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# National Experts Local Knowledge

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Energy





*We are DPP.  
An independent, nationally  
recognised, director-led  
planning consultancy with  
offices in Cardiff, Leeds,  
London, Manchester and  
Newcastle upon Tyne.*

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## A message from our Head of Energy

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*The Energy sector is rapidly growing and developing. The drive towards achieving net zero carbon by 2050 is gathering pace, and it's a key policy for Government nationwide. In addition, with increasing household energy prices and recent global events, there is greater emphasis on the need to manage and generate energy within the UK.*

We have experience in renewable energy projects throughout the UK including; private and public sector solar, wind and anaerobic digestion projects.

Our expertise covers the entire lifecycle of a project. We have conducted site and property appraisals to establish the potential for a renewable energy project. We have managed projects right through to delivery and we've completed this process for a consortium of public sector organisations.

We provide the planning input into projects, and we work with technical partners to identify the energy generating potential of projects. This ensures that clients receive a detailed feasibility service from us. At the planning stage, we use our extensive experience of public engagement to lead consultation, dispelling myths and removing potential objections. We're also experienced in EIA development and are able to provide services through the medium of Welsh.

***Osian Roberts***

*Associate Director and Energy Sector lead at DPP Planning*



## Why DPP?

DPP are your trusted advisors through the life-cycle of the planning process. We're pro-active problem-solvers who pride ourselves on making your vision a reality. We'll navigate the minefield of planning guidance for you, so that you can focus on making progress. Here are some of the reasons our clients choose to work with us:

### Delivering successful outcomes

DPP use our experience in the Energy Sector to add value to any project by minimising and managing planning risks for our clients. We secure the 'right' planning permission on time and within budget. Whilst every project will be different, and a bespoke approach is likely, we have provided some examples of schemes that we have worked on, and are currently involved with, on the following pages of this brochure.

### Local knowledge and contacts

With five offices, we have people with personal knowledge, experience and contacts in every corner of England and Wales. Even in the midlands or south coast, where we don't have offices, we have extensive experience of delivering projects. We've also been able to build strong relationships with stakeholders and Local Planning Authorities across England and Wales.

Relevant to any projects based in Wales, we have first language Welsh speakers in our Cardiff team. They can be an invaluable asset when dealing with schemes in some of the Welsh speaking heartlands.

### Reassuring expertise for complex projects

Your project is led by a highly experienced Director, with technical expertise in your sector. Directors are familiar with the most complicated issues in the planning cycle, and they'll guide you through each step of the way with clarity and confidence.

### Your advocate in the planning process

We're on your side to help your projects succeed. Our long-established relationships with local councils mean that we understand how and why projects get approved or rejected. We see how the guidance is interpreted. Equipped with this knowledge, we'll help you get approval for your project, however ambitious it looks.

### Maximising the potential of your project

Our aim is to help you secure the best possible consent for your project. To do that well, your project needs to be commercially viable. We'll structure your project so that you realise your investment and maximise the output from your asset.

### A track record you can trust

We have long-standing relationships with our clients, some stretching back for over 30 years. We're trusted for our technical expertise and our back catalogue of successful projects. We get to know your business, and the people that makes it tick, so that we can understand the strategic significance of your projects.

### Your affable advisers

We believe the key to successful collaboration is approachable people. You'll deal with down-to-earth colleagues who support you through the complexities of the planning process. They're alongside you at every stage of the planning life-cycle to guide you, support you and give you the clarity you need.

### Guaranteed quality

DPP are fully accredited in ISO9001:2015 and have an ISO9001:2015 compliant quality management system in place. That's a guarantee that our management, processes, service and product delivery conform to international standards. We are passionate about our people and our values, incorporating Social Responsibility and Environmental Improvements into everything we do.



## Your Energy Sussex

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Client Name: **Your Energy Sussex**

Local Authority: **West Sussex County Council**

Project Value: **Various**

DPP were appointed to provide Your Energy Sussex ("YES") with planning advice on a number of renewable energy projects across Sussex. YES is a consortium of local authorities in Sussex, which was formed to promote energy efficiency and sustainable forms of energy production across the County. DPP were originally appointed to appraise a number of sites owned by YES.

Having completed the appraisal, DPP were subsequently appointed to co-ordinate the submission of a number of planning applications for solar farms. Our tasks were to scope the applications, appoint consultant teams and develop schemes which addressed site specific issues.

One scheme was located on a former land-fill site. This presented a number of challenges. The planning process required careful consideration to prevent material leaking from the decomposing refuse, and to manage the risk of explosives. All of the schemes are located in the open countryside and adjacent to the South Downs National Park. For this reason, the schemes attracted significant local opposition. DPP worked closely with the appointed consultant team to address the concerns over the visual impact of the project. Having listened to these concerns, we amended the schemes sensitively and appropriately, to mitigate harm.

To further complicate matters, the applicant in this scheme was also the determining authority. Necessarily, this increased the pressure for a 'transparent' determination and added a greater level of public scrutiny to this project than we would experience in commercial schemes. DPP led an inexperienced client in developing a planning strategy capable of addressing the local resident concerns. DPP managed this process on behalf of YES and overcame considerable opposition to secure planning approval for all the schemes within the programme.



## Trewidland Solar

Client Name: **Elgin Energy EsCo**

Local Authority: **Cornwall County Council**

Project Value: **Unknown**

DPP was appointed to progress a planning application for a solar farm scheme of up to 5MW on agricultural land adjacent to the Cornish village of Trewidland. This is a sensitive site in an Area of Great Landscape Value and Open Countryside. The project therefore faced concerns relating to the visual and ecological impact, loss of agricultural land, and changing the character of the countryside.

