



Thousands of homes will receive electricity powered by renewable energy thanks to the use of Timbermat Ltd's temporary roadways during the construction of a wind farm at Orchard End, near Preston, Lancashire.

Ground protection solution providers, Timbermat Ltd, supplied special load calculating Emtek mats during the erection of two giant wind turbines.

The contractors needed stable ground in order to transport abnormal loads to the wind farm over 12 weeks, and hired 537 metres of Emtek timber mats.

Public roads were closed for four days while REG Windpower delivered large components of the wind turbine and part of the route went over a peaty surface at Skitham Lane, Rawcliffe, where Timbermat's temporary access road was laid. A significant number of lorries used the temporary surface during the building of an electrical substation on the site.

The turbines measure 125m to the tip of the blades, with each generating capacity of 2MW. One wind turbine can produce over 4.7 million units of electricity each year, enough to meet the annual needs of over 1,000 households.

'REG Windpower required a temporary track way solution that would allow the transportation of abnormal loads with gross vehicle weights of 120te, across peat with CBR's of less than 0.5%,' said Andrew Penfold, REG Windpower's Construction Manager.

'The Emtek timber mats, supplied by Timbermat, were an excellent solution to our track way

requirement; they had the advantage over conventional bog mats, as the system could be verified analytically with the engineering performance data provided by the mat's manufacturer, before installing the track way on site. The Emtek mats exceeded the performance of conventional mats, and with the support provided by Timbermat and the manufacturer, we will certainly be looking to use them in the future for our access requirements.'

John Roberts said: 'It's great to have been part of a project that will help Britain cut its carbon emissions and improve our environment'.

Preston Councillor Robert Boswell, cabinet member for Environment and Sustainability, said: 'The key ingredient for our wind energy scheme, is that the money generated will be re-invested and ploughed back into Preston. It is a real win, win situation. Greener, cleaner energy, and much needed investment for Preston.'