

How to find out more

Once the wind farm planning application has been registered by all three of the local planning authorities, consultation letters will be sent out to neighbouring residents and consultees from the Councils inviting comments. A consultation period will then begin during which anyone who wants to comment can do so by writing to the planning officers.

The Environmental Statement for the proposed wind farm will be available to view at the council offices as well as the county council offices below:

Northamptonshire County Council, County Hall, Northampton NN1 1DN

Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell Street, Bedford MK42 9AP

Full copies will also be sent to local libraries in the New Year and a full list of these will be set out on the npower renewables website at www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood. A list can also be requested by email or post (details as below).

Paper and CD copies of the Environmental Statement can be purchased from npower renewables at the address below. The CD costs £5 and hard copies cost £80. Hard copies of the Non-Technical Summary are also

available free of charge from the same address or can be downloaded from our website:

www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood

In order to make your thoughts known on the wind farm you should write to your district council, and the addresses are below. If your district council is not listed, you should write to Bedford Borough Council:

▪ Mr Wayne Campbell, Planning Department, Bedford Borough Council, Town Hall, St. Paul's Square, Bedford, MK40 1SJ

▪ Mr Alan Mills, Planning Department, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3HQ

▪ Mr Mike Kilpin, Planning Department, Borough Council of Wellingborough, Croyland Abbey, Tithes Barn Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1BJ

You can also send your questions and comments about Nun Wood Wind Farm to npower renewables, using the contact details shown below.

Nun Wood

Nun Wood is a good site for a wind farm because:

- ✓ It is on a ridge and we know from monitoring that it is a windy site
- ✓ The connection to the electricity grid is via an onsite line, so there is no need for any additional overhead pylons
- ✓ There are no national landscape designations in the area
- ✓ The site is a good distance from homes and villages.

Contact details

If you have any questions about the project or for more information visit the website at:

www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood

or email:

nunwood@npower-renewables.com

You can also contact the Development team at:

npower renewables
2nd Floor, 2 Kinsbourne Court
96-100 Luton Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire AL5 3BL

Tel: 01582 641910

If you would like more information about wind energy, please visit the British Wind Energy Association website at www.bwea.com. For the more technical aspects of wind energy, visit www.windpower.org.

If you would like this newsletter in larger print, please contact us.

Footnotes

¹Energy predicted to be generated by the proposal is derived using wind speeds monitored in the local area and correlating to a Met. Office station providing longer term data. This enables a calculation to be made to estimate the average annual energy production for the site based on 12 turbines each of rated capacity of between 1.8 and 3MW. The energy capture predicted and hence derived homes equivalent or emissions savings figures may change as further data are gathered.

Equivalent homes supplied is 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) (The Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2005) and 25.2 million UK households (Mid-year Household Estimates published in 2004 by the Office for National Statistics).

² Natural England (May 2008). Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Interim Guidance.

Wind Power News

Keeping you informed

Issue 4

www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood

Llyn Alaw Wind Farm, Wales. This photograph is not intended to represent the appearance of the proposed Nun Wood Wind Farm.

Re-designed Nun Wood Wind Farm planning application submitted

npower renewables, one of the UK's leading wind energy companies, has submitted a revised planning application for Nun Wood Wind farm.

npower renewables submitted a previous planning application for Nun Wood Wind Farm in August 2006. Statutory consultees and local residents provided a number of comments on the application, particularly in relation to the layout of the turbines. In order to sensitively respond to these comments in the design of the wind farm site, npower renewables decided to withdraw the application in 2008.

The layout of the proposed scheme, located between the villages of Bozeat, Harrold and Lavendon, has therefore been carefully revised. The turbine dimensions, with a height to blade tip of up to 125 metres, remain unchanged. However, the number of turbines has been reduced from 16 to 12. Improvements in technology since the application was submitted in 2006 mean that the revised wind farm

could generate a similar amount of electricity to the original scheme despite there being fewer turbines. However, this is dependent on the model of turbine selected.

Planning applications have been made to the three local planning authorities over which the site extends. These are Bedford Borough Council, the Borough Council of Wellingborough, and Milton Keynes Council.

If constructed, the revised scheme would meet the average annual electricity needs of between 13,700 and 15,600 homes¹ and make a valuable contribution towards the Government's commitment to ensure 20% of our electricity comes from renewable sources by the year 2020.

Cath Stevenson, Development Manager for npower renewables, said "We take consultation responses seriously to ensure that our wind farms are sensitively designed taking into account local factors.

