Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Northacre Renewable Energy
Statement of Community Involvement
December 2014

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Contents

Summary of Statement:

- Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd (NRE) has engaged with local stakeholders through an 8-week pre-application planning consultation phase in order to explain, share details and listen to local peoples' views about its proposal for a renewable energy centre on Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury, Wiltshire.
- NRE worked with the local town and parish councils to ensure that members of the public were aware of the proposal and in total 72 people took part in the public consultation.
- Over a third (37%) of all comments received during the pre-application consultation demonstrated support for the proposal.
- Where there have been concerns or suggestions, NRE has taken these into account and refined the proposal as far as possible to respond to feedback. NRE has also responded to requests for further information as required. The two main issues of concern for the development to consider were transport and the visual impact of the site.
- The balance of comments received from hardcopy and online feedback forms indicated that residents were interested in learning more about the energy that the facility will produce for Wiltshire.
- It was the case that supportive comments were the largest proportion of comments by category, demonstrating that most residents and businesses understood the environmental and economic benefits that this facility would bring to Wiltshire and were generally in favour of the proposal.
- The website www.northacre-energy.co.uk has been updated to reflect the output of the public engagement activities and will continue to be updated as appropriate throughout the statutory consultation and planning period.

1.0 Introduction

Copper Consultancy (Copper) was commissioned by Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd (NRE), a company formed by The Hills Group (Hills), to undertake a public engagement programme to assist with the preparation of a planning application for Northacre Renewable Energy on land adjacent to the existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre on Stephenson Road, Westbury.

The site has been identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Plan 2013 as a strategic site for materials recovery, waste transfer, local recycling and waste treatment.

Copper is an active member and the first Practitioner Partner of The Consultation Institute (TCI). As such, Copper abides by the TCI's charter and seven principles – integrity, visibility, accessibility, transparency, disclosure, fair interpretation and publication. Copper's consultation activities were aimed directly at ensuring accurate, informed and healthy two-way dialogue. Copper's work is based on a logical approach of informing, consulting and involving – in short, good manners and common sense.

This Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) provides an overview of the pre-application engagement and consultation undertaken in an eight week period of pre-planning in the two months leading up to the submission of the planning application. NRE appreciates the value of consultation and, in carrying out pre-application engagement; it has sought to demonstrate compliance with Wiltshire Council's Statement of Community Involvement February 2010 as part of the Wiltshire Local Development Framework.

Throughout its engagement programme, NRE has sought to work closely with Wiltshire Council and local councils to ensure local stakeholders have had the opportunity to understand the proposal and provide feedback.

Wiltshire Planning Authority will undertake its own separate statutory consultation on the planning application.

1.1. Background

The planning application made by NRE is for the construction of a renewable energy centre, on Northacre Industrial Park, Stephenson Road, Westbury, to be known as Northacre Renewable Energy.

The proposed development will comprise of an advanced thermal treatment technology known as gasification to generate and export electricity and heat from 41,500 tonnes of solid recovered fuel (SRF) made at the neighbouring Northacre RRC and 118,500 tonnes of locally-sourced mixed commercial and industrial waste typically destined for landfilled in Wiltshire.

Currently the SRF produced at Northacre RRC is transported to energy facilities located in Europe because there is not a local energy centre in Wiltshire for the SRF.

Northacre Renewable Energy will help fill the gap in the local renewable energy market by generating up to 22 megawatts of renewable power, making it a sustainable solution for dealing with local waste to power local businesses. The proposal will also support Wiltshire's aspiration for a local green economy and the concept of regional energy security.

In communicating with the local community and stakeholders about the proposal prior to the submission of the planning application, NRE has sought to:

- Ensure that accurate information is shared
- Address any concerns expressed by the community
- Provide further information where requested
- Allow suggested changes to be incorporated into the final submitted application
- Demonstrate how the proposal has been influenced by comments received

An 8-week engagement programme was developed using a variety of consultation tools and techniques designed to reach a wide cross-section of the local community. The programme included direct communication with stakeholders through a public exhibition, development of web-based information, an email enquiry facility, social media, correspondence with local businesses, and briefings for local councillors.

The consultation programme enabled the NRE team to explain the proposal in detail to members of the public, listen to their thoughts, comments and concerns and address these directly in the proposal.

This Statement of Community Involvement is being submitted in support of the planning application which has been prepared for Northacre Renewable Energy. This statement explains the context of the public consultation programme, its design and content, the feedback received from the public and other stakeholders and NRE's response to the issues raised.

The pre-planning consultation phase took place from 13th October to 5th December 2014.

2.0 Public Engagement Programme

2.1. Introduction

Prior to the submission of this planning application, NRE undertook a range of community engagement activities to inform, consult and seek feedback from the local community and stakeholders on the Northacre Renewable Energy proposal. An 8-week pre-planning consultation programme was developed in line with the requirements of the Wiltshire Planning Authority's Statement of Community Involvement which included:

- Awareness raising – informing the Wiltshire community of the consultation and signposting access to the consultation programme
- Existing networks – using established forums, partnerships and other networks to gather opinions on the consultation
- Direct involvement – using public participation events and face-to-face meetings to consult with the local community

2.2. Raising awareness and signposting

To raise awareness of the proposal and the public exhibition, NRE carried out a range of activities to ensure local residents were aware of the proposal for Northacre Renewable Energy and had details of the public exhibition event.

NRE placed adverts in the Wiltshire Times newspaper promoting the public exhibition and encouraging local residents to attend (Figure 1). The advertisement ran for two consecutive weeks in advance of the exhibition date. A further advertisement was placed in Westbury's White Horse News newspaper, a free fortnightly newspaper, in advance of the exhibition date. Local businesses on Northacre Industrial Park were also leafleted about the exhibition.


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Northacre Renewable Energy

Public Exhibition: Tuesday 4th November 2014, 2pm - 8pm

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited, part of The Hills Group, is proposing to submit a planning application to build a renewable energy centre on the open land between Hills Waste Solutions' existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (Northacre RRC) and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies at Stephenson Road, Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury.

Northacre Renewable Energy will be part of a local circular economy, using fuel made from local waste to generate local renewable energy. Our plans will

- Generate local energy to power local businesses
- Contribute to the local renewable energy market
- Support the concept of regional energy security
- Create new local employment
- Support Wiltshire's aspiration for a green economy

Plans and details of our proposal will be on display at the exhibition where the public are invited to give feedback. Visitors will also be given the opportunity to see the existing Northacre RRC in operation.

Date & time: Tuesday 4 November from 2pm - 8pm
Venue: Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, Stephenson Road, Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury, BA13 4WD

Full details are available on our website: www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Figure 1 – NRE newspaper advertisement

Through their contact with Westbury Town Council, NRE placed hard copy information of the proposal at both The Laverton and Westbury Visitor Centre. NRE also organised a shuttle bus to and from the exhibition which left from Westbury town centre throughout the day of the public exhibition.

NRE set-up a series of web pages (www.northacre-energy.co.uk) (Figure 2), which were widely publicised in articles in local newspapers and on community forums, such as the 'Westbury Community Matters' webpage

(http://westbury.ourcommunitymatters.org.uk/news/revewable-energy-proposals-for-westbury/).

A briefing note (Appendix 1) was issued to key stakeholders in advance of the public exhibition and was also available to download from the webpages.

The contact page of the website included a Freepost address, contact telephone number and an online feedback form for people to comment on the proposal.

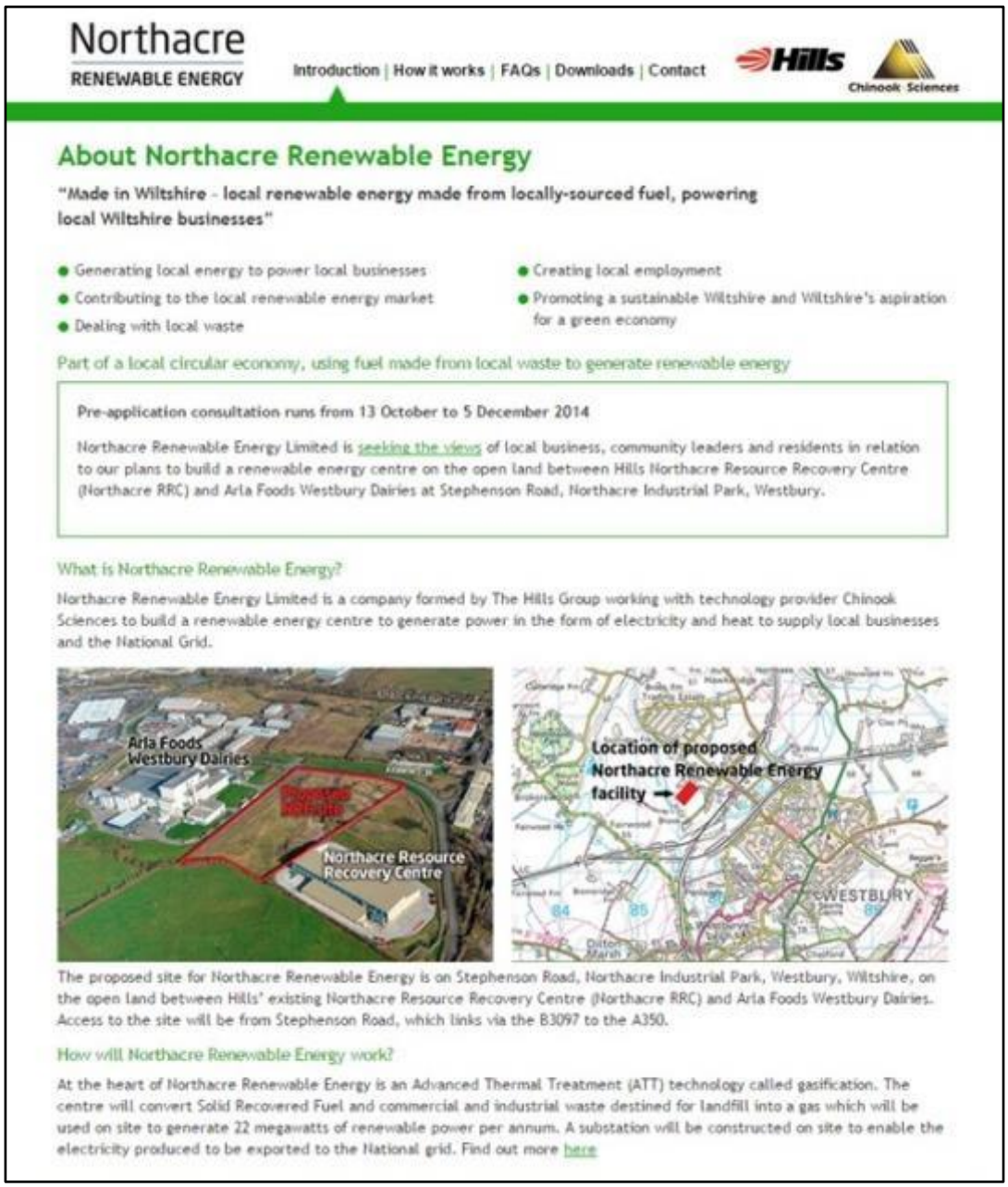


Figure 2 – Northacre Renewable Energy Pre-application Consultation Website, Page 1 of 5

In addition, as sponsor of NRE, Hills' social media feed (@HillsGroup) was used to raise awareness of the pre-planning consultation to encourage feedback (Figure 3).

