

benefits from a good network of public footpaths. It is hoped that if the wind farm goes ahead it will be possible to design a Cold War heritage walk which will also include the nuclear missile site and the Carpetbaggers Museum. Plans may include creating a permitted access to the concrete structures that form the remnants of the missile launch pads and if appropriate undertaking work to improve understanding and interpretation." What they miss is the fact that Northamptonshire County Council and the Northants Local Access Forum have already stated that any public footpaths must have a separation distance of 126m from turbines (topple distance) precluding such plans. That, and the fact that this is not about throwing money at the missile site to create visitor centres, but about maintaining the setting and scale of this nationally important memorial site.

And finally ... the image below is an interpretation of the turbines in place alongside the Thor missile launch pads with an impression of the three missiles in the three stages of readiness. In the distance the missile is inside its protective hangar; the middle missile is shown with the hanger slid back; the foremost missile is in its launch position. Note how the turbines completely dwarf the missiles even in ready-to-launch state. Who will notice these historic remains with 7 enormous rotating turbines, each roughly the size of the Express Lift Tower, towering above them?

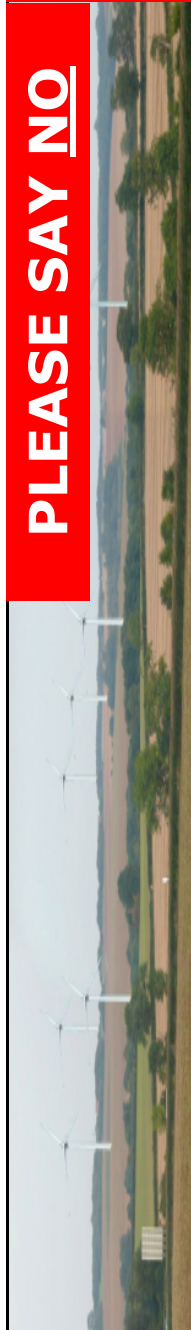


PLEASE contact DDC Planning Department either by letter or email cphillips@daventrydc.gov.uk objecting further to the proposal, and PLEASE attend the planning meeting at Daventry on 16th December. If you need help to get to Daventry please call Ann 07768 573602 or David 07806 306772. ITS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE THAT YOU ACT!

See www.saynoharrington.com for more information

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 5



PLEASE SAY NO

D Day is December 16th

Daventry District Council (DDC) Planning Committee will hear the application at their meeting on December 16th. This will be a very significant meeting. Planning Committee meetings are held at the Lodge Road offices of the District Council (in Daventry) and start at 6:30pm. Interested parties are able to attend. We expect that only three very short presentations will be allowed: from Nuon, one from Maidwell and Draughton Parish Councils on behalf of all the affected Parish Councils, and one from SNHWF. We intend having as many of the objections raised 'represented' by a least one person in the audience to answer questions or, more probably, to correct any misrepresentations or misunderstandings. Whilst we thank you for your support so far, there are two simple ways in which you could help to get the application turned down: 1) by being present at the meeting to show your support. **If you need help to get to Daventry please call Ann 07768 573602 or David 07806 306772;** 2) by writing to reaffirm your objections to the application following further information submitted by Nuon 3 weeks ago. **These letters of objection need to be with the planning officer by Tuesday, 1 December so time is very short.** More information below.

- **Planning Committee 16th December**
- **An update on the current position.**
- **Nuon's newsletter**

Regulation 19 and Nuon's response.

On October 28th the DDC Planning Officer wrote formally to WYG Planning and Design, Nuon's consultants, pointing out numerous deficiencies in the Environmental Statement (ES) and asking for clarifications. This Regulation 19 letter enables the developer to make necessary corrections and clarifications to the ES before any determination of the outcome is made. The letter is not in itself a summary of the case against the development, simply a request for additional information. DDC's list makes mention of:

- Discrepancies and inconsistencies in the description of the site especially with reference to distances quoted from the turbines to dwellings and pathways. This includes correcting a plan that shows some woodland which no longer exists;
- A failure properly to specify technical details of the equipment used to generate the photomontages, which particularly affects the views shown of the two easternmost turbines (i.e. those on the Thor Missile site);
- A need for clarification about the effects of shadow flicker, especially since the distances of houses from the nearest the turbines is given as 900m when in fact they are 750 and 800m;
- Concerns about the likely impact on bats, especially in relationship to Turbine 4;

- Further information is needed on the noise monitoring including a proper verification of the background figure and a justification for the sites chosen at which to site the monitors;

- Notification that the Highways Agency has directed that planning permission isn't granted until further information is provided related to safety on the A14 during the construction phase;

- A need for the company to agree to divert footpaths and bridleways in order to meet the statutory separation distances. (For those who walk the site regularly it is worth noting that the top bridleway will have to be moved westwards to allow for a minimum 200m distance from Turbines 3 and 7, with the creation of a levelled turf track).

In terms of cultural heritage and archaeology, Nuon's photomontages were considered to be unrepresentative and insufficient to enable a thorough assessment of the impact on heritage features. Nuon were asked to carry out a further assessment in relation to the site and on other listed buildings in the area. They were also required to carry out an archaeological field evaluation. We have also seen a separate report from Daventry's Landscape Officer which raises concerns about the proposed layout and number of turbines.

