Heckington Fen Wind Park

Planning Statement

ecotricity

Ecotricity Group Ltd
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PLANNING STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED HECKINGTON FEN WIND PARK

PREPARED FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Given the combined imperatives of the need to combat climate change, to provide energy security and meet rising energy demands, the requirement to develop new renewable energy sources is now clearly endorsed within the UK Government's energy policies.

In recognition of the UK's natural resources the Government has set an ambitious target for renewable energy, requiring 20% of the demand for electricity to be supplied from renewable sources by 2020, with an interim milestone of 10% targets by 2010. To ensure that these targets are met, Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22) confirms the Government's support for renewable energy generation. It requires that the planning system makes positive provision for such developments, while at the same time ensuring that renewable energy developments are appropriately located to protect the environment and local communities.

The proposal is for up to a 22 turbine wind park development on land at Six Hundreds Farm, near East Heckington in the County of Lincolnshire. On the basis of the UK average wind turbine performance, the proposed Wind Park would generate approximately 131.12GWh per annum and would therefore make a valuable contribution to achieving the Government's renewables targets.

The site of the proposed Wind Park has been selected to minimise, and where possible, avoid potential adverse impacts on the environment and local communities whilst at the same time maximising the wind resource of the local area. Furthermore, the layout and design of the proposed Wind Park has been chosen to provide the best fit within the landscape, taking advantage of the existing topography and screening available. The Environmental Statement submitted in support of this application establishes that the proposed Wind Park will not result in any unacceptable impacts on environmental resources and communities. On the basis of the Environmental Statement it is therefore considered that the site of the proposed Wind Park is an appropriate and sustainable location.

Furthermore, the proposed Wind Park complies with the detailed criteria set out in the Development Plans for North Kesteven District for renewable energy developments, and conforms to other relevant policies in respect of issues such as landscape quality, nature conservation and rural diversification. In addition, the proposed Wind Park is also found to be acceptable in relation to other material considerations, including national planning policy and advice.

Overall, it is therefore concluded that the proposed Wind Park is acceptable in planning terms and meets the requirements of the Government to deliver more electricity from renewable energy sources.

INTRODUCTION

1. This Planning Statement accompanies an application submitted by Ecotricity to the Department for Energy and Climate Change under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for permission to construct and operate a wind park at Heckington Fen. Ecotrocity is also seeking a Direction from the Secretary of State that deemed planning permission for the development be granted under section 90 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2. An Environmental Statement (ES) has been prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999 in which the likely significant environmental effects of the Heckington Fen Wind Park (SH WP) are identified and assessed. This Planning Statement does not form part of the ES.

3. The proposed development is described in detail in **Chapter 4** of the ES. However, this document has been prepared so that it can substantially be read alone, and therefore a brief description of the development proposed is now given:

   - Up to 22 wind turbines (up to 125m maximum tip height);
   - Access tracks, crane pad areas and underground cables within the Site;
   - Temporary construction compound;
   - Electrical substation; and,
   - Amended vehicular access

4. The dimensions are proposed to encompass either the Enercon E82, Vestas V90 or Nordex N90 wind turbines. All power cabling on site, from and between the wind turbines, will be buried in trenches located directly adjacent to the internal tracks. Once the cables have been laid the trenches will be backfilled.

5. The Enercon E82 has a rated capacity of 2.3MW and the V90 and N90 have a rated capacity of 3.0MW. The total maximum installed wind capacity of the proposal would be 54MW. It is estimated that the wind park would generate a maximum of 131.12GWh per annum[1], generating power that we estimate would be sufficient to meet the annual electricity needs of approximately 39,734 typical UK households[2]. This is equivalent to 102% of the households within North Kesteven and 1 in 7 of the household in Lincolnshire[3]. In generating electricity from a renewable source it is expected that the proposed development would prevent the emission of 56,382 tonnes of CO_2 each year[4] as well as significant quantities of SO_2 and NO_x.

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[1] *Assuming average UK wind farm performance with a capacity factor of 27.7% (2005-2009 average figure from Digest of UK Energy Statistics, DECC). Please note that the actual performance of the Heckington Fen Wind Park Extension may vary.*

[2] *Based on a "medium" UK domestic electricity consumption of 3,300kWh/pa used by OFGEM and Energywatch. Future changes in average domestic electricity consumption means this figure may change over time.*

[3] *Based on figures from Census (2001) where North Kesteven District has 38,870 households and Lincolnshire has 272,153 households.*

[4] *This figure is derived using a carbon dioxide offset ratio of 430g carbon dioxide per kWh of wind generation. It should be noted that future changes in the power generating mix and fuel costs in the UK over the life of the wind park means this figure may change over time.*

6. The Heckington Fen WP will generate a number of construction jobs over a period of up to 12 months. Although Ecotricity will maximise the use of local contractors where possible, the ultimate responsibility for employment will be with the contractor.

PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE PLANNING STATEMENT

7. The purpose of this Planning Statement is to consider the proposed Heckington Fen WP in light of the statutory and non-statutory advice which will in part determine its acceptability. The approach of a Planning Statement was determined by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 section 38(6) and set out by the House of Lords[5] as the correct approach to making planning decisions. That approach is to:

- identify any provisions in the development plan which are relevant to the decision;
- interpret them carefully, looking at the aims and objectives of the plan as well as detailed words of policies;
- consider whether or not the proposal accords with the development plan;
- identify and consider relevant material considerations, for and against the proposal; and,
- assess whether these considerations warrant a departure from the development plan.

8. Following this Introduction, the Planning Statement will:

- set out the development plan policy context in relation to the proposed Heckington Fen WP;
- assess the acceptability of the Heckington Fen WP in planning policy terms, particularly in light of the balance which needs to be struck between the need for wind energy development and the effect of the development proposed on the local environment;
- consider other material considerations relevant to the determination of the application for consent for the proposed Heckington Fen WP;
- describe the reasons for the development, in terms of its contribution to meeting international obligations and national and local targets for renewable energy, and of the socio-economic benefits it will generate;
- present conclusions, discussing the balance between the need for, and benefits of, the development and local environmental effects, as advised on by the policies discussed in this statement.

[5] *City of Edinburgh Council v Secretary of State for Scotland 1988 SLT 120: case concerning interpretation of section 18A of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972 which is in identical form to section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.*

PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Introduction

9. Section 70 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires planning decisions to be taken in accordance with the adopted Development Plan, having regard to other material considerations. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (the Planning Act), section 38(6) reiterates this statement and states that;

> *"If regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise."*

10. This Section examines the planning policy context for the assessment of the Heckington Fen WP. The development plan for the area comprises:

- The Regional Strategy; East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009).
- North Kesteven Adopted Local Plan 2007

11. In accordance with the approach to the determination of planning applications set out by the House of Lords, this section identifies the provisions of the development plan which are relevant to the decision, interprets the provisions and then considers whether or not the proposed Heckington Fen WP accords with the development plan.

12. The North Kesteven Local Plan is in the process of being replaced by the Central Lincolnshire Local Development Framework (LDF), currently in preparation. For the current local plan, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has made a Direction (under Paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 8) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and all policies within the local plan where 'saved' and continue to be part of the development plan.

13. On the 6th July 2010 a letter from the Communities and Local Government sent to Chief planning officers of Local Planning Authorities in England formally announced the revocation of all Regional Strategies with immediate effect.[6] This decision was subsequently challenged by CALA Homes through Judicial Review at the High Court, and a ruling was issued on the 10 November 2010 confirming that the RS were still part of the Development Plan. Following this ruling the Government's Chief Planner wrote to Local Planning Authorities stating they should continue to have regard to the Secretary of State's earlier statement, thereby reducing the weight to be afforded to the RS. This letter was subject to a second Judicial Review which was dismissed by the High Court on February 2011. The judge found that the Government's wish to change the law to abolish the regional strategy was a material consideration, which could potentially reduce the weight that decision makers afford to the regional strategy. The Localism Bill (December 2010) provides for the abolition of regional strategies and if the Bill receives Royal Assent in its current form they will be abolished from the date of Royal

[6] *Communities and Local Government (July 2010). Chief Planning Officer: Revocation of Regional Strategies.*

Assent. This is predicted to be late 2011. Until this date the policies within the plan remain part of the Development Plan with regard to Section 38(6).

14. On 17th October 2008 the East Midlands Regional Assembly launched a public consultation on proposals for a further Partial Review of the East Midlands Regional Plan, looking at key regional spatial planning issues through to 2031. A key issue that was proposed to be considered by the Partial Review is dealing with the causes and effects of climate change by generating more power from renewable sources and managing the potential impacts of sea level rise on the Lincolnshire Coast. As part of the review a study was undertaken by Faber Maunsell 'Reviewing Renewable Energy Targets for the East Midlands' (2009). The study was intended to update the technology specific targets in the revoked Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS8) by looking not only at the resource potential, but also at what the region is likely to require through future changes to national policy and what can be achieved through growth.

15. The report stated that the current capacity data indicates that the accessible resource has been underestimated in previous assessments and that higher output turbines combined with relaxations on land designation may allow an increase of at least circa 100% on the existing resource potential. The report identifies a revised resource potential of 472MW for onshore wind by 2021 and 776MW by 2031, or 31 windfarms. The report goes on to state;

> *'This capacity is twice the previous assessed potential, although is still relatively low compared with the available unconstrained wind resource. The region should aim to maximise onshore wind where possible as a key contributor to renewable energy in the region.'*

16. **Table 3** provides a summary by topic of development plan policies which are potentially relevant to the development of the wind park.

Table 3: Summary of relevant policies

Policy Topic Area		
	Regional Plan	**Local Plan**
Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy	**Policy 1** Regional Core Objectives **Policy 2** Promoting Better Design **Policy 40** Regional Priorities for Low Carbon Energy Generation	**C17** Renewable Energy
Landscape and Visual Amenity	**Policy 4** Development in the Eastern Sub-area **Policy 31** Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Regions Landscape **SRS1** Lincoln Policy Area	**C2** Development in the countryside **C5** Affects upon Amenities **C17** Renewable Energy **C18** Design **C19** Landscaping

Policy Topic Area		
	Regional Plan	**Local Plan**
		C22 External Lighting Schemes **LW1** Landscape Conservation
Natural Environment	**Policy 4** Development in the Eastern Sub-area **Policy 26** Protecting and Enhancing the Regions Natural and Cultural Heritage **Policy 28** Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure **Policy 29** Priorities for Enhancing the Regions Biodiversity	**C17** Renewable Energy **LW5** Sites of Special Scientific Interest **LW6** County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves **LW7** Features of Importance for Wildlife **LW8** Protected Species
Cultural Heritage	**Policy 26** Protecting and Enhancing the Regions Natural and Cultural Heritage **Policy 27** Regional Priorities for the Historic Environment	**C17** Renewable Energy **HE1** Sites Containing Nationally Important Archaeological Remains **HE2** Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation **HE3** Sites containing Archaeological Remains **HE5** Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building **HE9** Historic Parks and Gardens **HE10** Local Distinctiveness
Flood Risk	**Policy 32** A Regional Approach to Water Resources and Water **Policy 35** A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk	**C10** Flood Risk **C14** Surface Water Disposal

Policy Topic Area		
	Regional Plan	**Local Plan**
Noise		**C5** Affects upon Amenities
Other Issues	**Policy 24** Regional Priorities for Rural diversification **Policy 36** Regional Priorities for Air Quality **Policy 54** Regional Major Highway Priorities **Policy 55** Implementation of the Regional Freight Strategy	**C2** Development in the Countryside **C3** Agricultural Land Quality **C5** Affects upon Amenities **E6** Farm Diversification **T4** Safety **RST2** Protection of Existing Public Rights of Way

APPLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

17. A careful interpretation must be made of policies in the development plan prior to attempting to establish whether or not a particular proposal accords with those provisions. The following paragraphs address the policies outlined earlier in this report against the findings of the Environmental Statement so far as relevant.

Renewable Energy

Regional Guidance

18. The East Midlands Regional Plan acknowledges; '*Climate change is now widely recognised to be the most significant issue for the future of the Region cutting across all land use sectors and affecting the East Midlands environment, economy and quality of life.*' This is reflected in **Policy 1; Regional Core Objectives,** Objective i) states:

> *'To reduce the causes of climate change by minimising emissions of CO_2 in order to meet the national target through:*
>
> - *maximising 'resource efficiency' and the level of renewable energy generation;*
> - *making best use of existing infrastructure;*
> - *promoting sustainable design and construction; and*
> - *ensuring that new development, particularly major traffic generating uses, is located so as to reduce the need to travel, especially by private car.'*

19. **Policy 2**, Promoting Better Design, adds that in terms of reducing CO_2 emissions, there should be continual improvement in *"…securing energy from decentralised and renewable or low carbon energy technologies…"* through the construction of new development.

20. The plan notes that East Midlands lags behind other regions in its renewable energy contribution of approximately 2% and mentions 'The Regional Targets and Scenarios for Renewable Energy Report' indicates that a 20% renewable energy mix by 2020 can only be achieved by adopting energy efficiency improvements and challenging micro-generation targets as well as a mix of large scale grid connected renewable energy.

21. Renewable energy targets are given in Appendix 5 of the Regional Plan, with specific targets for onshore wind generation excluding micro-generation from small wind turbines. The Plan acknowledges that the targets are challenging but emphasises that they are achievable and furthermore, should be regarded as a minimum.

22. For onshore wind development, para.3.3.86 states that:

> *'Much of the Region could be suitable for the location of wind turbines subject to a number of criteria, including visual impact and the cumulative effect of a number of turbines and their actual size. Local Planning Authorities should not adopt policies that would in effect impose a blanket ban on on-shore wind energy projects. Instead they should establish the criteria which guide and inform wind energy projects in order to achieve high quality, well planned developments.'*

23. The site is within the 'Eastern Sub Area' which is categorised as having some sites available for large wind developments and more for smaller scale wind development at farm settlement level. It is important therefore that where suitable sites within this sub-region are available, they should be brought forward to contribute to the East Midland Region's challenging targets.

24. **Policy 40** provides the regional priorities for low carbon energy generation. It directs that Local Planning Authorities should promote "*the development of a distributed energy network using local low carbon and renewable resources*", and should "*develop policies and proposals to achieve the indicative regional targets for renewable energy set out in Appendix 5*". With specific regard to onshore wind power generation, the Policy 40 of the Regional Plan states:

> *'In establishing criteria for onshore wind energy, Local Planning Authorities should give particular consideration to:*
>
> - *landscape and visual impact, informed by local Landscape Character Assessments;*
> - *the effect on the natural and cultural environment (including biodiversity, the integrity of designated nature conservation sites of international importance, and historic assets and their settings);*
> - *the effect on the built environment (including noise intrusion);*
> - *the number and size of turbines proposed;*
> - *the cumulative impact of wind generation projects, including 'intervisibility';*

- *the contribution of wind generation projects to the regional renewables target; and,*
- *the contribution of wind generation projects to national and international environmental objectives on climate change.'*

25. Appendix 5 of the Regional Plan gives indicative targets for the development of a variety of renewable energy technology in the region. For onshore wind power, the 2010 target is 122MW installed capacity, up from the 2006 existing installation of 54MW. Currently the region has 105.4MW of installed onshore wind power with 75MW approved but yet to become operational[7]. Targets continue to rise to 175MW of installed onshore wind power by 2020[8].

Local Guidance

6.1 The North Kesteven Local Plan was adopted in 2007. The Policy which relates to renewable energy is **Policy C17** which advises that planning permission will be granted for renewable energy development subject to:

1. *'the environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily;*
2. *the proposal minimises the landscape and visual effects of the development through appropriate siting, design and landscaping schemes;*
3. *where the proposal would have an adverse effect on a site of international importance for nature and heritage conservation, there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest;*
4. *where the proposal is in a nationally designated area, the objectives of the designation of the area will not be compromised, and any adverse effects on the qualities of the area are outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.'*

6.2 The supporting text highlights the issue of finite fossil fuel resources and the need to harness renewable energy sources which help to limit the effects of Climate change. It also states that many types of renewable energy sources are likely to be exploited in North Kesteven specifically, which wind power (either in small clusters or in large wind farms) is highlighted. It discusses the need to analyse and assess the environmental factors from wind turbines but states that;

> *'despite these potentially harmful effects upon the districts environment, development that will lead to increased exploitation of renewable energy sources is to be welcomed in principle.'*

Landscape and Visual Amenity

Regional Guidance

[7] *Regional Renewables Update, Annual Monitoring Report, January 2010*

[8] *East Midlands Regional Plan (March 2009)* http://www.gos.gov.uk/497296/docs/229865/East_Midlands_Regional_Plan2.pdf

26. With 88% of the land area being rural, East Midlands is one of the more rural regions in England[9]. However, the area of nationally designated landscapes in the East Midlands is the lowest of all English regions[10]. The Regional plan recognises that the relative lack of national designations does not mean that there is a lack of landscape character that needs to be better conserved or enhanced through sensitive development and management.

27. Within the East Midlands Regional Plan, the region has been separated into sub areas of which the proposed wind park extension would fall within the Eastern Sub Area. **Policy 4: Development in the Eastern Sub Area** covers a range of issues, one of which is landscape. In particular the policy seeks to protect the landscape and natural beauty of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

28. **Policy 31: Priorities for the Management and Enhancement of the Regions Landscape** goes into greater depth about the need to protect and enhance the regions natural and heritage landscapes. Like Policy 4, it also seeks to protect the AONB but also advises of the need for criteria based policies within the Local Development Framework to ensure that proposals respect the intrinsic landscape character in rural and urban fringe areas. In addition it sets out the need for local authorities to identify landscape and biodiversity protection and enhancement objectives through the integration of landscape Character Assessments with historical and ecological Assessments.

29. North Kesteven District Council sits within the Lincoln Policy Area and as such **Policy SRS1** is relevant. The Policy provides spatial priorities for the policy area in order to strengthen Lincoln's role as a principal urban area. In relation to landscape the policy informs that Local Development Frameworks should;

- '*Protect and/or enhance the character and quality of the built and natural environment, including greenspace, and the wider surrounding countryside'*

Local Guidance

30. The Adopted Local Plan approaches landscape and visual amenity through several different policies.

31. **Policy C2: Development in the Countryside** seeks to ensure development '*will protect and where possible, enhance the character of the countryside.*' The supporting text acknowledges that the countryside is one of the District's most important assets, which must be safeguarded for its own sake.

32. **Policy C5; Effects upon Amenities** advises that '*planning permission will be granted for proposals, provided that they will not adversely affect the amenities enjoyed by other land users to an unacceptable degree.*'

33. **Policy C17: Renewable Energy** as mentioned previously in this statement covers a number of topics in relation to renewable energy but specifically in relation to landscape

[9] *East Midlands Regional Plan (2009), Para 9 Page 9.*

[10] *East Midlands Regional Plan (2009), Para 3.3.2 Page 58.*

the policy is supportive of renewable energy provided that the proposal minimises the landscape and visual effects of the development through appropriate siting, design and landscaping schemes.

34. The supporting text for this policy goes on to identify that the development of wind turbines has a significant visual impact (and consequently applicants should undertake an assessment of landscape impacts).

35. **Policy C18** is concerned with design and advises that;

> *'Planning permission will be granted for development, only if it will;*
>
> *1. Reinforce local identity and*
>
> *2. Not adversely affect the character or appearance of its surroundings;*
>
> *And*
>
> *3. Existing site features that contribute positively to character or appearance of the area are retained, and satisfactorily incorporated into the design;*
>
> *4. The proposal responds satisfactorily to its context in terms of its layout, scale, massing, height, density, detailing, external appearance, and the use of materials, and*
>
> *5. The proposal has a cohesive character, and adds interest and vitality to its surroundings.'*

36. Landscaping is covered by **Policy C19** which seeks to ensure high quality landscaping which protects the existing landscape, integrates the development with its surroundings, protects amenities, and retains key landscape features.

37. The supporting text goes on to advise that landscaping may be highly important for sites that are visually prominent (either due to their location or size).

38. **Policy C22: External Lighting Schemes** seeks to ensure that lighting schemes will not adversely affect the character of the area. It is likely that the proposed scheme will have 32 candela aviation lighting however the proposed 32 candela lights are not bright enough when mounted at a height of 80m above ground level to cause light spill at ground level. In other words, although it may be possible to see the red light source at ground level from the area surrounding the wind park, due to the low intensity of lighting proposed, light would not reflect off objects on the ground and therefore the degree of light pollution at any location would depend solely on the direct visibility of the light source and its intensity.

39. **Policy LW1; Landscape Conservation** informs that;

> *'The Council will seek to protect the distinctive landscapes of the identified Landscape Character Areas and any special features which contribute to that character. Where development is acceptable, it will be required to contribute to the local distinctiveness of the area, be well integrated into the local landscape character, protect any features of importance to the local scene, and respect any important views.'*

40. The supporting text goes on to confirm that the Council '*does not expect the area's landscape to remain unchanged, because there must be some evolution in response to on-going changes in the use and management of land.*' It goes on to advise that applicant should consider the landscape character as part of any application.

41. The proposed Heckington Fen WP is outside the Areas of Attractive Landscape. The proposed WP would cause a small number of significant landscape and visual effects during construction and operation within approximately 2km of the application site. These significant, but not unacceptable, effects would potentially occur at certain surrounding residential properties (see **Appendix 1**), short lengths of several public rights of way and highways within 2km and the character of the host landscape within 1.5km of the nearest proposed turbine.

42. It is important to note that a significant visual effect at a particular private property or public location does not mean that the proposal would be overbearing or visually intrusive to such an extent that it would be harmful to residential or public amenity in planning terms.

43. No designated landscapes or valued features such as national parks and AONBs, or recognised historic assets including listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, registered parks and gardens, and world heritage sites, would be significantly affected and the character and quality of the wider landscape would be preserved.

44. A summary of effects on residential amenity on all properties within 1.5km, to include visual impacts, is included in **Appendix 1**.

45. Proposed landscaping includes new tree/ hedge planting using appropriate native species to screen and/or break up views of the proposed turbines from adjacent residential properties at strategic locations and repair and restoration of hedgerows and woodlands.

46. As a consequence it is concluded that the relevant policies of the adopted local plan would be complied with.

Natural Environment

Regional Guidance

47. The Regional Plan identifies that overall the East Midlands are comparatively impoverished in environmental terms and that East Midlands has a '*finite environmental capacity*' to accommodate development before irreversible development results in serious degradation. It also recognises that the area of statutory sites important for biodiversity in the region is well below the national level. In addition it is acknowledged as a key challenge that overall there has been a significant decline in biodiversity. The importance of biodiversity is reflected in its regional core objectives. **Policy 1,** objective h, states;

> *'To achieve a 'step change' increase in the level of the Region's biodiversity through;*
>
> - *The management and extension of habitats, both to secure net gains in biodiversity and to facilitate species migration to allow the biosphere to adapt to climate change; and*
> - *Ensuring that no net loss of priority habitats or species is allowed to occur.'*

48. **Policy 4; Development in the Eastern Sub Area**, as mentioned previously, covers a range of issues for the area. In relation to nature conservation it advises that development should protect and enhance the natural and historic environment of the coast margin including the Wash and Humber Estuary Special Protection Areas, and the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes Special Area of Conservation and the Rutland Water Special Protection Area and Grimsthorpe and Baston Fen Special Areas of Conservation.

49. **Policy 26** directs that sustainable development should ensure the protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the Region's natural and cultural heritage. It affords the highest level of protection to nationally designated sites and informs that '*unavoidable damage must be minimised and clearly justified by a need for development in that location which outweighs the damage that would result*.'

