

Scarweather Sands, WAG and those elusive letters.

06/02/05 We asked a question under the **Freedom of Information Act (FOI)** of the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG)

“Prior to the Scarweather Sands vote on October 5th2004 I would like to know whether Peter Hain MP made any representation regarding the Scarweather Sands Wind Farm to any Assembly members. If so what was the content of the representation?”

See Breaking News at the bottom of this page*

07/02/2005 We had a reply stating that they would deal with the request by 01/03/05

04/03/2005 We received an e mail reference extending target time and stating that information had been found fitting the question

10/03/2005 We had confirmation that a letter written by Peter Hain about Scarweather Sands had been found and attached to it was a letter written from an individual. The e mail also stated that the Wales Office (Peter Hain’s Office) had made representations to the Welsh Assembly not to release the letter to us. We telephoned the officer at WAG following the e mail and were told that The First minister Rhodri Morgan, would decide himself whether or not to release the letter.

21/04/2005 We received a reply, the letters would not be released to us because Rhodri Morgan had applied the public interest test and ruled against releasing them under Act Section 28 Relations within the United Kingdom and Act Section 36 (2)(c) Effective conduct of public affairs

22/04/2005 We made an official complaint to WAG over the length of time the letter had taken (they were supposed to reply within 20 days.) and we challenged that the code had not been applied correctly. We also applied separately to the Information Commissioner in Cheshire, (not trusting WAG)

25/04/2005 We received acknowledgement of the complaint and were informed that two officers would investigate, one to investigate the length of time it had taken and one to investigate whether the law had been applied correctly.

19/05/2005 We were informed that The First Minister Rhodri Morgan would now be investigating the matter himself! We also tried to get the letter from the Wales Office, they refused well within the time limit using the same Act Section 28 This has confirmed our suspicions that the letter might have been from John Roberts CEO United Utilities.

28 /05/2005 We are still awaiting a reply from the Information Commissioner. We tried to prove the Scarweather Sands decision was a political one and nothing to do with planning. We had suspected all along that Peter Hain had applied pressure to WAG to bulldoze the plan through. Where Wind Farms are concerned we are not living in a democracy

* Breaking News.

WALES Extract from a letter in the Western Mail 06 /08 /05

A Tory AM said he was considering reporting the Welsh Secretary to the Standards Commissioner after **correspondence** involving Mr Hain, First Minister Rhodri Morgan and the chief executive of the company behind the scheme **was made public**. The letters include handwritten notes from Mr Hain saying he is "keen to help" the energy company, and telling Mr Morgan the plan looks 'pretty good to me' A spokesman for Peter Hain said "There is no issue of the Secretary of State trying to interfere in any way with the planning process."

More in the Western Mail 6 Sept/05

Abstract from “The Impact of Wind farms on Tourism” It relates specifically to Tourism and Scarweather Sands offshore wind farm at Porthcawl, South Wales

Scarweather proposal was for 30 turbines on the Sandbanks approximately 6.1 km from the towns Blue Flag Beach The height of the turbines above mean sea level would be 135m.

In August 2003 prior to the Inquiry research was undertaken by the Local Authority amongst visitors to the area .This indicated that approximately 10% of visitors would not visit the area if a wind farm was built. Those results follow,

- 34.5% agreed with the statement. Wind farms spoil the look of the Welsh Coast
- 57% of visitors disagreed with the statement. It would be an added attraction if wind farms were located in popular tourist areas.”
- 60% disagreed with the statement. Seeing a wind farm would add to the enjoyment of the Welsh Coast
- 9% stated they would agree with the statement. They would avoid the area if there was a windfarm there.

Assumptions were made that certain types of visitors were more susceptible to the visual impact of the turbines, Most affected were thought to be golfers, watersports enthusiasts and walkers. It was felt that each of these groups would place more importance on the seascape, landscape .and the interrelationship between their enjoyment and the presence of turbines.

Effects therefore of wind turbines on the economic benefits of local tourism.

Total visitors to Porthcawl were 912,000 and total spend was £59.2 million (STEAM)

The overall loss was calculated at £7.28 million and loss of visitors about 103,780

Are Wind farms Visitor Attractions?

Comment: Energy Companies often state Windfarms can be tourist attractions in themselves.

With so many applications surfacing in the UK. I have decided to include the research done by the Welsh Tourist Board WTB regarding those oft cited locations referred to by wind energy developers.

They are Delabole, Swaffham, Middlegrunden and CAT

Delabole and Swaffham were in a difficult financial position at the time unable to sustain visitor figures..Middlegrunden seemed to concentrate on boat trips and cannot it is said be described as a major visitor attraction. CAT, Machynlleth and Electric Mountain appear more successful, recognising the need to deal with a wide range of sustainability issues and introduce elements of interest to mass markets.

In the case of the Scarweather it was felt by the local authority that there were sufficient grounds on which to object to the proposal in terms of visual and tourism impact, The paper “Impact of wind farms on Tourism” states the paper may be of use to coastal Authorities across the UK it is acknowledged more research is a matter for future consideration.

Comment: Gregory Jones mentions wind farms are liked by the Scots.

Such a sweeping statement concerns me coming from a barrister and apparently based on statistics which in my personal opinion cannot be relied upon. I mention pages83/84 of the Sustainable Development Commission Report.

Averaging statistics covering a 13 year period with so many variables on the size and locations of wind farms surveyed cannot be justified to claim average support as 80%. It is in fact sheer manipulation of statistics, creating delusion of the highest order.

I believe the best way to check whether the Scots like wind farms is to look at the reality of the situation in Scotland at present through some Scottish websites listed below.

www.saveourhills.org

www.scottishwindwatch.org

www.islay.com/description/windfarm.htm

www.sw-ag.org

<http://mcwag.members.beeb.net>

www.windup.org.uk

<http://homepage.nflworld.com/hodgson.copshaw>

www.clydebelt.org.uk/windfarm.html

www.wind-farm.org

www.viewsofscotland.org has much statistical information and maps.

Throughout the UK communities are being destroyed. Hard evidence related to wind energy is now coming forward as opposed to the theoretical claims made for it. Press reports recently on the situation in Skye sound as if they are approaching civil war. Yet all they and many others are doing is simply to protect their valuable countryside and what it has to offer in terms of peace tranquillity To return to the Scarweather issue.

Below is an abstract from a letter Porthcawl campaigners obtained from DTI under FOI -Act



Mr Malcolm Wicks MP
Energy Minister
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Tuesday 17th August 2005

Dear Mr Wicks,

Scarweather Sands offshore wind farm

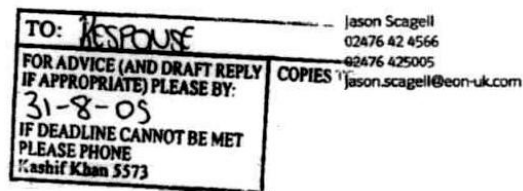
To achieve delivery in 2007 whilst allowing construction activities to take place without undue pressure on contractors and the associated added financial risk to the scheme it will be necessary to secure financial sanction for capital investment within E.ON and E2 by November this year.

Back in August 2004, before the scheme was consented, an application for a capital grant was made by United Utilities, who were then a part owner in the project. It was not deemed possible by DTI to progress the application at the time but now the project is available to go to construction E.ON and E2 have reviewed the need for a capital grant. We have determined that market conditions are such that a grant is necessary to make the scheme viable.

E.ON and E2 have been lobbying the DTI to initiate a further round of capital grant awards in order for Scarweather to be assessed for support. Whilst the DTI have given positive messages and I understand that your office has been briefed on the issue, we have yet to see a proposed timetable for such an award process and this is causing us some concern as we are now only three months from the targeted decision point.

We would be grateful therefore if you could urgently inform us of the envisaged timescale for the likely award of a capital grant for Scarweather together with the process needed to take place.

If you do not believe that in principle approval for a grant will be practical in the timescale set out above, the Scarweather partners will have to schedule construction back into 2008, and potentially beyond to allow time for grant award. Whilst this is not our preferred option, it is imperative that the project is a financial success for both the supply chain and owners.



**The Unelected NEA is producing the Regional Spatial Strategy
Policies and proposals for shaping the North East to 2010 and beyond!
Has Breeze turned to Twister?** Abstracts from Paper 7 Energy follow.

Extracts from the RSS for NE Submission Draft June 2005 Technical Paper 7

My comments are in italics. There appears little difference from the Consultation Draft of Nov 2004 except for page numbers etc. I have used the June 2005 references

For convenience the following information has been copied to Force10 Companion Guide. The Indicative map from the RSS is on p49, the Indicative map page 48 is from PPS22CG. GIS constraints and comments are on p 66/7

Section 3 Regional Analysis (page 12)

Renewable Energy is a growth industry with much potential in the **north east specially from wind** due to the landscape. The region is also leading the way with developments such as NAREC in Blyth. (See page 73 NAREC Launch)

In the Region there are many projects in place and others in the pipeline.

Page10. 2.25 NEA, GONE local authorities, environmental groups and the renewables industry would prepare a North East Renewable Energy Strategy to inform the early review of the revised RPG1 (RSS) to **provide a positive steer as defined in RPG1 policy EN2**

Page10. 2.26 In November 2002, Government Office for the North East (GO-NE) commissioned the Northern Energy Initiative (TNEI), the centre for Environmental and spatial Analysis at the University of Northumbria (CESA) and the Landscape Research Group as the University of Newcastle (LRG) to prepare a Regional Renewable Energy Strategy (RRES). The North East Renewable Energy Group (NEREG), chaired by GO-NE oversaw the preparation of the strategy on behalf of the North East Assembly. **NEREG brings together the representatives from the Region's Local Authorities, environmental groups, universities, locally based wind developers and government agencies.**

Comment: The energy consultative group suggested in 1999 by Adrian Smith! (p 69)

Page10. 2.28 The draft RRES was the subject of consultation late in 2003 with 112 responses. There was considerable opposition to wind development between the A66 and the Stang forest. *Comment: What did they expect? To attempt a return to the Stang Area after BHMCG's long and costly fight which led to their High Court victory was insensitive.*

Barningham High Moor proposal for the then largest wind farm in England was defeated at Public Inquiry and in The High Court.

John Prescott agreed with the Inspector's dismissal of the application.

Alan Milburn gave his support throughout.

Margaret Beckett assured us the Government was committed to protecting the countryside against inappropriate wind energy development.

Hilary Armstrong was reported in the local press as seeing money given to the community as bribes.

The Rambler's Association was the main donor for the Public Inquiry. The local group raised funds to support Prescott at the High Court. CPRE branches in the main funded the High Court action.

Why the U turn by Government? Who is now pulling the strings? Whoever it is has created a tangled web of deception and delusion, now becoming incestuous.

Energy paper7 p29 Areas identified for development of wind farms Tees Offshore - Identified as a strategic wind farm

It states the 100MW proposal has been the subject of local consultation and a submission has been made to DTI. *There is a tremendous amount of local objection to this development by EDF (see AppD Force10CG) EDF are currently progressing several onshore proposals. France, Germany and the EU have a high profile in the North East.*

NEREG agreed the following constraints in 2003

P33 Entitled Renewable Energy Geographical Information System (GIS) Constraints

Annexe B p29 Adopted constraints (c)

Nature Conservation Area footprints include, SPA, SAC, SSSI, RAMSAR, ASN Woodland. No buffer zones have been added to the designated footprints. It is acknowledged that English Nature consider buffers of 800m may be necessary along boundaries of specific SPAs and other important ornithological sites. These have not been included in the GIS.

Comment: Why not is the question that needs answering?

April 2003 GO-NE commissioned BP Power to undertake a study of the Region's electricity grid in relation to the emerging spatial strategy for renewable energy **predominately wind**. I believe PB is Parsons Brinkerhoff who are associated with wind power worldwide.

Summary of The Grid Study/Grid upgrade. Extracts from P34

If Kielder emerges at strategic* level **major investment will be needed to upgrade the current connection to the grid**. The least environmentally damaging and the most expensive would be to upgrade the current grid connection from Kielder dam via Spadeadam to Harker near Carlisle. The existing grid could probably accommodate **125MW** of wind capacity with limited investment to cover the cost of the next step stage in grid improvement. At least **370MW** of wind capacity would be needed

An area in central Northumberland has been identified as possibly suitable for small*groups of wind turbines. PB power considered the possibility of a new sub station on the 400 kV grid connector in this area. **To justify the cost of this substation 10 small wind farms would be required within a radius of about 10km!** An alternative would be to use the local 20Kv network to allow a more dispersed capture of this resource

*Comment *.I am not aware of clear definitions for small or strategic. Nor do I believe the people who would be affected by the 10 wind farm mentioned are aware of the proposals.*

In summary: The connection of renewables as identified within this report is considered **feasible** with the grid as currently planned. Routes for new connections must be considered as an integral part of planning the development of the renewable generation areas as they will be crucial in **allowing the region to meet its targets**. Since the July 2003 report was completed further work on the ability of the grid to handle the amount and location of renewable electricity put forward has been undertaken by Northern Electric Distribution Ltd NEDL. This is ongoing and informed by contact between NEDL and developers active in the region.

Comment: Does this need to be reconsidered post the **E-ON Wind Report 2004?** The BWEA, REF and others with considerable expertise are arguing the implications of this report. BWEA are adamant the UK can cope, saying conditions are different in UK from Germany. **The E-ON Wind Report 2005** points out that wind blows, **when, as and where it will**. Its actual strength is difficult to forecast accurately. The wind sadly does not blow where we need large quantities of power. Does the work on grid connection and talk of major investment suggest someone is determined Kielder becomes a strategic level resource in spite of MOD concerns?

The diagram referred to below is shown on p49 of Force10 CG and is on p31of PPS22 CG



ANNEX A

Further Details of Areas Identified on the Draft Indicative Diagram:

Resource	Area	Comments
Strategic Renewable Resource Area	Kielder Forest (Tynedale)	Reflecting the potential for the generation of renewable energy at Kielder (Hydro/ Biomass/ large scale wind)
Strategic Wind Farm	Teesmouth Offshore Wind Farm	Came forward as a part of the Government's first round of Offshore Wind Licences
Medium Wind Farms	South and West Berwick upon Tweed (Berwick upon Tweed)	This broad location has a significant amount of potential and should not be constrained by setting a range for the number of turbines – one or more small/ medium scale wind farms, clustered and/ or separated from one another
	North/ South Charlton (Alnwick)	Small/ medium scale, if MoD radar constraints can be overcome. The Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan EIP Panel Report considered that all of the land, on both sides of the A1. It was the Panels opinion that there is likely to be some capacity for development to the east of the A1 which would not significantly affect views from the A1 to the Coast. The Panel Report suggested that Local Plan policies provide an important criterion in examining sites.
	Knowesgate (Tynedale)	Medium scale wind farm development. The broad location should not be constrained by setting a range for the number of turbines.
	Harwood Forest (Alnwick)	Small or medium scale wind farm development. The Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan EIP Panel Report considered the County Council and National Parks objection to the proposal as they felt wind farms in this area could compromise the objectives of National Park designation. The Panel concluded that there was no reason to exclude the area from further testing and evaluation as a potential Wind Resource Area – it is one of the areas of least constraint, but it needs to be handled sensitively.
	Northern Coalfield South of Druridge Bay (Castle Morpeth)	Small or medium scale wind farms – MoD and civil radar constraints. This area was referred to in the draft Strategy as "Southeast urban and urban fringe Northumberland" – the GIS showed that there are more than one "area" in the broad location shown by the "W" in the draft Strategy and it should be given a different name to better reflect its coverage. The Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan EIP Panel Report considered that much detailed work will need to be carried out before specific sites could be identified within the general area, and Castle Morpeth will have an important role in that. There is clearly a need to protect the Heritage Coast.
	Kiln Pit Hill (Tynedale)	Small or medium scale. This is a small area, however the Northumberland County and National Park Joint Structure Plan EIP Panel Report considered in order to apply the consistent approach which was taken in the draft Strategy it was necessary to include the site as an affirmation of its potential.
	North Durham Upland Coalfield (Derwentside)	the Strategy identified the possibility of expansion of the existing Tow Law wind farm. It is considered that there is a broader area of potential which would be better reflected if the

Kiln Pit Hill Residents voiced their anger when a press comment was the first they heard of the proposal or the RSS which recommended it.

Tow Law A strong campaign against has reduced the proposal from 22 to 12 CPRE at District, County Branch and Regional level have objected.