Figure 3 – @HillsGroup Twitter Feed for Northacre Renewable Energy Pre-application Consultation

2.3. Existing networks

NRE made contact with local community representatives from the town and parish councils, local divisional members and the existing Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for Northacre Resource Recovery Centre. The CLC met on 16th October 2014, to discuss the proposal and to ensure pre-application consultation communication channels were accessible and understood.

The following representative groups were contacted with follow-up information provided:

- Westbury Area Board
- Westbury Town Council
- North Bradley Parish Council
- Heywood Parish Council
- Dilton Marsh Parish Council
- Wiltshire Council (Portfolio Holder for Planning; Portfolio Holder for Waste)
- MP for South West Wiltshire and local County Councillors

NRE also attended a Westbury Area Board meeting on 11th December to explain and discuss the proposal and provide early feedback on the pre-application consultation phase.

2.4. Direct involvement

NRE recognises that the most effective way of getting information across to the community about a proposal of this nature is through local public engagement. In consultation with local representatives, NRE held a 6-hour public exhibition at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre.

The public exhibition was held on Tuesday 4th November 2014, to raise awareness of the proposal, explain the detail of the development and its associated on-going environmental assessment work, and to seek feedback from the local community at an early stage.

The public exhibition was held on a weekday from 2pm to 8pm in order to ensure people with children and/or in full-time employment were able to attend. Key stakeholders attending the exhibition included local residents, town and parish councillors, area board members, members of the community liaison committee, local businesses, and the media.

In addition to visitors making their own way by car to the exhibition, NRE organised a free shuttle bus from Westbury town centre to help local residents get to and from the exhibition throughout the day. Working with Westbury Town Council, the shuttle bus was publicised in the Wiltshire Times and on local community forums:

LATEST NEWS

Free coaches to exhibition on proposed Westbury renewable energy plant

A PUBLIC exhibition on the proposed Northacre Renewable Energy facility in Stephenson Road, Westbury, will take place next Tuesday

First published Friday 31 October 2014 in Latest News

A PUBLIC exhibition on the proposed Northacre Renewable Energy facility in Stephenson Road, Westbury, will take place next Tuesday from 2-8pm.

Hills Group will be running free coaches to the exhibition, at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, from Barclays Bank in the High Street. Coaches will leave at 2pm, 4pm and 6pm.

Bus laid on to help locals find out more about energy plans

2 November 2014

People will get the chance to find out more about the bid to build a renewable energy centre when they visit the public exhibition at Northacre RRC on 4 November 2014. Free transport has been laid on by the Hills Group which is leading the proposals for the new facility which could be built on open land between Hills' Northacre RRC and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies on Stephenson Road.

The exhibition runs from 2pm – 8pm and a bus will leave from outside Barclays Bank in the High Street at 2.00pm, 4.00pm and 6.00pm.Following your visit you will be brought back to the High Street.Each of the three visits will be for a maximum of 1 hour ie pick up at 2pm, arrive at site 2.15pm, tour & exhibition, leave site at 2.45pm for drop off back at Barclays at 3pm.

The proposals will use recycled fuel currently made at the Northacre RRC. It will be blended with other locally-sourced waste to produce the right mix of fuel for the gasification process which will generate up to 22 megawatts of power to supply local businesses and the National Grid.

Eight weeks of pre-application consultation are now underway, running from 13 October to 5 December 2014.

Figure 4 – Local media coverage of shuttle coach to the public exhibition

At the exhibition, information about the proposal was displayed on A1-sized boards (Appendix 2) which included:

- The site and what it will look like
- How Advanced Thermal Treatment works
- Summary of our proposal
- Proposed assessment work
- Transport and access
- Timeline and next steps

Other hardcopy information was also available at the exhibition including site layout plans and an explanatory illustration of technology partner Chinook's RODECS gasification

process. Attendees were able to complete a feedback form (Appendix 3) during the exhibition or take a copy away with them to complete at a later date and return it using the freepost addressed envelope. An A5 colour copy of the exhibition boards was also available for visitors.

Representatives from Northacre Renewable Energy, their technical advisors and Copper Consultancy were in attendance at the exhibition to discuss and explain all aspects of the proposal in detail and answer questions.

Information packs including feedback forms and pre-paid postage envelopes were also made available locally at The Laverton and Westbury Visitor Centre for people unable to attend the public exhibition day.

Exhibition attendees were given the opportunity to undertake a guided tour of the existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre to learn about and observe the manufacture of Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) which is made from Wiltshire's household waste and will supply the proposed development.

The proposal and public exhibition received extensive press coverage, with a total of 15 articles across nine different media channels and an interview on BBC Radio Wiltshire. 11 of these articles were published in regional papers such as the Wiltshire Times that local residents would have access to and on blogs run by local titles such as Westbury's White Horse News (Appendix 4).

NRE updated its webpages during the consultation phase to make available the information from the exhibition and to encourage local residents to submit online feedback.

During the pre-application consultation phase, Northacre Renewable Energy's webpages were visited by 684 people with website traffic at its busiest at the start of the consultation and during the week of the public exhibition (Figure 5). The specific webpages 'How it works', the 'FAQs' and the information download area were the most popular with 73% of all website visitors accessing them.

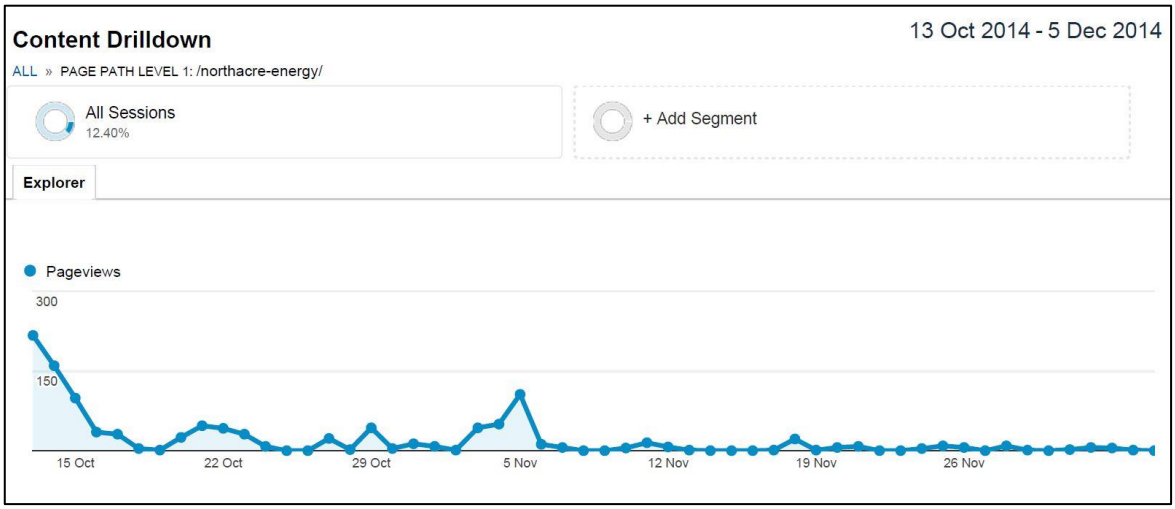


Figure 5 – Northacre Renewable Energy Webpage traffic (13 October to 5 Decemer 2014)

2.5. Taking part in the consultation

In total, 72 people took part in the pre-application consultation. This includes 61 people who attended the public exhibition on 4th November, and 11 people who submitted feedback either via the NRE website or by returning a hardcopy feedback form by post (Figure 5).

89% (64) of people who took part in the pre-application consultation originated from the postcode areas of BA13 and BA14 which are adjacent to the proposed site at Stephenson Road, Westbury. 8 responses were received from people living in wider Wiltshire and beyond (Figure 5).

