

abnormal indivisible loads (AIL) associated with the turbine machinery will cause disruption to traffic locally.

12. Impact on residential amenity - Noise

An independent review of the Applicant's Noise Assessment was commissioned by East Cambs District Council to appraise the Applicant's submission. There are many issues, questions that have been raised a few of which are highlighted below:

- The overall integrity of the Applicant's background noise assessment has been independently questioned.
- The process of choosing monitoring sites was not transparent and the choice of sites was questioned. In particular TNEI considered that Parkes Farm should have been a monitoring location.
- The suitability of the placement of monitoring equipment at two of the three sites was questioned.
- The background noise monitoring location at 56 High Street was positioned adjacent to a watercourse, which rendered it unsuitable to be used as a proxy to determine background noise levels at other assessment areas.
- The main section of the TNEI report concludes with a number of recommendations to clarify data and assumptions made in the Applicant's Noise Assessment, including the selection of appropriate study receptors and data transparency.

As a minimum these recommendations must be completed prior to any Planning Decision to provide a solid and reliable assessment of the noise impacts of the development on the residents or that the noise data/details provided is clearly errored and therefore impacts the planning balance.

13. Impact on residential amenity – Wind data

Planning approval was given for an anemometer mast up to 61.5 metres (202 feet) in height, for a temporary period of 24 months in July 2014, however the mast erection was not started until the 28th March 2015 over a period of 15 days. However what was stated by the planning officer at the time of the approval of the mast was that 'The proposed mast would provide measurements for the site to inform the design, output figures and CO2 saving for wind turbines that may be proposed at Berry Fen. Planning Practice Guidance states such information should form part of the consideration in determining applications for wind energy'. Clearly if the wind data from the mast is provided it will be for a minimal period.

14. Impact on residential amenity – living conditions – NPA Report

The council has noted the many issues/errors advised by NPA regarding the LUC report and would specifically highlight the following:

Paragraph 7.1.6 states *"the residential visual amenity assessment sets out likely significant effects on visual amenity **but does not comment on the impact on living conditions**. Recent Inspector and Secretary of State decisions place an emphasis on the impact on living conditions otherwise known as the Lavender Test,] as being critical and this is perceived to have been the trigger for a rise in the provision of residential visual amenity studies. **Since living conditions are not directly considered in this study however, the effect on local properties may need further consideration by the determining authority**". (Note our bolding)*

Lavender Test - "When turbines are present in such number, size and proximity that they represent an unpleasantly overwhelming and unavoidable presence in main views from a house or garden there is every likelihood that the property concerned would come to be regarded as an unattractive and thus an unsatisfactory (but not necessarily uninhabitable) place in which to live. It is not in the public interest to create such living conditions where they did not exist before."