		"W" was moved a little east – thereby maximising the potential of the general area.
	Tees Plain (Sedgefield)	Small or medium scale. This area has low landscape sensitivity – detail contained within draft Strategy remains appropriate.
	South Durham Upland Coalfield (Teesdale)	This area was referred to in the Strategy as "Hamsterley Forest". The potential of Hamsterley has been questioned, given the proximity of the AONB. However, there is good potential due to wind speed and distance from settlements. The "W" has therefore been slightly relocated to cover Hamsterley and some of the coalfield/ upland fringe potential in the area, enabling a greater choice of development scale and pattern, to be determined at the local level.

Hamsterley Area *Strong objections to the proposal near the AONB and in an amenity area were raised. This was mooted in TREC.*

Renewable Energy Geographical Information System Constraints Mapping

Categories	Criteria	Parameters	Constraint
Cultural Heritage	Historic Parks, Gardens and Battlefields	Footprint	Absolute
	Listed Buildings	Footprint	Absolute
	Greenbelt	Footprint	Consultation
	World Heritage Sites	Footprint	Absolute
	World Heritage Sites	10km buffer	Consultation
Landscape	AONB	Footprint	Absolute
	Heritage Coast	Footprint	Absolute
	National Park	Footprint	Absolute
MOD	Low Flying Area 20	Footprint	Constraint
	Low Flying Area 13	Footprint	Consultation
Nature Conservation	SPA	Footprint	Absolute
	SAC	Footprint	Absolute
	RSPB Reserves	Footprint	Absolute
	SSSI	Footprint	Absolute
	RAMSAR	Footprint	Absolute
	AW	Footprint	Absolute
Radar	Newcastle Airport	Viewshed*	Absolute
	Teesside Airport	Viewshed*	Absolute
	Brizlee Wood	Viewshed*	Absolute
	Fylingdales	Viewshed*	Absolute
	Dun Fell	Viewshed*	Absolute
Safety/Topple Distance	Motorways	150m Buffer	Absolute
	A Roads	150m Buffer	Absolute
	B Roads	150m Buffer	Consultation
	Railways	150m Buffer	Absolute
	Electricity pylons	150m Buffer	Absolute

MOD

Low Flying area 20 is Constraint whereas Low Flying area 13 is Consultation.

Comment: Should both be constraint? I am not aware of maps detailing the areas.

Radar

Airport constraints are Absolute with the parameter as Viewshed. *Northumbria University did the study, Sept 2003 .Turbines heights and numbers have increased since then!*

Wind speed

Average wind speed below 6.5m/s at 45m ht indicated in the **NOABL** database are said unlikely to provide a commercial return to any developer in the foreseeable future

Safety/Topple Distance is 150m buffer with absolute constraint from an A road and consultation from a B road. *Should not both should be absolute?*

The New Spatial Planning System. Crossroads or maze?

DEVELOPMENT PLANS AT A CROSSROAD: THE NEW SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEM

The planning system faces many changes over coming months and years, so before jumping in at the deep end, let's take some time to consider the context prevailing over the transformation ahead.

Firstly let's consider, what is spatial planning? It is a process essentially about anticipating and influencing the best outcomes for the future use of land and the environment. Previously, the lengthy plan preparation process has led to some of them being out-of-date before adoption. The new system of development plans will be quicker, more soundly evidence based, and fully involve the wider community. In responding to change it will address wider spatial issues such as health, job creation and the aims of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Sustainable Communities Plan.

The 21st Century will see dynamic and dramatic changes to the world we live in, and planning can positively facilitate the changes ahead. The Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 provides for new Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) that will integrate spatially with strategies having relevant implications outside traditional land use planning. As such, the modernisation of planning will affect forward planning and regeneration as much as the process of development management and control.

The main areas of change include...

Regional Spatial Strategy, and Local Development Documents (LDDs) within the LDF, will replace Regional Planning Guidance, Structure Plans, Unitary Development Plans, and Local Plans. In the interim, plans can be saved for three years (some policies perhaps longer e.g. Green Belt), with a few old style plans finished through transitional arrangements. RPG1 becomes RSS upon Act commencement, until the new RSS is adopted. Other key changes to plans include the Local Development Scheme (LDS) – the effective project plan for producing LDDs; and the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) – the strategy for public consultation. The requirement of an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) every December will bring transparent scrutiny of policy, and LDS progress on key milestones.

LDDs will consist of Development Plan Documents (having "Development Plan" policy status), as well as Supplementary Planning Documents, which when

linked to a parent DPD, give extra detail to policy, just like existing Supplementary Planning Guidance. LDFs must contain a Core Strategy DPD that will set the overarching spatial objectives for an area, having regard to the Local Community Strategy.

LDFs will reinvigorate the plan-led system by aiming to achieve consensus over the best use of land, ahead of actual detailed blueprints hitting the table. The new system will create greater certainty for decision-making, but with sufficient flexibility to help deliver regeneration priorities. Contemporary planning issues affecting the North East include housing market renewal and replacement, and the pressure for waste treatment facilities and renewable energy installations. Competing pressures for land use will all need to be reconciled through RSS, LDFs, and eventually, quality development decisions.

This all sounds very straightforward, but won't the new system grind to a halt with so many plans being prepared simultaneously? No, things should run smoothly so long as Local Planning Authorities set out realistic proposals with their LDS, and consult with the Government Office (GO) and Planning Inspectorate (PINs) over LDD timescales. Future LDF progress could be subject to Best Value performance monitoring similar to efficient management of development control, and progress against an LDS may also eventually influence the reward of Planning Delivery Grant (PDG)!

THE DO'S & DON'TS OF PREPARING YOUR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (LDS)

The Local Development Scheme is the public statement of the Local Authority's programme for producing Local Development Documents. It shows priorities over the next few years, indicates opportunities for public involvement, and enables monitoring of Council performance.

Some Do's:

- Read Planning Policy Statement 12 and "Creating Local Development Frameworks";
- Submit your LDS to the Government Office within 6 months of the Act commencing (expected September 04, so final LDS by March 05); *

The RSS is part of the statutory Development Plan and will replace SPs and UDP s part 1. The RSS provides a broad strategy for the region for 15 to 20 years.

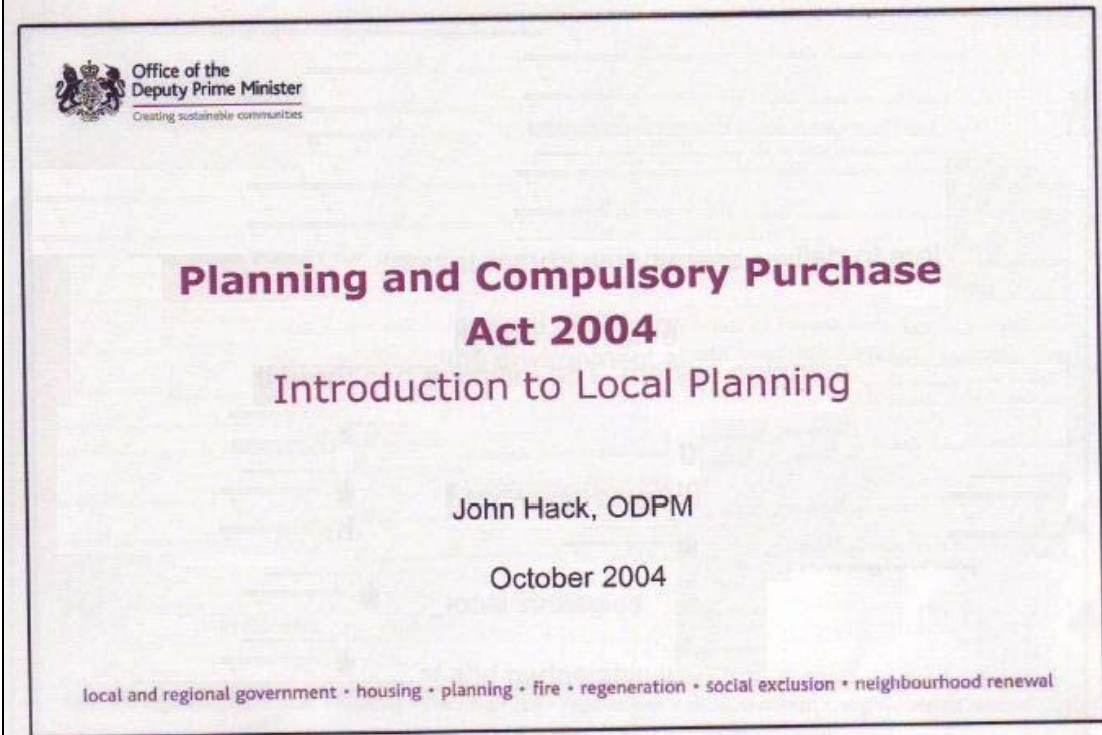
The RSS is prepared by the Regional Assembly (The unelected one!) The NE voted against Regional Governance The new system is more a maze than crossroads. Never fear 'wor' John's here to explain why a body you did not vote for provides a strategy you don't want.

Forget old battles. We now have the law.

Long Live Democracy

**Development Plans. The Future is Now RTPI Northern Branch –
Durham County Hall – November 3, 2004**

Comment: The slides below are from a presentation by John Hack (ODPM.) There was much of value but I worry when we are told to forget old battles as we now have the law. Asking whether this applied to PPS22, he replied he was not familiar with PPS22.



Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Creating sustainable communities

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

Introduction to Local Planning

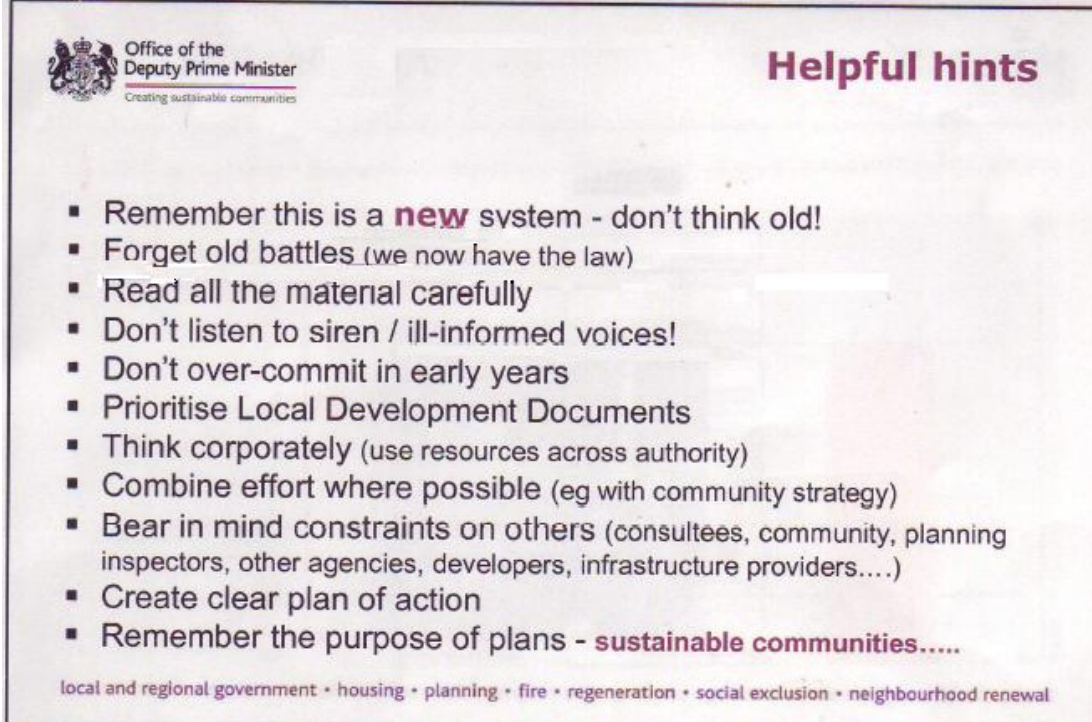
John Hack, ODPM

October 2004

local and regional government • housing • planning • fire • regeneration • social exclusion • neighbourhood renewal

Forget old battles we now have the law (ODPM)

A helpful hint?



Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
Creating sustainable communities

Helpful hints

- Remember this is a **new** system - don't think old!
- Forget old battles (we now have the law)
- Read all the material carefully
- Don't listen to siren / ill-informed voices!
- Don't over-commit in early years
- Prioritise Local Development Documents
- Think corporately (use resources across authority)
- Combine effort where possible (eg with community strategy)
- Bear in mind constraints on others (consultees, community, planning inspectors, other agencies, developers, infrastructure providers....)
- Create clear plan of action
- Remember the purpose of plans - **sustainable communities.....**

local and regional government • housing • planning • fire • regeneration • social exclusion • neighbourhood renewal

What about CEWT (Cumulative Effect of Wind Turbines)

In the last decade, onshore turbine capacities have increased from around 300kW to 600kW to 700kW to 1300 kW to 1500 kW and 2750 kW and 3000 kW whilst overall heights have increased from 41.5m to 100m to 110m.

Recently permission has been given for 7 x 3000 kW turbines, **110m high**, at Sedgefield in the PM's constituency. These are about 700 m from houses. The objectors concerns were **not** addressed by the committee. I have used this as a Case Study (pages 52-54) RTPI Planning Magazine 2/09/05 describes turbines of **110m ht** proposed in Wales as **massive**.

Comment: How can CEWT be truly assessed when planners fully aware of proposals in the pipeline, claim those cannot be taken into account as they may not come to fruition? Surely a total nonsense when any refusal can and usually is followed by an Appeal by the Developer. Some people see wind turbines as objects of beauty. That is their opinion and they are entitled to it. Is CEWT being cleverly sidelined? (High Hedley 1 land Walkway)

Guidance in England

ETSU W/14/00538/REP Cumulative Effects of Wind turbines 2000
ETSU W/14/00538/REP Qualitative Public Attitude Research Mid Wales
www.dti.gov.uk/energy/renewables/publications/pdfs/w1400538.pdf

Guidance from Scottish National Heritage (SNH) on Cumulative effect of wind farms 2005
A more recent report than ETSU this is probably better able to assess the specific landscape and visual effects which must result from the increase in height and the accelerating numbers of turbines proposed in an area. NEREG chaired by GONE has overseen work on the strategy preparation and input to RSS. I believe there are flaws in the methodology used throughout and that is the reason for writing Force10 and this Companion Guide
Claire Short MP has said you cannot have an environment without people Yet it is the people who are not being given due consideration in events which could affect their quality of life.

Who has sold Co Durham down the river, in fact the north east?

Now it seems the whole country has been deluded into accepting wind turbines to combat climate change.

Who pulled the strings until they formed a tangled web? Why? Why the great U turn, or was it a great escape as government got into a situation where it was easier though undemocratic to go with the flow? This record will be buried on Barningham High Moor and nearby locations, where Force 10 and the Barningham booklet are buried. Future generations will know how hard we fought to protect their heritage.

*Noo Lambton felt inclined to gan an' fight in foreign wars an' varry seun
forgot about the queer worm i' the well
But the wyrm got fat an' grewed an' grewed,
An' grewed an' aaful suze*

A synopsis of events from 1988 to 2005 is below. (7 years)

The same length of time Lambton forgot about the wyrm

Extracts from my Power Point Presentation show how Adrian Smith's 'blue print' in 1999 for agreed regional and county targets*was being progressed. Reduction of carbon emissions and other pollutants now seem lost in the race for regional targets, mainly onshore wind.

BWEA Invited Seminar June 1999 at Durham Cricket Club

- Hosted by One North East in association with Government office for The North East. Wind Energy and Planning. Meeting the Challenge
- Attendees list included DTI, DETR, David Still, Marcus Trinnick, Adrian Smith (Renew North/TNEI). Alison Hill and Nick Goodall BWEA
- Adrian Smith presented 'Planning and Renewables, The Way Forward'

Ideas or a Blue Print for the Future?

- From Adrian Smith's presentation "The Way Forward"
- Renewable energy targets* in RPG and structure plans.
- **Agreed regional and county targets*
- A Regional Wind Energy consultation group* – to include active developers, facilitating organisations, e.g. **Renew North and chaired by Government Office.**

Reviving a flagging industry

- Government changes statutory regulations.
- Peter Hain, Minister for Energy, announces new flexibility for non fossil fuel obligation (NFFO) contracts.**
- The press release was careless in its reference to the High Moor Wind farm at Barningham. It suggested that the proposal should be able to proceed
- I contacted DTI who suggested to their press officer a slight modification to read - may now be able to proceed at a different location.

