

Factsheet: Wind turbines

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) fully supports the Government's renewable energy policies to deliver 15% of our energy demand from renewable sources by 2020 and continues to work with other Government Departments and key stakeholders to address strategic wind energy issues.

Objections to planning applications for wind turbines have been necessary because they can seriously affect a number of MOD activities and interests including Air Traffic Control radar, Air Defence radar and low flying training.

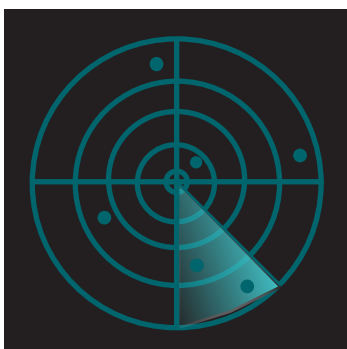


The MOD works hard to balance its support for the Government's renewable energy policies and targets with our own clear responsibility to ensure that military operations are safe and that radars of various types are not affected by developments.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) is responsible for administering the formal consultation process through which MOD engages on development proposals, including those for wind turbines.

What effect do wind farms have?

The presence of nearby wind turbines can physically impede the transmission and receipt of radar signals. This therefore makes it more challenging to direct aircraft through Air Traffic Control systems and to detect incoming aircraft or objects, including those of a hostile nature.



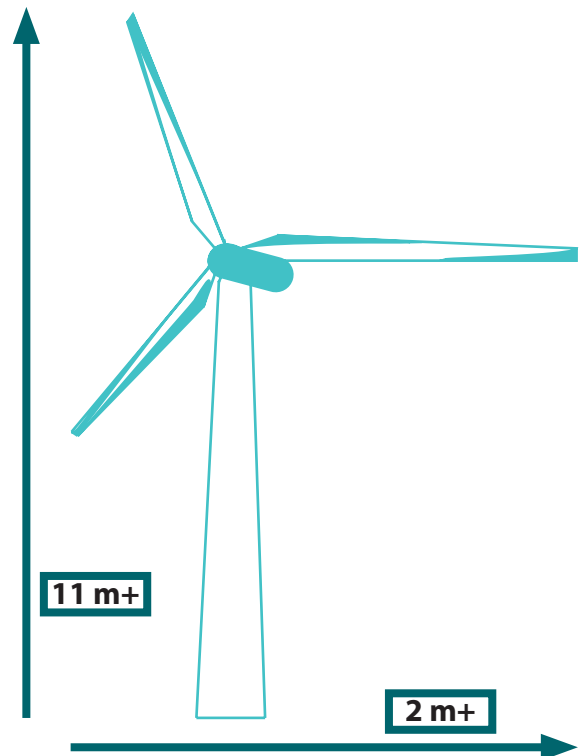
The MOD is at the forefront of studying and understanding the effects of wind turbines on radar in the UK by working with a wide range of stakeholders both within and outside Government to try and find solutions to the current issues.

These include the Department for Energy and Climate Change, Department for Transport, the Scottish Government, Civil Aviation Authority, National Air Traffic Services, RenewableUK, radar manufacturers, and wind energy developers.

How are wind farms assessed?

Any wind farm development measuring 11m or more from ground level, and/or with a rotor diameter of 2m or greater needs to be referred to DIO for assessment.

Every application is assessed at various operational and technical levels, including radar, to determine any risk that the turbines may pose.



DIO continues to do what is practicable to work with wind energy developers to find mutually acceptable solutions wherever possible. However it is the responsibility of the developer to put forward a suitable mitigation solution for the MOD to consider.

In 2014, the MOD re-introduced a free pre-application consultation service for the benefit of potential wind turbine and wind farm developers.