

Jane and Julian Davis began a £2.5m damages claim after the 'unbearable' turbines near their home, above, left them feeling ill. They have now agreed an undisclosed settlement with EDF

# End at last in wind farm noise battle

By Louise Gray  
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AN ENERGY company has settled a High Court action for damages with a couple who said they had been driven out of their home by "unbearable" noise from a wind farm.

The decision to settle by EDF could have implications for other wind

farms and those in the planning stages over where turbines are sited.

Jane and Julian Davis said the "whoom, whoom, whoom" and the low-frequency hum of the blades forced them to leave their farm in Deeping St Nicholas, Lincs, in 2006.

Mrs Davis, 55, a former nurse, and her husband, 46, began a £2.5million compensation action claiming that

the sound disrupted their sleep, made them feel ill and was so severe it warranted a reduction in council tax. They were accused of being oversensitive to the noise, "exaggerating" and "over-reacting".

In July, they became the first people in Britain to take a noise complaint against wind farms to the High Court. They have now reached a con-

fidential out-of-court agreement with the defendants, who include Fenland Windfarms Ltd and Fenland Green Power Co-operative Ltd.

Mr and Mrs Davis were seeking an injunction to bring about modification of the wind farm operation, plus £400,000 to compensate them for noise nuisance. Alternatively, they asked for damages plus a "like for

like" replacement for their farm, worth an estimated £2.5million.

Dick Bowlder, an acoustic consultant, said the Davis's case will force wind farm operators to carry out more surveys before building.

RenewableUK said operators already carried out careful surveys and worked with communities to ensure there were no problems.