Planning Issues

- Positive outcome to planning rejection 1998. Details restricted to members.
 - 1998: UK planning system was blamed for the worst year the industry had known.
 - 1999 Feb: Dismal year are in the UK as planning infrastructure fails
 - 1999 Dec: Legal planning defeat for wind in NE England.
 - 2000 Mar: Planning hurdles defeat the wind industry.
- Wind Power Monthly www.wpm.co.nz

Support for Regional Targets

- 1998: David Williams of Cambrian Engineering called for *regional targets*.
- 2000: Alan Moore, Managing Director of NWP, Current Chair of BWEA and a member of RAB said *regional targets* will help to alleviate the nimby attitude.
- 2000: David Still then Chair of BWEA and now a member of RAB spoke about pending regional targets.

Roc solid?

- Further support seemed necessary.
- The Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) was deemed to be the answer. It appears to be a 'subsidy' although classed as a levy. To the layman the end result is simply that less than a third of the money comes from actually generating electricity and money from the ROCs make up the rest.
- The quick end-of-year fix of Britain's Renewables Obligation (RO) made by energy minister Stephen Timms in December is failing to provide the market certainty needed to make renewable energy projects an attractive investment (Wind Power Monthly).

Dubious Tactics?

- 17 MP's and 1 member of the House of Lords undertook a two day fact finding mission to witness the success of the Danish wind industry. 16th -17th October 2000
- Alan Moore, managing director of NWP, the UK's leading wind farm developer accompanied the group.
- Flight and accommodation were paid for by NWP (From register of Members' Interests UK Parliament).
- From NWP press release 27th October 2000.

Deploying misleading concepts

- Annual requirement of x thousand homes
- Saving y tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions

Promises, Promises, Promises

Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge (TREC) promised all renewable energies, small scale.

- Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) confirmed this and that there would be no large wind-farms.
- The Truth is vastly different. Amec Wind and NWP are bringing forward proposals for a significant commercial wind farm within Hamsterley Forest. This is an amenity area next to the AONB.
- Several issues have given cause for concern during TREC's implementation and the situation needs to be carefully monitored.

GSK - 2 X 250 kW (45m to tip) [Second hand]

- At the Council Meeting, there was no opportunity to question unsupported statements made by the developer.
- Elected members appear unaware of many aspects of Wind Energy. Level of debate was abysmal, one cllr voted 'for' to spite his colleague! Permission was granted.
- TNEI acted as agent for GSK, as part of the TREC Initiative that TNEI managed. Did this constitute a conflict of interest? *Will they achieve the savings promised?*
- The turbines are now in place and some residents are finding their quality of life is being blighted. (For at least 25 years!)
- No EIA. CPRE's request for one was refused by GO-NE.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- Teesdale planning department decided with TNEI, that an EIA was not necessary for the GSK proposal. In June 2003 the community was given the understanding there would be one though the decision not to have one had already been taken in March 2003!
- No indication that the scheme would be eligible for ROCs appeared to have been mentioned to the general public until after approval had been given.
- Are EIA's being side-lined by developers?
- An EIA for every wind-farm application would be desirable but GO-NE has already said this will not happen! Yet this is the only way the communities can voice their concerns.

Using information from the ROC Register 06/ 04 -05/ 05 the GSK turbines do not appear to have either generated the amount of electricity or saved the CO₂ emissions anticipated. Their load factor over the 12 month period seems to be about 11%. This means that the safeguarding of jobs promised and the emission savings will be approximately one third of those predicted At an LA21 Energy Roundtable, Astley Fenwick of GSK said the turbines would provide extra income of around £60000 pa. The low LF suggests GSK faced a dramatic reduction in this period of approximately £40000 in compared to the income expected. (See p90 paragraph 6 Force 10 CG)

The Northern Energy Initiative (TNEI) - Rise to Power

- 1999 Renew North/TNEI proposed regional and county targets for renewables in Regional Planning Guidance (RPG)
- Gone commissioned Chris Blandford Associates to look at development of renewables targets in the North East to 2010. They drew heavily on Energy for a New Century' by TNEI and commented on the refusal of Barningham Moor proposal.
- 2002/2003. TNEI were appointed consultants to carry out the Regional Renewable Energy strategy for the NE, to be fed into the draft Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) in June/July
- 2003 GO-NE commissioned PB Power to undertake a study of the region's electricity grid re the emerging Spatial Strategy for renewable energy.
- PB Power on behalf of EDF energy is proposing 7 wind farms in Co Durham
- TNEI are support consultants for PPS 22 Companion Guide

I wrote to the co-ordinator for the RSS expressing concern.

She has left the North East Assembly and joined TNEI.

Planning Officers Society

- At the least PPS22 should state that the first consideration of land use planning should be the reduction in the demand for energy through energy efficiency and conservation.
- It is noted that a companion guide to PPS 22 is also to be published. Paragraph 9 of the introduction states that the companion guide will be published when the final version of the PPS is published. Given that the companion guide supplements and supports the content of PPS 22 it is essential that this guide is both consulted on, and consulted on prior to the publication of the PPS.

Comment: The above comments (PPS22) are from the most senior professionals and managers of planning services in the English Local Authorities, but will the Government take notice?

What a tangled web we weave...

PPS22 Companion Guide:

- Contractor(s)
- ARUP
13 Fitzroy Street, London, W1P 6BQ
0171 465 5555
- Contract details
- Cost to the Department: £73,995.00
- Actual start date: 10 March 2004
- Expected completion date: 30 September 2004

From ODPM website

PPS22 Companion Guide:

- TNEI are the support consultants with a Welsh firm to Arup who are leading on this for the Government. Final draft to ODPM in August. **NOT from ODPM website**

The above extracts from my power point presentation seem the most concise way to alert people to related events from 1998-2005.(The gestation period of the New-Lambton Wurm) In my opinion these events give real cause for concern. Unless curtailed the beauty of the county and quality of life for many will be eroded.

NaREC New and Renewable Energy Centre in Blyth is said to be the centre of excellence for new and renewable energy so I hoped their Launch Event, ,described below, would cover research and development into wide range of renewables.

Regional Launch Event Draft programme Feb 2/ 2005 Section 4

Comment: I had hoped to see all renewable energy sources covered.

- 8:30 am - Registration and break fast refreshments.
- 9.10 am - Chair person welcome's all and introduces the panel.
- 9.15 am - Guy Madgwick; The purpose of the Launch Event
- 9.20 am - Andrew Smith: Energy Policy - A National Perspective
- 9.35 am - **Adrian Smith: The Emerging Regional Renewable Energy Strategy - Planning the future for On-shore Wind up to 2010**
- 10:05 am - Doug Everard: Renewable Energy - Past Performance and Future Opportunities.
- 10:20 am - Martin Marais; npower renewables Consultation and Development Strategy - **A Design for Northumberland.**
- 10.35 am - Panel & Representatives from n-power & Entec UK Ltd: Q & A's
- 10:55 am - Guy Madgwick - Close the event
- 11:00 am - Break for refreshments.

Invited Panel at NAREC Launch Feb 2005 Chair: John **Shaw**. Managing Director of Utilities Project Management Ltd,

Andrew Smith: Senior Planning Consultant for the North, Entec UK Ltd, operating nation wide and guiding major developments through the planning process.

Adrian Smith Independent Wind Consultant Adrian, along with colleagues in The Northern Energy Institution, prepared the draft NE Regional Renewable Energy Strategy for the NA. Extract from the Personal Profile.

MRTPI, MRIC Renewable Energy Planning Consultant

1999 Joined TNEI to lead the work of Renew North, North East's Renewable Energy Agency. Initiated several significant projects including TeesWind in Redcar and Teesdale Renewable Energy Challenge, TREC

2002 Adrian became an independent planning consultant still largely working for TNEI Recent projects: Leading work on preparing/ updating NERES and assisting ARUP in drafting PPS22 Companion Guide on Renewable Energy for the ODPM In addition to Adrian's renewable energy work he has chaired a number of recent Structure Plan Examinations in Public on behalf of ODPM.

Adrian is also active in the voluntary sector aiding asylum seekers.

Doug Everard: Chief Executive of the New and Renewable Energy Centre. NAREC NAREC are our hosts today. They are a body responsible for the promotion development of a wide range of renewable energy sources across the region.

Guy Madgwick: Head of Development, n-power renewables. Guy is responsible for developing renewable energy generators including hydro turbines and the conversion of existing power plants to renewable fuels.

Martin Marais: Head of On-Shore Development, n-power renewables, responsible for the promotion of onshore wind. Steering applications through the planning process nation wide.

<p>I applied to attend the launch but my request was refused. I then requested and received the information available to attendees. I was grateful for the information and the accompanying leaflets. It is on the basis of these I make my comments.</p>

From npower (RWE group) leaflets at NAREC launch Feb 2005

Leaflet dated January 2005

1) Independent surveys carried out in recent years, have consistently shown that the majority of the public are in favour of the development of wind .New research in the form of a National Opinion Poll (NOP) survey of 1,000 Adults, in August 2004, on **behalf of the British Wind Energy Association**, showed strong public endorsement of wind energy, those who have actually seen a wind farm, **being more supportive**.

2) People are significantly more likely to disagree that wind farms are a blot on the landscape **if they have seen them** (45%) compared with those who haven't (55%)

People Against Satley Turbines (PAST)

The following survey is in conflict with the above oft cited statistics
Satley is a village adjacent to and in full view of the wind farms at Tow Law and High Hedley. High Hedley 2 has in spite of opposition, received planning permission.

Satley Parish Council ballot covered 218 in the parish.
181 returned the ballot and of that 146 (over 80%) were against.
There were 20 in favour, largely a farmer's family all to gain.
13 approx (7%) did not care either way.

The second ballot by Cornsay Colliery Residents Association sent out 222 ballots
162 were returned with 134 (over 82 %) against

This conflicts with the statement by the Sustainable Development Commission
Chapter 9, Wind Power and the Community

“Resistance to onshore wind farms was related to knowledge with **higher resistance found amongst the less knowledgeable** groups” This is absolutely false as press coverage with comments from local groups opposing wind farms shows it is their knowledge which has founded their opposition.

This and other reports I have read appear to dent BWEA's oft cited claims

A letter from **TV host Chris Tarrant who supports the BWEA Embrace Campaign** is on page 20 Force 10 CG. Even with his busy lifestyle he has taken the trouble to read more about the benefits or otherwise of wind energy and my understanding is that he has now a more balanced view. This has happened on numerous occasions when communities faced with a proposal for a wind farm decide to find out more about the pros and cons of wind power. In my experience the resistance has increased with Size and Movement, the latter an essential characteristic of a wind turbine seem to be two of the main concerns.
Perhaps that is why these appear to be subverted by the developers.

Surveys from npower leaflet

Results for the Northern Region are compared with those for the UK (ICM).

Comment: Was not the UK (ICM) Sept 2004 poll done for Greenpeace? What real value is there in doing any comparison with the ICM poll when Greenpeace are so pro wind. See website www.yes2wind.by Greenpeace Foe and WWF

Yes2wind website. Greenpeace FOE and WWF

I noticed the following letter on yes2wind website and as Awel Aman Tawe (AAT) is Case Study 2D in PPS22 Companion Guide it is necessary to include it in Force10 CG

Awel Aman Tawe Support AAT has got a week till this Friday 17th June to obtain emails/letters of support for its wind farm planning application. We would be very grateful for your support. Despite a local referendum, over 1500 letters of opposition have been received by the council. These letters and emails have come from across the UK as part of the well-organised anti wind lobby. AAT did not want to undertake a letter writing campaign, but has now been advised to do so as the planning decision on our application could go either way. These are some of the grounds to support the project. You may copy and paste from the following and/or add points of your own. There is a lot of information on our website. Please send this email to all your own email contacts and ask them to do the same. We would be very grateful if you would email your support to the following address (the planning dept, our local Assembly Member - Gwenda Thomas, and local MP - Peter Hain). You can copy and paste these addresses into your email. Many thanks for your support. Dan McCallum, Project Manager, Awel Aman Tawe, tel 01269 822954 www.awelamantawe.org.uk
awelat@freenetname.co.uk d.waghorn@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk;
Gwenda.Thomas@Wales.gov.uk ; neathoffice@peterhain.org; info@awelamantawe.org.uk

Even comments from the Prime Minister are in my opinion misrepresented in **npower's policy leaflet distributed at the NAREC Launch.**

“Green technologies are on the verge of becoming one of the next waves in the knowledge economy revolution. The global market for environmental goods and services is projected to rise to £440 billion by 2010. Shell estimates that 50% of the world's energy needs could be met by renewables by 2050. Wind power is already a £1.5 billion industry. I want Britain to be a leading player in this coming green industrial revolution.” Tony Blair. PM Environment the next steps.

Comment: The paragraph from which the above was extracted follows. To me there is a subtle difference. The above being selective, **does not convey the full message**

But if we are actually to halt the process we need to be much more radical. In particular we need to put business, technology and environmental protection in harness together. **Green technologies are on the verge of becoming one of the next waves in the knowledge economy revolution. The global market for environmental goods and services is projected to rise to £440 billion by 2010. Shell estimates that 50% of the world's energy needs could be met by renewables by 2050. Wind power is already a £1.5 billion industry.** By 2010 the global solar market could be worth up to £150 billion. **I want Britain to be a leading player in this coming green industrial revolution.**

We have many strengths to draw on. Some of the best marine renewable resources in the world -offshore wind, wave energy and tidal power. A strong science base, supporting world-class research in biomass generators, micro technologies such as small wind and gas turbines, domestic CHP based on Stirling engines, fuel cells and other technologies for the storage of energy. We have led the way in integrating environmental and economic goals within a liberalised electricity market. And we are leading the thinking in Europe on how to remove the regulatory barriers to development of renewables. I believe the role of Government is to accelerate the development and take up of these new technologies until self-sustaining markets take over.

The Government's programme for incentivising renewables will create a new market worth over £500 million through the Renewables Obligation, Climate Change Levy exemptions and the Non Fossil Fuel Obligation. We have already announced £100 million to support offshore wind and energy crops. The complete speech by the PM is at www.number10.gov.uk/

NOW THE PARLIAMENTARY GUIDE TO WIND FARMS AND WRITTEN BY BWEA /SERA/npower

Our Energy Future – the Role of Wind Power
Yvette Cooper, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the ODPM
launches parliamentary guide to wind farm development

WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION SERA npower renewables

BWEA / SERA / npower Press Release
Wednesday 12th January 2005

SERA¹, the Labour affiliated environmental think tank, has today, Wednesday 12th January, published a definitive wind power guide for MPs and Councillors. The guide, produced in association with npower renewables² and the British Wind Energy Association (BWEA)³ outlines the role of wind power in meeting the Government's renewable energy targets in the short to medium term.

The briefing document assesses the issues surrounding the development of wind energy and reviews some of the myths and facts about wind power, currently the most advanced of the current renewable energy technologies. It also outlines the challenges that the Government and industry must overcome to ensure that wind energy fulfils its potential in the UK, including a move towards more consistent planning policies and decisions. Difficulties with planning remains the biggest barrier to the development of and investment in renewables.

Yvette Cooper MP, will deliver the keynote speech at the launch event to be held at the House of Commons today. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) will outline Government policies aimed at overcoming unnecessary planning application delays and improving the efficiency of the planning system in relation to wind farm development in particular.

Marcus Rand, CEO of BWEA said, "The future looks bright for wind energy in the UK and 2005 will be a record year with more projects than ever before being commissioned. However, we need to maintain the momentum achieved over the past few years. This initiative by SERA will help ensure decision-makers are able to get to grips with the real facts about wind energy. Wind power is an essential way for the UK to take action on reducing our carbon emissions and bring economic and social benefits for the UK too."

Kevin McCullough, director of npower renewables, added that, "As the UK's leading wind farm developer we hope that this briefing will assist MPs to address any concerns of their constituents. It has never been more important to have a widespread understanding of the need for wind power, the benefits it can bring and the potential for appropriate development."

The recent publication of the UK's review of the Climate Change Programme suggested that the Government would find it difficult to meet the 2020 target without a significant expansion of the renewable sector and a far greater uplift in energy efficiency initiatives.

With this in mind, the UK Government has established the Renewables Obligation, through which electricity supply companies are required to source a percentage of their electricity sales (increasing each year) from eligible renewable sources.

