

Weston Wind Farm – Project Status July 2009

The Weston project is at very early stages in the planning process. Enertrag UK submitted a 'Scoping Request' to South Northamptonshire District Council on 18th May 2009. This document sets out the areas to be covered by an Environmental Impact Assessment, for example ecology, ornithology, landscape, noise etc. A 'Scoping Opinion' is produced by the Local Planning Authority; we are still awaiting this document for Weston. The Scoping Opinion details all environmental issues the council feel should be covered, and is largely influenced by advice from statutory consultees such as Natural England.

In accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for submission of an Environmental Statement (ES) with a planning application. This is a long and detailed process comprising scoping, consultation, research and assessment.

Once the scoping opinion is received, further site research takes place and assessments are planned to incorporate the issues raised. This stage of project planning incorporates consultation with statutory consultees, all parish councils within 5km of the site and the public. Specialist consultants are appointed for each environmental parameter to assess the site. A combination of approaches for assessment is involved including desk based assessment, site surveys and computer modelling. Environmental Impact Assessment takes at least one year to conduct, and may change direction or require additional work throughout the process depending on the findings and specific details of the site. At the end of the process an Environmental Statement is compiled to summarise the EIA and will be submitted with a planning application.

It is dependant upon what results are obtained during the ES preparation and at all levels of consultation, including public consultation, whether the project is finally submitted for planning.

As the Weston project is at very early stages, environmental investigations are yet to commence, but will do so after consideration of the relevant scoping opinion from South Northamptonshire District Council. Throughout the EIA there will be consultation with the public, involving exhibition events at the start and near the end of the EIA, where more information and site details will be available. Details of these events will be distributed to households and advertised locally in advance. A general wind energy information booklet is downloadable from our website www.enertraguk.com and project details will be updated on the Weston page.

Enertrag UK welcome opinion and questions throughout the consultation period. Also if any members of the community would like to visit our operational wind farm at North Pickenham, in Norfolk, this can be arranged at any time. If you would like any further information do not hesitate to contact us at;

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