

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
DISTRIBUTION**

John Meehan, principal landscape architect

Core skills

Landscape and visual impact assessment

Landscape design and implementation

Project management

Details

Qualifications

Master of Landscape Planning and Management

Memberships

Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute

PROFILE

John is a principal landscape architect with 11 years' experience working in environmental consultancy. John works in the landscape team from RSK's Manchester office.

John has a detailed knowledge of landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA), which includes landscape character assessment, townscape assessment, viewpoint selection, visual envelope definition, planning policy review and consultation with key stakeholders. John has assisted an expert landscape witness at major public inquiries, prepared design proposals for commercial clients and has prepared landscape management plans and landscape capacity studies. Working in a private consultancy John has developed excellent written and spoken communication skills and built good relationships with clients.

John has experience of working in a variety of development sectors, including wind energy, biomass, waste, mineral extraction, major infrastructure, industrial, leisure and mixed-use.

John has strong graphic and computer skills and has produced presentation graphics to support environmental statements and landscape design proposals. He has a working knowledge of 3D ground modelling, zone of theoretical visibility modelling, the production of 3D wireline models and the preparation of photomontages. John is also experienced in photographic techniques that are compliant with recommended industry guidance and are suitable for use in photomontages. He has extensive working experience of AutoCAD Map, Corel Draw, Adobe Photoshop, WindFarm, KeyTERRA-FIRMA 3D modelling software and the Microsoft suite. John is also familiar with GIS packages, KeySCAPE and 3ds Max.

John has specialist skills in the following areas:

- landscape and visual impact assessment
- landscape capacity studies
- landscape design proposals
- public consultation.



Key project experience

RENEWABLE ENERGY

[BAE Systems, Samlesbury solar farm – Lancashire, 2014](#)

John has been responsible for the production of a landscape and visual appraisal of the development of a solar farm at BAE Systems, Samlesbury, Lancashire. The local planning authority is currently considering this proposal.

[GLID Energy/Centrica, Glens of Foudland Wind Farm – Aberdeenshire, 2014–2015](#)

John is responsible for the preparation of the landscape and visual chapter of an environmental statement (ES) for the proposed expansion of an operational 20-turbine wind farm located close to Huntly, Aberdeenshire. In addition, John has represented the client at public exhibitions prior to the submission of a planning application.

[Empirica Investments, wind turbine sites, 2011–2013](#)

Empirica Investments submitted a high volume of wind turbine applications. John was responsible for coordinating the environmental project team. John's role involved liaison with the client on initial feasibility; access and environmental constraints; site access investigations; screening requests, consultation with relevant consultees such as aviation and communication bodies; production of shadow flicker assessments and LVIA's; and compilation of documents for planning submission.

[Knight Frank, Great Park wind turbine – Isle of Wight, 2011](#)

John was responsible for the preparation of the landscape and visual chapter of an ES for an 81m-high turbine located close to the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary. John liaised with statutory consultees, including the Isle of Wight AONB Partnership and the project was recommended for approval by Isle of Wight Council in 2011.

[International Power/GDF Suez, Rugeley Power Station biomass conversion, 2012](#)

John produced an LVIA for proposals to convert the existing Rugeley B Power Station to burn biomass as the primary fuel source for the power station. This proposal received planning approval in January 2013.

[Force 9 Energy, Barmoor Wind Farm – Northumberland, 2007](#)

John assisted in the production of the LVIA for a proposed wind farm at Barmoor, which is located near to Berwick in Northumberland. This project involved an iterative design process, influencing the final layout of the site. John was responsible for the production of all LVIA graphics and represented the client at public exhibitions.

[Harworth Power and Peel Energy, Bleak House Wind Farm – Cannock Chase, 2006](#)

John provided landscape consultancy services for a proposed wind-farm near to Cannock Chase AONB. Work output included the provision of an LVIA and ES chapter and accompanying graphics (KeyTERRA-FIRMA zones of visual influence, photomontages, wirelines) to support a planning application.

[Fearn's Farm anaerobic digestion plant – Lancashire, 2011](#)

John was responsible for baseline work on a proposed anaerobic digestion plant in Lancashire. John produced a preliminary constraints plan and reported on the baseline environment.

WASTE FACILITIES

[Biossence, East London sustainable energy facility, 2010](#)

LVIA of a proposed energy from waste plant beside the Thames River on the former Ford car works, Dagenham. John was responsible for project managing the landscape element of the environmental work on this project, which involved baseline assessments, consultation with the relevant planning authorities and the assessment of effects.

