

About Arcus



- Environmental and Planning Consultancy
- Approx 60 Staff, based in York, Glasgow and Cape Town
- Range of disciplines in-house (planning, landscape, ecology, noise, traffic, etc)
- Expertise in sensitive / high profile energy projects, Public Inquiry
- Developments which have potential landscape impacts (inc cumulative)
- Operated through life cycle of entire industry (from virtually zero landscape impact)
- Visualisation, assessment, design, mitigation, landscape capacity
- Now involved in early shale gas projects
- Developing assessment tools (visualisation, landscape effects, mitigation)
- Advising industry bodies on best practice

Key Controls on Shale Gas Industry



- Actively developing best practice and appropriate assessment tools (visualisation, landscape changes, mitigation)
- Different impacts during stages of the development process (exploration, appraisal, production, decommissioning)
- Potential for ongoing mitigation and restoration
- Regulatory regimes – planning authorities should assume that these operate effectively
- Landscape capacity limits

Why Develop Best Practice?



- Limited public understanding of new developments
- Common Questions.....
 - What will the site look like?
 - How will the landscape look over time?
 - Legitimate concerns
- Too many 'bad examples' available on the Internet
- Lack of resources and experience in some Local Authorities can lead to delays in the planning system

Improving the Planning System ARCUS

- **Development Plan and Policy Making**
 - Up to date Development Plans to reflect shale gas energy policy
 - Incentivise Local Authorities to produce Supplementary Planning Documents that provide clear guidance on environmental and amenity considerations
 - Update the National Planning Policy Framework so it reflects shale gas energy policy

Improving the Planning System ARCUS

- **Planning Applications**

- Training of Planning Officers so they properly understand planning for shale gas
- Incentivise the use of Planning Performance Agreements
- Information submitted with a planning application to reflect only matters relevant to planning, whilst ensuring the information is complete, concise and understandable
- That planning conditions do not duplicate controls applied under other regulatory regimes

Discussion