

## It's natural. The importance of Outdoor Life for Health and Well-Being

Recent research has identified the benefits of outdoor life. It concludes that outdoor activities boost people's level of fitness and self-esteem whilst reducing anger, confusion, depression and fatigue. *We have been saying that for years but now it is official!*

**The Research puts the cost of physical inactivity to the UK at 8.1billion.**

A Countryside for Health and Well-Being is available at [press@english-nature.org.uk](mailto:press@english-nature.org.uk)

**The word "tranquillity" appears in a great many policy document and also numerous publications which promote places for tourism and inward investment.**

Whatever it is and wherever it is to be found, it is clear that it is important and judged to be worth protecting (From the Executive Summary, NE Tranquillity Project) This is available at [www.northumbria.ac.uk/tranquillity](http://www.northumbria.ac.uk/tranquillity) from the date of its launch Wednesday 23rd March 2005, it will be possible to download from this site the various images and maps.

Barningham and the Stang, sketch by unknown artist is featured. I had nothing to do with this but was delighted to find it included! Windfarms were amongst a list of perceived non natural features identified as detracting from tranquillity.



Now intrusive lighting will be treated as a statutory nuisance with the passing of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act April 7, 2005.

Comment: November 2002 by the Minister for Tourism Dr Kim Howells. Tourism is worth £1.8 billion to NE economy, about 50,000 North-East jobs are supported by tourism, with a further 50,000 relying on its economic spin-offs, in total 10% of the regional workforce. The first in the UK the study is the most accurate and detailed to be carried out into the economic benefits of visitors to the region. It is expected to pave the way for other studies, which would provide a National picture of the value of Tourism. From April 2003 One North East will have responsibility for strategic tourism development. Will politicians find a balance for the 'national interest' and protection of the Open Countryside? Profit must not over ride interests of ordinary people.

Planning to be open and transparent Byers told the Commons in 2001

## THE POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW (ROCs)



npower renewables      RWE group

**“Without the renewable obligation certificates (ROCs) nobody would be building wind farms” said Paul Golby, the chief executive of Eon UK**

**Article by Aaron Patrick. Daily Telegraph 26/03/2005.**

Calculating the cost and benefits of wind power is difficult. What is usually left out is blight of large turbines dotting the countryside and the reduction in land values or the benefit of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the damage to Britain’s reputation if it were to opt out of the international climate change agreement. (Royal Academy of Engineering).

In 1998, the best ‘wind year’ Britain’s wind farms operated at only 31% capacity (DTI). With Britain spending billions of pounds subsidising wind power, policymakers have a responsibility to ensure it is the most effective way to protect the environment.

**Prof. Ian Fells, one of the world’s leading experts on renewable energy, states that behind the building of windfarms is a gold rush, created by a government struggling to meet its own renewable energy targets.** It has led to developers racing to build turbines with little care for the environment. The real profit comes from the sale of renewable obligations certificates (ROC s), that ingenious hidden subsidy. A wind farmer is allowed to create one ROC for every 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity generated, potentially 2628 ROCs each year for each 1 MW turbine installed using a load factor of 30% for onshore wind. eg A 4 MW wind farm over 25 years and assuming one ROC is worth £50. The subsidy of  $£4 \times 25 \times 50 \times 2628 = £13,140,000$ .

Certificates can be sold to the big electricity suppliers, who need them to prove to the government that some of their electricity comes from renewable sources.

**House of Lords Science and Technology Committee HL Paper 126-1 at 2.24**

It is worth underlining the fact that the Government’s **10% target** is normally referred to in terms of the percentage of renewable energy generated from renewable sources without more precise definition, but to be strictly accurate it refers to the contribution of those renewable sources **eligible for the Renewables Obligation”**

## Methods used to ‘inform’ decision makers and assessors

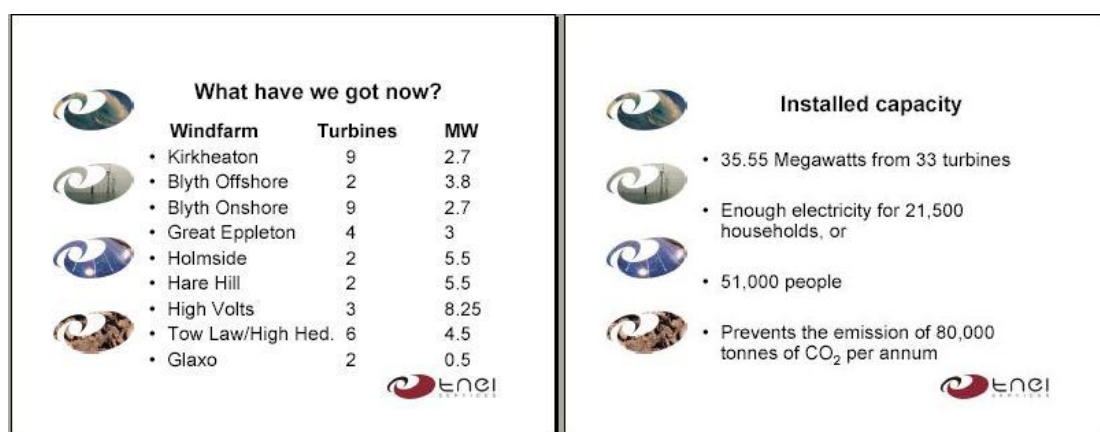
### BWEA, DTI funded workshops seem to be the favourite

Comment: These have no balance, and are simply indoctrination in my opinion. Slides below are from TNEI’s presentation at the Hartlepool workshop Ten locations are identified where 33 turbines are said to be producing 35.55MW, enough for 21500 homes and preventing the emissions of 80000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum.

**Are these turbines reducing emissions as claimed?** This is important as councillors and planners will be making decisions based on this information.

Furthermore, TNEI are the support consultants with a Welsh firm to Arup who are leading on **PPS22 Companion Guide** for the Government.

BWEA are now using a lower figure of 560 households so as not to overestimate.



**Note:** Kirkheaton has 3 x 600 kW turbines (1.8 MW) not 9 x 300 kW turbines (2.7MW)

This is probably a typing error and I can accept that being a contender for the world’s worst typist! However I do not accept that **The Sustainable Development Commission Booklet on Wind Power in the UK, peer reviewed and highly commended by the RTPI appears not to know its Gigawatts from its Megawatts.** Are they not therefore claiming only one thousandth of the emissions per MW claimed by the Wind Industry!

Comment: Benefits of wind power in line with the Energy White Paper and emissions saved is a material planning consideration so the load or capacity factor needs to be about 30% as the predicted if emissions saved and electricity generated are to be as claimed.

#### HL Paper126 at 3.1

*Doubt was cast on this UK load factor of 30% by Hugh Sharman an independent energy consultant working in Denmark. He noted Danish turbines have operated at a load factor of only 21%. If this was to be the case in the UK not only would half as many turbines again be needed to deliver the same target output but potential investors would face dramatic reductions in the income derived from wind farms.*

Details on ROCs, awarded 3 months in arrears, can be accessed from the Ofgem website and used to calculate the LF (CF). A 12 month period is needed to cover seasonal variations of the wind. Ofgem can be contacted on renewable@ofgem.gov.uk but there is still an element of confidentiality so all queries can not be answered (see Load factors below)

**Load Factors.** I source ROCs for Blyth offshore Wind Turbine 2 or Kirkheaton. **High Volts:** Accredited in March 2004 no ROCs were issued at all for any of these three turbines for several months. Ofgem said it is confidential.

'Missing' ROCs for High Volts did appear in May 2005

However **only four of the 7 x 2.75 MW at the 3H's had the actual IC of 2.75MW recorded. Of the other three, one was 0.619MW, two were 2.325 MW.** Ofgem said they would contact the operators but if confidential I would have to check site updates An extract from the updated Ofgem Register Sept/05 I find even more confusing. .4 turbines are still listed as 2.75MW each but the remaining 3 are each 0.995MW. Ofgem did make a vague reference to Installed generating capacity (IGC) being related to the Grid. Is **35.55 MW IC on the TNEI slide above really 30.285 MW?**

I would have appreciated an explanation for this discrepancy of almost 15%

CCL Accredited	Generating Station Name	IGC (Kw)	ROC Accreditation Number	Post Code	Date Accreditation Effective	Date Accredited by Ofgem	Date Station Commissioned	Cap CCL sites
YES	Hare Hill Wind Farm (eon)	2,750	R00139RQEN	DH6 3QL	9/1/2004	Oct-04	9/5/2004	1
YES	Hare Hill Wind Farm NFFO	995	R00140RQEN	DH6 2BA	7/1/2004	Oct-04	7/2/2004	1
YES	High Volts Wind Farm	5,500	R00132RQEN	TS27 3DT	1/1/2004	Mar-04	12/1/2003	1
YES	High Volts Wind Farm NFFO	995	R00133RQEN	TS27 3AW	1/1/2004	Mar-04	9/1/1993	1
YES	Holmside Wind Farm	2,750	R00141RQEN	DH7 0DT	7/1/2004	Oct-04	6/26/2004	1
NO	Holmside Wind Farm NFFO	995	R00142RQEN	DH7 0DT	7/1/2004	Oct-04	6/26/2004	0

From my calculations Tow Law and High Hedley appear to be performing as predicted with LFs (CFs) over 12 months, calculated as > 30%. Kirkheaton appears about 25% over a 12month period. Others listed seem much lower at less than 20% and with GSK about 11%?? At Holderness Wind farms Public Inquiry in 2000, evidence from Powergen gave figures for Great Eppleton as 18% average CF over five year period 3/97 -3/02 and Blyth onshore 18.1% year ending 3/02? I have drawn attention to the inconsistency in factors used to calculate emission savings from wind turbines. At the Hartlepool presentation pages 25/6 TNEI and EON are using different factors to calculate the emission savings. The DTI factor would give 40000 tonnes pa not 80000. Do not the LFs calculated suggest savings could even be less than 30000t? Page 105 has comments on the recent European Parliament Turmes report, A6-0227/2005.21. The New Lambton Wyrms will destroy the whole of the UK unless it is stopped **now**.

