

Blackstone Edge Wind Turbine Cluster



Above shows view of existing Royd Moor farm from A629, High Flatts, Grid Ref: E421848, N406555

Introduction

E.ON UK, the company that runs Powergen, has created a business that focuses on developing clusters of three or four wind turbines. Our aim is to build projects which could make a substantial contribution to national targets for renewable energy while generating benefits for the local community.

We are currently considering developing a wind turbine cluster called Blackstone Edge, in Crow Edge, South Yorkshire. The project is still at an early stage and we are currently carrying out environmental studies to find out more information about the site.

Proposal details

The site is located north-west of the existing Royd Moor Wind Farm which has been in operation since 1993 and is owned by a 50/50 joint venture between E.ON and Energy Power Resources Limited (EPRL).

The proposed wind turbine cluster would consist of three wind turbines, each with a maximum power output of around 2.3MW and a total height of 91-121m. In addition to the wind turbines, there will also be some associated infrastructure including access tracks to the site, a wind monitoring mast, and a small single storey electrical substation and control building.

Why Blackstone Edge?

The site at Blackstone Edge has an excellent wind resource. Our initial assessment has identified that it has significant potential to accommodate a cluster of three wind turbines with minimum impact on the environment and the local residents.

Environmental studies

We have appointed independent environmental consultants to carry out the environmental impact assessment work, looking at such areas as Landscape and Visual, Ecology, Noise, Archaeology, Traffic and Transport, Radar and Communication and Shadow Flicker.

We would also carry out an assessment of any potential cumulative effects with other wind farm sites, such as the Hazlehead proposal and Royd Moor. It should be noted that Royd Moor will be approaching the end of its operational life in 2013-2018.

We have recently submitted a Scoping Report to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to help determine the scope of the environmental studies and ensure that any effects on local people or wildlife are minimised.

Energy production

Since the Royd Moor turbines were installed, technology has developed rapidly, and advances now mean that we can install fewer, but more powerful, wind turbines to generate the same amount of electricity. The proposed 2.3MW wind turbines could generate around five times more electricity than the existing 0.5MW Royd Moor turbines. Overall the three wind turbines in Blackstone Edge could generate enough electricity to power up to 3,800 homes* annually.

* based on average annual domestic usage

Consultation

Initial consultation about the wind turbine cluster has been made with statutory consultees such as Barnsley MBC, English Nature, English Heritage, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), telecommunications and broadcasting companies, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Although responses at this stage look promising for a wind cluster development it is important to remember that the project is still at a very early stage and we need to carry out a number of environmental studies to fully assess the feasibility of the project.

Community engagement

As the project progresses, we will ensure that the local community is kept informed through newsletters and updates. Once we have sufficient information from our environmental consultants, and if the site still looks promising, we will hold a public exhibition to give the local people the opportunity to understand the project details and to get involved in the consultation process.

Community benefits

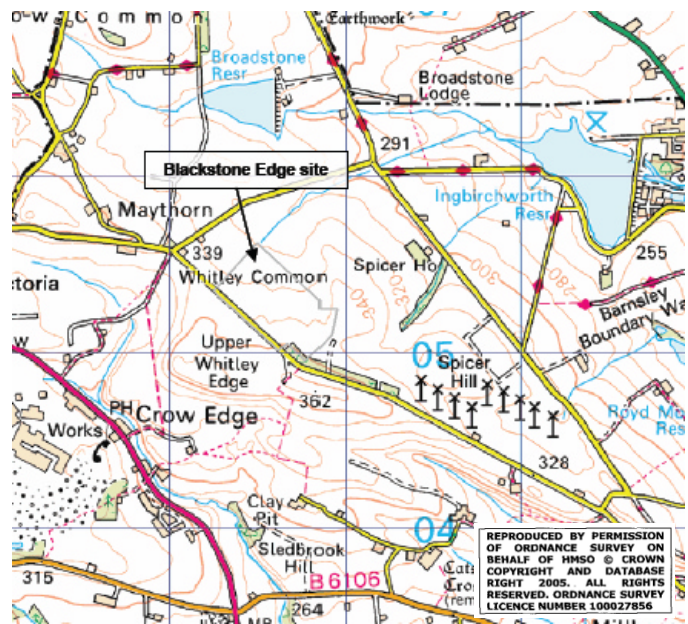
To help meet national renewable targets the proposed wind cluster could generate enough renewable electricity to power up to 3,800 homes* and save up to 7,790 tonnes of CO2 per year**. In addition to this, we aim to make the advantages of electricity generation from renewable energy sources more apparent and tangible on a local level. Our benefits package could include:

- An annual community fund of £5,000 - £10,000 a year for the lifetime of the project (around 24 years). This could be spent as the community sees fit;
- Energy efficiency advice, products and services promoting energy savings. This could include a micro wind turbine or a solar PV array for a public building (e.g. school/church/village hall), loft insulation discounts, energy efficient lightbulbs and energy consumption devices to record home energy use;
- Provision of a focussed and curriculum based educational programme centred on energy generation and management for local schools.

In addition, the construction and installation of the wind turbine cluster could generate local employment opportunities and we would seek to place civil and electrical work with local contractors where possible – subject to the usual tendering process.

* based on average annual domestic usage

**grid electricity converting factor of 430kg CO2/MWh(DEFRA)



Who is E.ON UK?

E.ON UK, the company that runs Powergen, is the UK's largest integrated energy services company. We're one of the leading energy suppliers, the second largest electricity generator and we own the second largest distribution network in the UK. At E.ON we're serious about our commitment to renewable energy, and are playing a key part in delivering E.ON UK's low carbon agenda. We have stakes in 20 wind farms across the country, generating enough renewable electricity to meet the residential power needs of over 100,000 homes. We operate both onshore and offshore wind farms, a hydro power scheme and biomass-fuelled generation. In South Yorkshire we already operate the wind farm at Royd Moor which consists of 13 wind turbines generating enough electricity to power up to 3,300 homes* annually.

* based on average annual domestic usage

Contact us

We welcome your views on this proposal as well as your ideas on how your community could benefit from this wind turbine cluster. If you would like to join our Blackstone Edge wind turbine cluster mailing list please email us at wind.clusters@eon-uk.com or write to Community Power, E.ON UK, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8LG.

For more information on wind energy visit the British Wind Energy Association website at www.bwea.org or the Department of Trade and Industry website at www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables