

# Proposed Northwest Saline Wind Farm



## Environmental Benefits

The Northwest Saline project will:

- Produce electricity equivalent to the demands of 7,000 (based on UK average performance);
- Assist in achieving the Scottish Government's target to generate 31% of the country's electricity demand from renewable sources by 2011 and 50% by 2020; and
- Help prevent the release of several hundred thousand tonnes of CO2 over its 25 year lifespan.

## Community Benefits

If the wind farm were approved, ABO Wind proposes to contribute an annual payment to a community benefit fund, plus an initial one-off payment. This is standard practice for all wind farm developments in the UK. It would be up to the local community to determine how the fund is distributed. Other wind farm communities in Scotland have made the fund available for local energy projects, such as insulating of community buildings and homes to reduce energy costs or for other community facilities such as sport and leisure facilities.

Individuals or groups who are interested in suggesting uses for the benefit fund are encouraged to approach us at the Public Exhibition.

Several local people have asked about the possibility of the community buying shares in the Northwest Saline Wind Farm. ABO Wind is developing a successful financing model called Eurowind, which will provide the possibility for individuals to buy shares from an ABO Wind wind farm portfolio. We are looking into this possibility for the Northwest Saline project.

## Visit to an Operating Wind Farm

Many of the residents around the Northwest Saline site have not seen a wind farm up close and have indicated that this would be helpful to understand what it would be like to live near one. Certainly, previous research has confirmed that, once a wind farm is up and running, many of the concerns felt previously in the local community about its operation have been dispelled.

ABO Wind would like to invite local residents to attend a site visit to an operating wind farm, with all transport provided and, likely to take place in January 2009. To register to attend this visit, please let us know at the Public Exhibition. If you are unable to attend the exhibition, then contact Jenny Walsh on 0800 066 5631 or [walsh.jenny@abo-wind.com](mailto:walsh.jenny@abo-wind.com)

## Planning application process

The application will be decided by Fife Council and the timescales for this will be dependent on the issues arising from the EIA, opinions of consultees and responses received from members of the public. Once

the application is submitted and registered, the normal consultation period for members of the public and statutory consultees (which include Scottish Natural Heritage, SEPA, Historic Scotland, etc.) is 4 weeks. The standard period for determining an application with an environmental impact assessment is within 4 months. However, this can take longer in certain cases.

Anyone who wishes to register comments in support of the proposals for North West Saline wind farm can write to the following address:

Fife Council Development Services  
New City House, 1 Edgar Street, Dunfermline KY12 7EP

## Project programme

The following provides an indication of key milestones in the proposed development of the wind farm:

- November 2008 – Public Exhibition
- November 2008 – Spring 2009 – Ongoing Consultation
- Spring 2009 – Submit Finalised Planning Application to Fife Council
- Late 2009 – Planning Application Decision
- 2010 – Construction of Wind Farm
- 2011 – Operation of Wind Farm

## Further Information About Wind Farms and Renewable Energy

The Scottish Renewables Forum  
[www.scottishrenewables.com](http://www.scottishrenewables.com)

The British Wind Energy Association  
[www.bwea.com](http://www.bwea.com) and [www.embracewind.com](http://www.embracewind.com)

The Government's independent advisory body on sustainable development [www.sd-commission.org.uk](http://www.sd-commission.org.uk)

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
[www.rspb.org.uk/policy/windfarms/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/policy/windfarms/index.asp)

The Scottish Government renewable energy site  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/business-industry/infrastructure](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/business-industry/infrastructure)

Site sponsored by Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace  
[www.yes2wind.com](http://www.yes2wind.com)

For further information about the Northwest Saline Wind Farm proposal, please contact Jenny Walsh on **0800 066 5631** or [walsh.jenny@abo-wind.com](mailto:walsh.jenny@abo-wind.com)

Or lead consultants, Entec UK Ltd at:

Entec UK Ltd, 6 / 7  
Newton Terrace, Glasgow G3 7PJ

Ph **0141 222 1200** or  
[ruaraidh.obrien@entecuk.co.uk](mailto:ruaraidh.obrien@entecuk.co.uk)

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## PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Thursday 20th November

Saline Community  
Leisure Centre, 13 Main  
Street, Saline

11am – 8pm

## ABO Wind UK Ltd

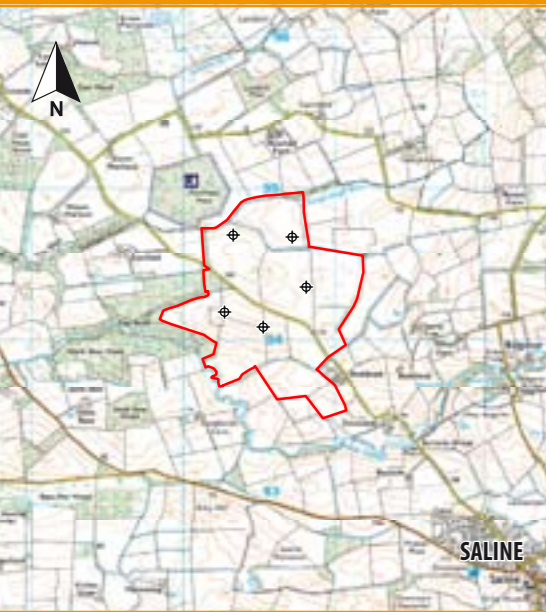
ABO Wind UK Ltd is a subsidiary of the German-based ABO Wind, one of Europe's most experienced wind energy developers. ABO Wind has interests in Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Ireland, Bulgaria, Belgium and Argentina and has been successfully developing, constructing and maintaining commercial wind farms of 350MW combined capacity for over 12 years. Further information on ABO Wind is available at [www.abo-wind.com](http://www.abo-wind.com)