**Sadly this destruction appears to be without justification.**

## **High Volts Wind Farm E.ON UK Renewables**

Some of the most advanced technology.  
One of the most modern working wind farms in the UK, Typical of many proposals for the  
North East.  
From the Hartlepool Workshop funded by BWEA/DTI (p26)

**With such performance from one of the most modern wind farms in  
the UK, I rest my case m'lud**

### **High Volts**



Turbine no3 (100metres high but only part is visible) View from the A19. Jerry Mulders

**Never mind the quality!  
See the height!**


Danish Problems *More information*

From a power point presentation by Elsam Flemming Nissen,

Vindeller forsvind 27 maj 2004

Slide 16 of 18

**Udfordringer i det danske energisystem**



- Forceret vindmølleudbygning i Danmark øger kravet til tilskud i øre/kWh
- Øget vindmølleudbygning reducerer ikke den danske CO<sub>2</sub>-udledning
- Behov for nytænkning på elforbrugsområdet (afgifter og teknologi)
- "Vindzin" (Metanol på baseret på vindkraft)

FN/BLU 30-04-2003 Dec. 11-06-04 på NY

Slide 16 Point 2. Growing wind power construction will not reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Translated personally by Hugh Sharman - Director of Incoteco Denmark

**Horns Rev Wind Farm Back On-Line posted by mpalmer 14 Dec/04 12.54pm**

#### **World's Largest Off-Shore Wind Farm Completes Upgrade Hyannis, MA Dec 13 2004**

According to information provided to Clean Power Now by a representative of Elsam, the owner and operator of the Horns Rev wind farm, all of the 80 wind turbines at Horns Rev have been repaired and upgraded by the equipment manufacturer, Vestas. Currently, 75 of the 80 turbines are back in operation, producing clean renewable energy. The remaining 5 turbines are awaiting pre-start testing before they can be placed back in service.

**Problems Taken Seriously** According to a press release from Vestas, the turbine manufacturer, the decision to perform the repair and upgrade was made in July, and all the nacelles were re-installed by November 10. The final commissioning of the last turbines is expected by the end of the year. "Vestas and its employees have demonstrated trustworthiness and the power to act by taking the responsibility for the performance problems at Horns Reef very seriously," the company said in its press release. Vestas went on to acknowledge that the lessons learned at Horns Rev were "expensive," and they have been "taken into consideration in the implementation of ongoing offshore projects."



**Financial Times 24 May 05** Hugh Sharman has said that Denmark's wind power does create stability problems. Very little of the 20% wind power produced is actually consumed in west Denmark. I calculated this to be about 4% in 2003 when >80% was exported along its strong inter-connections with Norway, Sweden and Germany.

Comment: **I take issue on how PPS22 has evolved** Regional targets have become an obsession. I will concentrate on PPS22 CG Case Studies that are, sorry, that appear feisty and so reiterate my concerns regarding PPS22CG

I admit some case studies appear acceptable and a range of renewables are mentioned. It would be churlish to ignore that a lot of work has been put into this document.

**Case Study 6G Beddington Zero Energy Development (BedZED) Sutton.** Several renewable technologies have been integrated into one residential development. However PPS22 CG's elusiveness worried me, sorry apparent elusiveness. The document must be challenged, using facts and the truth.

Case study 2D Community Benefits –Awel Aman Tawe (AAT)

Case Study 6E Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)

Case Study 3B Regional renewable energy planning in North East England

Case Study 3E Publicity about renewable energy. Member training North East. To be piloted with Wear Valley District and Sedgfield Borough Councils

Case Study 2C Renewable Energy Education.

*Comment: Case Study 2C. Adrian Smith kindly assists students at Durham University with renewable energy studies, particularly wind energy. When these students request CPRE's view I give that and suggest they also access various other websites. That way any dissertation should be well balanced and supported by scientifically validated facts.*

*Comment: In general the photographs are good where they relate to renewable technologies other than wind. However wind turbines are not shown in their true scale - they are consistently portrayed in a misleading manner. What you see is not what you get. This has always led me to wonder if this contravenes advertising standards.*

*Renewables at Regional Level and Community Involvement are mentioned at some length, as is the Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and LDFs 2007. All serve to show how the planning system has been changed or dare I say **manipulated**. Force 10 page 65/66 explains the connection between RPG, Chris Blandford's study, TREC and **TNEI's Energy for a New Century**.*

*Even FOE complained the latter had been given a high profile at The EIP for the Regional Planning Guidance and had had no public consultation. I am not aware PPS22CG has. All are precursors of the changes in the planning system and so give cause for concern.*

***TNEI** were Support consultants with a Welsh firm Dulas Engineering, to Arup who led on PPS22 Companion Guide for Government. A detailed account of our concerns when TNEI, managing (TREC) reneged on their promise of all renewables small scale is in Force10 Chapter 11. Chapters 12 and 16 offer background to TNEI.*

*Currently ETSU 1997 is used to control noise level but DTI's current study on Low Frequency Noise to update ETSU is ongoing. Details in Appendix B*

I have tried emailing a cabinet office address given in PPS22 CG to ask to use some of the material. The email has been returned 'address not known'. I have no fax and a letter would take too long assuming I would even get a reply. In the public interest I have no choice but to go ahead and use it whilst acknowledging crown copyright.

**Therefore information and comments on other case studies are below.**

Case study 2D - Community Benefits - Awel Aman Tawe (AAT)

### Case study 2D: Community Benefits – Awel Aman Tawe

Following public consultation in relation to Neath Port Talbot BC's Agenda 21 programme in the late 1990s, Awel Aman Tawe (AAT) was set up to pursue the idea of a community-led wind farm with tangible local benefits. In addition to its broader environmental advantages, contributing to local social and economic regeneration could be significant: the area has been in economic decline for decades.

AAT aims to contribute to the regeneration of the Upper Amman/Swansea Valley areas through the development and implementation of a Community Energy Scheme. A further aim is to use its experience to promote the development of sustainable community energy schemes elsewhere in the UK.

AAT submitted an application for a 5-turbine windfarm in the Upper Amman and Swansea Valley during the autumn of 2004, following extensive public consultation and data gathering exercises. Wherever possible, local community groups and people from the surrounding areas were actively encouraged to become involved. Volunteers and residents from the surrounding area were trained in local cinemas and halls by lecturers from Swansea University in survey and data collection techniques.

Profits from the sale of electricity will be channelled into community initiatives such as an education centre to attract school groups and tourists. Profits will also be used to support small businesses and local regeneration projects.

Key lessons so far:

- local people's awareness of the broader issues of renewable energy and their exposure to wind farms are key factors in their acceptance of the proposed project;
- there appears to be no pattern with regards age, gender, employment status or proximity to site that can determine what people's opinions will be regarding the wind farm;
- community consultation, decision-making and ownership are new ideas to many people but the majority support these aspects of the project;
- people's approach to change appears to influence the way they view the project; and
- the social and political links of the project are crucial factors in effective information distribution and have an effect on people's opinion.

Photos: a visit to Carno wind farm (owned by National Wind Power), and Children from Ysgol Cwmllynfell, South Wales, learning about renewable energy. Courtesy of Awel Aman Tawe



*It is difficult to comment on this application as it is governed by TAN 8 not PPS22. It surfaced whilst I was visiting friends in October 2004 and received a lot of opposition which has been sustained. However, I was particularly interested in it as it was said to be a 'community project' and we were about to hear of community benefits at Sedgefield Walkway Wind Farm Co Durham. I contacted the developers when I returned home explaining my interest but was unable to acquire information. I tried the local authority at Neath Port Talbot who told me any information would come from the developers. The application was in fact deferred and has not yet been decided. I am concerned that the application, in spite of the hype from politicians and John Prescott's praise for it, had come as a surprise to many local people. I am afraid it may therefore be a fait accompli and do not think it should be used as a case study in PPS2CG. Is this not a devolved issue? (See PM's comment on Porthcawl p59)*

**Update 01/09/05 AAT community wind farm was refused unanimously. See p109**



## **Support for Keilder in spite of MOD concerns and DTI's pending refusal**

*Comment: I am concerned that the letter below is from Dan McCallum  
Project Co-ordinator for Awel Aman Tawe Wind Farm*

Dear Mr. Mohammed

I am writing to express our support for Ecogen's windfarm proposal at Keilder. We have worked with EcoGen and found them to be an excellent company.

We understand that the MOD are opposing the project on the grounds that wind turbines 'interfere' with radar. Whilst I am not an expert with regard to radar, I understand the MOD are alone in the world in holding this view.

*(Comment: This is not correct see Force 10, page 69 – Nevada Test Site. A \$130 million wind farm has been abruptly cancelled by a federal agency due to military concerns)*

Given the importance of reducing our CO2 emissions and the positive steps taken by the government in recent weeks towards achieving this, it should be imperative on the MOD to devise a technical fix to the radar problem, if indeed such a problem exists. Of additional concern is that if Keilder is not given planning permission due to MOD objections, a significant number of other sites, which are on or close to flight paths, may be affected.

