

Reeves Hill Wind Farm

community newsletter

www.reeveshillwindfarm.co.uk

March 2008

The wind farm at a glance...

Location:	Near Lingen, Herefordshire
Generation capacity:	9.2 mw
Number of turbines:	4
Size of turbines:	Max 105 metres to blade tip
Lifespan:	25 years



Why support wind energy?

There are many reasons to support the development of wind energy in the UK, here are a few:

- It is a safe way to produce electricity; many alternative forms of electricity generation, such as nuclear, utilise harmful substances during the generation process
- It is a clean way to produce electricity; wind energy does not produce any harmful emissions
- It is a sensible way to produce energy; the wind is free. Like wind farms, other forms of electricity generation such as nuclear and fossil fuels do not produce electricity 100% of the time
- The UK is the windiest country in Europe
- No matter how much wind we use today, there will still be the same supply in the future
- Wind energy is projected to be the cheapest form of electricity by 2020 (Source: Sustainable Development Commission)
- At the end of a wind farm's lifespan, it is easy to decommission and return the ground back to its former use

Government targets

The UK has a target to meet 10% of our electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2010 and 20% by 2020.

Bolsterstone Plc is currently carrying out environmental and technical surveys on a site near Lingen with a view to submitting a planning application for four wind turbines.

In conjunction with Marches Green Energy Ltd, a local company established to develop wind power in the Lingen area, we are planning a small wind farm consisting of four turbines on The Reeves Hill. If constructed the wind farm could generate enough energy from renewable sources to power the equivalent of from 5,144 to 7,326 homes*.

We hope to submit a planning application in April 2008 having carried out the environmental work required by the local authority, and if planning permission is received we would hope to start developing the wind farm by August 2009. When constructed, the wind farm will have a lifespan of about 25 years, and after this period the site will be returned to its former state.

Wind farms create much-needed power from an energy source that never runs out and does not produce carbon emissions. They are one of the most reliable and cost effective renewable generation technologies. To help fight climate change and secure the UK's future energy supply, we need to take advantage of renewable energy wherever possible. This wind farm will enable Herefordshire to help contribute to this vital goal.

who we are

The "Bolsterstone" companies are a number of corporate bodies based in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, which have been active for nearly 20 years.

Our projects include office blocks, industrial units and retail developments. Everything we do is driven by our aim to minimise our impact on the environment and reduce global warming. From our new development of advanced low energy homes in Norwich "Ecoston Park", through to our renewable energy business, all our thinking is aimed at the future when the climate will be warmer and energy more expensive.

environmental surveys with a view to submission of planning applications in 2008 and beyond. The sites range from 6mw to 20mw in capacity and are situated all over England and Scotland. We work with experienced specialist environmental, planning and aviation consultants to filter out unsuitable sites and prepare suitable sites for planning applications. These developments will be project managed by Bolsterstone Plc.

the economics of energy supply and the oil industry. Both have led us to become seriously concerned about the future for our business, the future for our planet and the future for our children.

The UK government is not doing enough to prioritize these issues and much of the world leadership is in a state of denial. So what do we do? Do we all sit back and accept the situation, accepting the legacy we will leave for our old age and for our children's future, or do we do something positive about it?

We have decided to do something – to change the way we think and to change the way we invest our capital. If we all do our bit we CAN change the future without waiting for government policy to catch up with what is happening NOW.

Wind Energy

With regard to wind energy, we have screened over 900 sites nationally and are progressing 40 of them, of which, 13 are undergoing

Why do we care?

Government policy is supportive, but local implementation is slow. We have studied the science of climate change. We have studied

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climate change

Most climatic scientists agree that human activity, mainly from burning fossil fuels, has increased global warming within the last 50 years...

Greenhouse gases trap the sun's rays causing the earth's surface to heat up, "between 2000 and 2005, emissions grew four times faster than in the preceding ten years" (Source: The Global Carbon Project).

"Four out of the five warmest years for more than three centuries have occurred during the past 10 years..."

A rise in temperature by only two degrees is predicted to have the following consequences within the UK:

- Severe loss of land due to rising sea levels, most pronounced in the South of the country

- Droughts in the South would be likely to become severe, hotter summers would mean an increase in demand for water, exacerbated by advanced evapotranspiration from reservoirs
- The North of England is predicted to suffer both wetter summers and winters, heavily impacting crop production
- All parts of the country are expected to experience increased chances of severe weather, including storms and flash flooding
- The above changes in our climate would affect the majority of the UK's wildlife resulting in; disrupted breeding, hampered migrations and an increase in disease transmission

Our current world population of 6.5 billion is, according to the United Nations, growing at a rate of 1.2% annually and this figure is set to exceed 9 billion by 2050. How will the UK, which is currently 63% self sufficient in food production compete for food in international markets at a time when there will be less land under cultivation due to population increase, rising sea levels and expected drought conditions in many areas?



we have to act now before it's too late!

energy security

It is an undeniable fact that the nation is facing an energy crisis – an anticipated shortfall of supply caused by bad forward planning and energy demand growth, combined with an issue of security of supply. Generally, people are not aware of this issue or how much extra demand there may be in the future for electrical power.

