

# Say **no** to **power station** **Emberton ~~Wind Farm~~**




A planning application has now been submitted for a wind power station development at Petsoe Manor Farm, Emberton. The developers refer to the scheme as “**Milton Keynes Wind Farm**”, even though the site is nowhere near the centre of Milton Keynes and is in an area of the country with only moderate levels of wind.

The plans propose 7 turbines (and supporting infrastructure), each reaching a maximum height of 125 metres (410 feet). This is in addition to the application to place 16 turbines at Nun Wood (near Bozeat and Lavendon) and 10 more at Podington with other sites being investigated. If the Emberton and Bozeat/Lavendon schemes were to proceed then there would be a total of 23 turbines within 4 miles of Olney.

**ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!**

(Turn the page to find out how)



**Your Energy Ltd. proposes to build 7 wind turbine generators in unspoilt countryside at Petsoe Manor Farm, Emberton, near Milton Keynes. Each wind turbine would reach a maximum height of 125 metres (410 feet).**

Wind energy sounds good doesn't it? After all, the wind is free so it's a "green" source of energy and we all need to do our bit to reduce global warming. Unfortunately it doesn't sound so attractive after finding out what this is really about – an expensive way to provide electricity (subsidised by the UK taxpayer) and massive financial gain for overseas developers at the same time as making almost no difference to the UK's carbon dioxide emissions.

This development represents 10% of the 2010 renewal energy target for this region (including Surrey and the Thames Valley). Add to that the developments at Nun Wood (Bozeat/Lavendon), Podington and Burton Latimer (with others still being considered at Chelveston and Haversham) and the Ouse and Nene valleys will quickly become one large wind power station for South-East England.

The proposed site at Petsoe Manor Farm would turn several hundred acres of beautiful open countryside into an industrial complex. The site includes an area which has been designated by Milton Keynes Council as an Area of Attractive Landscape – one of the last pieces of unspoilt and peaceful countryside in the Borough.

To industrialise it in order to produce an insignificant amount of highly expensive electricity, which would make no or very little difference to greenhouse gas emissions, seems to be a very poor deal for the local community, the environment and future generations.

Is this the changing face of the English countryside? The farmer's tractor in this image is dwarfed by the wind turbine generators. "Wind farm" is a well understood term but it does tend to romanticise the proposals. We know what a farm is and prefer to use the term "wind power station" as that's what this development represents – an industrial complex to produce limited quantities of electricity.

**Bucks Lacks Enough Wind (BLEW) has been formed by concerned residents from Olney and potentially affected villages to understand, inform and campaign against Your Energy's proposed development at Petsoe Manor Farm.**

**We are firm supporters of renewable energy; however, we believe that this should not be at the expense of our countryside. We feel that the economic case for commercial-scale wind farms does not justify the irreversible impact which their introduction would have on the quality of life for those who live and work nearby. We would rather see this region contribute to tackling climate change in a way that's sympathetic to our rural landscape, for example producing biofuel for transport or biomass for electricity generation.**

**See the next page for details of how to object to the proposals.**

# How to object

The planning applications may be inspected in the Civic Offices (address below). The planning authorities (in this case, Milton Keynes Council) are required to take into account local opinions on the scheme; however any objections need to be recorded formally and must meet certain criteria.

Writing is by far the most effective method and if you wish to oppose the application, you should write to:

Development Control  
Environment Directorate  
Milton Keynes Council  
Civic Offices  
1 Saxon Gate East  
Central Milton Keynes  
MK9 3ZL

or alternatively, send e-mail to [peter.joel@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:peter.joel@milton-keynes.gov.uk) (include your full postal address in the e-mail text).

**Time is short and all objections must be received before 13th October 2006 (Emberton) or 6th October 2006 (Bozeat/Lavendon).**

The Bozeat/Lavendon application also includes land under the control of neighbouring planning authorities, so you may also wish to write to Wellingborough Borough Council and Bedford Borough Council.

- Write your name and address clearly – illegible letters will be discounted.
- Include the planning number 06/01349/FULEIS (Emberton) or 06/01290/FULEIS (Bozeat/Lavendon)
- Keep a copy of the letter that you write – you may need it again later.
- The more letters received the better, so all residents should write, regardless of whether or not someone else in their home has already written.

low-frequency noise created by the turbines (about which little is known of the long-term health effects).

