

## Exhibition attracted over 500 people

The two-day public exhibition held at Lavendon Village Hall and St Mary's Church Hall, Bozeat during November proved a great success, with 563 visitors calling in over the weekend.

Forty per cent of those who visited the exhibition and completed a comment form were in support of the wind farm proposal. A further 12% were undecided or asked for further information.

The event featured detail on the plans and draft computer generated images of how the potential site could look. npower renewables developer, Vicky Portwain, said:

"The exhibition was a good opportunity to meet with the community and find out the issues that they thought might arise as a result of our development.

We recognise that some concerns do remain and we have tried to address these before submitting the application for planning permission."

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:

"Exhibition well laid out and informative"

"A well presented exhibition"

"It was a very good exhibition and the staff on hand were very helpful"

"Well presented exhibition with lots of information"

## What our studies found (continued)

**Noise (cont)** Construction noise may be an issue for two properties for up to two weeks. However, acoustic fencing will protect residents for this short period of time.

**Archaeology and Cultural Heritage** A wide range of sources were consulted for this study, including the local Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs), published articles and books and manuscript documents. In addition the site was visited for a visual appraisal.

The present turbine layout will not impact directly on any known archeological sites. The associated access tracks may encounter the buried remains of several former roads

which traversed the area, including the Roman road which broadly follows the line of the Three Shires Way.

The extent of indirect effects on heritage features as a result of the proposed development is anticipated to be low.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within 2 km of the application area. Taking the currently available evidence into consideration, and bearing in mind the small-scale of intrusive works entailed by the proposed development (the total land take will be less than 18 hectares) the proposals can be assumed, at this stage, to present a 'low' direct impact on the archeological resource.

For those who would like to read more about the proposals the full Environmental Statement, as well as a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) have been produced. Free copies of the NTS are available from npower renewables or on the website [www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood](http://www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood).

A hard copy of the full ES is available at a cost of £80, or on CD-Rom for £5.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of either, please e-mail [nunwood@npower-renewables.com](mailto:nunwood@npower-renewables.com), or write to:

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

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

An average home utilises 4700 kWh per year (Ref: The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2005 gives 2004 domestic electricity consumption as 117.589 terawatt-hours (TWh) which, when taken with the 25.2 million households,  
**Wales** = 1.213 million, (<http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstatisticsforwales/content/publication/housing/2005/sb2-2005/sb2-2005.htm>),  
**England** = 21.109 million, (<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/Library/PDF/Living/Planning/Research/Mid%20year%20household%20estimates%202000%20to%202003.pdf>),  
**Scotland** = 2.217 million (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0004175.xls>);  
**Northern Ireland** = 652,000 (<http://www.detini.gov.uk/cgi-bin/downdoc?id=922>),  
gives an average electricity usage of 4,666kWh per year per household. 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 16 turbines each with a rated capacity of between 2 and 2.3 MW. The energy capture and equivalent homes figure relating to this project may change as more information is gathered.

**<sup>2</sup>** National Grid Transco's Seven Year Statement 2004 supported the theory that an appropriate carbon dioxide emissions factor for electricity generated by wind power is in the region of 860g CO<sub>2</sub> / kWh. In estimating the potential offset of harmful emissions it is recognised that over the life of Nun Wood Wind Farm these values may change due to, for example, variation in the generating plant mix over the 25 year life of the wind farm.

**<sup>3</sup>** 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 from the Carbon Trust.

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 Nun Wood are 2MW turbines with a maximum height to tip of 125m.



# Wind Power News

Keeping you informed

Issue 3

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

# Planning application submitted for Wind Farm at Nun Wood

**npower renewables, the UK's most experienced wind energy developer, has submitted a planning application for a 16 turbine wind farm on farm land between Bozeat, Harrold and Lavendon at Nun Wood.**

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

Vicky Portwain, 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.

