COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The local economy is also set to benefit from the Todd Hill Wind Farm. The project will generate significant contracts for construction, services and materials. Novera intends to invite local businesses to tender for these contracts. Additional indirect expenditure in local shops, service stations and accommodation is also expected.

Novera Energy has a policy to utilise, when practicable, local contractors for construction, operation and maintenance work. Up to approximately 50 personnel will be directly employed during the construction period. Once operational, an engineer will be required to undertake site supervision and maintenance.

Furthermore, a community trust fund of £2,000 per MW of installed capacity is proposed by Novera Energy. This fund will be allocated by local people to benefit local projects and will result in up to £30,000 per year being invested locally and over £750,000 during the life of the wind farm.

PROJECT TIMETABLE

Assuming planning permission is granted, an approximate timetable for the development is given below, although this is potentially subject to change as the project progresses.

> 23 and 24 July 2008
First public exhibition

> July – October 2008
Environmental Impact Assessment progresses

> Late 2008
Planning application submitted

> Early 2009
Second public exhibition

> 2009
Planning committee decision

> 2010
Construction begins

> Post 2010
Operational wind farm

CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information about Novera Energy and the Todd Hill project visit www.noveraenergy.com.

In the meantime, if you require further information, have ideas for the community trust fund or would like to support the Todd Hill Wind Farm proposal please:
email: Toddhillwindfarm@noveraenergy.com

Or contact Dan Grierson, Project Director, at Novera Energy, on 0131 243 1380.

Or lead consultants, Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting, Suite 2F, Swinegate Court East, 3 Swinegate, York, YO1 8AJ
Tel: 01904 715470.

Or TAS Communications, 44 Eastgate, Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, HU17 0DT, Tel: 01482 867867.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The British Wind Energy Association:
www.bwea.com and www.embracewind.com

BWEA Fact sheets:
www.bwea.com/energy/briefing-sheets.html

The Government's independent advisory body on sustainable development:
www.sd-commission.org.uk

The Department for Business, Environment and Regulatory Reform (BERR, formerly the Department of Trade and Industry) renewables site:
www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/index.html

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds:
www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/index.asp

BBC Weather Centre:
www.bbc.co.uk/climate/impact/

SOURCES

1 UK Climate Impacts Programme, Climate Change Scenarios for the UK, 2002

2 The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, www.rspb.org.uk

3 BWEA website www.bwea.com/statistics

4 The Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform www.berr.gov.uk

5 BWEA website, www.bwea.com/statistics

6 Danish Wind Industry Association website, http://www.windpower.org/composite-53.htm

7 ICM Research of 1,000 adults on behalf of Greenpeace undertaken 25-26th August 2004

8 MORI Scotland (2003), Public Attitudes to Wind farms, A Survey of Local Residents in Scotland

9 Sustainable Development Commission case study, Community Support for Wind Turbines, http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/communitiessummit/show_case_study.php/00090.html

10 MORI Scotland survey, Public Attitudes to Wind farms, A Survey of Local Residents in Scotland, (2003)

11 Biggar Economics' Tourism Report, February 2007

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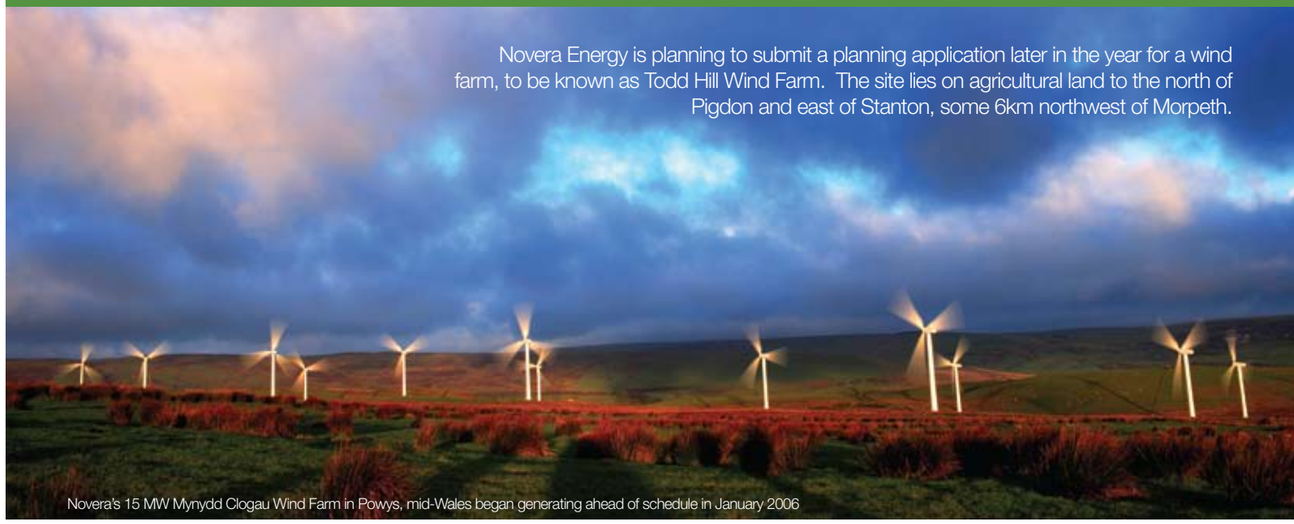
TODD HILL WIND FARM PROPOSAL



