JACK'S LANE WIND FARM



2nd Edition, October 2010

Planning Application submitted

We are pleased to announce that RES has submitted the Jack's Lane Wind Farm planning application to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council. The Council is now undertaking a formal consultation process.

How does the planning process work?

Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council will decide whether or not to grant planning permission for the wind farm. Their Planning Officers are now consulting on and assessing our planning application and will produce a report that will go to the Planning Committee for a decision.

RES will be working closely with the Council officers over this period to ensure that any questions they have are answered. We also want to make sure that as many people as possible are aware of the wind farm plans and have the chance to contribute to the consultation process.

How can I make my views known?

For the Planning Committee to make an informed decision on the wind farm it is important that they are aware of the views of local people.

We recommend that you read the comprehensive Environmental Statement (ES), which looks at all potential effects of the wind farm on both the environment and people, and considers how RES will address these issues. It also examines the need for renewable energy and national targets that have to be met. Copies of the ES are available to view at: Fakenham Library on Oak Street, Dersingham Library on Chapel Street, Hunstanton Library on Westgate, and at the Council Offices on Chapel Street in King's Lynn. You can also view the ES online at

http://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/publicaccess/default.aspx

A Non-Technical Summary of the ES is available to download from our website www.jackslanewindfarm.co.uk or, if you contact us, we can send you a copy.

You can express your views about the wind farm by writing to Gillian Richardson, Planning Officer at Kings Lynn & West Norfolk

Some key points you may wish to consider

- Jack's Lane Wind Farm will generate significant amounts of cleaner, greener energy equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of approximately 8,000 homes, equivalent to the annual consumption of all the households in the wards of Rudham, Docking, Burnham, Snettisham, Brancaster and Hunstanton*.
- If approved, the wind farm will be constructed over a relatively short period of around 9 to 12 months. We will work closely with the Council and local residents to minimise any impacts during this stage.
- Employment opportunities for local people and businesses during the construction phase will be maximised and we will also set up a community fund for the operating lifetime of the wind farm (see overleaf).
- RES has undertaken detailed noise studies as part of the Environmental Assessment to ensure that local residents are protected from risk of noise nuisance.
- Landscape studies have been incorporated into the wind farm design to minimise visual impact on sensitive viewpoints.
- The Jack's Lane Wind Farm site is on of the very few sites in West Norfolk capable of accommodating the larger, more efficient wind turbines, taking into account the widespread aviation constraints in the area.
- Once the wind farm is constructed, there will only be a need for regular access by a small operations and maintenance crew.
- By generating power from a cleaner resource, it will help to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, and help to address climate change.

Borough Council, Kings Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn PE30 1EX, or submit comments online at: http://online.west-norfolk.gov.uk/publicaccess/ Comments should be submitted before 1st December.

Please quote Planning Reference Number 10/01419/FM

You may also wish to contact your local councillors.



The use of a 'home-grown' and unlimited source of energy helps reduce our reliance on imported fuels and makes our energy supply more secure.

*Based on Government wind modelling data from the Department for Business, Environment and Regulatory Reform (DBERR) which manages the NOABL database of average wind speeds for different areas of the UK. This has been used to derive the predicted capacity factor of 31.4% for this site on which these calculations are based. This figure may change in the future as further wind speed monitoring data becomes available. Number of homes is based on 2001 UK census data. An average household electricity consumption figure of 4,700kWh/year was used in the calculation

Community liaison group

After meeting local parish councils last year, it became clear that a Community Liaison Group would be a useful way for RES to keep the local community involved and informed as the plans for the wind farm developed. The group had its first meeting in February 2010 and is made up of representatives from all of the local communities around the wind farm, meeting every 1-2 months to discuss any matters relating to the project. The group typically meets in North Creake, Stanhoe or Syderstone village halls.

The public are welcome to attend the meetings and there is plenty of opportunity for anyone to raise questions to RES representatives. Minutes and agendas are made publicly available through the Jack's Lane Wind Farm website (www.jackslanewindfarm.co.uk) and through local channels such as parish council websites, parish notice boards and parish council meetings. Special meetings have been held to discuss specific topics in more depth, including noise and pink-footed geese and a site visit was recently organised for interested parties.

Benefiting local people and the economy

It is our policy to ensure that each wind farm development brings tangible benefits to the local community. The usual mechanism for this is through the provision of a community fund, which is paid annually and relates to the size of the wind farm.