Further to the well-attended exhibitions back in November, we have changed the layout in response to comments from local residents. We have now moved the northernmost

turbine further from the village of Bozeat, to a new position south east of the Three Shires Way, as shown on the map below.

The issue of the turbine closest to Bozeat village was raised by a number of local residents at the exhibitions and we felt it was right to take actions to address this concern"

The proposed wind farm on this site is capable of producing enough electricity to meet the annual average needs of between 14,300 and 16,500 homes a year<sup>1</sup>. This takes into account times when the wind does not blow.

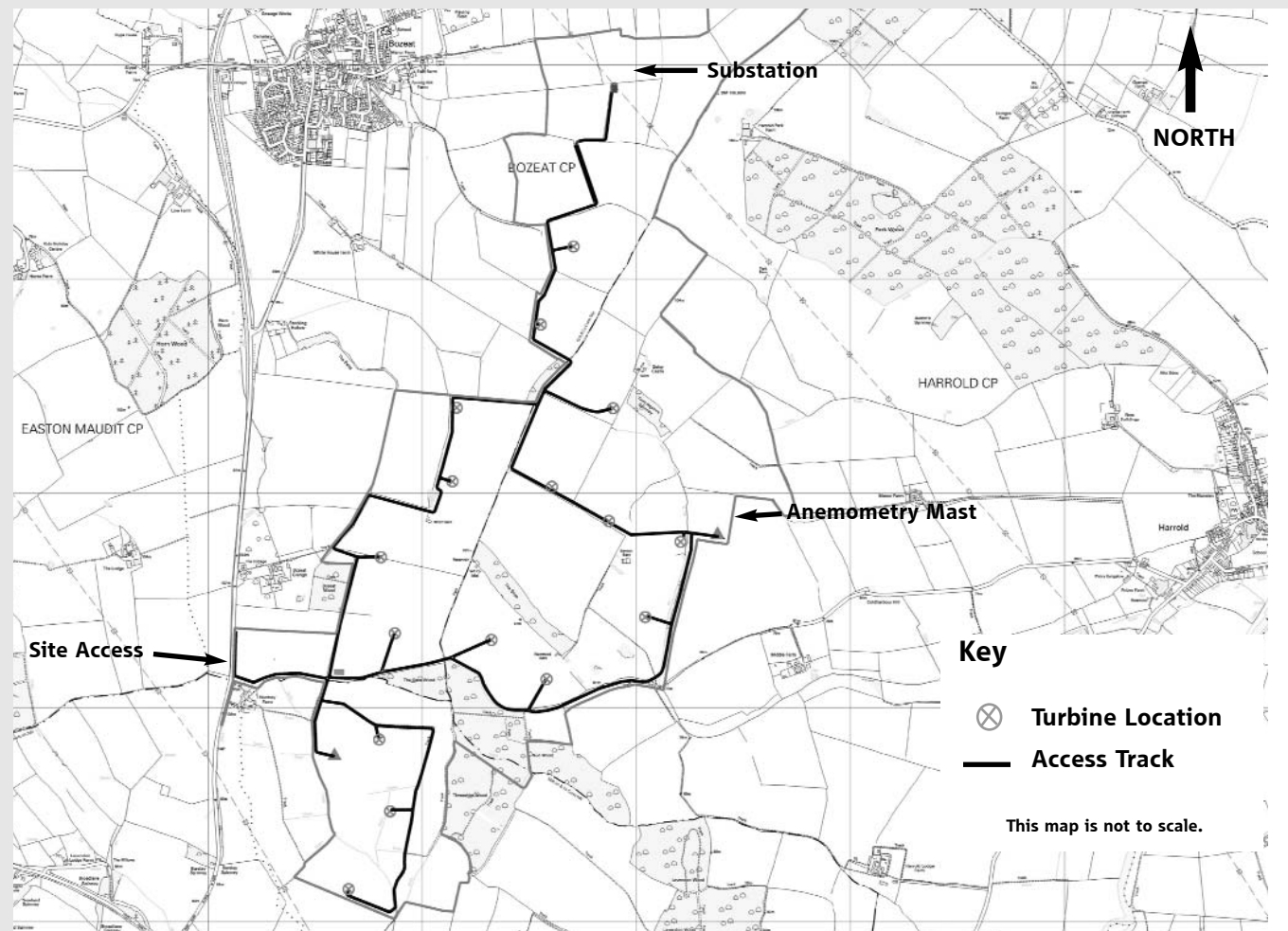
The wind farm at Nun Wood could also offset the release of between 57,900 and 66,500 tonnes of the greenhouse gas

