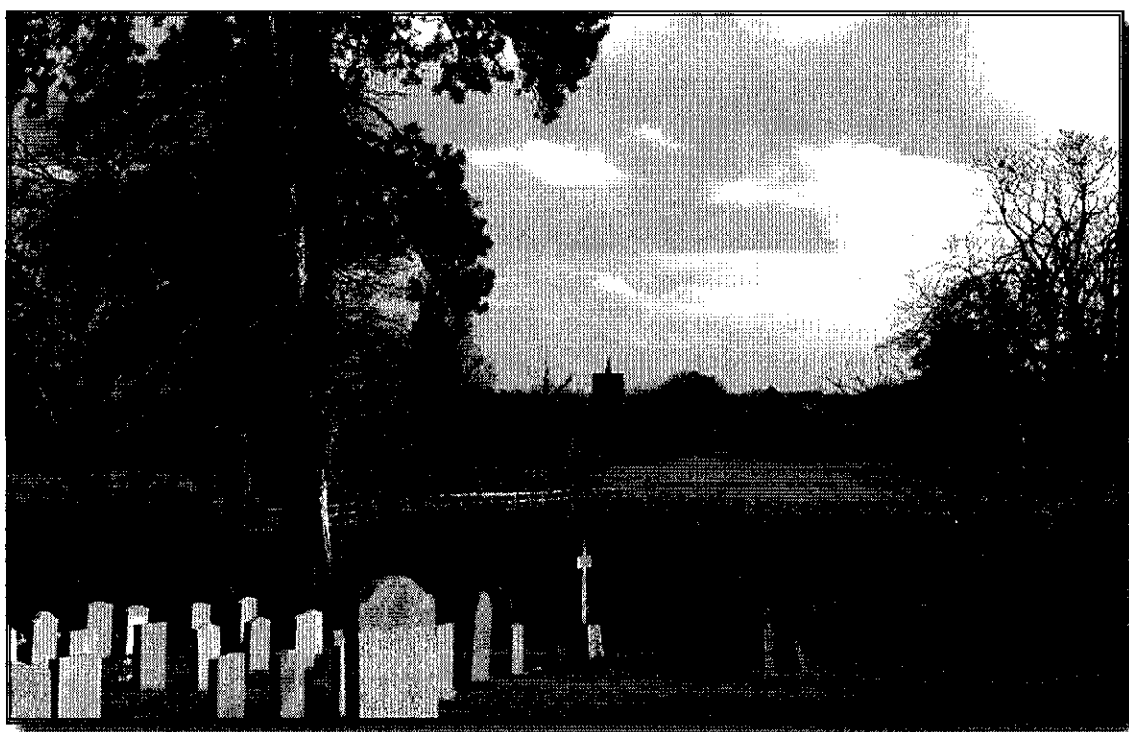


# **Objection to the Proposed Linton Wind Farm**

## **Volume 1 (Interim Report)**

**Linton Wind Farm Ref: S/0232/09/F - UTT/0232/09/FUL**



## **STOP LINTON WIND FARM**

StopLWF strongly supports energy conservation and renewable energy production that is predictable (such as tidal power) or provides energy in a storable format (as in the case of energy crops). It believes that benefits produced from renewable energy installations and developments must be clearly shown to outweigh any damage to the local environment and its recreational amenity. In particular, StopLWF is dedicated to preserving the landscape and opposing inappropriate siting of industrial scale wind turbines.

# 1 Summary

## 1.1 StopLWF opposes the proposed wind farm because:

The proposed development is totally out of scale with the surrounding villages and rural landscapes. It will intrude unacceptably on the landscape, and on a very large number of properties. It will alter the existing landscape character adversely.

The scheme will have a significant visual impact up to at least 5km. It will therefore have an adverse impact on the setting of a number of listed buildings, conservation areas, Registered Parks and Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Its size means that its visual impact will compromise the objectives of these designations and, hence, will be in conflict with national and regional planning policies.

The Developer originally stated "In order to work safely and efficiently a distance of 630m in the predominant wind direction and 450m in a lateral direction is required between turbines". This has not been achieved.

The noise impact assessment does not conform to ETSU-R-97 and the noise levels at several properties will exceed the prescribed noise limits. There will be a significant loss of residential amenity through a noise nuisance

There is a strong and well used network of public rights of way in the immediate area, valued by locals and visitors alike. The enjoyment of the countryside will be compromised by the presence of massive wind turbines in such close proximity to many of these PROWs.

The scheme has not been shown to be without adverse impact on the rare breeds breeding programme at Linton Zoo and may have an unfavourable economic impact on the Zoo as a whole placing its future economic viability in jeopardy

The ecology of the local area will be adversely affected, particularly bats.

There will be an increased risk to road safety on the already very dangerous A1307.

Cambridgeshire has already achieved its 2010 target and only requires less than 50% of schemes currently in planning to achieve its 2020 target. There is no pressing need for this scheme.

The wind farm proposal fails to comply with the requirements of a wide range of national, regional and local planning policies including :

<b>National Policies</b>	<b>PPS7 PPG 9 PPG 15 PPG 16 PPG17 PPS 22</b>
<b>Regional Policies - East of England Plan</b>	<b>ENV6</b>
<b>South Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework</b>	<b>DP/1 DP/2 DP/3 CH/1 CH/4 NE/2 NE/4</b>
<b>Uttlesford Local Plan</b>	<b>ENV2 ENV15</b>

- 1.2 These are just some of the factors that would unacceptably degrade the quality of life in the affected villages, the amenity derived from this rural environment by local residents and the amenity that visitors gain from the area if this wind farm were to be constructed.
- 1.3 The Government, although encouraging wind farm developments, is very clear in PPS22, Key Principle (i), that;  
  
**“renewable energy developments should only be approved where the environmental, economic and social impacts can be addressed satisfactorily.”**
- 1.4 It is our strong contention that, in this specific case, the adverse impacts have not been addressed satisfactorily and this is **a scheme in a totally inappropriate location.**
- 1.5 **As such we ask that this planning application is rejected.**
- 1.6 This document contains the detail of our arguments and explains the reasoning behind why StopLWF, as well as parishes representing thousands of local residents, oppose this particular wind farm application.
- 1.7 It identifies a number of planning reasons and other material considerations which, each on their own, would constitute sufficient grounds for rejection. When considered together they constitute an overwhelming case for refusal of planning permission. The fact that, in so many areas, the ES fails to professionally and objectively assess and quantify the impacts, either through omission or underestimation, casts serious doubt about the rigour and thoroughness with which this document has been written. As a basis for reaching a rational, fully informed decision it has been found to be significantly wanting.
- 1.8 The ES has failed to address specific points raised by SCDC and UDC in their Scoping Opinions. No attempt has been made to separate the impact of the single turbine in Uttlesford from the seven associated turbines in South Cambridgeshire District. However, we are happy with this

approach as all eight turbines will have significant effects in both Districts and the wind farm should be treated as a whole. The fact that it straddles District and County boundaries is a purely administrative issue unrelated to the EIA process.

1.9 The documentation associated with this consultation response consists of:

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- **Volume 1 - StopLWF Objection**
  - **Volume 2 - Landscape Response by Michelle Bolger of LiZLaKe  
Chartered Architects and Urban Designers**
  - **Volume 3 - Blimp Photographs**
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Comments on StopLWF's objection or requests for further information should be directed to:

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