Yours sincerely, Dan McCallum – Project Co-ordinator  
Awel Aman Tawe Community Windfarm Project

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### **A letter published in the Western Mail follows**

**“A Welcome in the Hillside”** How long before the words of this beautiful Welsh song no longer ring true? The welcome from my Welsh friends I know will always be there, but the hills I love will soon have lost their magnetism, their beauty, peace and tranquility destroyed forever. **Why?**

The Wind Industry, young and ambitious, appears determined to be the leading renewable energy source in the UK. In its haste to achieve this end, it seems to be taking short cuts, many of which appear to raise serious issues of governance. Is not one such issue raised by DTI's appointment of such a large proportion of wind enthusiasts to the supposedly objective Renewables Advisory Board? There is a democratic deficit to which government itself has contributed by allowing developments in excess of 50 MW installed capacity to be determined by the Secretary of State for Industry. (Cefn Croes)

Surely in a democracy people have a fundamental right to be properly consulted on what is done to their own community. Throughout the UK we must continue to fight to protect those areas, designated or not, which mean so much to us, but which apparently mean little to those who govern us. I hope councillors and politicians reading this will learn to value the countryside for its own sake and help to preserve it, mainly for those who live there but also for the many like us, **the tourists.**

**Elizabeth Mann**

**Western Mail December 16, 2004**

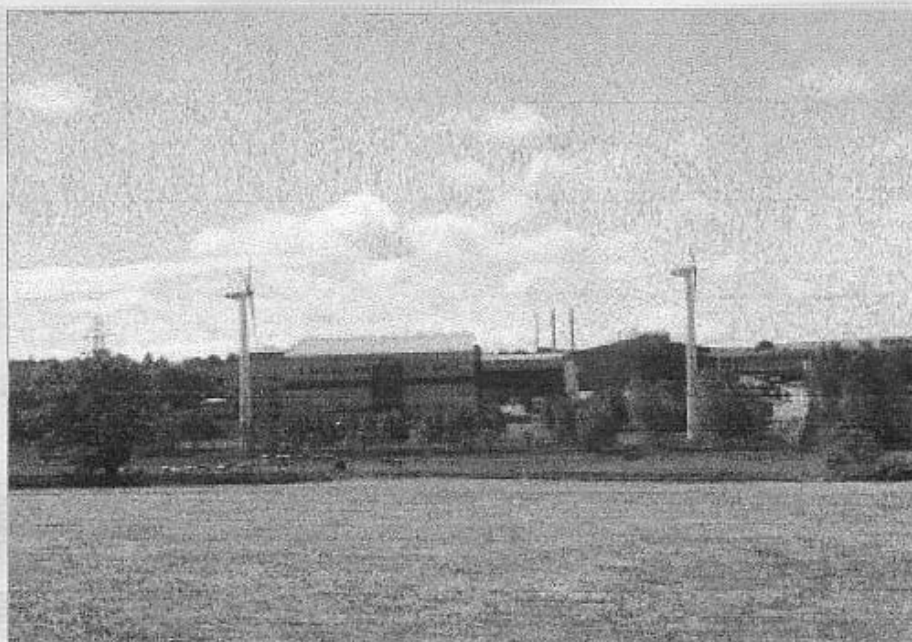
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*Comment: In May 2005 my holiday to Scotland for June was cancelled, as I was the only one booked. Is the proliferation of wind turbines now taking effect on tourism? Hikers, climbers and lovers of the outdoors seek peace and tranquillity - qualities not for many associated with wind farms. (See North East tranquillity project page31)*

## Case Study 6E - Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)

### Case study 6E: GlaxoSmithKline, Barnard Castle, Co Durham

The GSK factory in Barnard Castle has a constant, high demand for electricity. It is located on the outskirts of Barnard Castle, one of County Durham's most attractive historic market towns. The company recently explored possible sources of on-site renewable energy as part of the Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge, TREC, which examined ways of putting the district onto a pathway towards 100% renewable energy supply.



Wind was considered to be the only technology offering a meaningful proportion of the factory's electricity requirements. Site constraints, proximity of housing, and visual considerations ruled out the use of turbines of the scale currently deployed by commercial wind developers. Additionally the wind resource at the site is economically marginal. An alternative approach using two second hand wind turbines imported from the Netherlands was evaluated and found to give the company an acceptable payback on investment over a period of less than four years, with a further 10 or so years of very cheap electricity. The turbines have a blade tip height of 45m, they sit comfortably alongside the factory buildings and have no significant impact on the setting and appearance of the town.

Teesdale District Council was a partner in the Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge (TREC) project and appreciated the value and purpose of the GSK turbines. Completion of the project was achieved within a year of the submission of the planning application.

Photo: Adrian Smith

*Comment: To add insult to injury, unsupported and incorrect statements were given at the committee meeting which decided the planning application. **The Chair requested that if personal interest was such that it would prejudice their decision significantly they should leave the room**, Cllr Hughes, who wrote the foreword to the TREC brochure supporting GSK turbines and the Hamsterley Wind farm proposal, stayed and voted.*

*Adrian Smith (TNEI) represented GSK, and did not mention the Renewable Obligation Certificates, at that time worth £45 per MWh! One councillor voted in favour to spite his colleague! David Hand Principal Planning Officer gave misleading information regarding the height of the turbines in relation to the Angel of The North. I mentioned the fact to him but could not pursue it as he had by then been head hunted by John Prescott. (No connection intended or implied) Was the decision flawed? A resident states the site is in an area of High Landscape Value and about 2 mile from the AONB. A spokesman for GSK confirmed that no on site wind speeds were taken. I do not think this an appropriate case study for PPS22CG*

Update: Load Factors for GSK turbines from 06/04 to 05/05, are very low, about 11%

## **More Support for Kielder in spite of MOD concerns and DTI's pending refusal.**

Sent: 28 March 2001 13:32

To: 'Gary.Mohammed@dti.gi.gov.uk'

Subject: Wind Farm Proposal By Ecogen in Tynedale District

Dear Gary, I represent Renew North, The Northern Energy Initiative's renewable energy in the North East of England. I understand that there is a strong possibility of the "Kielder Wind Farm" proposal by Ecogen being refused permission by the DTI this week. I wish to register the strongest possible objection to a refusal of planning permission.

As you will be well aware wind developments are frequently controversial, but this one has broad based support from the local authority, environmental groups, the local population, and others. A recently published study commissioned by the Government Office for the North East indicated that for this region to play its part in meeting the Government's target of 10% renewable electricity by 2010 some 200 to 350MW of new on-shore wind generation must be provided. The region has a number of virtual no-go areas for wind in terms of national and local designations, which recognise and seek to protect the landscape. The site in question is in our opinion the best location in the region for large scale wind development, it will positively add to the interest of the landscape rather than detracting from it. Refusal of permission will have the effect of increasing the degree of development pressure on other less suitable sites, and will lead to failure in meeting the Government's target for renewables. In other areas of planning, such as housing and retail site selection, the Government uses a sequential approach to ensure that development takes place first on the least damaging or sensitive sites. A refusal on this site flies in the face of that well established approach. Other benefits to the rural economy will also be lost, at a time when new employment in the wake of the local Foot and Mouth outbreak is desperately needed. I should be grateful if you would convey these concerns from the region's Renewable Energy Agency to the Minister concerned. Yours sincerely, Adrian Smith General Manager, Renew North

*Note. Any comments regarding the GSK application and the way it was determined have no reflection on Glaxo Smith Kline nationally or internationally. They are a company with global interests yet have the concerns of the dales people at heart. Each branch I understand makes the decisions to aid survival in a cost competitive market. Initial monitoring of the GSK second hand turbines has shown they appear to be performing badly yet they are reported in the press as doing well. However to be fair a 15 month period must elapse before any real assessment can be made as to their load factor (LF) The ROC register shows ROCs accredited 3 month in arrears and it needs at least a full year in operation to cover the seasonal variability of the wind. Government's working assumption for LF for onshore wind in the UK is stated as in the order of 30% of installed capacity. HL Paper 126-1 page 20.*

*However I am concerned that the letter above is from Adrian Smith, Renew North/TNEI, now an independent wind consultant, as he with TNEI colleagues, have prepared the Draft NE Renewable Energy Strategy for the Northern Assembly, the unelected regional body!*

An abstract from the DTI website shows close ties with TNEI recently commissioned by the dti to populate this website ..... [www.tnei.org.uk/Home/News%20Items/Newsdti.htm](http://www.tnei.org.uk/Home/News%20Items/Newsdti.htm) - 7k - 12 Jun 2005 ... ' Information for **planners and local councillors** which aims to dispel some of the myths often associated with some of these technologies'

**Further News. Installation of wind turbines at Glaxo.**

## Headhunted by Prescott

*Comment: How can e-mail planning work fairly whilst some people do not have e-mail facility? Weekly planning lists for Teesdale I have to send by snail mail to some contacts. Website 'outage' is on the increase and websites seem more vulnerable to internet 'bugs and 'worms, none of which is conducive to e-mail planning.*

### E-planning pioneer is headhunted by Prescott

A NEW one-stop shop service, the first of its kind in the country, will be launched by one of the smallest local authorities on Monday.

An up-to-the-minute web site will allow those submitting planning applications to Teesdale District Council to do so on-line, either via the council's own web site at [www.teesdale.gov.uk](http://www.teesdale.gov.uk) or directly to the planning portal site at [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk).

The Government-sponsored initiative, led by David Hand, will also allow applicants to check if they need planning permission, see if their local plan is on-line and find out more about the appeals procedure. A facility will also be in place to pay fees on-line when submitting planning applications. The aim is to encourage all authorities to use it to get e-planning under way.

Mr Hand was, until Friday, principal planning policy officer with Teesdale Council, where he worked for 14 years, but he has taken up a new post after being head-hunted by the Government Office of the Deputy Prime Minister following a talk he gave on Teesside.

"My role will be to oversee the setting up of similar portals with councils across the North, especially the under-performing ones," said Mr Hand. "But I don't have a title yet."

Teesdale planning department was singled out for praise by the Audit Commission earlier this year, seeing its work rewarded with a £283,000 delivery grant from the Government.

Mr Hand said the new policies would free officer time and would prove even more cost-effective, both for the council and for property owners.

**The following letter I wrote to Ian Martin at GO-NE after an exchange of e-mails that clearly explained why we felt an EIA was needed for the GSK turbines.**

To Ian D J Martin,

Thank you for the time taken to decide if an EIA was needed for that particular proposal even though with all due respect I do not agree one is not needed. However it is you who had the power of decision though I do hope in future that all wind power developments under schedule 2 will be subject to an EIA that would bring clarity and quality to the planning system and as a result speed up the process.

