

HEWITSONS

RURAL RENEWABLES



The Team

Our Rural Renewable Team has considerable experience and expertise in dealing with renewable energy schemes for farmers and rural landowners.

The team is part of our firm wide CleanTech group which deals with renewable technology in all contexts. This means we combine both our considerable experience and understanding of farms and rural businesses with our expertise in renewable technology. This enables us to provide expert and practical advice on renewable energy schemes ranging from large scale wind farms to the installation of solar panels, or the construction of anaerobic digestion plants.

Expertise

We advise on large scale renewable energy developments. Our Rural Renewables Team has advised landowners in connection with over fifty commercial wind farm developments from single to multi turbine sites. We are also experienced in relation to documentation for commercial solar farms from large scale to multi site arrays. In all cases this involves negotiating the terms of the Option with the developer under which the developer will seek planning permission and then construct the renewable energy installation together with the form of lease under which the installation will be built.

Recent Case Studies

We are advising a consortium of ten landowners on the terms of an Option and a Lease with a national energy company. This has included advice on detailed terms within the documents, not only dealing with rental and payment provisions but also mitigating the impact of the construction work on the day to day farming activities. We also advised in

connection with Parent Company Guarantees and Bonds to fund restoration works. We prepared a collaboration agreement between the landowners to ensure a degree of co-operation during the life of the wind farm.

We have advised a landowner in connection with documentation for the grant of a lease in relation to a large commercial solar farm constructed in the Midlands and have several Options in the course of negotiation or recently completed. As well as advising on large scale development, we advise in connection with the purchase of renewable technology by farmers and rural landowners.

We recently advised a client on the purchase of two medium scale wind turbines. This involved our Construction Team reviewing and advising on the terms of the contracts for the purchase of the wind turbines. We also advised on the terms of the warranties being offered with the wind turbines. The turbines were being acquired by a company set up by the landowner. We advised and prepared the necessary lease arrangements between the landowner and the company set up by the landowner and in connection with the funding



arrangements to finance the acquisition of the wind turbines.

We are advising multi site owning clients on the grant of leases to permit the installation of solar panels and/or single wind turbines to supply electricity to their sites.

The construction of anaerobic digestion plants produces particular challenges. Not only does the plant have to be acquired and installed but ongoing contracts need to be entered into to deal with the acquisition of feed stock and the disposal of waste products including digestate. We have acted for a number of businesses in dealing with these issues.

We are instructed by a landed estate which is interested in entering into an arrangement for the construction of an anaerobic digestion plant on its property. This involved the grant of an Option pursuant to which the developer would seek planning permission and, subject to obtaining planning permission, would take a lease of the site.

The landowner would not only receive a rental income but also an element of the power and heat generated by the installation. As well as the Option and lease arrangements, we are advising in connection with the contracts with the landowner to supply the feed stock and to supply routine services in connection with the running of the anaerobic digestion plant.

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We pride ourselves on delivering an outstanding service to a wide range of individuals, businesses and institutions including charities, educational and sports bodies. The firm's size and breadth of specialisms means each client receives the focus it requires. We operate UK wide and have worldwide reach via our network of independent law firms, LawExchange International.

This document is written as an outline guide only and any action should not be based solely on the information given here. Appropriate professional advice should always be taken in specific instances.

Hewitsons LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.