50. **Policy 28: Regional Priorities for Environmental and Green Infrastructure** seeks to ensure the delivery, protection and enhancement of Environmental Infrastructure across the Region. It advises '*Local Authorities and those responsible for the planning and delivery of growth and environmental management across the Region should work together to:*

> - *assess the capacity of existing Environment Infrastructure to accommodate change in order to inform decisions on the scale, location and phasing of new development. Account should be taken of current deficits and likely future demands, including those likely to result from climate change, to identify any further needs or constraints;*

> - *select appropriate indicators and targets to monitor the condition of Environmental Infrastructure and to ensure that its capacity to accommodate change is not breached;*
> - *ensure that the provision and design of new Environmental Infrastructure is considered and its delivery planned through environmental capacity analysis at the same time as other infrastructure requirements;*
> - *.....'*

51. **Policy 29** seeks to deliver a '…*major step change increase in the level of biodiversity across the East Midlands*.' through measures including:

> *'Development and implementation of mechanisms to ensure that development results in no net loss of BAP habitats and species, particularly for restricted habitats with special environmental requirements, and that net gain is achieved'*

Local Guidance

52. As referred to in the previous sections **Policy C17: Renewable Energy** is supportive of renewable energy provided that it fits with various criteria. In relation to ecology it advises that planning permission will be granted providing;

> *'Where proposals would have an adverse effect on a site of international importance for nature and heritage conservation, there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest;*
>
> *Where the proposal is in a nationally designated area, the objectives of the designation of the area will not be compromised, and any adverse effects on the qualities of the area are outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits.'*

53. The Local Plan acknowledges that it is relatively lacking in internationally, nationally or locally important wildlife habitat, and that in the district, '*only seven sites are identified as being of sufficient importance for wildlife that they merit statutory protection. They are protected as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and cover just over 150 hectares, which represents only 0.16% of the District's total area (whereas 2% of the East Midlands' land area is statutorily protected, and 6% nationally).'*

54. **Policy LW5: Sites of Special of Special Scientific Interest** informs developers that;

55. '*Planning permission will be granted for proposals that will directly or indirectly adversely affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest (as shown on the Proposals Map) only if:*

> 1. *The benefits of the development, on the site, clearly outweigh the likely impacts on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs;*
> 2. *The proposed development could not feasibly be located in a less sensitive location; and*

3. *Where appropriate, the implementation of measures to minimise, mitigate or compensate for the harm, or to ensure the future management and enhancement of the site's interest, is assured by means of an agreement between the developer and the Council or by means of a condition upon the permission.'*

56. Locally designated sites are protected through **LW6: County Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves**. Similarly to the policy above it seeks to prevent development that would adversely affect these designated sites and seeks '*where appropriate, the implementation of measures to minimise, mitigate or compensate for the harm, or to ensure the future management and enhancement of the sites interest, is assured by means of an agreement between the developer and the council or by means of a condition upon the permission.'*

57. **Policy LW7: Features of Importance for Wildlife** advises that;

'Planning permission will be granted for proposals that will directly or indirectly adversely affect any habitat listed as a priority in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan or an existing landscape feature (such as a pond, reservoir, lake, gravel pit, disused railway, road verge, river, canal or drain or their banks, building traditional field boundary (such as a hedgerow or stone wall), linear tree belt/shelter, plantation or small woodland, larger semi-natural or ancient woodland, heathland, parkland, semi-natural grassland or unimproved pasture) that is important for wild flora or fauna, only if:

1. *The need for the development clearly override the importance of the feature; and*
2. *Where appropriate, the implementation of measures to minimise, mitigate or compensate for the harm, or to ensure the future management and enhancement of the feature's value, is assured by means of an agreement between the developer and the Council, or by means of a condition upon the permission.'*

58. **POLICY LW8; Protected Species** sets out the criteria in which planning permission would be granted for proposals that adversely affect protected species or their habitats. The criteria is;

1. *'The need for the development clearly override the importance of the protected species;*
2. *The proposed development could not feasibly be located in a less sensitive location; and*
3. *An agreement between the developer and the Council or a condition upon the permission will:*
4. *Facilitate the survival of individual members of the species;*
5. *Reduce disturbance to the minimum;*
6. *Provide adequate alternative habitats to sustain at least the current levels of population of the species.'*

59. The supporting text goes on to inform that in North Kesteven District it is possible for development proposals to affect owl's, bats or water voles and advises of the need to undertake surveys to establish any species which may be affected by proposals.

60. Chapter 7 of the ES supporting this application outlines that there are no European (Ramsars, SAC & SPA) or national (SSSI, NNR, LNR) statutory designated sites within 10km of the site. There are however five Local Wildlife Sites within 5km of the site to include Cole's Lane Pond 0.6km to the south east. There will be no development within any statutory or non-statutory designated site and there will be no direct or indirect effects on them.

61. An Extended Phase 1 habitat survey was carried out in addition to consulting the relevant local organisations and authorities in order to provide a base line for flora and fauna on the site. The consultees were Natural England, The Environment Agency and Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre.

62. The site is divided by a network of drainage ditches and drains. These have not been found to support great crested newts, but are used by common frogs, common toads and smooth newts, as well as fish species. Construction of the turbine access tracks will involve crossing 10 dry and one wet ditch. This will involve inserting pipe culverts into the ditches. An engineering solution and associated pollution prevention plan (PPP) will be employed as part of the construction method statement to ensure that contaminated or silt laden run-off is prevented from reaching any water bodies or water courses.

63. There are three young plantations of mainly small deciduous trees scattered around Six Hundreds Farm, and one mature plantation. There are seven small mature trees located within the site, within the deciduous plantations and along the drains. These are of site interest. There will be at least 160m between the deciduous plantation north of Six Hundreds Farm and the nearest turbine, and 170m between the small plantation west of Six Hundreds Farm and the nearest turbine. The plantations will not be removed during the works, and it is extremely unlikely that there will be any significant disturbance to them.

64. There are two small sections of intact species-poor hedgerows, totalling approximately 380m. These are remnant sections of hedge and do not form links between habitat features. They are of low (site) conservation significance. There will be no construction of turbines or access tracks within 100m of any of the sections of hedgerow. Therefore prior to mitigation it is certain there will be **no negative impact** on hedgerow habitat of local importance.

65. Following a number of surveys, it was determined that the bat activity over the site was low. No bat species considered to be at high risk from wind turbines were recorded. The location of turbines have been designed to ensure that the sweep of the blades is at least 50m from hedgerows, trees and wet drains likely to be used by foraging bats in accordance with natural England guidance TIN051. They are also at least 200m from any roosts used by individual bats.

66. Biodiversity enhancements will include skylark scrapes, beetle banks, nest boxes and improving existing/creating new hedgerows surrounding the farm away from the turbines.

67. The ES supporting this application has determined that the proposed development would not lead to a significant impact on known protected species or ecological features of value at national, county or local level. It is therefore concluded that policy C17, LW5, LW6, LW7, and LW8 of the local plan have been complied with.

Cultural Heritage

Regional Guidance

68. Within the core objectives of the EMRP in **Policy 1,** it is sought to protect and enhance the regions cultural and historic assets, giving particular attention to designated sites of international importance. **Policy 4** which relates to Development in the Eastern Sub Area seeks to, among other things;

> *'Protect and enhance the natural and historic environment of the coastal margin including the Wash and Humber Estuary Special Protection Areas, and the Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe Dunes Special Area of Conservation'*

69. **Policy 26** of the East Midlands Regional Plan directs that sustainable development should ensure the protection, appropriate management and enhancement of the Region's natural and cultural heritage. It seeks to do this by giving the highest level of protection to internationally and nationally designated sites, and informs that:

> *'Unavoidable damage must be minimised and clearly justified by a need for development in that location which outweighs the damage that would result.'*

70. **Policy 27** concerns regional priorities for the historic environment and directs that across the Region, development should promote sensitive change of the historic environment.

71. The design of the development has carefully considered the potential impact on archaeology, built environment and the historic landscape. The process has been iterative with the intension, of thorough design, to mitigate the impact this development has on these features.

Local Guidance

72. The Local Plan contains a number of policies relevant to cultural heritage to include C17, HE1, HE2 HE3, HE5, HE9 and HE10. The heritage element of the local plan states that the districts heritage is fundamental in giving the District its distinct and attractive character, plays an important role in the District's economy, and is greatly valued by those who live and work in the area as well as visitors.

73. **Policy C17: Renewable Energy** advises developers that where a proposal would have an adverse effect on a site of international importance for nature and heritage conservation permission would only be granted if there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest.

74. **Policy HE1: Sites Containing Nationally Important Archaeological Remains** informs that; '*planning permission will be granted for proposals that will not adversely affect the archaeological value or interest, or the setting, of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (as shown on the proposals map) or other site containing nationally important archaeological remains*.'

75. **Policy HE2: Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation** sets out the requirement for an archaeological assessment on sites where evidence suggests that archaeological

remains are likely to be present. The assessment needs to identify the extent and importance of any remains, together with any proposals for their protection or to mitigate adverse effects.

76. **Policy HE3: Sites Containing Archaeological Remains** advises;

> *'Planning permission will be granted for proposals that will affect locally or regionally important archaeological remains or their setting, provided that:*
>
> 1. *The remains will be preserved in situ, and will not be damaged; or*
> 2. *Where preservation in situ is not justified, the recording and/or excavation of the remains prior to and during development is assured (by means of an agreement between the developer and the Council or by means of a condition upon the permission)'*

77. **Policy HE5: Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building** simply advises that planning permission will be granted for proposals that will not adversely affect the setting of a listed building.

78. **Policy HE9: Historic Parks and Gardens** seeks to protect the character, appearance and setting of parks and gardens.

79. **Policy HE10: Local Distinctiveness** states that;

> *'Planning permission will be granted for proposals that will not adversely affect the contribution made by a locally important traditional building or structure to the character of its surroundings.'*

80. The supporting text informs that, features of lesser individual importance than those which are listed contribute to the District's character, and collectively their contribution can be very significant.

81. Chapter 6 of the EIA submitted in support of this application has assessed the impact of the proposed wind park development on the cultural heritage of the area taking into account; archaeology, the built environment and historic landscape. In order to provide a detailed baseline prior to submission, details of any archaeological resource that could be impacted by this development were obtained from the National Monuments Record & Lincolnshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

82. Within 10km of the development site there are no registered Parks and Gardens, or Battlefields, there are 15 Scheduled Monuments and 206 Listed Buildings. There are no designated cultural heritage assets within the proposal site and the only HER records relate to Romano British pottery located in the south western side of site. The buried remains of a duck decoy were identified as crop marks as part of the baseline assessment. The duck decoy is considered to be of regional importance and consequently was incorporated into the site design process.

83. The Environment Statement concluded that the development would have no planning significant residual direct or indirect impacts.

84. Therefore taking into account the above information the application is in compliance with policies C17, HE1, HE2, HE3, HE5, HE9 & HE10 of the saved local plan.

Flood Risk

Regional Guidance

85. The East Midlands Regional Plan in relation to flood risk and hydrology contains Policies 32 and 35. **Policy 32** details the regional approach to water resources and water quality. It sets out a number of key approaches of which most are not pertinent to a wind farm. Of relevance to the proposed development however are;

> *'Protect and improve water quality and reduce the risk of pollution especially to vulnerable groundwater;*
>
> *Use sustainable drainage techniques wherever practical to help mitigate diffuse pollution and support groundwater recharge. These will be required where development is upstream of a designated conservation site of international importance or to improve water quality, where the need is demonstrated through water cycle studies;'*

86. **Policy 35: A Regional Approach to Managing Flood Risk** is a detailed policy informing Local Planning Authorities and relevant public bodies what considerations need to be taken into account within Local Development Frameworks and strategies. It advises that in particular they should;

- *'Be informed by Strategic Flood Risk Assessments in order to evaluate actual flood risk. Priority areas for assessment include the built up areas of Derby, Nottingham and Newark;*
- *Include policies which prevent inappropriate development either in, or where there would be an adverse impact on, the coastal and fluvial flood plain areas;*
- *Deliver a programme of flood management schemes that also maximise biodiversity, provide townscape enhancement and other public benefits; and*
- *Require sustainable drainage in all new developments where practicable.*

Development should not be permitted if alone or in conjunction with other new development it would;

- *Be at unacceptable risk from flooding or create such an unacceptable risk elsewhere;*
- *Inhibit the capacity of the floodplain to store water;*
- *Impede the flow of floodwater in a way which would create an unacceptable risk elsewhere;*
- *Have a detrimental impact upon infiltration of rainfall to ground water storage;*
- *Otherwise unacceptably increase flood risk and*
- *Interfere with coastal processes.*

However such development may be acceptable on the basis of conditions or agreements for adequate measures to mitigate the effects on the overall flooding regime, including provision for the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity. Any such measures must accord with the flood management regime for that location.'

87. Whilst the development proposals have the potential to reduce flood plain storage and increase impermeable area, the scale of these impacts are not considered to significantly increase flood risk to the site or to people and property elsewhere when considered in terms of the size of this Wind Park, the extent of the existing flood plain from tidal sources, and the flat nature of the surrounding farmland.

Local Guidance

88. Within the North Kesteven Local Plan **Policy C10: Flood Risk** mirrors the flood risk policy of the regional plan. It does however go on to inform that priority will be given in permitting sites for development in descending order of the Flood Zone 1 (little or no risk), Flood Zone 2 (low to medium risk), Flood Zone 3 (High Risk). The policy also advises that; '*where possible, new developments should result in the overall reduction of flood risk. All relevant planning applications must be accompanied by a flood risk assessment.'*

89. **C14: Surface Water Disposal** seeks to ensure that development includes measures to safely manage surface water run-off and where feasible manage the increase in surface water runoff.

90. There are a number of drainage channels which cross the site and the Environment Agency has indentified this site as being in Flood Zone 3a (high risk) or having a 1 in 100 chance of flooding on an annual basis. A hydrological assessment and a separate Flood Risk assessment were carried out for the development and can be found as **Chapter 9** and **Appendix 9.1** of the ES which supports this application. The assessment took into account hydrology, geology, hydrogeology and the potential effects of the proposed development. The site was designed with consideration of the drainage channels and appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place during the construction and operation phases of the development. The mitigation measures would have to act against possible percolation of pollutants into groundwater, though this risk is considered to be minor.

91. With mitigation measures it is considered that the proposal complies with policies **C10** and **C14** of the local plan.

Noise

Regional Guidance

92. The East Midlands Regional Plan has no policy in relation to noise.

Local Guidance

93. Within the local plan P**olicy C5; Effects upon Amenities** as mentioned previously within this statement, is relevant to noise. It advises that '*planning permission will be granted for proposals, provided that they will not adversely affect the amenities enjoyed by other land users to an unacceptable degree.*'

94. Chapter 10 of the ES document supporting this application provides a detailed assessment of the potential noise impact of the proposed turbines. The study of potential noise effects was undertaken in accordance with The Assessment & Rating of Noise from Wind Farms – The Working Group on Noise from Wind Turbines (report ETSU-R-97).

95. Following a baseline assessment of background noise at residential properties around the proposed Heckington Fen WP, the predicted noise from operation of the proposed wind park would comply with the requirements of ETSU-R-97 at all residential locations. A summary of effects on residential property is provided in **Appendix 1** of this planning statement. The summary considers amenity, to include noise at all residential property within 1.5km. As the noise assessment finds that the ETSU-R-97 requirements are met, there will be no adverse noise impact from the development.

Access

Regional Guidance

96. The transport policies contained within the East Midlands Regional Plan (2009) support and encourage development which would make a positive contribution towards sustainability objectives.

97. **Policy 53: Regional trunk Road Priorities** and **Policy 54: Regional Major Highway Priorities** both seek to ensure that the highway capacity is managed effectively to reduce congestion and improve safety.

98. **Policy 55: Implementation of the Regional Freight Strategy** set out key priorities which include reducing the overall impact of freight and expand the usage of inland waterways ad coastal navigation.

99. The turbine components will be delivered to the UK from factories in Germany via scheduled transport ships and are likely to be unloaded at a terminal on the Humber. It will be a requirement due to the size of a number of vehicles, specifically the larger cranes and the low loaders delivering the turbines, that a police escort will be necessary. There will therefore be some disruption to traffic due to the police escorting the abnormal loads however the overall impacts will be short-term and temporary. As such it is considered that the proposal will accord with transport policies 53, 54 and 55 within the East Midlands Regional Plan. The transportation assessment is discussed in more detail in **Chapter 11: Transport and Access**

Local Guidance

100. There are a number of transport policies within the North Kesteven Local Plan however only policy **T4: Safety** of the transport section is relevant. The policy advises developers that '*planning permission will be granted for development proposals that will not adversely affect the safety of people using roads, cycleways, footpaths, bridleways or railways.'*

101. Within the core policies section of the local plan Policy **C2: Development in the Countryside** provides criteria for what development would be acceptable. One of the criteria is that development will not attract or generate a large number of journeys, and is located to provide opportunities for access by public transport, walking or cycling.

102. Within the recreation, sport and tourism section of the local plan **Policy RST2: Protection of Existing Public Rights of Way** is also relevant. The policy advises that planning permission will not be granted for proposals that will adversely affect an existing public right of way.

103. The guidance contained within the County Council's Highways, 3rd Local Transport Plan 2011/12 to 2012/13 has also been taken into account in understanding the criteria necessary to assess the transport implications of our wind park proposal.

104. As part of the EIA process the significance of the proposed traffic increases were assessed. The proposed use of the site is not a traffic generating use, however, during construction there will be increased levels of construction traffic and delivery of turbine components which will be classified as abnormal loads. The assessment concluded that the proposed increase in the level of traffic on the proposed access routes was considered to be minor.

105. Chapter 11 of the ES also assessed the access route in terms of its suitability to accommodate the delivery of the turbine components. Two potential pinch points for the abnormal loads were identified and for each pinch point a swept path analysis plan was prepared using appropriate software. These swept path analysis plans identified that the roundabout on the A17 leading onto Beckingham and Stapleford Lane and the A15/A17 roundabout north of Sleaford can be navigated with the largest abnormal load with limited impact to the existing infrastructure. The new access point from the A17 to the site has been designed to ensure that loads and HGV deliveries can obtain access to the site quickly and efficiently and would satisfy the relevant highway design standards. Given the short term nature of the construction period the magnitude of impact is considered minor. As such it is considered that the proposal complies with policies **T4 Safety** and **C2: Development in the Countryside.**

106. The single footpath within the site boundary is not crossed or in the near vicinity of any construction traffic the proposal therefore accords with policy **RST2: Protection of Existing Public Rights of Way** in the local plan.

Aviation

107. In Chapter 12 of the ES supporting this application the impact of the proposed development on aviation interests is considered. The assessment concludes that following mitigation there would be no significant impacts on aviation interests. There are no policies within the development plan which relate to aviation.

Shadow Flicker

108. The Environmental Statement also considers the potential for shadow flicker effects from the Heckington Fen WP. A shadow flicker assessment shows that no residential properties will be affected by shadow flicker from the operational Heckington Fen WP. **Appendix 1** to this statement provides a summary of effects on residential property to

include shadow flicker. There is no local or regional policy which relates specifically to this potential effect however **Policy C5** of the local plan does look to protect the amenities of other land users. If homes were affected, a specific technical expert will be brought in to assess the impact and determine what mitigation strategy would be best to rectify the issue. Such mitigation has been demonstrated to be effective at a number of UK wind turbine sites.

Other Issues

Policy C3: Agricultural Land Quality seeks to protect the 'best and most versatile agricultural land'. It informs that development will only be granted on this land if;

1. *'Previously-developed land, or land of a lower agricultural grade is not available to accommodate the proposed development;*
2. *Land of a lower agricultural grade, which is available to accommodate the proposed development, is subject to other sustainability considerations, including biodiversity, landscape, amenity or heritage interest, etc, which outweigh agricultural considerations; and*
3. *The development is proposed on land of the lowest possible grade.'*

109. The supporting text clarifies that land in grades 1 to 3a are considered to be the best and most versatile agricultural land in the country. As detailed within **Chapter 13: Miscellaneous** the proposed site is Grade 1 Agricultural Land. However, although the proposed development will require taking up a small area of agricultural land, the development is not expected to have any significant negative effect on agricultural production as the land surrounding the turbines can still be used for crop production and grazing.

110. **Policy E6: Farm Diversification** is supportive of diversification provided that the proposal will be of a scale consistent with its rural location, will not harm the viability of existing agricultural activity, and where feasible any necessary built facilities will be provided through the conversion of existing buildings. As mentioned in the previous paragraph the land surrounding the turbines can continue to be used for agricultural production and the development will allow diversification of income and therefore provide benefits to the agricultural economy.

Conclusion on Development Plan Policies

111. This statement has identified relevant development plan policies and has addressed the implications of these policies in terms of the acceptability of the development for the purposes of Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, which requires that a planning application shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the development plan unless "material considerations indicate otherwise".

112. The granting of planning permission for the proposed development would only give rise to a breach of the development plan if any detrimental effects on features and interest of acknowledged importance outweigh the acknowledged environmental benefits of exploiting wind as a renewable energy resource.

113. The main impacts identified from the ES are likely to arise from the visual impact of the wind turbines at specific views points and certain residential properties within the surrounding landscape in close proximity of the development. The landscape and visual assessment has been carried out for the proposed wind park which concludes that the Heckington Fen WP development would cause a limited number of significant effects to landscape character and views within 2km of the application site. However, it is considered that effects on landscape character and visual amenity within the wider study area would not be significant, and therefore complies with the Regional Plan and saved policies of the Adopted Local Plan.

114. A summary of the effects on residential amenity is included in **Appendix 1** to this statement. The summary encompasses visual impacts, noise and shadow flicker in order to provide an overall impact on residential amenity on all properties within 1.5km. It is considered that no residential properties would have their amenity unacceptably affected.

115. Reading the development plan as a whole and cross referencing the relevant policies to the conclusions of the assessed topics of the Environmental Statement shows that this application complies with the policy and is in line with section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

116. If the view is taken that the proposed Heckington Fen WP is in compliance with the relevant policies in the development plan, planning permission should be granted unless material considerations indicate that an alternative view should be taken. It is recognised that the weighting of competing interests inevitably involves an element of subjective judgment and, in the event that it is concluded that compliance with policies in the development plan is not clear cut, then consideration needs to be given as to whether or not other material considerations indicate that a planning permission should nevertheless be granted.

117. The following material considerations are relevant in the context of the Heckington Fen WP.

National Planning Guidance

Planning Policy Statement 22

118. Renewable energy policy at a national level is contained within PPS22. PPS22 stresses that increased development of renewable energy resources is vital in facilitating the delivery of the Government's commitments on both climate change and renewable energy. The Policy sets out 8 key principles that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should adhere to in their approach to planning for renewable energy. Key principle (iv) states that: *"the wider environment and economic benefits of all proposals for renewable energy projects, whatever their scale, are material considerations that should be given significant weight in determining whether proposals should be granted planning permission."*

119. PPS22 emphasises that "*targets for renewable energy should be expressed as the minimum amount of installed capacity…"*

120. It also states that as most renewable energy resources can only be developed where they exist and are economically viable, it is not appropriate to create some form of sequential test.

121. On the subject of landscape and visual effects PPS22 acknowledges that of all renewable technologies, wind turbines are likely to have the greatest visual and landscape effects (PPS22 Para 20). However, in assessing planning applications local authorities should recognise that the impact of turbines on the landscape will vary according to the size and number of turbines and the type of landscape involved, and that these impacts may be temporary if conditions are attached to planning permissions which require the future decommissioning of turbines.

122. PPS22 also makes it clear that policies which rule out or place constraints on the development of specific types of renewable energy technologies should not be adopted.

