

Protecting our Planet for Future Generations

Embracing Renewable Energy



History of Hoben International

Overview

Hoben International Limited was founded in the late 1960's and are part of the mechanical and refractory engineering group, Goodwin PLC which was established in 1883. Today the Goodwin family continue to manage the group and are majority shareholders of a worldwide organisation consisting of 24 companies, of which Hoben International is one.

In the early 1970's Hoben acquired the former Steetley Brick works site to the north of Brassington on Manystones Lane, this included the main factory site and also the sand quarry opposite the main site. The purpose of this acquisition was for the sand and clay reserves in the adjacent quarry, which were quarried for several years for its specialised minerals until the demise of the steel industry in the UK that occurred in the latter part of the decade. This forced Hoben to evolve with new business ventures to maintain a profitable operation. The sand quarry was sold in the early 1980's and has now become a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).



Hoben Site 1940s



Hoben Site 2023



Hoben's operation has grown over the years and now comprises of:-

- Two rotary calciners operating at 1,600°C producing high quality Cristobalite.
- Three Ball Mills grinding Silica and Cristobalite to specific particle sizes.
- Vertical Perlite furnace for expanding and grading ore.
- Soluform which is a prefilled concrete bag work solution.
- Sandersfire International which manufactures fire-stopping mortars to contain the spread of fire for through wall and floor cavities.
- Foundry Plaster for Aluminium casting.

Our Vision for the Future

Renewable Energy

Back in 2015 Hoben International, with a desire to reduce their carbon footprint and in-line with company policy, applied for planning permission to install one wind turbine on their Brassington site.

Unfortunately, in 2016 the original application was refused due to an adjustment in government legislation that sought to reduce the amount of onshore wind farms in the UK.

Now in 2023, in-line with a new government driven initiative to make UK companies 'greener', Hoben International will be submitting a new proposal for the installation of two wind turbines alongside a solar panel scheme, to move the facility towards their target of a zero carbon footprint.

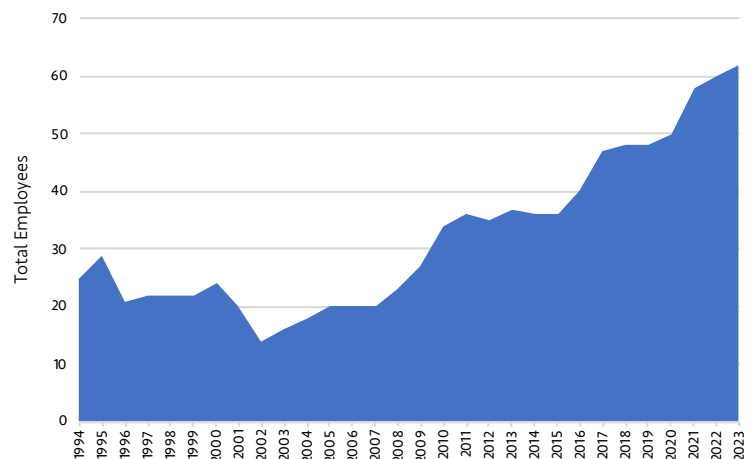
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Over the last ten years Hoben International Ltd and the Goodwin PLC group have invested significantly to reduce their energy demands via plant efficiencies and upgrades. These changes have led to an estimated reduction in usage by 32% to date. Hoben International are keen to become a Carbon Neutral company as part of the government's Carbon Reduction Policy.

In 2017, Hoben emitted over 6,800T of CO₂ which in 2022 was reduced to 4,828T of CO₂.

With this in mind, along with Hoben International's solar panel scheme, they are applying for the installation of two 2MW wind turbines.



Vision & Growth

Our vision is to become carbon neutral by being self-sufficient, generating our own energy on site to use in our manufacturing processes. In 2015 we were un-successful with our Wind Turbine application due to the Governmental policy change regarding onshore wind, but we are hopeful that the consensus on Green energy has changed since then. Due to our 24/7 operation of our high temperature calciners and continuous ball milling, Hoben would require a mixture of wind and solar technologies to produce Green energy in the day and also the night.