Novera Energy is planning to submit a planning application later in the year for a wind farm, to be known as Todd Hill Wind Farm. The site lies on agricultural land to the north of Pigdon and east of Stanton, some 6km northwest of Morpeth.

Novera's 15 MW Mynydd Clogau Wind Farm in Powys, mid-Wales began generating ahead of schedule in January 2006

JULY 2008 NEWSLETTER

PROJECT EXHIBITION
WEDNESDAY 23 JULY 2008, 12PM – 8PM
THURSDAY 24 JULY 2008, 10AM - 4PM
MORPETH TOWN HALL, MORPETH

Please feel welcome to come along to see details of the initial proposals and to give your views. Novera Energy and its consultant team will be available to answer your questions.

INTRODUCING NOVERA ENERGY PLC

Novera Energy plc is a leading independent UK renewable energy company. We develop, own and operate a diverse portfolio of wind, landfill gas, hydro and energy from waste projects. We are listed on the London Stock Exchange: Alternative Investment Market (AIM) and currently operate 122 megawatts (MW) of power generation capacity throughout the UK. For further information please visit our website which is www.noveraenergy.com

Novera is currently building its 30 MW Lissett Airfield Wind Farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire, consented in February 2007. Novera also owns and operates a number of landfill gas sites in Yorkshire, the Midlands and East Anglia, and the Mynydd Clogau wind farm in mid Wales.

As a responsible developer and operator of renewable energy schemes across the UK, including wind farms, Novera Energy's approach to development involves consulting widely with local communities and those with an interest in the proposed development.

Our proposal for Todd Hill Wind Farm is at an early stage and we are keen to engage with the local community and invite their comments. These comments will help us progress our proposals for the site.

We believe it is important to keep local people informed about our plans and this newsletter provides you with preliminary information on the project and also gives information about how you can get involved and influence the proposal. Your views are important to us and will be a key factor in finalising the design and layout of the wind farm over the coming months.

A public exhibition is being held on Wednesday 23 July and Thursday 24 July at Morpeth Town Hall to give local residents and any other interested parties more information about the project and the opportunity to discuss it with representatives of Novera Energy and the project team.

Novera is also currently investigating a further site in Castle Morpeth, for a wind farm of up to six turbines on agricultural land between the villages of Longhirst and Hebron.

WHY A WIND FARM AT THIS LOCATION?

Todd Hill has been selected by Novera Energy as a suitable site for a wind farm following a three-year site selection process. The first stage culminated in the identification of a list of sites which met the following criteria:

> In accordance with local authority development plan policy, for example within a preferred wind farm area, or consistent with criteria set out in wind farm policies;
> No international or national designations covering the site such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas of Ramsar Sites;
> Exposed location with good wind speeds;
> Within close proximity to a grid connection point; and
> Land area available to accommodate an economic generating capacity.

Todd Hill was selected to be taken forward from this list of sites because it has a number of attributes which allow for the development of a wind farm with minimal environmental effects.

The site is located on agricultural land to the north and northwest of Pigdon and east of Stanton, approximately 6km northwest of Morpeth in Northumberland. The site is owned and occupied by two local landowners and is dominated by intensively managed arable farmland bordered by hedgerows, with areas of woodland and commercial forestry plantation.

Our initial design proposals are for six turbines with the proposed turbine envelope covering approximately 1.2km^2. This design has been evolved to take into account separation distances from properties in order to minimise any effects on the surrounding residents as well as other environmental constraints such as separation from watercourses, and technical constraints such as telecommunications.