Planning Policy Statement 1

123. PPS1 sets out the overarching planning policies in the delivery of sustainable development through the planning system. The key principles are set out in paragraph 13.

124. One key principle is that regional planning bodies and local planning authorities should ensure that development plans contribute to global sustainability by addressing the causes and potential impact of climate change through policies which, inter alia, promote the development of renewable energy resources and take climate change impact into account in the location and design of development. Paragraph 20 states that development plans should take account of environmental issues such as: mitigation of the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change through, inter alia, the use of renewable energy. The prudent use of natural resources is advocated to respect the needs of future generations. PPS1 states that this means enabling more sustainable consumption and production and using non-renewable resources in ways that do not endanger the natural resource or cause serious damage or pollution. The Heckington Fen WP promotes the policy and spirit of PPS1 by seeking to provide a highly sustainable way of providing energy. As stated above wind power does not produce any gaseous emissions and is a key resource in tackling the effects of climate change.

125. The December 2007 supplement to PPS1, Planning and Climate Change, has been adopted. The first key point is that on Page 1 it states that "*Where there is any difference in emphasis on climate change between the policies in this PPS and others in the national series this is intentional and this PPS takes precedence.*"

126. This is especially important where it tackles the way in which policies are to be devised to deal with criteria to be used in assessing proposals. At paragraph 9 it directs that the spatial strategies shall make a full contribution to delivering the Government's Climate Change Programme and energy policies. Paragraph 13 directs that Regional policies should ensure that opportunities for renewable and low-carbon sources of energy supply are maximised, and that regional targets should be set for renewable energy generation that are consistent with the Government's national targets.

127. Paragraph 19 directs that Local Development Document policies should be designed to promote and not restrict renewable energy development and its supporting infrastructure. In particular planning authorities should

- not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy and its distribution, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for such development must be sited in a particular location;
- ensure any local approach to protecting landscape and townscape is consistent with PPS22 and does not preclude the supply of any type of renewable energy other than in the most exceptional circumstances; and
- expect a proportion of the energy supply of new development to be secured from decentralised and renewable or low-carbon energy sources.

Planning Policy Statement 7

128. PPS7 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas' replaces PPG7 and is concerned with development in the countryside. The PPS sets out specific Government objectives for rural areas, which include raising the quality of life and the environment in rural areas through, amongst others: *"good quality sustainable development that respects and, where possible, enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside"*, and, *"continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources'; promoting more sustainable patterns of development; and, promoting the development of the English regions by improving their economic performance".* Sustainable development is quoted as the core principle underpinning land use planning, and forms a key principle of PPS7.

129. In terms of maintaining rural character PPS7 does not specifically deal with wind farm developments, or developments of a similar scale and nature, but tends to be more focused on ensuring that buildings fit in with their surroundings and preventing the urbanisation of the countryside. PPS7 endorses renewable energy generation in rural areas as long as they do not have significant adverse effects on the landscape resource and designated sites.

130. Para.16 states that 'when preparing policies for LDDs (Local Development Document) and determining planning applications for development in the countryside, local planning authorities should:

- provide for the sensitive exploitation of renewable energy sources in accordance with the policies set out in PPS22; and,
- conserve specific features and sites of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value, in accordance with statutory designations.'

131. In terms of aiding the rural economy and protecting agricultural land, the proposed wind park should provide some benefits in both areas. With regards to farm land, the proposal will only remove small areas of land (the actual footprints of turbine towers, buildings and new/widened access tracks) from farm use, and then only in the medium term given the commitment to above ground re-instatement of the site following decommissioning. Thus, the majority of the site will continue to be farmed thereby providing the diversification of use which PPS7 aims to encourage.

Planning Policy Statement 9

132. PPS9 sets out the Government's advice on the protection of biodiversity and on geological conservation. The overall aim is to minimise the impact of planning and development and to ensure that, where possible, it actively improves it. Following mitigation measures, there is no evidence to suggest that the proposed development would lead to a significant impact on any known protected species or ecological feature of value.

Planning Policy Statement 5 – Planning for the Historic Environment

133. **Policy HE1** of PPS5 concerns Heritage Assets and Climate Change. Under HE1.3 it states that "Where conflict between climate change objectives and the conservation of heritage assets is unavoidable, the public benefit of mitigating the effects of climate change should be weighed against any harm to the significance of heritage assets in accordance with the development management principles in this PPS and national planning policy on climate change."

Planning Policy Statement 24

134. This planning guidance relates to the assessment of noise. The ES has taken account of the guidance and has also taken account of the accepted guidance for assessing noise from wind farms set out in ETSU-R-97 as described in Chapter 10 of the ES. The ES concludes that there will be no significant noise effects as a result of the Heckington Fen WP.

Planning Policy Statement 25

135. PPS 25 advises on development and flood risk. It aims to ensure that flood risk is properly taken into account in the planning of new developments. The ES concludes that the Heckington Fen WP will have no significant impact on flood risk.

136. Accordingly, it is clear that the benefits of the Heckington Fen WP are significant material considerations in terms of national planning policy guidance.

Energy policy

Introduction

137. The positive policy environment for wind energy and other forms of renewable energy in the UK is largely motivated by the UK's commitment to international agreements on reductions in the emissions of carbon dioxide. While this undoubtedly has been the primary motivation there are a number of other important benefits of renewable energy which have been recognised by policy makers. These include reducing the extraction of diminishing fossil fuel supplies, curbing the emission of other trans-boundary pollutants such as nitrous oxides and sulphur dioxide, greater self sufficiency in energy supply and advantages in decentralised embedded generation including reduction in transmission losses and power supply failures. While these other advantages are important and may have been the initial motivation for the funding of renewable energy research in the 1970s and 1980s, rising international concern over climate change has dominated renewable energy policy over the last decade.

Climate Change: Evidence and Consequence

138. The occurrence of climate change is widely regarded as the most pressing environmental concern of our time. Even if the causes of climate change are successfully tackled in the next few decades, it is generally accepted that the consequences of emissions already released will cause significant environmental and economic problems extending well into the future.

139. Studies into the evidence for, and implications of, climate change have been largely coordinated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environmental Programme. Its remit is to study historical evidence for climate change up to the present, modelling climatic processes and future climate change scenarios, identifying regional variations in climate change, quantifying the risk of potential global and regional effects of climate change, and recommending mitigation and adaptation measures for the international community and individual governments.

140. The IPCC has reported on its assessments of climate change in 1990, 1996, 2001 and 2007. Evidence that climate change is occurring and that it is outside the fluctuations of natural changes has become recognised more strongly in each successive report. The IPCC now states:

> *"Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level."*[11]

141. The evidence is very strong that the effect is being driven by anthropogenic factors. The factors include industrial and agricultural emissions of the so-called 'greenhouse gases' into the atmosphere and other effects such as land use changes which reduce the ability of the natural environment to recycle these gases. Currently carbon dioxide emissions are judged by current models to make up approximately half of the warming effect of anthropogenic factors. This proportion is predicted to increase to 75% by 2100[12].

142. The Stern Review: Economic Impacts of Climate Change, published in October 2006 and commissioned by HM Treasury, is notable as the first substantial assessment of the effects of climate change from an economic perspective. The Stern Review's 700 pages cover in great detail the issue of climate change[13], and some of the key conclusions are outlined below:

> *"The scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change presents very serious global risks, and it demands an urgent global response.'*
>
> *'The effects of our actions now on future changes in the climate have long lead times. What we do now can have only a limited effect on the climate over the next 40 or 50 years. On the other hand what we do in the next 10 or 20 years can have a profound effect on the climate in the second half of this century and in the next.'*
>
> *'No-one can predict the consequences of climate change with complete certainty; but we now know enough to understand the risks. Mitigation - taking strong action to reduce emissions - must be viewed as an investment, a cost incurred now and in the coming few decades to avoid the risks of very severe consequences in the future.'*
>
> *'There is still time to avoid the worst impacts of climate change if strong collective action starts now."*

143. One predicted effect of increased concentrations of 'greenhouse' gases in the atmosphere is an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, particularly rainfall. According to the IPCC '*the most widespread direct risk to human settlements from climate change is flooding and landslides, driven by projected increases in rainfall intensity and, in coastal areas, sea level rise.'*

144. The question is no longer whether global warming is upon us, but how we can rise to its challenge. The IPCC recommends a two pronged approach to reducing the effects of

[11] *IPCC (2007) The Fourth Assessment Report of Working Group 1 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

[12] *IPCC (2001a) The Third Assessment Report of Working Group 1 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

[13] *http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm*

climate change. Firstly, the reduction of human influences in climate, primarily through reductions in the use of fossil fuels and emissions of other greenhouse gases, and to a lesser extent reforestation projects; and, secondly through measures to allow natural and human systems to adapt as far as possible to expected changes. The earlier that greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, the lower the costs of adaptation and human costs of failure to adapt. According to the IPCC stabilising carbon dioxide concentrations at 450 ppm (that is 85 ppm above 2001 levels and 170 ppm above pre-industrial levels) in the long term would require dropping of emissions worldwide to below 1990 levels within a few decades[14].

International Agreements on Climate Change Emissions

145. The international response to the problem of climate change is set out in the Kyoto Protocol[15], which is an international agreement that commits 37 Industrialised countries and the European Community to legally binding targets to limit or reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases. The Kyoto Protocol came into force in February 2005 – the UK is legally bound to achieve its target of reducing average greenhouse gas emissions in 2008-2012 to 12.5% below 1990 emission levels. The government's commitment to reaching these targets was reaffirmed in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Montreal in December 2005[16]. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol have set a significant precedent as a means of solving a long-term international environmental problem, but are only the first steps towards implementation of an international response strategy to combat climate change. Arguably, the Kyoto Protocol's most notable achievement is the stimulation of an array of national policies.

European Union Climate Change and Renewables Policy

146. The European Union has been the driving force of international agreement on climate change policy since the conception of the Framework Convention on Climate Change a decade ago. It was instrumental in the development of the two United Nations climate treaties, the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (1997), as detailed above.

147. At a European Council Summit in 2007 the EU Heads of State & Government adopted a new energy policy which integrates climate and energy objectives. Amongst other things, this introduces a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the EU by at least 20% of the 1990 levels by 2020 and a binding target for 20% of energy in the EU to come from renewable sources by 2020. The European Commission President, Jose Manuel Barroso, described these goals as *"the most ambitious ever made".* This commitment is being implemented through a package of binding legislation.

148. The EU has also offered to toughen its emissions reduction to 30% by 2020, on condition that other major emitting countries in the developed and developing worlds commit to do their fair share under a future global climate agreement. This agreement

[14] *IPCC (2001b) Climate Change 2001: Impacts, Adaption and Vulnerability. Third Assessment of Working Group 2*

[15] *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997).* *http://unfccc.int/essential_background/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php*

[16] *United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 11 and COP/MOP 1) (2005).* *http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_11/items/3394.php*

should take effect at the start of 2013 when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period will have expired.

UK Climate Change and Renewables Policy

149. Much of the direction of the UK policy on renewables is guided by its commitments to international and European climate change instruments. In 2006, the UK Government published the Energy Review[17] which identified a number of areas where the policy and regulatory framework governing energy markets needs to be strengthened. The Energy Review 2006 made it clear that the Government is committed to ensuring renewables have an important role to play in helping the UK meet its energy policy goals. It highlights the fact that although projects do not always appear to show benefits locally "*they provide crucial national benefits". [18]*

150. The Renewables Statement of Need goes on to state that:

> *"Individual renewable energy projects are part of a growing proportion of low-carbon generation that provides benefits to communities through emission reductions and a more diverse energy mix which increases the reliability of our supplies... These wider benefits are not always immediately visible to the specific locality in which the project is sited. However, the benefits to society and the wider economy as a whole are significant and this must be reflected in the weight given to these considerations by decision makers in reaching their decision." (pg 205)*

151. The 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' White Paper (2007) identifies the need to install renewable energy within the UK in order to meet the 20% of renewables by 2020. This paper outlines the important role Local Authorities have in this decision making process and that:

> *"Applicants for renewable energy will no longer have to demonstrate the need for their project, either in general or in particular locations".[19] (para.7.18)*

152. The Climate Change Act became law in 2008. A key aim of the act was to improve carbon management and help transition towards a low carbon economy in the UK. It does this by introducing the world's first long term, legally binding framework, to tackle the dangers of climate change. It sets the target of reducing green house gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, and reductions in CO_2 emissions of at least 26% by 2020, against a 1990 baseline.

153. In order to achieve these ambitious targets set out in the Climate Change Act, the Government has released a number of documents which explain how these targets can be reached. The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan; National Strategy for Climate Change and Energy (2009), shows sector-by-sector what savings can be achieved and how every department across government will take responsibility. A particular figure of significance is that by 2020, 40% of our electricity must come from low carbon sources.

[17] *DTI (2006) The Energy Challenge; Energy Review.*

[18] *DTI (2006), The Energy Challenge: Energy Review Report 2006 (Annex D: Renewables Statement of Need)* *http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file32017.pdf*

[19] *CLG, DEFRA, DTI, DoT (2007) Planning for a Sustainable Future* http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm71/7120/7120.pdf

154. Published alongside the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan was The UK's Renewable Energy Strategy (2009). The Department for Energy and Climate Change details how the UK will hit its target of getting 15% of energy (electricity, heat and transport) from renewable sources by 2020. In order to achieve this, 30% of electricity must come from renewable energy sources (a five-fold increase from today's rate of ~5%). The document states that much of the renewables energy target will be from wind power. It also emphasises the need for the planning system to speed up and become more predictable so as to enable renewable deployment in the right places at the right time and in a way that gives businesses the confidence to invest.

155. As part of the Governments ongoing policy to improve economic performance various steps are being taken to "stream line" the planning process, as it has been identified as inhibiting economic growth and development. In the March 2011 budget "The Plan for Growth" the Government signalled a review of planning policy in an attempt to try and reduce the amount of time taken for an application to be considered.

156. The Government wishes to introduce a new presumption in planning in favour of sustainable development. So applications that meet the requirements of planning policies at local and national level should be offered a default answer of yes rather than no. The Government will be publishing how this policy will be integrated into national policy in May 2011.

157. In addition to the 2011 Budget, the Minister of State for Decentralisation (Mr Greg Clark MP) issued a written ministerial statement called Planning for Growth on the 23rd March 2011. The statement sets out the role local government should take to support economic and sustainable development. The Government expects local planning authorities to plan positively for new development; deal promptly and favourably with applications that comply with up-to-date local plans and national planning policies.

158. The UK National Renewable Energy Action Plan has recently been published under Article 4 of the Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. This policy document was published in July 2010 after the Coalition Government came to power and includes statements of new Government policy, setting out the UK's approach to ensuring that it will achieve the legally binding obligation to generate 15% of energy demand from renewables by 2010. It is a material consideration of considerable weight in the determination of the planning application for the Heckington Fen Wind Park. Of particular note are the following key statements:

- "The UK needs to radically increase its use of renewable energy."
- "Our drive to increase the proportion of energy we obtain from renewable sources will not only increase the security of energy supplies in the UK, it will also provide opportunities for investment in new industries and technologies. The UK Government will help business develop in this area to put the UK at the forefront of new renewable technologies and skills."
- "The UK Government believes that climate change is one of the gravest threats we face, and that urgent action at home and abroad is required."
- "The development of renewable energy sources, alongside nuclear power and the development of carbon capture in storage, will also enable the UK to play its full part in international efforts to reduce the production of harmful greenhouse gases."
- "This National Renewable Energy Action Plan provides details on a set of measures that would enable the UK to meet its 2020 target. But we want to go a lot further. We want to secure our energy supplies through 2020 and beyond and provide a sound framework for business to develop in the new industries, providing jobs and cutting harmful greenhouse gases. The Coalition programme for Government sets out a range of proposals to ensure that we go as far as we can in exploiting the UK's renewable energy resources."

159. The Action Plan recognises that if the UK is to achieve the generation of 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020 compared to only 1.5% in 2005, there will have to be a much greater level of deployment over the next decade in order to meet the target. The analysis undertaken by DECC as part of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy in 2009 is summarised below.

160. The UK renewable policy framework is made up of three key components:

- Financial support for renewables;
- Unblocking barriers to delivery; and
- Developing emerging technologies.

161. The Action Plan expressly recognises that issues that affect the timely deployment of established renewable technologies include the planning system and it is proposed that changes to the planning system should improve this.

162. The National Renewable Energy Action Plan makes very clear the ongoing need to significantly increase the deployment of onshore wind energy development in order to enable the UK to achieve its 2020 target.

163. New renewable projects may not always appear to convey any particular local benefit, but they provide crucial national benefits. Individual renewable projects are part of a growing proportion of low-carbon generation that provides benefits shared by all communities both through reduced emissions and more diverse supplies of energy, which helps the reliability of our supplies. This factor is a material consideration to which all participants in the planning system should give significant weight when considering renewable proposals. These wider benefits are not always immediately visible to the specific locality in which the project is sited.

> *"However, the benefits to society and the wider economy as a whole are significant and this must be reflected in the weight given to these considerations by decision makers in reaching their decisions."*[20]

Wind Energy

International Wind Energy

[20] *DTI (2006) The Energy Challenge Energy Review http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file31890.pdf*

164. Although wind energy is growing more quickly in the UK in recent years, the take up of wind power in the UK has been slow compared to a number of other countries in Europe and around the world. Wind energy is the world's fastest growing and most popular energy technology. At the start of 2001 global capacity was some 14,271 MW. At the start of 2006 wind power capacity worldwide was at 59,247 MW, and at the beginning of 2009 stood at 120,791 MW. However, within Europe it is notable that Germany, Spain and Denmark between them account for nearly 50% of worldwide wind energy capacity. The table below shows installed capacity at the start of 2006, to 2009 by region and for the UK.

Table 1: Installed wind farm capacity worldwide[21]

Region	Capacity at the start of 2006 (MW)	Capacity at the start of 2007 (MW)	Capacity at the start of 2008 (MW)	Capacity at the start of 2009 (MW)
Europe	40,906	48,530	57,139	65,946
Latin America	232	530	531	625
Asia	5,923	9,231	15,787	24,368
Pacific Region	894	1,012	1,158	1,644
Middle East & Africa	256	448	539	669
USA & Canada	9,826	13,159	18,670	27,539
Total	59,247	74,154	93,823	120,791
UK	1,342	1,958	2,406	3,241

165. Despite having Europe's largest wind resource, the UK is currently ranked only fifth in Europe for installed wind energy capacity, behind Germany, Spain, Italy and France. At the start of 2009 the UK had an installed capacity of 3,241 MW which compares with the 23,903 MW installed capacity achieved by the start of 2009 in Germany. In Denmark, a country with a land area over five times smaller than that of the UK, an almost identical capacity to the UK (3,180 MW) had been installed by the start of 2009.

166. As the global growth of the wind energy industry has continued, technological advances have occurred with respect to wind turbines. One of the main areas where wind turbines have evolved is in their dimensions. The advantage in using larger wind turbines is the increased power output of large turbines. Power output is proportional to the swept area of the turbine blade i.e. a turbine with twice the blade diameter will have four times the power output. In addition the higher the rotor height the higher the

[21] *Global Wind Energy Council, Global Installed Wind Power Capacity (MW)- Regional Distribution, February 2009*

average wind speed across the rotor area leading to a further increase in electricity generation per turbine.

167. The trend in using larger wind turbines in wind energy projects is particularly apparent in Northern Europe, where land-based constraints are more pertinent. Planners in Northern Europe are therefore commonly opting for smaller numbers of larger wind turbines in order to generate a given quantity of wind-sourced electricity.

168. Although it is recognised that wind energy is inherently an intermittent source of electricity, its variable nature poses no special problems for power system operation. Three reports released in the summer of 2009, all dismiss variability as an obstacle to wind energy deployment. National Grid's June Policy Brief concluded that technology will advance to deal with the issue of energy production needing to fall back on fossil fuel generators in periods of low wind, and that generation technologies such as wind can be made "*capable of meeting our requirement for flexibility in operating the transmission networks*."[22]

169. A July 2009 study, carried out by independent consultants Poyry, predicted that the UK can massively expand wind power by 2030 without suffering power cuts or a melt-down of the National Grid. Dr Phil Hare from Poyry stated that: "*Some people were worried that the complexity stemming from intermittent wind with an overlay of tidal power peaking twice a day might simply have been too much change for the grid to bear. But our research shows the grid can cope*."

170. Finally, a report commissioned by WWF-UK, RSPB, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth concluded that: "Although aspects of the management of wind variability can be controversial, utilities the world over generally agree that there is no fundamental technical reason why high proportions of wind energy cannot be assimilated into the system". The Managing Variability report also revealed that if 32% of the UK's 2020 renewables target were supplied by wind, it would cost consumers only £2 extra per £100.

171. Wind turbines in the UK typically have a capacity factor in the order of 30% (i.e. the percentage of their maximum power output that they produce over the course of a year), depending on the wind resource and wind turbine model employed. The UK's average wind farm capacity factor between 2005 – 2009 was 27.7%[23]. However, a typical UK wind energy project generates electricity for 80-85% of the time[24].

Wind Energy in the UK

172. The UK has been estimated as having around 40% of the total wind resource in Europe.

173. In Britain the highest wind speeds and therefore the greatest potential for energy production from wind energy are found mainly along the coastlines and in the upland areas of Scotland, England and Wales. However, with the development of wind turbine models optimised for lower wind resource areas of the world (including the largest wind

[22] 'Operating the system beyond 2020', National Grid Policy Brief, June 2009

[23] *Department of Energy and Climate Change, Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2005-2009.*

[24] *Graham Sinden (2005) "Wind power and the UK wind resource" Environmental Change Institute, Oxford University Centre for the Environment, prepared for the Department of Trade and Industry.*

market in the world, Germany), lower wind speed areas of the UK are now available for commercially viable wind energy development.

174. To date, the vast majority of turbines currently operating in the UK have been built onshore. Currently the UK has 688.40 MW of installed offshore wind energy capacity with a further 1156.80MW capacity under construction. This compares with an installed capacity onshore of 3424.85 MW with a further 557.85 MW under construction onshore[25].

Public Attitudes to Wind farms

175. With the increasing awareness of climate change issues and advances in wind energy technologies over recent years there have been a number of surveys carried out to gauge the public attitude to this progressing technology, dating back to the inception of the UK's first wind farm in 1992. The opinions on wind farms vary significantly with some strongly supporting the developments and others strongly opposing them.

176. The output of these surveys, carried out by, and on behalf of, several different bodies, shows that the overwhelming majority are in support of wind farm development. **Table 2** overleaf summarises some of the results of surveys that have been carried out with relation to public attitudes to wind farm developments. This illustrates the level of support received generally, which when averaged out results in 82% in support and 6% against such developments.