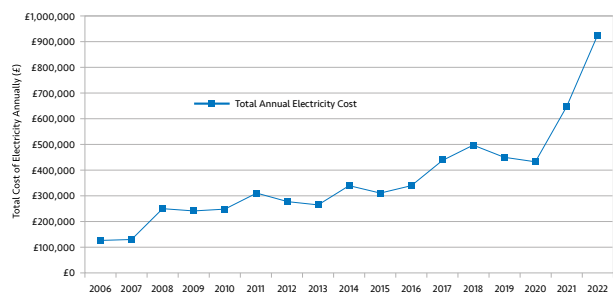
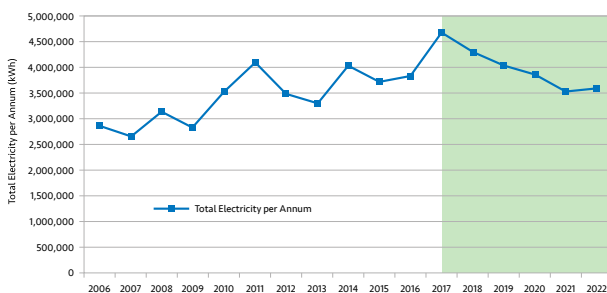
Hoben's ambition is to remove the carbon burden and wish to discuss with the local parish councils in the near future to discuss our wind turbine and solar power plans on how to achieve this goal.

Per year Hoben International uses six times more energy than the whole of Brassington village combined!



Hoben usage in 2022-2023 period:

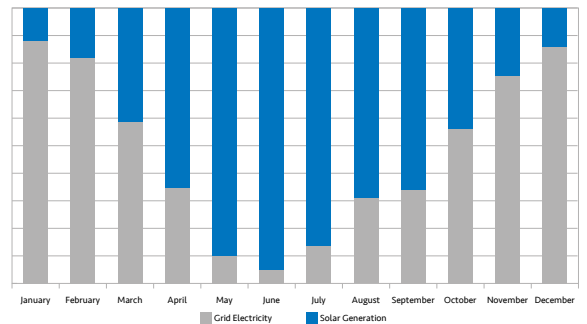
Electric 3,582,942 kWh equivalent to 1,236 homes (British Gas)



The graphs show electricity usage has stayed consistent, but that the bills have increased from £420k to £920k since the start of the decade. Within the green section on the the left hand graph, it shows how updating plant efficiency has steadily reduced Hoben's reliance on electricity from the grid.

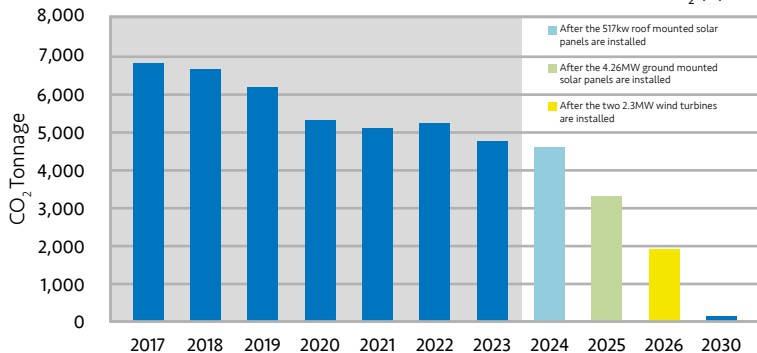
Problems with only solar panel use:

- Hoben operates 24/7 and solar panels only produce in daylight.
- Solar panels only starts to generate enough power in the summer so in the winter months Hoben would be almost 100% reliant on grid electricity.



The graph shows expected generation from solar panels.

