83% backed wind farm at exhibition

The two day public exhibition held at The Farm during December last year proved a great success, with 125 visitors calling in to see the exhibition.

83 percent of those who completed a comment form whilst visiting the exhibition over the two days were in support of the wind farm proposal. 17% were opposed to the scheme on Friday 2nd, whilst 17% were undecided on Saturday 3rd.

The event featured detail on the plans and draft computer generated images of how the potential site could look. npower renewables developer, Kim Gauld-Clark, said: "The exhibition was a good opportunity to meet with members of the community and find out the issues that they thought might arise as a result of our development.

"We are delighted with the high level of support that was shown by those who visited the exhibition, and we have made sure our environmental work took account of comments."

She added: "We'd like to say thank you to everyone who took time to visit the exhibition. We found it to be a very worthwhile consultation exercise and hope those living nearby felt reassured that npower renewables is a conscientious and professional wind farm development company."

Here are just a few of the views expressed:

"A very good idea, should be a big plus for the area."
"I thought the exhibition was very informative"
"The area of the Langham Wind Farm is ideal"
"A well presented exhibition explaining the need for renewable power"

Photomontage of Langham Wind Farm

Photomontage from Anderby

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.

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

1This 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 is derived from monitoring wind speeds in the area and correlating this data to wind speeds measured at Met. Office stations. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 6 turbines with a total rated capacity of between 9 and 15MW. The energy capture and equivalent homes figure relating to this project may change as more information is gathered.

2 National Grid Transco's Seven Year Statement 2004 supported the theory that wind power currently displaced high-emitting coal and indicated that an appropriate CO2 emissions factor for electricity generated by wind should be higher than that of the average UK mix of generating fuels and in the region of 860g CO2 / kWh. Over the life of the project emission savings may change due to variations in the generating plant mix.

3 UKERC. (March 2006). The Costs and Impacts of Intermittency: An assessment of the evidence on costs and impacts of intermittent generation on the British electricity network. A report of the Technology and Policy Assessment Function of the UK Energy Research Centre, with financial support form the Carbon Trust.

4 This is based on a 1.4 litre Ford Focus travelling 12,000 miles p/a, emissions data taken from Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA)

5 Regional Spatial Strategy For The East Midlands (RSS8), March 2005

6 Sustainable Development Commission report 'Wind power in the UK'

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 Langham are likely to be 2MW turbines with a maximum height to tip of 127m.

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RWE Group

npower renewables

Wind Power News

Keeping you informed

Issue 3

www.npower-renewables.com/langham

Planning application submitted for Langham Wind Farm

npower renewables, one of the UK's most experienced renewable energy developers and operators, has submitted a planning application for a 6 turbine wind farm on farm land between Anderby, Anderby Creek and Chapel St Leonards.

If successful the wind farm could make a valuable contribution to renewable energy targets and the fight against climate change.

Kim Gauld-Clark, the developer of the scheme said, "We are very excited to get to this stage. We feel we have produced a very thorough Environmental Statement (ES) which has been submitted with the planning application. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the staff at npower renewables, as well as many independent consultants.

"The consultation we have carried out locally has been very positive with 83% of people who attended the exhibition and completed a comments form in support of the wind farm.
"Over two-thirds of the comments postcards we received following Issue 1 of 'Wind Power News' newsletter were in support of Langham Wind Farm. Under one third were opposed."

The proposed wind farm is capable of producing enough electricity to meet the annual average needs of between 5,500 and 7,900 homes each year[1]. This does take into account fluctuations in wind speeds and therefore periods when the turbines will not be generating.

The wind farm at Langham could also offset the release of between 22,200 and 32,100 tonnes of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide[2]. This would make an important contribution towards tackling climate change.