Table 2: Public attitudes to wind farm development since 2000 – survey results

Location	Sponsor/organiser	Date	Support	Against	Undecided
UK	GfK NOP for Dept for Department of Energy & Climate Change[26]	2009	82%	5%	14%
UK	GfK NOP for Dept for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform[27]	2008	80%	7%	13%
UK	British Wind Energy Association	2006	76%		
UK	British Wind Energy Association[28]	2005	79%	10%	11%
UK	Poll by ICM for Greenpeace	2004	79%	8%	13%
Scotland	MORI survey undertaken for Scottish Executive[29]	2003	82%	2%	

[25] http://www.bwea.com/statistics/ *(as of April 2010)*

[26] *Renewable Energy Awareness and Attitudes Research, (REAAR) conducted by GfK NOP between 20-22 and 27-29 March 2009. Sample size - 2,049.*

[27] *REAAR conducted by GfK NOP between 28-30 March and 4-6 April 2008. Sample size - 2,047.*

[28] *BWEA's 'Wind Tracker' , conducted by NOP, 1000 interviews, representative sample.*

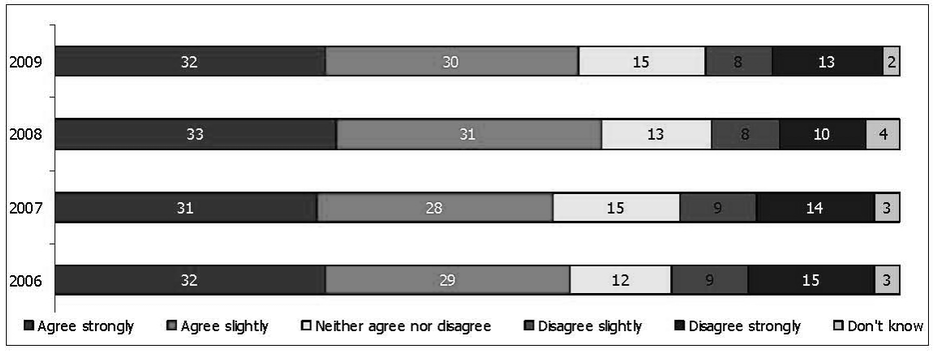
[29] *MORI on behalf of the Scottish Executive, research among people living close to Scotland's operational wind farms. The full report can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/publications*

Pothcawl, Wales	Greenpeace[30]	2003	96%	4%	
UK	Ipsos survey undertaken for British Wind Energy Association (BWEA) [31]	2003	74%	6%	20%
South West	MORI Social Research Institute survey undertaken for SW Renewable Energy Agency[32]	2003	84%	4%	12%
UK	MORI Social Research Institute survey undertaken for Greenpeace	2002	72%	6%	
Breckland, Norfolk	Breckland District Council[33]	2002	90%	9%	
Lambrigg, Cumbria	National Wind Power (NWP)[34]	2002	74%	8%	18%

177. The surveys consistently show a clear majority in favour of wind power with around eight out of ten in all surveys expressing support for their local wind farm.

178. Furthermore, research carried out by GfK NOP on behalf of the Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) indicates that the majority of individuals are happy to live within 5kms (3 miles) of a wind farm. **Figure 1** below shows that over the last four years roughly 6 out of 10 people agreed with the following statement: "I would be happy to live within 5km (3 miles) of a wind power development". Only around 2 in 10 disagreed with this statement.[35]

Figure 1: "I would be happy to live within 5km (3 miles) of a wind power development" (%)



[30] *Conducted by Greenpeace, 650 tourists visiting the towns beaches were interviewed. 96% said they would be just as likely or more likely to return to the resort if the turbines go up. 4% said they would be less likely to return. www.greenpeace.org.uk*

[31] *Ipsos survey amongst 2,624 UK household bill payers between 6th and 19th June 2003. 74% support amoung bill payers for wind energy (www.bwea.com).*

[32] *Public Attitudes Towards Renewable Energy in the South West, conducted by MORI. To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose the use of wind power in the south west of England? 54% Strongly supported; 30% tend to support; 12% neither support nor oppose; 3% tend to oppose; 1% strongly oppose and 1% don't know.*

[33] *Conducted by Breckland District Council 2002 to inform the development of SPG on Wind Energy. Respondents were asked if the Council should support wind energy, 90.85% Yes, 9.15% No.*

[34] *Survey of Residents and visitors to an area near the Lambrigg Wind Farm by National Wind Power.*

[35] *See* http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/planning/perception/perception.aspx *for further details*

179. These survey results are further supported by the popularity of the Ecotech wind turbine at Swaffham. Since September 1999 over 70,000 people have climbed the turbine to the viewing platform at the hub, and approximately 30,000 people now visit each year. The nearby Swaffham II turbine was built in 2003 after the Town Council called for a second turbine.

Site Specific Consultation

180. Prior to the finalisation and submission of the ES, ecotricity carried out consultation with local communities that may be affected by the proposed development. A letter and newsletter was distributed to 3500 homes in the area on the 27 May 2011. The newsletter set out details of community information events which were held on the 6, 7 and 8 June 2011 at local venues (Swineshead, Heckington and South Kyme).

181. Approximately 200 residents attended these events and the feedback from these events in terms of public attitude is set out in **Appendix 3**. A further newsletter addressing the issues raised by residents was distributed to the same 3500 households on the 15 July 2011.

182. A website has also been set up (http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/heckington-fen), which outlines the proposal and shows some of the exhibition information. A dedicated email address has also been established (heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk) which allows the general public to raise any queries with Ecotricity if they were unable to attend the public exhibition or they wish to discuss items further.

183. It has been demonstrated that significant weight should be attached to the material considerations outlined within this section of the statement.

CONCLUSIONS

184. The House of Lords has defined the correct approach to making a planning decision, which is detailed in paragraph 8 of this Planning Statement.

185. The preceding sections of this Planning Statement identify the Development Plan policies and material considerations relevant to the determination of a planning application for the proposed development.

186. As demonstrated throughout this Planning Statement, the development is considered to be fully compliant with the policies contained within the Development Plan. In addition there are other material considerations which fully support the development and provide significant justification for the development being approved.

187. The development is located in an area of landscape which is not designated or nationally protected. Considerable care has been afforded to the design process to avoid unacceptable environmental impacts whilst ensuring that the site can make a meaningful contribution to the UK's requirement for renewable energy generation from a secure, domestic source. The Statement has shown that PPS22 requires that significant weight should be given to the benefits of developments when considering if planning permission should be granted. It is submitted that the wider economic and environmental benefits of the development outweigh the largely localised and reversible landscape effects.

188. In the Environmental Statement, which has been submitted to DECC separately we have identified a range of mitigation measures which we believe can be secured by appropriately worded planning conditions attached to a deemed consent. A schedule of draft conditions which could deliver these mitigation measures is attached at **Appendix 2**.

189. The development will contribute up to 54MW renewable generating capacity to the region and as a result significantly contribute to regional and national renewable energy targets.

190. Taking into consideration all policies and material considerations relevant to the development, it can be concluded that the proposed development is in accordance with the overriding aims and objectives of these policies and as such it is requested that planning permission is granted for the development.

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF EFFECTS ON RESIDENTIAL AMENITY (PROPERTIES WITHIN 1.5KM)

8.1 Where a property falls outside of the 1.5km assessment area but forms part of a group of properties it has been included within this assessment for completeness.

Property Name / Number	Post Code	Dist (m) To Nearest Turbine	Representative viewpoint No.	Front Aspect Of Property	Direction to Wind Park	Description of Predicted Visual Change (during winter months)	Meets Acceptable Noise Limits as Outlined in ETSU-R-97 Guidelines	Shadow Flicker Impacts	Overall Impact on Residential Amenity
1 Council House	PE203QB	1133	2	SSW	N	Properties in this group are aligned with an N-S orientation. The proposed wind park would be visible in its entirety across the open, expansive fenland to the north of the properties. Single mature trees to the rear of 2 Council House and 4 Council House may partially obscure views from upper and lower storeys from these properties – see **Figure 5.11: Photomontage 2.**	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential Shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Major/Moderate significance and is significant in EIA terms.
2 Council House	PE203QB	1132		SSW	N				
3 Council House	PE203QB	1131		SSW	N				
4 Council House	PE203QB	1132		SSW	N				
5 Council House	PE203QB	1134		SSW	N				
6 Council House	PE203QB	1135		SSW	N				
7 Council House	PE203QB	1138		SW	N				
8 Council House	PE203QB	1140		SW	N				
9 Council House	PE203QB	1144		SSW	N				
10 Council House	PE203QB	1145		SSW	N				
11 Council House	PE203QB	1147		SSW	N				
Tarasachi / Chambers House	PE203QB	1146		SSW	N				
The Lodge	PE203QB	1190	2	NNE	N	The properties within this group are aligned to the highway and are enclosed to the north by properties 9-11 Council House, Tarasachi and Chambers House and by Ashleigh House / boundary planting which blocks or heavily filters views towards the application site. the contained by built form and vegetation would restrict visibility of the proposed wind park	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Eastdene	PE203QB	1185		NNE	N				
Evergreen	PE203QB	1189		NNE	N				
Field View	PE203QB	1189		NNE	N				
1 Old Post Office	PE203QB	1179		N	N				
1A	PE203QF	1188		NNE	N				
1B	PE203QF	1193		NNE	N				
2 Old Post Office	PE203QB	1179		N	N				
Ashleigh House	PE203QB	1118		S	N				
The Old Cottage	PE203QB	1194	2	ENE	N	Properties in this building group follow the alignment of the highway, generally with a NE-SW aspect. Potential views of the proposed wind park afforded from those would be heavily filtered / screened by the buildings to the north of the road and their associated boundary planting. Maze Farm overlooks the A17, the proposed wind park would be visible in some views from the building in its entirety seen across the built form / associated planting of East Heckington at a distance of 1.3km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Mons Cottage	PE203QB	1199		ENE	N				
School house	PE203QB	1184		WSW	N				
The Old Church	PE203QB	1157		W	N				
The Wheel	PE203QB	1230		SW	N				
Park View	PE203QB	1233		SW	N				
Maze Farm	PE203QA	1314		NNW	N				
The Coach House	PE203QG	1225	2	SSW	N	Properties within this group are located to the south of the A17. Within this building group properties are situated at right-angles to one another with either a NNW or SSW aspect. Properties with a SSW aspect may experience partial / oblique views of the proposed wind park to the north, though interrupted by intervening roadside and boundary vegetation. Those properties with a NNW aspect are enclosed by vegetation abutting the A17, the effect of this, in addition to further screening by the vegetative screening and built form of East Heckington, is that potential visibility of the proposals would be restricted / heavily filtered.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
1 Farm Hall Cottage	PE203QF	1225		SSW	N				
Parks Farm	PE203QG	1225		SSW	N				
2 Hall Farm Cottage	PE203QG	1224		SSW	N				
3 Hall Farm Cottage	PE203QG	1224		NNW	N				
4 Hall Farm Cottage	PE203QG	1224		NNW	N				
1 Parks Farm Cottage	PE203QG	1273		NNW	N				
2 Parks Farm Cottage	PE203QG	1280		NNW	N				

Property Name / Number	Post Code	Dist (m) To Nearest Turbine	Representative viewpoint No.	Front Aspect Of Property	Direction to Wind Park	Description of Predicted Visual Change (during winter months)	Meets Acceptable Noise Limits as Outlined in ETSU-R-97 Guidelines	Shadow Flicker Impacts	Overall Impact on Residential Amenity
Elm Grange	PE20 3QF	1200	2	SSW	NE	Extending westwards along the A17, the properties in this group have a varied orientation, though generally aligned N-S in relation to the A17. Those buildings to the north of the road are contained by robust boundary vegetation and in the case of both the Elm Grange complex and Home Farm / The Laurels by extensive, large agricultural / commercial outbuildings. In these cases, residential properties may experience views of the upper portions of turbines at a distance of approximately 1km though filtered by the aforementioned screening. Properties south of the A17, specifically; Drifters Cottage, Fern Cottage, The Heathers, The Cottage and Rainbow Cottage / Rose Cottage, Blacksmiths Cottage are likely to be screened by properties within the group to the north of the A17, and their associated built development / vegetation. These properties are likely to experience intermittent views of turbines from lower storeys and from upper storeys primarily of upper portions of the proposed development.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Major/Moderate significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Blacksmiths Cottage	PE203QF	1098		S	NE				
Drifters Cottage	PE203QF	1216		NNE	NE				
Fern Cottage	PE203QF	1218		ESE	NE				
Rose Cottage	PE203QF	1153		S	NE				
The Laurels	PE203QG	995		W	NE				
The Heathers	PE203QF	1184		W	NE				
Elm Grange	PE203QF	1200		SSW	NE				
Home Farm	PE203QF	995		W	NE				
Poplars Farm	PE203QF	1429		E	NE				
The Cottage	PE203QF	1184		W	NE				
Rainbow Cottage	PE203QF	1158		SSW	NE				
Beech House	PE203QF	1031	2	S	NE	The nucleus of properties consisting of Oatsheaf Cottage, Rectory Farm House, The Oatsheaf and Rosena run adjacent to the A17. Rectory House is a 3 storey property to the north of the road. The property has low, dense boundary vegetation to the rear, beyond which is a cluster of medium / large scale agricultural outbuildings. Visibility toward the application site from rear rooms in the upper storeys of the property would be uninterrupted at a distance of approximately 1km; views from ground floor rooms may only be of upper portions of the turbines due to intervening screening by built form and vegetation. Similarly, Oatsheaf Cottage would have uninterrupted views from upper storey rooms at the rear of the property, views from ground floor rooms would be filtered by boundary vegetation. The Oatsheaf has a NNE-SSW orientation, the front of the property overlooking the A17, views towards the proposed wind park would be heavily filtered by the built form / vegetation of Rectory House and Oatsheaf Cottage. Rosena is situated to the south of the A17, but with open views to the NE. Views of the proposed wind park would be uninterrupted from the front / main ground floor rooms of this property – **Figure 5.11: Photomontage 2.**	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Major/Moderate significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Oatsheaf Cottage	PE203QF	1083		SSW	NNE				
Rectory Farm House	PE203QF	1071		SSW	NNE				
Rosena	PE203QF	1124		SSW	NNE				
Rectory Cottages	PE203QF	1131		SW	NNE				
The Oatsheaf	PE203QF	1109		NNE	NNE				All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Six Hundred Farm House	PE203QQ	1240	2	S	NNW	Six Hundred Farm House has low, dense boundary planting which may preclude views of the complete elevation of the turbines from ground floor rooms at the rear of the residence. Views from upper storeys of Six Hundred Farm are likely to be uninterrupted, and of the wind park in its entirety. The Rakes is set back from the A17 to the north. The property is partially enclosed by mature tree planting to the west and north and to the east by agricultural / commercial buildings / built form. As a result, interrupted views of the proposed wind park would be possible through and beyond the screening to the rear of the property at a distance of 1.1km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Major/Moderate significance and is significant in EIA terms.
The Rakes	PE203PZ	1128		S	NNW				All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.

Property Name / Number	Post Code	Dist (m) To Nearest Turbine	Representative viewpoint No.	Front Aspect Of Property	Direction to Wind Park	Description of Predicted Visual Change (during winter months)	Meets Acceptable Noise Limits as Outlined in ETSU-R-97 Guidelines	Shadow Flicker Impacts	Overall Impact on Residential Amenity
Swineshead House	PE203PZ	1380	2	SSW	NNW	Properties within this group are situated adjacent to the A17 aligned to the highway, generally along a WNW-ESE axis. Of those properties which abut the highway to the south; Carpenters Cottage is enclosed by significant hedgerow / mature tree planting, any views of the proposed wind park would be heavily filtered by the screening and oblique to the property. West Cottage has limited boundary screening; however the mature tree / hedgerow boundary planting of Swineshead House on the northern edge of the road provides robust screening to potential oblique views of the proposed wind park. East Cottage adjoins West cottage, the main aspect of the house faces away from the proposed development, ESE, views from rooms overlooking the A17 may have partial views of the application site – thought to a large extent screened by built form and boundary planting of Swineshead House meaning only upper portions of the wind park (or parts of) may be visible.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
West Cottage	PE203PZ	1495		WNW	NNW				
Carpenters Cottage	PE203QA	1338		ESE	NNW				
Swineshead House	PE203PZ	1407		ESE	NNW				
East Cottage	PE203PZ	1495		ESE	NNW				
Derwent Cottage	NG349LY	1198	3	W	ENE	Properties in this group run adjacent to the east of Side Bar Lane. The properties share a general E-W alignment. First Cottage is located at the southern end of the group. The rear of the property is enclosed by a mixture of tree planting which would filter potential views of the proposed wind park. 1 The Bungalow is a single storey dwelling with robust conifer screening to the rear of the property; it is likely that views of the proposals would be restricted to upper portions of the turbines at a distance of approximately 1.2km. Properties 2 and 3 The Bungalow (single storey), Derwent Cottage and 1-4 New Cottage share an open prospect to the rear of the properties as such the proposed wind park would be visible in its entirety – see Figure 5.11: Photomontage 3.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Major/Moderate significance and is significant in EIA terms.
First Cottage	NG349LY	1261		W	ENE				All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
1 The Bungalow	NG349LY	1247		WSW	ENE				
2 The Bungalow	NG349LY	1233		WSW	ENE				All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
3 The Bungalow	NG349LY	1218		WSW	ENE				
1 New Cottage	NG349LY	1133		WSW	ENE				
2 New Cottage	NG349LY	1130		WSW	ENE				
3 New Cottage	NG349LY	1126		WSW	ENE				
4 New Cottage	NG349LY	1125		WSW	ENE				
Broad Green / Paws a While	NG349LY	1226	3	ENE	ENE	Broad Green (single storey) overlooks the B1395 Side Bar Lane with an ENE-WSW alignment. The property has a small degree of low-canopy ornamental tree planting outside its front which may filter / fragment views of the proposed wind park, which, given the nature of the low lying topography would be visible in its entirety. Fen Farm is aligned to the highway N-S, views from the front and rear of the property would be at right angles, and to the rear of the property to some extent filtered by boundary planting.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Fen Farm	NG349LY	1190	3	N	ENE				
Chapel House	NG349LY	1214	3	NNW	E	Aligned to the adjacent highway, NNE-SSW, views of the proposed wind park (or parts of) from the front of the property would be oblique to the building and are in part obscured by the chapel building and vegetation to the immediate north. Visibility of the proposals from rooms at the back of the property may be partially screened filtered by boundary / roadside planting, with upper portions of turbines visible from ground level rooms – see **Figure 5.11: Photomontage 3.**	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.

Property Name / Number	Post Code	Dist (m) To Nearest Turbine	Representative viewpoint No.	Front Aspect Of Property	Direction to Wind Park	Description of Predicted Visual Change (during winter months)	Meets Acceptable Noise Limits as Outlined in ETSU-R-97 Guidelines	Shadow Flicker Impacts	Overall Impact on Residential Amenity
Glebe Farm	NG349LZ	1222	3	NNE	E	The property is aligned with the B1395 / Side Bar Lane NNE-SSW. The residence is enclosed by agricultural buildings immediately to the north and mature tree planting / hedgerow to the east and south. Views of the proposed wind park would be oblique to the main aspects of the property, and from ground-level rooms likely to be more filtered / screened than top floor rooms. The wind park may be visible in its entirety from some views from the property, seen beyond built form / boundary planting at a distance of 1.2km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
The Bungalow	NG349LY	1145	3	ENE	E	The main aspect of the property faces ENE; the proposed wind park would be visible in some views from the building in its entirety seen across the B1395 / Side Bar Lane within the open fen landscape.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Five Willow Wath Farm	NG349LZ	1115	3	SSE	ESE	Single storey property located to the north of Head Dike. Partially enclosed to the north and south by mature trees and conifer hedgerow and to the west by large-agricultural / commercial buildings. The property is more open SSE, though individual ornamental tree planting would fragment / filter views of the proposed wind park which would be oblique to the property at a distance of over 1km. .	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
91	LN44AH	1589		W	SE	The properties within this building group are aligned with the highway, with an E-W orientation. Properties 93 and 94 have an open aspect to the rear, though views of the proposed wind park would be slightly oblique. Properties 92 and 93 have some individual tree planting along boundaries to the rear which may partially filter / fragment such views.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
92	LN44AH	1587		W	SE				
93	LN44AH	1565		W	SE				
94	LN44AH	1562		W	SE				
Mill Green Farm	LN44AJ	1035	1	S	S	Situated to the north of the application site. The main aspect of the property faces south with full views of the wind park in its entirety from the front of the house at a distance of over 1km. – see Figure 5.11: Photomontage 1.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Last Bungalow	PE203RW	1619		NE	SW	Two single storey properties adjacent to the highway. Views of the proposed wind park are likely to be oblique though uninterrupted, given the low-lying landform, and at a distance of 1.6km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
The Bungalow	PE203RW	1610		NE	SW				
Loxley Farm House	PE203RW	1812		NW	SW	The property is for the most part enclosed on all sides by mature hedgerow / built form. Gaps in the vegetation, where they occur, are to the SW. The front / main room aspect is NW, meaning potential views from the property would be oblique, with boundary planting heavily filtering / screening large portions of the proposed wind park (or parts of) over a distance of 1.8km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
1 Church Cottage	PE203RW	1276	1	E	SW	Two properties set back from Maryland Drove, aligned broadly E-W. Enclosed to the north and east but with a more open prospect to the west and south-west. Views of the proposed wind park would be slightly oblique and uninterrupted at a distance of 1.2km	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
2 Church Cottage	PE203RW	1279		E	SW				
The Old Church / St. John the Baptist Church	PE203RW	1313	1	W	SW	The orientation of the property is NW-SE, more open to the south-west. In winter there are likely to be uninterrupted views towards the proposed development over a distance of approximately 1.3km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.

Property Name / Number	Post Code	Dist (m) To Nearest Turbine	Representative viewpoint No.	Front Aspect Of Property	Direction to Wind Park	Description of Predicted Visual Change (during winter months)	Meets Acceptable Noise Limits as Outlined in ETSU-R-97 Guidelines	Shadow Flicker Impacts	Overall Impact on Residential Amenity
Unidentified House	PE203RW	1319	1	SSE	SW	The unidentified property (PE203RW) is situated to the west of, and aligned with the highway. Enclosed to the east by robust roadside / boundary planting the building has a more open aspect to the west / south west. The orientation of the property means that views of the proposed wind park would be oblique from front / main rooms and at a distance of 1.3km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
3	PE203RW	1319	1	NE	SW	Enclosed to the west by a shelter belt of tall, mature trees and to the south by an assortment of built form. These two properties may experience views from the rear of the property only of the blades / rotor of the propose wind park above / through the tree tops at a distance of 1.3km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
4	PE203RW	1320		NE	SW				
2	PE203RW	1327	1	NE	SW	Situated directly to the SE of 3 / 4. The properties are similarly aligned NE-SW, but are more open to the rear. The proposed wind park would be visible in its entirety from rooms to the rear of the property at a distance of 1.3km	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
1	PE203RW	1328		NE	SW				
Mobseye Farm	PE203RS	1549	1	NW	SW	Located between Sutterton Drove and Maryland Bank / Claydike Bank. The property is enclosed to the north by agricultural buildings and west by a row of mature Lombardy Poplars. The proposed wind park may be visible from some rear rooms of the property at an oblique / right angle, though for the most part screened / heavily filtered by the row of poplars.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Spinney Farm House	PE203RN	1532	1	SSE	W	Spinney Farm House is enclosed on all sides by vegetation and a drainage mill, beyond which and to the west are large agricultural buildings. Views of the proposed wind park are likely to be heavily screened / filtered by the intervening screening and oblique / at right angles from front / main rooms of the property.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Spinney Farm	PE203RN	1497	1	NE	W	Properties to the north of Spinney Farm House with a NE aspect. To the rear of the properties are several large agricultural buildings which would restrict views of the proposed wind park to the upper portions of turbines (rotors / blades from upper storey rooms.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate/Minor significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
Millbrook Cottage	PE203RN	1612	1	ENE	W	Situated adjacent to Claydike Bank with an ENE-WSW orientation. Oblique, uninterrupted views of the proposed wind park may be available from some rooms to the rear of the property over a distance of approximately 1.6km.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual change which has been determined as having a Moderate significance and is not significant in EIA terms.
College Cottage	PE203PX	1220	1	N	NW	Two properties aligned to The Rakes with an N-S orientation. Both properties are screened to the west by boundary planting along The Rakes. Given the alignment and situation of the properties, and intervening vegetation, views of the proposed wind park would be slightly oblique and partially filtered / fragmented over a distance of approximately 1.3km to the nearest turbine.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Cattle Holme Farm	PE203PX	1322		*N-S	NW				
College Farm	PE203PX	1069	1	E	NW	Properties within this group lie adjacent to The Rakes, with an E-W orientation. Uninterrupted, though oblique views would be available from some rooms to the rear / north of the properties at a distance of approximately 1km from the nearest turbine across the open, flat fen landscape.	yes	None	All the properties comply with ETSU noise limits and are outside of the extent of potential shadow flicker Zone. The only impact considered is the visual effect which has been determined as having a Moderate/Major significance and is significant in EIA terms.
Catlins Farm	PE203PX	1087		E	NW				
The Bungalow	PE203PX	1114	1	E	NW				
The Cottage	PE203PX	1233		E	NW				

APPENDIX 2: SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PLANNING CONDITIONS

8.1 The following conditions have been proposed to meet the requests of statutory bodies consulted as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and in accordance with best practice.