Hoben International Actual & Estimated Forecast Total CO₂ (T)



The graph above shows the actual tonnage of CO₂ released in previous years in the grey section. With the next 3 colour bars representing the forecasts after each step of the scheme is installed.

Over the last five years with the implementation of plant improvements and roof mounted solar panels costing over £521k, Hoben has reduced their CO₂ output by 32%.

With the addition of the ground mount solar panels & wind turbine scheme, Hoben could see a further reduction to their CO₂ output, compared to 2017, of 97%.

View towards Brassington from entrance to Knockerdown Wedding & Events Venue on B5035



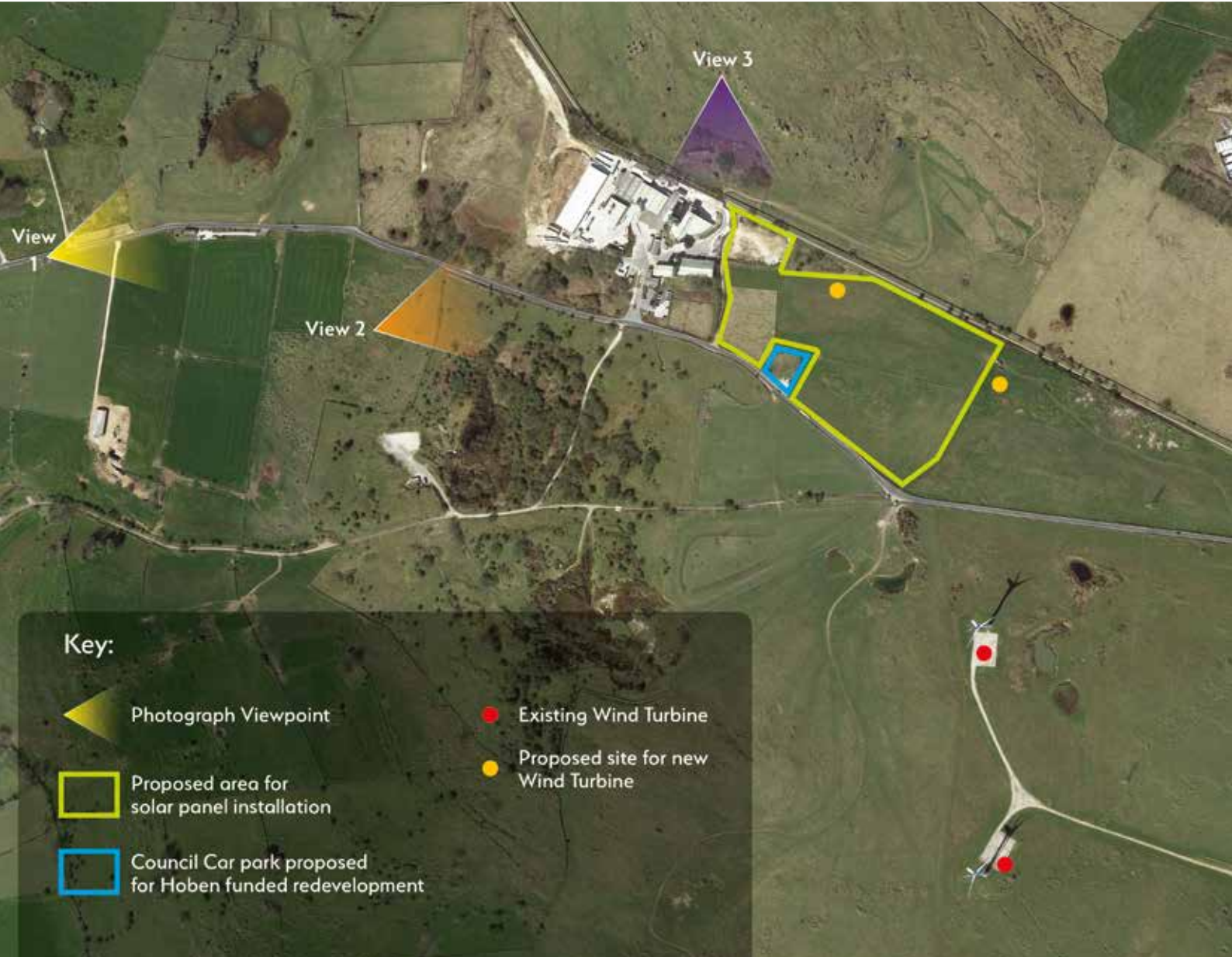
View towards Brassington from the Southern Car Park at Carsington Water



