# WOOLLEY HILL WIND FARM



**AUGUST 2010** 

#### Welcome

RES is pleased to introduce plans for a new wind farm at Woolley Hill, between the villages of Woolley and Ellington, near Huntingdon.

It is imperative that we develop cleaner, greener energy sources now. Renewable energy can help to reduce climate-changing pollution, provide a reliable supply of electricity to homes and businesses, create 'green collar' jobs and bring important economic benefits, both locally and nationally.

As the most advanced renewable energy technology, onshore wind power has a vital role to play in meeting our needs. It is acknowledged that every part of the UK needs to do its bit towards meeting challenging targets for a more secure electricity supply, and Woolley Hill Wind Farm is an exciting project which will help Cambridgeshire to do this.

# What are we proposing?

We will be applying for planning permission to erect 4 turbines on agricultural land. Each turbine would be up to 131m high, to the tip of the blade. The proposed layout has been carefully designed, following site studies aimed at reducing the visual and ecological impact of the project, while maximising the amount of cleaner, greener electricity generated.

A four turbine wind farm would have an indicative installed capacity of 9.2MW. A wind farm of this size would be likely to generate enough electricity to power the equivalent of approximately 5,250 homes\*, or 8% all of the homes in the district of Huntingdonshire.

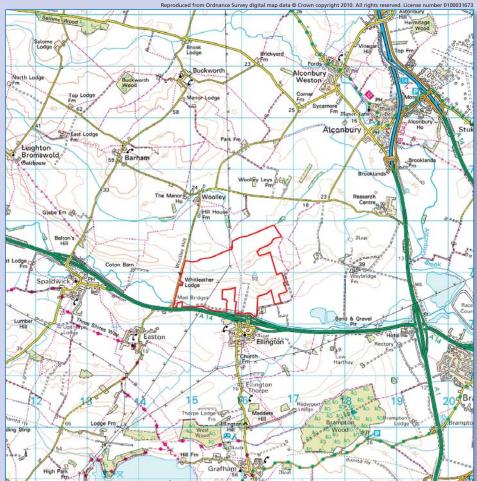
We are confident that this is a very good site for a wind farm and that a sensitively- designed project will be an asset to the area.

Subject to the outcome of the environmental investigations, and consultation responses received from the public exhibitions, we hope to submit a planning application in late Autumn. The plans to the right show the site location and turbine layout.

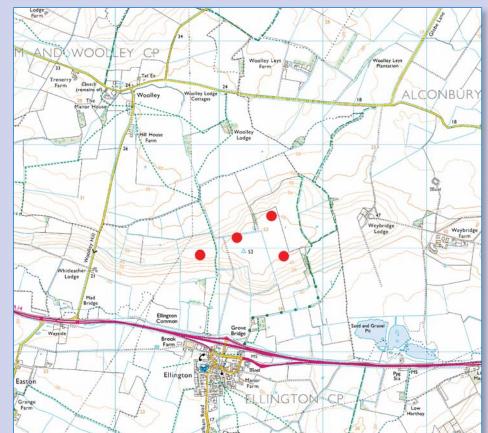
\*Based on a conservative capacity factor of 30.7%, derived from the NOABL database. This figure may change in the future as further wind speed monitoring data becomes available. An average household electricity consumption figure of 4,700kWh/year was used in the calculation

# Local consultation

Over the summer, RES has been talking to community representatives, parish councils and members of the district councils. We have been taking on board their views about how the wider public consultation should be undertaken, and have listened to their concerns about the number of turbines which featured in early designs for the site, and we have reduced the number of turbines as a result. The parish councils agreed that it would be helpful to set up a Community Liaison Group, which we have acted upon. The Group is made up of elected representatives from all of the local communities around the wind farm, and we shall continue to meet every 1-2 months to discuss any matters relating to the proposed wind farm.







Amy Bambridge is RES's Community Liaison Officer for the proposed Woolley Hill Wind Farm and her contact details can be found overleaf. Please contact her if you have any queries about the wind farm at any point during the development process.





Turbine layout

# COME ALONG TO OUR EXHIBITIONS AND FIND OUT MORE!

We will be holding exhibitions, to present our current proposal and to consult with you how the project may be improved at the following times: Wednesday 8th September: Ellington Village Hall, 2–8pm Thursday 9th September: Alconbury Sports & Social Club, 4 – 8pm We look forward to meeting you and discussing the proposal in more detail. You are welcome to attend either exhibiton, irrespective of where you live, as the information displayed at both will be identical. We hope that as many people as possible will be able to come along and view the plans for the wind farm, and we look forward to meeting you.'