We are proposing a community fund of around £2,000 per installed MW, which equates to at least £24,000 per year. The fund will be managed by a local body, the formation of which shall be decided in consultation with local communities.

We would encourage anyone with a view on how the community fund should be managed or spent to discuss this with us at any time during the planning process. It is important to note that the offer of a community benefit fund will not affect the decision to grant planning permission for the project as it is not a planning matter.

Community funds are operating successfully at other RES wind farms in the

UK. For example, at Altahullion Wind Farm in Northern Ireland, the fund has been spent on the creation of a new community riverside pathway and footbridge, entertainment activities for family fun days, summer schemes for local children, and the maintenance and running of community buildings.



Short to medium-term jobs will be created during the construction period (usually around a year) and we will be looking for local and regional businesses that can provide the following people, services and materials: civil engineering, haulage, concreting, security, electrical skills, etc. There will be additional benefits to other businesses in the area, such as hoteliers.

The environmental impact assessment

It is well known that RES has been investigating the potential for a wind farm at the Jack's Lane site for many years now, and some people have been curious about why it takes such a long time to bring forward a planning application. The reason for this is that even once a site with potential for a wind farm has been identified, we have to do a lot of detailed of work to fully understand the site's fauna and flora, as well as taking into account issues such as transport and access, microwave links and gas pipelines, for example. Some of the environmental studies, such as breeding birds surveys, can only be done at certain times of the year, and others have to be repeated over one or more years to get sufficient data. Our site surveys have been rigorously carried out by professional environmental consultants, and the results are included in the Environmental Statement, which accompanies the planning application. The cumulative effects of both our Jack's Lane proposal, and EON's Chiplow wind farm proposal, have been taken into account in all studies. Examples of the surveys and studies undertaken on and around the site are listed to the right:

- Four National Landscape Character Areas considered in detail;
- Nine Local Landscape Character Areas;
- Six settlements within 5km of the site surveyed in detail;
- Surveys of Barwick Hall Farm, Barmer Farm and Buildings Farm properties (which are the only properties within 1.6km of the turbines);
- 17 viewpoints selected at various distances and direction from the wind farm;
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey to determine the overall habitat types on and around the site;
- Ecological Risk Appraisal to determine the requirements for other surveys;
- Ecological Survey of Off-site Road Improvement Works;
- Hedgerow Survey;
- Scarce Arable Flora Survey;
- Badger Surveys;
- Bat Surveys including roost surveys and 12 transect surveys between April and October 2009;

All of the information gathered has been fed into the design of the wind farm, to ensure that it has been sensitively designed and will not have an overall detrimental effect on the environment. For more information about the environmental studies, please consult the documents included with the planning application, or contact us for further information.

- Amphibian Surveys, particularly focussed on identifying presence of great crested newts and natterjack toads;
- Breeding Bird Surveys in 2004, 2007 and 2009;
- Wintering Bird Surveys in 2003-04, 2006-07, 2008-09 and 2009-10 focussed on the distribution of pink-footed geese;
- Detailed consideration of 3 scheduled monuments, over 19 listed buildings within 2.5km of the site, and 88 listed buildings within 10km of the site;
- Hydrological survey;
- Background Noise Survey for at least 43 days at 5 properties around the site, the results of which are available to the public;
- Wind Data Surveyed for over 4 years, the results of which are available to the public;
- Detailed Aviation Radar Analysis;

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Questionnaire

By filling out this questionnaire, your details will be held on RES's database for the purposes of obtaining and assessing feedback on RES's proposal for a wind farm at Jack's Lane. Your contact details will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and will not be passed on to third parties. Please contact us at jackslane.windfarm@res-Itd.com if you would like your details to be removed from RES's database.

We hope you have found this newsletter to be of interest and we would appreciate your feedback on our proposals. Please tick the appropriate boxes, add your comments, detach, fold, glue by moistening the gummed strip and post (freepost) to the address overleaf.

1. Do you agree with the UK target to obtain 15% of our energy from renewables by the year 2020?

YES NO UNSURE

2. Do you support the idea of building onshore wind energy projects to help meet our targets for renewable energy?

YES	NO	UNSURE

3. Do you support the building of Jack's Lane Wind Farm to provide renewable electricity?

YES	NO	UNSURE

ame: Mr / Mrs / Ms			
ddress:			
		Postcode:	
mail:			
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Birds and wind farms - what are the real impacts?

This article draws upon a presentation to the Community Liaison Group by Dr. Steve Percival, Ecology Consulting, Durham.