View 1



View 2



Key:

Photograph Viewpoint

Proposed area for solar panel installation

Council Car park proposed for Hoben funded redevelopment

Existing Wind Turbine

Proposed site for new Wind Turbine

View 3



View 4



View from the cave at Harboro Rocks towards Hoben International



View towards Hoben International & Harboro Rocks from Round Low Bowl Barrow



View east towards Hoben International from Manystones Lane



View west towards Hoben International from Manystones Lane



Helping our Community

Hoben International takes great pride in their local community with 90% of their 60 person workforce residing in the surrounding area.

Over the years Hoben has helped to support the local community in Brassington by sponsoring various village activities; such as new sports ground, roof repairs, the village pond project and of course, the Brassington Banter.

Council Carpark

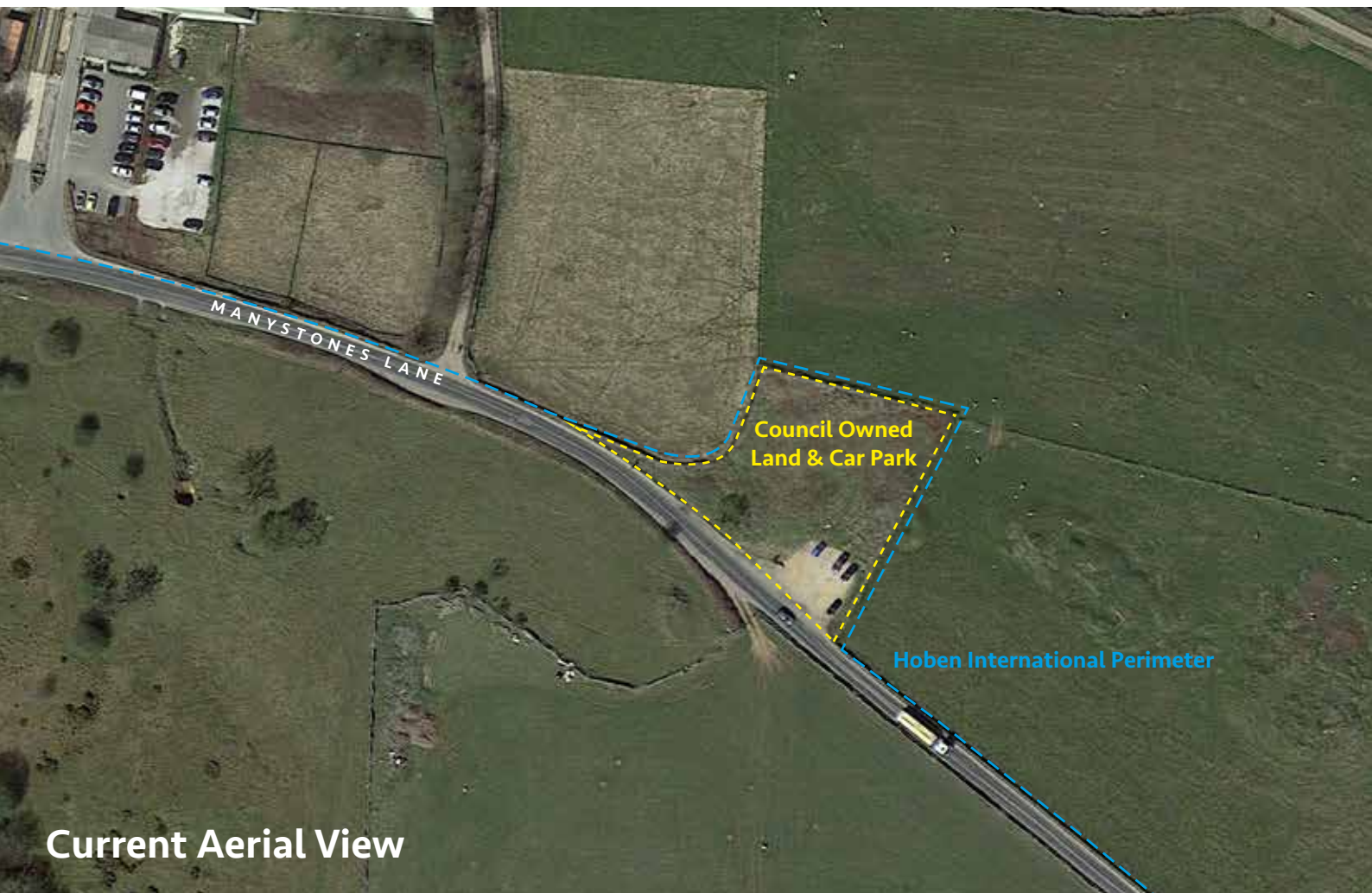
Subject to approval of Hoben International's renewable energy scheme we would also propose to improve the council owned car park on Manystone Lane. This would then accommodate more cars to ease congestion of the lane and allowing safer passage for walkers when going to and from their cars.