Taking all of these factors into account, Novera Energy decided to progress the proposal and undertake a full programme of technical and environmental assessments. These assessments are currently being conducted and initial findings suggest the site could accommodate up to 6 wind turbines. While indicative positions have been illustrated in this newsletter (overleaf), the final site layout (including the exact number of turbines and their positions) will not be concluded until all of the assessments and the public consultations are completed later this year. After that, Novera Energy intends to submit a formal planning application to Castle Morpeth Borough Council, late in 2008.

An Environmental Statement (ES) will be submitted to Castle Morpeth Borough Council together with the planning application. The ES will detail all of the environmental surveys and assessments undertaken. Survey work has now started and is ongoing. The areas of consideration that will be covered in the ES include:

• Landscape and visual • Ecology • Ornithology • Hydrology and Hydrogeology • Cultural Heritage and Archaeology • Noise • Telecommunications and Television Reception • Shadow Flicker • Transport and Access • Socio-economics • Aviation and Radar

TODD HILL WIND FARM DETAILS

Location	**To the northwest of Pigden and east of Stanton approximately 6km northwest of Morpeth**
Site area	**120ha**
Number of turbines	**Up to 6**
Blade tip height	**Up to 130m**
Generation capacity	**39,500MWh per year** (15MW x 0.3 x 8760 hours = 39.420) 30% capacity factor
Homes supplied	**Over 8,000** (39,420 x 1000/ 4,700 = 8,387 based on above and assuming 4,700kWH per year for a household)*

*This calculation provides an estimate of the homes that could be supplied by Todd Hill and is based on the likely annual generation of the proposed turbines and BERR's (previously known as the DTI) figure for average annual household electricity demand of 4.700 kWh; Digest of UK Energy Statistics, 2005. The figures are rounded down to the nearest 500 homes. The calculation uses a range of capacity factors from 29% (7,500 homes) to 30% (8,000 homes) which are considered appropriate to the geographical location and size of turbines proposed. The assessment of capacity factor is based on the NOABL database, a detailed desktop assessment, and data from the Lissett Airfield wind farm in the East Riding of Yorkshire. Further on-site assessment of the wind regime will allow more accurate assessment of the likely capacity in due course.

THE INITIAL DESIGN FOR TODD HILL WIND FARM IS FOR UP TO 6 TURBINES, EACH WITH UP TO 2.5 MW CAPACITY

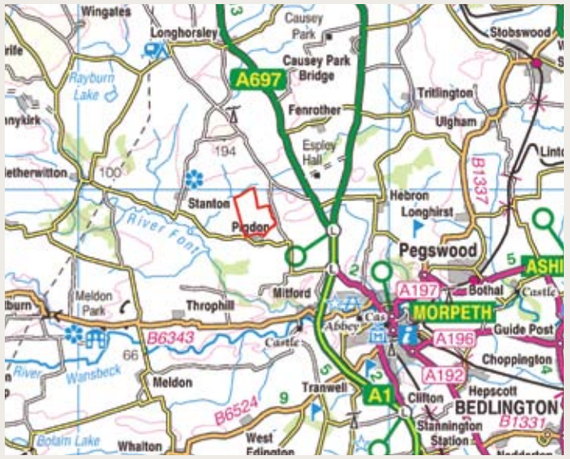
Key

Preliminary Turbine Locations

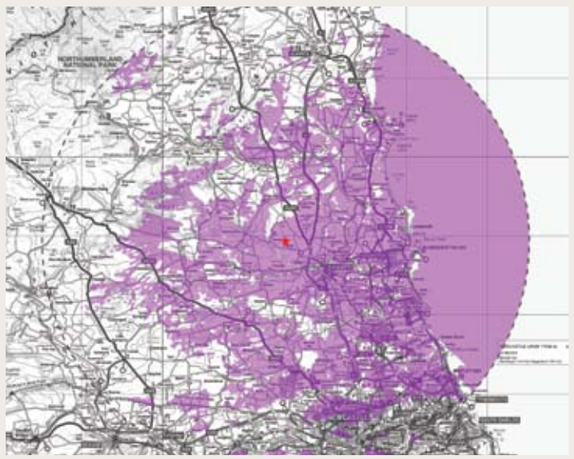
Site Boundary

Todd Hill Wind Farm

Area within 30km from which turbines may be visible



THE SITE IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 6KM NORTHWEST OF MORPETH IN NORTHUMBERLAND



AREAS FROM WHICH THE TURBINES COULD BE VISIBLE (SHOWN IN PURPLE)

WHY WIND POWER?

Global climate change is the single biggest environmental threat facing the planet. Scientists predict a 2°C to 3.5°C increase in the temperature in the UK by 2080 (compared to 0.6°C rise over the past 140 years)[1].