I notice that you have taken into account comments made by a resident, CPRE and Teesdale District Council. Comments made on behalf of CPRE were of necessity constrained. The resident who wrote was not contacted until late in the day and some close to the site, not at all. TNEI, acting as the agent for GSK produced a list of reasons in support of the application, under their TREC (The Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge) a TNEI initiative.

TNEI and Teesdale Planning Authority came to a conclusion in March that no EIA was needed. Yet several months later it was inferred that an EIA would give people chance to voice their concerns. The lack of public involvement, particularly as this is said to be central to Government policy must give cause for concern.

May I add that on behalf of CPRE I gave support to Tees Wind North, the World's Largest Urban Wind Farm and to a small scale 2.5 kw turbine in the AONB. To accept renewables the public must be contacted and their concerns addressed. I write this in the hope that it will provide some constructive criticism for the future,

Yours sincerely  
Elizabeth Mann

## "Barney Liar" Teesdale Mercury May18 2005

The Teesdale Mercury was named North East Weekly Newspaper of the Year and the Barney Liar was crowned North East Columnist of the Year (N E Press Awards May 2005) Comment: I have reproduced the article and letter to preserve my sanity in this fight

She felt that her feet were hardly touching the ground. Never had she experienced such joy, such unsolicited attention. Gone this week was the humdrum round of work, ill mannered men and accusing, jealous women. No, this week she was a princess. At last she was appreciated for the jewel she knew she was. Little did she think that this day would ever arrive. Little Kimberly, little 'take-no-notice-of-me', was away in paradise, ready to assume her birthright. Aloof, distant Charles, in that outwardly cold, Scots way of his, had gruffly, so gruffly tossed the offhand comment her way.

At first, she thought it was some kind of obscure joke, but with every passing, delicious moment, she realized it was true, true. She was being carried away on wings of bliss. She struggled to recollect his exact words, but with time, with a little effort, they formed, then melted, then reformed delectably in her mind.

'Kimberly', he had said, slowly. 'Kimberly, the senior management team have, how can I put this, have decided that they would like you to come on a wee team-building exercise in the Lake District.' 'Who? M...Me?' she stammered.

'Aye, lassie, yourself.' All she could say was that she had received a really terrible report from the inspectors.' She couldn't spell, she was late for work, she suffered from halitosis and her sub-section was three months behind on its performance-related management target interim proposal review documents. 'Don't pester yer wee head with that tosh, my bonnie wee lassie,' he had said. 'That kind Mr. Prescott has said that because we've failed all the inspections we can go off to the Lakes to review, revitalise and renegotiate. And it won't cost the Coonsil a penny.'

'Well, sir, who will pay, for I am a poor girl, struggling along on £50,000 a year, and I'm only 19?' She was told that all the bills would be paid by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, authorised by Bruiser John, the man who likes to punch the electorate. 'But who give Mr. Prescott the money to give us, kind sir?' blubbered the distraught Kimberly. The taxpayer, she was told. 'Oh, that's all right then, count me in' she had replied. Kimberly hoped this day would never end. You and I wish it had never started.

### **Abstract from a letter in Teesdale Mercury April 13, 2005** (Same story as above)

Your anonymous 'whistle blower' says it will be a waste of taxpayer's money` Despite the grandiose, albeit meaningless title of the training course, namely 'The Impact programme for leadership development' the traitor as I call them, has a point. The course comes under the auspices of John 'one job' Prescott's office of the Deputy Prime Minister. This in itself guarantees the kiss of death. Bizarrely, the attendance if our officials is the direct result of the council being criticised for its poor leadership and even more bizarrely, they have been congratulated for being selected to partake in what is described as 'this exciting journey' What utter claptrap!

Of course the ultimate responsibility for our council's incompetence lies with our councillors and perhaps they should be dispatched on an exciting journey? With luck the whole caboodle might get lost, never to be seen again.



*Comment I am concerned that David Still who was then Manager for Amec Border Wind, the Applicant, is now with the DTI Renewables Advisory board (RAB)*

**Kielder –  
The Decision Letter –  
5.00pm 29th March 2001  
David Still Esq**

General Manager EcoGen Developments Limited c/o  
AMEC Border Wind  
Bridge End, Hexham  
Northumberland NE46 4NU

Our ref: AAH/1/96 29 March 2001

Dear Sir  
ELECTRICITY ACT 1989 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990  
APPLICATION FOR CONSENT TO CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE WIND TURBINES  
AT HUMBLE HILL, KIELDER, NORTHUMBERLAND

The Secretary of State has considered your application dated 14 April 1993 and varied on 18 April 2000 for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate a 80 MW windfarm at Humble Hill, Kielder, Northumberland, and for a direction under section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 ("the Planning Act") that planning permission be deemed to be granted.

The Secretary of State has considered your application carefully and in particular the contribution of the project towards the Government's target of reducing emissions of "greenhouse gases".

He is also aware that the Tynedale Council and the Northumberland County Council, the relevant planning authorities, raised no objection in principle to the proposal. Their decisions were subject to the provision of suitable conditions attached to any planning permission the Secretary of State may have deemed to be granted and the Company entering into an agreement under section 106 of the Planning Act. Subject to agreement on the terms of the planning conditions and the section 106 agreement the RPAs would not have maintained their objections and therefore the Secretary of State would not have been obliged to hold a public inquiry. He was also of the opinion that the other objections he received to the proposal were not sufficient for him to exercise his discretion to hold a public inquiry. However, as you know, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) objected to the original proposal on the grounds that the wind turbines would interfere with primary and secondary radar therefore impairing the effectiveness of the nearby Spadeadam Electronic Tactics Range (EWTR). In an effort to overcome the MOD's objection the Company reduced the number of wind turbines and reconfigured their location on the site. To this effect the Company submitted a variation to the application on 18 April 2000.

**The Secretary of State** is aware that further consultations were undertaken with the MOD. The conclusion of those consultations was that the MOD maintained their original objection, that is, a windfarm operating in the vicinity of the EWTR would be unacceptable as the training facilities of the EWTR are unique and imperative for the front line training of RAF crews. MOD believe that the proposed windfarm would interfere both with radar and also with low flying, creating an acute safety hazard both to members of the public and RAF crews.

The MOD indicated that current studies have not conclusively proved that the rotating action of wind turbine blades has no effect on ground or airborne radar. Therefore they rely on their own research which concludes that wind turbines cause interference to primary surveillance radar and also that detection and tracking of aircraft flying over a windfarm is extremely difficult since the responses between the aircraft and the turbine cannot be distinguished.

MOD further indicated that the Spadeadam EWTR is a Tactical Training Area (TTA) where aircraft can be flown at 100ft above ground level, which is significantly lower than the 250ft height which applies to most of the rest of the UK low flying system. Therefore for the safety of members of the public and aircrews it is imperative that any hazards to low flying aircraft are minimised, especially those hazards over 100ft high. The safety of low-level flying assumes increased importance in a high workload environment such as the EWTR and the associated TTA. Notwithstanding the "terrain screening tactics" alluded to by the Company, pilots flying in this area are subject to simulated surface to air missile attacks and respond with sudden low level evasive manoeuvres. Whilst pilots are carrying out such manoeuvres it is an unacceptable flight safety hazard to place 107 wind turbines each of approximately 240ft high in the same area.

#### **SECRETARY OF STATE'S DECISION**

The Secretary of State has fully considered your application including the environmental benefits and the Government's commitment to the Kyoto Obligation to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. However he has also to take into account the needs of others, in this case, the Ministry of Defence, and their duty of care to members of the public and aircrew and how best to prepare the RAF to meet any military threat. He agrees that the Spadeadam EWTR is an integral part of the training of RAF aircrew, providing facilities unique in Europe. He also believes that the site of the proposed windfarm in relation to the Spadeadam EWTR could create a hazard to the safety of aircrew and consequently the public which would outweigh the other benefits mentioned above.

<p>The Secretary of State takes the view that national security, the importance of the Spadeadam EWTR in the training of RAF aircrew and consideration of safety leave him no option but reluctantly refuse to grant consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 and not to give a direction under section 90 of the Planning EcoGen Projects Act.</p>
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Yours faithfully,  
Nigel Peace  
Director Energy Regulation

## **Blast from the judge blows out wind farm May 3, 2002**

Tony Henderson, The Journal

EcoGen wants to erect 100 80-metre turbines - twice the height of Grey's Monument in Newcastle - at Humble Hill near Kielder. But a year ago then Trade and Industry Minister Stephen Byers reluctantly turned down the bid after the Ministry of Defence's objections that the turbines would interfere with jets training to dodge simulated surface-to-air missile attacks and radar systems at nearby RAF Spadeadam. EcoGen then won permission to seek a judicial review and yesterday the company was in the High Court asking that the decision be quashed. But Mr Justice Sullivan rejected the application, criticised the company and ordered EcoGen to pay £4,392 in Government costs. Last night EcoGen chairman Tim Kirby described the hearing as "bizarre" and said that the company may appeal. "We are disappointed. We don't think the judge properly considered the background to the case," he said

### **The judge had warned against "procedural games" in High Court challenges.**

The court heard that Spadeadam contained a "unique and imperative" front-line tactical training area, where planes fly as low as 100ft and engage in sudden manoeuvres. Permission to bring a full legal challenge was granted to EcoGen last December. It was on the basis that Mr Byers might have acted unfairly by refusing to give the company the opportunity to explain why it believed a public inquiry should be held. Robert McCracken, appearing for EcoGen, argued in court that, before there could be "meaningful representations", the decision last March to refuse planning permission for the wind farm must be quashed. Until it was quashed, the Government planners would lack the necessary powers to take further action, he said. Referring to the argument as "Alice in Wonderland", the judge said: "I have never heard such a ridiculous thing in my life." Then he said: "Correction. I have heard things in this jurisdiction more ridiculous, but it is still running some of them close. It seems to me there is no real difficulty in the Secretary of State considering whether there are any arguments for holding an inquiry, and then deciding in the light of that information whether or not it would be appropriate to consent to the quashing of his decision."