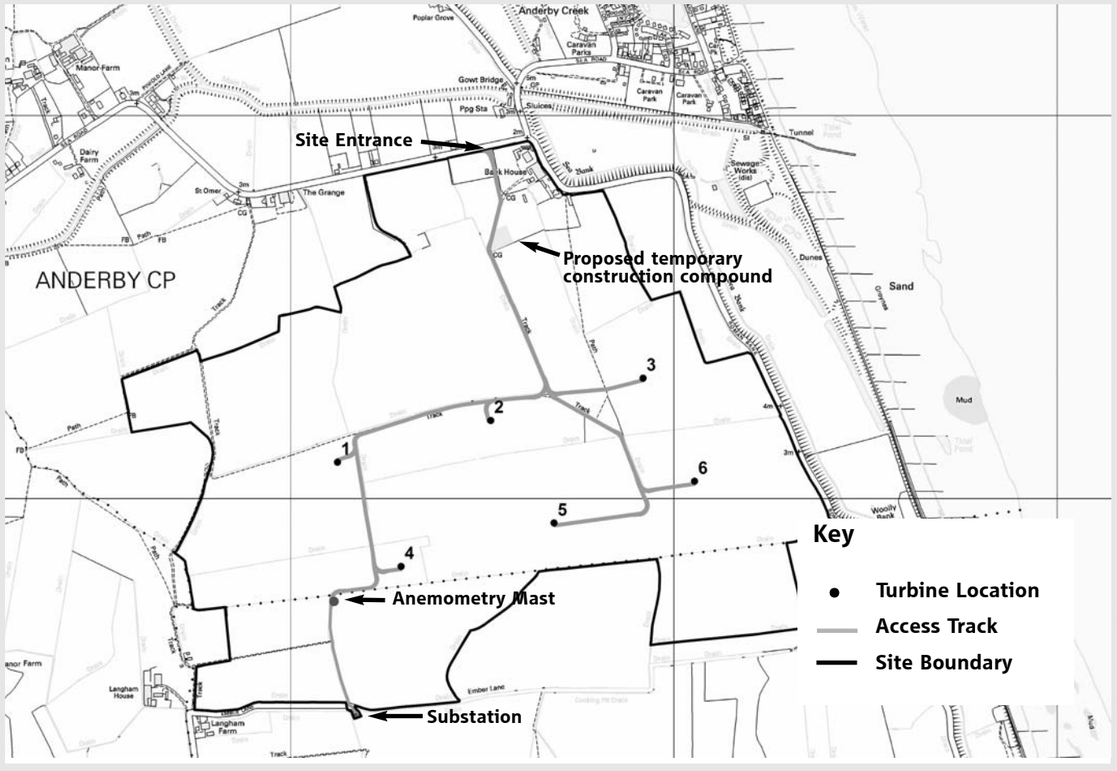
Accompanying the planning application is an Environmental Statement (ES) covering potential environmental effects of the proposal from the effects on the landscape and visual effects to impact on wildlife.

This statement runs to several hundred pages and will be publicly available to read.

For those who would prefer to read the key points of the ES, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has also been produced.

The NTS can be obtained free of charge from the address on the back of this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website www.npower-renewables.com/langham.

If you have any questions about the project or to receive a copy of the NTS you can also contact Michael Pullan on (0118) 959 2440.



What happens next?

The local planning authority, East Lindsay District Council (ELDC) will check the documentation and the planning application submitted by npower renewables.

Once this is done consultation letters will 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 local libraries, as well as the ELDC offices in Manby (near Louth). Copies will also be sent to the local parish councils.

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 (which will be advertised locally by the council) 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 ELDC Planning Committee, made up of local elected councillors, who will decide whether to approve or refuse the planning application.

10 facts about Langham and Wind Energy

1) The project will comprise 6 wind turbines (with a maximum height to blade tip of 127 metres) with a likely total capacity of between 9 -15 MW.

2) Each year Langham Wind Farm would generate enough clean electricity to meet the needs of between 5,500 and 7,900 homes each year. The higher figure is equivalent to around 90 percent of all the homes in Skegness.
(according to the 2001 census statistics which states that there are 8,445 households in Skegness)

3) The wind farm would prevent the annual release of carbon dioxide equivalent to removing between 7,200 and 10,450 family cars from the roads of Lincolnshire.[4]

4) Materials such as concrete and road stone are often sourced from companies close to the areas in which we have built wind farms. Therefore, local companies could be best placed to win some of the contracts during construction.

5) The East Midlands has a target of achieving the generation of 271MW of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 (excluding offshore wind power)[5]. Whilst the final turbine choice is yet to be decided, Langham Wind Farm is likely to contribute around 9 to 15MW, an important contribution to this target.

6) At all of npower renewables' operational wind farm sites we provide a community benefits package to support local projects and community groups. At Langham Wind Farm, npower renewables would expect a similar community benefits package to be established.

7) The wind farm has been carefully designed, taking into account the recommendations of the independent consultants and various site constraints. A Design and Access Statement has been submitted with the planning application and this document explains the reasons for the design of the scheme. This can be viewed with the planning application.

8) The turbines would coexist with current land use practices, providing sustainable farm diversification benefits.

9) According to the Sustainable Development Commission wind energy is projected to be the cheapest form of electricity by 2020.[6]

10) As the UK has 40% of the European wind energy resource it is common sense to make best use of it. (ref: www.bwea.com)

Another study backs power of wind

In April this year, the UK Energy Research Centre launched a definitive report on the costs and impacts of intermittent energy supplied by renewable sources such as wind[3]. The study found that suggestions that renewable energy is much more costly or is drastically limited by intermittency are out of step with the vast majority of international expert analysis.

Among the key findings are that 100% 'back-up' for individual renewable sources is unnecessary; extra capacity will be needed to keep supplies secure, but will be modest and a small part of the total cost of renewables. It is possible to work out what is needed and plan accordingly.

If wind power were to supply 20% of Britain's electricity (compared to the current 3-4% provided by all forms of renewables), the impact of intermittency costs on consumers would be around 0.1p/kWh (pence per unit of electricity), which is around 1% of current electricity costs.

The report also showed that although the output of fossil fuel plant will need to be adjusted more often to cope with fluctuations in wind output, any losses this causes will be small compared to overall savings in emissions.