**WILDLIFE** – your concerns may be for the migratory and resident birds that make this area their home and the potential destruction of their natural habitat.

**EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION** – this recognises landscape as legally constituting an essential

It's important that you write any objections in your own words, but it's also important to adhere to valid planning objections. Here are some valid grounds for opposing the application:

**ADVERSE VISUAL IMPACT** – you may enjoy walking, bird-watching, cycling, fishing, horse-riding or another activity and appreciate the tranquillity and natural beauty of the area. You may be concerned that the turbines will disturb this peace and tranquillity and intrude into the Ouse Valley area of attractive landscape, particularly with the cumulative effect of the various proposed schemes.

**PUBLIC AMENITY** – you may be concerned that there are a number of footpaths and bridleways crossing the site and the turbines could present a danger to passers by with “blade throw” and other items thrown from the blades and “shadow flicker” affecting walkers and horses.

**CONSTRUCTION AND SITE ACCESS** – you may be concerned about the hundreds of heavy goods vehicle movements that will necessitate the widening of country lanes and cause problems for local businesses,

commuters, school runs and emergency services, or that access to the site will be gained from a junction that has already seen two fatalities in the last two years (and will necessitate the temporary removal of some of the safety features installed recently).

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST** – you may be concerned about the proximity of the wind farm site to the ancient lost hamlet of Ekeney (the site includes various sites of archeological importance including a scheduled ancient monument).

**NOISE** – you may be concerned about the

component of people's lives. It is therefore your right to oppose if you feel that the turbines will affect your enjoyment of your surroundings.

**BLEW aims to fight the planning application for these turbines in a professional, thorough and legal manner but to do this we need to raise funds – any donations will be gratefully received. We'd also be pleased to hear from you if you can donate your time or skills to the campaign.**

**This image shows the proposed site for the wind turbines. Olney Church and the construction crane that was recently used on the new Ousedale School Olney Campus site have also been shown, illustrating the size of the turbines and just how significant the visual impact of this development will be. All structures shown have been drawn to scale.**



Adapted from an original image © 2006, Aerial Close-up Ltd  
<http://www.aerialcloseup.co.uk/>

**It's really important that you make your views known - to the planners at Milton Keynes Council; to your local councillors; and to your local Parish/Town Council.**

# More information about the scheme

## *Why Emberton?*

Substantial government subsidies have encouraged developers to look at almost any inland site regardless of wind levels.

Normally wind speeds under 7 metres/second are not considered. The Petsoe Manor Farm site has wind speeds of around 6.4-6.5 metres/second [source: DTI windspeed database].

Whilst Your Energy claim to have investigated other sites around Milton Keynes, this was the only location that they found suitable. Could that be because this rural area is tucked away in a remote corner of the Borough?

## *Why are we against the proposals?*

Because this is one of many similar schemes planned for the region and we simply don't have enough wind to make them economically viable without subsidies. This "wind alley" is being created along the Ouse and Nene valleys from Emberton to Burton Latimer because we are just outside the exclusion zones for the major regional airports and the only reason that these sites have been chosen is the money to be made from subsidies (paid for by consumers).

## *But they will be built anyway!*

Not if there is enough objection. Milton Keynes Council has to take into account the views of the local residents. Other pressure groups have been successful in opposing wind turbine developments.

## *Surely we have to do something about climate change!*

Absolutely. Except that these turbines will not generate enough power to make a noticeable difference to the UK's greenhouse gas emissions and do nothing on a global scale either.

The environmental resources required to build the wind farm are tremendous. Each turbine requires a huge bed of concrete underneath to hold it in place (with hundreds of lorry movements in and out of the site). The smelting of aluminum for the turbine components is emissions intensive and power-hungry. The construction itself requires significant energy resources and transportation to the site of the 125 metre turbines is a huge operation.

We've published some advice on our website explaining how everyone can reduce their personal greenhouse gas emissions.

## *But isn't wind power free and green?*

Though free at the point of generation, wind energy is more expensive than conventional power as it is only produced when the wind conditions meet certain criteria.