*Comment: Air Safety: This problem is universal and the then apparent cavalier attitude by some gives cause for concern, particularly when the increasing height and numbers must exacerbate any problem. Wind Prospect assured me that new techniques will be operational in 2008! If so then why not wait? Testing is taking place in Wales (August 2005) but any advances in radar technology must be thoroughly tried and tested **throughout the UK** and the findings made public.*

***04/09/05 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and BWEA members are financially supporting BAE Systems to lead the science behind the technology, known as the Advanced Digital Tracker (ADT). If successful, the Advanced Digital Tracker ADT, could be on the market to tackle site specific wind farm issues by the end of 2006.***

Extracts from letters from various Airports concerned with safety issues:

- Operational capability and health and safety issues are our primary concerns
- Safety is NO ACCIDENT/ Possible degradation of primary radar returns
- Objections are raised to proposals within 66km in line of sight of Air Traffic Control.
- If a solution were found through advances in radar technology grounds for objection wouldn't exist
- 20/06/05 The Ministry of Defence says the turbines proposed for Royal Oak, County Durham could interfere with one of its main airfield's radar system, at RAF Leeming.



## Case Study 3B Regional renewable energy planning in North East England

### Case Study 3B: Regional renewable energy planning in North East England

A Renewable Energy Strategy for the North East of England was prepared during 2003 under the guidance of a steering group which included representatives from GO-NE, the North East Assembly, government agencies, local authorities, the region's universities, environmental groups and different sectors of the renewable energy industry. In preparing the Strategy the region's potential resources were assessed using a number of tools including a geographic information system, complemented by grid and landscape studies. It was concluded that 10% of the electricity consumed in the region could be supplied by a range of renewable energy sources by 2010, and that this could be increased towards 20% if a strategic wind farm were to be developed within Kielder Forest. These targets were put forward for inclusion within forthcoming RSS.

Having assessed the region's resources and established targets the Strategy also put forward suggested RSS criteria-based policies which would help deliver the targets, and identified the broad areas where hydro, biomass and wind projects may be considered appropriate. These broad areas are shown in the "Draft Indicative Diagram" below.

The suggested criteria policies RE 2&3 below, while giving particular encouragement to developments in the areas shown in the diagram, also make it clear that projects in other areas will also be encouraged. One of the benefits of taking the proactive approach adopted by the NE Strategy has been to highlight the substantial potential of the Kielder area for wind, biomass and hydro power.

#### RE 2 – Spatial Strategy for Onshore Wind Development

In preparing policies and proposals for onshore wind projects Development Plans should conform to the following spatial strategy, broadly illustrated in the Renewable Energy Indicative Diagram:

- a) Within designated National Parks, AONBs and Heritage Coasts wind developments should be limited to individual turbines of no greater than 100kW installed capacity, to provide power to off-mains properties and other small users.
- b) Kielder Forest should be the subject of further investigation to see if it could become a Strategic Wind Resource Area, where positive encouragement will be given to major wind farm developments.
- c) Particular encouragement should be given to the development of small to medium scale wind farms in the locations broadly illustrated in the Renewable Energy indicative Diagram and described in Annex 3 of the Regional Renewable Energy Strategy.
- d) Encouragement should also be given for wind developments in other parts of the Region, including appropriate urban and brownfield locations.
- e) Preference should be given to concentrated rather than dispersed or scattered patterns of wind development.
- f) In all cases proposals must be fully assessed against Policy RE3.

Point (d) is especially important in that it does not exclude sites elsewhere in the region, subject to the criteria being met.

**RE 3 describes Factors to be considered in Planning for Wind Farms.** These include: residential amenity (on noise and visual grounds); safe separation distances; nature conservation features; landscape characteristics and visibility; heritage designations; green belts; and any visual impact of new grid connection lines.

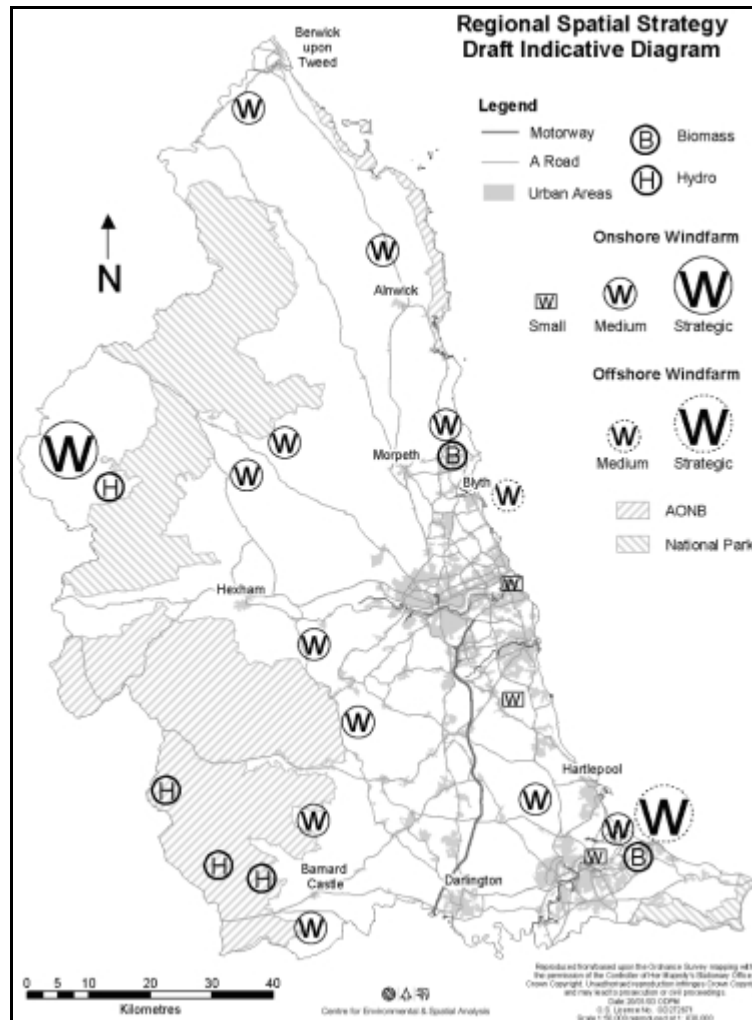
The above policies and the diagram below, produced in July 2003, were the subject of a North East Assembly led consultation, and are being modified for inclusion in forthcoming RSS for the North East. Further changes are anticipated as RSS progresses through its formal consultation and examination stages.

The North East of England Regional Renewable Energy Strategy and its supporting reports can be accessed at: [www.northeastassembly.gov.uk](http://www.northeastassembly.gov.uk)

*Comment: Compare paragraph 1 of Case study 3B with "BWEA Invited Seminar 1999" "Ideas or a Blue Print for the Future" and Adrian Smith's presentation "The Way Forward" all on p69 Force10 CG. Definitely neither cricket nor a level playing field over the years.*

Diagram below is on page 31 of PPS22 Companion Guide and is referred to in Case Study 3B (see the previous page) Regional Renewable Energy planning in the North East of England.

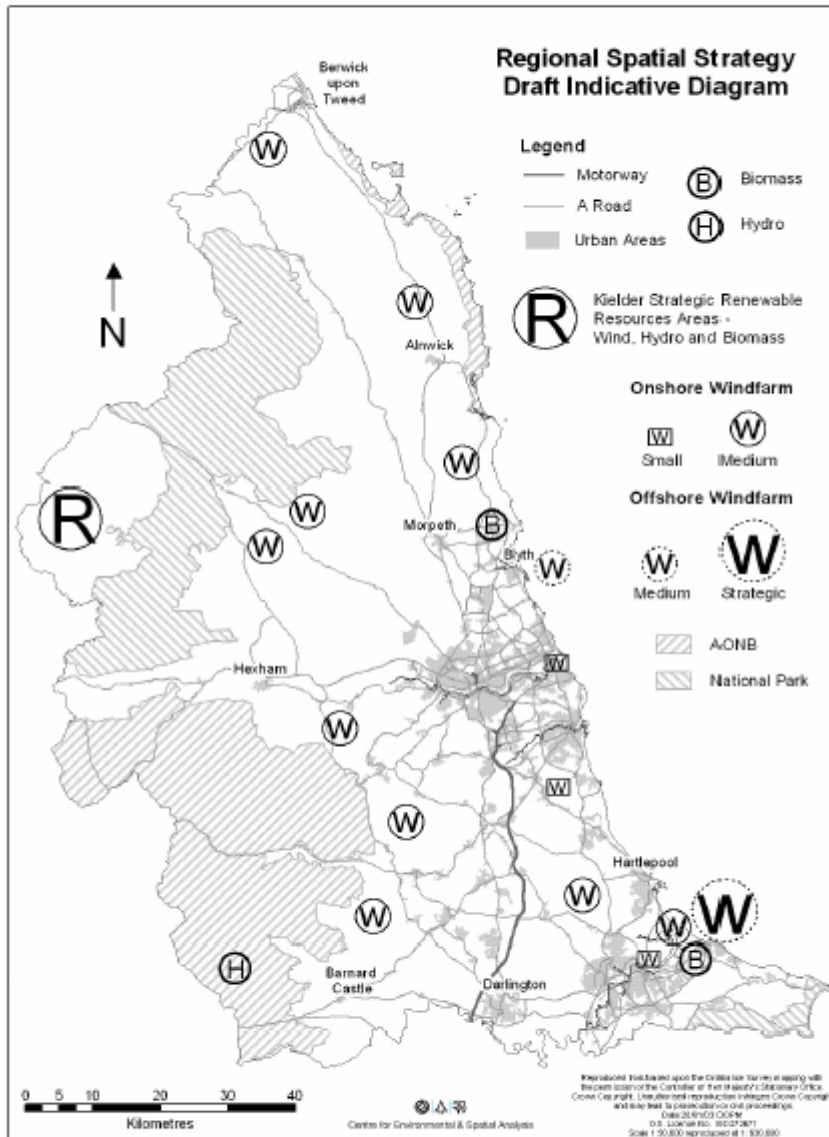
Development between the A66 and the Stang forest\* is still indicated though it was removed in the RSS consultation earlier (see next page)\* Is its reappearance careless or sinister?



