



## Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

### Project

Avonmouth Docks Renewable Energy Project Phase 1

### Client

The Bristol Port Company

### Background

The Bristol Port Company has created a thriving port with modern facilities alongside the Severn Estuary, an internationally important wildlife site. In recent years it has examined ways to create commercially viable energy to meet the Port's needs.

In 2003 The Landmark Practice was commissioned to examine the potential impacts of developing wind energy at Avonmouth Docks; we worked closely with the Port, the local planning authority and consultation bodies to bring forward development. The planning application was the first in SW England to be granted consent without an appeal, and the wind turbines have been operational since October 2007. They generate 15 million kilowatt hours of clean energy per annum for The Bristol Port Company, and provide combined generation sufficient to meet up to 75% of the Port's electricity demand.

### Description

The wind turbines lie on a prominent site, close to aircraft routes and adjacent to the internationally designated Severn Estuary. Substantial survey and monitoring data was required to inform the planning application with a robust EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

The Landmark Practice managed the full EIA, from scoping to post consent monitoring, and our landscape team produced the landscape and visual impact assessment in accordance with industry Best Practice. This included production of photomontages for identified sensitive viewpoints, and computer modelling to determine the extent to which the turbines would be visible, and to identify cumulative impacts.

### Client benefits

The Landmark Practice's rigorous approach demonstrated that wind energy can be harnessed close to sensitive sites and densely populated areas, as long as the challenges of site selection and project design are thoroughly addressed. The successful scheme is an excellent example of what can be achieved for both the economy and the environment when business and regulators work together.