DPP's detailed pre-application work addressed key issues before a full public consultation exercise. This attention to detail resolved a number of technical objections, securing planning permission within 14 weeks of submission. DPP was subsequently appointed to discharge pre-start conditions and also to obtain two non-material amendments to the approved scheme.

*DPP secured planning on a very challenging Cornish site with no onerous conditions - we were impressed with their professional approach and to their attention to detail which for most contentious planning applications is the difference between success and failure. We have continued our relationship with DPP on other PV schemes.*

Colm Murphy

Director, Elgin Energy EsCo







## Equans (AB Ports Framework)

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Client Name: **Equans**

Local Authority: **Various sites across England and Wales**

Project Value: **Various**

DPP have been appointed as part of Equans team to deliver a number of renewable energy schemes for the Associated British Ports (ABP) on their various landholdings across England and Wales.

By 2025, ABP's aim is to gain in excess of another 40 MW of wind and solar being commissioned, along with some energy storage. This will help facilitate further electrification of dockside equipment and transportation at the ports, provide additional zero carbon power for customers and potentially also power production of zero or low carbon fuels, such as green hydrogen electrolysis.

The Framework projects vary from small permitted development schemes up to larger Developments of National Significance (DNS) in Wales. They include roof solar, floating solar, and solar car port schemes.

DPP will be leading on a mixture of developments, including sites with significant flooding and ecological constraints (including SSSI noted for its rare birds).

To overcome these issues, we will work with an experienced team of consultants to seek planning permission and to make the process as smooth as possible.

With our combined experience and ability to adjust, we expect the application for planning permission to be successful and assist ABP with their targets for net zero.

## Knapton Green Energy

Client Name: **Knapton Green Energy**

Local Authority: **York City Council**

Project Value: **£50m**

DPP were instructed by Knapton Green Energy, a partnership between Tetragen UK, NCG Estates and Todds Waste Management. We were appointed to secure planning permission for a Green Energy Facility ('GEF') adjacent to an existing landfill and waste management site at Knapton, North Yorkshire. The GEF, once operational, will accept 65,000 tonnes of non-recyclable local waste per annum and convert this into 8.0 megawatts of green energy, through the use of advanced thermal treatment. That's enough to power 16,000 homes a year.

DPP managed the pre-application stage. As part of this process, we requested an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening and we sought input from the Waste Management Authority (WMA) to opine on whether the GEF constituted an EIA development. Once confirmed, DPP prepared an EIA with technical input from external consultants. This detailed assessment supported the planning application. Following submission of the planning application, WMA requested additional information. We engaged in extensive negotiations with the WMA to find a solution to local concerns over perceived harm to the surrounding landscape. In answer to WMA's queries, DPP prepared two Regulation 22 submissions. The second submission proposed a number of revisions to the scheme in order to reduce the impact on the landscape.

DPP successfully demonstrated that the proposed location of the GEF maximised a number of co-locational benefits, despite its situation in the open countryside. The project moved the waste up the waste hierarchy and therefore complied with national and emerging local policy. Members of the Planning Committee supported the Officer's positive recommendation and planning permission was granted.

*DPP's detailed knowledge of Minerals & Waste planning policy meant we were able to engage with Planning Officers with authority and clarity and to address concerns at an early stage. Their understanding of the complex political environment surrounding major applications meant our public engagement literature could be tailored to directly address the concerns most likely to be raised with elected members. We valued their direct and unequivocal advice and for their willingness to get stuck in and assume the role of project managers -drawing together the various consultants and flow of information to deliver a single consistent message*

*Philip Atkinson, NCG Estates*



## EV Charging

DPP are currently engaged on a number of schemes for electric vehicle charging facilities.

We are also engaged by one of the Country's leading EV Charging operators to deliver on their significant £100m investment in a national network of charging hubs. This work includes site appraisal, planning application submission and discharge of planning conditions.

DPP are also instructed by Grondon Waste Management and SSE to review sites for electric vehicle charging points powered directly from the source of energy rather than the main Grid. DPP have secured planning permission for one such scheme within the Green Belt and are progressing pre-application discussions on another.

In addition, we have submitted Local Plan representations on behalf of a client arguing that the delivery of such infrastructure is a key priority for the UK Government and as such specific forward planning needs to be undertaken to ensure that when such sites come forward there are no issues over the principle of the use.

We also work with developers to maximise the potential of their schemes and advocate the benefits of including EV Charging facilities within their proposals. Developers are seeing the benefit of providing such facilities as part of their developments, particularly in terms of attracting customers to their sites but also assisting in providing additional justification for a development proposal.



# Our Team

Every member of our team bring professional skills & technical expertise which we utilise on projects to deliver successful outcomes.

Director input throughout every project ensures clients benefit from our vast experience. We draw together our project teams based not just on geographical location, but on the expertise required to deliver the outcome.

*Our people deliver projects with passion, openness and accountability. They focus on action, not words, on outcome not process. The single goal for everybody is delivering results for our clients.*



**Osian Roberts**

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Osian joined DPP in 2016 and has 18 years' experience in both private consultancy and local authorities.

Leading on the Energy sector at DPP, Osian draws on experience across a number of areas; ranging from EV Charging hubs within sensitive green belt locations to larger scale solar schemes. His current projects include floating solar in the north west, ground solar array in south Wales and multiple roof solar proposals. He is also working with one of the largest EV charging operators in the UK on their extensive roll-out programme.

His experience in managing multi-disciplinary teams means that he is capable of managing planning applications from inception through to approval in a pro-active and client-focused manner. Osian has extensive experience in the co-ordination and preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments, providing an excellent understanding of the impact tests for projects. In addition, as a native Welsh speaker he can break down a number of barriers in those Welsh speaking heartland communities where energy schemes are commonly proposed.



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