

# Aston Marina



Aston Marina operates a successful canal boat marina, multi award winning wedding and events venue and restaurant at its premises just outside of Stone, Staffordshire.

They were successful in securing a £65,000 grant from Stafford Borough Councils Rural England Prosperity Fund to support their continued work towards being more energy efficient and to implement green, renewable sources of power.

Employing in excess of 100 team members, 90% of which reside within a 10-mile radius of the site, sourcing from local suppliers and supporting Staffordshire charities, the business has gone from strength to strength since opening over a decade ago. In recent years they have been restricted to the number of events they can undertake due to the size and output of the current events kitchen setup. In addition, they have witnessed energy costs increase by over 100% overnight in 2022 and have remained at this level since.

Neil Nicholls, Operations Director at Aston Marina and responsible for overseeing developments said:

*"For the business to continue to grow and for Aston Marina to continue contributing positively to the local economy, it was paramount that we invest in improving, modernising and developing the existing wedding and event kitchen. The original kitchen design was heavily impacted by the remote location and limited*

*power infrastructure of the venue and therefore both electric and LPG were chosen to power the equipment equally. Since this time, the infrastructure of the electrical power supply has greatly improved with minimal disruptions, rendering LPG a costly, dirty and inefficient solution to our catering power requirements. By significantly increasing efficiency whilst reducing our CO2 emissions we have seen a reduction in operational costs to allowing us to invest in business growth for other parts of the site."*

*Based on a conservative estimate of 30 – 40% growth, the carbon offset would be 15.6 tonnes per annum. This equates to removing 9.2 cars from the roads each year or the planting of 743 trees. A benefit that would be seen with immediate effect once the project has been completed.*

Neil went on to say:

*"Aston Marina is committed to investing in energy efficiency, green renewable power sources and working towards the government's 2050 net zero targets. Since 2015 we have undertaken numerous projects to meet these objectives including installing air source heat pumps throughout the site, replacing all lighting with LED equivalents and solar panels installed on the boat workshop"*