

LAND: 'GREEN ENERGY' MOVE OPPOSED BY VILLAGERS

FOUR SITES IN BID FOR WINDFARMS

**Four new areas across
Harborough are being
investigated as possible
sites for windfarms, it
was confirmed today.**

**The news comes after controversial
proposals for an 11-turbine site
south-east of Lutterworth were
lodged with the district council.**

Energy firm Nuon wants to erect the 410ft-windmills on farmland north of Swinford.

It says they would provide green energy for 14,000 homes. The move is being opposed by villagers, who say the development would blight the area.

The exact locations of the new sites have not been revealed, but it is understood energy firms are interested in land near Ashby Magna, North Kilworth, Husbands Bosworth and Foxton.

The companies are preparing preliminary assessments, called scoping reports, to assess if windfarms on the sites would be viable.

County councillor Rosita Page has urged communities to be aware of what might be

by **TIM HEALY**

proposed if the reports are favourable. She said: "The district council has been informed of four possible new sites for windfarms.

"It looks as if the area is now being targeted and much will be depend on the outcome of the Nuon application currently being assessed by Harborough council.

"I would urge communities not to be complacent and ignore this major issue that is facing us now."

Coun Page said she had a map of the four areas that were the subject of scoping reports.

She said: "The first is south of Ashby Magna, the second is close to North Kilworth, the third is north of Husbands Bosworth and the fourth is between Lubenham and Foxton."

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Dawn Money, of the Swinford and
Walcote Windfarm Action Group

Phil Baildon, clerk of Ashby Magna parish council, said: "We have not been informed officially that a scoping report for a windfarm is being prepared, but the height of the surrounding land could make it a contender."

A spokesman for Harborough District Council confirmed it had been informed about the four new potential windfarm sites.

The Nuon application will be determined in three months after extensive consultation.

Dawn Money, of Swinford and Walcote Windfarm Action Group, said: "We are aware of the other sites which are now being considered. We are very concerned about the environmental impact they would have if they were approved.

"The application at Swinford followed a scoping report, and we would urge local communities to find out what is being considered at these four other sites.

"Not only are sites being considered in Harborough, others are being considered just over the county border in Yelvertoft, Lilbourne and Kelmash.

"If we are not careful, we could be at the centre of a windfarm ghetto."

Earlier this year, it was confirmed that earmarked sites near Kibworth and Great Glen had been shelved following unfavourable scoping reports.