

Where will it be?



Map showing the 'potential developable area' (in yellow), and the area of the scoping study in red, taken from Google Earth. (Areas interpreted from the Environmental Scoping Report).

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.SAYNOTOHARRINGTON.COM

Disclaimer: Please note that this newsletter represents the views and opinions of the SAY NO TO HARRINGTON WIND FARM committee and our members. Although we have tried to be as accurate as we can in relaying facts on the subject of this proposed development and the industrial wind industry in general, we cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies found therein.

Say No to Harrington Wind Farm Newsletter



Who are we?

Say No to Harrington Wind Farm is a recently formed action group of local residents who oppose Nuon Renewables Ltd's plans to build a wind farm, consisting of up to eight 125 metre high wind turbines, on most of the land between the Brampton Valley way north of Draughton Crossing, and the old Harrington airfield.

The current committee is made up of representatives from Maidwell, Draughton and Harrington who are leading a campaign to ensure that any eventual planning application made by Nuon Renewables is rejected.

What are we doing?

We are currently fact-finding to explore all possible issues which might provide legitimate reasons within the planning laws and guidelines for objecting to any planning application. This includes contacting all those connected historically to the old Harrington airfield; nature and conservation groups; local bodies and so on.

We want to gather the opinions of local residents regarding the impact of Nuon's proposed wind farm on their quality of life, and to represent the interests of residents throughout consideration of the proposal by the District Council, thereby safeguarding those interests and protecting the community from the consequences of this proposed development. To that end we have printed and distributed posters to draw attention to the campaign and arranged a public meeting to en-

sure that all residents are aware of the issues impacting on them. We have also set up an informative web site:

www.saynotoharrington.com

Eventually we will, funds permitting, employ independent specialists in relevant areas to obtain accurate data and expertise and we will produce an exhaustive, authoritative rebuttal of any planning application.

Representatives, by village, are:

Maidwell:
David Unwin (Chair)
Stuart Bates
David Carter-Johnson
Philip Henson
Brian Lawrence
Howard Mason
Ken Palmer

Harrington:
Tessa Helfet
Sue Jackson-Stops

Draughton:
Ann Smeaton

We need your help.

Do you know about the environment, wildlife, planning, wind technologies, landscape, heritage? If you have a skill that might be of use in our campaign please contact me, and if you can make a donation to our funds, however small (or large!) please let me know. We also want to represent your views, so if you have a different point of view, or have something which is relevant and of interest for future issues, contact us.

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What is the proposal? How much energy will be harvested?

A proposal from Nuon Renewables Ltd to build a windfarm on the site of the old RAF Harrington will erect 'up to' eight wind turbines each with a maximum height of 125m and a maximum output of 2.5 megawatts (MW). The scoping study does not specify actual height but Appendix C of the report which shows areas of visibility has a revision which shows the zones with a turbine height of 125m.

In this area of low wind speeds, the turbines will struggle to do better than 20-25% of the maxi-

mum, so giving about 43,800 megawatt hours of power. Sizewell B nuclear station last year produced 8.9 terrawatt hours (the equivalent of the production of 203 similar wind farms).

We all see the sense in renewable energy, and none of us want to be NIMBY's (not in my back yard), but the question is whether or not this development, at this place, with this technology, and at this time, is sensible.

How high is 125m?

- 410 feet!
- Burton Wold turbines are 326 ft
- Draughton church tower is +/- 41 ft
- Centre point in London is 383 ft
- The London Eye is 443 ft
- Nelson's Column is 165 ft
- Big Ben is 314 ft
- And at 418 ft the Northampton lift tower is more or less the same.

How big are the blades?

- The span of the blades is 80-90m; the wing span of a jumbo jet is 59.6m and the length is 70.5m so a jumbo jet could fly through the circle made by the blades.
- Wembley football pitch is 105 x 68m.



"Oxendon, Kelmash, Maidwell Square Norman towers with arrow slits, thatched pubs, tiny Victorian railway stations, nesting in a bosky¹ countryside of high hedges and dense copses. It was enough to make you want to break into a chorus of 'There'll always be an England ...' "

Robert Harris, ENIGMA, (Arrow Books 1996) p. 273

¹ bosky - Having abundant bushes, shrubs or trees



Public meeting held in Maidwell

..... to give information about the proposed siting of a wind farm with 120m high wind turbines on most of the land between the Brampton Valley Way and the old Harrington airstrip, north of Draughton Crossing. Local residents, who packed the Loder Hall in Maidwell, heard Professor Michael Jefferson, Gary Lunt and Philip Hollobone give their views on various aspects of wind farms.

Michael Jefferson is an energy and environmental advisor, Professor of International Business and Sustainability at the Metropolitan Business School and in more recent years his activities included being the lead consultant and co-ordinator of the Technical Advisory Panel to the G8 Task Force on Renewable Energy. Currently he is Associate Editor of the journal "Renewable Energy". Professor Jefferson spoke eloquently of his beliefs that wind turbines have an important part to play in providing renewable energy, but that they should be placed in locations where they will perform most efficiently. He believes this is offshore or along the coast where wind speeds will provide optimum results, not in locations such as the Harrington airfield. He said that the implied load factor (proportion of total installed capacity actually used) for the Harrington airfield area is unlikely to exceed 24%. Load factor has a particular relevance in the development of wind farms. Nuon Renewables (a company based near Penzance, but whose parent company is Dutch) is seeking to develop the proposed site at Draughton. The Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Nuon between 2002 and April 23, 2008, was Ludo van Halderen, who said early in 2008:

"Wind energy should be developed where it makes sense instead of seeing wind farms receiving substantial subsidies in countries where they run for barely a fifth of the year (a load factor of 23%)."

In other words, the former Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board of a company experienced in wind energy projects – while in office – revealed that the load factors likely to apply in the A14/Market Harborough area do not make sense.

Gary Lunt spoke about his voluntary involvement with action groups fighting wind farm planning applications along the A14 corridor east of the M1. He said that whilst each action group would have their own specific campaign with issues unique to their own location, there would be several common issues relevant to all plan-

ning opposition. A consortium group had therefore been formed, with representatives from each of these individual action groups to form the Windfarm Action Group for the A14 Consortium (WAGAC) in order to work together in exploring common issues.

Local MP **Philip Hollobone** expressed cautious opposition to wind farms. He said that his constituents in Burton Latimer were generally supportive and proud of the Burton Wold wind farm but he believed that particular development provided enough turbines for the area. Whilst he supported wind farms as a source of renewable energy, he agreed with Professor Jefferson's view that offshore wind farms were more efficient and supported our opposition to the proposed developments on the Harrington airfield. He urged all present to write to the three councillors for our ward and every member of the planning committee at Daventry (once a planning application had been received) to outline why they should not allow this development.

Keith Kilbane of the Stop Swinford Wind Farm Action Group gave a brief outline of their campaign, particularly in regard to the planning process. He said that once the planning application was received the planning committee had 13 weeks to reach their decision but that they would publish their findings 21 days before the decision was reached and this was the period during which objections could be lodged. He said that Nuon and Daventry Council had experience of the process, but that we would be involved in a very steep learning curve from a standing start. He also said that Nuon would employ consultants to prepare their Environmental Assessment and strongly advised the appointment of someone experienced in looking at the huge amount of detail the EA would contain in order to prepare our case against the proposal.

David Carter-Johnson, who chaired, thanked the speakers for freely giving their time. He thanked the local residents for attending and stressed the need for financial contributions in order to successfully campaign against the wind farm development.