Technology, energy and innovation

Planning for the future environment

Introduction

From ports, to science parks, to data centres and R&D facilities, the technology, innovation and energy sectors are playing a key role in shaping the UK and Ireland's industry. Our experience and expertise means we are able to apply our knowledge and create the conditions for success when planning for future development.

As a multi-disciplinary planning and development consultancy, we have the skill set and expertise to plan for future generations. We have an extensive track record in securing planning permission for energy infrastructure projects of scale and significance across all regions of the UK and Ireland as well as technical and medical innovation campuses in our towns and cities. We have also advised on Development Consent Orders for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) in England and Wales.

Technology, energy and innovation projects demand high quality, specialist skills and knowledge to successfully navigate different consultation and consenting regimes. Our UK-wide presence enables us to match our expertise and experience to the particular requirements of an individual project. We are not constrained by geography; we work flexibly to ensure that the best team is always assigned to each project.

Our cross-service offer means we can:



Strategically review sites



Plan for net zero



Connect planning with people, data and technology

How we can help to deliver technology, energy and innovation developments

Site identification:

- GIS capabilities using objective criteria based assessments to identify optimum sites
- Introductions to owners / promoters of strategic land
- Review of historic consents / refusals
- Holistic site reviews incorporating survey work alongside masterplan led review

Site appraisal / risk management:

- Planning policy reviews and advice
- Site appraisals
- Stakeholder audits
- Pre-application discussions with LPAs and other stakeholders
- Monitoring / review of competing applications and preparation of objections / representations where appropriate
- Ability to meet ESG and net zero criteria

Site promotion:

- Representations to national policy
- Development plan monitoring and representations
- Strategic advice re: consenting strategy to minimise risk and maximise chances of success
- Co-ordinating planning applications, marine licences and Section 36 applications and other relevant consent applications
- Preparing Development of National Significance (DNS) applications
- Development Consent Order Applications for NSIP projects
- Preparing Common Land Consent Applications (NSIP)
- Expertise in CPO
- Masterplan led vision and promotion
- Economic and social strategy identifying and responding to local challenges and opportunities to inform proposed uses

Technical support:

- EIA co-ordination
- LVIA
- Climate change assessments and net zero strategy
- Economic, social and health impact assessments
- Heritage appraisal / assessments
- Strategic communications
- Discharging of planning conditions and re-application of marine licences to ensure validity in line with build period
- Planning appeals including expert witness services for public inquiry
- Reviewing Section 106 and other legal agreements and supporting negotiations with key stakeholders where necessary
- Advising in respect of site restoration bonds and on matters relating to community benefit payments
- Identifying funding opportunities and alignment
- Sustainability / energy assessments

Project experience

- 1 Large scale coastal logistics sites
- 2 Project Erebus
- 3 Protos Resource Recovery Park
- 4 Biorefinery & CHP Plant
- 5 Barton Renewable Energy Plant
- 6 MMU Science & Engineering Building
- 7 MIRA Technology Park, Nuneaton
- 8 Port of Aberdeen
- 9 Wasdell Corporate Economic Impact Assessment
- 10 Birmingham Health Innovation Campus
- 11 Long Mountain Wind Farm, County Antrim
- 12 Energy Generation Plant, Port Talbot





1 Large scale coastal logistics sites

CLIENT

All work under NDA (confidential)

LPA

Various

STATUS

Bespoke outputs from vision documents, site promotion, masterplan strategies and focussed reports setting out key next steps within the planning process

SERVICES

Planning, Design, Strategic

Large scale coastal logistics sites (200ha+) for multiple client groups. We are reviewing existing logistics and site opportunities, and providing a masterplan led approach for strategic decision making with the focus on future energy and innovation opportunities.

2 Project Erebus

CLIENT

Blue Gem Wind

LPA

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Pembrokeshire County Council (offshore elements under the jurisdiction of Natural Resources Wales)

STATUS

S.36 consent granted

SERVICES

Planning

We have provided strategic planning and consenting advice to BlueGem Wind (a JV between Simply Blue Energy and Total) in relation to its 96MW Erebus demonstration project off the Pembrokeshire coast. Erebus will be the first floating wind farm in the Celtic Sea and, when complete in 2027, will be one of the largest floating wind farms in Europe.