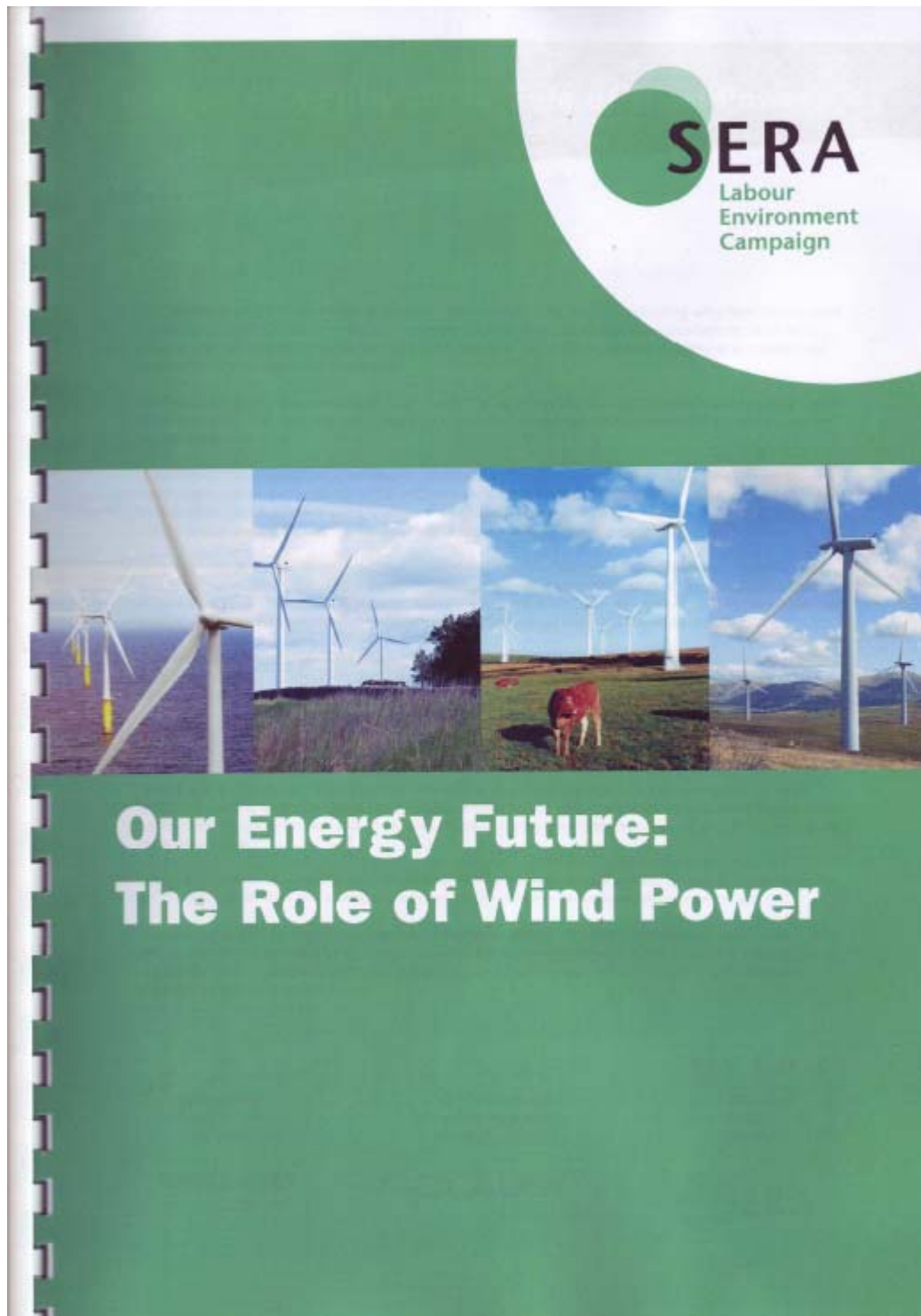
The existing national policy mechanisms, renewable energy targets and the recent public declaration from Tony Blair⁴ emphasising the need for UK leadership on climate change at the G8, indicate the importance of such an information source at this time.

Comment: Now not only Councillors but also MP's are being 'educated' as Yvette Cooper*, Parliamentary Under- Secretary of State for the ODPM launched the parliamentary guide to wind farm development Wednesday, January 12, 2005

Comment .Now we are clear that Parliamentary guide to wind farms launched in January 2005 has been written by the wind industry at least we know where we stand.

***Yvette now Minister for Housing and Planning addressed the RTPI Planning Convention 2005, extolling the virtues of the planning system and progress since 1997.** (PLANNING the Journal of the RTPI. 15/07/05)

Comment: Government has done a U turn since John Prescott upheld the Inspector's decision at the Public Inquiry at Barningham in 1998. Is it really the case that we must forget old battles, we now have the law? (Page69)
Forget the battles of Barningham, Cefn Croes, Lewis, Skye and so many others?
No Minister, it is for you to remember



Comment; SERA The Labour Environment Campaign **written by BWEA, SERA and npower,-** the role of windpower in meeting Government's renewable energy targets. The penultimate paragraph in the Introduction which can be read on page77 of the document refers to the Renewables Obligation established by the UK government. "Electricity suppliers are required to source a percentage of their electricity (increasing each year) from eligible renewable sources." Cleverly worded **yet total delusion** in respect of the 'hidden subsidy 'paid for by us! Not lies but neither is it the complete truth. Is it not time to end this 'con' and give us the consumers, who pay for this, **the truth.**

Our Energy Future: The Role of Wind Power

Executive Summary

This briefing is intended to provide an objective assessment of the issues surrounding wind farm development. It is an information source for politicians and local councillors to ensure that the arguments for wind farm development are presented to the electorate in a balanced way emphasising the national and international importance of renewable energy sources.

The Prime Minister has stated that climate change will be one of the two key issues on the agenda for the UK Presidency of the G8. This and other clear signals from the Government demonstrate the importance placed on climate change.

In addition to the contribution to a reduction in CO₂ and other noxious particulate emissions renewable technologies will stimulate economic opportunities for UK industry and business. The global wind industry has an estimated annual turnover of £5.5 billion, 84% of which is based in Europe. Wind is the fastest growing energy source worldwide, and has been for over a decade with an annual growth rate of 30%.

With this in mind, the UK Government has established the Renewables Obligation, through which electricity supply companies are required to source a percentage of their electricity sales (increasing each year) from eligible sources. The Obligation is currently set at a requirement of 15.4% by 2015. The Government has also created an aspirational target of renewables providing 20% of our electricity needs by 2020.

The recent publication of the UK's review of the Climate Change Programme suggested that the Government would find it difficult to meet the 2010 target without a significant expansion of the renewable sector and a far greater uplift in energy efficiency initiatives.

This document outlines the challenges the industry and Government must overcome to ensure that wind energy fulfils its potential to contribute towards the 2010 target and 2020 aspiration.

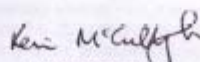
An ICM poll in September 2004 indicated that 80% of the population supports the development of wind farms. However, a vocal minority opposition voice is undermining wind farm development, and planning applications are being delayed and sometimes refused; thereby potentially jeopardising the UK in meeting the renewables target.

The development of wind energy on and offshore will significantly improve security of energy supply within the UK, support job creation and innovation, and reduce the demand for further nuclear development.

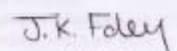
This briefing intends to address the concerns of the small minority of 'wind-farm sceptics', and in doing so to provide reasoned arguments for elected members to counter their concerns. SERA hopes this briefing proves to be a useful information resource and answers a number of common concerns experienced within your constituency or local authority.


Marcus Rand
BWEA,
Chief Executive

THE BRITISH
WIND ENERGY
ASSOCIATION


Kevin McCullough
Npower Renewables,
Managing Director

npower
renewables


Julie Foley
SERA,
Co-chair


SERA

I make only a brief comment on what must be seen as a biased document being **essentially BWEA material**. This can be verified by checking their website. The first paragraph of the document with its reference to **objective assessment and balance should be enough to destroy its credibility**. I will waste neither your time nor mine doing further critique on a document which claims independence but to me is in fact indoctrination and built on delusions.

From RUSSIA WITHOUT LOVE!

ЛЕТНЯЯ ШКОЛА ДЛЯ РУКОВОДИТЕЛЕЙ
Управление развитием компании



Monday, July 12, 2004. Page 5.

Illarionov Attacks Britain, Vows to Bury Kyoto By Simon Ostrovsky

President Vladimir Putin's personal adviser on all things economic last week accused British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government of declaring "**all-out and total war** on Russia" and using "bribes, blackmail and murder threats" to force it to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. In a six-hour diatribe, Andrei Illarionov accused visiting Blair adviser Sir David King, the British government's top scientist, of trying, through pressure from Blair's office and through Foreign Secretary Jack Straw personally, to hijack a two-day conference on the global environmental treaty at the Russian Academy of Sciences.

"During the past year [the British] have used bribes, blackmail and murder threats to put pressure on Russia, which shows how desperate their case is," Illarionov said without elaborating. "This has not been in the realm of the press, but it had to come out after Sir David King's behaviour at the conference," he said. "King filibustered the conference for four hours in an effort to block opponents of the protocol from presenting their findings," Illarionov said. After signing a trade deal with the EU in May, Putin said Brussels had met Russia "halfway" on WTO, which "cannot but affect positively our position on the Kyoto Protocol." But he also stressed that Russia, "did not package the issues of WTO and the Kyoto Protocol.

"This is war. But our cause is just and we will prevail."

Commen.: Interesting reporting if nothing else! Reference to an all-out total war could be applied to the methods used, culminating in PPS22 and its CG, to foist wind turbine on our precious English landscapes. This at the expense of the quality of the life of local people and intent it seems on overriding their concerns. I challenge this National policy for the reasons set out in Force10 CG. This recounts the methodology used as the policy evolved. As I have already said, undemocratic, unbelievable and unacceptable. The environmental benefits now seem grossly exaggerated and should be investigated and that 'hidden subsidy' the ROCs should be fully explained.

Is wind energy being developed at the expense of other technologies? Energy efficiency and conservation are essential elements of any strategy to combat climate change.

All renewables in the right place should be the way forward!

Illarionov Says Kyoto Will Be Ratified
Moscow Times

By Greg Walters Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 29, 2004

Andrei Illarionov, the country's fiercest opponent of the Kyoto Protocol, said Tuesday that Russia will ratify the international treaty to limit greenhouse gases even though he believes the move will destroy its chances of doubling GDP by 2010. Illarionov, President Vladimir Putin's top economic adviser, said Russian officials do not believe in the treaty's scientific or economic merits but will ratify it anyway in a political gesture toward the European Union.



Many do not see this as a realistic image of a wind turbine! This North East Regional Renewable Energy Strategy NERRES, **by the unelected North East Assembly and TNEI** still has a preoccupation with Kielder, vital it is said to reach the **20% target for 2020**. BWEA comments to the RSS state that **2020** should be exceeded not met by Kielder.

NERRES (4.1) “Generating **1,500 GW** of renewable electricity would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by **645,000 tonnes**”. This equates to **0.43t/MWh** and is calculated on the basis of the current mix of plant and fuels used in power generation. .Now even DTI have acknowledged the figure should reflect not just coal fired power stations which gives the 0.86 factor, but a mix of conventional power stations An increasing number of gas fired power stations means the appropriate figure is **0.43 tonnes per MWh (DTI fact sheet 14) and quoted by Mike O’Brien**. Savings of **0.86 tonnes** of carbon dioxide emissions per MWh are still being claimed. Walkway developers claimed **.936-1.079 tonnes/MWh** quoting POST Parliamentary office of Science and Technology. GSK was quoted at **0.38 tonnes/MWh**. Reducing emissions is the all important factor so we need consistency. To claim a factor of 0.86 when it is 0.43 means we would need twice as many turbines as stated

North East Regional Renewable Energy Strategy NERRES March 2005

More comment on the document:

There is a surprising reference to Teesside International Airport, now Durham Tees Valley Airport (TVA) on page 41 “The study contains a number of qualifications the most important of which is the attitude of Teesside International Airport to the development of wind power within their controlled airspace and landowner interest”

I find the attitude of TVA mentioned above, puzzling as there are letters from the airport technical staff giving a different view. Nothing should be taken for granted where safety is concerned and I reaffirm what I see appears as a cavalier attitude to public safety .An extract from a recent press article follows. It is reported that nine turbines the height of Salisbury Cathedral's spire were ‘killed off’ by MOD who were concerned that the wind farm would interfere with its radar at Portland. Article by Jenna Weekes 22./06/05

A further reference to Kielder is on page 49. “It was hoped that by the time of this report the uncertainty regarding Kielder would have been resolved, unfortunately this has not proved to be the case. Work completed during the last 14 months has not brought forward a tangible project because of ongoing MOD tactical training requirements. However Kielder remains the largest potential renewable energy source area and as such should be revisited with the MOD on a regular basis so that projects can be realised as soon as circumstances permit”

Page 31 Considerable wind development indicated in the region over the next two years.

Strong opposition to the Stang Forest location is mentioned. The letter sent to Bob Gibson NEA re the RSS Consultation expressing our concerns, in particular the exodus to TNEI is in Appendix A Force10 Companion Guide.
Does TNEI’s rise to power and their involvement with PPS22 CG suggest a stitch up?
Alex Watson (Derwentside Council) is the new Chair of The NEA.

Kielder has become a strategic resource area, now marked by a large ‘R’ not a ‘W’ used for strategic wind resource area. It states that in the Tow Law area cumulative visual impact is likely to be an important factor in determining the scale and disposition of development that takes place but there is considerable interest in further developments. That really is a hoot considering they already have 2 wind farms with a third agreed and a fourth at planning stage, the latter reduced from 22 to 12, a result of strong objections from people living near turbines! I believe there are also others visible that are located in neighbouring districts. Cumulative effect is being sidelined. Turbines not yet built though in the pipeline are not taken into account Developers will have had sufficient contact with the local council to decide whether there is support for the project even if the people will be affected have not!

Comment: Energy for a New Century TNEI 1999 and Chris Blandford studies 2000 were used as background for NERRES. Turbines heights have increased considerably since then, with potential for greater visual impact .PPS22CG is mentioned as giving detailed guidance though I am unaware of any public consultations with this or with TNEI ‘s Energy for a New Century. Still a preoccupation with targets. Potential sub regional targets are quoted yet many locals are unaware of these. Photographs of wind turbines are not realistic and their locations are not given. Tow Law, East of Sedgfield, Hamsterley forest area are targeted in Co Durham (NERRES p39) .The area near the Stang which we as BHMCG fought so hard to protect is described in different ways; ‘considerable opposition’ changes to ‘opposition’ and later it is described as having a’ limited and fragmented potential’

The ‘Stang’ area has now been removed from the Indicative Regional Spatial Strategy Diagram as shown in Annex 1 page 52 NERRES 2005.

NERRES continued

9.3 'TREC illustrates how local and regional action can work hand in glove'

Comment: This is certainly not true, **unless that translates to promising one thing and doing another and so renegeing on those promises.** TREC promised to look at all renewables and small scale.

TREC, the truth, is described in more detail in Force 10 chapter 11 pages 56-65.

Details of some EU funded projects including TREC are in Force10 chapter18, pages 84/85 I draw your attention to one point (page 60) re the questionnaire. Many did not receive this so I contacted Jane Welsh, then Environment and **Health Co-ordinator for Teesdale and now with TNEI.** Jane checked and agreed many had not been sent. An administrative error? **48 households out of 14000 were said to be supportive of wind energy.**

Those figures do not justify building wind farms which will impact on the landscape.

In October 2003 The North East Assembly (NEA) issued a consultative document, namely towards a Renewable Energy Strategy for the North East. (RRES)

BHMCG's response can be seen in Force 10CG Appendix A.

This was sent to the Policy Officer for the **NEA**, Caroline Oldridge who later moved to **TNEI**

Today's Newcastle Journal 20 Sept 05 (page 8) reports that Newcastle City Council Leader has branded the North East Assembly, "boring, invisible and a waste of money.
Comment: Of particular concern is that **this unelected NEA provide policies and proposals for shaping the North East to 2010 and beyond**

Comment.80% of the North East voted against an elected assembly yet this **unelected body** is producing the **Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)**

The pressure to meet deadlines for consultations is becoming **unsustainable.** Many people are unaware of the documents let alone the deadlines.*

The methodology used in general to provide new planning policy and to promote wind energy in particular is unacceptable and undemocratic. Verbosity is trying to baffling brains and with consultations often no more than cons it appears to have resulted in flaws in the planning for onshore wind.