PROPOSED CONDITION WORDING

General

Condition 1. The development shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of this permission.

Condition 2. Before the development hereby commences, a scheme for the lighting of the proposed development shall be submitted and agreed in writing to the Local Planning Authority. The proposal shall be implemented in accordance with the approved scheme.

Condition 3. Prior to the commencement of development a construction method statement shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority in writing and thereafter the construction of the development shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved statement. The construction method statement shall include measures to secure:

(a) The formation of the construction compound

(b) The construction of the crane pads

(c) The carrying out of the foundation works

(d) The measures taken to avoid any damage to any on-site archeological remains that are to remain in-situ

(e) Dust management

(f) Cleaning of site entrances, site tracks and the adjacent public highway

(g) Pollution control: protection of water courses and ground water by bunding of fuel storage areas, the siting and provision of any temporary toilets and containment of concrete foundations

(h) Temporary site illumination (if required)

(i) Details of the methods to be adopted to reduce the effects of noise occurring during the construction period to the lowest practicable level and in accordance with BS5228.

(j) Disposal of surplus materials.

Landscape and Visual

Condition 4. Prior to development a scheme detailing a Landscape Mitigation Plan will be submitted and approved to the local planning authority. Prior to the commencement of the development the plan shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details.

Definition for the purpose of condition 3

"Landscape Mitigation Plan" is a scheme of planting to include the amount, location and type of vegetation to reduce the visibility of the turbines to adjacent residential properties.

Archeology

Condition 5. No development shall take place within the area indicated on the approved plan until the applicant has secured the maintenance of an onsite watching brief by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist during construction work in accordance with a written detail which has been submitted to and approved by the planning authority.

*E*cology

Condition 6. Prior to commencement of the development an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to ensure best environmental working practice, implementation of mitigation measures and to minimise the potentially adverse effects of construction activity and in addition will include details of an EMP shall be submitted and approved by the local planning authority. The details of the approved scheme shall be implemented prior to any turbine becoming operational.

Hydrology

Condition 7. No development shall take place until a method statement including details for the prevention of surface pollution and surface run-off and an incident plan outlining actions in the event of accidental pollution shall be submitted and approved by the local planning authority in consultation with the Environment Agency.

Noise

Condition 8. The rating level of noise immissions from the combined effects of the wind turbine, (including the application of any tonal penalty) when determined in accordance with the attached Guidance Notes, shall not exceed the values for the relevant integer wind speed set out in the tables attached to these conditions and:

A. Prior to the First Export Date the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval a list of proposed independent consultants who may undertake compliance measurements in accordance with this condition. Amendments to the list of approved consultants shall be made only with the prior written approval of the Local Planning Authority

B. Within 21 days from receipt of a written request of the Local Planning Authority, following a complaint to it alleging noise disturbance at a dwelling, the wind farm operator shall, at its expense, employ a consultant approved by the Local Planning Authority, to assess the level of noise immissions from the wind farm at the complainant's property in accordance with the procedures described in the attached Guidance Notes. The written request from the Local Planning Authority shall set out at least the date, time and location that the complaint relates to. Within 14 days of receipt of the written request of the Local Planning Authority made under this paragraph (B), the wind farm operator shall provide the information relevant to

the complaint logged in accordance with paragraph (H) to the Local Planning Authority in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e).

C. Where a dwelling to which a complaint is related is not listed in the tables attached to these conditions, the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval proposed noise limits selected from those listed in the Tables to be adopted at the complainant's dwelling for compliance checking purposes. The proposed noise limits are to be those limits selected from the Tables specified for a listed location which the independent consultant considers as being likely to experience the most similar background noise environment to that experienced at the complainant's dwelling. The submission of the proposed noise limits to the Local Planning Authority shall include a written justification of the choice of the representative background noise environment provided by the independent consultant. The representative background noise environment and proposed noise limits shall be submitted for approval in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The rating level of noise immissions resulting from the combined effects of the wind turbines when determined in accordance with the attached Guidance Notes shall not exceed the noise limits approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority for the complainant's dwelling.

D. Prior to the commencement of any measurements by the independent consultant to be undertaken in accordance with these conditions, the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval the proposed measurement location identified in accordance with the Guidance Notes where measurements for compliance checking purposes shall be undertaken. Measurements to assess compliance with the noise limits set out in the Tables attached to these conditions or approved by the Local Planning Authority pursuant to paragraph (C) of this condition shall be undertaken at the measurement location approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

E. Prior to the submission of the independent consultant's assessment of the rating level of noise immissions in accordance with paragraph (F), the wind farm operator shall submit to the Local Planning Authority for written approval a proposed assessment protocol setting out the following:

(i) the range of meteorological and operational conditions (which shall include the range of wind speeds, wind directions, power generation and times of day) to determine the assessment of rating level of noise immissions; and

(ii) a reasoned assessment as to whether the noise giving rise to the complaint contains or is likely to contain a tonal component

The proposed range of conditions shall be those which prevailed during times when the complainant alleges there was disturbance due to noise, having regard to the written request of the Local Planning Authority under paragraph (B), and such others as the independent consultant considers likely to result in a breach of the noise limits. The assessment of the rating level of noise immissions shall be undertaken in accordance with the assessment protocol approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

F. The wind farm operator shall provide to the Local Planning Authority the independent consultant's assessment of the rating level of noise immissions undertaken in accordance with the Guidance Notes within 2 months of the date of the written request of the Local Planning Authority made under paragraph (B) unless the time limit is extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The assessment shall include all data collected for the purposes of undertaking the compliance measurements, such data to be provided in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) of the Guidance Notes. The instrumentation used to undertake the measurements shall be calibrated in accordance with Guidance Note 1(a) and certificates of calibration shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority with the independent consultant's assessment of the rating level of noise immissions.

G. Where a further assessment of the rating level of noise immissions from the wind farm is required pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of the attached Guidance Notes, the wind farm operator shall submit a copy of the further assessment within 21 days of submission of the independent consultant's assessment pursuant to paragraph (F) above unless the time limit has been extended in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

H. The wind farm operator shall continuously log wind speed, wind direction and rainfall data at the permanent meteorological monitoring mast erected in accordance with this consent, and shall continuously log power production, nacelle wind speed, nacelle wind direction and nacelle orientation at each wind turbine all in accordance with Guidance Note 1(d). These data shall be retained for the life of the planning permission. The wind farm operator shall provide this information in the format set out in Guidance Note 1(e) to the Local Planning Authority on its request, within 14 days of receipt in writing of such a request.

Additional note

8.2 For the purposes of this condition, a "dwelling" is a building within Use Class C3 of the Use Classes Order which lawfully exists or had planning permission at the date of this consent

Table 1 - Between 07:00 and 23:00 - Noise level dB $L_{A90,\ 10\text{-minute}}$

Location	Standardised wind speed at 10 meter height (m/s) within the site averaged over 10-minute periods											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Table 2 - Between 23:00 and 07:00 - Noise level dB $L_{A90,\ 10\text{-minute}}$

Location	Standardised wind speed at 10 meter height (m/s) within the site averaged over 10-minute periods											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Table 3: Coordinate locations of the properties listed in Tables 1 and 2.

Property	Easting	Northing

Note to Table 3: The geographical coordinates references are provided for the purpose of identifying the general location of dwellings to which a given set of noise limits applies

Access Roads and Transport

Condition 9. No development shall take place until a scheme for the construction and traffic management of the new proposed access point will be completed in accordance with the current highways guidance is submitted to, and approved by, the local planning authority.

Condition 10. Before the development commences, details of the routing of construction traffic shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. During the period of construction, all traffic to and from the site shall use the agreed route at all times unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Aviation - NATS

Condition 11. No turbine shall be erected until a Statement of Common Understanding has been agreed with NATS and submitted to the Council.

Condition 12. No turbine shall be erected until a primary radar mitigation scheme has been completed in accordance with the statement of common understanding and submitted to and approved in writing by the council following consultation with the operator

Condition 13. No turbine blade shall be fitted until the approved primary radar mitigation scheme has been fully implemented and the development shall thereafter be operated fully in accordance with such approved scheme.

Definitions: for the purpose of conditions 10 and 11 above:

Operator means NATS(En route) plc incorporated under the companies act (4129273) whose registered office is 5th Floor, Brettenham house south, Lancaster place, London, WC2E 7EN or such other organisation licensed from time to time under sections 5 and 6 of the Transport Act 2000 to provide air traffic services to the relevant managed area (within the meaning of section 40 of that Act)

"Primary Radar Mitigation Scheme" or "scheme" means a detailed scheme agreed with the Operator which sets out the measures to be taken to mitigate at all times the impact of the development on the Claxby primary radar and air traffic management operations of the Operator, such to reflect the requirements of the submitted statement of common understanding.

"Statement of Common Understanding" means the document agreed with the Operator and submitted to the council described as a "statement of Common understanding relating to the development of a radar mitigation scheme which sets out the high level requirements of the primary radar mitigation scheme and the principles which will govern the development and agreement of such a scheme.

Aviation – MoD

Condition 14. No development shall commence unless and until the Authority has approved the Scheme in writing. Before approving the Scheme the Authority shall consult the MOD as to the Schemes suitability and shall take into consideration the MOD's views as to whether the scheme adequately addresses the MoD's concerns regarding the impact of the development upon air safety.

Condition 15. No turbines shall become operational unless and until all measures required by that time in accordance with the Scheme have been carried out to the satisfaction of the Authority and before authorising the operation of the turbines, the Authority shall consult with the MOD. In the event that the Authority authorises the operation of the turbines, the developer shall thereafter comply with all the other relevant provisions made in the Scheme.

Definitions for the purpose of condition 13 and 14 above.

RADAR Mitigation Scheme ("the scheme") means a scheme proposed by Ecotricity ("the developer") whose purpose will be to mitigate the impact of the development upon the operations of the Air Traffic Control Radars at RAF Coningsby, RAF Cranwell, RAF Wadington. The scheme will set out the appropriate measure to be implemented to that end and will be submitted to, and approved by, North Kesteven District Council ("the Authority") in consultation with the MoD.

NOTES ON CONDITIONS

Guidance Notes for Condition 7 - Noise

8.3 These notes are to be read with and form part of the noise condition. They further explain the condition and specify the methods to be deployed in the assessment of complaints about noise immissions from the wind farm. The rating level at each integer wind speed is the arithmetic sum of the wind farm noise level as determined from the best-fit curve described in Note 2 of these Guidance Notes and any tonal penalty applied in accordance with Note 3. Reference to ETSU-R-97 refers to the publication entitled "The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms" (1997)

published by the Energy Technology Support unit (ETSU) for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Note 1

(a) Values of the LA90,10-minute noise statistic should be measured at the complainant's property, using a sound level meter of EN 60651/BS EN 60804 Type 1, or BS EN 61672 Class 1 quality (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements) set to measure using the fast time weighted response as specified in BS EN 60651/BS EN 60804 or BS EN 61672-1 (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements). This should be calibrated in accordance with the procedure specified in BS 4142: 1997 (or the equivalent UK adopted standard in force at the time of the measurements). Measurements shall be undertaken in such a manner to enable a tonal penalty to be applied in accordance with Guidance Note 3.

(b) The microphone should be mounted at 1.2 - 1.5 metres above ground level, fitted with a two-layer windshield or suitable equivalent approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and placed outside the complainant's dwelling. Measurements should be made in "free field" conditions. To achieve this, the microphone should be placed at least 3.5 metres away from the building facade or any reflecting surface except the ground at the approved measurement location. In the event that the consent of the complainant for access to his or her property to undertake compliance measurements is withheld, the wind farm operator shall submit for the written approval of the Local Planning Authority details of the proposed alternative representative measurement location prior to the commencement of measurements and the measurements shall be undertaken at the approved alternative representative measurement location.

(c) The $L_{A90,10\text{-minute}}$ measurements should be synchronised with measurements of the 10-minute arithmetic average wind speed and with operational data logged in accordance with Guidance Note 1(d), including the power generation data from the turbine control systems of the wind farm.

(d) To enable compliance with the conditions to be evaluated, the wind farm operator shall continuously log arithmetic mean wind speed in metres per second (m/s), arithmetic mean wind direction in degrees from north and rainfall data in each successive 10-minute periods by direct measurement at the permanent meteorological monitoring mast erected in accordance with the planning permission on the wind farm site. The mean wind speed data shall be 'standardised' to a reference height of 10 metres as described in ETSU-R-97 at page 120 using a reference roughness length of 0.05 metres. It is this standardised 10 metre height wind speed data which is correlated with the noise measurements determined as valid in accordance with Note 2(b), such correlation to be undertaken in the manner described in Note 2(c). The wind farm operator shall continuously log arithmetic mean nacelle anemometer wind speed, arithmetic mean nacelle orientation, arithmetic mean wind direction as measured at the nacelle and arithmetic mean power generated during each successive 10-minutes period for each wind turbine on the wind farm. All 10-minute periods shall commence on the hour and in 10-minute increments thereafter synchronised with Greenwich Mean Time.

(e) Data provided to the Local Planning Authority in accordance with paragraphs (F) (G) and (H) of the noise condition shall be provided in comma separated values in electronic format.

Note 2

(a) The noise measurements should be made so as to provide not less than 20 valid data points as defined in Note 2 paragraph (b).

(b) Valid data points are those measured in the conditions set out in the assessment protocol approved by the Local Planning Authority under paragraph (E) of the noise condition but excluding any periods of rainfall measured at the permanent meteorological mast erected in accordance with the planning permission on the wind farm site.

(c) Values of the $L_{A90,10\text{-minute}}$ noise measurements and corresponding values of the 10-minute ten metre height wind speed for those data points considered valid in accordance with Note 2 paragraph (b) shall be plotted on an XY chart with noise level on the Y-axis and wind speed on the X-axis. A least squares, "best fit" curve of an order deemed appropriate by the independent consultant (but which may not be higher than a fourth order) should be fitted to the data points and define the wind farm noise level at each integer speed.

Note 3

(a) Where in accordance with the approved assessment protocol under paragraph (E) of the noise condition, noise immissions at the location or locations where compliance measurements are being undertaken contain or are likely to contain a tonal component, a tonal penalty is to be calculated and applied using the following rating procedure.

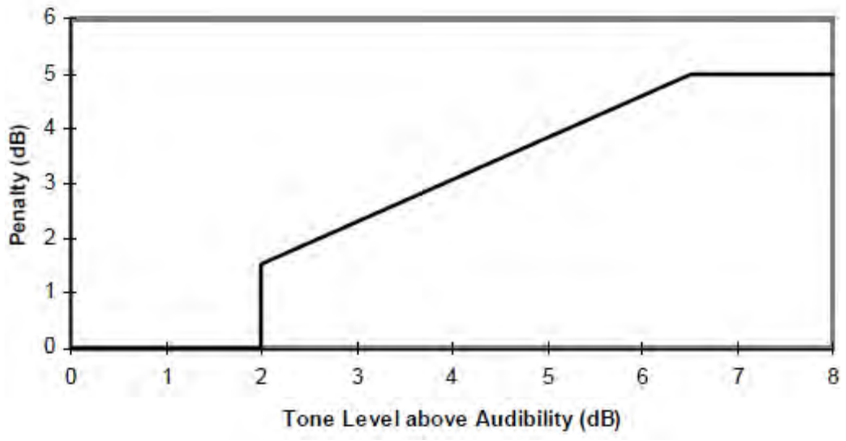
(b) For each 10-minute interval for which $L_{A90,10\text{-minute}}$ data have been determined as valid in accordance with Note 2 a tonal assessment shall be performed on noise immissions during 2 minutes of each 10-minute period. The 2-minute periods should be spaced at 10-minute intervals provided that uninterrupted uncorrupted data are available ("the standard procedure"). Where uncorrupted data are not available, the first available uninterrupted clean 2-minute period out of the affected overall 10-minute period shall be selected. Any such deviations from standard procedure shall be reported.

(c) For each of the 2-minute samples the tone level above audibility, shall be calculated by comparison with the audibility criterion given in Section 2.1 on pages 104 -109 of ETSU-R-97.

(d) The tone level above audibility shall be plotted against wind speed for each of the 2-minute samples. Samples for which the tones were below the audibility criterion or no tone was identified, a value of zero audibility shall be substituted.

(e) A least squares "best fit" linear regression shall then be performed to establish the average tone level above audibility for each integer wind speed derived from the value of the "best fit" line fitted to values within ± 0.5m/s of each integer wind speed. If there is no apparent trend with wind speed then a simple arithmetic mean shall be used. This process shall be repeated for each integer wind speed for which there is an assessment of overall levels in Note 2.

(f) The tonal penalty is derived from the margin above audibility of the tone according to the figure below.



Note 4

(a) If a tonal penalty is to be applied in accordance with Note 3 the rating level of the turbine noise at each wind speed is the arithmetic sum of the measured noise level as determined from the best fit curve described in Note 2 and the penalty for tonal noise as derived in accordance with Note 3 above at each integer wind speed within the range set out in the approved assessment protocol under paragraph (E) of the noise condition.

(b) If no tonal penalty is to be applied then the rating level of the turbine noise at each wind speed is equal to the measured noise level as determined from the best fit curve described in Note 2.

(c) In the event that the rating level is above the limit(s) set out in the Tables attached to the noise conditions or the noise limits for a complainant's dwelling approved in accordance with paragraph (C) of the noise condition, the independent consultant shall undertake a further assessment of the rating level to correct for background noise so that the rating level relates to wind turbine noise immission only.

(d) The wind farm operator shall ensure that all the wind turbines in the development are turned off for such period as the independent consultant or local planning authority requires to undertake the further assessment. The further assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with the following steps:

i. Repeating the steps in Note 2, with the wind farm switched off, and determining the background noise (L_3) at each integer wind speed within the range set out in the approved assessment protocol under paragraph (E) of the noise condition.

ii. The wind farm noise (L_1) at this speed shall then be calculated as follows where L_2 is the measured level with turbines running but without the addition of any tonal penalty:

$$L_1 = 10\log\left[10^{L_2/10} - 10^{L_3/10}\right]$$

iii. The rating level shall be re-calculated by adding the tonal penalty (if any is applied in accordance with Note 3) to the derived wind farm noise L_1 at that integer wind speed.

iv. If the rating level after adjustment for background noise contribution and adjustment for tonal penalty (if required in accordance with note (iii) above) at any integer wind speed lies at or below the values set out in the Tables attached to the conditions or at or below the noise limits approved by the Local Planning Authority for a complainant's dwelling in accordance with paragraph (C) of the noise condition then no further action is necessary. If the rating level at any integer wind speed exceeds the values set out in the Tables attached to the conditions or the noise limits approved by the Local Planning Authority for a complainant's dwelling in accordance with paragraph (C) of the noise condition then the development fails to comply with the conditions.

APPENDIX 3: SITE SPECIFIC CONSULTATION

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COMMUNITY STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF

HECKINGTON FEN

AS @ 15 JULY 2011

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Contents

Appendices

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1 Objectives

The situation

Ecotricity announced to the local Lincolnshire communities that it was considering the potential of Heckington Fen as a wind park back in 2009.

Since 2009, we have been working through the EIA issues (ecology, landscape, archaeology, noise). Noise monitoring equipment has been put on houses in the area and a 70m mast erected to judge the potential of the site.

Until May 2011, interaction with the community had been limited to updating various discussion groups.

Objectives

Ecotricity appointed Kinetic Communications[1] to articulate and present the case for a wind park on Heckington Fen and to gain empirical measure of the community's sentiment either for or against our proposal.

From the outset, it was clear that the community was concerned about:-

- the wind park's potential impact on rural life
- number of windmills (perceived as 50 to 60 although 22)
- permanent damage to the environment
- noise pollution/unexpected acoustic properties of the fens
- health issues/damage to health
- urbanising the agricultural landscape
- threat to Ministry of Defence presence in the county/radar clutter
- the commonly-held myths of wind parks - property prices, noise, productivity.

The following statement evidences out how we addressed those issues.

Notes

1 Kinetic Communications Ltd was established in 2004. Team members belong to the CIPR (Chartered Institute of Public Relations). The consultancy is part of the PRCA which means it upholds the Consultancy Management Standard (internationally-recognised standard which is equivalent to ISO 9001 and Investors in People).

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2 Plan

2.1 Messages 'gluing' campaign together

The whole team (planning, development, construction and PR departments at Ecotricity and Kinetic) agreed a set of messages which would govern every channel of communication: website, discussion groups, media relations, exhibition boards, newsletter etc.

The overall objective was to project a transparent and authentic organisation trying its best deliver a greener energy-generation future for Britain. Showing we understand that it has an impact on their landscape and that their opinions count pre-submission to DECC.

Please refer to Appendix B - background briefing note.

2.2 Face-to-face interaction with the community

South Kyme Festival - Sunday 1 May, 2011
We had a stand at the South Kyme Festival. We made a voluntary donation to support the hall.

Consultation events/open days
We held three open days:

- Heckington Village Hall - Monday 6 June, 3.30pm to 8.30pm
- Swineshead Village Hall - Tuesday 7 June, 3.30pm to 8.30pm
- South Kyme's Coronation Hall - Wednesday 8 June, 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

2.3 Promoting awareness of events

These were publicised using a media mix:

- 3,500 newsletters were sent to local residents and also shared on wind-farms.org.uk. Please refer to Appendix C - pre events newsletter.
- Advertisements were placed in both local media (Sleaford Standard (1 Jun) and Sleaford Target (1 June)) and local parish magazines (Heckington Village News (June/July issue), The Tower (South Kyme - May/June issue), Swineshead Life (June/July issue).
- Details were also publicised in editorial in the Lincolnshire Echo (21 May), Sleaford Standard (25 May), Lincolnshire Echo (2 June). We also had coverage on BBC Radio Lincolnshire and ITV Central Tonight on 7 June. Please refer to Appendix A - media coverage.

2.4 Post-event activity

For those unable to make any of the open days some of the exhibition material was available to view at The Source, Riverside Centre.

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2.5 Promoting the outcome of the events

Editors were invited to attend the events and a follow up release was sent out to all local media - press, broadcast, digital.

Please refer to Appendix D - post-events media release.

2.6 Post-events newsletter

Please refer to Appendix F - post events newsletter.

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3 Results

3.1 Empirical evidence

Ecotricity sent out 3,500 invitation letters to three open days. In total 192 residents attended the events. We asked all attendees to complete a comments form (see below) and received a total of 128 responses.

ecotricity **Make your comments count**

We promise not to share your details with any other parties			
Your name:			
Address: (home or organisation - whichever's more local to Heckington Fen)	Post code:		
	Email:		
How much do you favour or object to a wind park on Heckington Fen?			
Score 1 for 'very in favour' Score 3 for 'neither for nor against' Score 5 for 'very much against'	Your score:		
Why?			

