

# What happens next?

The local planning authority, North Devon District Council (NDDC) has checked the documentation and the planning application submitted by npower renewables.

Consultation letters will shortly be sent out to neighbouring residents and other consultees, inviting comments.

The Environmental Statement (ES) which sets out the results of the environmental studies carried out at the site will be available to be viewed at Barnstaple library, as well as the NDDC offices in Barnstaple. Copies will also be sent to the South Molton Community Office, Rackenford Shop, and local parish councils.

For those who would rather not study the full ES, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has also been produced. It will also be available at the same locations or can be downloaded from the website [www.npower-renewables.com/batsworthycross](http://www.npower-renewables.com/batsworthycross).

Additional copies of the NTS can be provided free of charge by writing to, or e-mailing, npower renewables. A hard copy of the

complete ES is also available although a contribution to printing costs of £60.00 will be charged. However, this is also available electronically on a CD from npower renewables for a charge of £5.00.

In order to make your thoughts on the proposed wind farm known, you should write to the Planning Officer who is dealing with the application. It would be helpful if you quote both the planning application reference number (REF: 43272) and your address when writing to the planning department.

The Planning Officer will then scrutinise the information submitted, and consider comments from local people and other consultees.

The Planning Officer will write a report recommending either approval or refusal and the reason for coming to this recommendation. This report will then be taken to the NDDC Planning Committee, made up of local elected councillors, who will decide whether to approve or refuse the

planning application.

In order to make your thoughts known please write to:

The Planning Manager  
North Devon District Council  
Barnstaple Civic Centre  
North Walk  
Barnstaple  
Devon  
EX31 1EA

Please Quote REF: 43272



## Further information

Information can be found at the following websites:

npower renewables: [www.npower-renewables.com/batsworthycross](http://www.npower-renewables.com/batsworthycross)

The British Wind Energy Association: [www.bwea.com](http://www.bwea.com)

For the more technical aspects of wind energy: [www.windpower.org](http://www.windpower.org)

Track the planning application online at: <http://planning.northdevon.gov.uk/search.asp> (REF: 43272)

## Have your say

You can make comments by e-mailing: [batsworthycross@npower-renewables.com](mailto:batsworthycross@npower-renewables.com)

Or writing to: **Simon Holt, npower renewables, Third Floor, Reading Bridge House, Reading, RG1 8LS.**

If you would like this in larger print, please contact Simon Holt on 0118 959 2440.

<sup>1</sup>This figure was calculated using the following:

Based on an annual electricity consumption per home of 4700 kWh, which is derived from a total UK domestic electricity consumption of 117.589 terawatt-hours (TWh) and 25.2 million UK households giving 4,666 kWh per year per household. UK energy consumption is as stated for 2004 in The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2005. The number of UK households is as stated for 2003 in the Mid-year Household Estimates for England (21.1 m), Northern Ireland (0.65 m), Scotland (2.2 m) and Wales (1.2 m) published in 2004 by the Office for National Statistics.

The energy predicted to be generated by the proposal has been calculated using an assumed capacity factor of 26%, and is based on an installed capacity of 18 MW. The energy capture, capacity factor and equivalent homes figure relating to this project may change as site specific information is gathered.

<sup>2</sup> According to the 2001 census there are 36,776 households with residents in North Devon

<sup>3</sup> REVISION 2010 Establishing County/Sub Regional Targets For Renewable Electricity Development To 2010

The front page image is of Ffynnon Oer Wind Farm, South Wales. The turbine shown is a 2MW turbine, with a tip height of 92m, those planned at Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm are likely to be 2MW turbines with a maximum height to tip of 103m.

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper - November 2006



# Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm planning application submitted

**npower renewables is delighted to announce that a planning application for the Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm has now been submitted to North Devon District Council.**

The proposal was first announced back in late 2005, and over the last year npower renewables has been busy working to realise the sites potential.

With results obtained from a wide range of site studies and feedback from in-depth public consultation the design for the site has now been set at 9 wind turbines, each with a maximum height of up to 103 metres.

At this size the site will have a capacity of around 18 megawatts (MW), producing enough electricity to meet the average annual electricity demand of up to 8000 homes<sup>1</sup> - equal to more than a fifth of all the homes across North Devon<sup>2</sup>. This even takes into account times that the wind farm will not be generating, such as times of low or no wind speeds.

Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm would also make a valuable contribution towards Devon's adopted target of installing 151MW of renewable energy capacity by 2010 - of which only 25MW is installed so far.<sup>3</sup>

The location of the site is within an Area of Search for Strategic Wind Farm Development, as defined by the Devon Structure and adopted by Devon County Council in 2004.

The scheme will also help prevent the release of thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change, as every unit of electricity produced using wind power will displace one that would otherwise be generated using fossil fuels.