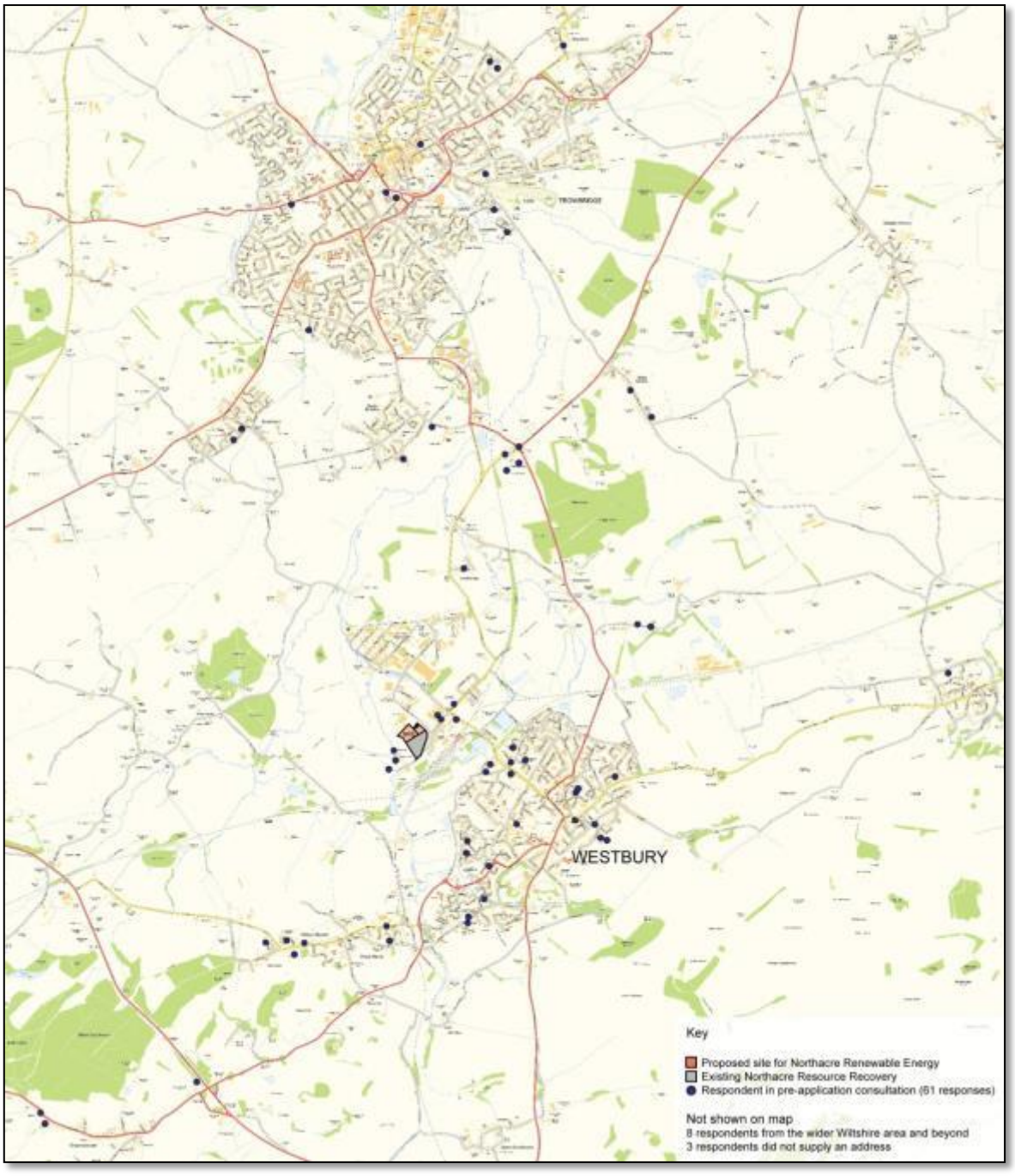
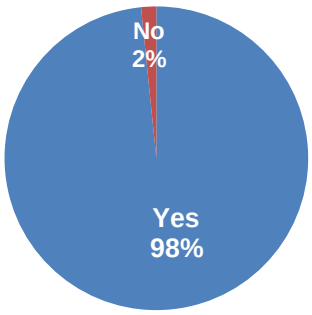


Figure 5 – Map showing origin of feedback

2.6. Feedback

46 hardcopy feedback forms were received. The feedback form asked people to comment on how satisfied they were in relation to the level of information made available

which included both written information and in speaking individually to members of the NRE team. 45 people (98%) who completed a feedback form were satisfied with the level of information presented regarding the proposal. Only one person wanted more information (Figure 6).



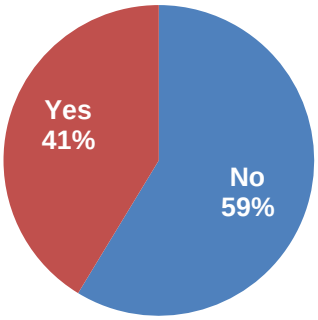
Northacre Renewable Energy

Questions 1: Do you feel you have received all the information you would like on the proposal?

Source: 46 hardcopy feedback forms

Figure 6 - Feedback on sufficiency of information

When asked if there was anything further that respondents would like NRE to consider, 59% of those who completed a feedback form (27 respondents) answered "No" to this question (Figure 7).



Northacre Renewable Energy

Questions 2: Is there anything further you would like us to consider?

Source: 46 hardcopy feedback forms

Figure 7 – Feedback on further consideration requirements

The further considerations raised by the 19 (41%) people in Figure 7, have been listed in this report and considered as part of the planning application. Points raised that required a response back to the respondent have been addressed by way of clarification and feedback to those attendees. The specific suggestions and comments are addressed in the feedback analysis section of this report (Section 3).

Northacre Renewable Energy received 11 completed online feedback forms and issued a response to each in turn.

Ref	Online comments in full
O1	• I am delighted that someone is grasping this nettle locally and presenting it in a constructive way
O2	• Excellent idea and I wish you every success. My only concern relates to access to the site - which a bypass would ease and alleviate my concern.
O3	• I will be attending your exhibition on the 4th November and have a number of questions on the components of waste that are being added to the process and the safety measures you are making to the process.
O4	• I would be very interested in learning more about the above topic and thus give it my support when it comes up for a decision. Any help I can give I would be happy to do. I believe you have made an offer to North Bradley PC of a site visit? I will be only too happy to help arrange this for you, if it would help?
O5	• I would like to express my interest in providing services for your Northacre Renewable Energy project. I look forward to hearing from you with the next steps on how to get on the suppliers list.
O6	• Main concern is volume of traffic. Currently Southwick, North Bradley, Yarnbrook, Hawkeridge and Westbury are basically at saturation point regards heavy vehicle/business traffic that access all the trading estates, commercial and business parks. Your new plant implies that there will lorries coming and going 24/7. The highways authority keep allowing the expansion of these sites but are not addressing the access issues and the devastating effect the increasing traffic is having on the local communities. Have any plans been put forward to create alternative routing of traffic or indeed the desperately needed bypass. In the past it has been lack of finance but this excuse is running a bit thin now with all the new businesses and residential estates that are being built. My second concern is the height of the new building. Having watched the skyline change with the massive constructions on the Industrial parks. The landscape is quite dramatically altered and the rural aspect of Trowbridge and surrounding villages changed forever. What landscaping is being considered to reduce the impact on the surrounding countryside?

O7	• I generally support the proposal. However the Yarnbrook roundabout is a major local highway issue. I believe there are plans to improve the road layout as part of development near West Ashton/Trowbridge. Should this be brought forward? It appears that you will import 75% of the material. Will this be a significant impact on traffic both for delivery and removal of waste? Where will the solid waste go? It is common for renewable schemes to provide a community fund of some type. Is this something you are considering? Will independent monitoring be published? How will local people know that the system is working correctly? Are you actively looking for uses of the excess heat? It would be good if plans were presented at the same time to show a coordinated plan.
O8	• It's bad enough now with your lorries and the huge amount of flies that now make it impossible to open windows. I really hope people get together and stop this. But no doubt it's already a done deal and this is all smoke and mirrors to make us think we have a voice. This amount of 'environmental' business is always going to be accepted because that is where all your extra EU and Government funding comes from. So you take your big salaries while we have to suffer.
O9	• Unfortunately we were unable to attend the open day as we were on holiday. As you are aware we live at orchard house brook farm , this is the house with a direct view to the existing waste recovery building. We are concerned that yet another large construction will be in our view . The implications of lorries entering the site 6 days each week from 7am to 10pm is causing alarm if this is a constant flow of traffic. Screening on the building already built is not adequate from our position as we are in a slight dip. I think a high bank with tree and hedge screening planted on the top should seriously be considered if planning consent is given. Another option for screening would be trees planted closer to our property carried out by yourselves.

O10	• To hold such an important exhibition showing these plans during the week is outrageous. They should be available over a longer period of time with a weekend included....what about the Council Tax who commute on daily basis…
O11	• I have read your write up on this project and would like to have clarification of how many Megawatts this plant will produce in one year. If you are saying 22MWs per year will be enough to power 10,000 homes this equates to 2.2 units of electricity per house per year. If the figure of 22MWs were per day this would power a 3kW electric fire for some two thirds of an hour per house per day. There has to be something wrong with your calculations? or the project is not worth doing 22MWs=22,000,000 watts divided by10,000 houses = 2,200 watts or 2.2 units per house per year.

Table 1 – Feedback received online

Following the exhibition, NRE analysed all hardcopy and online feedback received from stakeholders in order to note supportive comments, aspirations for the new facility, as well as understand and address any concerns and action requests for further information.

3.0 Issues raised and how Northacre Renewable Energy has addressed these

3.1. Introduction

All comments received via the feedback forms were analysed according to the type of subject raised and whether they were concerns, suggestions, questions or requests for information, or supportive comments. Where a number of comments were made on one feedback form, these have been considered as separate comments to ensure the correct weight is afforded to each issue.

Of the 57 separate points raised through online and hardcopy feedback systems, 37% were supportive comments, 30% were concerns, 23% were neutral comments or requests for information, and 10% were suggestions (Figure 8 and Table 2).