Although Your Energy claim that "wind turbines generate electricity for 75% of the year", for most of that time they do not turn at the speeds necessary to create much electricity. Your Energy's own figures suggest that the site will yield only a quarter of its potential capacity; however local research suggests this may be overly optimistic and the true figures may be significantly lower.

## *But Your Energy claim that these turbines will power up to 9000 homes whilst offsetting the carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of 13000 cars*

Wind energy can only provide a substitute power supply. It cannot stand alone. When it feeds into the grid, it requires an alternative power supply such as gas, coal or nuclear as backup which can cut back in when the wind stops blowing.

Unfortunately the proposed wind farms will have little effect on reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and slowing down the change in our climate. Whilst the UK does account for 2.3% of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

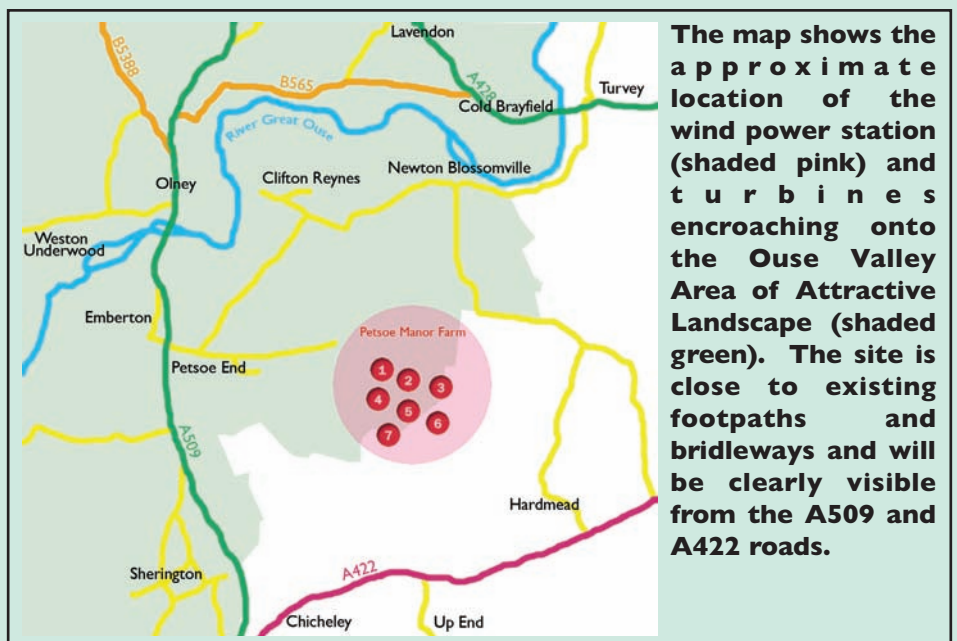
(550 million tonnes each year), meeting the government's target of producing 10% of our electricity (33.6TWh) from renewable sources by 2010 would save just 9.2 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> at a cost of £1 billion each year. Putting that another way, we would reduce our impact on global emissions by just 0.0004% [source: Renewable Energy Foundation].

Meanwhile, the energy needs of developing nations such as China and India are growing at astronomical levels – China is commissioning a new power station every week to meet increased demand [source: Renewable Energy Foundation]. Even if the UK had no CO<sub>2</sub> emissions at all, climate change would continue.

Furthermore, "As a means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions, [the subsidy method used is] several times more expensive than other measures..." [source: UK National Audit Office]

That doesn't mean that the UK can sit back and do nothing – we can lead by example through developing economically compelling examples of renewable electricity generation and revising the renewable obligation certificate (ROC) scheme to favour firm renewables, concentrating on quality not quantity.

On a personal level, each one of us can make a difference with just a few simple adjustments to our lifestyle.



**Want to find out more? Visit the BLEW website at [www.embertonwindfarm.com](http://www.embertonwindfarm.com), e-mail [info@embertonwindfarm.com](mailto:info@embertonwindfarm.com), call Cllr. Debbie Brock (Olney ward) on 07884 397253 or Cllr. Pat Seymour (Sherington ward) on 01908 551868.**