As the ODPM says," Forget old battles, we now have the law." Consultation!

Some emerging documents relating to energy, renewables and planning are listed:

*NE Draft RSS Nov 2004 Energy Paper 7/ RSS Submission Draft June 2005 paper 7

Responses to RSS June 2005 Draft by Oct 5th Examination in Public, March 2006

The North East Renewable Energy Strategy (NERRES) March 2005

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) Draft Consultation for the RES Review, which closed on 30 August and will be submitted to DTI in November.

LDFs are current (see p 68)

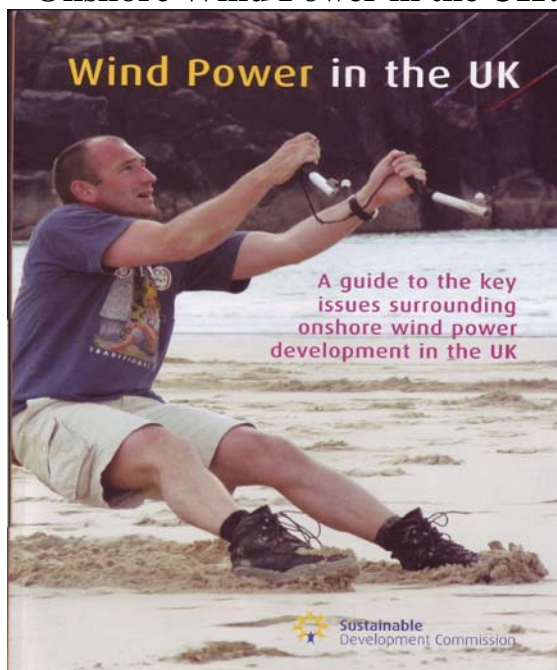
Comment: Local Development Frameworks LDFs and Statements of Community

Involvement (SCIs) are ongoing. With SCIs it seems we are no longer to discuss benefits and disbenefits of wind energy but to find a way to take wind energy forward!

This certainly was The Environment Council's Agenda at their Regional Training Workshops on Renewable Energy and Community Involvement which I attended at Newcastle-18 Mar05.

Funded by DTI and RES (Renewable Energy Systems). The RES Group specialises in wind energy development worldwide. Chris Shears from RES is BWEA chairman.

Onshore Wind Power in the UK?



The cover of The Sustainable Development Commission Booklet on Wind Power in the UK*, is in my opinion as misleading as is its selective content.

* Embrace and the Scottish Renewables Forum supported Sebastian Chastin, pictured on his kite buggie to represent Scotland in the Paris–Dakar wind-powered races- 600 km across the Sahara desert.

15000 free copies were distributed. It is highly commended in the RTPI Planning Magazine Reviews by the Guardian, Independent and the Observerpeer reviewed, like a scientific paper, to give it greater credibility, so it can be used by planners as an authoritative document Comment: Who was the author? Who did the peer review? Who paid for it and at what cost? It does to me seem to echo BWEA's views and not to have the balance I would like to see.

However I suggest reading it in conjunction with the reports below.

Malcolm Keay, Oxford Institute of Energy Studies (OIES) says SDC overstates the benefits. To understand how far their view departs from reality he recommends reading the article "CO₂ emissions, Time for a Reality Check" on the OIES website. Evidence given at **Whinash Inquiry** from leading experts in their own disciplines agree with Keay. Savings of 0.86 tonnes of carbon emissions per MWh are usually claimed by the Developers. 'Electricity from wind turbines replaces the output of coal fired power stations' (BWEA website) This figure is often quoted by developers in the EIAs in relation to the need for the project. Now even DTI have acknowledged this is not correct and the figure should reflect a general mix of conventional stations. The increase in the number of gas fired power stations means the appropriate figure is 0.43 tonnes per MWh. (DTI fact sheet14) Whinash evidence suggests savings could be nearer 0.31 tonnes per MWh **The National Audit Office Report** into renewable energy considered current subsidies to wind, through the RO are **overpaid**.

Council for Science and Technology 'An Electricity Supply Strategy for the UK' May 2005

The Council for Science and Technology (CST) is the leading advisory council to the government matters relating to science and technology. Council members are appointed by the **PM**, at present the body is co-chaired by Sir David King, the government's Chief Scientific Adviser, and Sir Keith Peters. **The DTI Energy Group and Ofgem have been consulted as the report has developed.** The paper has been challenged to ensure the validity of its conclusions. <http://www.cst.gov.uk>

Environmental Audit Committee House of Commons press release -21 July, 2005

New inquiry, keeping the lights on: nuclear, renewables, and climate change
www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/environmental_audit_committee Written evidence should be sent to the Committee by 21 September 2005, preferably by e-mail to eacom@parliament.uk plus a hard copy by post (see page 89 Will the lights go out)

AND STILL THEY COME

Sept 05 RTPI Northern Branch and the Landscape Institute NE Branch at Hexham.

Ged Lawson Durham County Council will speak on Landscape Assessment

Claire Hagget and Robert MacFarlane Northumbria University will present an applied research project, **Identifying potential sites for wind energy.**

Barningham with its NFFO contract first surfaced in 1996 for 30 x 500kw turbines and in 1997 for 25 x 600kw turbines, both being defeated. With almost military precision other applications were targeting areas just **outside** the National Park Boundaries. The defeats were due to the efforts of the local opposition group and Teesdale Council who had the guts to refuse the application. This in spite one of one councillor stating that it was government policy and you can't stop it and 'driving' a meeting which he then chaired (Force10 chapter3)

I reiterate the fact that the High Court battle cost Teesdale District Council nothing, either financially or in terms of preparing material. The Public Inquiry I was told cost very little as they were able to use the services of the same solicitor as the Yorkshire Dales National Park. These facts I draw attention to as it is said that to refuse an application will cost the councils huge amounts of money and Barningham has been quoted as an example. Councillors already under pressure to meet Government targets have been indoctrinated under the guise of educating and informing them on the benefits of wind energy.

I had hoped not to be unduly repetitive but with such a convoluted situation some repetition is inevitable. I must put on record the way deception, misinterpretation, lack of openness and delusion rear their ugly heads **again and again and again.** With no one willing or able to contest this underhand methodology, commercial wind power is threatening the special character and qualities of areas valued not only by British citizens but by people throughout the world. The North East region is most vulnerable hence the term, New-Lambton Worm.

Based on seven years of research, I have looked at the benefits and disbenefits associated with the **said need to build wind farms to save the planet.** In order to attempt to understand the technology fully and balance the situation, I have travelled to meetings and seminars throughout the UK on Renewable energy and related topics. I have listened to the comments from DTI, BWEA, TNEI, RTPI, NATTA and many others.

I have been a member of several organizations, of necessity having different views.

These are the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE),

Network for Alternative Technology and Technological assessment (NATTA)

The Open Spaces Society (OSS)

Overall it has been the **methodology** connected with the drive for wind energy development which has given me the greatest cause for concern. **The result is this Companion Guide to support Force10** written to all intents and purposes as a piece of Social History which in the interest of democracy has to be recorded. It is a personal account giving truth and facts.

The real issue must be how we can all contribute to the saving of carbon emissions.

I have responded to some of Friends of The Earth (FOE) Campaigns Express issues in particular 'carbon dinosaurs' The following is from FOE website and is one of several companies offering green tariffs while being carbon dinosaurs!



Innogy

Their parent company RWE emits more carbon dioxide than the whole of Spain. RWE is German. Eon is German and owns Powergen. EDF is French. FORCE 10 Chapter18, **the EU connection**, covers the subsidies to companies generating wind power. TREC was an Altener bid (chapter11) and Blyth Offshore windfarm was supported by the European Commission's Thermie Programme.

Are these wind turbines doing what they promised? (see pages33-35)

No wonder the Regional Economic Strategy for the North East, (RES) submitted to the Minister in 1999 described the North East as "Europe's 'we can do it Region'"

We are our own region not Europe's!

An official from One North East (ONE) told me at the start of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES)* that the wind industry had asked them to help weaken the planning system. ONE was obviously sympathetic as was seen when they hosted the Wind Energy /Planning at Chester le Street in 1999 (page71) However they had no power to influence the planning system, but suggested the RPG for the North East could be the best way.

DETR News Release 14 December1998 **John Prescott today announced the board members for England's new Regional Development Agencies.** They will drive forward a new co-ordinated regional approach **to economic renewal.** The RES Review is now underway and still appears not to be openly addressing wind energy development. When questioned about this they just quoted **NAREC**

NAREC Launch is discussed on page 74.

NAREC Chairman is Professor IAN FELLOs one of the world's leading experts on renewable energy and a cabinet advisor. He is I understand, Chairman of TNEI.

At the Examination in Public for the Regional Planning Guidance FOE were very critical of TNEI's document Energy for a New Century being billed as a regional energy strategy, in spite of it not having had broad stakeholder involvement. Reference was made to an Energy and Environment background paper (paragraph 5.5) and suggested it be used with caution. **FOE expressed a wish to see reference to the TNEI document as a regional energy strategy, withdrawn (see Force10 page 66)** I nor others are aware PPS22 had any Public Consultation (see p73 Planning Officers Society)

It may now be clearer why I included notes on events from 1998 to 2005 (p 71-73)

Now FOE with World Wildlife Fund and Greenpeace(www.yes2wind.co.uk)actively encourage people to campaign in areas they may not even know (Page76) Lollipops for the 'kids' and people wearing costumes in the guise of endangered animals. The theme seems to be "Wind farms or the bear gets it! Walkway wind farm 'flyer' for the wind farm advertised the yes2wind website on the front page! Walkway I have used as my case study page 52

I add a true tale from OSS annual report as it is these wonderful snippets which help to preserve my sanity against the attitude of seemingly arrogant decision makers. They don't appear to care a hoot about the countryside or the people who live in areas that are designated for wind farms. In a visit to DEFRA members from OSS had to provide evidence of their identity. One man used his blood donor card and was issued with the following as identification.

Mr B Positive

This bodes ill for me as 'Rhesus Negative' since the latest Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) appears to consider only positive approaches so far as wind power is concerned. This is said to be a strategy for public consultation but having attended 3 SCI s I am concerned in the way they appear to be implemented. This is no criticism of the councils as they are bound by government regulations. Like the subsidy that supports it wind energy seems to be a hidden commodity. However at a Regional Environment meeting it was the main subject of discussion. No longer do we consider pros and cons of wind power but must look at ways to move forward together. It was not if we have turbines rather where to put them!

A positive approach is now said to be the way forward.

Does this follow from the ODPM's message, "Forget old battles we now have the law?"(page 69)

The reason some applications are **just below and others just above the 50 MW cut off point** for DTI determination was clarified at that meeting. Apparently it depends on the attitude of the local authority. It was said that if the council support the development it will be kept below 50 MW installed capacity but if their attitude does not appear favourable then a section 36 application will be put forward.

Clever but undemocratic.

I look back in anger as I try to apportion the blame for the curse almost upon us.

Councillors, Planners,

Wind Energy Developers,

Foe, Greenpeace

Environmental groups throughout the UK

ONE, GO-NE, TNEI, NEA RTPI, NEREG, NAREC,

Government or even the Prime Minister.

Who is really to blame? I believe I now have the answer.

I must point out that I alone am responsible for writing Force10/CompanionGuide

As for apportioning blame, I can only say that I blame myself. The reason being, that aware first hand of the apparent dirty tricks played at local levels, the cons and the mendacity, I did not openly record those facts earlier. Having agonised long and hard as to whether I should do so I realised that in the interest of democracy I no longer have a choice.

Hence the emergence of Force 10 Companion Guide, The New Lambton Wyrms.

In 2001, I climbed Mount Kinabalu, to raise money for the heart foundation. Prior to that NWP told me they would have sponsored me had I not been coming back as I had caused them enough trouble. Yet I have sought only the truth and will continue to do so.

Noo lads, Aa'll haad me gob

That's aall Aa knaa about the story wi the aaful Lambton Wyrms

Will the lights go out?

A one day conference on UK Energy Policy. Tuesday 14th December Lancaster University, Lancaster. A full report was posted on their website www.lancs.ac.uk and a booklet published. A very brief profile on a few of the speakers is below.

Sir Martin Holdgate, a member of the Royal Commission Environmental Pollution.

Sir Christopher Audland, Director-General for Energy at the European Commission from 1981-1986 Commission's co-ordinator for all the work arising from the Chernobyl accident

Professor Nick Jenkins from Manchester University. His research includes renewable energy photo -voltaics, wind energy, power quality and the hydrogen economy

Professor Roger Kemp of Lancaster University, a member of the sustainable energy group.

Feedback from the conference gave the ranking of the goals of the current Energy policy.

'Cutting carbon emissions' and 'Security of supply' were considered clearly more important than 'Promoting competitive markets' and 'Adequate and affordable heating'

Both energy efficiency/conservation and the promotion of R&D for renewables and new technologies were considered a priority.

Lancaster University is holding another one day conference on Energy Policy on 20/09/05, Energy through the Looking Glass. **The Impact of Energy on your Life in 2020.**

A number of eminent researchers will offer their visions of the future on how life will look in 15 years time. The conference will include presentations on the feasibility and impact of using less energy at home, at work and at play. It will also address the way we travel both for work and pleasure (*see page 23. Comments from Noel Edmonds, chairman of REF*)

It states that our world is changing, in part being driven by the consequences of our exploitation and use of energy.

Brian Wilson former Energy Minister will present 'Living with Microwind' He is the PM's special representative on Overseas Trade, with a particular focus on energy issues

(see FORCE 10. chapter 13, Brian Wilson's comments on the Energy White Paper recorded in the West Highland Free Press on 25/04/03)

Conference, March 15th 2005, Open University Milton Keynes. Nuclear or Not

The Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher M.P opened this one day conference. A range of experts explored some of the key technical, economic and strategic issues. Is nuclear power part of the answer to climate change? Can its problems be overcome? If not will renewables, and energy efficiency be sufficient? Details on OU website. There is also a video recording.

Comment: I would hope in line with CPRE's remit we could cope without nuclear. However simple mathematics show wind alone can not replace nuclear. All the turbines currently installed are not generating enough electricity to keep up with the increase in demand.

White Paper commitment to Keeping the Nuclear Option Open (KNOO)

dti website

The cry of **wind or nuclear** seems to emanate from the Wind Industry Greenpeace and FOE. Yet in 2001 British Energy Chairman Robin Jeffrey said "I'm delighted that British Energy is a partner in this venture*-the UK's biggest generator getting involved in the country's biggest wind farm (600 MW on the Isle of Lewis, off the west coast of Scotland). But what's so important is that it fits in so well with our vision of the future-with **commercial wind power and nuclear energy as natural partners combating global warming.**

British Energy owns and operates the UK's eight most modern nuclear power stations with a combined capacity of 9,600MW. *British Energy's partner in this venture is AMEC.

My Challenge to PPS22 Companion Guide

**I take issue with the Introductory paragraph in PPS22CG copied below.
House of Lords Science and Technology Committee. Paper 126-1 July 2004**

“The sources of renewable energy ... are inexhaustible, indigenous and abundant, and their exploitation, properly managed, has the potential to enhance the long-term security of the United Kingdom’s energy supplies and to help us cut carbon dioxide emissions”

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, July 2004¹

Comment: The **above** is only an excerpt. **The complete paragraph** which I have copied in full below is 2.8 at Chapter2 of HL paper 126-1. This cleverly selective extract epitomises the delusions to which the public are subjected as this democratic deficit deepens. I wonder whether anyone but government or their representatives could get away with such deception.

We believe the Government are on balance right to encourage further development of renewable energy. *The sources of renewable energy* such as the sun, wind and tides, *are inexhaustible, indigenous and abundant, and their exploitation properly managed, has the potential to enhance the long term security of the United Kingdom’s energy supplies and to help us cut carbon dioxide emissions.* However these sources are also diffuse and uncertainties remain over the technical feasibility and cost of converting them into electricity reliability on a sufficiently large scale.

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, July 2004

Secondly the exploitation of renewable energy sources is to cut carbon dioxide emissions. Is wind power doing this to the extent to which it promised by working at a 30% load factor.

If they should operate at a capacity factor of only 21% not only would half as many turbines again be required to deliver the same target output, but potential investors would face **dramatic reductions in the income** from wind farms.

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, July 2004

Comment: The present situation appears to be the result of lobbying by the wind industry rather than a true acknowledgement of the emerging scientific and mathematical facts regarding the technology .I wonder if the technology offered what it promised would the methodology being used to promote it be so undemocratic and so unacceptable?