To facilitate this bigger car park Hoben International would donate a small piece of land adjacent to where the council owned car park is currently situated, Hoben will also work with the council to provide the material to create a suitable surface for the car park.

The car park would go across the front of this land, therefore not disturbing the pond and its wildlife, with two openings for ease of entrance and exiting.

By providing between 35 - 50 new parking spaces in a more established car park the people parking on the road and the surrounding area should severely drop, easing congestion for everyone.

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Current Aerial View

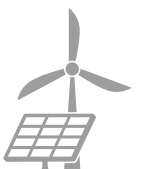


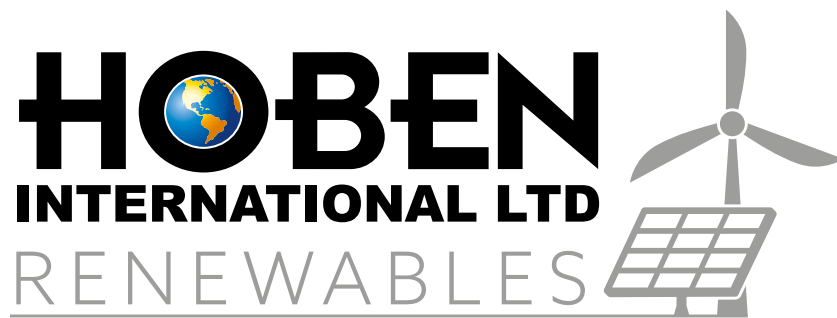
Proposed Aerial View

Noise Reduction

Hoben are aware that noise is emitted by their operation and have already removed one of the issues. The remaining noise has been pin pointed to a high speed fan within their milling operation. Cautious of the noise, a plan has been made to replace this with new technology utilising compressed air, thus reducing the noise level.

The cost of this process change is expensive at £50,000 and also very energy intensive compared to the high speed fan. Without generating our own green energy the plans would contradict our stance on the environment and also reverse our drive to reduce our emissions, but with our own ground mount solar system and wind turbines the process change is feasible. The additional cost in energy alone is not feasible for our business without low cost energy.





For more information about the company, please visit:
www.hobeninternational.co.uk

For more information about this proposal, please visit:
www.hobenrenewables.co.uk

For any question, queries or concerns, please email:
info@hobenrenewables.co.uk