#### Who are we?

RES is a leading independent renewable energy project developer. RES grew out of the Sir Robert McAlpine group, which is one of the UK's major civil engineering and construction contractors with over 130 years' experience in the industry.

From large-scale wind farms and biomass power plants to on-site renewables, we are dedicated to the provision of reliable, low-carbon energy solutions. Drawing on decades of experience in the

renewable energy and construction industries, RES has the expertise to develop, construct and operate projects of outstanding quality. Our



enviable track record in

project delivery has given us a reputation for excellence that is second to none. In the quarter of a century since RES was formed, we have played a central role in the development of the global renewable energy market and we have helped to move the low-carbon energy debate from the margin to the mainstream.

# A local landmark

As at many other wind farm sites around the UK, the project is expected to be of interest to local schools and visitors to the area. Some schools choose to follow the progress of a wind farm application as a project for their students, offering opportunities for learning about a whole range of curriculum subjects, from energy and the environment to citizenship, history and art.

For example, we have previously sponsored the energy education charity CREATE (www.create.org.uk) to work with schools around our wind farm sites to help them to reduce their energy bills. In Yorkshire, we have worked with 3 schools to introduce the Diploma in Engineering. If your school is interested in such a project, please contact us, as our educational centre in Hertfordshire can provide educational materials.

If you're a member of a group such as the Scouts, WI, Round Table, Rotary, Probus Club, etc., or work for a local company, and would like us to come and give you a presentation on the wind farm, don't hesitate to drop us a line.

# Leading by example

RES recognises that renewable energy has to go hand in-hand with improving energy efficiency and reducing energy demand. That is why RES's award-winning UK head office, in Hertfordshire, is a pioneering example of a 'low carbon' office, with electricity and heat provided from its own wind turbine, solar panels, biomass grown on site and natural cooling.

The number of staff employed by RES in the UK increases each year, and totalled 314 at the end of 2009. This number is expected to continue to grow throughout 2010, despite the current economic climate.

# The project team



#### James Townsend

James Townsend is the Project Manager responsible for the Woolley Hill Wind Farm proposal. He has been overseeing every aspect of this proposal, coordinating the various departments of RES to ensure the site is suitable, the right turbines are chosen and that all the necessary studies and assessments are carried out thoroughly. Originally from mid-Wales, James has a degree in Environmental Science from Leeds University and an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems Technology from Loughborough University. You can email James on: woolleyhill.windfarm@res-ltd.com



# **Amy Bambridge**

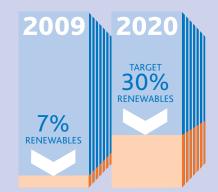
Amy Bambridge is the Community Relations Manager for Woolley Hill Wind Farm. Work on community environmental management projects led her into the wind industry. She handles all of the local community work and is the first point of contact for enquiries about community funds and the consultation process. amy.bambridge@res-ltd.com Tel: 01923 299 328



# Our changing energy supply

The UK is moving towards generating a higher percentage of its electricity from renewable sources. The most recent figures available, for 2009, show that the UK's electricity primarily comes from three sources: gas (45%), coal (28%) and nuclear (18%). Despite our abundant natural renewable resources, we generate just 7% of our electricity from renewables. We are increasingly dependent on imported fuels, particularly gas, which is not good for our economy or our energy security. As conventional fuel resources decline, we need to make use of home-grown energy sources that will never run out. Indigenous and renewable wind power has an important role to play in keeping the UK's lights on.

The UK has signed up to the EU Renewable Energy Directive, which includes a legally binding target of 15% of total energy from renewables by 2020. This means that at least 30% of our electricity will need to come from renewable sources within ten years, with wind power (the most mature of the renewable technologies) expected to provide the bulk of this total.





No net operational emissions

- Will never run out
- Could help in the fight against climate change

Efficient and reliable Economically viable

- Improves our energy security
- Tried and tested technology
- Safe:
- Quick and easy to install
- No long-lasting legacy
- Quick and easy to remove communities.

Wind power works! It is the technology that can help us address climate change and keep the lights on. As thousands of projects across the UK and





# Questionnaire

By filling out this questionnaire, your details will be held on RES's database for the purposes of obtaining and assessing feedback on RES's proposal for a wind farm at Woolley Hill. Your contact details will be stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and will not be passed on to third parties. Please contact us at woolleyhill.windfarm@res-Itd.com if you would like your details to be removed from RES's database.

We hope you have found this newsletter to be of interest and we would appreciate your feedback on our proposals. Please tick the appropriate boxes, add your comments, detach, fold, glue by moistening the gummed strip and post (freepost) to the address overleaf.