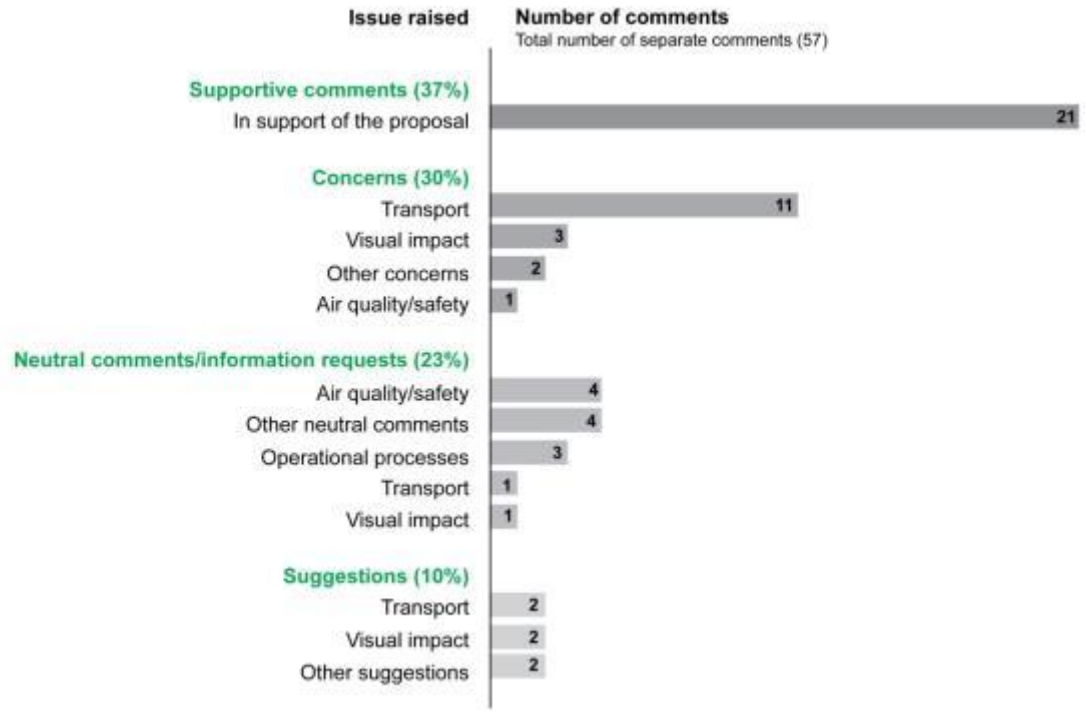


Figure 8 – Nature of comments received (Graphed)

Feedback category	Issue raised	Number of comments
Supportive comments (37%)	In support of the proposal	21
Concerns (30%)	Transport	11
	Visual impact	3
	Other concerns	2
	Air quality and safety	1
Neutral comments and information requests (23%)	Air quality and safety	4
	Other neutral comments	4
	Operational processes	3
	Transport	1
	Visual impact	1
Suggestions (10%)	Transport	2
	Visual impact	2
	Other suggestions	2
Total number of separate comments		**57**

Table 2 – Nature of comments received (Table)

3.1. Supportive comments

There was 21 comments submitted supporting or showing a positive interest in the proposal. Respondents highlighted the environmental benefits of renewable energy and the contribution that Northacre Renewable Energy would make to Westbury and Wiltshire. Respondents also appreciated the tours of Northacre Resource Recovery Centre where the SRF is made. Representative examples of the supportive comments received are provided below:

Supportive comments
I am delighted that someone is grasping this nettle locally and presenting it in a constructive way.
Supply of power direct to ARLA and net via the Grid would be beneficial to all parties.
Thank you for the informative tour. Recognise the potential for a future sustainable solution for waste management and energy production which would be a very positive attribute for the Westbury / Wiltshire area.

The process was very well explained, the environmental benefits were undersold in my opinion. We live with the challenge of climate change - surely this technology should be part of the future solution?
Excellent idea and I wish you every success.
Very informative tour of existing plant and very patient staff to explain proposals.

3.2. Transport

A number of comments related to the impact on local roads as a result of the proposal. Hardcopy and online feedback resulted in 14 separate comments. 4 of these were comments or suggestions about the need for a bypass which is discussed in section 3.2.1 below.

Northacre Renewable Energy has conducted an extensive transport assessment as part of the environment impact assessment submitted with this application, which shows that the local highway network can accommodate the traffic movements predicted as part of this application.

One of the advantages of having the facility next to Northacre Resource Recovery Centre is that vehicles will not have to export the solid recovered fuel (SRF) produced there to energy facilities in Germany and Holland, as it is now, due to the lack of a local facility to use this fuel. The proposed facility will be able to use the SRF to produce energy for local homes and businesses, with the possibility of a conveyor belt installed to transport the fuel from one facility to another, thereby reducing vehicle movements as the SRF will no longer be transported to Europe.

One respondent suggested that lorries should not park outside and stay overnight after collecting bales, because this may restrict access to Brook Lane. Hills has given local businesses reassurance that it does not support this practice and monitors its vehicles closely to ensure that they stick to the traffic management plan. Northacre Renewable Energy is committed to being a good neighbour.

Three respondents mentioned hours of work and access to the site. While the site will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to ensure a continuous supply of energy, deliveries to the site will be restricted to 7am – 10pm.

Representative examples of the comments received regarding traffic are provided below:

Transport
I would like to think that Hills would take into consideration the impact of the HGV traffic on residents who live on the proposed traffic routes.
Infrastructure i.e. roads is the big issue.
The implications of lorries entering the site 6 days each week from 7am to 10pm is causing alarm if this is a constant flow of traffic.

Advise lorries not to park outside and stay overnight after collecting bales as they can restrict access to bottom end of Brook Lane

3.2.1. Suggestions for a new bypass

There were 4 comments received, listed below, which related to the construction of a bypass and other road layout improvements in the area.

Suggestion for a new bypass
My only concern relates to access to the site - which a bypass would ease and alleviate my concern.
Have any plans been put forward to create alternative routing of traffic or indeed the desperately needed bypass?
Many lorries per day on the overloaded road system around Westbury means more inconvenience. If only Wiltshire Council could decide on the route and construct a bypass, all would be well.
Yarnbrook roundabout is a major local highway issue. I believe there are plans to improve the road layout as part of development near West Ashton/Trowbridge. Should this be brought forward?

3.3. Visual impact

There were 6 comments received relating to the design of the facility and landscaping on the site. Northacre Renewable Energy has included a landscape and visual impact assessment as part of the environmental impact assessment submitted with this application which addresses the issues raised in relation to landscaping and the visual appearance of the development.

The site has been identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Plan 2013 as a strategic site for a waste treatment facility of this kind. Northacre Renewable Energy is committed to developing a facility that fits into the industrial landscape as part of the Northacre Industrial Park and is respectful of the rural area in which it sits.

Representative examples of the comments received regarding the visual impact of the proposal are provided below:

Visual impact
Please consider landscaping, possibly on top of an earth bund.
I think a high bank with tree and hedge screening planted on the top should seriously be considered if planning consent is given. Another option for screening would be trees planted closer to our property carried out by yourselves.
I would like to make a plea that the buildings be painted in shades of green so they do not stand out in the view from a distance (the Dairy next door to the site is an eyesore and blot on the landscape being white, and

can be seen prominently from our house over a mile away).

3.4. Air quality and safety

Of the 5 comments received, four comments received on air quality and safety were requests for more information, which NRE has supplied to each respondent. Northacre Renewable Energy will continue to promote the environmental benefits of supporting renewable energy and engage with local residents through the community liaison committee, with regular updates on what is happening on site so that they know the facility is working correctly.

Regarding air quality specifically, the facilities that use Chinook Sciences' gasification technology elsewhere in the world have an excellent emissions track record and there have been no environmental breaches at any facilities installed since the first Chinook plant was commissioned in 2000. Once Northacre Renewable Energy is operational the Environment Agency will monitor emissions to ensure the facility complies with limits set out in the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive. The environmental impact assessment submitted with this application also addresses issues around air quality.

Safety was an issue that two of the respondents wanted more information about in relation to the development. As part of the public exhibition, visitors were able to take a tour of Northacre Resource Recovery Centre to see how a waste facility actually operates. Five of the supportive comments received demonstrated that these tours were helpful in enabling visitors to understand the workings and safety controls of a modern facility.

Representative examples of the comments received regarding the operations of the proposed facility, including monitoring air quality and safety, are provided below:

Air quality and safety
Have studies been done to check air quality in the area?
Will independent monitoring be published? How will local people know that the system is working correctly?
I have a number of questions on the safety measures you are making to the process.

3.5. Operational processes

3 comments received related to the operation of the facility. One respondent queried the information on the energy output of the proposed facility wanting to understand the calculation. By way of a follow-up NRE explained its calculations, emphasising that the 10,000 homes equivalent of electricity quoted is a conservative estimate. The respondent was pleased with the clarification. Northacre Renewable Energy is currently engaged in discussions with local businesses on Northacre Industrial Park about whether electricity could be supplied to them via a private underground wire.

One respondent wanted to know more about the components of the waste fuel to be used by NRE. During the public exhibition Northacre Renewable Energy provided information on how the solid recovered fuel (SRF) produced at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre would be combined with commercial and industrial waste destined for landfill. The benefits of being able to use the SRF produced at Northacre RRC to produce energy for Wiltshire instead of being transported abroad were emphasised. Visitors were able to inspect a sample of the SRF produced at Northacre RRC. Comments relating to energy supply included:

Operational processes
I have a number of questions on the components of waste that are being added to the process.
Controls to ensure the process is followed. Sometimes short-cuts invalidate the correct function.

3.6. Other issues

In total 8 other uncategorised comments were submitted. Three of which related to the timing of the public exhibition being a limiting factor or the difficulty in finding the venue after dark. However throughout the day and up to 8pm, the exhibition was well attended. Northacre Renewable Energy realised that it would also be helpful to put on free coaches from Westbury town centre to help those who might have difficulty attending otherwise. This service was publicised in local papers and on community forums and several people used the coaches throughout the afternoon and evening to attend the exhibition.

Two comments related to supporting a community benefit fund. As the parent company of Northacre Renewable Energy, Hills is already very active in the community, supporting local groups including funding via the Landfill Communities Fund.

One comment related to the need to strengthen the nearby railway bridge, one asked about a household recycling centre and one comment suggested a possible future rail link to transport the waste to the facility.

4.0 Summary

Northacre Renewable Energy Ltd, a company formed by The Hills Group (Hills), has undertaken an open, transparent and inclusive public engagement programme that has sought to meet and exceed the requirements of Wiltshire's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI).

The public exhibition was promoted locally and attendance data reflects this. The final proposal for this renewable energy centre takes account of the main issues of concern highlighted in the feedback forms submitted during the public exhibition which related to transport and visual impact.

From feedback received it was the case that supportive comments were the largest proportion of comments by category, demonstrating that most residents and businesses understood the environmental and economic benefits that Northacre Renewable Energy would bring to Wiltshire and were in favour of the proposal.

Northacre Renewable Energy will continue with its local engagement work during the period of statutory consultation, through presentations to local organisations on request, updating the webpages, corresponding with local residents, and facilitation of Northacre Resource Recovery Centre's Community Liaison Committee. The planning application and supporting Environment Statement for Northacre Renewable Energy will be available to view via NRE's website www.northacre-energy.co.uk. Electronic (CD) copies of the Environmental Statement will also be available at Northacre RRC.

