

Sulgrave Parish Council –

Representation to South Northamptonshire Council

Development Control Committee

30th June 2011

In respect of Planning Application ref S/2010/1437/MAF

Proposal to site a Wind farm including erection of 5 Wind Turbines, access roads, buildings and ancillary development at Spring Farm Ridge

Sulgrave Village is a historically important settlement and a recognised conservation village surrounded on three sides by rising ground, Spring Farm Ridge, forms the south western boundary.

To form an objective and balanced view of the application we have visited wind farms, attended consultation sessions, and we invited the applicant to a special Council Meeting, where they made a full representation of their scheme.

Having completed this very full and detailed appraisal, the Parish Council resolved to oppose the application; we submitted seven objections, with supporting arguments all of which are now set out in your Planning Officers Committee Report

Shortage of time prevents me from addressing each one of these in turn, so I intend to address one only.

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A significant, damaging impact from the construction of these huge wind turbines will be on our heritage assets and the setting of Sulgrave Conservation Area.

In your own Conservation Strategy Document “Preserving what is Special” South Northants Council set out the following statement:-

“South Northamptonshire contains some of the country’s most quintessentially English landscapes ... interspersed with attractive, largely unspoilt villages of medieval or earlier origin.”

You further state you are

..... Committed to preserving what is special about the district and ensuring that this exceptional heritage is recognised, valued, enhanced, and explained...

Sulgrave Village is fortunate to have not one but three very important Heritage Assets

The Castle Hill Ringwork, a scheduled ancient monument,

St James Church, a Grade 2 star listed building

And Sulgrave Manor, a grade I star listed building of INTERNATIONAL significanceⁱ

Many thousands of tourists, both local and from overseas, visit these sites and would be DEVASTATED to see this quintessential English setting overshadowed by such large ROTATING structures.

Because of this concern we specifically asked the applicant to consult with us on the viewing points for their Photo Montages, which they failed to do.

Not only ourselves but English Heritage have **significant concerns about the representations the applicant has submitted.**

We have submitted our own photo montages which we submit are far more representative

We are convinced that the turbines would represent an unacceptable and intrusive feature on the landscape and will significantly impact on the setting of Sulgrave Conservation Village its Listed Buildings, other heritage assets and our public open spaces

For this reason, as well as the six others set out in your officers report and I have not had time to describe, I request the Committee to refuse this application.

Thank you for your time.

ⁱ English Heritage P00094899 16th June 2011