House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts DTI HC 413 September 2005 Extract

The Renewables Obligation(RO) has the effect of transferring substantial sums from consumers to the renewables industry.- By 2010 the cost of the RO which does not appear on electricity bills and is not explained to the consumer is expected to reach £1 billion per annum (at 2002 prices). It is the most expensive of the Government’s instruments to reduce carbon dioxide under the cross cutting Climate Change Programme.

This subsidy is not subject to Parliamentary scrutiny and Government should make arrangements for **annual Parliamentary scrutiny** and the amounts involved be reported annually to this committee.

Page102 has a summary on how PPS22 has evolved.

Comment: This response **to Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East** sent to the unelected NEA and copied to DTI elicited the reply from Patricia Hewitt, Feb 2005. Extracts and comments are on page 9

The Government it appears has attempted to weaken the planning system in order to satisfy their obsession with onshore wind.

The methods by which PPS22 and the Companion Guide have evolved and the content has given me no choice but to write Force10 Companion Guide

This is done in the interest of democracy.

Email to Bob Gibson - **North East Assembly**

To: enquire@viewnortheast.com

Sent: Friday, February 04, 2005 3:24 AM

Subject: Response to Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the North East

To Mr Bob Gibson Chair of The North East Assembly. Sent by e mail 03/02/05

Dear Mr Gibson,

I make on behalf of Barningham High Moor /Teesdale conservation groups, several points in response to the 'consultation' By necessity these are restricted to Energy issues, in particular wind energy developments.

- Regionalism as an elected body was defeated in the referendum, yet no one asked us to vote on whether we wanted an unelected one i.e." The North East Assembly "
- You say you are a voice for the region but do not appear to be listening to some of us.
- **There are serious concerns as to who is contacted and what questions are asked in consultations**
- The main issues of concern are the apparent lack of concern for the landscape and amenity due to an obsession with targets and onshore wind development. If proposals are allowed to come to fruition, they will change the land of The Prince Bishops to that of the King Turbines. This is not the place to discuss in detail the Government's lack of an energy policy or content of the accompanying technical paper 7, Energy. **I would like however to point out the need to reconsider your plans for wind energy developments in the County if your vision to improve the quality of life in the North East is to succeed.**
- We cannot combat climate change by building wind turbines. All the turbines currently in the UK are not producing even enough electricity to keep pace with the increase in demand. Energy efficiency, conservation and reducing the need to travel must be considered.
- **Many people are still without computers or web access. Hence the resulting poll on your website re building wind farms can not be representative.**

Much research into wind turbines and their effects particularly health and safety is still ongoing. An in depth tranquillity project is due for release next month.

I resubmit the following letter sent by CT Murray, to Caroline Oldridge, then Policy Officer with the NEA, for **the following reasons:**

- **Caroline Oldridge has moved to TNEI**
- **Jane Welsh, Environment and Health Co-Ordinator for Teesdale Council, has moved to TNEI**
- **Teesdale Council's Principal Planning Officer has been head hunted by ODPM**

Letter to Bob Gibson NEA (continued)

Further concerns to the community:

The RSS Draft Indicative Diagram, supported by NEA, targeted an area that appears to be in the Barningham High Moor area and mentioned areas from the Stang to the A66. After responses to the consultation which showed the very strong opposition to inclusion of these areas, reference to these was withdrawn.

The final map did not have 'Barningham Area' marked (RSS-NE cons energy 7-nov04)

Yet in PPS22 companion guide the area is once again marked on the indicative map entitled PPS22-CG Map-northeast RSS

The Glaxo Smith Kline second hand turbines are a case study in PPS 22 Companion Guide. No mention was made at the committee meeting of the benefit from ROCs.

Throughout this lack of communication, apparent lack of knowledge, and seemingly total disregard for the community, call it what you will, gives us little confidence or trust in whoever is responsible.

May I remind you we went to High Court in support of the Rt Hon John Prescott and throughout had the backing of the Rt Hon Alan Milburn.

Should we have a referendum on that ingenious subsidy, the Renewables Obligation Certificates (ROCs)? The House of Lords (paper 126-1) said it depends on how much the consumer is willing to pay.

Elizabeth Mann B.Sc

(Secretary) Barningham High Moor and Teesdale Conservation Groups.

Copies by recorded delivery 1) D Foster MP for Teesdale 2) P Hewitt SOS DTI

Comment: A reply was received from DTI on behalf of Patricia Hewitt (p9) There has been no reply from Bob Gibson but the removal of the Barningham area from the RSS draft indicative diagram is enough! Derek Foster MP for Teesdale now retiring did not reply but he had intimated in a letter to the Country Landowners Association*that the Government were not 'pushing wind' Really!

No reply was not surprising as Derek Foster had told me his contact with Teesdale Council was through Phil Hughes. Phil was the rural representative on One North East (the regional Development Agency) and Chair of Sustainability North East (Sustaine) He wrote the Foreward to the Teesdale renewable energy challenge (TREC) managed by the Northern Energy Initiative. Phil had said it was done most importantly as a concerned individual but some of the councillors did not condone such high profile support particularly after Barningham (Force 10 Page16 and Appendix B) TNEI's involvement with the RSS and PPS22 Companion Guide is mentioned on page36. Coupled with Adrian Smith's ideas in 1999 for a renewable energy consultation group (NEREG's role) it just seems to be a total stitch up!

Recent report from CLA,* Renewables are not just wind!

Having served Teesdale for 26 years, Lord Foster deserves his elevation to the Lords. .Wishing him well I hope he will have time to reflect on the CLA report and events in Teesdale since 98

Letter sent to Caroline Oldridge, then NEA Policy Officer. Forwarded to Bob Gibson NEA in response to the RSS for the NE as Caroline had moved to TNEI

Caroline Oldridge
Policy Officer
North East Assembly
Guildhall
Quayside
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 3AF

Re: Consultation Summary on a Renewable Energy Strategy for the North East

Dear Caroline Oldridge,

In response to the invitation to respond to the above document I offer the following as Chair of Barningham High Moor Conservation Group. I restrict my comments to specific locations being targeted for wind energy with no reference to past events.

The Indicative Diagram on page 9, showing locations for wind energy development depicts an area close to the Stang Forest. Exact grid references are not available as it is at present only indicative. However the criteria used, I understand, high wind speeds outside nationally designated areas such as AONB's and National Parks leads me to believe that one location is in The Barningham High Moor area. The points I wish to make are simply

Barningham High Moor must carry the greatest presumption against wind energy development of any site in England. This should be taken into account.

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
I enclose some relevant documents in order to give a clear record as to the long spirited fight put up by local residents.

- 1) Summary of the Long Fight to save Barningham High Moor.
- 2) Call for the Wild by National Trust. (Grant from the Countryside Commission)
- 3) List of birds in the area as sent to RSPB and their response.

May I point out that although the judge, Christopher Lockhart Mummery, granted NWP the chance to appeal further if they so wished, **they chose not to appeal against his judgement.** (Letter from GO-NE 29TH October 1999) I stress this as I have just read a document written for the September 2002 Environmental Law Update Conference, and entitled Wind farms and planning policy. Gregory Jones, Barrister and Legal Associate of the RTPI, who presented the document, seems to be unaware that NWP had accepted the judgement. I wonder, as PPS22 is in consultative form at present, whether this renewable energy strategy is premature and if such an indicative map should even be allowed. Already it has caused upset to those who were previously involved, particularly as Teesdale Renewable Energy (TREC) promised all renewables on a small scale and this is not the outcome.

The Northern Energy Initiative (TNEI) 'manage' TREC and have written thid document, Renewable Energy Strategy for the North East.

Yours Faithfully

CT Murray
26 Milbank Court/DL3 9 PF Contact address until July 2006

From: Crookes David (Mr D) To: me.mann@virgin.net Cc: Lilly Robert (Mr RW)
 Sent: Friday, February 25, 2005 11:20 AM Subject: RE: Low Frequency Noise
 Elizabeth,
 Unfortunately we failed to make contact by phone yesterday so I am resorting to email. The study we have commissioned is for the measurement and assessment of low frequency noise three wind farms in the UK where there have been complaints about the effects of low frequency noise and its effects on the health of people neighbouring the wind farms. The data will be collected internally to the dwellings of complainants, in locations where the complainant there to be the greatest problem such as bedrooms and externally. The complainants will take an active part in the process by indicating the times when they consider the problem to be most intrusive. Data will be collected automatically as well to allow an assessment of the internal noise environment throughout the study. The measurements taken will be correlated with turbine operational parameters to determine if there are any common factors which may give rise to the experienced noise. If low frequency noise is found then the source of it will be investigated. Assessment will also be made of the efficiency of the building structures and dominant transmission paths into the living spaces. As you will appreciate the data collection will be subject to the wind conditions, direction, strength etc, that result in the perceived problem and this may influence the study timescales, however we expect to complete the study in the spring. A paper will be published on the findings and conclusions of the study. I trust this information will be useful to you, if you need any more let me know but as **I am sure you are aware all existing published evidence is that the level of low frequency noise emitted from wind turbines is too low to cause health effects.**
 Regards David Crookes DTI 2010 Renewable Energy Target Team david.crookes@dti.gsi.gov.uk
 Tel: 07979406771

The following emails are from Robert Lilly DTI

Dear Ms Mann
 Further to our telephone conversation this afternoon I can confirm that the department is currently funding a study on the impact of low frequency noise on human health in relation to wind farms which I understand is due sometime in the Spring This should **update the 1997 ETSU report "Low Frequency Noise and Vibrations Measurement at a Modern Wind Farm Site"**. The contact at DTI for further information about this work is David Crookes on 07979 406771. Regards, Robert Lilly
 DTI - Energy Resources and Development Unit Received Feb 05

Dear Elizabeth When we spoke yesterday I told you that David Crookes had now completed his secondment with the Department. As regards the above study I have been advised by Future Energy Solutions (FES) the Department's research programme management consultant that the external noise trials had been completed and that FES is waiting receipt of a final written report from the contractor. Fairly soon after the report is received it should be placed on the DTI website but unfortunately FES are unable to say at this time when that will be. I have asked FES to let me know as soon as they have further information on timing so that I can pass this on to you. For your information I understand David Crookes has now been replaced by Alan Smith.

Regards Robert Lilly DTI - Energy Resources and Development Unit Tel: 0207 215 6122
 Received Aug 05

The table below is an abstract from Hansard

Ms Hewitt: The following table shows all the people currently working in the Department of Trade and Industry on secondment from the private sector. The table indicates the organisation they came from and the name of the DTI directorate to which the secondee is attached.

Mr. David Crookes	RWE npower plc	Energy Innovation and Business Unit
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Comment.From BWEA website. In response to concerns that wind turbines emit infrasound and cause associated health problems, Dr Geoff Leventhall, Consultant in Noise Vibration and Acoustics, author of the Defra Report on Low Frequency Noise and its Effects, says: "I can state quite categorically that there is no significant infrasound from current designs of wind turbines." ETSU and the Defra report are in use by BWEA

The owner of a wind farm company which stands to make millions from Labour's push for alternative energy will this week emerge as one of the party's biggest donors during the general election campaign. Nigel Doughty, a venture capitalist, gave Labour £250,000 after a dinner with Tony Blair held for potential donors earlier this year. His investment company owns LM Glasfiber, the world's biggest wind turbine manufacturer, which is likely to profit from the huge expansion of wind power under Labour. It has already won many major contracts in Britain. The government has pushed ahead with plans to construct more than 5,000 wind turbines in remote areas despite massive local opposition. Blair has said wind farms are necessary to meet the country's commitment to produce energy from renewable sources. The government's target is 10% of electricity from renewable sources by 2010 with an ambition to double the figure to 20% by 2020. More than £1 billion a year will be given in state subsidies to the renewable energy industry to meet the target. Critics believe that the relatively small amounts of energy produced by each turbine do not justify the damage they cause to the landscape.

Yesterday David Willetts, the shadow trade and industry spokesman, said people were "baffled" by Labour's obsession with wind farms. "Who knows what the donor has discussed with the prime minister about wind farms," he said. The issue will be top of the political agenda next month when the government sets out its long-term energy needs. Doughty declined to comment yesterday. Labour said all its donations were in accordance with Electoral Commission rules declining to comment on Doughty's gift.

Headquartered in Lunderskov, Denmark, LM Glasfiber is the world's leading manufacturer of blades for wind turbines. LM Glasfiber has production and service facilities in Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, India, China and the USA. These factories serve, amongst others, the four largest national markets in terms of MW of installed capacity to date, namely: Germany, Spain, the USA and Denmark. LM Glasfiber's product portfolio comprises all commercial stall, active stall and pitch-controlled blades. The blades are used for wind turbines with a capacity of 200 KW up to 2.5 MW. LM Glasfiber supplies blades to more than 20 wind turbine manufacturers and has a global market share of approximately 40% (Glasfiber website).

Last March, at a presentation to investors, LM Glasfiber boasted that the British market was one of its most important and was set for "substantial growth in 2005"

The firm Ernst and Young has recently identified the UK as the best market for wind in the world due to its combination of wind resource, strong offshore regime and the extension of the Renewables Obligation to 15% by 2015 (From UK Market Overview BWEA). Are gifts not a matter for the donor to decide?

Comment: It is not the gift that concerns me. It is the ridiculous and unfair situation whereby the UK is identified as the best market in the world and Glasfiber boasts we are one of its most important markets. The reason it is so lucrative is due to the hidden subsidy of ROCs payable by all. Will the end result be the destruction of our heritage?

Any attempt to maximise output whilst minimising impact I am certain can now only be done really offshore.

Appendix D

Electricite de France (EDF) Same development but different reports!

Comment: Electricite de France (EDF) are looking to build 6 onshore wind farms in the North East, whilst also planning a nuclear power station nearer to London than Paris – A seventh proposal, has been withdrawn but we are not sure why.

Northern Offshore Wind is another proposed development.

Reports on Northern Offshore Wind Farm follow from:

EDF's website

RSPB

Vera Baird MP

SOS the local Objection group.

The above reports show clearly that the developers are claiming public support that does not exist. Delusion once again.

EDF Website

Northern Onshore Wind Farms

We currently own and run two onshore wind farms in the **beautiful, rugged countryside of Northeast England**. These are a true example of how technology and nature can work together. The wind farms are often surrounded by livestock who continue to graze undisturbed while the turbines rotate, generating clean power.

Located close to the village of **Kirkheaton in Northumberland**, Kirkheaton wind farm has an installed capacity of 1.8 MW and started work in May 2000.

High Hedley Hope wind farm is situated close to the village of Tow Law in County Durham and boasts turbine hub heights of 46m and rotor diameters of 50m.

The Northern Offshore Wind farm

We are also currently developing [Northern Offshore Wind](#). The project's proposed location is **1.5km from the coast** between the mouth of the River Tees and the town of Redcar, Teesside. The wind farm will be made up of 30 turbines and be able to generate green electricity for approximately 72,000 homes. It will help to support the UK's target of 10% of all electricity generation from renewable sources by 2010. The site is close to the Port of Tees, which, along with the industrial and offshore expertise available on Teesside, provides an ideal base to support the project during its construction and operational phases.

RSPB's Comment EDF Energy are proposing a 30 turbine wind farm off Teesmouth but after a thorough expressed its objection to the plan in a detailed submission to the Secretary of State. The RSPB is objecting to the proposal because it considers that some of the information and survey methodology contained in the Environmental Statement is inadequate. The RSPB is seeking further information and clarification from EDF Energy on a number of issues that it feels are not adequately addressed in the report. According to Anna Moody of The RSPB's North of England office the location of the proposed wind farm lies close to sites that have been given some of the highest levels of international protection because of their importance for wildlife. We, therefore, believe that any case for a wind farm in this area must prove that there will be no negative impact on important birds and wildlife habitats. Based on the information that we have seen so far, we are not convinced that this is the case.

Comment from MP Vera Baird. Local people are being ignored in the rush to build a 30-turbine wind farm 1.4km off the North-East coast, an MP has warned. Vera Baird criticised rules that meant a planning inquiry might not be held to decide the proposal for Redcar, Teesside, despite the opposition of residents, local councils and four MPs. She said: "No matter how rational the local objections, they can be killed in the understandable rush to renewables"

Ms Baird's protests came during a Commons' debate on the Government's plans to expand wind power to meet its target for generating power from renewable sources.