1. Do you agree with the UK target to obtain 15% of our energy from renewables by the year 2020?



2. Do you support the idea of building onshore wind energy projects to help meet our targets for renewable energy?

YES	NO	UNSURE

3. Do you support the building of Woolley Hill Wind Farm to provide renewable electricity?

YES NO UNSURE

Name: Mr / Mrs / Ms				
Address:				
		Postcoc	le:	
Email:				
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# Benefiting local people and the economy

It is our policy to ensure that each wind farm development brings tangible benefits to the local community. The usual mechanism for this is through the provision of a community fund, which is paid annually and relates to the size of the wind farm.

We are proposing a community fund of £2,000 per installed MW, which equates to over £18,000 per year, based on an indicative installed capacity of 9.2MW. The fund will be managed by a local body, the formation of which shall be decided in consultation with local communities.

We would encourage anyone with a view on how the community fund should be managed or spent to discuss this with us or your representatives on the Community Liaison Group at any time during the planning process. It is important to note that the offer of a community benefit fund will not affect the decision to grant planning permission for the project as it is not a planning matter.

Community funds are operating successfully at other RES wind farms in the UK. For example, at Altahullion Wind Farm in Northern Ireland, the fund has been spent on the creation of a new community riverside pathway and footbridge, entertainment activities for family fun days, summer schemes for local children, and the maintenance and running of community buildings.

Short to medium-term jobs will be created during the construction period (usually around a year) and we will be looking for local and regional businesses that can provide the following people, services and materials: civil engineering, haulage, concreting, security, electrical skills, etc. There will be additional benefits to other businesses in the area, such as hoteliers.

# Interested in a wind farm visit?

Visiting a wind farm can be useful in helping people learn more about wind energy and understanding at first hand what the project proposed for their area might be like. "We always offer local people a group visit to an operating site as a way of helping people to make informed decisions about wind farms, because there are so many false rumours in circulation. It's a particularly effective way to dispel the myth that turbines are noisy, for example," says Amy Bambridge, RES's Community Relations Manager.

If you would be interested in seeing an operating wind farm in action, please contact Amy on 01923 299328 or email amy.bambridge@res-Itd.com.

If you would like to know where the UK's wind farms are situated, please go to www.bwea.com/ukwed/ for an up-to-date map.



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DOTTED

FOLD ALONG BLUE

DETACH AT GREEN DOTTED LINE

### Why is this a good site for a wind farm?

The wind farm layout at Woolley Hill has been designed through an iterative process to reduce environmental, ecological and visual impacts. When designing a wind farm site, we effectively start with a blank canvas onto which we add the different constraints identified during the environmental surveys. The locations of the turbines also take into account separation distances between turbines, the distance from houses, and other setback distances, for example from rights of way, power lines and areas used by bats.

In March we submitted a consultation document to Huntingdonshire District Council for a wind farm of up to seven turbines. The original seven turbine scheme was then considered by our planning and landscape consultants, who have taken into account the advice given in documents issued by Huntingdonshire District Council ('Wind Turbine Development in Huntingdonshire' and 'Supplementary Planning Guidance: Wind Power'). The landscape consultants concluded that, in this location, turbines grouped at a similar contour height would have a lesser visual impact.

Taking this, and other environmental constraints into account, the current turbine layout has evolved so that there are four turbines located on land around 50m above sea level, and no turbines located down in the valley to the north side of the hill. We take our consultation seriously, and have been in discussions with the relevant highways authorities, to ensure that any construction traffic entering and exiting the wind farm site could be managed so as to ensure the safety of other road users. We will present more detail on the access route proposals at the exhibitions in September.

#### **KEEP AN EYE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE**

RES has created a dedicated website for the project to enable you to keep up to date with the wind farm plans as they progress. On the website there is the opportunity for you to have your say on the plans. Visit: www.woolleyhill.co.uk





For those receiving this newsletter by post, we obtained your address through a national post-code database. If you do not wish to receive further information from us about this proposal, please write to us and let us know. For further information, please contact:

Amy Bambridge Community Relations Manager RES UK & Ireland Ltd

**Beaufort Court** 

Egg Farm Lane

Kings Langley

Hertfordshire WD4 8LR

Tel: 01923 299328 email: woolleyhill.windfarm@res-ltd.com

#### Any more questions?

We would be happy to cover any issues in more detail in forthcoming newsletters. If you would like to see anything discussed in more detail, don't hesitate to let us know.

More information about wind power can be found at the following websites:

General information about the role renewables can play in UK electricity generation: http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what\_we\_do/uk\_supply/energy\_mix/renewable/explained/explained. aspx

Wind With Miller – fun stuff for kids: http://www.windpower.org/en/kids/index.htm Information about renewables for your home or community: http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/Generate-your-own-energy

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