The above map was part of the presentation by a Adrian Smith at the NAREC launch in Feb 2005. planning for Onshore Wind to 2010 it explained the involvement of GONE, TNEI, Northumbria University, BP Power and North East Assembly with NEREG as the steering group and the development of the RSS.

Onshore wind is expected to deliver 76% of the output. Sub- regional resources were quoted and a technological split by 2020 gave wind as 85% of MW installed. Most worrying were the significant projects planned for Northumberland when local people appear unaware of these proposals.

**Regional Renewable Energy Strategy Indicative Diagram**



**BHMCg; Please** record the above diagram showing ‘removal’ of the Stang area. You and your supporters fought hard and long protect that area from any development. We are all better informed now about wind energy than in 1998 when we had to contact Germany and Denmark for information.(Force10 App A) Landscape protection, to preserve the peace and tranquillity such areas give, particularly in a stressful and violent world was our aim. Truth was our strength. The outcome showed justice can prevail. Barningham High Moor must surely carry the greatest presumption against wind energy development of any site in England

## Case Study 3E - Publicity about renewable energy - Member Training NE

### Case Study 3E: publicity about renewable energy – Member training

Several initiatives have been offering renewable energy training for Members, including:

#### NW Region

Concern over a high level of refusals of planning permission for wind projects against positive officer recommendations led Renewables North West to initiate a councillor training programme as a top priority. Preparation included a survey of local media to understand that source of influence on members.

#### NE Region

A stakeholder group led by GO-NE commissioned an awareness raising project for local authority members and officers piloted with Sedgefield Borough Council and Wear Valley District Council. A CD-ROM, *Guidance for Local Planning Authorities on taking forward renewable energy developments*, has been prepared for local authority Members in particular. This is available from the GO-NE and can be viewed on their website at

[www.go-ne.gov.uk/environment\\_rural/energy/la\\_guidance\\_renewable\\_energy/guidance\\_index.htm](http://www.go-ne.gov.uk/environment_rural/energy/la_guidance_renewable_energy/guidance_index.htm)

Sedgefield Borough Council and Wear Valley District Council are pilots for this Member training initiative. On the CD Rom, there is a section “Guidance for Local Authorities, Wind Farms - Dispelling the Myths” Did this have any bearing on Walkway wind farm decision? (page 51). This member training, Case Study 3B, must put undue pressure on councillors.

*Comment There are people better qualified to argue, and are doing so, as to whether the myths have in fact been dispelled but my concern is the connection between GO-NE.TNEI and this document. Much of the information is identical to that on BWEA website  
Where oh where is the balance?*

I will mention noise as I have experienced that. I have followed the noise from a wind farm for about half a mile and then suffered from tinnitus for six months. However, that is only one incident and other people may not have been affected. (My hearing was severely damaged at the age of 14) Nevertheless, even one instance is proof that noise cannot be discounted. DTI are investigating consistent complaints of noise (infrasound) at 3 wind farms in the UK. The outdated Etsu1997 report is used in PPS22CG to control noise levels. A seminar in Edinburgh 20/09/05 on noise and windfarms is being hosted by The Institute of Acoustics. One speaker is David Crookes DTI (An e-mail from David Crookes on the study to update the 1997 ETSU report is on page 91) Currently 150 of the 200 wind farms in the process of application or appeal are in Scotland or Northern England. Still it appears an unresolved issue.

*Comment: The NEREG CD warns of melting ice caps on mountains like Kilimanjaro. For interest I add some recent photographs of Kilimanjaro. One route has tented camps but one had small huts. Electricity stored in batteries from solar panels provided some lighting. Sheer Hilton luxury on such terrain! Someone left their light on when it was not needed and soon there was none for anyone for the rest of the evening’  
A lesson in Energy Conservation or as CPRE says “The right renewables in the right place”.*



Glaciers at the top of Kilimanjaro 2004

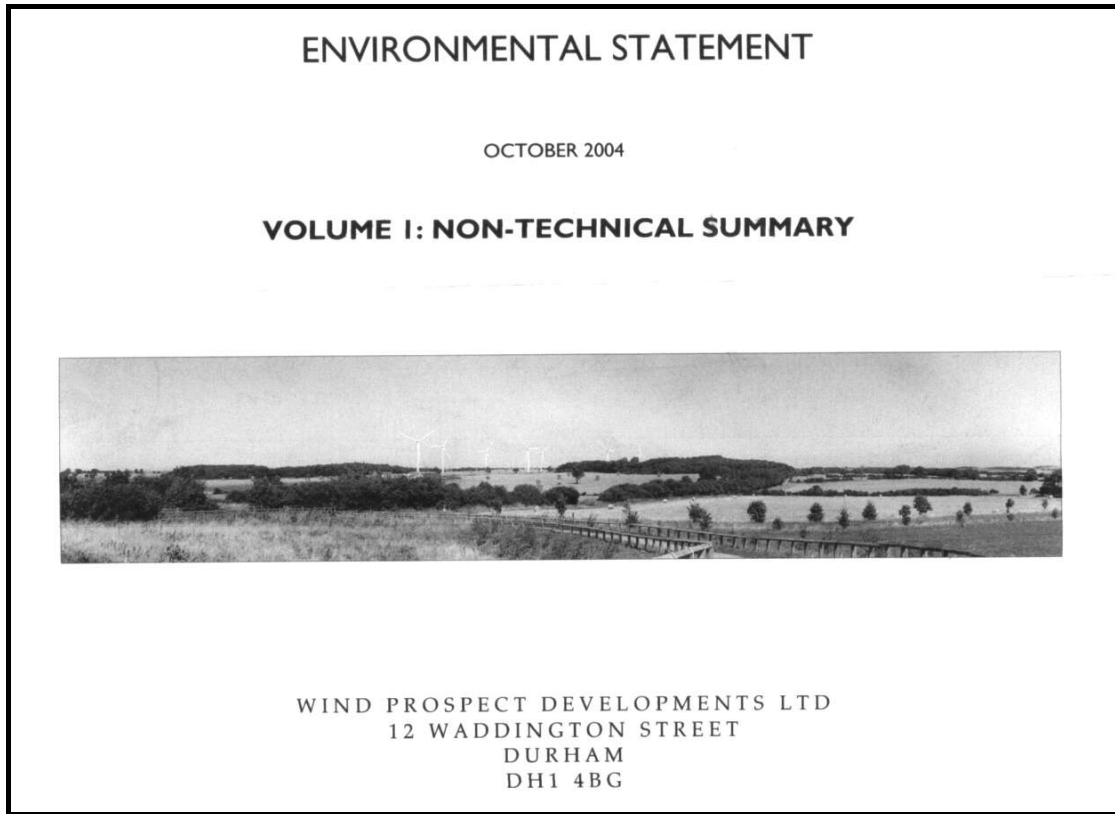


Solar Panels on Kilimanjaro



**My Case Study Walkway Wind Farm Sedgefield Section 3**

*Comment: My concern lies with the methods used to procure planning permission Montage shown by Developer.*



*Comment: The use of the above montage is in my mind close to being criminal. What you see is not what you get. Does it contravene advertising standards?*

Reality for residents



## **Walkway Wind Farm Case Study** continued. Was this a fair hearing?

Proposed 8 x 2MW turbines 110 metres to tip (100m high turbines is displayed on the book cover and a partial view on page 34) The number was reduced to 7 as one was deemed too close to a house, so rendering the scheme economically unviable! Then 7x3MW, height still 110m to tip were proposed and passed .What happened to the criteria 'economically viable and environmentally acceptable' Details of Case Study 3E, PPS22 Companion Guide can be found on page 49 of my book. Government office commissioned, offering renewable energy training through an awareness raising project for local authority members. **Piloted in Wear Valley and the PM's constituency, was there a snowball's chance in Hell of a refusal?**

It was considered that the site was suitable for a small/medium scale development in line with the North East of England regional renewable energy strategy.

From **Sedgefield Borough Council minutes**

The local group put forward a strong case but several points they raised were not addressed. They did not in my mind have a fair hearing. The Environmental Law Foundation looked at the case and found a solicitor willing to pursue it. She needed the money 'up front 'and. with no time to raise funds the group had to withdraw. Legal Aid is not available it seems unless you are a tramp a single mother or a wealthy footballer! I understand some residents are pursuing the council for disamenity and one has approached the European court of human rights. Perhaps "The right to peaceful enjoyment of a person's possessions" may be given more attention in the future (Has Article 6 been tested to see if relevant to a fair hearing?)

I showed the photomontage, Walkway Wind Farm (page 51) as depicted on the ES, to a member of **NEREG**. "That it is how most people see them, several kilometres away on a grey day" he replied *Comment: Those are not the people we are concerned about. .Are not developers supposed to provide good quality photographs taken on a clear day?*

**Photomontage limitations.** I have read reports from Government Inspectors identifying the fact that to the human eye turbines appear larger in the landscape than may be suggested by the photomontage. Scottish National Heritage (SNH) 2001 Appendix 1 states photomontage generally underestimate a wind farm's true visual impact *Comment: With modern technology should a video showing the blade movement be submitted with wind farm applications?*

**Sedgefield Borough Council** issued the decision letter with extreme haste in spite of several letters of complaints regarding not only the meeting itself but several other issues. With no third party right of appeal it is Heads they win, tails we lose. Where is the Justice? Do decision makers know or care that turbines have 'grewed an aarful suze'

Who has the right to make decisions which can affect people's quality of life?