How did you find out about this consultation? Eg newsletter, press, other (please state)	Found out about it from:	
Has today ...?		
• made you feel better-informed about the Heckington Fen proposal?	Yes	No
• answered your questions?	Yes	No
• helped you see wind energy as part of Britain's energy future?	Yes	No
Have you ever been up close to a wind park?	Yes	No
Any further comments you may have:		
Send me more information on:		
Keep me informed:	Yes	No

Response form used to collect visitor feedback

The collated results from these forms are seen below:

Consultation	Attendees	Named Responses	Percentage of responses
Heckington	89	67	75%
Swineshead	49	31	63%
South Kyme	54	30	56%
Total	**192**	**128**	**67%**

The response forms asked for resident's name, postal address and email address to verify they were local householders. If the resident's name and either a postal or email address were not included, we discounted the response. In the event, only two responses were rejected on this and any other basis.

We asked residents to score how much they favoured/objected to the wind park. '1' represented 'very in favour', '3' represented 'neither for nor against' and '5' represented 'very much against'. The average score was 3.00 and the aggregates are displayed below:

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Consultation	Score					Average
	1	2	3	4	5	
Heckington	13	6	14	4	20	3.17
Swineshead	14	3	8	1	3	2.15
South Kyme	5	1	6	3	12	3.59
Total	**32**	**10**	**25**	**8**	**35**	**3.00**

(Note: the count of who scored 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 does not include those who scored non-integer values. The average includes all values).

The results of further questions asked are displayed below:

Has today helped you to feel better-informed about the Heckington Fen proposal?

Consultation	Yes	No	Blank
Heckington	47	9	11
Swineshead	25	0	6
South Kyme	16	6	8
Total	**88**	**15**	**25**

Has today answered any questions you had?

Consultation	Yes	No	Blank
Heckington	41	8	18
Swineshead	24	1	6
South Kyme	13	6	11
Total	**78**	**15**	**35**

Has today helped explain wind energy as part of Britain's energy future?

Consultation	Yes	No	Blank
Heckington	34	15	18
Swineshead	23	2	6
South Kyme	10	9	11
Total	**67**	**26**	**35**

Have you ever been up-close to a wind park? (Within ¼ mile ie not just passing in a car). Bearing in mind Bicker Fen is a nearby 13-turbine wind farm.

Consultation	Yes	No	Blank
Heckington	38	17	12
Swineshead	18	7	6
South Kyme	14	9	7
Total	**70**	**33**	**25**

Please keep me informed:

Consultation	Yes	No	Blank
Heckington	37	7	23
Swineshead	19	4	8
South Kyme	20	3	7
Total	**76**	**14**	**38**

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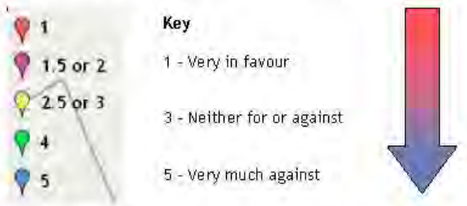
We also received 23 letters of support over the three days. These are displayed by event below:

Heckington	5
Swineshead	9
South Kyme	1
Other (email)	8
Total	**23**

3.2 Maps showing sentiment spread across Heckington Fen locale

The following maps collate how warm or cold neighbours are to the prospect of a wind park on Heckington Fen:



Using Google Maps, we have mapped, by post code, the favourability of the feedback we received. Warm peach for 'very much in favour' to cooler blue for 'much against'.

We obviously have name and address data behind each of these icons which we've promised to protect. Please refer to Appendix E for detailed feedback by postcode.

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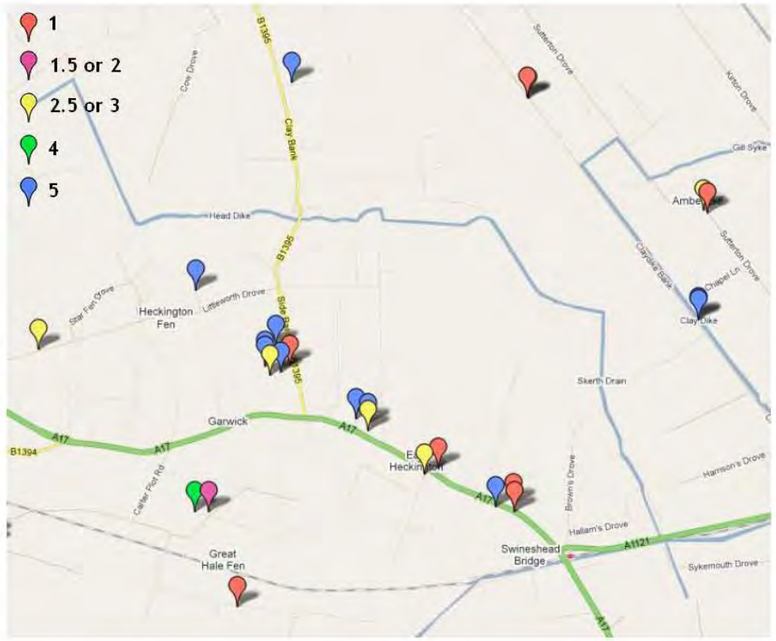
3.2.1 East Heckington



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3.2.2 Heckington village

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3.2.3 Swineshead

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3.2.4 South Kyme

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3.3 Statements from . . .

3.3.1 Campaign for Rural England

CPRE Lincolnshire - met with John Rose on 6 May 2011 and walked through presentation later given to Heckington's Women's Institute.

CPRE is against it for the following reasons:

- Visual impact (a metal forest)
- Colour (CAA guidelines)
- Grade A agricultural land
- Wants more offshore windfarms.

3.3.2 Heckington Women's Institute

Presentation to the Heckington Group on Friday, 6 May 2011 was lively and good-humoured. Several intelligent questions with some in support and putting some myths into context (such as the lady who's camped below a wind turbine and could testify to their quiet/silent operation) contrasted with those 'dead against' such as the lady who would prefer nuclear power.

Ecotricity presents to Heckington WI on 6 May 2011

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3.3.3 Others

Organisation	Contact	Response
Heckington Parish Council	Richard Higgs 01529 460027/ 0778 672 9457 Sandra Scotney 'heckington@n-kesteven.gov.uk'	Set up a meeting but cancelled due to family hospital visit. Left message to try to rearrange. No success.
Heckington Luncheon Club	Mrs Mary Thomas	Prepared to run a session unfortunately we couldn't make it happen in our timeframes.
Heckington Village News	George Bell 01529 300390 heckington.magazine@hotmail.co.uk	He believes people see the need for wind power but they need evidence to address various issues: 'noise', Lincs' big skies, cost-effectiveness, financial payback, 'why Heckington Fen'.
Swineshead Life	Keith/Sue Osborne on 01205 820 588 or swinesheadlife@yahoo.co.uk	Happy to carry editorial in village mag to put both sides of the argument.
The Oak (PH), Heckington	Graham Lowes 01529 460382 http://www.theoakheckington.co.uk/default.html	Cited in the Lincolnshire Echo (by Dan Sharp who said he was 'Mr Angry') saying 'don't bother going to a public consultation, nobody ever listens." We contacted him and listened to his point of view. He believes there are better places than Heckington for wind farms.
Yes2Wind		No representative in Lincs and interested in setting one up if we can find interested people. No further response.
ProWind Alliance	Herbert Eppel Herb@gmxpro.net Graham Jordan 07938 033647	Very interested in spreading their network in an easterly direction. Ecotricity to write to those who submitted letters of support to gauge interest in setting up a Lincs branch of ProWind Alliance
Schools	Mrs Bradley, Kirkey Laythorpe	Would like to support but can't as 'such a hot political potato'. Other schools refused to take/didn't return our calls: Mrs Lesley Tyreman, Heckington St Andrew's Church of England 01529 460 633 Mrs P J Wetton, Helpringham School 01529 421 676
RSPB	mike.jones@rspb.org.uk	Liaison throughout April, May to secure support specific to Heckington Fen but told that they wanted more ecological information and would prefer to give a view in response to DECC's investigations.
RSPB - Wildlife Explorers	Andrew.Chick@gmail.com	Out of his patch. Not interested in running an education session with his children's group.
RICS	Henrietta McCabe Hmccabe@rics.org	Interested in involving Ecotricity in a renewable energy event - but then dropped

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	Kate Sumpster	(because too many speaking about wind).
Natural England	Cs.nottingham@naturalengland.org.uk	Spoke with Crew Office - Liz Jones (0300 060 1113) who suggested a Freedom of Information request.
Transition Towns	kate.bell@lincoln.gov.uk	None
Riverside Centre, Sleaford	Grenville Jackson	Displayed exhibition boards in prominent position on high street (post-public events) where they created a stir for a fortnight - feedback very positive '5 out of 6'
Sleaford Library	Jill Kemp Kay Ablard	No room for exhibition boards in library so left stock of newsletters
Community Lincs	fiona.white@communitylincs.com	Met with CEO who was personally in favour
Craig Midgley, South Kyme Council	01526 860188/079573 87748	Gave approval for Ecotricity to attend South Kyme Festival
Pearl Coull, South Kyme Festival	01526 861 239	Organising South Kyme Festival
Mrs Marjory Bettinson	01205 820371	Neighbour of Bicker Fen Wind Farm and happy to testify that windmills' noise levels are less than the A17 which is over three times the distance away.
Peter Bettis, South Kyme Website	Offers to provide copy for website - http://south-kyme.co.uk/ 01526 861 321	None taken up
Stephen Phillips MP for Sleaford & North Hykeham	amy.bannister@parliament.uk set up meeting with Stephen Philips on 14.07.11 Sending through fast facts to Emma Salisbury, Parliamentary Assistant 020 7219 6487 emma.salisbury@parliament.uk	Will hold a meeting in autumn which Ecotricity will attend

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4 Conclusions

4.1 Statistics

From the named responses we can generate several statistics:

- 69% of people felt better-informed about the Heckington Fen proposal
- 61% of people had their questions answered
- 52% of people felt the consultation helped explain wind energy as part of Britain's energy future
- 55% of people had been up close to a wind park
- 76% of people asked to be kept informed.

4.2 Top issues

Post-events, the main concerns of the local community, in priority order are:

- Noise
- Visual impact
- Efficiency
- Benefit to the local community
- Lincolnshire being overrun by wind parks
- House prices
- Detrimental effect on the environment/rural land.

4.3 Community engagement

- The pre-publicity campaign - media coverage (400,000) coupled with advertisements (200,000) in both local media and village magazines (2,000) - means that the population of North Kesteven (106,100) had six opportunities to find out about the Heckington Fen Wind Park community information events.
- 69% of the coverage in the media explained the case for Heckington Fen and 87% explained the planning process governing it.
- Of the 3,500 newsletters sent out inviting people to the events, 200 attended. 67% left a response.
- 23 letters supporting the Heckington Fen Wind Park proposal have been received.
- A round average of 3.0 was the result of analysing each response slip (despite precise arithmetic calculated by a mathematics masters graduate). Please refer to Appendix E for full breakdown.

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MEDIA COVERAGE OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN SUPPORT OF

HECKINGTON FEN

AS @ WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2011

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PUBLICATION	TITLE	DATE
SLEAFORD STANDARD	WIND FARM COULD POWER 50,000 HOMES	26.08.2009
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	WINDFARM PLAN 'TO POWER 50,000 HOMES'	01.09.2009
SLEAFORD STANDARD	FEELINGS RUN HIGH AT WIND FARM MEETING	08.09.2009
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	QUESTIONS REMAIN AFTER ECOTRICTY WIND FARM TALK	09.09.2009
SLEAFORD STANDARD	WIND FARM ACTION GROUP HOPE FOR MOD SUPPORT	23.09.2009
SLEAFORD STANDARD	WIND TESTING STRUCTURE WILL BE VISIBLE FOR MILES AROUND	07.10.2009
SLEAFORD STANDARD	WIND TURBINES A THREAT TO OUR AREA	09.12.2009
SLEAFORD STANDARD	PLANS SUBMITTED FOR WIND ENERGY PARK	19.01.2010
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	RADICAL DESIGNS FOR FUTURE WIND FARMS COULD PREVENT LANDSCAPE FROM BEING SPOILED	18.01.2011
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	VILLAGERS TO GET SAY ON PROPOSAL FOR 23 TURBINES	21.05.2011
SLEAFORD STANDARD	PUBLIC TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WIND PARK PLANS	25.05.2011
THE TOWER, SOUTH KYME	MAKE YOUR COMMENTS COUNT/ WIND PARK EVENTS OFFER CHANCE TO SORT FACTS FROM MYTHS	MAY-JUNE 2011
SWINESHEAD LIFE	MAKE YOUR COMMENTS COUNT	JUNE-JULY 2011
SLEAFORD STANDARD	PROPOSED HECKINGTON FEN WIND PARK OPEN DAYS, 6-8 JUNE	01.06.2011
SLEAFORD TARGET	'CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL' IN COUNTY FOR ECO POWER	01.06.2011
SLEAFORD TARGET	PROPOSED HECKINGTON FEN WIND PARK OPEN DAYS, 6-8 JUNE	01.06.2011
SLEAFORD TARGET	HECKINGTON WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	01.06.2011
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	HAVE YOUR SAY ON WIND TURBINES	02.06.2011
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	'NO CONFIDENCE' OVER PROPOSED WIND FARM	07.06.2011
BBC RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE	ECOTRICITY IS DISPLAYING PLANS FOR A WIND FARM NEAR SLEAFORD	07.06.2011
ITV CENTRAL TONIGHT	VILLAGERS LIVING NEAR PROPOSED NEW WIND PARK OFFERED CHANCE TO VISIT WORKING EXAMPLE	07.06.2011
SLEAFORD STANDARD	COMPANY CLAIMS POSITIVE REACTION TO WIND FARM	08.06.2011
SLEAFORD TARGET	'NO CONFIDENCE' IN EFFECTIVENESS OF WIND TURBINES	08.06.2011
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	200 RESIDENTS LEARN ABOUT WIND TURBINE PLAN FOR LINCOLNSHIRE	18.06.2011
LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO	MINISTER TO RULE ON WIND FARM	20.06.2011

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Jane Wells, head of planning, economic and cultural services at North Kesteven District Council, said: "The council has received notification from Ecotricity that it intends to pursue a planning application for a wind farm at Heckington Fen that will be submitted to central government for consideration.

"If an application is formally submitted, the district council will be consulted on it.

"When considering proposals for wind turbines, NKDC looks at a wide range of environmental, economic and social impacts," she said.

If the application is approved the wind farm, described by Mr Muir as "very similar" to the one at Bicker Fen, which is owned by EDF Energies Nouvelles and EDF Energy, could be in place by 2013.

Speaking after Monday's meeting, a spokesman for Ecotricity said: "It was good to meet local councillors and residents and we look forward to working with them over the course of this application."

Local protest group Fen Residents Against Wind Turbines (FRAWT) has announced it will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposals on Friday, September 18, at Fen School, Side Bar Lane, Heckington Fen.

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm.

0 recommendations Tweet Share Share Report

Comments

this is **by Chris, Lincolnshire** Tuesday, September 15 2009, 3:02PM

"@Jo I agree with you Jo, that its important to present the facts. So why then, do you Fall back on personal insults, instead? You offer no facts, yourself, despite claiming the importance of such. Are you seriously suggesting that Windfarms can replace excisting power stations? Are you comparing the small amounts of top load energy that a Windfarm can produce (but only at high wind speeds) With the large amounts of Bottom Load energy that a Nuclear power station can produce, at any wind speeds? The operational Wind Farm at Bicker, in Lincolnshire (according to figures provided by REF) was only able to produce 16.6% of its rated capacity last September. (13x2mw Turbines)...A typical Nuclear Power Station, presently running, would be rated in the region of 1,200mw. The new generation Nuclear Power stations can manage considerably more (I have seen figures quoted in the region of 3,000mw plus) A gas Turbine Power station, can manage, in the region of 865mw. This would be, an extremely large number of oversized Wind Turbines. All of which will stand idle at low wind speeds (but still using energy themselves) What problems, exactly, are Wind Turbines going to solve? A shortage of Uranium? Not if the figures for Uranium in sea water are correct. Are you saying that Nuclear Fussion, will never be developed? That Geo Thermal plants, cannot work more reliably, and cover less ground area? In what way, are Wind Turbines, superior to other methods of power generation, given the amount of land they require, in a country short of land. The issues that surround them, when built too close to peoples homes. The low kinetic energy available from the movement of air. And the fact that nobody has the power to predict when the wind will blow? As in fact, nobody has ever, provably, been able to predict the long term climate. "

Report

this is **by Melvin Grosvenor , Baumber** Tuesday, September 15 2009, 2:26PM

"Yes as I thought it seems that although I am prepared to state that I know first hand the the impact wind farms can have on local communities and speak as one who will be badly affected.. Jonathan is not so up front with his apparent vested interests within the Wind Industry . This is what I have suspected for sometime that many posts that pop up in favour of turbines arnt from people who are interested in the debate but from those who stand to benefit from others misery. Please check out www.bwag.co.uk Thank you "

Report

this is **by Jo , cranwell** Friday, September 11 2009, 12:00PM

"Melvin, I am sorry you do not agree with Jonathans comments, but to simply disgard his view with a sweeping statement such as 'you have no idea of the true facts' while offering no justification or reference to any research is typical of so many nimby's on this topic. While wind turbines are not ideal, there are few alternatives. Would you be happier to have a Nuclear power station on our coastline? I have lived in the shadows of the behemoths of the old coal fire stations along the Trent billowing out steam, forever living under a cloud of haze, do you truly see that as an improvement to a wind farm? I think windturbines are a beautiful solution to a very serious problem, which we really should all be taking more seriously. "

Report

this is **by Melvin Grosvenor , Baumber** Friday, September 11 2009, 11:15AM

"Im sorry to read your comments John but unfortuantly you have no idea of the true facts.. Spend time doing research (unless you are already employed by the wind energy business) and you will find that these monsters are not the answer. "

Report

this is **by Jonatahn Hoare , Rauceby** Friday, September 11 2009, 7:38AM

"We are living in the most difficult of times. The fact is climate change is a reality. The majority of the populus seem to be partying towards oblivion! It is time that government passed the necessary legislation to fast track all alternative energy proposals. Simply using the traditional planning system is completely maverick. I can not imagine how any one could object to wind turbines, groups such as FRAWT are perfectly ridiculous and are a threat to all of our futures. Any one with an ounce of conscience would have nothing to do with such a group. I truly wish that this planning application is met with the foresight that it deserves and goes ahead unhindered. If any one is asking the question having read this, "I bet he wouldn't want one in his backyard?". Then I would just like to add, I would actually. Lots of big whirly turbines please as many as you can manage! "

Report

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Sleaford Standard

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Wednesday 1 June 2011

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Wind farm could power 50,000 homes

Sponsored

Published on **Wednesday 26 August 2009 18:28**

A WIND farm with the potential to power more than all the homes in North Kesteven is being proposed for a site near Sleaford.

The 50MW-plus wind park is being put forward by Gloucestershire-based independent wind energy company Ecotricity for farmland at Heckington Fen, East Heckington, to the east of Sidebar Lane.

The land is currently owned and farmed by Bramall Developments, a major land owner in the area, and, says Ecotricity, could support the biggest wind park to date.

Dale Vincent, managing director of Ecotricity, said: "Initial investigations suggest that this is a good site for windmills and so we're taking the next step which is to consult with local people and the council.

"Windmills on this site could potentially provide electricity for up to 50,000 homes, that's more than all of the homes in North Kesteven, which would be a big contribution to local energy needs and to carbon reduction targets."

The company says development could save up to 71,000 tonnes of CO2 being released into the air each year.

Ecotricity currently operates one in eight of England's onshore wind parks and builds turbines as well as supplies energy generated by wind power. It operates on a not for profit basis, investing profits in developing more wind farms.

Ecotricity runs the Ecotech centre with its two large wind turbines at Swaffham, Norfolk and has a wind farm near Mablethorpe.

The Heckington Fen scheme is in its very early stages and the company is currently scoping opinion for a report to go to the planning authority.

As the capacity of the wind park is above 50MW, this proposal would be determined by central government. Ecotricity hopes to submit an application by the end of the year once it has determined the number and size of the turbines.

* Chairman of Heckington Parish Council Richard Higgs has arranged a public meeting on Monday, September 7 at 7pm at Heckington Village Hall and invited a representative from Ecotricity to attend.

Mr Higgs said: "There is opposition from those who live on Sidebar Lane and the A17."

More wind farms are being proposed by other companies for land nearby at Billingborough Fen and Sempringham Fen and another already operating at Bicker Fen.

Parish councillor Lindi Mastenbroek-Andrew lives at East Heckington and said the wind farm would overlook her back yard. But, originating from Holland where wind farms are long established, she is used to them.

Mrs Mastenbroek-Andrew feels it is important to look at environmentally friedly fueld alternatives and said: "The district council are predicting more homes will have to be built in the area and they will all need electricity."

* Do you welcome the development of more wind farms in the Sleaford area? Give us your views. Write to Sleaford Standard, 28 Handley Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7TQ or email andy.hubbert@jpress.co.uk

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Windfarm plan 'to power 50,000 homes'

This is Lincolnshire Follow Tuesday, September 01, 2009

An energy company is developing plans to power 50,000 homes with a new wind farm based in Lincolnshire.

Farmland in Heckington Fen, east of Sleaford, is the favoured location for the Ecotricity project which could provide 50 MegaWatts of power and save 71,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted each year.

The number of turbines and the height of the structures has not been decided but a planning application is expected to be submitted to central government by the end of the year.

Company managing director Dale Vincent said: "Initial investigations suggest this is a good site for windmills and so we're taking the next step which is to consult with local people and the council."

A public meeting to allow residents to have their say on the issue has been organised by Heckington Parish Council for next week.

It will take place at Heckington Village Hall from 7pm on Monday, September 7.

Ecotricity is also planning to hold an exhibition once plans have been finalised to allow residents to see what the company hopes to develop in the area.

Heckington resident Patrick Banister said he had no objections to the idea at the moment.

"I don't live in the centre of Heckington but the north east edge and I have been in close proximity to various wind generators of the last few years," he said.

"Personally I don't find them noisy at all.

"As for the landscape, I think we have to weigh up what they are going to produce against whether they actually ruin the landscape or not."

For more on this story, see Tuesday's Lincolnshire Echo.

Comments

this is by Windy Miller , A corn field Tuesday, September 01 2009, 12:30PM

""Initial investigations suggest this is a good site for windmills" The produce electricity AND they can mill. Bonus! "

Report

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Feelings run high at wind farm meeting

Spons

Published on **Tuesday 8 September 2009 18:00**

PEOPLE left a public meeting anxious and frustrated having struggled to find out more information about a proposed wind farm at Heckington Fen, near Sleaford.

Project developers Andrew Muir and Jamie Baldwin for Ecotricity attended a public meeting at Heckington Village on Monday night called by the parish council as a fact finding exercise for all parties about the proposed 50MW-plus wind farm on land at East Heckington, to the east of Sidebar Lane.

Feelings ran high as people demanded answers on the specifics of the wind farm but Mr Muir insisted that until more thorough investigations, consultations and tests had been carried out he could not say for certain how many wind turbines could be installed there. He estimated a maximum of 30 turbines, measuring 100m to the tip of the rotor blade, of a similar size to those already installed at Bicker Fen.

The proposals would be subject to permission from the Department of Energy due to the potential size of the wind park.

Rachel Sumner of Sidebar Lane was particularly concerned about noise pollution from the beat of the rotor blades and claimed the value of properties in the area was already falling due to knowledge of the proposal.