Appendices

Briefing Note **APPENDIX 1**

Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Briefing notes on

Proposed planning application

for

Northacre Renewable Energy

October 2014

**Made in Wiltshire ....
local renewable energy made from
locally-sourced fuel, powering
local Wiltshire businesses**

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited
Wiltshire House
County Park Business Centre
Shrivenham Road
SWINDON
SN1 2NR

1. Introduction to Northacre Renewable Energy Limited

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) company formed by The Hills Group working with technology provider Chinook Sciences and funders.

The Hills Group is one of Wiltshire's largest employers with over 400 staff working across the regions it serves. Established in 1900, The Hills Group is a privately owned family company with a broad and successful portfolio of business activities which include recycling and waste management; quarrying of aggregates and production of ready-mixed concrete; and building new homes. Hills Waste Solutions, which is also part of the Hills Group, operates the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (Northacre RRC) under contract with Wiltshire Council (www.northacrerrc.co.uk).

Following an extensive technology appraisal, Hills' chosen technology partner for Northacre Renewable Energy is a leading manufacturer and operator of Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT) called Chinook Sciences with its headquarters in Nottingham. Chinook Sciences was founded in 1998, with its first operating plant delivered in 2000 which is still working today. Chinook's clean technology is now in its ninth design generation and has an unrivalled 14 year track record of industrial operation.

In terms of track record, planning permission has been granted for four facilities using Chinook technology in the UK; one of which is currently nearing completion at Oldbury in the West Midlands and a second, which is in the early stages of construction in East London. Chinook's gasification technology has been installed at 16 commercial scale facilities worldwide since the first plant was commissioned. (www.chinooksciences.com)

2. What is being proposed?

Northacre Renewable Energy is proposing to design, build, finance and operate a renewable energy centre on the open land between Hills' Northacre RRC and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies on Stephenson Road, Northacre Industrial Park, Westbury, Wiltshire.

Northacre Renewable Energy, as the facility will be called, will generate up to 22 megawatts of power to supply local businesses and the National Grid. Heat off-take forms part of the offering with discussions ongoing with local businesses who are potentially interested in connecting to the facility.

Northacre Renewable Energy will provide Wiltshire with a source of renewable energy in the form of electricity and potentially heat. The energy produced will be generated using Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) made from Wiltshire's household waste at the neighbouring Northacre RRC, along with waste from commercial and industrial outlets local to the facility. This makes it a sustainable solution dealing with local waste to power local businesses. The chosen advanced thermal treatment technology is able to generate heat as well as electricity making it an energy efficient system.

Our proposal for Northacre Renewable Energy forms part of a local circular economy, turning waste into a fuel to generate renewable energy for local businesses. The benefits include:

- generating up to 22 megawatts of power with the potential to provide heat and electricity to local businesses based on the Northacre Industrial Park;
- contributing to the local renewable energy market;
- enabling locally produced fuel to be used to generate local energy which supports the concept of regional energy security;
- creating local employment in the form of 40 new jobs;
- providing a sustainable outlet capable of handling 160,000 tonnes of local waste, and
- supporting Wiltshire's aspiration for a local green economy.

The technology being proposed is an advanced thermal treatment (ATT) process known as gasification. The facility will have capacity to convert 160,000 tonnes of a combination of high calorific solid recovered fuel (SRF) blended with lower calorific commercial and industrial waste destined for landfill into a synthetic gas which is used on site to generate the 22 Megawatts of renewable power per annum. The facility will operate using two lines of 80,000 tonnes per annum.

Northacre Renewable Energy will design the building to house the technology to fit in to the industrial landscape as part of the Northacre Industrial Park. The facility will comprise of three principal buildings, which will be appropriate to the surroundings. There will also be some external process equipment. The development will include the construction of a substation on site to enable the electricity produced to be exported to the National Grid, together with the potential for private underground connections to local businesses.

Based on similar developments under construction, it is anticipated that the building height is likely to be circa. 20 metres. The height of the stack is yet to be finalised.

Access to the Northacre Renewable Energy site will be from Stephenson Road, which links via the B3097 to the A350.

3. About Chinook's gasification technology

Chinook Sciences is a leading manufacturer and operator of advanced gasification technology. Its RODECS® gasification system is now in its ninth design generation and is capable of processing a wide range of waste streams without using incineration, fully recovering all metals within the waste. Using Chinook's patented gasification technology, a feedstock of SRF combined with commercial and industrial waste materials destined for landfill will be converted into a synthetic gas which when combusted produces a significant amount of heat which will be utilised for energy generation. The basic stages of the technology are as follows:

- Gasification of the feedstock (SRF and waste) to produce syngas
- Combustion of the syngas
- Utilisation of the heat generated through a waste heat boiler in order to generate steam
- Use of this steam in a steam turbine to generate electricity, with approximately 4MW of the electricity generated used for the installation itself, approximately a further 2MW used by the Northacre RRC and the remainder either supplied to local businesses or exported to the National Grid
- Control of emissions.

Feedstock is received in to an enclosed fuel preparation area where material is inspected and blended to optimise fuel efficiency. The blended fuel is then gasified; turning the fuel into a rich, synthetic gas (syngas) comprising carbon monoxide, hydrogen and some methane. The syngas is then transferred into a second chamber where it is combusted to generate steam. The steam feeds a turbine to produce renewable electricity.

Exhaust gas from the syngas combustion is held at a temperature in excess of 850^{0}C for more than 2 seconds to meet the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EC). NO_x emissions are controlled here also using a Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction system through the injection of Ammonium Hydroxide.

The exhaust gas from the syngas combustion finally passes through a barrier type filter to remove any particulate that is suspended in the gas. Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) removes Dioxins and Furans and an alkaline sorbent neutralises the acid gases before the clean gas exits to atmosphere through a stack. This gas cleaning system enables the exhaust gas to meet all air emission limit values as specified in the Industrial Emissions Directive. The operation of the facility is closely regulated and monitored by the Environment Agency.

There are two types of residue that remain post processing:

- Metals, glass and aggregates (typically about 10% of the total material processed) are recovered from the post processing residues and then recycled
- Air Pollution Control Residue (APCR) which is disposed of to landfill – although discussions are ongoing to develop recycling / reprocessing uses such as for construction purposes.

4. Relationship with Northacre RRC

The Northacre RRC is Hills' Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility, contracted to Wiltshire Council to treat Wiltshire's household waste. The output from Northacre RRC is a high calorific SRF and a small amount of reject waste to landfill. The SRF and the reject waste from the MBT facility will be blended with other locally-sourced commercial and industrial waste streams with lower calorific value to produce the right mix of fuel for the gasification process.

The SRF made at the Northacre RRC is therefore a key constituent to the fuel mix. It is also the reason for locating Northacre Renewable Energy right next door to avoid having to transport the SRF further afield for use in other energy plants.

The SRF from Northacre RRC will be transported internally to Northacre Renewable Energy. This has two advantages: it will avoid the need to transport the locally-made SRF anywhere by highway, and it will ensure that the SRF is used to generate power locally.

Currently the SRF is transported by road to port and shipped to energy facilities located in Germany and Holland because there is not a local energy centre in Wiltshire. Northacre Renewable Energy will help fill the gap in the local renewable energy market and enable locally produced fuel to be used to generate local energy which supports the concept of regional energy security.

5. Pre-application consultation and timeline

In line with National Planning Policy Framework 2012, the Localism Act 2011, and Wiltshire Council's Statement of Community Involvement, 2010 (SCI), Northacre Renewable Energy proposes to carry out 8-weeks of pre-application consultation with local stakeholders from 13 October to 5 December 2014 including a public exhibition on 4 November 2014 at Northacre RRC.

We are keen to receive feedback on our proposal, which we will collate and use to shape and finalise our planning application for Northacre Renewable Energy. We aim to submit our planning application to Wiltshire Council's Strategic Planning Committee before the end of the year. Subject to receiving planning consent, we hope to build and commission the facility in 2015/2016 with the facility being fully operational from 2017.

6. Communications

Northacre Renewable Energy has set-up a website (www.northacre-energy.co.uk) which contains information about our proposal together with details of the public exhibition. The website has the facility to enable people to complete a feedback form and/or register for further updates on the proposal from Hills. A freepost postal address has also been set-up for respondents to use:

Freepost RTJC-RKKY-RYKR
Northacre Renewable Energy
Wiltshire House
County Park Business Centre
Shrivenham Road
SWINDON
SN1 2NR

Email: monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk

Communication materials will include:

- This briefing note for members and other key stakeholders
- From week commencing 13 October, website information: www.northacre-energy.co.uk
- Local press advertisement over two weeks to promote the public exhibition
- Press release about the new proposal and public exhibition
- Public Exhibition – 2pm to 8pm on Tuesday 4 November at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre
- Exhibition boards and feedback form facility
- Press release about feedback received and next steps in relation to the Waste Planning Authority's statutory consultation.

Invitations to the public exhibition will be sent to key stakeholders with local businesses and residents being invited via press advertisements over a two week period. This will ensure the community is aware of the proposal and understands how to engage with us to help shape our planning application. Hills will also update its existing Northacre RRC Community Liaison Group prior to the public exhibition on 4 November.

In addition, information on the proposal, the web link and details of the public exhibition are being provided to:

- Wiltshire Council Portfolio Holder for Waste
- Wiltshire Council Divisional Ward Members
- Chair of Wiltshire Strategic Planning Committee
- Chair of Wiltshire Western Area Planning Committee
- Westbury Town Council, Westbury West and Westbury North Ward Councillors
- MP for South West Wiltshire
- Northacre Industrial Park business sector
- Heywood Parish Council
- Dilton Marsh Parish Council
- North Bradley Parish Council
- Local press

7. Further information

Further public information is available by contacting: Monique Hayes, Group communications officer at Hills Waste Solutions by email monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk or in writing to:

Freepost RTJC-RKKY-RYKR
Northacre Renewable Energy
Wiltshire House
County Park Business Centre
Shrivenham Road
SWINDON
SN1 2NR

Exhibition Boards **APPENDIX 2**

Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

The site

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited proposes to build the renewable energy centre on the open land between Hills' existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies on Northacre Industrial Park.

The site is:

- Next door to Northacre RRC where Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) is manufactured, avoiding the need to export the SRF to Europe.
- Near to local businesses on Northacre Industrial Park that could benefit from the locally-produced power and heat.
- Located in Wiltshire to meet the county's aspiration for a green economy.