Wind prospect have it is said finalised an agreement with DTV airport to mitigate any potential concerns they may have regarding this wind energy development

### **NEREG CD Rom. Sedgefield (District) Council wind assessment.**

All the Borough is within line of sight **from Teesside Airport** (turbine heights 120m to tip). Yet Butterwick Moor (11x125m) nearby, South Wingate (20x105m) and Sheraton Hill (3x125) are all in the pipeline.

*In a recent BBC programme the developer described Walkway as 7 turbines and £21000 a year to the community. He did not say the turbines were 110 metres high or mention the Operator would get approximately £3 million each year as a hidden subsidy, in addition to the money for electricity produced. Information on the developer Wind Prospect is below.*

## Companies House gives the same address for both firms.

This report was generated from basic information  
Filed at Companies House

**Business Profile**    **Reg No.:** 04934193  
**Name:** WIND DIRECT LIMITED  
**Registered Office:** 7 BERKELEY  
SQUARE CLIFTON BRISTOL BS8 1HG  
**Post Code:** BS8 1HG  
**Incorporated:** 16/10/2003  
**Latest Accounts:** Not Filed  
**Annual Returns:** 16/10/2004  
**Account Type:** UNKNOWN

This report was generated from basic information  
filed at Companies House

**Business Profile**    **Reg No.:** 03011376  
**Name:** WIND PROSPECT LIMITED  
**Registered Office:** 7 BERKELEY  
SQUARE CLIFTON BRISTOL BS8 1HG  
**Post Code:** BS8 1HG  
**Incorporated:** 18/01/1995  
**Latest Accounts:** 30/04/2004  
**Annual Returns:** 18/01/2005  
**Account Type:** Full Accounts

### Do green technologies offer a future for Southern Australia?

From a taped presentation by Dr Eaun Cameron Managing Director Wind Prospect. "The mysterious thing called NFFO which was referred to earlier, was the non fossil fuel obligation that was a very clever wangle by the government. They managed to get some state aid support past the European Commission by piggy-backing on the state aid that was actually available to the nuclear industry, also a non fossil fuel, of course" *Comment: How does one follow that? The Renewable Obligation Certificates ROCs, nothing less!* Sourced: possibly 2004

NFFO (Non Fossil Fuel Obligation) The Electricity Act of 1989 offered long term contracts and premium prices to renewable and other non carbon generators (initially including nuclear power) NFFO5 was the last round. Existing contracts continue to be honoured and will run until 2018 (page48 Renewable Energy Practicalities).

*Comment: Ocean Power Delivery (OPD) have selected Camcal the operator at Arnish on Lewis to produce tube segments for three Pelamis P750 machines for the worlds first wave farm off Portugal. I have read that Wind Prospect also runs Ocean Prospect and there is an Ocean Power. OPD's Chairman since 2002, Dr David Lindley was founder and Managing Director of National Wind Power (NWP). It was Dr. David Lindley (NWP) when speaking in the House of Lords in1998 said 'we all work for companies involved in some way in the construction of nuclear power stations so we are hardly anti nuclear'*

*Comment: ROCs will provide a hidden subsidy of about 3 million pa at Walkway. The community fund is a pittance, £1000 per MW installed and less than 1% cent of the hidden subsidy which consumers pay. Some say 'Community funds are a bribe' sidetracking the real issues.*



## **The Balance Emissions saved versus landscape impact**

### **Wind farms – At what cost?**

A public meeting at County Hall Durham. 18/06/04 7.00–9.00pm

Chairman: Tony Plowman Durham CPRE 7.00-7.05pm

Speakers:

Paul Hamblin

Head of CPRE's Transport and Natural Resources. 7.05-7.35pm

Ged Lawson

Senior Landscape Architect Durham County 7.35-8.05pm

Interval

8.05-8.10pm

Richard Cowen

Resident and Solicitor

8.10-8.25pm

Professor David Bellamy

World famous conservationist

8.25-8.55pm

Chairman

8.55-9.00pm

-----  
Durham CPRE arranged this meeting with a view to informing everyone, councillors, planners and the community, in as **balanced** a way as possible.

We were and continue to be concerned that only the benefits of wind energy were being presented to decision makers and the public. Planning departments and councillors were invited but not many of them came to the meeting though we had some apologies. However it was well attended by the public who were in general amazed and very concerned to hear of so many windfarm applications in the pipeline.

**The draft RSS consulted on in 2003, elicited considerable opposition to wind development between the A66 and the Stang Forest and resulted in this area being removed from the indicative map (see p 49 Force 10 CG)**

Do the developers ever take no for an answer? Do they really misread public opinion or are they fully aware and simply ignore it, secure in the knowledge they have considerable finances available to launch appeals?

This was the area previously targeted for the Barningham wind farm in 98. A departure from the Development Plan, refused by the Local Council, dismissed on appeal at The Public Inquiry and rejected on all four grounds at The High Court Appeal. A passion for justice, for democracy and the protection of the areas they love, cause ordinary people and local authorities to spend scarce resources and money in fighting the unnecessary industrialisation of our landscape. **PPS22 CG (p31) once more shows this area as a potential wind farm site. Is this careless or sinister? The map is copied on p 48 of Force 10 CG**

*Comment: The economic arguments against this intrusion are familiar to experts but it seems not apparent to many well-intentioned activists who appear to favour wind energy at any price. This includes the disfigurement of landscapes, designated and undesignated throughout the UK.*

*It has to be repeated that these wind-fuelled power stations are only viable through subsidy. We cannot combat climate change by building wind turbine. Some simple mathematics indicate we are not even keeping up with the increase in energy demand.*

***County Durham pupils have requested cheap electricity - when they need it!***

## **BREAKING NEWS**

**House of Commons  
Committee of Public Accounts**

**Department of Trade  
and Industry:  
Renewable energy**

### **Sixth Report of Session 2005–06**

*Report, together with formal minutes and  
oral evidence*

*Ordered by The House of Commons  
to be printed 18 July 2005 -*

### **Summary**

The Government's energy policy and wider climate change programme aims to increase the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources, such as wind, wave and biomass. The Government's target is to supply 10% of Britain's electricity from renewable sources by 2010, with the aspiration of doubling this share to 20% by 2020. The aims of these levels of renewable generation are to make a significant contribution to national and international targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions, while improving the diversity and security of the UK's energy supplies. In the period to 2020, however, the contribution of renewables to these aims could be offset by the planned closure of most of the UK's existing nuclear power stations.

To achieve the rapid expansion in renewable energy required by the 2010 target, the Department of Trade and Industry (the Department) introduced in April 2002 the Renewables Obligation. The Obligation requires all electricity suppliers to source a growing percentage of their sales each year from renewable sources. The scheme pushes up the demand for renewable energy, thus increasing the revenue that generators can earn which in turn encourages developers to invest in new generating capacity. Electricity suppliers pass the higher cost of purchasing renewable electricity onto consumers. The Renewables Obligation will cost consumers £1 billion per annum by 2010 rising to £1.5 billion per annum by 2015.

The Renewables Obligation is more expensive than the other mechanisms currently being used under the Climate Change Programme to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. These include promoting energy efficiency through the Climate Change Levy, which is paid by non-household consumers of energy, and controlling the carbon dioxide emissions of key industries through emissions trading schemes. The expense of the Obligation reflects the high cost of renewable generation and poor targeting of the scheme – around a third of the funds exceed the support needed by generators. The Department hopes that funding investment in renewables now will reduce future generating costs and thus the cost of each tonne of carbon dioxide saved. It has not established measures or targets to track the industry's progress in reducing costs, however, and consumers will not necessarily benefit if generating costs do fall. The Department is working to remove barriers to the achievement of the 2010 target, but this work is imposing further financial and non-financial burdens. Support to develop new and emerging renewables technologies and the cost of upgrading the electricity grid, so that it can carry the renewable energy generated, is likely to total £2 billion or more in the period to 2010. New planning guidelines, introduced

in 2004, seek to increase the proportion of successful planning applications for renewable sites and will reduce the influence of local communities on planning decisions.

On the basis of a Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General,<sup>1</sup> we examined the Department on the contribution of renewables to the UK's energy and environmental objectives, the cost of the Renewables Obligation for consumers, and the challenges of delivering the 2010 target.

1 C&AG's Report, *Department of Trade and Industry: Renewable Energy* (HC 210, Session 2004–05)

## Conclusions and recommendations

**1. Even if support for renewable energy achieves its planned contribution to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, the Department will need to encourage investment in other zero or low carbon generating capacity, or energy efficiency measures, if it is to meet its overall emissions target.** Options for new generating capacity include replacing nuclear power stations due for closure, or producing both heat and power from the same energy source. The long lead times for commissioning new generating capacity mean that the Department now needs to decide urgently which forms of generation to support and in what ways.

**2. The renewables programme will provide value for money only if it helps industry to lower the cost of renewable energy to levels which approach the combined financial and carbon dioxide costs of other forms of generation.** Otherwise the contribution that renewables can cost-effectively make to the twin objectives of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and improving energy security is likely to be limited. The Department needs to set out the expected rate of reduction in the cost of generating energy from each of the main renewable sources and actively monitor progress.

**3. The Renewables Obligation is currently at least four times more expensive than the other means of reducing carbon dioxide currently used in the United Kingdom, which include levying a charge on non-household users of energy and controlling the carbon dioxide emitted by key industries.** A carbon tax would be a less complex way of reducing carbon emissions. The Department and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs should manage the range of policy instruments operating under the Climate Change Programme so that public resources are applied cost-effectively.

