

# Brechfa Forest Connection

Development Consent Order Application - Reference EN020016



**November 2015**

Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning  
(Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

**WESTERN POWER  
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## Phillip Black, technical director – landscape architecture

### Core skills

Landscape and visual impact assessment  
Wind farm assessment  
Expert witness  
Development planning  
Landscape design  
Heritage appraisal  
Project management

### Details

#### Qualifications

BA (Hons) Landscape Architecture  
Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture

#### Memberships

(CMLI) Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute

### PROFILE

Phillip is a Chartered Landscape Architect with 18 years' experience in landscape planning, assessment and design consultancy. A specialist in landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA), he has worked across a wide range of development sectors and has presented expert witness evidence at several public inquiries and hearings.

Over recent years, Phillip has specialised in carrying out LVIAs for wind energy developments. His involvement in many schemes across the UK has enabled him to advise on the feasibility and landscape capacity of sites that come forward for potential development or extension. His projects have included many in lowland England that have required adaptation of standard methodologies and assessment of landscape issues associated with proximity to registered parklands and conservation areas. Phillip has prepared and presented evidence at appeal hearings and public inquiries.

Phillip's wider assessment work has included overhead and underground power lines/cables, highways (he has a detailed knowledge of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, DRMB), airports, industrial development, utilities and sewerage, energy (including combined heat and power/energy from waste), and mixed-use and residential developments.

Phillip has contributed extensively and over many years to all stages of planning for residential development. The requirements have ranged from site promotion for development plan allocation; strategic assessment of development constraints and potential; site masterplanning; preparation of design and access statements; through to detailed landscape design. The sites have ranged from a small-scale site within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to large-scale edge of town or urban schemes. Phillip recently successfully presented evidence at a full public inquiry for a large mixed-use development in South Wales.

Phillip also has particular skills and experience in the following areas:

- preparation of historic landscape conservation, restoration and management plans
- park refurbishment and historic landscape restoration
- Heritage Lottery Fund bids and European Regional Development Fund funded projects
- conservation areas and World Heritage sites
- protected landscapes and landscape character assessment.



# Key project experience

## LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

### [WPD, Brechfa Forest grid connection – Carmarthenshire, south-west Wales, 2015](#)

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Landscape and visual input to the route selection process for a 132kV wooden pole grid connection in rural Wales including areas designated as special landscape areas. Phillip led the route selection process working in partnership with the wider project team, cultural heritage assessor, ecologist, planner and a range of stakeholders. Requirements included consideration of the Holford Rules and the case for undergrounding part of the route in line with the requirements of EN5. This NSIP process involved extensive community and stakeholder consultation comprising a mix of meetings with statutory consultees, consultee group workshops and public exhibitions.

### [IGas/Nexen, various sites in north-west England, 2011](#)

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LVIAs for proposed coalbed methane extraction sites and preparation of landscape schemes for discharge of conditions for consented sites.

### [Valad Developments, Mwyndy – Llantrisant, South Wales, 2008 and 2009](#)

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In 2008, LVIA and successful evidence at public inquiry following refusal for a mixed-use scheme on landscape grounds. Phillip presented evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed landscape mitigation scheme. In 2009, assessment of the potential effects of a site allocation for a mixed-use development on a proposed SLA designation. Phillip prepared a study to accompany a representation to the local plan process that reviewed the criteria for SLA selection and challenged the need for buffer areas.

### [Peel Holdings, Partington – Cheshire, 2009](#)

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LVIA for a residential development on open land adjacent to the Manchester Ship Canal.

### [Veolia, energy-from-waste facility – Nottinghamshire, 2007](#)

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LVIA of a proposed facility on a former colliery site. Phillip worked with the architect for the proposed landmark building to help integrate it into the disused colliery and partially restored landscape setting.

### [Confidential client, advertising media for motorway service areas, 2006](#)

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LVIA of novel advertising format. Phillip carried out an assessment of several large-scale, colourful and illuminated 3D advertising features to be located at various service areas across the UK. The assessment identified variations in capacity according to whether the site was located on urbanised or essentially rural stretches of the motorway network.

### [Coventry Airport, 2004](#)

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LVIA of proposed expansion, including the effects of lighting and airborne craft. The assessment included consideration of the potential effect on nearby conservation villages close to the proposed flight path.

### [Network Rail, Shortlands junction, 2004](#)

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LVIA and public inquiry documentation for a proposed rail junction as part of the development of the Channel Tunnel link. Phillip worked extensively on detailed design and off-site mitigation proposals to overcome third-party objections.

### [Government, South East Regional Airport Strategy, 2003](#)

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Preliminary LVIA/options assessment of alternative potential airport sites around London to inform the Aviation White Paper. Phillip developed a methodology to assess the capacity of the alternative sites to accommodate large-scale aviation development and associated infrastructure requirements.

#### [KPMG, Gibraltar quayside, 2003](#)

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LVIA of visual effects of new artificial island on existing waterside residences.

#### [Highways Agency, A66 Temple Sowerby bypass – Cumbria, 2002](#)

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LVIA and proof of evidence for the Stage 3 DMRB assessment and preparation of inquiry documentation. Phillip prepared the assessment and subsequent inquiry evidence.