The site has been identified in the Wiltshire and Swindon Waste Site Allocations Plan 2013 as a strategic site for a Materials Recovery Facility, Waste Transfer Station, Local Recycling and Waste Treatment.

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www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

What will it look like?

Northacre Renewable Energy will be designed to fit in to the industrial landscape as part of the Northacre Industrial Park.

The facility will comprise of three principal buildings, a substation and some external process equipment. Based on similar developments under construction, it is anticipated that the building height is likely to be 20 metres with a stack height of 60 metres.

Draft drawing of the proposed facility - subject to consultation

Feedstock for Northacre Renewable Energy will come from the Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) manufactured next door at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre and currently exported to Europe, blended with Wiltshire's commercial and industrial waste currently sent to landfill.

The feedstock will be converted into a synthetic gas which will be used on site to generate power and heat for nearby businesses and for export to the National Grid.

The facility will generate up to 22 megawatts of renewable power and potential heat converted from 160,000 tonnes of feedstock annually.

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Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

How Advanced Thermal Treatment works

Northacre Renewable Energy will generate renewable energy in the form of electricity and potential heat using an Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT) process called gasification.

- Feedstock is received in a preparation area where it is blended to optimise fuel efficiency.
- The blended feedstock is then fed into an enclosed chamber where a limited amount of oxygen is added in a pressure-controlled environment. A small amount of natural gas is used to initiate the process, which produces the synthetic gas or 'syngas'.

First zone	Second zone	Third zone	Fourth zone
Gasification: The waste is processed under tight Oxygen and temperature control to ensure the complete gasification of the organics to produce a synthetic gas fuel (syngas) and thermally clean all of the valuables in the waste for further recycling. Temperature range: 550 -600°C	**Combustion:** The syngas is combusted and the exhaust gases held at a temperature of >850°C for >2s (a requirement of the Industrial Emissions Directive) Temperature range: 850 -1,400°C	**Waste heat boiler:** The hot exhaust gases from the combustion chamber are passed through a waste heat boiler to generate steam which is passed to a Steam Turbine Generator (STG) set to generate electricity. The hot gases leave the boiler at a reduced temperature (~200°C)	**Air pollution control system:** The exhaust gases from the boiler pass through a ceramic filter to remove any particulate that is suspended in the gases before allowing them to exit via the stack. Sorbent/PAC injection removes acid gases and Dioxins.

- The syngas passes into a waste heat boiler to generate steam. The steam drives a turbine which generates electricity.
- The energy centre's air pollution control system cleans the exhaust gases before they pass to the atmosphere through the stack.

Gasification is a process that transforms carbon-based material into energy without burning it. Instead, gasification converts the materials into a gas (syngas) through a chemical reaction.

The process combines carbon-based material (known as the feedstock) with a small amount of oxygen to break it down into its simple molecules.
A mixture of carbon monoxide, hydrogen and some methane is produced.

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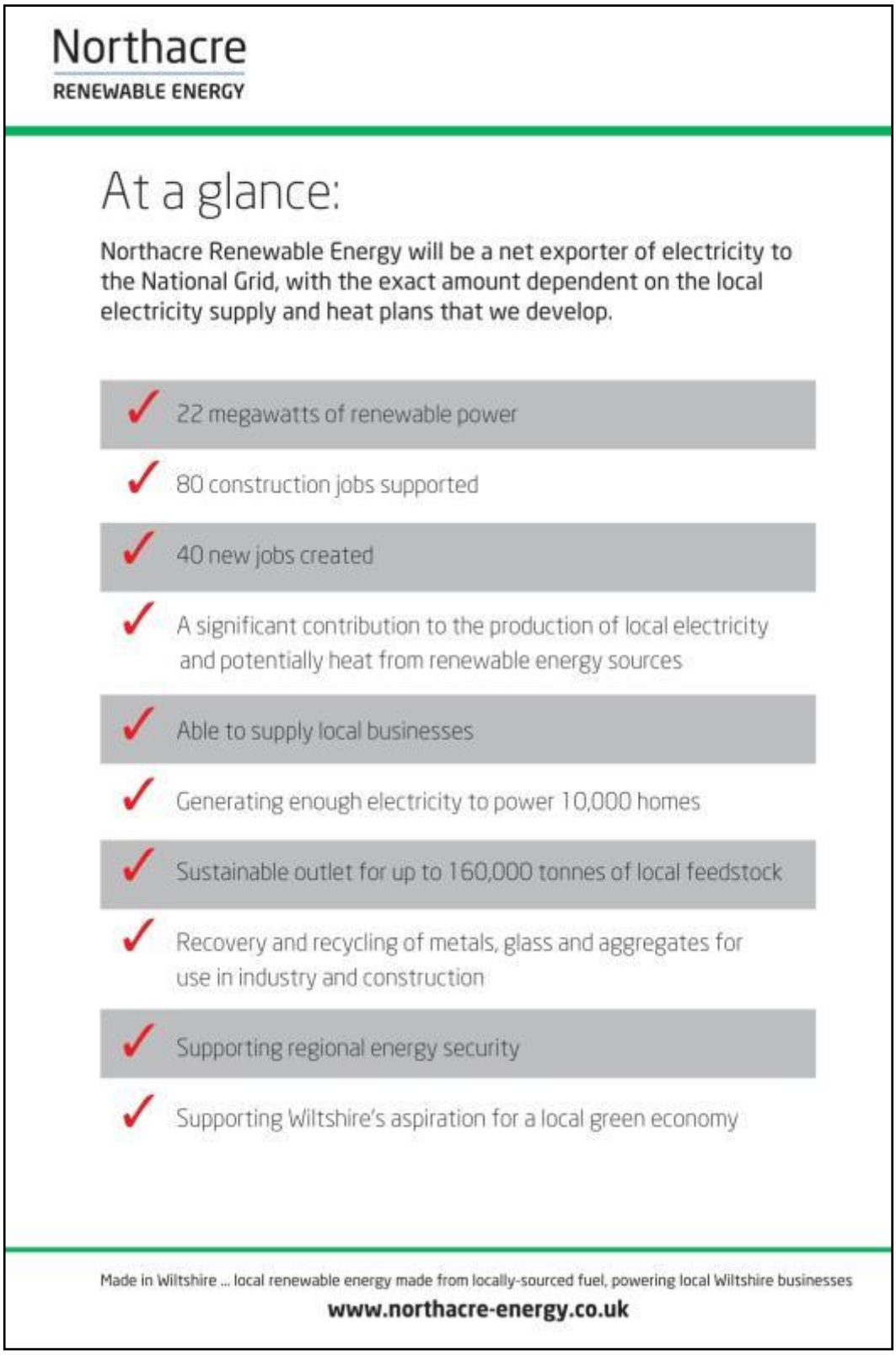
Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY
At a glance:
Northacre Renewable Energy will be a net exporter of electricity to the National Grid, with the exact amount dependent on the local electricity supply and heat plans that we develop.
22 megawatts of renewable power
80 construction jobs supported
40 new jobs created
A significant contribution to the production of local electricity and potentially heat from renewable energy sources
Able to supply local businesses
Generating enough electricity to power 10,000 homes
Sustainable outlet for up to 160,000 tonnes of local feedstock
Recovery and recycling of metals, glass and aggregates for use in industry and construction
Supporting regional energy security
Supporting Wiltshire's aspiration for a local green economy
Made in Wiltshire ... local renewable energy made from locally-sourced fuel, powering local Wiltshire businesses
www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Proposed assessment work

The environment matters and we understand the importance of protecting and maintaining the environment for local residents and businesses in the areas we operate. There are a number of local considerations being taken into account as part of the design of Northacre Renewable Energy.

The planning application for Northacre Renewable Energy will be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment (EIA) addressing the following topics:

- Air quality
- Noise and vibration
- Transport and access
- Visual impact and landscape

An ecological survey and contaminated land investigation have already been undertaken for the site, which have concluded that there will be no impact and so no further work is required on these topics.



Air quality - Chinook Sciences' patented gasification technology has an excellent track record for emissions compliancy.

Exhaust gas from the process will be treated by the centre's air pollution control system, including the use of a barrier type filter with powdered activated carbon and sorbent injection.

Following syngas combustion, the combustion gases are held at a temperature in excess of 850°C for more than 2 seconds to meet the requirements of the EU's Industrial Emissions Directive (IED). Nitrogen Oxide emissions are controlled using a Selective Non-Catalytic Reduction system through the injection of Ammonium Hydroxide.

The Environment Agency (EA) will monitor emissions to ensure that we are complying with limits set out in the EU's IED. These control limits will be stipulated in the environmental permit which will be issued by the EA for the energy centre.

Noise and vibration - the design of Northacre Renewable Energy includes purpose-built units designed to minimise noise impact. Landscaping will provide screening from nearby buildings and neighbours to ensure that noise levels are kept to a minimum and within acceptable limits.

A detailed noise study is being undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, which is an integral part of the planning application.

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Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Transport and access

All vehicle movements in and out of Northacre Renewable Energy will be assessed in order to develop the most appropriate traffic management plan. HGV movements in the wider area will also be taken into account as part of our planning application.

Approximately 25% of the feedstock will come from the adjacent Northacre RRC, thereby reducing vehicle movements as SRF produced there will no longer be transported to Europe.
The balance of the feedstock, Wiltshire's commercial and industrial waste, will be transported by road.

HGV deliveries to the site are expected to be six days a week excluding bank holidays:

Monday to Friday: 07:00 – 22:00hrs
Saturdays: 07:00 – 17:00hrs

HGV access to the site will be to and from Stephenson Road via the B3097 to the A350.