Those plans include a wind farm off Redcar, with each turbine measuring 135 metres (450ft) high. Ms Baird told MPs: "The easternmost would be 1.4km off the tourist office in the middle of the town and the next would be opposite the seafront cinema." She said the five-mile stretch of sand was a "**special treat for the local people who go there to breathe its free air, refresh their minds with the fresh, clean sea view and lift their horizons from the humdrum**".

She said the area was already making a significant contribution to renewable energy and was happy to do more, but not at such a cost to the town.

She said: "There are real concerns about the impact on the area of such an industrial installation." "If an offshore station were erected, people would be living between two wind farms, which is probably not tolerable. "Between 5,000 and 6,000 people have signed a petition against the proposed wind farm."

Environment Minister Elliot Morley said Ms Baird had made a strong argument.

(House of Commons)

Report by Stuart Arnold 28/10/04

Comment: **The Trade Union Council** TUC have also objected!

EDF gave a donation to the labour party of about £6000 which was correctly recorded.

SOS Reply.23/06/05 SOS is the local group objecting strongly to the proposal.

The current state is that no decision has been taken the current state of objection is English Nature's objection remains in place. **RSPB's** objection remains in place

Redcar and Cleveland Council's objection remains in place. **SOS's** objections are still, even more firmly in place, despite EDF's attempts to persuade us otherwise

There are also the many thousands of local people who have petitioned against it, hundreds of businesses signed the petition also, as did the four local regeneration forums.. Keith Welford, DTI has said that no decision will be made until the consultation process is completed. That includes his visit to the site and a discussion with our group. The only people who support this proposal are from the Wind Industry or related to it. Those who are charged in our community with taking the broader social and economic view are all against it.

Comment on another EDF proposal at Trimdon. Durham City Council's refusal was followed by an Appeal A Public Inquiry by written representations at EDF's request..

This gives no opportunity for the objectors to question the developer.

Meanwhile EDF resubmitted their application with more evidence to support it. CPRE continued to object as per their remit.

Resubmission was said to be due to the expected long wait for a PI yet the Inspectorate had said the inquiry would be heard soon with a site visit scheduled for July 12th

The result in favour of the developer was passed to a resident of Trimdon on July 29th by the press! Once again .No money for a Judicial Review yet EDF will net each year, for 25years, a hidden subsidy of about three quarters of a million pounds.

Heads they win tails we lose. **This is neither justice nor justifiable.**

Appendix E

BWEA25 Programme 2003 Extracts from the draft programme 18 September.
 Comment: The reason for including part of the programme for this annual event is simply to illustrate the diversity and wealth of experience available. It also demonstrates I believe their aim to have the ear of the current Energy Minister. It is a pity so much might and money ended up flavoured with mendacity.

Tuesday 28th October 2003

09.30 – 10.45	Session 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir John Mogg KCMG, Chairman, Ofgem • Stephen Timms MP, UK Energy Minister 		
11.15 –	Session 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Smith, Planning Division, Welsh Assmblly Government & Andy Bull, Planning Division, Welsh Assembly Government and Powys County Council 	Workshop: Financing Wind Beyond 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Temperton, Author: "Financing Wind Beyond 2010" 	Technical Session: Corin Millais, Chief Executive, EWEA & Director of European Renewable Energy Council (EREC)
14.00	Session 3: Aviation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JulianChafer Defence Estates • Andrew Knill, Directorate of Airspace Policy, Civil Aviation Authority • David Hilton, General Manager, Air Traffic Services Glasgow Airport, National Air Traffic Services 	Workshop: British Content, Skills and Jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Williams, Cambrian Engineering 	Technical Session: Marine
16.00 – 17.15	Session 4: Grid Issues Chair: Alan Moore, National Wind Power & BWEA Chairman	Workshop: Views from the English Regions Chair: Chris Tomlinson, BWEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Smith, Chartered 	Technical Session: Trading Mechanisms Chair: Sir David Roche, Baroc Energy Ltd & BWEA Board Member

	<p>Surveyor and Planner, Consultant, TNEI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nick Goodall, Chief Executive, Renewables East 	
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Times	Plenary Sessions	Technical & Workshop Sessions	
09.30 – 10.45	<p>Session 5: Scottish Issues Chair: Alan Mortimer, ScottishPower & BWEA Board Member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maf Smith, Development Manager, Scottish Renewables 	<p>Workshop: Europe and Abroad Chair: Corin Millas, EWEA</p>	<p>Technical Session: Offshore Contracting Chair: David Hodgkinson, Amec Wind & BWEA Board Member</p>
11:15 – 12:35	<p>Session 5: Offshore Chair: Rob Hastings, Shell WindEnergy Ltd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Lanchbery, Head of Climate Change, RSPB 	<p>Workshop: Yes2Wind Chair: Alison Hill, BWEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emily Armistead, Climate Campaigner, Greenpeace UK 	<p>Technical Session: Onshore R&D Chair: Tony Duffin, The Carbon Trust</p>
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 7: A Vision for 2020 Chair: Marcus Rand, Chief Executive, BWEA</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Session: Challenges of Future Offshore
16:00 – 17:10	<p>Session 8: Hearts And Minds Chair: Chris Shears, RES & BWEA Vice-Chairman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Still, Renewables Advisor, DTI 	<p>Technical Session: Large MW Systems Chair: David Milborrow, DM Energy & BWEA Board Member</p>	<p>Technical Session: Small Systems and Integrating Wind Energy</p>
18.30 – 19:15	Champagne Reception, Argyll Foyer, Moat House Hotel (sponsored by BWEA & Scottish Renewables)		
19:15 – 02:00	Gala Dinner, Argyll Suite, Moat House Hotel & Ceilidh (Ceilidh sponsored by Your Energy Ltd)		
Thursday 30th October 2003			
10.00	Exhibition Opens	Technical & Workshop Sessions	
10.20 – 11.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Session 9: Finance 	<p>Workshop: Onshore Key Issues</p>	<p>Technical Session: Testing, Certification &</p>

	Chair: Dr Chris Morris, Wind Prospect & BWEA Board Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual Ian Temperton, Author: "Financing Wind Beyond 2010" 	Chair: Marcus Trinick, Bond Pearce & BWEA Board Member	Insurance Chair: Paul van Lieshout, PB Power's Wind Power Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niels Immerkjaer, LM Glasfiber
11.50 – 13.00	Session 10: 'Question Time' Chair: Marcus Rand, Chief Executive, BWEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Moore, National Wind Power and BWEA Chairman 		
13.00 – 13.30	Alan Moore, National Wind Power and BWEA Chairman, sums up and closes the conference.		

I applied to go to BWEA 25 in 2003 but my e-mail was returned unopened! I have identified in red the names of speakers and organisations I would have liked to hear. However I can only wonder what was actually said, particularly by the following;

David Still	Renewables Advisory Board and Ex-chair BWEA
Maf Smith	SPREG. (Wrote the guide lines for overriding objections to wind farms)
Adrian Smith	TNEI are responsible with colleagues for writing PPS22 Companion Guide
Ian Temperon	Financing Wind Beyond 2010"
Paul van Lieshout,	PB Power's Wind Power Group
Niels Immerkjaer	LM Glasfiber
David Williams,	Cambrian Engineering
Chris French	Director of Research & Development, NaREC
Nic Goodall	Chief Executive, Renewables East. Previous Chief Executive of BWEA (See page 6 Force10 CG) "Hug a turbine Tony. It's a vote winner"
David Milborrow	DM Energy & BWEA Board Member

The Annual Conference this year BWEA 27 will be held in Cardiff on 18-20/10/ 05 assuming my application was approved I cannot now afford to go.

Earlybird rate is £599 for members, £725 for non-members.

I can only wonder as to what the change to an Implementation-Based Wind Industry means

BWEA 27	Speakers/Organisations I would particularly like to hear are listed below.
Peter Hain,	Secretary of State for Wales (invited),
Chris Shears	RES Group & currently BWEA Chairman.
Nic Goodall	CEA for ENA speaking on the The Future of the UK's Energy Network
Mike King.	The Environment Council: Engaging Communities in Renewable Energy Planning Jumping the Hurdles from Policy into Practice.
PMSS	Changing from a Planning-Based Wind Industry to an Implementation-Based Wind Industry

Christopher Booker's notebook (17/07/2005) North East Unelected Assembly.

Prescott's regional scheme is well and truly hoist on its own petard. **An extraordinary impasse has arisen in the North-East**, following the referendum last November in which voters threw out John Prescott's plan for an elected regional assembly by an overwhelming margin of four-to-one. Last week the **unelected North-East Assembly**, made up of councillors and representatives of local bodies, announced that it was to set itself up as a limited company under a new name. The reason publicly given for this by the Assembly's chairman, **Alex Watson, was that they wished "to engage with the public better than we have done"**. What Mr Watson did not reveal was the real reason for this new policy. It is now more than a year since Neil Herron, the leader of the campaign against an elected North-East Assembly, uncovered the embarrassing fact that, since the unelected assembly was an unincorporated body, its members were personally responsible for all its financial obligations, including the contracts and pension rights of its employees. Between them they had thus unwittingly taken on liabilities amounting to millions of pounds. Initially the assembly tried to deny this, **but Mr Herron's point was subsequently confirmed by lawyers, including those for North Tyneside council**. Since this unfortunate fact came to light, the assembly has been seeking to set itself up as a limited company, in the hope of relieving its members of this burden of personal liability. But when they tried to set up the North-East Assembly as a company, they found that Mr Herron had got there first. He had already registered that name. Worse was to come, because Mr Herron then pointed out that, under the 1985 Companies Act, for them to set up such a company would not absolve them of their existing obligations.

And then Mr Herron produced his trump card. Since the councillors who were members had voted for their councils to provide the assembly with funds, they were in breach of the 1972 Local Government Act, because **they had voted to give public money to a body in which they themselves had a financial interest**. So it appears that the councillors on the North-East Assembly have not only taken on a personal liability from which it is impossible for them to extricate themselves, but Mr Herron is now asking the police to investigate evidence that they also have been acting in clear breach of the law. Since it appears that similar breaches of the law have taken place in other English regions, he is also making available a set of searching questions (via neara@btconnect.com) for voters to put to their own councils. **When Mr Prescott sought to impose by stealth his scheme for elected regional governments, he could hardly have foreseen the tangled web in which it would end up being ensnared.**

Comment: As Christopher Booker points out, **80% voted last November against an elected North East Assembly**. The new Chair of the unelected Assembly appears to admit they did not engage with the public satisfactorily. Many in the North East are concerned with the content in the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy, **particularly Policy 42, onshore wind development**. Areas are listed for development yet there has not been enough consultation at local level and the first some heard of these potential developments was from information in the press. Does the NEA understand the term 'quality of life' so obsessed they seem to be with economic growth, even at the expense of the environment.

Prescott's Dream becomes our Nightmare with policy 42 (see below)

Extract from RSS Submission Draft June 2005 Policy 42 – Onshore wind development

Strategies, plans and programmes should provide a positive policy framework to facilitate onshore wind development within the following broad areas of least constraint for wind energy developments:

a) **Kielder Forest** has the potential to become a Strategic Renewables Resource Area, including large scale wind energy development

b) The following areas have potential for medium scale development

South and West Berwick upon Tweed, North/ South Charlton, Knowesgate, Harwood Forest, Northern Coalfield south of Druridge Bay, Kiln Pit Hill, North Durham Upland Coalfield, South Durham Upland Coalfield, Tees Plain, Teesside/ Tees Estuary.

Small wind farms in urban areas and on the urban rural fringe should also be supported, particularly within the following areas, **Sunderland, South Tyneside and Tees Valley**. The broad locations of these areas should be identified within **Local Development Frameworks**. Other areas will be judged subject to assessments of local impact.

This summary is intended to show how PPS22 Companion Guide has evolved and why I believe the document should be challenged.

PPS22 with its CG will be fed into the **Regional Spatial Strategy**, itself a subject of an Examination in Public (EIP) That is a misnomer as the participants are ‘invited’ The Guide has case studies which I find suspect yet ‘supports’ PPS 22 currently being used to determine wind energy applications. I hope to be involved in the EIP.

I have attempted to recount the series of events that have culminated in the present situation. **A trail of manipulation.** Might and money are the drivers fuelled by mendacity and with it seems a slogan of verbosity baffles brains. Government, besotted with wind energy and obsessed with targets, regional and national, seem hell bent on destroying that which we treasure. Following The Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 we were told “Forget old battles, we now have the law” (ODPM) The RSS soon to be part of a statutory document has been overseen by the NEA though 80% of the people voted against a regional governing body.

Some topics may be acceptable but the renewable energy appears rigged and community involvement seems non-existent in many of the areas proposed for wind farms.

The information below is from Wind Power Monthly www.wpm.co.nz

1998 Positive outcome to planning rejection. **Details restricted to members.** UK planning system blamed for the worst year the industry had known.

1999 Dec: Legal planning defeat for wind in NE England. Dismal year are in the UK as planning infrastructure fails.

I have always wondered what the positive outcome* in 1998 really was!

The planning rejection in 1998 and Legal Defeat in 1999 being the Barningham Public Inquiry and High Court Action. Both resulted in defeat for NWP.

1999 Wind Energy and Planning at Chester Le Street Co Durham.

Hosted by (ONE) in association with (GO-NE) and (BWEA), Adrian Smith of Renew North/TNEI proposed regional and county renewables targets in (RPG) and put forward a possible model for a regional wind energy consultative group, Was this to become NEREG? A Representative from the Wind Industry implied that the Planning Inspectors were biased and so were refusing applications for wind farms. GO-NE refuted this. The Head of Natural Resources at CPRE, Lilli Matson had been invited but unable to attend, asked if the Durham Branch representative may go in her place. I went, little realising the deception and delusion that would be used to progress ‘Wind Energy and Planning’ Lilli Matson had met with some members of Durham Branch CPRE during the Barningham campaign and at my request recorded their remit on renewable energy something I have always adhered to.

2000 Mar: **Planning hurdles defeat the wind industry**
Wind Power Monthly www.wpm.co.nz

Chris Blandford Study (CBS) gave **regional and sub regional targets** needed for a **10% target** for electricity generation from renewable sources by **2010**. The small but critical mistake in this document and my concern and possible consequences should it filter down to the RPG is detailed on pages 66 and 76 Force10.

National Wind Power (NWP) Press Release Following a two day fact finding mission to Denmark to witness the success of the Danish wind generation industry, 17 MPs and 1 member of the House of Lords returned to Britain to consider the future potential of the UK Wind Industry. Alan Moore, managing director at NWP, the UK's leading wind farm developer, operator and owner, accompanied the group on their visit. The trip also highlighted the need for planning reform in the UK. Flights and accommodation were paid for by NWP.

2001 Extract from a letter to ANEC (**regional planning body and author of draft RPG strategy**)-from Nick Raynsford, (Minister for Housing and Planning) following the completion of Chris Blandford's report. Further work to be undertaken by ANEC to set a more specific regional target and identifying appropriate sub-regional targets by the **early** review of RPG. **This will ensure the government's target of 10% of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010**

2001 Government changes statutory regulations.

Peter Hain, Minister for Energy, announces new flexibility for NFFO contracts, non fossil fuel obligation, to help revive the flagging industry (Force 10 chapter14)

2002 CPRE and NEREG Conference in Newcastle- (Part funding from DTI) AMEC/TNEI/ANEC/NEA and GO-NE participated. This was to address the practical and environmental implications of on shore North East renewable energy targets. Adrian Smith TNEI mentioned the CB study and TREC.
TNEI have reneged on their promise of all renewables, small scale, in the TREC project.

Sept 2002

CLT Conferences Environmental Law Update

Wind farms and planning policy.

Gregory Jones, Barrister, FIQ and Legal Associate of the RTPI (see page57)

2003 North of England Renewable Energy Strategy N E R R E S prepared for GO-NE and set out in One North East's Regional Economic Strategy (**RES**)

. The strategy had been discussed by **NEREG** and key elements set out in a draft Regional Spatial Strategy RSS

The **RSS** should provide clear guidance on the general location of wind and other renewable developments.

District Councils should follow RSS guidance when preparing Local Development Plans LDPs

Kielder to be further examined and consulted with reference to becoming an (SWRA)

GO-NE's Final Report. Regional Energy Activity Scoping Study (**REASS**)

Extract. PB Doc33.00/PP01.61971A/04013.

Scottish Parliamentary Renewable Energy group SPREG is an official cross party group of the Scottish Parliament.