carbon dioxide<sup>2</sup>. This would make an important contribution towards tackling climate change.

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

This statement runs to several hundred pages.

For those who would prefer to read the key points of the ES, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has also been produced. It can be obtained from the address on the back of this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website [www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood](http://www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood).



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## What happens next?

The local planning authorities (Borough Council of Wellingborough, Milton Keynes Council and Bedford Borough Council) will check the documentation and the planning application submitted by npower renewables.

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 all three council planning offices. Copies will also be sent to the local parish councils.

When the application is registered consultation letters will be sent out to neighbouring residents, inviting comments. In order to make your thoughts on the wind farm known, you should write to your local planning officer. 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. Each authority will then scrutinise the information submitted, and consider

comments from local people and other consultees.

A decision about the proposal relating to the land in their administrative areas will then be made by each local council.

If you have any questions about the project or for more information visit the website at [www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood](http://www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood) or call Vicky Portwain or Michael Pullan on (0118) 959 2440.

## What our studies have found

**Over the past few months npower renewables has conducted various studies with regard to a wind farm at Nun Wood. Here are some of the results:**

**Turbine size** We will be submitting a planning application for 16 turbines of a maximum height of 125m to the tip. The turbines will each have a capacity of between 2 and 2.3MW. This means that the wind farm could produce between 67,277,000 and 77,368,000kWh (units) of electricity per year. This is based on modern turbines operating in the east of England and South East regions and includes any periods when the wind speed is too low for the turbines to operate.

**Traffic and transport** The site entrance has been located off the A509, to the south of Bozeat, so as to minimise disruption and delays. The main transportation impacts would be during the construction period as minimal traffic is anticipated once the wind farm is operational. The main impacts are associated with the movements of commercial heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) to and from the site during the approximately 14 month construction period. The maximum traffic impact is predicted to occur in the months 7 and 8 of the construction programme. During this month, on an average day the HGV flow (two-way) would be approximately 74 vehicles i.e. 37 deliveries to the site. The absolute maximum number of HGV flow (two-way) on a single day would be 256 vehicles (i.e. 128 deliveries to the site).

**Ecology** A number of ecological studies have been carried out to determine how ecology may be affected by the proposed

development. These included surveys of habitats, flora and fauna including breeding birds, wintering birds, badgers, bats, and great crested newts. From analysis of this data, no significant impacts on the site's ecological interests are predicted during construction and operation of the wind farm.

**Landscape and visual impact** The landscape chapter assesses the visual and landscape character effects from the proposal. In respect of visual effects, significant impacts are limited to an approximate 5km radius or less around the site. These impacts rapidly reduce and beyond 12km they are considered negligible. The turbines may not be seen in many places due to the low level, inward looking settlements, woodland, undulating topography, minor embankments and outgrown field boundaries limiting localised views towards the site. The document also contains computer generated images which illustrate how the wind farm could look from local viewpoints. The assessment confirms that whilst the presence of the wind farm will bring about change, this will not necessarily be a detrimental change in terms of the quality of the local landscape.

**Noise** Operational noise from the wind farm has been assessed in accordance with the methodology set out in the 1996 DTI Report ETSU-R-97, 'The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind farms'. It has been demonstrated that both the quiet day-time and night-time noise criterion limits can be satisfied at all properties across all wind speeds.

**Continued on back page**

## 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<sup>3</sup>. 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.