



The Planning System for Renewables

(Planning Database Extract data fields)

1. Introduction

The REPD (Renewable Energy Planning Database) tracks the progress of potential new projects from inception, through planning, construction and operational stages. These data are required in order to make forecasts about when targets for electricity generation from renewable energy sources will be achieved as failure to do so would result in financial penalties to the UK. Furthermore, these data help identify where problems may be occurring in policy, incentive mechanisms and in the planning process and provide good quality information to Government to assist in evidence-based policy making. These data are gathered on a monthly basis.

2. The Planning System

The route taken by a project through planning is dependent on its installed capacity, technology and whether it is on-shore or off-shore.

- Schemes ≤ 50 MW (on-shore) are generally handled by the Local Planning Authorities
- Schemes > 50 MW (on-shore) or > 1 MW (off-shore) in Scotland are handled by the Section 36 (S36) (Electricity Act 1989) Consents Team by the Scottish Government.
- Schemes > 1 MW but ≤ 100 MW (off-shore) for England and Wales are handled by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under S36 of the Electricity Act 1989.
- Schemes > 50 MW (on-shore) or > 100 MW (off-shore) for England and Wales are handled by National Infrastructure Planning (NIP) team at the Planning Inspectorate under the Planning Act 2008 who examines the applications and makes recommendations to the SoS at DECC who will make the final decisions).

NOTE: The Crown Estate must give permission for all offshore schemes (out to the 12 nautical mile limit), before planning can be approved.

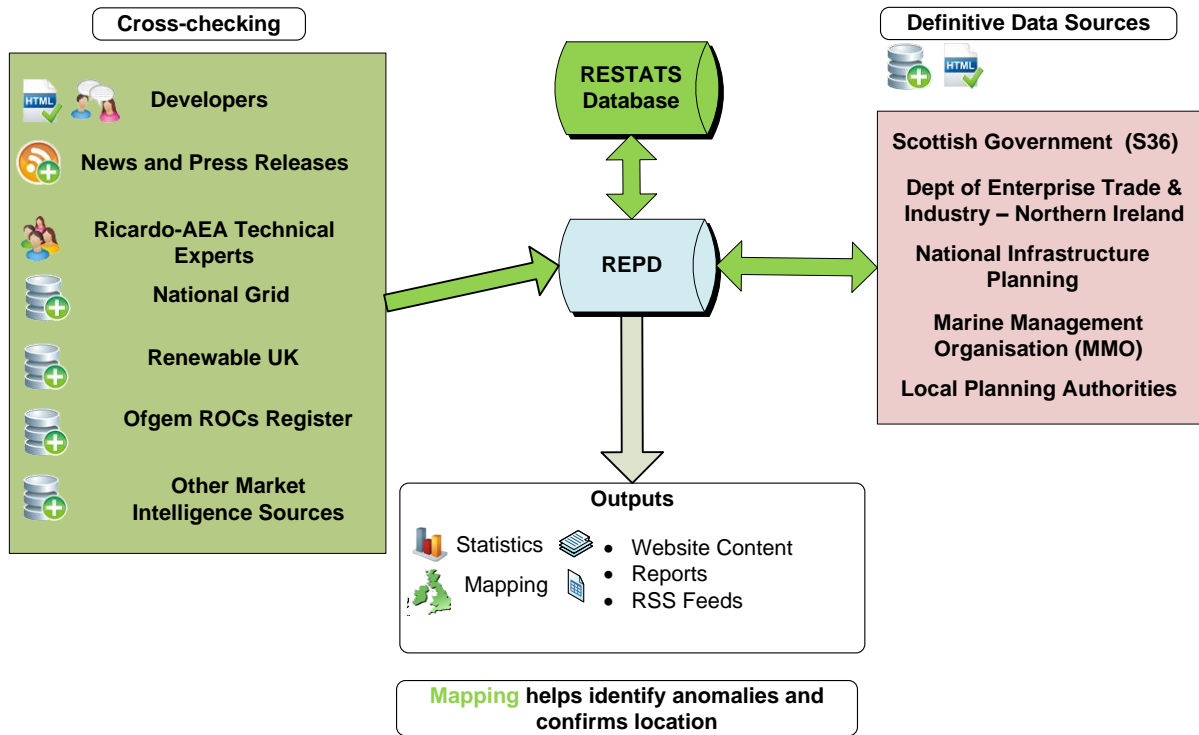
NOTE: Offshore schemes will also need to be granted licenses by the MMO who will declare safety zones around these installations; the NIP will consult the MMO.

NOTE: For projects in Northern Ireland, these are handled by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment.

The data held in the database essentially summarises the experiences of schemes handled in this way. These projects are classified according to their Pre-consent and Post-consent status.

3. The REPD Survey

REPD obtains information from a variety of sources as shown in the REPD Data Flow diagram.



The general approach to data gathering and checking is summarised below:

- Data are gathered for all renewables schemes > 0.01MW
- Local Planning Authority (LPA) and Section 36 (S36) Government portals are considered definitive data sources for this exercise, together with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and the National Infrastructure Planning (NIP).
- Cross-checking is undertaken where possible with other data collection activities and is a mutually beneficial process
- Media services are monitored for project press releases
- Developers web sites are monitored for details of the status of their project portfolio
- Mapping helps identify anomalies and confirms location

4. Planning Database Extract data fields

The following aims to explain the purpose of the various key fields in the Planning Database Extract: <https://restats.decc.gov.uk/cms/planning-database-extract/>

NFFO_Ref_No

Unique database project identifier.