[Grundon, former tarmac top-block site – West Sussex, 2013](#)

John produced an LVIA for a proposed waste facility on a former airfield adjacent to Ford village, West Sussex. The study area of the site included the South Downs National Park and the historic town of Arundel, which both required specific consideration within the LVIA.

[Claude Fenton Holdings, Theale waste transfer facility – Berkshire, 2013](#)

John was responsible for the production of an LVIA and landscape mitigation proposals for a waste transfer facility in Theale, Berkshire.

[SITA, Severnside development – South Gloucestershire, 2012](#)

John produced an LVIA for an incinerator bottom ash recycling and railhead development located in the Severnside area of South Gloucestershire. The site is located directly adjacent to the River Severn Estuary.

[SITA, proposed development – Surrey, 2012](#)

John was commissioned by SITA to prepare an LVIA for a proposed materials bulking facility and waste transfer station for municipal solid waste, food waste and dry recyclate at the Reigate and Banstead Depot, Redhill, Surrey.

[Grundon, Ewelme waste transfer facility, 2012](#)

John provided a landscape, townscape and visual amenity assessment of the proposals for a hazardous waste transfer station development at Grundon's Ewelme depot.

[Harworth Estates, Rufford energy recovery facility – Newark-upon-Sherwood, 2009](#)

John completed an LVIA of a proposed energy recovery facility in Newark. This project involved the production of the LVIA and extensive consultation with both the local planning authority and the public at a series of public consultation events. This project was recommended for approval by the planning authority in 2009 prior to a public inquiry.

[Waste Recycling Group, Salt End energy-from-waste facility – Kingston-upon-Hull, 2007](#)

An LVIA was required for a proposed energy-from-waste plant in Kingston-upon-Hull. John was responsible for project managing the landscape element of the environmental work on this project, which involved baseline assessments, viewpoint selection, consultation with the relevant planning authorities and assessment of effects. The development gained planning permission in early 2007.

[Waste Recycling Group, Gallymoor integrated waste facility – Market Weighton, 2007](#)

LVIA of a proposed integrated waste facility close to Market Weighton. John was responsible for leading the LVIA, which involved baseline assessments, viewpoint selection, consultation with the relevant planning authorities and assessment of landscape and visual effects.

MINERAL EXTRACTION

[Scottish Coal, Glentaggert open-cast coal mine, 2012](#)

John worked with consultant hydrologists to produce a stream realignment scheme that satisfied the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency's (SEPA) requirements. The sensitive routing and re-contouring of the landform required careful consideration to ensure approval from SEPA.

[Scottish Coal, Cauldhall Moor, 2013](#)

Preliminary work for an open-cast coal mine required the diversion of existing streams. A baseline study of the existing stream route was required by the client to satisfy SEPA's requirements.

[Scottish Coal, Mainshill Wood open cast coal development – South Lanarkshire, 2007](#)

John project managed a LVIA for an opencast coal proposal near to Douglas, South Lanarkshire. The project required extensive consultation with the local planning authority and Scottish Natural Heritage on the landscape and visual issues associated with the proposals. John also advised the client on restoration proposals as part of an iterative design process, providing guidance on the design of the proposals to minimise the landscape and visual effects on the site and surrounding area.

[Darrington Quarries/WRG, Darrington Quarry – Wakefield, 2006](#)

John project managed the production of an LVIA and landscape restoration proposals for the extension of a quarry located in Wakefield, beside the M62. This project was in a sensitive location due to its proximity to a large residential area which causes visual issues that the landscape restoration proposals needed to mitigate.

TRANSPORT AND ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

[RWE, Triton Knoll wind farm electrical connection, ongoing](#)

John is project manager for the landscape and visual assessment of the onshore electrical connection infrastructure related to the already approved Triton Knoll offshore wind farm. The project relates to 60km of underground cable and two electrical substations. The work involves providing input to siting at an early stage (embedded mitigation); consultation with statutory consultees; and producing the LVIA chapter of the EIA that will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. This project is a nationally significant infrastructure project and requires a development consent order to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

[Peel Energy, Frodsham substation, 2014](#)

John provided a landscape and visual appraisal at the request of the client, Peel Energy, which was submitted with the client's application for an additional substation at the approved Frodsham wind farm site.

[Highways Agency, M60 junctions 12–18, 2005–2006](#)

John assisted in the preparation of the LVIA for a proposed highway widening and active traffic-management signage scheme on a prominent stretch of the M60/M62 motorways around Manchester. The scheme involved assessing multiple route options and stakeholder consultation to inform option selection.