Project Manager Simon Holt said, "We decided to submit the planning application in as green a manner as possible, in order to raise awareness of the need to tackle climate change.

"This involved a 176 mile journey from our HQ in Reading that saw us take a train to Exeter, a bus to Barnstaple and a walk from the station to North Devon District Council Offices at the Civic Centre in Barnstaple.

"We think it could be one of the most environmentally friendly planning applications ever made in North Devon."

**Turn over to see how the site will look...**





Photomontage from Knowestone Outer Moor

Photomontages are computer generated illustrations that aim to represent an observer's view of a proposed development. This is not intended to replace the photomontages within the Environmental Statement and therefore is provided for illustrative purposes only.

## What is an Environmental Statement?

Some major developments are required by the Town and Country Planning Act to submit a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in support of a planning application. The Environmental Statement (ES) is a report on the range of environmental impact studies that have been carried out in relation to the project. The Batsworthy Cross ES addresses the following impacts:

- Site Selection
- Project Description
- Planning Policy
- Landscape and Visual
- Ecology
- Cultural Heritage
- Socio-Economic
- Land Use
- Hydrology, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Traffic and Transport
- Noise
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Electrical Network Connection
- Shadow Flicker

The ES is over 500 pages long and is summarised in the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) which is freely available from npower renewables. Additionally the planning application is supported by the Planning Statement which addresses the key planning policies relevant to the planning application.

## What our studies have found

**We reported on the studies that we were undertaking as part of the EIA in our first newsletter in late 2005. Here's a brief overview on what we found.**

**Noise** - Operational noise from the wind farm has been assessed against the relevant guidance provided by the ETSU Report 97. The background noise at eight residential locations was measured along with wind speed and direction. The results were then used to assess the noise levels of the turbines at these properties. It was found that all of the day and night-time noise levels were below guideline thresholds at all properties and at all wind speeds. The noise impact of the operational Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm is classified as being minor.

**Landscape and Visual** - An area of 20 kilometres around the proposal site was assessed with regards to Landscape and Visual Impact. Three dimensional computer models were used to generate plans indicating areas where the wind farm would be visible from. Site visits and a selection of 29 representative viewpoints were used to make a detailed assessment of the significance of predicted changes to the features of the landscape and to views which the development would cause. The assessment addressed changes to the landscape resources, views, local settlements, listed buildings and scheduled monuments and cumulative impacts.

Taking into account the suitability of the Batsworthy Cross site for a wind power development and its likely limited effects on landscape character, landscape resources and visual amenity on and around the site, the assessment concluded that the present proposal is an appropriate development for the site, as part of the regional response to government targets for renewable energy production.

**Wildlife** - Potential impacts on the flora and fauna at Batsworthy Cross have been considered in the assessment and mitigation measures recommended to negate or reduce any adverse impacts identified. The site itself consists almost entirely of agriculturally improved fields used for grazing sheep and cattle separated by hedgerows. Surveys were undertaken to establish the status and distribution of legally protected reptile, amphibian and mammal species.

Ornithological surveys revealed that the bird community present is typical of a lowland farm landscape in North Devon with no internationally, nationally, or locally important numbers of breeding or wintering birds occurring. The site layout has avoided habitat of nature conservation interest and a habitat management plan will be prepared to further enhance the habitats on site.

## What our Studies have found (Cont)

**Cultural Heritage** - The assessment included the potential for disturbance to known features, features which are not currently known to exist, changes to the setting of important features outside of the site. There is potential for some disturbance to unidentified archeological features as a result of the construction of the wind farm but this will also provide the opportunity for investigation of these features. No significant effects on the setting of any important features will result from the wind farm.

## Site Layout Map



Key  
— Site Boundary    • Turbine Locations

© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100018338

# North Devon Renewable Energy Action Plan

North Devon District Council has recently adopted recommendations for their Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP).

The REAP proposed various scenarios for how North Devon could make a contribution to national targets for renewable energy generation - 10% by 2010.

The scenario adopted is intended to provide 31.1% of the District's electricity from renewables by 2010, which translates into 35.9 megawatts (MW) of installed capacity of renewables.

The Council has accepted that this will need a substantial development of onshore wind turbines, with 25 MW of installed capacity likely to come from onshore wind energy if there is to be any prospect of meeting that 35.9MW overall target.

18 MW of this target could be met by the development at Batsworthy Cross.



Renewable Energy in North Devon  
 - Reviewing the Targets for 2010 -  
 Final Version

3 March 2006

Centre for Sustainable Energy  
 The Old Mill, Centre  
 Smeaton Road  
 Bristol BS1 1DN  
 Tel: 0117 929 9800  
 Fax: 0117 929 9114  
 Email: info@csenergy.org.uk  
 Web: www.csenergy.org.uk  
 Registered charity no. 294740



Further information about the REAP can be found at <http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/renewaction.pdf>