We are also providing (P&C) consenting advice in relation to a number of significant FLOW projects in the Celtic Sea.





3 Protos Resource Recovery Park

CLIENT

Peel Environmental

LPA

Cheshire West and Chester Council

STATUS

Planning permission granted

SERVICES

Planning, EIA, Economics, Sustainability Our role has been to successfully navigate the planning regime for what has been a very contentious proposal. The project is highly technical and complex, addressing issues of air quality, landscape capacity, sustainability and economic impact. We have, and continue to provide expert advice on planning, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and economic matters. The park, once fully developed, will extend to over 100 ha and comprise a Biomass Renewable Energy Plant, a 49MW energy from waste plant, a broad range of industrial developments and multi-modal infrastructure. It will be the largest development of its kind in the UK.

Biorefinery & CHP Plant

CLIENT

Green Spirit

LPA

South Somerset District Council

STATUS

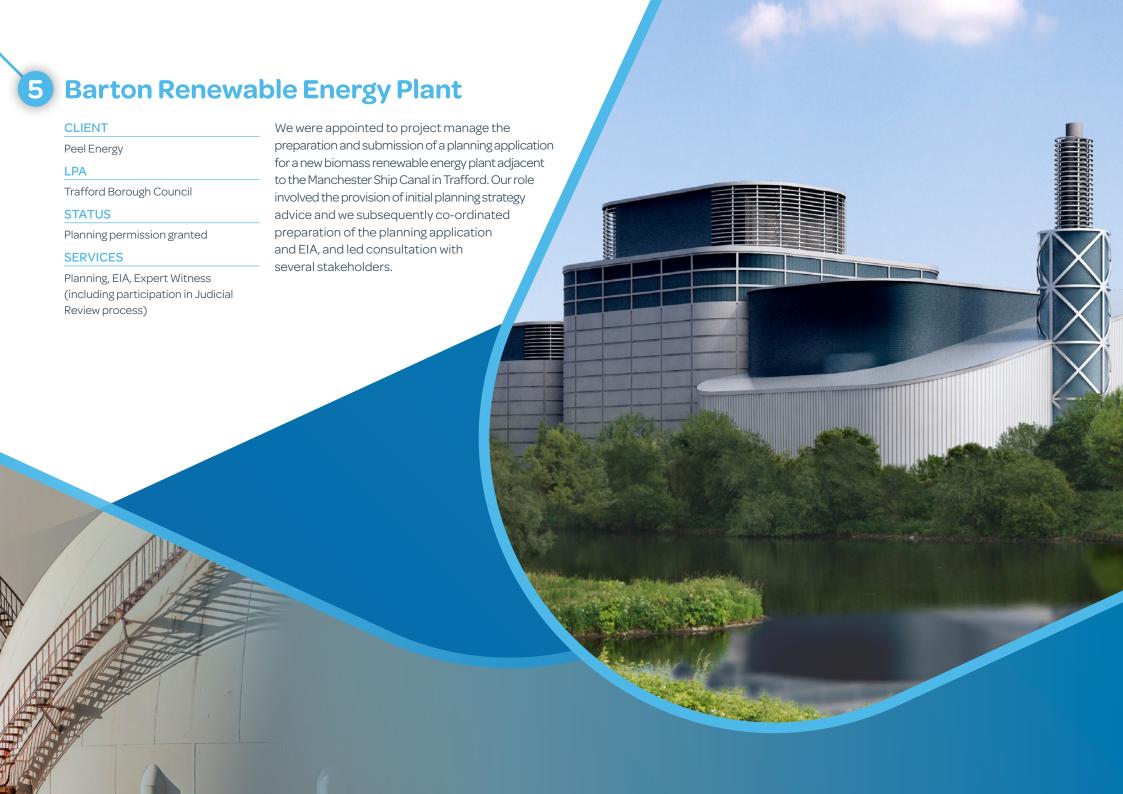
Approved

SERVICES

Planning, EIA

We co-ordinated the preparation and submission of a planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for a major new facility to produce bio-ethanol from grain for use as a vehicle fuel with an associated CHP plant. The plant, which was the first of its type in the UK to secure planning permission, is designed to produce up to 110,000 tonnes of bio-ethanol per annum, also producing bottled CO₂ for use in the soft drinks market and wet and dry animal feed, as sustainable co-products of the process.







