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Planning for Wind Energy

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# Presentation Structure

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West Coast Energy Ltd

West Coast Energy Head Office

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# West Coast Energy - Company Overview

- An independent wind energy developer based in Mold, North Wales
- West Coast Energy Group company, Atmos Consulting Ltd, with offices in Edinburgh and Inverness
- Established in 1996 and specialises in the identification, design, planning and development of wind energy projects through to construction and operation.
- A proven track record -presently involved in developing hundreds of megawatts of wind power generation for our future renewable energy needs
- secured planning permission for a range of onshore and offshore wind farms totalling in excess of 650 Megawatts.
- Experienced team of planners, surveyors, engineers and environmental managers;
- Notable projects include:
  - Cefn Croes, Mid Wales - first S36 onshore wind scheme in Wales
  - Rhyl Flats, N.Wales - 2<sup>nd</sup> consented offshore project in UK
  - Scout Moor, Lancashire - largest wind farm currently operational in England
  - Carsington Pastures, Derbyshire - first wind farm in Derbyshire
  - Little Raith, Fife - first wind farm in Fife

# West Coast Energy Head Office



- Commitment to Sustainable Development
- BREEAM Excellent Standard
- LABC Award for Best Sustainable Project in Wales
- Office to be opened by John Griffiths AM, Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



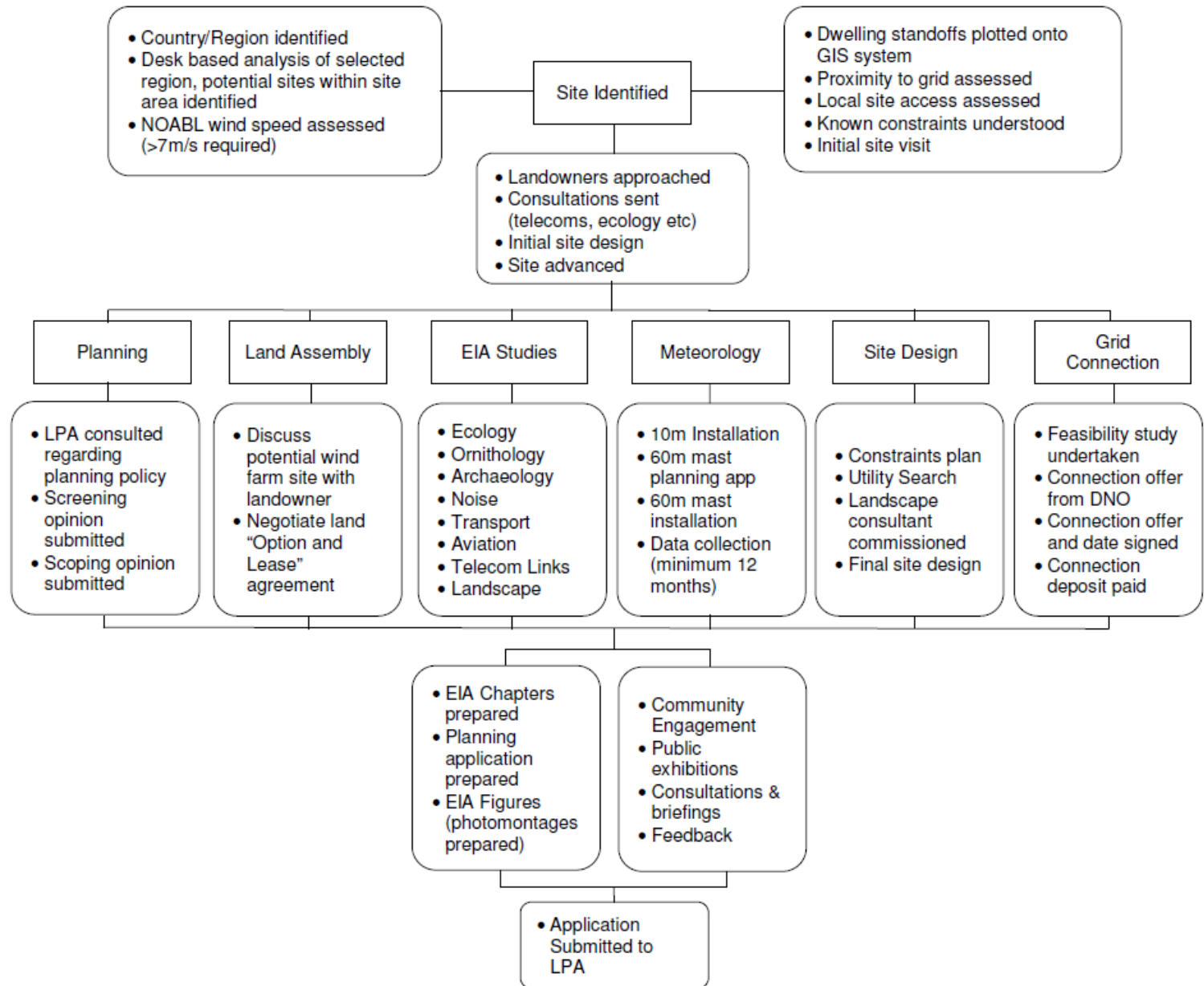
# Planning Policy Context

- UK is legally bound to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels
- Moving towards a low carbon economy with secure energy supplies
- Targets set to increase electricity generation from renewables sources to 10% by 2010 and 20% by 2020
- Target to deliver 15% of UK energy consumption from renewable sources by 2015
- Scottish Government target to deliver 100% renewable electricity by 2020
- Welsh Government target to produce twice the amount of electricity it currently uses from renewable sources by 2025

# Key Renewable Energy Documents

- Renewable Energy Strategy:
  - UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)
  - National Policy Statement for Energy and Renewable Energy (July 2011)
  - UK Renewable Energy Roadmap (July 2011)
  - Route maps for Renewable Energy in Scotland and Wales
- Planning Policy:
  - Planning Policy Statement 22 - Renewable Energy (2006)
  - National Planning Policy Framework (Draft, 2011)
  - Scottish Planning Policy (2010)
  - Planning Policy Wales (2011)
  - Technical Advice Note 8 (2005)
- Policy commitment to onshore wind energy:
  - *“Planning Authorities should support the development of wind farms in locations where the technology can operate efficiently and environmental and cumulative impacts can be satisfactory addressed (Scottish Planning Policy, 2011)”*

# Wind Farm Development Process





# Wind Farm Development Constraints

- **Technical**
  - Wind Speed >7m/s
  - Grid Connection -
    - distance <5km (depending on size of site)
    - capacity availability
    - Stand off from power lines
  - Communication links - microwave and telecom
  - Aviation - MoD and NATS/Civil
  - Noise/Residential Amenity - 500 - 800m standoff
  - Highway access - large components to site, i.e. 40m blade
  - Ground conditions - mineshafts, ground stability
  - Financial considerations
- **Environmental**
  - Landscape and visual impact
  - Landscape Designations - National Parks, National Scenic Areas, AONB's
  - Ecology
  - Ornithology
  - Archaeology
  - Listed Buildings
- **Planning**
  - Regional policy
  - Local policy
  - Public acceptance and Community Benefit
  - Cumulative sites & impact





# The Next 10 Years.....

- Continued Government Support for Low Carbon Economy
- Onshore Wind - important component of renewable energy generation capacity
- Positive Planning Framework
- Partnership Approach to deliver targets
- Regional Resource Capacity Assessments
- Increase in tensions between communities/statutory agencies and renewable energy industry
- Need for innovative partnership schemes:
  - Wind farm co-operatives
  - Community turbines
  - Local investment in Wind Farms



# Any Questions?

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