Under one scenario in which demand grows at 1.25% per annum*, total annual generation needs to grow from approximately 345TWh in 2003 to approximately 600TWh/year by 2050 – an increase of 74%.

By 2023, one quarter of UK generating capacity will be lost with the closure of old coal and nuclear power stations.

Britain became a net importer of gas in 2006, (much of the UK's power

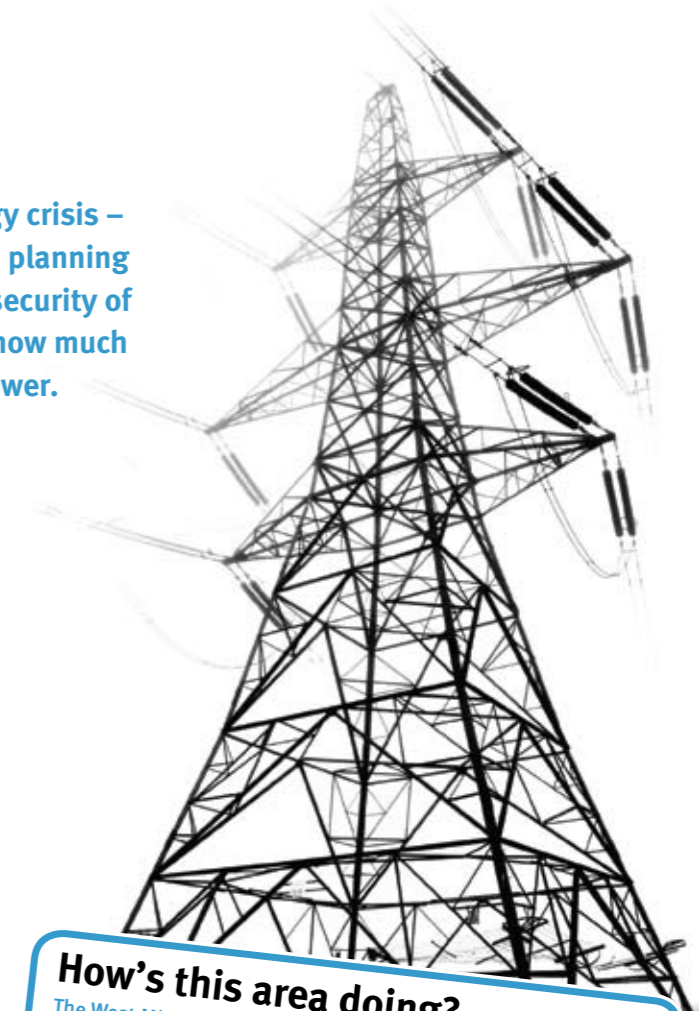
generation is driven by gas) and will be a net importer of oil by 2010. (Source: White Paper: Our Energy Future - Creating a Low Carbon Economy)

The UK is dependant on gas for 40% of electricity generation. (Source: Energy Review, July 2006)

At a time when most of the energy we use comes from other countries, we need to generate more of our own for a truly secure supply.

* Electricity Network Scenarios for Great Britain in 2050
 I. Elders, G. Ault, S. Galloway, J. McDonald, J. Köhler, M. Leach, E. Lampaditou.

How's this area doing?
 The West Midlands regional Wind Energy Resource Assessment (Nov 2004) identified a resource of 65mw to 150mw of wind energy capacity to be captured in the region. Currently, none of this capacity has been constructed. The Reeves Hill Wind Farm would make a substantial contribution to this target.



There are copious constraints governing the siting of a wind farm. A wind farm is unlikely to be granted planning permission if any of the following constraints are present:

- Low wind speed
- Poor access for turbine delivery
- Designated land (Includes A.O.N.B. / S.S.S.I. / National Parks / Green Belt / R.A.M.S.A.R. / E.S.A. / S.P.A. / S.A.C. amongst others)
- Close proximity of dwellings
- Interference with Military radar
- Interference with communication links
- Interference with Civil Aviation radar
- Cumulative visual impact
- Interference with N.A.T.s radar
- Predicted impact on wildlife habitats
- Considerable distance to grid connection
- Predicted impact on the hydrology in the surrounding area
- Excessive visual impact



Details of the grid connection possibilities are available on the website or at the exhibitions

Below are some specially constructed pictures of how the wind turbines are likely to appear in the landscape. The locations from which they are taken are generally agreed in advance with your local authority. Further views will be on display at our exhibition.