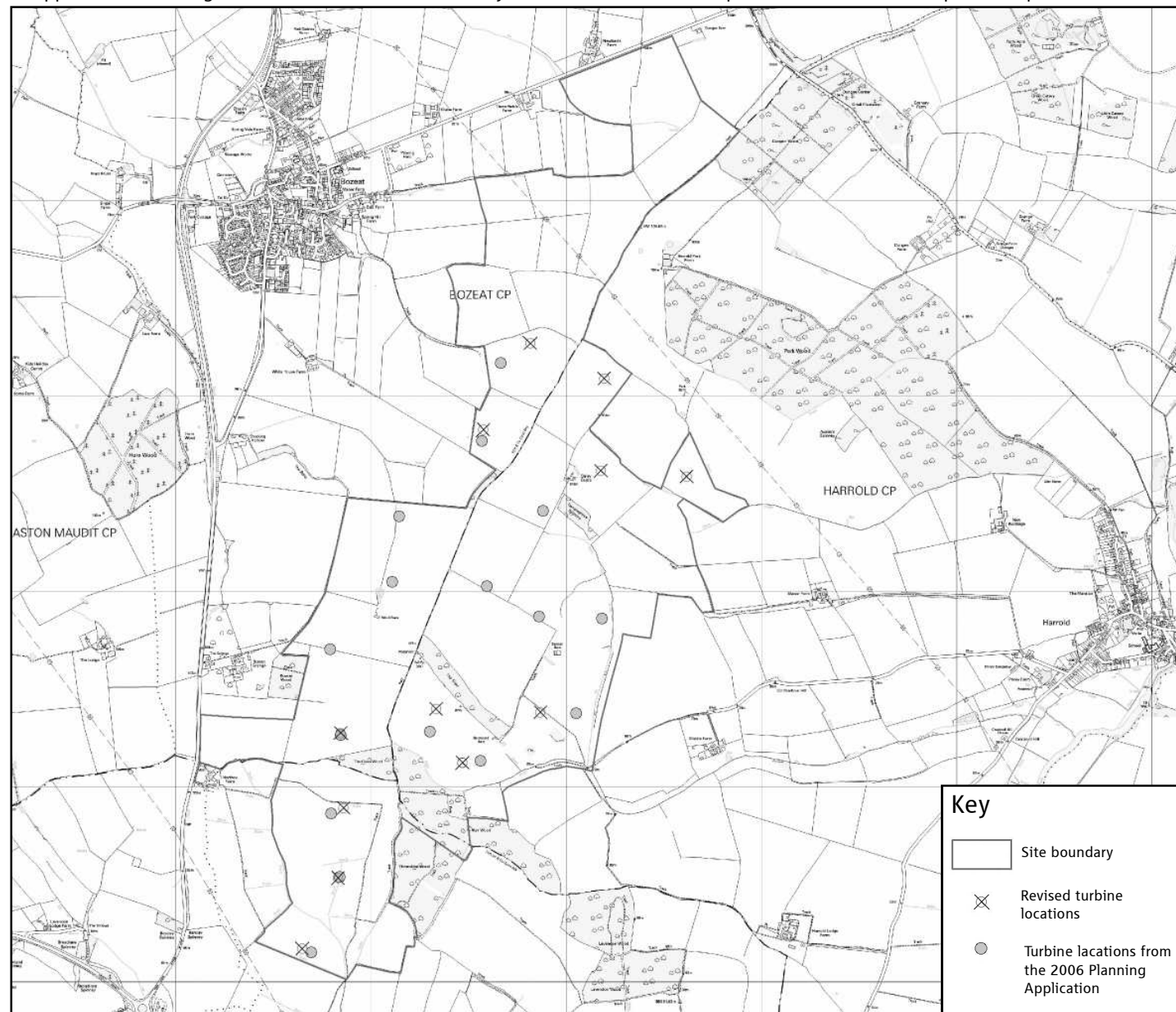
"Nun Wood is an excellent site for a wind farm and has the potential to make an important contribution towards regional and national renewable energy targets. This revised proposal would provide enough clean renewable electricity for thousands of homes each year, helping the UK in our challenge to take action on climate change."

The planning application, and accompanying Environmental Statement (ES), can be viewed at Bedford Borough Council, Milton Keynes Council and the Borough Council of Wellingborough planning offices.

For people who would like to read the key points of the ES, a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) has also been produced and this is available free of charge from npower renewables' website at: www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood or by post, see page 4.

Site plan

To appreciate the changes that have been made to the layout of the wind farm, the previous and revised site plans are provided below.



