At Whitelee Windfarm, well planned early engagement and demonstration of real commitment to safeguarding the natural environment has speeded up the planning process and enhanced ScottishPower Renewables’ reputation, leading to savings in time and money for the business.
### Business Benefits

- Rigorous stakeholder engagement enabled rapid progress through the planning system.
- Company reputation enhanced, minimising planning objections for similar projects elsewhere.
- Created a new eco-tourist destination, generating additional income through a visitor centre.

### Wider Benefits

- A new centre for education and recreation has been created in an area previously shut off from local people.
- Long term employment opportunities created on the site.
- Biodiversity measures deliver an improved landscape, safeguarding peat bogs and birdlife.

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The development of large-scale multi-million pound projects such as Whitelee can be beset by issues such as planning objections which cause costly delays.

ScottishPower Renewables committed to a thorough engagement strategy with local stakeholders, responding directly to concerns and implementing design changes to create a better environment for people and wildlife. As a result, the level of objections was minimised.

The company also believes that this engagement activity, along with the delivery of a range of community resources including 130km of paths and a visitor centre has had a positive effect on advancing a number of subsequent planning applications.