Predicted view from: Spaceguard Centre Car Park



Predicted view from: B4536 north-west of Presteigne

Reeves Hill Wind Farm Project timetable

17th March 2008	Assessments complete
25th April 2008	Planning application submission
15th August 2008	First date for determination of application
August 2009	Commencement of construction
March 2010	Generation commences

This site has been selected from an extensive list of other potential locations due to the minimal restrictive factors listed above.

community involvement

We are keen to engage everyone who lives or works in the area in our plans for the wind farm. You can help make a difference by providing valuable feedback on our proposal.

As well as sending out this newsletter, we have launched a special website where you can take part in online consultation, giving us your thoughts on our plans and sending us any other questions you may have. This website will be updated regularly, so please register to receive news and information about the wind farm by email. It also has an interactive map, frequently asked questions plus all other information we need to produce for our planning application.

Visit:
www.reeveshillwindfarm.co.uk

The Exhibition

We will be holding exhibitions (see table below) where you can find out about climate change and the energy crisis, and how it is and will continue to affect our country.

Exhibitions

Venue	Date	Time
Lingen Village Hall	27.03.08	4pm-8pm
Knighton Community Centre	28.03.08	2pm-8pm
Presteigne Assembly Rooms	29.03.08	10am-4pm

There will also be full details of the wind farm and information on our company. We will be there to answer your questions and raise money for local charities. Feedback forms will be available for you to give us your views. We look forward to meeting you. Alternatively, you can write to us at:

Bolsterstone Plc
Dunston Innovation Centre,
Dunston Road,
Chesterfield. S41 8NG

or email :
info@reeveshillwindfarm.co.uk

Or, you can write to the council at:

Herefordshire Council
PO Box 230,
Hereford.
HR1 2ZB

Lighting the way

To celebrate our new project and to help you to help us in the fight against climate change, we are offering free energy efficient light bulbs at the exhibition. All the light bulbs are 11w energy efficient bulbs with a bayonet fitting which produce about the same output as a standard 60w bulb.



A quotation from www.directgov.uk shows how effective this can be:

"Choosing energy-saving light bulbs is one of the easiest ways of cutting your energy use. If every household in Britain replaced just three normal bulbs with energy savers, enough energy could be saved to run all the country's street lighting."

As we keep trying to tell people "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot."

community benefits

If we receive planning permission and Reeves Hill Wind Farm is developed, we will set up a community benefit fund. There will also be the opportunity for members of the community to own one of the turbines.

Community ownership:

If the scheme is consented, Energy4All will have the option to purchase one of the turbines and will then offer members of the local community the opportunity to buy shares in this turbine. These local investors would therefore benefit financially from the sale of the electricity that this turbine generates.

For more information on how this works, see www.energy4all.co.uk

Community benefit fund:

Some of the profits from the wind farm will also be used to improve local facilities, go towards educational projects, or improve energy efficiency in the community.

This fund is usually managed by the local Council. We are keen to hear your ideas regarding how the community benefit fund should

be spent - please get in touch via the website, write to us, or tell us at the exhibition.

Each year for the next 25 years, the local community would benefit to the tune of £10,000 per turbine for every privately owned turbine on the site. The three privately owned turbines would provide an income of £30,000 per annum for the local community.

faq's...

DO WIND TURBINES AFFECT HOUSE PRICES?

There is currently no evidence in the UK that quantifies any link between falling rates in house prices and turbine proximity. Wind farms are generally more accepted once they have been running for a few years.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO PAY BACK THE ENERGY USED TO CONSTRUCT THE WIND FARM?

The average wind farm will pay back the energy used for its manufacture and construction within five to six months. This compares favourably with coal or nuclear power. Following the decommissioning of a wind farm, the ground can be returned to its former use almost immediately, unlike fossil fuel or nuclear power plants.

ARE WIND TURBINES NOISY?

The evolution of wind farm technology over the past decade has rendered mechanical noise from turbines almost undetectable, with the main sound being the aerodynamic swoosh of the blades passing the tower.

WILL WIND FARMS HELP PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE?

The UK currently emits 560 million tonnes of carbon dioxide every year, power stations are the largest contributors producing a massive 170 millions tonnes. If we are to meet government targets of cutting these figures by 60% by 2050, we need a source of energy that does not produce carbon dioxide.

DO PEOPLE THINK WIND TURBINES ARE UGLY?

Opinions about the aesthetics of wind turbines are divided, some people think they are beautiful and graceful, whereas others consider them an eyesore. Having said that, most people are supportive of wind power:

"New research' demonstrates strong public endorsement for wind farms, with those who have seen them being more supportive"

"70% would support the development of a wind farm in their area"

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