

Chiplow Wind Turbine Cluster



Photo of Out Newton Wind Farm, Yorkshire.

Introduction

We are writing to you about a wind turbine cluster called Chiplow that we are proposing for a site in North West Norfolk. We have recently identified an area for a cluster of wind turbines on farmland between the villages of Barmer, Syderstone and Bagthorpe and wanted to get in touch to inform you of our investigations.

The project is still at an early stage and we are in the process of carrying out environmental studies to find out more information about the site.

Proposal details

The map overleaf shows the location of the Chiplow site. The proposed scheme would consist of up to six wind turbines, each with a maximum power output of around 2MW and a total height of around 100m. The exact number, size and layout of the proposed scheme will be confirmed once the environmental investigations have been completed.

There would 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 Chiplow?

We have carried out a wind turbine cluster site suitability assessment of the King's Lynn & West Norfolk area. This assessment is called "constraints mapping" and, apart from wind resource maps, it includes buffers around residential houses, airports and aerodromes and areas designated for their wildlife and archaeology such as National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Through this mapping, we have identified Chiplow as being one of the most suitable sites in King's Lynn & West Norfolk with a good potential to accommodate a cluster of modern wind turbines.

Energy production

Based on five 2MW machines, the proposed wind cluster would generate enough electricity to power approximately 5,000¹ homes annually, saving over 21,000² tonnes of CO₂ from being emitted into the atmosphere each year. This would account for approximately nine percent³ of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk residential household demand.

Consultation and Environmental Studies

To determine the scope of the environmental studies, initial consultation has been made with the statutory consultees including King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council, English Nature, English Heritage (Natural England), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) as well as telecommunications and broadcasting companies.

We have appointed a team of independent environmental consultants, who are currently carrying out site investigations. Ongoing studies include impact assessments in relation to Landscape and Visual, Ecology, Noise, Archaeology, Traffic and Transport, Radar, Communications and Shadow Flicker.

¹ Typical household electricity consumption of 4.7MWh/year (DUKES, 2004).

² Grid electricity converting factor of 860g CO₂/kWh (BWEA 2006).

³ Based on a figure of 58,338 residential households in the King's Lynn & West Norfolk region (CENSUS 2001).

Benefits for the local community

As part of E.ON's commitment to the communities in which it works, a number of benefits would be made available at a local level:

- An annual community fund of approximately £10,000 per year for the lifetime of the wind turbine cluster (around 20 years). This can be spent as the community wishes, for example on community leisure facilities, local restoration projects, books for schools and social enterprise projects.
- 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 light bulbs and energy consumption devices to record home energy use.
- Provision of a focussed and curriculum-based educational programme centred on energy generation and energy management for local schools.

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

Keeping in touch

As the project progresses, we will ensure that we keep you informed and up to date.

We anticipate that our next update will be issued in summer 2007, once the majority of environmental studies have been completed.

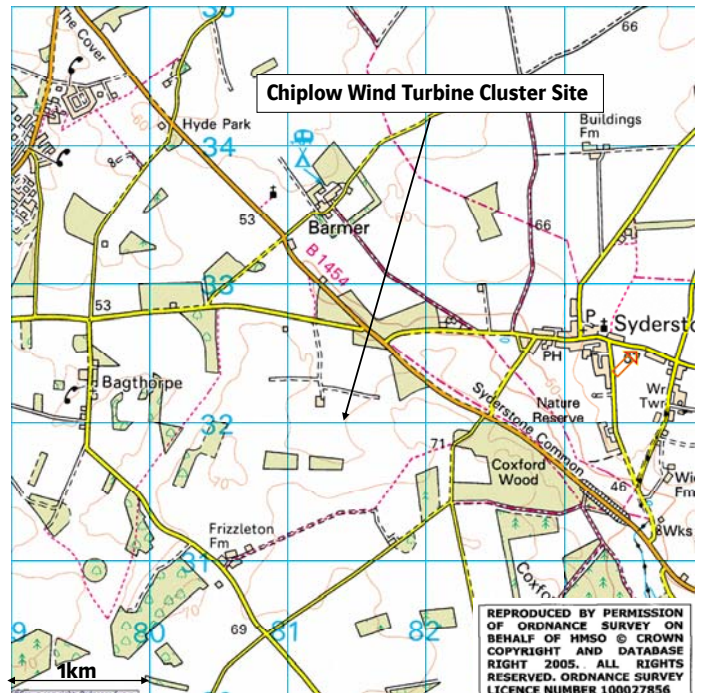
At this point, if the site still looks feasible, we will hold a public exhibition to give local people the opportunity to understand the project details and to express their views.

Subject to the results of the work we're currently undertaking, we would expect to submit a planning application for the wind turbine cluster in autumn 2007.

Contact us

We welcome your views on this proposal as well as your ideas on how the community could benefit from this wind turbine cluster.

If you would like to join our Chiplow Wind Turbine Cluster mailing list please email us at wind.clusters@eon-uk.com with the subject heading "Chiplow," or write to the Chiplow Project Developer, Community Power, E.ON UK, Westwood Way, Westwood Business Park, Coventry CV4 8LG.



About E.ON UK

E.ON, 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 onshore and offshore wind farms across the country, generating enough renewable electricity to meet the residential power needs of over 139,000 homes.

In East Anglia we already operate the Scroby Sands and Blood Hill wind farms near Great Yarmouth, and are currently constructing our nineteenth onshore wind farm called Stag's Holt in Cambridgeshire.

For more information about our Renewables business, please visit our web pages on eon-uk.com/renewables. For information about Chiplow, please visit: eon-uk.com/renewables/chiplow.

For more information on wind energy

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