevent a hazard to aviation. Their modelling techniques and the proactive attitude of staff helped us successfully present a comprehensive suite of evidence to the public inquiry in an easily digestible way."



Malcolm Spaven, Aviatica

"Aviation is a dynamic 3D environment so it's very hard to express the complexity of airspace in a written document 3DW allowed us to distil all that complexity into a simple graphical form that simulated how the pilot would see it. They did it all at very short notice and then provided high quality technical support at the inquiry to ensure it all ran smoothly."



Andy Dennison, Director at 3DW

"We've had the pleasure of working with Force 9 and EDF Renewables on 17 wind farms to date. Whilst it is unfortunate that the Dorcas Lane scheme has been refused, we are greatly encouraged at the way our technology has been effective in demonstrating that aviation issues were not a justifiable reason for rejecting this scheme."



3DW are specialist developers of interactive 3D visualisations. For almost 20 years the company has supported leading energy companies with innovative applications which have effectively enhanced the design, planning and consultation activities associated with major energy infrastructure projects.

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