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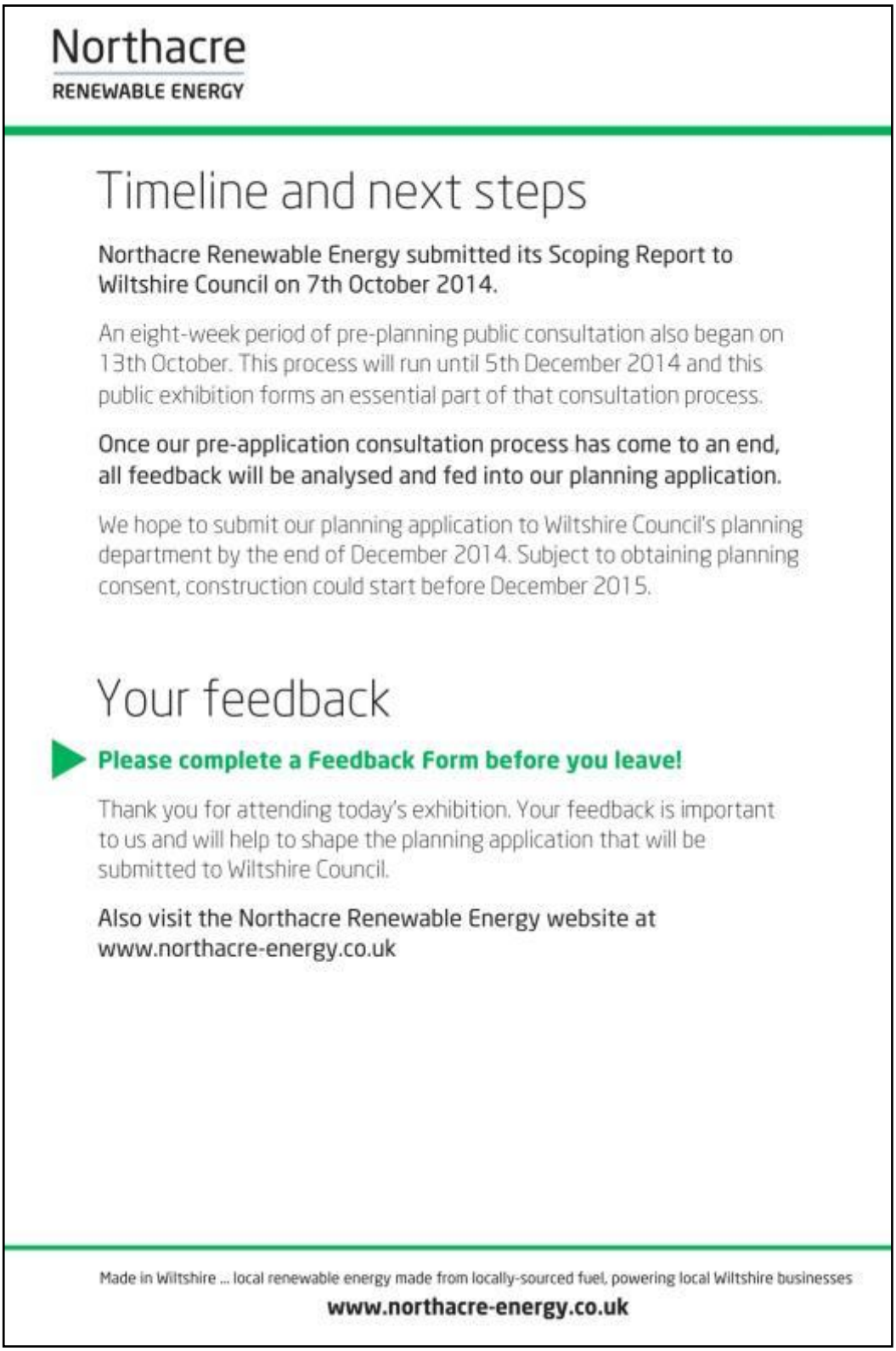
www.northacre-energy.co.uk



Northacre
RENEWABLE ENERGY

Timeline and next steps

Northacre Renewable Energy submitted its Scoping Report to Wiltshire Council on 7th October 2014.

An eight-week period of pre-planning public consultation also began on 13th October. This process will run until 5th December 2014 and this public exhibition forms an essential part of that consultation process.

Once our pre-application consultation process has come to an end, all feedback will be analysed and fed into our planning application.

We hope to submit our planning application to Wiltshire Council's planning department by the end of December 2014. Subject to obtaining planning consent, construction could start before December 2015.

Your feedback

Please complete a Feedback Form before you leave!

Thank you for attending today's exhibition. Your feedback is important to us and will help to shape the planning application that will be submitted to Wiltshire Council.

Also visit the Northacre Renewable Energy website at www.northacre-energy.co.uk

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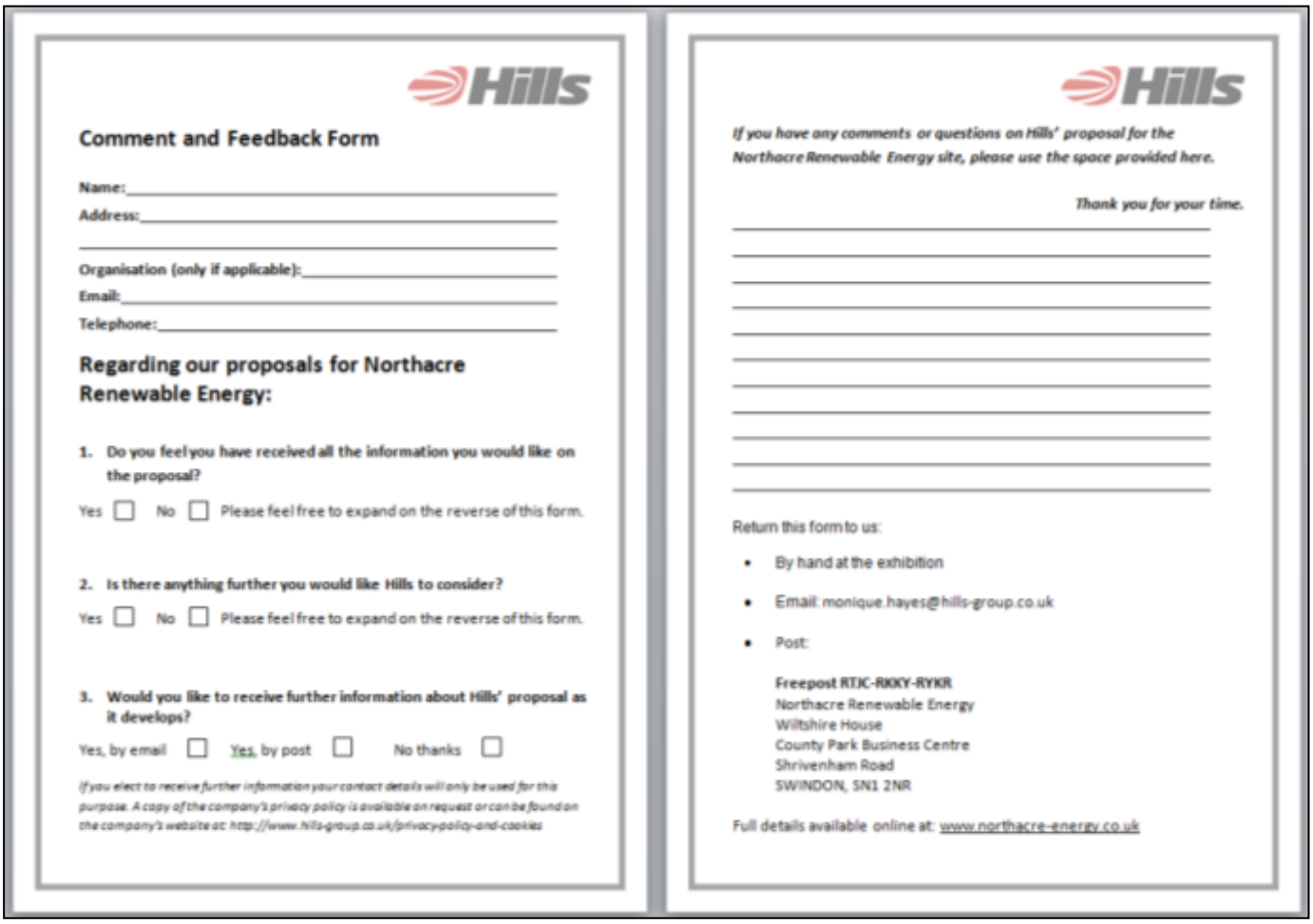
www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Feedback Form **APPENDIX 3**



Hills

Comment and Feedback Form

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Organisation (only if applicable):_____

Email:_____

Telephone:_____

Regarding our proposals for Northacre Renewable Energy:

1. **Do you feel you have received all the information you would like on the proposal?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Please feel free to expand on the reverse of this form.

2. **Is there anything further you would like Hills to consider?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Please feel free to expand on the reverse of this form.

3. **Would you like to receive further information about Hills' proposal as it develops?**

Yes, by email ☐ Yes, by post ☐ No thanks ☐

If you elect to receive further information your contact details will only be used for this purpose. A copy of the company's privacy policy is available on request or can be found on the company's website at: http://www.hills-group.co.uk/privacy-policy-and-cookies

Hills

If you have any comments or questions on Hills' proposal for the Northacre Renewable Energy site, please use the space provided here.

Thank you for your time.

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____

Return this form to us:

- By hand at the exhibition
- Email: monique.hayes@hills-group.co.uk
- Post:

Freepost RTJC-RKKY-RYKR
Northacre Renewable Energy
Wiltshire House
County Park Business Centre
Shrivenham Road
SWINDON, SN1 2NR

Full details available online at: www.northacre-energy.co.uk

Examples of local press coverage **APPENDIX 4**

NEWS

Hills boss seeks to reassure families about new renewable energy centre in Westbury

Ed Dodd, divisional director of Hills Waste, at the site of the planned renewable energy centre, with the Arla Foods Westbury Dairies in the background

First published Friday 17 October 2014 in News
Last updated 09:26 Monday 20 October 2014

by Katie Smith

The divisional director of The Hills Group Ltd is reassuring people in Westbury that measures will be put in place to protect neighbours and buildings if a multi-million pound renewable energy centre in Westbury goes ahead.

Northacre Renewable Energy Limited, part of the The Hills Group, wants to build the centre in Stephenson Road to generate electricity and heat by treating household rubbish.

The centre will utilise an Advanced Thermal Treatment technology known as gasification. The gasification heats converted waste, processed at the existing Northacre Resource Recovery Centre, up to 1,400 degrees Centigrade and converts it to gas to drive a turbine, which will create heat and electricity for the National Grid and some nearby businesses.

Emissions will be treated by air pollution control systems. Dioxins, Furans and acid gases will be removed from the exhaust gases before they are expelled by a chimney stack. Hills hasn't said how high it will be.

There are historic concerns about the burning of waste in Westbury, specifically regarding emissions from the Lafarge cement factory when it was operational in the town.