Mr Muir said: "They do generate noise and the government says we should seek to minimise that and by taking them into the centre of the site we think we can satisfy those requirements."

Ecotricity has applied for planning permission from North Kesteven District Council for a wind monitoring mast which would remain there on a temporary basis for 18 months. Construction would take another 18 months and Mr Muir estimated that work could be completed by 2013.

Each turbine costs about 750,000 to install and the rental to landowners can be an average of 6,000-7,000 per turbine per year.

Jane Davis, a long-standing anti-wind farm campaigner from Deeping St Nicholas since one was built near her home, warned that it was the multiple night time background noise of the rotor blades which had ruined her life and made her abandon her home which vibrates because of the low frequency hum.

Bruce Pickworth, of Church Street, Heckington, quoted a study claiming the night time noise created headaches, nausea, depression and sleepless nights. That was contested by Mr Muir.

But Beatrice and Keith Biggadyke of East Heckington said they had nothing to lose by having the turbines when they already lived near to the A17 with 60,000 vehicles passing each day.

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Questions remain after Ecotricty wind farm talk

This is Lincolnshire Follow Wednesday, September 09, 2009

RESIDENTS in Heckington are demanding more information on a proposal to install up to 30 wind turbines close to the village.

The parish council called a public meeting on Monday night to discuss the matter, with representatives from the developer Ecotricity on hand to answer villagers' questions.

Fen Farm. Pictured here is Ecotricity's Fen Farm wind park near Louth. The company is proposing to build a larger development in Heckington Fen close to the A17 and B1395 roads.

A huge number of householders attended the meeting.

Gloucestershire-based Ecotricity has earmarked a site at Heckington Fen, close to the A17 and B1395 roads.

The company claims the proposed turbines would produce enough 'clean' electricity to power more than 50,000 homes - energy which would be dispersed through the National Grid.

Ecotricity's experts are also predicting the wind farm would save more than 71,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.

The turbines could stand up to 100m from the ground to the tip of the blade and produce up 2.3 megawatts of power per unit.

The company has already developed 17 wind farms across the UK, housing a total of 57 turbines, and this latest venture is the largest Ecctricity has ever planned.

But residents say they are concerned of the effects the development would have on their quality of life and property prices.

Andrew Muir, project manager for Ecotricity, explained to residents what the company looks for in potential sites and how Ecotricity bcsses decided that the farmland at Heckington Fen met their criteria.

He said: "Having reached that point, we think it is appropriate to come and discuss this with the people who would be our neighbours if this development goes ahead."

He added: "We are here to take on board any concerns and answer questions."

However, residents grew angry when Mr Muir, who was accompanied by fellow Ecotricity project manager Jamie Baldwin, couldn't answer some of the queries.

Mr Muir admitted he was unable to provide immediate information regarding the precise number of turbines to be installed and the number of acres that the development would cover.

He was also unable to answer concerns over the levels of noise generated by the turbines.

He said: "That depends on topography, wind direction and speed.

"But we have made an application to install a wind monitoring mast and we will look at these factors.

Heckington parish council chairman Cllr Richard Higgs later agreed with Mr Muir that the council could submit villagers' questions to the company on a formal basis and expect informed replies to the queries.

Ecotricity is expected to submit a planning application to the Government by the end of the year.

The company also intends to hold ar exhibition once plans have been finalised to allow residents to see what it hopes to develop in the area.

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Wind farm action group hope for MoD support

Sponsor

Published on **Wednesday 23 September 2009 17:46**

MEMBERS of an action group formed to fight proposals for a 30-turbine wind park on Heckington Fen are pinning their hopes on the Ministry of Defence getting behind their cause.

The first meeting of Fenland Residents Against Wind Turbines (FRAWT) was held on Friday night at the Fen Preparatory School on Side Bar Lane, Heckington Fen.

The campaigners took heart at news that Ministry of Defence objections had played a big part in forcing the surprise withdrawal of a wind farm scheme for Sempringham Fen last week by Scottish Power Renewables (see story on page 9).

Residents at Friday's meeting heard military concerns about the effect such a wind farm may have on radar and low flying aircraft training, with RAF bases close by at Coningsby and Cranwell.

Residents opposed to the wind farm scheme are to write letters to North Kesteven District Council planners objecting to the visual intrusion of the 70m high wind monitoring mast which green energy development company Ecotricity wants to install on the land to the east of Side Bar Lane. The MoD will also be contacted for support as will MP Douglas Hogg.

David Caswell, a farmer from South Kyme, said he had previously been blocked from installing two small wind turbines to power his farm because of objections by RAF Coningsby due to potential affects on radar.

He said: "This one is really a no-no unless the decision comes from a higher authority suggesting the RAF upgrades its radar system."

The scheme, which due to its size would have to be determined by the Department of Energy, would generate over 50MW a year (powering over 50,000 homes) if approved and could be in place by 2013, with each turbine measuring 100m high to blade tip (17 metres taller than Boston Stump).

Residents were particularly anxious about the overbearing visual effect and noise of the turbines and potential affect on property prices.

FRAWT has been launched by neighbours Steve Parry, whose property would be less than a kilometre from the boundary of the site, and Graham Castle, who directed people to add their views to the forum site www.wind-farms.org.uk, where Ecotricity has also registered and has been answering questions on its proposals.

Also at the meeting were Chris Paverly and Martin Wren, members of AGAST, the action group which opposed the six turbine site at Sempringham Fen, and Melvin Grosvenor of the action group against turbines being sited at Baumber, near Horncastle.

Mr Grosvenor said: "This is a massive development. The whole of Lincolnshire is being prospected by wind farm developers and we have to support each other."

*Keep sending in your views by email to andy.hubbert@jpress.co.uk and check out the Standard's website at www.sleafordstandard.co.uk for the latest developments

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Wind testing structure will be visible for miles around

Published on **Wednesday 7 October 2009 15:44**

EDITOR – I have been a resident for nearly six years in the North Kesteven village of South Kyme where for centuries the tallest building for miles around has been the 23.5metre high Kyme Tower.

I am writing to express my concern about recent discussions and the recent planning application by Ecotricity to erect a 70 metre tall wind monitoring mast with a view to testing the feasibility of building a 30 unit 'wind park' at Six Hundreds Farm, East Heckington, approximately 3km south of our village.

While I fully understand the need to provide energy from sustainable sources, I am extremely sceptical about the efficiency of such devices on the Lincolnshire Fens. I will not go on about wind farms at this point because it is the wind testing device that I am objecting to at this point in time.

There is absolutely no doubt that this structure will be visible from many properties in South Kyme including my own. I can already see clearly the thirteen wind turbines at Bicker Fen and even they are a visual distraction to what was a fine view across South Kyme Fen.

Above all, I am particularly concerned about the potential danger to air traffic.

From my property I often see aircraft flying low across the Fens, apparently directly over the proposed site. These include the Typhoon jet fighter and aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight all based at RAF Coningsby and the single and multi-engined trainers based at RAF Cranwell or RAF Barkston Heath.

I am informed that local farmer, David Caswell applied a while back to erect two small wind turbines to supplement power to his farm.

On that occasion an objection was raised by the MOD complaining about the interference by such wind turbines with radar and therefore the effectiveness of Air Traffic Control systems to provide safe passage of all low flying aircraft over and around our village. Planning consent was refused. I don't know whether a 70 metre tall anemometer will have a similar effect on the RAF air traffic control but I'm sure the MOD should have an input into the decision making process.

Once again I reiterate my support for sustainable energy supplies, but surely this should not be allowed to compromise the safety of the brave pilots of the RAF or indeed the safety of fenland residents.

As a matter of interest, I've also attached a roughly to scale sketch comparing a single wind turbine with Kyme Tower.

Peter S. Bettis,

Low Road,

South Kyme.

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Wind turbines a threat to our area

Published on **Wednesday 9 December 2009 15:29**

EDITOR - I have very real concerns about the plans to construct 30 wind turbines just north of East Heckington at 600 Farm by a company called Ecotricity (report in Standard of 2 December).

There would be an eyesore created by 30 turbines on our unblemished countryside.

I fear there would be a reduction in property values and there would be road safety implications as slow moving construction vehicles access the site via a very dangerous part of the A17.

Another concern is the flight safety implications, as this area is well known for the low flying aircraft accessing the local ranges.

In a recent communication we were advised that we had missed a planning meeting that was attended by 100 people from this area, we did not even receive notice of this meeting.

I would estimate there are 75 people that would have their northern view interrupted by these turbines being erected virtually in their back garden. I estimate these turbines would be within 500 yards of our back gardens, giving rise to serious concerns about noise.

Dan MILLS

Rectory Cottages

East Heckington

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Plans submitted for wind energy park

Spon

Published on **Tuesday 19 January 2010 16:24**

PUBLIC notices have now been issued to confirm that a full planning application has been submitted for a wind energy park at Heckington Fen.

The proposal by Ecotricity of Gloucestershire for 30 wind turbines generating over 50MW of power a year has been passed to the Department of Energy and Climate Change for consideration, with an environmental impact study and other information still being compiled.

Neighbours and interested parties to the site at Six Hundred Farm, on Six Hundred Drove, East Heckington are invited to send in their comments via North Kesteven District Council planning department. The council is writing to local residents to give them the opportunity to comment on the scheme.

These comments will be passed on to Ecotricity for consideration as part of its application. The plans can also be viewed at the council offices in Eastgate, Sleaford.

People have until January 27 to submit their comments. A decision could be made on the wind energy park scheme by April 7.

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Radical designs for future wind farms could prevent landscape from being spoiled

This is Lincolnshire Follow Tuesday, January 18, 2011

WEIRD and wonderful 'alternative' wind farms could be the future of green energy in Lincolnshire, campaigners and energy experts say.

In recent years, campaigners have raised objections to proposals for "traditional" turbines in areas such as Baumber, Beckington and Orby Marsh, due to their impact

An artist's impression of Windstalks, which was runner-up in the 2010 Land Art Generator Initiative Design Competition.

But with designs now being dreamt up that do not require windmill-style turbines, it's hoped the county will be able to increase its level of renewable energy generation without spoiling the landscape.

Councillor Stephenson Eyre, chairman of East Lindsey District Council's planning committee, who supported residents' objections to a proposed wind farm at Baumber, near Horncastle, said different designs were to be welcomed.

Many radical new suggestions for the future of wind energy have been submitted to a competition run by the Land Art Generator Initiative.

"I think Lincolnshire and East Lindsey in particular already lead the way nationally in terms of renewable energy," he said.

"And I'm certain any new wind farm technology would be well considered. We'd have a close look at them and see if they fit in with the landscape.

"The impact on the landscape is one of the main things that concerns residents as turbines are huge and they tend to dominate landscape.

"But I think if a more aesthetically pleasing design was thought up then it could be something to be encouraged."

While the winner of the Land Art Generator Initiative contest will not be announced until the end of the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi this week, the second placed Windstalk design, which would see 55m-high carbon fibre "hairs" sway to create energy, has already been commissioned as part of a $20 billion project in the emirate.

Mike Cheshire, a spokesman for the firm Ecotricity which operates four wind farms in the county and is planning two more, including one at Heckington Fen, said the designs being put forward were "visions of the future" but there was no reason something similar couldn't be built in Lincolnshire.

"I think we've always said we'll look at anything," he said.

"The designs put forward as part of the Land Art Generator Initiative, including the Windstalk, are kind of futuristic ideas and for an area where they've got a great deal more room.

"But this sort of thing shows more and more people are talking about it, and if the Middle East is seriously considering these solutions then it's something to look at."

"People in Lincolnshire have always been very positive about wind power and windmills as part of a modern landscape.

"And there's no reason the county couldn't become a world leader in the next generation of wind technology.

"Thousands of jobs could be created through this."

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Saturday, May 21, 2011 At the heart of all things local Visit our website this is lincolnshire.co.uk

FRONT COVER FLASH

23 turbines on horizon for village

Villagers are being offered a chance to have their say on plans to build 23 wind turbines near their homes.

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Visit our website www.thisislincolnshire.co.uk Lincolnshire Echo Saturday, May 21, 2011 5

Clean water proposal in the pipeline

PLANS for a £40 million pipeline which will carry drinking water across Lincolnshire have gone on display.

If the proposal is approved, the 34.14 mile pipe would link Covenham reservoir near Louth to Boston.

John Clere, of Anglian Water, said: "The population of Boston is expected to rise significantly over the next 15 years, which will put pressure on existing supplies.

"What's more, Anglian Water also wants to make sure supplies are protected in the unlikely event of a problem with the water treatment works which currently supply the town.

"The proposed pipeline is our response to these challenges, linking Boston with the reservoir at Covenham. While work isn't likely to start for a couple of years, we wanted to give people living along the route of the pipeline a chance to see and discuss the plans before we submit them."

London rail link launch

THE highly-anticipated rail link between London and Lincoln is finally here.

Rail operator East Coast is launching a direct rail service between the two cities from tomorrow.

Trains are time-tabled to run between Lincoln and Kings Cross, with one service in each direction Monday to Saturday.

There will also be one northbound service every Sunday.

On Monday to Friday, the service departs Lincoln at 7.26am and arrives in London at 9.24am.

It then leaves London at 5.06pm and arrives in Lincoln at 8.01pm.

On Saturdays, the service departs Lincoln at 9.30am and arrives at King's Cross at 11.28am.

It then departs London at 4.06pm, arriving back in Lincoln at 6.59pm.

The service on Sunday departs King's Cross at 7.06pm and arrives at Lincoln at 9.02pm.

One of the first trains to the capital to restart after the Lincolnshire Echo.

The Echo is one the second in the East Coast fleet to be given the honour of a name – the first was called Sir Bobby Robson.

Planned site would generate enough power for 14% of county homes

ON THE HORIZON: An artist's impression of how the wind farm at Heckington Fen would look.

Villagers to get a say on proposal for 23 turbines

SOLUTION: The proposed wind farm could power 39,000 homes.

By Dan Shiel

VILLAGERS are being offered a chance to have their say on plans to build 23 wind turbines near their homes.

Green energy firm Ecotricity wants to create the new wind farm on a site at Heckington Fen, near Sleaford.

The firms says the turbines would generate enough power for nearly 39,000 homes – about 14 per cent of all homes in Lincolnshire.

Three consultation events are being held. The first takes place at Heckington Village Hall on Monday June 6, from 3.30pm to 8.30pm.

The second is in Swineshead Village Hall the following day at the same times and the third is in South Kyme's Coronation Hall on Wednesday June 8 from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

Ecotricity spokesman Mike Cheshire said: "When we first proposed the Heckington Fen wind farm back in 2009, the community expressed several, legitimate issues.

"We've since researched those issues as part of our environmental impact assessment.

"We're now coming back to the community with our responses and want to listen to what people have to say before we submit our proposal to the Department of Energy and Climate Change later this year.

"We want to hear first-hand what people, who live near the site, think of our plans.

"Our final proposal will take into account local people's concerns and issues. We're committed to being good and responsible neighbours. Part of that is ensuring the community is fully informed of every aspect of the wind park and at least half of that is us listening hard to what they have to say."

Graham Lowes, landlord of The Oak public house in Boston Road, Heckington, said: "I don't see any point in turning up for the consultation. No-one takes any notice of what local people say anyway.

"I'm not against green energy but why are they putting them here and not out to sea like the rest? Or out where no-one lives?

"At the end of the day there are better places they could put them."

North Kesteven District Coun-

cil Conservative member for Heckington Stewart Ogden said: "I don't have a problem with green power but if we could have some sort of out-to-the-sea discussion about it we could all understand it a lot better.

"The question is, would people build wind farms if there were no Government grants on offer? If they had to put their own land to their use here and sell the energy on the open market, would they still do it?

"It's a question that needs to be asked."

The authority's development manager Andy McDonough said: "An application was made to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in December 2009 for consent to construct and operate a wind energy electricity generating station (wind farm) of Six Hundred Farm, Six Hundred Drove, East Heckington.

"The application was submitted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the District Planning Authority is a statutory consultee on this."

People who are unable to attend any of the consultation events are invited to contact Ecotricity and put forward their views via email at heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

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Sleaford Standard
www.sleafordstandard.co.uk Tel: 01529 413646 Wednesday, May 25, 2011 50p

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NEWS MORE NEW

Public to learn more about wind park plans

An artist's impression of how the wind park on fenland at East Heckington would look from the A17.

By Andy Hubbert
andy.jpress.co.uk

PEOPLE living near a proposed new wind park in East Heckington that could make enough energy for almost 39,000 homes are being offered a triple chance to get up close and personal with it.

The company behind the Heckington Fen proposal, Ecotricity, is holding three open events at Heckington Village Hall on Monday, June 6 from 3.30pm to 8.30pm; Swineshead Village Hall – Tuesday, June 7 from 3.30pm to 8.30pm; South Kyme's Coronation Hall – Wednesday, June 8 from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

The wind turbines would power around 14 per cent of Lincolnshire's total number of homes, the company says.

"When we first proposed the Heckington Fen wind farm back in 2009, the community expressed several, legitimate issues," says Mike Cheshire, spokesperson for Ecotricity.

"We've since researched those issues as part of our environmental impact assessment. We're now coming back to the community with our responses and want to listen to what people have to say before we submit our proposal to DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) later this year."

One of the key concerns was the effect on RAF radar in the area which is used for low flying exercises. Mr Cheshire said: "With a strong armed forces presence in the area, Ecotricity is investigating a pioneering system so the wind park is compatible with military radar systems."

A 70m high monitoring mast measured wind speed and equipment was installed at nearby houses to record the existing background noise level. The Wind Park would have up to 23 turbines which would each measure 120 metres from ground to uppermost tip. The nearest home would be 1km from the closest wind turbine.

Mr Cheshire said: "We want to hear at first hand what people, who live near the site, think of our plans. Our final proposal will take into account local people's concerns and issues. We're committed to being good and responsible neighbours. Part of that is ensuring the community is fully informed of every aspect of the wind park and at least half of that is us listening hard to what they have to say."

Those unable to attend can email Ecotricity at: heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

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THE TOWER

May/June 2011

Make your comments count

Proposed Heckington Fen Wind Park

Following on from its initial proposal in 2009, Ecotricity wants your feedback on the results of its environmental impact assessment. Your opinions will make a major part of its submission to DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change).

Learn more and leave your comments at:

•Heckington Village Hall Monday, 6 June from 3.30pm to 8.30pm

•Swineshead Village Hall, Tuesday, 7 June from 3.30pm to 8.30pm

•South Kyme Coronation Hall, Wednesday, 8 June from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

Telephone hotline: 0121 212 6253
Email: heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk
Web: http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/

WIND PARK EVENTS OFFER CHANCE TO SORT FACTS FROM MYTHS

People living near a proposed new wind park in East Heckington in Lincolnshire that could make enough energy for almost 39,000 homes (around 14% of Lincolnshire's total number of homes[1]) are being offered a triple chance to get up close and personal with it.

The company behind the Heckington Fen proposal, Ecotricity, is holding three events open to all:

•Heckington Village Hall – Monday, 6 June 3.30pm to 8.30pm
•Swineshead Village Hall – Tuesday, 7 June 3.30pm to 8.30pm
•South Kyme's Coronation Hall – Wednesday, 8 June 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

"When we first proposed the Heckington Fen wind farm back in 2009, the community expressed several, legitimate issues," says Mike Cheshire, spokesperson for Ecotricity.

"We've since researched those issues as part of our environmental impact assessment. We're now coming back to the community with our responses and want to listen to what people have to say before we submit our proposal to DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change) in June/later this year.

"We want to hear at first hand what people, who live near the site, think of our plans. Our final proposal will take into account local people's concerns and issues," said Mike Cheshire. "We're committed to being good and responsible neighbours. Part of that is ensuring the community is fully informed of every aspect of the wind park and at least half of that is us listening hard to what they have to say.

"We all use electricity, so it's up to us all to decide where it comes from, now and in the future. We've all seen our energy costs rise with fossil fuel prices so we need to rely less on these and more our indigenous, free and everlasting sources like the wind," said Mike Cheshire.

People who are unable to attend the days can still contact Ecotricity by email at heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

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Swineshead Life

JUNE - JULY 2011

Make your comments count

Proposed Heckington Fen Wind Park

Ecotricity wants your feedback. Learn more and tell us what you think at:

Heckington Village Hall
Monday, 6th June
from 3.30pm to 8.30pm

Swineshead Village Hall
Tuesday, 7th June
from 3.30pm to 8.30pm

South Kyme Coronation Hall
Wednesday, 8th June
from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

Tel hotline: 0121 212 6253
Email: heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

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Turning electricity bills into windmills

ecotricity

Sleaford Standard

www.sleafordstandard.co.uk Tel: 01529 413646 Wednesday, June 1, 2011 50p

STANDARD'S SPORTS AWARDS - PAGES 24-27

BINGO-ING MAD! 30 FREE GAMES - DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Proposed Heckington Fen wind park open days, 6-8 June

Following the completion of a series of detailed environmental studies on-site, Ecotricity is now preparing to submit further information in support of our application to build a wind park at Heckington Fen that could generate enough green power for the equivalent of around 39,700 typical homes annually. As part of these studies the number of windmills we're proposing has been refined from 26 to 23.

Before we submit this environmental impact assessment (EIA) to the Department of Energy and Climate Change, we would like to take the time to discuss the latest details with people locally. We will be holding open days at the following locations:

- **Monday 6 June, Heckington Village Hall**
  11 High Street, Heckington, NG34 9RA from 3.30pm to 8.30pm
- **Tuesday 7 June, Swineshead Village Hall**
  North End, Swineshead, PE20 3NA from 3.30pm to 8.30pm
- **Wednesday 8 June, South Kyme's Coronation Hall**
  High Street, South Kyme, LN4 4AD from 2.30pm to 7.30pm

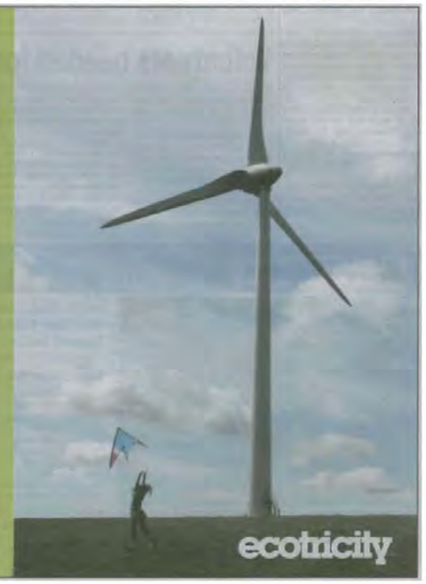
Members of the Ecotricity team will be on-hand to discuss the findings of the EIA with you as well as help answer any queries you may have. If you're unable to make it on these days, please do not hesitate to email or call us:

Email: heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk
Tel: 01453 769354

Once the EIA has been submitted, it will be available to view at:
North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7EF

You can find further information on our proposal at:
www.ecotricity.co.uk/heckington-fen

Ecotricity Development Team



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SLEAFORD Target At the heart of all things local

Wednesday, June 1, 2011 45p where sold

ENVIRONMENT: Study shows wind power is best option for area

'Considerable potential' in county for eco power

By Richard Wheeler

WIND farms provide the greatest potential for generating renewable energy in Lincolnshire, it is claimed.

Exclusion areas including the Lincolnshire Wolds exist across the county, according to the East Midlands Councils' research, but the rest has "considerable potential".

Anti-wind farm campaigners say people will be walking into a "fool's paradise" if they believe turbines are a reliable energy source.

The study added biomass generation (typically from burning rubbish) has "significant opportunities", although they are much smaller than wind energy.

Hydropower, solar energy and solar farms are also said to have little potential.

