

SOUL NEWS

SAVE OUR UNSPOILT LANDSCAPE

Issue One March 2006

Please help us to keep these monsters out of your back yard

You may already be aware that there are plans to build a series of 63 massive wind turbines in one small area of the Northumberland countryside bounded by Berwick to the north, Alnwick to the south, the coast to the east and the Cheviots to the west.

Planning permission is currently being sought for 9 turbines in our own local area at Barmoor, with 26 planned to the north at Moorsyde and Toft Hill, and 28 more just south of us at Middlemoor and Wandylaw.

These huge concrete and steel structures will be up to 360 feet tall, four times the size of the Angel of the North, and they will dominate the countryside here for miles around. They will be clearly visible from Holy Island to the east and the Cheviots to the west.

There is clear evidence that these turbines will do enormous damage to the local environment, to the local economy and to the lives of local people.

And there is also clear evidence from countries which have tried the wind power experiment proving that wind power generation is a hugely expensive and massively inefficient failure.

We fully support the quest for clean, renewable sources of energy. But we need your help to fight against a discredited 'solution' that will inflict so much damage on our county and our countryside.

We ask you to read what we have to say, and support us if you can.

Join us to **Save Our Unspoilt Landscape.**

Join the fight for common sense.

There are plans for 63 turbines in north Northumberland... so far.

It is quite possible that more applications could be made...

...and these things are HUGE – the illustration is to scale.

'The North East is acknowledged as a place of exceptional natural beauty. The quality of the landscape in the North East is a great attraction to visitors, an important source of income as well as contributing to the quality of life of those living and working in the region.' English Heritage

We need your help NOW!

Turn to back page to find out how you can add your voice to the growing protest against the Barmoor turbines

Is this the best solution for us?

NO

The Prime Minister has made what *The Sunday Times* has called a 'hopelessly ambitious' pledge that the UK will generate 10% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2010.

The Government is offering massive financial incentives to spur the building of 'Wind Farms' to make this happen and developers are engaged in a mad scramble to acquire sites to build as many turbines as possible.

Unfortunately, wind power generation

WILL NOT: Provide reliable and efficient energy supply

WILL NOT: Reduce our CO₂ emissions by more than 1 or 2%

On the other hand, squadrons of wind turbines sited in Northumberland

WILL: Blight our landscape

WILL: Ruin our environment

WILL: Damage our tourist economy

The Government has been urged on all sides to undertake more research into the various options available to generate renewable energy.

But the combination of Government policy and the financial incentives available mean that planning applications are now being prepared or submitted for thousands of wind turbines, all over the UK.

Is wind power efficient?

NO

Energy from wind turbines cannot be stored for future use – it must be fed directly into the national grid. This means that wind power is only available to meet demand when the wind conditions are right.

- No wind = no power
- Wind speeds over 45 mph = danger = reduced power
- Wind speeds over 56 mph = shut down = no power

This means that wind turbines are incredibly inefficient.

Two countries in northern Europe are years ahead of us in the experiment to generate significant amounts of electricity from wind. They have both found that the average annual power output from wind turbines, measured against their theoretical capacity, is much lower than expected:

- Germany: output = 15-17% of potential capacity.
- Denmark: output = 20% of potential capacity.

'In the European experience over the past 20 years, wind-generated power has been variable, unpredictable and uncontrollable. Annual production has been "routinely disappointing".'
Renewable Energy Foundation, 2004

Will wind turbines reduce CO₂ emissions?

NO

The unpredictability and inefficiency of wind generation means that traditional power stations must be maintained to meet demand when wind turbines are unable to provide electricity.

In a recent review of the possible impacts of wind power in the UK, Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute concluded that the UK would require a minimum of 6,500 turbines running at 35% capacity (25% higher than anything we have achieved so far) to generate 10% of our electricity by 2010.

But even in that 'best case scenario', **97%** of our present conventional power stations would need to be kept in operation to meet demand when wind power was not available. Some of these would run at low output, but this actually **increases** both fuel costs and CO₂ emissions, cancelling out all but a fraction of any benefits gained in this regard from wind power.

