

6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

## **Bernard Matthews set to begin North Pickenham wind turbines construction**

*Turbines to produce around 4 mega watts  
Equivalent to powering 1600 homes*

Bernard Matthews is set to spend the next 2 weeks constructing two new wind turbines at its North Pickenham site in Norfolk. Together, the two turbines will produce around 4 Mega Watts of electricity, which is equivalent to supplying around 1600 - 2000 homes with power.

George Youngs, Commercial Manager Green Energy at Bernard Matthews, explains: "Work is set to begin in the next few days to construct two new wind turbines at our North Pickenham site in Norfolk. We hope to have the turbines fully erected by the end of February.

"Over the weekend, a convoy of lorries will be delivering three sections of tower for each turbine, an engine housing and blades. When the turbines are complete, they will each measure 125 metres to their tips and 70 metres to their central hubs. They will produce around 2 Mega Watts of electricity each, that's equivalent to supplying around 1600 homes with power.

When in use, the two turbines will help Bernard Matthews off-set the total amount of electricity they need to take from the national grid. The company is already generating a large proportion of the company's energy needs from renewable sources including: solar, biogas and other wind turbines. This, along with other initiatives over the next few years, will see Bernard Matthews generate 100 per cent of its energy sustainably by 2016.

"Sustainability is central to the company's long term business strategy, so it makes absolute sense to do this. It's been looked at for quite a long time and we're delighted that things are now coming to fruition," added Youngs.

The £25 million construction and installation cost has been met by Temporis Capital, a global firm specialising in renewable energy finance. The construction is managed by Natural Power Ltd and carried out by locally based, R G Carter.

Other green energy initiatives by Bernard Matthews include:

- A 55 acre solar farm at Holton in Suffolk, capable of generating up to 12 MW of electricity
- An anaerobic digestion plant at its Holton site, converting waste to energy using waste streams from its own factories
- 2 wind turbines at its Weston site in Norfolk, also producing 4 MW of electricity
- A planned 208 biomass boilers covering 19 of its farms, to produce renewable heat for growing turkeys, replacing fossil fuels