7 MIRA Technology Park, Nuneaton

CLIENT

Motor Industry Research Association (MIRA)

LPA

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

STATUS

Planning permission granted

SERVICES

Planning

We secured planning permission for a new MIRA Technology Park which will provide 162,500 sq m of high quality R&D space and create a proposed focus for European R&D operations for global vehicle manufacturers. The site has been granted Enterprise Zone status. We provided advice in relation to the development of the Catapult building and are involved in delivering various aspects of the wider technology park.





8 Port of Aberdeen

CLIENT

Port of Aberdeen

LP/

Aberdeen City Council

STATUS

Ongoing

SERVICES

Design, Planning, Economics

We set out an ambitious and transformational vision for the future of Port of Aberdeen (PoA) North and South harbour, to continue to diversify its business and lead Scotland's energy transition from oil and gas over the next 30 years to 2050 and beyond. We recently provided a masterplan refresh to align with new local / national policy, global changes, and climate change.



10 Birmingham Health Innovation Campus

CLIENT

Bruntwood SciTech

LPA

Birmingham City Council

STATUS

Planning permission granted

SERVICES

Planning, EIA, Strategic Communications, Heritage and Townscape, Economics

The Birmingham Health Innovation Campus site is one of only six Life Science Opportunity Zones in the UK. Our involvement dates back to the late 1990s, providing strategic advice on how best to bring the site and wider former Battery Park site back into use. A hybrid planning application was submitted for a 77,512 sq m health innovation campus, which when built will support up to 10,000 new jobs in the region and bring in around £400 million to the local economy.



Long Mountain Wind Farm, County Antrim

CLIENT

Energia Renewables

LPA

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

STATUS

Complete

SERVICES

Planning

The proposed hydrogen production compound was a pilot proposal for Northern Ireland and formed part of an EU Funded research project into the generation of alternative energy fuels from renewable energy.

12 Energy Generation Plant, Port Talbot

CLIENT

Tata Steel Ltd

LPA

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

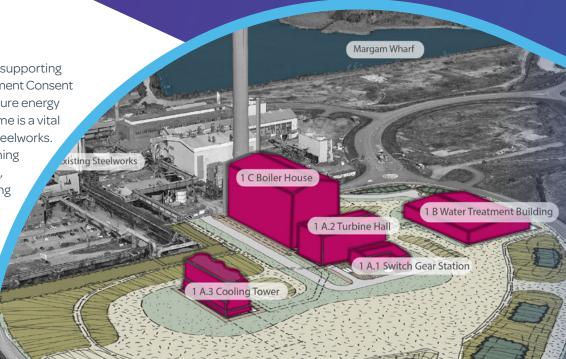
STATUS

Staged implementation of a
Development Consent Order
(30 Dec 2015), being a gas fuelled
electricity generating station with
a nominal gross electrical capacity
of up to 150 MW

SERVICES

Planning, Design, Landscape

Our Planning, Design and Lansdscape teams are supporting Tata Steel Ltd in the implementation of a Development Consent Order, delivering a nationally significant infrastructure energy generation plant at Port Talbot. The energy scheme is a vital investment in the operational efficiency of the steelworks. We are providing negotiation with the Local Planning Authority, team co-ordination as lead consultant, and significant design and landscape input is being successfully provided by Turley to deliver this project to timescale and on budget.



Key contacts

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Who we are

Trusted independent advisors with restless ambition to shape a more sustainable future.

We work collaboratively with our clients to deliver places and communities that thrive.



Locations

We are rooted in the places we work through social and business connections.

Our people invest in positive relationships with local authorities, businesses, communities and co-professionals across the UK and Ireland.

We bring local knowledge and networks.



Our services

We offer expert advisory services for the built environment and beyond.

Combining professional expertise with in-depth market knowledge we work with clients to deliver thriving places and communities across all sectors.

We bring deep thinking; smart strategy; and expert delivery.



Belfast

Birmingham

Bristol

Cambridge

Cardiff

Derry~Londonderry

Dublin

Edinburgh

Glasgow

Leeds

London

Manchester

Nottingham

Reading

Southampton

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Turley