In a rural area of outstanding natural beauty we do not believe that building 63 giant wind turbines is a good idea.



Will wind power damage our environment?

YES

In terms of environmental damage, the picture gets worse.

Every turbine requires the building of a huge concrete base, and a permanent access road for construction and maintenance. Many of these turbines will be sited in sensitive areas of special scientific or scenic interest.

This sprawling carpet of vast steel structures will need to be connected to the national grid, which will mean new powerlines, pylons and substations across our countryside.

BUT the national grid can't cope with any more input from wind turbines at the moment. 'Wind Farm' builders are now being told it could be 10 years before their turbines are connected to the grid. Yet still the rush to build goes on.

Do we support the alternatives?

YES

Many leading experts on energy and the environment are urging politicians to think again.

There are proven alternative measures which would generate far greater benefits from the huge financial outlay involved in building wind power stations, including energy saving measures we can all contribute towards. We believe these measures should receive priority in Government policy:

- Reductions in UK energy consumption
- Use of existing technology to reduce or eliminate CO₂ emissions from power stations, cars, aircraft and buildings
- Use of renewable power including hydroelectricity and biomass fuel appropriate to efficiency and local circumstances

Beauty, heavily dependent on tourism, and wind turbines is the right option.



Will wind turbines damage our economy?

YES

Over the past decade, Northumberland has made great strides in rebuilding an economy devastated by the loss of traditional industries and by a succession of major blows to farming.

Today, tourism is by far the single most important economic activity in the county. However this industry remains fragile and at risk.

- Northumberland attracts more than 10 million visitors each year
- Annual Revenue from tourism in Northumberland is over £320 million

In our own area, tourism accounts for 36% of the economy. Both local and national government support the development of the tourist industry. Many people have invested everything in establishing and developing businesses in Northumberland that depend on the tourist trade.

Surveys already carried out in areas of Scotland, Cumbria and Wales where wind turbines have been built or are planned indicate that over 25% of visitors would not return to these areas.

'Why wreck the countryside with wind turbines when they are not going to do any good?'
James Lovelock, author 'The Revenge of Gaia'
The Sunday Times, 5 February 2006



HELP us to say **NO!**

It's good for your **SOUL**

SOUL (Save Our Unspoilt Landscape) was formed at a Public Meeting on 26 November 2005, attended by over 180 residents of Lowick, Bowsden, Ford and Etal.

Our Objectives are:

- To organise opposition to the imminent planning application for wind turbines at Barmoor.
- To support other wind turbine protest groups in Northumberland.
- To support residents of the parishes of Lowick, Bowsden, Ford and Etal in opposing the Barmoor development.

If you would like to help us and register your support, please contact any member of the SOUL committee by phone or email.

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Please object NOW!

A Planning Application has now been submitted to Berwick Borough Council for 9 wind turbines at Barmoor.

Please write to the Council BEFORE
Friday 24 March.

Your letter must include:
Planning Application Ref No: 06-B-0148

Simply state that you are making an **OUTLINE OBJECTION**, and that you will forward a detailed letter of objection after you have studied the full planning application.

All the information you need to object, including sample letters, can be found on the 'How to Object' page of the SOUL website at www.soul-online.co.uk/3.html. Or please email or call any of our Committee members.

Send your letter to:
John Hayward
Berwick Borough Council
Planning Dept
Wallace Green
Berwick upon Tweed
TD15 1ED

Find out more... www.soul-online.co.uk

You can join us online, find out more information and check our regular updates.

- **Could turbines affect your health?**
Research is beginning to cast doubt on the effects of wind turbine noise and infrasound vibration.
- **Local Planners may be powerless**
Even if our Local Planning Authority rejects applications for these turbines, the Government could overrule and insist we have them.
- **The German Experience**
A leading German power company report paints a very uninspiring picture of their wind power experience.

- **Renewable Obligation Certificates**
Power generators are being set targets to reduce CO₂ emissions, but building wind turbines lets them off the hook.
- **Costs will rise with wind power**
Government subsidies and the costs of building infrastructure will cost taxpayers and consumers £billions.

Other links:
www.moorsydeactiongroup.org.uk
www.stopturbines.com
www.ref.org.uk