"I am aware of the history of Lafarge," said Ed Dodd, divisional director of Hills Group.

"We are really excited to be able to announce this project. I think it fills quite a significant gap in the Wiltshire area in terms of waste management. This is not conventional incineration. It is cleaner than that. That's an important factor."

New renewable energy power station planned for Westbury

This entry was posted on Tuesday, October 21st, 2014 at 12:09 pm.

Plans to build a new 22 megawatt power station in Westbury – big enough to power 10,000 homes – have been unveiled.

Northacre Renewable Energy, part of The Hills Group, is looking to build the multi-million pound renewable energy power station at Stephenson Road, between the Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) and Arla Foods Westbury Dairies.

It would operate 24 hours a day every day, and be capable of producing up to 22 megawatts of power per year, which will go to the National Grid and local businesses.

There will be a chance to view the plans at a public exhibition at Northacre Resource Recovery Centre (RRC) on Tuesday 4th November, from 2-8pm.

The power station will generate electricity by heating former household rubbish which has been processed into solid recovered fuels at Northacre RRC. These solid recovered fuels are currently shipped to Germany and Holland because there is not a local energy centre in Wiltshire.

If the new renewable energy plant is built in Westbury, solid recovered fuels can be heated using a thermal treatment technology called gasification.

This converts a blend of solid recovered fuels, combined with other commercial and industrial waste brought in by lorry, into a synthetic gas which will be used on-site to generate renewable electricity and potentially heat.

Northacre Renewable Energy hopes to help enable locally produced fuel to be used to generate local energy. As well as connecting a substation to the National Grid, the project will investigate supplying power to local businesses via private underground connections. The project also expects to create 40 new jobs in the town.

Northacre Renewable Energy director Mike Webster said, "This is an exciting opportunity to help meet local energy needs whilst managing local waste sustainably.

"We are creating a local circular economy; Wiltshire's household waste is made into a SRF at Northacre RRC, and together with commercial and industrial waste destined for landfill, will supply the proposed Northacre Renewable Energy facility right next door which will in turn power local businesses."

Northacre Renewable Energy say their emissions will be treated and carefully monitored by the Environment Agency. The company says there will be an odour abatement system in place and noise will be minimised through the building's design, together with landscaping to provide screening from nearby buildings and neighbours.

Northacre Renewable Energy is aiming to submit its planning application to Wiltshire Council in December. Subject to permission, the centre would then be built in 2015/2016 with the facility fully operational in 2017.

Northacre Renewable Energy has opened its pre-application consultation and is welcoming comments from local businesses and residents. To find out more about the plans or leave your comments, go to www.hills-group.co.uk/northacre-energy/

• What do you think? Write to White Horse News at the address below or email news@whitehorsenews.co.uk

List of pre-application comments received (13th October to 5th December 2014) **APPENDIX 5**

Ref	Comments in full
	EXHIBITION FEEDBACK
H1	• Interesting if very technical, but sufficiently explained for non technical person
H2	• Found the visit and the tour of plant very interesting, plant seems to be well run and staff very helpful
H3	• Transport arrangements and resulting road congestion at Yarnbrook. This is a good idea but infrastructure ie roads is the big issue
H4	• Supply of power direct to ARLA and net via the Grid would be beneficial to all parties
H5	• Please consider landscaping, possibly on top of an earth bund
H6	• Please could consideration be made, if your planning application for the scheme is successful, for a community facility or some form of benefit back to the Westbury area which residents could have the use of
H7	• Please expand the measures you are taking such as hazard operability studies and the safety aspect in place to overcome any possible problems that could occur in the process. Also it would be good to see all safety measures being in your future publications
H8	• Advise lorries not to park outside and stay overnight after collecting bales as they can restrict access to bottom end of Brook Lane
H9	• As long as all functions, including testing, are followed, then there will be outfall and waste will be converted to electricity. Controls to ensure the process is followed. Sometimes short-cuts invalidate the correct function
H10	• Concerned about increase vibration and resulting damage to property if traffic is increased
H11	• Household recycling centre
H12	• I have to trust the experts on the technical aspects of the project but felt the exhibition was pitched at the right level and questions answered appropriately - I came in a personal capacity and appreciated the pleasant reception. As far as what else - regardless of outcome I would appreciate concerns of traffic and landscaping to be passed on to Wiltshire Council. I appreciate that the additional traffic this project will

	bring isn't as great as some but Wiltshire Council need to be aware that traffic is their major issue and they keep avoiding it. Thank you
H13	• I would like to think that Hills would take into consideration the impact of the HGV traffic on residents who live on the proposed traffic routes. Westbury is suffering already from too much traffic. The proposed hours of work (7 - 22h) are too long. What about the people who suffer the traffic? 20h is more than late enough. Have studies been done to check air quality in the area? You say that trees will be planted to screen the plant. Where? On the plans I can't see any space for them! The presentation evening was good. But getting to it was difficult. Not good signposts (nothing). Saw lots of confused motorists
H14	• Advise lorries not to park outside and stay overnight after collecting bales as they can restrict access to bottom end of Brook Lane
H15	• As long as all functions, including testing, are followed, then there will be outfall and waste will be converted to electricity. Controls to ensure the process is followed. Sometimes short-cuts invalidate the correct function
H16	• Concerned about increase vibration and resulting damage to property if traffic is increased
H17	• Thank you for the informative tour. Recognise the potential for a future sustainable solution for waste management and energy production which would be a very positive attribute for the Westbury / Wiltshire area
H18	• The impact of traffic and CO2
H19	• The process was very well explained, the environmental benefits were undersold in my opinion. We live with the challenge of climate change - surely this technology should be part of the future solution?
H20	• This is a good project but the many lorries per day on the overloaded road system around Westbury means more inconvenience. If only Wiltshire Council could decide on the route and construct a bypass, all would be well
H21	• Vehicle access numbers
H22	• Very informative tour and helpful staff to answer questions
H23	• Very informative tour of existing plant and very patient staff to explain proposals
H24	• Very informative proposal, difficult to find site
H25	• While having no objection to the proposed extended plant, grave concerns as to lorries travelling to Hills especially via A303 & A305 and the Yarnbrook crossroads. Plus access will be under old railway bridges
H26	• Would it be possible in the future for a rail link to transport waste to the plant?

H27	• Would it be possible to pay to strengthen railway bridge instead of buses having to use Slag Lane. Thank you for the chance to see modern workings etc
H28-H46	• *No comments*
	OTHER HARDCOPY FEEDBACK
HC1	• I would like to make a plea that the buildings be painted in shades of green so they do not stand out in the view from a distance (the Dairy next door to the site is an eyesore and blot on the landscape being white, and can be seen prominantly from our house over a mile away)
	ONLINE FEEDBACK
O1	• I am delighted that someone is grasping this nettle locally and presenting it in a constructive way
O2	• Excellent idea and I wish you every success My only concern relates to access to the site - which a bypass would ease and alleviate my concern
O3	• I will be attending your exhibition on the 4th November and have a number of questions on the components of waste that are being added to the process and the safety measures you are making to the process
O4	• I would be very interested in learning more about the above topic and thus give it my support when it comes up for a decision. Any help I can give I would be happy to do. I believe you have made an offer to North Bradley PC of a site visit? I will be only too happy to help arrange this for you, if it would help?
O5	• I would like to express my interest in providing services for your Northacre Renewable Energy project. I look forward to hearing from you with the next steps on how to get on the suppliers list

O6	• Main concern is volume of traffic. Currently Southwick, North Bradley, Yarnbrook, Hawkeridge and Westbury are basically at saturation point regards heavy vehicle/business traffic that access all the trading estates, commercial and business parks. Your new plant implies that there will lorries coming and going 24/7. The highways authority keep allowing the expansion of these sites but are not addressing the access issues and the devastating effect the increasing traffic is having on the local communities. Have any plans been put forward to create alternative routing of traffic or indeed the desperately needed bypass. In the past it has been lack of finance but this excuse is running a bit thin now with all the new businesses and residential estates that are being built My second concern is the height of the new building. Having watched the skyline change with the massive constructions on the Industrial parks. The landscape is quite dramatically altered and the rural aspect of Trowbridge and surrounding villages changed forever. What landscaping is being considered to reduce the impact on the surrounding countryside?
O7	• I generally support the proposal However the Yarnbrook roundabout is a major local highway issue. I believe there are plans to improve the road layout as part of development near West Ashton/Trowbridge. Should this be brought forward? It appears that you will import 75% of the material. Will this be a significant impact on traffic both for delivery and removal of waste? Where will the solid waste go? It is common for renewable schemes to provide a community fund of some type. Is this something you are considering? Will independent monitoring be published? How will local people know that the system is working correctly? Are you actively looking for uses of the excess heat? It would be good if plans were presented at the same time to show a coordinated plan
O8	• It's bad enough now with your lorries and the huge amount of flies that now make it impossible to open windows. I really hope people get together and stop this. But no doubt it's already a done deal and this is all smoke and mirrors to make us think we have a voice. This amount of 'environmental' business is always going to be accepted because that is where all your extra EU and Government funding comes from. So you take your big salaries while we have to suffer

O9	• Unfortunately we were unable to attend the open day as we were on holiday As you are aware we live at orchard house brook farm , this is the house with a direct view to the existing waste recovery building We are concerned that yet another large construction will be in our view . The implications of lorries entering the site 6 days each week from 7am to 10pm is causing alarm if this is a constant flow of traffic Screening on the building already built is not adequate from our position as we are in a slight dip I think a high bank with tree and hedge screening planted on the top should seriously be considered if planning consent is given. Another option for screening would be trees planted closer to our property carried out by yourselves
O10	• To hold such an important exhibition showing these plans during the week is outrageous. They should be available over a longer period of time with a weekend included....what about the Council Tax who commute on daily basis…
O11	• I have read your write up on this project and would like to have clarification of how many Megawatts this plant will produce in one year. If you are saying 22MWs per year will be enough to power 10,000 homes this equates to 2.2 units of electricity per house per year. If the figure of 22MWs were per day this would power a 3kW electric fire for some two thirds of an hour per house per day. There has to be something wrong with your calculations? or the project is not worth doing 22MWs=22,000,000 watts divided by 10,000 houses = 2,200 watts or 2.2 units per house per year