Climate change is a real threat to future generations, causing unpredictable, severe weather patterns with potentially catastrophic effects on agriculture, wildlife, human health and the economy.

"The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds views climate change as the most serious long-term threat to wildlife in the UK and globally and, therefore, we support the Government's target to source 15% of electricity from renewables by 2015.

To meet this target, the RSPB favours a broad mix of renewables, especially those, like solar energy, with large long-term potential and minimal environmental impacts. However, wind power has the greatest potential to make a significant difference in the UK in the coming decade. It is the most advanced and widely available of the new renewable technologies.[2]"

By using more renewable energy sources, like wind power, we can help to tackle this threat by reducing harmful carbon dioxide emissions.

Wind energy is clean and does not produce polluting carbon dioxide unlike coal, oil and gas. Investing in renewable technology is a long term commitment and is part of the solution to securing our future energy needs. Modern wind turbines with an average capacity of 3 MW produce electricity equivalent to the typical annual needs of approximately 1,600 homes.

Currently in the UK there are 174 operating wind farms, with 2012 turbines, totalling 2,529 MW and producing electricity equivalent to the total needs of over 1.4 million homes[3].

GOVERNMENT TARGETS?

The UK has a legally binding obligation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 12.5% by 2008-12 and the UK Government has set a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20% by 2010.

Renewable energy is an integral part of the Government's longer-term aim of reducing CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050. The Government has set a target of 10% of electricity supply from renewable energy by 2010 and 20% by 2020. In 2005, 4% of the UK's electricity supply came from eligible sources of renewable energy. During the same period, 4.2% of the UK's electricity supply came from all sources of renewable energy[4].

THE WIND DEBATE – SOME FAQS

For more information on wind farm facts, please visit www.embracewind.com

DO WIND FARMS HELP TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Wind is a free, clean and renewable source of energy and just one modern turbine will save thousands of tonnes of CO_2 emissions each year. In the UK alone there are 174 operating wind farms, reducing CO_2 emissions by millions of tonnes each year and supplying enough electricity to meet the needs of over 1.4 million households[5]. Countries such as Denmark and Germany are further ahead with wind power, making an even greater contribution to their climate change targets. Denmark generates 20% of its electricity from wind power[6]. European countries remain committed to wind energy development.

IS THERE PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WIND FARMS?

Whether you think a wind turbine is an acceptable addition to the landscape and a valuable contribution to the energy mix is very much a matter of personal opinion. Surveys by independent polling organisations show that more than 75% of the public consistently support, or strongly support, wind farms[7]. A MORI Survey for the Scottish Executive found that just 0.3% of residents living within 20km of a wind farm spontaneously mention wind farms as a negative aspect of their area. When questioned about wind farms 20% of the residents say their local wind farm has had a broadly positive impact and most (73%) feel that it has had neither a positive or negative impact. 7% say that there is a negative impact. Interestingly, the MORI survey found support increases among residents living closest to the wind farm[8].

ARE WIND FARMS COMPATIBLE WITH BIRDS?

The RSPB stated in its 2004 information leaflet 'Wind Farms and Birds', that *"in the UK, we have not so far witnessed any major adverse effects on birds associated with wind farms"*. Chris Rollie, an RSPB Area Manager, has recently commented that *"the RSPB views climate change as the most serious long term threat to wildlife in the UK and globally and in general terms we welcome wind farms as part of the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions"*. RSPB therefore support wind farms that are well sited.

IS IT TRUE THAT WIND FARMS ARE NOISY?

Noise is frequently raised as a concern at the development and planning stages of wind farms. It is possible to have a normal conversation with someone while standing underneath an operating wind turbine, without having to raise your voice. Sheep and other livestock tend to carry on grazing near working turbines, and do not move away. Noise levels from wind farms are on a par with rural background noise at night time.

DO WIND FARMS AFFECT TOURISM?

There is no evidence to suggest that wind farms negatively affect tourism. In fact, the UK's first commercial wind farm at Delabole received 350,000 visitors in its first 10 years of operation, while 60,000 visitors have visited to take the turbine tour at the Eco Tech Centre in Swaffham, Norfolk[9]. A MORI poll in Scotland[10] showed that 80% of tourists would be interested in visiting a wind farm. Wind farm developers are often asked to provide visitor centres, viewing platforms, parking areas and public access to their sites.

Case study research found that the key drivers of tourism performance tend to be either major geopolitical events or more local or regional factors. Wind farms that have been developed are not considered to have an impact on tourism trends[11].

MYNYDD CLOGAU. PHOTO: SIMON CLARK BBD