NFFO/SRO/NI-NFFO/Non-NFFO

Primarily a redundant field these days as historically, this was used to record the project funding mechanism when the majority of the schemes were supported under the Non-Fossil Fuel Obligation.

DTI Technology Band and ***Technology Type***

Projects are classified according to the following method:

<i>DTI Technology Band</i>	<i>Technology Type</i>
Biomass - Co-firing	Co-firing (biomass with fossil fuels)
Biomass - Dedicated	Biomass
	Anaerobic Digestion
Geothermal	Hot Dry Rocks (HDR)
Heat Pumps	Heat Pumps
Hydro	Small Hydro (<5MW)
	Large Hydro (>5MW)
Landfill Gas	Landfill Gas
Municipal and Industrial Waste	Municipal Solid Waste Combustion
Sewage Gas	Sewage Sludge Digestion
Solar	Solar Photovoltaics
Tidal and tidal stream	Tidal Barrage and Tidal Stream
Wave	Shoreline Wave
Wind Offshore	Wind Offshore
Wind Onshore	Wind Onshore

Section 36

If TRUE, the project requires S36 (Electricity Act 1989) or Planning Act 2008 Consent (through S36 Consents Team, NIP or MMO).

Installed Capacity (Elec)

Installed electrical capacity in MW.

CHP

If TRUE, the scheme is a combined heat and power project.

OffShore Wind Round

The Crown Estate coordinates the development of Wind Offshore technologies via a series of licensing Rounds. Developments therefore have a Wind Offshore Round Number assigned to them.

No Wind Turbines* and *Wind Turbine Capacity MW

These refer to the number and installed capacities of the wind farm turbines, respectively. There are a few sites that have opted to install turbines of different capacities. Unfortunately, there is currently no way to accurately report these at present and in these cases, the turbine installed capacity reported as is the total site capacity divided by the total number of turbines.

X Coord* and *Y Coord

These are Eastings and Northings of project site locations according to OSGB grid referencing.

Pre-consent Phase

- Schemes sometimes go through a **Scoping** phase; these are essentially projects under development and are tentative ideas being sounded out by the developers before considering formal submission to planning. The decision to submit may be influenced by the sort of response received. If the developer decides not to go ahead, then it is described as **No Application Made**
- **Grid Connection applied for** refers to those schemes (primarily large ones) where the developer has sought a date or when the scheme might be connected to the grid; these data are used to determine the earliest date when a particular scheme was likely to go on line.
- A scheme formally submitted to a deciding body for which a decision has yet to be made is described as an **Application Submitted**
- Some projects do not require planning consent. Where we are aware of these, we will include them in the database for completeness; these are classified as **No Application Required**
- When a scheme is **determined** (i.e., a formal decision is reached) it may either be approved (**Application Approved**) or refused (**Application Refused**). Refused schemes have the option of going to Appeal for another opinion, usually by an independent inspector.
- The developer may have a change of heart and withdraw the application before or just after it has been determined; it is then described as **Application Withdrawn**

Post-consent Phase

- When a scheme has been approved, its Post-consent status is described as **Awaiting Construction**. This is a time when developers assess the conditions that might come attached to the planning approval and whether they might meet them. It is also a time when project funding is more seriously considered. Schemes might therefore be **Abandoned** at this stage.
- The **Under Construction** phase is when the first formal ground works begin to take place; in the case of off-shore activities, it is when the first off-shore work takes place and is not used to describe the on-shore work to receive cabling, etc.
- Finally, when a project has been commissioned and begins to generate power, it is described as **Operational**. This definition in the case of the REPD requires that all the installed capacity must be commissioned and generating; this applies particularly to large wind farms (on-shore and off-shore).
- At the end of its useful life, all the equipment may be removed and the scheme is described as **Decommissioned**

Application Submitted

The date the planning application was formally accepted for consideration by the deciding body.

Application Determined

The date a decision was made by the deciding body.

Construction Date

Date construction on the project was started; for offshore schemes, this is the date that offshore work began and not the date that onshore work began in preparation for the cable connections to the grid.

Application Number

Planning Application Number

Planning Appeal Status

Refused schemes (Pre-consent - Application Refused) have the option of going to Appeal for another opinion, usually by an independent inspector. A scheme may also go to Appeal because of a non-determination by the Local Planning Authority. This field contains one of the following entries:

- **Null:** no decision to go to appeal has yet to be made
- **N/A:** project has not gone to appeal
- **Appeal lodged:** a project has formally been submitted by the Developer for consideration at Appeal.

- **Appeal withdrawn:** the Developer has decided not to continue through the Appeal process and has formally withdrawn the submission
- **Appeal dismissed:** a decision was made against the Developer
- **Appeal upheld:** a decision was made in favour of the Developer
- **Other:** a more complicated state of affairs where the application has gone for Judicial Review with the aim of overturning a positive decision

Appeal Determined

The date a decision was reached at Appeal by the deciding body

Appeal Ref Number

A reference number given to projects that have gone through the Appeal process.

Date on which generation commenced

This definition in the case of the REPD requires that ALL the installed capacity must be commissioned and generating; this applies particularly to large wind farms (on-shore and off-shore)

LPA Name

Name of the Local Planning Authority to which a Planning Application was made.

19th March 2014