70% of SPREG members are from the wind farm industry.

Guidelines which provide provisions for over-riding objections to windfarms were devised by SPREG (Source Maf Smith Secretary)

I spoke to Maf Smith who said he was unaware of the document. I sent him GONE contact details but he did not reply and so reveal the over-riding objections I had requested.

2005 Environment Council Regional meetings.

Training for Councillors on how to consult with communities **under the terms of PPS22, funded by DTI and RES.** I attended the workshop at **Newcastle** 18/03/05
The essence was we are no longer to discuss benefits and disbenefits of wind, but to find ways to move forward together.

Mike King, Environment Council is speaking at BWEA 27 Annual Conference in Cardiff in October, on involving communities in Renewable Energy Planning and jumping the hurdles from **Policy into Practice.**

Renewable Energy and Community Involvement.

Putting the environment at the heart of decision-making

North-East -	NEWCASTLE -	18th March 2005
South-East -	GUILFORD -	11th March 2005
North-West -	LANCASTER -	20th May 2005
Yorkshire/Humber -	LEEDS	27th May 2005
East-Midlands -	LINCOLN -	10th June 2005
South-West -	TAUNTON -	15th July 2005
West-Midlands -	BIRMINGHAM -	23rd Sept 2005
South-East -	CAMBRIDGE -	28th Sept 2005

2005 BWEA 27 BWEA'S Annual Conference. October 18-20 **Cardiff**

Sponsored by ScottishPower renewables. Earlybird rate is £599 for members, £725 for non-members.

Speakers to include:

Peter Hain,	Secretary of State for Wales (invited)
Chris Shears	RES Group & currently BWEA Chairman

Nic Goodall	CEA for ENA speaking on the <i>The Future of the UK's Energy Network</i>
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Mike King.	The Environment Council: Engaging Communities in Renewable Energy Planning. Jumping the Hurdles from Policy into Practice.
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PMSS	Changing from a Planning-Based Wind Industry to an Implementation-Based Wind Industry.
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Does BWEA 27 hold the key to the future? An Implementation-Based Wind Industry.

Note **PMSS** Project Management Support Service An independent consultancy working in the renewable energy and construction industries. Nigel Crowe BWEA board member recently joined consultants PMSS, having been involved in the wind industry since 1997

Nic Goodall was CE of BWEA 1997-03 and CE for Renewables East 03/04
ENA is the Energy Network Association

BWEA website: Real power and UKWED

It would be neither a fair nor balanced record without visiting the BWEA website.

Abstracts from Real Power:

BWEA caught up with the new Minister for Energy, **Malcolm Wicks**, to hear his views on the new job and the UK's wind, wave and tidal industries.

As you take over this key position, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for you as Energy Minister over the next couple of years?

In the Energy White Paper we highlighted the threat of climate change; challenges and Renewables and especially wind, in the years up to 2010, will play a key role in contributing to our climate change targets We need to make sure that the infrastructure investment needed for future security of energy supply is happening. Updating the transmission system will become increasingly important as we move towards 2010 **to ensure that all the new wind build can be connected to the grid to allow us to meet our 10% target.**

The Renewables Obligation has now been in operation for just over three years: how do you think it is progressing?

The Renewables Obligation is working well and there has been **a marked acceleration in developments since it was introduced, particularly in terms of wind energy.** This year we are undertaking a review of the Obligation to ensure it is working effectively. The review is limited in scope and our key priority is to improve the effectiveness of the Obligation whilst ensuring that **investor confidence is maintained.**

What do you see as the most pressing priorities for a) onshore and b) offshore wind in delivering their share of the 2010 renewables target?

For onshore wind, as I have already mentioned, we need to **upgrade the transmission system**. We are working hard with Ofgem, and the transmission owners to ensure that there is sufficient network capacity for **new renewable generators to connect to.** We are also working hard to overcome the **myths** that surround the development of wind farms. **There is a small but vocal minority who are opposed to development of future wind projects** and we need to promote a **balanced discussion of the arguments for and against.** Interestingly surveys show that people with first hand experience of living near to a wind farm tend to be more in favour of them than those who have had no experience, indicating that many of the issues are unfounded.

Jonathan Porrit, Chairman of the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) explains **Why Wind Power Does Work.** I have already commented (page84) on the SDC Booklet

UKWED: A wealth of information on wind farms in the UK. There is a detailed calculation showing how a 1MW wind turbine is said to provide the needs of 560 homes. There seems a lack of information relating to emissions savings. BWEA under **Education and Careers** quote the 0.86 factor in spite of DTI using 0.43. A factor of 0.38 has been used at GSK and a similar figure is being used in the SDC report. The overall inconsistency regarding carbon dioxide emission savings gives cause for concern (see page 84)

European Parliament (EP) Press Release

Extract from the Document: EP Final A6-O227/2005.21

Renewable energies for the 21st century (4). Recognises the potential from a wide diversity of more than **21 different renewable energy technologies.**

EP votes for increased deployment of renewables calls for a **mandatory 20% target** by 2020. **BWEA website 2 /10/05** draws attention to targets.

Note. The book mentioned in paragraph 3 of the letter on p107 I did write as Force10. I contacted the Information Commissioner about the "We know where you live" incident (Force10 page 35) In her letter to BWEA on 2 March 2004 the Information Commissioner appeared to have reprimanded BWEA by confirming that it was probably not compliant with principle 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 BWEA solicitors apologized on behalf of Alison Hill. In fairness I must record that.

News Releases Sept 05 United in the fight for landscape protection.

Ramblers

Ramblers welcome critical report on windfarms from public accounts committee and urge the chancellor to slaughter the renewables cash cow

The President of Ramblers' Association Scotland, Cameron McNeish, has called on Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to pull the financial support from underneath the giant windfarm industry

Commenting on the report on renewable energy, published today by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, Cameron McNeish said:

"This is an excellent report which exposes the absurd levels of funding support which is provided to the multinational energy companies to destroy the Scottish landscape with giant wind turbines. Electricity consumers throughout Britain are funding this cash cow and its about time that the guardian of the public purse, Gordon Brown, led this wayward animal to the slaughter house."

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England)

Wind farm free-for-all threatens countryside

In 2004, the Government issued its flagship policy on how local planning authorities should consider applications for wind and other renewable energy development.

This was Policy Statement 22: Planning for Renewables (PPS 22)

It was written as 'enabling' planning policy to remove what the Government saw in previous planning guidance as obstacles to the development of renewable energy

CPRE believes that there are serious weaknesses in the planning regime for onshore wind farms. Case studies from three areas illustrate what is going wrong.

21/09/05 'Decisions based on flaws in the current wind farm planning regime could spoil fine upland landscapes and leave areas of "ordinary" lowland countryside marred by multitudes of turbines,' warned Andrea Davies, CPRE's energy campaigner.

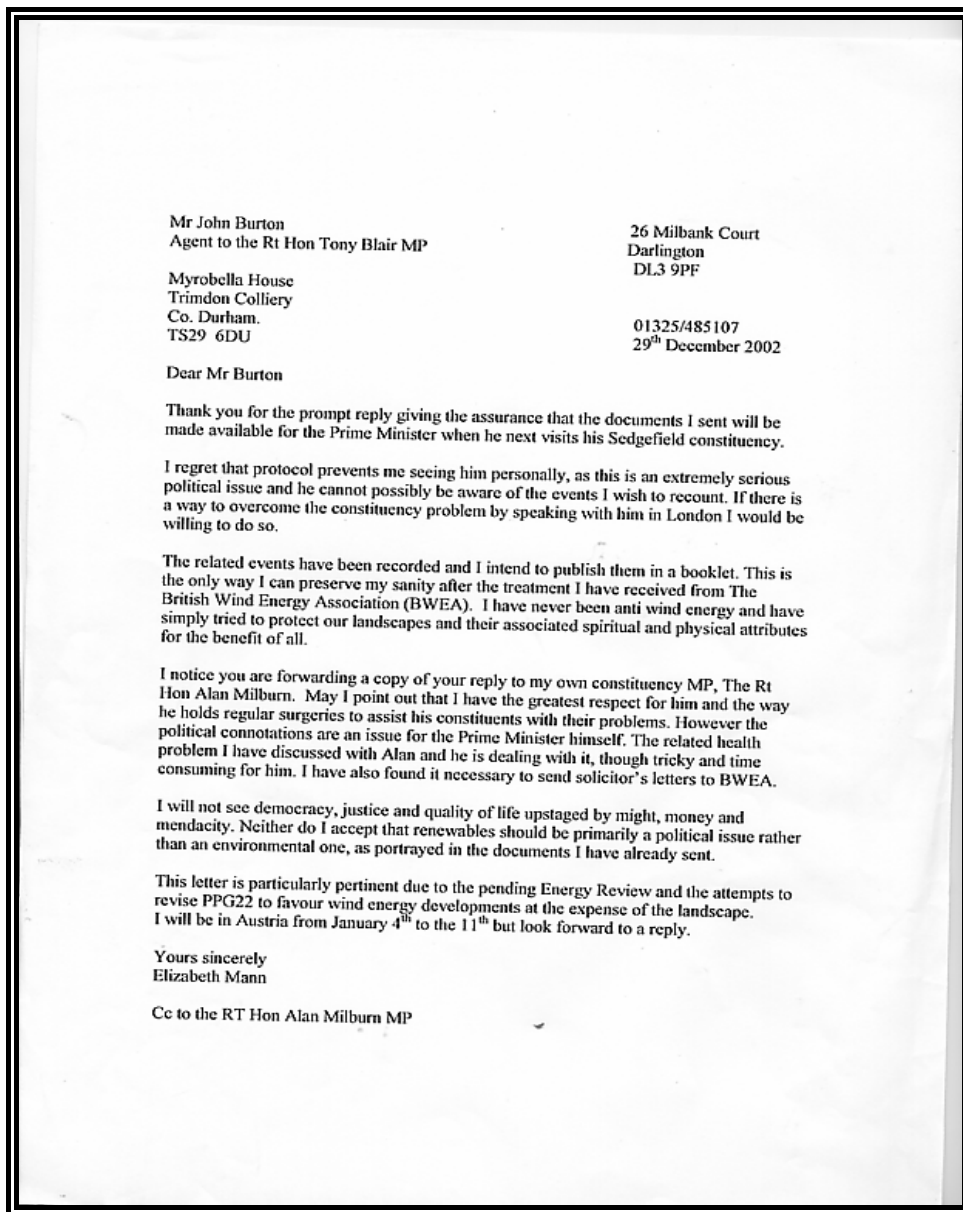
Welsh Conservatives

Tuesday September 13, 2005 Cold wind blows in with Welsh wind farm plans
Labour's renewable energy policy is a blueprint for the desecration of rural Wales, Welsh Conservatives have claimed.

And environment spokesman Glyn Davies AM has warned that the proposals will prevent local people from stopping controversial wind farm developments in their area .The Mid and West Wales AM's comments follow the first meeting of the new Welsh Conservative countryside forum, which discussed the Labour Assembly Government's TAN 8 planning guidance on renewable energy proposals .Welsh Conservatives have warned that the Labour government in the National Assemby will cause great environmental damage to Wales for no good economic reason if it pursues the policy. And they have called on local planning authorities to refuse to be bullied into granting permission for wind farm projects in areas where there is considerable local opposition.

Glyn Davies AM said: "The assembly government's planning guidance on wind farms is a blueprint for the desecration of the landscapes of rural Wales and scythes the legs from under local democracy. "Planning authorities have been stitched up by TAN 8. The government is demanding that large swathes of rural Wales are blighted by a visually destructive rush to wind - and will force local planning authorities to say yes to developments when they will desperately want to say no.

"The landscapes of Wales are about to be abused by an environmentally illiterate bullying government with no appreciation of nature's beauty."



Introduction to PPS22CG

(IN CASE YOU MISSED IT ON PAGE 90!)

"The sources of renewable energy ... are inexhaustible, indigenous and abundant, and their exploitation, properly managed, has the potential to enhance the long-term security of the United Kingdom's energy supplies and to help us cut carbon dioxide emissions"

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, July 2004¹

Full paragraph from which the above was extracted is below

"We believe the Government are on balance right to encourage further development of renewable energy *The sources of renewable energy* such as the sun, wind and tides, *are inexhaustible, indigenous and abundant, and their exploitation, properly managed, has the potential to enhance the long term security of the United Kingdom's energy supplies and to help us cut carbon dioxide emissions.* However these sources are also diffuse and uncertainties remain over the technical feasibility and cost of converting them into electricity reliability on asufficiently large scale".

House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, July 2004

To be or not to be?

Offshore



Is this the future of wind-turbine servicing? A helicopter is dwarfed by this giant five-megawatt turbine built by REpower of Germany. Tallsman is to install such turbines in the Moray Firth Beatrice oilfield

Giant 5MW turbine of type proposed for in the Moray Firth Beatrice oilfield

or Onshore



Black Law Wind Farm

**OPEN SPACES SOCIETY
NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release
Monday 5 September 2005

**OPEN SPACES SOCIETY REJOICES
AT 'NO' TO WIND TURBINES**

The Open Spaces Society⁽¹⁾, the top pressure-group for common land, is rejoicing that Neath Port Talbot Council has unanimously rejected the planning application for four wind turbines on Mynydd y Gwrhyd Common north-west of Swansea.

Says Kate Ashbrook, the society's general secretary: 'The turbines, with their associated substation, access road and other paraphernalia, would have been a great intrusion in this area. We objected most strongly to the planning application.

'These works would have been a grotesque eyesore on this lovely exposed area of common land. They would have interfered with people's right to walk and ride there. They would have destroyed the peace and tranquillity of this lovely area, and people's quiet enjoyment of it.

'Since the turbines were to be sited on common land, the applicants, Awel Aman Tawe, also would have needed consent from the National Assembly for Wales for works on common land, under section 194 of the Law of Property Act. We objected to that application too, since this is an abuse of common land. 'We congratulate the local action group and all who were involved in opposing this application,' Kate declares

Comment: Neither the press release from The Open Spaces Society (above) nor that from Gwenda Thomas AM.(abstract below) agree with comments in PPS22Companion Guide at .page 53. 4.29 There it states"Awel Aman Tawe is a good example of a community led scheme that has flourished as community interest has grown, from its original remit to contribute to the regeneration of the local area through the development and implementation of a Community Energy Scheme". (more on p38 Force10 CG)

**GWENDA THOMAS AM for NEATH
PRESS RELEASE
Immediate release: 02 September 2005
GWENDA THOMAS AM WELCOMES A.A.T
PLANNING DECISION**

Gwenda Thomas AM for Neath has today welcomed the decision by the planning committee of Neath Port Talbot Borough Council to reject the planning application for Awel Aman Tawe.

Welcoming the decision **GWENDA THOMAS AM SAID** "I'm very pleased that the planning and development control committee have accepted the advice of officers by rejecting the application"

"There were fears among local residents that the wind turbines would damage the local area's visual amenity which was one of the main reasons why officers recommended refusal"

"I understand Awel Aman Tawe intend appealing the decision, which will go before the Planning.

Inspectorate. I will be making representations on behalf of my constituents in Targwaith, Rhiwfawr and the surrounding area to the Planning Inspectorate, to ensure their views are considered in any appeal"

MARTYN WILLIAMS Communications Officer. Office of Gwenda Thomas AM for Neath

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Saga Endeavour Awards

2004 Regional Winners

Mrs Elizabeth Mann - North East Winner



Elizabeth climbed Mount Whitney, the highest in the USA outside of Alaska, at 60 with her husband after his triple bypass. Elizabeth climbed Mount Kinabalu, the highest mountain in South East Asia at the age of 68 to raise money for the British Heart Foundation after her husband died and she climbed Kilimanjaro at the age of 70.

Elizabeth said, “We had spent our silver wedding in Kenya/Tanzania on safari and flew in a hot air balloon to see Kilimanjaro. It seemed a fitting gesture in my husband’s memory to climb Kilimanjaro in the year which would have been our golden wedding anniversary.”

Elizabeth has also worked for 7 years as a volunteer member of the CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England).

I have included this article as it epitomises my love for the Outdoors. I have always loved, respected and tried to protect our countryside from inappropriate developments of any type. My wish is for future generations to enjoy what I have been so lucky to experience in my lifetime, a beautiful natural environment which has brought me both physical and spiritual refreshment. My passion for it, which I was fortunate to share with my husband Stanley for so many years, is so difficult to explain to those who have never experienced it. Once you have there is no need for any explanation.

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