The revised project at a glance

- Number of wind turbines: **12**
- Installed capacity of the project: **Between 21.6 and 36 megawatts (MW)**
- Number of average homes supplied equivalent to project generation: **Between 13,700 and 15,600 homes annually¹**
- Height of turbines: **Up to 125 metres to the tip of the blade (highest point)**

North Pickenham Wind Farm

North Pickenham Wind Farm, operated by Enertrag UK, is located on the old North Pickenham airfield, two miles south east of Swaffham and 25 miles west of Norwich in the Breckland District of Norfolk.

This wind farm has fewer turbines than the proposed Nun Wood Wind Farm - eight turbines rather than 12 - but the turbines are the same size as those proposed for Nun Wood.

"Our operational wind farm at North Pickenham near Swaffham has eight turbines with a tip height of 125 metres (m). We are in regular contact with residents living near the wind farm, including the nearest properties which are 700m away, and have been carrying out post-construction monitoring since the wind farm started generating electricity in November 2006. We are pleased to say that we have had no complaints with regard to either noise or shadow flicker."
Nicola Young, Enertrag UK Ltd

Location:	South East of Swaffham, Norfolk
Turbines:	8 x 1.8 MW
Total capacity:	14.4 MW
Tip height:	125m
Operator:	Enertrag
Operation started:	2006

What has changed?

- The layout of the wind farm has been amended so that there are now two 'clusters' of turbines, one to the north and a second to the south of the site. This revision was made following extensive consultation with English Heritage to ensure that historic views from Castle Ashby, a Grade 1 listed building and Grade 1 registered historic park and garden, are preserved. In relocating turbines, consideration was given to proximity to and views from local homes and the energy that can be produced by the wind farm.
- One of the anemometry masts has been removed (this is used to collect wind data).
- The turbine locations have been reviewed taking into account recent interim guidance from Natural England on bats and onshore wind turbines².

Benefits of wind power

There is now clear evidence that climate change is a reality that will have damaging effects on sea levels, water supplies and current agricultural patterns worldwide.

There is little doubt that one of the causes of climate change is the emission of large volumes of the main greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide (CO₂), created by burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal.

Amongst other things, these fossil fuels are used to generate electricity. Even without concerns over global warming, these fuels are finite and will at some stage in the future become incapable of meeting the world's energy needs.

We are all aware of the environmental damage being caused to our planet, and as such we have a responsibility to consider how the energy we consume should be produced.

Wind farms:

- reduce carbon emissions
- reduce dependency on fossil fuels
- reduce dependence on fluctuating gas and oil prices
- increase security of supply.

Frequently asked questions

How large would the turbines be?

We are proposing tip heights of up to 125 metres above ground level. The height of the turbines will depend upon which turbine model is the most appropriate for the site at the time of building, should planning permission be given for the wind farm. The planning application that we have submitted states a maximum height for the wind turbines of 125m. This is the height that is being assessed in all the environmental work, the results of which have been submitted with the planning application.

How much electricity would the wind farm generate?

We have carefully measured wind speeds on the site and therefore know on average how much electricity a variety of different wind turbines (of varying generating capacity) will generate. Using this data, we have calculated that a wind farm comprising 12 wind turbines at Nun Wood could meet the average annual electricity needs of between 13,700 and 15,600+ homes each year, depending on the exact type of turbine installed. These figures take into account fluctuations in wind speeds, including when the wind speed is too low for the turbines to operate, and the period of time they'd be unlikely to operate due to routine maintenance.

What happens to land surrounding the turbines?

The land around the wind turbines would be available to farm, just as it is at the moment. Both arable and livestock farming are entirely compatible with wind turbines.

Wind farms in the landscape

Great care has been taken in the design of Nun Wood Wind Farm. The project layout has been developed to fit into the local landscape and to maintain separation distances from local residences and settlements.

Are wind farms noisy?

Modern wind turbines and well designed wind farms are quiet in operation and, standing at the base of a wind turbine, a normal conversation can be held without difficulty. The final design of a wind farm ensures that strict guidelines relating to noise are complied with.

If anyone has any concerns about noise from wind turbines, by far the best thing to do is to go and visit a wind farm. There's a full list of all the UK's wind farms on the British Wind Energy Association website (www.bwea.com). If you'd like any details of the operational wind farms, please write to us using the contact details on page 4.

npower renewables has used a range of tools to engage with local residents, to inform them about the plans for Nun Wood Wind Farm, to answer questions and gather feedback. This includes:

- A two-day public exhibition held at Lavendon Village Hall and St Mary's Church Hall, Bozeat in November 2005, which attracted 563 visitors 40 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 more information.
- This is the fourth newsletter which has been sent out to 8,100 local residents around the wind farm site providing an update on the wind farm development.
- Comments cards were sent out with the first newsletter inviting residents to register their views about the proposal.
- Dedicated web pages are in place at www.npower-renewables.com/nunwood