**4. The 2010 target requires the costs of the Renewables Obligation to be acceptable to consumers.** But the Department has no means of informing its judgement on this issue. It should consider surveying consumers or consulting consumer bodies, such as energy watch.

**5. Around a third of the support provided by the Renewables Obligation exceeds the extra cost of renewable generation.** The Obligation provides the same level of support to all eligible technologies and sites regardless of their costs and long term potential to deliver reductions in carbon dioxide. As part of its 2005 review of the Renewables Obligation the Department should reduce the excess support in the scheme. It could, for example, taper or phase out support for lower cost renewable technologies which have limited growth potential, such as landfill gas, or limit the number of years individual generating sites can benefit from the scheme.

**6. By including sites within the Renewables Obligation from the previous support scheme the Department has raised unexpected revenue for the Exchequer from electricity consumers, worth between £550 million and £1 billion by 2010.** Prices paid to generators who agreed contracts under the Department's previous support scheme were not affected by the introduction of the Renewables Obligation, but the prices paid by electricity suppliers and passed on to consumers have increased. So the revenue arising from the output of these sites now exceeds the payments made to generators, and the resulting surpluses accrue to the agency which runs the scheme and are transferred to the Exchequer.

**7. Predictions commissioned by the National Audit Office suggest that output from onshore wind sites should grow from 0.4% of the UK's total electricity supply in 2003–04 to nearly 3% by 2010–11.** These sites are often unpopular with local communities and the likely rapid expansion of onshore wind power in the next five years could create a public reaction against renewable energy.

**8. In the first three years of the Renewables Obligation scheme, the capacity of accredited sites generating electricity from landfill gas has increased by over a third.** Public financial support for landfill gas sites is, however, at odds with the objectives of environmental legislation which promotes recycling of waste, rather than its disposal in landfill, and thus limits the potential of this form of renewable energy.

**9. Wind power generation is much less environmentally intrusive when sited offshore.** The Department should factor in this environmental advantage when considering the relative costs and benefits of onshore and offshore wind power, and the level of financial support provided to each.

**10. Biomass can provide a secure, stable and sustainable energy source, but levels of generation remain low even though public funds have been made available to support the development of the technology.** Drawing on its experience of providing research funding and capital grants for biomass, the Department needs to decide whether to continue to support biomass and, if so, how to make its support programmes more effective.

**11. The Renewables Obligation has the effect of transferring substantial sums from consumers to the renewables industry — over £400 million in 2004–05, rising to £1 billion by 2010 — amounting to some £5 billion over the whole period.** But this subsidy to renewables is not authorised under the annual supply procedure and so, unlike public expenditure, is not subject to regular Parliamentary scrutiny. Requiring users to source supplies from uneconomic providers has the same affect as taxing users to subsidise the providers, but is not as transparent or amenable to parliamentary control. The government should make arrangements for annual Parliamentary scrutiny, and the amounts involved should be reported annually to this Committee.

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IoD (Institute of Directors) Press Release 15 September 2005

Target-setting for Renewables not the answer, say business leaders

Business today echoed criticism of the Government's policy on renewable energy. Following a damning report from the Public Accounts Committee, the Institute of Directors (IoD) agreed that setting targets and subsidising renewable technology was not the most effective way of achieving a balanced energy supply. The IoD also called on the Government to speed-up the debate over the future of nuclear power.

Geraint Day, Head of Environment Policy at the IoD, said:

"It is essential that a reliable energy supply is maintained to individuals, businesses and public services. At present there are many uncertainties around energy. These range from the mix and security of supplies to the price of energy itself. Anything that adds to the cost of energy at this time must certainly come in for public scrutiny.

"Given previous developments in science and technology it seems very likely that new forms of energy supply, including some of the current renewable sources, will indeed come to play a much greater role over time. However, simply setting targets and effectively subsidising particular technologies at this stage is not necessarily the best way to go about this."

Alternatively, the Government should be investing in R&D and education now, to solve the problems of the future, the IoD said. "Investment in research and development and educational infrastructure, to ensure enough expertise is available to tackle these big issues, are all key for the energy agenda. And yes, the Government should honour its promise made in 2003 to start a debate on the need - or not - for nuclear power," Geraint Day added.

**CLT Conferences Environmental Law Update** Café Royal Conference Centre 17/09/02

**THE WIND OF CHANGE Wind farms and planning policy**

Gregory Jones - Barrister, FIQ and Legal Associate of the RTPI. Abstracts follow.

National Wind Power Ltd v The Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, Teasdale (sic) District Council and Mary Elizabeth Mann the High Court dismissed an application by National Wind Power Ltd against a refusal by the inspector to grant planning permission for a proposed wind farm including 25 turbines in County Durham. Leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal was granted principally on the ground that the case raised a matter of general public importance but the case does not appear to have been pursued further. CO-756-97 01/05/97

Comment: The previous statement is deluding and a disgrace coming from one of the top Barristers in the country. Furthermore to give this paper to such a conference seems to verge on indoctrination.

Was he not able to check and find NWP had accepted the High Court judgement?  
Members from Barningham High Moor Conservation Group could have told him.

**And there's more! Sadly however the following is correctly reported but no more acceptable as there is bias not balance from official quarters**

1) It's official! People like wind farms.

**More precisely wind farms are liked by the Scots and tourists to Porthcawl.**

2) In its report published in February 2002, Sustainable Energy Strategy (Performance and Innovation Unit Review), the Environmental Audit Committee acknowledged that obtaining planning permission remains a major obstacle to the increased deployment of renewables. It recommended, perhaps rather prescriptively, that the public should '**get used to the idea that wind farms are a good thing**'. It called on the raise the level of public awareness and understanding' of the need for renewable energy schemes

3) However, the report resulted in the headline 'Power bills will rise to pay for wind farms' which reported that household electricity bills would rise by an average of £15 a year over the next decade in order to pay for wind farms and other non carbon-producing power stations. Not quite the sort of media campaign the report authors had in mind (We are told the Royal family costs us each only 61pence a year)

4) If the government is serious about increasing renewable energy, and in particular, wind farms, it has to ensure that developers, local planning authorities and the public can be confident that there will be some consistency as to how their applications will be judged; not only at the local planning stage, but also on appeal.

5) The DTI made clear in February 2001 that it wanted to **lessen the burden on the developer** with its consultation on a 'one-stop shop

6) Some predict that the revised PPG22 is 'to mirror Scotland's NPPG22 (sic NPPG6) reinforcing policy backing for wind power over landscape consideration.

I checked the comments at 1 above regarding Porthcawl and Scotland to see if the Barrister had been given the correct facts. The results are reported on pages 58-61

## Clarification on the “Scarweather Polls” by ICM and Greenpeace

The following Information is from David and Caroline Vaughan Porthcawl

Page 83 of the Sustainable Development Commission's report refers to a Greenpeace Poll in Porthcawl, Wales **I have just checked and there were 2 polls carried out by Greenpeace**

The 1st one took place on the 14-15th October 2003. This poll was commission by Greenpeace and carried out by ICM. The purpose of this poll was to prove that residents were in favour of Scarweather Sands. The poll interviewed a random selection of 506 adults aged 18+. in the Swansea, Neath/Port Talbot and Bridgend areas.

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/contentlookup.cfm?CFID=2202822&CFTOKEN=15757056&ucidparam=20031103143908&MenuPoint=D-B-C>

The 2nd Poll (the one that Sustainable Development Commission's report refers to) took place sometime in 2003 on a bank holiday weekend. The purpose of this poll was to prove that visitors were in favour of Scarweather Sands. This was carried out by Greenpeace themselves. The beach that is shown on the Greenpeace website is called Coney Beach. The Scarweather Sands wind farm will not be seen from this beach. The beach most affected in called Rest Bay, a popular surfing beach which also has a European Blue Flag status, which the residents of Porthcawl fought long and hard for.

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/contentlookup.cfm?CFID=2202822&CFTOKEN=15757056&ucidparam=20030826184312>

### **The Inquiry Inspector Mr Stuart Wild dismissed these polls as follows**

97. Balanced against that is the uncertainty that the proposal could adversely affect the perception people would have of Porthcawl as a visitor destination. Several attempts had been made to measure visitor attitudes but all were subject to a greater or lesser degree of criticism of the methods used or questions asked. Similarly evidence from other windfarms was criticised as not being sufficiently robust and objective or too restricted in its scope.

98. In my view the evidence is unclear. It would only be possible to be precise if detailed before and after surveys were undertaken on an objective basis. That evidence is not available in this case. Attitudes to onshore windfarms are not, in my view, comparable to an offshore proposal. No doubt there would be some people who would dislike the windfarm so much they would choose not to visit the area, but they might well be balanced by those who were firmly in favour of such proposals. In between there would be a wide range of differing views.

100. In my view the evidence does not help in trying to exactly quantify the degree of effect but in the absence of any real and specific tourism benefits the balance appears to me to lie against the proposal.

**“I find it difficult to believe that a Government sponsored document is using Greenpeace polls of a dubious nature to justify its strategy on wind energy “D Vaughan**

The article below is by Brian Walters, Political Editor of the South Wales Evening Post.

### **PM Uneasy as Readers quiz him on local issues March 18<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Tony Blair lost his assertiveness and appeared rather uncomfortable last night when he was quizzed over Wind Farms. On several occasions during the Evening Post. Question Time at a Swansea hotel he sought to wash his hands of responsibility.

He insisted the issue of wind farms was a matter for local decision- makers.

**“These decisions are being taken by the Assembly now. They are part of a renewable energy target, but it has got to be a matter for local decision makers.”** he said.

Caroline Vaughan of Porthcawl, posed the question,

**“Why is Wales being turned into a giant wind factory against the wishes of the people living in the areas being targeted?”**

Mr Blair repeated that decisions had to be made locally “That is part of the devolution settlement” And he repeated himself again:

“The only thing I can say Caroline, is that it has got to be left to local decision-making.”