Lincolnshire County Council's environmental scrutiny is planning to discuss the issue next Friday.

The Baumber Wind Farm Action Group successfully fought plans to build eight 125m turbines on a site between Baumber and Wragington, near Horncastle.

Chairman Melvin Grosvenor said he was now using his experience to help other campaigns across the county.

He said: "I've drawn a map, which is rough and ready, for the East Lindsey District Council area from North Cotes to Wainfleet and in the planning process there are 13 wind farms proposed at this stage, which total 110 turbines.

Mr Grosvenor claimed there was little information to suggest wind turbines reduced carbon emissions or offered a reliable energy alternative.

He said: "People are walking into a fool's paradise if they think plastering Lincolnshire with bigger and bigger turbines will solve global warming and have a significant impact on reducing carbon emissions.

"They are deluded. Europe is pulling away from them and what will happen in ten years time is people will be waking up to the folly of this policy and left with a landscape blighted with industrial machines."

The East Midlands Council's report also added the potential for solar farms in Lincolnshire was not seen as significant.

Stow will soon be home to a 14,344-panel solar field at FreeWatt's Danes Farm headquarters, while Lunar Energy Power Ltd is constructing a 20,000 panel development on part of the old RAF Faldingworth base.

Julian Patrick, managing director of FreeWatt, agreed it was unlikely more large-scale solar farms would emerge in the county.

But he added: "Mini-solar farms are still very feasible, attractive and popular."

OPPOSITION: The site of the proposed Baumber wind farm. Inset, the Baumber Wind Farm Action Group chairman Melvin Grosvenor.

NO TURBINES: The Baumber WindFarm Action Group chairman Melvin Grosvenor.

SHORE: East Midlands Council research says wind farms, like this one, provide the greatest potential for generating renewable energy in Lincolnshire, but campaigners claim it is a "fool's paradise".

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Proposed Heckington Fen wind park open days, 6-8 June

Following the completion of a series of detailed environmental studies on-site, Ecotricity is now preparing to submit further information in support of our application to build a wind park at Heckington Fen that could generate enough green power for the equivalent of around 39,700 typical homes annually. As part of these studies the number of windmills we're proposing has been refined from 28 to 23.

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Email: heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk
Tel: 01453 769354

Once the EIA has been submitted it will be available to view at:
North Kesteven District Council, Kesteven Street, Sleaford, Lincs, NG34 7EF.

You can find further information on our proposal at:
www.ecotricity.co.uk/heckington-fen

Ecotricity Development Team

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Proposed Heckington Fen wind park open days, 6-8 June

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Ecotricity Development Team

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Heckington Women's Institute

PRESIDENT Mollie Thompson gave details of the various items of business including the annual dinner at The Queen's Head, the Lincolnshire Show; a cookery demonstration at Hale Magna Village Hall and details of a proposed visit to the Japanese Gardens at North Clifton followed by a visit to Boundary Mills on the return journey.

Resolutions that would be debated at the NFWI National AGM at Liverpool in June were presented to the members.

The WI members supported both resolutions.

After a break for refreshments Angela Podmore from Ecotricity gave the institute an insight into the policy behind the application for a wind farm at Heckington Fen.

Questions were invited and many were asked.

the meeting closed somewhat later than usual but all agreed that it had been an interesting, thought provoking and enjoyable event.

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Have your say on wind turbines

VILLAGERS are being offered a chance to have their say on plans to build 23 wind turbines near their homes.

As reported in the Echo, green energy firm Ecotricity wants to create the new wind farm on a site at Heckington Fen, near Sleaford.

The firm says the turbines would generate enough power for nearly 39,000 homes – about 14 per cent of all homes in Lincolnshire.

Three consultation events are being held. The first takes place at Heckington Village Hall on Monday, from 3.30pm to 8.30pm.

The second is in Swineshead Village Hall the following day at the same times and the third is in South Kyme's Coronation Hall on Wednesday, from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

Ecotricity spokesman Mike Cheshire told the Echo last month: "When we first proposed the Heckington Fen wind farm back in 2009, the community expressed several legitimate issues.

"We've since researched those issues as part of our environmental impact assessment.

"We're now coming back to the community with our responses and want to listen to what people have to say before we submit our proposal to the Department of Energy and Climate Change later this year."

People who are unable to attend any of the consultations are invited to e-mail Ecotricity and put forward their views at heckington-fen.@ecotricity.co.uk

Those interested can register as a speaker by calling 01529 304807. The line will be open from noon on Monday, and close at noon on Friday, June 10.

To reserve a seat in the public area call 01529 308224.

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Lincolnshire Echo
Tuesday, June 7, 2011 At the heart of all things local Visit our website thisis lincolnshire.co.uk

'No confidence' over proposed wind farm

IN THE NEWS: How we have reported the story.

PLANS to build 22 wind turbines near a small county village have been given mixed reactions from residents.

by Cerri Delaney
cerri.delaney@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

The firm behind the development, Ecotricity, say the "environmentally friendly" turbines will generate enough power for nearly 39,000 homes – about 14 per cent of all homes in Lincolnshire.

But residents living in nearby Heckington, one of the villages the development will back on to, say they have "no confidence" the Heckington Fen turbines will be effective and that the development will "impose" on their lives.

Doreen White, 67, retired to the Sidebar Lane in the village 16 years ago because of the "wide open countryside".

She said: "The development is less than a mile away, right on our doorstep.

"We moved here because of the openness of the countryside and now we'll have this right there. The life cycle of the turbines are apparently only 25 years and they'll be taking up all the fields which could well be needed for growing food."

Another villager, Roger Thornton, said: "I seriously object to the development being on our doorstep.

"My understanding is that there are no wind turbines that can produce what firms say they can."

Plans were first drawn up by the green energy firm in December 2009.

The firm says a similar development at Bicker Fen in the county has already powered 16,500 average homes.

The "clean" electricity would be dispersed through the National Grid.

The turbines will stand at 125m from the ground to the tip of the blade when built and produce up to 2.3 megawatts of power per unit. Not everyone in the village has a problem with the development. One resident, who asked not to be named, said: "I think they look quite interesting on an otherwise barren landscape and if they can help cut down C02 emissions, then I'm all for them."

The proposal is expected to be submitted to the Department Of Energy and Climate Change later this year, Ecotricity said.

Mike Cheshire, spokesman for Ecotricity, said: "There are lots of elements we looked at before we settled on this site and holding this public meeting gives us a chance to hear what the local residents have to say.

"I have to say that Lincolnshire is a really positive place for wind and renewable energy development already, so things have gone well.

"With quite a few areas in the county having had them already, it makes people more accepting of new developments like this.

"Right now we have plans for 22 turbines, but that could go down once we get on site. Any changes to numbers definitely won't see an increase in turbines."

The first of three consultations took place at Heckington Village Hall yesterday, with another planned at Swineshead Village Hall today from 3.30pm to 8.30pm, with the third at South Kyme's Coronation Hall tomorrow, from 2.30pm to 7.30pm.

People who are unable to attend any of the consultation events are invited to contact Ecotricity and put forward their views via e-mail at heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

Should the turbines be built close by?

Barbara Glass
resident, Side Bar Lane, Heckington
"It's a waste of money and they will have a negative visual and environmental impact.

Mike Cheshire
Spokesman for Ecotricity
"We've all seen energy prices rise. We need to rely more on free and lasting sources like wind.

Councillor Peter Marshall
Parish councillor
"Lincolnshire has plenty of windy places. Why build it right next to a village?

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VILLAGERS LIVING NEAR PROPOSED NEW WIND PARK OFFERED CHANCE TO VISIT WORKING EXAMPLE

Programme: Central Tonight
Programme Start: 07/06/2011 18:00:00
Presenter: Sameena Ali-Khan, Bob Warman
Item Start: 18:13:37
Duration: 0:24
Ecotricity who are behind the Heckington Fen proposal near Sleaford want to give people the chance to get close to the turbines

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SPOTLIGHT ON RUSKINGTON - SEE PAGES 19-21

Sleaford Standard

www.sleafordstandard.co.uk Tel: 01529 413646 Wednesday, June 8, 2011 50p

COMPANY CLAIMS POSITIVE REACTION TO WIND FARM

But residents' opinion still divided at public exhibitions

By Andy Hubbert
andyhubbert@jpress.co.uk

THE company behind plans to site a wind park of up to 23 turbines on fenland near Sleaford were surprised at the amount of positive reaction from visitors to the first day of a series of public exhibitions detailing their proposals.

The display held in Heckington Village Hall on Monday afternoon centred on proposals by Ecotricity to develop land on Six Hundred Farm, north of the A17 near East Heckington.

According to the renewable energy company's calculations and tests, average wind speeds are enough to power around 40,000 homes based on up to 23, 120m-high turbines being erected on site with a capacity of up to 54MW.

Ecotricity is a not-for-dividend social enterprise without shareholders, free to invest the money from people's bills back into building more sources of green energy. Spokesman Mike Cheshire said: "I feel people have been really positive and it has been really good. I think that is because there are other wind parks nearby such as Bicker Fen which has made it more familiar.

"There are 27 criteria we have to meet on paper before we can progress the site any further. We have done all that and that is why we are talking to people."

The company has been compiling an environmental impact assessment for submission to the Department for Climate Change for approval. Local people will be consulted via the district councils.

Mr Cheshire said the UK would always need a mix of energy sources, but unlike nuclear power stations which were expensive and time-consuming to build, he saw wind power as a free, never-ending resource. They have also been working closely with the MoD to come up with a solution to turbines' confusing effect on radar.

Further public exhibitions were at Swineshead yesterday (Tuesday and at South Kyme Coronation Hall today (Wednesday) from 2.30pm-7.30pm.

Visitors included Heckington parish councillor Peter Marshall was not against green energy, but questioned their efficiency.

Adrienne Thornton of Heckington worried about noise pollution although Ecotricity says its windmills are much quieter.

John Casswell of South Kyme saw wind energy as a way forward as long as the agricultural land is not lost forever.

Standing tall. Up to 23 turbines measuring up to 120m from base to tip, are being proposed for Heckington Fen and (inset) Mike Cheshire from Ecotricity talks through the plans to parish councillor Peter Marshall and David Hazelton of Heckington.
Photo: 95685A-5

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'No confidence' in effectiveness of wind turbines

PLANS to build 22 wind turbines in a village near Sleaford have received mixed reactions from residents.

Ecotricity, the firm behind the development in Heckington Fen, claims the turbines will generate enough power for almost 39,000 homes – about 14 per cent of all homes in Lincolnshire.

But, residents living in nearby Heckington, one of the villages that the development will back on to, say they have "no confidence" that the Heckington Fen turbines will be effective and that the development will impose on their lives.

Doreen White, 67, retired to Sidebar Lane in the village 16 years ago because of the wide open countryside.

She said: "The development is less than a mile away, right on our doorstep."

Another villager, Roger Thornton, said: "I seriously object to the development being on our doorstep.

"My understanding is that there are no wind turbines that can produce what firms say they can."

Plans were first drawn up by the green energy firm in December 2009.

The firm says a similar development at Bicker Fen in the county has already powered 16,500 homes.

The electricity would be dispersed through the National Grid.

The turbines will stand at 125-metres from the ground to the tip of the blade when built and produce up to 2.3 megawatts of power per unit.

Not everyone in the village has a problem with the development.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said: "I think they look quite interesting on an otherwise barren landscape. If they can help cut down C02 emissions, I'm all for them."

Mike Cheshire, spokesman for Ecotricity, said: "There are lots of elements we looked at before we settled on this site. Holding this public meeting gives us a chance to hear what the local residents have to say.

"Right now, we have plans for 22 turbines, but that could go down once we get on site. Any changes to numbers definitely won't see an increase in turbines."

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200 residents learn about wind turbine plan for Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire Echo Follow Saturday, June 18, 2011

ALMOST 200 residents from county villages have attended events to find out about a new 22-turbine wind farm.

People from Heckington, Swineshead and South Kyme went to consultation sessions on June 6, June 7 and June 8 to learn about the planned development at Heckington Fen.

Despite many attendees voicing their concerns about the proposals, seven out of ten said they felt better informed on the plans in an exit poll.

The developer, Ecotricity, will now follow up with individuals who had specific queries.

As previously reported, the 125m high turbines will generate enough power for nearly 39,000 homes, around 14 per cent of homes in Lincolnshire.

Mike Cheshire, spokesman for Ecotricity, said: "Hopefully it was a good opportunity for people to meet us face-to-face, talk through the details of the proposals so far and also clear up many of the myths about wind energy too.

"All in all, it was most encouraging and we'd like to thank the people of North Kesteven for their polite interaction with us. We'll make sure we keep everyone fully informed as we now move forward."

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Minister to rule on wind farm

Lincolnshire Echo Follow Monday, June 20, 2011

THE construction of a wind farm in East Heckington will be decided by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, and not the district council.

An application was made to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in December 2009 and calls for the construction of 28 turbines at Six Hundred Farm, Six Hundred Drove, East Heckington.

During recent consultation, the firm who submitted the application, Ecotricity, stated that the application would be determined by North Kesteven District Council (NKDC).

But the authority has clarified that it is the Secretary of State who will have the final say.

NKDC's corporate director, Karen Bradford, said: "It is not the council which will determine the application but the Secretary of State.

"As and when they consult the council on the application, North Kesteven's response will be formed at a meeting of the planning committee where all members will be able to make a contribution."

Ecotricity is currently undertaking public engagement consultation in respect of its plans.

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MEDIA COVERAGE EVALUATION
MAY TO JUNE 2011

kinetic

Media outlet	Date/story	Circulation	Messages: The planning process (our submission to DECC, public information events, N Kesteven Council)	The wind debate – why UK needs wind power	Why Heckington Fen	Ecotricity a not for dividend/good neighbour company	Picture	Positive
Local Media – 14 pieces								
Lincolnshire Echo	21.05.2011 Villagers to get say on proposal for 23 turbines	53,001	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Sleaford Standard	25.05.2011 Public to learn more about wind park plans	14,313	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
The Tower, South Kyme	May-June 2011 Make your comments count/ Wind park events offer chance to sort facts from myths	500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swineshead Life	June-July 2011 Make your comments count	4,200	✓					
Sleaford Standard	01.06.2011 Proposed Heckington Fen wind park open days, 6-8 June	14,313	✓				✓	✓

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MEDIA COVERAGE EVALUATION
MAY TO JUNE 2011

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Media outlet	Date/story	Circulation	Messages: The planning process (our submission to DECC, public information events, N Kesteven Council)	The wind debate – why UK needs wind power	Why Heckington Fen	Ecotricity a not for dividend/good neighbour company	Picture	Positive
Sleaford Target	01.06.2011 Proposed Heckington Fen wind park open days, 6-8 June	45,645	✓				✓	✓
Sleaford Target	01.06.2011 Heckington Women's Institute	45,645	✓		✓			✓
Lincolnshire Echo	02.06.2011 Have your say on wind turbines	53,001	✓		✓			✓
Lincolnshire Echo	07.06.2011 'No confidence' over proposed wind farm	53,001	✓	✓	✓			
BBC Radio Lincolnshire	07.06.2011 Ecotricity is displaying plans for a wind farm near Sleaford		✓					
ITV Central Tonight	07.06.2011 Villagers living near proposed new wind park		✓					

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MEDIA COVERAGE EVALUATION
MAY TO JUNE 2011

kinetic

Media outlet	Date/story	Circulation	Messages: The planning process (our submission to DECC, public information events, N Kesteven Council)	The wind debate – why UK needs wind power	Why Heckington Fen	Ecotricity a not for dividend/good neighbour company	Picture	Positive
	offered chance to visit working example							
Sleaford Standard	08.06.2011 Company claims positive reaction to wind farm	14,313	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sleaford Target	08.06.2011 'No confidence' in effectiveness of wind turbines	45,645			✓			
Lincolnshire Echo	18.06.2011 200 residents learn about wind turbine plan for Lincolnshire	53,001	✓		✓		✓	✓
Online Media - 1 piece								
South Kyme website	23.06.2011 Resident Email			✓				

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MEDIA COVERAGE EVALUATION
MAY TO JUNE 2011

kinetic

Media outlet	Date/story	Circulation	Messages: The planning process (our submission to DECC, public information events, N Kesteven Council)	The wind debate – why UK needs wind power	Why Heckington Fen	Ecotricity a not for dividend/good neighbour company	Picture	Positive
Summary analysis - average quality =		**55%**						
15 pieces of coverage		**396,578**	**13/15 87%**	**4/13 31%**	**9/13 69%**	**4/13 31%**	**7/15 47%**	**8/13 62%**

Illustration of possible view of Heckington Fen from A17 looking North from East Heckington to South Kyme

News on Heckington Fen proposed wind park

Our proposed Heckington Fen wind park is for up to 22 windmills on land north of the A17 near the village of East Heckington. Based on the average wind speeds at the site and a total rated capacity of 54MW, calculations show that it will make enough green energy for around 39700 homes. As a local resident, we want to ensure you are as fully informed as possible about these plans.

Open days, 6-8 June

A big thank you to the almost 200 people who took the time to come along and speak to us face-to-face about our plans at East Heckington, Swineshead and South Kyme. Based to our exit poll, 69% of people said they felt better informed after attending.

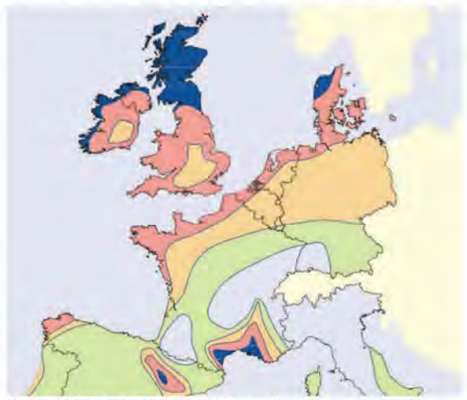
As you'd expect, there was a wide range of views across the three days. Based on the scores between 1 and 5 given to people's favourability towards the project, the overall result was exactly in the middle: 3, neither for nor against.

There were a number of frequently asked questions that came up, so we'll try and answer some of those here:

Why has the number of windmills changed?

It's quite common for the number of windmills in a project to change, as our detailed on-the-ground studies help us refine the exact number and their location. So we have revised the final number of windmills from 23 to 22.

But rest assured that at this stage the number of windmills will not increase – 22 is the maximum number of turbines that will be in our final submission.



Darker colours indicate higher wind speeds

How would the wind park work alongside MOD radar?

Given the MOD's sizable presence in the area and the amount of low flying aircraft, this was a common concern at our open days.

Firstly, unless we can have a solution in place that fully satisfies the MOD and mitigates any issues with how our wind park might appear on its radars, we would be unable to build any windmills.

That's why we've been working closely with the MOD over the past 2 years to come up with a new working solution for the industry to provide a 'patch' relay of information from the site to any RAF stations to effectively blank out any effect from our wind park.

We'll keep you updated as this develops, but we're confident that a robust working solution can be developed.

How efficient are wind turbines?

This is one of the most common myths about modern windmills, which came up a number of times and can be a tricky one to explain.

Firstly, how much a windmill turns is not a sign of how efficient it is. It's the design of the turbine that makes it efficient or not at doing its job – taking the energy from the fuel (the wind) and turning it into energy – and modern windmill designs are extremely good at doing this, rotating into the wind and 'feathering' their blades to capture as much as possible.

What people are instead often referring to is the windmill's maximum potential output, or Load Factor. This is how hard it works for how much of the time, based on working at full tilt, 24 hours a day, 365 a year.

No power source can ever work at 100%. Some power sources also have to use energy to make energy e.g. mining and shipping the coal or uranium they need to work.

So, based on this, the efficiency of various sources of power can be calculated as:

Coal: 33% **Gas**: 42% **Nuclear**: 36% **Wind**: 32-35%

Source: http://www.bwea.com/pdf/briefings/FS05_Efficiencies_Load_Factors.pdf

As you can see, despite the fact that we can't control the wind as a fuel source, it is just as efficient as our other main sources of energy. But it's essential to put windmills in a place where they can be made to work as hard as they can, for as much of the time as possible. We believe Heckington Fen is one of those places, while all meeting all the other criteria that makes a wind park at the site possible.

The UK has 40% of Europe's entire wind resource, enough to completely power the country several times over, so it's up to us all to make the most of it.

Behind the headlines -the truth about wind energy in the UK vs. Europe

Last year there were 12,000 articles written on wind turbines, but just 400 actually built in the UK – that's 30 articles for each one. Or put another way, there's a lot talked about them, but not a lot of action.

New research shows that in fact Britain currently has less than one wind turbine for every 100 square km of land in Britain (with just 0.5 turbines in England), compared with 11 in Denmark, six in Germany and the Netherlands and three in Spain.

Britain and Germany have roughly the same population densities (244 and 233 people per sq km), and both counties are much less densely populated than the Netherlands (393 people per sq km).

Britain had one of the lowest levels of installed wind capacity per person. There are 58 watts per person in Britain, compared with 518 in Denmark, 425 in Spain and 320 in Germany.

The average turbine in Britain produces 65% more electricity per year than in Germany because we are buffeted by stronger winds.

The Government proposes to treble the number of onshore turbines to 10,000 by 2020, but Germany already has 21,000. Even if the government meets its renewable energy targetsfor 2020, the concentration of wind turbines in the UK will still be lower than the 3.39 turbines per 100 sq km already installed in Spain.

Who will make the decision?

Many people wanted more information on how the decision-making process for this project differs from other past wind parks and developments in the area.

Because it is greater than 50MW in size, this means it is considered to be of national importance as an essential national resource. Because of this, it will be decided at a national level by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

But, just as with a local planning decision, you will still have the opportunity to ensure your voice is heard. North Kesteven District Council will invite comments from members of the public which they will then review and feed into their submission. It is also possible to write directly to DECC if you feel that would be appropriate.

When we submit the environmental statement to DECC we will also place a public notice in the local and national press, and local people will then have at least 28 days to comment ('make representation') on the environmental statement which will also be summarized in a non-technical summary. The information will be available to view locally and online via Ecotricitys and North Kesteven District Council websites. There is no time limit set for the Secretary of State to reach a final decision.

As a not-for-dividend social enterprise with no shareholders to answer to, Ecotricity's mission has always been about striking a balance - bringing about the maximum environmental benefit with the minimum environmental impact. So we're very keen to make sure that the Secretary of State properly consider the views of local people when making their decision.

Map indicating site of turbines if 22 are built. The nearest house would be around 1Km from the nearest turbine. The green triangles mark the likely location of each windmill.

Who to contact?

Any person wishing to make objections or representations to the Secretaries of State should do so in writing to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change c/o John Swift, Power Station Consents Manager, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Area A - Third Floor, 3 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2AW, Tel: 0300 068 5685, Email: john.swift@decc.gsi.gov.uk stating the name of the proposal and the nature of their objections or representations. Other representations are also welcome. Copies of any objections received will be regarded as public documents.

Copies of the Environmental Statement, at a price of £150 for the printed document and £35 for a CD-Rom, and of the Non-Technical Summary, which is free of charge, may be obtained from Ecotricity, Axiom House, Station Road, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 3AP

Vital statistics

Site address
Six Hundred Farm, Six Hundred Drove, East Heckington.

Windmills
Hub height: 80m.
Rotor diameter: 90m
Maximum number: up to 22.
Capacity: up to 54MW (up to 3MW per windmill).

Predicted output
Generation: 131 GWh annually
Equivalent homes: Around 39,700

More Information

If you have a questions please email:
heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk

More information is also available at:
www.ecotricity.co.uk/heckington-fen

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information here is accurate at the time of going to print. E&OE. For more details, please contact heckington-fen@ecotricity.co.uk