[AECOM/Highways Agency, A1 Dishforth to Barton upgrade – North Yorkshire, 2004–2013](#)

Approximately 40km of the A1, located between Dishforth and Barton in North Yorkshire, was to be upgraded. John worked as part of the environmental design team that produced the environmental statement for the scheme. As John's employer coordinated the ES production, John gained experience in working with other environmental consultants and attended regular meetings with all members of the environmental and road design team. John gained experience of highways

assessment methods including DMRB and WebTag during the first phase of the scheme. The scheme gained approval from the Secretary of State for Transport in 2008.

[Halton Borough Council, Mersey Gateway, 2009](#)

John gained valuable experience in working on the public inquiry for the proposed development of a bridge across the River Mersey, which will be located adjacent to the existing Runcorn Bridge. John assisted in the production of the landscape proof of evidence and worked at the inquiry with the legal team from DLA Piper. The project gained permission and construction is due to begin in late 2013.

RESIDENTIAL

[HIMOR, Hindheath site – Sandbach, 2013–2014](#)

John was commissioned to undertake a preliminary landscape and visual appraisal of a 23ha greenfield site in Sandbach that the client had identified for a residential-led, mixed-use development. John's work influenced the development of the masterplan for the site.

[Signet Planning, Clay Lane site – Newark-on-Trent 2010](#)

John was commissioned to undertake a preliminary LVIA of the impact of residential and related development of a large site to the east of Newark-on-Trent with particular regard to the suitability of land off Clay Lane, Newark-on-Trent.

[Signet Planning, residential development – Sherburn-in-Elmet, 2011](#)

John was commissioned to undertake an LVIA of the impact of residential development adjacent to Sherburn-in-Elmet, North Yorkshire.

[Jones Lang LaSalle, Blackley Mere – Manchester, 2009](#)

John was appointed as landscape consultant on a major residential development in a sensitive location in North Manchester. John produced a landscape masterplan and subsequent detailed landscape designs, and prepared a landscape strategy to accompany the planning application.

[Jones Lang LaSalle, Tyson Road – Lewisham, 2009](#)

John produced a stand-alone report that considered the effects of a residential development on townscape and visual amenity.

INDUSTRIAL AND MIXED USE

[Aeternum Capital, Castleford Energy Village, 2011](#)

John was appointed to provide a LVIA of proposals by Aeternum Capital for the former Hickson and Welsh (C6 Solutions) chemical works site in Castleford. The proposed mixed-use development centres around a bio park, incorporating a biomass-to-biofuel plant, retail superstore, petrol filling station, industrial units, water and waste water treatment, river wharf, offices, visitors/education centre, residential development and rail freight terminal.

[Jones LangLaSalle, former Creda Works – Blythe Bridge, 2011](#)

John provided a preliminary landscape and visual impact assessment for the redevelopment of the former Creda Works at Hadleigh Park, Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire. The site was developed for business uses.

[Swansea dry docks, 2011](#)

John was responsible for producing plans for external hardstanding areas with a renovated dry docks. John worked with project hydrologists to ensure sufficient falls for drainage purposes.

LEISURE

Wrenbury Marina, marina development – Cheshire

A landscape, townscape and visual amenity assessment of the proposals for a marina development was required. John consulted with the local planning authority from an early stage to ensure that the marina received its support.

Knight Frank, Towcester Racecourse

At the request of the local planning authority, John was commissioned to provide a night-time visual assessment of proposals for a greyhound race track within an existing racecourse. John provided night-time photography and developed the lighting proposals for the track with the client to ensure that the potential night-time lighting levels were mitigated. This development received planning consent in 2012.

Roydon Marina, marina development – Essex, 2010

John was appointed as landscape consultant on a marina development in Essex. He produced a landscape masterplan and subsequent detailed landscape designs, and prepared a landscape strategy to accompany the planning application. This development received planning consent in 2010.

Water Towers Marina – Rugby

John was responsible for the production of an LVIA for a marina proposal beside the Oxford Canal. The marina will include provision for up to 144 berths and be designed to accommodate a variety of craft sizes.

Keynsham Marina – Bath

John was responsible for the production of an LVIA for a marina proposal beside the River Avon. The marina will include provision for up to 300 berths and be designed to accommodate a variety of craft sizes.

Park Holidays UK, Seaview Holiday Park – Kent, 2010

John was commissioned to produce a landscape and visual statement that describes the landscape and visual context of Seaview Holiday Park site in Swalecliffe, Kent. The report specifically looked at an area in the south-eastern extent of the holiday park, which has the potential for development. This report was produced to support a planning application and considers how the proposals can achieve a 'best fit' within the landscape.