

Dotterel Farm

A New Wind Generator for the Future.



Background

Well known and respected members of the community, Anthony and Helen Milner were very forward thinking, nearly 20 years ago when they installed a wind generator on their land to provide the bulk of their electricity to power their pig-breeding enterprise.

It has become quite a landmark in the area, because it was new and interesting. It is still working well now, delivering clean electricity into the local wires which has been used, probably unknowingly, over time by the nearest villages of Weaverthorpe and Helperthorpe.

Changes

The farming enterprise has changed and is now primarily an arable farm, producing wheat, oats, barley and oil seed rape. This type of farming doesn't need the same amount of electricity as the former pig-breeding operation.

During the last 18 months the Government has introduced legislation to encourage many of us to embrace the benefits of installing renewable energy technologies on our own land and properties.

Anthony and Helen now wish to take advantage of this new legislation and install a new, bigger wind generator further up the hill from their farm house to generate even more electricity which will be exported into the local network. They expect to keep the existing wind generator running for as long as it remains viable. A good achievement for what was quite new technology then.

An idea

Early research work has been carried out on the suitability of wind generators available today and where it would be possible to locate a new machine on the farm.

We assisted Anthony in 1991 with his wind generator project and we will be assisting him now. The proposed project is at a very early stage and we are in the process of carrying out a number of studies to ensure that our proposal for a single wind generator can be submitted to Ryedale District Council for their planning officers to assess to Planning Policy.



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The Proposed Project

The wind generator we are looking at will be a typical modern 3-bladed design with up to 850kW rating and is likely to be up to 81m to the tip of the blade when vertical.

We know that this is taller than the height of the current wind generator, but the plan is to locate the new wind generator further up the rise which means it will be further away from the villages and should not appear much bigger than the existing wind generator.



The current machine produces on average 160,000kWh* pa. The proposed machine is expected to produce on average 1,700,000kWh pa, which is comparable to the annual average domestic consumption of 361 houses**. The latest published Census Key Statistics (2001) from Ryedale DC, for the Parishes of Weaverthorpe and Luttons, including the village of Helperthorpe, states that there are 125 and 147 households, respectively. So the proposed wind generator will generate more than the estimated annual consumption of all the domestic households for the 2 villages and it will produce over 10 times the amount of clean electricity than the existing machine.

Studies and Planning

We will be producing a number of studies covering the visual effects, ecological issues, archaeological studies, effects on aviation, sound level effects and others, and we hope to be in a position to submit a planning application to Ryedale District Council within the next couple of months.

Should Anthony and Helen be successful with their application they are open to discuss funding for worthwhile local projects. They hope that, like the original project, the residents of the villages will support the application when it is presented to Ryedale DC.

If you have any questions regarding the project please contact me, as their agent and I will answer them as quickly as possible.

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* A kWh is the "unit of electricity" that appears on all electricity bills

** The data on homes equivalent is based on an estimated annual household energy consumption of 4,700kWhrs - reference Renewable UK web site