## Newsletter 2 – November 2008

Welcome to the second newsletter from ABO Wind which provides updated information on our proposal for a small wind farm near the village of Saline. We are committed to keeping the local community around the proposed site fully informed throughout the process. This newsletter is part of a programme of ongoing communications activity that will continue until the submission of the wind farm planning application and beyond. We hope you find the newsletter useful and informative and please feel free to contact us at any time should you have any further questions. Our contact details are included later.

The newsletter contains information about the revised wind farm proposal and environmental impact assessment process. More details and photomontage images of the wind farm will be available at our Public Exhibition. We are keen that as many local people as possible attend this exhibition and very much hope that you will be able to attend.

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# Wind Farm Proposal

The Northwest Saline site is located roughly 2km to the north west of the village of Saline and 12km north west of Dunfermline. Originally, we looked at a seven turbine wind farm for the site and this was assessed for environmental impacts and particularly visual impacts. The results of this assessment and feedback from the local community suggest that a smaller scheme would work better on the site.

Therefore, our proposal has been revised to a five turbine layout which is illustrated above.

The wind farm proposal will consist of the 5 turbines and ancillary development including access tracks, meteorological mast, underground cabling and a small control building to connect to the national grid. The wind farm will connect to the

national grid at the Fishcross substation, via underground and overhead power lines.

The total installed generation capacity of this scheme would be up to 12.5 Megawatts (MW) which means that if the wind farm performs as well as the UK average it could produce electricity equivalent to the demands of 7,000 households.

Typically, wind farms operate for 25 years. At the end of this period, the wind farm will either be decommissioned, taken away and the site restored or repowered with new generation turbines, for which a new planning application would be required.

## Environmental Impact Assessment

An environmental impact assessment (EIA) for the proposed wind farm is well underway and is being completed by consultants Entec UK Ltd. The EIA covers the following surveys:

- *landscape and visual*
- *ecology*
- *traffic and site access*
- *hydrology*
- *ornithology*
- *cultural heritage*
- *noise*
- *socio-economics*



## Ornithology

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has recently stated that:

'If wind farms are located away from major migration routes and important feeding, breeding and roosting areas of those bird species known or suspected to be at risk, there is a strong possibility that they will have minimal impact on wildlife.'

(RSPB website <http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/policy/windfarms/index.asp>)

Surveys of bird breeding and flight activity at the Northwest Saline site began in April 2008 and shall continue to March 2009. A variety of common farmland birds were recorded over the summer, including several pairs of Lapwings. Migrating geese have so far not been recorded at the site. Autumn migrants have included short-eared owls and a male hen harrier. Bird surveying will continue into 2009, however at this stage the wind farm is not expected to have adverse impacts on bird populations.

## Ecology

The site is made up of arable land, fields used for stock grazing and minor woodland. Surveys identified potentially suitable habitat for great crested newt, otter, water vole, badger and bats.

More detailed surveys targeting these species have been carried out, demonstrating that bats, badgers and otters are present on the site. The revised turbine layout for the wind farm has been designed to avoid areas of ecological interest.



## Site Access and Construction Traffic

The preferred route to the site is from Rosyth Port via the M90, the A977, then via the B913 and private land to the west of the site. This route would require no modification to the existing public roads to accommodate both turbine deliveries and construction traffic.

Traffic counts have been completed to determine the number of vehicles currently travelling on the B913. The likely additional impact of wind farm related traffic will be assessed as part of the planning application. If required, a Traffic Management Plan would be developed and agreed with Fife and Perth and Kinross Councils.

## Noise

There are strict guidelines on noise emissions from wind turbines, to ensure the protection of residential amenity. A noise assessment for the Northwest Saline proposal has been undertaken in line with these guidelines. Initially, noise monitoring at properties

near to the wind farm site was undertaken to gain background noise levels ie. sources of noise that currently exist.

Detailed noise modelling predictions show that the noise level from the proposed five turbine wind farm will meet limits set by the relevant guidelines for the neighbouring properties of the site. The noise monitoring methodology was agreed with Fife Council and followed the established Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform guidelines (ETSU-R-97 The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms).

Noise generated from wind farm construction activities and from construction traffic will occur only for short periods of time.

## Landscape and Visual

A thorough landscape and visual impact assessment is being undertaken and this has included consultation with Scottish Natural Heritage and Fife Council. As part of this assessment, ABO Wind has had photomontages completed which are designed to illustrate the view of the wind farm from key locations.



Page 1 of this newsletter illustrates the predicted view from Saline Cemetery, while the image below shows the predicted view from Knock Hill.

The Public Exhibition will display photomontage images from a range of other important locations around the site and we encourage you to come and view these images to gain an understanding of our proposal.