Dr. Steve Percival is an ornithologist with a lifelong passion for birdlife. He has spent the last 15 years studying the effects of wind farms on birds, and has been contracted by RES to advise on the Jack's Lane Wind Farm proposal.

The potential for wind farms to affect birds is an issue which RES takes very seriously in selecting and designing sites. While it is true that wind farms can have serious impacts on bird populations where they are designed or sited badly, there are also many examples of wind farms and birds happily co-existing.

It is important to recognise lessons learned at other wind farms where bird impacts have been observed. By studying these impacts, we have learned that there are two potential types of impacts that wind farms can have on birds. When deciding if a collision risk will be acceptable for neighbouring bird populations one must consider whether three key criteria are met:

- Potential high mortality rate on a small bird population;
- High use of wind farm site by a bird population;
- High susceptibility for collision.

For some species, collision risk is going to pose a problem, whereas for other species, there is less of an issue. Swans and geese fall into the latter category. More research has been done into their susceptibility to collisions due to their large size and lack of manoeuvrability, but less than 20 collision cases between turbines and geese or swans have been recorded worldwide. After various studies were published in peer-reviewed journals, the RSPB has acknowledged that the chance of collision between geese and turbines is very low. This has been an important consideration in light of the Pink Footed Geese populations around Jack's Lane. Our studies have found that, based on empirical survey evidence form other wind farms, one might expect about 5 geese a year to collide with the turbines at Jack's Lane. While such a rate of collision would not be considered significant when taken in context of the number of geese in the area, RES has agreed with the farmer that sugar beet (the preferred food of the geese) would not be grown in the fields with wind turbines for the life of the project, unless otherwise agreed with RSPB and/or Natural England. Additional habitat enhancements proposed off site would provide further goose population benefits.

loss in the overall habitat that is available to that species. Species whose habitats are already rare or at risk would be particularly vulnerable to such a disturbance effect. Disturbance can lead to extra energy expenditure, which could put pressure on species which are limited by food availability.

Pink Footed Geese are unlikely to be displaced by more than 100m from the Jack's Lane turbines. Given that RES is proposing a comprehensive habitat management programme for the geese and other birds, and that their favoured habitat is widespread in the area, it is considered that there will be a net benefit for the geese and other biodiversity.

Since we started investigating the Jack's Lane site back in 2003, Dr. Percival and his Norfolk-based survey team have completed more than 100 days of fieldwork on the site, and have covered a substantial survey area. The cumulative effect of other wind farms in the area (for which planning applications have been submitted) has also been taken into account.

The most obvious is the collision risk. The other is the effect of the wind farm disturbing and/or displacing birds.

The collision risk varies according to the location and design of the wind farm, the bird species in the area, and the time of year. A great deal has been learned from earlier wind farm designs from around the world where collisions were observed and there is plenty of peer-reviewed research to draw upon now, which enables wind farm developers to design more sensitive projects that ensure the collision risk is minimised.

Collision risk is not just limited to wind farms, of course and there are many millions of man-made structures across the country such as cars, windows and aeroplanes which also present collision risks to birds.

The risk of displacement or disturbance must also be assessed for species living in the area. If a bird species is displaced from a site, this could lead to an effective The full range of species recorded and studied at the site, along with the results and analysis of those studies, can be found in our Environmental Statement which accompanies the planning application. Marsh Harriers, Stone Curlew, Merlin, buzzards, and sparrowhawks were among the species studied in more detail, along with Pink Footed Geese.

RES has been consulting organisations such as Natural England, the RSPB and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust throughout the development process, and the Council will also offer them the opportunity to comment on our Environmental Statement and planning application over the coming weeks.

Egg Farm Lane RES UK and Ireland Ltd WD4 BLR KINGS LANGLEY Beaufort Court Freepost RSGY-TZHR-BREB



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The view from Stanhoe, the closest village to the wind farm. Turbine visibility has been digitally enhanced. For illustrative purposes only.





For those receiving this newsletter by post, we obtained your address through a national post-code database. If you do not wish to receive further information from us about this proposal, please write to us and let us know

For further information, please contact:

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Any more questions? We would be happy to cover any issues in more detail in forthcoming newsletters. If you would like to see anything discussed in more detail, don't hesitate to let us know.

More information about wind power can be found at the following websites:

General information about the role renewables can play in UK electricity generation: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/explained/explained. aspx

Wind With Miller - fun stuff for kids: http://www.windpower.org/en/kids/index.htm Information about renewables for your home or community: http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy

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