RMBC
26 JUL 2007

Notes to accompany the planning application by the Huddersfield and District Model Aircraft Club for the revamping of The Whams model flying site brought about by the planning application by E.ON-uk plc for a wind turbine cluster 200m to the South of the main runway.

On all the drawings the field and track edged in blue is owned by the Trustees of the Huddersfield & District Model Aircraft Club.
Planning consent for the operation of model aircraft was obtained on the 25th November 1988 (Ref: 88/1377/PR) and was subsequently amended a number of years later to increase the permitted hours of use.

Drawing N° 1:
Existing layout showing the approximate extent and area of operations.

To the north of the site is the pit area where models are serviced and started before being carried out to the flight line.
The hatched area, edged green, to the south of the flight line is where models take off and land. This area is considered "the active area" where a model could come into contact with a person. The only people allowed into this area are pilots going to recover a model after it has landed and only after communicating his intentions to all the other pilots.
The majority of take offs are from the centre of the field in a South Westerly direction (into the prevailing wind).
In order not to fly over the access track, the pit area or behind other pilots the first turn after take off would be left and through the proposed position of turbine N° 2. General flying takes place mainly to the south of the field which would again bring us into conflict with turbine N° 2 and is shown edged in yellow. The limit of most models would be approximately 400m from the centre of our field.

Drawing N° 2 :
Shows the position of E.ON's proposed wind turbine N° 2 and the measures we would have to take to co-exist with this turbine and also for our members to gain safe access to the flight line and pits without having to walk through the new "active zone"

1. We would have to move the pit area and flight line to the south side of our field for the pilots to face North West in order that the N° 2 turbine was to their rear. This would be the ONLY way we could operate if turbines are built with models taking off to the South West but then turning North away from the turbines.
2. A new track, following the line of an old and little used track, would be required outside the "active area" in order that members and guests entering the field can reach the safe pit area. This access is critical because people entering the field by the old track would not be able to communicate with pilots on the flight line. The construction of the track would be of clean crushed material and topped off with motorway scalping.

The car park is included for a number of reasons: -

a. We have an increasing number of pensioner members who find it difficult transporting equipment from Brown's Edge Road.
b. We need to provide better access for members with disabilities.
c. In the last two years we have had about ten cars broken into and equipment up to the value of £2000 stolen. This is because where we park along Brown's Edge Road the cars are concealed behind a hedge and are out of sight of the owners.

3. Extending the field by about 30m along the Northern boundary (land edged in red) would make it possible to push our activates a little further away from the new pit area which is slightly more vulnerable to a bad landing or an overshoot than previously when approaching from the North East (the most common direction). The new area to the North would need to be filled, covered in top soil and seeded in order to bring it level with the area we now operate from.
4. As a club we already feel there is a need for a "low flying aircraft" warning road sign at each end of Brown's Edge Road to increase awareness of our activities, particularly for horse riders.

Drawing N° 3

For the purpose of clarity I have included this drawing showing only the two areas of land we hope to purchase and develop in order that we may continue to enjoy our legitimate countryside pursuit, with appropriate permissions, as we have for the last nineteen years.