### **WIND FARM ASSESSMENTS**

#### [Partnerships for Renewables, wind energy development \(confidential site\) – Scotland, 2015](#)

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Landscape and visual advice to early feasibility stages for a large potential wind energy development in southern Scotland. Preliminary work has included a critical review of the local landscape capacity study commissioned and adopted by the local planning authority (LPA) and pre-scoping meetings involving the Energy Consents Deployment Unit at the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the LPA. Key issues include impacts on forestry, views from important tourism and recreational areas and the visual effects on the settings of heritage assets.

#### [Peel Energy, Scout Moor wind farm – Lancashire, 2015](#)

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Input principally to the cumulative and residential visual amenity assessments for the proposed extension of an operational wind farm in the South Pennines. The immediate area contains a large number of consented wind energy schemes at a variety of scales.

#### [Partnerships for Renewables, Louth Canal wind energy development – Lincolnshire, 2014](#)

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Landscape and visual expert witness for public inquiry held in January 2014. Reasons for refusal included effect on residential visual amenity of one named property and cumulative effect on the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB. The appeal was dismissed following recovery by the Secretary of State.

#### [Peel Energy, Asfordby wind farm – Leicestershire, 2013](#)

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Assessment and expert witness services for a medium-sized wind farm in rural Leicestershire. The assessment was iterative and gave careful consideration to design issues advocated in Scottish Natural Heritage guidance. Appeal dismissed following recovery by the Secretary of State.

#### [Peel Energy, Frodsham wind farm – Cheshire, 2010](#)

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LVIA for a proposed 19-turbine wind farm on low-lying marshland to the south of the Mersey Estuary. The assessment included detailed consideration of the potential visual effects on elevated settlements that overlook the site. Preparation of landscape and visual, residential amenity and shadow flicker evidence and rebuttal evidence for public inquiry (November/December 2011).

#### [Confidential client – Fife, 2011](#)

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Scoping report and early stages of LVIA for a site on Forestry Commission land in Fife.

#### [Peel Energy, Scout Moor wind farm expansion – north-west England, 2011](#)

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Scoping report and layout advice regarding the potential expansion of Scout Moor wind farm in north-west England. The focus of work to date has been to determine the capacity of the surrounding landscape to accommodate an extension within a cumulative development scenario.

#### [RWE npower, Hemswell – Lincolnshire, 2011](#)

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Early stages of LVIA for a new site in Lincolnshire.

[Arcus Renewables, Watford Gap – Northamptonshire, 2011](#)

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LVIA of a revised scheme on a site adjacent to the M1 motorway.

[Force 9, Blackwood wind farm – Scotland, 2011](#)

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Scoping report for proposed development in southern Scotland.

[Dong Energy, Walney offshore wind farm – Lancashire, 2010](#)

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Input to mitigation proposals for onshore substation development.

[Wind Prospect, confidential site in Scottish Highlands, 2010](#)

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A preliminary LVIA of a new site to consider the feasibility of different scales of development in relation to landscape and visual baseline conditions. The assessment included a review of recent Decisions of Reporters to Scottish Ministers.

[Wind Prospect, Strensham wind cluster – Worcestershire, 2010](#)

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Preparation of supplementary information regarding the potential landscape and visual effects of a proposed three-turbine scheme in Worcestershire. The supplementary information considered the potential effects on a nearby Grade I Registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest (containing several individual Grade I Listed Buildings) and the effects on views towards designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscapes within the study area.

[Arcus Renewables, Gartree wind farm – Leicestershire, 2009](#)

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LVIA for the application for a four-turbine proposal in Leicestershire. The assessment included careful consideration of the potential effects on the settings of nearby Conservation Areas. Several layout alternatives were examined to achieve a visually balanced array in key views.

[Bolsterstone plc, Newlands wind farm – Cumbria, 2009–2011](#)

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Written reports in 2009 following refusal of the application for Newlands wind farm. The development was later refused at full public inquiry on the basis of a visual effect on two specific residential properties. In 2011, Phillip assisted with updated assessments for revised applications for a reduced scale of development.

[Harworth Power, Stonish Hill wind farm – Nottinghamshire, 2005 to 2008](#)

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LVIA and successful evidence at appeal hearing following refusal on landscape grounds. Phillip provided landscape and visual input several years, including consultations with the local authority, English Heritage and county archaeologists. A package of countryside and registered parkland enhancement proposals was developed as part of the mitigation package.

[RES, Roos wind farm – East Yorkshire, 2006](#)

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LVIA including producing photomontages. Phillip contributed to the assessment of the potential effect on the setting of a Grade 2\* building located in an open position close to the site.

[Harworth Power, Bleak House wind farm – Staffordshire, 2006](#)

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Early stages of the LVIA.

[RES, Coal Clough wind farm, Lancashire, 2000](#)

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Assessment of a proposed extension involving variation in turbine height.

[ETSU \(DTI\), cumulative effects of wind turbines \(CEWT\) tool, 2000](#)

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Leadership of an early research project seeking to establish consensus on the assessment of the cumulative effects of wind farm development.

## **DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND MASTERPLANNING**

[Peel Holdings, Burgess Farm – Salford, 2009](#)

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Masterplanning and preparation of the design and access statement for a residential development adjacent to a Site of Biological Importance on the edge of Salford.

[English Partnerships, B&Q – Telford, 2003](#)

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Site assessment, landscape scheme and proof of evidence to inquiry in support of retail development on a gateway site.

[Wakefield MDC, Langthwaite Grange Industrial Estate – South Yorkshire, 2003](#)

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Environmental enhancement plan developed in consultation with local businesses.