This is a long list. Nuon has, over the past few months, been carrying out activities to enable them to reply to the issues raised by DDC and have submitted a response to which members of the public can reply. This document is 277 pages long, but with a summary of only 25 pages!

Further noise monitoring was carried out, though it would appear that this was at previously monitored sites with equipment placed in slightly different locations; no monitoring was carried out in Draughton village or Maidwell despite several offers to host equipment. This monitoring also took place when the harvest was in full swing giving what must surely be an inaccurate picture. An archaeological assessment was carried out and this was done after the harvest when fields were

crop free!

Nuon has provided new photomontages and an assessment of the impact on the Thor missile site which English Heritage considers to be of national importance and is considering for scheduling at the moment. English Heritage objects to the development because of the impact it will have on the setting of the WWII site and the Thor missile site. English Heritage wrote in a letter dated 2 June: "*The basis of your argument is that there are no rigid criteria for the setting of historic assets and that judgements are based on experience as to the extent of setting, the sensitivity of the receptor(s), and the effect of the proposed development on them. In the case of Harrington, where the development comes to within 100m of the receptor and is of a scale which is likely to dwarf its massive blast walls, our view was, and remains that there would be an adverse impact on the setting of this nationally important monument.*" They go on to say: "*Our view is that the Thor missile site does have a setting, both contextual and historic, and that is the WWII airfield of RAF Harrington. All the Thor sites were built on decommissioned RAF stations, not simply because of their infrastructure but also because of the physical nature of the site, and indeed because the MoD had retained the sites for defence purposes. Our concern is principally the scale of the development against the dramatic hill-top setting of the missile launch sites and their blast walls. We consider that the effect of the development will be real and substantial. On that basis we cannot change our advice to the planning authority.*" Having spoken to English Heritage this week, they remain opposed to any turbines being built due to the impact on the Thor missile site itself and on its setting and will be writing to DDC to this effect.

Nuon's Reg 19 response can be downloaded from DDC's website.

We urge you to reply so that DDC know you still object to the application and enclosed you will find a sample letter and an envelope addressed to the Planning Department. Com-

ments should be received by Daventry by 1st December. You can also download this sample letter from our website www.saynotoharrington.com and email it to the planning officer - cphillips@daventrydc.gov.uk. Please ensure you add your name and address to the letter.

Nuon's Newsletter

Nuon have issued a newsletter to all houses in the area which contains information which we feel is either misleading or inaccurate. We'd like to address some of the issues.

The newsletter begins by saying that the "*wind farm at former RAF Harrington is cleared to go by all but one of the technical and specialist consultees to the planning application from Nuon Renewables*" It doesn't say that this objection is from English Heritage who, despite several conversations with Nuon are adamant that the proposal will compromise the entire site and its setting; the statement completely ignores a "no comment" response from Brixworth PC and resounding objections from all other PCs in the area as well as Kettering BC. It also ignores an objection from the Oil and Gas Pipeline Agency (OPA) writing on behalf of the MoD objecting to the proposal on the grounds of danger from proximity of at least 2 of the turbines to their high pressure oil pipeline; to an objection from the Northants Bat Group and from CPRE. It also fails to mention that several consultees have concerns with the application who withhold objection only if certain mitigating actions are adhered to. In particular the Northamptonshire Local Access Forum believes that 4 of the turbines are within the minimum exclusion zone that the British Horse Society recommends should be kept clear in respect of the Rights of Way on this site. Northamptonshire County Council echoes this concern and identifies the same 3 turbines, two affecting the bridleway and the third affecting the public footpath. It recommends that either the turbines be moved or the bridleway and footpath be moved. The Civil Aviation Authority want the tur-

bines to have lights on the nacelles, and Coventry Airport has no objection providing a 'line of site' survey is carried out. They add that to date Nuon has not fulfilled this requirement.

Nuon also continue to make claims about the estimates of the output of the wind-farm. They say this is "*conservatively estimated at 36 million kilowatt hours of electricity a year, or the equivalent of the average annual consumption of some 7,000 average households.*" The very small print at the bottom of the page says this is based on a capacity factor of 29%. Burton Wold at maximum reaches about 21.8% and the electricity generated is not necessarily produced at times when the demand is there, hence the requirement for back up from coal and nuclear powered generators.

Nuon make much of community opinion talking about a questionnaire distributed in December 2008. They say that "*Of those who responded over 84% felt that more renewable energy is needed and over 51% agreed with the principle of a wind farm at former RAF Harrington.*" They don't say how many responded, make little of the fact that this was before the detail of the application was available, nor do they say that at the time that the DDC consultation period closed, of 151 letters received from the general public, 144 were against and 7 for the proposal. They also mention that "*Councillors were invited to see for themselves the Burton Wold Wind Farm in action and experience how quiet modern wind farms are and how Burton Latimer gets on with its wind farm neighbour.*" But the other Burton Latimer neighbours are the Weetabix plant, the railway, warehousing and the turbines are considerably smaller than those proposed at Harrington and separated from Burton Latimer by the A6! It's also telling that the councillors who visited this site later voted unanimously to object to the proposal.

Page 2 of Nuon's letter concentrates on the Thor missile site and their plans to develop it. They say "*The site already*